Senior General Than Shwe felicitates Singaporean President

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Aug—On the occasion of the 43rd Anniversary of the National Day of the Republic of Singapore, which falls on 9 August 2008, Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr S R Nathan, President of the Republic of Singapore.

MNA

Prime Minister sends felicitations to Singaporean counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Aug—On the occasion of the 43rd Anniversary of the National Day of the Republic of Singapore, which falls on 9 August 2008, General Thein Sein, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore.—MNA

Maj-Gen Ohn Myint looks into development tasks in Kalay District

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Aug — Maj-Gen Ohn Myint of the Ministry of Defence together with Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Brig-Gen Myint Soe and officials met officers and other ranks and their families of Kalay and Kyigon stations on 6 August.

They presented TV sets and medical equipment for the stations through the officials.

Maj-Gen Ohn Myint handed K 1 million for development of Chin State to Chairman of Chin State PDC Brig-Gen Hong Ngai.

At the hall of Kalay Township PDC, they met local authorities and heard reports on regional development tasks. Maj-Gen Ohn Myint, the commander and officials presented stationery, medicines and sports gear to officials.

At Kalay Township Hospital, Maj-Gen Ohn Myint presented cash assistance to the patients and K 500,000 for uniforms of hospital staff to the matron.

The commander donated K 1 million to Medical Superintendent Dr Tint Swe.

They attended the collective ploughing for cultivation of 20.12 acres of monsoon paddy in Nyaungbintha Village-tract.


Next, they attended the ceremony to share merits for construction of Gandakuti Building of Mahathaka Patma Yehsan Kyunmyat Buddha Image held at Thiri Mingala Dhammayon on Yazagiri Hill in Kyigon Village of Kalay Township.

After the ceremony, Maj-Gen Ohn Myint, the commander and officials offered meals to members of the Sangha. Next, they offered flowers, water, lights and joss sticks and paid homage to the Buddha image.

They planted Bo trees near the Gandakuti Building and inspected construction of the building.

Next, they inspected progress in construction of Yazagyo Multi-purpose Dam Project in Kalay Township.

In Khampat, they heard reports on development of the town presented by local authorities. Maj-Gen Ohn Myint presented cash assistance to MCWA and Women’s Affairs Organization and personal goods to departments, social organizations and local people through officials.

At Khampat Station Hospital, they viewed progress in construction of patient wards and comforted patients.

In Tamu Township, they looked into thriving 100 acres of rubber plantations of NanU family. They left the township and arrived in Tamu at 5.30 pm. — MNA
Build ASEAN Community through concerted efforts

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) has turned 41 years. Thanks to concerted efforts of leaders of the association including Myanmar, the Southeast Asian region has become peaceful and consolidated.

During the past forty one years, mutual goodwill, mutual trust and cooperation among the people and governments of the ASEAN Member States have been promoted and developed across the broad range of fields, such as political-security, economic, social and culture. The association has ratified the ASEAN Charter. The Charter is the Constitution of ASEAN and the member countries shall be able to integrate among themselves for the future of the Association in accordance with the objectives of the Charter.

Member countries have decided to implement the ASEAN’s three pillars, namely, Political-Security Community, Economic Community and Social-Culture Community by the year 2015. The emergence of an ASEAN Community by 2015 will benefit Myanmar citizens together with other citizens of ASEAN in sharing the fruits of peace and stability, prosperity and social-cultural development.

With the active participation of peoples from ASEAN nations, the Association has been able to respond to natural disasters and pandemic during 41 years.

With the fine tradition of consolidation and cooperation, we firmly believe that the peoples from ASEAN nations will be able to build the ASEAN Community, the unique objective of the association, through integrated and well-coordinated efforts.

Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy

Ministry of Industry-2 holds workshop

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Aug—Ministry of Industry-2 held a workshop at the meeting hall of the Ministry here on 5 August, with an opening address by Minister for Industry-2 Vice-Admiral Soe Thein. At the meeting, the Minister said it is sharing technologies discussion for professionals. There will be improvements in carrying out works by sharing technologies that they had experienced. Department heads need to endeavor to become good leaders, he added.

Afterwards, U Aung Soe Win presented the paper on undertaking Operation ratio to be good by exercising Total Waste Elimination and Deputy Director-General Daw Than Than Lwin, on analyzing operation ratio of organizations and factories and workshops and suggestions for better operation ratio. The Minister gave supplementary reports and the ceremony was ended with concluding remark.

Health Minister meets Chargé d’Affaires of US embassy

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Aug—Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint met Chargé d’Affaires at Ms Shari Villarosa of US embassy and party at the meeting hall of the Ministry here yesterday. They discussed the matters relating to cooperation of control against Malaria, TB and AIDS, successful undertakings of relief and resettlement works being carried out by the government in the storm-hit regions and donation of medical journals and other reference books to be used in Universities of Medicine.

Deputy Health Minister attends coord meeting for improvement of medical treatment

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Aug—Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo delivered a speech at the coordination meeting for improvement of medical treatment of hospitals in central level, held at the meeting hall of Mandalay Peoples’ Hospital on 5 August.

Afterwards, medical superintendent Dr Thaung Tin Tun of Mandalay Peoples’ Hospital explained undertakings by grouping for improvement of international level medical treatment in Mandalay Peoples’ Hospital. Professors explained each sector and Deputy Director-General (Treatment) Dr Win Myint gave a supplement report.

Deputy Minister Dr Mya Oo gave a concluding remark.
Palestinian official: no final peace deal without prisoners’ release

RAMALLAH, 8 Aug—Minister of prisoners’ affairs in the caretaker Palestinian government Ashraf al-Ajrami stressed on Thursday that a final peace agreement can’t be reached before closing the file of prisoners.

“The issue of prisoners held in Israeli jails is a political issue which is no less important than other permanent status issues. It can only be resolved by setting up a timetable for the release of all the prisoners,” el-Ajrami said. Since the Annapolis peace conference held in the United States in last November, Israel and the Palestinians have been negotiating six final status issues, including Jerusalem, settlements, refugees, security, water and borders.

The Palestinians say that there are over 11,000 prisoners held in Israeli jails, including women and children under the age of 18. Israel still carries out arresting campaigns in the West Bank.

On Wednesday, Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat announced that Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert had promised to release 150 prisoners by the end of August during his meeting with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas on Wednesday.

A photographer takes photos in front of National Stadium, nicknamed Bird’s Nest, in Beijing, China, at about 8 am on 8 Aug, 2008, 12-hour countdown to the opening ceremony of the Olympics. The opening ceremony of the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games will be held in the National Stadium at 8 pm on 8 Aug. —XINHUA

Iraqis: Deal close on plan for US troops to leave

BAGHDAD, 8 Aug—Iraq and the US are near an agreement on all American combat troops leaving Iraq by October 2010, with the last soldiers out three years after that, two Iraqi officials told the Associated Press on Thursday. US officials, however, insisted no dates had been agreed.

The proposed agreement calls for Americans to hand over parts of Baghdad’s Green Zone — where the US Embassy is located — to the Iraqis by the end of 2008. It would also remove US forces from Iraqi cities by 30 June, 2009, according to the two senior officials, both close to Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki and familiar with the negotiations.

The officials, who spoke separately on condition of anonymity because the talks are ongoing, said all US combat troops would leave Iraq by October 2010, with the remaining support personnel gone “around 2013.” The schedule could be amended if both sides agree — a face-saving escape clause that would extend the presence of US forces if security conditions warrant it.

Palestinians look at rubbish that, according to witnesses, was thrown by Jewish settlers outside a mosque in the West Bank city of Hebron on 7 August, 2008.—INTERNET

American deaths in Afghanistan war reach 500

KABUL, (Afghanistan), 8 Aug—The deadliest three months for American forces in Afghanistan have pushed the US death toll to at least 500, forcing a war long overshadowed by Iraq back into the headlines.

Larger, more sophisticated militant attacks have also caused a sharp rise in Afghan civilian deaths — at least 472 in the first seven months of the year, most in suicide bombings, according to an Associated Press count. In all, at least 600 Afghan civilians were killed from January through July, a 30 percent increase from the same period last year, according to AP figures compiled from coalition and Afghan officials. That includes at least 128 killed by US or NATO forces.

There are about 33,000 US troops in Afghanistan, the highest since the war began, meaning more troops than ever are patrolling this country’s mountainous terrain and exposed to ambushes and roadside bombs.

Three killed in plane crash in northern Israel

JERUSALEM, 8 Aug—Three people died on Thursday when a small private plane crashed at an airport in Haifa, a coastal city in the north of Israel, local media reported. Three others were critically injured in the accident, according to Israeli Channel 10. Police and rescue services said the plane, which was flying in from Larnaca in Cyprus, crashed near the tiny airport near the Technion University.

There may have been a mistake in navigation that caused the plane to hit a building, said the report.

Quake jolts Tokyo, no damage reported

TOYO, 8 Aug—A short, sharp quake of magnitude 4.5 jolted Tokyo on Friday, but there were no immediate reports of damage and the Japan Meteorological Agency said no tsunami warning was issued.

The tremor was centered in western Tokyo, 40 km (25 miles) below the surface of the earth, the Agency said. Japanese broadcaster NHK said trains and highways were operating as usual. Earthquakes are common in Japan, one of the world’s most seismically active areas. The country accounts for about 20 percent of the world’s earthquakes of magnitude 6 or greater.

Car bomb strikes Iraqi market, killing 18

BAGHDAD, 8 Aug — A car bomb struck a crowded market in the northern city of Tal Afar on Friday, killing at least 18 people and wounding 25, police said.

The attack was the latest in a series of deadly ambushes and roadside bombs. that show militants retain the ability to wage high-profile attacks despite recent security gains, particularly in northern Iraq.

The car was parked when it exploded by the food market at about 6:30 p.m., when the area was packed with shoppers, according to a senior police official in the nearby city of Mosul.—INTERNET

Internet

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Brazilian FM: Agricultural subsidies to affect world food production

Rio de Janeiro, 8 Aug — Brazilian Foreign Minister Celso Amorim said Thursday agricultural subsidies in industrial countries will affect food production across the world.

In an interview with state radio, Amorim said the world food crisis is closely linked to agricultural subsidies in developed nations as they discourage food production in developing countries.

Embattled Detroit mayor jailed for violating bond terms

WASHINGTON, 8 Aug — The mayor of Detroit, Michigan, was jailed Thursday for violating the terms of his bond by traveling to Canada without approval by court, media reports said.

Kwame Kilpatrick has been charged with perjury, obstruction of justice and misconduct of office following a sex scandal involving his former aid, Christine Beatty.

The text-messages the mayor exchanged with Beatty were published by the local press, which proved their improper relations and contradicted their sworn testimony at a previous lawsuit.

Kilpatrick was freed on a bond of 75,000 US dollars. Under the terms of bond, the mayor was demanded to inform the court 48 hours ahead of any business trips. However, he visited Windsor, Ontario, on 23 July, to discuss with his counterpart about a plan to sell Detroit’s half of the tunnel linking the two cities, according to a report by the Detroit Free Press.

Jobless claims hit highest point since March 2002

WASHINGTON, 8 Aug — The nation’s jobs market sent a fresh cry of distress as the number of newly laid off people unexpectedly hit the highest level in more than six years, a Labor Department report showed Thursday.

The faltering economy and tight credit have forced companies to cut back, and as the job market shrinks, consumer spending may dwindle, too.

All that spells potentially more trouble for the country later this year as the bracing tonic of the government’s tax rebates disappears.

“Consumers will be very tight fisted in the coming months,” predicted Richard Yamarone, economist at R.W. Baird.

However, he visited Shanghai. China has raised lending quotas for foreign banks operating in the country, another move by the government to support economic growth amid slowing demand for exports, state media reported on 8 Aug, 2008.—INTERNET

An Alitalia plane sits on the tarmac at Rome’s Ciampino airport in April 2008.

Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi said Thursday talks were being held with a “large foreign company” about forming an alliance with Alitalia to save the cash-strapped national airline from bankruptcy.—INTERNET

Bank of America gets subpoenas, reports SEC probe

NEW YORK, 8 Aug — Bank of America Corp (BACN), the largest US retail bank, said on Thursday it received subpoenas and requests for information relating to auction-rate securities from a number of state attorneys general.

In addition, Bank of America said it received subpoenas, interrogatories or civil investigative demands from a number of state attorneys general regarding municipal derivatives transactions from 1992 to the present.

Bank of America said it is cooperating with regulators. It closed the various matters in its quarterly report filed with the SEC.—INTERNET

China raises foreign banks’ lending quotas: state media

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The latest Doha Round of world trade talks, which started last month in Geneva, collapsed asunderdeveloped countries urged for more cuts to farm subsidies in industrial countries, while developed nations complained about developing countries’ failure to open up their markets for industrial products.

Amorim said an agreement in the Doha Round could eventually stimulate agricultural production in developing countries, adding that the Brazilian government doesn’t believe it has been irrevocably closed.

Brazil’s President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva discussed resuming the Doha Round of talks with Chinese President Hu Jintao Thursday, while in China for the opening ceremony of the Beijing Olympic Games.

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WHEN IT COMES TO WHICH COUNTRY’S CURRENCY CONTAINS THE MOST COCAINE THE UNITED STATES IS NO 1 WORLDWIDE, WHILE SPANISH NOTES TAKE THE TOP SPOT IN EUROPE, A NEW STUDY FINDS.

The findings, detailed in the latest issue of the journal Trends in Analytical Chemistry, reflect the popularity of the illicit drug, the researchers say.

When it comes to which country’s currency contains the most cocaine, the United States is No 1 worldwide, while Spanish notes take the top spot in Europe, a new study finds.

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10-year-old bullfighter sparks debate in France

PARIS, 8 Aug—He’s a tiny torero, a bullfighter with a baby face. But 10-year-old Michelito has become the symbol of a debate much bigger than himself.

French anti-bullfighting campaigners say the boy, who came from Mexico to perform, is risking his life in the ring. Local authorities in southwestern France canceled two demonstrations where he was set to appear. Other performances have gone ahead with Michelito — who has big brown eyes and a floppy bowl cut — showered with flowers by fans.

It’s all part of a bigger battle: French animal rights groups vs bullfighting, which is a tradition in southern France as in neighboring Spain, and which has a small but passionate French following.

For Michelito Lagravere, the passion started young, about as soon as he could walk. Born in Mexico to a Mexican mother and a French bullfighting father, he started playing at being a torero — using a dish towel as a cape — when he was just a tot, his father said.

Beijing, 8 Aug — Citing the strength of the euro as one of several factors, Deutsche Telekom AG said Thursday its second quarter net profit plummeted 35 percent. However, it maintained its full-year earnings forecast. “We made good progress during the first half of the year in achieving our strategic objectives, both in operations and with our cost savings,” said Rene Obermann, the company’s chief executive in a statement.

The German company said net profit for the April-June period fell to 607 million US dollars from a year earlier.

Revenues came in 3 percent lower at 23.25 billion dollars compared with a year earlier.

Pretax profit in the quarter fell nearly 30 percent to 1.4 billion dollars.

“This leads us to assume that we will reach our financial targets in the 2008 financial year,” Obermann said.

The company has said it expects it will maintain adjusted earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization at around 30 billion dollars and free cash flow before dividend payments at around 10 billion dollars, each on a par with the previous year. —Internet

Deutsche Telekom: 2Q net profit plunges 35%

Toyoda 1Q profit falls on US weakness, strong yen

In this 27 July, 2008 file photo, unsold 4Runners sit at a Toyota dealership in the southeast Denver suburb of Centennial, Colo. Toyota’s fiscal first-quarter profit plunged 28 percent from the previous year as slipping North American sales, a strong yen and rising material costs dented the earnings of the Japanese automaker. —Internet

Toyota does not rely as much on truck and sport utility vehicle sales as its US competitors and so far has avoided the kinds of deep losses racked up by GM and Ford Motor Co. But the company still is seeing its momentous sales growth slow amid a US economic downturn and soaring gas prices.

Disneyland to close three McDonalds restaurants

LOS ANGELES, 8 Aug— The Disneyland Resort in California will close three “quick service” restaurants that serve McDonald’s (MCDN) fast food as part of a “planned refurbishment,” a Disneyland spokeswoman said on Thursday.

The three walk-up kiosks will close on 2 September and will reopen at an undisclosed date with other theming and branding,” Disneyland spokeswoman Lisa Haines said.

“We are considering a number of different concept options,” Haines said.

Internet
**Kuwaiti Prime Minister visits Shwedagon Pagoda**

YANGON, 8 Aug.—The visiting Kuwaiti delegation led by Prime Minister of Kuwait Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammed Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, accompanied by Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu, welcomed them. The Kuwaiti Prime Minister signed the Visitors’ Book. The guests viewed the religious edifices. Officials of the Pagoda Board of Trustees conducted them round the pagoda.

Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min accepts K 11.5 million donated by Mr Adhtr Coli of M/S Tantia Concrete Products Ltd, India. — MNA

**Donors invited for renovation of pagodas in ancient Makkhaya city**

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Aug.—Pagodas in ancient Makkhaya city located in Singaing Township have been renovated. Ancient Shwezigon Pagoda is under renovation.

U Min Hla Aung, Daw Kyu Kyu Mar (Naga Nyainuang Robes House on Konzaydan Street of Yangon) and family have sponsored the cost of supplying electricity at the pagodas. However, it is required K 40 million for installation of power lines. Those wishing to donate cash to the funds for the renovation tasks may contact Ashin Kusala-bhivamsa of Maha Gandayon Monastery in Kyaukse, 066-50349 and 09-202122, Ashin Kusala-bhivamsa of Shwe-yaungdaw Monastery, Makkhaya Village, Singaing Township, 066-40198, U Min Hla Aung-Daw Kyu Kyu Mar, Naga Nyainuang Robes House on Konzaydan Street of Yangon, 01-379695 and 01-2500449, U Kyaw Min, Sein & Mya Mattress, 34th Street (between 80th and 81st Streets) in Mandalay, 02-34217 and 09-2002575 and U Tun Tun Oo-Daw Mie Mie Lwin of Myoma Ward in Singaing, 066-40217.

**Minister accepts cash for reconstruction of Dedaye**

YANGON, 8 Aug.—Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min accepted K 11.5 million donated by Mr Adhtr Coli of M/S Tantia Concrete Products Ltd of India for reconstruction and development of Dedaye at the meeting hall of the Ministry in Nay Pyi Taw this morning. The minister presented certificates of honour and spoke words of thanks.—MNA

**Cash donated for storm victims**

YANGON, 8 Aug.—Well wishers at home and from abroad continue making donations for storm victims.

On 5 August, U Kyaw Thitia-Dr Thet Chaw Su and family of Po Sein Road in Bahan Township donated K 36,000 for two bags of fertilizer and Shwe Pyan Htaw Transport Service K 600,000 for a house.


Chairman of Financial Subcommittee Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Col Hla Theyn Swe accepted the cash donations at the donation centre of Central Bank of Myanmar in Yankin Township.

**Epson’s new models launched**

YANGON, 8 Aug.—New models of Epson Company were launched at the Traders Hotel, here on 6 August.

Responsive persons of various computer associations in Myanmar, Epson (Singapore) and Client Focus Company were present on the occasion.

Managing Director of Client Focus Marketing Pte Ltd (Singapore) Mr Francis Au Seng Huat and Senior Manager of Epson (Singapore) Pte Ltd Mr Shuji Hamaguchi (International Sales Division) extended greetings.

Director U Aung Moe Kyaw of Client Focus Company gave a presentation on the new products of Epson and answered queries raised by attendees.

Epson Stylus T11 model is a small scale printer that is intended for personal users. Epson Stylus TX 200 and Epson Stylus TX 400 with LCD Screen were introduced to the attendees. All the new models provide high volume printing thanks to application of Epson DuraBrite Ultra technology.

In addition, Epson GT-1500 Scanner that can be used for commercial use was launched on the occasion. Up to forty pages can be scanned without users’ help.

All items can be available at Client Focus Technology Group in No. SB (4) Aungzeya Housing Complex on Strand Road in Ailhon Township, Ph- 215247, Showroom of No 130 on Seikkantha Street in Kyaukdata Township, Ph- 249344, 374110 and computer shops in Yangon and Mandalay.

More relief aid arrives

YANGON, 8 Aug.—The international community is providing relief supplies to the storm-hit areas. Altogether 10.83 tons of relief from Thailand-based WFP arrived at Yangon International Airport today.—MNA

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**FOREIGN MINISTER Felicitates Singaporean Counterpart**

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**Wise one protects non-intoxication as supreme treasure**

Fools, men of little intelligence, betake themselves to intoxication. The wise one protects non-intoxication as a supreme treasure.

*Dhammapada-26*

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**UN special rapporteur leaves**

**NAY PYI TAW, 8 Aug.** — UN special rapporteur Mr Tomas Ojea Quintana and party arrived at Yangon on 3 August by air.

On 4 August morning, he met with President of Myanmar Red Cross Society Prof Dr Thar Hla Shwe and executive members of the association at the building of MRCS here and General Secretary Dr Daw Myint Kyi, joint general-secretaries and secretariat members of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation at the federation in Bahan Township.

After the meetings, Mr Tomas Ojea Quintana went to Vijaya Mangala Dhammabhinin on Kaba Aye Hill and met with Secretary of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Sayadaw of Ponnamayama Monastery in Nyaungdon Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhanma Jotika Bhaadanta Osada Bhuvamsa and members of the committee. He also called on Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung at the office of Ministry of Religious Affairs and the Board of Four Religious Faiths at the meeting hall of the ministry.

Afterwards, Mr Tomas Ojea Quintana called on Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe, Secretary of the National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee, at Kommyinttha and met with Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu, Chairman of Tripartite Core Group, at Chatrian Hotel in Tamway Township.

UN Human rights envoy Mr Tomas Ojea Quintana and party also visited YewATEGY Cemetery in North Okkalapa Township in the evening. They also visited Shwedagon Pagoda in the evening.

Accompanied by Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Phone Swe, Mr Tomas Ojea Quintana and party flew to Labutta in Ayeyawady Division on 5 August. They visited Kyaukkalat Village and Khongyi Village in Hainggyikyun Township, Pyinsalu in Labutta Township and Kyatshar Village in Mawlamyinegyun Township in Ayeyawady Division and viewed reconstruction works in storm-hit areas.

In the afternoon, they went to Insein Central Prison in Insein Township and visited the hospital and the 50-bed tuberculous ward and viewed teaching prisoners. They also met with prisoners during the visit.

Mr Tomas Ojea Quintana and party held talks with ambassadors, charges affaires, responsible personnel of UN agencies and non-governmental organizations and organizations at Mya Yeik Nyo Royal Hotel.

He also met with responsible personnel of political parties and organizations at Mya Yeik Nyo Royal Hotel on 6 August.

At 1.35 pm, Mr Tomas Ojea Quintana met with all the associations and made an introductory speech. From 1.55 to 3.45 pm, he met with those from political parties and political organizations such as the National League for Democracy, the National Solidarity Party, the Union Pa-O National League, Independent representatives-elect, the Wun Tha Nu NLD, the 88-Generation Student Youths (Union of Myanmar), the National Convention and Constitution Support Organization, the National Convention and Constitution Support Force separately.

Next, Mr Tomas Ojea Quintana and party left Yangon for Nay Pyi Taw in the evening.

They arrived here at 6.45 pm and were welcomed at the Nay Pyi Taw airport by officials from the Ministry of Home Affairs.

At the meeting hall of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Mr Tomas Ojea Quintana and party met with the Myanmar Human Rights Group in the late evening and discussed matters on human rights in Myanmar.

Yesterday morning, Mr Tomas Ojea Quintana and party met with Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo at the Ministry of Home Affairs and Director-General of Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen Khin Yi at the MPP (Headquarters) Office under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Afterwards, they met with Joint Secretary-General of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Electric Power No.1 Col Zaw Min at the Ministry of Electric Power No.1, Minister for Labour U Aung Kyi at the Ministry of Labour and Vice-Chairman of the National Convention Convening Committee Attorney-General U Aye Maung and Member U Thaung Nyunt at the Attorney-General’s Office.

Next, Mr Tomas Ojea Quintana and party met with Chairman of Commission for Approval of the State Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Organizing the National Referendum Chief Justice U Aung Toe and members U Aye Maung and Dr Tun Shin.

In the afternoon, they met with Joint Secretary-1 of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association Dr Daw May Malar, Joint Secretary-2 Dr Daw Thein Thet Htay, Executive Director Dr San San Win and Project Officer Dr U Than Oo at the meeting hall of the association.

At the meeting hall of the Ministry of Home Affairs, they met with the Myanmar Human Rights Group led by Deputy Attorney-General Dr Tun Shin and discussed the findings over the trip.

Next, they left here by air and arrived in Yangon in the evening. At 7 pm, Mr Tomas Ojea Quintana held a press conference with Patron of Myanmar Foreign Correspondents Club U Hla Htway, Chairman U Sao Kai Hpa, Secretary U Thitsa Hla Htway and member foreign correspondents at Yangon International Airport.

Next, Mr Tomas Ojea Quintana and party left Yangon by air later in the evening. — MNA

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**Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Phone Swe and UN Special Rapporteur Mr Tomas Ojea Quintana visit Khongyi village in Hainggyikyun Township.** — MNA
Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing attends prize-presentation ceremony for agricultural performance award winners

NAV PAY TAW, 8 Aug — Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing of Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Aung Than Htut, inspected crashing of physic nut seeds produced from the 100-acre model cultivation at the sports ground of the command yesterday.

Afterwards, they went to Research Nursery of the command and viewed Hsinshweli high yield paddy strains, Hsinshweli sunflower seeds, opium substitute crops such as sugarcane and maize and physic nut. During the inspection tour, they inspected production process of bio diesel from physic nut seeds at Bio Diesel Factory and making soap and briquette with the use of waste materials from the factory.

They also inspected thriving physic nut on the 100-acre farm of the command. Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing of Ministry of Defence attended a ceremony to honour outstanding farmers for the 2007-2008 cultivation season at Town Hall in Lashio.

At the ceremony, Commander Maj-Gen Aung Than Htut reported on development of the region and tasks for agriculture, health, transportation and education sectors.

Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing presented medicines and sports gear for Shan State (North) through officials concerned.

Next, Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing awarded prizes to Muse Township; and the first, second and third prizes to Namkhiyo, Hshaw and Mabin Township for their production in performance of oil crops.

The commander, the deputy commander and officials presented prizes to farmers who were able to produce more than 270 baskets of summer paddy, the farmers who were able to produce the largest amount of summer paddy and the farmers who earned income the most.

Then, Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing spoke on the occasion. He said today was a significant day for Shan State (North). Local authorities concerned have awarded those who were outstanding in the agriculture sector. So the farmers are to work hard for boosting cultivation. Although there is regional self-sufficiency in rice, the townships concerned are to extend their cultivation acreage as they don’t have enough rice sufficiency. To do so, they are to grow high-yield strains and more oil crops.

After the ceremony, Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing and party viewed fertilizers, pesticides and power tillers. Later, he met officers and other ranks and their families at the hall of North-East Command and presented sport gear to the commander. — MNA

Yangon based travel specialist one of 128 travel specialists named to Condé Nast Traveler world’s top specialists list

YANGON, 8 Aug—U Myat Wunna, managing director of Good News Travels has been selected as one of the world’s 128 Top Travel Specialists by New York based Condé Nast Traveler magazine.

The announcement for the Award was made on July 22 and the world’s 128 top travel specialists list appears in the August 2008 issue of Condé Nast Traveler magazine.

Condé Nast Traveler’s annual Travel Specialists list began as a service travel directory 9 years ago, yet it has turned into a must-have list of the most impressive, knowledgeable, and experienced travel specialists in the world, Condé Nast Traveler has a circulation of over 800,000 and is published by Condé Nast Publications, Inc based in Time Square, New York City.

Good News Travels is the very first travel establishment in Myanmar, who received the Condé Nast Traveler World’s Top Travel Specialists Award. U Myat Wunna is invited to attend the Annual Gala Awards Events to receive the Award on 14 October 2008 at reception going to be held at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel in Manhattan, New York City.

“I am honored to be recognized by Condé Nast Traveler for being one of the world’s top travel specialists. To me, it is a lot more than an individual achievement and I think it is an amazing achievement and great advertising for Myanmar. I am really proud of my team, my company and my country for receiving this prestigious internationally known award in tourism Industry,” said U Myat Wunna.

“To be included on the list, travel specialists need to remain ahead of online travel sites, and they need to offer a combination of insider advice, local connections, added value, and special access,” said Condé Nast Traveler Consumer News Editor Wendy Perrin.

By combining first hand experience and years of knowledge, the travel specialists named to Condé Nast Traveler’s 2008 World’s Top Travel Specialists list provide their clients with the most up-to-date, exclusive information out there. Out of thousands of candidates, 128 made the list this year.

Each year, Condé Nast Traveler Consumer News Editor Wendy Perrin leads a team of editors in evaluating applicants. Listed travel specialists have undergone a rigorous screening process that includes a 47-question application with sample itineraries and client references, then continues with phone interviews and, in most cases, road-testing by Conde’ Nast Traveler staff. Unlike many other travel publications, Condé Nast Traveler does not accept free travel and accommodations, and its correspondents, as far as possible, travel anonymously. The result is travel the way consumers experience it – good and bad, with reporting that is fair and honest.

Good News Travels is a well-established tourism company providing all travel services throughout Myanmar with its head office in Yangon and branch offices in all the major tourist sites in Myanmar. It is owned and operated by Myanmar citizens and it was founded in the year 2001 by U Myat Wunna. It is the Lonely Planet Guide Book for Myanmar published in 2005. The head office of Good News Travels is located at unit 18, 4th Floor, FMI centre, No. 380, Bogyoke Aung San Road, Yangon and can be contacted by phone at 375050 and by e-mail at goodnewstravels@gmail.com. (Website: www.MyanmarGoodNewsTravel.com). — MNA
Maj-Gen Ko Ko attends concluding of ploughing, paddy transplanting contest in Kangyidaunt Township

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Aug—Maj-Gen Ko Ko of the Ministry of Defence attended the concluding of ploughing and paddy transplanting contest at East Kwinya Village in Kangyidaunt Township on 6 August morning.

In his address, Maj-Gen Ko Ko said that the target was set to grow 17,211,820 acres of monsoon paddy in the entire nation while Ayeyawady Division set the target to cultivate 3,692,830 acres of monsoon paddy, accounting for 21.4 per cent. As it is the first position in the country, Ayeyawady Division is to be designated as the first granary of the nation. The government has assigned duties to Ayeyawady Division for cultivation of 3.7 million acres of monsoon paddy, 1.26 million acres of summer paddy, 590,000 acres of edible oil and 190,000 acres of beans and pulses. The division is striving for yielding 78.57 baskets per acre of monsoon paddy to 80.19 baskets.

He stressed the need to extend rubber in the division. Efforts are to be made for growing of 500,000 acres of physic nut and preparations are to be made for extracting physic nut oil as bio-fuel.

In conclusion, he urged those present to boosting production of meat and fish, while undertaking five rural development tasks of the region.

Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Kyaw Swe made a speech, and departmental officials reported on agriculture sector.

The commander accepted the reports on concluding of ploughing. After viewing double cropping of monsoon paddy field, they handed fingerlings to the local farmers. Next, they released 100,000 fingerlings to the paddy fields.

The manager of Myanma Agricultural Development Bank handed over 12 power-tillers to the farmers.

Maj-Gen Ko Ko, the commander and officials presented prizes to winners in the paddy transplanting contest.

In Kyonwah Village of Myaungmya Township, they viewed broadcasting of fertilizers at the paddy fields. While in Myaungmya, Maj-Gen Ko Ko met with departmental personnel, townswolders and local people and left instructions.—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

A&I Minister receives foreign guests

YANGON, 8 Aug—Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo met Vice-Chairman Mr Suwit Pirchart of PTTEPI (Petroleum Authority of Thailand) of Thailand and party at 9.30 am and Charge d’ Affaires Ms. Shari Villarosa of the Embassy of the US to Myanmar at 10.30 am on 5 August at the Irrigation Department in Yankin Township, here.—MNA

Flood News

YANGON, 8 Aug—The Meteorology and Hydrology Department announced that according to the (12:30) hr MST observation today, the water level of Thanlwin river at Hpa-an is 809 cm and it has exceeded by 59 cm (about 2 ft) above its danger level. It may remain above its danger level 750 cm during the next three days.

According to the (12:30) hr MST observation today, the water level of Sittoung river at Madauk is 1170 cm and its has exceeded by 37 cm (about 1.2 ft) above its danger level. It may remain above its danger level 1070 cm during the next three days.

According to the (12:30) hr MST observation today, the water level of Shwegyin river at Shwegyin is 726 cm and it has exceeded by 26 cm (about 0.3 ft) above its danger level. It may remain above its danger level 700 cm during the next two days.—MNA

All this needs to be known
* Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
* Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
* Do not be softened whenever appealed
As part of making donations, a photo show entitled “Nargis Story (1)”, organized by MK Media, was opened at Parkroyal Hotel on Alanpaya Pagoda Road in Dagon Township, Yangon, on 2 August.

In line with the agenda of the opening ceremony, vocalist Zaw Win Htut extended greetings. Vocalist Alex playing a guitar sang a song related to Nargis. At the opening ceremony, writer U Kyaw Nyunt Yee and wife Ma Wah Wah presented K 600,000 to build a house for the storm victims. Other wellwishers also made cash donations.

In an interview, U Myat Khaing of MK Media explained, “Over 100 colour photos are being displayed at the photo show. A total of 30 per cent proceeds earned from the sales of photos will be donated to the storm victims. As the current show is entitled ‘Nargis Story (1)’, we are going to organize similar photo shows.”

I witnessed many enthusiasts visiting photo show entitled “Nargis Story (1)” organized by MK Media on 2 and 3 August was a good opportunity for those wishing to make donations.

“I attend the photo show because it is also a donation ceremony.”

Htet Htet Moe Oo, movie star Soe Myat Thuzar expressed her view. She said, “I have been interested in the works of photos for many years. The photos displayed at the show reflect the real scenes. Actually, the aim of organizing the show is a good idea for making donations.”

The photo show was packed with enthusiasts including photographers, artists, musicians and artistes from the movie world. Moreover, the students and faculty members of BA (Journalism) course being jointly conducted by the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Information for the 2007-2008 academic year also visited the show.

Photos reflect the rehabilitation works and reconstruction of buildings hit by storm Nargis as well as the delivering of relief supplies to the survivors.

“In the photo show, we will never give up” Fishermen return to work.
For Meritorious Donors of Nargis Relief

We, Water Doctor Group, Supreme Group of Companies has been providing exclusively Free of Charge expertise and services for the installed and yet to be installed water purifying equipment, hassle-free and in perfection to meet the required quality of the original design. Very special prices and prompt installation services are offered for all types of Reverse Osmosis (RO) Equipment which is the sole solution to the salinity and arsenic tainted water systems for foreign missions, foreign owned industries and INGOs. More than 900 experienced the installations of numerous Reverse Osmosis (RO) machines, water treatment and waste water treatment systems, foreign owned hotels, foreign owned industries and INGOs. More than 900 special water treatment projects were individually designed, installed, serviced and maintained by the veteran engineers of Engineering Department.

Various Responsive Expertise and Services by Supreme Group of Companies

A company endowed with 14 years of experiences and expertise in the field of water treatment and waste water treatment systems, and an authorized dealer of 12 world leading companies of water treatment related parts, equipment, machines and technologies. Designs are specially innovated by master engineers, and installations and test-runs are personally supervised by them.

Machine installations and aftersales services have been executed by the expert engineers who have experienced the installations of numerous Reverse Osmosis (RO) machines, water treatment and waste water treatment systems for foreign missions, foreign owned industries and INGOs. More than 900 special water treatment projects were individually designed, installed, serviced and maintained by the veteran engineers of Engineering Department.

Operators of machines are closely trained by expert engineers.

For those relief centres in Yangon, Mandalay, Monywa, and other regions, water treatment and waste water treatment systems have been allotted by foreign governments, international hotels, foreign owned industries and INGOs. More than 900 special water treatment projects were individually designed, installed, serviced and maintained by the veteran engineers of Engineering Department.

We have abundant stocks of spare parts and consumable parts.

With best of luck and good wishes to our valued customers.

Head Office (Yangon)
No. 87/88, Bawon Complex, Bogyoke Aung San Road, Lanmadaw Township Yangon, Yangon.
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Mobile: +95 (9) 09288 806, +95 (9) 0830 921

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV ELLEN S VOY NO (705 N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ELLEN S VOY NO (705 N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9th August 2008 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M.I.P MAXION SHIPPING
AGENCY PTE LTD
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV BANGPAKAEW VOY NO (160)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANGPAKAEW VOY NO (160) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9th August 2008 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of Port of Yangon.

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No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M.S WONGSAMUT OCEAN SHIPPING CO.LTD Phone No: 2566919/256616/2566912

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now.

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ALPINE ELECTRONICS, INC. of 1-1-8, Nishi-Gotanda, Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo, Japan, is the Owner of the following Trade-Mark.

Reg. No. 5716/1996 in respect of “Audio and/or video tape players and recorders; audio and/or video disk players and recorders; disk changers for changing and playing disk in the disk players and recorders; radios; receivers; amplifiers; equalizers; sound processors including surround sound processors; channel dividers; digital/analog converters and frequency processors; speakers; television sets; television receiving sets; telephones; antennas; disks and tapes with prerecorded computer programs; apparatus for mounting audio and/or visual sets in vehicles; remote control apparatus and/or visual apparatus; communication cables; navigational apparatus for vehicles including CD-ROM player, display and antenna; interconnectors; extension cables; batteries and battery chargers; anti-theft warning apparatus. Anti-theft alarm devices for vehicles; anti-theft devices for vehicles;

TRADE MARK CAUTION
Notice is hereby given that our client, Mr. Andreas Fleischer Kellinghusen 10 D-20249 Hamburg Germany is the owner and sole proprietors of the following trademark:

Reg. No: 4/2983/08
Reg. No: 4/2977/08

To be used in connection with Vehicles: apparatus for locomotion by land, air or water in Class 12. Games and playthings, gymnastic and sporting articles as far as not included in Class 28, decorations for Christmas trees.

Any fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use of the said trademark or other infringement whatever will be dealt with according to law.

Sue Win
Advocate
#002 Level 5 Sakura Tower Ph: 230511/255407 Fur Billborn, Hawkins & Co.

Deep mystery: why sea turtles plumb the depths

Scientists have long puzzled over why leatherbacks are built to plumb the icy depths.

Imagine someone donning a complete set of scuba gear—tanks, buoyancy compensator, regulator—only to paddle about the surface. What’s the point? The mystery deepens. Not only are the turtles equipped with myoglobin-rich blood ideal for stocking oxygen, they sometimes plunge more than a kilometer (three-quarters of a mile) below the surface.

Jonathan Houghton and colleagues from the University of Swansea in Britain conducted experiments to find out why the lumbering sea creatures make these rare forays, and published their findings Friday in the British Journal of Experimental Biology.

Green sea turtles head to the sea, just after hatching at Guanahacabibes National Park’s Antonio beach, in the western cuban province of Pinar del Rio in January. Internet

PARIS, 8 Aug — Researchers say they have figured out why sea turtles that normally feed and breed in shallow water or on land will, very rarely, go deep sea diving: the reptiles are on reconnaissance.

One of conjoined twins dies after separation in Bangladesh

DHAKA, 8 Aug — Barsha, one of the conjoined twins separated at a hospital in Bangladesh’s capital city on Wednesday, died about seven and a half hours after the operation, local newspaper The Daily Star reported Friday.

Doctors of hospital in Bangbandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) were quoted as saying the baby could not stand the trauma of the seven-hour-long surgical operation.

Bonya, the other twin, is still left with the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) of the hospital and is not out of danger, the doctors said, adding that they are closely monitoring her condition round the clock.

“Has some temperature and pain because of the long operation,” BSMMU’s Paediatric Surgery Department Chairman Shafuliq Haque said.

Shahzad Begum, the twins’ mother, lost consciousness several times following her daughter’s death.

Six teams of 68 members including over 40 doctors took part in the surgery to separate the twins aged four months and 12 days.

Internet

ROK plans to build solar power plant on Dokdo

SEOUL, 8 Aug — The South Korean Government plans to build a solar power plant on the disputed islets of Dokdo, which Japan calls Takeshima, by November, the Korea Herald reported Thursday.

According to the report, the government will erect a 50-kilowatt solar power facility on one of the two main islets of Dokdo starting from next month.

When the solar plant is completed, it will meet 30 percent of electricity needs in Dokdo, the newspaper said. The government said the project is currently at the stage of designing the envisioned facility.

MNA/Xinhua
Suspected cholera outbreak in Philippines kills 21

MANILA, 8 Aug—A suspected cholera outbreak in a remote southern Philippine township has killed 21 people and sickened at least 50 others, the mayor and the Red Cross said Wednesday.

Most of the victims of the outbreak in several mountainous hamlets near Palimbang town in Sultan Kudarat province were children, Mayor Samrud Mamansual said. The area is about 600 miles south of Manila. Mamansual blamed poor water supplies and inadequate sanitation. He said the first deaths were reported Monday in the village of Milbuk among members of the Manobo tribe who get their drinking water from a waterfall.

He said 21 people have died in the outbreak, including three children on Wednesday.

Study finds only 40% in US are HIV-tested

WASHINGTON, 8 Aug—US efforts to test nearly everyone for the AIDS virus have stalled and just 40 per cent of adults in the country have ever been tested for the fatal and incurable virus, according to a government report on Thursday.

New methods are needed to get more people tested, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said in issuing the report. "In 2006, 40.4 per cent (an estimated 71.5 million persons) of US adults aged 18 to 64 years reported ever being tested for HIV infection," the CDC wrote in its weekly report on death and disease.

"In addition, 10.4 per cent (an estimated 17.8 million persons) reported being tested in the preceding 12 months, and 23 per cent of persons who acknowledged having HIV risk factors reported being tested in the preceding 12 months," just last year, the CDC reported that far more Americans are being newly infected with the AIDS virus every year than previously estimated — 56,000 a year instead of 40,000. The CDC used new methods to come up with the higher number.

Australian police claim ‘world’s largest seizure of ecstasy’

SYDNEY, 7 Aug—Australian Customs and police Friday announced they had seized 4.4 tonnes of ecstasy tablets, in what they said was the biggest haul of the illicit drug anywhere in the world.

Australian Federal Police Commissioner Mick Keelty said the seizure of the drugs, which were concealed in tins of tomato shipped to Australia from Italy, led to the arrests of 16 people across the country in pre-dawn raids. Authorities had worked for more than a year to track the syndicate behind the drugs after Customs discovered the ecstasy hidden inside more than 3,000 tins, each weighing about 1.5 kilograms (3.3 pounds), in June 2007.

Customs officials monitored the consignment but the arrests were brought close two weeks ago when a coffee bean shipment carrying 150 kilograms of cocaine was detected in Melbourne.

US researchers uncover West Nile’s targets

WASHINGTON, 6 Aug—Screening the entire human genome, a team headed by Yale University scientists have identified several hundred genes that impact West Nile virus infection.

The findings reported Wednesday online in the journal Nature may give scientists valuable new clues about ways to intervene in a host of deadly viral infections. "Diseases like West Nile affect millions of people," said Erol Fikrig from Yale. "We have found a dictionary of genes critical to a viral infection. Using these techniques, this can be done with any virus." — Internet

Mexican scientists begin tagging hundreds of sharks

BEIJING, 7 Aug—Mexican scientists have started tagging hundreds of sharks of the nation’s Pacific Coast to learn their habits and try to prevent attacks on humans.

The researchers plan to use a special baited fishing line to catch sharks and then tag and release them.

Sharks recently killed two surfers—the first fatal shark attacks along Mexico’s Pacific coast in 30 years, according to official records. A third was later wounded near the southwestern resort of Ixtapa-Zihuatanejo, about 240 miles north of Acapulco.

Leonardo Castillo, a researcher with Mexico’s National Fisheries Institute, said scientists will attach transmitters to two sharks and track them by satellite to better understand their behavior and where they lurk.

Fifteen other sharks will get sonar transmitters and 2,000 more will get plastic tags that can be tracked by fishermen, who will be compensated for every tag they turn in and the location where they found it.

Shark experts believe unusually cool sea-surface temperatures could be partly responsible for the attacks, but they also note that a lack of data about sharks in the region makes it difficult to reach conclusions.

Warmer weather produces more intense rainfall: study

WASHINGTON, 7 Aug—US and British researchers have confirmed the link between warmer climate and an increase in powerful rainstorms, according to a study released Thursday that underscores one of the challenges of global warming.

The researchers even found that the increase of extreme rainfall was higher than what has been predicted in current computer models, according to the study published in the journal Science.

The scientists pointed out that one of the biggest concerns regarding climate change is that heavy rainstorms will become more common and intense in a warmer climate due to the higher moisture available for condensation.

The more powerful rains also increase the risk of flooding that could have substantial impacts on societies and economies, they said. To understand the link between warmer climate, the researchers used naturally-driven changes associated with the El Nino weather system as a laboratory for testing their hypotheses.

Childhood stress tied to adult mental disorders

NEW YORK, 8 Aug—Adults in treatment for severe mental disorders report greater levels of childhood stress than adults without psychiatric disorders, researchers from Germany found in a study they conducted.

A burgeoning number of studies suggest that adverse or traumatic experiences during childhood influence adult psychopathology.

Dr. Brigitte Rockstroh, of the University of Konstanz, and colleagues note in the journal BMC Psychiatry.

They sought to further clarify this influence by comparing lifetime stress levels among 96 adults with major depression, schizophrenia, drug addiction, or personality disorder and 31 non-psychiatric adult subjects.

The investigators used two stress screening scales to measure adverse experiences when study participants were younger than 6 years (early childhood), before the onset of puberty, and during adulthood.

Rockstroh’s group found indications that childhood is a critical developmental period, in that all study participants showed negative effects related to high stress levels during childhood and before puberty, but not adulthood.— Internet
Defender Shorey joins Villa from Reading

**LONDON, 8 Aug**—Nicky Shorey has moved to Aston Villa from Reading on a three-year contract to become Villa’s fourth summer signing.

The 27-year-old Shorey joins former Royals teammates Steve Sidwell and goalkeepers Brad Friedel and Brad Guzan. Shorey headed to the Midlands earlier on Thursday after Villa agreed an undisclosed fee with Reading.

And after agreeing personal terms, the twice-capped England player has signed for Martin O’Neill’s side.

Shorey had been expected to leave Reading since their relegation last season with a number of clubs reportedly interested in his services.

The Londoner will fill the void left by Wilfred Bouma, who dislocated his ankle recently, and provide long-term competition for places.

O’Neill has made no secret of his desire to bolster the Villa squad and add strength in depth.—Internet

Bayern’s Klinsmann bemoans injury woes ahead of cup

**MUNICH, 8 Aug**—Jürgen Klinsmann on Thursday said that Bayern Munich could be without as many as eight top players for their first competitive match this weekend.

Bayern will play Erfurt on Sunday in the first round of the German Cup, before kickstarting the defence of their league title against Hamburg the following Friday.

“We are going to be a little short,” Klinsmann said, following news that Argentinean defender Martin Demichelis will be out for up to three weeks after picking up a knock in Tuesday’s pre-season defeat against Inter Milan.

With Italian star Luca Toni doubtful, and newly crowned German player of the year Franck Ribery, Frenchman Willy Sagnol, Hans Jorg Butt and Tim Borowski all topping the list of corks, Klinsmann is facing a selection nightmare.

To add to those injuries woes, Brazilian defender Breno and Argentinean midfielder Jose Sosa will be in Beijing to represent their countries at the Olympic Games.—Internet

Stewart and Gordon poised for victory celebration

**WATKINS GLEN, 8 Aug**—A road course race couldn’t have come at a better time for Tony Stewart and Jeff Gordon.

The masters of Watkins Glen International—Stewart and Gordon have combined to win eight of the past 11 NASCAR Sprint Cup races on the twisty, 11-turn layout are mired in season-long winless streaks heading into Sunday’s Centurion Boats at The Glen.

A fifth win by either driver would put him in a league of his own. No driver in the track’s storied 60-year history has ever won five races, and that includes Formula One, Indy cars, and sports cars.

“I feel that we’re the guys that every time we go there that everybody has to pay attention to us in order to win,” Stewart said. “Now, there are times we don’t win, obviously, but we’re still in the hunt every time and got a shot.”

Being winless in early August isn’t uncharted territory for Gordon, although the four-time Cup champion hasn’t gone this deep into a season without a victory since 2002. It is for Stewart, though, who has had at least two wins every year since 1999, his rookie season, and customarily shines in the heat of summer.

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INTERNET

Chelsea make Robinho bid

**LONDON, 8 Aug**—Top English Premiership club Chelsea confirmed on Thursday night that they had made a bid for Real Madrid’s Brazilian striker Robinho.

The Stamford Bridge club, who have already signed Jose Bozengwa and Deco, had made no secret of their desire to bring Robinho into their squad.

A statement on the Blues’ website, www.chelseafc.com, read: “Further to media reports, Chelsea Football Club can confirm we have made an offer to Real Madrid today for the transfer of Robinho.”—Internet

Bayern’s Klinsmann bemoans injury woes ahead of cup

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INTERNET

Stewart and Gordon poised for victory celebration

**WATKINS GLEN, 8 Aug**—A road course race couldn’t have come at a better time for Tony Stewart and Jeff Gordon.

The masters of Watkins Glen International—Stewart and Gordon have combined to win eight of the past 11 NASCAR Sprint Cup races on the twisty, 11-turn layout are mired in season-long winless streaks heading into Sunday’s Centurion Boats at The Glen.

A fifth win by either driver would put him in a league of his own. No driver in the track’s storied 60-year history has ever won five races, and that includes Formula One, Indy cars, and sports cars.

“I feel that we’re the guys that every time we go there that everybody has to pay attention to us in order to win,” Stewart said. “Now, there are times we don’t win, obviously, but we’re still in the hunt every time and got a shot.”

Being winless in early August isn’t uncharted territory for Gordon, although the four-time Cup champion hasn’t gone this deep into a season without a victory since 2002. It is for Stewart, though, who has had at least two wins every year since 1999, his rookie season, and customarily shines in the heat of summer.

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INTERNET
Nicaraguan Army seizes two tons of cocaine

Managua, 8 Aug—The Nicaraguan Army said on Thursday that they seized two tons of cocaine, along with war fusils and communication gadgets during an anti-drug operation in the South Caribbean of Nicaragua.

They have seized more than two tons of cocaine, two war fusils, cell phones, three GPS systems and two radio communication devices.

Two drug traffickers have also been detained after a clash between the Nicaraguan Army and drug traffickers.

MNA/Xinhua

Bollywood actress Perizad Zorabian attends the India International Jewellery Show (IIJS) in Mumbai on 7 Aug, 2008.—Internet

Five countries fetch Ribbons for fighting HIV/AIDS

Mexico City, 8 Aug—The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Thursday awarded five organizations from Ghana, India, Iran, Malawi and Mexico with Red Ribbon awards, in recognition of their roles in fighting Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV).

Rebecca Grynspan, UNDP regional director for Latin America and the Caribbean, conveyed the award at the 17th International AIDS Conference, which runs through Friday in Mexico City.

Grynspan said the award recipients “have demonstrated extraordinary creativity, courage and leadership in response to the epidemic and achieved tangible results with limited resources”.

The five winners would receive 20,000 US dollars each along with the Red Ribbon award. The Red Ribbon awards were first granted in 2006 at the 16th International AIDS Conference in Toronto, Canada.

The International AIDS Conference, held every two years, is the largest regular HIV/AIDS-related meeting organized by the International Aids Society, the world’s leading independent association of HIV/AIDS professionals. The five prize-winning organizations are: the Centre for Popular Education and Human Rights (Ghana), Women’s Sanghamitra Collective (India), Mashhad Positive Club (Hamyaran Mosbat) (Iran), Consol Homes (Malawi) and Fortaleciendo la Diversidad (Mexico).

Survey shows Americans want overhaul of health system

Chicago, 8 Aug—More than 80 per cent of Americans think the US health system needs either fundamental change or a complete overhaul, according to a survey released on Thursday.

Access to care, better coordination between different health providers and better flow of health information were among their chief complaints, the Harris Interactive poll found. Just as another poll found that health insurance costs have doubled for Americans since 1996. “It’s clear that our healthcare systems isn’t giving Americans the health care they need and deserve,” said Karen Davis, president of the nonprofit Common-wealth Fund, which commissioned the survey.

WEATHER

WEATHER Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas

WEATHER Friday, 8 August, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST: During the past 24 hours, rain have been isolated in Magway Division, scattered in Kayah State andSagaing Division, fairly widespread in Rakhine State, and Mandalay Division and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions with locally heavyfalls in Rakhine, Kayin and Mon States, Bago and Tammanyth Division, isolated heavyfalls in Yangon and Ayeayawady Divisions. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were 10.12 inches, Thande (9.18) inches, Hpa-an (8.53) inches, Longon (4.06) inches, Coco Island (4.01) inches, Shwegyin (3.94) inches. Thatun (3.70) inches, Dowei (3.54) inches, Zaungtu (3.57) inches and Gwa (3.15) inches.

Maximum temperature on 7-8-2008 was 85°F. Minimum temperature on 8-8-2008 was 69°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 8-8-2008 was 92%.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 8-9-2008: Rain will be scattered in lower Sagaing and Magway Divisions, fairly widespread in Kayah State, upper Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Rakhine, Mon and Kayin States, Bago, Ayeayawady, Yangon and Tammanyth Divisions. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for the next few days: Likelihood of increase in rain in the Central and Eastern part of Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 9-8-2008: Isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (85%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 9-8-2008: Scattered showers. Degree of certainty is (85%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 9-8-2008: Isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (85%).
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

**Kuwaiti Prime Minister concludes visit**

YANGON, 8 Aug—The visiting Kuwaiti Prime Minister of Kuwait Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammed Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Shabab this afternoon left Yangon by special flight for home.

Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Win Myint presented the documentary CD on the goodwill visit to the Kuwaiti Prime Minister at the lounge of Yangon International Airport.

The delegation was seen off at the airport by the commander, Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu, Director-General of the Protocol Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Kyaw and officials.—MNA

**2nd Nay Pyi Taw Inter-Ministry Football Tournament continues**

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Aug—Group matches of the 2nd Nay Pyi Taw Inter-Ministry Football Tournament 2008 continued at the designated venues this afternoon.

At Nay Pyi Taw Sports Ground, Ministry of Labour trounced Supreme Court 6-0. At Paunglaung Sports Ground, Ministry of Culture beat Ministry of Electric Power No. 1. Ministry of Rail Transportation will meet Ministry of Information and Ministry of Construction will play against CSSTB tomorrow.—MNA

**Electric Power No. 2 Minister inspects sub-power stations in Magway Division**

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Aug—Minister for Electric Power No. 2 Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, accompanied by officials concerned, met with staff at office of electrical engineer in Taungdwingyi Township on 6 August. After hearing the reports presented by officials, the minister fulfilled the needs.

The minister met with staff at Taungdwingyi main power station and gave instructions.

On arrival at the office of Magway Division Electrical Engineer, the minister delivered a speech and fulfilled the needs.

The minister and party then proceeded to Magway power station and inspected the distribution of electricity at power station.

At the office of Aunglan electrical engineer, the minister inspected the distribution of electricity and works being carried out in power station. And, the minister gave necessary instructions.—MNA

**Weather Forecast for (9-8-2008)**

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

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