Senior General Than Shwe felicitates Indonesian President

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Aug — On the occasion of the 63rd Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of Indonesia, which falls on 17 August 2008, His Excellency 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 Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, President of the Republic of Indonesia.— MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye felicitates Indonesian Vice-President

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Aug — On the occasion of the 63rd Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of Indonesia, which falls on 17 August 2008, His Excellency Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Jusuf Kalla, Vice-President of the Republic of Indonesia.— MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein sends felicitations to Indonesia

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Aug — On the occasion of the 63rd Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of Indonesia, which falls on 17 August 2008, His Excellency General Thein Sein, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, President of the Republic of Indonesia.— MNA

Prime Minister receives Ambassador of Commonwealth of Australia

YANGON, 16 Aug — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Thein Sein received Ambassador of Commonwealth of Australia to the Union of Myanmar Ms Michelle Su-Wen Chan at Zeyathiri Beikman Hall on Kommyintha here at 4 pm today.
Also present on the occasion together with the Prime Minister were Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo, Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe, Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu, Director-General of the Government Office Col Thant Shin and Director-General of Protocol Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Kyaw.— MNA

Four political objectives
* Stability of the State, community peace and tranquility, prevalence of law and order
* National reconsolidation
* Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
* Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

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

Prime Minister General Thein Sein receives Ambassador of Commonwealth of Australia to the Union of Myanmar Ms Michelle Su-Wen Chan.— MNA

Weather Forecast for 17-8-2008

Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area:
Isolated rain.
Degree of certainty is (80%).
Yangon and neighbouring area:
One or two rain.
Degree of certainty is (80%).
Mandalay and neighbouring area:
Isolated rain.
Degree of certainty is (80%).
**PERSPECTIVES**

**Sunday, 17 August, 2008**

**Drug abuse control, a national duty**

The problem of narcotic drugs has become a global issue. Successive Myanmar governments worked out the problem of narcotic drugs with own resources.

If a society is under the threat posed by narcotics, the danger of the drugs will destroy the lifestyle and push the drug addicts into miseries. The abuse of narcotic drugs invites grave dangers and HIV/AIDS and other diseases, and the drug addicts will lose their goals.

Now, narcotic drugs are posing grave dangers to both developing and developed countries. As such, the entire people have to harmoniously participate with national awareness in the tasks to guard against the danger of narcotic drugs.

Myanmar is making all-out efforts to ward off the dangers of narcotic drugs through two strategies and three tactics. The 15-year plan for eradication of narcotic drugs has been launched since 1999-2000, and now the plan has been in the fourth year of the second five-year plan.

Committees for Drug Abuse Control at all levels have been formed to expedite narcotic drugs elimination tasks that cover the entire nation including rural areas.

In the process, it is required to carry out drug elimination tasks at home and in cooperation with the international community. The memoranda of understanding Myanmar has signed with regional and sub-regional countries have showed considerable success.

The people are, therefore, exhorted to take part in the drug abuse control tasks in order that the entire mankind is free from the dangers of narcotic drugs.

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**Minister for Mines inspects Tin Smelting Plant**

**Yangon, 16 Aug** — Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint and Managing Director of Myanmar Gems Enterprise U Thein Swe inspected Tin Smelting Plant in Thayin Township yesterday.

The factory manager reported on production of tin and targets for the fiscal year. The minister fulfilled the requirements.

The minister inspected the production, repair of the building, vegetable patch and repair of housing quarters.

The minister also inspected salt milling factory and rehydration salt factory in Tharkayta Township.

**MNA**

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**EGAT of Thailand donates 1,800 sets of lamp-posts for rehabilitation in storm-hit areas**

**Yangon, 16 Aug** — Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand under the Ministry of Energy of Thailand and its partner companies Ratchaburi Electricity Generating Holding Public Co. Ltd donated 1,800 sets of lamp-posts worth 6.5 million Baht for rehabilitation in storm-hit areas at Sedona Hotel, here, yesterday.

Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint, Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Col Hla Thein Swe and Chairman of Yangon City Electricity Supply Board Col Khin Maung Soe accepted the donation and presented souvenirs to the donors.

Governor of EGAT Mr Soe attended the ceremony and presented souvenirs to the donors.

Deputy Minister for Welfare Relief and Resettlement Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint thanked the donors.

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**Tin Smelting Plant**

**Yangon, 16 Aug** — Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint and Managing Director of Myanmar Gems Enterprise U Thein Swe inspected Tin Smelting Plant in Thayin Township yesterday.

The factory manager reported on production of tin and targets for the fiscal year. The minister fulfilled the requirements.

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The minister also inspected salt milling factory and rehydration salt factory in Tharkayta Township.

**MNA**

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**DEPUTY MINISTER FOR SWRR BRIG-GEN KYAW MYINT, DEPUTY MINISTER FOR F&R COL HAL THEIN SWE ACCEPT 1,800 SETS OF LAMP-POSTS WORTH 6.5 MILLION BAHT.—EX NO-2**

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**Foreign Affairs Minister felicitates Indonesian counterpart**

**Nay Pyi Taw, 17 Aug** — On the occasion of the 63rd Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of Indonesia, which falls on 17 August 2008, His Excellency U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Dr N Hassan Wirajuda, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia.

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**USDA Secretariat member performs regional development tasks in Shwegu, Mansi—COMMUNICATIONS**

**Nay Pyi Taw, 16 Aug** — Secretariat member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw gave instructions on extended installation of telephone lines at Shwegu Digital Auto Exchange on 8 August.

Next, the Secretariat member met with officials, members of social organizations and townsenders at the office of USDA in Shwegu and fulfilled the requirements.

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**Talks on environmental issues by Microbiology Society, MMA**

**Yangon, 16 Aug** — Under the auspices of the Microbiology Society, Myanmar Medical Association, the Department of Microbiology, University of Medicine (1), Yangon, will hold a symposium on ‘World Crises - Energy, Food and Water’ at Auditorium (A), Myanmar Medical Association, Theinbyu Road, from 9 am to noon on 23 August, 2008.

The speakers will be Professor/Head Dr Kyi Kyi Thinn, Professor Dr Wai Win Brike and Associate Professor Dr Kyu Kyu Win.

All those interested (medical and non-medical) are invited to attend. Registration can be made from 10 am to 4 pm at the Department of Microbiology, University of Medicine (1), Lanmadaw Township, Yangon, or on-site on the day of the symposium.—MNA
Russia signs up to Georgia truce

MOSCOW, 16 Aug—Russian President Dmitry Medvedev has signed a ceasefire agreement with Georgia after receiving it in Moscow.

The deal calls for all military activity to stop and for troops from both sides to pull back into pre-conflict positions. The deal was signed on Friday by Georgian President Mikhail Saakashvili.

But Russian forces remain deep in Georgian territory, and correspondents say many obstacles remain in the way of full implementation of the peace deal.

At stake is the future of Georgia’s breakaway regions of South Ossetia and Abkhazia.

US-backed Georgia has vowed it will not accept any loss of its territory, but Russia insists that following the recent violence, residents are unlikely to want to live in the same state as Georgians. The crisis, which began nine days ago, saw Georgian forces launch a surprise attack to regain control of South Ossetia, only to be decisively repelled by Russian forces. —Internet

Official: Lao flooding not danger for Cambodia

PHNOM PENH, 16 Aug—The current flooding in Laos wouldn’t cause any serious danger for Cambodia, although the two neighboring countries share water from the Mekong River, English-Khmer language newspaper the Cambodia Daily Saturday quoted an official as saying.

“The water (here) hasn’t risen (to those levels in Laos) and there is nothing to be worried about,” said Nhnh Vanda, vice president of the National Committee for Disaster Management.

“Cambodia was well insulated from rising water levels in Laos because of the number of lakes available here for any excess water to drain into,” he said. —Internet

Seven dead, 50 injured in Colombia bomb blast

BOGOTA, 16 Aug — A bomb explosion has killed seven people and injured more than 50 others in northwestern Colombia, police said on Friday.

The explosion occurred Thursday night in front of a discotheque in central Ituango in Antioquia province.

The injured, of whom 14 were in critical condition, were taken by helicopter to Antioquia’s capital Medellin early Friday morning.

Police said the armed group “El Pajaro,” supposedly a faction of the rebel Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), was responsible for the attack.

A person connected to the blast has been detained, the provincial police commander said.

Three dead, four injured in shooting in Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO, 16 Aug — Three people were killed and at least four others injured overnight in a shootout between the police and drug dealers in Rio’s Vigario Geral shantytown, local police said on Friday.

According to the police, a local resident and two drug dealers died and the four injured have been taken to the Hospital.

Car bomb kills nine, wounds 40 north of Baghdad

TIKRIT, 16 Aug — A car bomb went off at a busy parking lot and a marketplace in a Shiite town in Iraq’s Salahudin province on Friday, killing at least nine people and wounding 40 others, a provincial police source said.

A booby-trapped car detonated at sunset at the main parking lot and popular marketplace in the town of Balad, some 80 km north of Baghdad, the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.
Police use water cannons to disperse a rally against US beef imports in Seoul. South Korean police hosed protesters with water laced with blue dye and mobilized specially-trained plainclothes officers to break up an anti-government demonstration late Friday and early Saturday.—INTERNET

California to build world’s biggest solar power plants

LOS ANGELES, 16 Aug — California’s largest utility company has signed deals to build the world’s two biggest solar plants that would supply electricity to 250,000 homes and reestablish the utility company has signed deals to build the world’s two biggest solar power plants that would supply electricity to 250,000 homes and reestablish the utility company has signed deals to build the world’s two biggest solar power plants that would supply electricity to 250,000 homes and reestablish the utility company has signed deals to build the world’s two biggest solar power plants that would supply electricity to 250,000 homes and reestablish the utility company has signed deals to build the world’s two biggest solar power plants that would supply electricity to 250,000 homes and reestablish the utility company has signed deals to build the world’s two biggest solar power plants that would supply electricity to 250,000 homes and reestablish the utility company has signed deals to build the world’s two biggest solar power plants that would supply electricity to 250,000 homes and reestablish the utility company has signed deals to build the world’s two biggest solar power plants that would supply electricity to 250,000 homes and reestablish the utility company has signed deals to build the world’s two biggest solar power plants that would supply electricity to 250,000 homes and reestablish the utility. Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E), which is based in San Francisco and serves most of northern California, will use the two massive solar facilities to help it meet state requirements to generate 20 percent of its electricity from renewable sources by 2010, according to chief executive and senior vice president Jack Keenan. “This commitment not only moves us forward in meeting our renewable energy goal, it’s also a significant step forward in the renewable energy sector,” Keenan said in a statement.

Caribbean countries to create economic union in 2011

HANOI, 16 Aug — Caribbean countries of Trinidad and Tobago, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Grenada have agreed to form an economic union in 2011, said news reaching here from Puerto Espana, the capital of Trinidad and Tobago. The reports said officials from the four countries signed on Thursday an understanding memorandum at a meeting in Puerto Espana. Under the memorandum, the four countries also expected to realize political integration in 2013.

Overseas students feel more at home

BEIJING, 16 Aug — China has the fifth highest number of overseas students in the world, Ministry of Education officials said yesterday. Only the US, UK, France and Germany play host to more international students.

China has drawn more than 1.23 million students from abroad since launching its reform and opening up in the late 1970s, Vice-Minister of Education Zhang Xinsheng told a press conference. “More overseas students are opting for long-term, formal education in China in a wide range of subjects, from language and culture to science, engineering and medicine,” Zhang said. “They are from developing and developed countries both.”

“With a good social environment, fast economic growth and upgraded quality of education, China has become more attractive for foreign students.”

The number of overseas students studying in China reached a record 195,000 last year, up 20 percent from 2006, according to ministry figures.

China has signed mutual diploma recognition contracts with 33 countries, including the UK, France, Germany, Australia, New Zealand and Russia.

One Turkish soldier killed in landmine blast

ANKARA, 16 Aug — One soldier of the Turkish security forces was killed when he stepped on a landmine in southeastern Turkey, the semi-official Anatolia news agency reported on Saturday.

Private Halil Gunes died when he stepped on the landmine, planted by the outlawed Kurdish Workers’ Party (PKK), in Semdinli town of Hakkari province, according to the report.

Meanwhile, the Turkish security forces killed three PKK rebels in a clash in southeastern province of Batman, a statement posted on website of the Turkish General Staff said on Friday.

In other operations, one PKK member surrendered to security forces in southeastern Sirnak province and one PKK member was captured in eastern province of Van.

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

INTERNET

Mexican tenor Ramon Vargas, Korean-born soprano Ju Su-mi, Russian baritone Dmitri Hvorostovsky and the US soprano Renee Fleming (from L to R) sing together during the World-Class Superstars Concert for welcoming Beijing Olympic, at the Great Hall of the People, in Beijing, on 14 Aug, 2008.—Xinhua
China’s hotel, catering retail sales rises 24.3% in the first seven months

BEIJING, 16 Aug — China’s hotel and catering industry saw its retail sales rose 24.3 percent in the first seven months over the same period last year, the Ministry of Commerce (MOC) said on Friday. The growth rate was 5.5 percentage points higher than the same period last year, said the MOC on its website.

Retail sales of the country’s hotel and catering industry amounted to 837.49 billion yuan (about 120 billion US dollars) between January and July, accounting for 14 percent of the nation’s total domestic retail sales during the same period. China’s retail sales of consumer goods in the first seven months of this year was 5.9672 trillion yuan, up 21.7 percent, compared with 15.5 percent growth rate recorded over the same period of last year.

Foreign hotel and catering enterprises established 399 new branches in China during the January and July period, down 18.2 percent over the same period last year, while contract value rose 4.3 percent to 1.71 billion US dollars.

The country’s hotel and catering industry reaped 116.8 billion yuan in July alone, representing an increase of 26.5 percent over the same month last year, according to the MOC.

Swiss exports more chocolate to China

GENEVA, 16 Aug — Exports of Swiss chocolate products to China have increased dramatically in the past seven years, the official Swissinfo news website reported on Friday.

Exports to China rose from just two tons in 2001 to 308 tons last year, according to figures from Chocosuisse, the association of Swiss chocolate manufactures. This represents an increase in value to 2.1 million Swiss francs (about 1.9 million US dollars) from only 57,000 Swiss francs (about 51,800 US dollars) seven years ago. Chocosuisse said China imports primarily premium chocolate from Switzerland. Only a small segment of consumers can afford the products.

A boy looks at a jade suit sewn with gold thread from Western Han Dynasty (206 BC-25 AD) during the exhibition “Chinese Memory-treasures of a 5000-year Civilization” at the Capital Museum in Beijing, on 12 Aug, 2008. —Xinhua

Troops to be sent to Brazil’s Rio to provide security for municipal elections

RIO DE JANEIRO, 16 Aug — Brazil’s Superior Electoral Court has unanimously adopted a decision authorizing the sending of military troops to Rio de Janeiro to provide security for municipal elections slated for early October, local daily “O Globo” reported on Friday.

The troops would not be deployed in the entire city, but only in areas where crimes like drug dealing and militia-related violence were rampant, according to Carlos Ayres Britto, chief of the Regional Electoral Court. The army troops will work with local and federal police to ensure that candidates are able to conduct their campaigns freely in all parts of the city. They will also provide security for booths in voting areas.

Foreigners watch silk reeling performances at a silk store in Xishui Market (Silk Street market), a popular tourist market, in Beijing, capital of China, on 13 Aug, 2008. —Xinhua

Eight killed in train collision in Indonesia

JAKARTA, 16 Aug — Eight people were killed and 32 others were seriously injured when two trains collided in Lampung province of Sumatra Island in Indonesia on Saturday morning, said Surawono, an official of the provincial railway station.

The accident occurred at 7:30 Jakarta time near Labuan Ratu station at Kedaton town of the province when a passenger train of Sriwijaya from Palembang, the capital of South Sumatra province, struck a train carrying coal from Tarahan town of South Lampung province, said Surawono.

“Eight people were killed and 32 others were seriously wounded,” he told Xinhua from the province.

All those injured were rushed to nearby hospitals such as Immanuel and Abdul Muluk hospitals, said Surawono.

The official said that an initial information revealed that the cause of the accident was the failure of brake system. Train is a favorite cheaper transport mean in the country which is homed by over 230 million population.
Nation will face tighter job market

BEIJING, 16 Aug — The domestic job market will face growing pressures over the next few months as global economic problems cut employment in a number of sectors, a top labor official said yesterday.

“Employment remains a major difficulty in terms of overall social development, and it faces huge pressures,” Hu Xiaoyi, Vice-Minister of Human Resources and Social Security, told a news conference at the Beijing International Media Centre.

About 20 million people join the workforce every year in China, which continues to have a labor surplus, he said.

Growing global economic uncertainties in the first half of this year and the pressure brought by a rising yuan on foreign trade have led to job cuts in a number of sectors, Hu said.

Internet

Suspected Somali pirates seize Thai cargo ship

BANGKOK, 16 Aug — Suspected Somali pirates have seized a Thai cargo ship in the Gulf of Aden, one of the world’s most lawless and dangerous shipping lanes, although all 28 crew on board were so far unharmed, the vessel’s owner said on Friday.

Thor Star Shipping said it first became concerned on Tuesday when the MV Thor Star deviated from its intended route to deliver a cargo of plywood to the port of Aden in Yemen, and repeated calls to the ship went unanswered.

The hijackers made contact the following day and confirmed that the all Thai crew were “safe and well”, the company said, adding that the ship was now out of the lawless Horn of Africa nation has made the area one of the world’s most dangerous shipping zones. In most cases, hostages are treated well in anticipation of large ransoms.

MNA/Reuters

Bus plunge kills 11 in central China

BEIJING, 16 Aug — A bus carrying 34 passengers veered off a mountain road and plunged into a ravine in central China on Friday, killing at least 11, the official Xinhua news agency said.

The accident happened in Mancheng county in Hebei Province. Xinhua said “Seven people were killed on the spot and four others died while being treated,” it said. “The condition of the other 23 passengers, who were hospitalized, was not known.” MNA/Reuters

Pakistani Army kills 462 militants in tribal region

ISLAMABAD, 16 Aug — The Pakistani security forces has killed 462 militants in its 10-day long military operation in northeastern Pakistan’s tribal region, said a provincial governor on Friday.

But 22 security personnel have also been killed during the operation in Bajaur tribal agency, said Owais Ahmed Ghani, governor of North West Frontier Province (NWFP).

Ghani made the remarks while attending a Press conference in NWFP capital Peshawar, which was broadcast live by private Dawn TV channel.

Pakistan’s security forces started its operation against local militants in Bajaur agency on August 6 when the militants ambushed an Army vehicle. —MNA/Xinhua

Japanese man wins eating competition

A small but enthusiastic Singapore crowd got its first taste of professional eating as the sport’s two titans, Takeru Kobayashi and Joey “Jaws” Chestnut, made their debut in the city-state.

About 300 competitive eating fans roared as local favorite Kobayashi of Japan slammed home 5 kg of grilled Singaporean chicken “satay” in 12 minutes in Sunday’s contest. California’s Chestnut was a distant second, munching down 4 kg.

“I’ve followed Kobayashi’s career on YouTube, so it’s really exciting to see him in person,” said Ricky Chen, a 31-year-old graphic designer.

The professional eating circuit, known as Major League Eating, was organizing its first contest in Asia, one of about 80 competitions a year in which “gargigators” wolf down foods such as grits, sticks of butter, oysters, jalapenos and cow brains, all the while hoping to avoid the dreaded “reversal.”

MNA/Xinhua

Fish scales referable to future armour

Researchers said the design of fish scales may refer to the future armour, media reported on Monday.

A team at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, which studied scales from Polypterus senegalus,said fish scales design deflects the pressure of crunching bite from predators, forcing cracks to run in a circle around the penetration site and preventing them spreading through the entire scale.

“Many of the design principles we describe — durable interfaces and energy-dissipating mechanisms, for instance — may be translatable to human armor systems,” MIT’s Christine Ortiz, who led the study, said in a statement.
EP No. 2 Minister receives Malaysian guests

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Aug—Minister for Electric Power No. 2 Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint received Managing Director Mr Azizan Abd Rahman of TNB Repair & Maintenance SDN BHD Co and party of Malaysia at the minister’s office, here, on 13 August. They held discussions on repair and maintenance of natural gas-fired power stations. It was also attended by Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Win Myint and officials.

Minister Brig-Gen Thein Aung inspects logs at Myaysi rafting station in Ottwin.

Forestry Minister inspects saw mills

YANGON, 16 Aug—Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung looked into production process of timber, functioning of engines and sawn timber at No. 88 Sawmill in Taungoo, Bago Division yesterday. After hearing reports presented by officials, the minister gave necessary instructions.

Next, the minister and party inspected Myaysi rafting station in Ottwin Township.

Notice to mariners issued

YANGON, 16 Aug—The Petronas Myanmar Oil Co joint venture with Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise will conduct oil exploration at MF-1 oil well of M-12 of Mottama offshore blocks with the use of drilling platform Naga-1 from 15 August to 15 October 2008.

The location of MF-1 oil well is at North Latitude 13 degree, 11 minute and 6.943 second and East Longitude 96 degree, 51 minute and 3.457 second.

The Fisheries Department issued an announcement that all vessels large or small must stay away from four kilometers radius of the area in which the exploration will be conducted.—MNA

YANGON Division Supervisory Committee for Ensuring Secure and Smooth Transport meets

YANGON, 16 Aug—YANGON Division Supervisory Committee for Ensuring Secure and Smooth Transport held its work coordination meeting at the meeting hall of Yangon Command yesterday evening with an address by Chairman of the Supervisory Committee Commanding Officer Yangon Command Brig-Gen Win Myint.

In his opening speech, Commanding Officer Yangon Command Brig-Gen Win Myint dealt with matters on enforcement of traffic rules and secure and smooth transport.

Officials from universities and colleges, departmental officials and chairman of private bus lines reported on matters related to ferrying of students, enforcement of traffic rules and arrangements for ensuring safety of the people.

The meeting ended with the concluding remarks by the commander.

Deputy Education Minister views School Health Week activities

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Aug—Deputy Minister for Education Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min together with officials of No. 3 Basic Education Department visited School Health Week activities at basic education schools in Nay Pyi Taw Township on 11 August. First, the deputy minister and party first visited No. 2 BEHS where they viewed the school health exhibition being staged as part of School Health Week. Next, they inspected school health activities. He also visited Myoma No. 6 Basic Education Post-Primary School and Myoma No. 1 BEHS and inspected school health activities.

Yesterday accompanied by Director U Myint Shwe of No. 3 Basic Education Department and officials, the deputy minister went to Magyibin Village BEMS (Branch), Bo Min Yaung Ward BEMS and No. 2 BEHS in NayPyiTaw Tatkon Township and inspected school health activities.—MNA

Prizes presented to winners in 7th Performing Arts, Anyeint, Drama and Magic Competitions

YANGON, 16 Aug—Prize presentation ceremony of the 7th Performing Arts, Anyeint, Drama and Magic Competitions by the Ministry of Defence was held at No. 3 Mobile Public Relations Unit this morning.

Deputy Commander of Central Command Brig-Gen Than Tun Aung, Col Nyio Win of the Ministry of Defence, senior military officers of Mandalay Station, officials of the University of Culture (Mandalay), judges and artistes attended the ceremony.

Prize winners in respective contests were given awards by the officials and prize-winning troupe in Drama contest and No. 3 Mobile Public Relations Unit awards by the deputy commander.

After that, prize-winning artistes entertained the guests with songs and dances.—MNA

Information Subcommittee for Organizing Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions meets

YANGON, 16 Aug—Work coordination meeting of Information Sub-committee for organizing Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions was held at Myanmar Radio and Television, here this morning.

Chairman of the Subcommittee Director-General U Khin Maung Huy of MRTV, committee members and officials attended the meeting.

The chairman made an opening speech, calling for timely completion of the tasks to be done by the committee.

Next, those present reported on work progress and the chairman gave concluding remarks.—MNA
USDA youths honoured for voluntary services

YANGON, 16 Aug—Y Yangon Division Union Solidarity and Development Association hosted dinner here yesterday in honour of USDA youths from states and divisions who participated in rehabilitation tasks in storm-hit areas in Ayeyawady Division. The dinner was attended by Secretary-General of the USDA U Htay Oo, member of the Secretariat (Youth affairs in-charge) U Thein Zaw, CEC members U Aung Thein Lin and U Maung Pa, officials of the USDA Headquarters, secretaries and executives of State and Division USDAs and youths. Secretary-General of the USDA U Htay Oo and CEC member (Yangon Division in-charge) U Aung Thein Lin spoke on the occasion. On behalf of the youths, Executive of Kawkareik District USDA U Mahn Nyein Aung, recounted experiences on their participation in rehabilitation tasks in storm-hit areas. The USDA youths participated in rehabilitation tasks in twelve groups in villages in Labutta, Ngapudaw, Dedaye and Bogale Townships.

Briefing on introducing Spring Board 4 Myanmar and presenting ICDL certificates held

YANGON, 16 Aug—With the sponsorship of Ocean Gate Education Services, a briefing on introducing Spring Board 4 Myanmar and presenting ICDL (International Computer Driving License) was held at the Myanmar Info-Tech here today. Chairperson of Myanmar Computer Industrialists Association Daw War War Tun made an opening speech. Next, CEO of Spring Board 4 Asia Mr Colin Glass gave talks on ICDL and Vice-Chairperson of OGES Daw May Phyu Thwe explained the opening of ICDL training courses in Myanmar. Chairman of OGES U Htin Aung Khaing and guests presented ICDL certificates to those who had completed the courses and prizes to outstanding trainees. After that, U Htin Aung Khaing and Mr Colin Glass signed an agreement on work cooperation. Executive Officer U Thein Soe explained the salient points of Spring Board 4 Asia.

Training Courses on ICDL certificates have been conducted since 2007, and Spring Board 4 Myanmar will conduct more such training courses along with other professional courses. And those interested are to contact the office of Spring Board 4 Myanmar, No 355, Theinbyu Road, Mingala Taungnyunt Township, Yangon (Tel 380130).—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

Prime Minister General Thein Sein greets Ambassador of Commonwealth of Australia to the Union of Myanmar Ms Michelle Su-Wen Chan. (News on Page 1)—MNA

Chairman of Ocean Gate U Htin Aung Khaing and CEO of Spring Board 4 Asia Mr Colin Glass sign agreement.—MNA

Secretary-General U Htay Oo addressing ceremony to host dinner in honour of USDA youths from states and divisions who participated in rehabilitation tasks in storm-hit areas in Ayeyawady Division.—MNA

Supreme Court holds tree planting ceremony

NAVPYI TAW, 16 Aug—The rainy season tree planting ceremony of the Supreme Court was held at the designated place of the Supreme Court yesterday morning. Chief Justice U Aung Toe and Deputy Chief Justice U Tun Tun Oo together with directors-general, directors and service personnel participated in the ceremony. They planted 600 saplings at the ceremony.—MNA
Ceremonies to mark Fullmoon Day of Wagaung held

YANGON, 16 Aug – Organized by the Board of Trustees of the Shwedagon Pagoda, a ceremony to offer 84,000 flowers to the Buddha Images in commemoration of Fullmoon Day of Wagaung was held on the platform of the pagoda this morning.

Board of Trustees of the Pagoda together with members of religious associations offered ‘soon’ and 84,000 flowers to the Shwedagon Pagoda, Buddha Images and Padamya Myatshin Buddha Image, and organized blood donation ceremony.

The Board of Trustees of the Thiri Mingala Kaba-Aye Pagoda organized a similar ceremony at the prayer hall of the Pagoda.

At the dhammayon of Botataung Pagoda, Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw of Kaba-Aye Maha Gannayon monastery Bhaddanta Namisara and Joint-Secretary Sayadaw of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw of Maha Withokdayontaik Thahtaydan monastery Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Manitasiri delivered sermons. — MNA

Flowers offering ceremony on platform of Shwedagon Pagoda on fullmoon day of Wagaung in progress.

Dhamma recitation ceremony at Thiri Mingala Kaba-Aye Pagoda on the fullmoon day of Wagaung in progress.

Entries invited for Independence Day colour photo contest

YANGON, 16 Aug – The 61st Anniversary Independence Day commemorative colour photo contest entitled ‘Peaceful modern Myanmar’ will be held.

The entry must be 10x14 inch size and the handsome prizes will be given to the winners. The entry photos are to be sent to Director (Production) U Aye Kywe of Information and Public Relations Department No 228, Theinbyu Street, Botataung Township not later than 25 September. — MNA

Talks on Data to Knowledge on 23 August

YANGON, 16 Aug — Talks on Data to Knowledge will be given by the Executive Members of Myanmar Computer Professionals Association at Myanmar Info Tech in Hline Township, here from 9.30 am to noon on 23 August.

Interested persons may take part in the talks and for detail information dial 652276 No 4, Hall 4 of MCPA office. — MNA

The wise outstrips the intoxicated

Not intoxicated among the intoxicated and wide-awake among the sleeping, the wise one outstrips them as a swift horse outstrips a weak one.

Dhammapada-29

Meeting for sending pilgrims to Bodh Gaya held

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Aug — Work coordination meeting for sending pilgrims to India and Nepal was held at the Ministry of Religious Affairs, here, yesterday with an address by Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung.

Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko gave a supplementary report and Director-General Dr Myo Myint of Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana explained itineraries. Officials reported on work to be done for pilgrimages.

Starting from late September, 2008, pilgrimages will be made, it is learnt. — MNA
Talks on knowledge about weather to minimize losses caused by natural disasters

With a view to enabling the people to have awareness of weather, an educative talk was held at the hall of Myanmar Fisheries Federation on Bayintnaung Road in Insein Township of Yangon at 2 pm on 9 August. At the talks, Director-General U Tun Lwin of the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology discussed the matter.

In his talks, U Tun Lwin said there remained many tasks in the aftermath of the storm that hit some regions during the first week of May in Myanmar. Especially, the people lacked knowledge about natural disasters and proper preparations for encountering the natural disasters, he said.

He stressed the need of the people to observe the weather news presented by media. He added that media are to issue the weather news as quickly as possible. In addition, he said that the warning must be issued in time.

Actually, natural disasters may occur at any time. As such, it is necessary to make preparations, take care, and make studies with wide scope of knowledge. Everybody has to have the knowledge about weather and climate.

“The people must have knowledge about weather and natural disasters. For example, the storm surge is not a regular tidal wave, and it may affect lives and property,” explained Director-General U Tun Lwin.

It is true. When the storm occurs, the eye of the storm may appear at the centre. These are cyclonic storms with greater wind speed. Therefore, the people have to realize the term the eye of the cyclonic storms with greater wind speed.

“The warnings on weather news concerning the storm, overflow of rivers, torrential rains and floods are issued in time. The people in the respective regions have to observe the warning with high level of awareness. Although the weather. With regard to the natural disasters, many educative talks are to be organized. The more knowledge about natural disasters the people know, the less damage and loss there will be.”

However, all the people have to collectively practice how to react in times of emergency and natural disasters.

Director-General U Tun Lwin said, “Actually, preventive measures cannot be taken against severe natural disasters. Therefore, knowledge is to be disseminated to the local people to have relief from the natural disasters. Furthermore, systematic arrangements are to be made for prevention against the dangers. Moreover, it is necessary to provide systematic training to them.”

At the talks, the storms that had hit Myanmar, occurrence of storms and their nature were explained. He further clarified points related to storm Marlar, its size, the origin of the storm Nargis and its stages to hit Myanmar, with the use of satellite photos, and then replied to the queries raised by those present.

The talks were also attended by factually members and students of BA (Journalism) Course being jointly conducted by the Ministry of Information and the Ministry of education.

**Translation:** TTA

Myanma Alin: 10-8-2008

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Male yogis receive higher ordination

**NAY PYI TAW, 15 Aug—**Altogether 43 male yogis who practiced meditation at the 26th 15-day meditation camp opened at Shwepyisyae Mahasi Yeiktha of Phaya Tawya Kyuang in New Pankhin Ward, Nay Pyi Taw Pynnanna, received higher ordination on 6 August evening with the sponsorship of Kammathanacariya Sayadaw Bhaddanta Dhammappa.

A total of 97 yogis—43 men and 54 women—practised meditation at the camp and newly ordained yogi monks went round for alms in new Paunglong Pankhin Ward.—MNA

**Yangon Division WAO presents wheel chairs, organizes educative talks**

**Patron of Yangon Division WAO Daw Kyin Myaing donates wheel chairs to hospitals and pagodas in four Districts in Yangon Division.—MNA**

**Yangon, 16 Aug—**Yangon Division Women’s Affairs Organization organized a ceremony to present wheel chairs donated by Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation yesterday at the meeting hall of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Office. Educational talks were also held.

It was attended by the patron of Yangon Division WAO, the chairperson of Yangon Division WAO and executives, members of district/township WAOs and guests.

Patron of Yangon Division WAO Daw Kyin Myaing delivered an address and presented wheel chairs to the hospitals and pagodas in four districts.

Next, Dr Daw Lay Khaiung of Yangon Division WAO gave talks on obesity and related diseases. Patron Daw Kyin Myaing presented gift to Dr Daw Lay Khaiung.—MNA

**Nutritious food for school children**

**NAY PYI TAW, 16 Aug—**To mark the School Sanitation Week, a ceremony to give nutritious food to over 1000 school children was held at Nay Pyi Taw No. 3 Basic Education Middle School, here, today. District Education Officer U Hla Htoo, Headmaster U Win Zaw and teachers took part in the activity.

As an activity of School Sanitation Week, giving health educative talks, carrying out sanitation and measuring body weight and height were performed from 11 to 15 August.

MNA
At least 9 killed in S Philippines clashes

MANILA, 16 Aug—The death toll from clashes in the southern Philippines between government troops and the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) forces has risen to nine, the country’s disaster-relief agency said on Saturday.

Besides the fatalities, 22 persons were wounded while 113 houses were burned during the fighting, which started last weekend in the country’s southern region of Mindanao, said the National Disaster Coordinating Council in a statement.

At least 24,623 families or 164,973 persons from 64 villages in three provinces had been affected, while 66 evacuation centers now host 6,467 families or 32,335 persons.

On the other hand, diseases have begun to “rear their heads” in some evacuation centers in the province of North Cotabato, where most of the clashes took place.

The diseases include fever and cough, headache, loose bowel movement, acute bronchitis, viral influenza, urinary tract infection, and infectious diarrhea, according to the statement.—Internet

Shell Refining Q2 profit more than doubles in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, 16 Aug — Shell Refining Co (Federation of Malaya) Bhd more than doubled its second quarter net profit thanks to a 281 million ringgit ($4.38 million US dollars) after-tax stockholding gain in Malaysia, local media reported on Friday.

However, refining margins could fall in the third quarter due to lower demand for its products, the New Straits Times said.

Shell Refining operates an oil refinery with a capacity of 156,000 barrels per day in Port Dickson, Malaysia’s central state of Negri Sembilan. It processes crude oil into products like petrol and diesel.

“These results represent a satisfactory performance, mainly due to our continued strong operational performance,” its chairman Saw Choo Boon said in a statement on Thursday.

Shell Refining made a net profit of 357 million ringgit ($107.21 million US dollars) for the quarter to June 30, 2008 versus 168 million ringgit ($50.43 million US dollars) in the same quarter a year ago. — Internet

Rice in Georgia for peace talks

TBILISI, 16 Aug — US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice arrived in Georgia on Friday for talks with President Mikhail Saakashvili on formalizing a French-negotiated ceasefire to the South Ossetian conflict.

The plan calls for the withdrawal of Moscow’s forces but allows limited Russian peacekeeping patrols until outside observers arrive.

Moscow has already agreed in principle to the deal and the self-styled presidents of Georgia’s breakaway regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia have signed it.

“A few days ago (French) President (Nicolas) Sarkozy got agreement on these points as a set of principles,” Rice told reporters on her plane before arrival.

“And there was agreement on these points as a set of principles. It now needs to be a formal ceasefire, and that’s what we’re working on.” She said the French had been able to clarify those points from their notes from the negotiations. “I’m going to now talk to President Saakashvili about the clarifications that the French have provided,” she said. She said her discussions would not resolve with the conflict over South Ossetia or the second breakaway region, Abkhazia, situated on the Black Sea coast. — MNA/Reuters

Zhang Ning of China celebrates for a point during the match Russia vs Australia in men’s preliminary round group A of the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games badminton event.

Andrey Vorontsevich (C) of Russia re bounds during the match Russia vs Australia in men’s preliminary round group A of the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games Basketball event in Beijing, China, 16 Aug 2008. Australia beat Russia 95-80.

Rebecca Adlington won the gold medal in a new world record with 8 minutes 14.10 seconds.

Oleksandr Petriev of Ukraine competes during Men’s 25m Rapid Fire Pistol Final of the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games Shooting event in Beijing, China, 16 Aug, 2008. He won the gold medal in the event.
US Navy charges camp guards with prisoner assault

BAGHDAD, 16 Aug — Six sailors working as prison camp guards in Iraq face courts martial for abducting detainees, some of whom were sealed in a cell with riot control gas, the US Navy said on Thursday.

Seven other sailors were given non-judicial punishments over the incident, which took place at Camp Bucca, the vast desert camp in southern Iraq where the US military houses 18,000 of its 21,000 prisoners.

“Two detainees suffered minor abrasions as a result of the alleged assaults, eight others were confined overnight in a detainee housing unit which was sprayed with riot control agent and then the ventilation secured,” the Navy said. The courts martial will begin at Camp Bucca within the next 30 days, the statement said.

Angola ruling party criticizes Human Rights Watch

LUANDA, 16 Aug — Angola’s ruling MPLA on Thursday rejected charges by Human Rights Watch that it was intimidating the opposition ahead of September elections and accused the group of interfering in its internal affairs.

The New York-based human rights group, in a report on Wednesday, also accused Angola’s Government of meddling in the electoral commission and said such behaviour threatened the chances of a fair ballot on 5 September.

“(Human Rights Watch) should not interfere in the internal matters of Angola,” MPLA spokesman Norberto dos Santos told Reuters on Thursday. “What they say in the report is offensive and has no basis of truth. We know Human Rights Watch hatred towards the Angolan people. All that I ask is that they stop interfering with the electoral process.”

MNA/Reuters

Iraqi troops take over from withdrawn Georgians

BAGHDAD, 16 Aug — Iraqi troops have taken over the checkpoints guarded by Georgian soldiers who pulled out of Iraq to rush home for the conflict with Russia, the US military said on Friday.

The US military transported the 2,000-strong Georgian contingent back home because of the conflict with Russia over the separatist region of South Ossetia which erupted last week. The Georgians — until their departure the biggest foreign contingent in Iraq after the United States and Britain — were mainly deployed in Iraq’s southern Wasit Province, manning checkpoints near the border with Iran.

“Right now, the Iraqi soldiers have taken over the responsibility of the traffic control point,” 2nd Lieutenant Charlie Hines, US military liaison with Iraqi forces at the base in the area, said in a report released by the military.

MNA/Reuters

Violence drives 3,000 Mexican families to US

MEXICO CITY, 16 Aug — Drug-related violence and murders have forced some 3,000 families from the northern Mexican city of Ciudad Juarez to emigrate to the United States this year, a US political scientist said on Friday.

Antonio Payan, professor of political science at the University of Texas, said most of these families were middle-class and had moved to the United States for safety reasons.

The Juarez mayor, Jose Reyes Ferriz, admitted he “knew about some families that had left to live in El Paso, the sixth-largest city in Texas, due to the violence”, but he did not have the statistics.

MNA/Xinhua

About 50 killed in separate Somalia attacks

MOGADISHU, 16 Aug — Almost 50 people were killed in Somalia after separate roadside bombs targeting allied Ethiopian and government troops went off and led to retaliatory attacks, residents said on Friday.

In one clash on Friday afternoon, Ethiopian troops opened fire on civilians on a road out of Mogadishu when an explosion occurred in the middle of their convoy. “I heard a big explosion and a vehicle in an Ethiopian convoy exploded,” said Abdirahman Adan, who lives alongside the road out of the capital to the southern town of Afgooye.

“Ethiopian soldiers in the convoy started to shoot indiscriminately. I ran away, but when I came back half an hour later, I saw 38 people had died and 16 injured.” Adan said some of the dead had been passengers on buses that travel the route.

Another local resident, Hawa Abdi, said arealative was wounded during the incident. She saw five people that had died from the attack and 20 others who were hurt. “We wanted to reach Mogadishu’s big hospital but we are unable to pass the streets because the road is closed,” she said.

MNA/Reuters

Stress makes allergies worse and last longer

NEW YORK, 16 Aug — Psychological stress and anxiety can make seasonal allergy attacks worse and linger longer, according to research presented on Thursday at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association in Boston.

“People may be setting themselves up to have more persistent problems by being stressed and anxious when allergy attacks begin,” Dr Janice Kiecolt-Glaser, professor of psychology and psychiatry at Ohio State University in Columbus noted in a telephone interview with Reuters Health ahead of the meeting. To gauge how stress and anxiety affect allergy sufferers, Kiecolt-Glaser and colleagues recruited 28 men and women with a history of hay fever and seasonal allergies to participate in a laboratory study.

On different days, the volunteers were subjected to a low-stress condition — reading quietly from magazines — and much more stressful conditions — giving a 10-minute, videotaped speech in front of a group of “behaviour evaluators” and solving math problems without paper or pen in front of the group and then watching their videotaped performance.

The researchers assessed participants’ levels of stress and anxiety and performed standard skin prick allergy tests before and right after the stressful events, as well as the next day.

MNA/Reuters

Gardener design a giant flower carpet to form a floral decoration at Brussels’ Grand Place, on 14 August, 2008. The design requires about 700,000 flowers to create, according to event organizers. — INTERNET
US scientists discover new bird species in Gabon

WASHINGTON, 16 Aug — Scientists at the US Smithsonian Institution have discovered a new species of bird in African country Gabon, that was, until now, unknown to the scientific community, according to the international science journal ZooTaxa published on Friday.

The newly found olive-backed forest robin (Stiphronis pyrrholaeus) was named by the scientists for its distinctive olive back and rump.

Adult birds measure 4.5 inches (about 11.4 cms) in length and average 18 grams in weight. Males exhibit a fiery orange throat and breast, yellow belly, olive back and black feathers on the head. Females are similar, but less vibrant. Both sexes have a distinctive white dot on their face in front of each eye.

To ensure that the specimens were a new species, geneticists at the Smithsonian’s National Zoo compared the DNA of the new specimens to that of the four known forest robin species. The results clearly showed that these birds were in fact a separate and distinct species. —Internet

Destruction of Amazonian jungles slow down in Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO, 16 Aug — Destruction of the Amazonian tropical jungles in Brazil dropped by 60 percent in July, compared with June, Brazilian Environment Minister Carlos Minc said on Friday.

An official announcement is yet to come, pending the processing of further data, he told reporters.

A drop of 60 and 70 percent in illegal felling was registered in July with the same period of previous year, he said.

The deforestation in the Amazonian region was reduced to 870 square km (87,000 hectares) in June this year, which amounted to the destruction of an area as big as a soccer field every minute, Minc said.

The National Institute of Special Investigations under the Science and Technology Ministry used two sets of satellite images to identify the devastated areas. Minc attributed the slower pace of deforestation to shifting the focus to curb wood transportation in the Amazonian region by the National Institute of Environment.

Now the prosecutors of the environment institute are focusing their attention on major highway crossings in the region, ensuring effective control over routes for trucks transporting wood.

Three Gorges project generates 250 bhn kwh of electricity

YICHANG, 16 Aug — China’s Three Gorges hydropower project has generated 250.4 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity as of Friday since its first turbine began production in July 2003.

The amount is around 8 per cent of the country’s total electricity consumption in 2006, which stood at 2.82 trillion kwh.

The hydropower project currently had 24 turbines in operation with an actual generating capacity of about 15.5 million kwh, according to the the China Three Gorges Project Corporation.

MNA/Xinhua

Man who gave up smoking gets chance to attend Games

BEIJING, 16 Aug — A Beijing man who has vowed to give up smoking was given a free ticket to watch the men’s volleyball on Saturday night.

The reward came courtesy of anti-smoking campaigner Xiong Wei who on Aug. 10 placed an advertisement in the Beijing News offering free Olympic tickets to 10 smokers who promised to quit, China Daily reported.

Xiong told China Daily on Thursday that he received 132 applications within 40 hours of his ad being placed.

Applicants were asked to enter the “competition” by e-mailing their names, occupations and who they worked for — for reasons of public supervision — and smoking history. The 10 winners — all of whom have good educational backgrounds — were those who set out the most convincing quitting strategies, Xiong said. “It was difficult picking the winners, because all of the applicants seemed so sincere,” he said. —Internet

Research potatoes may hold key to Alzheimer’s treatment

WASHINGTON, 16 Aug — A virus that commonly infects potatoes bears a striking resemblance to one of the key proteins implicated in Alzheimer’s disease (AD), and US researchers have used that to develop antibodies that may slow or prevent the onset of AD, according to the 15 Aug Journal of Biological Chemistry.

It said researchers from Case Western Reserve University reported that they used this concept on an amyloid-like protein found in potato virus (PVY).

They injected PVY into mice followed by monthly boosters for four months. The researchers found that the mice produced strong levels of antibodies that could attach to amyloid beta protein both in solution and in tissue samples of Alzheimer’s patients.

Studies in mice have demonstrated that vaccinations with the amyloid beta protein (believed to be a major AD contributor) to produce antibodies can slow disease progression and improve cognitive function, possibly by promoting the destruction of amyloid plaques. Some early human trials have likewise been promising, but had to be halted due to the risk of autoimmune encephalitis.

One way to make Alzheimer’s vaccinations safer would be to use a closely-related, but not human, protein as the vaccine, much like cowpox virus is used for smallpox immunizations.

The research team note that potato virus is a fairly common infection that poses no risk to humans (many people have probably eaten PVY infected potatoes).

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Mendes clinches Gers move
Midfielder set to make debut on Saturday against Hearts

**LONDON, 16 Aug.** Rangers have confirmed the £3 million signing of Pedro Mendes from Portsmouth on a three-year contract.

Mendes has completed his move to Ibrox in time to be available for Saturday’s SPL match at home to Hearts.

The Portuguese midfielder had been wanted by Gers boss Walter Smith earlier in the summer, but his Pompey counterpart Harry Redknapp appeared reluctant to lose Mendes.—**INTERNET**

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**Fergie - Blues are main danger**
United boss thinks Chelsea will be nearest rivals

**LONDON, 16 Aug.** Sir Alex Ferguson admits he expects Chelsea to be the biggest threat to their Premier League defence this coming season.

Ferguson conceded Arsenal and Liverpool both look good, but it is Chelsea he thinks will be their main danger.

The Manchester United chief feels The Blues’ experience is the main reason behind them being the pick of their nearest rivals: “Arsenal had a great run last season until they got injuries in March, while Liverpool have signed Robbie Keane and one or two others,” said Ferguson.

“But Chelsea are the most experienced and they might be our biggest threat.”

But Ferguson remains confident his side could again do the UEFA Champions League and Premier League double.

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**Rafa - Barry saga not my fault**

**LONDON, 16 Aug.** Liverpool manager Rafa Benitez has hit back at critics who hold him responsible for the ongoing Gareth Barry transfer saga.

Benitez has been blamed for causing speculation as Liverpool attempt to prise £18 million-rated Barry away from Aston Villa.

However, the Liverpool boss insists he has had no contact with Villa since discussing the midfielder’s possible transfer with his opposite number, Martin O’Neill, in April.

“I will try to be very clear over the (Barry) situation. Everyone has been talking and it seems that the blame is put on me,” said Benitez.—**INTERNET**

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**Scourti urges England to make Terry as captain**

**COBHAM (England), 16 Aug.** New Chelsea coach Luiz Felipe Scolari urged England to reappoint John Terry as captain on Friday.

England coach Fabio Capello, who has tried several skippers including Terry, Rio Ferdinand and Steven Gerrard since taking over earlier this year, will announce his permanent selection before Wednesday’s friendly against Czech Republic at Wembley.

“It would be a fantastic choice if he made John Terry captain,” Scolari told reporters ahead of Chelsea’s Premier League opener against Portsmouth at Stamford Bridge on Sunday.

“He is captain of Chelsea and I think he must again captain England. He helps the manager and the players by saying the right things on and off the field.”

Central defender Terry had been England skipper under Steve McClaren, who was Italian Capello’s predecessor.

Scolari, who took over as Chelsea coach from Israeli Avram Grant in the close-season, will pin his goal hopes on France striker Nicolas Anelka against FA Cup winners Portsmouth with Ivory Coast international Didier Drogba out injured.—**INTERNET**

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**Canadian sprinter Johnson sues ex-lawyer**

**TORONTO, 16 Aug.** Disgraced Olympic sprinter Ben Johnson has filed a 37-million-Canadian-dollar (34.9-million-US-dollar) lawsuit in Canada against the estate of his former lawyer for allegedly stealing his wealth and failing to protect future earnings, the Toronto Star newspaper reported on Friday.

Johnson claims the late Ed Futerman made unauthorized payments from his trust account to pay bills and 20 per cent commissions to a hairdresser who was recruited by the lawyer to act as the sprinter’s sports agent, the Star reported.—**INTERNET**

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**CROSSWORDS PUZZLE**

**ACROSS**

| 7 Glorify | 1 Helicopter (sl.) |
| 8 Mob | 2 Receive under a will |
| 10 Black and white horse | 3 Wall painting |
| 11 Unit of length | 4 Concord |
| 12 Give out | 5 Lesser |
| 13 Paris river | 6 Precious stone |
| 17 Female | 9 An end rail (anag.) |
| 18 Hint | 14 Venetian boat |
| 22 Discovered | 15 Bed covering |
| 23 Team’s batting period | 16 Keep at it |
| 24 Breathe out | 19 Bid |
| 25 Emphasis | 20 Duke’s territory |
| 21 Join | 21 Join |

**DOWN**

| Dinara Safina of Russia reacts during her women’s singles semifinal tennis match against Li Na of China at the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games on 16 August, 2008. | 10-8-2008 |
| Arsenal | 1 - 0 WBA |
| Bolton | 3 - 1 Stoke City |
| Everton | 2 - 3 Blackburn |
| Hull City | 2 - 1 Fulham |
| Middlesbrough | 2 - 1 Tottenham |
| Sunderland | 0 - 1 Liverpool |
| West Ham Utd | 2 - 1 Wigan Athletic |
Boys more likely than girls to outgrow asthma

New York, 16 Aug.—Boys may be more likely than girls to have childhood asthma, but they are also more likely to grow out of it during adolescence, a new study shows.

Results of the study released on Friday help solve the mystery of age and sex differences in the natural history of childhood asthma, the lead researcher told Reuters Health. "Persistance of airway reponsiveness — commonly referred to as twitchy airways — is a major reason why asthma in girls may persist (or develop) past the onset of puberty," Dr. Kelan G. Tantisira, of Brigham and Women’s Hospital and Harvard Medical School in Boston, told Reuters Health.

It’s known that the incidence of asthma among early school age is higher in boys than girls, whereas the incidence in adolescence and adulthood is higher in females than males, the researcher explained. In addition to symptoms, twitchy or over-reactive airways are one useful marker for the development of asthma. Upon exposure to certain asthma triggers like pollen, dog or cat dander, cold air or histamine, an asthma-tic’s airways are much more likely to constrict than those of a person without asthma.

MNA/Reuters

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas

Saturday, 16 August, 2008
Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in lower Sagaing Division, rain have been isolated in Kayah State, scattered in Shan and Kayin States, Mandalay and Tanintharyi Divisions, fairly widespread in Chin State, upper Sagaing, Magway and Yangon Divisions and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions with isolated heavyfall in upper Sagar Division. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were: Hkamti (6.89) inches, Kyaukpyu (2.83) inches, Kyauktaw (2.17) inches, Bein (1.81) inches, Maungdaw (1.78) inches, Homaik (1.73) inches and Yangon (Kaba-Aye) (1.61) inches.

maximum temperature on 15-8-2008 was 85°F. Minimum temperature on 16-8-2008 was 70°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 16-8-2008 was 96%. Total sunshine hours on 15-8-2008 was (2.3) hour approx. Rainfall on 16-8-2008 was (0.9) inch at Mingaladon, (1.61) inch at Kaba-Aye and (0.71) inch at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was (74.80) inches at Mingaladon, (84.88) inches at Kaba-Aye and (100.51) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (8) mph from Southwest at (12:45) hours MST on 15-8-2008.

Bay interference: Monsoon is weak to moderate in the Andaman Sea and strong in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 17-8-2008: Rain will be isolated in Kayah State and lower Sagaing Division, scattered in Kayin State, Mandalay and Magway Divisions, fairly widespread in Chin and Shan States, Tanintharyi Division and widespread in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 17-8-2008: Isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 17-8-2008: Isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Two soldiers from NATO force killed in Afghanistan

KABUL, 16 Aug.—Insurgents killed two soldiers from NATO-led forces in an attack in eastern Afghanistan on Friday, the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) said.

Afghanistan has seen a surge in violence this year as the hardline Islamist Taleban steps up its campaign of guerilla attacks, backed by suicide and roadside bombs to overthrow the pro-Western Afghan Government and drive out foreign troops.

"Two ISAF service members died as a result of wounds suffered during the attack," ISAF said in a statement.—MNA/Reuters

Daw Tin Tin
Yodayat Village, Kyaukpon Township
83 years
Beloved daughter of (U Tun Hla Kyaw-Daw Sein On) of Ngathainggyaung; wife of (U Yan Pyaw-Daw Kyin May) of Yodayat Village; wife of (U Mya Than) of Yodayat Village; beloved mother of Maj-Gen Wai Lwin-Daw Swe Swe (Issued at 12:30 hrs MST on 16-8-08) and Daw Swe Swe Oo (Nay Pyi Taw Command Headquarters), U Win Swe (Secretary, All Bus Lines Control Committee-Highway, Nay Pyi Taw)-Daw Mon Mon Kyi, U Myo Win (Assistant Head of Branch, Yangon West District Bus lines Control Committee)-Daw Hsan Hsint, U Min Aung (PACT-Myanmar, INGO)-Daw Win Win Aung (BEHS-4, Ahlon), U Myint Naing-Daw Khin Mar Cho (Yodayat Village) and U Win Khaing-Daw San Sam Maw (Yodayat Village); grandmother of 12 and great grandmother of two, Daw Tin Tin passed away at Yodayat Village of Kyaunggon Township, Pathein District, at 11:42 pm on 14-8-2008, and the entombment ceremony will be held at Yodayat Village at 1 pm on 16-8-2008.

Bereaved Family

Accounts 392224, Administration 392225, Production/Press 392369
No 22/30 Strand Road at 43rd Street, Yangon. Cable Newlight, PO Box No. 43, Telephones: Editors 392308, Manager 392226, Circulation 392304, Advertisement 392223, Accounts 392224, Administration 392225, Production/Press 392369

WEATHER

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in lower Sagar Division, rain have been isolated in Kayah State, scattered in Shan and Kayin States, Mandalay and Tanintharyi Divisions, fairly widespread in Chin State, upper Sagar, Magway and Yangon Divisions and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions with isolated heavyfall in upper Sagar Division. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were: Hkamti (6.89) inches, Kyaukpyu (2.83) inches, Kyauktaw (2.17) inches, Bein (1.81) inches, Maungdaw (1.78) inches, Homaik (1.73) inches and Yangon (Kaba-Aye) (1.61) inches.

Maximum temperature on 15-8-2008 was 85°F. Minimum temperature on 16-8-2008 was 70°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 16-8-2008 was 96%. Total sunshine hours on 15-8-2008 was (2.3) hour approx. Rainfall on 16-8-2008 was (0.9) inch at Mingaladon, (1.61) inch at Kaba-Aye and (0.71) inch at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was (74.80) inches at Mingaladon, (84.88) inches at Kaba-Aye and (100.51) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (8) mph from Southwest at (12:45) hours MST on 15-8-2008.

Bay interference: Monsoon is weak to moderate in the Andaman Sea and strong in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 17-8-2008: Rain will be isolated in Kayah State and lower Sagaing Division, scattered in Kayin State, Mandalay and Magway Divisions, fairly widespread in Chin and Shan States, Tanintharyi Division and widespread in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Continuation of decrease of rain in the Southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 17-8-2008: Isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 17-8-2008: One or two rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 17-8-2008: Isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).
Make donations to the storm victims

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

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

☆ 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

Reconstruction tasks in Kungyangon Tsp supervised

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Aug—Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, together with wellwishers from Petronas Carigali Co of Malaysia, on 11 August morning inspected the site chosen for construction of a primary education school in Sukalat Village, Kungyangon Township, Yangon Division.

He gave instructions on designing of the school building as a cyclone shelter in compliance with the guideline of the government.

The minister and wellwishers met the storm victims in Htinpongeik Village. He dealt with the programmes for construction of houses by Petronas Carigali Co. and supply of clean water and electric power. He attended to the requirements of the officials and wellwishers as regards construction tasks. In the afternoon, the minister inspected the construction of a basic education primary school being undertaken by Asia World Co in Minpaing Ward, Kungyangon Township.—MNA

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Talks on knowledge about weather to minimize losses caused by natural disasters