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Senior General Than Shwe sends message of felicitations to President of the Republic of Belarus

NAY PYI TAW, 3 July — 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 Alexander R Lukashenko, President of the Republic of Belarus, on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of Belarus, which falls on 3 July 2008.

MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein felicitates Belarus counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 3 July — General Thein Sein, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Sergey Sidorsky, Prime Minister of the Republic of Belarus, on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of Belarus, which falls on 3 July 2008.—*MNA*

Lt-Gen Myint Swe inspects repaving platforms, sanitation task

YANGON, 2 July — Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Win Myint and Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, inspected road works and sanitation tasks here today.

During the inspection tour, they viewed repaving of pavements along Sule Pagoda Road and Bogyoke Aung San Street.

Afterwards, they also inspected dredging drains along Mana Bandoola Street by YCDC and they gave instructions to officials concerned.

They also viewed repaving of sidewalks on Merchant Street, reconstruction of fences at Maha Bandoola Park and repaving of platforms on Pyay Road.

Next, Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party went to Sangyoung Township and inspected repaving of platforms along Pyay Road and gave instructions to officials concerned. — *MNA*

Salty water pumped out from lakes in Mawlamyinegyun

YANGON, 2 July — Under the supervision of Mawlamyinegyun Township relief and rehabilitation committee, the volunteers of working groups joined hands to pump out salty water form the lakes caused by storm and carried out sanitation tasks in the township.

The volunteer group-1 had pumped out salty water from eight lakes of Kyetsha village-tract and five lakes of Kyunchaung village-tract from 24 June to 1 July.

Similarly, the group-2 had volunteered to pump out salty water from five lakes of Natpu village-tract and one lake of Myatthaywawa village-tract in the township form 23 to 29 June. Now, residents can use potable water from the lakes. —*MNA*

Four political objectives

* Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, 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

Four social objectives

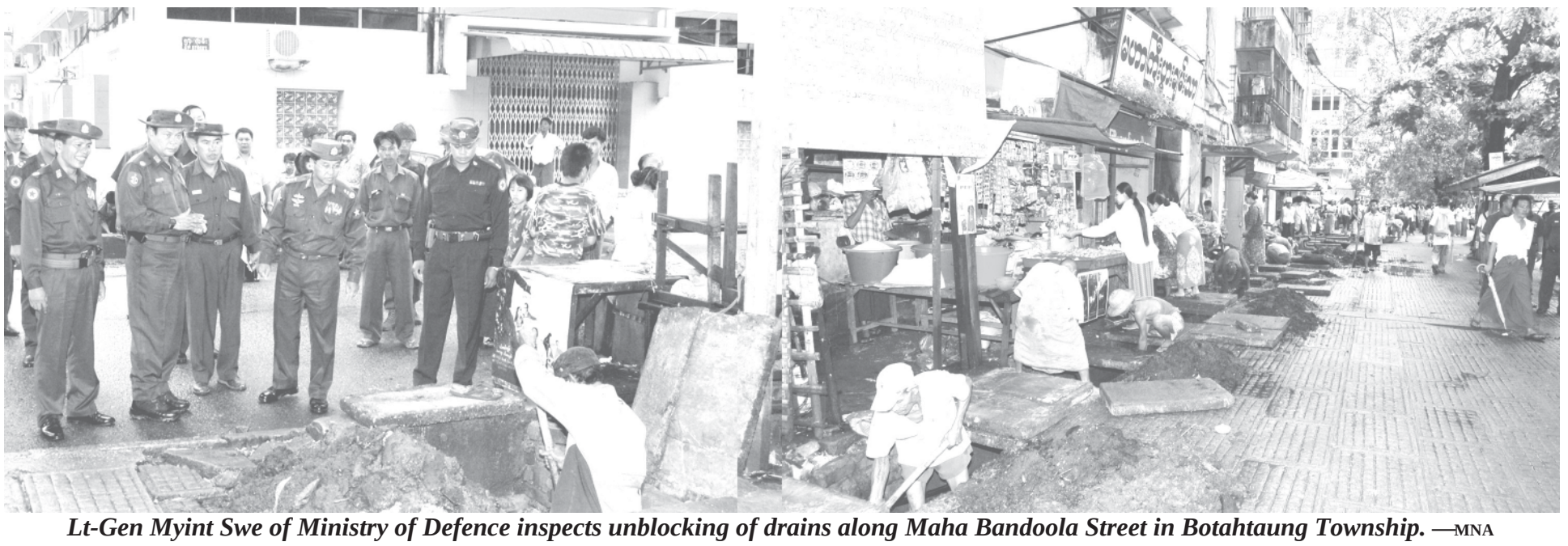
* Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
* Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
* Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
* Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation

Weather Forecast for 3-7-2008

Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area:
One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Yangon and neighbouring area:
One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Mandalay and neighbouring area:
Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).



Lt-Gen Myint Swe of Ministry of Defence inspects unblocking of drains along Maha Bandoola Street in Botahtaung Township. —MNA

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 3 July, 2008

Entire women to preserve and promote their fine traditions

The 3rd July, on which the Myanmar National Committee for Women's Affairs was formed in the interests of the entire Myanmar women, was designated as Myanmar Women's Day. Since 1998, the day has been celebrated on a grand scale to honour Myanmar women for their code of conduct, altruistic spirit and sharing duties with their male counterparts.

In Myanmar, women make up more than half the population of the nation. The Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation has come into existence to improve the living conditions of women. Now, the federation is taking measures for their development and security, protecting and nurturing them, and raising their social-economic life and living standard.

From time immemorial, Myanmar women have enjoyed equal rights with their male counterparts both legally and traditionally. They have preserved a fine tradition of engaging in the tasks throughout successive periods in the interests of the nation and the people. They are by nature gentle due to the traditions and they are, indeed, role-models in this concept.

Cherishing and safeguarding own lineage reflects their might and social values. So, Myanmar women have to place emphasis on improving their dignity.

It is needed for Myanmar women to play respective roles in order that Myanmar and its people with own culture can stand tall among the international community. In this regard, it is required not only to safeguard the motherland at risk to life and to improve the culture. In particular, they have to guard the nation against any forms of dangers with the spirit of cherishing own lineage.

Myanmar women have been preserving own culture in line with the traditions. In addition, they have carried out brilliant performances in various sectors in successive periods. Therefore, today's Myanmar women are to do their bit in nation-building tasks, while preserving their dignity.

People's Desire

- **Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views**
- **Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation**
- **Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State**
- **Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy**

Foreign Affairs Minister sends message of felicitations to Belarus

NAY PYI TAW, 3 July—U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Sergei Nikolaevich Martinov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus, on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of Belarus, which falls on 3 July 2008.— *MNA*

Appointment of Ambassador agreed on

NAY PYI TAW,3 July—The Government of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of Mr Umaru Azores Sulaiman as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to the Union of Myanmar in succession to HE Mr Thompson Sunday Olufunso Olumoko.

Mr Umaru Azores Sulaiman was born on 23 October, 1946 in Azara, Nigeria. He got B.Sc. (Hons) in Chemistry from Ahmadu Bello University in Zaria in 1970. Then, he worked in various companies and offices related to chemical, agriculture, pharmacy, banking and construction.

He also attended Human Resources Development and Management Training in Washington DC in 1989. He became Executive Director of Delta Steel Company in 1990. In 2004, he was a delegate to the National Constitutional Conference. In 1998 he was elected as a member of House of Representatives. In 2004, he served as Nasarawa State Coordinator of National Poverty Eradication Programme. In 2007, he became a Special Advisor to the Governor on inter-Governmental relations.

Mr Umaru Azores Sulaiman is married and has children.—*MNA*

Tatmadaw (Navy) vessels transport foodstuff and relief supplies to Labutta

YANGON, 2 July—Under the supervision of the National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee, members of Tatmadaw (Navy) took part in loading of a total of 17.6 tons of foodstuff and relief supplies for storm victims in Labutta Township, Ayeyawady Division onto Tatmadaw (Navy) ships at Phone Gyi street No. 1 jetty in Seikkan Township this morning.

Tatmadaw (Navy) ships are continuously sending foods and relief supplies and altogether 2693.445 tons of goods have been transported to the storm victims so far.—*MNA*

Naval servicemen take part in transporting relief aid. — DEFENCE SERVICES (NAVY)

Mr Ikuzo SAKURAI, Senior Vice Minister for Ministry of Environment of Japan, holds talks with President of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Win Myint at the office of UMFCCI in Lanmadaw Township on 28 June 2008. — UMFCCI

RA Minister receives Ambassador of Commonwealth of Australia

NAY PYI TAW, 1 July – Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung received Ms Michelle Su-wen Chan, ambassador of the Commonwealth of Australia to the Union of Myanmar at Ministry office, here at 1.00 pm today. Present on the occasion were Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, Director-General U Myo Kyaw of Religious Affairs Department, Director-General Dr Myo Myint of Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana and Head of Office U Myint Oo.

MNA

More Supplies arrive by air

YANGON, 2 July — International communities continuously donate supplies to storm-hit regions. A total of 46.532 tons of supplies donated by Thailand-based WFP arrived at Yangon International Airport today.

MNA

Venezuelan President proposes food fund in Mercosur Summit

*Delegates attend the ministerial conference of the 35th Summit of the Common Market of the South (Mercosur) at the Hotel Catalinas Park, in the city of San Miguel de Tucuman, Argentina, on 30 June, 2008. —*XINHUA

BUENOS AIRES, 2 July—Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez on Tuesday proposed to create an emergency regional food fund to promote agricultural development in the 35th summit of the Common Market of the South (Mercosur).

Chavez said that he is willing to give one US dollar for each oil barrel that Venezuela exports if its price is over 100 dollars.

"Venezuela exports some 2,850,000 oil barrels daily at a price of 123 dollars," Chavez said.

If this level is kept in the external sales of oil, Venezuela would have the condition to contribute to the proposed fund some "920 million dollars every year to produce emer-gency food," Chavez said.

Mercosur summit is being hold on Tuesday in San Miguel de Tucuman, 1,200 kilometers north west from Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Internet

Malaysia to send protest note to US

KUALA LUMPIR, 2 July—Malaysia will send a protest note to the United States for suggesting a political motive in the investigation of sodomy allegations against its former deputy Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, local media reported on Wednesday. Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi described a US State Department statement on the allegations as an attempt at interference in the country's affairs.

The State Department said on Monday that it would oppose any politically motivated investigation or prosecution against Anwar and hoped the accusations would not be a repeat of his 1998 trial. "The main point for us is that the rule of law needs to stand above politics," said State Department spokesman Tom Casey.

"We know what we need to do to ensure the investigation is done professionally and fairly," the New Straits Times quoted Badawi as saying.

"I will ask the foreign minister to send a note because such a statement reflects a prejudice towards us, towards our law and towards our authority," he said. Malaysian deputy Prime Minister Najib Razak also assailed the American government for implying that the investigation could be biased.

"It is not politically motivated. The thought never even crossed our minds," he said. —*Internet*

Suicide truck bomb kills civilian, wounds 22 in N Iraq

MOSUL (Iraq), 2 July—A suicide truck bomb struck the house of an Iraqi tribal leader in a town near the city of Mosul, the capital of Nineveh province, on Tuesday, killing a civilian and wounding 22 others, a provincial police source said.

Abdul Razzaq al-Wagga', head of the Jubour tribe, one of Iraq's largest tribe, and his wife escaped with injuries when a suicide bomber drove a truck loaded with explosives into their house in the town of Qaiyarah, some 50 km south of Mosul, the source told *Xinhua* on condition of anonymity.

A civilian was killed and 22 people were wounded, along destroying Wagga' house and several nearby houses, the source said.

Iraqi security forces sealed off the scene as ambulances and rescue teams rushed to evacuate the casualties, he said.

According to the source, Wagga' was a Staff Maj. Gen. in the Iraqi Army under Saddam Hussein regime and now he is retired, but maintains great respect among officials and other tribal leaders in the town as well as the whole Nineveh province.

Internet

Three killed in Jerusalem bulldozer attack

Jerusalem, 2 July—A Palestinian construction worker killed three people when he drove a large bulldozer down a busy one of Jerusalem's busiest streets yesterday, crushing cars and toppling a bus in what Israeli police said was a terrorist attack.

At least 45 others were injured: drivers in cars, pedestrians and passengers in the bus that was driving up Jaffa Road, in west Jerusalem, at the time of the incident.

Police said the man, aged 30 and a resident of East Jerusalem, seized control of the Caterpillar bulldozer shortly after midday and drove several hundred metres down the street into the oncoming traffic before he was overpowered by policemen and private security guards and eventually shot dead.

As many as three different Palestinian militant groups claimed responsibility for the killings, but there was no confirmation that the attack was organised in advance or that the attacker, identified as Hussam Dwikat, had any links to militant groups. At least one of the dead was a woman driver who was crushed inside her car.

The incident was the first major attack in Jerusalem since March, when a gunman walked into a Jewish seminary and shot eight students dead.

Internet

The flotilla of a super marine Tianbao 01 oil tanker sails through the dual-passage and five-step navigation lock of the Three Gorges Project in Yichang City, central China's Hubei Province, on 1 July, 2008.

XINHUA

A Palestinian in a bulldozer targets Jerusalem traffic.

INTERNET

Coalition helicopter shot down near Afghan capital

KABUL, 2 July—One helicopter belonging to the US-led Coalition forces on Wednesday morning was shot down by small-arms fire in Logar province, neighboring the Afghan capital Kabul, said a Coalition statement.

It occurred in the early morning in the Kherwar district of Logar province where the pilots safely landed the aircraft and evacuate all personnel before the aircraft caught on fire, the statement said.

There were no serious injuries to the crew or passengers and the incident is still under investigation, according to the statement .

Internet

Bolivia accuses US of freezing aid

LIMA, 2 July — Bolivia on Monday accused the US Government of preventing it from receiving hundreds of millions of dollars in aid merely because of political differences between the two nations.

Bolivia has applied for around 756 million US dollars from the US-run development fund the Millennium Challenge Account (MCA).

But the bid presented by Bolivia has been put on hold as a result of increas-ing political tension between the two sides, Bolivian Planning for Development Minister Graciela Toro Ibanez told the local radio station Red Erbol.

"The political condit-ion should not have anything to do with the technical criteria," Toro said.

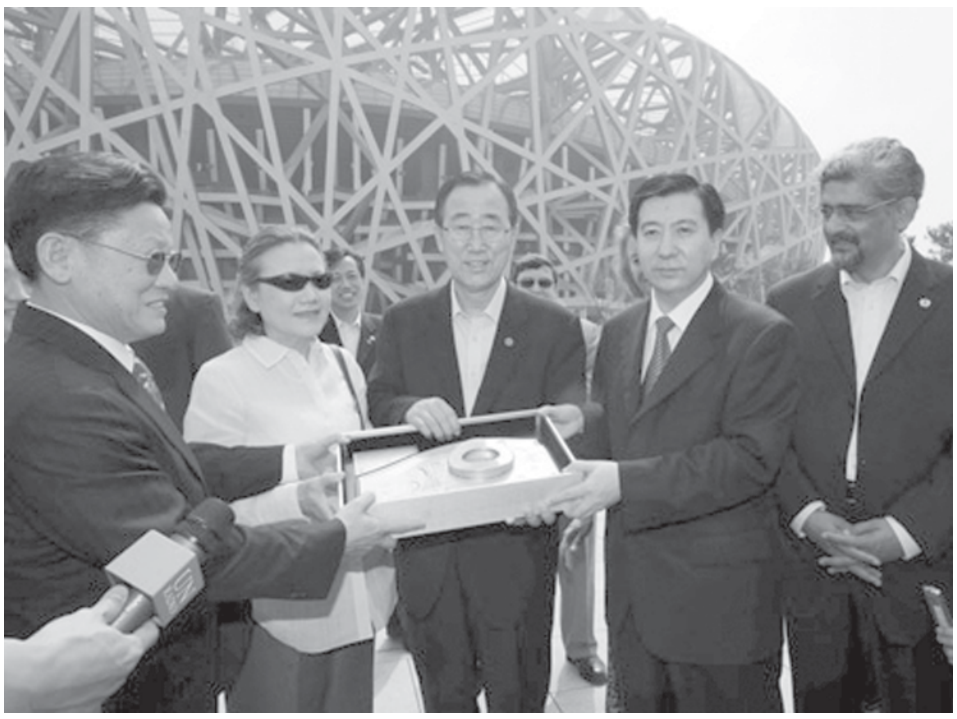
"We have presented the proposal, and it is a very good proposal and they (the US side) recog-nized it. It is well elabo-rated, but for political reasons they preferred to temporarily suspend the fund," he claimed.

The MCA was launched in January 2004 to improve economic growth in developing countries.

While it was founded to take politics out of aid allocation, some critics, however, say the US Government has used the fund to increase political influence in the recipient countries.

US-Bolivia tension escalated recently after coca growers in Bolivia's Chapare Region expelled staff from the US Agency of International Development (USAID) amid charges they were backing the Bolivian Government's opponents.

Xinhua



UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon (C) receives a model of China's National Stadium, known as the Bird's Nest, during his visit to the stadium in Beijing, capital of China, on 2 July, 2008. Ban Ki-moon arrived in Beijing Tuesday afternoon, kicking off a three-day official visit to China at the invitation of Chinese government.—XINHUA

All Items from Xinhua News Agency

French journalists escape abduction in N-E Somalia

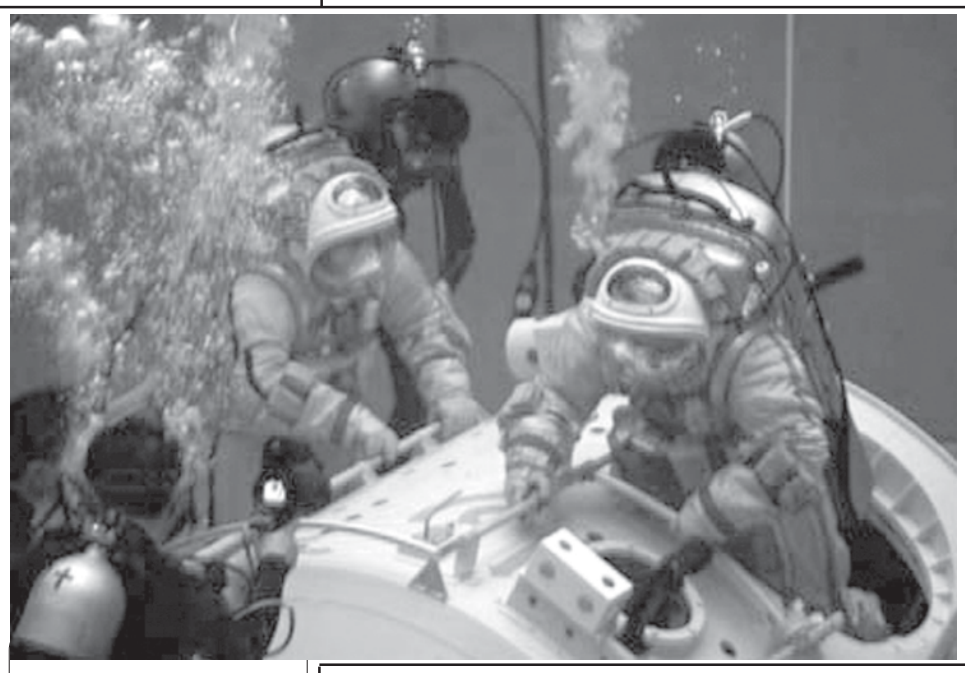
MOGADISHU, 2 July — Two French Journalists escaped an abduction attempt in the northeastern semiautonomous region of Puntland, after local forces repulsed the gunmen, local media reports said Monday.

The two French journalists, whose identity were not immediately clear, were in Bossaso, the commercial capital of the region, to make a documentary film about the region, Radio Shabelle in Mogadishu reported.

Gunmen attacked the hotel where the journalists stayed in Bossaso after they returned from filming in the city. Local police forces that were guarding them repulsed the assailants and rescued the foreign journalists.

The kidnapping attempt comes a day after two foreign aid workers, a Dane and a Swede, along with a Somali staffer, were briefly taken from their place of work in Hudur town in the southern Bakool Region by insurgents who briefly seized the town.

MNA/Xinhua



Chinese astronauts practice manoeuvring in a water tank designed to simulate the low-gravity environment of space.—XINHUA

Hungarian musicians set "Guinness World Record"

BUDAPEST, 2 July — Hungarian musicians performed non-stop for 216 hours at a summer resort on Lake Balaton to set a *Guinness World Record* for the longest concert, Hungarian news agency *MTI* reported Monday.

The concert was part of the Balatonfured Guitar Festival.

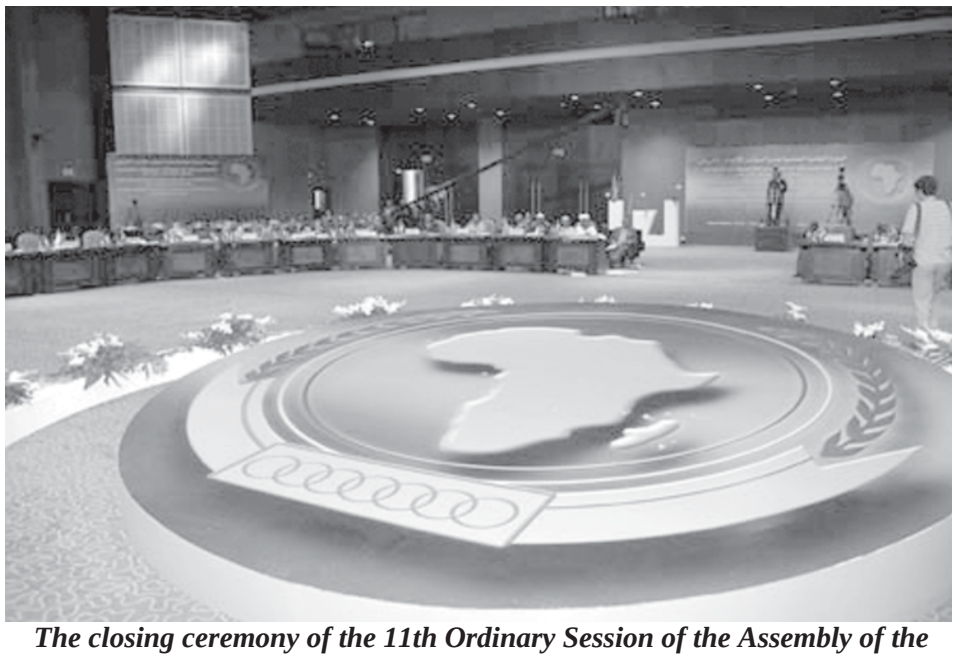
The attempt to set the new world record started on 21 June. More than 1,000 musicians of all ages in 350 groups lined up to take the stage by turns for days and nights. The youngest among them was just seven years old. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Turkey determined to contribute to global peace

ANKARA, 2 July — Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Monday reaffirmed his government's determi-nation to contribute to regional and global peace in a televised address to the nation.

"We are determined to maintain our efforts to restore peace in our region and the world... Inter-national public opinion knows and appreciates Turkey's role in the preparation of the ground for a dialogue to end clashes in the Middle East and to assure sustainable peace," he said, citing Turkey's recent mediation initiatives between Syria and Israel as an example.

MNA/Xinhua



The closing ceremony of the 11th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union (AU) is held in the Sharm El-Sheikh International Congress Center in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, on 1 July, 2008. —XINHUA

Chinese road worker kidnapped in Afghanistan

KABUL, 2 July — Suspected Taleban insurgents kidnapped a Chinese road construction worker southwest of the capital Kabul on Tuesday, the deputy provincial governor said.

Taleban insurgents have kidnapped dozens of foreigners in Afghanistan in the last two years, killing some, but freeing most, sometimes in return for ransom payments.

Gunmen seized the Chinese man and his Afghan driver in the Jalrez District of Maidan Wardak Province, just southwest of Kabul, while he was returning from the construction site, Deputy Provincial Governor Ali Ahmad Asheh told *Reuters.*

The driver was later released.

Two German engineers were kidnapped in the same province a year ago. One was shot dead after suffering a heart attack, the other was freed after more than a month in captivity.—*MNA/Reuters*

Clowns juggle during a show on El Paseo de la Reforma Avenue in Mexico City, on 29 June, 2008. Mexico City closes Reforma Avenue for pedestrians every Sunday morning.—INTERNET

Afghan governor says civilians killed in US raid

KABUL, 2 July— US-led coalition troops, backed by air strikes, killed 28 Taleban insurgents in southwestern Afghanistan, but six to eight civilians were also killed in the operation, the provincial governor said on Monday.

Sunday's raid was aimed at a Taleban meeting in the Khash Rud District of Nimroz Province on Sunday, provincial Governor Ghulam Dastagir Azad told reporters.

"The operation was carried out on the basis of a tip off. Twenty-eight Taleban and between six to eight civilians were killed in it," he said, without giving further details.

The US military confirmed the mission, but said nothing of civilian casualties. It said the operation was aimed at disrupting militant activities in Nimroz.

The issue of civilian casualties by foreign troops is a sensitive one in Afghanistan as it further undermines support for the presence of around 71,000 international troops in the country.

In the first six months of this year, 698 civilians were killed, compared to 430 in the same period last year. —*MNA/Reuters*

Oil hits record on Israel-Iran tensions

LONDON, 2 July — Oil rose more than three US dollars a barrel on Monday to a new record above 143 US dollars, propelled by heightened market fears of conflict between Israel and Iran over Teheran's nuclear programme.

Prices later retreated from session highs, partly reflecting a rebound in the US dollar versus the euro.

US light crude was up 1.76 US dollars at 141.97 US dollars a barrel by 1357 GMT, after a record high of 143.67 US dollars a barrel. London Brent crude was up 1.91 US dollars at 142.22 US dollars.

"There are many high-level geopolitical news items, particularly in the Middle East, that are pushing prices up," said Mark Pervan, a senior commodities analyst at the Australian & New Zealand (ANZ) Bank in Melbourne.

Iran's Revolutionary Guards have said Iran would impose controls on shipping in the Persian Gulf and Strait of Hormuz if it were attacked. The Strait of Hormuz, a narrow waterway separating Iran from the Arabian Peninsula, accounts for roughly 40 per cent of the world's traded oil flows. — *MNA/Reuters*

The remains of a damaged helicopter in a heavily wooded area,on 30 June, 2008, in Flagstaff, Ariz, one of two helicopters that collided on Sunday in mid-air. A total of six persons died and one victim is still critical from the mid-air collision as one helicopter ferrying a patient with a medical emergency from the Grand Canyon collided into another chopper carrying a patient, east of Flagstaff Medical Center, but officials said they were unable to provide an account of what preceded the crash.—INTERNET

Quake caused $6b damage to Sichuan's agriculture

MILAN, 2 July— The devastating earthquake in China's Sichuan Province in May caused damage worth 6 billion US dollars to the region's agriculture, the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) said on Monday.

More than 30 million people in rural communities lost most of their assets, thousands of hectares of farmland were destroyed and millions of farm animals died after the quake, the FAO said in a statement after a recent assessment mission to Sichuan.

"In addition to the human tragedy caused by the disaster ... many rural communities in Sichuan province have lost their means to produce food and create income," Rajendra Aryal, FAO Senior Regional Emergency Coordinator said in the statement.

"It will probably take three to five years to rebuild the agricultural sector in Sichuan," Aryal said.

MNA/Reuters

Iran's daily oil output hits record of 4.23 mln barrels

TEHERAN, 2 July — Iran's daily oil production has hit a record of 4.23 million barrels per day (bpd), Iran's English-language satellite channel Press TV reported on Sunday.

"Iran produced 4.23 million barrels of oil on 27 June ," Managing Director of the National Iranian Oil Company Seifollah Jashnsaz was quoted as saying on Sunday. He said Iran aims to raise its daily oil production to 4.28 million bpd by the end of the year, adding that Iran's average daily output stood at 4.1 million bpd last year.

Such a rise of oil production owes to some major projects implemented by the Oil Ministry this year, said Jashnsaz. Iran's current oil output is 4.207 million bpd, and the increased output will be supplied from Darkhovein, Shademargan and Hengam oil fields in southwestern Khuzestan Province, Jashnsaz said. —*MNA/Xinhua*

Sex diseases among Britons over 45s rocket

LONDON, 2 July — Sexually transmitted infections (STIs) in Britons aged over 45 has more than doubled in less than a decade with Internet dating and drugs that counter erectile dysfunction partly to blame, a report said on Monday.

Researchers from the government's Health Protection Agency looked at the number of patients visiting 19 sexual health clinics in central England between 1996 and 2003.

Although the vast majority of the patients were young, they found that in 1996, 344 people over 45 were diagnosed with an STI. By 2003, that number had risen to 780.

Men in the 55-59 age bracket were more likely to have an STI than anyone else, while rates were highest in women aged 45-54, said the study published in the *Sexually Transmitted Infections* magazine.

The most commonly diagnosed infections were genital warts, which accounted for almost half of cases, and herpes while the number infected with chlamydia, gonorrhoea and syphilis also rose sharply. — *MNA/Reuters*

The MA600, a new regional aircraft to join China's turboprop fleet, rolled off the assembly line in Xi'an on 29 June, 2008.
INTERNET

A letter to dear daughter

Khin Ohn Myint (IPRD)

Dear daughter, 3rd July is Myanmar Women's Day. So, I am writing to tell you some points you should note. I want you to be convinced and understand that what I will tell you are based on my deep concerns, worries and loving-kindness to you.

Today, young women know well how to beautify themselves and what kinds of dresses suit them most, so the girls I have come across are all pretty to my eyes. There have been a lot of changes in costumes between today and when we went to university. So, I hardly see ugly girls. You know, today's younger generation girls constitute a reliable force of the nation. More than half the population of the nation are women. Therefore, it is required of you younger generation girls to have correct outlooks and views for your all-rounded development.

Due to the traditions, culture and customs, Myanmar women are gentle and have gained a good reputation for their well preserving and promoting own culture. Cherishing and safeguarding own race is interrelated with women's dignity, might and values. Young Myanmar women should notice and keep in mind that point so as to enhance their image.

I would like to remind you that you should not try decadent costumes that can defame the Myanmar tradition of having shame and fear to do unwholesome deeds. You are my only daughter. You should not think that you will be attractive only if you wear such decadent dresses. There are a lot of Myanmar women who are attractive in traditional costumes. Young women with long hair attract the attention of others and the beholders have peace of mind, looking such graceful young women. I would like you to distinguish between 'fashionable' and 'forerunner'.

In the Knowledge Age, there are a lot you should know and study. Therefore, you should bear in mind that if you waste your valuable time and indulge yourself in amusements and funs, you will lag behind others in development. You have to work hard to be able to catch up with the Knowledge Age. I want to see you new generation girls to be dynamic with sharp outlook and views.

If a girl is crazy about decadent costumes, which are against Myanmar culture, to lure others, without considering whether such costumes suit her or not, she will come to lack modern ideas and lag behind others in ideology.

There is another point I want to say to you. Maybe some young women are upset for what I will tell you. I am a Myanmar national, so, I think I am responsible for pointing out things that are against Myanmar traditions and culture. Living together is common among the Westerners. Young couples live together as long as they get along well with each other. We should not let that culture flourish in the Myanmar society. It is very dangerous. Like your dad and me, Myanmar people should preserve the fine tradition of monogamy. Myanmar women emulate and follow the norm of Amara Devi and Madi Devi "treating sons as masters and the husband as God".

Since olden days, Myanmar women have been preserving the traditions "Women value modesty even more than gold" and "The nature of a woman is calm and modest".

I do not mean Myanmar women have to stay only at home forever. Myanmar women have showed their brilliant performances in various fields, keeping abreast of their fellow male colleagues. I am sure you notice that outstanding Myanmar women are awarded on 3 July every year that are featured in the newspapers. As the saying that goes "The hands that rock the cradle rule the world", today's women are no longer in a weak position in doing things. I want you to be one of the valuable women, on whom the nation can place reliance.

In accordance with one of the social objectives "Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character", it is very required of you young women to keep own lineage. If many young women give priority to wealth, without uplifting national prestige, and choose life partners indiscriminately, their children will be the persons of mixed parentage who do not love their motherland. If young Myanmar women always pursue fashionable things, there will soon be no Myanmar women who love and preserve own traditions and culture. So, I suggest that Myanmar women preserve own culture, customs and traditions and respect the Myanmar society.

Preserving own culture is indeed a good and lovely practice of Myanmar women. Being Myanmar women is a pride if compared with that of women of other countries. In Myanmar, women have their roles recognized, are given places and are taken care. That is a pride of being a Myanmar woman.

Myanmar women by nature are gentle. They are exemplars in preserving national culture. Loving and safeguarding own lineage is one of the dignities and social values of women. Thus, younger generation girls are duty-bound to preserve and hand down these fine traditions.

Well, I think now you have got what I mean. I wish you a success in contributing towards the tasks for building a new nation, and carrying out the tasks for improving the living standard of Myanmar women in line with the fine traditions of valuing and preserving own culture and enhancing the national prestige and integrity.

Translation: MS

Honouring Myanmar Women's Day

Patriotic good daughters of Myanmar

*** Wearing traditional makeup and flower**
Myanmar women so gentle
Politeness they also have

*** Household chores they never reluctant**
Excellent ever in housekeeping
Having virtues of intelligence and peace

*** Love for children**
And respect for husband
Traditions they loyal to
Pursue they a sincere life

*** Kin born in Myanmar**
Beautiful so much they are
Tender and civilized Myanmar women
Acumen and faithfulness they do have
And preserve traditions with seriousness
As bright as a button women are
Moral principles they adhere to
With patriotism their blood is red
Always warded off intruders from far or near
Ever retaliates they with unyielding spirit
Resisted enemy in encounters
Daring and tough they were
Earning their place in the history books
Serve they the national interest
Patriotic good daughters of Myanmar
So are they honoured duly
On this 3rd of July

Myinmu Maung Naing Moe
(Translation)

43rd Meeting of ASEAN-COCI kicks off

Minister Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint delivers an opening address at 43rd Meeting of ASEAN-COCI .—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 2 July — The 43rd Meeting of the ASEAN Committee on Culture and Information ASEAN-COCI kicked off here yesterday with an opening address by Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint.

Myanmar delegation to the meeting was led by Chairman of Myanmar ASEAN Culture and Information Committee Director-General of the Department of Archaeology, National Museum and Library U Sann Win. Delegates from ASEAN nations — Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam — officials of ASEAN Secretariat and ASEAN Foundation altogether 78 participants attended the meeting.

In his opening address, Minister Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint said at this 43rd ASEAN-COCI Meeting, we will review and evaluate the progress of the outgoing and ongoing projects over the past year. We will also look at some other new projects, which will help enhance and promote more knowledge about ASEAN among our population and people all over the world. So I hope that at this gathering, we will give new ideas and suggestions in order to give a reflection of ASEAN image to the world, to open wide our doors to welcome friends and guests to our culture diverse ASEAN.

Our ASEAN nations have made more progress in building an ASEAN Community particularly in implementing the Vientiane Action Programme (VAP) in line with ASEAN Vision 2020 which has now been brought forward to 2015. Part of that vision is an ASEAN that is ever more closely integrated as economies and societies— a free trade area, an investment area, the freer flow of services, the free flow of information and cultural exchanges and so on.

The committee has been active in formulating and implementing many projects involving different groups of people in the society. Therefore, communication and cultural workers are to further create public awareness among ASEAN so that the international community will grasp the essence of ASEAN and its vision.

Fifth Meeting of the ASEAN Plus Three Senior Officials on Culture and Arts, has been held in January this year in Nay Pyi Taw. Under the ASEAN Plus Three framework, the ASEAN member countries would initiate the development of ASEAN, HRD and establishment of network of experts in cultural heritage as priority areas for joint projects and activities. I hope, at the 6th SOMCA Meeting we can undertake co-ordination of activities in each specific programme area.

After being hit by Nargis Cyclone, Myanmar is committed to living up to the rule by taking turns to host this meeting. On 3rd May, Cyclone Nargis that devastated the southern part of Ayeyawady delta and Yangon was an absolute nighmare for Myanmar people. The severe natural disaster left hundreds of thousands of local people dead or missing. Local people lost so many relatives and massive property. Nowadays, our government has been rehabilitating and reconstructing the storm-hit areas with the assistance of ASEAN countries, neighbouring nations, the international community and UN.

I am fully confident that the discussion at the 43rd COCI Meeting and 6th SOMCA Meeting will be productive and fruitful.

After the address, the minister presented ASEAN Vision Award to a leader of the Singaporean delegation. Afterwards, Minister Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint posed for a documentary photo together with participants of the meeting.

The meeting was held at Shwenandaw Hotel at 11 am and it was presided over by leader of Myanmar delegation U San Win together with leader of the delegation of the Philippines Angelica C Escalona. Before the meeting, the participants stood in one minute silence for the loss of lives during the Nargis Cyclone. Afterwards, they approved the topics they would discuss at the meeting.

First, they discussed resolutions passed at the 3rd Ministerial Meeting on Culture and Arts and 5th Senior Officials Meeting on Cultural and Arts held in Nay Pyi Taw from 10 to 13 January.

An official of ASEAN Secretariat reported on resolutions related to ASEAN culture and funds. A participant of the meeting presented the reports of the 9th ASEAN Cultural Sub-committee Meeting held in Brunei from 20 to 21 November, 2007 and the ASEAN Information Sub-committee Meeting held in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, on 4 and 5 December, 2007.

The meeting continued today at the same venue. Chairman of Myanmar ASEAN Culture and Information Committee U Sann Win hosted a dinner in honour of the participants of the meeting. — *MNA*

Prize presentation ceremony held in Dedaye

NAY PYI TAW, 2 July—A ceremony to present stipends to the students of Dedaye Township who have passed the matriculation examination for 2007-2008 academic year was held at the meeting hall of Dedaye Township Peace and Development Council office yesterday. Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min gave a speech on the occasion. Afterwards, the minister presented the awards to Maung Phyo Zin Oo who won five distinctions, Ma May Yadana four distinctions, Ma Le Yi Mon and Ma Ei Wut Yie of three distinctions, Ma Thu Zar Win Lwin and Maung Khant Thu two distinctions and Maung Aung Khant Thu on behalf of 52 students who won one distinction.

Later, Maung Zin Phyo Oo spoke words of thinks. A total of 413 students have passed the exam in Dedaye Township for 2007-2008 academic year and the pass rate was 24.55 percent.—*MNA*

Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min awards an outstanding student for 2007-2008 Academic Year in Dedaye Township.

MNA

USDA (Youths) take part in rehabilitation of Hlaingbon region

YANGON, 1 July— Rehabilitation work is being carried out by opening six forward camps in storm-hit regions. A 43-member team led by Dr Zaw Min Aung (Kayin State) comprises 12 from Kayin State, 12 from Shan state (East), 12 from Rakhine State, five local residents from Ayeyawady Division and two from Ministry of Science and Technology. The youths of the Union Solidarity and Development Association are taking part in roofing of temporary schools, paving, sanitations tasks, repairing of religious edifices, removal of fallen trees, and spraying of Biograte, assembling of power-tillers, providing of medical treatment, supplying of USDA uniforms and donation of clothes, pumping of salty water and dirty water for availability of pure drinking water and repairing of village roads to ensure smooth transportation at Hlaingbon village-tract.

MNA

Artistes to donate aids to storm survivors

YANGON, 2 July— Myanmar Music Asiayon (Central) will distribute relief supplies to storm-victims in Mawlamyine-gyun Township.

They left for the storm-affected area today at Hledan Jetty by a ship of the Inland Water Transport under the Ministry of Transport.

The asiayon organized a concert in Mandalay to raise funds for the victims. The artistes will distribute relief foods and household goods to the survivors. They will also entertain the victims with songs. Vocalists, musicians, composers and executives of the asiayon will participate in the trip.

MNA

Participation of Defence Services (Army) in relief and rehabilitation of storm-hit Ayeyawady and Yangon Divisions

Article: *Maung Maung Htwe* (MNA)

(from page 16)

The transport route and traffic flow were stopped due to blocking of fallen trees and lamp-posts. As such, I walked to my home from the office while the storm was raging. On my way, I saw a little number of persons. There were a large number of the fallen trees and broken branches, lamp-posts and telephone posts, the snapping of telephone lines and the blown off roofs and the destroyed buildings.

Tatmadawmen of Defence Services (Army) carrying injured persons and patients to clinic.

In the aftermath of the storm, all the people faced difficulties including lack of electricity and water. Some limitations in transport happened.

These hardships were the situations that the people actually faced on those days after the storm.

However, the Tatmadawmen who have been ready to safeguard the life and property of the people in the successive eras could be seen in various areas of downtown Yangon in the afternoon of 3rd May after the storm.

In addition to regiments and units under Yangon Command, another regiments and units under No. 11 Light Infantry Division and No. 77 Light Infantry Division and that of stations namely Hmawby, Taikkyi and Indaing immediately carried out relief and clearing tasks.

The strengths of the Tatmadaw which makes heroic sacrifice and which can endure hardships are wonderful. The Tatmadawmen and their family members who were assigned in the storm-hit regions faced the hardships due to the storm similar to that of most of the people. In accord with the traditions of the Tatmadaw to give priority to serving the interest of the people more than self-interest, the servicemen conscientiously and willingly joined hands with the local people in undertaking relief and rehabilitation works as soon as the storm had calmed down. As a result, to our amazement the storm-affected Yangon Division could recover from the destructions in a short time.

The road transport was restored in a short time as the Tatmadawmen from regiments and units gave priority in clearing the fallen trees and broken branches from almost all the main roads and streets. In reality, it can be said that ensuring of good transport is to improve the economic, social, health and social affairs of the people of a region. In other words, it was paving the way to carry out the relief and rehabilitation tasks in all aspects.

The impact of the storm was horribly destructive. During my trip of Ayeyawady Division to cover the news after the storm, I witnessed and heard the unbelievable damage and losses of the life and property of the people in storm-hit Ayeyawady Division.

On 1 and 2 May when the warnings against the storm were issued, the Tatmadawmen of regiments and units of South-West Command assisted the local people for their evacuation in time. Unfortunately, the impact of the storm was very destructive. That was why Ayeyawady Division, the granary of the Union of Myanmar, was severely hit by the storm.

The regiments and units under control of South-West Command immediately carried out relief and clearing tasks. Likewise, No. 66 Light Infantry Division and its regiments and units arrived at the storm-hit Ayeyawady Division in no time and they undertook the tasks without delay. Similarly, the Tatmadaw-men of Supply and Transport units transported relief rations, medicines and supplies to the storm-hit regions as speedily as possible by Tatmadaw vehicles.

The regiments and units under control of South-West Command and No. 66 Light Infantry Division were assigned duties in storm-hit regions of Ayeyawady Division namely Chaungpauk, Setsan, Kadonkani, Chaungwa and Kyonku villages in Bogale, Pyapon, Dedaye, Kyaiklat, Mawlamyinegyun, Ngapudaw and Labutta. Up to now, they are carrying out relief and clearing tasks in the above regions in cooperation with members of the Myanmar Police Force, Fire Brigade and social organizations.

(See page 9)

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Tatmadawmen of Defence Services (Army) loading supplies onto a helicopter and a vehicle that will leave for storm-hit regions from Yangon International Airport.

Participation of Defence Services (Army) in relief and rehabilitation of storm-hit Ayeyawady and Yangon Divisions

Article: *Maung Maung Htwe* (MNA)

(from page 8)

According to records, over 20,000 Tatmadawmen each in Yangon Division and Ayeyawady Division together with the people and members of the social organizations participated in undertaking the relief and rehabilitation tasks.

The groups of Tatmadawmen discharged their duties in the respective areas. Therefore, anybody could not witness a large number of Tatmadawmen carrying out the tasks in one place. However, I, a mediaman, saw them in groups in many places wherever I covered the news. Due to the scenes that I had witnessed on my walking way back to my home from the downtown area before the storm calmed down, I simply thought that efforts would have to be made for months to turn all the facilities such as clearing of debris on the roads, supply of power, reinstallation of telephone lines and supply of water into normalcy.

However, the roads became more clean in a matter of days as well as the facilities of water, power and telephone lines unbelievably turned back normalcy. As a result, all the people including myself recognized and appreciated the concerted endeavours of the government, the people and the Tatmadaw.

It can be studied that the Tatmadaw contributed not only assistance but also the cash donation and reconstruction materials to the respective storm-hit regions in carrying out relief and rehabilitation tasks.

In counting some donations of the Tatmadaw, the Tatmadawmen and their family members had donated over K 450 million — over K 350 million and relief supplies worth over K 98 million to the storm-hit regions.

Likewise, the Adjutant-General's Office of the Ministry of Defence provided the rations worth over K 200 million for the Tatmadawmen who were discharging duties in relief and rehabilitation tasks in the storm-hit regions. In addition, the Quartermaster-General's Office made arrangements to transport tarpaulin tents for the storm victims, construction materials and fuel with the use of departmental vehicles, fibre boats including 600 cargo trucks of the Tatmadaw.

Tatmadaw vehicles conveying supplies for storm-hit regions at night.

Tatmadawmen removing fallen trees.

Furthermore, the Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings Ltd also donated K 1,500 million, US$ 200,000, relief supplies worth over K 44 million and equipment to the storm survivors. As of 3 May, the Tatmadawmen packing their rations have been using the vehicles and fuel of the Tatmadaw for taking relief and rehabilitation measures. The cash and kind for the storm victims donated at home and from abroad including cash and supplies by the well-wishers were not spent on the activities of the Tatmadawmen.

At present, local and foreign organizations and well-wishers have been rendering assistance for the storm survivors and making donations as much as they wish. In this regard, cash donations are to be spent sparingly without spending much on transport and accommodation.

As the media persons, we have closely witnessed the harmonious efforts of the government, the people and the Tatmadaw in taking relief and rehabilitation measures in Ayeyawady and Yangon Divisions through three united strengths.

We realized the real lives of the Tatmadawmen who had made utmost efforts to clear a lot of old and young fallen trees that the storm hit, who up and down transported the relief supplies and who contributed much to relief and reconstruction tasks. That is why I write this article in honour of the Tatmadawmen for their industrious efforts as they have restored peace and stability for the storm victims through their sweats, tiredness and exhaustion in accord with the motto "Never hesitating, always ready to sacrifice blood and sweat are the Tatmadawmen".

Translation: TTA

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Tatmadaw vehicles transport relief supplies to Bogale, Labutta, Pyapon, Kyaiklat and Hainggyikyun of Ayeyawady Division.

Donations invited for storm survivors

YANGON, 2 July—Rehabilitation is under way for local people in storm-hit regions who have lost their property in the storm. In that regard, well-wishers are invited to make donations for the following items individually or in groups in cooperation with the government at the donations accepting supervisory committee at the Fire Services Department (Head Office) here.

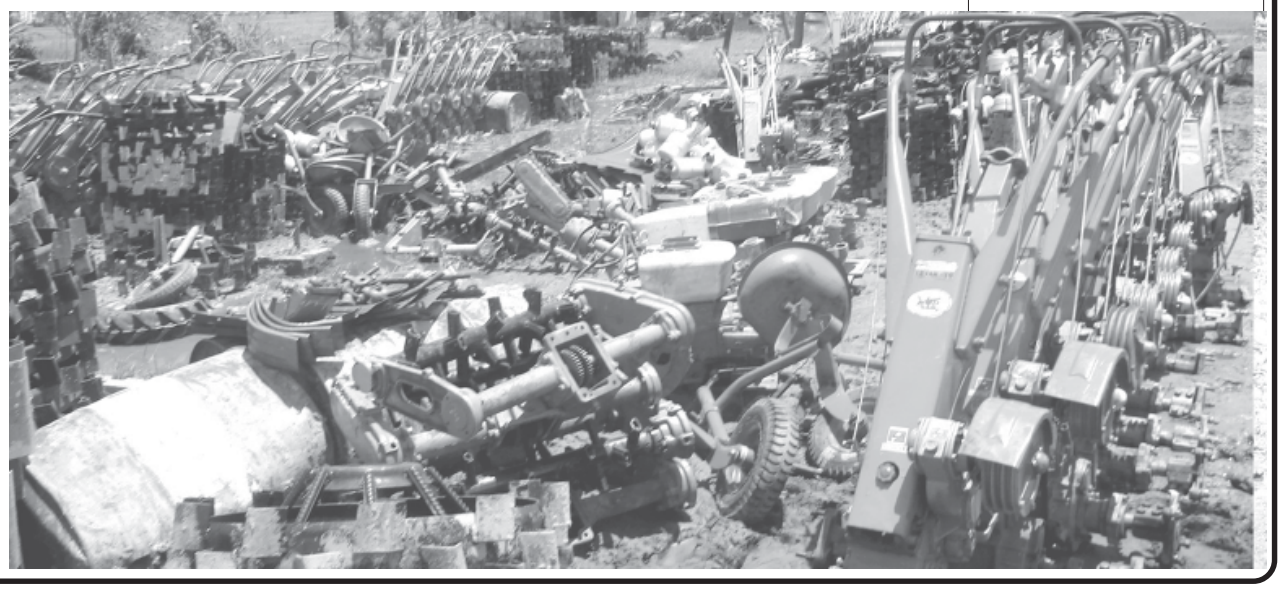
Houses built by donors for storm survivors. **MNA**

Fishing boats to be used in storm-affected areas in Ayeyawady and Yangon divisions. **MNA**

Power-tillers to be distributed to farmers in storm-affected areas.—**MNA**

Items	Per unit price (in kyat)
1. House	K 600,000
2. 21-foot fishing boat (with engine)	K 400,000
3. 21-foot fishing boat (without engine)	K 200,000
4. Power-tiller	
(a) Leya-16	K 1,090,000
(b) Leya-22	K 1,550,000
(c) Ayeya-1	K 1,128,600
5. Bag of fertilizer	K 18,000

MNA



Minister receives Indian guest

YANGON, 2 July— Maj-Gen Htay Oo, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation, received Project Director Mr KL Daga of PATEL Engineering Co from the Republic of India at the Irrigation Department, here, on 28 June.

They discussed matters on donating CI sheets, blankets and variety of medicines to the storm victims.—*MNA*

A nun accepts stipend presented by a well-wisher. — **MNA**

Stipends provided for orphans

YANGON, 2 July — The Myanmar Border Areas Development Association held a ceremony to provide stipends to students who had lost both parents in the storm, at International Business Centre on Pyay Road, here, on 25 June.

At the ceremony, responsible persons presented K 20,000 each to 173 basic education students and K 50,000 each to five higher education students from Labutta, Bogale, Dedaye, Wakema, Mawlamyinegyun and Twantay townships. Director U Sein Win of the Social Welfare Department accepted the stipends for 90 students being accommodated at the training schools in Myaungmya and Maubin.

Well-wishers from Firefly Mission of Singapore and United Sikh of Malaysia participated in the stipend presentation ceremony.

Chairman of the association U Maung Maung Soe Tint made a speech and invited more well-wishers.

Any well-wisher may contact the association at A-2, Seinle Yeiktha, New University Avenue, Bahan Township, Tel: 542349 and 536756. — *MNA*

Members of Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs' Association Daw Mi May Phyu Phyu and Daw Hla Hla Myo pose for documentary photo before departure for Japan at Yangon International Airport on 30 June 2008. They received scholarship awards to attend the two-year master's course on business management in Japan. — **MWEA**

Workers clean up an outbreak of blue-green algae at a beach in Qingdao, the host city for sailing events at the 2008 Olympic Games, in eastern China's Shandong province on 24 June, 2008. The Qingdao government has organized 400 boats and 3000 people to help remove the algae after Olympic organizers ordered a cleanup. Experts say the algae is a result of climate change, and recent heavy rains in southern China, according to the Xinhua news agency.—INTERNET

Iran digging 320,000 graves for invaders

TEHERAN, 2 July — A senior Iranian military official said on Sunday the Islamic republic is digging some 320,000 graves in its border provinces for future slain invaders, Iran's English-language satellite channel Press TV reported.

Iran's Armed Forces headquarters has approved the plan to dig graves for enemy forces in case of any attack on its territory, said Brigadier General Mir-Faisal Baqerzadeh, head of the Foundation for the Remembrance of the Holy Defense.

"We do not wish the families of enemy soldiers to experience what Americans had to go through in the aftermath of the Vietnam War," said Baqerzadeh, who is also head of Iran's search committee for missing soldiers.

The preemptive measures would decrease the time during which slain soldiers would be buried, the Iranian military official said, adding "the burial of slain soldiers will be carried out decently and in little time".

Baqerzadeh said the decision is in line with Iran's commitment to the Geneva Convention and additional protocols regarding wartime cooperation between Iran and the Red Cross.

The United States and its allies have accused Iran of trying to develop nuclear weapons under the cover of a civilian nuclear programme. Iran has denied the US charges, insisting that its nuclear programme is for peaceful purposes only.

MNA/Xinhua

Iraqi officials angered by US raid near Kerbala

BAGHDAD, 2 July — Iraqi officials have expressed outrage over a US raid near the holy Shiite city of Kerbala, which they said should have been approved by local authorities since security for the area is under Iraqi control.

One man was killed in the early morning raid on Friday, the officials told a news conference. They described him as a civilian.

The US military has not responded to questions about the incident.

The row comes at a sensitive time for Washington, which is negotiating a new security pact with Baghdad to provide a legal basis for American troops to stay in Iraq after a United Nations mandate expires on 31 December. —*MNA/Reuters*

Cheshire road "Britain's most dangerous"

LONDON, 2 July— An 8-mile stretch of road in Cheshire often used as a race track by motorcyclists is Britain's most dangerous highway while many major routes are still unsafe, according to a survey.

The single carriageway section of road between Macclesfield and Buxton has seen 43 fatal or serious accidents since 2001, most of them bikers, according to the Road Safety Foundation.

The accidents have continued despite Cheshire County Council's attempts to improve safety by bringing in new crash barriers.

However, if motorbikes were not included in the analysis, the road would in fact be one of the safest. Instead, the 6-mile bendy stretch of the A61 between Barnsley and Wakefield in Yorkshire would take its place as the country's worst road.

MNA/Reuters

A woman displays a model of a human brain. So-called "good" cholesterol, known by its initials as HDL-C, plays an important role in maintaining memory in later life, according to a study published on 30 June, 2008.—INTERNET

More than 50 Indian policemen drowned to death

NEW DELHI, 2 July — More than 50 policemen were feared to have been drowned to death in a 40-metre deep reservoir in the Indian state of Orissa Sunday morning as the boat ferrying them came under gunfire by Naxalites from a hill, NDTV reported.

The incident took place in Alampetta Village in Malkangiri District of the state when some 64 police of the elite Greyhound Force were on their way to Chitrakonda in the state by a boat for a joint operation against the Naxalites.

Of the 64 on board, eight managed to swim ashore with bullet injuries on them after the boat capsized.

A search operation has been under way to trace the missing policemen. The search team recovered some police caps from the 40-metre deep reservoir named Balimela. —*MNA/Xinhua*

Greenpeace protests over detention of fellows in Japan

JAKARTA, 2 July — Scores of Greenpeace activists staged rally outside the Japanese Embassy in Jakarta on Monday, demanding the release of their two fellows being detained by the Japanese Government.

Carrying banners containing words in Japanese and English languages asking for justice and stopping hunting whales, the activists stood in front of the embassy.

"Justice For Whales, Justice For Greenpeace," said the banners.

Repersentatives of the protesters were received by a senior official of the embassy.

"We ask for the release of both Greenpeace activists who are now being detained by the Japanese Government without a clear reason," said Bustar Maitar, Greenpeace Forest campainer of Southeast Asia after meeting with the official.

Both activists Junichi Sato, 31, and Toru Suzuki, 41, have been in custody since recent weeks.

In addition to the release, the group also demanded the Japanese Government to terminate hunting whales, which they said could extint the species.

Maitar said the Greenpeace had tried to reveal the scandal of hunting whales by the Japanese Government.

MNA/Xinhua

A car passes through the illuminated Dongshan Tunnel newly-completed at Huainan City, east China's Anhui Province, on 30 June, 2008. — XINHUA

WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT

Maung Tin Oo,
The son of U Kyi Phone @ Fon Kong Lee- Daw Wan Kyi@ Wan Kyi Swin
and
Htay Phyu,
The daughter of U Hor Myin Lunt-Daw Yu Lunt
have the pleasure of announcing their marriage which took place on 01-July-2008, in the presence of judge and evidences.

Blast at Iran gas canister centre, 15 feared dead

TEHERAN, 2 July—An explosion at a gas distribution company in a town near the Iranian capital was thought to have killed 15 people, Iran's *Fars* news agency said on Monday.

The cause of the blast late on Sunday was not immediately clear, but *Fars* said a large number of gas canisters used in homes for cooking had exploded.

"It is not yet clear if (the blast) was intentional or not," *Fars* reported, adding that the explosion occurred at a gas company in a suburb of Karaj, west of Teheran.

"The number of probable deaths in the explosion has been put at 15," *Fars* reported without giving more details.—*MNA/Reuters*

OPEC rejects call to set price band for oil

MADRID, 2 July—The President of the Organization of Petroleum-Exporting Countries (OPEC) rejected a call on Monday to set any price band control in face of relentless rise of world oil prices.

"Producing and consuming nations never agree on any price. You remember we talked about 15 (US) dollars and they were saying 13 dollars. We talked about 22 dollars and they were saying 18 dollars. Then we put a price band of 22-30 dollars, but they never agreed with the price band," OPEC President Chakib Khelil told reporters on the sidelines of the World Petroleum Congress here.

OPEC set a price band between 22 and 28 US dollars in March 2000, which was abandoned in January 2005 due to market conditions. "Then we did away with the price band. Now they say we need to come back to the price band, but we are never going to agree. Let the oil market decide the price," Khelil said.

As oil prices kept rising, which hit a new record high close to 144 US dollars per barrel today, some countries, notably India, had suggested a return to the price band control. Khelil, once again, stressed that the price hike had nothing to do with supply, saying the market is fully supplied despite rising demand.

MNA/Xinhua

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Iraq sues companies over oil-for-food kickbacks

NEW YORK, 2 July—The Iraqi Government sued dozens of companies including oil giant Chevron Corp on Monday that it said paid kickbacks to former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein's regime under the UN oil-for-food program.

The civil lawsuit seeks to recover damages from companies investigated by a UN-commissioned inquiry, claiming they cheated the Iraqi people out of the benefits of the 67 billion US dollars UN programme.

The UN oil-for-food program, which ran from 1996 to 2003, was created to help Iraqis cope with UN sanctions after Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990. The programme allowed Baghdad to sell oil in order to buy humanitarian goods.

The lawsuit says billions of dollars were lost "all of which were directly translatable into food, medicine and other humanitarian goods that were supposed to reach the Iraqi people". —*MNA/Reuters*

US urged to take steps to avoid unlawful killings

UNITED NATIONS, 2 July—UN human rights expert Philip Alston on Monday called on the United States to take immediate steps to improve its system of military justice and to ensure that the death penalty is applied fairly and justly in states such as Alabama and Texas.

Alston, the special rapporteur on extra-judicial, summary or arbitrary executions, had just concluded an official visit to the United States during which he met with federal and state officials, judges, and civil society groups in Washington DC, New York, Alabama, and Texas.

In a preliminary statement after the visit, Alston noted that it was now widely acknowledged that innocent people are likely to have been executed in the past, and he was critical of how authorities in Alabama and Texas have responded to this fact.

"When we are talking about a situation in which innocent people have probably been executed, you would expect a greater sense of urgency about reforming the criminal justice system," Alston said.

Alston recommended that reconsideration be given to the system of electing judges in both states, that severe deficiencies in the right to counsel for capital defendants be addressed, and that each state undertake a systematic inquiry into the shortcomings of its existing criminal justice system.

He also called on the US Congress to enact legislation that would permit federal courts to review all issues in state and federal death penalty cases on the merits.

MNA/Xinhua

US Army criticizes itself in review of Iraq war

WASHINGTON, 2 July—The US Army criticized itself in a newly released review of the Iraq war, pointing out the lack of post-invasion planning as a notable error, the National Public Radio, or NPR, reported Monday.

The 700-page review said the Army's senior leaders failed to properly plan for the aftermath of the 2003 invasion.

It is a conclusion that others have reached before but the Army is criticizing itself for the first time.

The review was based on interviews with 200 senior Army officers involved in the invasion and its aftermath.

It is aimed to expose the mistakes that were made and is in hope that they won't be repeated by future officers, said senior US officials.

MNA/Xinhua

Strong sandstorms hit S-E Iran

TEHERAN, 2 July—Strong sandstorms hit Zahak city of Iran's southeastern province of Sistan-Bluchestan, Iran's Press TV satellite channel reported on Monday.

The storms packed with winds up to 100 kilometres per hour has caused state and private-run administrations to close on Sunday, Press TV said.

"The sandstorms have forced all the stores and offices to shut down, except for emergency centres," Mayor of Zahak city Gholamreza Rezadi was quoted as saying.

The storms which began five days ago has hit about 80 villages, Rezadi said, adding that the deluge of sand considerably damaged agriculture, water installations, and electricity power lines.

Over 3,000 people were admitted to clinical centres for treatment of respiratory diseases and allergies, as a result of the sandstorms.

Heavy dust and windstorms have also caused poor visibility that disrupted normal life in the region, Press TV said.—*MNA/Xinhua*

People visit the Beijing Olympics Forest Park in Beijing, capital of China, on 1 July, 2008. The 680-hectare park, which is the largest city park in Beijing, was firstly opened to public Tuesday. It will temporarily shut down on 5 July and reopen on 9 August .

XINHUA

Stubborn fire threatens California's scenic coast

LOS ANGELES, 2 July — California firefighters struggled to gain the upper hand on Sunday against a nine-day-old wildfire that is threatening the scenic Big Sur area along the state's rugged central coast.

The Big Sur fire has burned about 32,500 acres (13,150 hectares) and destroyed 16 homes since it was sparked by lightning on 21 June, the US Forest Service said.

Firefighters have contained only 3 per cent of the flames and the Forest Service could not estimate when the fire would be brought under control.

A 10-mile (16-kilometre) stretch of the coastal Highway 1 was closed for a fourth day, and the community of Big Sur remained threatened. Evacuation advisories were issued throughout the area, but the local chamber of commerce said most businesses were still open.

Big Sur is heavily wooded, with steep slopes running down to the Pacific Ocean. The terrain creates one of California's most dramatic landscapes — and slow going for more than 1,000 firefighters on the scene. Its 90-mile (145-kilometre) stretch of coastline lies between the quaint town of Carmel in the north and San Simeon, home of Hearst Castle, to the south.

The area is a popular destination for campers, surfers and nature lovers. Novelist Henry Miller lived there for 18 years.

MNA/Reuters

People dressed as a Stormtrooper (front) and Darth Vader from the movie "Star Wars" stand in a convenience store during a promotional event for "Star Wars Celebration Japan" in Tokyo on 1 July, 2008. "Star Wars Celebration Japan" will be held from 19 July to 21 July in Chiba to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the movie's release in Japan.—INTERNET

Argentine police seize five Europe-bound Brazilian drug mules

BUENOS AIRES, 2 July — Five Brazilian drug mules who had stuffed their stomachs with a large amount of cocaine were arrested at Ezeiza international airport in Argentina, police said Monday.

The three men and two women were trying to travel to Italy and Spain.

The men were carrying the drug in capsules in their stomachs, while the women were carrying it in their stomachs and in condoms inside their vaginas, police said.

One of the detainees underwent surgery to remove 71 capsules of the drug.

The arrests made on Sunday culminate a year-long investigation with help from Portuguese and Italian police.

MNA/Xinhua

A panda cools himself off in a pool of a zoo in Wuhan, central China's Hubei province on 29 June, 2008. Two male giant pandas from Wolong nature reserve were relocated in Wuhan last Friday after the earthquake hit Sichuan in May.
INTERNET

An aerial view shows circles created in a grain field near the north Czech town of Liberec, 110km (70 miles) north of Prague, in this picture taken from a remote helicopter on 30 June, 2008. The origin of the circles remains unknown.—INTERNET

Israel prepares for possible strong earthquake

JERUSALEM, 2 July — Israeli Health Ministry on Monday warned that a strong earthquake is imminent in the north and instructed medical institutions to step up preparations for the disaster.

An interministerial committee that studies seismographic data noted that exceptional seismic activities have been recorded since mid-February in southern Lebanon bordering north Israel, indicating a possible major tremor, Director-General of the Health Ministry Avi Yisraeli said in a special notice distributed to medical authorities and organizations.

During the three months starting from mid-February, around 500 small tremors hit the area with a magnitude of less than two on the Richter Scale, while in the last 10 days of May and the beginning of June, the magnitude increased to the degree that they were felt in north Israel, said the notice.

"Numerous studies presented by the Geophysical Institute have shown that a change in frequency raises the probability of a stronger earthquake. The assessment of the interministerial committee for earthquake preparation is that the likelihood of a quake at a Richter magnitude of 6.0 in southern Lebanon is growing, " added Yisraeli.— *MNA/Xinhua*

Curbing China investment would be a mistake

CANBERRA, 2 July — Australian newspaper *The Australian* said in an article on Monday that Australia will not realize its potential wealth from minerals without opening its doors to Chinese investment.

"The idea that allowing government-owned Chinese companies to gain a stake in our resource industries is somehow contrary to the national interest is profoundly mistaken," it said.

So far, Australian relationship with China has been completely lopsided. Trade with China has soared to 60 billion dollars, making it our largest trading partner, accounting for 23 per cent of the total. Investment from China in 2006 was a paltry 3.7 billion dollars, or less than 0.5 per cent of total investment.

"There is a mistaken notion that we have a captive market in China. That may be so for iron ore at the moment, but it won't be the case into the future," the article said.

MNA/Xinhua

BP CEO says oil supply not responding to demand

MADRID, 2 July — The Chief Executive of oil major BP Plc said on Monday oil supply was not responding to higher demand and that the argument speculators were to blame for record prices above 140/ US dollars barrel was a "myth". "Supply is not responding adequately to rising demand," Tony Hayward told the World Petroleum Congress. He added that politics rather than geology was the reason. "The problems are above ground not below it," he said. He dismissed the claim, frequently made by OPEC, many of whose members are reluctant to allow Western oil companies invest in their oil industries, that speculators were to blame for high prices. "This is not a speculative bubble," he said. — *MNA/Reuters*

SPORTS

Brazilian football star Ronaldinho, right, plays with South Korean middle school soccer players during his Asia Tour in Seoul, South Korea, on 2 July, 2008.—INTERNET

Turkey extends Terim's contract to 2012

ISTANBUL, 2 July — Turkey coach Fatih Terim's contract has been extended by two years to 2012, the Turkish Football Federation chairman said on Tuesday.

After Turkey lost to Germany in their Euro 2008 semi-final, Terim said he would probably step down. Media reports linked him with a return to Italy but the federation subsequently said he would remain in his post until the 2010 World Cup finals. Federation chairman Hasan Dogan said on Tuesday he had proposed the two-year contract extension in a meeting with Terim ahead of a federation board meeting.

"He accepted our proposal, thanking us for the trust in him and saying he was happy to be coach of the national team and that work with the management was harmonious," the federation Web site reported Dogan as saying (http://www.tff.org).

Unfancied Turkey reached their first European Championship semi-final with thrilling performances marked by late goals in the group and knockout stages. Terim has also coached Italian teams AC Milan and Fiorentina as well as Turkey's Galatasaray. —*MNA/Reuters*

Juventus and Torino in tug of war for Knezevic

TURIN, 2 July — Juventus are set for a tug of war over new signing Dario Knezevic after cross-town rivals Torino said the Croatia defender should be joining them instead.

Juventus announced on their website (www.juventus.com) on Monday that the 26-year-old had joined them from relegated Livorno.

The statement gave no financial details of the deal, although Italian media reported that Juve had taken Knezevic on loan with an option to make the transfer permanent at the end of the season.

However, later on Monday a Torino spokesman said they had deposited a contract for the player's transfer from Livorno with the Italian Soccer League.

MNA/Reuters

China's Zheng Jie returns the ball to her Czech opponent Nicole Vaidisova during their quarter-final tennis match of the 2008 Wimbledon championships at The All England Tennis Club in London, on 1 July, 2008. Zheng won 6-2, 5-7, 6-1.—XINHUA

Almeria appoint Arconada as coach for next two seasons

MADRID, 2 July — Almeria have appointed Gonzalo Arconada to be their coach for the next two seasons, the Primera Liga club said on Tuesday. The 46-year-old, brother of former Spain goalkeeper Ãuis Miguel Arconada, has just led Numancia to promotion to the top flight as second division champions but had agreed to part ways with the club.

He takes over from Unai Emery who left Almeria for Valencia after an impressive two seasons at the helm.

MNA/Reuters

Chelsea sign Portugal winger Deco

LONDON, 2 July — Chelsea signed Portugal's Brazilian-born playmaker Deco from Barcelona on Monday, the day before Brazilian Luiz Felipe Scolari takes over as coach of the Premier League side.

The 30-year-old midfielder is close to Scolari who coached him with the Portugal national side, taking them to the Euro 2004 final and the quarterfinals of Euro 2008 earlier this month before signing for London side.

More importantly perhaps for Chelsea, beaten Champions League finalists last season, is Deco's experience in Europe's top club competition which Chelsea have never won.

Deco won the Champions League title with Porto in 2004 under Jose Mourinho, who was later to become Chelsea coach, and then with Barcelona in 2006.

MNA/Reuters

Natalie Coughlin swims during her heat in the women's 200m individual medley at the US Olympic Swimming Trials in Omaha, Nebraska on 1 July, 2008. —XINHUA

Former Sevilla's soccer player Daniel Alves of Brazil smiles in front of the Barcelona office before his official presentation at Nou Camp stadium in Barcelona on 1 July, 2008. Sevilla said goodbye to Brazil full back Alves on Tuesday ahead of the 25-year-old completing his transfer to Primera Liga rivals Barcelona.—XINHUA

Dementieva into semis but makes hard work of it

LONDON, 2 July — Fifth seed Elena Dementieva recovered from a mid-match meltdown to beat fellow Russian Nadia Petrova 6-1 6-7 6-3 on Tuesday and reach the Wimbledon semi-finals.

Dementieva was a set and two breaks up before throwing the 21st seed a lifeline by double-faulting to hand Petrova her first break. Another break by Petrova followed and what should have been an easy win turned into a more intriguing encounter.

Dementieva, the highest remaining women's seed in the draw, held two match points in the second-set tiebreak but a resilient Petrova forced the match into a decider before reverting to making the type of unforced errors that riddled the first set. —*MNA/Reuters*

Woods unable to say when he will play again

NEW YORK, 2 July — World number one Tiger Woods does not know when he will be able to play again after doctors built a new knee ligament for him using tendon taken from his right hamstring.

The 32-year-old American won this month's US Open after a playoff against Rocco Mediate before announcing that he needed reconstructive surgery on his left knee and would take the rest of the year off.

He told a teleconference on Monday he was not sure when he would make his comeback.

"We have to see how this thing heals. Everyone heals at a different rate," he said. "Some people are back to playing sports in six months, some are nine, some are 12." Woods is wearing a straight-leg brace and will use crutches for three weeks because he cannot put weight on the leg.

He is host of this week's AT&T National at Congressional Country Club outside Washington D.C. but will not be attending the tournament.

"I would love to be there," Woods said. "Unfortunately, I don't think I can make it. Flying, unfortunately, swells up my leg pretty good. When I flew home from the procedure, it ballooned up a little bit. — *MNA/Reuters*

Radwanska knocks out Kuznetsova

LONDON, 2 July — Polish teenager Agnieszka Radwanska completed the destruction of the top four seeds at Wimbledon when she beat Svetlana Kuznetsova 6-4, 1-6, 7-5 in the fourth round on Monday.

The Russian fourth seed led 4-1 in the decider but could not sustain the momentum and bowed out when she dumped the ball into the net on Radwanska's second match point.

"I did it!" grinned Radwanska moments after coming off court.

After the shock exits of top trio Ana Ivanovic, Jelena Jankovic and Maria Sharapova, Kuznetsova became the latest big name to join the Wimbledon scrapheap.

Radwanska, seeded 14, reached the quarterfinals of the grasscourt championships for the first time and will next face twice former champion Serena Williams.

MNA/Reuters

*Helicopters with the Chinese national flag (R) and the flag of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) fly over the Golden Bauhinia Square during the flag raising ceremony to mark the 11th anniversary of Hong Kong's return to the Motherland in Hong Kong, China, on 1 July, 2008.—*XINHUA

Power tower blasted in S Philippines

MANILA, 2 July—A transmission tower of the National Transmission Corp. has been "bombed" in the southern Philippine province of North Cotabato, local media reported Wednesday.

Local police said that the explosion occurred about 10:45 pm Tuesday, destroying three steel posts of the tower about three kilometers from the national highway in Dalingaoen village.

Anearlier report, said unidentified assailants used two improvised explosives to topple the tower. There is no report of casualties yet.

Police blamed rogue members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) for the blast and said they are under hot pursuit.

"After the attack, the rebels fled to the marshland," a police official told GMA News. It was the third violent incident targeting power facilities in North Cotabato this year.

Internet

More than 35 migrants drown off Gabon

LIBREVILLE, 2 July—More than 35 migrants drowned when their boat was wrecked off Gabon's capital Libreville, police and morgue officials said on Tuesday after the bodies washed up on the city's seafront.

The victims carried identity papers from several West African countries, including Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana and Togo, a *Reuters* reporter who saw the bodies said.

A rickety open wooden boat, of the kind often used by migrants trying to reach Europe from Africa, was found smashed on rocks not far from the bodies.

"It's the first time in 50 years that we've seen a human catastrophe like this," one Gabonese police officer said, adding it was the worst disaster involving migrants he could remember in Libreville.

Thousands of poor African job-seekers risk their lives each year trying to get to Spain's Canary Islands to seek a better life in Europe. Hundreds die in the attempt.

MNA/Reuters

Five aid workers kidnapped in Somalia

MOGADISHU, 2 July—Somali gunmen have kidnapped five local employees of an Italian charity and the United Nations in the latest attack on humanitarian staff in the country, the head of the Italian group said on Tuesday.

Elio Sommavilla, founder of the Water For Life charity, told *Reuters* four of those kidnapped worked for his charity, identifying the fifth as an agronomist with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

FAO in Rome could not confirm the kidnapping.

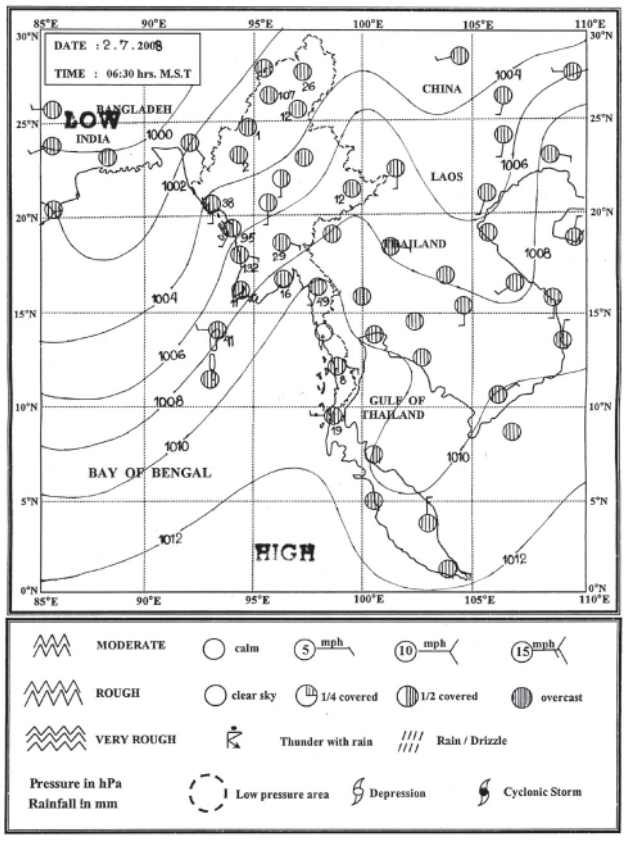
Witnesses had earlier said two Somalis, a man and a woman, were kidnapped when a dozen men with rifles stopped them on their way to Mogadishu on Monday and turned their two cars into bush near Afgooye, west of the capital.

"I could see the two cars marked 'WFL' being hijacked," bus-driver Hassan Osman said.

Suspicion for kidnappings generally falls on clan militia and Islamist insurgents who are fighting the Somali Government and their Ethiopian military allies.

MNA/Reuters

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Wednesday, 2 July, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kayah State, lower Sagaing Division, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Chin State, scattered in Shan State, upper Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with locally heavyfalls in Rakhine State, isolated heavyfalls in Mon State and upper Sagaing Division. The noteworthy amounts of rainfalls recorded were Nay Pyi Taw and Pyinmana (1.34) inches each, Manaung (6.02) inches, Thandwe (5.52) inches, Theinzayat (5.47) inches, Taungkok (5.24) inches, Kyaukpyu (5.08) inches, Hkamti (4.21) inches, Gwa (3.27) inches, Kayan (2.99) inches, Kawkareit (2.87) inches, Sittwe (2.36) inches, Maungtaw (2.17) inches and Hmawby (2.01) inches.

Maximum temperature on 1-7-2008 was 89˚F. Minimum temperature on 2-7-2008 was 71ºF. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 2-7-2008 was 92%. Total sunshine hours on 1-7-2008 was (4.1) hours (approx).

Rainfall on 2-7-2008 was (0.71) inch at Mingaladon, (0.63) inch at Kaba-Aye and (1.14) inches at Central Yangon.Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was (41.97) inches at Mingaladon, (52.28) inches at Kaba-Aye and (65.16) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (7) mph from Southeast at (17:30) hours MST on 2-7-2008.

Bay inference: Monsoon is moderate in the Andaman Sea and strong in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 3-7-2008: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Kachin, Rakhine, Mon and Kayin States, upper Sagaing, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions, fairly widespread in Chin State, Bago and Ayeyawady Divisions, and isolated to scattered in the remaining areas with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Rakhine State. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of increase of rain in the Northern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 3-7-2008: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 3-7-2008: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 3-7-2008: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

TV Myanmar

Thursday, 3 July
View on today

7:00 am
1. တောင်တန်းသာသနာပြုဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၏ပရိတ်တရားတော်

7:25 am
2. To be healthy exercise

7:30 am
3. Morning news

7:40 am
4. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

7:50 am
5. ရင်းငြိမ်ရေထိန်းတံခါး

7:55 am
6. Cute little of dancers

8:05 am
7. Musical programme

8:15 am
8 .အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:30 am
9. International news

8:40 am
10. မြန်မာအမျိုးသမီးများနေ့ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်

4:00 pm
1. Martial song

4:10 pm
2. Dance of national races

4:20 pm
3. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ **4 : 3 5 pm**

4. Musical programme

4:55 pm
5. Song to uphold National Spirit

5:05 pm
6. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ

5:15 pm
7. ကြယ်ပွင့်များရဲ့ရင်ခုန်သံ

5:40 pm
8. မြန်မာအမျိုးသမီးများနေ့ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်

6:00 pm
9. Evening news

6:30 pm
10. Weather report

6:35 pm
11. Musical programme

7:00 pm
12. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ကော်ဖီချစ်သူ" (အပိုင်း-၉)

7:45 pm
13. မြန်မာအမျိုးသမီးများနေ့ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်

8:00 pm
14. News
15. International news
16. Weather report
17. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ပင်လယ်ပျော်မင်းသား" (အပိုင်း-၇)

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The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Make donations to the storm victims

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

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

- ■ Certain internal and external anti-government elements, self-centred persons and unscrupulous elements are now seeking their self-interests by sending to the foreign news agencies stories about relief and rehabilitation work they have made up and shot on video.
- ■ Storm victims are hereby warned to remain vigilant with nationalistic spirit against the deceptions of the self-centred persons and unscrupulous elements.

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

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**

Participation of Defence Services (Army) in relief and rehabilitation of storm-hit Ayeyawady and Yangon Divisions

Article: *Maung Maung Htwe* (MNA)

Tatmadawmen of Defence Services (Army) unloading relief supplies from a helicopter for the people of storm-hit villages in Pyapon Township of Ayeyawady Division.

I was on duty at the office at night when the storm hit. In the morning, I was surprised to witness the impact of the storm that started last mid-night.

I saw a lot of fallen trees including old and young trees in front of our office. After finishing the office work in the morning, I went back home in Thuwunna at about 7 am on 3 May while the storm was still strong, because I was anxious about my home.

(See page 8)

95 cattle transported to storm-hit Mawlamyinegyun

YANGON, 2 July—Under the arrangement of Mawlamyinegyun Township relief and rehabilitation committee, a total of 95 cattle have been transported as the first phase to Kyetsha village tract of Mawlamyinegyun via Bogale Township by boat this morning.

In the same way, cattle will be continuously sent to storm-hit regions of Mawlamyinegyun Township with the aim of resuming farming works in time.—*MNA*