

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

Better conditions created in cooperation with government and national entrepreneurs

Prime Minister inspects rehabilitation tasks

YANGON, 8 July—Chairman of the National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee Prime Minister General Thein Sein today inspected rehabilitation works in Kungyangon and Dedaye Townships.

Accompanied by Lt-Gen Myint Swe of Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Win Myint, the ministers, the deputy ministers and departmental officials, the Prime Minister arrived at Dedanaw Model Village in Kungyangon Township and inspected reconstruction of Day-Myanmar Primary School funded by Myanmar Engi-

neering Society. They were welcomed there by Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, who has been supervising reconstruction and rehabilitation works in Kungyangon Township, and officials concerned.

The Prime Minister inspected the foundation of the school and gave instructions to officials concerned.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister and party inspected the houses constructed for the storm survivors in Kungyangon Township and presented seeds and farming equipment to the survivors. The Prime Minister also urged the survivors to work hard for the improve-

ment of their living standard.

The Prime Minister also attended a ceremony to hand over fishing boats and nets to survivors as part of efforts for rehabilitation in the area.

First, the Prime Minister inspected boats, powered boats, nets and engines. Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister said that the government, the people and the Tatmadaw carried out relief works effectively for the survivors in the storm-hit areas and built shelters for them and provided health care, food and other needs.

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Prime Minister General Thein Sein inspects fishing boats and nets in Kungyangon. — MNA

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Conserve mangrove forests for environmental regeneration

It is found that some regions in Ayeyawady Division were severely hit by the cyclone Nargis that occurred in the early May this year but there was less damage in Mainmahlakyun due to the mangrove forest. This is the benefit of the existence of mangrove forests.

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MYITTA AYE

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 9 July, 2008

Grow trees on a wider scale for regional greening

Nowadays, global warming has a considerable impact on weather patterns all over the world. In consequence, many parts of the world are suffering environmental degradation.

Greenhouse effect is one of the causes of global warming. It is required to avert deforestation because trees absorb carbon dioxide in the air.

Many countries are now growing trees extensively for environmental conservation in order to prevent global warming.

In Myanmar, the Ministry of Forestry and relevant ministries are working together in establishing forests, forest reserves and protected forests.

Mobilizing the participation of local people, the Dry Zone Greening Department is carrying out regional greening tasks. As a result, the 13 districts of the arid zone have been regenerated with vegetation.

Furthermore, special teak plantations at Ngalaik forest reserve in Nay Pyi Taw Tatkon, Min Pyin forest reserve in Nay Pyi Taw Lewe, and Yanpei forest reserve in Taungdwingyi Township are making progress.

Many forest plantations are being established and conserved in Bago Yoma mountain range for its perpetual greening as it is a region where teak grows well.

Forests and trees including teak make significant contribution towards economic growth of the nation and greening of regions. So, the people are duty-bound to take part in the extensive growing of trees and preserving of forests.

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan addresses the meeting on ensuring development and perpetual existence of self-reliant libraries.— MNA



People's Desire

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

Minister for Information attends meeting on ensuring development and perpetual existence of self-reliant libraries

NAY PYI TAW, 8 July—Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan yesterday attended a meeting on ensuring development and perpetual existence of self-reliant libraries held at Sasana Beikman in Myoma Ward, Meiktila, Mandalay Division.

Also present on the occasion were Director-General of Information and Public Relations Department U Chit Naing and officials, district and township level departmental personnel, members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association, social organizations, townselders, well-wishers and local people.

In his address, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan said that today being the Knowledge Age, technology is being applied extensively in the fields of production, education and health, adding that the wider use of advanced technology in national development has brought about better opportunities for youths to pursue modern technology.

In an effort to widen the scope of knowledge of the rural people, to enable them to have easy access to publications and to inculcate them with the habit of reading a large number of self-reliant libraries have been opened in villages. At present, some big nations are making attempts to dominate small countries politically, economically and socially using media as a tool. This being the case, the people need to widen their horizons by means of accessing different kinds of publications in order to be free from their domination, he said.

A campaign was launched to facilitate all villages with self-reliant libraries since 2003. Up to 2006, altogether 55,755 libraries were set up the length and breadth of the nation with the contribution of local people and well-wishers. It is learnt that the donations of the local people and well-wishers to the establishment of libraries are K 250 million plus publications and furniture worth about K 300 million. And the government also provided a large amount of funds in that regard, he said.

In striving for perpetual existence of libraries, steps are to be taken for the local people to have a sense of reading, for setting up trust funds to ensure systematic keeping of publications and acquisition of new books,

for construction of library buildings in villages with no library buildings, for facilitating libraries with furniture and for nurturing qualified librarians. As this is a national concern, efforts are to be made with the participation of local authorities, well-wishers, social organizations and local people. Only then, will efforts for development and perpetual existence of libraries meet with success.

Next, Head of Meiktila District IPRD U Maung Maung Ohn reported matters on establishment of self-reliant libraries in the district and contribution of well-wishers.

This was followed by cash donation ceremony for self-reliant libraries.

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan accepted donations presented by Chairman of Meiktila Township Peace and Development Council U Aung Myint, Chairman of Mahlaing Township PDC U Myo Thant, Chairman of Thazi Township PDC U Aung Aung and Chairman of Wundwin Township PDC U Kyaw Thura. The donations include K 20 million donated by well-wishers of Meiktila Township, K 5 million donated by well-wishers of Mahlaing Township, K 5 million donated by well-wishers of Thazi Township and K 5 million donated by well-wishers of Wundwin Township totalling K 35 million, and presented certificates of honour to well-wishers.

MNA

Stipend provided to outstanding students

NAY PYI TAW, 8 July—A ceremony to give award and to provide stipend to outstanding students of 2008-2009 academic year was held at the meeting hall of Auditor-Genetal's office here yesterday.

Present at the

ceremony were Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung, Director-General U Myo Myint, Deputy Directors-General, Directors, Deputy Directors and parents of students.

The Auditor-General made a speech and provided K 1.715 million to 90 outstanding students of the staff.—MNA

More relief aids arrive Yangon

YANGON, 8 July — More relief aids with the weight of 20.064 tons donated by Thialand-based World Food Programme (WFP) reached Yangon International Airport today.—MNA

Food, oil crises ‘grave threats’

KUALA LUMPUR, 8 July — The leaders of Malaysia and Indonesia on Tuesday called for boosting world food production and finding a permanent solution to skyrocketing oil prices, saying the twin problems have become “grave threats” to the world economy. “We must identify the bold measures that we need to take now in order to guarantee the well-being of our economies,” Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi told

a summit of Islamic countries. The Developing Eight summit brings together eight developing Islamic nations—Malaysia, Indonesia, Pakistan, Iran, Bangladesh, Egypt, Nigeria and Turkey. It coincides with the Group of Eight summit under way in northern Japan.

Abdullah said the one-day D-8 summit must “come out with a clear message on the need to boost food production in the world.” He noted global

food prices have risen by more than 75 percent since 2000, leaving the “world economy ... facing grave threats to its well-being.”

Abdullah said a plan to stabilize the price of oil must also be developed. “Long-term solutions must be found for stabilizing the price of oil. For example, the international community can examine how the futures market might be organized to assist in stabilizing prices,” he said, without elaborating.—Internet



Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, left, delivers speech during the opening of the D-8 Summit in Kuala Lumpur, on 8 July, 2008.—INTERNET

UNICEF praises Myanmar’s reconstruction efforts

UNITED NATIONS, 8 July—Relief and rehabilitation efforts are making progress in Cyclone Nargis-hit regions in Myanmar, despite difficulties in the supply and transportation work, a United Nations agency said on Monday.

The government of Myanmar has spent a lot of money on relief and rehabilitation tasks, a UNICEF spokeswoman Zafrin Chowdhury told the Associated Press, praising individual volunteers as well for their work.

Cyclone Nargis severely hit Yangon and Ayeyawady divisions on 2 and 3 May, killing 84,537 people and leaving 53,836 missing.

It’s a very challenging situation. Access is quite difficult and most places in the delta are reachable

only by boat, she said. Helicopters chartered on behalf of the UN World Food Program are also being used to airlift essential supplies where trucks cannot go.

The casualties in Myanmar were on a scale experienced by other countries in the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami.

An Indonesian expert compared Myanmar’s recovery effort favourably to the one made by his own country after the tsunami.

Heru Prasetyo of Tsunami Rehabilitation and Reconstruction for Aceh and Nlas spoke at a meeting last week to review post-disaster response and recovery. It looked at the work and future duties of the Tripartite Core Group, comprising representatives of the government, UN agencies and the 10 –

member Association of South-east Asian nation (ASEAN)— of which Myanmar is a member.

“Judging the progress in the eighth week so far, the TCG efforts in managing response and repairing the recovery has placed Myanmar Nargis in much more advanced stage compared to the Aceh tsunami then,” Heru said at the meeting.

An ASEAN-led Post-Nargis joint Assessment Team that surveyed cyclone-hit areas of Myanmar issued preliminary findings late last month indicating that a feared wave of post-cyclone deaths and disease had not occurred.

The full report of the team is supposed to be released at a meeting of ASEAN foreign ministers on July 20-21 in Singapore.— internet

Bombings kill 11 in northern Iraq

BAGHDAD, 8 July — Bombs killed 11 people Monday in northern Iraq, where US and Iraqi troops continue to battle al Qaeda in Iraq militants, police said. A suicide car bomber struck an Awakening Council checkpoint south of Samarra.

Four members of the group were killed, police said, and six others were wounded, including three members of the US-backed group, which has emerged as a foe of al

Qaeda in Iraq.

A bomb ripped through a shop near Baquba, killing a female and wounding 15 people. Police said they believe al Qaeda in Iraq militants planted an explosives-filled plastic bag outside the store.

The US military said the explosion was caused by a roadside bomb and wounded 16.

The US military also reported a roadside bomb attack on a convoy Monday that killed four

contractors south of Mosul and wounded eight others.

In southern Baquba, two female farm workers walking to their jobs were killed by a bomb that detonated at the side of a road.

In Mosul, a mortar attack on the compound of provincial Gov. Duraid Kashmoula left six people wounded. The governor was unharmed, police said.

Internet

11 bodies found in Tijuana over three days

TIJUANA (Mexico), 8 July—Police discovered the tortured and burned bodies of six men in an empty lot Monday morning, ending a period of relative calm in this border city beset by drug war violence.

Eleven bodies have been discovered since Saturday in violence believed to be drug-related, including the corpse of a woman found in a barrel, state and federal authorities said.

The weekend tally pushed the city’s death toll this year to more than 260, compared with about 152 homicides at this time last year, and underscored authorities’ difficulties curbing organized crime.

None of the victims had been identified by late Monday, and authorities did not offer any motives for the killings. But the grisly nature of the deaths — some of the victims’ heads were wrapped in plastic — suggested that the victims were killed by gangsters, authorities said.—Internet



Urban and Kidman married in Sydney in June 2006.—INTERNET

Nicole Kidman gives birth to girl

NASHVILLE, 8 July—Oscar-winning actress Nicole Kidman has given birth to a baby girl called Sunday Rose and both are doing well, her spokesman has said. He said Kidman, 41, and her husband, country singer Keith Urban, 40, were “delighted” to announce the birth. Sunday Rose weighed 6lb 7.5oz and was born in Nashville, Tennessee.

She is the first child the actress has given birth to. She has two adopted children, Connor and Isabella, with former husband actor Tom Cruise.—Internet

UN names butterfly reserve as world heritage site

QUEBEC, 8 July—The Mexican government says UNESCO has added a Monarch butterfly reserve in southern Mexico to its list of World Heritage sites.

Mexico’s Foreign Relations Department says the reserve located in the states of Mexico and Michoacan was declared a natural heritage site by the UN’s World Heritage Committee meeting in Quebec City.

Each September the butterflies begin a 3,400-mile (5,470-kilometre) journey from the forests of eastern Canada and parts of the US to the central Mexican mountains. The voyage is considered an aesthetic and scientific wonder.

But illegal logging and development threaten a delicate migratory route that has spanned across a million square miles (2.6 million square kilometers) for some 10,000 years.—Internet

Six partially burned bodies were found at this site in Tijuana. The victims had been shot execution-style and then set on fire.

INTERNET



Obama, McCain set to duel over economy

PHOENIX, 8 July— The US presidential candidates will duel over the economy this week, with Republican Senator John McCain touting proposals he says will stimulate job growth and Democratic Senator Barack Obama discussing economic security for families.

McCain, an Arizona Senator who has wrapped up his party’s nomination, will embark on a tour of Colorado, Pennsylvania,

Ohio, Michigan and Wisconsin — all toss-up states in the November election to win the White House.

The Arizona Senator spent last week on a swing through Latin America highlighting his support for free trade, prompting some observers to question why he went abroad at a time when employers cut US workers from their payrolls for a sixth straight month and

gasoline prices continued to sting.

“John McCain is undertaking a new and focused effort to highlight the job growth that would result from his economic plan,” spokesman Tucker Bounds said of the senator’s plans.

Obama, a Democratic Senator from Illinois, kicks off his week in North Carolina, where he will discuss economic security. —MNA/Reuters



This photo released by Ashley Campasino shows a red Mazda Miata being pulled out from the bottom of the Campasino family swimming pool in Stewartstown, Pa on 30 June, 2008. Kim Taylor thought she had set the emergency brake. —INTERNET

China finds big gold mine with reserves of 15 tons

BEIJING, 8 July— China National Gold Group Corporation (CNGGC) said on Monday it had found a new vein with an estimated 15 tons of gold at one of its mines.

The Na Neng gold mine in southwestern Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region was previously thought to have a proven reserve of 5 tons, an unnamed official with the country’s leading gold producer, manufacturer and trader told *Xinhua*.

The country currently has 330 large-scale gold mines nationwide, with a daily gold ore output of 11,000 tons. The CNGGC announced earlier the Ministry of Finance had provided it with 47.75 million yuan (6.96 million US dollars) from the 2008 central budget in a bid to help it prospect new mines. —MNA/Xinhua



Sushi plate and caviar are as seen in this file photo. The world’s most powerful leaders put aside debate on tackling the global food shortages to enjoy a rich banquet of world delicacies ranging from caviar and hairy crab to cold Kyoto beef. —INTERNET

Solana hopes to meet Iran official this month

PARIS, 8 July— EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana said on Monday he hopes to meet Iran’s chief nuclear negotiator this month after Teheran handed over a response to an incentives package aimed at curbing its nuclear programme.

Solana delivered the revised package by the United States, Russia,

China, France, Britain and Germany to the Islamic Republic last month in a fresh bid to convince Iran to halt sensitive nuclear work that could potentially be used for bombs.

Iran submitted its written response on Friday and its chief nuclear negotiator Saeed Jalili stressed “common

ground” in a conversation with Solana in which he also requested a meeting.

A Solana spokeswoman said the European Union official was willing to meet Jalili.

“Yes, before the end of the month, I hope,” Solana told reporters when asked if he would meet Jalili within weeks.

“We are still talking among ourselves. We will have a response soon,” Solana added, as he arrived for a security conference in Paris.

MNA/Reuters

Trucks queue at the Sufa crossing to receive goods to transport into the southern Gaza Strip on 6 July, 2008. Israel closed all but one of its border crossings with the Gaza Strip on Tuesday in response to a mortar attack 24 hours earlier, Israeli officials said. —INTERNET



Nine killed in building collapse in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 8 July — Nine people were killed and over a dozen of others were injured Sunday as a result of a building collapse in southern Pakistan.

The official APP news agency quoted Ehtesham Siddiqui, chief fire officer in the southern Pakistani port city of Karachi, as saying that six to seven families were residing in this four- storey building.

Siddiqui was of the view that the use of defective construction material might have resulted in this mishap.

An official of the Edhi volunteer ambulance service said that the dead and the injured were removed to the Civil Hospital Karachi.

MNA/Xinhua

Gaza sniper shoots at Israeli farmer

JERUSALEM, 8 July — A Palestinian sniper in Gaza Strip Sunday opened fire at a farmer in a southern Israeli community, missing him but causing property damage, local daily *Ha’aretz* reported, citing the Israel Defence Forces (IDF).

According to IDF, the gunman shot at the farmer as he was driving a tractor near Kibbutz Nahal Oz. The farmer was unhurt, though gunfire damaged his vehicle.

The incident occurred shortly after Israel reopened its border crossings with Gaza, a measure stipulated by a truce agreement between Israel and the Palestinian militant groups led by Hamas.

MNA/Xinhua

NATO soldier, militants killed in S Afghanistan

KABUL, 8 July — The US-led Coalition killed and arrested several militants while one soldier with the NATO-led International Security Assistance (ISAF) died of injury on Sunday in southern Afghanistan, said a statement of Coalition forces released here on Monday.

Coalition forces searched compounds in Req District of Helmand Province targeting a militant leader known to smuggle explosives and weapons including IED and heavy machine guns in the area, killing several militants, arresting seven others, the statement said.

MNA/Xinhua



The craftswomen need to finish the embroidery work named The Olympic Fu (Fu, descriptive prose interspersed with verse) in Suzhou, east China's Jiangsu Province, on 6 July, 2008.—XINHUA

OPEC president predicts further rise in oil prices

ALGIERS, 8 July—Oil prices are likely to rise further largely due to a weak dollar and geopolitics, Chakib Khelil, president of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), said Sunday. “The price of oil will rise again in the coming weeks. We have to follow the evolution of the dollar, because a 1 percent fall in the dollar means four dollars more on the price of oil,” Khelil said in an interview with the local daily *Algeria-News*.

The Algerian Minister of Energy and Mines also highlighted the geopolitical impact on oil prices, noting the current crisis between Iran and the West over its nuclear programme as well as the previous sanctions on Libya. “The embargo imposed on Libya has prevented any increase of investment in that country, just as the current embargo on Iran is stopping anyone investing there,” Khelil said.—*Xinhua*

All items from Xinhua News Agency

Wen underscores fast, steady eco development

BEIJING, 8 July—Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao has said the country will step up efforts to keep economic development fast and steady despite challenges from home and abroad this year.

Wen made the remarks during a three-day research trip to the eastern Jiangsu Province and Shanghai from Friday to Sunday, where he met with local officials, farmers and entrepreneurs.

He said the country's economy was developing in the expected direction after overcoming challenges from within and without. Wen urged governments at all levels to further improve macroeconomic controls and optimize economic structure to avoid serious fluctuations in the country's economy.—*Xinhua*



Russia to react to US radar on Czech soil

PRAGUE, 8 July—Russia will take appropriate steps in reaction to the stationing of a US radar base on Czech soil after the relevant treaty is signed and ratified, Russian ambassador to the Czech Republic said on Sunday.

Alexei Fedotov told public Czech Television (CT) that Russia's responsive measures will be specified by a representative of the Foreign

Ministry at a conference on anti-missile defence in Prague on 8-11 July.

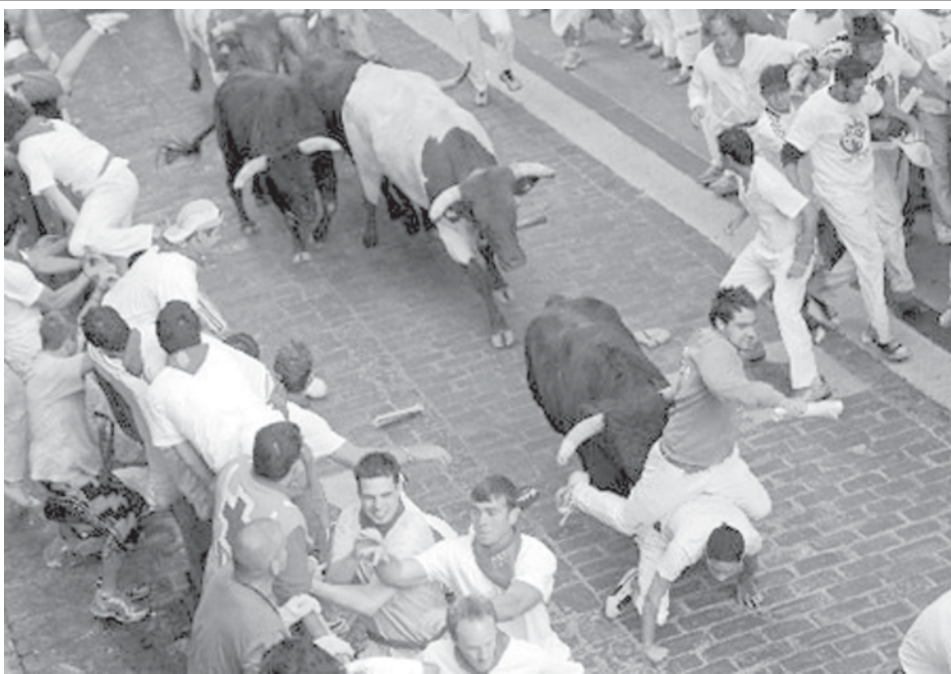
US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice is to sign the main treaty on the deployment of a US radar base on Czech soil in Prague next Tuesday.

The United States has planned to build a radar base in the Brdymilitary district, some 90 kilometres southwest of the Czech capital Prague,

along with an interceptor missile base in Poland.

Russia is strongly opposed to the deployment of the system, saying the plan poses a threat to its strategic interests. Up to 70 per cent of Czech citizens also reportedly oppose the project.

Washington had previously offered Moscow the possibility of checks at the bases in the Czech Republic and Poland. Fedotov said, however, that Moscow is interested in the permanent presence of Russian inspectors at the bases, but that it can see no progress in this respect. Neither the Czech Republic nor Poland has agreed to this.—*Xinhua*



Runners are chased by a pack of six Conde de la Corte fighting bulls on the first day of the running of the bulls at the San Fermin festival in Pamplona on 7 July, 2008. —XINHUA

US salmonella outbreak not caused by Mexican tomatoes

MEXICO CITY, 8 July—The Mexican authorities said Sunday there was no evidence that the US salmonella outbreak came from Mexican tomato production.

“In Mexico there hasn't been a salmonella outbreak in recent months, and definitely not of the type being seen in the US,” Mexican Agriculture Ministry's spokesman Marco Antonio Sifuentes

said.

Mexico has not been told of any US plans to make more proofs in Mexican produce, as it was reported by TV news channel CNN, Sifuentes said. US health authorities are still trying to find the sources of the outbreak, while tomatoes continue to be the main focus of the probe, but the investigation has included also cilantro, jalapeno peppers, Serrano peppers, scallions and onions.

Mexico has not detected salmonella in any of those products, Sifuentes said. US inspectors are currently in

Sinaloa and two other states of Mexico to take samples of tomatoes, soil water and check the export logs to verify salmonella is not present there, Sifuentes said. However, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has not found in Mexican tomatoes the source of the salmonella outbreak.

In Sinaloa, the FDA inspectors have checked five farms in the past two weeks going through all the tomato's production procedures. The Mexican state grows about 40 per cent of all the tomatoes exported to the United States.—*Xinhua*

Helicopter feared crashed near G-8 summit venue

TOKYO, 8 July—A helicopter carrying TV staff may have crashed about Sunday noon in waters off northeastern Japan's Aomori Prefecture, *Kyodo News* reported. The site of the accident is around Omazaki Cape on the northernmost tip of the Shimokita Peninsula, just about 120 kilometres south of the venue of the Group of Eight summit meeting in Japan's northernmost Hokkaido Prefecture.

Local police said they received a call reporting a loud noise shortly before the disappearance of the helicopter over the sea. The helicopter's company said four people were on board, including two pilots, one announcer and one cameraman from the Aomori bureau of the Asahi Broadcasting. They left Aomori airport just past 11 am and was scheduled to return by about 2 pm.—*Xinhua*

Tulou, the unique residential architecture of Fujian Province in southeastern China is inscribed on the UNESCO's World Heritage List Sunday during the 32nd session of the World Heritage Committee that is taking place in this eastern Canadian city Quebec. —XINHUA

Conserve mangrove forests for environmental regeneration

Myitta Aye

The world is a pleasant and worth-living place where various species of creatures including human beings and the environment depend on each other. Variety of plants and animals called biodiversity exist under the ecosystem. Human beings obtain things they need for their basic needs from the ecosystem.

Now, the environment is deteriorating, stemming from excessive exploitation of forest resources for urbanization due to increase in the world population. Deforestation of many parts of the world has followed by global warming resulting from increasing amount of carbon dioxide which causes greenhouse effect, along with climate changes that cause natural disasters such as strong winds, melting of ice mountains, swollen rivers, cold waves and heat waves.

Mangrove forests of the world

Degradation of coastal mangrove forests has become one of the processes that adversely affect the world natural resources. According to the statistics collected by the FAO, of about 42 million acres of mangrove forests of the world, 17 million acres are in southeast Asia and over 170,000 acres, in Myanmar. In the nation, Rakhine coast, the delta and Taninthayi coast have coastal and inland mangrove forests where various species of trees grow such as Lamu (mangrove), Lamei (sonneratia alba), white mangrove, Kanaso (Baccaurea sapida), Kant-pala, Byu-U Talone, Byubyaingtauk, Byuchedauk, Byu-oaksaung, Myinka and Kyana.

The geographical features and the ecosystem of Myanmar benefit the environment and creatures including human beings. Forests not only ensure temperate climates but also prevent such natural disasters as floods, landslides and strong winds. Moreover, forest resources such as timber, firewood, bamboo and herbal plants can be harnessed in forests. Natural forests also serve as habitats to wildlife.

Myanmar is blessed with impressive geographical features and various forms of ecosystem. Situated in the northern part of Myanmar are Khakaborazi Mountain that is capped with ice all year round with ice mountain ecosystem and hilly temperate forests with biodiversity. The mountain is only one of its kind in the southeast Asia. The nation has four large rivers namely Ayeyawady, Chindwin, Thanlwin and Sittoung along with eastern Yoma, middle Yoma and western Yoma mountain ranges where the variety of plants and animals are found. It also has biodiversity of freshwater ecosystem, seawater ecosystem and coastal mangrove forests.

Blessed heritage for human beings

Mangrove forest is one of forest ecosystems. There is a salient point that mangrove forests can exist only on mud flats where there is the tide. Many kinds of

resources are exploited from mangrove forests such as house posts, fence posts, firewood, charcoal, thinpaung, nipa palm, thatch and honey. Besides, water resources such as fish, prawn and crab can be obtained the whole year. So, mangrove forests are also called the kitchen of man and animals.

Trees that grow in mangrove forests help maintain food chain that is necessary for fish and prawn to reproduce and grow all year round, thereby ensuring sustainable food production without livestock farming. They are also the places where fish, prawn and crab are hatched and grow. These species of animals spend half of their lifetime in mangroves. Shrimps of species of marketable tiger prawn enter inlands together with tides and they inhabit there till they grow as long as three to four inches. Then, they migrate to the sea. So, mangroves are also called habitats of man and various species of animals. If mangroves are deteriorating, fish and prawn will find it difficult to lay eggs and hatch, and that will have an impact on their reproduction.

Growing on the lands between the sea and land, mangrove forests protect the interior parts of the lands from being flooded with seawater and being hit by strong winds. In the past, the role of mangroves was taken for granted. However, since the beginning of the 21st Century, the whole world has understood its importance and tried to conserve them. Mangroves are habitats to many species of animals such as crocodiles, dolphins, tortoises, turtles, sea turtles, domestic birds, migratory birds, some species of mammal animals and reptiles. So, mangrove forests can be called the bank of biodiversity.

Conditions of mangrove forests

Now, many national and foreign ecotourism tourists interested in the ecosystem of coastal and delta mangrove forests are visiting the areas. However, population increase has caused food and oil shortages, and mangroves are deteriorating due to various reasons. Clearing mangrove forests for extension of farmland, cutting down trees for firewood and breeding prawn by building embankment cause depletion of mangrove forests and they are the obvious evidences. Breeding prawn is a short-term profitable business from the economic point of view but it is not a sustainable income. The pH of the soil of the prawn breeding ponds turned too salty after three years. Therefore, production rate of the prawn decreased and the people usually gave up their business. Mangrove forests cannot be grown in such areas.

Similarly, the people grow rice where they have cleared the mangrove forests. In three years paddy can be produced. Later, the soil became salty and the production of paddy became less and less. Finally, nothing can grow there. Destruction of mangrove forests can damage

biodiversity that can live in ecosystem and it surely suffers food, clothing and shelter needs of the people.

An earthquake that took place in the Indian Ocean off the coast of Indonesia on 24 December 2004 caused Tsunami tidal wave. Due to the tidal wave, a great number of human lives and property were lost in the coastal nations of the Indian Ocean. Hundreds of thousands of people were killed in Sumatra Island and millions of people were left homeless. Mangrove forests along the coastal regions were damaged due to the lack of discipline of the people and poor knowledge on conservation of environment. As natural barriers were destroyed, the tidal waves as high as from 30 feet to 50 feet hit inland. The Tsunami tidal wave also hit some coastal regions in Myanmar. However, there were only some damages thanks to the cover of mangrove forests along the coastal lines and the delta.

There were many mangrove forests along the coast in Indonesia. As the population increased, the mangrove forests were cleared and prawn breeding ponds were built. After three years, the rate of prawn production fell. So, the people deserted the place. As a result, there were no mangrove forests in coastal regions in Indonesia. The Tsunami tidal wave hit the less-protected coastal areas. Most of the islands in Indonesia were hit severely by the Tsunami. Now mangrove forests are being grown in Indonesia.

Conservation of mangrove forests in Myanmar

The Ministry of Forestry has been conserving the mangrove forests for environmental conservation and for contribution towards the basic needs of the people. At the same time, the ministry together with local people is implementing the regeneration of mangrove forest project in the delta in cooperation with international organizations such as FAO and Japan International Cooperation Agency. Moreover, it provides necessary technology and other assistance for establishment of nursery gardens and mangrove plantation and forests owned by local groups. The local people are participating in the projects.

Mainmahlakyun sanctuary was established in Bogale Township in Ayeyawady Division. Measures on preserving mangrove ecosystem and wildlife conservation including breeding of crocodiles are being taken. One can observe crocodiles in their natural habitat and eco-tourists and a lot of researchers visit the sanctuary. It has been designated as ASEAN Heritage.

It is found that some regions in Ayeyawady Division were severely hit by the cyclone Nargis that occurred in the early May this year but there was less damage in Mainmahlakyun due to the mangrove forest. This is the benefit of the existence of mangrove forests.

Mangrove trees can protect natural disasters and they are carbon sink that can absorb more greenhouse gas that cause greenhouse effect than the trees in inland areas. The trees deal with the pollution well so they are called the lungs of humans. It is known that the mangrove trees contribute towards the control of the climate change.

It is necessary to conserve the invaluable mangrove forests that improve the environment, that produce forest products and food such as meat, fish and prawn and that prevent natural disasters.

Therefore, we are to make efforts as the national duty for progress of mangrove ecosystem and environment that contributes towards the perpetuation of the living things and the world.

Translation: NY+MS

Mainmahlakyun sanctuary was established in Bogale Township in Ayeyawady Division. Measures on preserving mangrove ecosystem and wildlife conservation including breeding of crocodiles are being taken. One can observe crocodiles in their natural habitat and eco-tourists and a lot of researchers visit the sanctuary. It has been designated as ASEAN Heritage.

Maj-Gen Khin Zaw inspects irrigation projects in Pakokku

NAY PYI TAW, 8 July—Maj-Gen Khin Zaw of the Ministry of Defence on 6 July met with officers and other ranks and their families of Pakokku Station and provided cash assistance to be spent on farming.

Accompanied by Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Brig-Gen Myint Soe and officials concerned, Maj-Gen Khin Zaw went to Kyauksauk Dam project in Myaing Township, Pakokku District, and called for timely completion of the project. Kyauksauk Dam is of earthen type, and on completion, it will benefit 150 acres of farmland.

During his tour, Maj-



Maj-Gen Khin Zaw inspects Kyauksauk Dam in Myaing Township.—MNA

Gen Khin Zaw also inspected the thriving paddy field irrigated by Thiri Nandar Dam in DaungO Village in Myaing Township.

He also met with departmental officials and members of social organizations during his

tour of Pakokku and called for cooperation for equitable development of all regions across the country.

On arrival at the Pathein-Monywa Road project, Maj-Gen Khin Zaw heard reports on progress of the

construction of Kazunma-Watkok Section of the road and fulfilled the requirements.

Maj-Gen Khin Zaw went to Pauk Township and visited Yepya River Water Pumping Station which can irrigate 1,300 acres of farmland. In 2007-

2008 rainy season, the station supplied irrigation water to 697 acres and will irrigate 1,000 acres in the 2008-2009 rainy season.

Afterwards, they looked into the demonstration of bio-diesel powered oven in Pyinchaung Village in

Pauk Township. So far, the number of acres of physic nut which can produce bio-diesel has reached 300 acres in the village. Maj-Gen Khin Zaw also inspected greening projects on Tatma Mountain in Pakokku. — MNA

Emergency aid project for storm survivors signed

YANGON, 8 July—Food and Agriculture Organization and Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation signed project for emergency relief aids supply to storm survivors in Yangon and Ayeyawady divisions at Irrigation Department here yesterday.

It was attended by Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo, FAO Resident Representative Mr Shin Imai and the directors-general and managing-directors of the departments and enterprises under the ministry.

The Resident Representative of FAO briefed on the emergency aid project. Next, the Resident Representative and Director-General U Tin Htut Oo of Agriculture Planning Department signed the agreement and exchanged notes. The minister called for more efforts to improve production of agriculture and fishery sectors.

MNA



Photo shows boats and engines to be distributed to storm survivors in Mawlamyinegyun Township.

MNA

US, British embassies contacted NLD HQ 28 times in June

YANGON, 8 July — As the National League for

Democracy has always kept contact with American and British embassies and is following their instructions, the people are condemning and keeping a watchful eye on such situation.

The embassies had contacted NLD Headquarters on West Shwegondine Road here 28 times in June, 2008. They met with CEC members of NLD and sent big or small parcels to them, it is learnt. — MNA

The houses donated by Htoo Trading Co at Kyeingyaunggyi model village in Bogale Township.—MNA



Better conditions created...

(from page 1)

He said progress has been made in a short time with the participation of the government, national entrepreneurs and the donors in the rehabilitation tasks. Better houses are being built for the homeless people and some were accommodated, he said.

He said the government, national entrepreneurs and the donors provided necessary assistance for resuming their business and farmers now resume their agricultural work. Similarly, fishing boats and other equipment were provided to the fishermen and salt-makers, he said.

Conditions which are better than in the past are being created with the assistance of the government and cooperation of the national entrepreneurs and donors. He spoke of the need for the local people to work harder based on the present conditions.

He said officials concerned are to make trip to the villages and organize the local people to inculcate with the spirit of working hard and to improve their lives.

Next, Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein presented fishery equipment for the victims in Kungyangon Township to Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi.

President of Myanmar Fisheries Federation U Htay Myint presented fishing nets to Chairman

of Kungyangon Township Peace and Development Council U Kyaw Win.

The Prime Minister cordially greeted those present.

Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi reported on cultivation of 91,712 acres of monsoon paddy out of 102,190 in the township.

The Prime Minister and party inspected demonstration of fishing boats in Palwe Creek in the township.

The Prime Minister proceeded by car, and arrived at the 30.3-acre Hsinnweyin strain monsoon paddy field of farmer U Kyaw Mya Than by Kungyangon-Dedaye Road.

Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi reported on putting of 56.69 acres of three farmers under paddy with the cooperation of Asia World Co.

The Prime Minister inspected the ploughing of U Kyaw Mya Than's field and fertilizers.

He also inspected monsoon paddy fields along the road in Kungyangon Township.

On arrival at Dedaye Bridge over the Toe River, the Prime Minister was welcomed by Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min.

The Prime Minister inspected business in Dadaye and attended the ceremony to provide fishing boats and fishing equipment for fishermen on Strand Road in Ward 1.

(See page 9)



Prime Minister General Thein Sein hears reports on construction of school in Dedanaw Model Village in Kungyangon Township. — MNA



Prime Minister General Thein Sein inspects a house constructed for homeless survivors in Kungyangon Township. — MNA



Prime Minister General Thein Sein inspects ploughing of the land to grow rice in Tawkyang Village by the Kungyangon-Dedaye Road. — MNA



Prime Minister General Thein Sein inspects laying foundation for construction of a school in Dedanaw Model Village.—MNA

Better conditions created in cooperation with ...

(from page 8)

The Prime Minister inspected the fishing nets, engines and accessories and fishing boats. Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min, the president of the Myanmar Fisheries Federation and officials conducted him round the site.

In his speech, the Prime Minister dealt with success in relief and rehabilitation tasks due to the cooperation of the government, the people and the Tatmadaw, rehabilitation measures being taken in compliance with the guidance of the Head of State to reconstruct the storm-affected areas to a level better than that in the past, and arrangements to be made for regional development. He urged local people to work hard for economic growth, making good use of the assistance provided by the government, national entrepreneurs and well-wishers.

Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein handed over 144 fishing boats and 3,699 fishing nets of various sizes; MFF President U Htay Myint, 312 fishing nets, 300 pieces of fishing equipment, 200 pieces of long fishing nets and 400 short fishing nets; and Chairman U Win Aung of the Myanmar Crops Producers Association, seeds of fruit and vegetables to Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min.

After the ceremony, the Prime Minister cordially greeted those present.

The Prime Minister inspected progress of reconstruction of Dedaye People's Hospital and health care services. The Prime Minister and party arrived back in Yangon in the evening.

MNA



Prime Minister General Thein Sein inspects fishing boats and nets to be distributed to survivors in Kungyangon.—MNA

Local people were urged to work hard for economic growth, making good use of the assistance provided by the government, national entrepreneurs and well-wishers.



Photo shows sacks of seeds and farming equipment to be distributed to storm survivors in Kungyangon.—MNA

Mawlamyinegyun Township enjoying progress in basic needs and farming work in a short time

Article: *Than Zaw*; Photos: *Maung Maung Thant (Myanma Alin)*



Members of USDA and social organizations actively taking part in substitution of lamp-posts in Mawlamyinegyun Township.

It was 3rd July 2008. The cyclonic storm Nargis hit the delta region of Myanmar two months ago. Due to the storm, a large number of members of the Sangha and the people plus a lot of cattle lost lives. Those who faced hardships and miseries and lost family members and property in the storm have now become calm and are relieved.

As part of showing sympathy for the storm victims, the government, internal and international organizations and well-wishers were continuously participating in the contribution of relief supplies and cash donations. Up to now, Tatmadawmen, members of Myanmar Police Force,

Union Solidarity and Development Association, Red Cross Society, Fire Brigade and other social organizations were also rendering assistance for carrying out the activities of resettlement and rehabilitation by going right down to the grassroots level of the storm-hit regions.

To present the news on the progress of livelihoods of the storm victims and the contribution of the government and various organizations to the people, the news team of the Myanma Alin Daily visited storm-affected Mawlamyinegyun Township and covered the news with the assistance of responsible persons of the township.

Lt-Col Tun Tun of the

Mawlamyinegyun Township Supervisory Committee for Relief, Resettlement and Rehabilitation explained the tasks to rehabilitate the storm-hit areas in detail to us. Furthermore, he



“Everybody will be free from anxiety of rice requirement in the coming year.” U Win Myint, Mawlamyinegyun Township Manager of Myanma Agriculture Service.

journalist must try his best to overcome difficulties. We were in Mawlamyinegyun Township with the aim of covering the news on activities of relief and rehabilitation for the storm victims. Therefore, we would not like to avoid the bad weather. We decided to participate in the trip. We knew that using motorized boats and ships plays a key role in waterway transportation.

I witnessed male and female members of Red Cross Brigade wearing T-shirts printed one red cross sign and a line of writing ‘Let’s assist victims of storm Nargis 2008’ were loading relief supplies onto the motorized boat hoisting a Red Cross flag. At 10 am, we accompanied the Red Cross members in a boat leaving for Shaukchaung Village-tract (Ywalechaung Village) of Mawlamyinegyun Township.

During the trip, Deputy



“Rehabilitation tasks are being carried out in storm-hit areas.” Lt-Col Tun Tun, Mawlamyinegyun Township Supervisory Committee for Relief, Resettlement and Rehabilitation.

and coconut palms hit by the storm. On arrival at the village, we met orphans and the villagers who had lost spouses and relatives. When the members of Red Cross Society delivered water bottles, pots and cups, steel utensils, buckets, medicines and slippers, the storm survivors were all smiles.

storm-hit villages. The lakes had been cleaned and filled with rain water. By using water purifying tablets and purified drinking water, the local people can consume potable water.

At Paikchet Village of Gonnyindan Village-tract, we had an interview with the Township Manager U Win Myint of Myanma Agriculture Service. While compiling accounts on distribution of paddy strains and cultivation task, he explained, “In addition to buffaloes and oxen, water pumps, power-tillers, fuel, paddy strains, clothes, rice, edible oil and salt provided by the government, at the rate of K 8,000 per acre was disbursed as agricultural loans to every farmer. So, the local farmers are to make utmost efforts in their works. As a result, everybody will be free from anxiety of rice requirement in the coming year.”

After the interview, a local farmer shouted to his wife, “Oh! My wife, the government has provided power-tillers and draught cattle and buffaloes for us. Paddy strains have been distributed. Agricultural loans have been disbursed. What more do you need?”

Translation: TTA
Myanma Alin: 4-7-2008



The photo shows Basic Education Primary School in Chanmyethaya Ward after being repaired.

provided necessary assistance to us for covering news in the villages.

One day, Reporter Mawgyun Myint Aung of Mawlamyinegyun said, “Today, the Myanmar Red Cross Society will go to villages of Shaukchaung Village-tract to deliver supplies. Weather is dim and it is raining. Could you be able to accompany the MRCS team?”

In covering the news, a

Company Commander U Tin Sein of the Red Cross Brigade explained to us: “Relief items have been arriving continuously. Our team daily distributes the supplies to the villages without delay.”

In the strong rain and wind, the motorized boat was pitching and rocking. The boat then turned into a tributary of the river. I saw some houses roofed with tarpaulin on the bank and the fallen betel nut palms

Our news team continued the trip to surrounding villages on foot and by boat. During the tour of the villages, we saw some veterinarians who were ready to cure buffaloes and oxen. According to the information from members of medical teams of the Directorate of Medical Services under the Ministry of Defence, there were no diarrhoea, dysentery and other infectious diseases at



A lake filled with potable water in Ywalechaung Village of Mawlamyinegyun Township.

Russia says still differences on US missile shield

TOYAKO (Japan), 8 July — The United States and Russia failed to bridge differences over a planned American missile shield programme, Russian President Dmitry Medvedev said after meeting US President George W Bush on Monday.

Meeting for the first time since Medvedev was sworn in as president in May, the two leaders instead stressed areas where they had found common ground: preventing Iran from obtaining atomic weapons and ending North Korea's nuclear weapons pro-

gramme.

"There are certain questions on our agenda where we agree, and these are the matters pertaining to Iran and North Korea," Medvedev told reporters through an interpreter.

"But then certainly there are others with respect to European affairs and this missile defence where we have differences," Medvedev said after their hourlong meeting. "We would like to agree on these matters as well."

The United States is due to sign a treaty this week with the Czech

Republic to build a missile defence radar there.

Washington is also negotiating to put 10 interceptor rockets in Poland that it says will protect the United States and European allies from threats from "rogue states" such as Iran.

Russia sees the shield as a threat, and has said it will aim its nuclear missiles at central Europe if the shield is deployed.

MNA/Reuters



A Palestinian youth throws a stone towards Israeli troops near the West Bank village of Nilin on 7 July, 2008. Israeli soldiers fired teargas and stun grenades on Monday to stifle protests against a West Bank barrier, declared illegal by the World Court four years ago this week.—INTERNET

Karzai orders probe into civilian deaths

KABUL, 8 July— Afghan President Hamid Karzai has ordered an investigation into a US-led coalition air strike that local officials say killed 15 civilians, but the US military says killed only armed Taliban militants.

The issue of civilian casualties is an emotive one in Afghanistan, feeding a common perception that international forces do not take enough care when launching air strikes, and undermining support for their continued presence in the country.

Nearly 700 Afghan civilians were killed in the first six months of this year, 255 of them by Afghan Government and international troops, the rest by Taliban militants.

Coalition ground troops called in support from attack helicopters after militants fired at an outpost in the northeastern province of Nuristan on Friday, the US military said. "The helicopter crews coordinated with ground forces to positively identify the militants' vehicles. The attack helicopters then destroyed the two vehicles, killing more than a dozen militants," it said in a statement on Saturday.

But the governor of Nuristan said 15 civilians were killed and seven wounded in the attack in the Waigal district of Nuristan and that none of the victims were militants. —MNA/Reuters



Highway accident in east Mexico kills 14

MEXICO CITY, 8 July— At least 14 people were killed and 40 injured when a bus slammed into a truck in the eastern Mexican state of Veracruz, authorities said Sunday.

The accident happened on Saturday at noon on

the federal highway Tantoyuca-Tempoal in the municipality of Tantoyuca in Veracruz state, according to a spokesman of the Federal Preventive Police (PFP).

The bus belonged to the Estrella Blanca company.

The bus driver lost control on a turn and invaded the opposite lane, colliding with the truck, the PFP said Sunday.

Eleven of the dead were aboard the bus and three others in the truck. 20 injured people whose condition was described as stable were taken to Regional Hospital of Tempoal.

A similar accident happened on 20 May in Hidalgo state, killing 28 people and injuring five. The bus involved in that accident also belonged to the Estrella Blanca company. —MNA/Xinhua

French climber Alain Robert, also known as 'Spiderman', climbs outside the 154 metre high 'Skyper' building in Frankfurt, to raise awareness about global warming, on 7 July, 2008. —XINHUA

South Korea announces first oil contingency measures

SEOUL, 8 July— South Korea said on Sunday it was implementing a multi-stage contingency plan aimed at reducing energy consumption before the skyrocketing oil prices push Asia's fourth-largest

economy into a full-fledged crisis.

Prime Minister Han Seung-soo told a televised news conference the government would restrict driving of cars owned by public organizations as part of the measures, adding a tougher set of steps would be adopted if oil prices rose further.

The move marks the first direct restriction on energy consumption introduced by the world's fifth-largest oil consumer since the country imposed some restrictions on transportation in the capital during the 1988 summer Olympics held in Seoul. "Even the (oil) producing countries are now trying to save energy costs. We need to try twice as hard as they do... it's a

matter of survival," Han said. South Korea covers almost all of its energy needs with imports and its economy, relying heavily on manufacturing of goods for exports, lags far behind the more advanced countries in energy efficiency. —MNA/Reuters

Police arrest five in knife killing of 16 year old

LONDON, 8 July — Police said on Sunday they had arrested four young males and one girl in connection with the knife killing last week of a 16-year-old boy on a street in south London.

One of the arrests was made late on Saturday night and the other four early on Sunday morning.

All five are being held at various south London police stations. The four males are aged 16, 17, 18 and 22. The girl is 16.

Shakilus Townsend died in hospital on Friday morning after the attack in Thornton Heath the previous afternoon.

MNA/Reuters



Demonstrators protest against the plan to build a US missile defence shield in the Czech Republic, in the centre of Prague on 8 July, 2008.—INTERNET

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Dated: 9 July 2008

A file photo shows a zoo keeper holds a one-week-old African leopard cub at Ghamadan zoo near Amman on 2 July, 2008.

INTERNET



Knives, petrol bombs found in Afghan prison

KABUL, 8 July—Afghan security forces found more than 100 knives and swords, petrol bombs and dozens of mobile phones in a search of Kabul's main prison, the Defence Ministry said on Saturday.

The search was launched after Taleban insurgents carried off one of the biggest jail-breaks in history last month, smashing a suicide truck bomb into the gate of Kandahar prison in the south and freeing 400 of their fighters and 700 other criminals.

"The joint programme by Afghan security forces and the Ministry of Justice was designed to separate, supervise and search the inmates in the central Pul-i-Charkhi prison and will improve the security of the prison," the Ministry said.

The Kandahar jail-break was a big propaganda win for the Taleban who have stepped up their insurgency to overthrow the Afghan Government and drive out foreign forces in recent months.—MNA/Reuters

Minister says Nepal to bring HIV control on track

KATHMANDU, 8 July—Nepali Government would bring HIV prevention, treatment and care on track, high-level Nepali minister said in the four-day third National AIDS Conference, *The Rising Nepal* reported on Saturday.

Inaugurating the

conference started from Friday with the theme "Towards Universal Access", Minister for Health and Population Giriraj Mani Pokharel said the country is moving towards the achieving of Millenium Development Goals (MDG) by 2015. "We are in the track of achieving the MDG," he said. He said that the government should bring HIV prevention, treatment and care on track.

Minister Pokharel said that the government should ensure the treatment of HIV and AIDS for free of cost. Till date, over 11,000 HIV positive are in contact and 58,000 people are still to be identified among the estimated number, he said. He said that the problem of children living with HIV and AIDS has been coming forward and it is also posing challenges.

MNA/Xinhua

Asian Anti Crime Group chairman Peter Low said politicians were trying to say it's the community's responsibility to combat crime, but he believed the onus falls on the government.

He said if they do not act, the community will take their own measures, such as hiring Triads. Low also said the anti crime group will stage more protests until they see some leadership on the issue.

An estimated 10,000 people marched in New Zealand's largest city of Auckland on Saturday, demanding harsher laws and more police. The march extended 2.5 kilometres. The rally was the second since the killings of three people of Asian origin in South Auckland last month.

MNA/Xinhua

Madonna denies affair, not seeking divorce

NEW YORK, 8 July—Pop star Madonna denied having an affair with Yankee slugger Alex Rodriguez and said in a statement to *People* magazine on Sunday she is not planning to get divorced from her British husband Guy Ritchie.

Rumors that the London-based couple planned to split have been circulating for months, fueled most recently by reports that she had hired a lawyer to divorce film maker Ritchie.

"My husband and I are not planning on getting a divorce," the singer said in a statement to *People*.

"I brought my kids to a Yankee game. I am not

romantically involved in any way with Alex Rodriguez. I have nothing to do with the state of his marriage or what spiritual path he may choose to study," she said.

People magazine

reported on Sunday that Rodriguez's wife, Cynthia, had left the Yankee baseball star over the alleged affair with Madonna, citing sources close to the situation.

MNA/Reuters

More teenagers in LA infected with HIV

LOS ANGELES, 8 July—There has been a jump in newly diagnosed HIV cases among young gay men in Los Angeles, according to a report.

From 2001 to 2006, such cases among all gay males ages 13 to 24 rose by 12 per cent, said the report published by the *Los Angeles Times* on Sunday.

The steepest increase was among young gay blacks—up 15 per cent, compared with 8 per cent for young gay Latinos and 9 per cent for young gay whites, according to the report released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

MNA/Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV XIANG FENG VOY NO (8031)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV XIANG FENG VOY NO (8031) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9.7.2008 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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NZ's Asian group considers hiring Triads for security

WELLINGTON, 8 July—New Zealand's Asian Anti Crime group was considering hiring members of the Triad gang to help protect the community, Radio New Zealand reported on Sunday.



A few stray cats. A woman who shares her house in the Netherlands with five dozen cats has been ordered by a judge to get rid of 50 of them, the ANP news agency reported on Monday.—INTERNET

Google launches privacy link to quiet critics

LOS ANGELES, 8 July—Internet search giant Google announced at the weekend its privacy link decision on its corporate blog and public policy blog to make peace with privacy advocates, *The Los Angeles Times* reported on Saturday.

The link was not cluttering its famously sparse home page, according to the announcement.

Google launched the privacy link while privacy advocates were distracted by another Google issue: a New York judge's order for the company to hand over information about YouTube videos and users to media giant Viacom as

part of their copyright dispute.

The search giant had drawn criticism over its refusal to include a link to its privacy policy on Google.com. Some groups said that was a violation of California law. The company said then that it didn't think the link was necessary because its privacy policy was "readily accessible" to those looking for it. It could be found, among other places, on its About page, which was linked from Google.com.

Google Vice President Marissa Mayer said founders Larry Page and Sergey Brin had told her that she could add

"Privacy" to the home page, but only if she subtracted another word to keep the word count on Google.com. So the company removed "Google" from the copyright line at the bottom of its home page and added "Privacy".

So ends the minor tussle over valuable real estate: Google's home page. Privacy advocates get their link, and Google's top executives get to keep their home page clean.

MNA/Xinhua



The baby finless porpoise swims with the mother after its birth in Wuhan, capital of central China's Hubei Province, on 5 July, 2008. Adult finless porpoise "Ying Ying" on Saturday gave birth to the male baby at the Hydrobiology Institute of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. Finless porpoises living in the Yangtze River, China's longest, are on the verge of extinction. —XINHUA

Sri Lanka warns fishermen not to poach in Indian waters

COLOMBO, 8 July — Sri Lanka's Minister of Fisheries Felix Perera said Saturday that continued action by his country's fishermen to poach in the neighbouring Indian waters could cause a diplomatic row between the two South Asian neighbours.

"This can't go on. They must understand that it is illegal to enter (Indian) waters," Perera told reporters.

Perera said his ministry had to grapple with cases of hundreds of fishermen entering Indian waters.

"We have to negotiate when they are arrested and this has cost us a lot of money," the minister stressed. The Indian and Sri Lankan authorities are constantly at negotiations to tackle poaching in each other's waters.

The Sri Lankan Navy too arrests Indian boats in the Sri Lankan maritime limits and have even accused the Indian fishermen of aiding Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) rebels.

The LTTE has been fighting a decades old armed conflict in Sri Lanka to set up a separate homeland for the minority Tamils in the island's north and east.

MNA/Xinhua



One of a pair of newborn twin cubs is fed at a giant panda research centre in Ya'an, Sichuan province on 7 July, 2008. Giant panda Guo Guo, an evacuee from the southwest China earthquake, gave birth to twins on Sunday, becoming the first panda to bear cubs since the disaster in Sichuan Province on 12 May, Xinhua News Agency reported. Picture taken on 7 July, 2008.—INTERNET

Taleban fighters free 2 Pakistani journalists

PESHAWAR (Pakistan), 8 July— Taleban militants released two Pakistani journalists on Saturday more than 36-hours after they were abducted in a tribal region near the Afghan border.

"When it was proven that they're journalists and not spies, we freed them," Taleban spokesman Asad said.

A group of tribal elders had gone to negotiate for the release of the journalists, freelance reporter Pir Zubair Shah and photographer Akhtar Soomro, after they were kidnapped in the Mohmand Region on Thursday.

Syed Ahmad Jan, a senior administrator in

Mohmand, confirmed that the two men had been freed and said both were fine. Pro-Taleban groups control large chunks of territory in ethnic Pashtun regions, like Mohmand, and al-Qaeda militants are also hiding in the area along the Afghan border.

MNA/Reuters

Leader of Colombia's largest drug cartel captured

BOGOTA, 8 July — Colombian police Saturday captured the leader of the country's largest drug cartel in the western state of Valle del Cauca, police said.

Oscar Varela Garcia, the leader of the Norte del Valle cocaine cartel, was captured

by police at a suburban house near Palmira, along with guns and ammunition.

Varela, alias "Capachivo", became the leader of the cartel after kingpin Diego Montoya was arrested last year and is awaiting extradition to the US. Varela himself is a long-time wanted criminal by the Colombian and US governments, on charges of drug production, trafficking, money laundering and murder.

MNA/Xinhua

Dengue fever claims 3 lives in western Yemen

SANAA, 8 July— Three women died of dengue fever on Saturday in Yemen's western mountainous areas, local media reported.

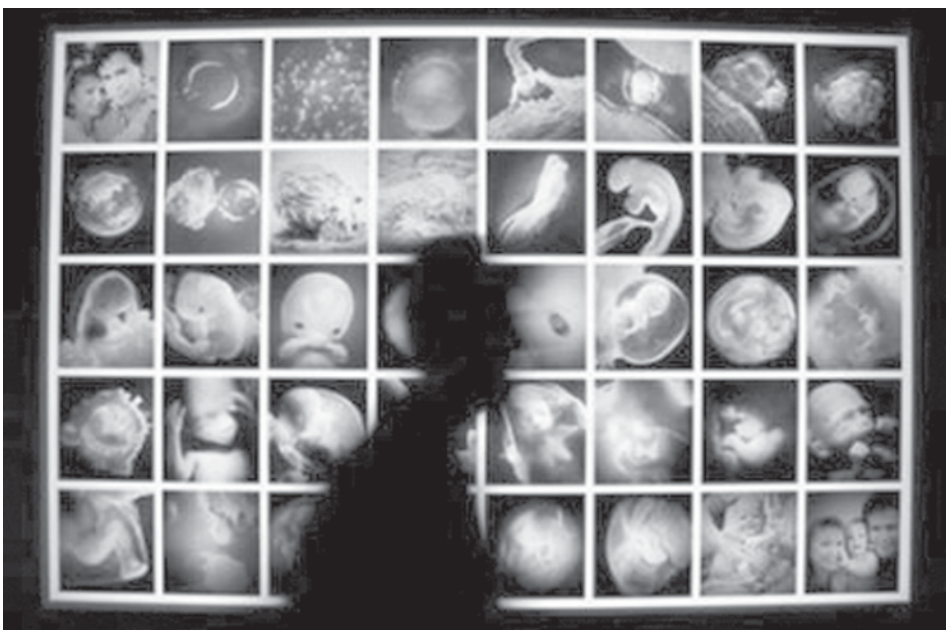
Among the dead were a mother and her daughter, the reports said.

Many local residents were taken ill with suspected symptoms of dengue fever, the reports added, citing a local official.

The official urged local sanitary authorities to provide prompt medical aid to those in need.

According to a report released by the infectious diseases supervision bureau of the Health Ministry late last month, 115 cases of dengue fever had been diagnosed in five provinces since the beginning of this year and three of them had died.

MNA/Xinhua



A doctor is silhouetted as he walks past a poster showing images of the development of a human foetus at Italian fertility doctor Severino Antinori's private clinic in Rome. INTERNET

SPORTS



Boxers Vladimir Klitschko, left, from the Ukraine, and Tony Thompson from the US, right, pose during a Press conference in Hamburg on 7 July, 2008. Thompson challenges Klitschko on , 12 July, 2008 for the heavyweight IBF-/WBO and IBO World Championship title.—INTERNET

Nadal takes Federer’s title in epic

LONDON, 8 July — Rafael Nadal ended Roger Federer’s five-year reign as king of Wimbledon on Sunday with a 6-4, 6-4, 6-7, 6-7, 9-7 victory in the longest and one of the most dramatic men’s singles finals seen at the All England Club.

The 22-year-old Nadal survived an incredible Federer fightback to become the first Spaniard to win the grasscourt grand slam since Manuel Santana in 1966. He is also the first man since Bjorn Borg in 1980 to win the French Open and Wimbledon in the same year.

After two rain interruptions the players returned to court for a third time with light fading fast and in a nerve-shredding finale the contest ended with Nadal collapsing to the dusty baseline after a Federer forehand struck the net. —MNA/Reuters

China beats Vietnam 3-2 in Olympic Warmup

SHENYANG (Northeast China), 8 July— The Chinese Olympic football team beat the Vietnamese national team 3-2 here on Sunday in their warmup for the Beijing Olympic Games.

Chinese forward Gao Lin opened the scoring in the 29th minute but Nguyen Viet Thang tied the score for Vietnam with a penalty kick 10 minutes later.

The other three goals all came in the last minutes of the game. Zhou Haibin lifted China to 2-1 lead in the 88th minute and an own goal widened the gap to 3-1 one minute later. Then Vietnam scored again in the injury time.

The Vietnamese team came to Shenyang on 5 July. As their players were tired for long trip, the squad’s form was in doubt before today’s game. But they played competitively in the match.

Vietnam had been beaten 1-0 by Indonesia in a warmup game on 11 June.

Before today’s game, several Chinese players got injured. —MNA/Xinhua

Zenit reject Barcelona offer for Arshavin

MOSCOW, 8 July— Zenit St Petersburg have rejected a 15-million-euro (23.51 million US dollars) offer from Barcelona for playmaker Andrei Arshavin, the Russian champions said on Monday.

“Barcelona had failed to improve their original offer of 15 million euros, thus we decided to end our negotiations with the Spanish club,” Zenit said on their Web site www.fc-zenit.ru. Last week, Zenit offered to extend Arshavin’s current deal by two more years until 2012.

Zenit have given the 27-year-old, who reportedly earns three million euros a year, more than any other player in Russia, two weeks to decide his future.

Arshavin did not play in a 5-1 win over Siberian side Tomsk on Sunday, Zenit’s first Russian premier league match after the seven-week break for Euro 2008. —MNA/Reuters

Ronaldo has surgery on injured ankle

LONDON, 8 July — Manchester United forward Cristiano Ronaldo successfully underwent surgery on his right ankle in Amsterdam on Monday, the Premier League champions said on their Web site (www.manutd.com).

Ronaldo said after Portugal’s Euro 2008 exit that he had been carrying an ankle injury for several months and it now appears certain he will miss the start of the new season.

United said in a statement that it would be one month before they could offer a time frame for Ronaldo’s return.

“Initial indications are that the procedure was successful,” United said.

“Cristiano will begin his convalescence under the direction of club medical staff and an estimation of his return to full fitness will be possible following a review by the specialist in one month.”

Ronaldo has said that he is considering his future, with Spanish champions Real Madrid making little secret of their admiration for the 23-year-old. United have said he is not for the sale. — MNA/Reuters

Atletico Madrid keen to buy Valencia’s David Silva

MADRID, 8 July— Atletico Madrid president Enrique Cerezo said Monday that his club wants to buy Spain international David Silva from Valencia in a bid to make a perfect team ahead of the vital UEFA Champions League qualifying round in mid-August.

The 22-year-old Silva was one of the heroes of Spain’s European Championship win in Vienna last month and Atletico aim to make him their sixth signing of the summer.

“Silva is a player who interests us because he has got real quality and Atletico are interested in every good player there is, “ Cerezo told Spanish sports newspaper Marca. “It’s true we have got an enormous interest in him and we are going to try and negotiate with Valencia for him to become an Atletico player.”

Cerezo declined to discuss how much money his club was willing to pay for the attacking midfielder, but did deny rumors that have surfaced in the Spanish press. “I have read that we have made an offer of 22 million euros and that Valencia has asked for 30 million. I don’s know how much money Valencia is going to ask for, but we still have to make an offer,” he said. Atletico have already made five signings for the forthcoming season. As the qualifying round of the Champions League starts in mid-August, the club wants to complete its squad as soon as possible.

MNA/Xinhua

Atletico land Brazilian Assuncao, seeking Maniche exit

MADRID, 8 July— Atletico Madrid have signed Brazilian midfielder Paulo Assuncao as a free agent and are negotiating the sale of Portugal midfielder Maniche, the Primera Liga club said on Sunday.

Assuncao, 28, used FIFA’s Article 17 on transfer regulations to break out of his contract with Porto but Atletico are seeking to reach a “friendly agreement” with the Portuguese champions, they said on their Web site (www.atleticodemadrid.com).

Only available to players who have already served three years of their contract, or two years in the case of players aged 28 or over, article 17 effectively allows players to “buy out” the remaining time on long-term contracts. —MNA/Reuters

Spain’s Euro 2008 win promotes replica kits sales

MADRID, 8 July — Spain’s success in winning the European Football Championships eight days ago in Vienna has greatly promoted the sales of replica kits of the national team, a spokesperson for shirt manufacturer Adidas told Xinhua on Monday.

Copies of the replica kit had virtually sold out before Spain’s 1-0 triumph over Germany in the final and since then Adidas has been producing replicas at a rate of around 10,000 per day.

“We can’t give out exact numbers so as not to aid our competitors, but it is true to say that we are delighted with the appeal the shirt has had among the fans and the way it is selling, “ the company spokesperson told Xinhua on Monday. —MNA/Xinhua

Murray climbs back into world’s top 10

LONDON, 8 July— British number one Andy Murray climbed back into the world’s top 10 on Monday on the back of his run to the Wimbledon quarter-finals.

Murray rose two places to ninth in the ATP rankings, issued on Monday, with Switzerland’s Roger Federer still number one despite his Wimbledon final defeat by Spain’s Rafael Nadal.

Nadal, who beat Murray in straight sets in their quartersfinal, has closed the gap however. Federer has 6600 points and Nadal 6055.

MNA/Xinhua



In this photo released by China’s Xinhua news agency, Venezuelan torchbearer Deirdre Smyth Brady runs with the torch during the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games torch relay in Lanzhou, capital of northwest China’s Gansu Province, on 7 July, 2008.—INTERNET

Siemens plans to cut 16,750 jobs

MUNICH, 8 July— Siemens plans to cut 16,750 jobs worldwide as the German conglomerate streamlines its operations to weather the economic downturn.

The company employs around 400,000 staff worldwide. The cuts amount to about 4% of the workforce.

Siemens issued a profit warning in March and its shares have fallen almost 35% since the beginning of the year.

The firm plans to eliminate 5,250 jobs in Germany, where around 136,000 of its workforce is located.

The Munich-based engineering group said the cuts will include 12,600 mostly administrative jobs.

Internet



Siemens has been blighted by a falling share price and bribery claims



Iran insists that its nuclear programme is for peaceful purposes

Iran in warning to US and Israel

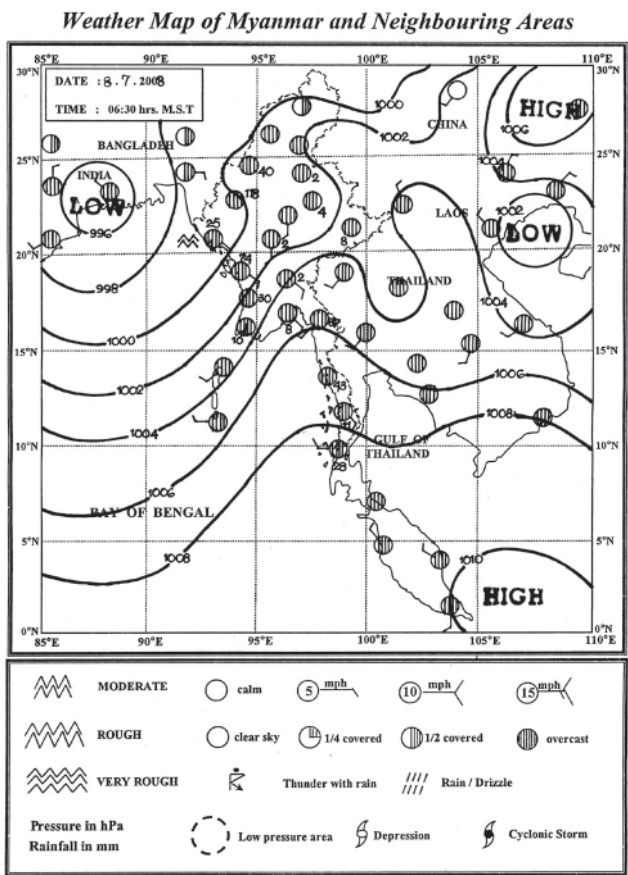
TEHERAN, 8 July—Iran will strike Israel and the US navy in the Gulf if it is attacked over its nuclear programme, a senior Iranian official has warned.

“The first US shot on Iran would set the United States’ vital interests in the world on fire,” said Ali Shirazi, an aide to Iran’s supreme leader.

“The Aviv and the US fleet in the Persian Gulf would be the targets that would be set on fire,” he said. Teheran denies Western claims that it is seeking to build a nuclear weapon.

It has repeatedly rejected demands to halt enriching uranium, which can be used as fuel for power plants or material for weapons if refined to a greater degree.

Internet



WEATHER

Tuesday, 8 July, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Kachin and Kayah States, scattered in Mandalay and Magway Divisions, fairly widespread in Shan State, lower Sagaing and Yangon Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with locally heavyfalls in Rakhine and Mon States, upper Sagaing, Bago and Yangon Divisions and isolated heavyfall in Chin State. The noteworthy amounts of rainfalls recorded were Nay Pyi Taw (0.90) inch, Khayan (5.32) inches, Kalewa and Theinzayat (4.88) inches each, Falam (4.37) inches, Gwa (3.90) inches, Kalay (3.86) inches, Maungtaw (3.74) inches, Mawlaik (3.66) inches, Mawlamyine (3.54) inches, Kyaukpyu, Zaungtu and Hmawby (3.11) inches each and Thaton (3.07) inches.

Maximum temperature on 7-7-2008 was 89°F. Minimum temperature on 8-7-2008 was 70°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 8-7-2008 was 88%. Total sunshine hours on 7-7-2008 was (1.5) hours (approx).

Rainfall on 8-7-2008 was (1.38) inches at Mingaladon, (0.32) inch at Kaba-Aye and (0.98) inch at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was (45.16) inches at Mingaladon, (55.71) inches at Kaba-Aye and (68.93) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (10) mph from Southwest at (17:20) hours MST on 7-7-2008.

Bay inference: Yesterday’s low pressure area over Northwest Bay crossed Northeastern Coasts of India and become unimportant. Monsoon is strong to vigorous in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 9-7-2008: Rain will be widespread in Chin, Rakhine, Mon and Kayin States, Bago and Taninthayi Divisions, fairly widespread in Kachin, Shan States, upper Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Yangon Divisions and isolated to scattered in the remaining areas with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Rakhine and Mon States. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Squalls with rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (45) mph.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Strong monsoon.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 9-7-2008: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 9-7-2008: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 9-7-2008: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Temple on disputed Cambodia border a heritage site

MONTREAL 8 July — An 11th century temple that sits on Cambodia’s disputed border zone with Thailand was designated as a world heritage site, a UNESCO official said Monday.

Hindu-themed Preah Vihear reflects the beliefs of the kings who ruled what was then the Angkorean empire. The building is located on the top of a 1,722-foot cliff in the Dangrek Mountains, about 150 miles north of the Cambodian capital, Phnom Penh.

UNESCO spokeswoman Joanna Sullivan said that Preah Vihear was designated a heritage site at a meeting in Quebec City.

The site of the building has long been a point of contention between the two Asian neighbors.

Internet

Flood Warning

(Issued at 12:30 hr MST on 8-7-2008)

According to the (06.30) hr MST observation today, the water level of Chindwin River at Monywa is (971) cm. It may exceed its danger level (1000) cm during the next (24) hrs commencing noon today.

Flood Bulletin

(Issued at 12:30 hrMST on 8-7-2008)

According to the (06.30) hr MST observations today, the water level of Chindwin River at Homalin (3021) cm, Mawlaik (1348) cm and Kalewa (1674) cm are exceeded (121) cm at Homalin (118) cm at Mawlaik and (124) cm at Kalewa above their respective danger levels. The water levels may remain above their respective danger levels during the next (48) hrs commencing noon today,

	7:40 am 4. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ	4:40 pm 5. “ဇင်ဇင်နုနုခြင်ကျား” (ဇင်ဇင်ဇော်မြင့်၊ လင်းလင်းဇော်မြင့်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ- စင်ရော်မောင်မောင်)	6:35 pm 12. မြန်မာ့ဓလေ့ရိုးရာလက်ရာ.
	7:50 am 5. Musical programme		6:50 pm 13. ထက်မြက်ပျော်ရွှင် အိမ်ထောင်ရှင်
	8:00 am 6. မိုးယွန်းကြီးရေထိန်းတံခါး		7:20 pm 14. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ
	8:15 am 7. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ		7:35 pm 15. “ထူးချွန်အားထား မြန်မာအမျိုးသမီးများ” (အပိုင်း-၂)
	8:30 am 8. International news	4:50 pm 6. Song to uphold National Spirit	8:00 pm 16. News
	8:45 am 9. မြူးမြူးကြွကြွယဉ်ကျေးမှုအက	5:00 pm 7. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ	8:00 pm 17. International news
	4:00 pm 1. Martial song	5:15 pm 8. ရှုဖွယ်စုံလင်အာဆီယံအစီအစဉ်	18. Weather report
	4:10 pm 2. Musical programme	5:30 pm 9. ရသပေါ်လွင် သရုပ်ဆောင်လွင်ပြင်	19. Myanmar video feature: “ဖယောင်းတိုင်” (မင်းမော်ကွန်း၊နေအောင်၊ ထွန်းထွန်းဝင်း၊ မိုးမိုးမြင့်အောင်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ဝင်းထွန်းထွန်း)
	4:20 pm 3. Dance of National Races	6:00 pm 10. Evening news	
	4:30 pm 4. Classical song	6:30 pm 11. Weather report	

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**



New homes for storm victims in Pyinsalu.

MNA

Medical teams carry out health care services in Kungyangon

YANGON, 8 July — The medical team of the Health Department made field trips to the grassroots levels and is providing health care services to the storm victims under the arrangement of the Ministry of Health.
The team led by Dr Hla Min Thein made field trip to Mangalaik and Dagundaing Villages in Kungyangon Township on 4 July.

The team took blood test on malaria, undertook sanitation work, constructed fly-proof toilets, and gave vaccination to the villagers. They gave talks on health education and distributed pamphlets and posters. They also gave treatment to 88 malaria patients.

MNA

Storm News

NAY PYI TAW, 8 July — According to observation at 12.30 pm MST today, a low pressure area over north-west Bay of Bengal entered the north-east coast of India, and abated, said the Meteorology and Hydrology Department.—MNA