

Senior General Than Shwe sends message of felicitations to President of Mongolia

NAY PYI TAW, 11 July—On the occasion of the National Day of Mongolia, which falls on 11 July 2008, Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Nambaryn Enkhbayar, President of Mongolia.—MNA

Lt-Gen Myint Swe inspects factories in Dagon Myothit (South) Industrial Zone

YANGON, 10 July—Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence went on an inspection tour of factories in Dagon Myothit (South) Industrial Zone this afternoon and discussed matters on boosting production of import-substitute machinery and efforts to be made for export.

At the transformer manufacturing factory of Soe Electrical and Machine Tools Company Ltd in No.1 Industrial Zone of Dagon Myothit (South) Township, Lt-Gen Myint Swe, Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and officials looked into production process of transformers and repair of old transformers. Next, Managing Director U Soe Tint briefed Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party on production of transformers, distribution of import-substitute transformers ranging from 50

KVA to 30,000 KVA to industrial zones, construction companies and agriculture and livestock breeding companies in the whole country and export purposes.

The factory manufactures 120 to 150 transformers and 30 units of MV-12-OI Outdoor Isolators in a month.

Upon arrival at Electrical and Electronic Appliances Factory of Myanma Machine Tools and Electrical Industries of the Ministry of Industry-2, General Manager Daw Lei Lei Win briefed Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party on yearly production and distribution of 600,000 home-use meters and power meters, strength of staff and the area of the factory and production processes. Next, Lt-Gen Myint Swe inspected production process of electrical power meters and quality test.

(See page 8)

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



Lt-Gen Myint Swe visits Electric Panels Assorted Manufacturing Factory at No. 1 Industrial Zone of Dagon Myothit (South) Township.—MNA

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Actually, all mediamen have had their codes of conduct such as fairness of news writings without bias, accuracy, reliability and honesty. The value of a news report is its accuracy.

PAGES 6+7

HLAING AUNG

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 11 July, 2008

Boost production of quality products for industrial development

Industrial development is at the core of the drive for building a modern nation. With this concept, plans are under way for development of the agriculture sector and agro-based industries to strengthen the economy of the nation.

Thanks to the government's encouragement to establish industrial zones and industrial regions, a large number of modern factories and import-substitute product factories have emerged throughout the country. Cumulative development in the industrial sector has led to establishment of more and more factories and workshops in the industrial regions. As a result, industrial zones and industrial regions have gained many new production methods and created job opportunities.

The number of factories and workshops of the industrial zones in Yangon Division is on the rise. All the factories and workshops need to run at full capacity.

Huge investments are being made in Shwepyitha Industrial Zone to construct a great number of factories. A factory producing bulbs and fluorescent lamps has launched its production since 2000. Now, it produces more than 11 million fluorescent lamps a year.

The wood-based industrial zone in Shwepyitha Township produces finished wood-based products and furniture. Some companies in the zone are now producing new items designed to build houses for the people in the storm-hit areas.

The industrial regions and zones are spreading their wings to boost production of vehicles, machines, personal goods, medicines and foodstuff. That is a sign of industrial development. Industrialists on their part should place more emphasis on innovative measures to produce and distribute quality products and low-cost products extensively in order to meet the demands in markets and win the customer satisfaction.

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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

Storm victims in Dedaye Tsp get supplies

YANGON, 10 July — A group of well-wishers led by Missionary Sayadaw Kyunnanttha Ashin Nanda Siri made fourth donation of relief supplies to several villages in Dedaye Township on 6 July.

The relief supplies were donated to a total of 1300 households and school children from Michaung Lake village, Tapayphya village, Myalaysu village, U Shwe Yoe village, Paya Ngoatto village, Ywathaaye village, Pyindaungsu village, Tapae (BEPs), U Shwe Yoe (BEMS), and Michaung Lake (BEMS).

Apart from K 1 million, the aids donated covered bags of rice, purified water, CI sheets, packets of biscuits,



Missionary Sayadaw Kyunnanttha Ashin Nanda Siri and disciples making donation of relief supplies to storm victims in Dedaye Township.—MNA

candles, medicines, tooth-paste tubes, tooth-brushes, bed sheets, T-shirts, jeans, and other wide range of varieties worth K 8

million.

The Sayadaw will pay missionary trip to French on 15 August. The well-wishers who wish to donate

supplies to the storm-victims may contact Ph 09-8601447, 09 5020984, 09 9927989 and 01 548917.

MNA

A&I Minister meets Japanese guests

NAY PYI TAW, 10 July — Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo received Member of the House of Councilors of DPJ Party and President

of Myanmar-Japan Friendship Parliamentary Federation Mr Hideo Watanabe and party at the hall of the ministry, here, yesterday morning.

They held comprehensive discussions on rehabilitation works of storm-hit regions especially in the agriculture sector and cooperation between

Myanmar and Japan in developing agriculture sector.

It was also attended by Japanese Ambassador Mr Yasuaki Nogawa. —MNA

Rehabilitation tasks in Hainggyikyun inspected

NAY PYI TAW, 10 July — Member of National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint inspected Bawa Shay Hsaung Library and Kyonkuu People's Hospital in Kyonkuu village of Ngaputaw Township on 8 July.

At Kyonkuu Village

BEHS, he inspected building of new school constructed by AMC Co and met with departmental officials, principal and teachers and townsenders and fulfilled the needs.

On 7 July, the minister donated offertories to Sayadaw of Saddhamma Jotikayon Pariyatti Monastery Gantha Vasaka Pandita

Bhaddanta Vilatha and Sayadaw of Vithoddapon Monastery Bhaddanta Ottaya in Ward 1 of Hainggyikyun, Ngaputaw Township.

The minister then inspected bags of rice stored systematically at the relief administrative office and lists of items distributed to the storm victims, and instructed

officials concerned to ensure that there has been no waste and correct balance sheet.

After the minister had viewed the site to rebuild pontoon and concrete wall to stop water at Haigygigun Jetty and rehabilitation in the town, he comforted the patients at the People's Hospital. He also inspected storage at the hospital.

The minister provided cash assistance to BEPS at Thekyin Village and to affiliated BEMS at Kontan Village.

He inspected temporary building of affiliated BEMS in Kanyinchaung Village. He also met with patients in Station Hospital in Kyaukchaung Village-tract after fulfilling the requirements to build new school building.

MNA



Chairman of PyinOoLwin District Peace and Development Council U Min Lwin reads out the message sent by the Minister of Home Affairs at a ceremony to mark International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking at PyinOoLwin on 26 June.—H

Half of UK forces ‘ready to quit’

LONDON, 10 July—Almost half of UK military personnel are ready to leave the forces, a Ministry of Defence survey suggests.

Some 47% of Army and Royal Navy respondents and 44% of those in the RAF said they regularly felt like quitting. Among the concerns raised by the 9,000 servicemen and women surveyed were the frequency of tours, levels of pay and the quality of equipment and housing. The Ministry of Defence said the survey revealed “areas of concern”.

The first survey to assess attitudes across the Army, Royal Navy, Royal Marines and the RAF revealed high levels of concern over morale, equipment and pay. The Regular Army is already short of some 5,000 soldiers, amid worries that experienced young officers and senior NCOs are leaving at an increasing rate.

A sense of overstretch was reflected in all three services, with 36% saying they were not happy with the level of separation from family and friends.—*Internet*

Pakistan rejects foreign troops

NEW YORK, 10 July—Pakistan’s top diplomat Wednesday rejected the idea of any foreign troops operating inside Pakistan, reinforcing its refusal to accept US military aid in battling insurgents near the Afghan border.

Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi’s comments during a UN Security Council session on Afghanistan’s future could deal a blow to the United States’ efforts to kill or capture al-Qaida leaders.

“Pakistan will not allow its territory to be used against other countries. However, no foreign troops will be allowed to operate inside Pakistan,” Qureshi told the 15-nation council. “The new democratic government in Pakistan cannot but be sensitive to the sentiments of our people.”—*Internet*

Dutch cat suckles abandoned panda

AMSTERDAM, 10 July—A Dutch tabby cat has adopted a red panda cub, which was abandoned by its mother at a zoo in the Netherlands.

The adult panda, Gladys, rejected two cubs after they



The panda cub will need to suckle for about two weeks.

INTERNET

were born on 30 June. The Artis zoo in Amsterdam initially kept them both on an incubator.

But the zookeeper’s cat had just given birth to four

kittens, and allowed the pandas to join the litter. One of the cubs died last week. Red pandas are a rare species only distantly related to giant pandas.

When fully grown, they are not much bigger than a domestic cat.

“The young panda is doing well in the circumstances,” the zoo said in a statement.

“For it to survive, it is very important that it gets enough food and grows. We will see if this is the case over the next few weeks.”

The cub does not have a name yet, but the zoo says that anyone willing to sponsor her will be allowed to name her.

The red panda is an endangered species that lives in Himalayan regions in China, Bhutan, Nepal, India, and Myanmar.

Internet

Northwest cuts jobs and ups fees

MINNESOTA, 10 July—Minnesota-based Northwest Airlines is to cut 2,500 jobs because of the “unprecedented” rise in the cost of jet fuel, the company said.

It is the latest carrier to reduce its operations after the price of fuel doubled in the last year.

The cuts amount to 8% of Northwest’s total workforce and will hit both frontline staff and management.

The airline, which is about to merge with Delta, is also introducing a fee for the first bag checked in.

Northwest passengers will have to pay \$15 for their first piece of luggage. Fees to change tickets will also rise.

The airline expects to earn up to \$300m (£150m) a year from the new and higher charges.

Delta Air Lines and Northwest Airlines have both recorded multi-billion dollar losses for the first three months of 2008, hit by crippling fuel costs.

With the US economy on the brink of recession, Delta Air Lines — like most of its domestic rivals — is having a tough time filling internal flights and plans to aggressively scale these back.—*Internet*



The cost of refuelling aircraft has spiralled.

Attacks kill US soldier, 20 Iraqis

BAGHDAD, 10 July — Several bombings and attacks by gunmen Wednesday killed 20 Iraqis and a US soldier, officials said.

A suicide car bomber killed eight civilians and wounded 41 in an attack on a military convoy carrying a senior Iraqi commander in the northern city of Mosul, the Iraqi military said.

In the former Sunni Arab insurgent stronghold of Fallouja, west of Baghdad, a bomb exploded outside a bank, killing four policemen and a civilian and wounding 15, Iraqi police said. An initial blast occurred at 6:30 am, drawing police and onlookers to the site, then a second bomb detonated, causing the casualties, police said.

In Samarra, north of Baghdad, a bomb hit a US convoy, killing one American soldier and wounding two, the US military reported.

In Baghdad’s western Abu Ghraib neighborhood, a gunman entered a mosque late Wednesday and opened fire on worshipers, killing six and wounding eight, a police official said. Iraqi forces were searching for the gunman. Assaultants killed a policeman in a drive-by shooting in Mosul, where many insurgents are believed to have relocated after facing intense military pressure in Baghdad and other urban centers.

Police in Ramadi, west of Baghdad, said workers rebuilding a school had discovered 22 bodies, most of them under concrete in a playing field. Police said the remains were believed to have been buried more than a year ago.—*Internet*

United Nations Secretary-General’s message on World Population Day (11 July 2008)

Forty years ago, world leaders proclaimed that individuals have a basic right to determine freely and responsibly the number and timing of their children. Millennium Development Goal 5, improving maternal health, affirms this right and yet shows the least progress to date. On World Population Day, let us focus on the critical importance of family planning if we are to successfully achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

The rate of death for women as they give birth remains the starkest indicator of the disparity between rich and poor, both within and among countries. We already know what needs to be done to meet the basic health needs of women throughout their life cycle, especially during the reproductive years, pregnancy and childbirth. There are three basic interventions necessary to improve maternal health: skilled attendance at the time of birth, facilities to provide emergency obstetric care and family planning.

Family planning is a fundamental component of reproductive health as it allows for determining the spacing of pregnancies. Studies show that family planning has immediate benefits for the lives and health of mothers and their infants. Ensuring basic access to family planning could reduce maternal deaths by a third and child deaths by as much as 20 per cent.

And yet the benefits of family planning remain out of reach for many, especially for those who often have the hardest time getting the information and services they need to plan their families, such as the poor, marginalized populations and young people. Demand will only increase, as more than one billion people ages 15-24 enter their reproductive years.

I call on Governments to honour the commitments made at the International Conference on Population and Development. At the Cairo Conference, nations agreed that all couples and individuals have the basic human right to not only decide freely and responsibly the number and spacing of their children, but also to have the information, education and means to do so.

As we intensify our efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, let us take action to reduce maternal mortality and achieve universal access to reproductive health by 2015. Let us devote greater attention and resources to the work to improve the health and quality of life for all people. —*UNIC*

US military deaths in Iraq war at 4,116

WASHINGTON, 10 July—As of Wednesday, 9 July, 2008, at least 4,116 members of the US military have died in the Iraq war since it began in March 2003, according to an *Associated Press* count.

The figure includes eight military civilians killed in action. At least 3,353 died as a result of hostile action, according to the military’s numbers.

The AP count is one fewer than the Defence Department’s tally, last updated Wednesday at 10 am EDT. The British military has reported 176 deaths; Italy, 33; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 21; Bulgaria, 13; Spain, 11; Denmark, seven; El Salvador, five; Slovakia, four; Latvia and Georgia, three each; Estonia, Netherlands, Thailand, Romania, two each; and Australia, Hungary, Kazakhstan, South Korea, one death each.—*Internet*

Jackson apologizes for ‘crude’ Obama remarks

CHICAGO, 10 July—The Rev Jesse Jackson apologized Wednesday for “crude and hurtful” remarks he made about Democratic presidential candidate Sen Barack Obama after an interview with a Fox News correspondent.

The remarks came Sunday as Jackson was talking to a fellow interviewee, United Health Group executive Dr Reed V Tuckson. An open microphone picked up Jackson whispering, “See, Barack’s been talking down to black people ... I want to cut his nuts off.”

Jackson said that he didn’t realize the micro-



The Rev Jesse Jackson apologized to Sen Obama’s campaign Wednesday over “hurtful” remarks.

INTERNET

phone was on.

“It was very private,” Jackson said, adding that if “any hurt or harm has been caused to his campaign, I apologize.”

An Obama campaign spokesman, Bill Burton, said that the senator from Illinois “of course accepts

Rev Jackson’s apology.”

Jackson’s son, Rep Jesse Jackson Jr of Illinois — co-chair of Obama’s presidential campaign — publicly blasted his father’s comments Wednesday.

Jackson Jr said that he’ll “always love” his father. But, he said, “I thoroughly reject and repudiate his ugly rhetoric.”

Internet



A Palestinian woman carries her child as she walks outside her family house, after it was destroyed by Israeli troops in the West Bank city of Hebron, on 10 July, 2008. Israeli troops raided the southern West Bank city on Thursday, arresting eight Palestinians affiliated with Hamas and demolishing a house, Palestinian witnesses said. The military did not immediately comment.—INTERNET

Three suicide bombers enter Pakistan’s capital

ISLAMABAD, 10 July— Three suicide bombers have entered Pakistan’s capital Islamabad to target important political and religious personalities, *Daily Times* reported on Wednesday.

Pakistan’s Interior Ministry has banned the holding of rallies and processions near sensitive places in Islamabad, the newspaper said.

Meanwhile, the security has also been beefed up in eastern Pakistan’s Punjab Province following reports of the presence of explosive-laden vehicles in the province.

The whole Pakistan has been placed under a state of “high alert” following a suicide bombing in Islamabad over the weekend after a rally marking the first anniversary of the government’s raid on the Lal Masjid (Red Mosque), and a series of seven blasts in Karachi on Monday.

The blasts are considered to be a hitback from local militants for the government’s military operation in northwestern Pakistan’s tribal areas. —MNA/Xinhua



A map showing range of the Iranian Shahab-3 missile. The United States has played down any prospects of war with Iran or any immediate dangers from its nuclear drive but warned that the world was ready to confront its “provocative” policies.—INTERNET



Activists dressed up as G8 leaders pose with balloons symbolising their countries’ amount of carbon emission at an anti-G8 event in Sapporo on 8 July, 2008, during the G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit. —XINHUA

India gives nuclear plans to IAEA

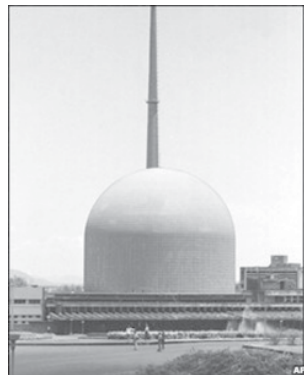
NEW DELHI, 10 July— India has submitted its plans for safeguarding its civilian nuclear facilities to the world nuclear regulatory body.

The International Atomic Energy Agency’s (IAEA) approval of the plan is a key condition for putting into effect a nuclear deal between India and US.

Left-wing parties in India have pulled out of the governing coalition in protest in protest against the deal.

The government says it is needed to meet soaring energy demands.

India is under pressure from Washington to sign the accord before the US presidential elections in



India would get access to US civilian nuclear technology.—INTERNET

November.

Reports say a restricted draft of India’s plans for safeguarding nuclear facilities has been given to IAEA’s 35 member nations ahead of a meeting to approve the agreement.

The US had restricted nuclear co-operation with India — which has not

D-8 countries support to speed accession of Iran into WTO

KUALA LUMPUR, 10 July— The Developing 8 countries (D-8) reaffirmed their support of the speedy accession of Iran into the World Trade Organization (WTO), the grouping said in a declaration adopted here on Tuesday.

International financial and trade system is an important component of international cooperation and should be fair, transparent and non discriminatory, according to the Kuala Lumpur Declaration adopted at the end of the 6th D-8 Summit. It should take into

account the differences in the conditions of developing countries, particularly in ensuring equal access into the global economy and international economic organizations, the declaration said.

“In this context we reaffirm our full support of the speedy accession of the Islamic Republic of Iran into the WTO,” it noted.

“We consider this summit as a turning point in history of D-8 cooperation while celebrating the 10 Year Anniversary of the organization adopting the 10 year Roadmap and other basic documents to enhance cooperation and solidarity among ourselves,” the declaration said. —MNA/Xinhua

S Korea seeks 7-year jail term for ex-Samsung head

SEOUL, 10 July—South Korean prosecutors demanded on Thursday a seven-year jail term for former Samsung Group (SAGR.UL) chief Lee Kun-hee, who is facing trial on charges of tax evasion and breach of trust, *Yonhap News* reported.

They also sought a 350 billion won (\$350 million) fine from Lee, one of South Korea’s most influential businessmen, who led the country’s biggest conglomerate for nearly 20 years.

Lee would likely escape any prolonged jail time because judges have often been lenient towards corporate leaders convicted of white collar crimes on the view putting them behind bars could hurt South Korea’s economy, analysts said.

Internet



Photo taken on 7 July, 2008 shows blossom red lotus at Tiananmen Square in Beijing, capital of China. The city of Beijing hails the one-month countdown to the Beijing Olympics. —XINHUA

All items from Xinhua News Agency

Vietnamese waistlines expand as economy grows

HANOI, 10 July—The number of overweight, or even obese people in Vietnam, especially in big cities, has increased in recent years as the economy expanded, the newspaper *Young People* reported here Tuesday.

About 16 per cent of people aged between 25 and 64 are overweight or obese, the newspaper cited figures from the Ministry of Health.

Specifically, 11.3 per cent of people aged between 25 and 34 are overweight or obese, while 17.1 per cent for those aged between 35 to 44 are too heavy. The percentage goes up for older people.

Economic development has changed the diet of Vietnamese. Now, meals of Vietnamese families have more protein, fat and dairy products than ever before. Each Vietnamese person now eats 80 grammes of meat and 350 grammes of rice each day, according to the Health Ministry.

The model of smaller families with fewer children is also thought to be contributing to the obesity situation. —Xinhua

Photo taken on 8 July, 2008 shows a model of EV (electricity vehicle) in the International Media Center in Toyako, Hokkaido, Japan. This kind of battery-driven racing car is expected to have the output power of 140 horse power and maximum speed of 200 kilometres per hour. This is part of hi-tech show at the G8 summit held in Toyako, Hokkaido, Japan. —XINHUA



World Food Day 2008 theme meaningful

ROME, 10 July—Rarely has World Food Day assumed greater meaning than at the present time, as rapidly rising food prices risk increasing the number of hungry people, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) said on Monday.

World Food Security: the Challenges of Climate Change and Bioenergy, is

the theme of this year's World Food Day on 16 October, the day that FAO was founded in Quebec City in 1945, and now observed annually in some 150 countries.

With the number of undernourished people currently estimated at more than 850 million, high food prices are not only putting at

greater risk the hungry but those also on the brink of poverty, according to FAO.

The implications of soaring food prices and related issues were considered at the recent High-level Conference on World Food Security, involving the UN Secretary-General, 181 governments and 41 Heads of State or Government, that took place at FAO headquarters from 3 to 5 June.

Last December, FAO also launched an Initiative on Soaring Food Prices, to help farmers in some of the poorest countries through the provision of seeds, fertilizers, and other tools they need to boost agricultural production for the coming planting seasons through 2009.

Xinhua



A staff member (L) introduces computers with electricity generated by solar energy in a zero emission house in the International Media Center in Toyako, Hokkaido, Japan, on 8 July, 2008. —XINHUA

“Special” flight checks to be made ahead of Olympics

BEIJING, 10 July—Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC) announced on Monday to start “special” security checks at 19 airports to guarantee a safe Olympic Games. The CAAC said “special” checks would start from 20 July, but did not detail the checks. The 19 airports would include the Beijing Capital International Airport, airports in Xin-

jiang Uygur Autonomous Region and Tibet Autonomous Region as well as airports of other 15 cities, including five Olympic co-host cities on the Chinese Mainland— Shanghai, Qingdao, Tianjin, Shenyang and Qinhuaingdao.

This was CAAC's latest move to better protect flight safety after the administration banned liquids, lighters and matches from carry-on luggage on board and required passengers in the country to remove their shoes for safety checks.

Xinhua

Russian AF to equip new generation fighter jets in 2013

MOSCOW, 10 July—The Russian Air Force is expecting to put into service the new fifth-generation fighter jet in 2013, the Air Force commander Colonel General Alexander Zelin said on Monday following the test flight of a new type of fighter jet.

“We will begin test flights (of the new fighter) in 2009, and hope to receive the aircraft in 2013,” RIA Novosti news agency quoted Zelin as saying.

The new fighter aircraft, tentatively designated as the *Sukhoi PAK FA* or *T-50*, will be built at the Komsomolsk-on-Amur aircraft manufacturing plant in Russia's Far East, RIA said.

The two-engine *T-50* fighter is expected to be more swift and stealthy to ensure air superiority and precision in destroying ground and sea targets.

Observers say that the *PAK FA* fighter was designed to compete with the United State's *F-22 Raptor* and *F-35 Lightning II*, the world's first fifth-generation fighter jets.—Xinhua

Dutch girls to be vaccinated against cervical cancer

Brussels, July 10 - As of September 2009, all 12 years old girls in the Netherlands will be vaccinated against the human papilloma virus (HPV), which is responsible for most cervical cancer cases, Dutch paper *Algemeen Dagblad* reported on Wednesday.

Dutch Health Minister AB Klink had announced the government decision on Tuesday. He said he also wants to launch a catch up vaccination programme

for girls between the ages of 13 and 16.

The HPV vaccine should be included in the national vaccination programme so that it is offered free to every, the minister said.

HIV is a sexually transmitted disease and responsible for 70 per cent of cervical cancer cases, according to the *Algemeen Dagblad* report. The vaccine must be administered before a girl becomes sexually active.—Xinhua

Natural disaster, irresponsible media and global opportunists

Hlaing Aung

When a natural disaster occurs, a lot of people have to run into trouble. Particularly, developing countries with poor economy are vulnerable to such a disaster facing loss and damage in great numbers as they are weak in their preventive measures and preparedness.

Although the disaster-hit countries have to be in trouble, reporters on their part, as the situation is a great opportunity for them, try to cover and write the disaster news amid many difficulties such as battered transportation, debris and health problems. When they have no chance at all, they gather all pieces of less important news, add the things that can happen in the face of a disaster to the news and write make-up news stories in order to catch the reader's attention.

Generally, man is more interested in bad news than in good news. So priority is given to writing tragic news from a disaster-hit place. When the news about a natural disaster that has happened in a coastal area comes out, such news usually features scenes of dead bodies, carcasses of cattle and animals floating in the water, scenes of public scare about infectious diseases, scenes of survivors disconsolately sitting in the debris with no shelters and food and scenes of victims in great trouble as relief and rescue teams have not reached them yet. A few days later, news is written again featuring the young children with nutrition deficiency, outbreaks of water-borne diseases such as diarrhoea, dysentery and encephalitis and deaths of tens of thousands of people due to the diseases.

News writings also describe that the disaster victims are becoming disheartened with no hope to stand on their own feet and that their situation will worsen if outside assistance such as medicine, expertise and relief workers does not come in bulk immediately.

Such news stories are written on an incidental basis. In practice, make-up and imaginative news stories are contrary to prevailing objective conditions, says WHO, an organization that studies and analyzes the occurrences of natural disasters. On a page of its website titled "Myth Vs Reality", the WHO has described in detail that make-up and imaginative

writings are contrary to prevailing objective conditions.

The first point is that it is not true that disease can be infected from a dead body. Second, accepting the idea of suffering infectious diseases following a natural disaster is not true. The most important thing is to keep oneself personally hygienic and give public health education, says WHO.

Another point is that as regard the coming of foreign doctors, nurses and medical teams, if local communities concerned could have taken first aid measures, the disaster-hit region only needs specialists to give follow-up treatment.

WHO argues the point that international aids should arrive as soon as possible is not true, either. Without thorough analysis of needs, immediate international aids may cause a complicated situation, WHO points out. It is better to render international assistance only after thorough needs analysis.

It is not also true that the people of disaster-hit regions are in fear and helpless. Indeed, people always try their utmost to overcome any difficulties in times of emergency.

The above-mentioned points are only some of the WHO's explanations on its website. Such points can usually be seen as news stories whenever a natural disaster happens. Let alone the cyclone Nargis that hit Myanmar, invented news stories were written and broadcast in the storm that hit Bangladesh in 1991 causing about 150,000 deaths and in the storm that hit India in 1999 leaving over 3,000 dead.

News reports described that in the aftermath of the Bangladeshi storm, skinny child victims with hollow eyes were waiting with empty bowls and containers for water and food but no one came up to help them. If international aids would not arrive, tens of thousands of survivors would have died soon. In the aftermath of the Indian storm also, news stories reported that the victims had nothing to eat and drink for four or five days and had to drink sea water as no one appeared to help them.

All news stories about the natural disasters reported that severe diseases would occur, there was mismanagement of governments, international aids were misappropriated and famine would break out as

crop plantations were washed away.

Actually, all mediemen have had their codes of conduct such as fairness of news writings without bias, accuracy, reliability and honesty. The value of a news report is its accuracy. False news is not news, indeed. It is a slander as well as a rumour. It is not the essence of news although the ability to catch the reader's attention and to get the scoop is important.

However, newspapers and journals are economically dependent upon the readers. Their main aim is to have a lot of readers. So news writers write their news stories highlighting tragic news if the readers want to know and see the troubled people from disaster-hit regions.

In hunting such news, there might be transport difficulties, barriers and other limitations to travel to the disaster-hit areas. Encountering those difficulties, news writers created news stories based on a guess about what might usually happen in a natural disaster to make the public readers heartbroken.

If their fictions were good enough to catch the public attention, they could even win Pulitzer Prize. It was a shame that a news report about a young person who fell prey to heroin carried in *the Washington Post* by correspondent Janet Cooke in 1981 was disclosed as a fabrication only after the winning of Pulitzer Prize. Other world's famous publications such as *the Times* and *the New York Times* have lost their face for their make-up news photos, stolen news stories and mock interviews.

When cyclone Nargis occurred in Myanmar, a correspondent of the New York Times based in Bangkok, Thailand, created news stories about the farmers of the storm-affected villages of Pyapon, Kawhmu and Dedaye Townships starving as they had nothing to eat and outbreaks of diarrhoea by mentioning that the news reports were collected from such-and-such person of such-and-such village.

No wonder, such news stories are not reliable.

Even if the news a journalist has covered is a true story and he wants to release it, he has to take into consideration whether the news might adversely affect the persons who are involved in the event. Maybe, the news will serve the interests of the majority of the people, but that should not harm the dignity and interest of the involved persons. Out of desire to get scoops, some journalists ignore their social obligations.

For instance, when Sudan came under starvation in 1994, the photo of an unwell-known photo journalist Kevin Carter of South Africa shocked the world, and he won Pulitzer Prize for that photo. The photo showed a very hungry and weak child aged about two or three years trying with great difficulties to stand up after he had fallen down to the ground on his way to the food supply camp, while a vulture was resting on the ground near him with the hope of food.

(See page 7)

Even if the news a journalist has covered is a true story and he wants to release it, he has to take into consideration whether the news might adversely affect the persons who are involved in the event.

Natural disaster, irresponsible media and global opportunists

Hlaing Aung

(from page 6)

Kevin Carter took about 20 minutes to get a photo of the vulture spreading its wings. But, the vulture did not make any movement, and he took the photo as the child and vulture were at that time. He admitted that after taking the photo, he was abusing marijuana sitting under a tree without giving any help to the helpless child. No one knew whether the miserable child reached the food supply camp. The New York Times bought the photo and released it as a news photo, and the photo became worldwide well-known. Kevin Carter won Pulitzer Prize. Some praised him, whereas many criticized that he was even crueller than the vulture because he ignored the hungry child in order to get a good photo. Despite winning the prize, he felt very depressed and committed suicide shortly thereafter.

Therefore, journalists are under social obligations in writing and releasing news stories about natural disasters. If a journalist takes photos of and writes unpleasant scenes only with the intention of tarnishing the image of a government or a nation, there will be a great gap between the news and the truth. And if such a news story has an impact on the goodwill of the donors, that will harm the interests of the storm victims. If a journalist makes up a news story and releases it, he is an inhumane journalist.

It goes without saying that there have been so many invented and exaggerated news stories, photos and video tapes about the storm 'Nargis' that hit Myanmar. There was an excuse that why such made-up stories came out was due to poor transport resulting from the natural disaster and the government's prohibition on international journalists. Actually, some unscrupulous journalists collected only fabricated news stories with the intention of tarnishing the image of the nation.

Many of the expatriates as well as political opportunists who committed anti-government movements and absconded abroad are working for the radio stations under the control or influence of the governments of western countries. So, I would say such radio stations are not in a position to release news without partiality.

The majority of Myanmar people who catch up with the prevailing situations do not believe such news. However, the exaggerated news stories somewhat made persons who do not have any knowledge about Myanmar misunderstand the situations. Some unscrupulous elements took advantage of that point by claiming that the government prohibited international relief supplies, neglecting hundreds of thousands of storm victims, so the government committed massacre; that so the Myanmar government should be put on trial; and that under humanitarian duties, force should be used. In truth, some politicians from the countries of the West Bloc exploited the sufferings of storm victims for political gains.

The majority of the developed countries often claim humanitarianism, but in practice their assistance to the Third World is just a little.

Executive Director John Hammond of London-based Oxfam pointed out big countries' ignorance of the hunger of Africa. He said that the world's superpower US was able to get funds one way or another for military purposes, however it was not able to do so for a fight against hunger in Africa.

After the storm that occurred in 1991, the Bangladeshi government asked international community for emergency assistance of 1.8 billion US dollars. Its request was responded, but just a small amount, for instance, EEC donated 15 million dollars, the US, 20 million dollars, Britain, 5 million dollars, Japan 2.5 million dollars, and France, 65,000

dollars.

In the Gulf War in 1991, the US spent 650 million dollars in the first day, 80 billion dollars on the 43-day air-army operation, and about 100 billion dollars in total for the whole war. In response to the US request, Japan contributed 10.7 billion dollars, Germany, 6.6 billion dollars, and Australia, 250 million.

So, a duty-conscious journalist Norm Dixon wrote an article "Bangladesh cyclone: Billions for war, a pittance for lives" that appeared in 15-5-1991 issue of a newspaper.

Powerful countries have spent hundreds of billions of dollars on the Iraqi and Afghanistan issue. How much will they spend on rehabilitation of the victims to the storm 'Nargis'?

Myanmar people are accepting relief supplies donated with generosity. Why I pointed out that is just to let them know that Myanmar people are not artless. It is because I just want to point out the nature of some big countries, not because of my being ungrateful to their assistance.

Every country is preoccupied with their internal affairs, but they have shown their humanitarianism. So, the victims could continue to survive, staying in the tents and consuming instant noodle and purified water. Myanmar people will never forget their assistance.

Myanmar people will have to try their best to rise from the catastrophe and stand on their own feet in the long run.

Now, thanks to the efforts the government, the people and the Tatmadaw are exerting in concert, victims no longer need to stay in public rest houses, prayer halls of pagodas, and monasteries en masse and they have owned durable houses roofed with corrugated iron sheets. They are ploughing fields that were flooded with seawater, with Leya-16 brand power-tillers. Fishermen are having a good time with new fishing boats and fishing nets. Ravaged school buildings have been reconstructed, and those schools are now lively with voices of studies.

However much internal elements who are unhappy with national development and place too much reliance on their masters, and political opportunists are hatching plots, the entire people will continue to work hard in the interests of the nation and their own in accordance with the sermon of Shwehintha Sayadaw: —

"In serving public interests
Do not deviate from own way
Because of slanders
Just carry it on".

Translation: ST+MS

☐ **Powerful countries have spent hundreds of billions of dollars on the Iraqi and Afghanistan issue. How much will they spend on rehabilitation of the victims to the storm 'Nargis'?**

☐ **I just want to point out the nature of some big countries, not because of my being ungrateful to their assistance.**

Maj-Gen Khin Zaw looks into development of Magway



Maj-Gen Khin Zaw of Ministry of Defence releases fingerlings into Ayeyawady River. — MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 10 July — Maj-Gen Khin Zaw of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Col Phone Maw Shwe of Magway Division Peace and Development Council, met servicemen and family members at the hall of Magway Station and inspected physic nut, sesame and groundnut plantations of the station.

They attended the fish releasing ceremony of Magway Township. At the ceremony, officials released 800,000 fingerlings into Ayeyawady River.

At Magway University, they planted a sapling at the monsoon season tree planting ceremony.

On arrival at Aluminum Wire Factory

Project (Magway), Maj-Gen Khin Zaw and party heard reports on construction of roads and bridges in the factory compound and staff quarters presented by Project Director U Win Myint. Next, Maj-Gen Khin Zaw and party viewed progress of construction task.

On his way to Teaching Hospital (Magway), Maj-Gen Khin Zaw viewed thriving sesame, groundnut and physic nut plantations. Medical Superintendent Dr Than Oo briefed Maj-Gen Khin Zaw on matters related to the hospital. Next, Maj-Gen Khin Zaw presented cash assistance to the patients.

While in Magway, they viewed thriving

sesame and groundnut plantations, physic nut plantations. In Magway, departments concerned grew 268 acres of physic nut plantations.

At the office of Magway Division PDC, Maj-Gen Khin Zaw met with departmental officials and explained the endeavours of the government in providing necessary assistance for the storm-hit regions of Ayeyawady and Yangon divisions, efforts to be made for ensuring food sufficiency in Magway Division, growing of physic nut and greening of the central region of Myanmar.

Later, Maj-Gen Khin Zaw went back to Nay Pyi Taw. — MNA

14th Test of Proficiency in Korean (TOPIK) on 21 September

YANGON, 10 July — The 14th Test of Proficiency in Korean (TOPIK) organized by Embassy of the Republic of Korea will be held at Yangon and Mandalay on 21 September simultaneously.

The test is divided into three levels—Elementary (Level 1&2), Intermediate

(Level 3&4) and Advanced (Level 5&6).

The test includes vocabulary, grammar, writing, listening and reading.

Application forms are available at Korean Embassy starting from 1 June and those wishing to sit for the test may apply together with application fee, K

10000 not later than 15 July.

Exam centers are Myanmar info Tech in Yangon and Great Wall Hotel in Mandalay. For further information, everyone may contact Embassy of the Republic of Korea, No (97), University Avenue, Bahan Township (Ph: 527142-4). —MNA

Lt-Gen Myint Swe inspects...

(from page 1)

At Electric Panels Assorted Manufacturing Factory of Khin Maung Nyunt Trading Company, Managing Director U Tin Maung Nyunt briefed Lt-Gen Myint Swe on strength of the staff, production process and yearly production of electrical appliances.

During his inspections of factories in the industrial zone, Lt-Gen Myint Swe gave instructions on boosting production of import-substitute machine parts and efforts to be made to promote export.

On arrival at Yangon University, Lt-Gen Myint Swe met faculty members and the students who were pursuing education. Next, Deputy Superintending Engineer U Myo Myint of Special Group-5 of Public Works briefed damages during the storm and progress of work. After hearing the reports, Lt-Gen Myint Swe attended to the needs and oversaw progress in clearing of fallen trees on the campus of Yangon University.

MNA

Minister receives PRC Charge d' Affaires, Korean Ambassador

NAY PYI TAW, 10 July — Minister for Industry-2 Vice-Admiral Soe Thein received Mr Wang Zongying, Charge d' Affaires of the embassy of the People's Republic of China, at 9 am and Mr Park Key-Chong, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea, at 11 am at the Ministry of Industry-2 in Mayangon Township, Yangon, on 4 July. —MNA



Minister for Industry-2 Vice-Admiral Soe Thein receives Ambassador Mr Park Key-Chong of Republic of Korea. — INDUSTRY-2

Attorney-General inspects storm-hit law offices in Yangon, Ayeyawady Divisions

NAY PYI TAW, 10 July — Attorney-General U Aye Maung together with Director-General U Tin Myint of Attorney-General Office (Nay Pyi Taw) visited law offices in Kawhmu and Kungyan-gon townships in Yangon Division and the law offices in Dedaye, Pyapon, Bogale, Kyaik-lat, Maubin, Pathein, Myaungmya and Labutta townships in Ayeyawady

Division from 5 to 7 July.

On his inspection tour, the Attorney-General heard reports on progress of reconstruction works of storm-hit offices and office work which returned to normal presented by Yangon Division Law Officer U Zeya, Ayeyawady Division Law Officer U Myint Win and officials, and gave necessary instructions. The Attorney-Gen-

eral presented cash assistance for staff families of storm-stricken offices and consoled them.

On 8 July, the Attorney-General also met with law officers of Attorney-General Office (Yangon), Yangon Division Law Office and district and township law offices in Yangon Division and gave necessary instructions.

MNA



Maj-Gen Ko Ko views Ma Mya Dam near Hmyinwahtaung Village of Myanaung Township. —MNA

Maj-Gen Ko Ko inspects development tasks in Ayeyawady Division

NAY PYI TAW, 10 July — Maj-Gen Ko Ko of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Brig-Gen Kyaw Swe and officials, paid homage to Shwemokhtaw Pagoda in Patheingyi on 6 July.

At the hall of Dedaye Township General Administration Department on 7 July, he met departmental personnel, social organization members and local people.

Chairman of Township PDC U Myo Aung reported on livelihoods of the local people and rehabilitation tasks. The commander gave a supplementary report.

After hearing the reports, Maj-Gen Ko Ko explained the relief and rehabilitation of Dedaye Township. Maj-Gen Ko Ko viewed the location of the relief camps in Dedaye Township on the lay-out plan.

They inspected flow of water at Toe River and preparations for distribution of fishing boats and fishing nets to the fishermen.

At Dedaye Township Hospital, they inspected the repair of the maternity ward.

Next, they viewed reconstruction tasks of Dedaye by car.

On 8 July, Maj-Gen Ko Ko viewed the boat construction workshop for rehabilitation of storm

victims in Kyaungpangon Village of Pastheingyi Township.

At Thabaung Township GAD Office, he met departmental officials and local people. Officials reported on progress of the region. Next, Maj-Gen Ko Ko viewed development of Thabaung. At Thabaung Paper and Pulp Factory, Maj-Gen Ko Ko looked into carrying of bamboo from the bamboo jetty.

After that, Maj-Gen Ko Ko and party attended the collective ploughing for cultivation of monsoon paddy at Kwinyar East Village of Kangyidaung Township.

Chairman of Township PDC U Win Shwe reported on growing of monsoon paddy in the township. Maj-Gen Ko Ko urged officials to organize local farmers to use quality strains of paddy.

After inspecting Ngawun embankment at Bawdigon Village of Ngathaingchaung, Maj-Gen Ko Ko gave necessary instructions.

In Ingapu Township, he viewed progress on construction of Kanyin Dam. It will be an earth dam. On completion, the dam can generate 5 megawatts and irrigate 25,000 acres of land.

At Ma Mya Dam near Hmyinwahtaung Village in Myanaung Township, Maj-Gen Ko Ko oversaw the spillway, flow of water into the dam and maintenance of the embankment and attended to the needs. —MNA

Waso robes to be donated at Dagon Pariyatti Monastery

YANGON, 10 July— Under the aegis of Presiding Nayaka of Eindawya Dagon Pariyatti Monastery Member of the State Central Working Committee of the Sangha Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Gunananda of Myoma Kyaung Road in Dagon Township, each set of Waso robes will be offered to over 100 members of the Sangha from the monastery.

Well-wishers are invited to donate Waso robes to the Sayadaws at the ceremony.—MNA

Assessment and Response Course on Disaster conducted

YANGON, 10 July—Mon State Red Cross Supervisory Committee conducted Assessment and Response Course on Disaster at the General Hospital of Mawlamyine on 20 June.

Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Thet Naing Win made a speech on the occasion.

Dr Htay Aung, head of Mon State Health Department explained the purposes of opening the course.

A total of 50 trainees attended the course.

The commander inspected an X-ray machine worth K 8.5 million donated by Mon State PDC at the hospital.—MNA

Chairman of TCG meets Member of the House of Councilors of the DPJ and President of Myanmar-Japan Friendship Parliamentary Federation

YANGON, 10 July—Chairman of the ASEAN-Myanmar-United Nations Tripartite Core Group (TCG), Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu met Member of the House of Councilors of the

Democratic Party of Japan and President of Myanmar-Japan Friendship Parliamentary Federation Mr Hideo Watanabe at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs here at 3 pm today.—MNA



Deputy Minister U Kyaw Thu meets Member of the House of Councilors of DPJ and President of Myanmar-Japan Friendship Parliamentary Federation Mr Hideo Watanabe and party. —MNA

Water level of Chindwin River subsides

NAY PYI TAW, 10 July — Owing to the incessant rains, the water level of Chindwin River exceeded 199 cm above its danger level at the basin of the river on 6 July.

According to the records of Hkamti, it was a normal flooding that occurs every year. The water of the river receded below its danger level at Hkamti today.

The water level of Chindwin River at Homalin exceeded its danger level on 6 July and reached its highest level on 8 July. The water may subside below its danger level within the next 48 hours.

The Department of Meteorology and Hydrology has announced that the water level of Chindwin River at Mawlaik, Kalewa and Monywa has remained above its danger level. The water level at Mawlaik and Kalewa may recede as from 12 July and the water level at Monywa as from 13 July.

MNA

Participation of Inland Water Transport in rehabilitation tasks

Article: Maung Maung Myint Swe

Photos: Tin Soe (Myanma Alin)

Thanks to harmonious efforts of the government, the people and the Tatmadaw, the remarkable success has been achieved in a short time in carrying out rehabilitation tasks by overcoming hardships caused by the storm.



Managing Director U Soe Tint of Inland Water Transport

In taking the rehabilitation measures, the Inland Water Transport under the Ministry of Transport significantly showed off departmental capabilities. Under the supervision of Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Managing Director U Soe Tint of IWT together with departmental personnel strove for undertaking the salvage of sunken vessels and tub boats and pulling back of the boats washed ashore by the storm, transport of relief supplies and rehabilitation tasks in addition to carrying out the passenger transport

and ensuring speedily flow of commodities. As a result, the Inland Water Transport resumed its functions as usual in a short time.

In an interview, Managing Director U Soe Tint of IWT explained, "Yangon-Dalla passenger boats resumed their runs on 4 May after the storm. Ferry boats are transporting about 30,000 passengers per day. The arrangements were made to enable the boats to transport the passengers to go to their works daily. At the same time, workers of the department made efforts for salvage of sunken boats and pulling back of vessels and tub boats from the banks, and the plans were realized to promptly resume the runs."

The IWT has been making managements for running of 505 vessels with engines and without engines and these vessels yearly transported 25 million passengers and 4 million tons of commodities on average. Up to now, the transport fare of the vessels was fixed at one mile per K 3 for passengers and at one mile per K 6 for one ton of cargo. In the passenger transport of ferry boats, the department fixed the fare at K 10 per head. Indeed, the government has been spending a large amount of money on running of vessels to ensure smooth transport of the passengers.



Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe inspects new pontoons to be transported to Pyapon, Bogale, Mawlamyinegyun and Labutta.

Managing Director U Soe Tint continued to explain, "Among 40 sunken vessels and 32 vessels that were washed ashore, a total of eight sunken vessels and tub boats have so far been salvaged from the water and 32 vessels were pulled back into the water from the banks. Service personnel and workers from the branches of the department, namely, Ayeyawady Branch (Mandalay), Chindwin Branch (Monywa), Rakhine Branch (Sittway) and Thanlwin Branch (Maw-lamyine), Yangon-based Delta Branch and the Commodities Transport Branch harmoniously participated in the salvage and pulling back of vessels with the use of 11 ships under Ayeyawady Branch.



Panmawady triple-decker vessel being pulled back into water at Gyaingwaing.

The IWT saved money and time in salvaging the sunken vessels. By applying the systems of inflating the tyres beside the vessels and lifting the vessels, the salvage work could be undertaken speedily and safely at low

cost. Therefore, a ceremony to honour the workers who had participated in the salvage of vessels was held at Ahlon Dockyard in Yangon on 7 July.

"Thanks to concerted efforts of about 100 workers, almost all the vessels have successfully been pulled back into the water from the banks. All transport runs have resumed as usual. Likewise, buildings and dockyards of the department have been repaired. New pontoon jetties were located and the sunken jetties were salvaged," said Managing Director U Soe Tint of IWT.

Apart from the regular functions, the IWT transported rehabilitation materials, paddy strains and farm implements to the storm-hit areas with the use of vessels of the department. As part of efforts to provide health care services to the storm victims, the department sent its vessels as floating hospitals to the storm-affected regions. Floating hospitals namely Waythantayar and Bayintnaung on Yangon-Labutta route, Taingaye and

Ponnabayan on Yangon-Bogale route, Tatainghmway and Padonma on Yangon-Pyapon route and Pa Pa Win and Teinkho on Yangon-Mawlamyinegyun route have given medical treatments to 52,485 patients up to 8 July.

The Managing Director explained, "Eight workers groups are carrying out salvage of vessels daily. All the vessels washed ashore had been pulled back into the water. Likewise, we all are striving for salvage of sunken vessels.

In accord with the instructions of the Prime Minister who stressed the need to cooperate with private technicians in applying the best technology for undertaking the salvage task as quickly as possible, we all are realizing the aim of the work under the supervision of Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe. I am conducting management for the salvage of the sunken vessels and rehabilitation of the storm victims with goodwill."

Actually, a large amount of money is to be spent on salvage of sunken vessels and tub boats. Therefore, it is necessary to spend the reasonable amount of money on salvage of sunken vessels and tub boats for the country. Due to utmost efforts and proper management of the IWT, all the sunken vessels will soon be salvaged successfully.

Translation: TTA
Myanma Alin: 10-7-2008



Workers salvaging a sunken pontoon at Mawlamyinegyun Port.

Russian, British leaders fail to thaw relations

TOYAKO (Japan), 10 July — The first meeting between Russian President Dmitry Medvedev and British Prime Minister Gordon Brown failed on Monday to thaw bilateral relations that are at their lowest point since the Cold War.

The meeting on the sidelines of the Group of Eight rich nations summit in Japan had fuelled hopes it could ease a row over a

38-billion-US-dollar oil joint venture, TNK-BP, or problems for Britain’s cultural outpost in Russia, the British Council.

Medvedev and Brown smiled and shook hands praising great potential for Russian-British ties, but made no substantial headway in the thorny issues souring relations.

“The President proposed to focus on elevating relations to a normal

level,” Medvedev’s chief foreign policy adviser Sergei Prikhodko told reporters.

“Brown outlined his own ideas about problems in bilateral ties, including the British Council, some major oil companies,” he said. “Medvedev gave explanations and drew Brown’s attention to the need to work out a long-term approach to cooperation.” —MNA/Reuters



File photo shows an Israeli military watch tower in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights. Israel hopes the new Mediterranean Union will help improve relations with the Arab world, but Arabs warn against any attempt to bring normalisation in through the back door.—INTERNET

Israel ends curfew on Palestinian town

RAMALLAH (West Bank), 10 July — Israel lifted on Tuesday a curfew it imposed last week on the Palestinian town of Nilin, where violent protests had erupted against Israel’s West Bank barrier.

“It was lifted early this morning,” a military spokeswoman said. “The villagers promised not to protest and to keep the village quiet.”

The town’s mayor confirmed the curfew, which was clamped on Nilin on Friday after violence erupted during protests at a barrier construction site, had ended and said the Israeli Army had pulled out.

“We woke up and luckily we did not see their presence in all of the town and now we are inspecting the damage they have inflicted on us,” Mayor Ayman Nafi told Reuters by telephone.

MNA/Reuters



A gunman stands behind sand barricades and points his submachine gun through a hole in a wall during clashes in the Bab al-Tabbaneh neighbourhood of the northern Lebanese city of Tripoli. Sectarian battles continued to rage early Thursday in the north Lebanese port city of Tripoli despite a ceasefire accord reached the previous evening, after four people died, a security official told AFP. —INTERNET

US, UK forces end Gulf exercise amid Iran threat

DUBAI, 10 July — US and British naval forces wrapped up their military exercises in the Gulf on Tuesday and dismissed that they were related to tensions with Iran.

The exercises took place against a backdrop of high tensions between Iran and the West over Teheran’s nuclear activities.

Speculation about a possible attack on Iran has risen since a report last month said Israel had practised such a strike. Iran on Tuesday vowed to strike shipping in the world’s largest oil exporting region if it is attacked.

The US Fifth Fleet, which is based on the Gulf Arab island of Bahrain, said “Exercise Stake Net”

took place in the central and southern Gulf and was part of ongoing training aimed at protecting the region’s oil infrastructure from any attack.

“This exercise is in no way related to reported tensions with Iran... Coalition exercises happen with a great deal of regularity,” Lieutenant Nathan Christensen, a Fifth Fleet spokesman, told Reuters by telephone.

MNA/Reuters



In this photo provided by the National Park Service, the cruise ship the Spirit of Glacier Bay, is shown on 7 July, 2008, after it ran aground in Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve in Alaska.

INTERNET

S Korea beef protests cost economy \$2.5b

SEOUL, 10 July — More than two months of protests in South Korea against a US beef deal and the policies of the new president have cost Asia’s fourth-largest economy about 2.5 billion US dollars, a study released on Tuesday said.

South Koreans have clogged the streets of central Seoul on a near-nightly basis since early May, in protests that have caused a crisis for President Lee Myung-bak and his four-month-old government.

The report, from the Korea Economic Research Institute, said the total damage to the economy was about 2.6 trillion won (2.52 billion US dollars).

The figure included 668.5 billion won in direct losses through lost sales, decreased production and public spending on items such as deploying police to the protests.

MNA/Reuters

G-8 frets over oil prices, to study averting spikes

TOYAKO (Japan), 10 July— The Group of Eight industrialized nations said on Tuesday they were very worried about soaring oil prices and pledged to create a forum that will discuss ways of avoiding future spikes.

The G-8 said the high costs of both oil and food threatened a global economy already facing uncertainty amid continuing economic strain.

Oil fell more than a dollar to below 140 US dollars a barrel on Tuesday, down from a record rally that elevated prices to an all-time high of 145.85 US dollars last week. It is still up almost 50 percent this year.

“We express our strong concern about elevated commodity prices, especially of oil and food, since they pose a serious challenge to stable growth worldwide, have serious implications for the most vulnerable and increase global inflationary pressure,” the G-8 said in a statement.

“Concerted efforts are needed to address the underlying causes for the benefit of all. On the supply side, production and refining capacities should be increased in the short term.”

At the behest of British Prime Minister Gordon Brown, leaders agreed to convene a world energy forum, which will be held in Japan this September to discuss energy efficiency and new technologies. Canada said the meeting would also address ways of avoiding future shocks.

MNA/Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV KOTA RAKAN VOY NO (RKN-017)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RAKAN VOY NO (RKN-017) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11.7.2008 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.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
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Mexico City police chief
resigns over disco deaths

MEXICO CITY, 10 July—Mexico City's police chief and its top prosecutor resigned after a botched disco raid killed 12 people last month, the capital's mayor said on Tuesday, vowing a major overhaul of public security.

Police in the capital burst into the News Divine nightclub, which was packed with teen-agers celebrating the end of the school year, on 20 June in an operation to clamp down on underage drinking.

Nine youths and three officers were asphyxiated when more than 1,000 people rushed to squeeze out of the nightclub's small entrance as a wall of police pressed in from outside. Mexicans, especially relatives of the crushed teenagers, are furious at police video images showing the desperation of revelers trapped inside after the club's owner announced the presence of police over the loudspeaker.

After an investigation into the deaths, Mayor Marcelo Ebrard said he had accepted the resignations of police chief Joel Ortega and the city's Attorney General Rodolfo Felix.— *MNA/Reuters*

China receives pilotless plane for disaster relief

BEIJING, 10 July—The National Disaster Reduction Center (NDRC) of China's Ministry of Civil Affairs received a donation of a pilotless plane on Monday, which will help with emergency appraisal and disaster monitoring.

The plane, *Huaying*, worth 1.2 million yuan (175,021 US dollars), was donated by Zhongbing Opto-electrical Technology Company. The 2.1-meter-long plane weighs 20 kg and has a wing span of 2.6 metres. It can fly to an altitude of 3,500 metres at a the speed of 110 kilometres an hour.

As the most advanced type of plane made in China, it can provide reconnaissance over a large area and stay in the air for three hours to shoot video of an accident spot in spite of unfavorable weather

such as rain, mist, strong wind and gale.

It can also collect data and transmit reliable video images. The plane will work with the NDRC's remote-sensing platform to help facilitate the evaluation and relief work in disaster-hit sites.

Planes have played a

significant role in the disaster relief work in southwestern Sichuan Province that was hit by a magnitude-8.0 earthquake on 12 May. China sent about 100 helicopters to the quake-hit zone which successfully rescued more than 15,000 people.

MNA/Xinhua



စက်ပစ္စည်းများ သယ်ပို့ပေးရန်ချိပ်ပိတ်တင်ဒါခေါ်ယူခြင်း

၁။ အမှတ်(၁)စက်မှုဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ မြန်မာ့ကြွေထည်မြေထည်လုပ်ငန်း၊ နေပြည်တော်ဘိလပ်မြေစက်ရုံစီမံကိန်း(တောင်ဖီလာ)အတွက် စက်ပစ္စည်း(၂၈၅)တန်အား ရန်ကုန်ဆိပ်ကမ်းမှ တောင်ဖီလာသို့ သယ်ပို့ပေးရန်ချိပ်ပိတ်တင်ဒါများအလိုရှိပါသည်။

(က) တင်ဒါခေါ်ရက် - ၁၀-၇-၀၈
(ခ) တင်ဒါပိတ်ရက် - ၁၆-၇-၀၈

၂။ မြန်မာ့ကြွေထည်မြေထည်လုပ်ငန်း၊ ရောင်းဝယ်ရေးဌာန(ရုံးအမှတ်(၄၁) နေပြည်တော်တွင် ရုံးချိန်အတွင်းဆက်သွယ်စုံစမ်းပြီး တင်ဒါများလာရောက်ဝယ်ယူ နိုင်ပါသည်။ တင်ဒါပုံစံတရားဝင်ဝယ်ယူထားသူများထံမှ တင်ဒါကိုသာ လက်ခံပါမည်။ (အသေးစိတ်သိလိုပါက စုံစမ်းရန် တယ်လီဖုန်းအမှတ်-၀၆၇-၄၀၈၂၉၈) မြန်မာ့ကြွေထည်မြေထည်လုပ်ငန်း

British police quiz man over
murdered French students

LONDON, 10 July—British police were given extra time to question a man on Tuesday in their widening probe into the brutal murder of two French students killed last week in a frenzied knife attack and then burned in a London apartment.

The 33-year-old man turned himself in on Monday but was taken to hospital to receive treatment for severe burns before questioning began. Detectives later said magistrates had granted them an extra 36 hours to quiz the suspect.

Bio-engineering students Laurent Bonomo and Gabriel Ferez, both 23, were bound, gagged and repeatedly stabbed in Bonomo's south London apartment. Police called it the most frenzied, brutal

and horrific murder they have investigated.

Bonomo was stabbed nearly 200 times, with up to 80 of the wounds inflicted after he was dead. Ferez had nearly 50 knife wounds. The killer or killers then set fire to the apartment in an attempt to destroy evidence.

MNA/Reuters

Gaza militants fire mortar shell
at border crossing

JERUSALEM, 10 July—Palestinian militants fired a mortar shell from the northern Gaza Strip at a border crossing on Monday afternoon, a spokeswoman of Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) told *Xinhua*.

The spokeswoman said no one was hurt and no damage was caused by the attack on the Karni cargo crossing. But he did not say how Israel would respond to the latest breach of the Gaza truce.

The attack came one day after Israel reopened

some border crossings with Gaza following three days of closure in response to Thursday's rocket attack, according to Israeli official Peter Lerner.

The Erez crossing, the main passage for people between Gaza and Israel, was opened to allow Gazans in need of urgent medical attention to travel into Israel.

In addition, the Sufa crossing was opened to allow goods and cement into Gaza, and the Nahal Oz fuel depot was also opened.

Israel closed its border crossings with Gaza again on Thursday following a rocket attack from the Hamas-ruled enclave, which was at least the fifth such attack since the Egyptian-brokered truce went into effect on 019 June. Following Thursday's violation, for which no group has claimed responsibility, Israeli Defence Minister Ehud Barak instructed the army to close all the border crossings with the Palestinian territories.

MNA/Xinhua

Ecuador seeks trade
opportunities with Iran

QUITO, 10 July—Ecuador hopes to further exploit trade possibilities with Iran following the forming of trade relations between the two countries a few months ago, the Ecuadorian Foreign Ministry said Monday.

A conference with a theme of "Trade opportunities between Ecuador and Iran" will take place Tuesday in Quito and Guayaquil with a view to facilitating bilateral trade.

The possible trade between the two countries will include banana, cacao, fish, shrimp, fruit concentrate and vegetables, among other products, the Ecuadorean Foreign Ministry said in a statement. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Container trucks wait in line beside a cargo ship at Tianjin port on 26 June in Tianjin near Beijing. China's trade surplus reached 99 billion dollars in the first half of 2008, down 11.8 percent from the same period last year.—INTERNET



A black ribbon adorned with flowers and a photo of Alexia Belen Moreno hangs from the gates of her school in Ciudad Juarez, northern Mexico, on 10 June, 2008. Moreno, was shot in the head at age 12 while riding in a vehicle as she was returning from school, apparently caught in the crossfire during a gun battle between drug smugglers.—INTERNET

Pig disease hits another Vietnamese province

HANOI, 10 July— The Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS), known as “blue ear” disease, has recently stricken Vietnam’s northern Quang Ninh Province, raising the total number of affected localities in the country to six, according to a local veterinary agency on Tuesday.

The disease killed 67 pigs and sickened 416 others raised by 15 households in Yen Hung District, the Department of Animal Health under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development said, adding that the PRRS is currently hitting six Vietnamese provinces, including the two northern provinces of Lao Cai and Quang Ninh, and the four southern provinces of Vinh Long, Bac Lieu, Ba Ria Vung Tau and Soc Trang.

The PRRS was first recognized in the United States in the mid-1980s and is now present in most pig-producing countries. The symptoms include reproductive failure, pneumonia and increased susceptibility to secondary bacterial infection.

MNA/Xinhua



Sudanese workers pick up pieces of Arabic gum at a factory in an industrial area 20 kms north of the capital Khartoum, on 24 June. In Sudan, Arabic gum is the heavenly manna and the key ingredient in global trademarks, including the Cola, despite international sanctions on its economy.—INTERNET

UNSG denounces killing of Somali UNDP head

UNITED NATIONS, 10 July — UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon strongly condemned on Monday the killing of Osman Ali Ahmed, the acting head of the UN Development Programme (UNDP) office in Somali capital Mogadishu.

Ahmed was shot on Sunday by unidentified gunmen as he left a mosque in Mogadishu with family members.

“The killing of Osman Ali Ahmed is a loss not only for the United Nations but also for the Somali people, who are the ultimate victims when humanitarian workers and aid officials are targeted in this way,” Ban said in a statement issued by his

spokesperson.

Ban encouraged all Somalis “to reflect on this latest senseless act of violence and to work together in the search for peace and reconciliation”.

“A 14-year veteran of UNDP, Mr Ahmed dedicated his life to the betterment of his country while working under very difficult circumstances during some of Somalia’s most turbulent times,” according to a statement issued by UNDP.

“We extend our deepest and most sincere condolences to his wife and family and wish his son, who was wounded in the attack, a full and speedy recovery,” UNDP said. — MNA/Xinhua

UNESCO adds 21 sites to World Heritage List

QUEBEC CITY (Canada), 10 July— The World Heritage Committee of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) added 21 new sites to its heritage list on Monday.

Eight of the sites are all cultural sites. They include Melaka and George Town, historic cities of the Straits of Malacca in Malaysia, which have developed over 500 years of trading and cultural exchanges

between East and West in the Straits of Malacca.

Also included are the Kuk Early Agricultural Site in Papua New Guinea, which consists of 116 hectares of swamps in the southern highlands of New Guinea 1,500 metres above sea-level.

The Historic Center and Mount Titano of San Marino, which dates back to the 13th century, was also included.

This is the first time that Papua New Guinea and San Marino enter the World Heritage List.

Other sites are in Croatia, France, Germany, Italy and Slovakia and include China’s Mount Sanqingshan National Park. Other sites are in Cambodia, Canada, Cuba, France, Iceland, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Mexico, Switzerland, Italy and Yemen. —MNA/Xinhua

Jordan is one of the five richest countries in oil shale

AMMAN, 10 July — Director General of Jordanian Natural Resources Authority (NRA) Maher Hijazin said on Monday that Jordan is considered one of the five richest countries in oil shale in the world. “The kingdom’s estimated reserves of this material is about 40 billion tons, which is expected to be doubled in the coming years,” Hijazin said.

The comments were made during a meeting on “oil shale and power resources in Jordan” held at Amman Arab University for Graduate Studies. Hijazin said the NRA has adopted a new strategy on oil shale since 2004, floating tenders, signing agreements with companies and requesting companies to provide studies on the extraction of oil shale.

So far, NRA has signed four memos of understanding with international companies to carry out technical and economic studies in preparation for extraction of the material.

MNA/Xinhua

Launch dates announced for remaining shuttle missions

WASHINGTON, 10 July— NASA announced on Monday target launch dates for the remaining space shuttle missions on the current manifest in fiscal year 2009 and 2010.

The manifest includes one flight to the Hubble Space Telescope, seven assembly flights to the International Space Station, and two station contingency flights,

planned to be completed before the end of fiscal year 2010, the federal space agency announced in a statement.

NASA has now three active service shuttles — *Atlantis*, *Discovery* and *Endeavour*. It previously selected 8 October and 10 November in 2008 as launch dates for *Atlantis*’ STS-125 mission to service Hubble and *Endeavour*’s

STS-126 mission to supply the space station and service the station’s solar panel joints. The five shuttle missions by the three shuttles in 2009 are arranged respectively on 12 February, 15 May, 30 July, 15 October and 10 December. And the three shuttle flights in 2010 will be on 11 February, 8 April and 31 May.

MNA/Xinhua



This combination of two photos shows Argentina’s Perito Moreno glacier before (L, taken on 4 July, 2008) and after (R, taken on 9 July, 2008) the collapse of the roof of an ice tunnel, near the city of El Calafate in the Patagonian Province of Santa Cruz, southern Argentina. —XINHUA

SPORTS



Yi Jianlian of China(R) with teammate Simmons pose with their New Jersey Nets basketball jersey after a news conference in East Rutherford, New Jersey on 9 July, 2008. —XINHUA

Scolari says Lampard is staying at Chelsea

LONDON, 10 July— New manager Luiz Felipe Scolari said on Tuesday that Frank Lampard would remain at Chelsea for this season and beyond, underlining the club's refusal to consider any offers for the England midfielder.

Speaking at his first news conference since taking the Chelsea post, Scolari said he had spoken to Lampard and received assurances the player was still committed to the London club.

"I think Chelsea needs Lampard and Lampard needs Chelsea," the Brazilian told reporters. "I think Lampard will be with us (for) more time than one (more) year."

Lampard is entering the final year of his contract and Chelsea told Inter Milan in a statement earlier on Tuesday that they were not prepared to enter into any discussions for the 30-year-old.

MNA/Reuters

UEFA to vote on new name for UEFA Cup

NYON (Switzerland), 10 July— European soccer's governing body UEFA is considering changing the name of its second tier UEFA Cup competition to the UEFA Europa League.

The planned rebranding was revealed by Karl-Heinz Rummenigge, the acting chairman of the new European Clubs Association, whose organisation was presented with the proposal on Monday.

"The hope is that a refreshment of the name and brand can help achieve better results than we've seen in the UEFA Cup in the past," Rummenigge later told a media conference at UEFA's Swiss headquarters.

"There has been a general impression that it has become a second-class competition and that we should get back to how it was ten or 15 years ago."

MNA/Reuters

European clubs opposed to FIFA's 6+5 foreigners quota

BERNE (Switzerland), 10 July— The newly-formed European Club Association (ECA) has used its first meeting to oppose FIFA's controversial 6+5 proposal aimed at restricting the number of foreign players in starting line-ups.

The ECA said in a statement on Tuesday that its 103 members had "strongly endorsed the stance" taken by chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge and vice-chairman Joan Laporta after talks last month with EU Commissioner Vladimir Spidla. "In ECA's view, there is no necessity for a 6+5 rule, and the organisation favours instead UEFA's 'home-grown' approach," the statement added. —MNA/Reuters

S Africa World Cup stadium cut from Confederations Cup

JOHANNESBURG, 10 July — South Africa's 2010 World Cup organizers said on Tuesday the Port Elizabeth stadium had been dropped as a host venue for the 2009 Confederations Cup because it would not be ready in time.

"The board, having assessed the information before it this afternoon, finally resolved that for now Port Elizabeth is no longer part of the Confederations Cup," Irvin Khoza, chairman of the local organizing committee, told reporters. "We find that there will be serious constraints for Port Elizabeth to meet the deadline," he said, before stressing that the stadium in the southern coastal city was expected to be ready for the 2010 World Cup. The 1.2 billion rand (154.2 million US dollars) Nelson Mandela Bay stadium was one of five venues due to stage matches during the 2009 tournament and among 10 due to be used at the World Cup.—MNA/Reuters

FIFA changes ticket system for 2010 World Cup

JOHANNESBURG, 10 July — FIFA has introduced a new ticketing system for the 2010 World Cup in South Africa which it said on Wednesday would greatly increase the number of tickets available for genuine football supporters.

David Will, chairman of the ticketing sub-committee for the World Cup, told Reuters the percentage of tickets for fans from countries qualifying for the finals would rise by 50 per cent.

He also said a new collection system would go a long way to keeping tickets off the black market.

Will, in an interview in Johannesburg, said worldwide ticket sales would start next February.

MNA/Reuters

Laporta fighting to steady Barca ship after vote defeat

MADRID, 10 July—Barcelona president Joan Laporta's defeat in a confidence vote by club members on Sunday has left him with a divided board and facing continued calls for his resignation.

A referendum on Laporta's administration, instigated by Oriol Giralt, saw those critical of his management win 60.6 per cent of the approximately 40,000 votes cast by club members, which fell just short of the two thirds necessary to force a new election.

"I have no intention of resigning. We have a legitimate mandate (until 2010), we overcame the motion against us, and we are enthusiastic about the future," Laporta was quoted as saying in the Spanish media on Wednesday.

MNA/Reuters

France's Trezeguet quits internationals

MILAN, 10 July— France striker David Trezeguet said on Wednesday he was quitting international soccer.

The Juventus player was left out of France's Euro 2008 squad and had an uneasy relationship with coach Raymond Domenech, who was told last week he could stay in the job.

France were dumped out of the finals at the group stage last month after drawing one and losing two of their games at the tournament in Austria and Switzerland.

"The awful Euros and the confirmation of the coach have led me to this irreversible decision," the 30-year-old told reporters at Juve's pre-season training retreat.

MNA/Reuters

Crouch close to Portsmouth move after agreeing terms

LONDON, 10 July— Portsmouth have agreed personal terms with England striker Peter Crouch and he will complete his transfer from Liverpool subject to his passing a medical, the south coast club said on Wednesday.

The clubs had already agreed an undisclosed fee for the lanky 27-year-old, who spent nine months at Portsmouth in the 2001/02 season.

The club's website (www.portsmouthfc.co.uk) said that Crouch was expected to undergo his medical within the next 48 hours.

Crouch struggled to hold down a regular first-team place at Liverpool last season and wanted to move to enhance his England chances. He has scored 14 goals in his 27 international appearances but over the past year he has generally had to be satisfied with a place on the bench.—MNA/Reuters

Atletico confirm signing of Netherlands defender Heitinga

MADRID, 10 July— Atletico Madrid have signed Netherlands defender John Heitinga from Ajax on a five-year contract, the Primera Liga club confirmed on Wednesday.

The 24-year-old, who can play at right back and centre back, will be presented at the Calderon on Thursday after having agreed a deal back in March when he said Atletico were paying his 10 million euro (\$15.7 million) buyout clause. He has already passed a medical. Heitinga represented his country at Euro 2008, has won 39 caps, and was crowned Netherlands' player of the year in April.

Atletico have also signed Czech Republic defender Tomas Ujfalusi, French striker Florent Sinama Pongolle, France goalkeeper Gregory Coupet and Brazilian midfielder Paulo Assuncao.—MNA/Reuters



Photo taken on 6 July, 2008 shows a sculpture called "torch relay" at the Olympic Forest Park in Beijing, capital of China. More than 80 sculptures, selected from different countries of the world, have been installed in the park to greet the upcoming Beijing Olympic Games on 8 August. —XINHUA

Somali pirates free German cargo ship

NAIROBI, 10 July — Pirates have freed a German cargo ship they hijacked off the coast of Somalia after holding the vessel and crew for 41 days, a regional maritime official confirmed here Wednesday.

Andrew Mwangura, East Africa’s Coordinator of Seafarers Association, said the pirates released the MV Lehmann Timber after receiving 750,000 US dollars in ransom.

“We have just received information that the MV Lehman Timber was released on Tuesday for 750,000 dollars ransom,” Mwangura said by telephone.

He said the vessel was sailing for a safe port a day after the hijacking ended.

The captain and 15 crew members will be brought ashore and given medical checkups and a chance to rest.

A spokesman for the Karl Lehmann Shipping Company of the German city of Luebeck said that all 15 crew members of the cargo ship were in good health.— *MNA/Reuters*

909 killed, wounded in Afghan suicide blasts this year

KABUL, 10 July — A total of 909 people including 712 civilians have been killed or wounded in suicide blasts across Afghanistan this year, a NATO civilian spokesman said here Wednesday.

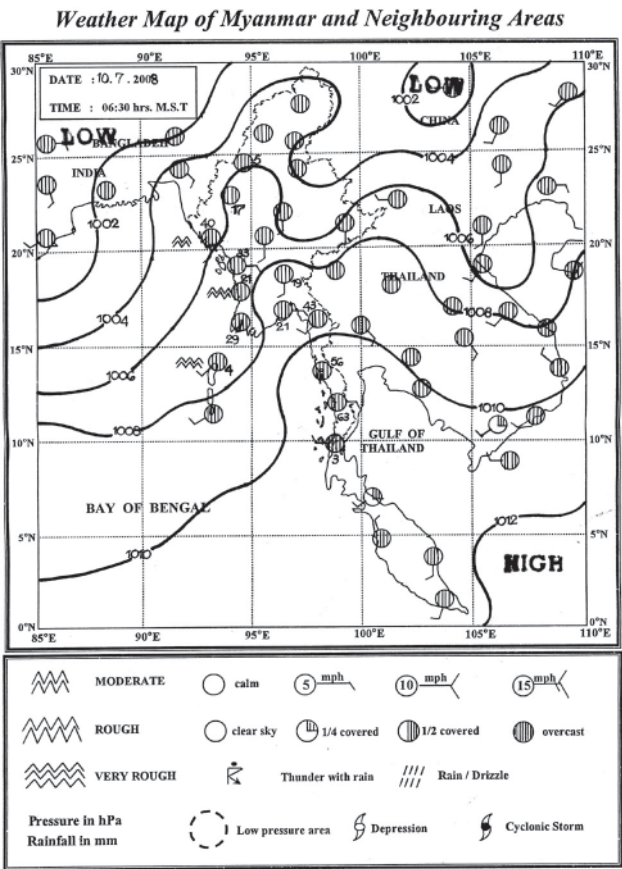
As many as 228 civilians were dead and 484 more were wounded in deadly suicide bombing

attacks in the war-battered country in 2008, Mark Laity, NATO civilian spokesman in Kabul, told a news briefing.

Moreover, he said in the capital Kabul there were 255 casualties inflicted by suicide bombs this year, out of which 246 were civilians, including 54 killed and 192 injured.

Asked to comment on who might be responsible for the suicide attack on Indian Embassy in Kabul, Laity said the related investigation, as an Afghan presidential spokesman has said, is underway and “speculating on the outcome” before investigation is completed is “dangerous”. Peter Petronzio, Commanding Officer of US 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU), attended the news conference Wednesday to update reporters on the MEU mission in Garmsir, a known logistic hub for Taliban-led militants in southern Afghanistan. The 24th MEU with around 2,200 service members began counter-insurgency operation in Garmsir District of Helmand Province on April 28 and since then have killed some 400 militants, Petronzio said, quoting figures from Helmand government officials.

MNA/Xinhua



WEATHER

Thursday, 10 July, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST: During the past 24 hours, rain have been isolated in lower Sagaing and Magway Divisions, scattered in Mandalay Division, fairly widespread in Kachin, Shan and Kayah States, upper Sagaing Division and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions with isolated heavyfall in Taninthayi Division. The noteworthy amounts of rainfalls recorded were Myeik (3.23) inches, Yay (2.40) inches, Dawei (2.32) inches, Pyapon (2.00) inches, Gwa (1.97) inches, Loikaw (1.81) inches and Mawlamyine (1.73) inches.

Maximum temperature on 9-7-2008 was 85°F. Minimum temperature on 10-7-2008 was 69°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 10-7-2008 was 100%. Total sunshine hours on 9-7-2008 was (0.2) hours (approx).

Rainfall on 10-7-2008 was (1.06) inches at Mingaladon, (0.98) inch at Kaba-Aye and (1.14) inches at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was (49.33) inches at Mingaladon, (59.13) inches at Kaba-Aye and (71.89) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (10) mph from Southwest at (16:10) hours MST on 9-7-2008.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 11-7-2008: Rain will be widespread in Kachin, Rakhine, Mon and Kayin States, upper Sagaing, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions, fairly widespread in Shan, Chin and Kayah States, Bago Division and isolated to scattered in the remaining areas with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Mon and Kayin States. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely attimes off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35-40) mph.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of incerase of rain in the Eastern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 11-7-2008: Likelihood of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 11-7-2008: Some rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 11-7-2008: Likelihood of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (60%).



File photo shows property sale boards in Forest Hill, south-east London. The Bank of England is widely expected to leave British interest rates unchanged at 5 per cent as it seeks to tackle both soaring inflation and slumping economic growth, analysts have said—INTERNET

 <p>Friday, 11 July View on today</p> <p>7:00 am 1. မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်</p> <p>7:25 am 2. To be healthy exercise</p> <p>7:30 am 3. Morning news</p>	<p>7:45 am 4. Song of yesteryear</p> <p>7:55 am 5. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ</p> <p>8:05 am 6. ရောဂါတိရစ္ဆာန်များ ရတနာပုံတော်</p> <p>8:15 am 7. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ</p> <p>8:30 am 8. International news</p> <p>8:45 am 9. ရုပ်မြင်ရသတေးစုကဏ္ဍ</p> <p>4:00 pm 1. Martial song</p> <p>4:10 pm 2. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ</p> <p>4:20 pm 3. The mirror images of musical oldies</p>	<p>4:35 pm 4. Dance variety</p> <p>4:50 pm 5. Song to uphold National Spirit</p> <p>5:05 pm 6. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ</p> <p>5:15 pm 7. “တစ်သက်စာ” (ထွန်းထွန်း(Examplez) သဇင်၊ စိုးရန်အောင်၊ ချစ်စရာ၊ ဂွမ်းပုံလေး၊ အောင်မြင်စိုးနှင့်အဖွဲ့)</p> <p>5:40 pm 8. Musical programme</p> <p>5:50 pm 9. “ကရုဏာသံစဉ်ခရီးစဉ် ရင်မှာပီတိဂွမ်းဆီထဲ” (အပိုင်း-၂)</p>	<p>6:00 pm 10. Evening news</p> <p>6:30 pm 11. Weather report</p> <p>6:35 pm 12. သုတစုံလင်ရွှေညွှတ်စုံရင်</p> <p>7:05 pm 13. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “ကော်ဖီချစ်သူ” (အပိုင်း-၁၂)</p> <p>8:00 pm 14. News</p> <p>15. International news</p> <p>16. Weather report</p> <p>17. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “ပင်လယ်ပျော်မင်းသား” (အပိုင်း-၁၀)</p>
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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



Fishing boats and fishing gear for storm victims in Kungyangon Township. —MNA

Draught cattle, power tillers reach storm-hit villages

YANGON, 10 July — Farmers in the storm-hit villages in Mawlamyinegyun Township have restarted farming as they have been provided with draught cattle. So far 258 heads of draught cattle were sent to the villages in the township up to 6 July. Kyatshar Village-tract received 148 cattle; Shaukchaung Village-tract 44 cattle, Nathmu Village-tract 38 cattle and Linswe Maezali, Kyarchaung, Kyunchaung and Mabay village-tracts 28 cattle. Meanwhile, altogether 411 power-tillers have been sold in instalment to farmers in the area so far. A total of 233 tiller machines have been sold to farmers by 28 June. According to the sale from 29 June to 6 July, 38 power tillers were sold to Nathmu Village-tract; 25 to Myatthar Village-tract, 14 to Kyarchaung Village-tract; 10 to Poetilut Village-tract; 34 to Kyatshar Village-tract; five to Kyunchaung Village-tract; 32 to Shaukchaung Village-tract; six to Kyarhone Village-tract and one to Gonnyindan Village-tract.

MNA