

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

Prime Minister inspects all-round renovation of Shwedagon Pagoda



Prime Minister General Thein Sein inspects all-round renovation at Shwedagon Pagoda.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 15 July—Prime Minister General Thein Sein this morning paid homage to Shwedagon Pagoda and inspected all-round renovation of the pagoda and gave necessary instructions to officials.

Accompanied by Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the

Ministry of Defence and officials, Prime Minister General Thein Sein arrived at the pagoda at 9 am. They were welcomed there by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Win Myint, ministers,

deputy ministers, the Vice-Mayor, senior military officers, the Director-General of the Government Office, heads of departments and members of the Pagoda Board of Trustees.

The Prime Minister and party heard a report presented by member of the Pagoda Board of Trustees U Ba Shwe on renovation of the southern lift.

After that, the Prime Minister and party paid homage to the replica of the pagoda. They also paid homage to the Shwedagon and offered flowers, water, light and joss sticks to it.

(See page 8)

Specialists providing free health care services to storm survivors

YANGON, 15 July— Supervised by the Health Department of the Ministry of Health, health care services are being provided to those from storm-hit regions. A medical team consisting of specialists left Mawlamyinegyun for Shaukchaung and Thayechaung village-tracts by boat yesterday morning.

The medical team led by Physician Dr Kyaw Lwin Oo comprises Psychiatrist Dr Swe Swe Win, Eye Specialist Dr Myo Aung Kyaw, Paediatrician Dr Aung Myo Tun and Dentist Dr Zaw Win.

They will provide local people in the storm-hit village-tracts with health care services free of charge.

MNA



Prime Minister General Thein Sein inspects jewels and gold plates fallen during the storm at Shwedagon Pagoda. — MNA

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 16 July, 2008

Revive and preserve Myanmar cultural performing arts

Having existed for thousands of years, Myanmar’s traditional cultural performing arts embody the nation’s traditions and customs that thoroughly cover ‘shame and fear to commit sins’ and ‘the four cardinal virtues’.

Now, the government is preserving and promoting national culture in its bid to improve the image of the nation and the people, while uplifting national prestige and integrity and preserving and safeguarding cultural heritage and national character.

Myanmar traditional cultural performing arts competitions play a leading role in laying down and implementing those work programmes. The Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions are held every year, and the 16th competitions will take place this year.

Yearly holding of the competitions has helped revive and promote Myanmar’s drama, marionette and performing arts. Contestants from various states and divisions have good opportunities to get together in a cordial way during the period of competitions, and that enhances patriotic spirit that is based on national unity.

Alien music, songs, dances and customs are now penetrating national culture. Myanmar traditions and cultural arts are only forces with which the nation is resistant enough to the threats posed by the decadent culture. So, the entire people including artistes have to strongly equip themselves with nationalistic fervour and patriotic spirit.

The onus is, therefore, on the competitors to the 16th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions to continue to preserve and promote traditions, culture and customs, while revitalizing cultural performing arts to their utmost in the competitions.



Mr Peter Ong donates K 2 million to School for the Disabled.—MNA

People's Desire

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

Appointment of Ambassador agreed on

NAY PYI TAW, 16 July—The Government of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of Mr Mirghani Mohamed Salih as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Sudan to the Union of Myanmar.

Mr Salih was born on 1 January 1951. He got B.Sc (Eco), B.Sc (Political Science) and Diploma in French Language in 1974 and in 1982.

Mr Salih joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Sudan in 1975 as an assistant officer in Economic and Technical Cooperation Department. In 1977, he served at the Sudanese Embassy in Geneva as an economic officer. From 1986 to 1989, he was an economic advisor to the Sudanese Embassy in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Mr Salih had

served at various capacities at Sudanese Embassies in Somalia and Romania. In 1991, he was an economic advisor of International Economic Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In 1992, he became a deputy director and had served at the Sudanese Embassy in Washington. He became a director of Amarica Affairs in 1998. Mr Salih is currently serving as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Sudan to the People’s Republic of China.

He is married and has four children.
Mr Salih will serve as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Sudan to the Union of Myanmar with residence in Beijing.—MNA

USDA volunteers honoured



USDA Secretary-General U Htay Oo delivers an address at ceremony to honour USDA members.—MNA

YANGON, 15 July — Members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association who carried out rehabilitation works in the storm-affected areas in Ayeyawady Division were honoured here today by Yangon Division USDA.

At the ceremony Secretary-General of USDA U Htay Oo and CEC Member of USDA U Maung Pa delivered speeches.

On behalf of the volunteers, Joint-Secretary of Sagaing Division USDA Dr Win Myint Aung briefed

on rehabilitation works carried out in the storm-hit areas.

Also present at the dinner were Secretariat Member of USDA U Thein Zaw, CEC members, responsible personnel of the USDA Headquarters and secretaries of state/division USDAs.

Divided into six groups, USDA members had carried out rehabilitation tasks in villages in Labutta, Pyinsalu and Bogale townships.

MNA

Myanmar Brewery Ltd donates cash to social organizations

YANGON, 15 July—Myanmar Brewery Ltd donated cash to social organizations at a ceremony held in Traders Hotel here this afternoon, attended by Chairman of Myanmar Brewery Ltd Lt-Col Nay Win (Retd), general manager Mr Peter Ong and personnel, representatives of social organizations and guests.

Firstly, the general manager of Myanmar Brewery Ltd extended greetings. The chairman of Myanmar Brewery Ltd, general manager Mr Peter Ong and personnel donated K28 million to 14 social organizations.

The donation was the second time for the company and it had donated K18 million to the social organizations and 4 million to the relief fund for the storm victims in its first donation. Myanmar Brewery Ltd has donated cash and kind amounting to over K169 million.—MNA



Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Col Hla Thein Swe accepts K 16 million for storm victims donated by Mr Song Jung Hyun, Chairman of GAPCK (Relief Department) and Mr Kim Gyun Bae, Representative Office of Myanmar, in Yangon on 11 July, 2008.—MNA

Obama sets stage for trip with major Iraq speech

WASHINGTON, 15 July—Barack Obama is setting the stage for his upcoming visit to Iraq with a high-profile explanation of his opposition to the war there and his pledge to complete a US troop pullout within 16 months of becoming president.

In a major speech Tuesday, the Democrat will explain how missteps in Iraq have hurt efforts to strengthen US security, aides said. He will also discuss his proposal to add two new brigades in nearby Afghanistan, as well as call for Pakistan to step up its own efforts dealing with terrorists.

In addition, the speech will discuss Obama's belief in the need for diplomacy to address Iran's nuclear programme, while addressing other global challenges such as climate change and energy security, the aides said.

Later in the day, Obama will conduct a series of television interviews to bolster his remarks.

The flurry of activity comes a day after an Obama op-ed piece in the New York Times that called for the additional Afghanistan brigades and argued the US faces a growing threat from a

resurgent al-Qaida in Afghanistan.

His Republican rival, John McCain, also planned an address Thursday focused on Afghanistan. Nine US soldiers were killed and 14 injured in a militant attack Sunday, the military's highest death toll there in three years.

Internet

US military deaths in Iraq war at 4,119

WASHINGTON, 15 July—As of Monday, 14 July, 2008, at least 4,119 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 3,357 died as a result of hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The *AP* count is two fewer than the Defence Department's tally, last updated Monday 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*

Strong quake strikes Greek island, one killed

ATHENS, (Greece), 15 July—A strong earthquake struck the Greek island of Rhodes early Tuesday, killing a woman who slipped trying to flee her home, local authorities said.

No major damage was reported to any of the island's buildings by the quake, which the Athens Geodynamic Institute said had a preliminary magnitude of 6.3.

The quake struck at 6:26 am Tuesday about 275 miles southeast of Athens, beneath the seabed south of Rhodes, the Geodynamic Institute said.

Residents and tourists fled their homes and hotels in panic. Dodecanese prefect Yiannis Mahairides said on Antenna radio that

one woman died of head injuries when she tripped and fell on a staircase in her home in a village on Rhodes.

The US Geological Survey gave the magnitude as 6.4. Magnitudes often differ in the first hours and days after an earthquake.

Greece is one of the most seismically active countries in the world, but most of the quakes do not cause damage or injuries.

On 8 June, a 6.5-magnitude quake struck near the western port city of Patras, about 120 miles west of Athens, damaging hundreds of buildings and injuring more than 200 people. In 1999, a magnitude 5.9 quake near Athens killed 143 people.—*Internet*



Bengal tiger cubs Jasmine and Jafarh rest following feeding at the Saskatoon Zoo in Saskatoon, Sask., Monday, July 7, 2008. The tigers' mother Rani didn't have milk, so the cubs, just over one month old, are currently cared for by zoo keepers.—INTERNET

Gunmen slay another aid agent in Somalia

NAIROBI (Kenya), 15 July — Gunmen in Somalia have shot dead an agent for a World Food Program transport company, the U.N. agency said Tuesday.

The incident, which occurred Sunday, was the fifth killing in Somalia of a staffer for a WFP-contracted trucking company this year.

Violence and chaos persist in the drought-stricken and war-racked African nation, and there have been kidnappings and attacks on aid workers in recent weeks. The WFP said that members of a militia in the southern town of Buale killed the agent in a "local dispute." Militia members often demand payment from truckers carrying humanitarian assistance, the humanitarian agency said.

Osman Ali Ahmed, who headed the U.N. Development Program in Somalia, was shot and killed as he left a Mogadishu mosque Friday.—*Internet*

China 'could reach moon by 2020'

BEIJING, 15 July—China is capable of sending a manned mission to the Moon within the next decade, if it so wishes, Nasa administrator Michael Griffin has said.

The US space agency plans to return people to the lunar surface by 2020 using its new Orion spacecraft.

But it is just possible the first people on the Moon since the Apollo 17 mission in

1972 could be planting a flag with five stars, not 50. In 2003, China became only the third country to launch a person into orbit. Dr Griffin said: "Certainly it is possible that if China wants to put people on the Moon, and if it wishes to do so before the United States, it certainly can. As a matter of technical capability, it absolutely can."

Internet

New Zealand teen fined in Penn computer hack

WELLINGTON, (New Zealand), 15 July—A New Zealand teenager who admitted to hacking into the University of Pennsylvania computer system was ordered Tuesday to pay more than \$11,000 in fines but avoided a conviction so that he can help police solve computer crimes.

The 23 Feb, 2006, attack

on the University of Pennsylvania engineering school's computer system caused part of the system to crash. Owen Thor Walker, 18, known by his online name "AKILL," also is linked to a network accused of infiltrating 1.3 million computers and skimming millions of dollars from victims' bank accounts.

Walker earlier pleaded guilty to two charges of accessing a computer for dishonest purpose, two charges of accessing computer systems without authorization, one of damaging or interfering with computer systems and one of possessing software for committing crime.

Internet

Bombers kill Iraq army recruits

Baqubqa, (Iraq), 15 July—At least 35 people have been killed and more than 50 injured in a double suicide bombing north of the Iraqi capital, Baghdad, army sources say.

The two attackers mingled with a crowd of would-be recruits at an army base in the city of Baquba and then blew themselves up simultaneously, they say.

Baquba, 60km (35 miles) from Baghdad, is the capital of Diyala province - one of the most dangerous parts of Iraq.

Violence in Iraq is at its lowest level since 2004, but frequent attacks continue throughout the

country.

Iraqi army sources said the bombers - one dressed in an Iraqi military uniform, the other in civilian clothing - mingled with the crowds of young recruits before blowing themselves up.

Thousands of army

recruits have been killed by insurgents in similar attacks across Iraq in recent years.

Tuesday's attack was the deadliest since 1 May, when twin suicide bombers killed at least 35 people in the nearby town of Balad Ruz.—*Internet*



At least 35 people die in a twin suicide bombing north of Baghdad.—INTERNET



Children receive training in the burning sun at a youth training base in Yichang City, central China’s Hubei Province, on 13 July, 2008. Over 50 children from Hainan, Hunan and Hubei provinces took part in a special summer camp to enhance physical strength and develop willpower. —XINHUA

Israel approves Hezbollah prisoner swap

JERUSALEM, 15 July — Israel's Cabinet gave final approval Tuesday morning for a prisoner swap with Hezbollah which has been set for Wednesday, the government said.

Although the Israeli government described this as a prisoner swap, many Israelis expect it to be an exchange of the bodies of two Israeli soldiers held by Hezbollah for five live prisoners held by Israel and the corpses of dozens of "infiltrators and terrorists"

now in Israeli custody.

Under the exchange with the Lebanese Shiite Muslim militia, Hezbollah prisoners, including convicted murderer Sami Kuntar, would be traded for two kidnapped Israeli soldiers abducted in 2006 and presumed dead.

The abduction of those soldiers, Ehud Goldwasser and Eldad Regev sparked the 34-day war between Israel and Hezbollah two years ago.

Part of the agreement is

a report from Hezbollah on the status of long-missing Israeli airman Ron Arad. That report was released recently, but Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert described it Monday as "absolutely unsatisfactory."

Although Israel's Cabinet approved the outline of the prisoner swap two weeks ago, it waited until it could review the Ron Arad report before granting final approval.

Internet

Tropical storm “Elida” moves away from Mexico

MEXICO CITY, 15 July— Tropical Storm Elida moved farther away from Mexico’s Pacific coast on Sunday afternoon but it could still become a hurricane later this week, the US National Hurricane Centre said.

Earlier on Sunday, the Miami-based centre had said Elida could become a hurricane on Monday morning.

The fifth tropical storm of the 2008 season was

located 245 miles (395 kilometres) south-southwest of the tourist city and port of Manzanillo and some 585 miles (945 kilometres) south-southeast of the tip of the Baja California peninsula.

The storm’s maximum sustained winds remained at 65 miles per hours (100 kilometres per hour) with higher gusts. Elida was moving away from land in a west-northwest direction at about 14 miles

per hour (22 kilometres per hour).

“Elida could still become a hurricane before it reaches cooler waters in a couple days,” the NHC said.

Mexico’s national weather service issued a heavy rain and high surf warning for the states of Jalisco, Colima and Michoacan and said the storm could pose a moderate risk to their coasts. — MNA/Reuters

Singaporean children get less sleep than those in West

SINGAPORE, 16 July — About 45 per cent of Singaporean parents think their children are not getting enough sleep, higher than the 26 per cent of parents from Western countries, said a new study in Monday’s English daily *The Straits Times*.

The Asia-Pacific Paediatric Sleep Alliance surveyed the guardians of

more than 30,000 infants and toddlers up to three years old worldwide.

The survey found that Singaporean parents are around the Asian average when it comes to fretting over things like snoring and night-time waking, said *The Straits Times*.

The average bedtime for a Singaporean toddler is 9:45 pm, while it is about

8:30 pm in the West, said the study. “We don’t really know why Asian children sleep less,” Dr Daniel Goh, who co-authored the study, was quoted as saying.

Culturally, it may be the norm for Asians to stay up later and work later than people in Western countries, he said.

MNA/Xinhua

Fatah agrees ceasefire only to respect Abbas’ request

GAZA, 15 July — An armed wing of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas’ Fatah movement on Sunday said it is committed to Hamas-Israel ceasefire because President Abbas supports it.

“Our commitment to the lull was only to respect what the head of the Palestinian legitimacy, President Mahmoud Abbas, announced,” al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades said in a statement sent to the media.

Al-Aqsa Brigades violated the Egyptian-brokered ceasefire on several occasions after the lull took effect between Hamas and Israel in Gaza Strip on 19 June.

“We have never been parts of the (ceasefire) deal,” al-Aqsa Brigades explained in the statement, which said that the armed wing fired rockets at Israel to respond to Israeli Army actions in West Bank which is not included in the six-month

agreement.

Hamas arrested a number of the ceasefire violators linked to Fatah and al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades who said they “reject the extortion and crackdown against its members and leaders” in Gaza. The ceasefire is designated to halt Palestinian rocket attacks on Israel from Gaza, and in return, Israel has to open commercial crossings into the Hamas-controlled region.

MNA/Xinhua

Mongolia confirms MPRP wins majority in parliament

ULAN BATOR, 15 July — Mongolia’s election commission confirmed on Monday that the ruling Mongolian People’s Revolutionary Party (MPRP) had won a clear majority in Parliament in a 29 June vote, where fraud allegations had led to violence.

The MPRP won 39 seats in the 76-seat Great Hural, with 25 seats going to the main opposition Democratic Party and two to smaller parties.

The results for the remaining 10 seats were in dispute and would be recounted, the commission said. The 10 seats are in three constituencies, though Parliament can meet with only three-quarters of seats filled,

according to Mongolian law. “We have introduced 66 seats to the President and we have told him there are three constituencies in dispute for which we have no final result,” said election commission chief Batgulga.

He added that of the three constituencies, recounts are underway in two, and in one there is a police probe, though he gave no details and did not say how long the recounts would take.

MNA/Reuters

Helicopter crashes over Beijing suburb, pilot killed

BEIJING, 15 July — A helicopter crashed over Jinhai Lake in Pinggu District in the northeastern Beijing suburbs on Saturday morning. Its 37-year-old pilot, surnamed Lu, was killed.

The helicopter was working for the city’s horticulture and forestry department. The cause of the accident was not immediately known.

A 10-kilovolt high-tension transmission line was broken in the crash, causing a localized black-out, the Beijing Electric Power Company said. It added that repairs were in progress and power could be restored within about three hours.

MNA/Xinhua



A customer at Black Magic Chimney and Fireplace holds a handful of wood pellets for a stove at the store in Cambridge, Massachusetts on 10 July, 2008. Record prices for home heating oil are rippling across America’s northern regions, stoking demand for wood stoves and other alternatives, and forcing some traditional heating oil companies out of business. —XINHUA

Gifted education more important in globalized world

SINGAPORE, 15 July—Singapore's Education Minister Ng Eng Hen on Monday said it is becoming more important to develop gifted and talented students in the globalized world.

Speaking at the opening of a biyearly Asia-Pacific conference on giftedness, he said history reminds us repeatedly that the actions and ideas of a select few can have an enormous impact on millions, and they are the

ones who can help produce breakthrough solutions to many problems in a fast changing and complex world.

"In today's innovation-driven economy, nations worldwide and regardless of political orientation have recognized the need to put into place specialized programmes to systematically nurture their best young minds," he said.

The minister also said the gifted education

programme (GEP) retains an important place in the Singapore education system. This programme was introduced 25 years ago to cater to the intellectually gifted students in Singapore.

"For Singapore, where human capital is our most precious resource, we need every Singaporean to find his or her talents from a young age, and develop them as far as possible," he said.

Xinhua



People are seen in front of an Airbus A380 airplane during preparations on the eve of the Farnborough aerospace show, in Farnborough, England, on 13 July, 2008.—INTERNET

All items from Xinhua News Agency

China's farm trade deficit up 14.3 times in first five months

BEIJING, 15 July—China's trade deficit in agricultural products rocketed 14.3 times on the year-earlier level to 7.57 billion US dollars in the first five months of this year, sources with the Ministry of Agriculture said on Sunday.

Foreign trade in agricultural products amounted to 39.93 billion

US dollars in the five-month period, a growth of 36.1 per cent year-on-year. The total included 16.18 billion US dollars in export value, up 12.2 per cent, and 23.75 billion US dollars in import value, up 59.2 per cent.

The five months saw the nation's net cereal exports decline drastically and trade deficit in animal

by-products increase rapidly.

Between January and May, China exported 1.19 million tons of cereals, down 76.6 per cent from the year-earlier level, but imported 911,000 tons, up 14.2 per cent.

The net exports stood at 276,000 tons, down 93.5 per cent.

Xinhua

Iran discovers new billion barrel oil field in southwest

TEHRAN, 15 July—Iranian Oil Minister Gholam Hossein Nozari said on Sunday that Iran has discovered a new oil field in the southwest province of Khuzestan with in-place reserves of 1.1 billion barrels.

The field, which is located near Andimeshk in Khuzestan, holds an estimated reserve of 233 million barrels of recoverable crude oil, state

television quoted Nozari as saying. The oil discovered in the new field is light crude with an API gravity of 33 degrees, the Iranian oil minister said.

Commenting on current status of the oil market, he said the situation is good and there

is no shortage on the market.

Iran is the fourth-largest oil producer in the world and ranks second in output among the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) members.—Xinhua

Russian-Czech deal tops trade list in arms fair

NIZHNY TAGIL (Russia), 15 July — Russian and foreign weapon makers inked a series of agreements at an arms fair in this Ural Mountains city with a Russian-Czech deal topping the contract list, organizers said on Saturday.

According to the contract, the Czech Republic will provide 30 million euros (47 million US dollars) worth of machinery and a credit loan of the same value for the renovation of Uralvagonzavod, Russia's largest tank maker located near the once secret city of Nizhny Tagil, some 1,500 kilometres east of Moscow.

Delegates from 15 countries held talks with Russian weapon makers during the four-day exhibition of Russian export arms, defence and protective means that ended on Wednesday and involved 463 Russian and foreign companies, organizers said.—Xinhua



Iraqi men sit in front of warehouse searched by US soldiers of the 2nd Brigade, 1st Armour Division and Iraqi army soldiers in Baghdad's Sadr City on 13 July, 2008.—INTERNET

Three PKK rebels killed in southeastern Turkey

ANKARA, 15 July — Turkish security forces Sunday killed three rebels of the outlawed Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) during a clash in southeastern Turkey, the semi-official Anatolia news agency reported.

The clash occurred on Incebel Mountains in Beytusebap town of Simak Province at 13:15 local time (1015 GMT) during an operation staged by the Turkish security forces, according to the report.

The PKK, listed by the United States and Turkey as a terrorist group, took up arms against Turkey in 1984 with the aim of creating an ethnic homeland in the southeast. — Xinhua



Revelers enjoy as they sing a song during the San Fermin fiestas in Pamplona northern Spain, on 13 July, 2008.

The fiestas 'Los San Fermes' held since 1591, attracts tens of thousands of foreign visitors each year for nine days of revelry, morning bull-runs and afternoon bullfights.

INTERNET

Media under colonialists’ influence, incapable of undermining Myanmar’s nationalistic fervour (1)

Tekkatho Myat Thu

News is an event that has happened recently. In this regard, the event must be the one that has taken place recently, that is not known to the people yet, and that the people should know. If so, such news has all characters a news story must have.

News stories, good or bad, take place one after another locally and globally at all time. Anyhow, news sense is essential for human beings. Such affairs as survival, development, and upgrading of towns and villages, and security and peace are based on news sense.

Researchers carry out innovations based on the inventions and innovations of others. In that way, the standards of the world’s education, innovations and culture are improving gradually. So, news and information is essential for intellectual nourishment of man.

In early history, human beings relied on stories that were passed from one person to another orally for news and information. Man sent information from one to another by burning a heap of dry leaves to indicate the location, composing songs in combination with facts about information, and using birds.

Needs on news led to literature, printing and paper-making methods, followed by newspapers. China in the eastern hemisphere and Europe in the western hemisphere of the world are the regions that used newspapers first in the world. Today, every country publishes newspapers with the use of modern offset printing presses, and sends news through mass media such as radio, television and Internet. Thanks to satellites, a part of the world can know all the news that happens in any other part. So, today is called IT Age as well as ICT Age.

The world has a long history about news and newspaper. All that long history cannot be explained at one sitting. I would like to present some salient points in this regard. In the past, world famous journalists respected the code of press ethics: inserted

stories are to be factually accurate, and no facts are to be willfully distorted. Therefore, today’s bona fide media are to report authentic news stories without any bias and blackouts.

There were lots of partialities in collecting and reporting news in the world. Some journalists came to distort news stories and indoctrinate world people. When a scientist or expert discovered a new science or technology or invented a new machine, covetous and rapacious persons abused the discoveries, instead of serving the interests of mankind. So, the discovery of atomic energy led to production of atomic bombs and nuclear bombs, and killing and threatening world people. For example, the US dropped two atomic bombs: one on Hiroshima on 6 August and another on Nagasaki on 9 August 1945, thereby killing about 400,000 people. There have been many evidences on attacks launched with the use of chemical weapons and biological weapons.

A journalist can gain merits by reporting news as it really is. If he distorts the news story to indoctrinate the readers, it is a demerit. So, news should not be misused. There is nothing more ignoble than the abuse of news for self-interests. And such a case is not the work of civilized persons.

There have been many events in which news was distorted. For instance, in the World War II, German dictator Hitler misused media (periodicals and radio) to defeat his enemy countries (the Allies such as US, Britain and France) while occupying old colonies of the colonizers with the intention of colonizing the whole world. He indoctrinated the servicemen, governments and peoples of the Allies by giving true news stories first, then distorted news.

After the World War II, there broke out the Cold War between the Socialist (Leftist) Bloc, known as the East Bloc led by the Soviet Union and the Capitalist (Colonialists) (Rightist) Bloc known as the West Bloc

led by the US. Throughout the Cold War period, the West Bloc especially the US applied media weapons. Today, the world has seen abuse of media for hegemony, interfering in and manipulating internal affairs of other countries, and exploiting the situations, more than ever.

Due to the inventions of scientists, the world started to enjoy radio services. Songs were broadcast to entertain the people. Then, educative programmes were broadcast to educate the people. And then, interesting news stories including weather reports were broadcast to inform the people.

Later, greedy persons started to misuse radio services in the economic, military and political sectors. A high-ranking official J Hay who had served for many years in Scotland Yard of Britain after his retirement became an adviser to the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC). Working there, he came to notice the vast atmosphere and popularity of broadcasting enterprise. So, he made a written remark that radio broadcasting service was effective; that it was easy to enter the airwaves of various regions and countries of the world without any visa; that the airspace of any countries could be entered without restriction to ingress or egress; that any news stories could be known to the whole world; and that so radio broadcasting service had to be used as a political weapon. Since then, western media have become political, economic and military weapons rather than media machinery.

A Myanmar delegation led by Major-General Aung San held a meeting with British Prime Minister Attlee in London in the end of 1946 for independence. After Aung San-Attlee Agreement was reached, Major-General Aung San wanted to inform the reaching of the agreement to Myanmar as soon as possible. At that time, there was no satellite communication system or London-Yangon direct flight. He tried to send a message of good news to the people through BBC. With great pleasure, Myanmar nationals U Tin Maung and U Khin who at that time were serving for BBC took the message. However, authorities of BBC cut some sentences from the message and asked him to add some points to it. So, he flew into rage and the message was not broadcast in the end. Since pre-independence period, Myanmar and BBC have not got along with each other.

BBC, VOA, and other media incited internal armed struggle line, local riots, nationalist Chinese troops’ invasion of Myanmar, insurgency of national expatriates, and 1988 unrest and are disrupting Myanmar’s efforts for transition to democracy. It is known to all, so I do not want to present those incidents in detail.

In the past, world famous journalists respected the code of press ethics: inserted stories are to be factually accurate, and no facts are to be willfully distorted. Therefore, today’s bona fide media are to report authentic news stories without any bias and blackouts.

Translation: MS
(To be continued)



Sayadaw Bhaddanta Panna Dipa presents a bronze Buddha Image to Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung.— NLM

Objectives of the 16th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions

1. Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
2. Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
3. Keeping genuine patriotism based on national solidarity alive and dynamic
4. Turning out younger generation who will continue to safeguard the national culture and character



Diamond Bud being conveyed. —NLM

Sermon to be delivered

YANGON, 15 July—Presiding Nayaka Tipitakadhara Dhammabandagarika Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Vayaminda (Yesagyo Sayadaw) of Tipitaka Gantawin monastery in Dagon Myothit (East) and member of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhammajotikadhaja Presiding

Nayaka Sayadaw Bhaddanta Garava of Mahazawtika Yama monastery in Monywa, Sagaing Division, and Presiding Nayaka of Neikban monastery in Seikkan Township Bhaddanta Vasava will deliver sermon at the Dhammayon on the platform of Botahtaung Kyaikday-at Pagoda on 17 July 2008.

MNA

Storm-hit pagoda in Kawhmu gets new umbrella

YANGON, 15 July — A new pagoda umbrella was hoisted atop a storm-hit pagoda in Myogon Village, Kawhmu Township, today. Kyaiktago Htutkaung Pagoda was damaged by the storm. Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint and donors

Dr Khin Shwe of Zaygabar Co Ltd and family presented the religious objects including the umbrella to Kyaikhtisaung Sayadaw Bhaddanta Panna Dipa.

Afterwards, they conveyed the religious objects around the pagoda clockwise and hoisted atop the pagoda.

NLM

Coord meeting on higher output of oil and natural gas held

NAY PYI TAW, 15 July—Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise under the Ministry of Energy held a coordination meeting on higher output of oil and gas at the ministry here this morning, with an address by Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi.

Also present were Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Than Htay, Directors-General and Managing-Directors of departments and enterprises under the ministry, and personnel.

In his address, Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi said that the price of crude oil in the global market is soaring, efforts are to be made for higher output of oil and natural gas for domestic consumption

and systematic management is to be made at different levels to ensure eradication of corruption and wastages as well. He called for higher output of oil and natural gas by applying modern techniques and made plans for exploring and drilling new oil fields.

Next, officials concerned reported on production of petroleum and plans for boosting production of oil and natural gas and Managing-Director, directors of MOGE, Director-General of Energy Planning Department and the deputy minister made supplementary reports.

The meeting ended with the concluding remarks of the minister.

MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi delivers an address at coordination meeting of MOGE.—MNA

MWAF gives educative talks

YANGON, 15 July — The working group for Nationalities Affairs of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation conducted educative talks at the central training school of the education and training department under the Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs here yesterday.

The responsible personnel of

MWAF and the trainees of the training schools under the department attended the talks. On the occasion, head of the working group Daw Kyin Khine made a speech and Prof Daw Shein Paing of Chin State Organizer gave talks on the responsibilities of woman.

After the ceremony, the personnel of MWAF encouraged the trainees learning tailoring and wicker works.—MNA



MWAF educative talks in progress.—MNA



Prime Minister General Thein Sein pays homage to Shwedagon Pagoda. — MNA

Prime Minister inspects ...

(from page 1)
Next, the Prime Minister and party heard a report presented by Chairman of Work Committee for All-round Renovation of Shwedagon Pagoda Deputy Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun on religious buildings that were damaged in the storm.
The deputy commander said that the umbrella of the pagoda was not damaged although it was hit by the storm on 2 May, durability of the (Htidaw) umbrella was recorded by Concordia Co with the use of modern devices, repair of damaged recycling pagodas, prayer hall and archways, arrangements for all-round renovation of the pagoda including offering gold

robes to it.
Later, Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence and officials reported on all-round renovation of the pagoda including maintenance of the umbrella.
In response to the reports, the Prime Minister stressed the need for officials concerned to coordinate with technicians for the lasting existence of the pagoda.
Next, officials concerned conducted the Prime Minister and party round the pagoda. The Prime Minister inspected documentary photos on all-round renovation of the pagoda and keeping of jewels and gold plates that fell on the ground due to the storm.
(See page 9)



Prime Minister General Thein Sein inspects former Hluttaw building on Pyay Road.

MNA





Prime Minister General Thein Sein pays homage to Padamya Myatshin Buddha Image at Shwedagon Pagoda.

MNA

Prime Minister inspects ...

(from page 8)

Afterwards, Prime Minister General Thein Sein and party on the upper terrace looked into all-round renovation of the pagoda. They offered food, light, flowers and water to Padamya Myatshin Buddha image on the upper terrace.

Next, the Prime Minister and party viewed all-round renovation tasks on the middle terrace and gave necessary instructions.

On arrival at the Former Pyithu Hluttaw building on Pyay Road, they inspected the archway building.

At the briefing hall, Director-General of Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development U Aung Win reported to the Prime Minister and party on the Hluttaw building damaged in the storm and renovation measures. Next, Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence gave a supplementary report.

After inspecting the Pyithu Hluttaw building, Prime Minister General Thein Sein gave necessary instructions to officials.—MNA

Ayeyawady, Chindwin below danger level

NAY PYI TAW, 15 July—The water level of Chindwin river at Homalin has fallen below its danger level from yesterday afternoon. The water levels are forecast to fall below their respective danger levels of Mawlaik during the next 2 days, Kalewa and Monywa during the next 24 hours.

The water level of Ayeyawady river at Nyaung Oo is falling by 1 cm/hr and it is forecast to fall below the danger level of Nyaung Oo during the next 24 hours.

The water level of Ayeyawady river at Hinthada is reaching the danger level. It is expected to rise 30 cm (about 1 ft) more and starting to fall again on 18 July.

MNA

Religious buildings seen after being repaired at Shwedagon Pagoda. — MNA



High tide warning

YANGON, 15 July—High tide in Yangon River may reach from 20.2 feet to 20.3 feet above the basic level on 20 and 22 July, said the Myanmar Port Authority today. But there is no need to worry about the high tide as the water level had already reached up to 21.7 feet in 2006 and 2007, the MPA assured. News about the tide was released as a routine duty as the water level has risen over 20 feet, it said.

MNA

More international relief supplies arrive at Ygn Int'l Airport

YANGON, 15 July—Relief supplies for storm-affected regions continued to arrive here from abroad. A total of 77.17 tons of relief supplies donated by Thailand-based the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) arrived at Yangon International Airport today.—MNA

Faculty members urged to make endeavours for establishment of education system to serve interest of nation and people

NAY PYI TAW, 15 July —The conclusion of Special Refresher Course No. 10 for faculty members was held at Yadana Hall of Central Institute of Civil Service (Upper Myanmar) in PyinOoLwin Township, Mandalay Division yesterday.

On behalf of Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein delivered an address.

Also present were Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun, Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung, Chairman of Mandalay City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han, the deputy ministers, the deputy chief justice of Upper Myanmar, members of Civil Service Selection



Minister Dr Chan Nyein speaks at the concluding ceremony of special refresher course No. 10 for faculty members.—MNA

and Training Board, departmental heads, local authorities, Rector of CICS (Upper Myanmar) U Aung Hsan Win, the pro-rector, heads of departments, instructors and trainee teachers.

In his address, Minister Dr Chan Nyein said nowadays the government is building better political, economic and social foundations for

national development in accord with the national objectives.

He spoke of the need for the university students to enhance the basic foundations. He said the intellectuals and intelligentsia produced by the colleges and universities must be suitable for Myanmar society that gradually developed with the support

of modern technology.

With the economic progress, improved international relations, wider economic and social cooperation among the nations, the respective universities and colleges are to make efforts for emergence of infrastructures in accord with the changing administration, transport, communications, trade,

investment and monetary management, he said.

Moreover, higher institutions should try to improve the respective fields for application of high technology in agriculture, livestock breeding, forestry, mineral, industrial and social sectors.

Efforts are to be made for producing qualified technocrats high-tech production enterprises

need.

In conclusion, the minister urged the faculty members to try to make efforts for establishment of an education system that serves the interest of the nation and people.

Next, the minister presented prizes to outstanding trainees.

The minister and the guests greeted the trainee teachers.—MNA

Htoo Trading, Air Bagan participate in rehabilitation work in Bogale

YANGON, 14 July —The employees of Htoo Trading and Air Bagan Co Ltd participated in the relief and rehabilitation work for storm-hit people of Bogale Township in Ayeyawady Division in May.

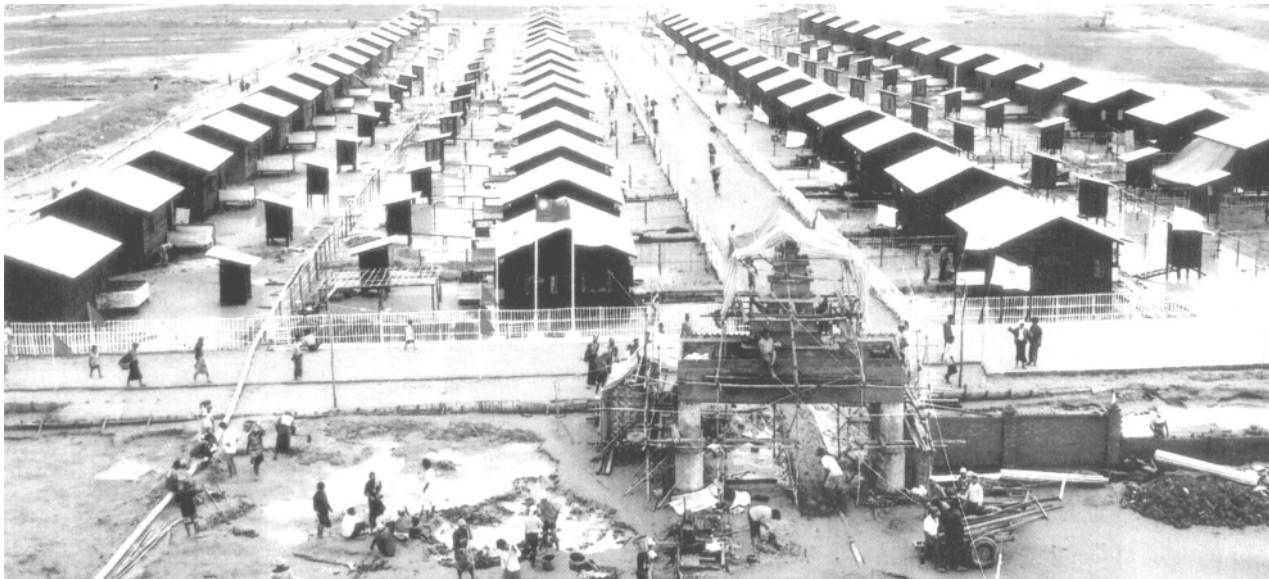
They had repaired and constructed hospital, primary schools, departmental offices,

religious buildings, temporary schools, clinics, water-purifying factory, bridge and jetty in the township up to dated.

Htoo Trading and Air Bagan Co Ltd donated K 300 million to the National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee to be spent on the rehabilitation

works in the storm-affected regions.

They also donated K 120 million to Ngapudaw, K 100 million and relief aid to Bogale and K 100 million and relief aid to Pyapon townships in Ayeyawady Division and K 100 million to Thanlyin, relief item to Hline, Kamayut and Thakeyta townships.



Houses constructed by Htoo Trading and Air Bagan Co Ltd at Kyeinchaunggyi Village in Bogale Township.—NLM

Level.O.Cricket Coaching Course opens

YANGON, 15 July—With a view to promoting cricket sport in Myanmar, Level.O.Cricket

They transported relief aids to storm-affected regions by plane, boat and vehicle of the company and provided power tillers to the residents.

MNA

Coaching Course will be conducted under the arrangement of Asian Cricket Council and Myanmar Cricket Federation from 16 July to 18 July in Taunggyi and from 20 July to 23 July in Yangon.

ACC Cricket Development Officer Mr

Aminul Islam who will coach the course arrived here by air yesterday evening. Level.O.Cricket Coaching Course starts in the playground of Taunggyi on 16 July. A total number of 30 trainees including students will attend the course.

MNA



Vice-President of Myanmar Cricket Federation U Maung Maung welcomes ACC Cricket Development Officer Mr Aminul Islam at the airport.—MCF



Plainclothes police inspect a car during elections for four vacant parliamentary seats in Alexandria, some 220 km (137 miles) northwest of Cairo, on 13 July, 2008. —INTERNET

Syria's Assad says Israel peace possible within two yrs

PARIS, 15 July— Syrian President Bashar al-Assad said it could take between six months to two years to reach a peace agreement with Israel if the two sides, who have held indirect negotiations, agreed to face-to-face talks.

“Signing a peace accord with Israel ... it’s a question that requires six months to two years maximum if both parties are serious in engaging

direct talks,” Assad said on Sunday, speaking through a translator on France 2 television.

The Syrian President, who is in France for a summit of EU and Mediterranean leaders, also repeated a previous assertion that he did not believe direct talks could start until US President George W Bush left office next January.

It was not immediately

clear if the clock for his timeframe for a possible deal would only start once the face-to-face talks began and Israel urged Syria on Sunday not to drag its feet.

“We are serious about peace. It would be a pity to let the current opportunity fall by the wayside,” a spokesman for Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said when asked about Assad’s television interview.

He added that Olmert had conveyed a message to the Syrian leader earlier in the day through Turkish Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan and said now was the time to move. —MNA/Reuters

Chavez says oil could reach \$300

MARACAIBO, 15 July— Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez said on Sunday oil prices could hit 300 US dollars per barrel if US oil company Exxon Mobil again freezes Venezuelan assets in a dispute over a nationalized oil project.

Exxon won court orders freezing 12 billion US dollars in assets held by Venezuelan state oil company PDVSA after the OPEC nation took over a multi-billion dollar oil project, heightening tensions with the United States and helping to raise oil prices.

A London court later overturned Exxon’s temporary asset freeze, but Chavez said the company could seek further action against Venezuela.

“If they freeze us there will be no more oil for the United States, and the price will go to 300 US dollars,” Chavez said

during a televised meeting with Caribbean and Central American leaders as part of an energy cooperation scheme called Petrocaribe.

Chavez also said oil prices were being influenced by a “speculative bubble”, the collapse of which could send prices as low as 70 US dollars per barrel.

MNA/Reuters



Photo taken on the on 13 July, 2008 shows a new bus station for the Olympic bus line in construction in Beijing, capital of China.

XINHUA

US Green Party names McKinney as presidential pick

CHICAGO, 15 July — The US Green Party, which captured far less than 1 per cent of the vote in the last presidential election, chose former Democratic Representative Cynthia McKinney as its 2008 presidential candidate on Saturday.

McKinney, 53, will be joined on the ticket for the November election by vice presidential candidate Rosa Clemente, a hip-hop artist and activist.

McKinney received 313 out of 532 votes cast at the party’s nominating convention in Chicago, party spokesman Scott McLarty said.

In 2004, the Green Party drew 119,859 votes, or 0.1 per cent of the total, finishing in sixth place behind the two major parties and three other third-party tickets.

MNA/Reuters

Obama’s lead over McCain narrows in “Newsweek” poll

WASHINGTON, 15 July— Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama leads Republican opponent John McCain by 3 percentage points in a *Newsweek* poll released on Sunday, a marked change from the Democrat’s 15-point lead last month.

Illinois Senator Obama captured 44 per cent of

respondents’ support in the poll, compared to Arizona Senator McCain’s 41 per cent, a statistically-insignificant margin, the magazine said on its Website. Fifteen per cent were undecided.

A 20 June *Newsweek* poll showed Obama leading, 51 per cent to 36 per cent for McCain.

In the new poll, 53 per cent of voters, including 50 per cent of those who formerly supported Obama’s Democratic rival Hillary Clinton, believe that Obama has changed his position on key issues in order to gain political advantage, the magazine said.

MNA/Reuters

World economy between recession and inflation

YALTA (Ukraine), 15 July — The world economy remains stuck “between the ice of recession and the fire of inflation”, IMF Managing Director Dominique Strauss-Kahn said on Friday.

Strauss-Kahn, addressing a conference in Ukraine’s Black Sea resort of Yalta, said the world financial market crisis was largely over, though its consequences

would be felt for some time to come.

Emerging market economies, he said, were experiencing good growth, though inflation, linked to high oil and food prices, remained a serious problem.

“The biggest part of the crisis is probably behind us,” Strauss-Kahn said.

“Some parts could be still in front of us. The

economic consequences of the crisis are obviously in front of us.”

He described the world response to the crisis as “broadly adequate. The central banks collaborated well together and finally they solved the question that avoided a crisis.” But conditions in the world economy remained troubling.

MNA/Reuters



A fisherman rests on a bank at the flooded watersides of the Ceresio lake in Agno, Switzerland, on 13 July, 2008. Heavy rainfalls hit the south of Switzerland and caused obstructions of traffic by floods and landslides.—INTERNET

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV LU SHAN VOY NO (093)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV LU SHAN VOY NO (093) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16.7.2008 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of B.S.W.3 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
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S COSCO SHIPPING CO, LTD
Phone No: 256919/256916/256912

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV KOTA TAMPAN VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TAMPAN VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived on 16.7.2008 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
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
HOLIDAY NOTICE

As the wharves, warehouses and Chellan offices of Yangon Port will be closed on the 17th July 2008 (Full Moon of Wasoday) and 19th July 2008 (Martyr Day) being the public Holidays, Goods will be received, shipped of delivered on payment of Holiday fees.



The bride, Dafina Grozdanovska, 25, center, is presented by the best man, right, during the traditional Galicnik wedding in the village of Galicnik, Macedonia, on 13 July, 2008. —INTERNET

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myint.advocate@mptmail.net.mm
Ph : 371 990 16.July.2008

Drive with care

Mexico gunmen kill youths, take hostages

MEXICO CITY, 15 July—Gunmen killed eight youths and a police chief and took dozens of restaurant patrons hostage for hours in two attacks in the drug gang-ridden state of Sinaloa, officials said on Sunday.

A group of hitmen sprayed four cars with bullets on a busy street in the city of Guamuchil in the early hours of Sunday, killing five young men and three female minors, a police source told *Reuters*.

In an earlier attack on Saturday, six other armed men caused pandemonium in the Pacific port city of Mazatlan by taking refuge in a shopping mall to escape security forces after they shot dead local police chief Sixto Escobedo when he resisted their attempt to kidnap him.

The attackers, dressed in police uniforms, took some 40 people hostage in a restaurant inside the mall while they negotiated their escape with police.

MNA/Reuters

Nepali CA passes 5th amendment to Interim Constitution

KATHMANDU, 15 July—Nepali Constituent Assembly (CA) on Sunday evening passed the fifth amendment to the Interim Constitution in capital Kathmandu.

The bill was adopted with 442 votes in favour and seven in objection.

The 601-seat CA, declared Nepal a federal democratic republic in its first meeting on 28 May, is supposed to draft a new constitution for the country in two years.

Madhesi parties, which hold over 80 seats, boycotted the CA meeting, saying the amendment bill tabled by the government failed to address their demands, among which was the establishment of an autonomous region in south Nepali Terai plains area. — *MNA/Xinhua*

UK police charge 2nd man in murders of French students

LONDON, 15 July—British police charged a second suspect on Saturday in the frenzied murders of two French students, which caused shock on both sides of the Channel.

London’s Metropolitan Police said they had charged 23-year-old Daniel Sonnex with the murders of 23-year-old students Laurent Bonomo and Gabriel Ferez and with attempting to pervert the course of justice.

Earlier this week police charged Nigel Edward Farmer, 33, with the two murders, as well as arson and attempting to pervert the course of justice. Another man and a woman have also been arrested and freed on bail but were not charged.

Police have previously described the 29 June murders as among the most gruesome crimes they ever encountered.

The pair were tied up, stabbed scores of times and the apartment was set ablaze. The slayings took place at a time when there has been a wave of knife crime in the British capital, drawing attention from the media and politicians.

Prime Minister Gordon Brown, has promised to announce new crime-fighting measures next week.— *MNA/Reuters*

Vietnamese Govt urges administrative reform nationwide

HANOI, 15 July—The Vietnamese Government, regarding simplification of state management-related administrative procedures as its focal task from now to the end of 2010, has urged ministries and localities nationwide to speed up the reform, local newspaper (*Family and Society*) reported Monday. Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung has instructed ministers and chairpersons of the People’s Committees of cities and provinces to strictly deal with state cadres who unintentionally or deliberately hinder the implementation of a national plan on simplifying administrative procedures relating to state management in the 2007-2010 period.

The prime minister has asked them to lead the implementation of the plan in their sectors or localities, and coordinate with working teams of the government on the issue. All wrongdoings related to administrative reform should be reported to him.

MNA/Xinhua

EU resumes fishery imports from Uruguay

MONTEVIDEO, 15 July—The European Union (EU) resumed fish imports from Uruguay Sunday after several months of suspension, Uruguayan authorities said. Daniel Montiel, director of the Uruguay’s National Direction of Aquatic Resources (Dinara), told the Press that 100 tons of fish were to be loaded to Europe.

The EU banned fishery imports from Uruguay after its health inspectors visited eight fishing companies and blocked imports from four for sanitarian reasons in February.

The Dinara, making its own inspections after the EU sanctions, suspend the rest while making efforts to solve the problems and resume exports.

MNA/Xinhua

Maldives minister quits over tourism resorts plan

COLOMBO, 15 July—Maldives Tourism Minister Mahmoud Shaugee said on Sunday he had resigned from the government over plans to lease more than 30 new resorts to make up for a 180-million-US-dollar budget shortfall.

“The submission of my resignation is now official. I submitted it on 3 July,” Shaugee told *Reuters*.

“My intention today is not to challenge the government, but we have differences of opinion—on policy issues.”

It was not immediately clear if President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom had accepted the resignation, which follows that of Finance Minister Gasim Ibrahim on Thursday.

Shaugee’s resignation follows the government’s decision earlier this month to lease 31 new resorts to bridge a 180-million-US-dollar shortfall in revenues.

MNA/Reuters



Three white lion cubs play at a wildlife zoo in Schloss-Holte Stukenbrock of Germany on 14 July, 2008. —XINHUA

Sierra Leone seizes 700 kilos of cocaine at airport

FREETOWN, 15 July — Sierra Leone made its biggest catch of cocaine on Sunday when it seized 700 kilos (1,545 pounds) of the drug on a plane which landed at Lungi international airport, a senior official said.

Impoverished West Africa, with its ungarded coastline and sparsely populated interior, has become an important trafficking route for Latin American drug runners into lucrative European markets.

“It’s the biggest catch ever, we weighed the stuff and it is about 700 kilogrammes,” Assistant Inspector General in charge of crime services Francis Munu told Reuters.

MNA/Reuters

Yahoo rejects joint Microsoft, Icahn proposal

SAN FRANCISCO, 15 July — Yahoo Inc said on Saturday it has rejected a joint proposal from Microsoft Corp and activist investor Carl Icahn that would have involved selling its search business to the software maker.

Yahoo said it received the proposal “for a complex restructuring” on Friday evening and was given less than 24 hours to accept.

It also said Microsoft

and Icahn had made clear they were unwilling to negotiate the fundamental terms.

The Web company, which has been embroiled in on-again, off-again deal talks with Microsoft for six months, said the latest offer was not in the best interest of its shareholders as it carries less financial value and more risk than Yahoo’s current search advertising deal with Google Inc.

Yahoo had signed the deal with Google in June after rejecting an alternative offer from Microsoft to buy Yahoo’s search business and take a minority stake in the company.

The Microsoft/Icahn proposal would also preclude a potential sale of all of Yahoo “for a full and fair price, including a control premium”, Yahoo said in a statement.

MNA/Reuters

Iran ready for fair nuclear talks with Group 5+1

TEHERAN, 15 July — Iranian Government spokesman Gholam-Hossein Elham said on Saturday that Iran is ready for fair talks with Group 5+1 on its nuclear dispute, official IRNA news agency reported.

Addressing a Press conference, Elham said that Iran’s stance on holding fair

talks with UN Security Council permanent members — France, Britain, Russia, China and the United States — plus Germany (Group 5+1) has not changed.

Iran’s stance on the country’s peaceful nuclear activities is transparent and permanent regardless of what others say, he added.

“The Islamic Republic of Iran cannot stand any imposition from the industrialized nations,” Elham said, adding that some effective rational moves have been made by G5+1.

MNA/Xinhua

Limit oil price or face more nuclear power

PARIS, 15 July — Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi said on Sunday oil-consuming countries should meet to fix a maximum price they are prepared to pay for oil, warning otherwise they would have to invest heavily in nuclear power.

Denouncing the “unfair” movement of wealth from consumer nations to oil-producing countries and the “exponential” rise in prices, Berlusconi issued

what he said was a threat to oil exporters, saying his proposal for a meeting had the approval of British Prime Minister Gordon Brown. “Consumer countries need to meet as soon as possible, maybe in London, to reach an agreement on a maximum price for oil which cannot be breached,” Berlusconi

told reporters after a summit of EU and Mediterranean leaders.

“Alternatively, we will need a massive building programme of nuclear power reactors,” he added. Italy halted its nuclear energy programme following the 1986 Chernobyl disaster.

MNA/Reuters

Afghan police discover 109 kilos of opium

KABUL, 15 July — Police in Afghanistan’s southern Helmand Province discovered 109 kilos of opium and took into custody two persons, a Press release of the Interior Ministry said Saturday.

“During a routine checking police checked two persons in Helmand’s provincial capital Lashkargah on Friday and found 109 kilos of opium from their possessions,” the press release added.

Investigation is underway to identify and locate more individuals involved in the illegal business of the drug in the province, it said.

Afghan ministry for counter-narcotics says that poppy harvest would drop this year as 21 out of the country’s 34 provinces have already been announced poppy free. —MNA/Xinhua

Singapore taxi firm to impose diesel surcharge

SINGAPORE, 15 July — Singapore’s taxi company Comfort DelGro said Friday it will impose a diesel surcharge on taxi rides from 17 July to counter the hike in diesel prices.

The taxi operator, which runs a fleet of 14,000 cabs, said the 0.30 Singapore dollar (0.22 US dollar) surcharge is a temporary measure and will be removed when diesel prices fall back to

1.19 Singapore dollars per litre, which was the market price on 17 December last year. Global oil prices have more than doubled in the last 12 months.

And in the last six months, open market pump prices in Singapore have risen by more than 50 per cent to a net price of 1.83 Singapore dollars a litre for diesel fuel, said Comfort DelGro in a statement.

MNA/Xinhua

Kids should work with hands for brains’ sake

LONDON, 15 July — British children’s brain development is being threatened by their failure to work with their hands in school and at home, said a report released on Monday. With woodwork, metalwork, craft, music or car mechanic classes dropped by many schools and children wanting to play computer games at home the UK is becoming a “software instead of a screwdriver society”, said the report, commissioned by the Ruskin Mill Educational Trust.

“Working with one’s own hands in a real-world 3-D environment is imperative for full cognitive and intellectual development,” said the report’s author Dr Aric Sigman. “Research is showing that increasing time spent in the virtual world of computers is displacing hands-on play and hands-on learning.

MNA/Reuters



Photo taken on 14 July, 2008 shows the exhibits in the cultural exhibition hall of Nairobi National Museum in Nairobi, capital of Kenya. —XINHUA

SPORTS

Perry keeps cool for third win

CHICAGO, 15 July— American Kenny Perry won a three-way play-off to win the John Deere Classic at Silvis, Illinois Sunday and claim his third win in his last five PGA events.

Perry went into the final hole with a one-shot lead but made a hash of a chip to the green and bogeyed the 18th to leave him in a three-way play-off with Brad Adamonis and Jay Williamson.

The 47-year-old Perry kept his cool in the play-off, making a par while his two rivals found water and bogeyed.

“I felt like I gave it away and they gave it back to me. But I fought hard, produced key shots at the right time. That was a great win for me,” said Perry.

Williamson’s finish was enough to earn him an invitation to next week’s British Open.

Organizers of the John Deere Classic, in order to attract the best possible field, had organized on a chartered plane to take players directly to Manchester to prepare for the Open. —MNA/Reuters

China’s “crane town” embraces Olympic flame

HARBIN (Northeast China), 15 July — The Olympic torch relay in Qiqihar, the last leg of the torch tour in China’s northernmost Heilongjiang province, starts on Sunday morning.

With vast wetlands in the Zhalong Nature Reserve, which is the main propagating place for national protection animal red-crowned cranes, Qiqihar, a major city in the northeast of China, is commended as “crane town”.

Located in one of the three major black soil zones of the world, Qiqihar is endowed with superior conditions to develop ecological agriculture and green food industry.

Qiqihar, one of the important industrial bases in China, is honored as “Steel Machinery City” as well.

The city, with lots of renowned large metallurgic, forging, refining and heavy equipment manufacturing enterprises, plays a crucial role in Heilongjiang’s economic development and the rejuvenation of old industrial bases. — MNA/Xinhua

Masters champion Immelman feels at ease at Birkdale

SOUTHPORT (England), 15 July— After taking longer than expected to grapple with the repercussions of his surprise US Masters victory in April, South African Trevor Immelman has high hopes for this week’s British Open.

The dapper 28-year-old played the par-70 Royal Birkdale layout for the first time on Sunday and is thrilled to be back at the tournament he cherishes above all others.

“I’ve always said this is my favourite tournament,” Immelman told reporters on a sun-drenched afternoon on north-west English coast.

“I love the history and the tradition behind the Open championship so I’ve put in a lot of effort and hard work preparing for this. Hopefully I can find some form this week.”

Although Birkdale is widely regarded as one of the fairest courses on the championship rota, the South African world number 15 has prepared for a challenging week.

“It’s very difficult,” he said of the 7,173-yard layout. —MNA/Reuters

Teenager Del Potro wins maiden title in Stuttgart

STUTTGART, 15 July— Unseeded Argentine teenager Juan Martin del Potro upset French second seed Richard Gasquet 6-4, 7-5 to win the Stuttgart Cup claycourt event on Sunday.

The towering 1.95-metre tall world number 65 benefited from some erratic play by the French number one to deservedly clinch his first ATP title.

“I always dreamed as a young boy of winning a tournament, and now I’ve done it it’s just unbelievable,” Del Potro, 19, said in an on-court interview.

“I knew I had to serve well to win, and now I can just enjoy it.”

Del Potro showed resilience and steady nerves in both sets.

After breaking Gasquet early on in each, he was pulled back to level terms in the subsequent games.

Rather than folding, he responded with further decisive breaks against the world number 15 in the penultimate game of each set, serving out to love at the end of the second to wrap up his win.

MNA/Reuters

McDowell cruises to victory at Scottish Open

LOCH LOMOND(Scotland), 15 July — Graeme McDowell warmed up in style for Thursday’s British Open by securing a two-shot victory at the Scottish Open, his second European Tour triumph of the season.

The 28-year-old from Northern Ireland fired a closing 68 for a 13-under tally of 271, with Sunday’s first prize of 500,000 pounds (1 million US dollars) all but clinching his place in the Ryder Cup team to face the US in Valhalla, Kentucky in September.

South African James Kingston (66) was second on 273, one ahead of order of merit leader Miguel Angel Jimenez (69) of Spain and Australian left-hander Richard Green (69).

Briton Simon Khan (72), the joint overnight leader with McDowell, claimed the penultimate qualifying spot for the British Open at Royal Birkdale by finishing fifth on 275.

“It’s a massive relief for me,” McDowell told the BBC. “I have never stood on the 72nd tee holding a two-shot lead before. “I don’t think I have ever shaken so much in my life coming down the stretch.

MNA/Reuters

Robredo beats injured Berdych to claim Swedish title

BASTAD (Sweden), 15 July— Spaniard Tommy Robredo won the second Swedish Open title of his career on Sunday, easily beating Tomas Berdych 6-4, 6-1 after the Czech hurt his knee midway through the opening set.

It was the seventh title for the third-seeded 26-year-old, who beat Russian Nikolay Davydenko in the final two years ago when he reached a career-high fifth in the world rankings.

“In 2006, I had the best year of my life. This year, I didn’t play well at the beginning of the season, so I think this win is more important,” said Robredo, who has slipped out of the top 10 and is currently ranked 17th in the world.

“I was a bit lucky today because Tomas Berdych hurt his knee. Still, I’m happy because I’ve had a great week.”

The pair were evenly matched until fourth-seeded Berdych injured himself when he broke back to 3-3 in the first set and took a time-out to have his knee taped.

MNA/Reuters

Mickelson feels ready to launch British Open title push

LOCH LOMOND (Scotland,) 15 July 14 — World number two Phil Mickelson said he felt ready to launch his British Open title challenge at Royal Birkdale on Thursday despite finishing down the field at the Scottish Open.

The American left-hander was unable to take advantage of calm, sunny conditions in Sunday’s final round at Loch Lomond, returning a two-over 73 for a two-under aggregate of 282.

“I had a great week this week even though I didn’t play the way I wanted,” Mickelson told reporters. “I got acclimatized to the time, my body feels good and I had three good days (of practice) at Birkdale before this tournament started.

“This has given me an opportunity to look at my strengths and weaknesses, work on them and see if I can put it all together for the Open.” —MNA/Reuters

Juventus complete Poulsen signing

MILAN, 15 July — Juventus have completed the signing of Sevilla midfielder Christian Poulsen, the Italian club said on Monday.

The Denmark international, 28, has moved for 9.75 million euros (15.32 million US dollars) and penned a four-year deal, the club said in a statement. Juve, who enter the Champions League qualifiers next month after finishing third in Serie A last term, have been seeking a new midfielder throughout the close-season.

Poulsen’s arrival means it is less likely Liverpool’s Xabi Alonso will be moving to Turin while a deal for Inter Milan midfielder Dejan Stankovic also looks dead. Juve fans do not like signing players from bitter rivals Inter and there was anger from some supporters when news leaked of their club’s interest in Stankovic.

MNA/Reuters

UAE shooter takes aim at “wasteful” sports chiefs

DUBAI, 15 July— The United Arab Emirates’ only Olympic medallist has taken a shot at the country’s sports bosses for wasting the legacy of his gold at the Athens Games.

Sheikh Ahmed Al Maktoum, the double trap gold medallist in 2004, is furious at the country’s shooting federation for doing nothing to help the UAE’s marksmen to become future champions.

“After seven long years of hard work, I brought glory to my country in Athens and then they just threw the medal away,” said Sheikh Ahmed, who has come out of retirement in a bid to retain his title at next month’s Beijing Olympics. —MNA/Reuters



Barcelona has received a US\$51m offer for two-time world player of the year Ronaldinho from English Premiership side Manchester City.

INTERNET

First Guantanamo video released

LONDON, 15 July—A videotape of a detainee being questioned at the US prison camp in Guantanamo Bay has been released for the first time.

It shows 16-year-old Omar Khadr being asked by Canadian officials in 2003 about events leading up to his capture by US forces, Canadian media

have said.

The Canadian citizen is accused of throwing a grenade that killed a US soldier in Afghanistan in 2002. He is seen in a distressed state and complaining about the medical care.

The footage was made public by Mr Khadr's lawyers following a Supreme Court ruling in

May that the Canadian authorities had to hand over key evidence against him to allow a full defence of the charges he is facing.

One of those lawyers, Dennis Edney, said that his client was seen in a distressed state because he had been "abused" by his American guards.

Mr Khadr, the only Westerner still held at the jail, was 15 when he was captured by US forces during a gun battle at a suspected al-Qaeda camp in Afghanistan.

During the 10-minute video of his questioning in Guantanamo a year later, he can be seen crying, his face buried in his hands, and pulling at his hair. He can be heard repeatedly chanting: "Help me."

Internet



A videotape showing a detainee being questioned at the US prison camp in Guantanamo Bay.—

INTERNET

The science behind the Aug 1 solar eclipse

NASA, 15 July—A total solar eclipse Aug 1 will be seen only by a handful of observers lucky enough to be in the path, which starts in Canada and runs across the Arctic, through Russia and into China.

For those select few, day will turn to night, the stars will come out (weather permitting), and the moon's blackout of the sun will provide a dazzling visual spectacle that skywatchers will never forget.

The celestial alignment will create a partial eclipse visible across a

broader area, including the far northeastern corner of North America and most of Europe and

Asia. Many people go a lifetime never witnessing a total solar eclipse.

Internet



Harrijasotze (stone lifter) Mikel Saralegi lifts a 100kg stone during an exhibition of traditional Basque sport at the San Fermin festival in Pamplona July 10, 2008. INTERNET

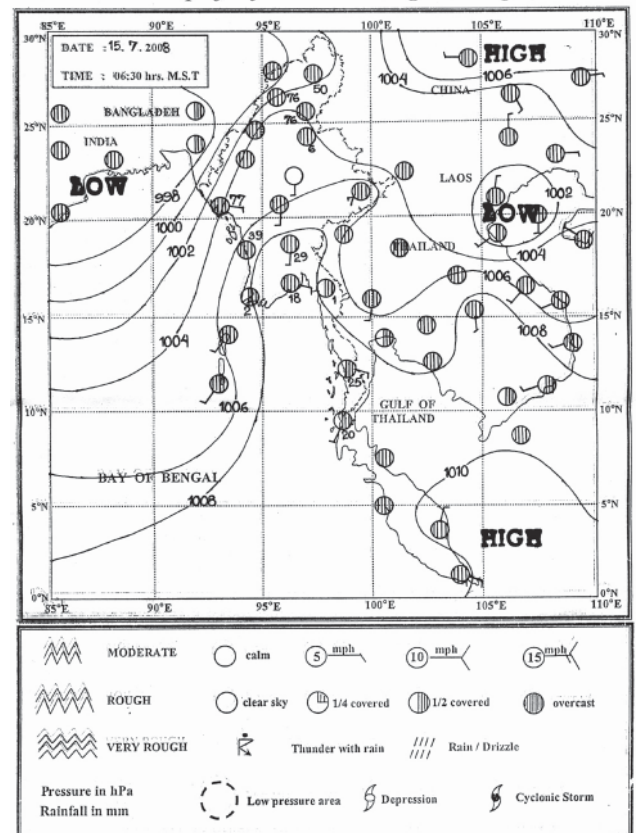
Indonesia to make ASEAN region a car industry hub

JAKARTA, 15 July — Indonesia aims to lead the charge in making the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) an automotive industry production house, the *Jakarta Post* daily quoted Edy Putra Irawady, a deputy to the coordinating minister for industry and trade, as saying Monday.

"Now that we are the leader of the ASEAN automotive cooperative, we have the chance to shape the industry in the region," he said. The cooperative set up in 2002 is hoped to make the ASEAN region a unified automotive industry production hub to strengthen the competitiveness of regional auto suppliers and build the ASEAN-made brand and automotive parts.

MNA/Xinhua

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Tuesday, 15 July, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Magway Division, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Kayah State, lower Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions, scattered in Shan State and upper Sagaing Division, fairly widespread in Chin State, Yangon, Taninthayi Divisions and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions with isolated heavyfalls in Kachin, Rakhine States and upper Sagaing Division. The noteworthy amounts of rainfalls recorded were Nay Pyi Taw (1.02) inches, Hkamti (3.66) inches, Myitkyina (3.15) inches, Sittway (3.11) inches, Kyaukpadaung (2.79) inches, Maungdaw (2.72) inches, Putao (2.21) inches, Hpa-an (2.00) inches and Khayan (1.89) inches.

Maximum temperature on 14-7-2008 was 88°F. Minimum temperature on 15-7-2008 was 70°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 15-7-2008 was 96%. Total sunshine hours on 14-7-2008 was (0.8) hours (approx).

Rainfall on 15-7-2008 was (1.15) inches at Mingaladon, (0.71) inch at Kaba-Aye and (1.07) inches at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was (51.46) inches at Mingaladon, (60.798) inches at Kaba-Aye and (73.98) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (10) mph from Southwest at (14:30) hours MST on 14-7-2008.

Bay inference: Monsoon is weak in the Adaman Sea and moderate to strong in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 16-7-2008: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated to scattered in Shan and Kayah States, lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Divisions, fairly widespread in upper Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions and likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Rakhine and Chin States. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at time Deltic, off and along Rakhine Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 35 to 40 mph. Seas will be slight to moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihoods of decrease of rain in the Eastern and Southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 16-7-2008: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 16-7-2008: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 16-7-2008: Partly cloudy.



Wednesday, 16 July
View on today

7:00 am

1. တောင်တန်းသာသနာပြု ဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်

7:25 am

2. To be healthy exercise

7:30 am

3. Morning news

7:40 am

4. ထွန်းလင်းရောင်ဝါသာသနာ (အပိုင်း-၄)

8:00 am

5. စစ်ကိုင်းတိုင်းမြင်းမူမြို့နယ်၊ ထီးဆောင်းကျေးရွာ ဓမ္မစကြာဝတ်အသင်း၏ ဓမ္မစကြာဒေသနာတော် (အမေးအဖြေ)

8:30 am

6. International news

4:00 pm

1. Martial song

4:10 pm

2. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

4:20 pm

3. Classical Songs

4:30 pm

4. ရန်ကုန်တိုင်းအမှတ်(၃) အခြေစိုက်ပညာဦးစီးဌာန၊ ဆဌမအကြိမ် ဓမ္မစကြာဝတ်ရွတ်ပူဇော်ပွဲ (ဒုတိယဆု)(အထက(၁)ဒဂုံ) (အမျိုးသမီးဝတ်ရွတ်အဖွဲ့)

5:00 pm

5. ဝါဆိုလဘွဲ့တေးများ

5:10 pm

6. Songs to uphold National Spirit

5:20 pm

7. ရှုဖွယ်ရုံလင်အာဆီယံအစီအစဉ်

5:30 pm

8. ရသပေါ်လွင် သရုပ်ဆောင်လွင်ပြင်

6:00 pm

9. Evening news

6:30 pm

10. Weather report

6:35 pm

11. မြန်မာ့ဓလေ့ရိုးရာလက်တွေ့

7:00 pm

12. ထက်မြတ်ပျော်ရွှင် အိမ်ထောင်ရှင်

7:30 pm

13. မဟာဝံသမြတ်ဗုဒ္ဓ (ဒုတိယပိုင်း) (တရားဦးရတနာဓမ္မစကြာနှင့် ဓမ္မဒူတမိန့်ခွန်းတော်) (ဣန္ဒာဆွေစီစဉ်ရေးဖွဲ့ ပူဇော်သည်)

8:00 pm

14. News

15. International news

16. Weather report

17. ဗြိတိသျှမန္တိမ၏ အနှိုင်းမဲ့ရတနာ

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**

INSIDE

Media under colonialists' influence, incapable of undermining Myanmar's nationalistic fervour (1)

150 houses for Kyetsharywama village

YANGON, 15 July—Timber is being transported to Kyetsharywama village in Mawlamyinegyun Township by boat to build 150 houses for storm survivors there.

Up to 14 July, vessels in the township have transported 100 tons of timber to the village.—MNA



New houses for storm survivors in Toe Village in Dedaye Township.

MNA