

Ariyasacçana dassanam, to discern the noble-truths; this is the way to auspiciousness

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Thursday, 24 July, 2008

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

USDA, Red Cross Brigade members from Kachin State honoured

NAY PYI TAW, 23 July—Member youths of Kachin State Union Solidarity and Development Association and members of Red Cross Brigade who participated in relief and rehabilitation tasks in storm-hit areas were honoured at the town hall in Myitkyina on 7 July.

Present on the occasion were Patron of Kachin State USDA Chairman of Kachin State Peace and Development Council Commander of Northern Com-

mand Brig-Gen Soe Win, member of the Secretariat of USDA Kachin State in-charge Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen San Tun, senior military officers, local authorities, social organizations, teachers, trainees from education college and nursing training school, wellwishers and guests.

Commander Brig-Gen Soe Win and Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw delivered speeches. The com-

mander and the minister presented certificates of honour to the USDA and Red Cross Brigade members and gifts and cash award for those who taught the students to gain distinctions in the 2007-2008 matriculation examination to Daw Theingi Win.

Next, six wellwishers presented K 32 million to the education funds through Kachin State Education Officer U Kyaw Win.

MNA

Eastern Shan State makes donations for storm victims

NAY PYI TAW, 23 July—The third cash donation for storm survivors was held at the town hall in Kengtung on 9 July, attended by Chairman of Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council Commander of Triangle Region Command Brig-Gen Kyaw Phyo.

The commander spoke words of thanks for the

donations. Shan State (East) Special Region-4 donated 100 power-tillers worth K 92 million, wellwishers K 9,342,000, Triangle Region Command K 2,178,200, Shan State Women's Affairs Organization and Maternal and Child Welfare Association K 100,000 and Lahu Baptist Christian Association K 300,000. The Commander accepted the

donations and presented certificates of honour to the donors.

Next, the deputy commander accepted K 3,137,700 and relief aids donated by township social organizations, entrepreneurs and wellwishers and presented certificates of honour to them.

After the ceremony, the commander and those present looked into arrangements for delivering 100 power-tillers to the storm-hit areas by truck.

Afterwards, the commander met with members of Shan State (East) Union Solidarity and Development Association who will participate in the rehabilitation tasks in storm-affected regions as the second batch and attended to the requirements.

MNA

Weather Forecast for 24-7-2008

Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area:

Isolated rain or thundershowers.
Degree of certainty is (80%).

Yangon and neighbouring area:

One or two rain or thundershowers.
Degree of certainty is (80%).

Mandalay and neighbouring area:

Isolated rain or thundershowers.
Degree of certainty is (80%).



Commander Brig-Gen Kyaw Phyo inspects a power-tiller.—MNA

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 24 July, 2008

Rebuild embankments for prevention of floods

The government together with wellwishers, companies and social organizations is rendering assistance to the victims in the storm-hit villages in Ayeyawady and Yangon Divisions for their basic needs and conveniences. At the same time, the government is providing the local people with farm implements and other equipment to enable them to continue their businesses such as agriculture, fisheries and salt industry.

Farmers in Pyapon, Bogale, Labutta, Mawlamyinegyun and Ngapudaw Townships are now growing monsoon paddy as they have been provided with power tillers, draught cattle and paddy strains. In Ayeyawady Division over two million acres of monsoon paddy have been grown.

Fishing boats, fibre boats, various kinds of fishing nets, engines and other accessories were handed over to the fishermen in the respective townships and they have resumed their businesses.

Rehabilitation tasks are being implemented speedily for improvement of living standard of local people in the storm-hit areas. Reconstruction of damaged embankments and sluice gates is one of the priority tasks.

Only when damaged embankments are rebuilt in time from five to seven feet above the level with the use of manpower and machinery, can farmland cultivated and under cultivation be protected from floods and the inflow of sea water.

Reconstruction of embankments in Ayeyawady and Yangon Divisions will contribute towards the full cultivation of monsoon paddy and boosting production of paddy.

Ranbaxy Company donates medicines and medical equipment worth K 5.3 million for health care services in storm-hit areas and K 2.1 million for Myanmar Medical Association (Central) building through Chairman Professor Dr Kyaw Myint Naing and executive members of the association on 22 July.—H



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

Commander attends collective growing of physic nut plants

NAY PYI TAW, 23 July— A ceremony to collectively grow physic nut plants was held in Hsaungpyaung village of Shan State (South) on 11 July, attended by Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development

Council Commander of Eastern Command Brig-Gen Ya Pyae, senior military officers, departmental officials at state, district and township levels, members of social organizations and the local people.

First, the commander made a speech and then he and those present collectively grew physic nut and perennial plants.

Upon arrival at Moebye dam, the commander and party inspected water storage,

water supply, durability of the dam, and he inspected lecture halls at Loikaw Technological University. Next, the commander and party paid homage to Hsutaungpyae pagoda in Loikaw.

MNA

Construction materials donated for reconstruction of Shwe Yin Aye Pagoda

YANGON, 23 July— The Dhamma Drum Mountain Social Welfare and Charity Foundation and well-wishers donated construction materials for reconstruction of the religious buildings of Shwe Yin Aye Pagoda in Hlinethaya Township, Yangon North District, that were ravaged in the storm, at the prayer hall of the pagoda yesterday.

Ferkuson Chinese Taipei Buddhist missionary association presented 420 corrugated iron sheets and two tons of iron rods worth K 5.2 million through the chairman of the pagoda board of trustees; and Chairman of the pagoda board of trustees U Kyaw Shwe and family, K 450,000 through Chairman of Township Peace and Development



Chairman of Hlinethaya Township PDC U Khin Thein Maung accepts the donation from Ferkuson Chinese Taipei Buddhist missionary association.—MNA

Council U Khin Thein Maung.

Chairman of Township Sangha Nayaka Committee Bhaddanta Vicitta delivered a

sermon. The well-wishers shared the merits gained.

The Chinese Buddhist missionary association also donated school uniforms, rucksacks, and

raincoats to the students of the monastic education school of Thaunggyi Monastery at Ward 7, Hlinethaya Township.

MNA

CEC Member Deputy Minister attends prize presentation ceremonies

NAY PYI TAW, 23 July—CEC Member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Deputy Minister for Transport Col Nyan Tun Aung and wife Daw Wai Wai paid homage to Buddha Image of Sittathukha Dhammayon in Lonetaw Village of Natogyi Township and donated Waso robes and cash to members of the Sangha on 15 July.

At Kana Village

Affiliated Basic Education High School, the CEC Member attended a ceremony to present prize to outstanding students for 2007-2008 academic years and so did he and his wife at Pynse Village BEHS.

Similarly, they attended a ceremony of presenting prizes to outstanding students at Minywa Village BEHS (Branch) accepting K 75 million donated by

wellwishers to construct a new two-storey school building.

Likewise, the Deputy Minister and wife attended prize presentation ceremonies held at Hsuphyu BEHS (Branch), Wetlu Village BEHS and Pechat Village BEHS (Branch), donated exercise books for respective schools and then accepted cash for them donated by wellwishers.—MNA

In Iraq, Kurds walk out of parliament in protest

BAGHDAD, 23 July — Kurdish lawmakers walked out of parliament Tuesday in protest over a vote on conditions for Iraq's provincial elections that called for ethnic groups to share power in Kirkuk, an oil-rich city that Kurds consider part of their territory. The walkout, which included shouting and accusations of a conspiracy against Kurds, appeared to lessen the chances that the elections would be held this year. No law exists setting out election

procedures. US and Iraqi officials have looked to the provincial balloting in hopes that it would ease tensions among the country's main ethnic and religious factions.

Although the measure Tuesday was passed by parliament through a secret ballot, it requires approval by the three-member presidential council led by Iraqi President Jalal Talabani, a Kurd who is all but certain to reject the legislation.

The contentious issue

was among several points that have delayed a vote on the law that would pave the way for the first local elections since January 2005, when most Sunni Arabs and many Shiite followers of cleric Muqtada Sadr boycotted the vote. US officials believe the participation of such groups could go a long way toward righting the balance of power in provincial politics, in which a small number of parties, mainly Kurdish and Shiite Muslim, have dominated.—*Internet*

Four US soldiers charged in detainee deaths in Iraq

BERLIN, 23 July — Four soldiers have been charged with conspiracy to commit murder in the deaths of detainees in Iraq in 2007, a US military spokesman said Tuesday. Staff Sgt Jess Cunningham, Sgt Charles Quigley, Spc Stephen Ribordy and Spc Belmor Ramos of the 172nd Infantry Brigade were charged under the

Uniform Code of Military Justice, said Lt Col Eric Bloom, spokesman for the Army Joint Multinational Training Command in Grafenwoehr, Germany. The men's hometowns were not given.

Their case now has to be reviewed to determine whether it should be referred to a court-martial, Bloom said. No date has

yet been set for a hearing.

In a statement, the Army said the charges "relate to an incident that occurred during April-May 2007 in Baghdad, Iraq."

The statement gave no further details but, in an earlier release, the Army had said the allegations related to "the deaths of several detainees who were captured as part of combat operations last year."—*Internet*

Spain claims terrorist arrests

LONDON, 23 July—Spanish police have dismantled the Basque separatists' most active guerilla unit, following the arrest of eight suspected ETA members, local media reported.

The alleged leader of the "Vizcaya cell", Arkaitz Goikoetxea, was among those captured during the dawn raids near Bilbao in the early hours of Tuesday morning.

He has been blamed for killing three police officers and a Socialist councillor after the Basque guerillas called off a ceasefire in June 2007, Spanish media said.

The arrests follow the explosion of five small bombs in Spain on Sunday, including four at popular seaside resorts in Cantabria, which were claimed by ETA.

One bomb exploded outside a Barclays bank branch in a town near Bilbao. The attacks marked the beginning of ETA's traditional summer bombing campaign, aimed at hurting tourism—one of Spain's biggest foreign income earners.—*Internet*



Spanish police examine damage to a beach hut shortly after the second of two explosions on the beach at Laredo. —INTERNET

Poll: Most in China happy with country's direction

A Chinese national flag flutters in front of the Olympic Rings installed on the outside of the National Indoor Stadium at the Olympic Green in Beijing on 22 July, 2008. INTERNET



BEIJING, 23 July—Strikingly large numbers of Chinese are happy with their nation's direction and booming economy yet are deeply worried about rising prices, pollution and the gap between the rich and poor, according to a poll released Tuesday.

Two-thirds of Chinese also give their government high marks for handling important problems, the survey by the Pew Research Centre said. Three of four approve of Beijing's policy of limiting most couples to one child, though it's more popular with well-off than

lower-income people.

The findings contrast sharply with recent polling in the US showing large majorities of Americans holding starkly negative views about their country's direction, its leaders in the White House and Congress, and economic conditions.

The Pew survey found overwhelming Chinese optimism about the Olympics, to be held in Beijing next month.

More than nine in 10 Chinese said they think the summer games will be successful and predicted the event will help China's image globally. Eight in 10 expressed personal interest in the games, though a third said too much attention was being paid to them.—*Internet*

Flight with seven congressmen makes emergency landing

NEW ORLEANS, 23 July—A Continental Airlines flight carrying former presidential

candidate Ron Paul and six other members of Congress to Washington, DC, made an emergency landing in New Orleans on Tuesday after a loss in cabin pressure.

The seven congressmen, all from Texas, were trying to get back in time for a Tuesday night vote on an aviation safety bill when the flight landed without incident, a spokesman for one of the representatives said. No injuries were reported among the 128 crew and passengers.

FAA spokeswoman

Lynn Tierney said Flight 458 from Houston initiated a rapid descent to bring the plane to an altitude below where adding oxygen was necessary and was given priority to land at Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport.

Trevor Kincaid, a spokesman for passenger and Rep Nick Lampson, said his boss told him "there was absolutely no panic on the plane." Lampson told Kincaid the plane's oxygen masks dropped down.

Internet



A Saturn Vue plug-in hybrid vehicle, left, is shown with a Smartlet charging station at the Coulomb Technologies exhibit at the Plug-In 2008 conference on plug-in hybrid vehicles on 22 July, 2008, in San Jose, Calif.—INTERNET

Gunmen kill Kurdish journalist in northern Iraq

KIRKUK (Iraq), 23 July—Gunmen killed a Kurdish journalist near the northern city of Kirkuk, a police official said Tuesday.

Soran Mama Hama, a reporter for the Kurdish-language magazine *Leven*, was shot late Monday in the Rasheed Awa village, where many Kurds were forced to relocate when Saddam Hussein sent thousands of Arabs into the oil-rich Kirkuk area to dilute the presence of Kurds and others. Kirkuk police Brig Gen Sarhat Qadir said the motive for the slaying of the 23-year-old journalist was not immediately known. Hama had often covered government corruption for the magazine. He had written an article in the latest issue that was about the involvement of Kurdish officials in prostitution rings, according to the Paris-based advocacy organization.—*Internet*



Cars leaving South Padre Island crowd the outgoing side of the bridge as Tropical Storm Dolly approaches the South Texas coast on 22 July, 2008 in Port Isabel, Texas. Dolly is expected to strengthen into a hurricane before making landfall Wednesday.—INTERNET

Starving bears eat two men at Russian mines

Moscow, 23 July—A pack of enormous bears searching for food killed and ate two men at mines in Russia’s Pacific Kamchatka region and have kept hundreds of geologists and miners from reaching the mine, news agencies reported Wednesday.

A pack of up to 30 Kamchatka bears—which are similar to grizzlies—prowled around two mines of a local platinum mining company where they killed the two guards on Thursday, local officials

were quoted by the Russian ITAR-Tass news agency as saying.

About 400 company workers have refused to return to the mines for fear of the bears, which stand 10 feet tall on their hind legs and weigh up to 1,500 pounds, Interfax reported.

About 10 bears have also been seen near the village of Khailino sniffing fish remains and other garbage.

Village official Viktor Leushkin was quoted by ITAR-Tass as saying that a team of

hunters will be dispatched to shoot or chase off the bears.

“These predators have to be destroyed,” Leushkin was quoted as saying. “Once they kill a human, they will do it again and again.”

Rampant fish poaching in the Kamchatka tundra often forces the bears to seek other sources of food, such as garbage. Bears frequently attack humans in the scarcely populated peninsula region.

Internet



An open-air restaurant in Beijing. The Olympic Games have helped bring high class western cuisine to Beijing but its survival in the home of Peking Duck is far from assured despite a well-heeled potential clientele.—INTERNET

IMF funding ‘fuelling TB deaths’

LONDON, 23 July—Strict conditions on international loans have been blamed for thousands of extra tuberculosis deaths in eastern Europe, and former Soviet republics. Analysts from Cambridge and Yale universities said they had led to less being spent on healthcare.

As a result TB in countries with International Monetary Fund loans rose sharply, they claimed. A UK TB charity backed the Public Library of Science study findings.

The resurgence of TB in eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union has caused widespread concern, particularly as it has coincided with an increase in the number of drug-resistant cases.—Internet



Drug resistant TB is a growing problem.—INTERNET

New technology protects the environment

BELLMORE, NY, 23 July —USA-based PFT Technology has perfected a process that quickly and efficiently detects gas and dielectric fluid leaks in the world’s most bustling cities without excess excavations or system outages. The process will help to maintain a safe and secure power network whilst reducing significant disruption to road users. It will also help save rate payers and utilities money by reducing overall costs to locate leaks. In the past year the detection process has been used to successfully locate leaks in the United States and Great Britain.

PFT Technology’s detection process quickly identifies and narrows the scope of a potential leak area. The detection method begins by injecting non-toxic tracer fluids into underground high-voltage lines insulated with dielectric fluid or gas.

Miles of high-voltage electric lines safely distribute power underground throughout urban areas around the world. They use oil-like dielectric fluid or nitrogen gas to insulate and cool the cable. Using highly sensitive instruments, PFT Technology is then able to detect fluid leaks by searching for the scent of the tracer fluids. The PFT method reduces location time to hours and only uses a single excavation to repair the leaking line.—Internet



A bullet train driver monitors from the control room during a test run of the new railway in Tianjin, the latest high-speed intercity railway transport between Beijing and Tianjin.—INTERNET

UN says 14 million in Africa’s Horn need food aid

MOGADISHU, 23 July—More than 14 million people across the Horn of Africa are relying on food aid and other assistance to survive a devastating drought and rising food prices, aid officials said Tuesday. The crisis is especially dire in Ethiopia and Somalia, two of the poorest countries in the world. Many are surviving on one meal a day; others choose between feeding their children and sending them to school.

“This had led to more than belt-tightening,” Mark Bowden, the UN’s aid chief for Somalia, told journalists in Nairobi, Kenya. “People are reducing their food intake ...

We have only months before we go into a major crisis.” Bowden estimates that 3.5 million people — half of Somalia’s population — will need food assistance by the end of 2008. The UN has issued an aid appeal for \$637 million for Somalia, but so far has gotten about a third of that.

The worldwide food crisis is threatening to push the number of hungry

people in the world toward 1 billion — despite a recent UN summit pledge to reduce trade barriers and boost agricultural production.

In the Horn of Africa, food production is also hampered by drought—a double blow for Ethiopia, Eritrea, Somalia, Kenya and Djibouti. In Ethiopia, more than 80 percent of people live off the land.

Internet

Woman with HIV gets three years for spitting in another woman’s face

COLUMBUS, 23 July —A woman diagnosed with HIV has been sentenced to three years in prison for spitting in another woman’s face and proclaiming “I hope you get AIDS.”

The woman, 43-year-old Audrey D Lewis, pleaded guilty Monday to aggravated assault.

Police said a 24-year-old went to lock the apartment door of a friend who was being arrested 3 Oct for simple battery against Lewis. Assistant District Attorney Doug Breault said Lewis approached the woman and the two began to quarrel.

Breault said Tuesday that Lewis will have to serve the full sentence because she has three prior felonies.

Defence attorney Judy Dunlap said the three years was unwarranted. She said she was hoping for about three months.—Internet



A Palestinian boy climbs on a destroyed section of the border wall at the Rafah crossing between the Gaza Strip and Egypt on 23 July, 2008.—INTERNET

Hitachi, GE to develop smaller nuclear reactors

TOKYO, 23 July—Japan’s Hitachi and US giant General Electric will team up to sell midsize nuclear reactors to meet growing demand for power facilities in Southeast Asia, a Hitachi spokesman said Wednesday.

The move comes as soaring crude oil prices and worries about global warming spur interest in

nuclear power.

The move is aimed at tapping into the markets in countries such as Vietnam, Indonesia, and Thailand, where demand for reactors with output of one million kilowatts or less is expected to grow, spokesman Masayuki Takeuchi said.

“We’ve been developing the core part of midsize nuclear reactors and we

will now work closely with our potential customers over details of reactor designs,” he said.

Hitachi and GE will jointly develop compact and advanced boiling-water reactors to try to meet that need, he said.

Hitachi and GE already have a tie-up that has been focusing on larger nuclear reactors.

Internet



Ed Archer of Hayward, California and some 1,000 Ford Model T owners gather at the week-long Ford Model T’s 100th year anniversary celebration in Richmond, Indiana, on 22 July, 2008. It is the largest gathering of Ford Model Ts since the cars began rolling out of Ford’s Piquette Avenue Plant in Detroit, Michigan in 1908. —INTERNET

WaMu has \$3.33 bln loss, may be cut to “junk”

NEW YORK, 23 July—Washington Mutual Inc, the largest US savings and loan, posted a \$3.33 billion second-quarter loss on Tuesday as souring mortgages forced it to set aside more money for loan losses.

The thrift’s deteriorating health prompted Moody’s Investors Service to say it may downgrade Washington Mutual to “junk” status. Shares of Washington Mutual fell in after-hours electronic trading.

Washington Mutual said its third straight quarterly loss was \$3.34

per share, more than triple the \$1.09 per share loss that analysts on average expected according to Reuters Estimates. Year-ago profit was \$830 million, or 92 cents per share.

The net loss was \$6.58 per share including a one-time adjustment tied to the thrift’s \$7.2 billion capital raising in April from private equity firm TPG Inc and other investors.

Seattle-based Washington Mutual said its retail banking, mortgage and credit card units all lost money in the quarter.

Internet



People walk past a cut out model of the International Finance Complex (IFC) Phnom Penh in Phnom Penh in June. Once sleepy streets in Cambodia’s capital are crammed with construction sites, crowned by towering cranes building the first skyscrapers in the leafy, low-rise city.—INTERNET

As economic woes mount, homeless plan to vote

LOS ANGELES, 23 July—Single mother Mary White worked as a sales clerk until the bank foreclosed on the home she rented.

Tossed out on the street with her six boys, she lost her deposit and her job. Now she is revived up to vote in November. “My situation is going to make me want to vote even more,” she said.

“I want to say that this should not be happening to people in America, and I am very angry and upset about it.”

White, 42, is among many homeless people

eager to cast a vote in an election year dominated by the shaky US economy and a deepening housing crisis.

The US government estimates that more than 400,000 people around the country sleep in homeless shelters each night, with many more on the streets, under bridges and in parked cars.

Advocacy groups say that some 3.5 million Americans will find themselves homeless at some point in a year.

Internet



A girl relaxes in Pompeii, the famous city next to Naples which was destroyed in AD 79 by the eruption of Mount Vesuvius on 17 July, 2008. Nearly 2,000 years after it was buried under a volcanic eruption, the ancient Roman town of Pompeii is being steadily ruined by the modern world. —INTERNET

Toyota may cut global sales goal to 9.5m

DETROIT, 23 July—Toyota Motor Corp (7203.T) may cut its 2008 global vehicle sales target by as much as 350,000 units to about 9.5 million because of declining sales in the United States, Japan and Europe, according to news reports.

The Nikkei reported in its Wednesday morning edition that Toyota plans to cut its global sales goal by 300,000 units to the lower 9.5 million level, while Kyodo News, citing a Toyota executive, said the automaker may cut its target by 350,000 units to 9.5 million.

Toyota will provide an update on its global sales target possibly next week, the executive, who was not identified, said, according to Kyodo.

“With slumps in Germany and other countries in Western Europe dragging on, growth in Russia is not enough to maintain our sales growth,” a senior Toyota official said, according to The Nikkei.

A Toyota US representative declined to confirm or deny the reports.—Internet

Nissan’s Ghosn sees no 2009 US auto recovery

NASHVILLE, 23 July—Nissan Motor Co does not expect US auto sales to bounce back in 2009 after a sharp decline this year, Nissan Chief Executive Carlos Ghosn said on Tuesday.

Ghosn said Nissan expected industrywide US sales to be near 14.3 million units in 2008, down from 16.15 million in 2007. Next year’s tally would be about the same at 14.3 million, he said, adding that the risk was for a lower figure.

“Please be prepared to see a changing forecast,” Ghosn told reporters “I think we are going to have a challenging couple of years.”

Ghosn pursued an unsuccessful partnership bid with GM in 2006 and has said in the past that Renault-Nissan would welcome a North American partner to round out its alliance, spurring speculation of potential tie-ups with Ford Motor Co or Chrysler LLC.

Internet



Chinese workers clean the National Aquatic Centre also known as ‘Water Cube’ at the Olympic Green in Beijing on 21 July, 2008.—INTERNET

Batman star bailed over ‘assault’

LONDON, 23 July— Batman star Christian Bale has been bailed by police after being questioned about allegations he assaulted his mother and sister.

The star, 34, was arrested and held for more than four hours after attending a London police station by appointment.

Mr Bale is alleged to have lashed out at his mother and sister in his suite at London’s Dorchester Hotel on Sunday.



British actor Christian Bale arrives for the European Premiere of ‘The Dark Knight’, in central London, on 21 July, 2008.—INTERNET

The actor, who denies the allegation, has been released on bail until September pending further inquiries.

The Welsh-born actor

is in the UK to promote the latest Batman film, The Dark Knight.

Mr Bale rose to fame as the child star of Steven Spielberg’s Empire of the Sun.

He went on to play Patrick Bateman in American Psycho, and had leading roles in Shaft and Captain Corelli’s Mandolin.

In 2005, he took on the role of the Caped Crusader in Batman Begins and reprised the role in The Dark Knight.—Internet

Extra police on Jerusalem streets after attack

JERUSALEM, 23 July— Extra police were on the streets of Jerusalem on Wednesday, the day after a bulldozer driver attacked several vehicles and injured 16 people before being shot dead, an officer said.

Security concerns were also high because of the visit of US presidential hopeful Barack Obama, who arrived on Tuesday night for an intense day of meetings with Israeli and Palestinian officials.

“We have deployed significant numbers (of police) in Jerusalem, particularly around construction sites, to prevent the repetition of such attacks,” police Major Bruno Stein told public radio.

“Since last night, we have taken adequate measures, particularly by systematically checking

the identities of employees on these sites.”

Tuesday’s attack was by a Palestinian construction worker from occupied east Jerusalem who copied one just three weeks ago, in which another worker killed three people and wounded

30 others when he rammed a bulldozer into buses and cars before being shot dead.

Stein said the “recent attacks carried out in Jerusaolem were the work of isolated individuals and not organizations.”

Internet

Seven pandas remain at famed breeding centre in China

BEIJING, 23 July — Only seven pandas remain at China’s most famous breeding centre, after a final group of 13 animals were transferred from the earthquake-damaged facility, an official said Tuesday.

Most of the pandas at the Wolong Nature Reserve, tucked in the lush mountains of Sichuan province, had already been moved following the powerful 12 May quake that rattled Sichuan province and killed nearly 70,000 people.

The quake killed at least one panda and left the Wolong centre vulnerable to aftershocks and landslides.

The 13 giant pandas arrived at the Bifengxia Giant Panda Base in the Sichuan province town of Ya’an on Monday night, said Li Desheng, research director at Wolong. Only seven 1-year-old cubs remained at the centre.—Internet

Iran’s President vows no retreat in nuclear row

TEHERAN, 23 July— Iran will not “retreat one iota” over its disputed nuclear programme, President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said on Wednesday.

At a meeting in Geneva on Saturday, six world powers gave the Islamic Republic two weeks to answer calls to

rein in its nuclear activities or face tougher sanctions.

“The Iranian nation ... will not retreat one iota in the face of oppressing powers,” Ahmadinejad said in a speech broadcast live on state television.

Internet

Americans have become a bunch of lazy, worthless citizens

WASHINGTON, 23 July—Al Gore delivered a speech on America’s future energy needs.

The gist of the speech is that promise of 40 years to make changes is meaningless and 10 years is something

people can focus on.

Our lazy selves will just go along with whatever is marketed to us, and worthless as citizens because we won’t attend to our duty to make this country better.

Internet

Five kidnapped S Koreans released in Mexico

MEXICO CITY, 23 July — Five South Koreans kidnapped in northeast Mexico were set free Tuesday afternoon after being held for over a week, officials said.

All of the five, four men and one woman, were released unharmed and they were meeting with embassy officials, Tamaulipas state attorney general Jose Herrera said in an interview with a local radio.

The abductions

happened on 14 July when they were driving in Reynosa, across the border from McAllen, Texas in the United States by an alleged human trafficking group, Herrera said.

Their captors had phoned the South Korean diplomatic mission in Mexico, demanding 30,000 US dollars in ransom from their families, said the state attorney general.

Police tracked several phone calls before finding

the hostages in a hotel in Reynosa, he said.

Herrera said the five South Koreans were actually in Mexico looking to enter the United States illegally.

“It seems the people smugglers offered to take them across to the United States but then kidnapped them for a much bigger ransom,” said a spokesman for the Tamaulipas state attorney general’s office.

MNA/Xinhua

Panama seizes over 1,500 kilos of cocaine

PANAMA CITY, 23 July — Panamanian authorities seized more than 1,500 kilos of cocaine off Panama’s Pacific coast, said Narcotics Prosecutor Javier Soriano on Tuesday.

Soriano said that the drug, hidden in 82 packets on a ship, was captured

during an operation Monday night in the province of Chiriqui, about 440 kilometres from Panama City.

A Panamanian citizen was arrested and the police were searching for other suspects.

Soriano said anti-drug

agents and the Judicial Investigation Headquarters (DIJ) launched the raid after local residents informed them of a suspicious ship.

Panama seized around 70 tons of drugs last year, according to the authorities.—MNA/Xinhua



Passengers wait for buses at a bus stop during rush hour in Beijing on 21 July, 2008.—INTERNET



Newly-built houses for homeless victims in Kungyangon.—MNA

UHMT leaves for arduous journey

YANGON, 23 July—The 67-member arduous journey training team led by Chairman of Universities’ Hiking and Mountaineering Team U Myo Thant practised an arduous journey across the Mount Kaylatha-Waiponla in Bilin Township, Thaton District, Mon State, from 17 to 20 July.

The team offered Waso robes and provisions to members of the Sangha at monasteries along the arduous journey.

MNA

488 traffic accidents in June

NAY PYI TAW, 23 July—There were 488 traffic accidents in June 2008 in states and divisions and altogether 114 people were killed and 853

injured. The loss was over K 29.4 million.

There were 40 injured and six killed in 21 accidents in Kachin State; two injured in one accident in Kayah State; 32 injured and one killed in 14 in Kayin State; 145 injured and nine killed in 67 in Sagaing Division; six injured and ten killed in 9

in Taninthayi Division; 86 injured and seven killed in 53 in Bago; 42 injured and three killed in 29 in Bago Division (West); 31 injured and two killed in 23 in Magway Division; 238 injured and 30 killed in 124 in Mandalay Division; 27 injured and 13 killed in 22 in Mon State; six injured and one killed in 7 in

Rakhine State; 122 injured and 15 killed in 61 in Yangon Division; 20 injured and three killed in 17 in Shan State; 33 injured and eight killed in 18 in Shan State (North); 12 injured and two killed in 7 in Shan State (East) and 11 injured and four killed in 15 in Ayeyawady Division.

MNA

Managing Director U Kyaw Kyaw (a) U Belar of Khind Electro World chooses the winner of the first prize.

MNA

Khind Electro launches lucky draw programme

YANGON, 23 July—Khind Electro World distributing Malaysia-made and Australia-made electrical and electronic items held a ceremony to choose lucky draw winners at Khind Show Room-1 of La Pyae Win Plaza on Alanpya Pagoda Street on 13 July.

Specially invited dignitaries, sale agents and media persons drew 118 lots to choose lucky draw winners.

Ko Tun Tun Zaw of Hline Township won

Khind Side by Side Refrigerator worth K 2.2 million; U Myint Lwin of Bago, Split Type Air Conditioner (1.5) HP; Theingyi Shwe Wah garment shop of Dagon, Semi-Auto Washing Machine; Ko Moe Kyaw Thu of Thakayta Township, Tower Fan; Daw Htay Htay Win, Air Cooler; Ma Mar Lar Phyu, Microwave Oven; Ko Thant Lwin of Mandalay, Induction Cooker; Daw Kyin San Win of Yankin Township, Remote

Control Stand Fan and Ma Nwe Nwe Zin of Falam, Infra Red Gas Cooker.

The remaining lucky draws are to be taken out at Khind Show Room-1 within one month. The sale promotion programmes will be held at Blazon Shopping Centre and other shopping centres up to Tazaungdine period.

Those wishing to buy the products may contact Khind Show Room-1 (Tel-242307 and 380475).

MNA



Deputy Director-General Dr Win Myint accepts water purifiers and chlorine tablets donated by World Vision (Myanmar).—MOH

Water purifiers, chlorine tablets for storm victims

YANGON, 23 July—World Vision (Myanmar) held a ceremony to donate water purifiers and chlorine tablets to be used in providing health care services to storm victims, being carried out by Ministry of Health, at the

control office of emergency and outpatient department in Yangon General Hospital here this morning.

Deputy Director-General Dr Win Myint of the Department of Health accepted water

purifiers and chlorine tablets worth US \$ 89,000, donated by In-charge Dr Kyi Min of World Vision (Myanmar) and presented a certificate of honour to the donor.

MNA



Varieties of fishing net, engines and related items are on display at a ceremony to hand over fishing boats and fishing gear for fishermen in No. 1 Ward in Dedaye.—MNA

STI Education to sponsor debates, essay competitions

YANGON, 23 July—STI Education will conduct the final event of the debates in English for matriculated students age 16-18 years on 27 July at Parkroyal Hotel, here, from 1 pm to 4 pm.

The main objective is to bring out their potential, their talent in language and communication and to familiarize to respond back without any hesitation to the proponents/oppositions: it is to refute/support with solid facts to the topics unprepared. In doing so, contestants will find challenging because only at the point of debating, they will be notified by drawing lot, whether they are speaking as proponents or oppositions.

Jury drawn from retired professors/ Heads of Universities in Yangon will assess them on their intelligence, strategy and

consistencies.

Contestants will be allotted 5-10 minutes each team to speak as proponents and oppositions. Jury will assess individually and as a team on content, presentation, personality, audience engagement, humor, time management and fluency. Events are divided into categories depending on age, the winners will be announced and first prize worth 12 lakhs, second prize 9 lakhs will be awarded on the very same day.

The students from outside and STI students will be fiercely competing for grand awards on 27 July and anyone interested to attend may register at the following addresses and phone numbers: No 377, Upper Shwe Bon Thar Street, Pabedan Township, Yangon, and Block-4, Room-7, Myanmar Info-

Tech, Hline Campus, Yangon, 250056, 700273, 507152.

STI Education has been offering the following courses:

Diploma in Business Information Systems, Diploma in TESOL, Diploma in Business Management, Diploma in Logistics Management, Diploma in Supply Chain Management, Certificate in English Communication Skills in collaboration with Association of Managers & Administrators (UK), International Professional Managers Association (UK), SIMM (Singapore), Queensfield Business School (Singapore), London Teacher Training College (UK) staffed with renown trainers, facilitators (local and foreigners) for matriculated students as well as graduate students.

MNA

Minister attends ceremony to donate relief supplies to storm victims

YANGON, 23 July—Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi attended a ceremony to provide storm victims with relief supplies donated by Malaysia-based SBM in Aung San Thuriya Hla Thaung football ground of Kungyangon Township on 20 July.

At Wainaya Thukha Monastery in Hsukalat Village-Tract, the minister donated Waso robes and alms to members of the Sangha and shared merits gained.

Next, the minister attended a ceremony to donate rice, edible oil, salt, gram, clothing, foodstuff, varieties of medicines and household goods to 477 storm-hit families from six villages near Hsukalat village-tract. Afterwards, he also attended a ceremony to provide books and stationery

donated by Asia World Company and made a speech on rehabilitation tasks for the storm victims and cordially greeted them.

At the briefing hall of the office of Kungyangon Township Development Affairs Department, executive officer U Thant Zin Oo briefed the minister on tasks for greening the

township and water supply. Next, the minister gave necessary instructions.

After inspecting preparatory tasks for supplying water in the township, the minister gave instructions on regular check on water pipelines and supplying water to respective wards on time.—MNA

Flood Bulletin

NAY PYI TAW, 23 July—The Department of Meteorology and Hydrology issued the flood bulletin today that the water level of Thanlwin river at Hpa-an is 704 cm by noon today. It is rising slowly by 1 cm/hr in average at present and the water level may reach its danger level 750 cm during the next 48 hrs.—MNA

All this needs to be known

- * Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
- * Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
- * Do not be softened whenever appeased

Ceremony to donate books, stationery and desks held

YANGON, 23 July—A ceremony to donate books, stationery and desks to No 22 Basic Education Middle School (Branch) of Padetha Kwetthit, No. 8 Ward, PyinOoLwin in Mandalay Division was held at the school on 18 July.

Present on the occasion were three donors Akashinishi

Rotary Club, Haruki Yokoyama, Takuro Yokoyama, township education officer U Win Myint, assistant education officer U Tin Aye, chairman of school board of trustees U Zaw Aung, local authorities, headmistress Daw Nan Ohn Kywe, teachers and students.

First, Akashinishi

Rotary Club of Japan made a speech on the occasion. He explained the purpose of the donation. Next, headmistress Daw Nan Ohn Kywe accepted the donations and presented certificates of honour to the donors and chairman of school board of trustees U Zaw Aung spoke words of thanks.

H



Akashinishi Rotary Club from Japan donates books, stationery and desks to Basic Education Middle School (Branch) in Padetha Kwetthit, No. 8 Ward, PyinOoLwin in Mandalay Division.—H

Vice-Mayor visits Dalla, Seikkyi/ Khanaungto

YANGON, 23 July — CEC member of Union Solidarity and Development Association Yangon Division (In-charge) Vice-Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa visited Dalla and Seikkyi/ Khanaungto townships yesterday.

Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa and party received the Five Precepts from Chairman of Dalla Township Sangha Nayaka Sayadaw Bhaddanta Tedha and offered Waso robes to the Sayadaw.

Next, the vice-mayor supplied the needs to pave Mindan, Chaungpat and Kanaung streets in the township.

The vice-mayor,

Head of Department of Water and Sanitation Dr Tun Than Tun and Chairman of Dalla Township Peace and Development Council U Tin Maung Win opened the water work at No 11/ 14 ward in the township. After that, Dr Tun Than Tun explained the water work.

While in Dalla Township, the vice-mayor attended a ceremony to present stationery donated by Yangon Division USDA at Dhamma Dipani Yapyae Beikman in the township. Next, he handed over stationery to the township education officer and teachers. The vice-mayor and family provided K 100,000 for water purifier to the

committee for taking care of it.

On arrival at Seikkyi/ Khanaungto Township, he offered Waso robes to the Sayadaw of Dhammapiti Monastery and members of the Sangha.

He spoke at the ceremony to donate desks to schools in the township by Yangon Division USDA and presented exercise books and desks to the officials. The vice-mayor and family and Yangon Division USDA donated K 100,000 each for water purifier to the committee for taking care of it. After the donations, the vice-mayor opened the water purifier at No 2/3 Ward in the township and greeted the residents.

MNA

235th Aungbarlay Lottery to be opened on 1 August

YANGON, 23 July — The list of lucky numbers in the 235th Aungbarlay Lottery will be announced at Aungbarlay Lottery Division at No. 384 at the corner of Maha Bandoola

Street and 37th Street in Kyauktada Township, here, from 8 am to 4 pm on 1 August.

The list will include one lucky draw lot worth K 50 million, two K 30

million lots, four lots worth K 20 million each, thirty-eight lots worth K 10 million each, 561 lots worth K 1 million each, twenty-one lots worth K 500,000 each, twenty-four lots worth K 400,000 each, 195 lots worth K 200,000 each, 1,530 lots worth K 100,000 each, 65 lots worth K 80,000 each, 102 lots worth K 40,000 each and 15,835 lots worth K 20,000 each, totaling 18,378 lots. —MNA

Relief aids from WFP arrives

YANGON, 23 July — The international community has been donating relief supplies to the storm-hit regions. Relief aids weighing 85.71 tons donated by Thai-based WFP arrived at Yangon International Airport today. —MNA

A 15-member medical team led by Director Dr Ye Htut of Medical Research Department (Lower Myanmar) providing health care services to local people in Theikpankongyi and Bitut Village-tracts in Labutta Township. —MNA

Objectives of the 16th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions

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

TCG Chairman meets UN Humanitarian Chief

YANGON, 23 July — Chairman of Tripartite Core Group (TCG) Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu met Under Secretary-General for UN Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Mr John Holmes at Chatrium Hotel here this morning.

Also present were acting Director-General U Aung Tun Khine of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Deputy Director-General U Than Aye of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, Singaporean Ambassador Mr Robert Chua Hian Kong, Thai Ambassador

to Myanmar Mr Bansarn Bunnag, Special Envoy of ASEAN Secretary-General Dr Anish Kumar Roy, UNDP Resident Representative and UN Coordinator Mr Bishow Parajuli, UNFPA Resident Representative Mr Christopher Kaye and Mr Thierry Delbreuve of OCHA. —MNA

MCPA organizes seminar

YANGON, 23 July — Myanmar Computer Professionals Association (MCPA) organizes a seminar, under the assistance of Myanmar Professionals Education Centre (MPEC), at Room No 205, Myanmar Infotech, Hline Township from 9 am to 12 noon on 27 July, with a view to promoting the progress of information and communication technology.

U Ye Yint Win, joint-secretary of MCPA and executives U Tun Khaing, U Zaw Moe Tun, U Nay Lin Than, U Win Htein Win will hold discussions under the topic of “How to prepare to become

a Professional Developer”. The workshop seminar is mainly intended for those wishing to become professional developers. Myanmar Professional Education Centre (MPEC) has been giving computer training since 2002 and it has now opened new courses, Diploma in Software Engineering and Diploma in Business IT.

Members of MCPA, software developers, computer students and interested persons are invited to attend the seminar. Details can be enquired at the office of MCPA, Bulding 4 Room 4 Ph: 652276. —MNA



Thahtay Hydropower Plant Project, An Creek Hydropower Project to promote socio-economic standard of Rakhine State

Article : Photo-Maung Maung

In accord with the guidance of the Head of State to generate hydropower for supply of electricity to the entire nation exploiting water resources, the Ministry of Electric Power No. 1 built small-, medium- and large-scale plants implementing the hydropower projects by laying down short- and long-term plans. Moreover, the ministry is implementing hydro-power plants.

To achieve success in realization of the plans, workers and service personnel of the Ministry of Electric Power No. 1 are discharging duties at the project sites located in remote areas across the nation.

Indeed, the government is striving for implementation of the plans in the entire nation with the aim of ensuring equitable development of the national races with goodwill. Out of the plans, Thahtay Hydropower Plant is being implemented in Rakhine State to be able to contribute supply of electricity to develop-



Minister for Electric Power No. 1 Col Zaw Min views progress in implementation of Thahtay Hydropower Plant Project in Rakhine State.

ment of Rakhine State.

Rakhine State has difficult access to other regions due to long mountain ranges and wide sea posing as natural barriers. Furthermore, the state is teeming with various sizes of rivers and creeks.

In line with the guidance of the Head of State, the government has spent a large amount of local currency and foreign exchange on construction of the Yangon-Kyaukpyu Highway to link the Yangon-Sittway Highway, which is the

artery of Rakhine State, and to connect with Bago and Ayeyawady Divisions in addition to southern and northern parts of the state, through wetland, swamp land and mangroves applying the geotextile method. Moreover, a total of 24 major bridges and about 1,500 medium- and small-sized bridges were

built on the road with a view to promoting socio-economic standard of the local people.

In addition, Thahtay Hydropower Plant Project is being implemented by the Ministry of Electric Power No. 1 on Thahtay Creek, 12 miles north-east of Thandwe in Rakhine State in accord with the guidance of the Head of

State to supply power demand of Rakhine State.

Thahtay Creek has 442 square miles of watershed area and its flow speed of water is 3,391 cu-ft/secs on average and flow of water, 2.332 million acre feet of water yearly. A gravel-filled embankment measuring 2,028 feet long and 298 feet high is under construction to store 0.696 million acre feet of water at the highest level and 0.221 million acre feet of still water level. The embankment will have two 33-foot-wide spillways of ogee type and two 33-foot-wide water diver tunnels. Three 37-megawatt generators to be installed at the embankment will generate 386 million kilowatt hours yearly.

Likewise, An Creek Hydropower Project being implemented in An Township of Rakhine State, to be installed with 10-megawatt generator will supply electricity to the region. The implementation of above two projects is being undertaken as special projects with might and

main. On completion, a total of 121 megawatts will be supplied to Rakhine State. Indeed, the electricity to be generated from the above two projects will be more than enough for power demand of the region.

Furthermore, the plan is under way to supply the electricity to be generated from the power projects to Thandwe, Taungup, Kyaukpyu, Yanbye, An, Kyauktaw, Buthidaung, Maungtaw, Rathedaung, Ponnagyun, Sittway, MraukU, Minbya, Pauktaw and Myebon of Rakhine State by installing power lines.

On completion of both projects, progress will be witnessed in economic, social and education sectors in Rakhine State. As such, implementation of the two projects will contribute much to development of the national people.

Translation: TTA
Myanma Alin:
21-7-2008

Thahtay Hydropower Plant

The photo shows an aerial view of Thahtay Hydropower Plant being implemented on Thahtay Creek, 12 miles north-east of Thandwe in Rakhine State.



Israeli, Palestinian Presidents talk peace

JERUSALEM, 23 July — Israeli President Shimon Peres hosted Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas for talks in his official residence on Tuesday, saying the unprecedented visit should help dispel doubts about Israel's desire for peace.

Although the two men have met before, no Palestinian president had ever been inside Beit

Hanasi, or President's House, in Jerusalem, where Israel's head of state routinely welcomes foreign dignitaries.

"I am full of confidence the problems will be resolved," Peres said after a red-carpet greeting for Abbas, who is engaged in statehood negotiations with Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert that have shown little sign of progress.

"I feel both sides believe there is no alternative to peace," Peres said.

Senior Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat said before the meeting that Abbas would seek Peres's help to halt "settlement expansion that is undermining peace talks" that began at a US-hosted conference in Annapolis, Maryland last November.

MNA/Reuters

Britain pushes on with nuclear power revival plan

LONDON, 23 July — Britain wants to be the most attractive place in the world to build nuclear power plants and has published draft rules for finding places in England and Wales to do it.

All but one of the UK's existing nuclear power plants is due to

close by 2023 and the government wants potential investors to propose sites that would be suitable for new build to start before 2025 to fill the looming power generation gap.

"Nuclear power is an essential part of our future energy mix. Alongside a

ten fold increase in renewables and investment in clean coal technology, it will help wean us off our dependency on oil and protect us against the politicisation of energy supplies," Business Secretary John Hutton said.

MNA/Reuters

Strong earthquake jolts NE Japan

TOKYO, 24 July — A strong earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 6.8 hit northeastern Japan early Thursday morning.

The epicentre of the 12:26 am quake was about 120 km underground in the Pacific coast area of northern Iwate Prefecture, according to the Japan Meteorological Agency.

The quake sent shockwave across all northeastern part of Japan's Honshu Island as well as southern part of the northernmost Hokkaido Prefecture.

The agency issued no tsunami warning following the quake. There was no report of damage so far.

Internet



Visitors to the British International Motorshow in London's Excel centre look at a Lotus Eco on 22 July, 2008. The car, which began as an employee recycling initiative, is made with the equivalent of 1700 recycled aluminium cans and 25 percent of the car is made from hemp grown in Norfolk.

INTERNET

Plastic bottles discarded in Olympic venues to be recycled

BEIJING, 23 July — All plastic bottles discarded at each Olympic venue will be collected and recycled to maintain the cleanness in the stadium, according to a meeting for Olympic waste recycling held here on Wednesday.

According to the meeting, Coca Cola, World's largest soft drink maker, together with the

Beijing-based Income Resources Recovery Company, will jointly do the waste collection work.

Each venue would have a large number of drinking bottles discarded by the audience during Olympic Games, and it was important to recycle

all these plastic wastes for a tidy environment, said an official in charge of Coca Cola's China operations.

The bottles can be recovered and made into some kind of clothing fibre, said the official.

Internet

challenges of rising oil and food prices, calling for greater information sharing and collaboration among member countries, said a chairman's statement of

the so-called ASEAN-plus-three meeting issued late Tuesday night. They also concurred on the importance of joint research efforts to improve food productivity, of providing clean energy resources for developing nations through technological transfers, and ensuring that the production of biofuels does not disrupt the food chain.

MNA/Xinhua

Hurricane "Dolly" shuts some Gulf oil, gas output

HOUSTON, 23 July — US Gulf of Mexico producers shut 5 per cent of oil and natural gas production by Tuesday ahead of the first storm to menace energy production areas, but the shutdowns were expected to be short-lived even as Dolly strengthened to a hurricane.

"Dolly is a short-term sidebar," said Tim Evans, energy analyst for Citi Futures Perspective in New York. "We're talking about a very modest amount of production."

US crude oil futures settled down 3.09 US dollars at 127.95 US dollars a barrel, bouncing back from a six-week low of 125.63 US dollars after

the US Minerals Management Service announced the production shut-ins.

Dolly became the second hurricane of the 2008 Atlantic season with sustained winds of nearly 75 miles per hour (120

kilometres per hour). It is expected to make landfall on Wednesday afternoon near the Texas border town of Brownsville, well away from the most sensitive offshore platforms.

MNA/Reuters



A hotel sign lies on the ground after being blown over by high winds as Hurricane Dolly makes landfall, on 23 July, 2008, in South Padre Island, Texas. —INTERNET

Protein found to promote DNA repair, prevent cancer

WASHINGTON, 23 July — An abundant chromosomal protein that binds to damaged DNA prevents cancer development by enhancing DNA repair, researchers at University of Texas reported Monday on-line in the Proceedings of the National Academies of Science.

In a series of new experiments reported in the paper, the researchers tracked the protein's impact on all three steps

of DNA restoration: access to damage, repair and repackaging of the original structure, a combination of DNA and histone proteins called chromatin. Identification and repair of DNA damage is the front-line defence against the birth and reproduction of mutant cells that cause cancer and other illnesses.

However, pinpointing HMGB1's role in repair raises a fundamental question about drugs

under development to block the protein. The protein also plays a role in inflammation, so it's being targeted in drugs under development for rheumatoid arthritis and sepsis.

"Arthritis therapy involves long-term treatment," said senior author Karen Vasquez. "Our findings suggest that depleting this protein may leave patients more vulnerable to developing cancer." — MNA/Xinhua



Fishermen try to push a boat full of nets at the Playa Bagdad beach near the border city of Matamoros, Mexico, on 22 July, 2008, in preparation for the arrival of Tropical Storm Dolly. Forecasters said Dolly was expected to make land late Tuesday or early Wednesday as a hurricane with sustained winds of 74 mph to 95 mph, 120 kph to 152 kph.—INTERNET

New white whale spotted

SYDNEY, 23 July—A new white humpback has been sighted off Byron Bay on the east coast of Australia.

The newcomer, which was filmed by a television news helicopter, has excited marine scientists who think it may be related to Migaloo — to date, the only known all-white humpback whale.

Migaloo is somewhat of a celebrity down under. Why? "Because as far as we know, he is globally unique," said Professor Peter Harrison from the Whale Research Centre, Southern Cross University.

It now seems that Migaloo, (whose Aboriginal name means "white fellow") might have



Migaloo has become something of a celebrity.

competition. Although predominantly white, the new whale does have some black markings near its head and tail. So who is the newcomer?

A white calf was spotted with a normal humpback mother in Byron Bay two years ago. Experts say the

new whale could be the offspring of Migaloo but further tests need to be carried out. A record number of humpbacks have been spotted off the Australian coast this year on their annual migration north to their breeding grounds.—Internet

Drug for deadly prostate cancer

LONDON, 23 July— Scientists are hailing a new drug to treat aggressive prostate cancer as potentially the most significant advance in the field for 70 years.

Abiraterone could potentially treat up to 80% of patients with a deadly form of the disease resistant to currently available chemotherapy, they say. The drug works by blocking the hormones

which fuel the cancer.

The Institute of Cancer Research hopes a simple pill form will be available in two to three years.

An advanced clinical trial involving 1,200 patients around the world is currently under way, with more trials likely later this year. Prostate cancer is the most common cancer among men. It is estimated that up to 10,000 men a year in

the UK are diagnosed with the most aggressive—and almost always lethal—form of prostate cancer.

Typical life expectancy following chemotherapy is no more than 18 months. It had been assumed that the cancer was driven by sex hormones such as testosterone produced in the testicles. Current treatments work by stopping the testicles from producing testosterone.

Internet

US FDA says salmonella found in fresh jalapeno

WASHINGTON, 23 July — The US Food and Drug Administration has found a jalapeno pepper contaminated with a strain of salmonella that has

sickened more than 1,200 people, officials said on Monday.

The pepper, which showed up at a south Texas distribution facility,

originated in Mexico, the FDA said.

"FDA has found a genetically matched Salmonella saintpaul isolate from a distribution centre called Agricola Zaragosa in McAllen, Texas," Dr David Acheson, associate commissioner for foods at the FDA, told reporters in a telephone briefing.

Acheson said it is not yet clear where the pepper was contaminated and said it could have been anywhere between the farm where it was picked and the facility in Texas.

"It could have occurred in the facility or at some point leading up to the facility," Acheson said.

The FDA said no one should eat or serve uncooked jalapeno or serrano peppers, which have a similar appearance, anywhere in the United States.— MNA/Reuters

NASA denies reports to buy Japan's cargo spacecraft

WASHINGTON, 23 July — NASA said on Monday the news reports that it is negotiation with Japan's space agency to purchase a Japanese spacecraft as the successor to its space shuttles is "inaccurate".

"Contrary to news reports, NASA has not officially or unofficially been discussing the purchase of *H-II Transfer Vehicles* (HTV) — uninhabited resupply cargo ships for the space station — from the Japanese Space Agency, or JAXA," NASA announced in a statement.

The Yomiuri, a Japanese newspaper, reported over the weekend that NASA is in an unofficial talk with JAXA to buy HTV from Japan so after the space shuttles' retirement it can be used to transfer supplies to the space station.

However, NASA said in the statement that it is committed to domestic commercial cargo resupply to the space station and does not plan to procure cargo delivery services from Japan. According to NASA's schedule, its three active service space shuttles will be grounded by 2010. — MNA/Xinhua

Tobacco 'could help treat cancer'

LONDON, 23 July—The tobacco plant, responsible for millions of cancer cases, may actually offer the means to treat one form of the disease, a study suggests.

US scientists used the plant to "grow" key components of a cancer

vaccine.

The National Academy of Sciences study suggests they could be used to tackle a form of lymphoma.

UK specialists said while "potentially exciting", more research would be needed to test how well the vaccine actually

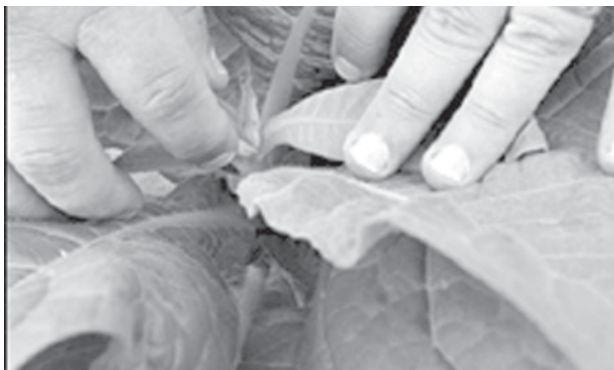
worked.

The ironic new role for tobacco is the work of researchers from Stanford University in California.

They are using the plants as factories for an antibody chemical specific to the cells which cause follicular B-cell lymphoma, a type of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

These antibodies are put into a patient newly-diagnosed with the disease, to "prime" the body's immune system to attack any cell carrying them. If successful, this would mean the body would then recognise and destroy the lymphoma cells.

Internet



The tobacco plant may provide a cheap vaccine factory.—INTERNET

SPORTS

Chelsea's Essien hits back after Fergie jibe

GUANGZHOU, 23 July — Michael Essien insisted Chelsea were the Premiership favourites after Manchester United's Alex Ferguson kicked off the pre-season mind games by casting doubt on their ageing squad.

The Ghana midfielder said the "world-class" experience of players such as Frank Lampard, Michael Ballack and new signing Deco -- all aged 30 or more -- would give Chelsea the edge in the trophy race.

"For me, only Chelsea. Chelsea is going to win the title," he said.

"We have got a lot of the best players in the world. They are world-class players and it's a privilege for me to work alongside them."

Essien said his team-mates had proved they were not "losers" despite last season's heartache of narrowly missing out on both the domestic and European titles to United.

"As you can see in training or during the games, they can always change the games. They have a winning mentality so it's going to be good for us," he said.

"Hopefully this year we will win more trophies. Last year was unlucky for us, these things happen in football but you just have to forget about it."

Ferguson opened hostilities as Chelsea's World Cup-winning coach Luiz Felipe Scolari prepares for his first match in charge against Guangzhou Pharmaceutical late on Wednesday.—Internet

Ferguson urges Foster to be patient

DURBAN (South Africa) , 23 July — Sir Alex Ferguson claimed Ben Foster will be rewarded with the England goalkeeper's jersey if he waits patiently for his chance at Manchester United.

The 24-year-old produced a match-winning display in the European champions' 1-0 win against Orlando Pirates here on Tuesday.

United, who fielded several youngsters against the South African team, emerged victorious thanks to Lee Martin's first-half goal in the Absa Stadium, but it required two impressive second-half saves by Foster, from Lebogang Mothibantwa and Joseph Makhanya, to secure United's victory.

The once-capped England keeper has recently returned from a cruciate knee ligament injury that restricted him to just one senior appearance for United last season and boss Ferguson admits that the former Stoke City goalkeeper has all the attributes to become his country's first-choice for years to come.

Internet

Powell outruns record holder Bolt in 100-metres

STOCKHOLM, 23 July —Asafa Powell took on the world's fastest man with every intention of beating him to the finish line. Usain Bolt just couldn't catch up in time. Powell capitalized on Bolt's weak start and edged the world-record holder by one-hundredth of a second, leading from start to finish in the 100 meters at the DN Galan meet on Tuesday.

Powell, the former world-record holder, won their highly anticipated rematch in 9.88 seconds. Bolt, who was slow out of the blocks, nearly caught his fellow Jamaican at the finish line. Third went to Norwegian Jaysuma Saidy Ndure in 10.06. "I was really happy with the race," Powell said. "My goal was to win. My start was quick and fast. And the speed stayed with me through the finish."

"I'm really looking forward to the Olympics."—Internet



Jamaica's Asafa Powell, left, wins the men's 100 metres ahead of Usain Bolt of Jamaica, right at the DN Galan athletics at Stockholm Olympic Stadium on 22 July, 2008.—INTERNET

Barca's Messi stays in Scotland ahead of FIFA decision

MADRID, 23 July — Lionel Messi, who has been called on to represent his native Argentina at the Olympics, remained at a Barcelona pre-season training camp in Scotland

on Tuesday with the approval of Argentina's Football Federation, a Barcelona spokesman said.

The 21-year-old winger will stay in Saint Andrews while he waits for world football governing body FIFA to decide whether or not Barcelona are obligated to let him take part in the Games in China next month, the spokesman told AFP.

Messi has repeatedly expressed his desire to help Argentina defend their Olympic title but the Catalan club has been reluctant to let him go as he is needed for early Champions League matches.

Internet

Newman, Stewart play coy on potential partnership

CHARLOTTE, 23 July — If Ryan Newman is indeed in line to join Tony Stewart's new team next season, neither driver is saying.

Stewart said Tuesday he's still trying to fill the two-car lineup at Stewart-Haas Racing, while Newman joked the only new offer he's received was to drive for one of Stewart's sprint car teams.

All kidding aside, Newman is believed to be the top candidate to drive for Stewart next year. The Daytona 500 winner announced last week he'll leave Penske Racing at the end of the season, a decision that makes him the top current free agent.

Stewart, who is leaving Joe Gibbs Racing to become part-owner of what's now known as Haas-CNC Racing, said he's still looking at who is available.

"There are a lot of drivers in the running right now," he said. "It's not narrowed down to just one driver right now."

But Stewart does have a list of criteria he'd like his future teammate to meet, and among the things he's looking for is the commitment to help the new team drive from the back of the NASCAR field and start contending for wins and championships.

Internet



Ben Foster

Djokovic downs Dancevic to open Canadian defence

TORONTO, 23 July — Defending champion Novak Djokovic returned to tennis for the first time since Wimbledon and broke Canadian hearts

with a 6-4, 6-4 second-round win over local Frank Dancevic.

The Serbian third seed and the Canadian of Serb heritage fired up their

serves from the start, with Djokovic finding his precision return game to make the difference in his first visit to Toronto.

"I knew I was playing the home player, a big hope," said the Australian Open champion. "I've known Frank a long time and he always plays well here. "I did what I needed to win, so I'm happy."

Djokovic secured the opening set with a break and stayed in focus to secure a 4-2 lead in the second.—Internet



Defending champion Novak Djokovic, seen here, returned to tennis for the first time since Wimbledon and broke Canadian hearts with a 6-4, 6-4 second-round win over local Frank Dancevic.—INTERNET

Serena withdraws, Hantuchova falls at Los Angeles WTA

LOS ANGELES, 23 July — Second-seeded Serena Williams withdrew from the 600,000-dollar WTA hardcourt tournament here with a left knee injury, hoping to be fit in time for the Beijing Olympics.

The world No.5 was the latest injury casualty for the tournament, which had already lost her elder sister Venus, Lindsay Davenport and Svetlana Kuznetsova.

"It's a huge disappointment for me to be unable to play the East West Bank Classic in my hometown of LA," said Williams, who had a first-round bye here and was replaced in the draw by lucky loser Melanie South of Britain.

"I've been getting intensive therapy and doing everything in my power to get my knee in shape for this week, waiting



Second-seeded Serena Williams, pictured on 18 July, lost her fitness battle Tuesday, withdrawing from the 600,000-dollar WTA hardcourt tournament here because of her sore left knee.—INTERNET

until the last possible moment to see if I could play," she added. "Unfortunately after hitting this morning, I knew that wasn't going to be ready for this week."

Internet

Swiss arms exports surge

GENEVA, 23 July — Swiss arms exports reached 348 million Swiss francs (about 342 million US dollars) in the first half of 2008, a surge of 63 per cent from the same period last year, the Federal Customs Office said on Tuesday.

The figure is almost the highest in the past 20 years, the agency said.

According to the agency, Pakistan is the largest customer for Swiss arms, followed by Denmark, Germany, Belgium and Britain.

As a neutral country, Switzerland’s arms exports have caused much controversy in the country.

MNA/Xinhua

Pakistan signals readiness for Indian investment

ISLAMABAD, 23 July— The Pakistan Government has signalled its readiness to allow Indian investment in various sectors by unveiling measures to encourage India-based firms to set up units in the country for making CNG buses.

In a significant shift in stance, Pakistan unilaterally included measures in its new trade policy to encourage Indian investment for manufacturing CNG buses. The measures allow the import of test consignments of CNG buses by any Indian manufacturer who makes a firm commitment to set up units in Pakistan.

An official in the Board of Investment told the Dawn newspaper there is no law that could bar Indian investment in Pakistan.

Pakistan has a liberal investment policy, but the official said both countries generally discouraged bilateral investments. Through the move on the CNG buses, the Pakistan Government has signalled its readiness to “embrace Indian investment in other sectors”, the official said.

The Pakistan Government has invited at least three Indian companies Tata, Reliance and Essar to a meeting of potential investors in the power sector to discuss the development of the Thar coal power project. The meeting is due to be held late July or early August.

Pakistan’s efforts at liberalizing trade with India are in line with ruling Pakistan People’s Party (PPP) co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari’s assertion that the new government wants to improve economic relations and will not allow the Kashmir issue to come in the way of greater economic contacts.

MNA/PTI

Russia seeks closer mily coop with Venezuela

MOSCOW, 23 July— Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin on Tuesday expressed his hope for closer military cooperation with Venezuela during his talks with visiting Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez at his residence near Moscow.

“We have recently been strengthening the legal base for our cooperation, searching for ways to diversify our relations through new cooperation areas, namely transport, space, high-tech production, and of course military and technical cooperation,” Putin was quoted by the RIA Novosti news agency as saying.

Chavez, for his part, thanked Putin for his support to Venezuela. “I want to thank you for the actions and decisions you have firmly taken and made in our support,” he said.

Putin accepted the President’s invitation to visit Venezuela, saying the visit time would be convenient for both countries.

Venezuela has bought over 50 combat helicopters, 24 Su-30MK2 fighters, and 100,000 Ak-103 rifles from Russia, and also holds a license for their production. Moscow plans to start supplying Venezuela with at least ten Mi-28N helicopters in the second half of 2009.

The two countries have also negotiated the delivery of three Russian Project 636 Kilo-class diesel submarines and at least 20 Tor-M1 air defence missile systems to Caracas, RIA Novosti reported.

Chavez arrived in Moscow Tuesday for “strategic” talks on political, economic and defence cooperation. Russian President Dmitry Medvedev met with him earlier in the day to discuss arms and energy deals.

MNA/Xinhua

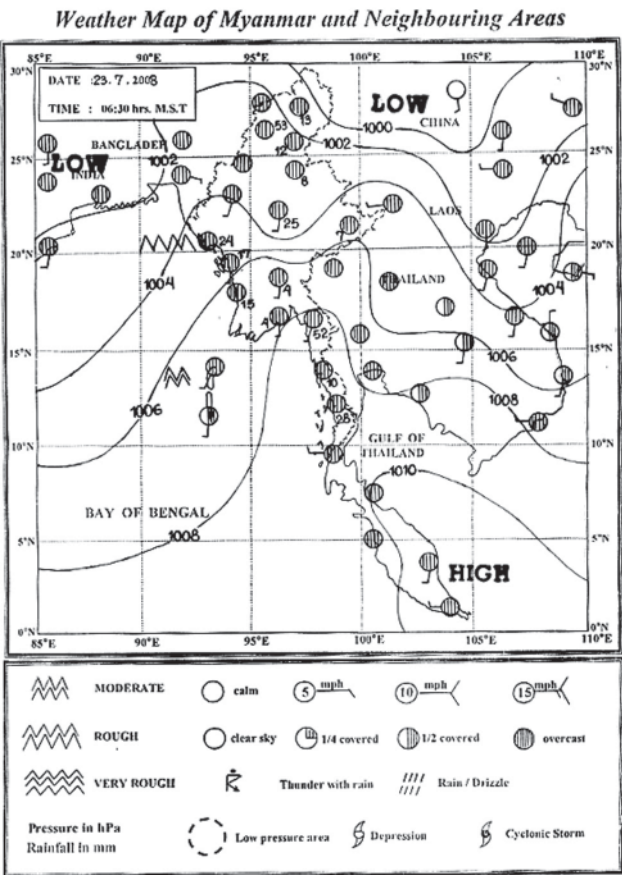
Most Britons felt cheated by Brown

LONDON, 23 July— An overwhelming majority of respondents in a survey felt “cheated” by British Prime Minister Gordon Brown’s ratification of the EU Treaty, a news report has said.

The survey by the Daily Express showed that 99 per cent of its readers felt “cheated” with the ratification of the Lisbon Treaty.

They felt that Brown had “surrendered sovereignty” to Europe, the British tabloid said.

So far 10 nations, including Britain, have formally ratified the treaty while 12 are close to completing the process.—MNA/PTI



WEATHER

Wednesday 23 July 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been scattered in Chin State and Magway Division, fairly widespread in Sagaing, Mandalay and Yangon Divisions and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions with isolated heavyfall in Mon State and Magway Division. The noteworthy amounts of rainfalls recorded were Nay Pyi Taw (0.79) inch, Thaton (3.31) inches, Hpa-an (2.32) inches, Mawlamyine (2.29) inches, Taunggyi (2.20) inches, Hkamti (2.09) inches, Sittway (1.86) inches, Magway (1.57) inches and Minbu (1.46) inches.

Maximum temperature on 22-7-2008 was 82°F. Minimum temperature on 23-7-2008 was 71°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 23-7-2008 was 92%. Total sunshine hours on 22-7-2008 was (Nil).

Rainfall on 23-7-2008 was (0.16) inch at Mingaladon, (0.16) inch at Kaba-Aye and (0.24) inch at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was (56.62) inches at Mingaladon, (63.90) inches at Kaba-Aye and (76.22) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (8) mph from South at (18:30) hours MST on 22-7-2008.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 24-7-2008: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Chin and Kayah States, lower Sagaing and Magway Divisions, fairly widespread in Shan State, upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago and Ayeyawady Divisions and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters.

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

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 24-7-2008: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 24-7-2008: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 24-7-2008: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).



Thursday, 24 July
View on today

7:00 am

- 1. မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်

7:25 am

- 2. To be healthy exercise

7:30 am

- 3. Morning news

7:40 am

- 4. မြန်မာ့အနုလင်္ကာ ထင်ရှားကြည်ညိုဖွယ်ရာနိုးဘုရား

7:55 am

- 5. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:05 am

- 6. Cute little dancers

8:15 am

- 7. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:30 am

- 8. International news

8:45 am

- 9. ရုပ်မြင်ရသတေးစုကဏ္ဍ

4:00 pm

- 1. Martial song

4:10 pm

- 2. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

4:20 pm

- 3. Dance variety

4:30 pm

- 4. Song of national races

4:40 pm

- 5. ရန်ကုန်တိုင်းအမှတ်(၃)အခြေခံ ပညာဦးစီးဌာန၊ ဆဌမအကြိမ် ဓမ္မစကြာဝတ်ရွတ် ပူဇော်ပွဲ (တတိယဆု) (အထက (၁)ကျောက်တန်း) (အမျိုးသမီးဝတ်ရွတ်အဖွဲ့)

5:10 pm

- 6. “သူငယ်ချင်းမရှိတဲ့ဥပဒေ” (မင်းဝေ၊ ခင်စာခြည်ကျော်၊ ဧကရီကျော်ကျော်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-မောင်ယဉ်ကျော်)

5:20 pm

- 7. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ

5:25 pm

- 8. Song for National Spirit

5:30 pm

- 9. Musical programme

5:40 pm

- 10. ကြယ်ပွင့်များရဲ့ရင်ခုန်သံ

6:00 pm

- 11. Evening news

6:30 pm

- 12. Weather report

6:35 pm

- 13. ကျောင်းကန်ဘုရား ကုသိုလ်ပွားကောင်းမှု ထိုထိုလဂါဆို

7:00 pm

- 14. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “ကာဖီချစ်သူ” (အပိုင်း-၁၅)

8:00 pm

- 15. News

16. International news

17. Weather report

- 18. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “ပင်လယ်ပျော်မင်းသား” (အပိုင်း-၁၃)

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

Commander views cultivation of Hsinshweli high yield paddy strain

NAY PYI TAW, 23 July —Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Aung Than Htut inspected cultivation of Hsinshweli high yield hybrid paddy strain on three acres of farmland of the command headquarters with the use of two paddy transplanting machines on 16 July morning.

A total of 20 trans-

planting workers can grow one acre of paddy in a day. A paddy transplanting machine can grow one

acre of paddy in two hours. Thus, the paddy transplanting machine can be used for ensuring

speedy cultivation of paddy by saving time, manpower and money.

MNA

Specialists give health care to patients in Mawlamyinegyun

YANGON, 23 July — A medical team comprising Physician Dr Mya Htwe Nge, Paediatrician Dr Aung Khin Thein and Dentist Dr Soe Soe Lwin is providing treatment to patients in storm-hit areas in Mawlamyinegyun Township by Teinkhoe floating hospital beginning 21 July.

The medical team was organized by the Health Department under the arrangements of the Ministry of Health. The specialists gave medical treatment as well as educative talks on health knowledge to residents in the township.—MNA

Health care given to storm-hit victims of Bogale Township

YANGON, 23 July—Specialists from the United States, who are lay disciples of the Sitagu Sayadaw, gave health care to storm survivors at Bogale Township People's Hospital in Ayeyawady Division from 12 to 16 July.

Ophthalmologists from Yangon gave treatment to more than 300 people and performed operations on more than 50 people with eye complaints at Daw Tin Mya Hospital in Phayachaung Village, Bogale Township, on 19 July.

Chanmye Sitagu U Naing Oo and Daw Aye Thein (Miba Yeik Co) gave away rice and foodstuff donated by Chanmye Sayadaw to more than 400 households in Phayachaung Village on 20 July.

MNA



Fishing boats under construction in Bogale Township.—MNA