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Monday, 18 August, 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

Local people urged to exert greater effort to improve socio-economic life

Prime Minister inspects rehabilitation and reconstruction tasks in storm-hit regions of Yangon, Ayeyawady Divisions



Prime Minister General Thein Sein inspects progress in construction of houses for storm survivors in Dedaye. — MNA

YANGON, 17 Aug—Chairman of National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee Prime Minister General Thein Sein, accompanied by the ministers, the deputy ministers, the Director-General of the Government Office, heads of departments and officials, left here by helicopter this morning and arrived at Thayetthonbin Village, Kungyangon Township, Yangon South District at 8.05 am.

They were welcomed there by Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi who is supervising the rehabilitation tasks in storm-hit regions in Kungyangon Township, Officiating Tactical Operations Commander Lt-Col Lu Aye of No. 77 LID and senior military officers and departmental personnel.

Next, the Prime Minister inspected the water purifier donated by Malaysia-based Rimbunan Petrogas Co and Singapore-based UNOG Co for the villagers.

Next, the Prime Minister met with departmental officials and asked about regional development.

The Prime Minister met with local people and stressed the need to extensively engage in agriculture, to save money for development of their socio-economic status and to make arrangements for enrolment

of school-age children.

At the briefing hall, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi reported to the Prime Minister on the area of Thayetthonbin Village, progress in construction of houses for storm survivors and resettlement, construction of rural health centres and libraries, growing of shade trees, windbreakers and fruit trees, acquisition and distribution of fishing boats and nets, progress in cultivation of monsoon paddy and work being carried out for construction of the 3,350 feet long Kungyangon-Dedaye motor road.

After hearing the report, the Prime Minister spoke of the need to make more efforts for regional develop-

ment as the government had already built infrastructures for development of the agricultural sector, to strike a balance between incomes and expenses and urged the head of the village to organize the people in that regard.

Afterwards, Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe presented tins of milk powder and foodstuff and Director-General U Chit Naing of Information and Public Relations Department, 650 publications for the village to Chairman of Township Peace and Development Council U Kyaw Win.

(See page 8)

Fishing boats and fishing equipment have been handed over for the second time to those in Dedaye Township who are engaged in fishery for resuming their work.

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 18 August, 2008

Boost production of import substitute goods

The government is building more factories and new workshops to produce import substitute products while promoting efficiency and quality of the State-owned major industries. At the same time, it has been establishing industrial zones in order to develop private industrial sector.

The Ministry of Industry-1 has established a large number of factories that produce personal and household goods. With the efforts of the workers and staff, production conditions are favourable to pharmaceutical factory, paper mill, bicycle factory, leatherwear factory, ceramics factory, sewing machine factory, firebrick factory and asbestos tile factory.

New production technologies are introduced after opening the import substitute factories and there are job opportunities for local people.

Endeavours are to be made for boosting production of goods in demand and ensuring customer satisfaction in accord with the requirement of the market and the people. Workers of the factories and workshops are to make concerted efforts for exceeding the production and income targets.

The government has been making a large amount of investment in establishment of industrial regions and zones, and modern factories and workshops as development of industrial sector plays a vital role in implementation of the national tasks.

It is believed that the requirements of the people can be fulfilled through the production of high quality personal goods by the factories and workshops.

People's Desire

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

Minister for Industry-1 inspects No. 1 Sittoung paper mill

YANGON, 17 Aug – Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung inspected construction of Tanaw dam near No. 1 Sittoung paper mill of Myanma Paper and Chemical Industries in Kyaikto Township yesterday.

Director of Irrigation Department U Myo Myint reported on construction of the dam, rainfall in July and August and implementation of the project. Director-General of Irrigation Department U Khin Zaw gave a



Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung inspects Sittoung Paper Mill-1 in Kyaikto Township. — INDUSTRY-1

First meeting of Leading Committee for Organizing MHRC held

YANGON, 17 Aug—The first meeting of Leading Committee for Organizing Myanma Health Research Conference was held at the meeting hall of Medical Research Department (Lower Myanmar) on 14 August, with an address by Chairman of leading Committee Deputy Minister for Health Dr Paing Soe.

Secretary of Leading Committee, Deputy Director-General Dr Kyaw Min of Medical Research Department (Lower Myanmar) reported on matters related to MHRC held in 2007 and preparation for one more conference in 2008.

Those present discussed the matters for holding paper reading session and Symposium.

Afterwards, the deputy minister gave a concluding speech.—MNA

supplementary report.

The minister inspected stockpiling of raw materials for the mill, arrival of bamboo, construction of crane and flow of water in Sittoung River.

Assistant factory manager U Soe Myint

reported on production of caustic soda and repair of machines.

The minister inspected production of paper and exercise books, and paper cutter and he gave instructions on exceeding the targets.

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

Waso robes donated to monks, K 500,000 to BEPS in Labutta

YANGON, 17 Aug — Old students of Marine Science held the first Waso robe offering ceremony and donated K 500,000 to Seinhman Basic Education Primary School hit by the storm in Labutta Township at Moehnyin Sankyaung, near western stairways of Shwedagon Pagoda this morning.

Faculty members and old students offered Waso robes to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Dhammasiri of the Sankyaung and donated K 500,000 for construction of desks to Headmaster U Sein Hla Win. — NLM



Old students of Marine Science present K 500,000 for construction of desks to Headmaster U Sein Hla Win of Seinhman BEPS in Labutta Township. — NLM

Flood news issued

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Aug — The Department of Meteorology and Hydrology issued flood news today that according to the 6.30 hr MST observation today, the water level of Chindwin River at Hkamti is 1138 cm. It is possible to reach its danger level 1360 cm during the next 48 hours.

The water level of Chindwin River at Homalin is 2776 cm. It may exceed above its danger level 2900 cm during the next 48 hours.

The water levels of Chindwin River at Mawlaik and Kalewa are 1190 cm and 1518 cm respectively. The water levels may exceed above their respective danger levels 1230 cm and 1550 cm during the next 24 hours.

The water level of Chindwin River at Monywa is 932 cm. It may reach its danger level 1000 cm during the next 72 hours.

MNA

Obama: America “slipping away”

LOS ANGELES, 17 Aug — Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama said on Saturday that he believed America was “slipping away” and needed someone to get it back on track.

Speaking at a candidate forum at Saddleback Church in Lake Forest of Orange County near Los Angeles, Obama said: “We’ve got to make the big decisions but we keep putting them off.”

Washington is “broken,” but “I have the ability to build bridges. I hope I have the opportunity to do that,” Obama said.

Speaking on the same occasion, Republican presidential candidate John McCain said he also can bring the country together and that he can “move



Democrat Barack Obama.

INTERNET

across the aisle” between Republicans and Democrats in Congress.

He said he wants “to inspire a generation of Americans to serve a cause greater than themselves.”

“I’ve always put my country first,” he added. “I’ll be the president of every American.” —*Internet*

Israel to open key commercial crossing into Gaza after months of closure

GAZA, 17 Aug — Israel will open a commercial crossing point into Gaza Strip after months of closure to improve the flow of goods into the besieged territory, Palestinian sources said on Sunday.

The Kerem Shalom crossing, in southeast Gaza Strip, will be allocated for the transportation of food, fruits and some aid stuff when opened today, the sources said.

The Sofa crossing, through which the food products pass now, will be used for electrical appliances, agricultural tools, clothes, cement and raw materials instead.

Israel closed the Kerem Shalom crossing a few months ago after Hamas militants attacked it with a car laden with explosives.

Internet

Seven killed, three wounded in US house fire

WASHINGTON, 17 Aug — Seven people were dead and three injured after fire engulfed a two-storeyed house in a poor neighbourhood in Memphis, Tennessee, on Saturday morning.

Keith Staples of the Memphis Fire Department told reporters that the fire broke out around 5:30 am local time and that among those killed were one woman, five children and a teenager.

Two teenagers and one child escaped from the windows from the burning house. They have been hospitalized and are now in stable conditions.

Neighbours said occupants of the house were a 38-year-old mother and her four children as well as several relatives of her.

The cause of the fire is still under investigation.

Internet



A police officer looks at the remains of a vehicle used in a car bomb attack in northern Baghdad’s Shaab district on 16 Aug, 2008. —INTERNET



Indonesia’s President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono (C), his wife Kristiani Herawati and Vice President Jusuf Kalla (R) wave to guests after a ceremony to mark the country’s 63rd Independence Day at the presidential palace in Jakarta on 17 August, 2008. —INTERNET

Indonesia celebrates Independence Day

JAKARTA, 17 Aug — The 63rd anniversary of Indonesia’s Independence Day was solemnly performed with a flag hoisting at the National Palace on Sunday.

The ceremony, which was led by Indonesian

President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and Vice President Jusuf Kalla, was a spectacle of the greatest respect and honour for the flag and the republic.

On the occasion, Chinese ambassador to Indonesia Zhang Qiyue

congratulated the Indonesian government and the people on the success made over the years after gaining independence from the Dutch in 1945.

Internet

Arab world sees Bush’s response to Georgia-Russia crisis as hypocritical

CAIRO, 17 Aug — President Bush’s condemnation of Russia as a bullying intimidator in the Georgian conflict struck a hypocritical note in a Middle East that has endured violent reverberations from the US-led invasion of Iraq, and where the sharp White House rhetoric against Moscow echoes what many Arabs feel in turn about the US.

Bush should be “too ashamed to speak about the occupation of any country, he is already occupying one,” said Mohammed Sayed Said, editor in chief of the Egyptian independent daily *Al Badeel*. “US forces have been in Iraq for five years and they still fight in an unacceptable

manner that violates human rights conventions. Bush had better talk about his own occupation of Iraq.”

Bitterness and suspicion toward Washington are easily summoned, from Cairo to Beirut to Baghdad. The Iraq war, the sense of drift over the Palestinian question, and Washington’s perceived failure to pay more than lip-service to promoting democracy and human rights have all undermined American standing.

It is also widely noted here that Washington stood by uncritically during Israel’s military incursion into southern Lebanon in its 2006 war with Hezbollah.

So when Bush declared Friday that “bullying and

intimidation are not acceptable ways to conduct foreign policy in the 21st century,” many dismissed his statement as a double standard.

“The US administration is stumbling in the Middle East without considering any horizons for the future,” said Sateh Nouredine, political analyst and columnist at the Lebanese daily *As Safir*. “It is totally obsessed with the idea of its war against terrorism and this makes it lose even in the simplest political sense.”

“The US administration has done more harm to its allies in Georgia and the Middle East than to its enemies.”

Internet

Bomb attack on Nepalese leader’s home

KATHMANDU, 17 Aug — An explosion detonated Sunday evening at the home of Nepal’s first-ever vice president.

The improvised explosive device injured one of Vice President Parmanada Jha’s bodyguards, state-run Nepal Television reported.

“The device was thrown inside the compound from outside,” Home Ministry spokesman Mod Raj Dotel told CNN.

The motive for the attack is unclear. Jha is the country’s first vice president after Nepal abolished its monarchy and became a republic in May.

Internet

74,615 volunteers serving at venues for Olympic Games

BEIJING, 17 Aug — A total of 74,615 volunteers from 98 countries and regions are serving at venues for the ongoing Olympic Games, according to the latest statistics announced here on Sunday. Of the volunteers, 73,195 were from Chinese mainland, 299 from Hong Kong, 95 from Macao, 91 from Taiwan and 935 from other countries, said China's Central Commission for Guiding Ethic and Cultural

Progress on Sunday. The volunteers were providing services at competition venues, non-competition venues and training places for athletes and audience, smooth transport, security check, medical services, interpretation and etiquette services. In addition, Beijing has 400,000 city volunteers and more than 1 million social volunteers. Juan Antonio Samaranch, Honorary

President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) spoke highly of the volunteers' contribution to the Games and deemed their hard work as an important component of successful Olympic Games, when he met with 130 Chinese students who were on their Olympic tour here on Saturday. He himself also became one of the volunteers after he accepted a "volunteer badge" at the meeting.—Xinhua



People view vehicles during the Parade of Old Vehicles in Riga, Latvia, on 16 Aug, 2008. More than 60 old vehicles attended the parade on Saturday. —XINHUA



A Cambodian woman transports her cows to higher ground during floods near the Mekong River in Kampong Cham Province, 130 km (80 miles) east of Phnom Penh, on 16 Aug, 2008. The Mekong River has hit its highest level in at least 100 years after several months of unusually heavy rain, officials said on Friday. —XINHUA

All items from Xinhua News Agency

French newspaper hails good manners of Chinese Olympic audience

PARIS, 17 Aug — The Chinese audience have shown the world their refined manners by applauding for foreign and home athletes alike in the Olympic Venues, French daily *Le Monde* said in a report Saturday. The enthusiastic cheers by the Chinese spectators could be heard in each and every Olympic venue in recent days. They celebrate the Olympics like they do with a great festival, *Le Monde* said. However ardent about the Games, they have demonstrated good manners, which made foreigners feel the Chinese people are filled with heartfelt innocent joy rather than blind nationalism. The report highlighted several moments in which the Chinese audience cheered for foreign and domestic athletes alike even when the two sides were locked in hot competition. Meanwhile, the Chinese media also focused more on sport itself instead of concentrating on the medal list, the French newspaper said.—Xinhua

South African newspaper praises Beijing's preparation for Olympics

JOHANNESBURG, 17 Aug —South Africa, host of the 2010 Soccer World Cup, should draw on the experience of Beijing which is presenting the world an incredible Olympic event, said South Africa's newspaper *Herald* on Saturday. Similar to South Africa's world cup journey, Beijing's preparation for the Olympic Games had witnessed twists and turns. However, China rebutted oppugning voices with amazing performance, it said. The Chinese government and people, with delicate preparation for the Games, have won international understanding, trust and respect, it added. Since Beijing won the host bid in 2001, China has managed to build state-of-the-art Olympic venues and a mass service system, while Beijing's infrastructure, environment and transportation have been significantly improved, it said, noting the organizing committee of 2010 World Cup should take China's measures as a reference.—Xinhua

Tropical storm "Fay" kills four in Caribbean countries

MEXICO CITY, 17 Aug — Raging tropical storm Fay has brought floods to Haiti and the Dominican Republic, killing at least four people, according to information reaching here Saturday. A man died Saturday in Haiti while trying to cross a river in Leogane, south of Port-au-Prince, AP cited Haitian official Marie Alta Jean-Baptiste as saying. The overflowing Antibonite River has caused great damage to vast areas of rice paddies along the river and banana plantations north of the Haitian capital were also

affected. Meanwhile, in the Dominican Republic, a 34-year-old woman and her 13-year-old niece and 5-year-old nephew lost their lives in turbulent waters and only her husband survived, the country's civil defence agency director Luis Luna Paulino said. The killer storm is now heading toward Cuba and is expected to land near the Cuban capital city of Havana late Sunday, government officials warned, adding that the storm may leave a trail of destruction in the provinces of Villa Clara, Matanzas, Camaguey, Ciego de Avila and Sancti Spiritus. Xinhua

Over four billion people watch Beijing Olympics opening ceremony: company executive

BEIJING, 17 Aug — More than 4 billion people around the world watched the Beijing Olympics opening ceremony on 8 Aug, an official with the China Network Communications (CNC) Group revealed here Saturday. According to statistics from the Beijing Olympic Broadcasting company, more than 4 billion people around the world watched the opening ceremony on 8 Aug, said Zhao Jidong, vice president of the CNC, the fixed-line communication partner of the Beijing Olympics. Zhao revealed this at a Press conference while talking about CNC's contributions to broadcast of the opening ceremony and the games.—Xinhua

Chavez: Venezuela to guarantee oil supply to Paraguay

MEXICO CITY, 17 Aug — Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez said Saturday that oil exports to Paraguay will be guaranteed, according to news reaching here from Paraguay. Paraguay will receive "all the oil it needs" from Venezuela, said Chavez, who is on a visit to Paraguay to attend the inauguration ceremony of President Fernando Lugo. Venezuela's state oil company PVDSA later confirmed that a deal was inked by Chavez and Lugo under which Venezuela will export up to 23,500 barrels of oil and derivatives to Paraguay per day. —Xinhua

DPRK to strengthen ties with Nepal

PYONGYANG, 17 Aug — The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) said Sunday that it will strengthen the friendly and cooperative relations with Nepal.

Kim Yong Il, premier of the DPRK cabinet, sent a congratulatory message

to his Nepalese counterpart Pushpa Kamal Dahal, who was newly elected as prime minister of the country, the official KCNA news agency reported.

Kim also wished for the political stability and prosperity of Nepal, it said.—*Internet*

S Korea declares itself bird flu-free zone

SEOUL, 17 Aug — The South Korean government said Sunday that the country is a bird flu "clean zone" after three months without a confirmed case of the bird flu virus.

"Under OIE (the World Organization for Animal Health) rules, we can declare South Korea

'clean' three months after the last quarantine measures have been implemented," said Kim Chang-seob, the chief veterinary officer of South Korea's Agriculture Ministry. South Korea technically became a bird flu free country as of Friday, Kim added.

The declaration is in accordance with guidelines set by the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) and follows detailed tests conducted on 1,829 poultry farms throughout the country in May and June, the ministry said.

—*Internet*

Turkish Army says planes strike PKK in N Iraq

ANKARA, 17 Aug — Turkish warplanes have struck militants of the outlawed Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) in northern Iraq late on Saturday, a military statement said on Sunday.

Turkish General Staff said in the statement posted on its website that the air strike targeted a cave in the Avasin-Basyan region, in which a large group of PKK guerillas took shelter to launch cross border attacks against Turkey, the statement said.

The safe house "was hit successfully" and the military jets have returned safely to their bases, the statement said, giving no details on the casualties of the rebels.

—*Internet*

Iran Vice President: US can no longer afford overseas military operations

BUENOS AIRES, 17 Aug — The United States will no longer afford its large overseas military operations because of the failing US economy, Iranian Vice President Mojtaba Samareh Hashemi said in remarks published on Saturday.

Hashemi, who was in Paraguay to attend the Paraguayan president's swearing-in ceremony, told the media that the

worsening economic situation in the US could not be turned around in a short time and that its huge overseas military operations are also increasing pressures on the economy.

With an economic recession looming, the US will no longer afford to maintain a huge military presence overseas, he said.

Washington will sooner or later have to get its

soldiers out of different countries such as Iraq, Hashemi said. The Iranian government calls for an early pullout of US troops from Iraq so that its territorial integrity and sovereignty can be maintained, Hashemi said.

Hashemi arrived in Asuncion Thursday to attend Paraguayan President-elect Fernando Lugo's inauguration on Friday. —*Xinhua*



Kandyan traditional dancers perform on a street during the annual Esala cultural pageant in Kandy on 16 Aug, 2008. —XINHUA

NEWS ALBUM

Bank employee steals 1.5 million euros in Serbia

A bank employee in central Serbia has allegedly stolen some 1.5 million euros (2.2 million US dollars) from the bank he has been working for, local media reported Sunday.

The 29-year-old suspect, identified only as Aleksandar S, worked as cashier at the Raiffeisen Bank in the central town of Kragujevac, local B92 news network reported.

According to investigative judge Slobodan Sviljic, the suspect carried the money away in a bag on Saturday morning and left a note to his boss apologizing for what he had done.

The theft was not discovered until afternoon. Serbian police had issued a warrant for the arrest of the suspect.



Michael Saunders of Canada breaks the bat during the match the United States vs Canada in Men's Preliminaries of the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games Baseball event in Beijing, China. The United States beat Canada 5-4.

Rare septuplets born in Egypt

A woman gave birth to seven babies Saturday in the Egyptian coastal city of Alexandria after a caesarean operation, local media reported.

The 27-year-old mother and her septuplets, four boys and three girls, were in good condition, local media quoted medical staff at the el-Shatbi Hospital as saying.

The Egyptian woman had the operation at the end of her eighth month of pregnancy due to pressure on her kidneys.

She used to take fertility drugs.

Local media said the Egyptian government is to offer the seven infants free milk and diapers for two years.



Egyptian nurses tend to newborn septuplets at the el-Shatbi hospital in the Egyptian coastal city of Alexandria, Egypt, on 16 Aug, 2008. The newborns, four boys and three girls, were delivered by caesarian section at the end of the eighth month of 27-year-old Ghazala Khamis' pregnancy.



Good news for Japanese man: "tumour" is towel!

A Japanese man who got an operation to remove a "tumour" has good news.

He does not have cancer —his painful lump turned out to be a 25-year-old surgical towel, media reported on Thursday. The 49-year-old man has been carrying the cloth since 1983, when surgeons at the Asahi General Hospital in Chiba prefecture near Tokyo left it in him after an operation to treat an ulcer. The former patient has no plans to sue the hospital, which is in talks with him over compensation or other measures.

Tourists photograph King penguin Nils Olav as he walks past soldiers from the Norwegian King's Guard after he received a Knighthood at Edinburgh Zoo. Edinburgh Zoo penguin Olav has been an honorary member and mascot of the Norwegian King's Guard since the 1980s and was made Honorary Colonel-in-Chief in 2005.

Indonesia to allocate \$200m on climate change

JAKARTA, 17 Aug — The Indonesian Government plans to set aside 2 trillion rupiah (about 217 million US dollars) to upgrade capacity building of public next year in dealing with the expected extreme weather changes due to the global warming.

The proposed expenditures for mitigation and adaptation programmes on climate

change in the 2009 state budget would be about five times higher than the 42.6 million US dollars planned for the state ministry of environment.

“I am very happy and feel honour for the government’s appreciation by allocating such special budget for the climate change’s mitigation and adaptation,” the *Jakarta Post*

daily on Sunday quoted Environment Minister Rachmat Witoelar as saying.

The minister said that the climate change budget would go to the National Climate Change Council (NCCC) before being distributed to the related executing agencies both in Jakarta and local areas.

MNA/Xinhua



Georgian Shalva Khutsenashvili (L), 84, and his South Ossetian wife Misurat Khutayeva, sit in a hospital room in Tshinvali, on 16 Aug, 2008. INTERNET

Dubai’s diamond trade volume up 36% in 1q of 2008

ABU DHABI, 17 Aug — The total volume of rough diamond trade in Dubai, the commercial hub of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), reached 3.03 billion US dollars in the first half of 2008, up 36 per cent over the same period last year, Dubai Diamond Exchange (DDE) announced on

Saturday.

During the first half of 2008, rough diamond imports into Dubai stood at 1.15 billion US dollars, representing a growth of 23 per cent over the same period in 2007, according to a statement by the exchange.

Exports of rough diamond from Dubai hit

1.88 billion US dollars in the first six months of 2008, increasing by 44 per cent on a year-on-year basis.

Angola, India, countries of the European Union (EU) and China were the top diamond trade partners for Dubai, which jointly accounted for around 85 per cent of Dubai’s rough diamond trade volume.

MNA/Xinhua

Hamas claims committed to truce with Israel

GAZA, 17 Aug — A senior Islamic Hamas leader said on Saturday that his movement is still committed to the truce brokered by Egypt between Israel and Gaza militants groups, which has become effective since 19 June. Salah el-Bardaweel, a Hamas legislature and leader in Gaza said in a statement that “all factions and armed groups have to be committed to the truce, although Israel is not committed to it”.

However, he added that “Egypt has to be briefed on the Israeli practices, which do not show full commitment to the truce, and Egypt has to contact Israel and urge it to be fully committed to it”. Meanwhile, Dawood Shihab, spokesman of the Islamic Jihad (Holy War) said earlier that the factions’ committee to follow up the truce with Israel held a meeting in Gaza on Friday.— MNA/Xinhua



A child runs through an art installation by Jim Lambie at the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art in Melbourne on 13 August, 2008. Glasgow-based artist Lambie’s work is called “Eight Miles High” and will be on show till 21 September.—INTERNET

NZ says Fiji is free to hold bilateral talks at Niue Forum

WELLINGTON, 17 Aug — New Zealand has rejected claims by Fiji that its delegation to next week’s Pacific Islands Forum in Niue has been barred from meeting its international partners in Auckland, Radio New Zealand International reported on Sunday.

This came amid comments by Fiji that it may pull out of the Niue summit because of the

restrictions.

The Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting will be held in the tiny island nation of Niue on 19-21 August.

But a spokesman for New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark said there was no basis to say New Zealand is preventing the Fiji interim government from attending the talks.

The spokesman said

on the contrary, New Zealand has granted exemptions to its travel ban to enable the Fiji delegation to transit through Auckland.

The spokesman said if members wish to take advantage of the countries gathering at the Niue Forum to undertake their own separate bilateral meetings in Niue then they are free to do so.

MNA/Xinhua

US soldier dies in non-combat incident in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 17 Aug — An American soldier died of non-battle related incident in Baghdad, the US military said on Saturday.

A soldier assigned to a Multi-National Corps-Iraq died on Friday in Baghdad, a military statement said

without providing further details.

An investigation on the incident was underway, the statement said.

Up to 16 US service members have died in Iraq so far in the current month.

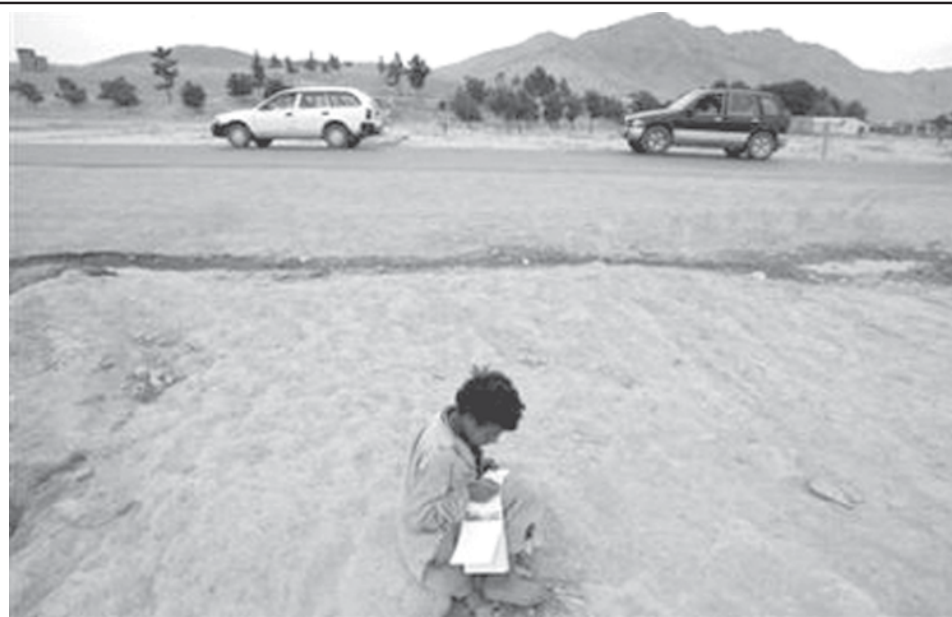
In July, the death toll of US soldiers killed in

Iraq hit the lowest monthly record with a total of 13, according to the independent website of icasualties.org, which records US troops lost in the conflict.

According to the website, November of 2004 was the deadliest month for US troops, in which 137 American soldiers were killed since the US-led invasion in 2003.

About 4,143 US soldiers have been killed in Iraq since the US-led invasion in March 2003, according to media count based on Pentagon figures.

MNA/Xinhua



A boy studies outside a refugee camp in Kabul on 15 Aug, 2008. — INTERNET

Maj-Gen Khin Zaw inspects regional development tasks in Magway Division

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Aug—Maj-Gen Khin Zaw of the Ministry of Defence together with officials arrived at Gwegyo camp in Nay Pyi Taw Tatkon on 15 August, welcomed by Chairman of Magway Division Peace and Development Council Col Phone Maw Shwe and officials.

Maj-Gen Khin Zaw and party inspected durability of 44 miles and 2 furlongs long road section in Pinyinmana and 22 miles long road section in Taungdwingyi road section as well as a 300-acre teak plantation.

Next, they looked into collective weeding and broadcasting of fertilizer at Wakkathay Village of Taungdwingyi Township.

Afterwards, Maj-Gen



Maj-Gen Khin Zaw of Ministry of Defence looks into production process of Maize Products Factory (Yanpal) of Myanmar Foodstuff Industries.—MNA

Khin Zaw oversaw inflow of water into irrigated area and control tower at Yanpal Dam Project. The dam is built in Wakkathay Village of the township. The dam benefits 10,000

acres of land. The embankment of the dam is 78 feet high and 9,100 feet long.

Upon arrival at Maize Products Factory of Myanmar Foodstuff

Industries of the Ministry of Industry-1, Maj-Gen Khin Zaw inspected production process at the factory.

Next, they looked into progress in supplying water to 800 acres of land through the left canal.

At the briefing hall of Pyithaya Agriculture Company Ltd in

Sinbaungwe Township, Maj-Gen Khin Zaw heard reports on cultivation of crops and physic nut plantations presented by departmental officials.

In Magway Division, 24 companies reclaimed 33,936 acres of land against 198,253 acres and carried out cultivation of

crops. The plans are under way to continue cultivation of crops on the remaining areas.

Next, he inspected thriving physic nut plants grown by Zanica Mahi Company and running of generators with the use of bio fuel and then arrived at Aunglan.

MNA



Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo receives FAO Resident Representative Dr Shin Imai.—A&I

Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation meets FAO representative, ROK Ambassador

YANGON, 17 Aug—Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo met FAO Resident Representative Dr Shin Imai at the hall of Irrigation Department in Yankin Township here on

15 August. They cordially discussed the distribution of 60,000 gallons of diesel donated by FAO for the cultivation in storm-hit regions.

The minister also met Ambassador of the

Republic of Korea Mr Park Key-Chong at the same venue on that day. They discussed repair of the embankments that prevent sea water and the rural development tasks.

MNA

New school building handed over

YANGON, 16 Aug—A ceremony to hand over a new school building at a cost of over K 21.3 million donated by Secretary of Mandalay Division USDA Myanmar Posts and

Telecommunications Division Manager U Eikdi Hla and wife Dr Daw Khin Thein Soe and family was held in Dantaing village of Kyaukse Township on 6 August.

Wellwishers donated school bags and stationery for 118 students through Headmistress Daw Tin Tin Thein and a local U Tin Win spoke words of thanks.—MNA

Technology workshop held

YANGON, 17 Aug—A workshop on technology for boosting production of cement and saving energy, jointly organized by Myanmar Ceramics Industries of the Ministry of Industry-1 and MY Associates Co Ltd and LV Technology Co Ltd (Bangkok), was held at the briefing hall of Kyaukse Cement Plant on 14 August.

Present on the occasion were technicians from cement plants under the ministry and private cement plants, engineers and guests.

First, Managing Director Daw Ohnma Myint of MY Associates Co Ltd and Marketing Manager of LV Technology Co Ltd (Bangkok) extended greetings on the occasion.

Next, Process General Manager Mr M T Rao made clarifications on boosting production of cement and technology on reduction of energy and Assistant to Managing Director Mr Punya Kritiyawong on introduction of LV technology. Afterwards, officials replied to the queries raised by those present.—MNA



Managing Director Daw Ohnma Myint of MY Associates Co Ltd speaking at workshop on technology for boosting production of cement and saving energy.—MNA

Local people urged to exert greater effort...

(from page 1)
Next, the Prime Minister and party looked into the newly built Village PDC Office and rural health centre.

After that, they viewed learning of students at the makeshift school and gave necessary instructions.

During his inspection of the rural library, the Prime Minister called on officials to organize the people to develop the reading habit and to widen their scope of knowledge.

Next, the Prime Minister and party inspected vegetable patches grown in the compound of the houses on a manageable scale, and cordially greeted local people and urged them to make relentless efforts for development of their socio-economic status.

Later, the Prime Minister and party viewed power tillers donated by Malaysia-based Rim-bunan Petrogas Co and Singapore-based UNOG Co.

The Prime Minister and party arrived in Pyapon by helicopter at 9.45 am and they were welcomed by Minister for Hotels and Tourism Maj-Gen Soe Naing who is supervising the rehabilitation tasks in the township and Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min who is super-



Prime Minister General Thein Sein views diesel engines at fishing boats and nets handing over ceremony in Dedaye Township.—MNA

Responsible officials are to go down right to villages and encourage the local people to try hard for more improvement of their socio-economy by ignoring their past living conditions and taking lessons from the cyclone Nargis.

repair of schools, rural health care unit and hospitals in two townships. Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun gave a supplementary report.

The Prime Minister fulfilled the requirements and he told the officials to repair roads for ensuring smooth transport and to maintain bridges on the roads.

The Prime Minister and party left Pyapon for Bogale. At the control office, Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung who is supervising the rehabilitation tasks in Bogale Township reported on rehabilitation tasks, construction of houses in Kyeinchaunggyi and Sethsan Villages, donations of the wellwishers, cultivation of 263,271 acres of monsoon paddy for 2008-2009, distribution of monsoon paddy strains, power tillers, fuel, (See page 9)

vising the rehabilitation tasks in Dedaye Township and departmental officials.

The Prime Minister and party went to Pyapon District Peace and Development Council Office where they were welcomed by departmental officials, members of USDA and national construction entrepreneurs.

Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min reported on condition of 15-mile Dedaye-Pyapon road section and Minister Maj-Gen Soe Naing on Pyapon-Bogale road section and Pyapon-Kyaiklat road section and repair of roads, construction of houses for storm victims,



Prime Minister General Thein Sein inspects power-tillers donated by Malaysia-based Rimbunan Petrogas Co and Singapore-based UNOG Co in Kungyangon Township.—MNA



Fishing boats seen in the river before handing over them to fishermen for rehabilitation of fishing industry in Dedaye Township.—MNA

Local people urged to exert greater ...

(from page 8)
fishing boats and nets, provision of supplies, communication system, Pyapon-Bogale Road section, cultivation of mangrove and windbreakers, repair of dams and embankments and disaster preparedness in accord with the guidance of the Head of State.

The Prime Minister fulfilled the requirements. He told the officials to upgrade the rural dispensary to station hospital in Sethsan Village, basic education middle school (branch) to BEMS level and to make arrangements for sale of seeds at reasonable price to farmers.

The Prime Minister and party arrived in Dedaye Township and inspected maintenance of

Dedaye Bridge across Toe River.

The Prime Minister attended a ceremony to provide fishing boats and gear to fishermen in fishing Dedaye and delivered a speech. He said that fishing boats and fishing equipment have been handed over for the second time to those in Dedaye Township who are engaged in fishery for resuming their work. Therefore, they have had enough to regenerate their business.

As the State as well as the public wellwishers have provided more facilities than before, the local people only need greater effort to improve their socio-economic life. The harder they work, the more benefits they

will get as their region is already blessed with natural resources.

The Prime Minister pointed out that responsible officials are to go down right to villages and encourage the local people to try hard for more improvement of their socio-economy by ignoring their past living conditions and taking lessons from the cyclone Nargis.

In accord with the guidance of the Head of State on enabling the affected fishermen in Ayeyawady Division to resume their business, Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein handed over 290 fishing boats and 2700 pieces of fishing equipment to Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-



Prime Minister General Thein Sein meets teachers and students at temporary school in Thayetthonbin Village of Kungyangon Township.

MNA

Gen Aung Min.

Next, the Prime Min-

ister and party viewed test-running of fishing boats in Toe River from the briefing hall. The Prime Minister inspected 6.5 HP petrol engines, various kinds of fishing nets, fishing equipment and fishing boats with wooden frames displayed near the briefing hall.

Then, the Prime Minister viewed progress in

construction of houses near Dedaye Bridge for the storm victims and repairs of roads. Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min conducted the Prime Minister and party around the site.

Later, the Prime Minister and party arrived back in Yangon by helicopter in the afternoon.

MNA



Prime Minister General Thein Sein meets local people in Thayetthonbin Village of Kungyangon Township. — MNA

Works of graduates displayed at National Culture and Fine Arts University (Yangon)

YANGON, 16 Aug— The 12th graduation works show of students of National Culture and Fine Arts University (Yangon) was held at the National Theatre on Myoma Kyaung Street, here, to-

day.

Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint and officials viewed the graduation works of the art and sculpture major students for 2007-08 academic year.

Next, they enjoyed entertainment of the music and theatrical major students at the marionette drama and the theatrical drama scripted by Pyinmana Myint Hlaing.

Also present on the occasion were Director-General U Sann Win of the Archaeology, National Museum and Library Department, Rector U Tin Soe of the university, members of the National Culture and Fine Arts Universities' Council, officials, artistes and family members of the students.

MNA



Minister Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint views works of graduates of National Culture and Fine Arts University (Yangon). — MNA

Ministry of Electric Power No. 2 holds coord meeting

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Aug— The Ministry of Electric Power No. 2 held a coordination meeting at the ministry here from 13 to 15 August with an address by Minister for Electric Power No. 2 Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint.

Officials from Yangon City Electricity Supply Board, Electricity Supply Enterprise, Myanma Electric Power Enterprise and Electric Power Department reported on works carried

out. After that, departmental heads reported on salient points of projects, and distribution of electricity.

Officials presented prizes to outstanding service personnel. Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Win Myint presented prizes to outstanding departments and enterprises.

Later, the minister presented prizes to outstanding service personnel.—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

Secretariat member of USDA inspects regional development tasks in Kachin State

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Aug—Member of the Secretariat of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw attended the rainy season tree plantation ceremony at University of Computer Studies in Bhamo on 10 August.

The Secretariat member presented saplings to members of social organizations.

The minister and official, departmental staff and members of

social organizations planted 1,000 saplings.

The Secretariat member met officials, members of social organizations, and townelders of Momauk at the township USDA office and attended to the needs.

The minister inspected Momauk auto-exchange construction task.

The Secretariat member donated provisions to Sayadaw of Maha Thaddhammazawtikayon monastery in Myothit and Sayadaw of Aungmingala MyoU monastery in Dawphon-

yan. He met officials, members of social organizations, and townelders at Dawphonyan General Administration Department.

He donated provisions to Sayadaw of Nansanyan village monastery.

He met officials from four Baptist Churches, local authority and village-elders.

Next, he met officials of Shwenyaungpin village and fulfilled the requirements of village development tasks.

MNA

Final match of Yangon Command Commander's Shield Football Tourney held

YANGON, 17 Aug—The final match of Yangon Command Commander's Shield Football Tourney for 2008 took place at Yangon Command's sports ground in Mingaladon Township here yesterday evening.

Among the spectators

were Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Win Myint, senior military officers of the command and their wives, station commanders and their wives.

Senior military officers and station commanders presented

prizes to outstanding athletes. Next, the commander presented the championship shield to the winning team.

Altogether 24 football teams participated in the football tournament from 16 July to 16 August 2008.—MNA



Commander Brig-Gen Win Myint presents championship shield to a prize winning team in football tournament. — MNA

Minister meets officers of Customs Department

YANGON, 17 Aug—The Assistant Directors and their superior level officials of Customs Department of the Ministry of Finance and Revenue held a meeting at the head office of the department yesterday.

Present on the occasion were Minister Maj-Gen Hla Tun, Deputy Minister Col Hla Thein Swe, managing directors, and officials.

The minister instructed officers to make

efforts to discharge duties to their best and supervise efficiency of the staff. Next, officials briefed the minister on a organizational set up of

department, duties and functions, accomplishment of tasks in the fiscal year and the minister gave necessary instructions.—MNA

Donors of ancient cultural objects honoured

YANGON, 17 Aug —A ceremony to present cash awards to those who donated ancient cultural objects to the Ministry of Culture took place at the National Theatre on Myoma Kyaung Street in Dagon Township here this morning.

At the ceremony Director-General U Sann Win of the Archaeology, National Museum and Library Department said handsome prizes are being awarded to those who dutifully present ancient cultural objects they have unearthed to the State. Those who presented 27 kinds of artefacts discovered from the ancient city of Mongmaw of Pyu in Myittha Township, Kyaukse District, Mandalay Division, to the State were awarded K 14.6 million on 27 May 2005; and those who presented gold statues, silver statues and ancient cultural objects unearthed from Thayawhan Village in Kyitaung Village-tract, Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana District, to the State K 12.6 million on 2 August 2007, said U Sann Win.

Next, Director-General U Sann Win awarded K 243,500 to U Tin Maung Aye and Daw Myint Myint Aye who donated 21 items of artefacts; and K 3,946,296 to Director U Aung Naing Myint who presented some ancient cultural items on behalf of Lt-Col Lu Aye of No. 77 LID.

The Department is keeping and preserving ancient cultural items in accord with the law of ancient cultural objects.—MNA



USDA Secretariat Member Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw views rainy season tree planting ceremony at University of Computer Studies in Bhamo. — CPT



Beijing 2008 Olympic Games

同一个世界 同一个梦想 One World One Dream

News & Photos by Xinhua



Jamaica's Usain Bolt took men's 100 metres final in stunning style and broke the world record in 9.69 seconds at the Beijing Olympic Games Saturday night.



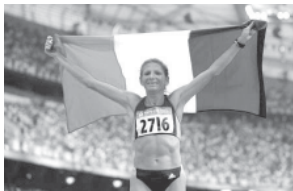
China's Zou Kai bites the gold medal at the awarding ceremony of men's floor exercise final of Beijing 2008 Olympic Games at National Indoor Stadium in Beijing, China, on 17 Aug, 2008. Zou Kai claimed the title of the event with a score of 16.050.

Medal Standings (17-8-2008)

Sr	NOC Name	G	S	B	T	Sr	NOC Name	G	S	B	T
1	China	35	13	13	61	37	Cameroon	1			1
2	United States	19	21	25	65	38	India	1			1
3	Britain	11	6	8	25	39	Thailand	1			1
4	Germany	9	6	6	21	40	Tunisia	1			1
5	Australia	8	10	11	29	41	Hungary		4	1	5
6	ROK	8	9	5	22	42	Belarus		3	7	10
7	Japan	8	5	7	20	43	Sweden		3		3
8	Russian Fed.	7	12	12	31	44	Kenya		2	1	3
9	Italy	6	6	6	18	45	Turkey		2	1	3
10	Ukraine	5	3	6	14	46	Austria		1	2	3
11	France	4	9	12	25	47	Greece		1	2	3
12	Romania	4	1	3	8	48	Algeria		1	1	2
13	Spain	3	2	1	6	49	Colombia		1	1	2
14	Slovakia	3	1		4	50	Croatia		1	1	2
15	Netherlands	2	4	4	10	51	Kyrgyzstan		1	1	2
16	Poland	2	3	1	6	52	Serbia		1	1	2
17	Czech Republic	2	3		5	53	Uzbekistan		1	1	2
18	Jamaica	2	2		4	54	Chile		1		1
19	Canada	2	1	4	7	55	Ecuador		1		1
20	DPRK	2	1	3	6	56	Estonia		1		1
21	New Zealand	2	1	2	5	57	Malaysia		1		1
22	Ethiopia	2	1		3	58	Singapore		1		1
23	Switzerland	2		3	5	59	Trinidad/Tobago		1		1
24	Georgia	2		1	3	60	Vietnam		1		1
25	Cuba	1	3	4	8	61	Armenia			5	5
26	Kazakhstan	1	3	4	8	62	Chinese Taipei			2	2
27	Zimbabwe	1	3		4	63	Argentina			1	1
28	Azerbaijan	1	2	2	5	64	Egypt			1	1
29	Norway	1	2	1	4	65	Lithuania			1	1
30	Indonesia	1	1	3	5	66	Mexico			1	1
31	Slovenia	1	1	2	4	67	Tajikistan			1	1
32	Bulgaria	1	1	1	3	68	Togo			1	1
33	Finland	1	1	1	3	Total:		166	167	191	524
34	Mongolia	1	1		2						
35	Brazil	1		4	5						
36	Denmark	1		3	4						



Britta Steffen of Germany smiles during the final of women's 50m freestyle at the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games in the National Aquatics Centre, also known as the Water Cube in Beijing, China, on 17Aug, 2008. Britta Steffen won the gold medal with a new Olympic record of 24.06 seconds



Constantina Tomescu of Romania displays the Romanian national flag after taking women's marathon final at the National Stadium, also known as the Bird's Nest, during Beijing 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing, China, on 17 Aug, 2008. Tomescu claimed the title of the event.

28th summit of SADC opens

JOHANNESBURG, 17 Aug— A two-day summit of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) opened here on Saturday, with the review of political situation in the region and launch of the Free Trade Area (FTA) being top on the agenda.

Botswana's President Seretse Ian Khama did not come to the summit in protest against Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe's being invited to the event.

Botswana has said Mugabe should not come to the summit till a power-sharing deal is reached between his party and the opposition parties. South African President Thabo Mbeki said at the opening ceremony that the regional bloc is a critical principle vehicle for peace and stability and security and an important catalyst in the region's efforts for regional integration, harmonization of policies and a central platform.

MNA/Xinhua

Mubarak, Lebanese PM meet on Lebanese situation

CAIRO, 17 Aug— Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak held talks on Saturday with visiting Lebanese Prime Minister Fouad Seniora in the northern Egyptian coastal city of Alexandria.

During the one-hour meeting, the two leaders discussed the current situation in Lebanon and the bilateral relations between the two countries, the Egyptian official MENA news agency reported.

They also talked about a recent agreement between Lebanon and Syria to set up diplomatic ties, said the report.

On Wednesday, Lebanon and Syria agreed to establish diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level, said a declaration following the summit between Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and his Lebanese counterpart Michel Suleiman. —MNA/Xinhua

Smoking increases stroke risk among women

LOS ANGELES, 17 Aug— Smoking increases the risk of having a stroke among women, according to a study published in the 15 August issue of the journal *Stroke*. The risk was 2.2 times greater for women smoking one to 10 cigarettes a day, 4.3 times greater for those smoking 21 to 39 cigarettes a day, and 9.1 times greater for those smoking two packs a day or more, compared to nonsmokers, the study found. Dr John Cole, the study's author, said the research is significant as it provides actual dose response, which was non-existent in the past.

Cole and his colleagues interviewed 466 women who had had a stroke, and also 604 women who hadn't. Those being interviewed were all between 15-49 years old. The study also demonstrated the benefit of quitting smoking. Stroke risk declined as early as 30 days after a woman gave up smoking and returned to normal in about two years. "Stopping is the best thing to do, but cutting back will also reduce the risk," Cole said. —MNA/Xinhua

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Reg.No.4/ 3948/2008

In respect of : "Int'l Class 05:
"Food supplement for human
health purpose; Food supple-
ment containing vitamins,
minerals, anti-oxidants, amino
acid, herbal extracts, tradi-
tional medicine; to maintain
and to support health, to help
to increase stamina and/or en-
durance of men and women,
better utilization of lipid sub-
strates for energy production
with result increase in muscle
power, greater performance of
activities and helping the pre-
vention of lipid accumulation
in the body then to help to
maintain proportional body
shape".

Reg.No.4/3949/2008

In respect of : "Int'l Class 32:
"Isotonic beverages; mineral
and aerated waters and other
non-alcoholic drinks; fruit
drinks and fruit juices; energy
drinks; beverages, effervesc-
ing beverages (pastilles, pow-
ders), honey based beverages;
syrups and other preparations
for making beverages".
Fraudulent imitation or unau-
thorized use of the said Trade-
mark shall be dealt with ac-
cording to law.
U Myint Lwin, Advocate,
LL.B,DBL
Dip in Marine Affairs(UK)
MYINT.Advocate@mptmail.net.mm
Ph :371 990 18.Aug.2008

New Nepali Cabinet to have 24 members

KATHMANDU, 17 Aug
— The Nepali party
alliance formed in Friday's
prime minister election
reached tentative agree-
ment on Saturday to form
a 24-member Cabinet,
local media reported.

Senior leader of the
Communist Party of Nepal
(Maoist) (CPN-M)

Baburam Bhattarai said
this while speaking to
reporters after a meeting
of top leaders of the
coalition on Saturday.

According to him, the
new Cabinet will be
named on Monday after
Prime Minister Pra-
chanda takes oath of
office.

The CPN-M
Chairman Prachanda was
elected the first Prime
Minister of Federal
Democratic Republic of
Nepal on Friday with
support from two other
allies, the Communist
Party of Nepal (Unified
Marxist-Leninist) (CPN-
UML) and the Madhesi
People's Rights Forum
(MPRF).

Final decision on
power-sharing would be
announced on Sunday,
Bhattarai said without
revealing which other
parties were joining the
government.

MNA/Xinhua

Stroke treatment still very often delayed

NEW YORK, 17 Aug
— Stroke victims
frequently fail to seek
emergency treatment
promptly enough, and
even when they do get to
the ER quickly, their
treatment is often
delayed, a new study
shows.

"Our study shows that
most people with stroke
symptoms still do not get
to the hospital in a timely
manner," lead researcher
Dr Kathryn R Rose, of
the University of North
Carolina, Chapel Hill,
told Reuters Health.

"This precludes them
from being considered
for time-dependent
treatments that can reduce
disability and death
following a stroke." In
most cases, strokes are

caused by a blood clot
hindering blood flow to
the brain. A drug called
tissue plasminogen
activator, or tPA, can be
used to dissolve the clot
and limit stroke damage,
but it must be given within
three hours of a person's
first symptoms.

In their study, Rose
and her colleagues found
that of 15,177 patients in
a North Carolina stroke
registry, less than one-
quarter arrived at the
hospital within two hours
of symptom onset. Of
these patients, just 24 per
cent received a CT scan
within the recommended
time frame.

The researchers report
the findings in the journal
Stroke.

MNA/Reuters

Kurd officials split on pullout from Iraq province

ARBIL (Iraq), 17 Aug
— Iraqi Kurdish officials
gave conflicting accounts
on Saturday of whether
they would withdraw their
Peshmerga fighters from
a restive province outside
the autonomous Kurdistan
region.

A Kurdish government
minister said the regional
authorities had agreed to
withdraw the troops from
neighbouring Diyala
Province, but another
official said they would
stay in place but take
orders from the central
government in Baghdad.

Kurdish officials have
been negotiating with the
central government over
the presence of 4,000
Kurdish troops, known as

Two Iranian businessmen abducted in Afghanistan

KABUL, 17 Aug — Unknown armed men kidnapped
two Iranian businessmen in Afghanistan's western
Herat Province and police have yet to locate them,
police spokesman in western region Abdul Rauf
Ahmadi said on Saturday.

"Riza Azimyan and Hasan Farsi were on their way
between Herat and Islam Qala border town on
Wednesday afternoon when unknown armed men took
them away to unknown location," Ahmadi told Xinhua
via telephone.

Both the abducted people were businessmen and
working for an Iranian road construction company
building Torghundi highway in the province, he added.

No group or individuals have claimed responsibility,
he said.

However, he hinted at involvement of criminal
gangs in the kidnapping, adding the mentioned
businessmen could have been kidnapped for ransom.

MNA/Xinhua

Obama nets \$51m in July

WASHINGTON, 17 Aug
— US Democratic
presidential hopeful
Barack Obama added
more than 65,000 new
donors and raised 51
million US dollars in
July, his campaign said
Saturday.

"The 65,000 new
donors to the Obama
campaign demonstrate

just how strongly the
American people are
looking to fundamentally
change business as usual
in Washington," Obama
campaign manager David
Plouffe said in a statement.
The campaign of
Obama's Republican rival
John McCain announced
Friday that it raised 27
million dollars in July, his
best monthly total.

McCain hopes he can
close the fundraising gap
with Obama with the help
of the strong fundraising
machine of Republican
National Committee, or
RNC, which raised 26
million dollars last month
and has over a million
donors during this election
cycle.—Internet

Photo taken on 16 Aug,
2008 shows the sight in the
World Park in Beijing,
China. For a second day,
the Olympic host city
reported Grade I — or
excellent — air quality on
Saturday, the eighth day of
the Olympics. —INTERNET

Sources: Qatar to mediate between Hamas, Fatah

GAZA, 17 Aug — Qatar
entered the mediation
between rival Palestinian
groups of Fatah and
Hamas in a new effort to
make reconciliation
between the two sides,
Palestinian sources said
on Saturday.

"Qatar, as a state of
strategic weigh in the
region, seeks to sponsor
the mediation between
Hamas and Fatah to end
the internal split and
reunite the two wings of
Palestine," the sources
said.

Palestinian factions of
Fatah and Hamas split in
June 2007 when Hamas
ousted Fatah from the
Gaza Strip and seized
control of the coastal

enclave. Fatah loyal to
President Mahmoud
Abbas was driven out to
the West Bank where he
consolidated his Western-
backed rule.

Qatari officials have
held talks with leaders
from Hamas and Fatah to
convince them to return
to dialogue, the sources
added.

The Qatari efforts
focus on overcoming the
consequences of Hamas'
violent takeover of
Gaza before Hamas
starts dialogue with
Fatah, according to the
sources.

The new efforts came
as Egypt, the long-
dominant mediator,
increased its efforts to

make reconciliation be-
tween the Palestinian fac-
tions.

Internet



Bolivian President wins recall referendum

LIMA, 17 Aug — Bolivian President Evo Morales gained 67.41 percent of votes in a latest recall referendum, thus keeping his office, the country’s electoral court announced Saturday, according to reports from La Paz, Bolivia’s administrative capital.

On 10 Aug, Bolivians voted to decide whether Morales, Vice President Alvaro Garcia and eight

of the nine provincial governors should continue in office. To remain in office, the politicians each had to gain more than 50 percent of votes.

The electoral court’s statistics showed Morales, Bolivia’s first indigenous president, and Garcia won 67.41 percent of votes, higher than the 53.7-percent support when they were first

elected to office in 2005.

Five of the eight governors succeeded in keeping their positions, two failed, while the last one’s fate was still undecided due to vote-counting problems.

Internet



A partial lunar eclipse is seen in this multi-exposure photo taken on 16 Aug, 2008, in Cairo, capital of Egypt. —INTERNET

Xinjiang reports robust foreign trade growth

URUMQI, 17 Aug — The import and export value of northwest China’s Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region doubled in the first seven months of this year to 11.58 billion US dollars, 70 percent more than the

national average growth rate.

The remote Chinese region exported 9.89 billion US dollars worth of commodities from January to July, almost double that for the same period last year, and imported goods were valued at 1.69 billion U.S. dollars, an increase of more than 80 percent, according to statistics given by Urumqi Customs.

Xinjiang’s conventional bulk goods for export included garment and accessories, footwear, machinery and electronic products, textile yarn, fabrics and related products, and farm produce.

In the first seven months, 77 percent of the region’s foreign trade volume, or 9 billion US dollars, were done via

barter trade.

Xinjiang borders with Mongolia, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India, with a border line of 5,400 km.

Kazakhstan remains as Xinjiang’s biggest trading partner, followed by Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

Nationwide, China gained 1.48 trillion US dollars in foreign trade in the first seven months, representing a year-on-year rise of 26.4 percent, according to a report posted on the website of Ministry of Commerce.

In breakdown, exports totalled 802.91 billion US dollars, up 22.6 percent, while imports were worth 679.2 billion US dollars, up 31.1 percent.

Internet

Bodies of two climbers found in Italian Alps

AOSTA, (Italy) 17 Aug — The bodies of a 70-year-old British climber and a Dutch guide were found Saturday in the Italian Alps.

Reginald Clarke, 70, of London and the guide set out to reach the Naso del Lyskamm peak of Monte Rosa Friday despite an impending storm, The Observer reported. A guide found their frozen bodies more than 12,000 feet above sea level.

The Italian news agency Ansa identified the guide as Johannes Ruiter, 47. Adriano Favre, who heads rescue services in the Valle d’Aosta, said the pair may have become lost trying to descend to the Gnifetti shelter.

They were then caught in a storm impossible to survive at that height in the open.

Internet



A man is hit by splashed water during the summer festival of Tomioka Hachiman-gu Shrine in Tokyo’s downtown on Sunday 17 Aug, 2008. More than 50 portable shrines were carried by parishioners drenched with water thrown by bystanders as they made their way through the streets near the shrine. —INTERNET

23 killed in sectarian clashes in Pakistan’s tribal area

ISLAMABAD, 17 Aug — At least 23 people were killed and 25 others were injured in fresh sectarian clashes at the Kurrum tribal agency in Pakistan’s northwest, the state-run PTV reported Sunday.

The death toll from the 11-day fighting has

reached 194 and the injured are at 286, it said.

The violence in Kurrum escalated late Saturday night, as tribesmen set fire on over two dozen empty houses in a village in Lower Kurrum.

The clashes, in

which both sides are using heavy weapons, have forced hundreds of families to flee to other areas.

The PTV said that the warring tribes had ignored the government’s ultimatum to halt fighting.

Internet

AL chief hails Lebanese-Syrian ties

CAIRO, 16 Aug — Arab League (AL) Secretary General Amr Moussa on Saturday lauded the Lebanese-Syrian decision to establish their diplomatic ties, terming the move as an “important and positive step.”

Moussa made the remarks following his meeting with visiting Lebanese Prime Minister Fouad Seniora in the northern Egyptian coast city of Alexandria, the Egyptian MENA news agency reported.

The two sides discussed the positive outcome of Lebanese President Michel Suleiman’s recent visit to Syria, means of boosting Lebanese economy and maintaining Lebanon’s security.

Moussa said he is “upbeat about the progress being realized in Lebanon” that will help restore the country’s stability.

Internet



Andrew Cardwell of Pirate Scooter Rentals leaves a gas station with full gasoline cans on 16 Aug, 2008 in Key West, Fla. in preparation for Tropical Storm Fay. Forecasters warned that Fay could bring hurricane-force winds to the Florida Keys as soon as Monday. Fay could hit as a Category 1 or 2 hurricane, with winds perhaps reaching more than 100 mph, forecasters said Saturday, stressing that it was too early to tell how intense the storm would become. In anticipation, Gov Charlie Crist declared a state of emergency for the state. —INTERNET

SPORTS

BARCLAYS PREMIER LEAGUE

Aston Villa	4 - 2	Manchester City
Chelsea	4 - 0	Portsmouth
Man Utd	1 - 1	Newcastle

Benitez - I won't quit
Liverpool boss rubbishes Anfield exit rumours



Rafa Benitez

LONDON, 17 Aug — Liverpool manager Rafa Benitez has rubbished speculation he is set to quit the Reds after watching his side open their Premier League account with three points at Sunderland.

Fernando Torres struck in the 83rd minute to secure the points at the Stadium of Light after Liverpool had struggled to break their hosts down.

Rumour has suggested that Benitez could be ready to quit Anfield following a frustrating summer in the transfer market.

But Benitez insists that is not the case, saying: "I don't read headlines on the day of the game, but my

commitment is 100 percent - with the fans, with the players and with the club in general. I say 100 times my family is happy here - we want to win trophies at this club because it is a massive club. "If we have problems because we are not doing things which, in my opinion as a manager we could do, I will work as hard as I can for the club."

While Benitez refused to overtly name Aston Villa captain Gareth Barry, a prime summer transfer target, as the source of the recent discontent at the club, he was as clear as he could be that he wants the versatile England international to join his squad sooner rather than later.

"I will not talk about any player - but in April I was talking about this (behind the scenes)," Benitez added.

"We tried to do things in confidentiality, but sometimes you cannot and you need to explain before the end of the transfer window."

Internet

Answers to yesterday's
Crosswords Puzzle

1	C		2	I		3	M		8		8		4	H		5	A		6	J
7	H	O	N	O	U	R		8	R	A	B	B	L	E						
	O		8	H		8	R		9	A		8	R		8	A		8	W	
10	P	I	E	B	A	L	D		8	M	E	T	R	E						
	P		8	R		8	L		8	R		8	O		8	E		8	L	
12	E	M	I	T		8	S		13	E	I	N	E		8		8		8	
	R		8	T		8	G		14	N		8	Y		8	B		8	P	
	8	8	8		17	W	O		M	A	N		8	18	C		L		U	
19	O		8	D		8	N		8	L		8	U		8	A		8	R	
22	F	O	U	N	D		8		23	I	N	N	I	N	G	S				
	F		8	C		8	O		8	N		8	B		I		8	K		
24	E	X	H	A	L	E		8	25	S	T	R	E	S	S					
	R		8	Y		8	A		8		8	E		8	T		8	T		

Brown hails Tigers spirit
Boss pleased with fitness levels

LONDON, 17 Aug — Hull manager Phil Brown heaped praise on his players following the 2-1 victory over Fulham.

The Tigers fell behind in their historic first match in the top tier of English football when Seol Ki-Hyeon headed home for Fulham on eight minutes.

However, Geovanni equalised with a superb strike on 22 minutes and Caleb Folan netted the winner nine minutes from time.

Brown was delighted with the character of his side as they held on for the three points.

"The spirit of the football club was there for everybody to see today," said Brown.

"The fitness levels in the second half were incredible, as was the passion and the drive. The character was tremendous.

"Before the game we said to the players that Fulham didn't travel too well last season, and we tried to exploit their weaknesses.

"We stuck to a game plan and the substitutions changed the game late on.

"I'm really happy because there weren't many times last season we came from behind to win.

"Could I have asked for more? I would have liked a clean sheet as those are going to be very important this season."

Brown reserved special credit for Geovanni, who joined on a free transfer from Manchester City in the summer.

"He gives us something that we perhaps didn't have last season - a little bit of quality in the middle.

"He didn't really get a fair crack of the whip at Manchester City last season, and I couldn't believe it when he became available."

Internet



Vera Zvonareva of Russia returns a shot of Li Na of China during their bronze medal singles match at the Beijing 2008 Olympics in Beijing, on 17 Aug, 2008.—INTERNET

Capello snub for Crouch
Pompey striker misses out, while Heskey returns

LONDON, 17 Aug — Portsmouth striker Peter Crouch has missed out on a place in the England squad to face Czech Republic on Wednesday, but Emile Heskey has earned a recall.



Fabio Capello

England manager Fabio Capello was at Upton Park to watch Heskey in action for Wigan on Saturday.

And once West Ham's match-winner Dean Ashton, whose injury curse has struck again, was ruled out, it was the former Liverpool man who got the nod ahead of Crouch, who left Merseyside for Pompey in an £11million deal this summer.

Aston Villa's Ashley Young was the other surprise absentee, while there was no place either for Tottenham forward Darren Bent.

Internet

Arsenal and Liverpool start
with first day wins

LONDON, 17 Aug — Arsenal launched their bid for a first Premier League crown in five years with a comfortable 1-0 win over promoted West Bromwich Albion on the opening day of the season on Saturday.

Liverpool, who have their eyes on a first title since 1990, also got off to a winning start by beating Sunderland 1-0 at the Stadium of Light with a late goal from Fernando Torres.

Champions Manchester United and runners-up Chelsea, the other two members of the Big Four, are at home on Sunday against Newcastle United and FA Cup holders Portsmouth respectively.

Hull City celebrated their first top-flight match with a 2-1 win over visitors Fulham but Stoke City, back among the elite for the first time since 1985, lost 3-1 at Bolton Wanderers.

Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger told the BBC: "We always looked in control and I thought the second goal would come. But West Brom defended very well and we lacked a bit of sharpness around the box."

MNA/Reuters

Blatter speaks too soon
in praising standard

SHENYANG, 17 Aug — FIFA president Sepp Blatter praised the standard of football at the Olympics on Saturday -- then had to sit through one of the worst contests of the tournament.

"The standard of football at the Olympics has never been higher," Blatter, whose organization's motto is "Fair Play", told reporters minutes before kick off.

His comments were followed by a dismal quarterfinal between Brazil and Cameroon which ended 0-0 after 90 minutes and produced 56 fouls, 12 yellow cards and a sending-off. The match, which Brazil eventually won 2-0 in extra-time, was also marred by play-acting, continuous remonstrating with the referees and niggly clashes between players.

Cameroon's Albert Baning, who was sent off, and his team mate Andre Bikey were both involved in angry finger-pointing protests with the referee. "I think the number of yellow cards says everything about the game," said Brazil coach Dunga, whose team were jeered by the crowd. — MNA/Reuters



Latvia's Anete Jekabsone-Zogota goes for a layup by South Korea's Sin Jun-ga, left, during their women's basketball preliminary game at the Beijing 2008 Olympics in Beijing, on 17 Aug, 2008.—INTERNET

Dominican President sworn in for third term

SANTO DOMINGO, 17 Aug— Dominican President Leonel Fernandez was sworn in for a third term on Saturday, promising to steer the country out of an economic slowdown.

In his inauguration speech, Fernandez said he would be committed to curbing inflation, continuing to promote economic development and maintaining financial stability in the country. Fernandez said his country's economy is facing great difficulties due to a deteriorating US economy and rising oil and food prices. "We are aware of the great challenges awaiting us over the next four years. They are tough challenges, even intimidating challenges," he said during the speech at the National Congress.

He asked the congress to approve a loan of 210 million US dollars for farmers to increase output and counter the economic slowdown.

The United States plays a very important role in the Dominican economy, as US citizens buy some 80 per cent of Dominican exports and the country is home to over one million Dominican emigrants, who provide one-tenth of Dominican gross domestic product through remittances.—MNA/Xinhua

Nine new cases of chikungunya fever reported in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 17 Aug— Singapore on Saturday reported nine new cases of mosquito-borne chikungunya fever, bringing to 117 the total number of such cases this year.

According to Channel NewsAsia reports on Saturday night, of these cases, 54 were imported ones with history of travel to the countries such as Malaysia, Indonesia and Sri Lanka.

The nine new cases of chikungunya fever was locally-transmitted ones as none of them travelled overseas recently.

Singapore's Health Minister Khaw Boon Wan was quoted as saying that the country has been fighting mosquitoes for several decades now and he knew these were very formidable enemies.

"They'll try to survive and I think there's no other way except just make sure our environmental hygiene is of very high standards," the minister said.

MNA/Xinhua

Four more parties in Indonesia to take part in 2009 polls

JAKARTA, 17 Aug—

Four more political parties in Indonesia have been declared eligible to contest the 2009 general elections, bringing the total number of political parties to 38, the country's General Election Commission (KPU) has announced.

The four political parties include the Freedom Party, the Indonesian Nahdlatul Ummah Unity Party, the Indonesian Association Party and the Labour Party, Antara news agency on Sunday quoted KPU Chairman Abdul Hafiz Anshary as saying.

Previously, the four political parties had not been included in the list of eligible parties on the ground they had not passed the KPU's physical

verification test. But the parties then challenged the KPU's decision in the State Administrative Court (PTUN) which eventually ruled in their favour.

The legislative election day is set for 9 April, 2009, while the presidential election date has yet to be decided by the General Elections Commission (KPU).

The 2004 election was contended by 24 parties.

The 2009 elections will be Indonesia's second direct presidential election. The first direct presidential election was won by the Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and Jusuf Kalla pair.

MNA/Xinhua

Hun Sen dismisses rumour of senior officials reshuffle

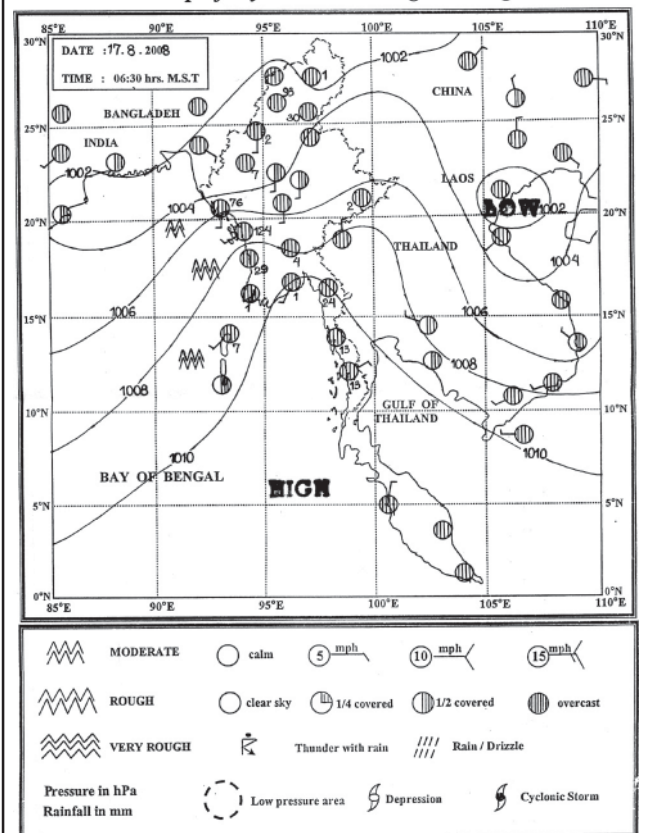
PHNOM PENH, 17 Aug — The Cambodian Government had no plan to reshuffle police commanders, provincial and city governors as well as their deputies, said Prime Minister Hun Sen in a statement received here Saturday.

"As Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, I confirm that the government has no plan to reshuffle your positions as some gossip had alleged," he said.

"I also request you all to keep on working as normal for the benefits of the people and the nation," he said.

"We will find the rumour mongers and punish them by law," he said, adding that the rumours have spread widely and therefore created unrest among senior government employees and police officers in recent weeks. — MNA/Xinhua

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Sunday, 17 August, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST: During the past 24 hours, rain have been isolated in lower Sagaing Division, scattered in Mandalay, Magway and Yangon Divisions, fairly widespread in Kachin and Shan States, upper Sagaing, Bago and Taninthayi Divisions and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions with locally heavyfalls in Rakhine State and isolated heavyfall in upper Sagaing Division. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Nay Pyi Taw (0.12) inch, Kyaukpyu (5.04) inches, Hkamti (3.70) inches, Sittway (3.19) inches, Thandwe (2.72) inches, Gwa (2.48) inches, Maungtau (2.28) inches, Kyauktaw (2.03) inches, Pyay (1.49) inches, Myitkyina (1.42) inches and Ye (1.37) inches.

Maximum temperature on 16-8-2008 was 87°F. Minimum temperature on 17-8-2008 was 72°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 17-8-2008 was 81%. Total sunshine hours on 16-8-2008 was (2.9) hours approx.

Rainfall on 17-8-2008 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, (0.04) inch at Kaba-Aye and (Nil) at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was (74.80) inches at Mingaladon, (84.92) inches at Kaba-Aye and (100.51) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum windspeed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (6) mph from Southwest at (15:30) hours MST on 16-8-2008.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 18-8-2008: Rain will be isolated in Kayah State and lower Sagaing Division, scattered in upper Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Divisions, fairly widespread in Kachin, Chin, Shan and Kayin States, Taninthayi Division and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Moderate monsoon.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 18-8-2008: One or two rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 18-8-2008: One or two rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 18-8-2008: Isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).



Monday, 18 August
View on today

7:00 am

- မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော် ယောဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၏ ဥပ္ပါတယန္တိပါဠိတော်

7:25 am

- To be healthy exercise

7:30 am

- Morning news

7:40 am

- အတိုးပြိုင်ပွဲ

7:50 am

The mirror images of the musical oldies

8:00 am

- “မီးမီးရဲ့ဆုံးဖြတ်ချက်” (နေအောင်၊ ထွန်းထွန်းဝင်း၊ မေသန္တာဦး၊ ပြည့်ဖူးခိုင်၊ ဇာဇာမင်းထက်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-အောင်မိုး-ဝေရစ်)

8:15 am

- Dance variety

8:30 am

- International news

8:45 am

- အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ

4:00 pm

- Martial song

4:10 pm

- Song of national races

4:20 pm

- အတိုးပြိုင်ပွဲ

4:30 pm

- Musical programme

4:40 pm

- Cute little dancers

4:50 pm

- Musical programme (The Radio Myanmar Modern Music Troupe)

5:00 pm

- အကပြိုင်ပွဲ

5:10 pm

- Songs to uphold National Spirit

5:20 pm

- “ရေမြင့်--ကြာတင့်” (ခန့်စည်သူ၊ ဧရာ၊ ငှက်ပျောကြော်၊ မိုးပြည့်ပြည့်မောင်၊ ထင်ပေါ်၊ ဂွမ်းပုံ၊ မျိုးမျိုးခိုင်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ဖုန်းမြင့်အောင်)

5:45 pm

- Musical programme

6:00 pm

- Evening news

6:30 pm

- Weather report

6:35 pm

- အလှူရှာမယ် လှူကမ္ဘာဝယ်

6:50 pm

- ရွှေမျက်ပါး(ခေါ်) ရွှေဆိုင်လုပ်ငန်း

7:00 pm

- နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “ပန်းပျိုးလက်” (အပိုင်း-၁)

8:00 pm

- News

- International news

- Weather report

- နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ

- “မျက်ဝန်းရိပ်” (အပိုင်း-၁)

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.

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

Provisions donated to monasteries and nunneries in South Okkalapa, Hline Townships

YANGON, 17 Aug — Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence attended the provision donation ceremony for 13 monasteries in South Okkalapa Township by families of Defence Services (Army, Navy and Air) and wellwishers at Maha Muni Dhammayon of South Okkalapa Pagoda in South Okkalapa Township at 1 pm today.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe offered robes and alms to Maha Ganthavacaka Pandita Sayadaw Bhaddanta Ñanasetha of Aungmye Yadana Monastery in South Okkalapa Township.

Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Win Myint, Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa and officials donated robes and provisions to members of the Sangha.

Three senior military officers, on behalf of the Tatmadaw families, offered provisions to the Sayadaw.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe, the commander, the vice-mayor and senior military officers accepted cash donations from wellwishers.



Lt-Gen Myint Swe accepts cash donation from a wellwisher at provision donation ceremony to monasteries in South Okkalapa Township.—MNA

Beijing Olympics Special on page 11



China's Zou Kai bites the gold medal at the awarding ceremony of men's floor exercise final of Beijing 2008 Olympic Games at National Indoor Stadium in Beijing, China, 17 Aug, 2008. Zou Kai claimed the title of the event with a score of 16.050.

Today's donations to monasteries in South Okkalapa Township were 142 bags of rice, 71 viss of edible oil, 1,210 viss of iodized salt, 1,936 bottles of traditional medicine, 142 tubes of toothpaste, 142 viss of gram, 500 packets of chilli powder, 39 packets of vermicelli and K 9,333,555.

A similar ceremony was held at Panditayama Monastery in Ward 13 of Hline Township this afternoon to provide cash and kind donations to 14 monasteries and two nunneries in Hline Township.

The commander, the vice-mayor, senior military officers and wellwishers offered robes and alms to members of the Sangha.

Three senior military officers, on behalf of the Tatmadaw families, offered provisions to Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Pandita of the monastery and nuns.

Next, the commander, the vice-mayor and senior military officers accepted cash donations from the wellwishers.

Today's donations to the monasteries and nunner-

ies in Hline Township were 250 bags of rice, 132 viss of edible oil, 1,225 viss of iodized salt, 244 bottles of soft salt, 2,667 bottles of traditional medicine, 245 viss of gram, 500 packets of chilli powder, 400 cakes of Shwewa soap, 144 cakes of soft soap and K 13,125,750.

MNA

Weather Forecast for 18-8-2008

Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area:

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

Yangon and neighbouring area:

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

Mandalay and neighbouring area:

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