

Senior General Than Shwe felicitates President Mr Hugo Chavez

NAY PYI TAW, 5 July—Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Hugo Chavez Frias, President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, which falls on 5th July 2008.—MNA

10,000 trees planted in Nay Pyi Taw Lewe Township

NAY PYI TAW, 4 July —Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin took part in a tree planting ceremony for 2008 near Nay Pyi Taw Airport in Ela of Nay Pyi Taw Lewe Township this morning.

About 5,000 volunteers including employees of the departments, members of social organizations and local people participated in the ceremony and planted 10,000 trees.

At the ceremony, the chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Lewe Township Peace and Development Council reported on the purpose of holding the tree planting ceremony.

Next, the commander planted a mezali (*Cassia siamea*) tree and the volunteers also grew trees at the designated places.

They planted 5,000 physic nut plants and 5,000 mezali trees at the tree planting ceremony.—MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Wai Lwin plants a tree at a tree planting ceremony in Nay Pyi Taw Lewe Township. — MNA

Hospital ship provides health care to storm survivors of Mawlamyinegyun Tsp

YANGON, 4 July — Jointly organized by the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Transport,

health care is being provided with added momentum for the people of the storm-hit regions. Vessel

Pa Pa Win of Inland Water Transport carrying medical staff went to the areas of difficult access in

Mawlamyinegyun Township to perform public health care on 1 July.

The medical team visited Nathmu and NyeinU villages where they gave treatments to eye patients, child patients and others. A total of 156 patients received medical treatment – 70 in Nathmu village and 86 in NyeinU village. — MNA

Charity art show till 7 July

YANGON, 4 July—Drawings and sale of paintings for raising funds of storm victims, organized by artists U Maung Maung Thein (Pathein), Star U Mya Than, U Tin Oo (Roxy), U Kyi Win (Yankin), U Tin Mya, U Hla Thein

Aung and U Than Win Tun, are in progress at Parkroyal here from 27 June to today. The show will be held at the same venue with the assistance of Parkroyal from 10 am to 5 pm daily till 7 July.—MNA

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

1.17 million acres under monsoon paddy in Ayeyawady Division

NAY PYI TAW, 4 July — The government and the well-wisher people are rendering necessary assistance for cultivation of monsoon paddy in storm-hit Ayeyawady and Yangon Divisions.

Up to 3 July, a total of 1.17 million acres of land has so far been put under monsoon paddy in Ayeyawady Division. —MNA

Forecast for 5-7-2008

Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area:

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

Yangon and neighbouring area:

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

Mandalay and neighbouring area:

Likelihood of isolated rain.

Degree of certainty is (60%).

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 5 July, 2008

Strive for improvement of socio-economic status of women

Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation was formed with the aim of extensively undertaking the tasks for security and development of Myanmar women, a national force led by women themselves.

In over four years of its existence, the membership of MWAFF has increased to over 4 million. The State, Division, District, Township, Ward and Village levels have been formed and they are now serving the national interest, while striving for improvement of the socio-economic status of women.

The MWAFF is working in cooperation with relevant ministries, social organizations, UN agencies and international organizations in implementing the drive for security and development of women as well as for improvement of the women's health sector. Meanwhile, work is under way for opening vocational training schools, creating job opportunities and bringing about income generation tasks for improvement of the socio-economic life of women.

Myanmar women have a fine tradition of serving the interest of the State and the people in successive eras. Myanmar women were outstanding in nurturing new generation youths and developing Myanmar society. There are a large number of women who have been put on record in national, religious, social, administrative, judiciary, executive, economic, education and literature sectors.

At present also, the women who have achieved success in economic, education, health and technology sectors are taking part in nation-building endeavours.

We firmly believe that the entire mass of Myanmar women with a fine tradition of being highly capable will be able to continue serving the national interest under the banner of the MWAFF.



Deputy Minister Col Hla Thein Swe accepts donation of K 400,000 from Daw Khin La Pyae Wun (Bangkok Airways) of Kyimyindine Township on 2 July.—F&R

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

Foreign Minister sends message of felicitations to Venezuela counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 5 July—U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Nicolas Maduro Moros, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, which falls on 5th July 2008.

MNA



Missionary Sayadaw, wellwishers donate cash and kind to storm victims

YANGON, 4 July—Kyunnantha Ashin Nandasiri, a Missionary Sayadaw in France, and wellwishers donated personal goods and household goods to two post-primary schools, Kappanan, Ayeywa, and

Ohnpinsu villages in Bogale Township on 25 June.

In the third donation, they presented K 3 million and provisions totalling K 9 million to the victims. Missionary Sayadaw will leave for France on 15 August.

Those wishing to donate cash and kind to the victims may contact Ph 09-8601447, 09-5020984, 09-9927989, 01-548917 before 15 August when Missionary Sayadaw will leave for France.—MNA

Sayadaw and disciples hand out relief supplies to storm victims in villages in Bogale Township.

MNA

Sixth Meeting of ASEAN Senior Officials on Culture and Arts held

NAY PYI TAW, 4 July—The Sixth Meeting of ASEAN Senior Officials on Culture and Arts of the 43rd COCI was held at Shwe Nan Daw Hotel, here, on 2 July afternoon.

Present on the occasion were Senior Officials on ASEAN Culture and Arts from Myanmar, Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam and officials of ASEAN Secretariat and ASEAN Foundation.

Director-General U San Win presided over the meeting together with member of panel of chairman delegation leader of the Philippines Angelica C Escalona. The Director-General delivered a speech.

The meeting chairman made a speech. Next, those present made review on general matters such as Best of ASEAN Performing Arts Series, ASEAN City of Culture and Funding Modalities

for SOMCA/AMCA Projects. After-wards, on-going plans were discussed. Next, the draft programme for culture cooperation between the

Russian Federation and ASEAN countries and the report of the 6th SOMCA were also discussed.

Afterwards, the meeting decided to hold

the 7th SOMCA in the Philippines during January of 2010 and the meeting chairman delivered the concluding remarks.

MNA

MCF Vice-President to attend ACC meetings

YANGON, 4 July—Vice-President of Myanmar Cricket Federation U Kyaw Kyaw left here by air for Pakistan this morning to attend

ACC Annual General Meeting and ACC 25th Anniversary meeting to be held in Karachi, Pakistan on 5 and 6 July.

He was seen off at

Yangon International Airport by President of MCF U Nyan Win, Vice-President U Maung Maung and EC members of MCF.—MNA



Vice-President of MCF U Kyaw Kyaw seen at the airport prior to his departure for Pakistan.—MCF

Obama says Iraq trip could refine his policy



Democratic presidential candidate, Sen Barack Obama, D-Ill, speaks on his Iraq policy during a news conference in Fargo, ND, on 3 July, 2008.—INTERNET

FARGO (ND), 4 July—Democrat Barack Obama struggled Thursday to explain how his upcoming trip to Iraq might refine, but not basically alter, his promise to quickly remove US combat troops from the war.

A dustup over war policy, one of the main issues separating the Illinois senator from his Republican opponent, John

McCain — overshadowed Obama's town-hall meeting here with veterans to talk about patriotism and his plans to care for them. Republicans pounced on the chance to characterize Obama as altering one of the core policies that drove his candidacy "for the sake of political expedience." He denied equally forcefully that he was shifting positions.

Arriving in Fargo, Obama hastily called a news conference to discuss news of a sixth straight month of nationwide job losses, but the questioning turned to Iraq policy and his impending trip there.

"I am going to do a thorough assessment when I'm there," he said. "I'm sure I'll have more information and continue to refine my policy."

He left the impression that his talks with military commanders there could refine his promise to remove US combat troops within 16 months of taking office.

Internet

Quebec signer Claude Dubois performs during an event marking the 400th anniversary of the foundation of Quebec City on 3 July. INTERNET



Tropical Storm Bertha forms in the Atlantic

MIAMI, 4 July— Tropical Storm Bertha has formed in the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of Africa.

At 11 pm EDT Thursday, Bertha was centered

185 miles west-southwest of the southernmost Cape Verde Islands.

The second named storm of the Atlantic hurricane season is moving toward the west at about 14 mph, and forecasters expect that to continue for the next two days. Maximum sustained winds are near 45 mph.

Some gradual strengthening was forecast during the next day or two.

It's still too early to say if or where Bertha will hit land. The first named storm this year, Arthur, formed in the Atlantic the day before the season officially started 1 June and soaked the Yucatan Peninsula.—Internet

UNESCO keeps Dresden as World Heritage Site

QUEBEC CITY, 4 July—UN officials decided Thursday to retain the eastern German city of Dresden as a World Heritage Site for now despite earlier warnings that the construction of a bridge endangered its status.

In 2006, the UNESCO World Heritage Committee warned that the planned 2,085-foot-long bridge across the Elbe River would mar the city's skyline and landscape. The committee, which is currently meeting in Quebec City, now says that if construction is not stopped and the damage reversed, the property will be deleted from the World Heritage List in 2009. It remains on a danger list.

The committee decided last year that it would remove Dresden from the list if the bridge were built, but it decided to give Dresden more time in view of legal proceedings under way in Germany.

No site has ever been stripped from the World Heritage List, which identifies over 800 places around the world with "outstanding universal value."—Internet



Boaters look on as dolphins swim in the Shrewsbury River on 2 July, 2008, in Sea Bright, NJ.—INTERNET

London police investigating double murder of French students

LONDON, 4 July— British police were on Friday investigating a "frenzied, brutal and horrific attack" on two French students found stabbed to death in a charred London flat.

The bound and battered bodies of Laurent Bonomo and Gabriel Ferez, both 23, were found in the ground-floor flat in New Cross, southeast London, on Sunday when emergency services were called to the fire.

Bonomo had been stabbed nearly 200 times while Ferez suffered around 50 wounds in a prolonged ordeal, unidentified police sources quoted by the domestic Press Association news agency said.

The detective leading the investigation said they were dead before the fire took hold, adding that they were knifed in the head, neck, torso and back.

"The extent of the injuries are horrific," Detective Chief Inspector Mick Duthie said, adding that all the officers working on the case had been shocked by the extent of the violence.

Internet

Haywire brain chemical linked to sudden baby death

WASHINGTON, 4 July—Scientists have new evidence that the brain chemical best known for regulating mood also plays a role in the mystifying killer of seemingly healthy babies, sudden infant death syndrome.

Autopsied brain tissue from SIDS babies first raised suspicion that an imbalance in serotonin might be behind what once was called crib death.

But specialists couldn't figure out how that defect could kill.

Now researchers in Italy have engineered mice born with serotonin that goes haywire and found the brain abnormality is enough to spur sudden death, in ways that mesh with other clues from human babies. Moreover, the work suggests it might one day be possible to test newborns for their risk of SIDS.

Internet

Belarus bomb blast injures scores

MINSK, 4 July— More than 50 people were injured Friday when a bomb went off at an outdoor concert in the Belarusian capital. Officials blamed "hooligans."

The blast took place before dawn at the concert in downtown Minsk marking the ex-Soviet nation's Independence Day.

Minsk police spokesman Alexander Lastovsky said authorities had opened a criminal probe on charges of "hooliganism." "It was an action by hooligans," he said.

Lastovsky said over 20 people were hospitalized, but the Health Ministry put that number at more than 50.

Belarusian Emergency Situations Ministry spokesman Alexei Usatov said the bomb went off at around 12:30 am. The concert was held at the Hero City memorial, which commemorates Minsk's suffering during World War II.—Internet



Investigators work at an explosion site in downtown Minsk, Belarus, on 4 July, 2008. More than 50 people were injured on Friday when a bomb went off at an outdoor concert in the Belarusian capital.—INTERNET



Customers purchase rice at a market in Manila, on 13 June. Rising food prices in the Philippines pushed its June inflation rate to 11.4 percent, the highest level in 14 years, the government said on Friday.—INTERNET

Iran sees “new atmosphere” in nuclear talks

UNITED NATIONS, 4 July — Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki said on Wednesday he saw a “new sort of atmosphere” in nuclear talks with six big powers following a recent approach to Teheran through the European Union.

Mottaki told a UN news conference he would reply “very soon” to a letter from the six powers delivered to Iran by EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana last month.

On behalf of the United States, Britain, France, Germany, Russia and China, Solana handed over an offer on 14 June of trade and other benefits designed to persuade Teheran to curb its nuclear work.

Speaking through an interpreter, Mottaki said “constructive statements and approaches” combined with an earlier nuclear proposal by Iran had “paved the way for creating a new sort of atmosphere.”

MNA/Reuters

Egypt closes Rafah crossing

GAZA, 4 July — Egypt closed Rafah border crossing with Gaza Strip on Wednesday following the turmoil created by the Palestinian travellers who wanted to cross from Gaza into Egypt, officials in Gaza said.

A statement issued by the deposed government of Hamas movement in Gaza said that following riots and chaos at Rafah crossing, Egypt announced that the crossing is closed until a further notice.

Egypt had decided to open Rafah crossing for three days from Tuesday to Thursday.

On Tuesday very few numbers of travellers, most of them patients who need urgent medical treatment managed to leave the Gaza Strip.

The Interior Ministry

of the deposed government of Hamas accused Egypt on Wednesday for tightening the siege imposed on Gaza Strip by slowing the movement at Rafah crossing.

MNA/Xinhua

Study says Green tea protects against heart disease

LONDON, 4 July — A few cups of green tea each day may help prevent heart disease, Greek researchers said on Wednesday.

A study published in the *European Journal of Cardiovascular Prevention and Rehabilitation* showed further evidence of the potential health benefits from a brew already linked to a reduced risk of a range of cancers and other conditions.

The study showed that green tea improves blood flow and the ability of arteries to relax, said Charalambos Vlachopoulos, a cardiologist at the Athens Medical School in Greece who worked on the study.

Other studies have shown that black tea also has benefits for cardiovascular health. —MNA/Reuters

Medvedev vows new tone to policy after Putin

Moscow, 4 July — Dmitry Medvedev said on Thursday his presidency would have a different tone from his predecessor and mentor Vladimir Putin’s and hinted the

Kremlin might consider easing its complete dominance over domestic politics.

“The aims of Russia’s development are not changing — we want to

create a developed country with a good, strong economy,” Medvedev said in an interview with media outlets from Group of Eight countries before a G-8 summit in Japan next week.

“As to nuances, accents, then they of course change,” he said in the interview, a transcript of which was published on the Kremlin’s Internet site www.kremlin.ru. “The accents of internal and external policies will of course change.”

MNA/Reuters

Police officers walk past an advertisement banner outside a pachinko pinball parlour reading “Summit on Friday” in Sapporo on Japan’s northern island of Hokkaido, as part of the security measures ahead of the G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit on 4 July, 2008. Leaders from the Group of Eight countries meet next week at the hilltop Windsor Hotel, overlooking the lake and hot spring resort of Toyako.—INTERNET



Hong Kong to resume chicken sales after H5N1 scare

HONG KONG, 4 July — Hong Kong allowed live poultry sales and imports to resume on Wednesday after a 21-day ban sparked by a bird-flu scare, but stricter measures involve daily culls of unsold birds to minimize the risk of future outbreaks.

Residents flocked to wet markets across the territory to pick up live chickens, and local TV reported that many chicken stalls had sold out by noon given the reduced supply.

The discovery in June of birds infected with the H5N1 avian influenza virus in four wet markets across Hong Kong led to the culling of thousands of fowl at all retail

markets. A 21-day ban on live poultry sales and imports was then imposed.

Since the latest avian flu outbreak, Hong Kong authorities have tightened biosecurity measures further at local markets — where squawking caged fowl are handpicked then slaughtered on the spot for customers, in sometimes unhygienic conditions.

MNA/Reuters

Eight injured in prison violence in western Canada

OTTAWA, 4 July — Eight people were seriously injured when violence broke out among prisoners at a prison in western Canada’s Alberta Province, officials said on Wednesday.

The fight took place Tuesday at the recreation yard of Edmonton Institution federal prison between rival inmates. Seven people were stabbed by fellow prisoners and one was shot by a guard.

MNA/Xinhua

Roads leading to Auckland, New Zealand, on 4 July, 2008, is seen congested with stationary traffic on the day when truckers took time off work to protest the Government’s intention to raise road user charges.—INTERNET



Abbas, Barak meet in Athens

ATHENS, 4 July—Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas and former Israeli prime minister and current Defence Minister Ehud Barak met shortly here Tuesday.

Abbas reiterated that Israel must prove that it wants peace, implementing, in the first stage, certain steps, such as stopping the construction

of settlements, opening some 670 checkpoints on the “wall that destroys the life of tens of thousands of Palestinians” and beginning the process for the release of 1,100 Palestinian prisoners. Abbas hailed the Arab League initiative, underlining that it improves relations between Israel and 57 Arab and Islamic states,

while calling on Israel to accept it.

The Palestinian Authority has accepted the “road map”, the Arab initiative and “Bush’s vision”, Abbas stated, referring to the creation of an independent Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital based on the 1967 agreements.

Xinhua



In this photo provided by the Glenn H Curtiss Museum, the June Bug is seen in flight with Glenn H Curtis at the controls circa on 4 July, 1908 in Hammondsport, NY.—INTERNET

China opposes US ruling on laminated woven sacks

BEIJING, 4 July—The Ministry of Commerce (MOC) said on Wednesday that it was strongly dissatisfied with and firmly opposed to a recent US final ruling on the anti-dumping and anti-subsidy probe into laminated woven sacks imported from China.

The US Department of Commerce ruled on 16 June that Chinese companies that produce such bags receive government countervailing subsidies ranging from 29.54 per cent to 352.82 per cent.

A spokesman for the MOC said the US ruling hurt Chinese enterprises’ interests and is not acceptable to the Chinese Government or the industry.

China will conduct studies and reviews of the ruling and continue to use legal means and World Trade Organization dispute settlement mechanisms to protect the legitimate rights and interests of domestic companies, added the spokesman.—Xinhua

Los Angeles adopts proposal to ban plastic bags

LOS ANGELES, 4 July—A Los Angeles City Council committee adopted a proposal on Tuesday to ban plastic bags in supermarkets.

The proposal also bans foam food containers in city buildings, the Energy and Environment Committee (EEC) said. Under the proposal, the use of plastic bags will be banned at all supermarkets and retail stores in Los Angeles beginning 1 January, 2012 if a bag fee has not yet been established, said the committee.

Consumers in the city of Los Angeles use 2.3 billion plastic bags a year. For the average retailer, plastic bags cost 2 cents to 5 cents, compared to biodegradable plastic bags that can cost 8 cents to 17 cents.—Xinhua



High school students touch the heads of stone turtles as they visit the temple of Literature in Hanoi, on 1 July, for success in up-coming university’s admission examinations.—INTERNET

All items from Xinhua News Agency

Chadian President rules out peace discussions with Sudan

N’DJAMENA, 4 July—Chadian President Idriss Deby Itno on Wednesday ruled out any possibility of meeting his Sudanese counterpart Omar Hassan al-Bashir to discuss peace.

The President, who was speaking during an interview with Radio France International (RFI) on the sidelines of an African Union summit in Egypt, appeared to dim prospects for a negotiated settlement to end a long-running dispute with neighboring Sudan.

The two countries, which share a common border

running along the troubled Sudanese Region of Darfur, have been accusing one another over the presence of two near identical rebel movements in their respective territories. “I don’t need to meet Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir... I’m for peace in this region, but I have no need to meet someone who has never kept his commitments,” President Deby, who is currently attending the AU summit at Sharm el-Sheikh, told the Paris-base RFI.

Xinhua

Latin America hails Colombian rescue of FARC hostages

MEXICO CITY, 4 July—Latin American countries congratulated Colombia on Wednesday for its military rescue of 15 hostages held by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), reports reaching here said.

Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva said the international community has waited for the release for so long and he was “excited” to hear of the release of Ingrid Betancourt and the 14 other hostages.

“I hope this is an important step toward the release of all the other hostages, the reconciliation of all Colombians and peace in Colombia,” said Lula.

Xinhua

Russian aid plane for Palestinians lands at Amman

AMMAN, 4 July — A Russian cargo plane, laden with 80 tons of food and medicine for the Palestinians, arrived at Amman Civil Airport on Tuesday.

The aid is the third batch of humanitarian assistance Russian Government sent to the Palestinians in a week, according to Mohammed Majed Al Eitan, Secretary General of the Jordan Hashemite Charity Organization.

It comes to alleviate the Palestinian people’s

suffering from the lack of food and medicine due to the Israeli siege imposed against them, Eitan added.

He also praised the Russian role in the peace process and its continued support to the Arab issues, the forefront of which is the Palestinian cause.

Israel closed all but one Gaza border crossings earlier Tuesday in response to a Palestinian mortar attack on southern Israel late Monday, halting supplies of food and other essential items to the Palestinian enclave.

Xinhua

Passers by wait to cross an intersection in front of a price board indicating regular gas is sold at 190 yen (US\$1.79) per liter (0.26 gallon) and the high-octane gas at 200 yen (\$1.88) per liter at a gas station in Tokyo on 3 July, 2008.—INTERNET





Pedestrians peek at a rendition of the signing of the Declaration of Independence carved out of 2000 lbs of cheese by Troy Landwehr in New York, on 3 July, 2008.—INTERNET

Indonesia calls for discussion to reduce oil prices

PALEMBANG (Indonesia), 4 July—Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono on Wednesday called oil producer and consumer countries as well as other stakeholders to find solution to reduce the soaring oil prices which has reached nearly 150 US dollars a barrel.

President Susilo told a Press conference at Palembang, the capital of

South Sumatra Province that he would convey the message in the upcoming meeting of the G8-leaders in Hokkaido, Japan next week.

Susilo said that the biggest oil producer and consumer countries as well as oil companies must have a discussion to find a solution to stop continuously rising oil prices.

“It is the time for the biggest oil producer

countries including member and non-member of OPEC countries, to sit together with the biggest oil consumer countries such as the United States, India and China as well as multi-national oil companies,” said Susilo.

“Make a calculation and don’t blame each other for too high consumption or lower supply. Find the best solution,” he said.

MNA/Xinhua

Israel considers demolishing attacker’s home

JERUSALEM, 4 July — Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert on Wednesday instructed his ministers to explore the possibility of demolishing the home of a Palestinian attacker, who killed three women and injured dozens in a bulldozer rampage in Jerusalem.

Following consultations with Defence Minister Ehud Barak, Justice Minister Daniel Friedmann and some other ministers, Olmert called to raze the home

of the bulldozer driver, who lived in east Jerusalem and held an Israeli ID card, and annul the social security benefits of his family.

The ministers promised to examine the legal guidelines of each order and report back by the end of the day, so that the Cabinet could begin the proceedings, local daily *Ha’aretz* reported.

Olmert made the instructions shortly after the man went on a killing spree in downtown Jerusalem in the early afternoon, driving a bulldozer, which overturned two buses and rammed several other cars.

Three women were killed and about 40 were injured.

MNA/Xinhua

Bush’s Deputy Chief of Staff resigns

WASHINGTON, 4 July— White House spokeswoman Dana Perino said Thursday that White House Deputy Chief of Staff Joe Hagin has resigned and will leave his job this month.

“President George W Bush said that he thanks Joe for his service to the White House, that Joe’s been a loyal friend, and that he is excited about the next chapter in Joe’s life,” said Perino. Hagin also sent an email to friends in the morning, announcing he is leaving to take a private sector job.—MNA/Xinhua

Emirates begins direct flights between Dubai, Guangzhou

BEIJING, 4 July— Emirates has commenced a direct flight linking Dubai and China’s southern Guangzhou City, the country’s third largest air hub, the carrier’s Beijing office told *Xinhua* on Wednesday.

Flights EK362/3 currently run six times weekly, except on Friday.

Guangzhou, the capital of Guangdong Province, is Emirates’ fourth China destination, along with Hong Kong, Shanghai and Beijing. It now has 48 weekly flights to the country.

Emirates flies the route with a modern A330-200 aircraft, in a two-class configuration offering 27 business class

seats and 251 in economy class. It also has 13.6 tons of belly-hold cargo capacity.

The flight EK362 takes off from Dubai at 10:35 am (local time) and arrives in Guangzhou at 10:20 pm. It then turns around as EK363 at 11:55 pm and arrives in Dubai at 3:40 am the next day.

MNA/Xinhua

S Korean ruling party elects new leader

SEOUL, 4 July— South Korea’s conservative ruling party elected Park Hee-tae as its new leader on Thursday.

The new leader of the Grand National Party (GNP) will take over Kang Jae-sup to head the party for two years.

Following the election, Park said he will lead the ruling party to win back dwindling public support for the conserva-

tive ruling camp and help the government to revive South Korea’s economy.

Park, 70, was chief of South Korean President Lee Myung-bak’s presidential election campaign. The Presidential Office hailed Park’s victory, expecting that Park can help improve communications among the Presidential Office, the ruling party and the government.

MNA/Xinhua

Italy to penalize firms passing tax onto consumers

ROME, 4 July — Italy’s Government will further raise taxes on banks, insurers and energy companies if they try to shift the burden of proposed new taxes on to consumers through price hikes, the economy minister said on Wednesday.

The government plans to raise 4.5 billion euros (7.1 billion US dollars) in 2009 from the extra levy, known as the “Robin Hood” tax because part of the proceeds will be used to help the needy.

“I exclude (tax burden) transfers,” Economy Minister Giulio Tremonti told a parliamentary hearing. “If that happened, taxation would increase to discourage (such) transfers.”

Fitch ratings agency has said companies would try to pass the increase to consumers and that the tax could hit cash flow and investments if they were not able to pass the burden on.

MNA/Reuters

Still time for Iraq local elections this year

BAGHDAD, 4 July — Iraq will have time to hold provincial elections before the end of the year if Parliament passes a new electoral law this month, the UN special representative to Baghdad said on Wednesday.

Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki has said the polls, seen as crucial to national reconciliation, will be held on 1 October. But legislators said last month there was little chance of getting the law passed soon enough to allow preparations for a vote by then.

“We can indeed have elections before the end of the year if Parliament approves the electoral law before the end of July,” UN envoy Staffan de Mistura told reporters after meeting Maliki.

“There is no reason for this electoral law not to be approved because most of the issues can be solved. We still have one month but it is a crucial month.”

Parliament is scheduled to take a summer recess in August.

MNA/Reuters



The Delta Queen riverboat rests at dock in Rhodes Ferry Park late on 3 July, 2008 in Decatur, Ala. The historic boat was in Decatur on the Tennessee River after a route diversion to avoid flooding on the Mississippi River. The boat may be stopped in Decatur for the last time after losing its Congressional exemption that allowed the wooden hull ship to carry passengers.—INTERNET

Well-wishers invited to donate robes to monks in India

YANGON, 4 July — Well-wishers are invited to participate in the 30th ceremony to donate robes to Buddhist monks who will take rain retreat in India.

Paradesi Sangha

Nayaka Committee will organize the ceremony and will donate robes to altogether 258 monks in 11 monasteries and eight universities across India and 400 monks in Assam, Tipura and Manipur.

Those wishing to donate robes to the monks many contact 01,545215, 01-545216, 01-555173, 01-727746, 01-536348, 01-542236 not later than 16 July.

MNA

PBANRDA Minister oversees reconstruction and rehabilitation tasks in Hlaingphone village

YANGON, 4 July — Member of the National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt during his stay in Mawlamyinegyun went to Hlaingphone village in Labutta Township on 30 June.

At Hlaingphone village, the minister gave encouragement to 12 members of Kayin State Union Solidarity and Development Association led by Secretary Dr Zaw Min Aung of Hpa-an District USDA, 12 from Rakhine State USDA, 12 from Shan State (East), 5 from Ayeyawady Division USDA, 2 from the Ministry of Science and Technology totaling 43 who were participating in the rehabilitation tasks of the villages. Moreover, the minister met with the medic team comprising 8 doctors and 12 nurses led by Dr San San Win who were providing free medical treatment to the local people in the clinics opened by Pinlong and Shwegonedine Hospitals

in Hlaingphone village.

At the briefing hall of Hlaingphone village Affiliated Basic Education High School, the minister met with officials concerned who were contributing to the rehabilitation tasks. Next, the minister handed relief supplies such as tarpaulin, tents, salt, dry noodle, clothing, varieties of foodstuff and personal goods to storm-hit rural people from Hlaingphone village tract and nearby villages.

Afterwards, the minister cordially greeted the students attending Hlaingphone village Affiliated Basic Education High School and handed exercise books donated by Original Group Company to them. The school has a student population of 1074. The Original Group Company is repairing classrooms and constructing reinforced concrete type two-storey building. The minister donated 300 dozens of exercise books, 185 instrumental boxes and 222 school uniforms to students.

Next, the minister inspected progress in repairing and building damaged classrooms and the place chosen for the construction of 90 durable houses, viewed ploughing of farmlands by the use of power-tillers distributed for the Hlaingphone village and cordially greeted the rural people.

Afterwards, the minister inspected Hlaingphone village rural health centre and then Medical Superintendent Dr Aung San of Mawlamyinegyun Township People's Hospital who accompanied the minister handed over medicines to the rural health centre. Next, the minister looked into Hlaingphone Police Station and met with policewomen.

Later, the minister viewed collective installation of power-tillers by Agricultural Mechanization Department and members of USDAs and donated offertories to Dhammitayon Monastery Presiding Sayadaw Sumingala and members of the Sangha.—MNA



Minister Col Thein Nyunt greets USDA members from Kayin, Rakhine and Shan (East) States and Ayeyawady Division on 2 July. —PBANRDA

More relief supplies arrive

YANGON, 4 July — Relief supplies provided by Thai-based World Food

Programme arrived at Yangon International Airport yesterday and today.

The supplies weighed 8.48 tons and 44.49 tons respectively.—MNA

Artistes refresh storm victims in Mawlamyinegyun



Artistes present cash and kind to storm victims of Upper Gyobyu Village of Mawlamyinegyun Township. —MNA

YANGON, 4 July — Myanmar artistes went to Mawlamyinegyun in Ayeyawady Division yesterday and distributed cash and relief aids to storm victims.

They conducted a

concert in Mandalay on 7 June to raise funds for the storm victims.

Inland Water Transport of Ministry of Transport provided a ship for the trip and the artistes reached six villages in

Mawlamyinegyun Township and entertained the survivors with songs. The group is led by U Thit Min, Secretary-3 of Myanmar Music Asiayon (Central) and comprises R Zarni, Pho Kar, J Mee, Kyat Hpa, J Maung Maung, Tekkatho Ko Ko Naing, Tin Oo Lay, Bo Bo Han, Shwe Htaik, Poe Ei San, Yadana, Yi Mon and She.

They also distributed rice, edible oil, salt, beans, Ngapi, dry noodles, kitchen utensils and clothes worth K 30 million.

Myanmar Music Asiayon organized the trip with the help of Ministry of Information and Inland Water Transport under the Ministry of Transport.

MNA



Secure and smooth transport for the people with Nay Pyi Taw in the core Pyawbwe-Phaya Ngazu Railroad under construction by Myanma Railways

Article, photos by Nyi Nyi Tun (MNA)

The Myanma Railways, in its bid to comply with the guidance of the Head of State, is taking such measures as repairing and upgrading present

various sectors for comfort and convenience of passengers travelling by train.

Our team of reporters on 1 July

Pyi Taw-Pyinmana-Thazi Road and joined Phaya Ngazu Station on Thazi-Shwenyaung Railroad; and that on completion, the facility would link Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana with Shwenyaung.

He said that regarding the project, four plans were under way—land preparation, construction of bridges, construction of railway stations, and laying rails; that up to that time earth work had been completed by 85 per cent; that the new railroad would consist of 34 bridges—14 under 10



Deputy General Manager U Maung Maung Thwin of Myanma Railways.

railroads, constructing new ones to help improve transport and regional development, producing coaches and wagons at less expense, and boosting production of machines and spare parts including locomotives at home. At the same time, it is fulfilling the requirements in

covered the news about Pyawbwe-Phaya Ngazu Railroad Project under way between Pyawbwe and Thazi townships in Mandalay Division.

When asked about the project, Project Engineer U Lwan Thu said that the project was launched in January 2007; that the transport facility branched off from Nay



Project Engineer U Lwan Thu.

feet, 17 between 10 and 40 feet, and 2 above 100 feet; that it had yet to complete construction of one bridge over 100 feet, sub-stations on the way and railway stations, and laying rails.

In replying to our queries about the project, he said that they were working hard to complete

the project and launch the facility ahead of schedule; and that they were stockpiling necessary materials for laying rails and construction of stations and buildings for Lintsingon Railway Station.

Smooth transport lies in the heart of economic growth and contributes towards the education, social and health sectors and community peace and the rule of order.

Thanks to the new railroads emerging in the states and divisions, local people have enjoyed social and economic

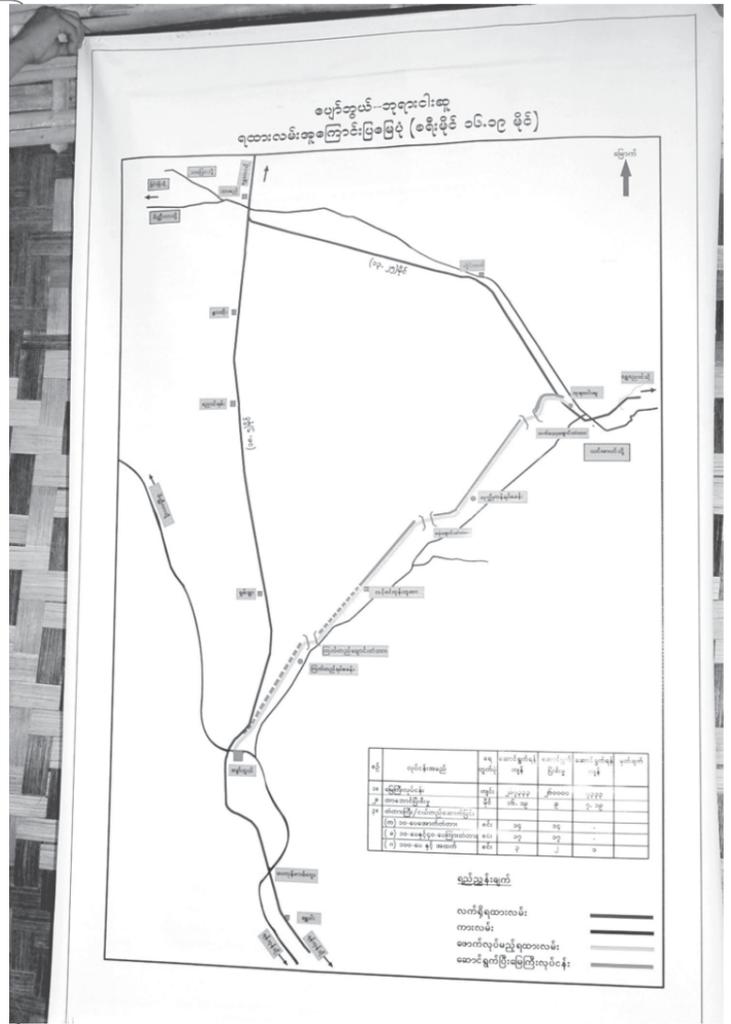
development, and people of different regions have dealt with each other more than ever. As a result, national brethren in the regions will understand and will be friendly to each other and they will be equipped with Union Spirit more strongly.

Due to the drive, people can now travel by train with convenience between Myitkyina in Kachin State and Dawei in the southern part of the nation.

(See page 9)



The map showing the route of Pyawbwe-Phaya Ngazu Road.



Sleepers to be used in constructing the railroad.

Secure and smooth transport for the people with Nay Pyi Taw in the core Pyawbwe-Phaya Ngazu Railroad under construction by Myanmar Railways

Article, photos by Nyi Nyi Tun (MNA)

(from page 8)

When asked about the project, U Kyaw Maung, a local resident, said, "I didn't

villages of the five surrounding village-tracts will benefit a lot from the railroad. Local people will be able to save

saving by about 15.56 miles of distance.

When the project is completed, local people of the regions around Nay



A construction site of railroad project.

expect there will be such a fine railroad here. Frankly speaking, I have never dreamt of it". With great delight, he said that such crops as edible oil crops, beans and pulses, sesame, chilli and paddy were grown in their region. About 22

costs and expenses in transporting their goods and travelling by train. So, I think the government very much for the railroad".

The new Pyawbwe-Phaya Ngazu railroad is about 16.19 miles long, whereas the old one is 31.75 miles long, thus

Pyi Taw will be in a position to enjoy better transport, commodity flows will become swift, and local people will deal with each other more, which can enhance national solidarity.

Deputy General Manager (Civil) U Maung Maung Thwin of the



Track ballast are stockpiled to construct new railroad.

Myanmar Railways said that the Ministry of Rail Transportation was constructing Katha-Bhamo railroad (95 miles) and Kyangin-Pakokku railroad (322 miles) in

said, expressing his belief that the regions along the western bank of the Ayeyawady River would enjoy development like that along the eastern bank, and the facility

construct transport facilities including railroads for the emergence of a transport network of the Union with Nay Pyi Taw in the centre, the government



Bridges are being built to complete railroad project.

addition to Pyawbwe-Phaya Ngazu railroad. He said that they were trying to complete the project as soon as possible.

Kyangin-Pakokku railroad section (322 miles) would link Ayeayawady and Magway divisions, he

would improve the living conditions of local people.

The Myanmar Railways under the Ministry of Rail Transportation is playing an important role in the drive for ensuring smooth transport.

In its effort to

is taking self-reliant measures and exerting self-reliant spirit, mobilizing the participation of the people and innovation of service personnel to transform the nation into a modern one.

Translation: MS



Sleepers to be used in constructing railroad.

Myanmar-Japan MoU inked

NAY PYI TAW, 4 July—Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha and Japanese Ambassador Mr Yasuaki Nogawa signed

an MoU on awarding human resource development scholarship for 2008-2009 academic year and exchanged the documents at the ministry here this

afternoon.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint, Deputy Minister for NPED Col Thurein Zaw, Deputy Minister for Education U Myo Nyunt and officials from the Japanese Embassy and related departments of Myanmar.—MNA

Minister U Soe Tha and Japanese Ambassador Mr Yasuaki Nogawa sign MoU on awarding HRD scholarship.

MNA



Information Minister receives Thai guests



Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan receives Vice-Chairman of Thaicom Public Company Limited Mr Makin Petplai. —MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 4 July—Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan received Vice-Chairman of Thaicom Public Company Limited of Thailand Mr Makin Petplai and party at the

ministry here this afternoon.

Present on the occasion were heads of departments and enterprises under the Ministry of Information.

MNA

Donations invited for storm survivors

YANGON, 4 July—Rehabilitation is under way for local people in storm-hit regions who have lost their property in the storm. In that regard, well-wishers are invited to make donations for the following items individually or in groups in cooperation with the government at the donations accepting supervisory committee at the Fire Services Department (Head Office) here.



Houses built by donors for storm survivors.
MNA



Power-tillers to be distributed to farmers in storm-affected areas.

MNA

Fibre fishing boats to be used in storm-affected areas in Ayeyawady and Yangon Divisions.

MNA

Items	Per unit price (in kyat)
1. House	K 600,000
2. 21-foot fishing boat (with engine)	K 400,000
3. 21-foot fishing boat (without engine)	K 200,000
4. Power tiller	
(a) Leya-16	K 1,090,000
(b) Leya-22	K 1,550,000
(c) Ayeya-1	K 1,128,600
5. A bag of fertilizer	K 18,000

MNA



Construction of Thabaung-Kadonkani road section under way to ensure socio-economic development of local people

Article: *Maung Maung Htwe* (MNA)
 Photos: *Khin Maung Win* (Kyemon)

We would like to present the construction of Thabaung-Kadonkani road section that will contribute to the tasks to save people in the event of natural disasters and the socio-economic development of the local people.

On arrival at Thabaung Village that is located on opposite bank

road section.

On the road section are many villages such as Thabaung, Nyinaunggyi, Mayan-khwe, Pechaunggyi, Kaingtawwa, Magu, Kyeinchaung, East Mechaung, Montaunggyi and Kadonkani.

In accord with the guidance of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe,

Initially, the road section will be built as the earth road. Next, it will be upgraded to the gravel one. After that, tasks will be carried out to upgrade the road to the tarred one. In line with the feasibility study, the 39-mile road section will be divided into five sections — a six-mile section from Thabaung



“There is no forced labour in the road construction.”

U San Oo, Chairman of Thabaung Village PDC

Village to Kaingtawgyi, an eight-mile section from Kaingtawgyi to Yegyawgawk, an eight-mile section from Yegyawgawk to Kyeinchaung, a seven-mile section from Kyeinchaung to East Mechaung and a 10-mile section from East Mechaung to Kadonkani.

With regard to the road construction, we had

took shelter beside the embankment. Next, we took shelter at the monastery. Fortunately, we could survive because the monastery did not collapse. When I heard that the road will be constructed at high level for prevention against the natural disasters, all the villagers and myself are pleased. The road will contribute to saving the lives of the local people. In addition, it will be a reliable transport facility. The road will then prevent flooding. So, we all are pleased and thank the government for launching the project.”

U Maung Gyi, 55, from Nyinaung Village, expressed his satisfaction, saying “I was born in this village. When there was the storm, rising water came up to the waist. Only when we saw rays of the sun light, we were able to move to safer places. Now, we

Chairman of Thabaung Village Peace and Development Council U San Oo, he explained, “I see all the villagers are happy as the road is under construction. There is no such case as forced labour



“We will enjoy the taste of better transport.”

U Maung Gyi, Nyinaung Village

in the road construction. The road is being built by workers who are paid a satisfying amount of wages.”

The vibration of voices of the local people reflects the loving-



The photo shows arrival of heavy machinery for construction of Thabaung-Kadonkani road section.

of Bogale, our media group saw the construction worksite where heavy machinery were at work.

We learned that after conducting feasibility study for Thabaung-Kadonkani road section on 12 May, the Road Construction Group (16) of Public Works carried out the land preparation on 9 June.

The road section will be 39 miles long, 30 feet wide and 6.6 feet high on average. There will be 28 bridges — 11 under-100-foot-long bridges and 14 above-100-foot-long bridges including three existing bridges— on the

the 15-30 feet high mounds will be built along the road near the village to be able to save a large number of lives of the local people in the event of the natural disasters. The mounds will put into use as the recreation camps for the people alike.

At present, officers and workers of Public Works are striving for timely completion of the project with the use of 18 heavy machinery. Up to 13 June when we arrived at the worksite, the sanitation, land preparation, earth work and erecting of mile posts were being undertaken.

Thabaung-Kadonkani road section is under construction with the use of heavy machinery.



interviews with local people from villages along the road. First, Ko Moe Kyaw of Thabaung Village said, “I have been residing in this village since 10 years ago. When the village was flooded, our family

all are pleased with the news that the mounds to save the people in the event of floods will be built along the road. Moreover, we will have easy access to Kadonkani.”

In an interview with

kindness, volition and farsightedness of the Head of State toward the people .

Translation: TTA
Myanma Alin: 28-6-2008



Thabaung-Kadonkani Road Section

The road section will be 39 miles long, 30 feet wide and 6.6 feet high on average. There will be 28 bridges — 11 under-100-foot-long bridges and 14 above-100-foot-long bridges— including three existing bridges on the road section.

ANNOUNCING A MARRIAGE

The marriage is announced between
Tin Htun Aung
 son of U Thaug Sein and Daw Khin May, of
 No. (331), Kyaikkasan Road, Tamway Township,
 Yangon,
 and
Yin Win Pyone (a) Stephanie Yin
 daughter of U Kyi Soe and Daw Kyu Kyu, of
 No. (48), 12th street, Lanmadaw Township, Yangon,
 on Thursday, 3rd of July 2008 of the permission of
 both parents.
Tin Htun Aung- Yin Win Pyone
(a) Stephanie Yin
and The parents of both sides.

INVITATION FOR TENDER

(TENDER NO. 3 (T) MPE/MOGAS(1) 2008-2009)

1. Sealed Tenders are invited for the Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise, the Ministry of Energy for the Supply of Mogas (92-RON) (3,000±10%) Metric Tons.
2. Tender Closing Date :15-7-2008 at (12:00) noon
3. Tender Opening Date :15-10-2007 at (13:00)hrs
4. Delivery Time :End of August 2008
5. Tender Documents and details information are available at the Department of Finance, Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise, Nay Pyi Taw, during office hours commencing 7-7-2008 on payment of the One Hundred (100) FEC per set.
6. Only bid from tenderer who has purchased tender document officially from Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise will be accepted for evaluation.

Managing Director
 Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise

High fat diet may abet prostate cancer progression

NEW YORK, 4 July— Diets high in saturated fat may increase the risk of prostate cancer progression, researchers from the University of Texas MD. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston report.

In a follow up study of men who had their cancerous prostates removed, researchers found that men who consumed higher amounts of saturated fat — mostly from steaks, burgers, cheese, ice cream, salad dressings, and mayonnaise — were nearly two times more likely to experience disease progression after surgery than men with lower saturated fat intake.

“Diet before surgery, especially saturated fat, may modulate patient outcome after surgery,” Dr Sara S Strom, who was involved in the study, told *Reuters Health*.

Strom and colleagues also found significantly shorter “disease-free” survival times among obese men who ate high amounts of saturated fat compared with non-obese men consuming diets low in saturated fat.

These results expand upon the team’s previous finding linking obesity with prostate cancer progression “and suggest that saturated fat intake plays a role in prostate cancer progression,” the researchers note in the *International Journal of Cancer*.

Strom’s group used standard food questionnaires to assess the saturated fat intake of 390 men during the year before surgery for localized, or “organ-confined” prostate cancer. The researchers also assessed the men’s medical and family history for other risk factors for disease progression. — *MNA/Reuters*

Exercise

recommendations may not curb kids’ weight

NEW YORK, 4 July—Health experts generally recommend that children get at least one hour of moderate exercise each day, but that may not be enough to counter the problem of childhood obesity, a UK study suggests.

Researchers found that among more than 200 British schoolchildren followed from age 5 to age 8, 42 per cent of boys and just 11 per cent of girls met government-recommended exercise levels.

But even among these children, there was no positive effect on weight control over time, the researchers report in the journal *Archives of Disease in Childhood*.

That is not to say that exercise has no health benefits for children, however.—*MNA/Reuters*

OPEN LOCAL TENDER

Rural Water Supply Materials

Welthungerhilfe intends to award a supply contract for the delivery of materials for the construction of rural water supply systems.

Location: Lashio Town, Northern Shan State - MYANMAR.

Number/lots: Lot 1: High Density Poly-Ethylene (HDPE) pipes and fittings;
Lot 2: Valves and taps;
Lot 3: Galvanised Iron Pipes.

Award criteria: The award criteria will be the compliance with international norms, the best quality/price ratio, and the delivery time.

The tender dossier is available on request at:

Welthungerhilfe – 12, Kanbawza Road, Golden Valley Ward 1, Bahan Township, Yangon – MYANMAR. For further information, please contact Welthungerhilfe at phone nr.: +95-1-545170/4412589.

Deadline: 25 July 2008, 12:00 hrs local time.

Indonesia grounds small airlines to meet safety standards

JAKARTA, 4 July—Indonesia’s Transport Ministry grounded five small airlines this week because they did not meet safety standards, a ministry official said on Wednesday.

The Transport Ministry gave Helizona, SMAC, Asco Nusa Air, Tri-MG Intra Asia Airlines and Dirgantara Air Service three months to meet minimum safety standards, Budi Mulyawan

Suyitno, director general of air transportation, said. “Those airlines, with small planes for rent, didn’t meet safety standards,” Suyitno said. “If within three months they don’t show any improvement we will revoke their air operator’s certificate.”

Suyitno said this move was part of an on-going process to improve the safety standards of Indonesian airlines.

In March, Indonesian budget carrier Adam Air, which has suffered a series of accidents and defaulted on debt payments, had its flights grounded over safety concerns.

Indonesia’s airline industry has grown rapidly in the past decade following liberalization, with the launch of new players and a wider choice of routes across the sprawling archipelago.

MNA/Reuters

Lebanon says prisoner swap marks Israel’s failure

BEIRUT, 4 July—Lebanon said on Tuesday a prisoner swap deal reached between Israel and Hizbollah marked a “big failure” for the Jewish state which had earlier refused to agree to such a plan.

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert secured Cabinet approval on Sunday for a prisoner swap with Hizbollah under which two soldiers held

by the guerilla group, believed to be dead, would be recovered.

The capture of Army reservists Ehud Goldwasser and Eldad Regev in a cross border raid in July 2006 triggered a 34-day war in Lebanon, with Olmert ruling out talks on their return. He later relented, negotiating through a UN-appointed mediator.

“The release of the

prisoners through a German mediator, after this long time and according to the conditions published in the media, marks a big failure, and a very big failure of Israel’s policy which refused, before the July 2006 war, to seal a complete exchange deal,” a Lebanese Government statement said.

MNA/Reuters

Iraq pays \$360m of its debt to Bulgaria

SOFIA, 4 July—A payment of 360 million US dollars of Iraq’s debt to Bulgaria was finalized on Wednesday, the Bulgarian Finance Ministry said in a Press release.

Bulgaria is the first country which has reached agreement on a lump-sum cash settlement of its receivables from Iraq.

Approximately one-third of the proceeds represent principal repayments, and two-thirds are due and overdue interest payments.

MNA/Xinhua

Singing dentist wins million-pound music contract

LONDON, 4 July—An opera-loving dentist is to swap his drill for a microphone after winning a four-album recording contract worth one million pounds. Andrew Bain, 35, who has worked as a dentist in London for more than 10 years, was finally signed by record company SonyBMG after chasing a deal for years. His debut album, to be released in September, will feature operatic versions of pop hits such as The Smiths’ “How Soon Is Now?”, Abba’s “The Winner Takes It All” and Prince’s “Purple Rain”.—*MNA/Reuters*



Opera Don : Mozart’s Don Giovanni (R) played by Gabor Bretz joins Rachelle Durkin (L) who plays Donna Anna during a rehearsal at the Sydney Opera House.—INTERNET



A crocodile hatches during a crocodile hatching festival at Sriracha Tiger Zoo, 120 km (74 miles) east of Bangkok on 13 May, 2008. Baby crocodiles start chatting to one another and to their mothers just before they hatch, perhaps signaling that it is time to be born, French researchers reported on Monday.—INTERNET

Mexico City to restore streetcar system

MEXICO CITY, 3 July—The Mexico City government announced Tuesday a plan to restore the streetcar system in the city's downtown area by 2010.

Mexico City's Finance Minister Mario Delgado said the project, costing between 1.5 and 1.8 billion pesos (between 145 and 175 million US dollars), was designed to revitalize the historical downtown city and reduce traffic in that area.

Delgado added that maintenance and operation expenses, as well as the financial cost of the project, have not been considered in the budget. Mexico City's Mayor Marcelo Ebrard said the rail-borne system will be an "aesthetically compatible model" with the historical downtown area, and "the main

objective is the restoration of the public space".

Mexico City is joining the global trend of building tram systems that were common throughout the industrialized world in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

The tram systems

disappeared from many US cities in the mid-20th century but were well preserved in many European cities.

The streetcar had operated smoothly in Mexico City since 1900 before being suspended in 1971. —MNA/Xinhua



In this undated photo, Ram Singh Munda, 35, rides a bicycle with his pet sloth bear Rani in Gahatagaon village, about 125 miles (200 kilometers) north of Bhubaneswar, India. —INTERNET

Police arrest 1,200 in London knife crackdown

LONDON, 3 July—Police have arrested 1,214 people in London during a six-week crackdown on knife crime, Scotland Yard said on Wednesday.

Officers found 528 knives after conducting nearly 27,000 searches during Operation Blunt 2, launched after Boris Johnson was elected London Mayor in May pledging to tackle knife crime in the capital.

Metropolitan Police Commissioner Ian Blair announced the figures alongside Johnson at a briefing at the Mayor's offices in City Hall. The figures were released as police continued to search for the killers of 16-year-old Ben Kinsella, stabbed to death in Islington, north London, on Sunday.

Kinsella was the 17th teenager murdered in the capital this year. Six teenagers have been arrested over his death and three remain in custody. On Tuesday night, a woman in her late 20s became London's latest stabbing victim, following the knife murder of a 34-year-old man on Monday.

MNA/Reuters

Costa Rica hit by tropical storm

SAN JOSE, 3 July—A tropical storm from the Caribbean is affecting entire Costa Rica, generating cloudy weather and torrential rains, the National Meteorological Institute (IMN) said on Tuesday. In most coastal areas, the 11th tropical storm of the year has brought strong rainfall, which will intensify as the tropical storm approaches.

The Central Valley and the coastal zone of the Pacific are among the most affected areas.

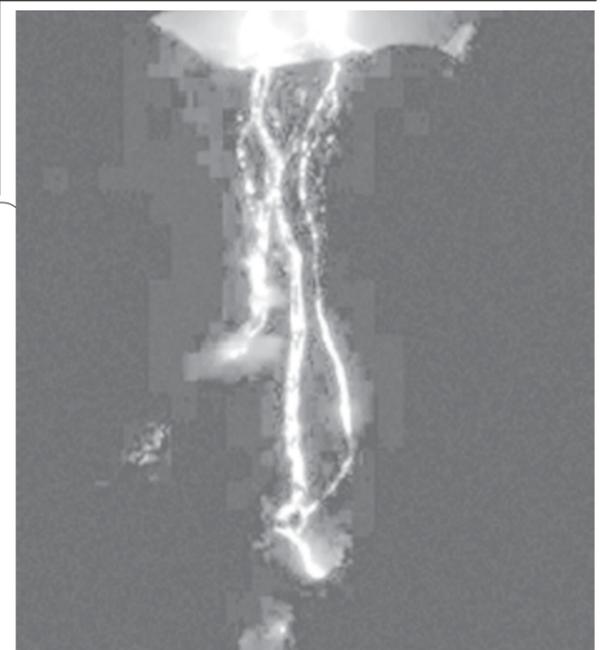
The IMN has warned

people living in the flooded areas to keep alert over any emergency.

MNA/Xinhua

The Llaima volcano spews lava in Cherquenco town on 3 July, 2008. Chile on Wednesday evacuated the remaining occupants of a southern ski station as Llaima volcano, one of South America's most active, spewed lava for a second day prompting fears of landslides, officials said.

INTERNET



India chides developed nations' declarations on GHG emissions

NEW DELHI, 3 July — Industrialized countries should meet their own commitments in the fight against climate change rather than asking countries like India and China to cap greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, the Indian Prime Minister's principal negotiator on climate change Shyam Saran said on Wednesday here.

A week before leaders of 16 major economies — including India — are expected to sign a

declaration underscoring the importance of fighting climate change, Saran told reporters in an interview that emission reduction targets being announced by developed countries meant nothing in the absence of a baseline year from which to measure the reductions.

As agreed in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), "1990 must be the baseline year" from which GHG emissions would be reduced,

Saran said. "We'll resist any unilateral attempt to try and change the baseline to some future date." Declarations by developed countries to halve GHG emissions by 2050 "make no sense" without a baseline, he pointed out.

"It will only confuse world public opinion. It may make them think you are doing something very major, which you actually have no intention of doing," Saran told reporters.

MNA/Xinhua

Turkey to join Kyoto Protocol

ANKARA, 4 July — Turkish Parliamentary Foreign Affairs Commission has adopted a bill to ratify Kyoto Protocol, a UN-led global climate pact on cutting greenhouse gas emissions, the semi-official *Anatolia* news agency reported on Wednesday. The bill, which envisages Turkey's joining the protocol, will come into effect after being ratified by the Parliament, said the report.

The bill was submitted to the Turkish Parliament speaker's office on 5 June. It was adopted by the Parliamentary Environment Commission on 11 June and the EU Adjustment Commission on 26 June. The protocol was agreed upon by governments at a 1997 UN conference in Kyoto, Japan, in order to reduce greenhouse gases emitted by developed countries to at least 5 per cent below 1990 levels by 2008-2012. —MNA/Xinhua

Compulsory medical check-ups for UAE expatriates

ABU DHABI, 3 July — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) will introduce compulsory medical check-up for certain contagious diseases for expatriates who come to the country to live, study or work for a period of not less than six months, *Emirates News Agency* reported on Tuesday.

The compulsory medical check-up was stipulated in a ministerial

decree issued by the UAE Minister of Health Humaid Mohammed Al Qattami, according to the report.

The diseases covered by the compulsory medical check-up will include AIDS/HIV, Hepatitis B and leprosy. In the case of Hepatitis C, the decree calls for more technical studies on the disease before a final decision to be taken.

MNA/Xinhua

SPORTS



Serena Williams of the US hits a return against Zheng Jie of China during their semi-final match at the Wimbledon championships in London on 3 July, 2008.—INTERNET

FIFA ordered to pay costs over ISL collapse

BERNE (Switzerland), 4 July — A Swiss criminal court has ordered world soccer's governing body FIFA to pay 117,000 Swiss Francs (114,500 US dollars) in costs following a trial into the spectacular collapse in 2001 of its marketing partners ISL.

The investigation into the failure of ISL and its parent company ISMM was launched following an initial complaint by FIFA although the governing body later withdrew from the case, saying it wished to pursue the matter through the civil courts.

Prosecutors in Zug, where ISL and ISMM were based, later brought charges against six former ISMM executives, three of whom were found partially guilty on Wednesday. —MNA/Reuters

Atletico sign French striker Sinama Pongolle

MADRID, 4 July — Atletico Madrid have signed French striker Florent Sinama Pongolle on a four-year deal from Recreativo Huelva, the Primera Liga club said on Wednesday. Atletico said on their website (www.clubatleticodemadrid.com) that the striker would be presented at the Calderon next Monday but they did not disclose the fee. The 23-year-old former Liverpool player, who scored 22 league goals in two seasons with Recreativo, is Atletico's third major signing of the close season.

Czech Republic captain Tomas Ujfalusi and Netherlands defender John Heitinga have also agreed deals with Atletico, who are in the third qualifying round of the Champions League after finishing in fourth spot in the Primera Liga last season. —MNA/Reuters

Romanian court clears Steaua of bribery charge

BUCHAREST, 4 July — Steaua Bucharest were cleared of bribery charges on Thursday after an appeal to Romania's soccer Arbitrage Court, who also overturned a seven-point deduction.

The court, whose ruling is final, removed a sanction originally given by the national federation's (FRF) disciplinary commission and confirmed last month by an appeal commission.

The new verdict should also cement Steaua's place in next season's Champions League third round qualifiers. UEFA admitted the club to the competition last week, saying Steaua's position would be re-examined once the FRF had concluded the disciplinary proceedings. —MNA/Reuters

Aragones says he left because he was not wanted

MADRID, 4 July — Luis Aragonés said on Wednesday he left his post as Spain coach because the Spanish Football Federation (RFEF) did not want him to continue.

The 69-year-old led Spain to victory at Euro 2008, their first major title in 44 years, but had consistently maintained he would step down after the tournament, four years after taking charge.

Turkish club Fenerbahçe have said they have a pre-agreement with him to join them on a two-year deal, which is expected to be completed in the coming days.

"I don't accept those that say I wanted to leave. I admit I said everyone had a sell by date because there was no movement (from them)," Aragonés said in an interview with sports daily *Marca*.

"The Federation did not want me as coach. If they had wanted me they wouldn't have spoken to another while I was still working."

Spanish media have reported former Real Madrid coach Vicente del Bosque is due to take over from Aragonés, having already reached a verbal agreement with the Federation. —MNA/Reuters

Newcastle sign Argentina winger Gutierrez

LONDON, 4 July — Newcastle United said on Wednesday they have signed Argentina midfielder Jonas Gutierrez on a five-year deal, a day after his Spanish club Real Mallorca said they were suing him for walking out on them.

Newcastle did not reveal the fee paid for the player, though Manchester City had been reported to have been planning a seven million pounds (13.90 million US dollars) bid for him earlier this year.

On Tuesday Mallorca started legal action against the player, demanding 15 million Euros (23.68 million US dollars) in compensation after he invoked FIFA's Article 17 on transfer regulations which allows players under 28 who have served three years of their contract to effectively "buy out" the remainder of their agreement. Gutierrez, who turns 25 on Saturday, had two years left on his contract. —MNA/Reuters

Hewitt named in Australian tennis team

SYDNEY, 4 July — Former world number one Lleyton Hewitt has been named in Australia's team for the Olympic tennis tournament in Beijing next month, Tennis Australia said on its Web site on Friday.

Hewitt's participation in the Games, however, depends on whether he needs surgery on a hip injury.

Hewitt, 27, is the only Australian to gain direct entry to the men's singles. Chris Guccione is the first reserve and could receive a spot if another player withdraws. Casey Dellacqua and Samantha Stosur will play in the women's singles as direct entries, while 2004 bronze medallist Alicia Molik has been granted a wildcard. —MNA/Reuters



Brendan Hansen swims in the Men's 200m breaststroke finals at the US Olympic Swimming Trials in Omaha, Nebraska, on 3 July, 2008.—INTERNET



In this on 22 Jan, 2008 file photo, New York Rangers right wing Jaromir Jagr, of the Czech Republic, looks to pass during the second period of an NHL hockey game in New York. —INTERNET

Brazilian media says another Maracana flop

RIO DE JANEIRO, 4 July — Memories of Brazil's 2-1 loss to Uruguay in the 1950 World Cup were revived when Ecuador's LDU won the Libertadores Cup at the same Maracana stadium against local side Fluminense, Brazilian media said.

Just as in 1950, when Brazil supporters believed defeat in the tournament's decisive game to be an impossibility, thousands of Fluminense fans went to the stadium on Wednesday believing the outcome to be a foregone conclusion despite LDU's 4-2 first leg win.

Fluminense duly followed the script by rushing to a 3-1 lead in less than one hour, wiping out the first leg deficit.

But, even with 30 minutes of extra time to play with, they failed to add to their tally, the tie ended 5-5 and an unexpected twist followed as LDU won 3-1 on penalties. —MNA/Reuters

Platini gives Ukraine three months on Euro 2012 plans

KIEV, 4 July — Ukraine has three months to prove its preparations for hosting the 2012 European championship with Poland are on track, UEFA president Michel Platini said on Thursday, adding he felt confident of their success. Platini said last weekend that Poland and Ukraine risked losing the right to host the tournament if stadiums in their capitals were not ready. He said UEFA would make a decision on that at a meeting in Bordeaux in late September.

Arriving in Ukraine after a visit to Poland, Platini met with Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko and Pre-sident Viktor Yushchenko — whose personal backing for the joint bid to host Euro 2012 helped convince UEFA officials. "You have three months to work together to give Poland and Ukraine a way of hosting a fantastic Euro," Platini said at a meeting with Yushchenko. "I am confident. But I need just a little guarantee." Platini warned Ukraine about slow preparations in January, saying that the next few months were crucial. On Thursday, the had of European soccer's ruling body said those comments were meant to "wake up" Ukraine.

MNA/Reuters

Workers rescued after fire in Swedish iron ore mine

STOCKHOLM, 4 July— Eight workers were rescued on Thursday after spending hours trapped in an underground safety chamber when fire broke out in an iron ore mine in northern Sweden.

Bjorn Koorem, a mining manager at Swedish state mining firm

LKAB, said the eight men were in good health after firefighters brought them out from a chamber 1,250 metres (4,100 feet) underground.

“They were hungry when they came up but they were all right,” LKAB spokeswoman Kajsa Lindmark said.

The workers had been building a new transport facility when a fire broke out in the mine.

Mining operations were shut down and Lindmark could not say when operations were due to resume.

MNA/Reuters

Landslides kill two in Philippines mining area

MANILA, 4 July— Landslides caused by monsoon rains have buried makeshift houses in a mining area in the southern Philippines, killing two people and leaving dozens missing, local officials said on Thursday.

Ernesto Cazar, a village chief in Sultan Kudarat Province on

Mindanao Island, said about 40 people were missing and some were feared trapped in mines that have been blocked by the landslides, which occurred on Wednesday evening.

“We’ve only pulled out two bodies but there could be as many as 40 people buried under mud and rain water,” Cazar

said, adding villagers, using their bare hands, had been helping soldiers dig at the site.

Constancio Paye, director of the local Mines and Geosciences Bureau, said he had sent a team to inspect the small-scale mine operations to determine if it was safe to continue work in the area.

Paye said the landslides occurred within copper and gold mining areas operated by Filipino and South Korean companies.—MNA/Reuters

Poland rejects US missile shield offer

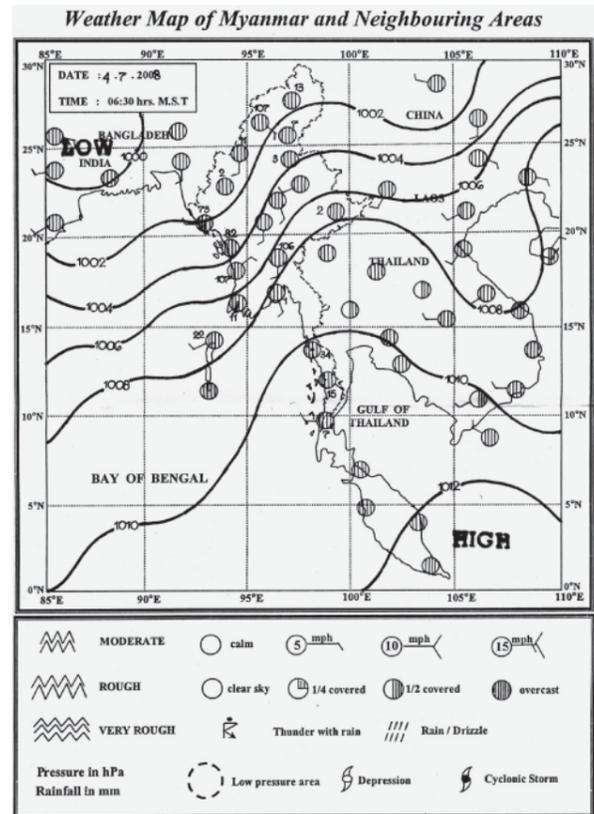
WARSAW, 4 July— Poland has rejected a US offer to boost its air defenses in return for basing a “missile shield” on Polish soil Prime Minister Donald Tusk said on Friday.



Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk

“We have not reached a satisfactory result on the issue of increasing the level of Polish security,” Tusk told a news conference after studying the US proposal. The details of the offer have not been made public.

Internet



WEATHER

Friday, 4 July, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kayah State, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Divisions, scattered in Shan State, upper Sagaing Division, fairly widespread in Chin State and widespread in the remaining areas with locally heavyfalls in Rakhine State, isolated heavyfalls in upper Sagaing and Bago Divisions. The noteworthy amounts of rainfalls recorded were Thandwe (12.20) inches, Kyauktaw (5.28) inches, Gwa (4.84) inches, Taunggu (4.76) inches, Hkamti (4.33) inches, Kyaukpyu (3.31) inches, Sittway (2.87) inches, Thaton (2.64) inches and Taunggu (Aviation) (2.40) inches.

Maximum temperature on 3-7-2008 was 90°F. Minimum temperature on 4-7-2008 was 73°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 4-7-2008 was 85%. Total sunshine hours on 3-7-2008 was (Nil).

Rainfall on 4-7-2008 was (0.04) inch at Mingaladon, (0.04) inch at Kaba-Aye and (0.59) inch at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was (42.01) inches at Mingaladon, (52.32) inches at Kaba-Aye and (65.75) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (8) mph from Southwest at (15:30) hours MST on 3-7-2008.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 5-7-2008: Rain will be isolated in Kayah State, lower Sagaing and Magway Divisions, scattered in Shan State and Magway Divisions, fairly widespread in Mon and Kayin States, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Rakhine State. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Strong monsoon in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 5-7-2008: Isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 5-7-2008: Some rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 5-7-2008: Likelihood of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Weather outlook for second weekend of July 2008: During the coming weekend, rain will be widespread in Yangon Division, isolated in Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay Division.



A train goes on a test drive on China's first inter-city express railway between Beijing and Tianjin on 1 July, 2008. The Beijing-Tianjin express railway began its month-long trial on Tuesday.—INTERNET

Flood Warning
(Issued at 12:30 hr MST on 4-7-2008)

According to the (06:30) hr MST observation today, the water level of Sittoung River at Madauk is (1003) cm. It may reach its danger level (1070) cm during the next (48) hrs commencing noon today.

According to the (06:30) hr MST observation today, the water level of Chindwin River at Hkamti is (1137) cm. It may reach its danger level (1360) cm during the next (48) hrs commencing noon today.

<p>Saturday, 5 July View on today</p> <p>7:00 am</p> <p>1. တောင်တန်းသာသနာပြု ဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်</p> <p>7:25 am</p> <p>2. To be healthy exercise</p> <p>7:30 am</p> <p>3. Morning news</p> <p>7:40 am</p> <p>4. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ</p> <p>7:55 am</p> <p>5. Nice and sweet song</p> <p>8:05 am</p> <p>6. Dance variety</p>	<p>8:15 am</p> <p>7. ကဗျာပန်းဥယျာဉ်</p> <p>8:30 am</p> <p>8. International news</p> <p>8:40 am</p> <p>9. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ</p> <p>11:00 am</p> <p>1. Martial song</p> <p>11:10 am</p> <p>2. Musical programme</p> <p>11:25 am</p> <p>3. Games for children</p> <p>11:50 am</p> <p>4. Round up of the week's TV local news</p> <p>12:40 pm</p> <p>5. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ</p> <p>1:00 pm</p> <p>6. လောကနိတိ</p> <p>“မေတ္တာအတိမ်အနက်ကို ချိန်ဆက်၍ကြည့်သောအခါ” (ပိုင်စေရဲထွန်း၊ စည်သူတင်စိုး၊ လင်းစာနည်ဇော်၊</p>	<p>ခင်စာခြည်ကျော်)</p> <p>(ဒါရိုက်တာ-ဦးခင်ဇော်)</p> <p>2:00 pm</p> <p>7. Dance of National Races</p> <p>2:15 pm</p> <p>8. “ရေမြင့်ကြာတင့်” (ခန့်စည်သူ၊ ဧရာ၊ ငှက်ပျောကြော်၊ မိုးပြည်ပြည်မောင်၊ ထင်ပေါ်၊ ပွမ်းပုံ၊ မျိုးမျိုးခိုင်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ဖုန်းမြင့်အောင်)</p> <p>2:30 pm</p> <p>9. Musical programme</p> <p>2:45 pm</p> <p>10. International news</p> <p>4:00 pm</p> <p>1. Martial song</p> <p>4:10 pm</p> <p>2. Song of National Races</p> <p>4:20 pm</p> <p>3. Song for uphold national spirit</p> <p>4:30 pm</p> <p>4. Game for children</p>	<p>5:00 pm</p> <p>5. မြန်မာ့လေ့ရိုးရာလက်ရာ</p> <p>5:15 pm</p> <p>6. ရသပေါ်လွင် သရုပ်ဆောင်လွင်ပြင်</p> <p>5:45 pm</p> <p>7. အပြည်ပြည်ဆိုင်ရာ သမဝါယမနေ့တေးများ</p> <p>6:00 pm</p> <p>8. News</p> <p>6:30 pm</p> <p>9. Weather report</p> <p>6:35 pm</p> <p>10. အလှူရှာမယ်လှကုမ္ဘာဝယ်</p> <p>7:00 pm</p> <p>11. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “ရွှေမင်းသားလေးချစ်ပုံပြင်” (အပိုင်း-၁၀)</p> <p>8:00 pm</p> <p>12. News</p> <p>13. International news</p> <p>14. Weather report</p> <p>15. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “လူယောင်ဆောင်သော ရွှေငါးနတ်သမီးလေး” (အပိုင်း-၁)</p>
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