

Garavo ça, reverence; this is the way to auspiciousness

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Friday, 18 July, 2008

Four political objectives

- * Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
- * National reconsolidation
- * Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
- * Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

Four economic objectives

- * Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well
- * Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system
- * Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad
- * The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples

Four social objectives

- * Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
- * Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
- * Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
- * Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation

Meritorious deeds performed at religious sites in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon

YANGON, 17 July — Today is Fullmoon Day of Waso (Dhammaçakka Day), 17 July, when Buddhist people performed meritorious deeds at religious buildings and practised meditation.

The pagoda board of trustees organized the Waso robe offering ceremony at Shwedagon Pagoda on Fullmoon Day of Waso 1370 ME. Responsible persons donated meals to members of the Sangha and offered Shwekyar robes to four Buddha images at prayer halls and Padamyar Myatshin Buddha Image on the upper terrace.

At Sule Pagoda, members of the pagoda board of trustees, religious associations, wellwishers and staff donated Waso robes to the Buddha images on the platform of the pagoda.

(See page 8)



Shwedagon Pagoda being packed with pilgrims on Fullmoon Day of Waso (Dhammaçakka Day). —MNA

Lt-Gen Myint Swe donates alms to Sayadaws at provision offering ceremony of Tatmadaw families

YANGON, 17 July — Families of Defence Services (Army, Navy and Air) and wellwishers offered alms and cash to the funds of 22 monasteries and five nunneries, at Tawtaik Dhamma Yeiktha Monastery in Tawtaik Ward in Mingaladon Township this afternoon, attended by Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe donated Waso robes and alms to the State Ovadacariya Tawtaik Dhamma

Yeiktha Monastery Sayadaw.

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

Three senior military officers, on behalf of families of Defence Services (Army, Navy and Air), donated rice, edible oil, salt and gram to members of

the Sangha and nuns.

The commander offered alms donated by Yangon Division PDC to the Sayadaw.

Wellwishers also donated cash and kind to the Sayadaw. Furthermore, Lt-Gen Myint Swe, Commander Brig-Gen Win Myint, Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa and senior military officers accepted K 8,676,000 for the funds donated by wellwishers.

(See page 9)

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 18 July, 2008

Sharpen students' abilities to produce human resources

The national education promotion plan and work programmes are long-term ones designed for ensuring a prosperous future of the nation. With this concept, the government is focusing on producing a growing number of human resources by setting up good education atmospheres.

The volume of the achievement in these ongoing education plans and goals rests mainly on the education sector. So, faculty members are duty-bound to work harder in teaching and nurturing their students to become reliable citizens.

In particular, they have to sharpen the abilities, teach modern subjects and inculcate correct outlooks and views into the students. By nurturing and teaching the students both educationally and morally, faculty members will achieve greater success in producing human resources.

With international level teaching methods, modern educational infrastructures and good education environments, Myanmar is now making a good headway in the education sector. Students, on their part, have to try hard in their studies so as to improve their education and help chart a brighter future of the nation and the people.

Today, the economic strength of the nation relies on the education standard and innovative power of the people. Teachers are, therefore, to dedicate themselves to the national education plan in nurturing and drilling the students in order to help produce human resources all the more.

Chairman of Myanmar Rice Miller's Association U Tin Win and Central Executive members offer Waso robes and alms to Sayadaws during a ceremony to offer Waso robes to monks at UMFCCI office tower in Yangon on 17 July 2008. — UMFCCI



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 U Soe Tha and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Win offer Waso robes and alms to Sayadaw.

MNA

MNPED staff families offer Waso robes to Buddhist monks

NAY PYI TAW, 17 July—Under the patronage of Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Win, the second

Waso robes offering ceremony of the ministry was held at the Ministry here this morning.

Minister U Soe Tha and wife and congregation received the Five Precepts

from Sayadaw Bhaddanta Samvara of Letiaung Monastery in Nay Pyi Taw Pynmana.

Next, the Sayadaw and members of the Sangha delivered a

sermon and recited parittas. The minister and party offered Waso robes and provisions to the monks. Later, 'soon' a day meal was offered to the monks. — MNA

PBANRDA offers Waso robes

NAY PYI TAW, 17 July—Under the Patronage of Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt and wife Daw Kyin Khine, the employees of the ministry conducted 15th Waso robes offering at the ministry here today.

At the donation ceremony, the congregation took the Nine Precepts from Sayadaw Bhaddanta Pannava of Man Aung Monastery.

The minister and wellwishers presented robes to the Sayadaw and



members of the Sangha and offered a day meal to them.—MNA

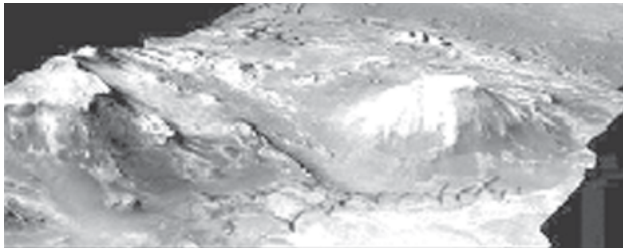
Minister Col Thein Nyunt and wife Daw Kyin Khine offer Waso robes and alms to Sayadaw.—MNA



The 40th birthday ceremony of Gandavacaka Pandita Saddhamma Jotika Dhaja Ashin Arcara Lankara was held in conjunction with merits sharing ceremony for completion of ordination hall at Koebwera missionary monastery in Dagon Myothit (North) on 17 July. Wellwishers reordain and present Waso robes to the Sayadaw at the monastery the same day.—H

Water 'widespread' on early Mars

MARYLAND, 17 July—Water was once widespread on Mars, data from a Nasa spacecraft show, raising the prospect that the Red Planet could have supported life.



Clay minerals are concentrated on slopes and along canyon walls.—INTERNET

Researchers found evidence of vast lakes, flowing rivers and deltas on early Mars, all of which were potential habitats for microbes.

They also discovered that wet conditions probably persisted for a long time on the Red Planet. Details appear in the journals *Nature* and *Nature Geoscience*.

One study shows that vast regions of Mars'

ancient highlands, which cover about half the planet, contain clay minerals — which can form only in the presence of water.

Volcanic lavas buried the clay-rich regions during subsequent, drier periods of the planet's history, but impact craters later exposed them at thousands of locations across Mars.

"The big surprise from these new results is how pervasive and long-lasting Mars' water was, and how diverse the wet environments were," said Crism's chief scientist Scott Murchie, from the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory in Maryland.

Internet

Vical says its DNA vaccine for bird flu works

WASHINGTON, 17 July—A DNA-based vaccine against avian influenza can safely stimulate the immune system to levels expected to protect against flu, San Diego-based Vical Inc reported on Thursday.

It said that in a study of 100 volunteers, 67 percent of the patients receiving the higher dose had

immune responses that could protect against infection with the H5N1 avian flu virus, with no serious adverse reactions after two injections.

The Phase I clinical trial, meant to demonstrate the vaccine is safe, was continuing, Vical said in a statement.

"The preliminary results from this Phase I trial

indicate for the first time that ... DNA vaccination against H5N1 influenza is well-tolerated and can induce impressive antibody responses," Dr Robert Belshe of Saint Louis University School of Medicine, who monitored safety, said in a statement.

"Successful development of a safe and effective DNA vaccine will help address the potential public health threat of pandemic influenza."

The company says a DNA-based vaccine could be made in six to eight weeks, compared with four to six months for influenza vaccines made the current way, using bits of the actual virus grown in chicken eggs.—Internet



A Bosnian pharmacist displays Swiss drug maker Roche's Tamiflu bird flu anti-viral tablets at a pharmacy in the capital Sarajevo.

INTERNET

China says inflation falls to 7.1 percent

BEIJING, 17 July—China's inflation fell to 7.1 percent in June, the government reported Thursday, possibly easing pressure on Beijing to raise interest rates or take more drastic steps to cool sharp rises in consumer prices. The economy, meanwhile, grew by 10.1 percent in the three months ending June 30, a decline from the previous quarter's 10.6

percent expansion, but in line with government controls imposed to prevent runaway growth and higher inflation, the National Bureau of Statistics said.

While still high, the June rise in consumer prices over the same month of 2007 was down from May's 7.7 percent rise. The decline followed months of government

efforts to cool inflation by increasing food supplies and imposing price controls on food, fuel and other basic goods.

Prices are "still running at a fairly high level," statistics bureau spokesman Li Xiaochao said at a news conference, giving no indication that Beijing considered the problem under control.

Internet

US-led forces confirm killing Afghan civilians

KABUL, 17 July—US-led coalition troops have killed eight Afghan civilians in an air strike in the western province of Farah during a raid against suspected militants, the US military said.

The acknowledgement came as reports of more civilian deaths caused by a fresh air raid by foreign forces emerged on Thursday from the

neighboring province of Herat. The air strike on Tuesday was summoned after a coalition convoy came under sustained attack from machine gun and indirect fire from a number of houses adjacent to a road in the Bakwa district of Farah, the US military said.

"The coalition convoy returned fire and called for close air support on the

enemy positions. A house was hit; eight civilians were killed, two others injured," it said in a statement late on Wednesday.

"Coalition forces never intentionally target non-combatants, and deeply regret any occurrence such as this where civilians are killed and injured as a result of insurgent activity and actions," it said.

Afghan officials said nine people, all members of the same family were killed in Tuesday's bombing. In Thursday's raid, at least four men were killed, a spokesman for the regional police command said. Witnesses said 17 people were also wounded and taken to hospital.

Internet



A worker fills the back of a pick-up truck with bunches of bananas at a market in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. The European Commission said on Wednesday it was ready to make concessions in a long-running trade dispute with Latin America over bananas in order to advance struggling WTO negotiations.—INTERNET

Thai group says agrees to ceasefire in South

BANGKOK, 17 July—A group claiming to be the leaders of a bloody four-year-old separatist insurgency in Thailand's Muslim south said on Thursday they had agreed to an immediate ceasefire.

"We have agreed to a ceasefire. Our group will now support peace in southern Thailand," a spokesman for the unnamed group said in a

statement broadcast on Thai army television.

If true, it would be the first group to claim responsibility for the near daily bomb and gun attacks which have killed more than 3,000 people in the predominately Muslim southernmost provinces bordering Malaysia. "We want all other groups to stop their activities immediately," the spokes-

man, who was not identified, said in Thai.

Chettha Thanajaro, a former army commander in chief and defence minister, told army TV that ceasefire talks had been underway for "some time now" before the group agreed to lay down its arms on Thursday.

He gave no further details on the group.

Internet

Afghan children load containers of water onto their donkey in Kabul. US Defence Secretary Robert Gates said on Wednesday he wants to send more troops to Afghanistan "sooner rather than later," signaling a shift in priorities from Iraq amid warnings of an accelerating Taliban threat.—INTERNET



Man kills woman, self in Missouri mall

FLORISSANT, 17 July—A man recently divorced from his wife of more than 20 years shot and killed her inside a suburban St Louis mall on Wednesday before committing suicide, police said. No one else was injured but the Jamestown Mall in Florissant was evacuated.

The shooter was 49 and his ex-wife was 47, but their names had not been released, St Louis County police spokeswoman Tracy Panus said. Panus said they both lived in the nearby suburb of Hazelwood and had been married more than 20 years with grown children before recently divorcing.

The motive for the shooting just outside the Sears store had not been



Police stand outside Jamestown Mall on 16 July, 2008, in Florissant, Mo. A man shot and killed a woman inside the suburban St Louis mall on Wednesday before killing himself, police said.—INTERNET

determined, Panus said.

Marcus Gwynn said he heard four shots as he was walking into the mall to begin his shift at a Radio Shack store.

"I seen a lady on the ground face down, then he sits on the ground and shot himself in the head," said Gwynn, 21.

Deborah and Michael Mingo said they were shopping at Sears when they heard several shots. She said she asked a clerk about the noise and was told it was likely construction, but a short time later people in the store were telling them to get out.

Internet

Israelis bury soldiers in Haifa



Karnit Goldwasser (L), the widow of Israeli reserve soldier Ehud Goldwasser, leaves her home in the northern city of Nahariya on 16 July, 2008.

INTERNET

HAIFA, 17 July—As Israelis gathered to bury two dead soldiers kidnapped two years ago by Hezbollah guerrillas, critics pushed for a change in the policy that led to the lopsided prisoner exchange which brought

their bodies home.

Eldad Regev and Ehud Goldwasser's remains were returned by Hezbollah in exchange for five Lebanese prisoners and the remains of some 200 Arab fighters on Wednesday.

The men's capture two years ago in a cross-border raid by Hezbollah sparked a monthlong war between Israel and the guerrillas. It's not clear if they died in captivity or during the raid in which they were seized.

Soldiers carried the casket of Regev, draped with the blue and white Israeli flag, toward the military cemetery in the northern Israeli city of Haifa.

A military rabbi chanted as Regev's father leaned on another family member, who comforted him. Thousands of other mourners trailed behind. Regev was 26 when he was taken.—Internet

Oil steady in Asia near \$135 a barrel

SINGAPORE, 17 July—Oil was steady Thursday in Asia after plummeting more than \$10 a barrel in the previous two sessions as evidence mounted that record prices are slowing US demand.

Higher US oil supplies, along with evidence of quickening inflation and slowing economic

activity in the world's largest economy, have helped pull prices down from last Friday's record above \$147 a barrel, said Victor Shum, an oil analyst with consulting firm Purvin & Gertz in Singapore.

"We've had a run of bearish news the last few days," he said. "This

roller-coaster volatility has left us in a near-term trading range of between about \$130 and \$145."

Midday in Singapore, light, sweet crude for August delivery was up 25 cents at \$134.85 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Internet

Gunman wounds six in Jordan's capital

AMMAN (Jordan), 17 July—A gunman shot and wounded six people near a Roman amphitheater in Jordan's capital Wednesday, authorities said.

The gunman shot himself in the head as he was chased by police, and was in critical condition, Jordan's state minister for information, Nasser Judeh, said. The six victims were not seriously injured, he added.

A police official identi-

fied the assailant as Thaal-Weheidi, 19, a resident of Baqaa camp, the largest of 11 Palestinian refugee settlements in Jordan.

Judeh said the victims included four Lebanese, an Arab-Israeli woman and their Jordanian bus driver. He described the nighttime shooting as a "criminal" incident, and said it did not appear terrorist-related.

The police official said al-Weheidi has a criminal

record and was implicated in previous cases of attempted murder and looting. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because the investigation was still under way.

There have been several shootings and other attacks in the Jordanian capital in recent years, some targeting tourists at the site of the amphitheater in downtown Amman.—Internet

Two possible Obama VP picks coy on their prospects

WEST LAFAYETTE (Indiana), 17 July—Two men often mentioned as possible running mates to US presidential candidate Barack Obama joined him on the campaign trail in Indiana on Wednesday, further stoking speculation about the Democrat's closely guarded search for a No 2.

Former Georgia Sen Sam Nunn and Indiana Sen Evan Bayh appeared flattered that their names were being bandied about in the media as vice presidential contenders.

But neither would comment on whether they had been contacted by the Obama campaign about the job. "It's an honor, but I have no expectations of being offered any office. I am not in any way sitting on the edge of a chair, waiting to go back into government," Nunn told reporters. "Certainly I would talk to Sen Obama if he wanted to talk about it," he added. "But I think



Democratic presidential candidate, Sen Barack Obama, D-Ill, stresses a point as he speaks between former senator Sam Nunn, left, and Sen Evan Bayh, D-Ind, during a panel discussion on national security at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Ind, on 16 July, 2008.—INTERNET

the chances of an offer are pretty slim and I would have to do a lot of thinking ... about what was really the best role for me." Bayh said he was enjoying his current job as a senator and added, "I think any questions about the vice presidential thing are understandable and it's good for my ego but I should probably let Sen Obama and his campaign address those kinds of questions."

Nunn and Bayh are both respected voices on national security issues.

Obama, a 46-year-old first-term Illinois senator, is trying to counter criticism from John McCain, his Republican rival in the November election, that he lacks the foreign policy seasoning to serve as commander-in-chief. The two Democrats were part of a panel discussion with Obama at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana, on the threats posed by nuclear and biological weapons and potential cyber attacks.

Internet

Delta, AMR post combined \$2.5 billion 2Q loss

ATLANTA, 17 July—The red ink is mounting for airlines amid soaring fuel costs, leaving them little choice but to further hike ticket prices. As Delta Air Lines and American Airlines reported big second-quarter losses Wednesday, they signaled customers should expect more hits to their checkbooks.

There are signs overall demand for flying within

the US is softening, but industry observers insisted that will not stop rising fares, more fees and fewer domestic flights.

"The first thing they have to do is forget about the butts in the seats and worry about the bucks in the till," Minneapolis airline expert Terry Tripler said. That point was underscored as Atlanta-based Delta Air Lines Inc reported a \$1.04 billion

loss in the April-June quarter and Fort Worth, Texas-based AMR Corp, the parent of American, posted a \$1.45 billion loss for the quarter.

One-time charges and unprecedented fuel costs impacted both airlines, which saw their shares soar as their results beat Wall Street expectations and oil prices dropped.

Internet

Russia to boost ties with China, India

Moscow, 17 July — Russia will continue expanding cooperation with China and India, especially in the economic and trade sphere, a new foreign policy paper issued Tuesday said.

“Russia will expand the Russian-Chinese strategic partnership in all areas, based on shared basic fundamental approaches to key issues of world politics,” the Concept of Russian Foreign Policy approved

Tuesday by President Dmitry Medvedev said.

While deepening its strategic partnership with India, Russia is pursuing the fundamental line to strengthen interaction in dealing with pressing international issues and to boost mutually beneficial bilateral ties in all areas, especially in trade and the economy.

“Russia shares China’s and India’s interest in maintaining effective foreign policy and

economic interaction in a trilateral format between the three countries,” it said.

As leading emerging economies, Russia, China and India have cooperated politically and economically in recent years to ensure their soaring economic growth and safeguard regional and world stability.

Xinhua



File photo shows a group of people checking a map in front of the Wynn Casino in Macau. The former Portuguese colony has stepped up entry restrictions on visitors from mainland China, the government has said.—INTERNET

All items from Xinhua News Agency

UAE national airways buys 55 Airbus aircraft

FARNBOROUGH (Britain), 17 July— Etihad Airways, the national airline of the United Arab Emirates, has signed a contract for the purchase of 20 A320s, 25 A350 XWBs (Xtra Wide-Body) and 10 Airbus A380 aircraft.

The agreement was signed by James Hogan, CEO of Etihad Airways, and Tom Enders, Airbus president and CEO, during a ceremony Monday at the 46th Farnborough International Air Show.

“The new generation Airbus aircraft we have ordered are amongst the most fuel efficient and will help maintain Etihad’s fleet as one of the youngest and greenest in the sky.

The size of our order also mirrors the rising prominence of the Middle East and its increasing emergence as a new focal point of global aviation,” said Hogan. —Xinhua

Romania attracts 10-b-euro energy project investment

BUCHAREST, 17 July — Romania’s energy market is attracting more and more investors. From developers of wind power systems to giant energy companies, investments unveiled over the past year exceed 10 billion euros (15.86 billion US dollars) in value and thousands of new megawatts in output.

Xinhua



An Airbus A380 aircraft flies during an aerial display at Farnborough Airshow in Hampshire, England on 16 July. The commercial aviation industry, widely accused of not doing enough to tackle climate change, has pledged at the event this week to become more ‘green’ as rocketing oil prices force plane manufacturers to develop fuel-efficient aircraft.—INTERNET

Obama candidacy raises hope of better racial relations

WASHINGTON, 17 July — The candidacy of Barack Obama, who was the first black man won US presidential nomination of a major party, has raised hopes among blacks and whites for a better racial relationship, a new poll finds.

The USA TODAY/Gallup poll of nearly 2,000 Americans, released here Monday, also shows a third of both black and white respondents say the defeat of the first black to win a major party’s presidential nomination would worsen race relations.

The survey underscores the unusual stakes in this election even though neither Democrat Obama nor Republican John McCain has sought to cast their contest as a matter of racial politics but rather one of different prescriptions for the

nation.

Obama is slightly ahead of McCain in Gallup’s daily nationwide tracking poll, 46 to 43 per cent.

“Much of the Obama campaign has been fueled by hope that if he is successful he could address the most divisive issue in American politics, which is the issue of race,” says political scientist Vincent Hutchings of the University of Michigan, but he says blacks and whites have conflicting perspectives on what that means.

Xinhua

Iraqi minister escapes bomb attack in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 17 July — An Iraqi minister survived a roadside bomb explosion near his convoy in eastern Baghdad on Tuesday morning, an Interior Ministry source said.

“Waheed Kareem, Minister of Electricity, escaped unhurt from a roadside bomb explosion targeting his convoy in Zayouna neighbourhood,” the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

Kareem was heading for his work during the attack which wounded two bystanders, the source said.

Xinhua

Aircraft giants meet declining orders

FARNBOROUGH (UK), 17 July— Though Airbus managed to garner the 52 per cent of the share of orders during the first six months of this year, overall orders for Airbus and Boeing fell by nearly 100 compared to the same period last year, it was learned on Monday.

Though fall is widely expected with the soaring oil price, Airbus takes it as a normal fluctuation, considering that both aircraft manufacturers chalked a record order in 2006.

The aircraft-making industry does feel the pressure from the market, but the oil market is a double-edged sword— while oil consuming countries feel the squeeze of the rising oil price, oil-producing country harvest huge windfall from the price hike, said Laurence Barron, president of Airbus China at the Farnborough Air Show.

Xinhua



Containers unload cargo from a ship in Tianjin port, China in late June. China’s economic juggernaut has slowed but still maintained double-digit growth in the first half of the year as it sought to tame inflation and absorb global setbacks, official statistics have shown.—INTERNET

What Buddhism is

Nawrahta Win

Buddhism is very widely misunderstood by non-Buddhist foreigners and most of traditional Buddhists alike.

At the very outset, I should like to make it absolutely clear that, strictly speaking, Buddhism is not a religion at all. The best way to corroborate this point and bring out its salient characteristics is to undertake a comparative study of Buddhism with other religions, science and philosophy. In this comparative study, we shall employ three criteria, namely, method of inquiry, field of study and practice for the optimum realization of human well-being.

Before proceeding further, I wish to make one point straight and clear. That is the fact that, if all three criteria are to be applied at once and together and all aspects are to be taken into consideration, there is no other branch of human knowledge or system of thought that is quite like Buddhism. In this respect, Buddhism is a class by itself.

However, if we make a comparative study by using one criterion at a time, we shall find out very striking points of similarities between Buddhism and science and Buddhism and philosophy, respectively.

Buddhism is not a religion

On the surface, and as far as non-essential mundane doctrines are concerned, there are some similar teachings in Buddhism and other religions such as “love” for other living beings. Even in these areas, let us take “love” as an example, similarities are only superficial. Once we go deeper in our analysis, even the concept of loving kindness in Buddhism is very much different from that of love in other religions. When we come to essential doctrines, there are no common denominators at all between Buddhism and other religions.

Religion is a system of faith, based on the concept of the existence of a creator god or gods. This is the general meaning of the word “religion”, as given in standard English dictionaries and as understood by most people.

In the first place, Buddhism upholds the doctrine of Kamma (efficacy of actions). According to this doctrine, our own actions determine our destinies. If

we perform meritorious deeds, we shall get good results, and if we commit sins, we shall get bad ones. Lord Buddha is not a supernatural being. He is a human being in flesh and blood. He is only a great teacher who shows us the way to the attainment of inner peace, leading to the cessation of all human sufferings.

In the second place, Buddhism is not a system of faith. Buddhism is founded on empirical observation and logical reasoning. There is no place for faith in Buddhism. Lord Buddha advises Kalama Kings not to accept without reasoning any hearsay, traditional beliefs or words of any learned and wise man, including himself. He urges to accept his teachings and those of other wise men only after careful reasoning and finding out practical proofs and results through the practice of those teachings. ⁽¹⁾ Meditation of mindfulness is nothing but an empirical research work on mental and physical events. All the knowledge gained through the practice of Buddha’s teachings is empirical knowledge, combined with logical reasoning.

As such, in terms of essential and fundamental doctrines and concepts, Buddhism has nothing in common with other religions. People may refer to Buddhism as a religion for convenience’s sake. But it is important to bear in mind that such a reference is incorrect and that Buddhism is not a religion at all.

Sītagū Sayadaw Dr Nanissara also proclaims that, in the traditional sense of the word, Buddhism cannot be called a religion by any means and on any account. ⁽²⁾

Buddhism vis-à-vis science

Science employs the method of empirical observation. So does Buddhism. All the doctrines and concepts in Buddhism come out of the practical exercise of meditation of mindfulness (vipassana). As a matter of fact, meditation of mindfulness is nothing but the empirical observation of mental and physical events as they occur. Science employs various sophisticated instruments such as radio telescopes, microscopes, atomic particle accelerators, laboratories, etc. Buddhism employs a single powerful instrument i.e. one’s own mind.

On account of its method of empirical observation, Buddhism is indeed a science. I shall call it a unique

system of science. Some people call it “mental science”.

It must be noted, however, that, in several ways, techniques and detailed modus operandi of Buddha’s scientific method are much more penetrating and powerful than those, employed by science. Let me explain this point with reference to the two types of knowledge. Philosophers divided knowledge into two types: “knowledge by acquaintance” (direct knowledge) and “knowledge by description” (indirect knowledge). ⁽³⁾ Knowledge by acquaintance is so called, because we acquire this knowledge through our direct contact with sense data. I shall call it direct knowledge, since we acquire it directly from sense data first-hand without any intermediary step or process of inference. Knowledge by description is so called, because we acquire it by the process of inference and description of sense data. I shall call it indirect knowledge since we acquire it not directly from sense data but by describing and inferring from sense data according to the convention of habitual thinking and conceptions. The scientific knowledge is the knowledge that we acquire by describing and inferring from sense data according to the convention of certain scientific assumptions, and interpretation. Scientific knowledge is, therefore, indirect knowledge. To illustrate with our practical experience, every day we come into contact with sense data i.e sight, sound, smell, taste and touch as well as natural objects which can be comprehended only by mind. If we keep them at the stage of just seeing, hearing and touching, they remain only sense data and no more. Perceiving sense data in such a way is called “knowledge by acquaintance”. But if we do not stop at this stage and interpret sense data according to our conventions, habitual thinking and association of ideas, then we come to recognized that this is Ko Hla, Ma Mya, Yangon, Myanmar, etc. This knowledge is called “knowledge by description” to give an example from science, we detect some streak of light through a radio telescope. Scientists do necessary scientific and mathematical calculations, and infer that this is evidence of the existence of a star millions of light years away from the earth. Scientists’ inference about the existence of a distant star is “knowledge by description”.

Scientific knowledge is valid but only within the confines of certain assumptions and interpretations. Knowledge acquired by the Buddhist method of the meditation of mindfulness is the direct knowledge,

(See page 7)

Buddhism lays down a comprehensive and elaborate three-fold practice i.e., morality, concentration and insight for the attainment of inner peace, leading to the cessation of all human sufferings.

What Buddhism...

(from page 6)

since it comes straight from sense data at first hand. As such, this direct knowledge is valid without any assumptions.

Up till now, scientists have not dealt with one very important aspect of sense data. That very important aspect relates to the fact that sense data are indeed realities which we can know only through knowledge by acquaintance. Lord Buddha alone has expounded these realities (paramathas) and their causal relations in a most detailed manner.

Moreover, science does not tackle problems of life or philosophical problems such as "What are realities?", "How do we know the external world?", "Why certain actions are right and certain actions are wrong?", etc. Nor does it deal with mind from the point of view of realities (paramathas). Buddhism deals with these subjects in depth. That is why it is called "mental science."

In addition, science does not lay down a practice that will bring inner peace, leading to the cessation of all human sufferings, as Buddhism does.

In view of the above, Buddhism is a science in terms of the empirical method of inquiry it employs. Albert Einstein says:

"If there is any religion that would cope with modern scientific needs it would be Buddhism." (4)

Sir Edwin Arnold says:

"I have often said, and I shall say again and again, that between Buddhism and modern science there exist a close intellectual bond." (5)

"As for me, I wish to term Buddhism a super science. I also agree with Dr. Mehm Tin Mon when he says that Buddhism is "the ultimate science." (6)

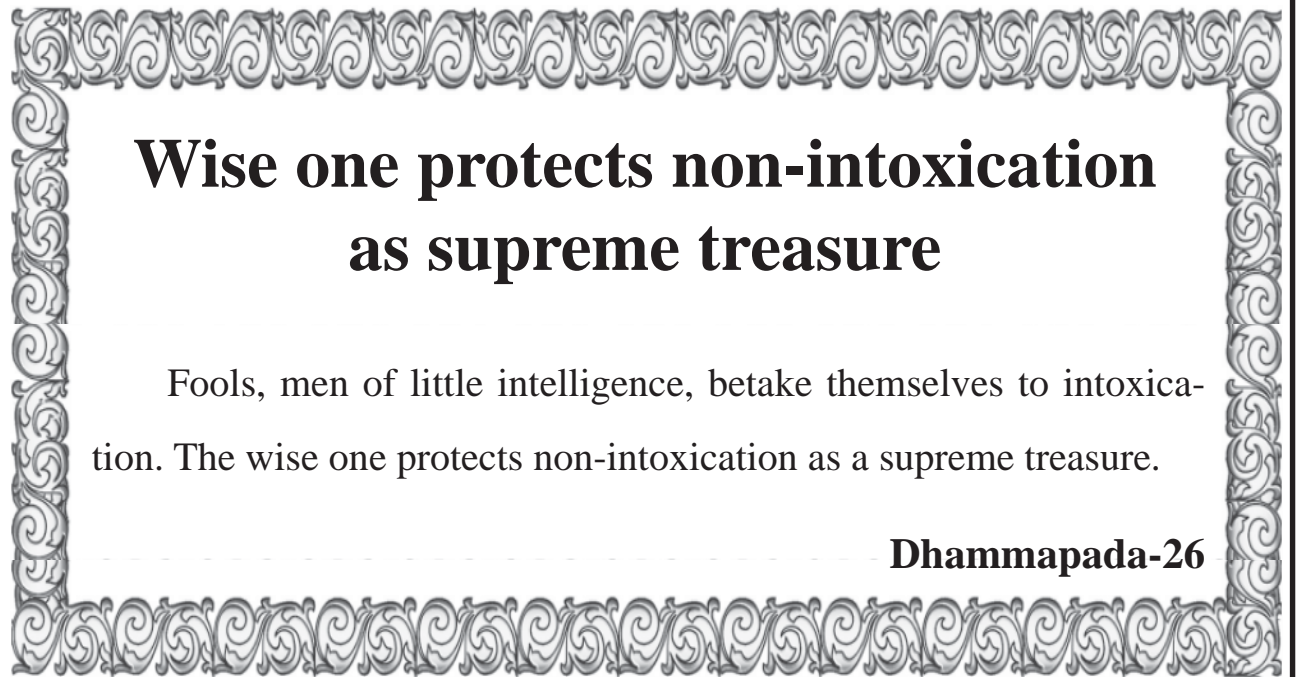
Buddhism vise-a-visa philosophy

Philosophy studies fundamental questions such as "What are realities?", "What is mind?", "What is matter?", "How do we know the external world?", "Why certain actions are right and certain other actions are wrong?", etc.

So does Buddhism. Philosophy and Buddhism share the same field of study. We may call Buddhism a unique system of philosophy. Buddhism is, indeed, an ethical philosophy.

It is called a unique system of philosophy, because the method of inquiry it employs as well as its practice that brings inner peace, leading to the cessation of all human sufferings, is conspicuous by their absence in other philosophies. The principal method of inquiry, employed by Buddhism, is empirical observation.

The method of inquiry, employed by philosophy up till now, is conceptual analysis and logical reasoning. Buddhism also employs to some extent conceptual analysis and logical reasoning as a secondary method of inquiry in supplement to, and in combination with empirical observation. But



Wise one protects non-intoxication as supreme treasure

Fools, men of little intelligence, betake themselves to intoxication. The wise one protects non-intoxication as a supreme treasure.

Dhammapada-26

the fact remains that its principal method of inquiry is empirical observation.

Moreover, Buddhism lays down a comprehensive and elaborate three-fold practice i.e., morality, concentration and insight for the attainment of inner peace, leading to the cessation of all human sufferings.

For these reasons, Dr. Mehm Tin Mon calls Buddhism "the supreme Philosophy," (7) As for me, I shall term it "the most advanced empirical philosophy."

Come and see for yourself

Some people may still call Buddhism a religion nominally for convenience's sake. But they should bear in mind that, in essence and substance, Buddhism is not a religion at all. I should like to advise them to refer to Buddhism as Buddha Dhamma (teachings), rather than as a religion.

From the foregoing analysis, we can conclude the following on the basis of firm evidence and concrete facts:- Buddhism is not a religion.

- * It is a science in terms of the empirical method it employs. It may be appropriately termed as a super science.
- * It is a philosophy in terms of its field of study. It may appropriately be termed as the most advanced empirical philosophy.
- * It is a culture or a spiritual culture, if you like.
- * It is a way of life.
- * It is an ethical system or a practice for inner peace, leading to the cessation of all human sufferings.
- * It is an art of living.
- * It is a problem-solving methodology in its most advanced and sophisticated form, and
- * It is an important subject for serious study at schools and universities by students and scholars alike, as well as an art of living or a branch of knowledge to be applied, in daily life by every one of us.

One of the attributes of Lord Buddha's teachings is his open invitation to everyone to come and practise Buddhism and see for one here and now in what ways

Buddhism is unique.

Let us, therefore, not be content with traditional myths and misconceptions about Buddhism. Let us pursue a careful and serious study to see what Buddhism really is.

For those people who are keenly interested in deep study of profound subjects, they are most cordially invited to study the Buddhist Abhidhammā (the Buddhist philosophy or Lord Buddha's Higher Teachings). They are sure to be very much impressed when they come to learn the most detailed and sophisticated analysis of mind and matter as well as myriads of methods in Abhidhammā which they cannot find anywhere else.

Footnotes

1. Kesamutti Sutta, Tika Nipat, Angutara Nikaya (Myanmar Translation Text— MTT), Vol. I, Religious Affairs Dept, 1966, page 206.
2. Dr. Nyānissara, Buddha and Buddhism, Sitagu International Buddhist University, 2007, page-92
3. Russell, Bertrand, the Problems of Philosophy, Oxford University Press, 1974, page-25.
4. Albert Einstein, Buddhism Copes with Science, Buddhism in the Eyes of Intellectuals (ကမ္ဘာ့ပညာ ထိုမျက်လုံးထဲကဗုဒ္ဓဘာသာ)၊ မျိုးဆက်သစ်စာပေ၊ ၂၀၀၄၊ စာ-၁၀၀၊
5. Sir Edwin Arnold, Buddhism and Modern Science, (ကမ္ဘာ့ပညာ ထိုမျက်လုံးထဲကဗုဒ္ဓဘာသာ)၊ မျိုးဆက်သစ်စာပေ၊ ၂၀၀၄၊ စာ-၁၀၀၊
6. Dr. Mehm Tin Mon, The Essence of Buddha Abhidhamma, Mya Mon Yadanar Publications, 1995, page vi.
7. Dr. Mehm Tin Mon, Abhidhamma (Higher Level), Vol. I, I.T.B.M.U, 2005, page 11.

* Nawrahta Win is the pen-name of H.E U Mya Than, President of Management Committee and Pro-Rector of the International Institute of Abhidhammā (I.I.A).



Sule Pagoda on Fullmoon Day of Waso (Dhammaçakka Day). —MNA

Nayaka Sayadaw Bhaddanta Vasava of Seikkan Township invested the Precepts at the congregation. In the afternoon, Yesagyo Sayadaw Tipitakadhara Dhammabhandagarika Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Vayaminda of Dagon Myothit (East) Township and Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Garava of Monywa administered Desana.

The Waso robe offering ceremony and Dhammapuja ceremony were held at Kaba Aye Pagoda this afternoon. Members of the Pagoda Board of Trustees offered Waso robes to Buddha images in the Gandakuti building.

Officials donated Waso robes to members of the Sangha. The pagoda was packed with devotees who offered alms, flowers, water and lights to the pagoda.

Similar ceremonies were held at Maha Wizaya, Tooth Relic Pagoda (Yangon), Lawka Cantha Abhaya Labha Muni Buddha Image, Ngahtatgyi, Chaukhtatgyi, Koehtatgyi, Kyaikwaing, Kyaikkasan, Meilamu and other pagodas in townships of Yangon Division.

At the foot of Shwehintha Hill in Nay Pyi Taw Tatkon, the consecration, Waso robe and flower offering and recitation of Dhammaçakka Sutta were held. Pilgrims also visited the pagodas on the hill.

Likewise, devotees offered Waso robes to members of the Sangha, practised medi-



Bothtaung Pagoda being packed with people on Fullmoon Day of Waso (Dhammaçakka Day).

MNA

tation and recited Shwekyettaung Pagoda. Dhammaçakka Sutta at MNA



Devotees visit Koehtatgyi Pagoda on Fullmoon Day of Waso (Dhammaçakka Day). —MNA



Pilgrims visit Sule Pagoda on Fullmoon Day of Waso (Dhammaçakka Day). —MNA

Meritorious deeds performed at religious...

(from page 1)

Bothtaung Pagoda was packed with pilgrims today. At Dhammayon, Neikban Monastery Presiding

The 51st Waso robe offering ceremony was organized at Shwephonepwint Pagoda in Pazundaung Township at 2 pm. Offi-



The 51st Waso robes offering ceremony being held at Shwephonepwint Pagoda on Fullmoon Day of Waso (Dhammaçakka Day). —MNA

Lt-Gen Myint Swe offers Waso robes to members of the Sangha



Lt-Gen Myint Swe and congregation receive the Nine Precepts from Sayadaw at Waso robes offering ceremony held in conjunction with ceremony to honour two monks.—MNA

YANGON, 17 July – A Waso robes offering ceremony was held in conjunction with a ceremony to honour two monks who passed Tipitakadhara selection examination and three religious title recipient lay persons at Pitakathonepon Nikaya monastery in Dagon Myothit (South) Township this morning. Lt-Gen

Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence offered Waso robes to the Sayadaw and presented certificates and provisions to the monks.

It was also attended by members of the Sangha led by Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw of the monastery Golden Anniversary Tipitakadhara Dhamma bhanda g a r i k a

B h a d d a n t a Silakkhandhabhivamsa, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Win Myint and wife Daw Kyin Myaing, departmental officials, religious title recipient lay persons, social and religious organization members and guests.

First, Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party received the Nine Precepts from the Sayadaw.

Next, the congregation offered Waso robes and provisions to the Sayadaw.

The commander and wife and officials offered Waso robes and offertories to the members of the Sangha.

Next, Lt-Gen Myint

Swe presented certificates and provisions to Ashin Jotisaralankara and Ashin Kelasa who passed Eka Tipitakadhara selected examination.

The commander presented certificates to Agga Maha Thiri Thudamma Manijotadhara Traditional Practitioner U Bo Gyi, Agga Maha Thiri Thudamma Manijotadhara

Sitagu U Naing Oo and Thudamma Theingi Daw Khin Swe Oo.

Next, Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party shared the merits gained.

After the ceremony, Lt-Gen Myint Swe, the commander and wife and officials offered Waso robes and day meal to members of the Sangha.

MNA



Lt-Gen Myint Swe accepts cash from wellwishers.—MNA

Culture Ministry offers Waso robes

NAY PYI TAW, 17 July — Under the aegis of Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint and wife Daw Khin Pyone, staff families of the Ministry of Culture held the third Waso robes offering ceremony at the ministry, here, yesterday morning.

Minister Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint, wife Daw Khin Pyone, departmental heads and wellwishers donated Waso robes and alms to 10 members of the Sangha from three Monasteries.

Likewise, staff of Archaeology, National Museum and Library Department (South), the National Museum and the National Library held the Waso robes offering ceremony at Byugon Pariyatti Monastery in Gyogon of Insein Township, the ANMLD (North) and those of the Mandalay Cultural Museum and the Library at Maha Khemikayama Thitseint Monastery of Aungmyethazan Township.

MNA



Minister Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint and wife Daw Khin Pyone offer Waso robes and provisions to Sayadaw.—MNA

Lt-Gen Myint Swe donates...

(from page 1)

Lt-Col Myo Naing of Yangon Command Headquarters supplicated on the purpose of the donations.

Today's donations to the monasteries and nunneries amounted to 328 bags of rice, 271 viss of edible oil, 2,446 viss of iodized salt, 489 viss of gram, 490 tubes of toothpaste, 1,968 bottles of traditional medicines, 480

dozens of pencils and K 8,676,000.

To donate cash and kind to 34 monasteries and eight nunneries in Mayangon Township, a similar ceremony was held at Naga Cave Kalewa Tawya Monastery in Mayangon Township this afternoon.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe offered Waso robes and alms to Naga Cave Kalewa Tawya Monastery

Sayadaw. The commander, the vice-mayor, senior military officers and officials donated provisions to members of the Sangha.

Three senior military officers presented alms donated by families of Defence Services (Army, Navy and Air) to the Sayadaw.

Next, Lt-Gen Myint Swe, the commander, the vice-mayor and officials accepted K 23,590,000 donated by wellwishers.

Cmdr Myint Lwin of Ayeyawady Naval Region Command Headquarters supplicated on the purpose of the donations.

Today's donations to the monasteries and nunneries in Mayangon Township amounted to 730 bags of rice, 568 viss of edible oil, 5,686 viss of iodized salt, 1,137 tubes of toothpaste, 1,830 bottles of traditional medicines, 1,137 viss of gram and K 23,590,000.

MNA

PPE organizes Waso robe offering ceremony in Nay Pyi Taw Tatkon

NAY PYI TAW, 17 July — Under the aegis of Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and wife Daw Kyi Kyi Win, Printing and Publishing Enterprise held the first Waso robe offering ceremony at Kyaungthit Monastery in Saya San Ward of Nay Pyi Taw Tatkon this morning.

It was attended by Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Director-General U Chit Naing of Information and Public Relations Department, Managing Director U Aung Nyein of PPE and wife, Managing Director U Soe Win of News and Periodicals Enterprise, Managing Director U Aung Myo

Myint of Myanma Motion Picture Enterprise, officials and staff families.

Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumara administered the Nine Precepts, and members of the Sangha recited Parittas.

The minister and those present offered Waso robes and alms to members of the Sangha and shared the merits gained.

Later, the minister and the congregation offered day meal to the members of the Sangha. —MNA

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and congregation receive the Nine Precepts from a Sayadaw at Waso robes offering ceremony of PPE. — 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



Well-wishers from Ward-25 of Thuwunna, Thingangyun Township receive the Nine Precepts from a Sayadaw at Waso robes offering ceremony on 17 July. —MNA

Flood Bulletin

NAY PYI TAW, 17 July—Department of Hydrology and Meteorology today issued a flood bulletin that the water level of Chindwin river at Kalewa has fallen below its danger level starting this morning.

The water level of Ayeyawady river at Hinthada is rising by (0.5) cm/hr in average at present and it has exceeded by (3.5) cm (about 1.2 ft) above its danger level. It is expected to fall from 18 July and fall below its danger level (1342) cm during the next (4) days commencing today.

MNA



Nay Pyi Taw Zoological Gardens full of people on 17 July, Public Holiday. —MNA



Nay Pyi Taw Zoological Gardens packed with people on Public Holiday, 17 July. —MNA



Houston Fire Department investigators check the scene of a balcony collapse at the Westwood Fountains apartment complex, on 16 July, 2008, in southwest Houston.—INTERNET

Obama says US must end “single-minded” focus on Iraq

WASHINGTON, 17 July — Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama said on Tuesday a “single-minded” focus on Iraq was distracting the United States from other threats and he renewed his vow to end the war.

“This war diminishes our security, our standing in the world, our military, our economy, and the resources that we need to confront the challenges of the 21st century,” Obama

said in excerpts of a speech to be delivered later on Tuesday.

“By any measure, our single-minded and open-ended focus on Iraq is not a sound strategy for keeping America safe,” he said. Obama, who has been accused by his Republican rival John McCain of shifting positions on Iraq, is seeking to lay out his views on the war ahead of a planned trip to Afghanistan and Iraq soon.

Dates of the trip have not been disclosed for security reasons.

The Democratic candidate’s critics have suggested he was wavering on the 16-month timetable he laid out for the withdrawal of US troops because of his recent comment that he might “refine” his policies on Iraq based on consultations with military commanders.

MNA/Reuters

US shield move threatens European security

Moscow, 17 July — US plans to deploy a missile shield in the Czech Republic and Poland are undermining security arrangements in Europe that have underpinned peace for decades, Russian President Dmitry Medvedev said on Tuesday.

In a toughly-worded speech to Russia’s leading diplomats, Medvedev said the security framework could collapse because of the shield and problems with a conventional forces pact.

“This common (security) heritage cannot survive if one of the sides selectively destroys isolated elements of the strategic construction. This does not satisfy us,” said Medvedev, a 42-year-old former lawyer.

“Deployment of elements of the US global anti-missile system in

eastern Europe only makes the situation worse. We will need to react to this adequately,” he said.

Washington wants to deploy interceptor missiles and radar in Poland and the Czech Republic as part of a missile defence shield it says is needed to defend from attacks by what it calls rogue states, specifically Iran.

MNA/Reuters



An animal market in Jakarta. Tiger skins and rare caged primates openly sold at markets in the heart of Indonesia’s capital are the most brazen and visible aspect of a thriving illegal wildlife trade.—INTERNET

Israel sends goods to Gaza via three crossings

GAZA, 17 July— Israel has allowed more goods into Gaza from Monday through three commercial crossings it partly reopened as part of an Egyptian-brokered ceasefire, Hamas government said on Tuesday.

The new goods to enter included construction materials and fuel, said the Ministry of Economy in the deposed Hamas

government.

Through the main crossing at Karni, 158 truckloads of goods such as food, clothes, stones and gravels, weighing 11 tons, entered into Gaza City.

Eighty-six truckloads also entered into Gaza via Sofa crossing, eight of which carrying concrete and lime cement.

During the closure of the crossings as part of Israel’s sanctions against Hamas, the construction materials were barred from going to Gaza.

MNA/Xinhua

Iraq elections law delayed over Kirkuk dispute

BAGHDAD, 17 July — Iraq’s Parliament failed to approve a draft provincial elections law on Tuesday because of disagreement over what to do about voting in the disputed oil city of Kirkuk, lawmakers said.

It was unclear when Parliament would convene again to consider the draft, which has to be passed so the electoral commission can prepare for polls seen as vital to fostering national reconciliation.

At one stage Kurdish lawmakers — who have objected to attempts to delay voting in Kirkuk — walked out of Parliament in protest and the draft was not voted on as had been scheduled.

Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki has said provincial elections would be held on 1 October, but that looks increasingly unlikely. The electoral commission has said it needs three months to prepare once the law has been passed.

“It needs more time for discussion and it also needs a political consensus. But I don’t know how this issue will be solved,” Safia al-Shuail, an independent lawmaker, told Reuters.

Hashim al-Taie, head of a Parliament committee that deals with the provinces, said the Kurds objected to a provision that sought to either postpone the election in Kirkuk or to equally share power in the city among its different ethnic groups. Fouad Masoum, the head of the Kurdish alliance in Parliament, rejected the new provision. —MNA/Reuters

Iran says no more “condescending” atom talks

VIENNA, 16 July — Iran has told big powers it will enter no more “condescending” talks meant to scrap its nuclear programme but wants to negotiate a broader peace and security deal, according to an Iranian letter leaked on Tuesday.

The 4 July letter, published on a French weekly’s website and verified by

diplomatic sources, was Iran’s response to an improved incentives package from the six powers aimed at halting a uranium enrichment programme they fear could yield atom bombs.

The classified reply ignored the demand by the sextet — the United States, Britain, France, Germany, Russia and China

— that Iran suspend enrichment to obtain the benefits but made clear this was not up for negotiation.

“We have no intention of changing this path,” said the three-page, English-language version of letter by Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki, alluding to its campaign for a nuclear fuel industry.

MNA/Reuters



Euro coins and a US dollar bill. The dollar firmed against the euro Wednesday on news that US inflation in June rose at the fastest clip in 26 years, fueling speculation the Federal Reserve may be forced to raise interest rates.—INTERNET

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Iran to hold another air force wargame soon

TEHERAN, 17 July—Commander of Iran's Army Air Force, Amir Pilot Ahmad Mighani, announced on Tuesday Iran's Army will hold a great wargame soon in a bid to present the defence and battle power of its Air Force to practice protective mechanisms.

In the wargame dubbed "the protectors of Velayat air", "we will demonstrate our strength and will give the message to our enemies that in case they have the dream of any offense, they will receive a very crushing blow," he told reporters.

Claiming that Iran has constructed aircrafts which can escape the radar detection, Mighani said, "Today, the Army Air Force has achieved a high capability, and the construction of such aircrafts will multiple the strength of the Air Force." Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) have just completed military manoeuvres in the Gulf called *Payambar-e Azam 3* (Great Prophet 3) to improve combat readiness and capability. — MNA/Xinhua

**MINISTRY OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION
ROAD TRANSPORT, YANGON DIVISION
INVITATION TO TENDER**

TENDER NO.002/TRT/2008-2009

1. Sealed tenders from eligible suppliers are invited for the supply of the following Tyres Sets with Tubes and Flaps. Prices to quoted in Myanmar Kyats-

(a) 9.00 x 20	(1500) Sets	(Huaqing Brand-China)
(b) 7.50 x 16	(300) Sets	(Huaqing Brand-China)
(c) 10.00 x 20	(200) Sets	(Indo Brand-China)
- 2 .(a) Tender Documents are available at the office of Procurement & Stores Department, Yangon Division, Road Transport, No.375/ Bogyoke Aung San Street, Yangon, Myanmar. Commencing on the 21-7 2008
- (b) Tender will be closed on 4-8-2008 at 16:00 hours (The Road Transport reserves the right to reject any or all tenders)
3. Detailed information will be available at the office of Procurement & Stores Department, Phone No. 01-252574 (or) 01-376549

Road Transport

Colombians asked to help former rebels rejoin society

BOGOTA, 17 July— Colombian Government called on Tuesday its citizens to help the former members of rebel armed groups to resume their normal social life.

"We have to help them to rejoin the society," said Frank Pearl, senior adviser for the government integration programme.

About 42,000 rebels have been demobilized since 2002, and among them at least 10,000 were members of the FARC, Pearl said.

He noted that as large numbers of guerilla members left the armed rebel groups, kidnappings, killings and extortions have dropped and tranquility is returning to the land. "The biggest challenge is not for the government but for the society. Most of us do not want the FARC, but we are not ready to receive them," Pearl said.

Colombian President Alvaro Uribe encouraged members of the FARC and ELN to desert their groups

and promised them a better life.

The government's move made the former rebels aware that they are wasting the best years of their lives and prompt them to look for a different future, Pearl said.

But many former guerilla members encountered difficulties in employment, education and social welfare such as medical care due to discrimination by their communities, said Pearl.— MNA/Xinhua

Guatemala, Mexico to beef up security along border

MEXICO CITY, 17 July— Guatemala and Mexico will widen a bilateral security plan along their shared border of 900 kilometres to combat with greater effectiveness the organized crime in the area. The agreement was reached when Mexican and Guatemalan interior ministers met Tuesday in the Guatemalan border city of Tecun Uman, Mexico's media reported.

Mexican Interior Minister Juan Camilo Mourino and his Guatemalan counterpart Francisco Jimenez agreed to upgrade the current border security mechanism to coordinate cooperation in security issues at the border.

Mourino said that security is a problem that is common to both countries, which "has to be addressed with a common perspective and should be solved in full coordination."

Jimenez said that the aim is to improve the life conditions and the security of the people who live along the border.

MNA/Xinhua

Israel arrests seven in Nablus, including Hamas members

RAMALLAH, 17 July—Israeli forces arrested seven Palestinians in West Bank city of Nablus early on Tuesday, including prominent Hamas members.

According to local sources in the city, several Army vehicles rolled into the city from its eastern side and deployed along the streets.

During the operation, the troops arrested Sheikh Abderrahim al-Hanbali, former head of Nablus alms committee linked to Hamas.

Meanwhile, the Israeli forces broke into the house of Kholoud al-Massri, a member of Nablus municipal council, and arrested the Hamas activist and her husband, the sources said.

A Hamas website reported that the Israeli Army arrested its 24-year-old reporter in Nablus alongside his father. Another youth and a female social activist were also arrested in the city.

Last week, Israel launched a crackdown against Hamas institutions and charities in the West Bank, especially in Nablus City where several Hamas-lined organizations were closed.

Israel said the campaign is aimed at destroying the Islamic movement's civil infrastructure in the West Bank. Israel also carried out routine raids in the West Bank to detain Palestinians accused of participating in attacks against Israeli targets. — MNA/Xinhua



Kevin Pritchard of the US is airborne during the wave sailing event at the Gran Canaria World Windsurfing Championship at Pozo Izquierdo beach in the Canary Islands recently.—INTERNET

Drive with care



An Ubisoft employee at work. Hot French videogame maker Ubisoft is launching titles geared for girl athletes in a bet that it's not just boys that love sports both real and virtual.—INTERNET

Thai Cabinet approves Russian diesel import plan

BANGKOK, 16 July—Thailand's Cabinet approved on Tuesday a plan to buy 300,000 tons a month of low-grade, cheap diesel from Russia, but it gave no details of the net crude importer's latest bid to ease rising fuel prices.

Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej told reporters after the Cabinet meeting the import plan was now in the hands of Energy Ministry officials.

"We need the Energy Ministry's approval on the specifications before we can start importing," said Samak, who first announced the Russian deal on

his weekend television show.

Investors have sold shares in the country's biggest oil and gas firm, PTT PCL, fearing the cheap fuel would erode PTT's retail sales. The stock ended down 5.6 per cent on Tuesday.

The 300,000 tons are a quarter of overall domestic consumption of diesel per month.

Thailand does not currently import diesel as it has been building up its refining sector over the past 10 years with a total capacity of one million barrels per day (bpd), making it not only self-

sufficient in oil products but also a net exporter on occasions.

Thailand's diesel consumption in June is 45.2 million litres per day, down 9.6 per cent from May's 50.0 million litres.

Samak did not name the parties involved, but said on Sunday the first batch of Russian diesel would be sold at an eight baht (25 US cents) a litre discount to pump prices and could arrive in Bangkok in 60 days.

MNA/Reuters

Energy, environment major issues for Sino-EU ties

BEIJING, 16 July—French Ambassador to China Herve Ladsous said here on Monday the major issues for Sino-European Union relations in the next six months would still be energy and environment problems.

"The two major topics will be reflected particularly on the discussion schedules of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) to be held here in October and the China-EU summit held in France at this year end," said Herve Ladsous at a Press conference here on Monday.

"The two meetings are of great importance for the orientation of Sino-EU relations in future." With France being the rotating

chairman of the EU since 1 July, it had four major tasks during its term — climate change response, joint agriculture policy pushing, new emigration policy practicing and national defence policy making, Ladsous said.

MNA/Xinhua

WTO backs help for workers hit by globalization

GENEVA, 16 July — Government schemes to help workers displaced by trade liberalization can promote public support for trade reform, the benefits of which are increasingly under question, the World Trade Organization (WTO) said.

In a report published on Tuesday, the global trade body also said such programmes can be justified on fairness or efficiency grounds, although they may be difficult to target.

WTO Director-General Pascal Lamy said few would contest the benefits that globalization had brought in terms of greater prosperity for hundreds of millions of people.

MNA/Reuters

Storm "Kalmaegi" close to northernmost Philippines

MANILA, 16 July—Tropical storm Kalmaegi (locally called "Helen") maintained its strength as it moved closer to the Philippines' northernmost province of Cagayan Tuesday night, the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said.

Inits 11 pm (1500 GMT) advisory, the weather

agency said Kalmaegi was estimated at 140 kilometres east of Aparri, Cagayan as of 10 pm, with maximum sustained winds of 75 kph near the centre and gustiness of up to 90 kilometres per hour. Kalmaegi was moving west-northwest at 7 kph and is estimated to be 60 kilometres north of Aparri, Cagayan by Wednesday evening, Pagasa said.

The tropical storm will continue to enhance the southwest monsoon and bring rains over the rest of Luzon particularly over the western section, it added.

"Residents in low-lying areas and near mountain slopes are advised to take all the necessary precautions against possible flashfloods and landslides," said the agency.

MNA/Xinhua

Global warming may increase kidney stone incidence

WASHINGTON, 17 July—Among the many diseases predicted to come with climate change, a team of US researchers say kidney stones may become more common as the temperature rises across North America, media reports said Monday.

Researchers from University of Texas examined how the incidence of kidney stones would

change with increasing temperatures and suggest kidney stones may increase across the United States by as much as 30 per cent in the most affected areas.

In addition, they calculate the direct and indirect costs of treating approximately two million new kidney stone cases annually could increase by 1 billion US

dollars by 2050, which is 25 per cent more than the current expenditures.

Previous research has found the risk of kidney stone formation is increased by low urine volume, which reflects the state of body hydration.

While the response of kidney stone formation to temperature increase is uncertain, the authors note kidney stone incidence is higher in warmer parts of the country, especially the southeast, presumably due to fluid loss in warm climate.

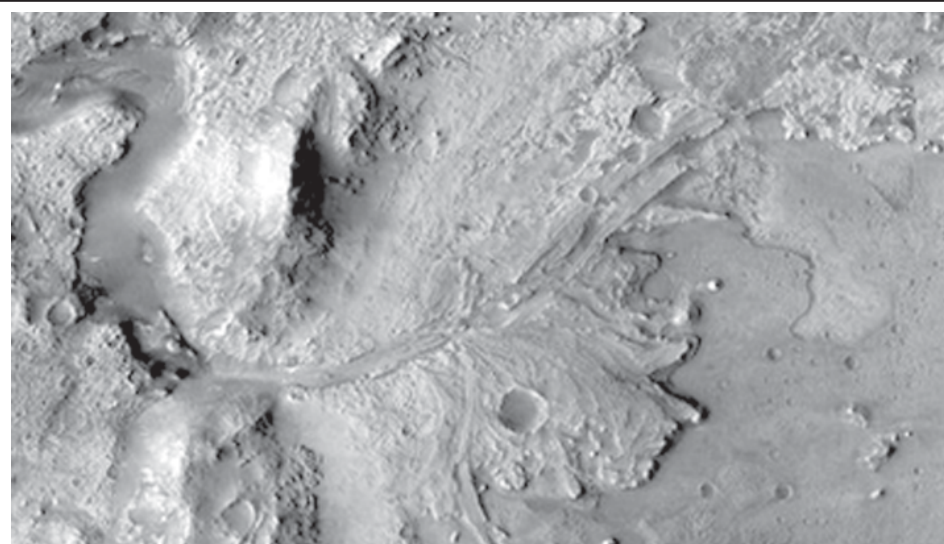
MNA/Xinhua



A macaque monkey is seen in a cage in a zoo.

Tiny changes in a messenger chemical in the brain acetylcholine can greatly affect powers of attention, according to a paper released on Wednesday by Nature, the London-based weekly journal.

INTERNET



This image provided by NASA shows a colour-enhanced image of the delta in Jezero Crater, which once held a lake. Two studies based on data from NASA's Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter have revealed that the Red Planet once hosted vast lakes, flowing rivers and a variety of other wet environments that had the potential to support life.

INTERNET

SPORTS

Mourinho says frankly we need midfielder

MILAN, 17 July — Inter Milan still need a midfielder and the door remains open for Frank Lampard, coach Jose Mourinho said on Wednesday.

Mourinho won two Premier League titles with Lampard while at Chelsea and has had a bid rejected by the London club, who say they will not enter into negotiations over a transfer.

Media reports have said Lampard is torn over whether he should move to Italy and Mourinho is willing to wait.

“The transfer window is open until 31 August and we need a midfielder. Lampard is at Chelsea, but I have worked really well with him,” Mourinho told a news conference on Inter's first day back for pre-season training.

“I worked with Frank for three and a half years, there is an unforgettable relationship. But in this moment I respect players and the clubs.”

The Portuguese coach, who left Chelsea last September, took over Italian champions Inter in June after Roberto Mancini's sacking.

Mourinho also has his eye on compatriot Ricardo Quaresma but wants to sort out a bulging squad first.
MNA/Reuters

Woods stuck at home, Harrington may soon join him

SOUTHPORT, 17 July— In one of those charming English villages near Royal Birkdale Golf Club, the lamp posts are adorned with alternating pictures of Tiger Woods and Pdraig Harrington.

The British Open began Thursday morning in a strong breeze and light rain, which figured to make golfing's oldest major a stern test even without Woods, a three-time champion.

He was stuck on a couch back in the States, recovering from season-ending knee surgery that knocked him out of his first major since 1996.

Harrington, who won a year ago at Carnoustie in a memorable finish with Sergio Garcia, was hardly in good shape to defend his title. The Irishman injured his wrist last weekend and was only able to get in a half-round of practice. He put his odds of making it through 18 holes at only 50 percent. “I'll be apprehensive hitting any shot,” said Harrington, who hit his opening tee shot in the rough and took bogey at the opening hole. —Internet

Del Bosque appointed as new Spain coach

MADRID, 17 July— Former Real Madrid coach Vicente del Bosque will take charge of Spain until the 2010 World Cup, the Spanish Football Federation (RFEF) said on Tuesday.

Spanish media reported he will be presented on Thursday at 1115 GMT after a meeting of the RFEF general assembly on Wednesday.

“The RFEF executive committee approved president Angel Maria Villar's proposal of Del Bosque as new coach for a period of two years,” the RFEF said in statement. The 57-year-old Del Bosque replaces Luis Aragones, who quit to join Fenerbahce after leading the national side to victory at Euro 2008 in June. The 1-0 win over Germany in the final in Vienna earned Spain their first major trophy in 44 years.
MNA/Reuters

Evans keeps lead as doping hits Tour

FOIX (France), 17 July— Cadel Evans kept the Tour de France leader's yellow jersey after the final climb of the Pyrenees, while Moises Duenas Nevado woke up to the sound of police banging on his hotel door hours before stage 11 was to start.

Following Manuel Beltran's positive test after the first stage, Duenas Nevado became the second Spanish rider to fail a doping test for EPO still a drug of choice for a sport rocked by scandal the past three years.

“It is sad. It is always bad for cycling,” said 1996 Tour winner Bjarne Riis, who runs Team CSC. “But I think it's also good. First of all we see the tests work. We have a lot of tests. We need a lot of tests to clean up the sport.” —Internet



Cadel Evans of Australia, wearing the overall leader's yellow jersey, rides in the pack during the 11th stage of the Tour de France cycling race between Lannemezan and Foix, southern France, on 16 July, 2008. Kurt-Asle Arvesen of Norway won the stage. —INTERNET

Ailing Harrington tees off at Birkdale

SOUTHPORT, 17 July— Champion Pdraig Harrington teed off as scheduled in Thursday's opening round at the British Open, allaying fears he would be unable to defend his title because of a wrist injury.

In driving rain and gusting winds at Royal Birkdale Golf Club, the Irishman struck a two iron into the right rough before running up a bogey at the par-four first.

Harrington, who won last year's title at Carnoustie in a four-hole playoff with Spaniard Sergio Garcia, had said he was “75 percent hopeful” of playing in the build-up to the third major of the year.
Internet



Lee Westwood of England, seen here at practice, missed out on a place in last month's US Open play-off by a shot and has come into the British Open declaring himself as confident as he ever been going into a major. —INTERNET



Michelle Wie, seen here, who is struggling through one of her worst seasons on the LPGA Tour, said she still aspires to play in men's golf tournaments. —INTERNET

Wie hopes to get back in groove at Springfield event

SPRINGFIELD, 17 July—Michelle Wie, who is struggling through one of her worst seasons on the LPGA Tour, said she still aspires to play in men's golf tournaments.

“It's still my goal,” said Wie who is entered in the LPGA's State Farm Classic which begins Thursday. “That's why I started playing golf. It's what drives me. So it's definitely still in my mind right now.”

Wie, who received a sponsor's exemption to play in the 1.7 million dollar event, said she would like to finish in the top five this week.

“All I'm thinking about right now is playing good this week and what can I do to get a top five or be satisfied after this week.” —Internet

Hleb signs for Barcelona

BARCELONA, 17 July— Belarus international midfielder Alexander Hleb signed for Catalan giants Barcelona from English Premiership side Arsenal for 15million euros on Wednesday on a four year contract which will see him team up again with another former Gunner in Thierry Henry.

The move could cost another 2million euros depending on the player's performances whilst should he wish to leave before his contract ends it would cost the club wishing to buy him 90million euros.

“I love this club (Barcelona)” said Hleb, who joined Arsenal from VfB Stuttgart for 11.2million pounds in 2005. —Internet



Barcelona's new player Alexander Hleb poses outside the Nou Camp stadium in Barcelona after agreeing terms with the Catalan club. —INTERNET



A man inspects flooded cars in a residential area after heavy rain fall in Giubiasco near the southern Swiss town of Bellinzona recently.

INTERNET

British lawmakers hide mental health problems

LONDON, 17 July — One in five British lawmakers has suffered from mental health problems but decided to keep quiet because of fears of a hostile reaction, according to a survey published on Wednesday.

An anonymous questionnaire completed by 94 members of Parliament revealed that

19 per cent had personal experience of mental health issues, while 86 per cent said the job was stressful.

“Greater openness at Westminster about mental health problems would have a significant impact in challenging stigma and discrimination,” said Sandra Gidley, joint chairman of

the All Party Parliamentary Group on Mental Health. The survey, conducted by the parliamentary group with support from mental health charities and the Royal College of Psychiatrists, polled 94 House of Commons members as well as 100 peers from the House of Lords and 151 parliamentary staff.

MNA/Reuters

NY man gets 30 months in prison for spamming AOL

NEW YORK, 17 July — A Brooklyn man was sentenced to 30 months in prison on Tuesday for sending spam e-mails to more than 1.2 million subscribers of America Online in a scheme that foiled the Internet company’s spam-filtering system.

Adam Vitale, 27, was sentenced in federal court in Manhattan after pleading guilty more than a year ago to breaking

anti-spam laws. He was also ordered to pay 180,000 US dollars to AOL in restitution.

Vitale was caught making a deal with a government informant to send junk e-mails — known as spam — that advertised a computer security programme in return for 50 per cent of the product’s profits, prosecutors said.

“Spamming is serious criminal conduct;

this is not a teenager engaging in child’s play,” US District Judge Denny Chin told Vitale as he sentenced him. Vitale earlier apologized and said he had learned a lesson.

Prosecutors said Vitale had 22 prior convictions and had also helped run an online prostitution ring on the website www.craigslist.com, but he has not been criminally charged.

MNA/Reuters

Bangladesh to curb unskilled workers to work abroad

DHAKA, 17 July —

The Bangladesh Government is contemplating a gradual curb on exporting unskilled workers, as a means to prevent labour exploitation in receiving countries, according to local media Wednesday.

“The more skilled a worker is, the less he is open to exploitation,” Abdul Matin Chowdhury, secretary to the Ministry of Expatriates’ Welfare and overseas employment, was quoted by leading English newspaper *The Independent* as saying. — MNA/Xinhua

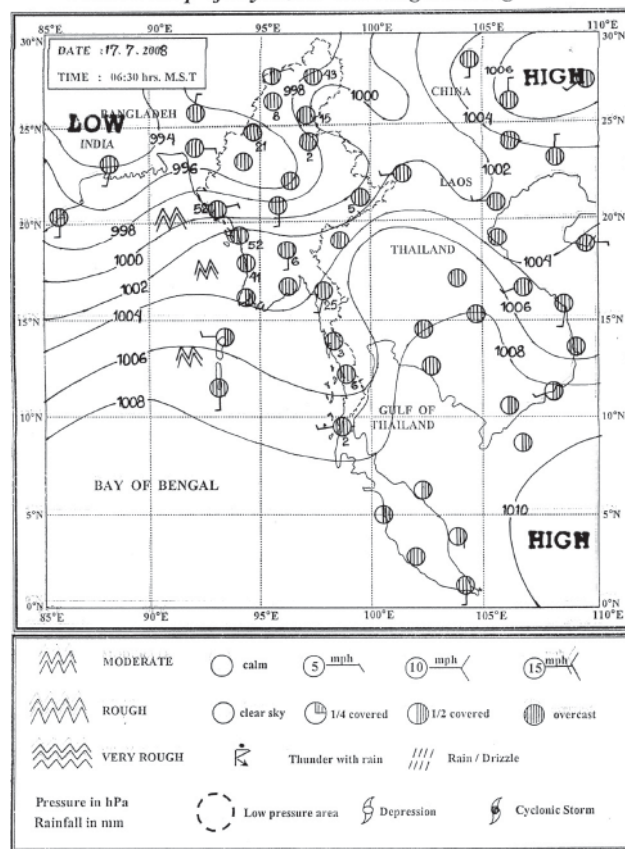
Foreign investment in B’desh’s EPZs doubles

DHAKA, 17 July —

Foreign investment grew almost hundred per cent to 302 million US dollars in Bangladesh’s eight export processing zones (EPZs) in 2007-08 fiscal (July 2007-June 2008), leading English newspaper *The Daily Star* reported Wednesday.

The volume of foreign investment in EPZs was 152 million US dollars in the previous fiscal, Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (Bepza) officials were quoted as saying. — MNA/Xinhua

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Thursday, 17 July, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Chin State and Magway Division, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Kayah State, lower Sagaing and Ayeyawady Divisions, scattered in Mandalay, Bago and Yangon Divisions, fairly widespread in Shan State, upper Sagaing Division and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions. The noteworthy amounts of rainfalls recorded were Nay Pyi Taw (0.24) inch, Thaton (2.80) inches, Sittway (2.52) inches, Kyaukpyu (2.05) inches, Thandwe and Putao (2.00) inches each, Maungtau (1.77) inches, Hpa-an (1.42) inches.

Maximum temperature on 16-7-2008 was 90°F. Minimum temperature on 17-7-2008 was 73°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 17-7-2008 was 84%. Total sunshine hours on 16-7-2008 was (1.7) hour (approx).

Rainfall on 17-7-2008 was (0.11) inch at Mingaladon, (Nil) at Kaba-Aye and (Nil) at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was (51.57) inches at Mingaladon, (60.79) inches at Kaba-Aye and (74.09) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (7) mph from Southwest at (17:30) hours MST on 16-7-2008.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 18-7-2008: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Chin and Kayah States, lower Sagaing and Magway Divisions, scattered in Mandalay, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions, fairly widespread in Shan State, upper Sagaing Division and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Moderate monsoon.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 18-7-2008: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 18-7-2008: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 18-7-2008: Likelihood isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).



Friday, 18 July
View on today

- 7:00 am
 1. တောင်တန်းသာသနာပြု ဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်
- 7:15 am
 2. ယောဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၏ ဥပ္ပါတသန္တိပါဠိတော်
- 7:30 am
 3. Morning news

- 7:40 am
 4. Song of Yesteryear
- 7:50 am
 5. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:00 am
 6. မဲဆောင်းတံတား (ချင်းပြည်နယ်)
- 8:15 am
 7. “နင်းကြည့်စမ်းပါ” (မင်းအုပ်စိုးညီဘွားခင်စိုးပိုင်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-မင်းအုပ်စိုး)
- 8:30 am
 8. International news
- 8:45 am
 6. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 4:00 pm
 1. Martial song
- 4:10 pm
 2. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ

- 4:20 pm
 3. Song of National Races
- 4:30 pm
 4. “ညောင်မယ်ပျို” (ခန့်စည်သူဂုဏ်ပျော်ကြော်၊ မိုးပြည့်ပြည့်မောင်ရွမ်းပုံ) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ဖုန်းမြင့်အောင်)
- 4:45 pm
 5. Musical programme
- 5:00 pm
 6. မြန်မာစာမြန်မာစကား
- 5:10 pm
 7. Song to uphold National Spirit
- 5:20 pm
 8. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 5:30 pm
 9. Musical programme

- 5:45 pm
 10. ပျော်ရွှင်ဆင်နွှဲဝါဆိုပန်းခူးပွဲ
- 6:00 pm
 11. Evening news
- 6:30 pm
 12. Weather report
- 6:35 pm
 13. သုတစုံလင်ရွှေဥာဏ်ရှင်
- 7:00 pm
 14. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “ကော်ဖီချစ်သူ” (အပိုင်း-၁၄)
- 8:00 pm
 15. News
 16. International news
 17. Weather report
 18. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “ပင်လယ်ပျော်မင်းသား” (အပိုင်း-၁၂)

Make donations to the storm victims

- Everybody may make donations freely.
- Everybody may make donations to any person or any area.

However, wellwishers are urged to avoid unsystematic donations and acts that may tarnish the image of the nation and its people.

- Certain internal and external anti-government elements, self-centred persons and unscrupulous elements are now seeking their self-interests by sending to the foreign news agencies stories about relief and rehabilitation work they have made up and shot on video.
- Storm victims are hereby warned to remain vigilant with nationalistic spirit against the deceptions of the self-centred persons and unscrupulous elements.

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

Witness may inform about misappropriation of internal and international relief funds and supplies

Anyone may dial the following phone numbers of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement if he witnesses or knows that the cash assistance and relief supplies donated from abroad and at home to the storm victims are kept for self-interest, traded, used for particular persons and organizations, or misappropriated for other purposes.

Head of Office Ph: 067 404021 and 067 404022

Deputy Head of Office Ph: 09 860 1002

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What Buddhism is

Science employs the method of empirical observation. So does Buddhism. All the doctrines and concepts in Buddhism come out of the practical exercise of meditation of mindfulness (vipassana).

PAGES 6+7

NAWRAHTA WIN

Weather Forecast for (18-7-2008)

Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area:

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

Yangon and neighbouring area:

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

Mandalay and neighbouring area:

Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%)



Volunteers of Myanmar Red Cross Society comfort a storm victim at relief camp in Labutta Township— (SOCIAL WELFARE)