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Thursday, 14 August, 2008

Senior General Than Shwe accepts credentials of Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Aug — Mr Sebastianus Sumarsono, the newly-accredited Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia to the Union of Myanmar, presented his credentials to Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, at Bayintnaung Yeiktha, here, at 10.30 am today.

Also present on the occasion were Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint and Director-General U Kyaw Kyaw of the Protocol Department.

MNA

Senior General Than Shwe accepts credentials from newly accredited Ambassador Mr Sebastianus Sumarsono of Indonesia.—MNA



Senior General Than Shwe receives Mr Sebastianus Sumarsono, the newly-accredited Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia, at Bayintnaung Yeiktha in Nay Pyi Taw.

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

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 14 August, 2008

Strive for development of self-reliant rural libraries

Development of human resources and promotion of education standard of the people play a vital role in building a modern developed nation. With the government's provision of modern communication technology the youth can easily pursue their education of international standard.

Self-reliant rural libraries have been opened for village people to widen their scope of knowledge. Opening libraries makes the rural people enhance the habit of reading and it makes them gain knowledge.

Five tasks were laid down for development of self-reliant rural libraries in the long run and these tasks are to be carried out with the application of four strengths. At the same time, basic library science courses are being conducted with the aim of turning out good librarians who are well-versed in library science. Such efforts will contribute towards the development of self-reliant rural libraries.

Knowledge and thinking power of the rural people will be enhanced with the efforts of local and social organizations, the people and service personnel to develop libraries.



Medical team donates books and medicines to a teacher in Pyapon recently. The team led by Dr Kyaw Min, Deputy Director-General of Medical Research Department (Lower Myanmar) reached out to villages in Pyapon and Dedaye townships and provided books, stationery and necessary medicines for school health activities recently. (News reported) — MNA

People's Desire

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

USDA Secretary-General attends ceremony to grant stipends for students in Labutta Tsp

YANGON, 13 Aug— Secretary-General of the Union Solidarity and Development Association U Htay Oo together with departmental officials went to Labutta Township USDA office in Ayeyawady Division on 10 August.

Upon arrival at the office, they attended a ceremony to grant one-year stipends for the matriculation students who are studying at villages of Labutta Township. Next, they attended a ceremony to provide one-year stipends to Ma Aye Thanda Tun from Labutta Township No. 1 Basic Education High School who won five distinctions in the matriculation examination for the 2007-2008 academic year.

Also present on the occasion were Tactical Operations Commander Col Khin Maung Win, departmental officials, townselders, members of the township USDA and social organizations and students.

First, the Secretary-General made a speech on the occasion, saying that

the USDA is actively participating in the drive for stability and development of the State with genuine patriotic spirit. The association is earnestly carrying out relief and rehabilitation tasks in cyclone Nargis-ravaged regions. With the contribution of the State, the government the people and the Tatmadaw, the local people undertaking rehabilitation tasks are worthy of respect because they are considered as those who cherish the storm-affected regions. The students are trying hard to improve their education and that is worthy of praise. Only the educated youth will be able to better discharge duties in the interest of their regions. In spite of suffering from the natural disaster, the association is providing assistance to its members hailing their strenuous efforts made with firm spirit.

Next, the Secretary-General handed cash assistance of K 18.6 million to 31 students who are in the grade-11 provided by the USDA



USDA Secretary-General U Htay Oo presents cash assistance to Ma Aye Thanda Tun of Labutta Township.—A & I

Headquarters through Secretary of township USDA U Hlaing Oo.

Afterwards, he presented K 1 million to Ma Aye Thanda Tun from Labutta who had passed the matriculation with five distinctions. Next, officials and executives presented

school uniforms and stationery provided by the township USDA to the students.

After giving instructions on interests of the region to be served, the Secretary-General concluded the ceremony.

MNA

Course in Abhidhamma in English to be conducted

YANGON, 12 Aug — Certificate Course (Domestic) in Abhidhamma in English will be conducted from October to December at Cooperative Prayer Hall at Kaba Aye Pagoda here.

Sayadaw Dr Nanisara, Chancellor of Sitagu International Buddhist Academy, Dr Nanda Marla Bhivamsa, Rector of International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University, U Mya Than (Naw Rahta Win), retired ambassador, Pro-rector of International Institute of Abhidhamma and other

Sayadaws will give lectures on Abhidhamma at the course.

Members of the Sangha, nuns and matriculated students are

eligible to attend the course on every weekend in October, November and December.

Those wishing to attend the course may

enroll at Thadukari Dhammayon Building at No. 295/297, on Bo Aung Kyaw Road, Kyauktada Township, Ph 254102.

MNA

Stories, ads on medicines need approval of TMD

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Aug — Traditional Medicine Department has given a notice that stories and ads on medicines need to apply for prior approval of

the department before featuring in dailies, weekly journals and monthly magazines.

Such notice had been announced in dailies issued on 30 August, 2006, the

department said. Traditional Medicine Department is under Ministry of Health. More information is available on Ph 067 411363 and 067 411027. — MNA



A column of Russia's Grad (Hail) multiple rocket launch system enters central Tskhinvali, the capital of Georgia's breakaway province of South Ossetia, on 12 August, 2008.

Russians move toward Gorge despite cease-fire

CHUBERI (Georgia), 13 Aug—The Russian troops sprawled on top of the tanks in a 135-vehicle convoy looked relaxed, with bandannas on their heads rather than helmets. Some smoked, one ate a chunk of watermelon.

Many drivers had slung flak jackets over vehicle windows. Georgians on the side of the road watched, quietly. On a bridge, a group of about 20 men who had been

swimming in the river stood bare chested in shorts as the tanks, armoured personnel carriers, fuel, troop and supply trucks, a few hauling artillery pieces, rolled by. The display of Russia's military might came hours after a cease-fire had been declared Tuesday.

The northbound convoy "seen in Georgia by an Associated Press reporter" appeared headed toward the Kodori Gorge,

an area in the breakaway region of Abkhazia that until recently was controlled by Georgian forces.

Russian-backed separatist forces on Tuesday forced Georgian troops out of the northern part of the gorge, their last stronghold in the region. Abkhazian military officials said only Abkhaz forces were involved in operations in the gorge.

Internet

4 aid workers killed in Afghan attack

KABUL, 13 Aug—The Taliban said its gunmen opened fire on an aid group's vehicle in eastern Afghanistan on Wednesday, killing four International Rescue Committee workers and prompting the organization to suspend its operations.

Three IRC female staffers — a British-Canadian, a Canadian, and a Trinidadian-American — were killed, as well as an Afghan driver who also worked for the New York-based aid group, the IRC said in a statement.

Another Afghan driver was critically wounded in the attack in Logar province, south of Kabul, IRC said.

Earlier this month, aid groups in Afghanistan issued a report that said 19 of their workers have been killed in the country this year. The deaths Wednesday add to the count.

Internet

Japan's economy shrinks in second quarter

TOKYO, 13 Aug—Japan's economy shrank in the second quarter, the government said Wednesday, as slowing exports and waning consumer demand pushed the world's No 2 economy to the brink of recession.

Japan's gross domestic product, or the total value of the nation's goods and services, dropped at an annual pace of 2.4 percent in the April-June period, a marked downturn from a 4.0 percent rise registered in the January-March period. The new numbers "the first negative reading in four quarters" bolstered growing evidence that Japan's six-year expansion was over.

On a quarterly basis, GDP contracted 0.6 percent, after a 0.8 percent increase in the January-March period, the Cabinet Office said. Private consumption, which accounts for more than half of inflation-adjusted GDP, dropped 0.5 percent from the previous quarter. Housing investment was down 3.4 percent.—Internet

Taliban: 'Open war' in Pakistan as bomb kills 14

PESHAWAR (Pakistan), 13 Aug—The Pakistani Taliban declared "open war" Tuesday in response to military offensives in the northwest, saying it staged a bombing that destroyed an Air Force truck and killed up to 14 people, including a child.

Authorities, meanwhile, investigated whether an insurgent reported killed in one of the military operations was a senior al-Qaida commander. The offensive in the Bajur tribal area reportedly has killed 160 people and caused tens of thousands to flee to camps farther north.

The blast in Peshawar, main city of the restive frontier with Afghanistan, escalated the conflict in a region where the new government is struggling to contain increasingly brazen militants. It dealt another blow to efforts to strike peace deals with hard-liners in the Swat Valley and other areas, pacts that US officials contend would strengthen extremists.

Internet



Residents inspect a damaged bus following a bomb blast in the port city of Tripoli in northern Lebanon on 13 Aug, 2008.—INTERNET

Oil steady near \$113 ahead of inventory data

SINGAPORE, 13 Aug—Oil prices were steady near \$113 a barrel Wednesday in Asia ahead of weekly oil and gasoline inventory data that may show further evidence of declining crude demand in the US.

The US Energy Department's Energy Information Administration was to report on US oil stocks for the week ended Aug 8 later in the day. The petroleum supply report

was expected to show that crude stocks rose by 500,000 barrels, according to the average of analysts' estimates in a survey by energy research firm Platts.

Light, sweet crude for September delivery rose 7 cents to \$113.08 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange by midday in Singapore. The contract dropped \$1.44 overnight to settle at \$113.01 a barrel.

Investors "have taken profits as they've seen demand destruction in the US and they're seeing it spread a little into Europe," said Jonathan Kornafel, Asia director for brokerage Hudson Capital Energy in Singapore.

Internet

Pakistani missile strike kills at least ten in camp

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (Pakistan), 13 Aug—Pakistani military and intelligence officials tell *The Associated Press* that a missile strike on a suspected militant training camp near the Afghan border has killed at least ten people. The officials say at least four missiles struck in the South Waziristan tribal region late Tuesday. A military official said at least ten people died, but had no information on their identities.

Two intelligence officials based in the region said that between 22 and 25 people died, including Arabs, Turkmen and Pakistani militants.—Internet



File photo shows soldiers from the Pakistani army on patrol near Wana, the mountain-fringed capital of South Waziristan. At least 10 militants have been reportedly killed after missiles fired from Afghanistan hit their hideouts in the Pakistani tribal area.—INTERNET

Explosion kills 18 in northern Lebanese city

BEIRUT (Lebanon), 13 Aug—Lebanese security officials say that a bomb has exploded on a busy street in the northern city of Tripoli, killing 18 people and wounding 40 others.

The officials say the bomb appear to have targeted a military bus in central Nour Square. They say Wednesday's explosion took place as the streets were full of people heading to work.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they are not authorized to speak to the media. Tripoli has witnessed sectarian clashes in the past weeks that killed and wounded dozens of people.—Internet



Tourists row boats in a lake in the Beijing World Park in Beijing, capital of China, on 12 Aug, 2008. About 2,000 tourists from home and abroad visit the park per day during the Beijing Olympics.—XINHUA

All items from Xinhua News Agency

China posts more than 40% growth in FDI actually used in 1st 7 months

BEIJING, 13 Aug — China saw a growth of almost 45 percent in foreign direct investment (FDI) actually used in the first seven months of this year, due partly to high interest from overseas investors, the Ministry of Commerce said on Wednesday.

But analysts said it should not rule out possibility for short-term speculative capital, or hot

money, rushing into the mainland through Hong Kong.

From January to July, China approved the establishment of 16,891 overseas-funded enterprises, a decline of 22.15 percent from the same period last year. However, the FDI actually used nationwide amounted to 60.724 billion US dollars, up 44.54 percent.

Mei Xinyu, a research

er with the ministry's research institute of foreign trade and economic cooperation, said the growth in FDI and the fall in the number of overseas-funded businesses established indicated the per project average FDI used had increased substantially.

Analysts said foreign capital was shifting from the manufacturing sector to the service sector and new-technology and high-tech projects.—Xinhua

US budget deficit rises to \$102.8 bln in July

WASHINGTON, 13 Aug — The US federal budget deficit soared to 102.8 billion dollars in July, nearly triple the 36.4-billion-dollar imbalance recorded in the same month of 2007, the Treasury Department reported Tuesday.

The big rise in budget deficit was reflecting payments under the government's economic stimulus package and 15 billion dollars in outlays to protect depositors at failed banks. Analysts had been expecting a gap of 97 billion dollars for July. So far this year, the budget deficit totals 371.4 billion dollars, more than double the imbalance for the same period of last year.

In its latest budget sent to Congress in February, the Bush administration estimated that the budget deficit for the current budget year, which began

on 1 October, 2007, would be 410 billion dollars, close to the all-time high of 413 billion dollars set in 2004.

However, analysts expect the federal budget deficit to exceed the previous record this year due to the economic stimulus effort and the impact of the weakening economy on government receipts.—Xinhua



Forensic experts stand next to a covered body at a crime scene in Ruesselsheim, near Frankfurt, on 12 Aug, 2008. Three men and a woman were killed in an attack at an ice cream parlour in the German town of Ruesselsheim near Frankfurt on 12 Aug, police said.

XINHUA

APEC agrees on framework on combating natural disasters

LIMA, 13 Aug— The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) has agreed on a framework to mitigate the impact of natural disasters, official sources said Tuesday.

The framework, initiated by Peru and supported by Australia and Indonesia, will focus on monitoring volcanoes and hydrographic watersheds where the phenomenon known as "El Nino" is generated.

Luis Palomino, chief of Peru's National Institute of Civil Defence, said the common-response strategy will only come into force if it is approved at the 16th APEC summit in the Peruvian capital of Lima in November.—Xinhua

China's retail sales up 23.3 percent in July

BEIJING, 13 Aug — Domestic retail sales leaped a brisk 23.3 percent to 862.9 billion yuan (125.8 billion US dollars) in July this year, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) said on Wednesday.

The growth rate was 6.9 percentage points

higher than the same period last year and 0.3 percentage points higher than the previous month.

That brings China's retail sales of consumer goods in the first seven months of this year to 5.9672 trillion yuan, up 21.7 percent, compared with 15.5 percent growth

rate recorded over the same period of last year, the NBS said.

The NBS said urban consumption hit 590.5 billion yuan, up 24 percent year-on-year, compared with 272.4 billion yuan spent by rural residents, up 21.8 percent.

Xinhua

Kenya denies foreign forces in country over terror suspect

NAIROBI, 13 Aug— Kenyan authorities on Tuesday denied foreign security forces are in the country to hunt for terror suspect Fazul Abdullah Mohammed, who evaded police dragnet early this month in the coastal town of Malindi.

Police spokesman Eric Kiraithe also denied that the US intelligence agency Federal Bureau of

Investigations (FBI) has been conducting a parallel operation on the 32-year-old Mohammed who is accused of masterminding the bombings of two US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania a decade ago. Addressing a news conference in Nairobi, Kiraithe said Kenyan security forces were capable of carrying out the operation and denied that

they had sought help from the FBI and the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) to help capture Mohammed, who is believed to be holed up in the country.

"Kenya police has the capacity to conduct anti-terrorism operations and there are no foreign investigators within the force," Kiraithe told journalists.—Xinhua



A Chinese delivery man using his mobile phone while sitting before an Olympic poster in Beijing. Millions of Chinese mobile users rushed to download the Beijing Olympics theme within hours after it was performed at the opening ceremony, state media said on 12 Aug, 2008.—XINHUA

Report: Toyota weighs export of US vehicles

WASHINGTON, 13 Aug—Toyota Motor Corp is exploring whether to export its US pickup and sport-utility vehicles to other countries, *The Wall Street Journal* reported on Tuesday. The Japanese auto maker, which produces the Tundra pickup and Sequoia SUV, is looking at other markets around the world, although no decision has

been made, Steve St Angelo, president of Toyota's Manufacturing Kentucky Inc, was quoted as saying.

Toyota, like rivals Ford Motor Co and General Motors Corp, is finding it difficult to sell the larger vehicles as gas prices hover near the 4-dollar mark, said the report.

Toyota, which imports about 30 percent of the

vehicles it sells in the United States, joins a growing list of companies that are considering exporting products given the weak dollar.

Chrysler LLC is already exporting a significant number of vehicles from a car plant in Illinois, and GM is making plans to export from several US plants.

Internet

Chinese tigers painting exhibition popular in Bangladesh

DHAKA, 13 Aug—The first ever traditional Chinese painting exhibition with 50 pieces of paintings of tigers on show, began in Bengal Gallery in Bangladesh's capital Dhaka on Tuesday, attracting more than 200 people on the first day. "The tigers are just like live ones. I like these paintings so much," said Parveen, a local journalist. "I thought Chinese paintings of horses, birds and flowers are very famous. But today I know the tigers paintings are also so

nice," she said.

The paintings were all painted by Chinese farmers from Wanggong village, a village famous for its tiger paintings, in China's central Henan province.

"These paintings are on show in accordance with the ongoing Beijing Olympic Games to show the Chinese culture while Bangladesh's national animal is also the Bengal Tiger," Culture Counsellor of Chinese Embassy in Bangladesh said during the opening ceremony.—*Internet*

Sony may offer OLED TVs in Europe in 2009: Nikkei

TOKYO, 13 Aug—Sony Corp (6758.T) plans to sell ultra-thin television based on organic light-emitting diode technology as early as in 2009 in Europe, the world's largest flat TV market, the *Nikkei* business daily said on Wednesday. OLED TVs, which are thinner and more energy efficient, offer brighter colours than liquid crystal display (LCD) and plasma sets, are expected to be a promising next-generation flat TV.

Sony started selling the world's first OLED TVs in Japan late last year, and in the United States early this year. The 11-inch model, which is just 3 mm thick, sells for 200,000 yen (\$1,830) in Japan.

Europe and North America are the two largest markets for Sony's LCD TV operations.

A Sony spokesman said the company was considering launching OLED TVs in Europe but declined to comment on the specific timing.—*Internet*



Dogs wait to be unloaded from a truck after arriving at the Humane Society of Missouri headquarters on 12 Aug, 2008, in St Louis. More than 360 animals, many of them emaciated, injured and suffering from mange and parasites, were rescued Tuesday at a southwest Missouri property where they were hoarded and bred, authorities said.—INTERNET

Qantas grounds 6 planes to check maintenance files

SYDNEY (Australia), 13 Aug—Australia's airline safety body said Wednesday it would expand its investigation of Qantas after the company announced it temporarily pulled six aircraft from service because of irregularities in maintenance records.

Three flights were cancelled Tuesday night after Qantas pulled the planes. It was the latest in a spate of incidents with the airline since one of its planes made an emergency landing in Manila last month after an explosion tore a large hole in the fuselage.

Qantas said the six B737-400s would be removed from service while the airline cross-checks maintenance records relating to work carried out at one of its Australian facilities. David Cox, the executive general manager of Qantas engineering, said it was a record-keeping issue and there were no safety implications for the aircraft.—*Internet*

Real catwalk in New York

It was the catwalk that really was a catwalk. Cats dressed in everything from an Elvis costume to a sequined satin dress were strutting their stuff at New York's Algonquin Hotel.



Hale Bopp doesn't look too happy but certainly sets a trend at a cat fashion show in New York which was raising money for an animal shelter and celebrating the birthday of a famous hotel's resident feline.

The feline fashion show unfolded in the dining room where Dorothy Parker presided over famously catty Round Table literary luncheons in the 1920s.

Thursday's show benefited an animal welfare group and honoured Matilda, the Algonquin's resident cat, who has just turned 13. She is the hotel's ninth cat since the tradition started in the 1930s, when actor John Barrymore dubbed a bedraggled stray Hamlet. Earlier in the day, Matilda, a pedigreed ragdoll breed with long, silky, cream-coloured hair, held court on a chaise longue by the entrance.

Chicken crosses the road, then abandoned by thief

Why did the chicken cross the road? In the case of Jerry Sleater's 5-foot, 400-pound bright blue rooster, that's apparently as far as whoever was trying to steal it could get it.

When the 76-year-old Eastern Washington man went to get his newspaper Thursday morning, the big bird named Rudy was lying beside the road.

Sleater has kept the metal rooster perched on his property south of Kennewick for two years and says, "Rudy is a family pet. He doesn't go anywhere, but he's part of the family." Sleater said he thinks that whoever was trying to steal Rudy got spooked after pushing the oversized rooster down a dirt embankment.



NEWSALBUM

Father, 8-year-old son hurt in Tenn bear attack

An 8-year-old Florida boy and his father were treated and released from a hospital after battling a black bear in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, officials said Tuesday.

Evan Pala and his father John Pala of Boca Raton were able to leave Fort Sanders Sevier Medical Centre on Monday evening within hours of the incident in the park, hospital spokeswoman Amanda Bradson said. Park rangers later killed a young 55-pound male bear matching the description of the one in the attack.

Park spokesman Bob Miller said the bear approached the boy around 7:30 pm Monday while Evan was playing in a creek about 300 yards up Rainbow Falls Trail, a popular hiking trail about 2.5 miles south of Gatlinburg.



This image provided by the National Parks Service shows the collapsed Wall Arch. One of the largest and most visible arches in Arches National Park collapsed according to park officials. Paul Henderson, the park's chief of interpretation, said Wall Arch collapsed sometime late Monday or early Tuesday. The arch is along Devils Garden Trail, one of the most popular in the park. For years, the arch has been a favourite stopping point for photographers. Henderson said the arch was claimed by forces that will eventually destroy others in the park: gravity and erosion.—INTERNET

Groom charged with being too near bride at wedding

A New York state man has been arrested for getting too close to his bride on their wedding day. Police said Timothy Cole quarrelled with a wedding guest at a party Friday after wedding his ex-wife in Batavia.

Officers knew the 45-year-old Cole from previous arrests and realized his bride had an order of protection against

him. Cole was charged with first-degree criminal contempt, a felony, and ordered jailed without bail.

The *Daily News* in Batavia says Cole was convicted of criminal contempt on 1 July.

The Genesee County public defender's office says Cole hasn't been assigned an attorney.



Beijing 2008 Olympic Games

同一个世界 同一个梦想 One World One Dream



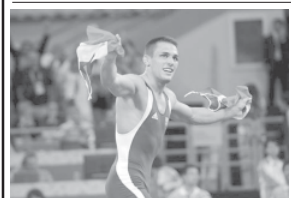
News & Photos by Xinhua

Medal Standings (13-8-2008)

Sr	NOC Name	G	S	B	T	Sr	NOC Name	G	S	B	T
1	China	17	5	5	27	27	Algeria		1	1	2
2	United States	10	8	11	29	28	Austria		1	1	2
3	ROK	6	6	1	13	29	Kazakhstan		1	1	2
4	Germany	6	1	2	9	30	Kyrgyzstan		1	1	2
5	Italy	4	4	3	11	31	Colombia		1		1
6	Australia	4	2	6	12	32	Mongolia		1		1
7	Japan	4	2	3	9	33	Norway		1		1
8	Russian Fed.	2	7	3	12	34	Slovenia		1		1
9	Britain	2	2	3	7	35	Turkey		1		1
10	Georgia	2		1	3	36	Vietnam		1		1
11	Czech Republic	2			2	37	Ukraine			4	4
12	France	1	7	3	11	38	Armenia			3	3
13	DPRK	1	2	4	7	39	Brazil			3	3
14	Azerbaijan	1	2		3	40	Belarus			2	2
15	Netherlands	1	1	3	5	41	Indonesia			2	2
16	Romania	1	1	2	4	42	Chinese Taipei			2	2
17	Slovakia	1	1		2	43	Argentina			1	1
18	Switzerland	1		3	4	44	Bulgaria			1	1
19	Spain	1		1	2	45	Croatia			1	1
20	Finland	1		1	2	46	Egypt			1	1
21	India	1			1	47	Mexico			1	1
22	Thailand	1			1	48	Tajikistan			1	1
23	Zimbabwe		3		3	49	Togo			1	1
24	Cuba		2	1	3	50	Uzbekistan			1	1
25	Hungary		2	1	3	Total:		70	70	85	225
26	Sweden		2		2						



Irakli Tsirekidze (blue) of Georgia reacts after beating Amar Benikhef of Algeria in men's 90kg final of the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games Judo event in Beijing, China, 13 Aug, 2008. Irakli Tsirekidze won the match and claimed the gold of men's 90kg of the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games Judo event.—XINHUA



Steve Guenot of France celebrates during the men's Greco-Roman 66kg final of wrestling against Kanatbek Begaliyev of Kyrgyzstan in red at Beijing 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing, China, 13 Aug, 2008. Steve Guenot of France won the gold medal in the match.—XINHUA



Silver medalist Chang Yongxiang of China displays his medal during the awarding ceremony of men's Greco-Roman 74kg of wrestling at Beijing 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing, China, 13 Aug, 2008.



Liu Chunhong of China takes a snatch lift during the women's 69kg final of weightlifting at Beijing 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing, China, 13 Aug, 2008. Liu set a new world record in snatch lift with 128 kilos.—XINHUA

More than 3,000 made-to-measure clothes ordered at Xiushui Market from 1-11 Aug

BEIJING, 13 Aug — Foreigners select Chinese traditional handicrafts at Xiushui Market (Silk Street market), a popular tourist market, in Beijing, capital of China, on 13 Aug, 2008.



Many foreign athletes, reporters and officials from across the world visit the market selling items with Chinese characteristics during the Beijing Olympic Games and the tourists flow

comes to 45,000 persons a day. Tourists from over 80 countries and regions have ordered more than 3,000 made-to-measure clothes here from 1 to 11 Aug. *Xinhua*

Five new chikungunya fever cases found in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 13 Aug—Five more people have come down with the mosquito-borne chikungunya fever in Singapore, said the Health Ministry (MOH) on Wednesday.

They include two foreign workers at Kranji Way, bringing the total number of cases linked to the northern industrial area to 30, said the ministry.

The two, a 48-year-old Indian and

a 34-year-old Chinese National, have no recent history of travel overseas prior to their onset of illness, said the authorities.

The Ministry said it has also been notified of three other cases not related to the Kranji cluster.

So far this year, there has been 103 cases of chikungunya fever in Singapore.

Internet

Hidden bomb injures 18 in Thai south

BANGKOK, 13 Aug — A powerful bomb hidden at a shop exploded Wednesday, injuring at least 18 people in Thailand's southern province of Pattani, according to local media.

The bombing was a trap set up by suspected militants who earlier shot dead a local motorbike garage owner, identified as Arun Lipstein, at his shop to target police and security officers who arrived later at the scene to investigate the crime, The Nation news website reported. A gunman firing at Arun at close range with a handgun, police was quoted by the report as saying. Militants then placed a five-kg bomb in the shop.

At least 18 people were injured, ten of them civilians while the rest were security and forensic officers.

Xinhua

Jobless total up as economy slows

LONDON, 13 Aug — The number of people out of work rose by 60,000 in the three months to June, taking the official unemployment rate to 5.4%, official figures showed.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) said unemployment increased to 1.67 million between April and June.

The data suggests that a slowing economy is taking its toll on the labour market.

The ONS also said the number of people claiming jobless benefits in July rose by 20,100 to 864,700. This was sixth consecutive rise in the claimant count and the biggest jump since 1992.

Internet



Models display jewellery on a jewellery show named "eternal charm" in Hong Kong, south China, 13 Aug, 2008.—XINHUA

Samagganam Tapo Sukho (Wellbeing through unity)

Si Thu Aung

The sounds of thunder rolls in Myanmar months of Waso and Wagaung evoke my memories of the song "Thakhwut (trumpet) flower". The song is about the battle that took place between the troops led by the king of Asura Celestial Abode and the troops led by Thagyarmin, king of Tavatinsa Celestial Abode, whenever trumpet trees are in flower.

Like the troops of Asura celestial beings who march to Tavatinsa Celestial Abode to wage attacks, saboteurs provoke protests and riots in the nation when the rainy season sets in. Referring to the anniversaries of July 7, July 19, August 8 and September 18, various political instigations are made inside and outside the nation during the period between the beginning of the rainy season and Independence Day or the beginning of a year.

Many years have elapsed, but their chronic illness has not healed yet. This year, the nation saw the storm "Nargis" and the referendum for approval of the State constitution, thus arousing their emotional feelings. They are now shouting their mottos such as "We must make the Ayeyawady Division into the issue of the whole nation" and "The winds of regime change", and threatening that the nation would be set ablaze if the 1990 election results are forced to be nullified".

It seems to me that they will continue to resort to various ways and means to disrupt national development undertakings for a new nation by 2010, making good use of the situations triggered by the storm "Nargis". Their ways and means range between bomb attacks on public transport vehicles, busy places such as supermarkets, markets, festivals and buildings, and instigation of mass demonstrations through pressure and instigation put by foreign countries and bloodshed.

Here, in my opinion, the methods for a change are of two kinds: demolition of the whole old structure to build a new one, and replacing of old structures with new ones.

The first method is easy to do, but very dangerous. It is easy to destroy, but difficult to reconstruct anything. Moreover, it takes a short time to destroy a structure, but it takes a long time to restore it. The storm "Nargis", for instance, happened for just hours. However, the extent of death and destruction was very huge. Therefore, relief and reconstruction tasks have a very long way to go, and it will take a long time.

In view of Iraq and Afghanistan issues, alien powers used force to use the method "demolition of the whole old structure to build a new one" for regime change. They launched attacks on those countries with guided missiles and modern weapons, thus devastating not only superstructures of the old regime but also all social and economic infrastructures in a matter of days or months. The alien powers, after destroying all the old superstructures, reconstructed with the policies and methods they favoured and handpicked persons.

However, it has come to global knowledge of what is going on in those countries and to what extent they have achieved success. Afghanistan has been in the process of being reconstructed for seven years. But, up to now, nothing can be guaranteed yet for security of the life of the Afghan President, let alone the lives and property of the citizens. The situations in Iraq were similar to that in Afghanistan. If a person goes shopping, the other family members are anxious of his or her return. The people were so disunited that they even could not form an Olympic committee, let alone a new government. In consequence, the nation is not in a position to get registered for Olympic Games. Military expenses on the two countries touch hundreds of billions

of US dollars, but peace and stability is still far off. So, it is out of the question that the two countries are going to enjoy development.

The purpose of my long explanation is just to enable some of my fellow national brethren, who misunderstand the prevailing situations with wrong concepts, wrong senses, and wrong beliefs, taking destructive acts for "democracy movements" due to their lack of knowledge or they are caught in the snare of political deception.

Frankly speaking, they will be capable of choosing correct ways only if they are well convinced that whether or not what they do brings benefits to them, to others or to the people. What is the use of detonating bomb in a passenger bus? Maybe they can be provided with cash for their acts. If so, they have become criminals. Sooner or later, they will have to face legal action. Maybe, they consider themselves to be heroes. As a matter of fact, the casualties are not their enemies. And if they consider why they have happened to commit inhumane acts, they will realize whether such acts are noble. If they think such acts are for the sake of the people, and sooner emergence of a democratic nation, please think it over. Can the goal of building a democratic nation come to fruition if they do so? If so, the sure thing is that the people will be in a state of panic, they will not be in a position to do what they want, and they will not be able to do their businesses properly.

Massive riots will result in similar consequences. Riots can make people anarchic mob. In that regard, let's put aside the 88 unrest and review the incidents that have taken place in Kenya. The political riots incited by anti-government groups led to the slaughter of more than 50 innocent people taking shelter in a room by setting fire to the room.

What is the use of dissuading the international community from providing assistance and calling on economic sanctions and trade embargo against the nation? Don't such acts have adverse effects on the people of their own lineage?

If they want to come to power, they should try to win the vote of the people. If they cut down the tree and shake its branches, there will be no fruitful results from that.

They should conduct a self-criticism to find out if their acts are based on their goodwill for development of the nation and the people. It is heart-rending to know that they are trying to get the motherland into crises, serving as lackeys of external destructive elements.

If they really want to create a prosperous future of the nation, they should focus on the four kinds of adhipati (preeminent skills) discoursed by the Buddha, instead of sticking to their policies. With the four preeminent skills, one can enjoy magga, phala and nirvana. So, they can guarantee progress of the nation.

Among the four kinds of adhipati, cittadhipati means goodwill. If a person has four carnival virtues, he can be called the one who is equipped with cittadhipati. In that case, the people have to remain united, show kindness for and give helping hand in each other, and preserve own lineage with patriotic spirit. It is notable that many countries without national unity lagged behind other countries in development, whatever policy the country concerned exercised. If the people have common stance, their acts are similar to one another. If they aspire to development of the mother country, they will have to ignore self-interest and disagreements and remain harmonious.

The second kind is chanda dhipati, which means strong desire. Only with strong desire, will there be a driving force on a person to try his utmost to achieve his

goal. It is required of every citizen to have aspiration for enabling the motherland to keep abreast of other countries.

Only then, will it be possible for a person to work with great diligence. The nation will never be in the forefront so long as the people fail to work hard just because the nation is rich in natural resources.

The fourth skill "Vimamsa dhipati" means abilities to distinguish between right and wrong. Now is the age of science. So, the people need to work hard to catch up with other countries in the field of science. In the sphere of art, the people need to be able to manage the political, economic and social affairs with wide views in order that the nation will never be on the wrong path.

We also have to overcome a variety of challenges, apart from the four kinds of adhipati, with which we must work hard to reach our goal.

Climate changes, for example, are uncontrollable for man, but can have strong impact on the life of people. Outbreaks of such natural disasters as drought, floods, storm and earthquake and spread of infectious diseases are on the increase due to global warming.

There also are international security and economic issues, from which many countries are suffering although they do not get directly involved in them. Conflicts in the Middle East are followed by soaring oil prices, then economic decline at the global level. To make matters worse, the prices of food are going up, in consequence, culminating in great crises in the countries that have not enjoyed food sufficiency yet.

Is the concept of replacing all the old systems with new ones to build a new nation appropriate? What is the use of arguing and conflicting with each other, putting self-interest in the forefront? If the people are incapable of building a new nation in collaboration and remain disunited in such an age of challenges, people can no longer be deemed to have high intellectual power.

No one is perfect. It is easy to put blame on others, but difficult to be able to notice own faults. Similarly, it is easy to harbour grudge against others, but difficult to forgive others because to do wholesome deeds, one has to surmount one's ill wills. Such kinds of deeds are difficult to perform. However, good-hearted persons have done meritorious deeds with tenacity on account of the fact that such deeds can benefit others and themselves. It is therefore called fulfilling perfections.

One may not be capable of fulfilling the Paramattha perfections that can be fulfilled by only noble-minded persons. But if one tries one's best in the interests of others, one will win the recognition and admiration of other people and celestial beings.

The Buddha expounded that having unity and loving-kindness for each other without grudge was key to mental wellbeing. The 195th gatha of Dhammapada says "Samagganam Tapo Sukho" which means unity is key to wellbeing.

In that regard, Phar Auk Tawra Monk in his treatise "Do not harbour hatred for others" said that unity of villagers, urban dwellers, the people and world people was one of the factors for the wellbeing.

In conclusion, if a society performs good deeds in harmony, people can enjoy wellbeing in the mundane and supramundane affairs. So, I would like to exhort the people to preserve fine traditions of remaining united in conformity with the doctrine "Samagganam Tapo Sukho" expounded by the Buddha in building a new nation.

Translation: MS

Maj-Gen Tha Aye looks into development of Mawlamyine

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Aug—Maj-Gen Tha Aye of the Ministry of Defence paid homage and offered robes and provisions to Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Kesara of Winsein Tawya Monastery in Myinegon village of Mudon Township on 9 August.

Next, he paid homage to Zinathukha Yanaung Chantha reclining Buddha Image in Yadana Hill.

Maj-Gen Tha Aye and party looked into the site of three-storey self-reliant patient ward of Mawlamyine General Hospital (branch) in Sitkegon.

Next, Maj-Gen Tha Aye and party viewed the 200-acre model monsoon paddy plantation in Naungkayi village

Afterwards, they proceeded to the perennial crops research farm of Myanma Perennial Crops Enterprise of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation where he heard reports on cultivation of perennial crops and gave instructions on conducting of research works.

Next, Maj-Gen Tha Aye looked into training department, soil test unit, pilot cashew plantation, physic nut plantation, pilot rubber plantation.

He inspected the integrated farm (Bin-hlaing) of Mawlamyine Station. He later pro-

ceeded to Technological University (Mawlamyine) of the Ministry of Science and Technology at which he heard reports on management and academic matters.

In the evening, he met national entrepreneurs of Mon State in Annawa Yeiktha of Mawlamyine Station.

In his speech, Maj-Gen Tha Aye said national entrepreneurs

entrepreneurs themselves are to give suggestions for economic development of Mon State, and the State will fulfil their needs. It is necessary to remove the middlemen in production industry so that producers and consumers can meet directly and the cost can be reduced. It is also needed to raise the quality of the local



Maj-Gen Tha

Aye inspects

200 acres of

model

monsoon

paddy plan-

tation

in Naungkayi

village of

Mawlamyine

Township.

MNA



are to join hands with the government to realize four economic objectives adopted and being implemented by the State, that the national

products to become exportable items.

Later, Maj-Gen Tha Aye attended to the needs of the national entrepreneurs.—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

New Central Vaccine Store Depot handed over

YANGON, 13 Aug—A ceremony to hand over a new Central Vaccine Store Depot was held at the National Rehabilitation Hospital on Kyaikwaing Pagoda Road in Mayangon Township yesterday morning.

Deputy Director-General (Disease Control) of the Health Department of the Ministry of Health Dr Kyaw Nyunt Sein, Resident Representative of UNICEF Mr Ramesh Shrestha and Resident Representative of WHO Prof Adik Wibowo opened the ceremony by cutting the ribbon. Then, they viewed around the depot.

Dr Osamu Kumii

from Health and Nutrition Section of UNICEF handed over documents related to the new building and the store rooms to Deputy Director-General (Treatment) of the Health Department Dr Win Myint who presented certificates of honour.

UNICEF set up the new depot by renovating the old shed in the compound of the Health Department, constructing the new office and vaccine

store rooms with the contribution of WHO. Thanks to opening of the new Central Vaccine Store Depot, more vaccines can be stored in the depot from which vaccines will be monthly distributed to the vaccine stores in States and Divisions, and will be injected into child, in order to prevent and control child infected diseases.

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Deputy Director-General Dr Kyaw Nyunt Sein (Disease Control), Resident Representative of UNICEF Mr Ramesh Shrestha and Resident Representative of WHO Prof Adik Wibowo cut the ribbon to open new Central Vaccine Store Depot.—MNA

All this needs to be known

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

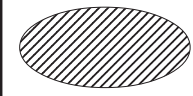
Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing presents prizes to outstanding townships, schools and students in Shan State (North)

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Aug — The prize presentation ceremony for outstanding schools and students in the matriculation examinations of Shan State (North) for 2008 was held at the town hall in Lashio on 11 August morning.

Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing of the Ministry of Defence presented first, second and third prizes to Muse, Moemeik and Tangyan townships for the best pass rates in the exam, and Magyibin BEHS (Branch) of Moemeik Township, Lashio BEHS No. 4 and Nyaungbintaw BEHS of Moemeik Township respectively.

Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Aung Than Htut, the deputy commander and party handed prizes to outstanding students.

In Naungmoe



Maj-Gen Min

Aung Hlaing

inspects

thriving 500

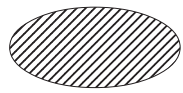
acres of tea

plantation in

Tangyan

Township.

MNA



Village-tract of Mongyai Township, they viewed broadcast of fertilizer at 6-acre monsoon paddy plantation of local farmers.

Maj-Gen Min Aung

Hlaing gave farmers instructions on emphasis to be placed on growing of edible oil crops.

At the local battalion, they met with servicemen and family members and

provided stationery and various kinds of books to them.

After viewing development tasks of Tangyan and thriving physic nut, monsoon paddy and seasonal crops plantations, they met servicemen and family members at

Mongkong of Tangyan Station.

They also visited the Township Information and Public Relations Department and left instructions.

While in Tangyan, Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing and party inspected 500 acres of tea plantation and

the tea factory of Padamya Uyin Co.

At Thitkwa Yeiktha of Mongyai, they met national race leader ULwe Mong and party of Shan State (North) Special Region-3 and gave instructions on regional development matters.

MNA

Commander presents school health awards to outstanding schools

YANGON, 13 Aug — Yangon Division Health Committee organized a ceremony to present school health week movement and school health awards to winner schools at No. 3 Basic Education High School in Dagon Township yesterday.

Chairman of Yangon

Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Win Myint delivered an address.

At prize presentation, Commander Brig-Gen Win Myint presented outstanding prizes to Dagon BEHS

No. 1 and Hlinethaya BEHS No. 2, first prize to Sangyoung BEHS No. 2 and Botahtaung BEHS No. 6, second prize to Tamway BEHS No. 1, third prize to Kungyangon BEHS No. 2 and consolation prize to Mingaladon BEHS No. 2.

Next, Daw Kyin Myaing, wife of the Yangon Command Commander, and officials presented outstanding awards to BEMS of Yankin Education College, Thingangyun BEPS No. 8, other winner schools, outstanding schoolheads and teachers. Head of Yangon Division Health Department Dr Hla Myint explained matters related to school health week movement and outstanding schools.

Next, they enjoyed performance of school children of Dagon BEHS No. 1 and browsed documentary photos on school health.—MNA



Commander Brig-Gen Win Myint presents outstanding award to school health winner.

MNA

Vietnamese delegation concludes visit

YANGON, 13 Aug — The visiting goodwill delegation led by Minister for Defence General Phung Quang Thanh of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and wife Mrs Tran Thi Loc, who had visited here at the invitation of Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence, together with Vice-Chief of Armed Forces Training Maj-Gen Zaw Win and wife, Vietnamese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Tran Van Tung and wife, Military Attaché Sr Colonel Le Van Thanh and officials went to Shwedagon Pagoda this morning.

The Vietnamese delegation led by the Defence Minister and wife paid homage to Golden

Replica of Shwedagon Pagoda at the prayer hall near Southern Stairway of the Pagoda and the Vietnamese Defence Minister signed in the Visitors' Book.

Next, the Vietnamese Defence Minister and wife offered flowers, water, light and joss sticks to the Pagoda and made cash donation to the Board of Trustees of the Pagoda.

Afterwards, the delegation paid homage to the Jade Buddha Image and observed Bell of King Thayawady at the Pagoda.

In the afternoon, the Vietnamese delegation led by the Defence Minister and wife left here for home by air.

Before their departure, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council

Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Win Myint presented CD, DVD and photo album on the goodwill visit to Vietnamese Defence Minister General Phung Quang Thanh at the lounge of Yangon International Airport.

Next, the Vietnamese delegation led by the Defence Minister and wife were seen off at the airport by Chairman of Yangon Division PDC Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Win Myint and wife, Vice-Chief of Armed Forces Training Maj-Gen Zaw Win and wife, senior military officers, Vietnamese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Tran Van Tung and wife, Military Attaché Sr Colonel Le Van Thanh and officials.

MNA

Maj-Gen Ko Ko on inspection tour of Bogale, Pyay Townships

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Aug—Maj-Gen Ko Ko of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Brig-Gen Kyaw Swe and departmental officials, attended the opening ceremony of new school building at Basic Education Primary School in Phayachaung Village in Bogale Township on 9 August.

At the ceremony, Maj-Gen Ko Ko presented 1,000 sets of school uniforms to students and the commander, stationery.

Maj-Gen Ko Ko unveiled the stone inscription of the building and visited it.

At Panditayon Monastery, they paid homage to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Indaka and donated alms.

At Bogale People's Hospital, they presented cash assistance to the patients and visited the wards.

On 10 August, Maj-Gen Ko Ko arrived at Pyay Industrial Zone in Pyay where he was welcomed by Chairman of Bago Division PDC Commander of Southern Command Brig-Gen Hla Min and Vice-Chairman Brig-Gen Sein Myint and officials.

In meeting with officials, Maj-Gen Ko Ko said that as the government is striving for development of energy sector, efforts are to be made for production of bio-diesel based on the

agriculture sector and cultivation of crops from which can be extracted.

They viewed production of ethanol and assembling of vehicles in the industrial zone, running of paddy husk fired generators and production of biodiesel from physic nut seeds.

Chairman of District PDC U Aung Khin reported on manufacturing of vehicles. Next, they visited Zeyar Shweti Rice Mill in the zone.

Pyay Industrial Zone is located in Nawade Ward of Pyay. A total of 196 industries have manufactured products worth K 13,365.25 million in 2007-08 and it was 26 per cent of Pyay Township's gross production. The target was set to manufacture products worth K 2,387.6 million in 2008-09.

While in Pyay Township, they attended the monsoon tree planting ceremony.

MNA

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



Maj-Gen Ko Ko of Ministry of Defence inspects vehicles assembled at Pyay Industrial Zone in Pyay.— MNA

Patron of Kachin State USDA, Secretariat member meet social organizations in Myitkyina

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Aug—Patron of Kachin State Union Solidarity and Development Association Chairman of Kachin State Peace and Development Council Commander of Northern Command Brig-Gen Soe Win and member of the Secretariat of USDA Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen

Thein Zaw met townsenders and members of social organizations at Shanzu (North) Ward Dhammayon in Myitkyina on 11 August.

The commander and party paid obeisance to Sayadaw of Aungnan Yeiktha Monastery Bhaddanta Ardiccavamsa and presented offertories to the Sayadaw.

The Secretary of Kachin State USDA accepted 500 membership applications at Aungchantha Pagoda Dhammayon.

The Patron of Kachin State USDA and the member of the Secretariat of USDA met secretaries and executives of state, district, township USDAs, members of social

organizations at USDA office in Ranpu Ward.

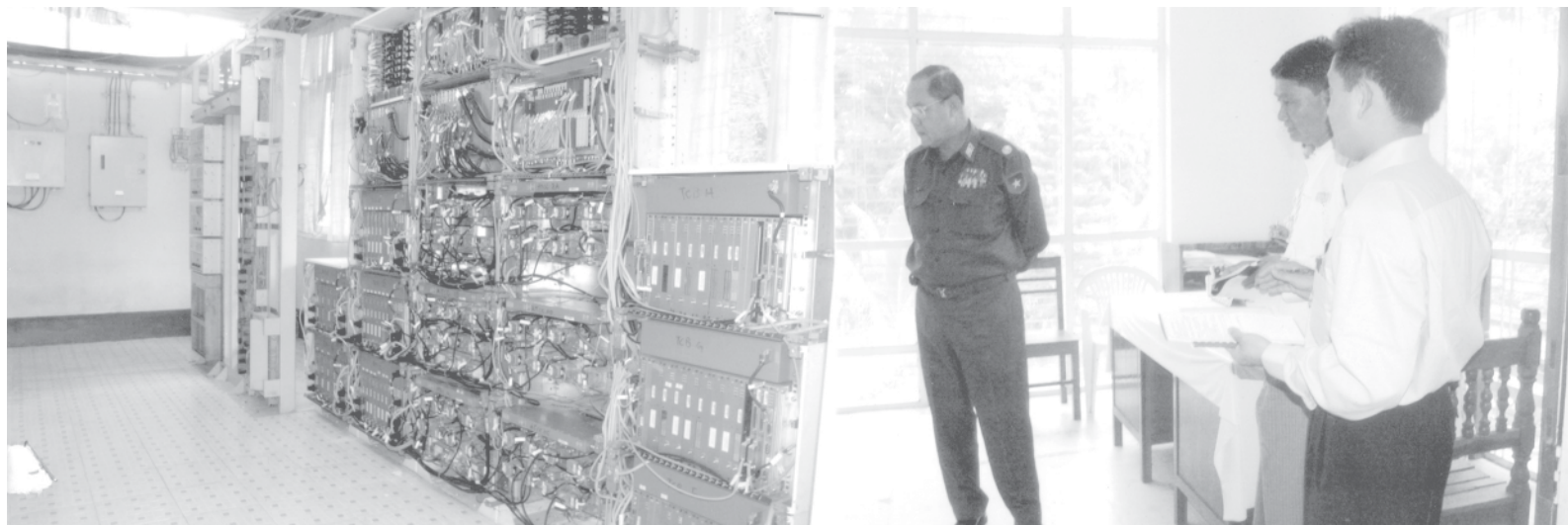
On 12 August, the member of the Secretariat of USDA paid obeisance to Presiding Nayaka of Wuntho Monastery State Ovadacariya Agga Maha S a d d h a m m a j o t i k a Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Silavamsa and presented offertories to the Sayadaw.

Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw inspected installation of telephone lines in front of Myitkyina University. He also inspected D-Amps cellular system and GSM system stations and installation of equipment there.— MNA

Flood News

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Aug—According to the 11.00 hr MST observation today, the water level of Bago river at Bago is 896 cm and it may reach its danger level 910 cm during the next 24 hrs.

According to the 11.30hr MST observation today, the water level of Shwegyin river at Shwegyin is 710 cm and it has exceeded by 10 cm (about 0.3 ft) above its danger level. It may remain above its danger level 700 cm during the next 24 hrs.—MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw inspects D-Amps cellular system station in Myitkyina.— CPT

Venezuelan neighbours to get millions in food aid

HAVANA, 13 Aug—Venezuelan Agriculture Minister Elias Jaua said on Tuesday his oil-rich country would give two million US dollars grants to 18 Caribbean and Central American countries to buy fertilizer for the coming growing season.

The grants are part of a Venezuelan-led programme to form a multinational company among the so-called

PetroCaribe group of nations to produce and distribute food.

Jaua made his announcement at a Havana meeting to map out plans for the food venture, which Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez has said would “create a shield against hunger” in the face of rising food prices.

The grants were a protective step to help the countries until the

company is operating, Jaua said.

“We have decided to assign an initial two million US dollars to each member country for the joint purchase of fertilizer for the most urgent needs of the coming planting season,” Jaua said.

PetroCaribe is a Chavez project aimed at promoting his vision for area integration as an alternative to US proposals.—MNA/Reuters

Alert at New Zealand Parl over white powder

WELLINGTON, 13 Aug—Fire engines and ambulances raced to New Zealand’s Parliament building on Wednesday after a white powder scare in the building.

A spokesman for Prime Minister Helen Clark said several people were examined after an envelope with the powder in it was opened on the eighth floor, but they did

not appear to have suffered any ill effects.

The eighth floor houses the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, and some of Clark’s staff have offices there as well, Radio New Zealand reported.

Clark’s office is on the ninth floor, but she was not there on Wednesday morning. The spokesman said the eighth

floor had been evacuated and was being decontaminated.

No other floors were evacuated and the building was operating as normal. The envelope is understood to have been opened by one of Clark’s staff but the spokesman would not confirm it was addressed to the Prime Minister.

MNA/Xinhua

Car bomb kills two civilians in N Iraq

MOSUL, 13 Aug—Two people were killed and six others injured on Wednesday in a car bomb explosion south of the capital city of Mosul of Nineveh province, a provincial police source said. A booby-trapped car parked at a popular marketplace in the town of al-Qayyara, some 50 km south of Mosul, detonated

shortly before midday, killing two civilians and wounding six others, the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

Two of the wounded were in critical condition, the source said, adding that the blast also damaged several nearby shops and civilian cars.

Nineveh province, and its capital, some 400 km

north of Baghdad, is said to be one of the last strongholds of al-Qaida fighters in the war-torn country.

The province has been the scene of a major security crackdown carried out by US and Iraqi security forces aimed at uprooting al-Qaida militants and other anti-US insurgent groups.—Internet



Team Malaysia presents their fireworks display over the country’s landmark Seri Saujana Bridge, during the Malaysia International Fireworks Competition 2008, being held in Putrajaya, Malaysia, on 12 Aug, 2008.

INTERNET



Floodwater is discharged through the Three Gorges Dam in central China’s Hubei Province, on 13 Aug, 2008. The largest flood this year passed through the dam on the Changjiang River, China’s longest, on Wednesday.—INTERNET

Biggest drop in US oil demand in 26 years

WASHINGTON, 13 Aug—US oil demand during the first half of 2008 fell by an average 800,000 barrels per day (bpd) compared with the same period a year ago, the biggest volume decline in 26 years, the Energy Information Administration said on Tuesday.

In its latest monthly energy forecast, the EIA said the huge drop in demand was due to slower US economic growth and the impact of high

petroleum prices.

The drop in US oil demand helped offset a 1.3-million-bpd increase in petroleum consumption in nonindustrial countries during the first half of the year.

As a result, preliminary data shows that global oil consumption rose by 500,000 bpd in the six-month period, the EIA said.

The Energy Department’s analytical arm sees continued falling oil demand, and for the first

time is predicting that US petroleum consumption in 2009 will be lower than this year, which would mark a drop in annual demand for three years straight.

“Total US petroleum and other liquids consumption is projected to shrink by almost 500,000 (bpd) in 2008 based on prospects for a weak economy and continuing high crude oil and product prices extending into 2009,” the EIA said.

MNA/Reuters

A stream of water flies over a fountain in downtown Tokyo Tuesday, on 12 Aug, 2008. Temperatures in Tokyo have peaked in the upper 80s and low 90s in the past several days.—INTERNET



Three crew members die in small plane crash near Mogadishu

MOGADISHU, 13 Aug—A small cargo plane crashed Wednesday after hitting a communication mast near an airstrip near the Somali capital, Mogadishu, killing all three crew members, officials and witnesses said.

The plane was carrying Khat, a semi-narcotic leafs consumed in Somalia, for dealers in Mogadishu.

“It was foggy and the plane circled a number of times before it hit a telecommunication tower near the airstrip and crashed three kilometers away. When we got to the site we found all three crew member dead,” Bashir Hassan, an aviation official told Xinhua by phone.

Two of the crew were Kenyan nationals and the third is thought to be an

Arab national. It was not immediately clear for the airport officials which Arab country the third crew member came from.

Witnesses said the plane crashed into a tree and disintegrated into pieces and burned after it hit the mast belonging to Nation Link telephone company, one of the telecommunications companies operating in Mogadishu.—Internet

ချိပ်ပိတ်ဈေးနှုန်းလွှာခေါ်ယူခြင်း

ရက်စွဲ၊ ၂၀၀၈ ခုနှစ် ဩဂုတ်လ ၁၂ ရက် ရန်ကုန်မြို့တော်စည်ပင်သာယာရေးကော်မတီက အောက်ဖော်ပြပါ ပစ္စည်းများကို ဌာနအရောက် ကျပ်ငွေဖြင့် ဝယ်ယူလို ပါသဖြင့် ချိပ်ပိတ်ဈေးနှုန်းလွှာများ တင်သွင်းနိုင်ပါကြောင်း ဖိတ်ခေါ်ပါသည်-

စဉ်	ပစ္စည်းအမျိုးအမည်	အရေအတွက်
(က)	H-Beam (18"x8"x40')	135 Nos
(ခ)	သံချောင်းလုံးအရွယ်စုံ	၁၈၀၀ တန်
(ဂ)	ကွန်ကရစ်ခါတ်ခွဲခန်းသုံးပစ္စည်း	1 Lot
(ဃ)	DC 110 V Battery Bank	(၁)စုံ

ဈေးနှုန်းလွှာပိတ်ရက်မှာ (၂၇-၈-၂၀၀၈)နေ့ (၁၆:၀၀)နာရီဖြစ်ပြီး ဈေးနှုန်းတင်သွင်းလွှာစုံစစ် တစ်စုံလျှင် ကျပ် ၂၀၀၀/- (ကျပ်နှစ်ထောင်တိတိ) နှုန်းဖြင့် ဘတ်ဂျက်နှင့်ငွေစာရင်းဌာန၊ ပစ္စည်းဝယ်ယူရောင်းချရေးဌာနစုတွင် ဝယ်ယူနိုင်ပါသည်။ အသေးစိတ်အချက်အလက်များကို ဖုန်းအမှတ်- ၃၈၈၇၃၂ သို့ရုံးချိန်အတွင်း ဆက်သွယ်မေးမြန်းနိုင်ပါသည်။

ပစ္စည်းဝယ်ယူရောင်းချရေးအဖွဲ့
ရန်ကုန်မြို့တော်စည်ပင်သာယာရေးကော်မတီ

New bird flu strain detected in Nigeria

LAGOS, 13 Aug—A new strain of avian flu never before reported in Africa has been identified in Nigeria, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) announced, local media reported Tuesday.

Tests conducted by Nigeria and by the FAO show that the new virus strain which is similar to strains identified last year in Italy, Afghanistan and Iran is genetically distinct from other forms detected in Nigerian outbreaks in 2006 and 2007.

"It seems unlikely that wild birds have carried the strain to Africa, since the last migration of wild birds from Europe and Central Asia to Africa occurred in September 2007 and this year's southerly migration into Africa has not really started yet," said Scott Newman, International Wildlife Coordinator of FAO's Animal Health Service.

He pointed to other avenues the virus could have taken to Nigeria, such as international trade or illegal and unreported movement of poultry.—*Internet*

Belarus court sentences US lawyer to three years

MINSK, 12 Aug—A court in Belarus sentenced US lawyer Emmanuel Zeltser to three years in jail on Monday on charges of industrial espionage and carrying forged documents, his lawyer said.

The sentence was likely to plunge relations between Washington and the ex-Soviet state deeper into crisis. Zeltser, a specialist in Russian law and organized crime, was arrested in March at the height of a diplomatic row between the two countries. The US State Department has expressed concern over Zeltser's arrest and the state of his health.—*MNA/Reuters*



The Russian four-masted sailing ship "Sedov," the biggest sail training ship in the world, is photographed in Hamburg, Germany, recently. It was among the ships from around the world that took part in the city's annual "Cruise Days.—*Internet*

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Dated: 14 August 2008

Eight Turkish soldiers killed in landmine blast

TUNCELI (Turkey), 13 Aug—Eight Turkish soldiers were killed in a landmine explosion in the eastern Turkish province of Erzincan, military sources said on Monday.

The sources told *Reuters* in addition to the eight dead, four soldiers were injured in the blast in the district of Kemah. No further details were immediately available. Kurdish guerillas frequently use landmines in their conflict with the Turkish state.

The separatist Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) took up arms against Turkey in 1984 with the aim of

establishing a Kurdish homeland in the southeast of the country.

Some 40,000 people have been killed in the conflict. Erzincan Governor Ali Gungor said the blast occurred as a military vehicle passed along a country road in Kemah. He said soldiers were being treated in various hospitals and he could not give a specific casualty toll, state-run *Anatolian* news agency reported.

MNA/Reuters

State media: Bus accident kills 25 in China's west

BEIJING, 13 Aug—A bus overturned in a mountainous region of China's west, killing 25 students and their parents, state media said Wednesday.

The bus was travelling on a remote highway in the restive western province of Xinjiang, the official *Xinhua News Agency* reported. It was about 730 miles from the regional capital of Urumqi when it flipped over.

Most of the dead were students on their way to have health exams necessary for admission to high schools in China's

more developed east, *Xinhua* said.

Five injured people were being treated in a hospital, the agency said, citing an unnamed official at the regional emergency response office.

Xinhua did not say what caused the accident, reporting only that it was under investigation.

Road accidents are common in China, where often overloaded vehicles must contend with poor road conditions and bad driving habits.

Internet

Israeli DM: Time for negotiation with Hamas to release abducted soldier

JERUSALEM, 13 Aug—Israeli Defence Minister Ehud Barak said that Israel should use the relatively calm brought by the ceasefire deal to negotiate with the Islamic Hamas movement the release of abducted Israel Defence Forces corporal Gilad Shalit, *The Jerusalem Post* said on its website Wednesday.

"I don't know how much longer the lull in the Gaza Strip will last but it has already been six weeks of quiet," Barak was quoted as saying. "We need to take advantage of each day of quiet left to advance the Shalit matter."

Barak said during a Labour Party conference in Dimona Tuesday that Israel will have to make "difficult decisions" and will pay a "difficult price" to secure the release of Shalit.

Barak added that it was Israel's moral duty to "carry out every appropriate manoeuvre possible so that Gilad returns home safe and sound."

Shalit was kidnapped by Hamas in June 2006 during a Hamas raid on an IDF outpost on the border with Gaza.

Internet

UK soldier killed in Kabul suicide attack

LONDON, 13 Aug — A British soldier was killed and two were wounded in a suicide bomb attack in Afghanistan, the Ministry of Defence said on Tuesday.

The attack happened in Kabul on Monday, when the attacker rammed his explosives-laden vehicle into a patrol as it was moving through the capital.

The death raises the

number of British troops killed in Afghanistan to 115 since it joined the US-led invasion of the country in late 2001.

Britain has a small contingent of soldiers in Kabul, but most of the 8,000-strong deployment in Afghanistan is based in Helmand, a southern province that has been the focus of intense fighting with the Taliban.

MNA/Reuters

Fresh floods in Vietnam kill teenager, toll 120

HANOI, 13 Aug—Fresh floods triggered by rains swept away a teenager in northern Vietnam and several boats were destroyed, the government said on Wednesday, as it struggled to deliver aid to thousands of people hit by the worst floods in four decades. At least 120 people have been killed after days of heavy rains triggered by the remnants of a tropical storm. Another 44 are missing.

On Tuesday, rescue

workers found the body of a 13-year-old boy in Quang Ninh province after it was hit by torrential rains from a tropical low-pressure system, the government said in a report.

Another four people were missing. The low-pressure system weakened as it made landfall in Quang Ninh, moved further inland and dispersed, the national weather bureau said.

The region is about 1,500 km (930 miles) north of Vietnam's main rice and

coffee production zones. Preliminary estimates of property losses in three of the 11 provinces affected by the disaster stood at 1.74 trillion dong (\$105 million). The government estimated nearly 800 houses collapsed or were swept away, nearly 17,900 homes and more than 15,000 hectares of rice and other crops were destroyed. River waters peaked on Sunday at close to the record level in 1968, the government said.

Internet

Dangerous African snail appears in Fuzhou

BEIJING, 13 Aug. — A huge snail from Africa, as big as a child's fist, was discovered in Jiangyan street in Fuzhou,



A file photo of a huge snail from Africa discovered in Jiangyan street in Fuzhou, Fujian province.

INTERNET

Fujian province on Tuesday, Strait News reports. Ecologist explained that the snail might have accidentally reached China through an import shipment in the 1930s. The snail spotted recently may be abandoned ones from local restaurants.

The snail can consume fruit or vegetables in large amount and is harmful to the local agricultural industry.

Those who eat fruit or vegetables touched by the African snails, which hosts pathogenic bacteria and parasites, may run the risk of being infected with tuberculosis and meningitis.

Experts warn people to stay clear of the snail.—Internet

German firm to extend Asia's largest solar power plant

SEOUL, 13 Aug— A German firm said Wednesday it has signed a deal to extend a South Korean solar energy plant which is already Asia's largest.

Conergy said in a statement it has reached a framework agreement on a 20-million-euro (29.8-million-dollar) project to expand the plant at Sinan in the southwest of the country.

The extension is expected to be completed by year-end and will add

4.35 megawatts to the existing 19.6 MW capacity of the plant, which became fully operational in June at a cost of 90 million euros.

When the extension is completed the plant will cover an area of 720,000 square metres, equivalent to 96 football fields, and will provide enough energy to supply 7,200 households.

It includes a solar tracking system developed by Conergy, which is claimed to

increase the energy yield by up to 20 percent.

"Building Asia's largest solar power plant is a landmark moment for the renewable energy sector in Korea," said Kim Jihun, CEO of Conergy Korea, which provided the plant for Dongyang Engineering and Construction.

Demand for reusable energy is high in South Korea, the world's 13th largest economy, which imports all its oil needs.

INTERNET

Iraqi governor escapes injury in suicide blast

BAGHDAD, 13 Aug—A female suicide bomber blasted an Iraqi convoy north of Baghdad on Tuesday, killing two people but narrowly missing a provincial governor in the second suicide attack by a woman in Diyala province in as many days.

Gov. Raad Rashid al-

Tamimi ordered an indefinite curfew in Diyala's provincial capital of Baqouba, where the attack occurred.

It happened a day after Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's government announced a weeklong suspension of military operations in Diyala to give militants a chance to

surrender.

Al-Tamimi and the commander of Iraqi ground forces, Gen. Ali Ghaidan, were traveling to a meeting of the provincial council in Baqouba when the woman detonated her explosives as the vehicles approached, US and Iraqi officials said.—INTERNET



Iraqi security forces assist an injured civilian following a suicide bomb attack in Baqouba, Iraq on 12 Aug, 2008. A female suicide bomber struck an Iraqi army convoy carrying senior officials Tuesday in Baqouba, killing at least two people, the U.S. military said - the second suicide attack by a woman in Diyala's provincial capital in as many days.—INTERNET

Israel reopens Gaza crossings

JERUSALEM, 13 Aug— Israel on Wednesday reopened crossings into Gaza for the limited passage of people and goods after closing them in response to a rocket attack earlier this week, the army said.

"The Sufa, Nahal Oz, and Erez crossings were reopened this morning," an army spokesman told AFP, adding that limited amounts of goods, fuel, and people with permits would be allowed to pass.

The defence ministry

had ordered the crossings closed on Tuesday after a crude, makeshift rocket fired from the territory struck southern Israel in violation of a seven-week-old truce, causing no casualties or damage.

Israel has kept the 1.5 million residents of the impoverished territory under a strict closure regime since the Islamist Hamas movement — which is pledged to Israel's destruction — seized power there in June 2007.

An Egyptian-brokered

truce between Israel and the main Palestinian armed groups, including Hamas, has virtually halted the violence in and around Gaza, though militants still occasionally fire rockets and mortar rounds.

Hamas's own fighters have kept to the truce and the Islamist movement has vowed to arrest and punish anyone caught violating it, accusing such people of collaborating with Israel to undermine the 19 June agreement.

INTERNET



The gate of the Israeli side of the Sufa crossing with the Gaza Strip stands locked and seemingly deserted in June. Israel on Wednesday reopened crossings into Gaza for the limited passage of people and goods after closing them in response to a rocket attack earlier this week, the army said.—INTERNET

CTBTO, Japan sign tsunami warning agreement

VIENNA, 13 Aug—The Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) and the Japanese Government signed Monday a tsunami warning agreement in Vienna.

It was the first "legally consolidated agreement" related to tsunami warning to be signed by the CTBTO, said Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission

for CTBTO Tibor Tth.

On behalf of the Japanese Government, Ambassador Yukiya Amano signed the agreement and stressed the importance of regional cooperation.

He said that the agreement would "enable

the North-West Pacific Tsunami Information Centre in Japan to provide Member States in the North West Pacific and Indian Ocean regions with more accurate information and in a more timely manner".

MNA/Xinhua

US military deaths in Iraq war at 4,140

WASHINGTON, 13 Aug—As of Tuesday, 12 Aug, 2008, at least 4,140 members of the US military have died in the Iraq war since it began in March 2003.

The figure includes eight military civilians killed in action. At least 3,366 died as a result of hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The British military has reported 176 deaths; Italy, 33; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 21; Bulgaria, 13; Spain, 11; Denmark, seven; El Salvador, five; Slovakia, four; Latvia and Georgia, three each; Estonia, Netherlands, Thailand, Romania, two each; and Australia, Hungary, Kazakhstan, South Korea, one death each.

Since the start of US military operations in Iraq, 30,509 US service members have been wounded in hostile action, according to the Defence Department's weekly tally.

INTERNET

SPORTS

Eto'o to stay at Barcelona: coach



Samuel Eto'o

MADRID, 13 Aug — Barcelona's new coach Pep Guardiola, who had deemed Samuel Eto'o surplus when he was appointed in June, said Tuesday that he is now counting on the Cameroon international for the upcoming season.

"When I was unveiled I said I was not counting on him but I also said we would

treat him as any other player. My job is to get a good performance from the players which the club makes available to me," he told a news conference. "During the past two, three weeks, the past month that we have been together I have been very pleased with his performance, not only on the pitch but in terms of his relationship with his teammates. I only have words of praise," he added. Eto'o's was one of three high-profile players — Portugal's Deco and Brazil's Ronaldinho being the other two — who Guardiola said he was not counting on shortly after he was named as a replacement for Frank Rijkaard.

Deco has since joined English side Chelsea while Ronaldinho has joined Italian side AC Milan. —Internet

PARIS, 13 Aug — Aston Villa's Martin Laursen warns they can lose in Iceland and Manchester City, embroiled in controversy surrounding club owner Thaksin Shinawatra, have Denmark's top team as opponents in Thursday UEFA Cup action.

Martin O'Neill's Aston Villa travel to Hafnarfjardar on Thursday in the first leg of the second qualifying round

while City host FC Midtjylland of Denmark.

Denmark international Laursen told the club's website www.avfc.co.uk: "Obviously they are not playing in the Premier League like we are but they can still play football and on a bad day for us, if we are not concentrating, then we can lose to a side like FH Hafnarfjardar.

"So we must be careful and take this game seri-

ously. We took Odense seriously in the Intertoto Cup and that is how we should always be."

Laursen has huge experience in European football, having won the Champions League with AC Milan in 2003.

Internet



Danish football player Martin Laursen of Aston Villa (right) a UEFA Cup match in mid July. Laursen warns that his team could lose in Iceland. —INTERNET

Luke Donald has surgery, out for the year

NEW YORK, 13 Aug — Luke Donald has undergone surgery on his left wrist and will miss the remainder of the season, officially ending any hopes of playing on the Ryder Cup team for Europe.

Donald was forced to miss the final two majors of the year. He had surgery Monday in New York to repair a tendon injury in his wrist. He had hoped that rest would allow it to strengthen, but there was little progress. The 30-year-old from England has played on the last two Ryder Cup teams and has a 5-1-1 record. —Internet

Hornets to play 2 preseason games in Europe

NEW ORLEANS, 13 Aug — The New Orleans Hornets will play seven preseason games prior to their season opener at Golden State in late October, including two games in Europe as part of NBA Europe Live.

The Hornets take on the Washington Wizards on 14 October at the O2 World in Berlin, Germany. The game will be one of the first major sporting events held at the arena, which opened last fall. The team will close out NBA Europe Live on 17 October at the Palau Sant Jordi in Barcelona, Spain.

Last year's NBA Europe Live games drew more than 10.3 million viewers and 75,000 spectators. —Internet

New Barca coach's offensive style to face Champions League test

MADRID, 13 Aug — The more offensive style which Barcelona's new coach Pep Guardiola has introduced since taking charge in July will be put to the test Wednesday when the Spanish side hosts Poland's Wisla Krakow in a Champions League qualifier.

Under his watch the club won all five of their pre-season friendlies played in the United States, Italy and Scotland, scoring 25 goals in the process and helping to silence doubts over his perceived lack of experience for the job.

Speaking last week after the club's final pre-season victory, a 6-2 win over the New York Red Bulls, Guardiola expressed satisfaction with the evolution of the squad ahead of their Champions League qualifier. "We scored six goals, we created an enormous amount of opportunities which is reassuring. What worries me a bit is that they scored two goals," he said. —Internet



The more offensive style which Barcelona's new coach Pep Guardiola, pictured on 6 August, has introduced since taking charge in July will be put to the test Wednesday when the Spanish side hosts Poland's Wisla Krakow in a Champions League qualifier. —INTERNET

Fiorentina take control over Slavia Prague with 2-0 win

FLORENCE (ITALY), 13 Aug — Strikers Adrian Mutu and Alberto Gilardino scored as Fiorentina took a big step



Strikers Adrian Mutu, pictured in June 2008, and Alberto Gilardino scored as Fiorentina took a big step towards the group stage of the Champions League on Tuesday with a 2-0 win over Slavia Prague. —INTERNET

towards the group stage of the Champions League here on Tuesday with a 2-0 win over Slavia Prague.

Fiorentina's non-conceding of an away goal augured well for the return leg of this third qualifying tie in Prague in two weeks' time.

"The spirit is right. The team responded well, as did the crowd, so I'm satisfied," Fiorentina coach Cesare Prandelli told Rai television.

Romania international Mutu set the Stadio Artemio Franchi alight in the third minute when he curled a superb right-footed freekick into the top corner from 30 metres out.

Internet

Valencia turn down Silva bid: agent

LONDON, 13 Aug — Spanish club Valencia have turned down a bid from English and European champions Manchester United for their star striker David Silva, his agent claimed on Tuesday.

Reports had suggested that Valencia were set to sell some of their stars in order to ease their financial problems, with United linked with a 20-million-pound (38-million-dollar) bid for the 22-year-old Spaniard.

"Manchester United made an offer for David Silva, but this has been turned down by Valencia," Silva's agent Julio Llorente told *Sky Sports News*.

"Silva doesn't want to play in England because he is happy at Valencia.

"His family are settled and if he was to move it would only be to another Spanish club, like Real Madrid or Barcelona.

"David Silva will start the new season at Valencia." —Internet



Spanish midfielder David Silva has a shot during the Euro 2008 championships final between Germany and Spain at Ernst-Happel stadium in Vienna, Austria, June 2008. Spanish club Valencia have turned down a bid from English and European champions Manchester United for Silva, his agent has claimed. INTERNET

Arsenal's Fabregas misses FC Twente clash

LONDON, 13 Aug — A hamstring injury to Arsenal midfielder Cesc Fabregas has meant he will miss Wednesday night's Champions League clash at Steve McClaren's



Cesc Fabregas

FC Twente side in the Netherlands.

Fabregas (hamstring) joins the likes of Kolo Toure (hip), Abou Diaby (thigh), Philippe Senderos (hamstring) and summer signing Samri Nasri (knee/thigh) on the sidelines along with Tomas Rosicky and Eduardo, who are both recovering from long-term injuries.

The number of absentees means Wales Under-21 international Aaron Ramsey, who joined the Gunners in a five-million-pound deal, from Cardiff could be handed a full competitive debut alongside young Brazilian Denilson in midfield in this third qualifying round, first leg clash.

Internet

Syria strongly condemns Lebanon's explosion

DAMASCUS, 13 Aug.— Syria Wednesday strongly condemned the deadly explosion in Lebanon's northern city of Tripoli as a "criminal act", the official SANA news agency reported.

The Syrian Foreign Ministry said in a statement that Syria

expresses regret and condolences to the families of the victims, underlining solidarity with brotherly Lebanon in facing those who threaten its security and stability, said SANA.

On Wednesday morning, an explosion took place in Tripoli,

killing 17 people and injuring some 40 others, the LBC TV reported.

The blast occurred hours before Lebanese President Michel Suleiman's ground-breaking visit to Syria for talks that would redefine ties between the two neighbours.—Internet

Young people's role in combating climate change

UNITED NATIONS, 13 Aug.—UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon emphasized on Tuesday the importance of young people's role in the global fight against climate change.

"We will need the spirit of youth in abundance as the world seeks to embrace cleaner, more sustainable forms of energy, including renewable resources," Ban said in a message for International Youth Day, which falls on Tuesday.

With their propensity for spreading new habits and technologies and adaptability to make low-carbon life-styles and career choices, young people are also well placed to contribute to the fight even now, he said.

"Youth should therefore be given a chance to take an active part in the decision-making of local, national

and global levels," Ban said. "And they can actively support initiatives that will lead to the passage of far-reaching legislation." "On this International Youth Day, I urge young people around the world to invest their energies and bright ideas into shaping a safer, more sustainable planet,"

the Secretary-General said.

On 17 December, 1999, the UN General Assembly endorsed the resolution made by the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth that 12 August be declared International Youth Day.

MNA/Xinhua

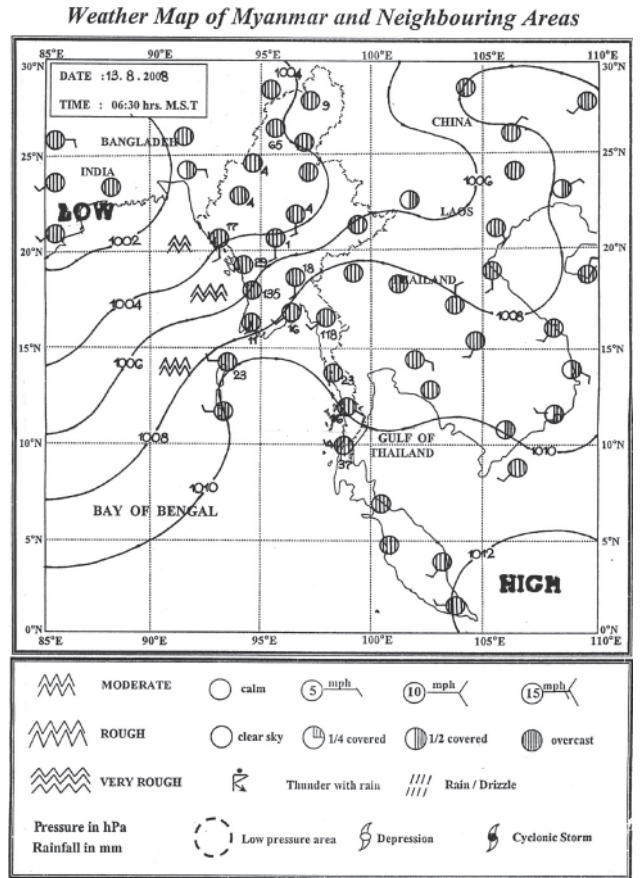
Sri Lanka fighting kills another 32, mostly rebels

COLOMBO, 13 Aug—

Sri Lankan troops killed 26 Tamil Tiger rebels in fresh fighting in the far north of the island on Monday, the military said on Tuesday, as they pushed further into the rebels' northern stronghold. The Sri Lankan Air Force again bombed rebel positions as fighting continued across several northern districts.

"In confrontations on Monday, troops killed 26 LTTE terrorists and 29 were wounded," said a national security spokesman, who asked not to be identified, referring to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). Six soldiers were also killed and another 22 were wounded in the fighting, the spokesman said.

MNA/Reuters



WEATHER
Wednesday, 13 August, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST: During the past 24 hours, rain have been isolated in Magway Division, scattered in Kachin State and Mandalay Divisions, fairly widespread in Shan and Kayah States and widespread in the remaining areas with locally heavyfalls in Mon State and Bago Division, isolated heavyfalls in Rakhine State, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Nay Pyi Taw (0.39) inch, Thandwe (6.50) inches, Mawlamyine (5.43) inches, Bago (4.25) inches, Zaungtu (4.21) inches, Bilin (4.13) inches, Longlon (3.74) inches, Nyaunglebin (3.62) inches, Maungtau and Mudon (3.11) inches each, Theinzayat (3.03) inches, Kyaikkhame (2.80) inches, Shwegyin (2.64) inches and Hkamti (2.56) inches.

Maximum temperature on 12-8-2008 was 85°F. Minimum temperature on 13-8-2008 was 69°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 13-8-2008 was 92%. Total sunshine hours on 12-8-2008 was (0.1) hour approx. Rainfall on 13-8-2008 was (0.59) inch at Mingaladon, (0.62) inch at Kaba-Aye and (1.50) inches at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was (73.03) inches at Mingaladon, (82.12) inches at Kaba-Aye and (97.05) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (6) mph from Southwest at (15:30) hours MST on 12-8-2008.

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

Special features: According to observation at (06:30) hrs MST today, the tropical depression over the Gulf of Tonkin (South China Sea) has crossed the Vietnam Coast and become unimportant.

Forecast valid until evening of 14-8-2008: Rain will be scattered in Shan and Kayah States, lower Sagaing, Magway and Mandalay Divisions, fairly widespread in Kachin State and widespread in the remaining areas with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Rakhine and Mon States, Thaninthayi Division. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of general decrease of rain in the Eastern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 14-8-2008: One or two rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 14-8-2008: Some rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 14-8-2008: Isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).



People buy "Fuwa", mascots of the Beijing Olympic Games, at a shop in Taiyuan, capital of north China's Shanxi Province, on 12 Aug, 2008. The Olympic souvenirs sell briskly in Taiyuan as the event goes on.—XINHUA



Thursday, 14 August
View on today

- 7:00 am
- 1. တောင်တန်းသာသနာပြု ဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်
- 7:25 am
- 2. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am
- 3. Morning news
- 7:40 am
- 4. Dance variety

- 7:50 am
- 5. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:00 am
- 6. Musical programme
- 8:15 am
- 7. ငါ့သရော်ကရေလှောင်တံ
- 8:30 am
- 8. International news
- 8:45 am
- 9. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 4:00 pm
- 1. Martial song
- 4:10 pm
- 2. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 4:20 pm
- 3. Cute little dancers
- 4:30 pm
- 4. Musical programme
- 4:40 pm
- 5. နားဝင်ပီယံသူ့လက်သံ

- 4:50 pm
- 6. "စပါးကရွှေ ငါးကငွေ" (ညီရော်မိုးဒီသက်ဦးကို၊ ဆုဝတီမိုး)(ဒါရိုက်တာ-နိုင်း)
- 5:00 pm
- 7. Dance of national races
- 5:10 pm
- 8. Song to uphold National Spirit
- 5:20 pm
- 9. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 5:30 pm
- 10. Musical programme
- 5:45 pm
- 11. ကြယ်ပွင့်များရဲ့ရင်ခုန်သံ
- 6:00 pm
- 12. Evening news
- 6:30 pm
- 13. Weather report

- 6:35 pm
- 14. မြတ်သောဒါနုဇိတ (ဇိတဒါနုသံဃာဆေးရုံကြီး၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့)
- 7:00 pm
- 15. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ကာဖီချစ်သူ"(အပိုင်း-၂၀)
- 8:00 pm
- 16. News
- 17. International news
- 18. Weather report
- 19. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ပင်လယ်ပျော်မင်းသား" (အပိုင်း-၁၉)
- 20. ၂၀၀၇ ခုနှစ်(၁၅)ကြိမ်မြောက် မြန်မာ့ရိုးရာယဉ်ကျေးမှုအဆိုအကားအရမ်းအတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ (မဟာဒုက်ဇာတ်တော်ကြီးပြိုင်ပွဲ) (ဇေယျာသီရိရုပ်စုံအဖွဲ့) (တတိယဆု)(စစ်ကိုင်းတိုင်း)

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**

Maj-Gen Ohn Myint looks into development tasks in Shwebo District



Maj-Gen Ohn Myint plants a sal sapling at the northern stairway of Kaunghmudaw Pagoda.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Aug — Maj-Gen Ohn Myint of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Brig-Gen Myint Soe and officials, met servicemen and family members of Shwebo Station on 10 August morning and presented TV sets to them.

At Yan Gyi Aung Hall, he provided medicines, stationery, sports gear and personal goods to townselders and K 300,000 to social organizations.

In his speech, Maj-Gen Ohn Myint instructed them to utilize dams in the region to contribute to food sufficiency of other regions, to extend cultivation of cotton and physic nut and carry out regional development.

After visiting Maha Nanda Lake, they inspected the pharmaceutical factory of Yokpyo Traditional Medicine Industry of Monywa Industrial Zone (Branch) and herbal plantation.

Maj-Gen Ohn Myint later visited Shwebon

Yadana Mingala Palace, NanU pagoda and Maha Aungmye pagoda.

At Abbot Training School of Shwebo, Maj-Gen Ohn Myint, the commander and party attended the rice and edible oil donation ceremony.

They also visited Shwedaza Pagoda in Shwebo and Kantalu Pagoda and Yaza Manisula Kaunghmudaw pagodas in Sagaing.

They planted a sal sapling at the rainy season tree planting ceremony held near the northern stairway of Kaunghmudaw Pagoda. They also inspected sinking of 4-inch tubewell being undertaken by Sagaing Division Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems Department in the precincts of the pagoda compound.

Arrangements are being made to supply water from the tubewell on greening of the precincts of the pagoda.

They released fingerlings into Myitta Pond of the pagoda. Later, they left Sagaing and arrived back here in the evening.

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**Beijing Olympics
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