Through ASEAN, Myanmar has been able to promote its foreign policy goals interacting mutually beneficial ways with dialogue partners

Our way of working in solidarity, consultation, consensus, mutual respect and non-interference is our strength

People of Myanmar urged to work together with other ASEAN citizens to realize the ASEAN Vision and to try to achieve ASEAN Community building

This Year marks the 40th Anniversary of the founding of ASEAN as well as the 10th Anniversary of joining of Myanmar to ASEAN. Myanmar joined ASEAN in 1997 showing the solidarity with its Southeast Asian brethren with the expectation of cooperation and contributing to regional peace and stability, prosperity and development in the region and beyond. It is now an opportune moment for us to review on ASEAN and on Myanmar contribution and benefit we have made and accrued from it by joining ASEAN.

In the past ten years, Southeast Asia has been a haven of peace and harmony that enables a conducive environment for broad-based and robust economic development in the region. Unprecedented in the history of Southeast Asia, the leaders of all ten Southeast Asian nations meet together more frequently than ever and set the strategic vision for the destiny of our future. During the past ten years, we have come to conclusion that we need to upgrade our relationship to a higher plane by integrating each other into an ASEAN Community, a caring and sharing community envisaged in our vision 2020. The goal of ASEAN community reinforces our existing national priorities and objectives.

Believing that three pillars, balancing and interwoven together, will serve as a strong foundation for ASEAN Community, we have decided to build ASEAN Security Community, ASEAN Economic Community and ASEAN Socio-cultural Community interlinking, reinforcing and strengthening each other. As we gain confidence in ASEAN Community building, we have decided to fast track our integration by 2015 instead of year 2020 at the 12th ASEAN Summit held in Cebu, the Philippines, early this year.

(See page 8)

Measures for organizing 15th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions coordinated

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Aug — A coordination meeting of the Leading Committee for Organizing the 15th Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts Competitions and representatives from states and divisions was held at the Ministry of Culture here yesterday.

Chairman of the Leading Committee for Organizing the 15th Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts Competitions Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin delivered an address at the meeting.

(See page 8)
**Take preventive measures against natural disasters**

Recently, there have been floods in some parts of the nation due to swelling rivers caused by heavy rains.

The flood-hit parts are some villages in Kyangin Township, Ayeyawady Division, some wards in Magway and Aunglan and some villages in TadaU Township, Mandalay Division.

Hkamti Township in Sagaing Division was also inundated due to overflowing Chindwin River.

Officials concerned and rescue teams rushed to the inundated areas and provided all the necessary assistance.

The Meteorology and Hydrology Department has also issued a reminder that the water levels of Ayeyawady River at Magway, Minbu and Hinthada rose above the danger level.

In the meantime, the water levels of Chindwin River at Mawlaik, Kalewa and Monywa are above the danger level owing to heavy rains.

Normally, swelling rivers have resulted in landslides, falling of trees, collapse of old buildings as well as the widespread outbreak of water-borne diseases in flooded areas.

Therefore, departmental personnel, officials concerned and rescue teams of townships in flood are to take preventive measures in all seriousness against such natural disasters.

**Regional development works in Ponnagyun, Sittway Tsps supervised**

YANGON, 7 Aug — Minister Maj-Gen Thein Swe meeting with local residents at Yarchaung Village in Ponnagyun Township.

Minister Maj-Gen Thein Swe meeting with local residents at Yarchaung Village in Ponnagyun Township.

Minister Maj-Gen Thein Swe visited some villages in Ponnagyun, Sittway Tsps on 4 August.

Next, the commander and the CEC member presented exercise books and stationery for the school, K 500,000 for Ponnagyun Township USDA and K 1 million for the development task of the village and publications for the township library to officials. Managing Director U Soe Tint of Inland Water Transport presented K 1 million for Ponnagyun Township War Veterans Organization to the chairman.

**Development tasks carried out in Twantay & Htantabin**

YANGON, 7 Aug — Director-General U Myo Myint of Development Affairs Department under the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs inspected undertakings being carried out for greening and pleasant of Twantay, Htantabin Townships in Yangon Division yesterday.

At the office of Twantay Township Development Affairs Committee, the director-general met staff and gave instructions. At Htantabin Township DAC, the director-general inspected nursery of the committee and stressed the need of paying attention to greening and development of the town and carrying out the tasks meeting set standards. The director-general also inspected construction of granite road in the town.

**Perspectives**

**Wednesday, 8 August, 2007**

* 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

**U Shane Be and Daw Than Than Si on Bo Yar Nyunt Street, Yawmningyi Ward, Dagon Township, donated K 100,000 to Hninzigon Home for the Aged to mark their 25th Wedding Anniversary recently. Joint-Treasurer U Maung Maung Gyi of the home accepts the donation. — u**
Ahmadinejad says Iran will not give up nuclear plans

ALGIERS, 6 Aug—Iran will not give up its atomic energy programme, President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said in remarks published on Saturday before a visit to fellow OPEC-member Algeria.

“Iran has not demanded more than its right to nuclear energy. We are not ready to give up a single inch of this right,” Ahmadinejad said in an interview with Algerian newspaper El Watan.

“We will continue our efforts within the frame-work of international law. I can say that Iran is a nuclear state.”

Ahmadinejad did not say whether he would discuss the nuclear issue with Algeria during the three-day trip which starts on Monday, his first visit to the North African country. In El Watan, Ahmadinejad also defended the idea of a cartel of gas exporters similar to OPEC, the Organization of Petroleum-Exporting Countries, a suggestion that Iran aired with Algeria.

The 20-page report - Stabilising Iraq: Department of Defense cannot ensure that US-funded equipment has known where the weapons are now.

The disclosure adds to the picture of the chaotic and clumsy administration of Iraq that has emerged over the last four years. The report, by the government accountability office, which sent its report to Congress last week, found a 30% gap between the number of weapons issued to Iraqi forces and records held by US forces in Iraq. No one in the Bush administration knows where the weapons are now.

The 20-page report - Stabilising Iraq: Department of Defense cannot ensure that US-funded equipment has ended up in the hands of insurgents, according to an official report published in Washington. Among the missing items are AK-47 rifles, pistols, body armour and helmets.

At the opening ceremony of the new school year in Gaza on Sunday, the city’s mayor criticized the United States for refusing to give up its nuclear weapons programme. "We will continue our efforts within the framework of international law. I can say that Iran is a nuclear state," Ahmadinejad said. According to the report, the US arsenal lost track of about 190,000 weapons issued to Iraqi security forces since the 2003 invasion, some of which will have ended up in the hands of insurgents, according to an official report published in Washington. Among the missing items are AK-47 rifles, pistols, body armour and helmets.

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Four Indian institutions in world university rankings

London, 7 Aug—Four leading Indian educational institutions have found their place in a list of world’s top 200 universities, with Harvard, Cambridge and Oxford dominating the rankings.

The four in the top echelons are the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), the Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs), the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) and the Delhi University (DU).

Quoting the Times Higher Education Supplement, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported that an authoritative journal in academia, the IITs ranked 57th in the world’s top 200 universities list and the IIMs came 68th. The JNU is 183rd in the list.

In the list of the top IITs and JNU are in the top technology universities, the DTU jumped to the third place after the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and the University of California, Berkeley.

Among the world’s top 100 science universities, IITs rank 33rd. In the ranking for the world’s top universities in arts and humanities, Delhi University has come 75th.

In this list, Delhi University is upstaged by IIMs at 26 and JNU at 57.

Both IITs and JNU figure in the list for the world’s top universities for biomedicine, at ranks 70 and 99 respectively.

UAE bans import of British meat

DUBAI, 7 Aug—The UAE has banned the import of British meat and livestock following the outbreak there of foot-and-mouth disease.

The official WAM news agency said the Minister of the Environment and Water, Mohammed Al Kendi, has imposed an immediate ban on “all types of live hooved animals and their bi-products from Britain” due to the outbreak. The European Union has also announced a formal EU-wide import ban on British meat and livestock.

The EU ban covers fresh meat as well as live cattle, pigs, sheep and goats and milk products from Britain. The latest scare—which has raised the spectre of a disastrous epidemic in 2001 which saw up to 10 m animals slaughtered—was triggered by the discovery of the highly contagious virus in a herd of cattle near the Bangladesh border. No one in the Bush administration knows where the weapons are now.

"common threat."
Disease fears rise as South Asian floods kill 330

PANTNA (India), 6 Aug— Fears grew on Sunday that epidemics would strike the millions marooned or forced from their homes by South Asia’s catastrophic floods as the death toll climbed to at least 330, and criticism of relief efforts spread. The last two weeks have seen some of the worst flooding in living memory affecting about 35 million people in the region, 10 million of them made homeless or left stranded.

In India’s poor Bihar State, four Air Force helicopters dropped food, medicines and clothing to some of the 10 million affected, where floods have worsened as more rivers burst banks.

“Each pilot is carrying out 12 sorties a day and have reported huge devastation in central and north Bihar,” said Ramesh Kumar Das, a Defence Ministry spokesman in Kolkata.

Marzio Babille, UNICEF’s health chief in India who is coordinating UN work in Bihar, said aid agencies and authorities must do more to prevent outbreaks of measles, gastroenteritis, dengue fever and other diseases, or “we will see many deaths”. He said 20 helicopters were needed in Bihar, where 87 people have died.

Around the world, states must do more to prevent epidemics, or “we will see many deaths”. He said 20 helicopters were needed in Bihar, where 87 people have died.

IAEA team in Japan to inspect quake-hit nuclear plant

TOKYO, 6 Aug— A team of experts from the United Nations nuclear watchdog agency arrived in Japan on Sunday to inspect an earthquake-damaged nuclear plant, after power failures from local authorities worried about safety.

Low-level leaks of radioactive material from the Kashiwazaki-Kariwa power station, the world’s largest, after the 6.8 magnitude 16 July quake fanned concerns over safety in Japan’s scandal-hit nuclear sector.

Media reports said the prefectural government in Niigata, site of the plant run by Tokyo Electric Power Co (TEPCO), had asked for inspections because the power station’s problems had caused public concern and spread harmful rumours, hurting local tourism and fisheries.

Japan initially told the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) that it had no need of help.

Philippe Jamet, head of the six-member IAEA team that will start four days of inspections on Monday, told reporters that he hoped the inspection would prove useful for nuclear operators around the world.

“We are going to the plant and identify the lessons learned for the international community,” he said.

German has pencil in head removed after 55 years

BERLIN, 7 Aug— A 59-year-old German woman has had most of a pencil removed from inside her head after suffering nearly her whole life with the headaches and nosebleeds it caused. Bild newspaper reported on Monday.

Margret Wegner fell over carrying the pencil in her hand when she was four.

“The pencil went right through my skin and disappeared into my head,” Wegner told the newspaper.

It narrowly missed vital parts of her brain. At the time no one dared operate, but now technology has improved sufficiently for doctors to be able to remove it.

The majority of the pencil, some eight centimetres (3.1 inches) long, was taken out in an operation at a private Berlin clinic, but the two centimetres tip had grown in so firmly that it was impossible to remove.

Russian supply ship docks with “ISS”

MOSCOW, 6 Aug— A Russian supply ship docked with the International Space Station (ISS) on Sunday after a three-day orbit flight, the mission control centre Moscow said.

“Progress M-61 docked with the Pirs unit at 10:40 pm Moscow Time (1840 GMT) as planned,” mission control spokesman Valery Lyndin was quoted by the Interfax news agency as saying.

“The docking has been successful. The crew will start unloading Progress after checking whether the docking unit is airtight,” Lyndin said.

The freighter delivered more than 2.5 tons of cargo, including food, water, fuel and equipment. The ISS will receive six new computers to substitute those that went out of order.

The computers, which were responsible for the ISS’ orientation, were knocked out by strong electromagnetic field impacts after the crew of the US shuttle Atlantis deployed new solar panels on the space station’s exterior.

Russian cosmonauts Yfodor Yurchikhin and Oleg Kotov abolished the “revived” computers are still posing problems. Another Russian supply ship Progress M-59 packed full with waste from the ISS was dumped in the Pacific Ocean on Wednesday.

Two supply ships are attached to the ISS at present. In December last year, Russian Mission Control embarked on the practice of not dumping Progress ships before the arrival of replacement cargo spacecraft, as it was done earlier, but to fully use their oxygen supply and to load them with the space station’s waste to a maximum.

Apart from oxygen, specialists seek to make maximum use of the remaining fuel at the supply ships, leaving in them only a minimum necessary for their deorbiting.

Control
ECONOMIC NEWS

India to overtake US, Japan in economic growth by 2050

NEW DELHI, 7 Aug — Emerging economies, including India, will overtake the developed countries in economic growth by 2050, with the popularity of India and China as investment destination is rising while the attractiveness Europe and North America is slumping, says a study.

“The seven new global powers by 2050 will comprise the so-called BRIC economies (Brazil, Russia, India and China) together with Indonesia, Mexico and Turkey,” says the Ernst and Young European Attractiveness Survey 2007.

These seven emerging countries would overtake the economies of the G7 countries — Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, United States — in terms of gross domestic product (GDP) but whether India can develop its infrastructure at pace with that of global investment remains to be seen, the survey added.

The developing economies will outdo the G7 if it manages to mend the loopholes regarding transparency, fairness and infrastructure development.

India’s popularity is rising as 26 per cent respondents said the country is amongst their top three preferences in 2007 whereas the figure was just 11 per cent in 2004. — MNA/PTI

Angola to invest $158m to rehabilitate hydropower project

LUANDA, 6 Aug — The Angolan Government has recently made a decision to invest 158 million US dollars to rehabilitate the Gove Dam in the central province of Huambo to solve power supply shortage in central and southern regions.

Botelho de Vasconcelos, Minister of Energy and Water, told reporters at the weekend that the Cabinet Council had approved the investment plan to rehabilitate the dam which “is crucial due to its importance for the nation’s economic and social development, particularly for central and southern regions”.

According to the minister, the project covers construction of a hydropower station and a sub-station. “The rehabilitation of the dam will enable the regular supply of water to the localities of Xangongo-Ondjiva and Santa Clara-Namibe, electricity to the provinces of Huambo and Bie as well as water to the watered perimeters along the Cunene River,” he added.

He said the project, set to be implemented within 30 months, will increase the water holding capacity of the Cunene River with a view to irrigating farmlands in the whole Cunene River Basin.

Starting March 2007, some 314 kms northwest of Phnom Penh in March 2007 file photo. Tourist arrivals to Cambodia continue to soar, up 20 percent in the first half of 2007 compared to the same period last year, Tourism Minister Thong Khon said on Wednesday. — INRENT

Chinese ship exports record historic high in first half year

BEIJING, 5 Aug — China’s export volume of ships hit a record high of 5.49 billion US dollars in the first half of the year, up 61 per cent over the same period last year, according to figures from the General Administration of Customs.

For the first time China overtook Japan to rank the second in terms of vessel order book tonnages, a major shipbuilding index, and took up 28 per cent share of the world market.

China’s shipbuilding industry scored an output value of 101.7 billion yuan (13.4 billion US dollars) in the first six months, a rise of 48 per cent over the same period last year, according to statistics issued by the management office for shipbuilding industry under the Commission of Science Technology and Industry for National Defence (CSTIND).

The aggregate profits reaped by shipbuilding manufactures more than doubled to reach 6.4 billion yuan ($42.1 million US dollars).

Ship production has been increasing by more than 40 per cent annually in recent years, as its low labor cost kept attracting more orders, analysts said.

Angola to invest $158m to rehabilitate hydropower project

WASHINGTON, 6 Aug — The US House of Representatives passed a 459.6 billion-US dollar defence budget early Sunday for the 2008 fiscal year beginning 1 October.

The budget, passed on a 395-13 vote, was slightly more money for equipment for National Guard and Reserve, and six billion dollars to add 12,000 soldiers to the Army and the Marine Corps. It would also increase spending for defence health care and military housing, and provide about 2.2 billion dollars for a 3.5-per-cent pay rise for military personnel.

The budget would allocate money for major weapons programmes such as F-22 combat planes, the Joint Strike Fighter, and the controversial V-22 aircraft, and provide about 8.5 billion dollars for the missile defence programme, about 883 million dollars short of President George W Bush’s request but nearly one billion dollars more than the current spending. — MNA/Globaltimes

US House approves $460b defence budget
RF effective in treating kidney tumours

LOS ANGELES, 4 Aug — Radio-frequency ablation has proved highly effective in treating kidney tumours, according to a new study. The relatively new, minimally invasive treatment was 93 percent successful in eradicating malignant kidney tumours, said the study conducted by researchers from Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Centre in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

The study involved 104 patients with a total of 125 tumours ranging from 0.6 cm to 8.8 cm. In all patients, a biopsy confirmed the presence of renal cell carcinoma (RCC), the most common type of kidney cancer. Of the 125 tumours, 95 were smaller than 3.7 cm and were completely eradicated in one treatment. Fourteen larger tumours were also eradicated after one treatment. Of the 16 remaining larger tumours, seven were eradicated after a second treatment. "We have performed many radio frequency ablations of renal tumours and the results looked promising," said Ronald J Zagoria, lead author of the study which just appears on the website of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

"We wanted to scientifically review the data to better assess the results and look for patterns that might predict success or complications," he said.

Patients who are not good operative candidates, usually due to co-existing illnesses, and those with multiple renal tumours, now have an excellent option for curing their tumours, said Zagoria. "Surgery should be the first option, since the long-term results of this procedure have not been substantiated," he said.

Four killed in civilian chopper crash in Cumbria

LONDON, 6 Aug—A civilian helicopter has crashed in northern England killing four people, emergency services said on Saturday.

The Maritime and Coast Guard Agency said the helicopter took off from Carnforth, Lancashire, on Friday night bound for Lockerbie in Scotland.

The wreckage was found on Saturday at a farm in Cumbria, close to the M6 motorway.

"The Coast Guard unit arrived on scene at the same time as ambulance Personnel and were able to provide off-road access and communicate effectively with the rescue helicopter which was on scene within 10 minutes of the crash site being located," said Liverpool’s Coast Guard Maritime Coordination Centre.

An air accident team was travelling to Cumbria to investigate the crash.

Identification of victims is going on.

Death toll by floods reaches 93 in Nepal

KATHMANDU, 6 Aug—The death toll from floods and landslides triggered by incessant rainfall in different parts of Nepal has so far reached 93, The Rising Nepal daily reported on Monday.

According to the Natural Calamity Management Unit, property worth 12.3 million Nepali rupees (some 189,230 US dollars) was damaged in Siraha, Udayapur, Mahottari, Dhanusa, Sarlahi, Rupandehi, Nawalparasi, Banke, Bardia, Kailali and Humla districts. So far, 33 districts have been affected with 67,917 families displaced and 18,535 houses partially or completely damaged, the report said.

The Nepali Army, local administration, political parties, Nepal Police, Armed Police, Nepal Red Cross and other social organizations are involved in the rescue and relief works being carried out in the flood-affected districts.

Likewise, so far the government has released 35.7 million rupees (some 549,230 dollars) for the areas while rice, cooking oil, vegetables, biscuits, noodles, sugar and tents and foods have been distributed to the flood victims.

Bangladeshi flood death toll reaches 120

DHAKA, 6 Aug—With 36 fresh deaths, current monsoon floods that brought havoc to crops and infrastructure in Bangladesh claimed 120 lives till Sunday morning, officials in the Relief Ministry said.

The flood caused by heavy downpour and rush of water from upper riparian in India left over eight million people in 38 out of the country’s 64 districts marooned.

Nearly 300,000 flood-hit victims were rehabilitated in 1,200 flood centres in the affected districts.

The Army-backed caretaker government will not seek international aid to cope with the situation as Law and Information Advisor Barrister Mainul Hosein Sunday told reporters that they would try to overcome the situation by internal resources.

At least nine killed in Slovakian lodging house fire

BRATISLAVA, 6 Aug—At least nine people have died in a fire at a lodging house in northern Slovakia, police said on Saturday.

Firefighters found seven bodies in the ruins in the small northern town of Kysuce Novo Mesto, near the Polish border, after Friday’s blaze, the official TASR news agency reported. “There are still two more people missing,” TASR quoted Frantisek Posluch, the head of the regional police department, as saying. The cause of the fire was not known.—MNA/Reuters

Flood victims take shelter in a school at Lauhajang, 70km (44 miles) from the capital Dhaka, on 6 Aug, 2007. With floods sweeping nearly two-thirds of Bangladesh, 36 more people were drowned or killed by snakebites overnight, taking the confirmed death toll from more than two weeks of deluge to 156, an official said.—INTERNET

A sundog (parhelion) is seen around the sun over the Malaysian island of Langkawi on 6 Aug, 2007. —INTERNET

Identical twin sisters gather on stage to await judging in a look-alike contest for 11- and 12-year-old girls during the final day of the 32nd annual Twins Days Festival in Twinsburg, Ohio on 5 Aug, 2007.—Xinhua

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Russia unveils air defence, eyes US missile shield

Moscow, 7 Aug — Russia unveiled a new air defence system on Monday that its designers say will be used as the basis of a new generation of Russian missile-intercepting weapons.

Russian television stations gave wide coverage to the deployment of the S-400 air defence system, a modernized version of a Soviet-designed surface-to-air missile unit.

"The real effectiveness of this complex is its ability to destroy ballistic targets, ballistic missiles, and aerodynamic targets," Vadim Volkovitsky, deputy Air Force commander in charge of anti-aircraft defence, told NTV television.

"So not only the functions of air defence but also anti-missile defence," he said.

Russia has been bickering with the United States over Washington’s plans to deploy elements of an anti-missile defence shield in Poland and the Czech Republic.

The United States says the shield is intended to defend against missiles from “rogue states” such as Iran and North Korea and that it could not defeat Russia’s giant nuclear arsenal.

But President Vladimir Putin says the shield would hurt Russia’s interests and Russian generals have said Moscow will develop its own anti-missile defence shield in retaliation.

The Vremya Novostei newspaper reported that the S-400 would be used as a basis for a Russian anti-missile defence system. The designers of the S-400 Triumf said they were already working on a mobile anti-missile defence system.

"Our next task is a system called the S-500, an anti-missile system, a mobile anti-missile defence system, a fifth generation system as one element of Russia’s unified system of anti-missile defence," said Igor Ashurbel, general director of the Almaz design bureau. — MNA/Reuters

US chopper kills 6 in north of Baghdad

Tikrit (Iraq), 7 Aug — An American helicopter attacked a cluster of houses in a town in Salahadin Province in north of Baghdad on Monday, killing six people and wounding 35 others, a provincial police source said.

A US airborne force conducted a predawn raid on the southern part of the town of Duluiyah, 90 kilometres north of Baghdad, the source said on condition of anonymity.

The incident took place when a US foot-patrol was attacked by gunmen from three adjacent houses near the Tigris River on the eastern edge of the town, the source said.

The attack prompted the US patrol, backed by helicopters, to return fire on the sources of the fire—killing six people and wounding 20 others, including women and children, the source added.

The US military did not confirm the incident yet.

Separately, the Iraqi police found five bodies for Iraqi soldiers near the town of Sherqat, 280 kilometres north of Baghdad, in Salahadin Province, the source said.

The soldiers were kidnapped earlier on Sunday on the main road between Mosul and Tikrit in northern Iraq, he added.

Support rate for Abe’s Cabinet falls below 30%

Tokyo, 7 Aug.—The support rate for Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s Cabinet fell to below 30 per cent, surveys by local newspapers showed Tuesday.

According to a poll conducted by major daily the Yomiuri Shimbun, the approval rating of Abe’s Cabinet dropped 11.1 percentage points from June to 27.2 per cent.

Meanwhile, disapproval rating rose to 63.7 per cent.

A survey by the Mainichi Shimbun newspaper released Monday showed similar results. Support rate and disapproval rating were 22 per cent and 65 per cent respectively. The support rate for Abe’s administration has been falling since its birth in September 2006.

The polls were the latest following a crushing defeat of Abe’s ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) in the House of Councillors election held on 29 July. Both polls showed that more than half of respondents said they did not believe the Cabinet will perform well in future.

In contrast, major opposition Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ) received more support from the public after the election, as the poll showed. Support rate for DPJ rose to 26.9 per cent and 33 per cent respectively in Yomiuri and Mainichi’s survey, while that for the LDP dropped below the DPJ.

In the Upper House election, the DPJ succeeded to win 60 seats, compared with 37 seats won by the LDP. The DPJ, therefore, becomes the largest party in the 242-seat House of Councillors.

Earthquake jolts Japan’s Okinawa

Tokyo, 7 Aug.—An earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 6.4 rocked southern Japan’s Okinawa Prefecture Tuesday morning, the Japan Meteorological Agency said.

There were no immediate reports of injuries or damage from the 9:02 am (0002GMT), and no tsunami warning was issued.

The epicentre of the quake was shallow in the seabed that is northwest to the main island of Okinawa. The quake measured 3 on the Japanese seismic scale of 7 in Kume Island, the agency said. — MNA/Xinhua

An F-14 Tomcat performs at the 2004 McDonald’s Air and Sea Show in Fort Lauderdale Beach, Fla in this 2 May, 2004 file photo. The Pentagon accidentally sold to the public more than a thousand aircraft parts that could be used on the F-14 fighter jet — a plane flown only by Iran — after saying it had halted such sales, government investigators say recently. — Internet
Through ASEAN, Myanmar has been...  
(from page 1)

As an outward-looking organization, ASEAN has been active in engagement with its dialogue partners and other regional organizations promoting a culture of cooperation rather than confrontation. Interaction with dialogue partners and other regional organizations has led to new and emerging regional architectures such as ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), ASEAN+3 process and the East Asia Summit (EAS) etc., where ASEAN plays a driving force and a leading role. We are very much encouraged that more and more countries in the world have converged to ASEAN-led initiatives and willing to work with us. Through ASEAN, Myanmar has been able to promote its foreign policy goals interacting mutually beneficial ways with dialogue partners.

With the landmark 2005 Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the Establishment of the ASEAN Charter, the leaders of the ASEAN made a commitment to bring about the transformation of the ASEAN. ASEAN is currently working on its Charter to give it its legal personality as well as to further bring about the transformation of the ASEAN.

The adoption of ASEAN Charter, the most significant milestone in the forty years history, will serve as a firm foundation in achieving the ASEAN Community and also confer a legal personality to ASEAN, I am confident that the ASEAN Charter, being drafted, will fulfill the aspiration and shared values of every member country and ASEAN as a whole.

I am glad to see that with the joining of ASEAN, Myanmar has effectively promoted trade and investment relations with ASEAN countries. ASEAN countries play a most important role in FDI inflow, economy of ASEAN. With the realisation of ASEAN Economic Community by 2015, I am confident that people of ASEAN will benefit most from the economic integration.

In the forty-year history, ASEAN not only has succeeded but experienced many challenges and threats such as Asian financial crisis, Haze problem, SARS, outbreak of SARS and Avian Flu. However, together we have shown our resilience and successfully met the challenges. Our way of working in solidarity, consultation, consensus, mutual respect and non-interference is our strength and I am confident that we will overcome the challenges with the cooperation of our partners.

On the socio-cultural fields, ASEAN would be able to address many issues affecting our region. We could be able to promote our regional identity without compromising our own national identity. Interaction among people, scholars, women, youth, media persons and civil society are truly promoting a people-centered ASEAN.

The auspicious occasion the ASEAN Day as well as 40th Anniversary of ASEAN and 10th anniversary of Myanmar joining ASEAN, I wish to join others in congratulating the success of ASEAN and urge people of Myanmar to work together with other ASEAN citizens to realize the ASEAN Vision and to try to achieve ASEAN Community building in order that ASEAN Community will maintain as a cohesive and vibrant Community at the heart of dynamic Asia and the world. — MNA
Posters, pamphlets distributed to educate dengue fever prevention

YANGON, 7 Aug — A ceremony to distribute posters and pamphlets containing prevention of dengue fever was held in conjunction with World Breastfeeding Week at No 2 Basic Education High School in Sangyoung Township today.

Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win delivered an opening address at the ceremony which was jointly organized by Yangon Division Health Committee, Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee and Yangon West District Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee.

Commander Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win and wife Daw Mar Mar Wai distributed the posters and pamphlets to stations under Yangon Command and Yangon District MCWSC.

Daw Mar Mar Wai, Chairperson of Yangon Division MCWSC, also delivered an address and presented cash awards to winners of the essay competition to mark the World Breastfeeding Week.

Afterwards, Head of Yangon Division Health Department Dr Hla Myint briefed on activities of the World Breastfeeding Week and presented folic acid tablets and iodized salts to expectant mothers and breast feeding mothers. — MNA

MWAF observes World Breastfeeding Week for 2007

Deputy Minister Dr Mya Oo addresses the ceremony to commemorate the World Breastfeeding Week.— MNA

YANGON, 7 Aug — Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation organized a ceremony to mark World Breastfeeding Week for 2007 at the federation in Bahan Township this morning.

Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo made an opening speech.

Next, Vice-President Daw Khin Lay Myint of MWAF also spoke on the occasion.

Also present on the occasion were the president of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association and CEC members, patrons of MWAF, members of Yangon Division WAO, officials of the Ministry of Health and members of social organizations.—MNA

Basic librarian course opens

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Aug — Information and Public Relations Department of the Ministry of Information opened a basic librarian course No 1/2007 at the ministry here today.

On behalf of Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Director-General U Chit Naing of IPRD delivered a speech.

A total of 51 trainees are attending the four week course.

Also present on the occasion were Managing Director of News and Periodical Enterprise U Soe Win, officials of the departments and enterprises under the ministry and course instructors. — MNA

New kind of medicine for stomach ulcers introduced

YANGON, 7 Aug — A ceremony to introduce a new kind of medicine for stomach ulcers namely Razo (Rabeprazole 10mg and 20mg) developed by Dr Reddy’s Laboratories Ltd was held in conjunction with a medical seminar at Traders Hotel, here, on 4 August.

Present on the occasion were professors, specialists, doctors and responsible persons.

Mr Kumar of Dr Reddy’s Co Ltd extended greetings.

Next, Dr Manu Tandan of India gave talks on Gerd and non-variceal bleeding to the attendees.

Dr Reddy’s medical company, Indian-based one, is developing over 250 various kinds of medicines and selling them to over 100 world nations.

The new medicine is imported and distributed by Hero International Enterprise Ltd.—MNA

Host Vietnam deny visitors Myanmar’s hope of reaching final

YANGON, 7 Aug — ASEAUN U-20 Youth Football Championship of 2007 went on in Ho Chi Minh City of Vietnam at 3.30 pm Vietnam time today.

Host Vietnam with home advantage saw off visitors Myanmar with 3-1 in the first semifinal.

Myanmar takes on the third place clash against the loser of the match between Thailand and Malaysia at 3.30 pm on 9 August. — MNA

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago.
The second best time is now.
Boosting production of agricultural products and increasing exports discussed

YANGON, 5 Aug — The meeting on boosting production of agricultural products and increasing exports was held at the hall of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, here, yesterday afternoon.

Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Huay Oo and Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein gave speeches.

President of UMCCIU Win Myint and those present discussed boosting of agricultural crops production, local food sufficiency and export of surplus crops and improvement of quality strains.

Later, the meeting ended with the concluding remarks by Minister Maj-Gen Huay Oo. — MNA

Minister on inspection tour of Thepyubin main power station in Bago Div

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Aug — Minister for Electric Power No 2 Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint together with Director-General of Department of Electric Power Dr Thein Tun, Managing Director U Tin Aung of Electric Power Distribution Enterprise and officials concerned went on an inspection tour of 230/33/11 KV (100) MVA Thepyubin main power station in Yedashay Township, Bago Division, on 4 August.

At the briefing hall, Project Director U Tin Aung briefed the minister and party on progress in building the power station, layout plan and stockpile of construction materials with the use of charts.

After hearing the reports, the minister gave instructions on timely completion of the power station and supervision on quality of construction materials. Next, Chief Engineer U Aye Thaw gave a supplementary report.

Afterwards, the minister and party inspected four (100) MVA transformers in the construction site. After then Managing Director U Soe Tint of Soe Electrical Company Ltd briefed the minister and party on installation of transformers. Next, the minister gave instructions on emphasis to be placed on occupational safety and installation of transformers as soon as possible.

After inspecting progress in building the power station, the minister gave necessary instructions and attended to the needs. — MNA

Information Minister receives Thai guests

YANGON, 7 Aug — Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan received President Dr Nongluck Phinimitisart, President of Shin Satellite Public Co Ltd and party at MRTV on Pyay road, here, this afternoon.

Director-General of MRTV U Khin Maung Htay, Managing Director U Aung Myo Myint of Myanmar Motion Picture Enterprise, Chief Engineer U Tin Wam of MRTV and Country Representative, Myanmar, Mr Nuthapong Temsiripong of the company were also present. — MNA

Minister receives Indian guests

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Aug — Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin received President and Managing Director Mr Ajay Krishna Goyal of Republic of India Angelique International Limited and party at his office, here, yesterday.

Also present at the call were Deputy Minister Lt-Col Khin Maung Kyaw and officials. — MNA

Advanced Applied Pharmaceutical Management course opens

YANGON, 6 Aug — Myanmar Pharmaceutical and Medical Equipment Entrepreneurs’ Association opened an Advanced Applied Pharmaceutical Management course No 1 on 1 August.

It was opened at the office of the association at Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry Office Tower in Lannadaw Township.

A total of 22 trainees are attending the course which will last till 30 August. Further information is available at the association (Ph- 214834). — MNA

Volvo saloon catches fire

YANGON, 6 Aug — A blue Volvo saloon caught fire on Alanpaya Pagoda Road in Mingalar Taungnyunt Township at about 2.15 pm yesterday as fuel oil overflowed from its carburetor. But 14 members of Fire Brigade managed to put out the fire. Due to the fire, the whole engine room and the two rear tyres were destroyed and the dashboard and cushion were partially damaged. — MNA
**World's largest plastics recycling plant operates in Beijing**

**BEIJING, 7 Aug** — The world’s largest plastics recycling processing plant, capable of recycling 60,000 tons of waste plastics annually, has begun operating in Beijing.

Operated by Beijing Incom Resources Recovery Co Ltd, the plant has an investment of 300 million yuan (37.5 million US dollars), said an official with the Beijing municipal industry promotion bureau on Monday.

Li Ping, director of the bureau, said the plant’s annual capacity equaled one third of the city’s total annual waste plastics amount, and would result in 30,000 tons of clean polyester pieces and 20,000 tons of bottled polyester chips — equivalent to a saving of 300,000 tons of petroleum annually.

“The line will contribute greatly to Beijing’s energy saving endeavour,” said Li Ping.

Figures from the Beijing Municipal Packing Technology Association show that waste plastic bottles amounted to 150,000 tons in 2007 in Beijing, and are expected to surge to 300,000 tons in 2010.

Tons of thousands of migrant workers formed the previous so-called waste plastics recycling system. They collected and purchased discarded bottles, and transported the bottles to urban-rural fringe zones for cleaning and crushing, which resulted in a low-level and high-polluting recycling market.

According to the packing technology association, Beijing has more than 150 low-level workshops, with daily capacities of one to three tons. About 15 to 20 tons of water are needed for handling each ton of waste plastics.

Li Ping said Beijing had encouraged more enterprises to participate in building logistics and sorting centres for waste plastics. Beijing Incom would set up four such centres this year to help build a recycling system for waste plastic bottles.

**Iraq truck bomb kills 27, US rebukes politicians**

**BAGHDAD, 7 Aug** — A truck bomb in northern Iraq flattened homes and killed 27 people on Monday, police said, while Washington expressed growing impatience with a stalled political process that has failed to reconcile sectarian groups.

Rescue workers were sifting through rubble in an attempt to find survivors from the attack in the town of Tal Afar, near the Syrian border. About 30 people were injured, police said.

In eastern Baghdad, six people died and nine were wounded when street cleaners were hit by a bomb hidden in a rubbish bin.

Overnight, police in the town of Baquba in Diyala Province, where US and Iraqi forces have mounted an offensive against insurgents over the past several weeks — found 60 decomposing corpses in tall grass.

In Baghdad, police said they had recovered 18 bodies.

The violence came as Iraqi politicians prepared for talks this week to restore a unity Cabinet that was designed to reduce sectarian strife by including members of all communities but hit a crisis last week when the main Sunni Arab group pulled out.
Drought affects 9.8 m hectares of crops in China

BEIJING, 6 Aug—Long drought, coupled with high temperature, has affected 147 million mu (9.8 million hectares) of crops in China, according to the State Flood Control and Drought Relief Headquarters.

The drought also left 7.53 million people and 5.08 million head of livestock short of drinking water.

Cheng Dianlong, deputy chief of the headquarters’ office, said Heilongjiang Province and most of the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region and many regions in southern China received 50 to 90 per cent less rain since July compared with average levels.

Sustained hot weather made the drought worse as many parts in the south recorded more than 25 days with temperature above 35 centigrade between 1 July and 2 August, he said.

Large reservoirs in eight regions including Guangdong, Jiangxi, Heilongjiang, and Guangxi hold 15 billion cubic metres less water than a year ago, he said. It was reported that drought affected 44 per cent arable land in the eastern province of Jiangxi, 35 per cent in Heilongjiang, and 33 per cent in Hunan.

Residents act as members of Shi’ite Mehdi army militiamen during a play commemorating the militiamen who were killed during the 2004 uprising against the US military, in Baghdad’s Sadr City on 6 Aug, 2007. — Internet

Sudan, China to build $630m Mauritania railway

NOUAKCHOTT, 6 Aug—Sudan’s Danfodio Holding and China’s Transnet Engineering have signed an agreement to build a 460-million-euro (634-million-US-dollars) railway line linking Mauritania’s capital Nouakchott with southern phosphate deposits at Bofal.

The deal for the 430-kilometre (290-mile) line, which will run close to the Islamic Republic’s southern frontier with Senegal, was signed late on Friday in Nouakchott with private Mauritanian investors and Transport Minister Ahmed Ould Mohameden.

“This line will allow the exploitation of the Bofal deposits and open up isolated areas of Mauritania with considerable animal, agricultural and mineral resources,” Mohameden said at the signing.

The Mauritanian Government hopes the line can link Mauritania to an existing West African rail network covering Senegal, Mali and Burkina Faso. The proven reserves of phosphate, commonly used in fertilizers, at Bofal are around 165 million tons. The government forecasts an annual production of two million tons over 30 years. — MNA/Reuters

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Israel may build nuclear power plant

JERUSALEM, 6 Aug—Israel is considering plans to build a nuclear power station in its southern Negev Desert, the Israeli infrastructure minister was quoted as saying on Saturday. Israel’s Army Radio quoted the minister, Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, as saying at an engineers conference: “The Israeli Government will make a historical decision concerning the creation of a nuclear power station ... in the Negev”. The Ministry of Infrastructure was unavailable for comment on the report, which appeared on Army Radio’s website.

Army Radio said the plan to build the nuclear power plant was supported by Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and would be considered by the government in a few months. — MNA/Reuters

China’s automaker Chery to supply Fiat with 100,000 engines

HEFEI, 6 Aug—China’s fast-growing Chery Automobile Co Ltd and Italy’s Fiat Auto have signed an agreement that Chery will supply Fiat with 100,000 engines a year, Xinhua reported on Monday.

The agreement was reach eight months after the two sides inked the memorandum of understanding on the deal.

“The agreement means that Fiat, who had been testing Chery’s engines during the past year, have recognized the technologies and quality of the engines developed by Chery,” Zhou Biren, deputy general manager of Chery, told Xinhua.

Chery became China’s fourth largest producer of passenger cars in 2006, with sales of 305,200 vehicles and a 7.2-per cent market share in China. — MNA/Xinhua

DRIVE WITH CARE
Moscow, 6 Aug — Russia will start production of a submarine-based intercontinental ballistic missile after a recent successful test that followed repeated misfires, Russia’s Navy chief said on Sunday according to Interfax news agency.

Admiral Vladimir Masorin said Russia had decided to order the industrial production of parts for the Bulava missile after a successful launch on 28 June from the White Sea.

“After the results of this, a decision was made to start creation of the military base for the system,” Masorin said. Four out of the past six test launches since 2005 have failed, Russian media have reported.

“After every unsuccessful test a massive amount of work is carried out to find out the cause of the failure,” Masorin said in the Ukrainian port of Sevastopol, where Russia’s Black Sea fleet is based. He added that Russia would make two more long-range tests of the Bulava this year, but he said the details were secret.

Russia has the second largest submarine fleet in the world, after the United States. The fleet is the cornerstone of its nuclear deterrent. Bulava is a flagship project that President Vladimir Putin has said can pierce any anti-missile shield.

Cyprus bans animal imports from Britain after aftosa

Nicosia, 6 Aug — Cyprus has banned animal imports from Britain after a case of aftosa was found there, the Cypriot Government announced on Sunday. Other emergency measures include that visitors arriving on the Mediterranean island from Britain should pass health checks.

He added that Cypriot authorities were trying to turn back a shipment that was due to arrive on Sunday or Monday with 80 animals from UK.

However, “there is no cause for panic”, Cyprus News Agency quoted Photiou as saying. Aftosa, also known as foot-and-mouth disease, is a highly contagious viral disease affecting practically all cloven-footed domesticated mammals, including cattle, sheep, goats, and pigs. — MNA/Xinhua

File photo shows a female snow leopard with its cub inside its enclosure at a zoological park in Darjeeling, about 80 km (50 miles) north from the northeastern Indian city of Siliguri on 21 June, 2007. Snow leopards were among 104 furs of rare wild animals found in an apartment in Gansu, China, media said on Monday. — Internet

Andy Lau biggest winner of HK Mandarin music awards

Beijing, 6 Aug — Cantonese-speaking superstar singer Andy Lau Saturday garnered six big prizes at the Metro Radio Mandarin Music Awards, continuing his reign as the king of Hong Kong’s only music awards for Mandopop. The awards, that went to Andy Lau included Song of the Year, Singer of Asia and Outstanding Album, for his latest work “Miracle World.” The Hong Kong native walked away as the biggest winner of the night, despite several other Mandarin-speaking singers from the Chinese mainland vying for glory.

The 45-year-old music mainstay, whose name is attached to dozens of Mandarin albums, has been the awards’ biggest winner every year since its inauguration in 2004, by Hong Kong’s MetroShowbiz 99.7 FM.— Internet

Ocean protection advocates urge US Navy to stop tests

Los Angeles, 6 Aug — Ocean protection advocates on Sunday urged the US Navy to temporarily halt 14 tests of high-powered sonar devices believed to be capable of causing unbearable pain to whales and other ocean mammals.

To make their voices heard, a group of advocates will try to convince a federal judge on Monday to convey their message to the US Navy. Attorneys for the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) will make their case before a US District Court. They are to ask for a temporary restraining order to block the Navy from testing high-powered underwater noise generators that they say cause whales to intentionally beach themselves, either in confusion or in pain.

In court documents, NRDC officials cite evidence that “is very convincing and appears overwhelming” that the very-loud underwater noises can travel hundreds of miles and cause whale strandings. At issue is a mid-frequency sonar system called the SURTASS LTA system, which animal rights activists say caused numerous whale and dolphin strandings when it was first tested in 2003.— MNA/Xinhua

NASA workers perform their duties around the solid rocket boosters of the Space shuttle Endeavour on launch pad 39B at the Kennedy Space Centre in Cape Canaveral, Florida on 6 Aug, 2007. Endeavour is scheduled to travel to the International Space Station on 8 Aug. — Internet

Five volcano eruptions predicted in Indonesia every year

Jakarta, 6 Aug — The Indonesian Geology Agency has predicted five volcano eruptions for the country annually as it sits on a highly vulnerable zone, local Press said on Monday.

Indonesia is positioned at a zone called “the Pacific Ring of Fire,” where two continental plates meet and cause frequent seismic and volcanic movements. An estimated 129 active volcanoes spread across the sprawling archipelago and five eruptions were a reasonable estimation, reported English daily The Jakarta Post.

The country’s volcanoes accounted for 13 percent of volcanoes worldwide, head of volcanic mitigation and disaster Surono was quoted as saying.

Last month, the 700-meter-high Mount Gamkonora in West Halmahera, North Maluku, unexpectedly erupted, causing thousands to temporarily flee their homes.

Agency officials Sunday remained on standing as the Papandayan volcano in Garut, West Java, and Merapi volcano in Yogyakarta were registered as being in a “cautionous” status. — Xinhua

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Flesch triumphs in Reno by 5 shots

LOS ANGELES, 6 Aug — American Steve Flesch became the PGA Tour’s first wire-to-wire winner this season with a five-shot victory at the Reno-Tahoe Open in Reno, Nevada on Sunday.

Five ahead of the field overnight, the 40-year-old from Ohio clinched his third Tour title with a level-par 72 at a breezy Montreux Golf and Country Club.

Left-hander Flesch, who had not won since the 2004 Colonial tournament, shrugged off two bogeys in the first six holes to post a 15-under total of 273.

Four-times Nationwide Tour winner Kevin Stadler of the US closed with a 70 to share second place alongside compatriot Charles Warren (71) at 10 under.

Reno native Rich Barcelo birdied the last two holes for a best-of-the-day 68 to finish a further two strokes back in a tie for fourth with fellow American John Merrick (74).

Australian Steve Elkington (73) and American Shaun Micheel (72), both former winners of the PGA Championship, finished at seven under, level with Zimbabwe’s Brendon de Jonge (72).

Most of the Tour’s biggest names were competing in this week’s WGC-Bridgestone Invitational at Firestone Country Club in Akron, Ohio where Tiger Woods claimed his fourth title of the year by eight shots.

Woods eases to victory by 8 shots at Firestone

AKRON (Ohio), 6 Aug — Tiger Woods, playing superbly in wet conditions at Firestone Country Club, cruised to an eight-shot victory at the WGC-Bridgeon Invitational on Sunday.

One stroke behind pace-setting Rory Sabbatini at the start of the day, Woods fired a five-under-par 65 to win the tournament for a record sixth time, and a third year in a row.

The American world number one overhauled Sabbatini with three birdies in the first four holes before romping to his 58th PGA Tour career title and fourth this season.

He twice chipped in from just off the green on route to an eight-under total of 272 and a 14th individual victory in a World Golf Championships (WGC) event.

Britain’s Justin Rose fired a four-birdie 68 to share second place with South African Sabbatini (74) at level par, one ahead of American Chris DiMarco (70) and Australia’s Peter Lonard (68).

Woods, who has also won six times at the WGC-CA Championship, made an ideal start on a damp, overcast morning.

Sharapova overpowers Schnyder in San Diego final

SAN DIEGO, 6 Aug — Top seed Maria Sharapova won her first title of the year by beating Patty Schnyder 6-2, 3-6, 6-0 in the San Diego Classic final on Sunday.

Sharapova used a powerful baseline attack to break the left-handed Swiss six times amid a flurry of 37 winners, but she did not have things all her own way.

After Sharapova closed out the first set by ripping a backhand down the line, the 11th-seeded Schnyder cleverly began to move the tall Russian around the court.

Sharapova used a powerful baseline attack to draw level in the final minute to win the third place playoff in the Russian Acura Classic tennis tournament in Carlsbad, California on 5 Aug, 2007. — XINHUA

Milan beat Lokomotiv to take third place in Railways Cup

MOSCOW, 6 Aug — European champions AC Milan beat Lokomotiv Moscow on penalties after drawing level in the final minute to win the third place playoff in the Russian Railways Cup on Sunday.

Lokomotiv took an early lead and stayed ahead until Milan equalized 3-3 in the 14th minute and then Milan won the penalty shootout 5-4.

Milan defender Dario Simic conceded an own goal in the 6th minute when he headed a cross from Peter Odemwingie into the box.

Kaka equalized in the 22nd minute then Brancislav Ivanovic pushed Lokomotiv ahead again seven minutes later from a corner. Odemwingie dribbled around Milan’s keeper Dida and into an open goal to extend the lead to 3-1 in the 42nd minute.

Milan rallied in the last two minutes of the second half, Clarence Seedorf slammed in a pass from Marek Jankulovski in the 88th minute and then Christian Brocci popped in an elegant goal to take Milan equal. — MNA/Reuters

Schenk, 2-0 when the Swiss erred on a drop shot. — MNA/Reuters

Shelly holds up the trophy after defeating Patty Schnyder of Switzerland during their singles final at the Acura Classic tennis tournament in Carlsbad, California on 5 Aug, 2007. — XINHUA

Shelly of the US holds the Gary Player Trophy after winning the Bridgestone Invitational golf tournament in Akron, Ohio on 5 Aug, 2007. — XINHUA

Schalke crush Eintracht Trier 9-0 in German Cup

BERLIN, 6 Aug — Schalke 04 tuned up for the start of the Bundesliga season by crushing Fifth Division Eintracht Trier 9-0 on Sunday in the first round of the German Cup.

Gerald Asamoah scored a hat-trick for Schalke while six of his team-mates also got on the score sheet in the lopsided victory on the first weekend of competition in the new season.

Last season’s runners-up Schalke, who face champions VfB Stuttgart in Friday’s league opener, led a clean sweep by nine Bundesliga clubs at the expense of lower division teams after two top sides suffered surprise exits on Saturday.

Bayern Leverkusen were beaten 1-0 by Second Division side St. Pauli 1-0 and Energie Cottbus lost 6-5 on penalties to Third Division Rot-Weiss Essen.

MNA/Reuters

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MNA/Reuters

Paris, 6 Aug — Olympique Lyon started their quest for a seventh successive Ligue 1 title with an easy home 2-0 win over Auxerre on Sunday.

Lyons, who have lost several important players during the close season, most notably French midfielder Florent Malouda to Chelsea, dominated and were never in danger.

Czech striker Milan Baros opened the scoring on 32 minutes, collecting a through ball from midfield Jeremy Toulalan to beat Auxerre keeper Olivier Sorin from close range.

France forward Karim Benzema doubled the advantage 20 minutes from time with a superb shot from the edge of the box.

Remy Vercoutre, deputizing in the Lyon goal for France keeper Gregory Coupet, who will undergo knee surgery on Monday and will be sidelined for four months, hardly had anything to do.

Another satisfaction for new Lyon coach Alain Perrin, who has taken over from Gerard Houllier, was newcomer Kader Keita.

The zippy midfielder, who joined from Lille, thrilled the Gerland crowd with exciting moves and received a standing ovation when he was substituted in the second half.

Metz, back in the top flight after winning the Ligue 2 title last season, lost 1-0 at Le Mans in their opening match of the campaign earlier on Sunday.

Serbia defender Marko Basa headed home the only goal of the match in the first half.

MNA/Reuters

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MNA/Reuters

Woods of the US holds the Gary Player Trophy after winning the Bridgestone Invitational golf tournament in Akron, Ohio on 5 Aug, 2007. — XINHUA

Paris, 6 Aug — Olympique Lyon started their quest for a seventh successive Ligue 1 title with an easy home 2-0 win over Auxerre on Sunday.

Lyons, who have lost several important players during the close season, most notably French midfielder Florent Malouda to Chelsea, dominated and were never in danger.

Czech striker Milan Baros opened the scoring on 32 minutes, collecting a through ball from midfield Jeremy Toulalan to beat Auxerre keeper Olivier Sorin from close range.

France forward Karim Benzema doubled the advantage 20 minutes from time with a superb shot from the edge of the box.

Remy Vercoutre, deputizing in the Lyon goal for France keeper Gregory Coupet, who will undergo knee surgery on Monday and will be sidelined for four months, hardly had anything to do.

Another satisfaction for new Lyon coach Alain Perrin, who has taken over from Gerard Houllier, was newcomer Kader Keita.

The zippy midfielder, who joined from Lille, thrilled the Gerland crowd with exciting moves and received a standing ovation when he was substituted in the second half.

Metz, back in the top flight after winning the Ligue 2 title last season, lost 1-0 at Le Mans in their opening match of the campaign earlier on Sunday.

Serbia defender Marko Basa headed home the only goal of the match in the first half.

MNA/Reuters
US peace effort faces Middle East credibility gap

BEIRUT, 7 Aug — A US plan to host a Middle East peace conference is intended to signal a new commitment to resolving the Israel-Palestinian conflict.

But many in the region doubt President George W. Bush can muster the perseverance and even-handedness in his last 17 months in office to deliver on the two-state solution he proposed in his first 17 months in office to deliver. Bush can muster the hand of the Gaza Strip. Visiting the Middle East last week, US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice proposed an international conference, perhaps in October, that would discuss a “declaration of principles.” Previous outlines for resolving the conflict, from the 1993 Oslo accords to the 2002 “road map,” have never led to deals on final borders and the fate of refugees and Jerusalem. “The Bush Administration has talked a good peace process, but has done very much,” said Israeli analyst Yossi Alpher, adding the conference was unlikely to be a major milestone.

Bush has mostly avoided close engagement in the Arab-Israeli conflict, often to the frustration of Washington’s mediating partners — the European Union, Russia, and the United Nations.

“We have been asking for these type of developments,” Cristina Gallach, spokeswoman for EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana, said of the planned international conference.

But an EU official said the details of the meeting were not yet known and conditions for a breakthrough seemed lacking.

MNA/Reuters

Fire fighters and civilians try to hose down a forest fire near the medieval Adriatic town of Dubrovnik, Croatia, late Sunday, 5 Aug, 2007. Firefighters in Croatia succeeded on Monday in bringing forest fires that had endangered the ancient city of Dubrovnik under control after a frantic overnight battle.

INTERNET

Radio Myanmar

Wednesday, 8 August

Tune in today

8:30 am: Brief news
8:35 am: Music: “Unchained melody”
9:00 am: Music: “Love you for always”
9:05 am: International news
9:10 am: Article: “Lesson in love”
1:30 pm: News / Slogan
1:40 pm: Lunch music: “Feel – On & on”
9:00 pm: Variations on a theme “Unbridled music”
9:10 pm: Article: “External flame”
9:30 pm: Music at your request

Outlook for subsequent two days: Increase of rain in the Eastern and Lower Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 8-8-2007: Likelihood of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 8-8-2007: One or two rain. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 8-8-2007: Likelihood of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Flood Bulletin

(issued at 12:30 hr for MST on 7-8-2007)

According to the (06:30) hr MST observations today, the water levels of Ayeyawady River at Mandalay (1300) cm, Sagaing (1206) cm and NyangU (2215) cm are exceeded (49) cm at Mandalay (50) cm at Sagaing and (95) cm at NyangU above their respective danger levels. The water levels may remain above the danger levels of Mandalay (1260) cm, Sagaing (1150) cm and NyangU (2120) cm during the next (72) hrs following (11:00) hrs MST today.

According to the (06:30) hr MST observation today, the water level of DoleikhaWadi River at Myingyi (972) cm exceeded its dangerous level (870) cm during the next (72) hrs following (11:00) hrs MST today.

According to the (06:30) hr MST observations today, the water levels of AyeSawaddy River at Mandalay (1300) cm, Sagaing (1206) cm and NyangU (2215) cm are exceeded (49) cm at Mandalay (50) cm at Sagaing and (95) cm at NyangU above their respective danger levels. The water levels may remain above the danger levels of Mandalay (1260) cm, Sagaing (1150) cm and NyangU (2120) cm during the next (72) hrs following (11:00) hrs MST today.

According to the (06:30) hr MST observation today, the water level of DoleikhaWadi River at Myingyi (972) cm exceeded its dangerous level (870) cm during the next (72) hrs following (11:00) hrs MST today.

WEATHER

Rainfall on 7-8-2007 was (1.65) inches at Mingaladon, (1.38) inches at Kaba-Aye and (1.93) inches at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2007 was (85.59) inches at Mingaladon, (86.97) inches at Kaba-Aye and (88.31) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (6) mph from Southwest at (13:30) hrs MST on 6-8-2007.

Bay inference: According to observations at 06:30 hrs MST today, low pressure area over the Northwest Bay has become unimportant. Monsoon is weak in the Andaman Sea and moderate to strong in the Bay of Bengal.

Special features: According to the satellite observations at (11:00) hrs MST today, the topographical depression over the South China Sea has crossed the Vietnam Coast near Dongting.

Forecast valid until evening of 8-8-2007: Rain will be isolated in Kayah State and lower Sagaing Division, fairly widespread in Kachin State, Magway, Yangon and Tanintharyi Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with locally heavy rainfall in Rakhine State, isolated heavyfalls in Magway and Bago Divisions. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were (0.96) inches at Kyaukpyu and (1.36) inches at Myitkyina. Maximum temperature on 7-8-2007 was 74ºF. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours on 5-8-2007 was (13%) inches at Kaba-Aye and (1.93) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (6) mph from South- west at (13:30) hrs MST on 6-8-2007.
Meetings of delegate groups of National Convention continue

YANGON, 6 Aug — The meetings of delegate groups of intellectuals and intelligentsia and other invited persons were held at the designated places of Nyaunghnapin Camp, Hmaubaw Township, this morning, attended by members of panel of chairmen and National Convention delegates.

Before the meeting chairman Dr Thein Nyunt presided over the meeting as an alternate chairman together with U Thein Oo Po Saw and U Khin Zaw as members of panel of chairman.

Deputy Director U Than Win of National Convention Convening Work Committee Office acted as MC and Assistant Director U Nyein Myint as co-MC. The meeting chairman declared the start of the meeting valid as there accounted for 96.43 per cent in attendance.

Next, Dr Thein Nyunt made an opening speech on the occasion and Dr U Thein Oo Po Saw and U Khin Zaw explained clarification made by Chairman of the NCC Work Committee regarding already-adopted basic principles, amendments, additions and repeals of basic principles and detailed basic principles.

Next, the delegate group set up a team of compiling proposed paper to be put forward.

Afterwards, the alternate chairman made concluding remarks and the meeting concluded.

Delegate group of Other Invited Persons

The meeting of the delegate group of other invited persons was held at the meeting hall-8 at 9.30 am today. U Tun Aung Chein presided over the meeting as an alternate chairman together with U Sai Tun Tun and U Aung Hkam Hti as members of panel of chairmen.

Deputy Director U Aung Kyi of National Convention Convening Commission Office acted as MC and Assistant Director U Win Myint as co-MC. The meeting chairman declared the start of the meeting valid as there accounted for 98.86 per cent in attendance.

Next, U Tun Aung Chein made an opening speech on the occasion. U Sai Tun Aung explained clarification made by Chairman of the NCC Work Committee U Aung Toe regarding already-adopted basic principles, amendments, additions and repeals of basic principles and detailed basic principles.

Next, the alternate chairman made concluding remarks and the meeting concluded.

People in trouble owing to four-cut scheme being prompted by NLD

YANGON, 7 Aug — A total of eleven members including U Tin Tun Naung, U Soe Naing, U Ye Myint, Daw San Myint, Daw Thida and U Thein Win of Twantay Township National League for Democracy of Yangon Division resigned from NLD of their own accord on 15 July.

They sent their resignation letters to NLD headquarters and local authorities concerned.

In their letters sent to Twantay Township Multi-party Democracy General Election Sub-committee, they said that NLD, without serving the interests of the State and the people, was mainly dependent on some big foreign nations. It committed itself to undermining the interests of the nation and the people.

The people had been in trouble owing to the four-cut scheme being practised by NLD. Therefore, they were no longer interested in the party’s activities and quit of their own volition, they said.—MNA

“Special weather news”

(Issued at 13:00 hrs MST on 7-8-2007)

According to the satellite observations at (11:00) hrs MST today, the tropical depression over the South China Sea has crossed the Vietnam Coast near Danang.

Under the influence of the tropical depression, isolated heavyfalls are likely in Mon, Kayin, Kayah and Shan States, Mandalay, Magway, Bago and Yangon Divisions during the next (48) hrs commencing noon today.