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Friday, 18 August, 2006

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

Secretary-1 discusses regional development with national race leaders of Shan State



Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein visits a technical school in Pangsán. — MNA

of Special Region-4, Shan State (East), on 15 August morning.

They were welcomed there by Shan State (East) Special Region-4 General Secretary U Min Ein and national race leaders, social organizations and students.

The Secretary-1 and party held a meeting with national race leaders at the office of Shan State (East) Special Region-4.

The national race leaders reported on efforts they have made for elimination of narcotic drugs in the region, accomplishments in the agricultural, education, health and transport sectors for regional development, and requirements.

(See page 8)

At the technical school in Pangsán, 73 trainees are attending the basic construction course, basic mechanic course, basic electrical course and welding course.

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Aug — Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, accompanied by SPDC Member Lt-Gen Kyaw Win of the Ministry of Defence, Military Affairs Security Chief Maj-Gen Ye Myint, Shan State (East) PDC Chairman Triangle Region Command Commander Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing, the ministers, the deputy ministers, SPDC Information Committee

Chairman Information Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, local and foreign journalists, Acting Dean of Diplomatic Corps to the Union of Myanmar Cambodian Ambassador Mr Hul Phany, foreign ambassadors and charges d' affaires ai, resident representatives of UN agencies, officials, Myanmar Police Force Director-General Brig-Gen Khin Yi and departmental officials, left Kengtung by helicopter for Mongla



Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein meeting with national race leaders of Special Region-4 in Shan State (East) at Mongla. — MNA

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 18 August, 2006

Wipe out narcotic drugs with the strength of people

In accordance with the 15-year drug elimination plan, Myanmar has been working hard for supply elimination, demand elimination and law enforcement in the areas covered by the plan. As a result, the Kokang region was declared a drug-free zone in 2003, and the Wa region was declared an opium cultivation free zone in June, 2005.

Now, the government is accelerating the momentum of its fight against narcotic drugs, the local people, on their part, are lending their active and enthusiastic cooperation.

With the active participation of the national race group of the Wa Special Region, an opium refinery in Khampar region was raided last May and precursor chemicals, stimulant tablets and related paraphernalia including arms and ammunition were seized. The value of narcotic drugs seized from that opium refinery was estimated at US \$ 416 million.

In the same way, drug trafficking and drug-related crimes have been successfully exposed and it is also owing to the tip-off offered by conscientious people. In May this year, heroin blocks, stimulant tablets, a machine used in producing drugs and arms. The seized drugs were worth millions of US dollars.

As Myanmar is carrying out drug elimination work with the participation and cooperation of the local people, national race groups, neighbouring countries, other nations in the region and international organizations, we believe that Myanmar's efforts to wipe out narcotics will be crowned with success.

“သတိပေး နှိုးဆော်ချက်”

(က) မိုးရွာစဉ် ယာဉ်မောင်းလျှင် အောက်ပါအချက်အလက်များ သတိပြုပါ။

- (၁) လမ်းပေါ်တွင် စက်ဆီချောဆီများ ဖိတ်စင်လျှင် လမ်းချောနိုင်သည်။
- (၂) မော်တော်ယာဉ်တီးများ ပန်းမရှိလျှင် လမ်းချောနိုင်သည်။
- (၃) မော်တော်ယာဉ်များ လေပေါင်ချိန် များလွန်းလျှင် လမ်းချောနိုင်သည်။
- (၄) လမ်းပေါ်တွင် ရွှံ့နွံများရှိလျှင် လမ်းချောနိုင်သည်။
- (၅) အရှိန်ပြင်းစွာ မမောင်းပါနှင့်။
- (၆) ဘရိတ်ကို ရုတ်တရက် မနှင်းပါနှင့်။
- (၇) ကုန်တင်ယာဉ်များ ဟန်ချက်ညီမျှရန် ဂရုပြုပါ။
- (၈) ရေလျှော်တံပါရှိရမည်။ ကောင်းမွန်ရမည်။
- (၉) မိုးသည်းထန်စွာ ရွာသွန်း၍ မြင်ကွင်းမကောင်းလျှင် ရှေ့မီးကြီးကို ဖွင့်မောင်းပါ။
- (၁၀) မြေသယ်ယာဉ်၊ အုတ်၊ သဲ၊ ကျောက် သယ်ယာဉ်များ ဖိတ်စင်မှု မရှိစေရန် လုံခြုံစွာ တင်ဆောင်ပါ။
- (၁၁) အထက်ပါစည်းကမ်းချက်များအားမလိုက်နာ၍ ယာဉ်တိုက်မှု၊ ယာဉ်တိမ်းမှောက်မှုများ ဖြစ်ပွားပါက ထိရောက်စွာ အရေးယူခြင်း ခံရမည်။

ယာဉ်စည်းကမ်းထိန်းသိမ်းရေးကြီးကြပ်မှုကော်မတီ

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

Medicines, medical equipment donated to military hospital, Meiktila General Hospital

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Aug — Vice-President of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association Daw Aye Aye and party donated medicines and medical equipment to the local military hospital in Meiktila on 15 August.

Vice-President Daw Aye Aye explained the purpose of the donations, and handed over medicines and medical equipment to the commandant of the hospital.

Next, the vice-president and party visited the Pre-Primary School of the MCWA of the local military hospital.

At Meiktila General Hospital, Vice-President



Vice-President Daw Aye Aye of MMCWA presents medicine to Medical Superintendent U Myo Than of Meiktila General Hospital.— RAILWAY

Daw Aye Aye presented medicines and medical equipment to Medical Superintendent U Myo Than. Also present on the occasion were Chairman

of Meiktila District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Lu Tin and MCWA members, doctors and nurses. Afterwards, the vice-

president and party viewed the Child Nursery in Paukchaung Ward and presented toys to the children.

MNA

Bangkok-Yangon-Bangkok trip of Thai Air Asia launched

YANGON, 16 Aug — The Bangkok-Yangon-Bangkok trip of Thai Air Asia was launched at Yangon International Airport this morning.

Director-General U Tun Hlaing of Department of Civil Aviation, Managing Director U Tin Maung Tun of Myanmar Airways, Director-General U Htay Aung of Directorate of Hotels and Tourism, Thai Ambassador Mr Suphot Dhirakaosal and Chairman of the airlines Mr Arak Cholthanod formally opened the ceremony.



Officials of Civil Aviation Department, Myanmar Airways and Directorate of Hotels and Tourism, Ambassador of Thailand H E Suphot Dhirakaosal and Chairman of Thai Air Asia Mr Arak Cholthanod formally open a launching ceremony of Bangkok-Yangon-Bangkok maiden flight of Thai Air Asia.— MNA

Thai Air Asia will run Bangkok-Yangon-Bangkok trip daily. B737-300 flight comprising 148 seats will land at Yangon

at 8 am daily and leave Yangon at 8.30 am. Today's airplane carrying 114 passengers landed at Yangon Inter-national

Airport on its maiden flight at 8.17 am and left carrying 139 passengers at 9.15 am.

MNA

Noritsu brand QSS digital printer processor, refreshment introduced

YANGON, 17 Aug — A ceremony to introduce Noritsu brand QSS digital printer processor and refreshment imported by Noritsu Singapore Pte Ltd and Accel International Co Ltd was held at Traders Hotel, here, yesterday afternoon. Managing Director Mr Alvin Law of Accel International Co Ltd extended greetings.

Regional Sale Manager Mr KB Leong of Noritsu Singapore Pte Ltd and U Thiha Zaw of Accel International Co Ltd explained matters related to the new printer processor.

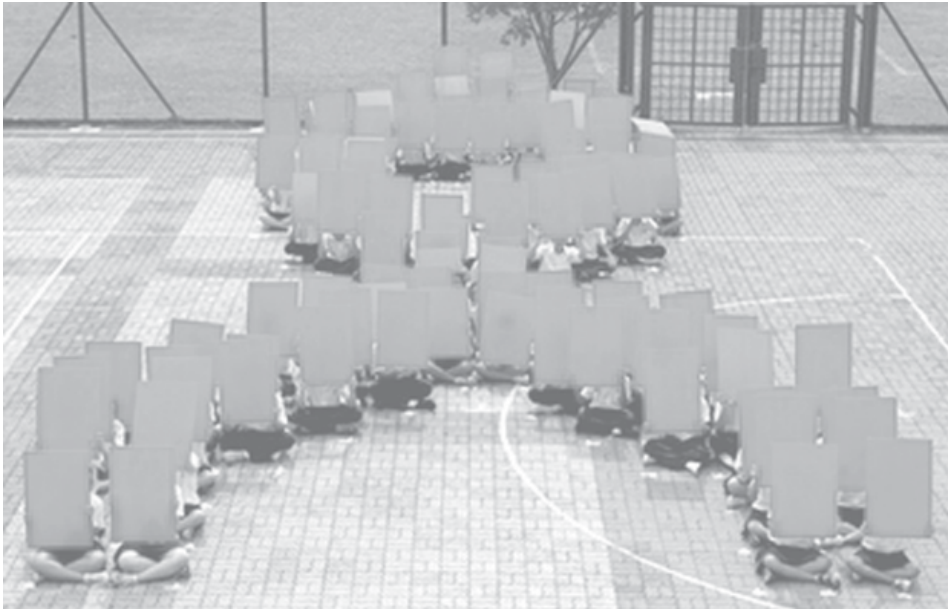


The new digital printer processor and film developer at No 422-426, the sixth floor, Forest Product Joint-Venture Commercial Building on Botahtaung Pagoda Road, Tel: 202092 and 202096. MNA

printer processor and film developer at No 422-426, the sixth floor, Forest Product Joint-Venture Commercial Building on Botahtaung Pagoda Road, Tel: 202092 and 202096. MNA

A responsible person introduces Noritsu Digital printer processor Noritsu Singapore Pte Ltd and Accel International Co, Ltd at Traders Hotel.—MNA

ထုတ်တုန့်နှစ်ဆ တိုးမြှင့်ကြ



About 100 students sit in the formation of the AIDS ribbon during an AIDS awareness programme held in their school, on 16 Aug, 2006 in Singapore. Singapore's Health Ministry reported that the city-state recorded 255 cases of HIV infections in the year 2005, bringing the total number of cases to 2,641 since its first records in 1985.—INTERNET

Iranian President lauds Hizbollah, blasts US "crimes"

TEHRAN, 16 Aug—Iran's President praised on Tuesday Hizbollah's resistance to Israel during a month-long conflict in Lebanon and said the United States and Britain should pay compensation for war damage.

President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad was speaking after US President George Bush told Iran on

Monday, when a fragile truce went into effect in Lebanon, to stop supporting armed groups trying to derail democracies in Iraq and Lebanon.

Iranian state media revelled on Tuesday in what officials called a "glorious victory" by the Iranian- and Syrian-backed Hizbollah.

"This war showed that any nation that relies on God and fights for its rights will surely be victorious," Ahmadinejad told a crowd in the northwestern city of Ardebil.

"Britain and America are the main associates of the Zionist regime (Israel) in its offensive to Lebanon and should compensate Lebanon for the damage," he said in the speech, broadcast live on state television. "Those governments should answer for their crimes in Lebanon."

State TV broadcast pictures from several Iranian cities showing groups of a few dozen people chanting and waving the Lebanese group Hizbollah's flag to celebrate. —MNA/Reuters

Flight diverted to Boston over passenger disturbance

BOSTON, 16 Aug—Fighter jets escorted a London-to-Washington, DC, flight to Boston's Logan airport Wednesday after the pilot declared an emergency because an apparently claustrophobic passenger caused a disturbance, federal officials said.

The federal security official for Logan said there was no indication of terrorism and denied reports that the woman had a screw driver, matches and a note referring to al-Qaeda.

The passenger aboard United Flight 923 said she was claustrophobic and became very upset and got into some kind of confrontation with the flight crew, said George Naccara, security director for the Transportation Security Administration for Mas-

sachusetts' airport.

The disturbance — coming just a week after authorities in London said they foiled a terror plot to blow up trans-Atlantic flights — was enough to concern the pilot to issue an alert, which activated two fighter jets to escort the plane into Logan, Naccara said.

Two F-15s were scrambled from Otis Air National Guard Base on Cape Cod to escort the airliner, said Master Sgt Anthony Hill, spokesman for the North American Aerospace Defence Command in Colorado Springs, Colorado. He said the fighter pilots can intercept, shadow or escort commercial aircraft and, if ordered, shoot down an aircraft deemed to be a threat.—Internet



Children follow a 'wa,' or Japanese style, robot to make a motion of Japanese dancing during a special summer robot show in Tokyo on 17 Aug, 2006. With more joints in its legs and arms, the 35-centimetre-tall 'wa' robots, dressed in traditional Japanese kimono robes, were made for an educational programme and perform Japanese style dancing. —INTERNET

Seven hospitalized over gaseous smell in New York

NEW YORK, 16 Aug—Seven people were hospitalized with headaches and nausea in Queens and Staten Island, two of the five boroughs of New York City Tuesday after they complained of a strange and gaseous smell, a fire official said. According to fire department spokesman Thomas Kane, more than 100 Staten Islanders and a half-dozen Queens residents made phone calls about the smell. The calls began around 9:30 am and continued into the late afternoon.

The Staten Island calls came from the borough's north shore, while the Queens callers mostly were in the southern part. Boaters also called to report the smell. The US Coast Guard and fire and utility officials were called to help locate the source of the odor.

The Coast Guard said it dispatched pollution investigators after getting complaints from boaters about an odor in areas near the bridge linking New Jersey and Staten Island.—MNA/Xinhua



Paris Hilton poses for photographers as she arrives for her in-store CD signing of her debut album titled, 'Paris' in New York City, on 16 August, 2006.

INTERNET

Six carriages of freight train turn over in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 16 Aug—Six carriages of a freight train coming from Malaysia to Singapore turned over near the Henderson Road in the southern part of the city state around 5:40 pm local time (0940 GMT) Monday, Channel NewsAsia report said at night. The 13-carriage train was loaded with sugar and the six carriages from the end broke away from

the rest part of the train and turned over.

The accident caused no casualty but suspended the railway service between Singapore and Malaysia, the report said, adding that

some 500 passengers were held up at the Tanjong Pagar Railway Station in Singapore.

The railroad within the territory of Singapore and the Tanjong Pagar Rail-

way Station are owned and managed by the Malaysian Railway (KTM), Malaysia's national railway company, due to some historical reasons.

MNA/Xinhua



An Iraqi police officer checks the site of two car bomb attacks in Baghdad on 16 Aug, 2006.—INTERNET

Tropical storm "Sonamu" exits from Philippines, moving towards Japan

MANILA, 16 Aug—Tropical storm Sonamu exited the Philippines Tuesday and continues to move toward southeastern Japan, local media reported. As of 10 am Sonamu was located 1,350 kilometres east-northeast of Basco, Batanes, with maximum winds of 65 kilo-

metres per hour and gusts of 80 kilometres per hour, said a report by ANC TV.

The storm is moving east northeast at 28 kilometres per hour and is forecast to reach 1,030 kilometres east of Okinawa, Japan, Wednesday morning, said the report.

An earlier report said seven people were killed and another one was missing in several landslides triggered by heavy rains in Lanao del Norte and Zamboanga del Sur, southern Philippines on Tuesday.

MNA/Xinhua

China watchdog blames improper disinfection for "Xinfu" deaths

BEIJING, 16 Aug — China's national drug watchdog on Tuesday cited substandard disinfection as a major factor leading to the lethality of a suspect antibiotic injection, which has allegedly killed six people.

The "Xinfu" drug manufactured in June and July by Anhui Huayuan Worldbest Biology Pharmacy Co was not sterilized properly, with both the sterilization temperature and time below the state-required safety level, said China's State Food and Drug

Administration (SFDA). "As required, the drug should go through a 30-minute disinfection process at 105 degrees Celsius. But the company lowered the temperature to 100 to 104 degrees Celsius and shortened the time to only one to four minutes," said Wang Zhexiong, an official with the safety supervision department of the SFDA. Disinfection cabinets were also overloaded with the injection, and thus could not effectively wipe out bacteria, Wang said.

The administration

promised to punish the company for its production faults and held related producers and managers accountable, but gave no details.

The administration has sent out an investigation team to inspect the pharmaceutical company in East China's Anhui Province. Test on the injection sample conducted by the team has detected excessive bacteria. Wang said further analysis is needed to find out what kinds of bacteria the sample contains.—MNA/Xinhua

Russian climbers go missing on K2

ISLAMABAD, 16 Aug — Many experts say K2 is a tougher climb than Everest.

Four Russian mountaineers have gone missing in Pakistan on the world's second highest mountain, K2. The four climbers, who disappeared on Sunday, were part of a 10-member international expedition.

Three injured French climbers from another expedition had to be evacuated by military personnel from another mountain in northern Pakistan. The two expeditions faced treacherous weather. Many experts regard K2 as a more perilous climb than Everest.

The team trying to scale the 8,611m (28,251ft) K2 — also known as Mount Godwin Austin — consisted of eight Russian, one Irish and one Polish climber. They were beaten back by severe weather.

The leader of the

expedition is among the missing climbers.

The team was on its way back from its last camp when the four went missing, said Naiknam Karim, an official with the company organizing the climb.

He also said there was an avalanche on the mountain but it is not clear whether the climbers were hit by it. Rescue helicopters were not able to go on a search due to bad weather, Mr Karim said.

Internet

Mountain of luggage left in British airports

LONDON, 16 Aug — Thousands of passengers leaving British airports on Tuesday were doing so without their luggage, which has been held up by security measures brought in after last week's alleged plot to blow up transatlantic airliners.

British Airways said it was trying to clear a backlog of 5,000 bags at Heathrow and other airlines were experiencing similar problems.

"We've got articulated lorries going into cities in Britain and Europe and we are using Fed Ex to

send bags to Europe and the US," a spokeswoman for the airline said.

"We currently have around 5,000 bags waiting

to be despatched to their owners." The airline has been forced to cancel 1,100 flights as a result of the heightened security

checks and has said it may seek compensation from airport operator BAA.

The BAA spokeswoman said there were two main reasons why the bags had not got on the planes with their owners.

"When the first set of hand baggage restrictions came in and everyone had to put a lot of things into the hold that they wouldn't have done before, it put a lot of pressure on the BAA baggage system which at times ground to a halt completely."

MNA/Reuters



Isabelle Maeght of the Aime Maeght Foundation stands behind the sculpture "Le Chien" at the Art gallery of New South Wales in Sydney on 17 Aug, 2006. The sculpture is part of an exhibition of work by Swiss-born artist Alberto Giacometti that have primarily been drawn from the Aime Maeght Foundation in Southern France.—INTERNET



Baggage is seen at London's Heathrow airport, on 16 Aug, 2006. British Airways reported it planned to operate 90 percent of scheduled services from Heathrow Airport on Wednesday and resume a full schedule on Friday.—INTERNET

North China city reports more Encephalitis B cases

YUCHENG (Shanxi Province), 16 Aug — Yuncheng City of north China's Shanxi Province reported 65 cases of Encephalitis B as of Monday, up from Sunday's figure of 60.

Of the 65 people, 19 have died, 38 are being treated in hospital, four are being treated at home and four have fully recovered and have been discharged

from hospital, according to the daily update from the Yuncheng City Health Bureau.

Effective measures have been taken to curb the spread of the disease since the first case of Encephalitis B was reported in the city on 13 July, said bureau head Zhou Ying.

Local people were told

how to protect themselves from contracting the disease, the environment was cleaned up and vaccination was enhanced in the affected and nearby areas, Zhou added.

All these efforts have paid off and the epidemic situation is under control, the official said. Nine out of the 13 counties of the city, which has a population of 5 million, have reported cases of Encephalitis B, said the local disease control centre.—MNA/Xinhua



Hong Kong star Andy Lau holds a Press conference in Beijing on 15 Aug, 2006 to promote his latest highly anticipated Cantopop album "Voice". — INTERNET

Romania to establish national air quality assessment system

BUCHAREST, 16 Aug — Romania plans to establish an integrated air quality assessment and management system across the country by the end of the year, said the National Agency for Environmental Protection on Tuesday.

Ioan Gherhes, chairman of the Agency, said that the

action is in line with the commitments by Romania under EU accession negotiations on the environment.

The National Meteorological Administration, in cooperation with the Bucharest Agency for Environmental Protection, has started a project of an air quality measuring system.

local media reported.

Information supplied by the system makes it possible to anticipate pollution at a given time and place in the capital city, it said, adding that Bucharest is among the first Central and East European capitals to implement such a project.—MNA/Xinhua



Five twins posed for a picture in a town in western France on 15 Aug, 2006. Thousands of twins, triplets and quadruplets for all over the world get together in the town for the annual party for them.—INTERNET

စက်မှုပစ္စည်းအား ခေတ်တော်လွှား

Singapore starts issuing biometric passports

SINGAPORE, 16 Aug—Singapore began issuing biometric passports (BioPasses) Tuesday after installing and testing new application processing systems at the Immigration and Checkpoints Authority (ICA) in the past five days.

In accordance with the standards set by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the BioPass features a contactless integrated-circuit chip embedded in the polycarbonate data page, which

incorporates the passport holder's facial and fingerprint information as biometric identifiers.

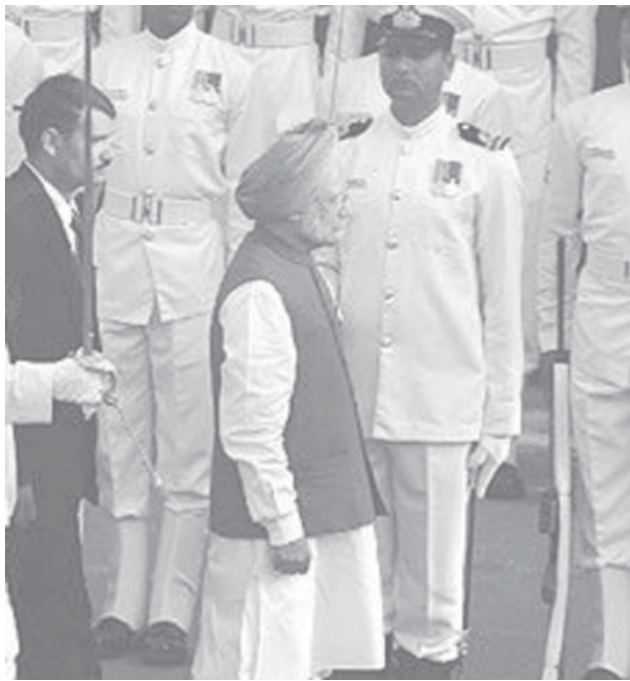
Optical variable ink, multiple laser images and a kinegram, which partially covers the holder's photograph and personal particulars, are also used to enhance the document's security.

It is expected that the new passport will help enhance Singapore's border security by curbing the mobility of terrorists and transnational criminals.

The issuance of the BioPass also enables Singapore to remain on the United States' Visa Waiver Programme, which allows Singaporeans to visit America for 90 days without applying for visas.

Having received thousands of applications for BioPasses, which cost 80 Singapore dollars (about 51 US dollars) each, the ICA expects to process some 3,000 applications a day, local media reports said.

MNA/Xinhua



Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh (C) inspects guard of honour during Independence Day celebrations at Red Fort, in New Delhi, capital of India, on 15 August, 2006.

INTERNET

Bolivia, Argentina plan new gas pipeline project

LIMA, 15 Aug — Bolivia and Argentina on Monday agreed to build a new natural gas pipeline and a gas separation plant and planned to hold an international licensing round this December for the contract.

Bolivian Vice-President Alvaro Garcia and Argentine Planning Minister Julio de Vido announced the project at a Press conference after a meeting in the eastern Bolivian city of Santa Cruz de la Sierra.

The pipeline project is part of a broader plan to increase Bolivia's gas exports to Argentina to 27.7 million cubic metres a day (mcd) for 20 years starting in January, from 20 million mcd.

Some weeks ago, Argentine President Nestor Kirchner and his Bolivian counterpart Evo Morales agreed to raise the price of Bolivian gas exports to Argentina to five US dollar per British thermal unit (BTU), from 3.50 dollars per BTU, until the end of this year. Bolivia also hopes to increase prices by a further 20 per cent next year.

Garcia estimated the cost of the pipeline project at some 1.2 billion dollars and the plant costs at about 250 million dollars, which would be paid for completely by Argentina. —MNA/Xinhua

Japan tanker's Indian Ocean spill

LONDON, 15 Aug—A Japanese tanker travelling from the Middle East to Japan spilled about 4,500

tonnes of crude oil in the Indian Ocean, according to its operator.

The spill happened around 290 miles (470 km) off India's Great Nicobar Island when the tanker went to assist another vessel.

It was rescuing crew from a ship on fire and damaged its oil tanks when the two ships hit, Mitsui OSK said.

The spill was contained and there was no danger of further leaks. The spill was the largest involving a Japanese-operated

tanker, Mitsui said.

But environmental impact would be limited because the collision occurred out to sea and the oil should disperse naturally. There were no reports of injuries from the accident, which occurred on Monday.

Great Nicobar is the southernmost of India's Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Indian and Singaporean authorities had been informed of the leak, the company said.

Internet



Roadside bomb kills seven in east Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 17 Aug — Seven people were killed and 18 wounded on Wednesday by a roadside bomb in Baghdad, a police source said.

The attack was under a highway flyover and near a hospital in the east of the capital, the source said. All the casualties were civilians.

US and Iraqi forces last week launched their latest clampdown in Baghdad to stem a rising tide of sectarian violence, which top US officers warn could tip the country into a full-scale civil war.

MNA/Reuters

Study shows long-term health effects from West Nile virus

WASHINGTON, 16 Aug— More than a year after being diagnosed with a West Nile virus infection, half of the patients have ongoing health complaints including fatigue, memory problems, headaches, depression, and tremours, according to an article in the new issue of Clinical Infectious Diseases on Wednesday.

The study reports that those patients who were diagnosed with the relatively benign manifestation of West Nile fever are just as likely to suffer later health problems as are those who were hospitalized with more severe West Nile virus-related illnesses such as encephalitis or meningitis.

People can become infected with West Nile virus when they are bitten by a mosquito that has previously bitten an infected bird. The virus was first found in the United States in 1999. In 2003, there were more than 9,000 human cases of West Nile virus-related disease, including 264 deaths.

Most people infected

with West Nile virus have no symptoms.

However, approximately 20 percent of patients will develop a flu-like illness called West Nile fever.

Up to 1 percent may develop more severe diseases such as meningitis or encephalitis.

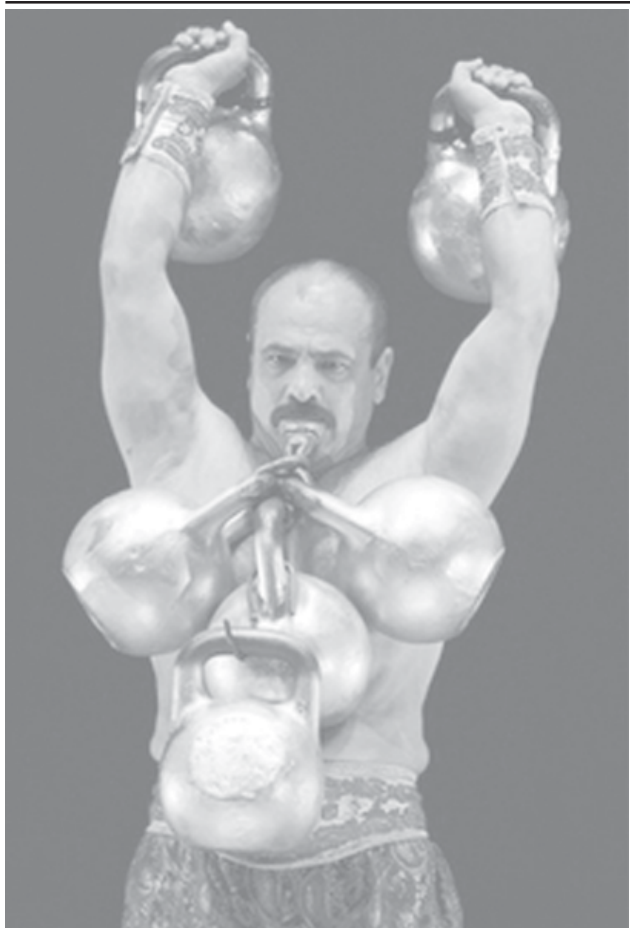
Lead author Paul Carson, MD, of Merit Care Health System and the University of North Dakota, said, "We were seeing patients coming back long after having had West Nile fever saying they had ongoing problems. People would say things like 'I'm not myself, I'm more fatigued, I have more trouble with my memory.'"



People can become infected with West Nile virus when they are bitten by a mosquito that has previously bitten an infected bird. —INTERNET

The authors of this study tested 49 patients approximately 13 months after they were diagnosed with either West Nile fever or one of the more severe diseases.

Internet



Strongman Bakhrom Akhnazarov from the Moscow State Circus holds steel balls in his teeth as he gives a display prior to a show which is on at the Meadows at Edinburgh Festival, Edinburgh, Scotland, on 15 Aug, 2006. The show will run between on 15 Aug until 2 Sept.—INTERNET

ADB, Philippine officials meet on development of EAGA

MANILA, 15 Aug—Representatives of the Philippine Government and Asian Development Bank (ADB) met on Monday in Davao, southern Philippines, to enhance their coordination on the Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA), said ADB in a Press release.

“This important sub-regional grouping has great potential for economic growth that will

improve the lives of millions of people living in these areas,” said Rajat M Nag, director general of the ADB’s Southeast Asia Department.

“ADB and the government of the Philippines share a common vision of a brighter future of BIMP-EAGA,” he said.

The ADB believes that the EAGA has shifted its development approach to one of enhancing its competitive advantage in the world market as a sub-

region, he said.

Philippine Cabinet Secretary Jesus G Dureza, who is also the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process in Mindanao and Philippine Signing Minister for BIMP-EAGA, discussed with participants the area’s potential in tourism, transportation, small business development and natural resource issues, said ADB.

The BIMP-EAGA was formally launched in 1994

as a key strategy of the participating governments to address the social and economic development of their less developed and more remote territories, with the immediate goal of encouraging more trade, investments and tourism in the area.

The BIMP-EAGA consists of Brunei Darussalam, all the Kalimantan and Sulawesi provinces, Maluku and Papua in Indonesia, Sabah and Sarawak states and the Federal Territory of Labuan in Malaysia, and Mindanao and Palawan in the Philippines.

MNA/Xinhua



Colombian singer Shakira performs during her ‘Oral Fixation’ tour concert at Staples centre in Los Angeles on 15 Aug, 2006.—INTERNET



A great blue heron walks through a patch of lotus flowers in Echo Park in Los Angeles, on 15 Aug, 2006.—INTERNET

Flood kills 125 in southern Ethiopia

ADDIS ABABA, 15 Aug — A flash flood has killed 125 people in remote southern Ethiopia a week after more than 250 died in a similar disaster in the east of the country, police said on Monday.

“The death toll is 125 with more than 870

homes destroyed,” Inspector Daniel Gezahenge, a spokesman for the southern region police force, told Reuters by telephone.

An official with the state-run Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Agency (DPPA) said Desenetch and Njangache

districts, as well as Omorate town, were swamped when the Omo River burst its banks on Sunday.

“Many villagers are still surrounded by flood water,” he said, adding that a DPPA team was heading to the area, some 1,200 kilometres (745 miles) south of the capital Addis Ababa.

Flash floods typically hit lowland areas after heavy rains drench Ethiopia’s highlands in the June-August rainy season.

MNA/Reuters



An Israeli soldier reacts after leaving Lebanon following a ceasefire on 14 Aug, 2006. Guns fell silent across southern Lebanon on Monday after a UN-brokered truce went into effect to end five weeks of fighting between Israel and Hizbollah that killed more than 1,250 people and wounded thousands.—INTERNET

Philippines rushes to contain oil spill

MANILA, 15 Aug — The Philippines rushed ships and equipment on Monday to the seas surrounding the central island of Guimaras to stop the country’s

potentially largest oil spill from spreading to other coastal areas.

The Philippine Coast Guard said it had sent two ships to search for two

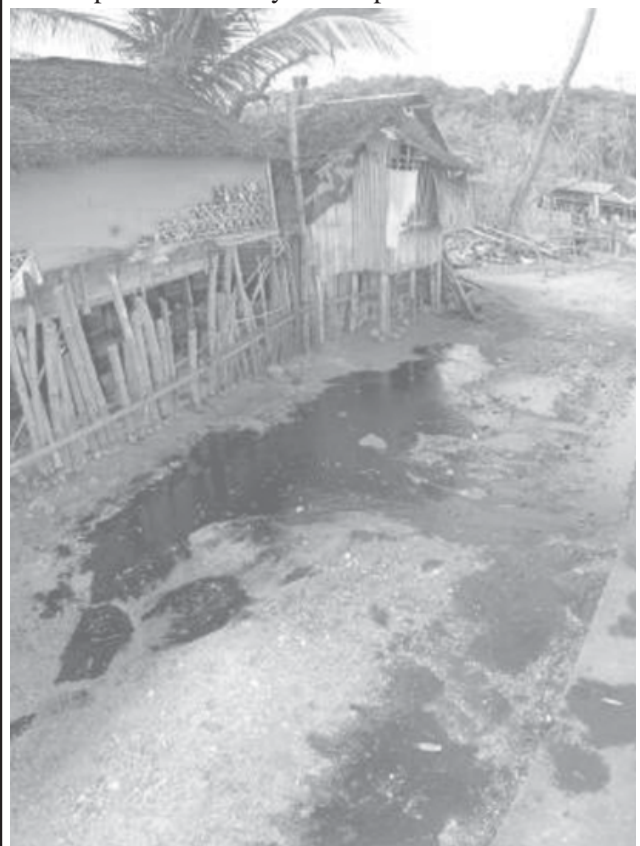
missing crew and help in the clean up of bunker oil that leaked from a tanker which sank near Guimaras on Friday.

“Based on an aerial survey yesterday, the spill now covers 15 square nautical miles,” Lieutenant Joseph Coyme, Coast Guard spokesman, told Reuters.

“If we consider that all two million litres of bunker oil spilt, then this would be the largest oil spill in the country,” he added.

Coyme said the Coast Guard was still trying to determine how much bunker oil had seeped from the submerged tanker, *Solar 1*, which was chartered by Petron Corp, the country’s largest oil refiner. Petron and rival Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp were also sending two tugboats and oil spill equipment.

MNA/Reuters



Houses along the Guimaras island’s coastal area in central Philippines are smeared with bunker oil on 16 Aug, 2006.—INTERNET

WHO, UNICEF to boost access to essential medicines for children

GENEVA, 16 Aug—The World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) have jointly put forward a plan to boost access to essential medicines for children, the two agencies said on Monday.

“Children are often hailed as the hope and future of humanity, but they don’t benefit enough from pharmaceutical research and technology,” said Dr Howard Zucker, assistant director-general at WHO, in a Press release.

“Too often, the right medicines for children, in the right dosages and formulations are missing from the spectrum of available treatment options. So WHO and UNICEF will work quickly with partners to change this,” he said.

According to WHO and UNICEF, 10 million children die every year, many of them from diarrhoea, HIV/AIDS, malaria, respiratory track infection or pneumonia.

Effective interventions

exist for those illnesses but there’s a lack of knowledge of how best to use the available medicines in children, and a lack of paediatric formulations of the medicines.

WHO and UNICEF’s joint plan to boost access to essential medicines for children was delivered following an international meeting held at WHO’s headquarters in Geneva on 9-10 August. During the two-day discussion, a mix of more than 20 developed and developing countries,

non-governmental organizations, regulatory agencies, UNICEF and WHO staff prioritized a long- needed approach to overall paediatric care.

A top priority resulting from the meeting is to dramatically expand access to much needed child-focused formulations such as fixed dose combinations (several pills in one), which is crucial for children’s correct use of medicines and treatment adherence.

MNA/Xinhua

Grow groundnut for surplus edible oil production

Maung Wa (Agriculture)

Of the two main edible oil crops — groundnut and sesame — the former proves to be more commercially viable thanks to increase in per acre yield through the use of new strains distributed by Agriculture Research Centre whose work totally concerns the development of the agricultural sector in which the government is investing most as social improvement depends on sound foundations of the nation's agro-based economy.

With its annual edible oil per capita consumption rate of about 21.6 pounds, the nation needs over half a million tons for yearly consumption.

The following table for 2004-2005 shows that Myanmar grows groundnut most among cooking oil crops as it yields the highest amount of oil.

Sr	Crop	Total yield (baskets)	Oil in metric tons
1.	Groundnut	83,448,963	212,112
2.	Sesame	22,107,422	196,877
3.	Sunflower	26,5198,80	99,366
4.	Mustard	16,59,644	12,260
5.	Niger	2,126,134	17,445
	Total		538,060

Rapid increase in groundnut sown acreage is largely due to groundnut oil's popularity among people of all ages and doctors' recommendation as the most suitable item for health. Besides, groundnut is one of the profitable crops despite its high cultivation cost.

Groundnut is included in the crops whose per acre yields are rising significantly. Its per acre yield in 2005-2006 was 50.79 baskets, up from 40.88 in 1998-99.

The groundnut research project began at a farm of Magway in 1946. In 1976, research was conducted on groundnut, sesame, niger and rape seed at the extended edible oil division of Yehsin Central Agricultural Research Department whose work of producing quality strains was based on differences in soil and climatic conditions of the places cultivating edible oil crops on a commercial scale.

The present-day groundnut research concentrates on producing high-yield strains with enough strength to resist pest infection and endure water scarcity. Cross-breeding, hybridizing, pest-resistance test, all are being conducted at Yehsin Central Agricultural Research Department, research farms of Magway, NyaungU and Myingyan and groundnut fields, and the result is the creation of new strains such as Hsinpadetha 1,2,5,6, and 7. Of the new strains, Hsinpadetha 5, 6 and

7 and SP-12 species have taken over 35 per cent of groundnut sown acreage. Their features and qualities are as follows:

Sr	Crop	oil production yield	per acre rate	significance
1.	Hsinpadetha5	51%	82	disease-resistance
2.	Hsinpadetha6	49%-51%	77	medium endurance for water scarcity
3.	Hsinpadetha7	40%-50%	107	high-yield strain

It is the department that is helping farmers use better cultivation methods, quality strains, correct fertilizers and proper pesticides leading to marked increase in groundnut per acre yield.

The following table shows the nation's groundnut output:

Crop	sown acreage	per acre yield in baskets	baskets output
Monsoon groundnut	797677	42.62	33,988,242
Cold season groundnut	1007251	57.25	57,766,855
Total	1804928	50.79	91,655,097

The methods to raise per acre yield include selecting of quality seeds with 80 per cent germination as seed corn, broadcasting of seeds in systematic rows and equal distance to grow at least 100,000 seedlings in every acre to reap 50 baskets and above of groundnut per acre, using of organic, natural and chemical fertilizers in an appropriate ratio according to the soil condition, weeding to ensure that the groundnut field is clear from all kinds of wild plants during the first 45 days, taking disease control measures and systematic ground preparation.

In this regard, farmers should use the pedigree seed corn distributed by Agricultural Research Department and Myanma Agriculture Service of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation to produce more groundnut.

(Translation: TMT)

Myanma Alin: 16-8-2006

The groundnut research project began at a farm of Magway in 1946. In 1976, research was conducted on groundnut, sesame, niger and rape seed at the extended edible oil division of Yehsin Central Agricultural Research Department whose work of producing quality strains was based on differences in soil and climatic conditions of the places cultivating edible oil crops on a commercial scale.



Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein unveils signboard of Technical School in Pangsan. — MNA

Secretary-1 discusses regional development with national race leaders of Shan State



Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein being welcomed by a national race leader of Special Region-4 in Mongla. — MNA



Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein being welcomed by a national race leader of Special Region-2 in Pangsan. — MNA

(from page 1)

The ministers and deputy ministers dealt with programmes to be implemented ministry-wise to render assistance for the development of Mongla Special Region-4.

In response, the Secretary-1 fulfilled the requirements. Next, he cordially greeted the national race leaders and presented gifts to them.

In the afternoon, the Secretary-1 and party arrived at Special Region 2, Shan State (North), where they were welcomed by Chairman of Shan State (North) PDC Chairman North-East Command Commander Brig-Gen Aung Than Htut, Col Khin Maung

Myint of Tangyan Station, senior military officers, Vice-Chairman of Shan State (North) Special Region-2 U Shauk Min Lyan and national race leaders, service personnel in Pangsan, and local residents.

They met with national race leaders of Shan State (North) Special Region-2 at Mitzin Hotel to coordinate regional development tasks.

The national race leaders presented facts about their drive for drug eradication in the region, work progress in the education, health, agricultural and transport sectors for regional development, and needs.

(See page 9)

Commander Brig-Gen Aung Than Htut, Minister Col Thein Nyunt and U Shauk Min Lyan of Special Region-2 formally open Technical Training School in Pangsan. — MNA





Secretary-1 discusses regional development with national race leaders of ...

Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein gives instructions on regional development tasks at the meeting with national race leaders of Special Region-2 in Shan State (North). — MNA

(from page 8)
The ministers and deputy ministers reported on arrangements to be made by respective ministries for the regional development.

gifts to national race farmers through U Shauk Min Lyan and national race leaders. Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and Maj-Gen Ye Myint also presented gifts to the national race leaders.

tional youths in border areas of the Education and Training Department under the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs in Pangsan.

tional Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt and U Shauk Min Lyan formally opened the school.

The Secretary-1 unveiled the signboard of the facility, and inspected

the training courses at the school and presented cash assistance to the trainees through Principal U Htein Win.

At the school, 73 trainees are attending the basic construction course,

basic mechanic course, basic electrical course and welding course.

The Secretary-1 and party arrived back at Kengtung in the evening.

MNA



Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein presents gift to a national race leader of Special Region-2 in Shan State (North). — MNA



Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein presents gift to a national race leader of Special Region-4 in Shan State (East). — MNA

tended to their needs.
After the meeting, the Secretary-1 presented bags of rice and

After that, the Secretary-1 with his presence graced the opening of the technical school for na-

Commander Brig-Gen Aung Than Htut, Minister for Progress of Border Areas and Na-



Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein presents cash assistance for trainees of Technical School in Pangsan. — MNA

Machine and Machine Tools Factory Project, Technical School inspected

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Aug — Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin inspected sites for construction of workshops of Machine and Machine Tools Factory Project being undertaken by Myanmar Machine Tool and Electrical Industries in Pakokku District on 12 August.

Officials of Myanmar Machine Tool and Electrical Industries, Directorate of Myanmar Industrial Planning, and Myanmar Tyre and Rubber Industries reported on

preliminary engineering tasks, land preparations and cultivation of physic nut plants in the project area.

The minister also inspected construction of roads and drawing of the lay-out plan, and instructed officials to implement the project and grow physic nut plants.

On 13 August, the minister proceeded to Technical School (Mandalay) in Aungmyethazan Township. He heard reports on construction of

buildings, greening tasks and academic matters of the school presented by officials. The minister gave instructions on timely completion of construction tasks, minimizing loss and wastage, practising thrifty, and carrying out of greening task.

On 14 August, the minister inspected banking services of Myanmar Industrial Development Bank (Mandalay Branch) in Chanayethazan Township.

MNA

Information Minister makes an inspection tour of Loimwe

YANGON, 17 Aug — Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, accompanied by Deputy Commander of Triangle Region Command Brig-Gen Wai Lin inspected Loimwe TV retransmission station of MRTV in Loimwe village in Kengtung in Shan State (East) and gave instructions to the officials on 13 August.

Assistant Engineer U Nyunt Hlaing, in charge of Kengtung Zone and staff welcomed the minister and the deputy commander.

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan inspected maintenance of Italy and China-made 250-watt transmitters and the work of the station.

The assistant engineer submitted reports on transmission of 22 retransmission stations and construction of two retransmission stations in Mongka and Mongyun to the minister.

Thereafter, the minister discussed the work of the staff and agricultural tasks on a manageable scale with the officials. He called upon them to disseminate knowledge to local national races living in border areas, to

put information activities into practice with great efforts, to redouble their efforts to give media coverage in the region more than before, to constantly maintain the transmitters for long-term use and to systematically carry out agricultural and livestock breeding tasks.

The minister later inspected Loimwe retransmission stations compound and attended to the needs.

A total of 22 retransmission stations— nine in Kengtung District, six in Monghsat, four in Tachilek and three in Mongphyat— were built in Shan State (East) and all are being commissioned into service. The construction of the new retransmission stations in Mongyun and Mongka is well under way.

The minister and party also viewed development of Loimwe region. Later, the minister visited Loimwe village library, met with young national races and call for becoming well-qualified human resources.

The minister and party arrived back Kengtung in the evening.

MNA



Information Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan meets students learning at Loimwe Village's library. — MNA

Japanese Ambassador calls on Home Affairs Minister

YANGON, 17 Aug— Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo received Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Nobutake Odano at Minister's office here yesterday evening.

Also present at the call were Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Phone Swe,

Director-General U Myat Ko of General Administration Department, Director-General U Aung Saw Win of Bureau of Special Investigation, Deputy Director-General of Myanmar Police Force Police Brig-Gen Zaw Win and officials of the ministry.—MNA



Ambassador of Indonesia HE Wyoso Prodjowarsito welcomes Foreign Affairs Deputy Minister U Maung Myint at the reception to mark the 61st Independence Day of Indonesia Thursday. — MNA

Ministry of NPED, UNICEF ink Country Programme Action Plan



Minister U Soe Tha and Resident Representative of UNICEF sign the Country Programme Action Plan. — MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Aug — Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha and the resident representative of UNICEF signed the Country Programme Action Plan at the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development, here, this morning.

The plan is to be jointly implemented by the Union of Myanmar

and UNICEF.

Also present on the occasion were deputy ministers and directors-general of the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs, the Ministry of Finance and Revenue, and the Ministry of National

Planning and Economic Development, the Deputy Resident Representative of UNICEF, and departmental heads.

The ministries concerned and UNICEF will conduct study and supervisory tasks on health and nutrition matters, water availability, hygienic environment, education, child protection and social matters.

MNA

Minister, Japanese Ambassador ink agreement

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Aug— Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha and Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Nobutake Odano today signed here an agreement to grant Yen 330 million to establish forestry plantation in Arid Zone in Upper Myanmar.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Minister Col Thurein Zaw, Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Col Hla Thein Swe, Deputy Attorney-General Dr Tun Shin, Deputy Governor



Minister U Soe Tha and Japanese Ambassador Mr Nobutake Odano exchange notes on agreement to grant Yen 330 million to establish forestry plantation in dry region in Myanmar. — MNA

of Central Bank of Myanmar Col Than Nyein and officials.

MNA

Minister receives Japanese Ambassador

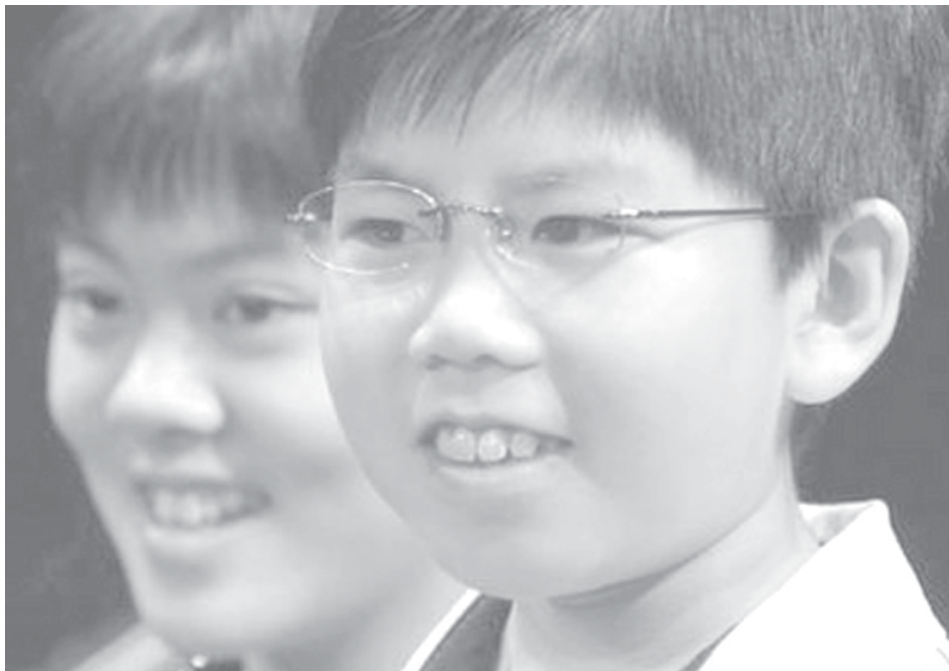
NAY PYI TAW, 17 Aug— Minister for Science and Technology and for Labour U Thaug received Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Nobutake

Odano at Minister's office here yesterday evening.

Also present at the call were Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Win Sein, Director-General of

Labour Department U Chit Shein, Director-General Dr U Ko Ko of Ministry of Science and Technology and officials.— MNA

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago.
The second best time is now.



Aristo Sham, 10, (R) and Wong Wai-yin, 13, from Hong Kong attend a news conference at the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts on 16 August, 2006, after winning the 1st and 3rd prizes respectively during the International Competition for Young Pianists in Ettlingen, Germany last week. Aristo follows in the footsteps of world-renowned Chinese pianist Lang Lang, who won the first prize in Category A in 1994 at the age of 12. — INTERNET

China-Russia scientific cooperation benefits both nations

BEIJING, 17 Aug — Cooperation between China and Russia in science and technology can benefit both nations, said Vice-Minister of Science and Technology Ma Songde on Tuesday.

“China and Russia have witnessed continued cooperation in science and technology and the two governments have outlined many projects on scientific and technological cooperation concerning energy, information, biology and materials,” Ma said during online discussions with netizens on the official

Year of Russia in China website www.2006.rus.com.

Russia enjoys advanced technology in aerospace and China has established a comprehensive scientific research system in this sphere. Meanwhile, China has its advantage in information technology. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Railway service between Singapore, Malaysia resumes

SINGAPORE, 17 Aug — The railway service between Singapore and Malaysia resumed before 8:00 pm local time (1200 GMT) on Tuesday after being suspended by an overturned freight train for more than 24 hours.

According to Channel NewsAsia report, some 50 workers had been working non-stop to remove sacks of sugar, which were loaded on the train, and repair the damage of the tracks.

The train was heading for Tanjong Pagar Railway Station in Singapore from Malaysia when six of its 13 carriages turned over in the southern part of the state Monday afternoon.

The accident caused no casualty but affected more than a thousand passengers, the report said.

— *MNA/Xinhua*

India's Gujarat hit by fresh floods, thousands flee

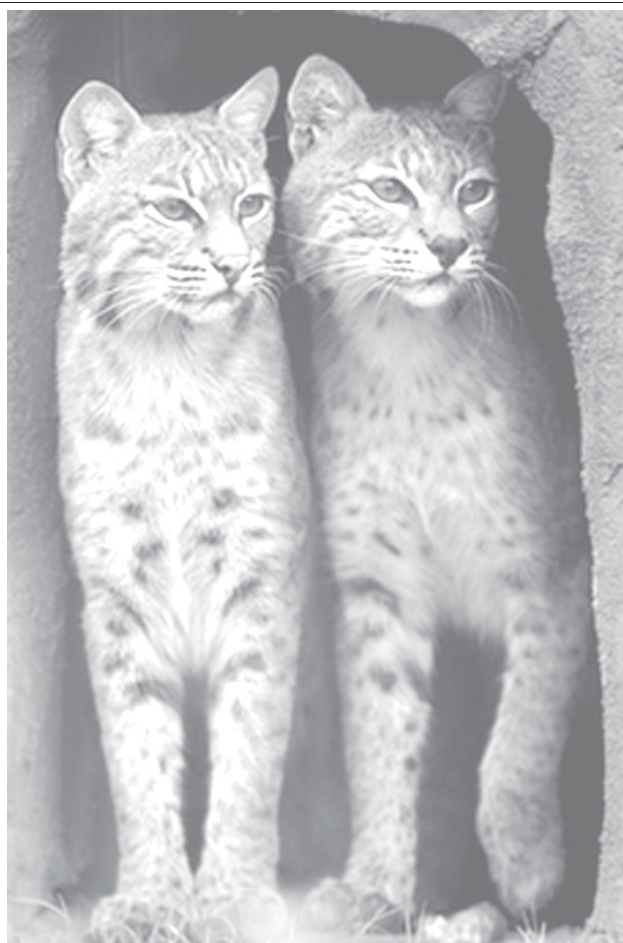
AHMEDABAD (India), 17 Aug — Heavy overnight rains triggered fresh flooding in India's Gujarat state on Wednesday forcing thousands of people to flee their homes, officials said.

Military boats and helicopters evacuated the stranded after rivers burst their banks and flooded houses and fields.

“Floods have forced over 20,000 people out of their homes in nearly 40 villages and in Ahmedabad,” a relief official said, referring to the state's main city.

Much of western and southern India has been badly hit by floods due to annual monsoon rains for the past fortnight, with nearly 400 people killed and up to four million people displaced.

Last week, the state's diamond-trading hub of Surat, was submerged by floods, killing many and leaving thousands marooned. — *MNA/Reuters*



A four-year-old female bobcat, left, and her brother, right, peer into their new habitat at the Oklahoma City Zoo, on Tuesday, 15 Aug, 2006. The bobcats are some of the first animals to take up residence in the Zoo's Oklahoma Trails habitat, which opens to the public in March 2007. Oklahoma Trails is an 8-acre, \$10.3 million natural habitat showcasing more than 800 animals and thousand of plants native to Oklahoma. — INTERNET

NASA in search of missing historic Apollo moon walk video

WASHINGTON 17 Aug — NASA is gearing up for fresh efforts to find the original footage of the historic Apollo moon walk, which has gone missing, the official-in-charge said on Tuesday.

Richard Nafzger, a senior engineer at Goddard Space Flight Centre in Greenbelt, Maryland, said the videos were not lost, but just could not be found right now.

The search had already begun before Nafzger was tasked with the mission on Tuesday, but it is to be just a spare-time job for Nafzger and Stan Lebar, a retired Apollo television camera manager.

However, the search was ordered since NASA now wants data for its new lunar missions.

The work is to find the 15 reels, or three boxes, for Apollo 11's stay on the moon, among 2,000 and more boxes of tapes, Lebar said. Everything from all of the 11 missions is on the tapes, he added.

It is most likely that the tapes are stored at Goddard.

Nafzger said he hoped the search work could be concluded in six months with five staff.

The original video, taken directly from the moon and beamed to deep space network observatories in Australia, has never been seen by the world barring a few technicians, Lebar said. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Strong quake jolts E Indonesia

JAKARTA, 17 Aug — A magnitude 5.9 earthquake struck Indonesia's eastern province of Maluku at 10:05 Jakarta Time Tuesday (03:05 GMT), but there is no immediate report of damages.

The tremor was centred 167 kilometres southwest of the provincial capital of Ambon, said Aprilianto, a staff with the national meteorology and geophysics agency. The epicentre is located 57 kilometres beneath the sea, he said.

— *MNA/Xinhua*



People pose for a photo on a flower-bed in the Alexander Garden next to the Moscow Kremlin, on Tuesday, 15 Aug, 2006. — INTERNET

Russian museum inventory could take 10 years

ST PETERSBURG (Russia), 17 Aug — It may take Russia's museums 10 years to complete an inventory of their treasures following a stolen art scandal at the world-famous Hermitage Museum, a senior official said on Tuesday.

“If the government decides that a commission must count all 79 million artefacts in Russian museums then this could take a decade,” *ITAR-TASS* news agency quoted Anna Kolupayeva, head of the federal culture agency's department for cultural heritage, as saying.

President Vladimir Putin ordered the inventory after thefts were uncovered at St Petersburg's Hermitage Museum late last month. The husband of a curator has been charged with theft.

At least 5 million US dollars worth of artefacts, mainly enamel and silver pieces from the Middle Ages and the 19th Century, were found to be missing.

About 20 of the more than 200 items have been recovered. The Hermitage is one of the world's leading Museums with more than three million artefacts ranging from Stone Age figurines to paintings by Pablo Picasso.

— *MNA/Reuters*

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 Yangon. 18 August 2006

Illegal trade in wild animals, plants must be halted in China

BEIJING, 16 Aug—Speakers at an international conference on wildlife trade crimes held here in July claimed that illegal trade in wild animals and plants has topped 10 billion US dollars, and is the world third largest source of illegal trade after drugs and guns. Cao Qingyao, a spokesman for the State Forestry Administration, said here Tuesday that China is stepping up protection of endangered wildlife resources.

He told a Press conference that a new regulation concerning the import and export of endangered wildlife would come into effect 1 September.

The regulation bans the import and export of endangered wild animals and plants and related products for commercial purposes. It also forbids exports of unnamed and newly discovered wild animals and plants.

The spokesman said since signing the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) in 1981, China has worked out a series of laws and regulations and set up a "sound" management system to ensure the healthy development of the sector.

MNA/Xinhua

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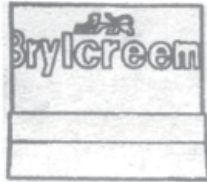
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Three killed by landslide in S Philippines

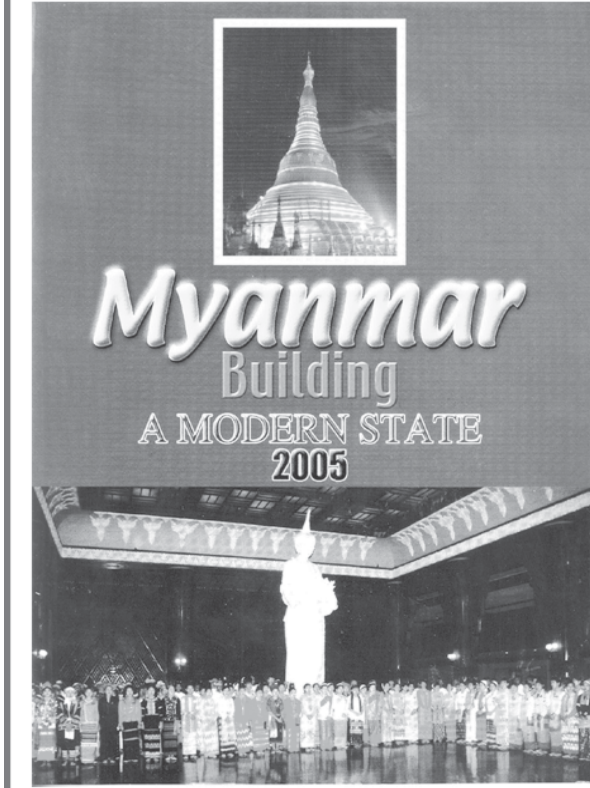
MANILA, 16 Aug—Three people died while seven others injured in a landslide that hit a remote village in Aurora Town in Zamboanga del Sur, southern Philippines, Monday afternoon, relief and disaster management officials reported.

Reports reaching the Office of the Civil Defence (OCD) based in Camp Aguinaldo, military headquarters in Metro Manila, said the landslide was caused by the continuous heavy downpour and hit two passing passenger buses.

Heavy downpour in the province has already affected around 612 families or 2,859 people.

In Zamboanga City, also in southern Philippines, five people remained missing after they went fishing five days ago.

MNA/Xinhua



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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV AN QING JIANG VOYNO (127)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV AN QING JIANG VOY NO (127) are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived on 18.8.2006 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W.S where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

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Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

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WB sees China's economy grows 10.4% this year

BEIJING, 16 Aug—The World Bank said Tuesday China's economy is expected to grow 10.4 per cent this year and 9.3 per cent in 2007.

Although China's gross domestic product expanded by 10.9 per cent in the first half of the year, implying second quarter growth of 11.3 per cent, a pace not seen since 1996, the outlook for the country's economy remains "favourable", prompting no need for overheating worries, the Bank said in a quarterly report released in Beijing.

With production capacity continuing to expand in line with demand, inflation low and the current account in surplus, the main policy concern is not general overheating for now. In the long term, however, the continued investment boom warrants concerns about efficiency and makes more moderate growth desirable, explained the report.

MNA/Xinhua

Malaysian robbers again fail to rob cash machine

KUALA LUMPUR, 17 Aug — Malaysian bank robbers have botched a second daring attempt to steal a cash machine when an excavator they used to carry out the heist got stuck.

Thieves toiled for almost an hour with a stolen excavator to dig two cash machines out of a bank branch in the

northeastern town of Kuala Terengganu on Tuesday.

But they were forced to flee empty-handed when the excavator's digging arm got stuck in the ceiling of the bank, Malaysian newspapers reported on Wednesday.

A week ago, thieves in northwest Penang State used a rope to tie an

automatic teller machine to a truck and haul it through a glass wall and down a flight of stairs — only to discover they had grabbed a cheque-deposit machine by mistake.

In another recent case, thieves loaded a cash machine onto a truck but abandoned it when they discovered it had no cash.

MNA/Reuters



A visitor gives close look to a craftwork made of crystal during the 2006 Sweden Crystal Art Exhibition at Shanghai Library in east China's municipality of Shanghai, on 15 Aug, 2006. The newly-opened exhibition has attracted large numbers of citizens and tourists. —INTERNET

ပညာရေးနှင့် ခေတ်မီဖွံ့ဖြိုးတိုးတက်လာ နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

Iran, Indonesia agree to promote energy cooperation

TEHERAN, 15 Aug— Iranian Minister of Petroleum Seyed Kazem Vaziri Hamaneh has said Iran and Indonesia agreed to promote energy cooperation in various fields, the local daily *Iran News* reported on Monday. The Minister made the remarks after meeting with a special envoy of Indonesia President, who was heading a high-ranking delegation to Iran.

The Indonesian delegation had declared readiness of Indonesian

Government to take part in oil, petrochemical and exploration projects as well as information technology plans implemented by the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC), Hamaneh told reporters.

He also noted that Indonesia had called on Iran for supply of needed chemical fertilizer to Indonesia.

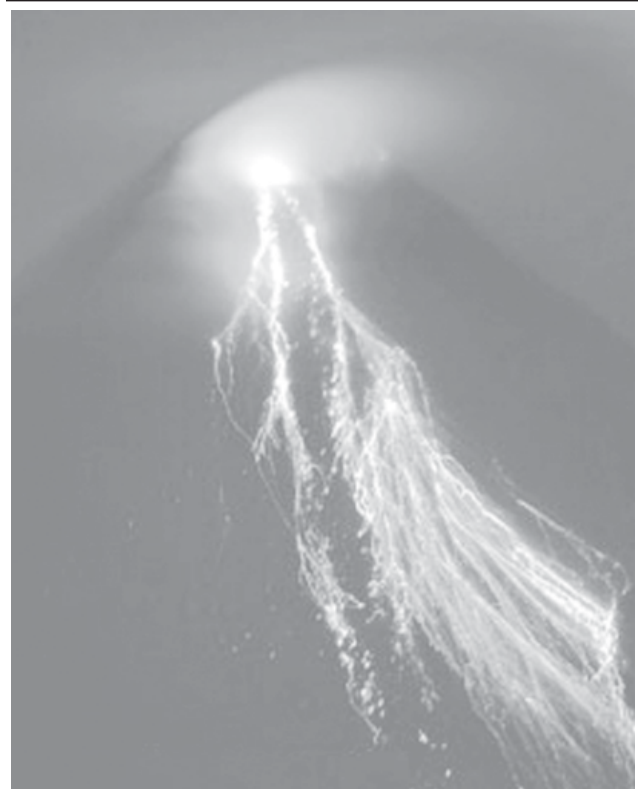
“In view of superior situation of Pars Special Economic Energy Zone in Assaluyeh, the Indonesian side is interested in

investment in production of chemical fertilizer in Assaluyeh,” Hamaneh was quoted as saying.

Meanwhile, Hamaneh noted that Iran had taken part in a joint venture for building refinery in Indonesia and the Indonesian side also had expressed its interest in building gas condensate refinery in Iran, the report said. Both Iran and Indonesia are members of the Organization of Petroleum-Exporting Countries (OPEC).—MNA/Xinhua



Cranes are seen around the Kremlin indicating one of the areas where construction and renovation works are under way in central Moscow on 15 Aug, 2006. The windfall of oil revenues and growing business activities have made real estate in Moscow an attractive stock in the past few years making it one of the most expensive in Europe.—INTERNET



Lava cascades are seen flowing down the slopes of Mayon Volcano in Legazpi City, Albay Province, southeast of Manila, Philippines, on 15 Aug, 2006.—INTERNET

Over 1,100 families flee Sudan floods

KHARTOUM, 15 Aug— Heavy floods have forced more than 1,100 families to flee in Sudan, while the River Nile has risen to a serious level, an official said on Monday.

Awad Widatalla Hussein, head of the civil defence authority, said only one person was officially confirmed dead, although Sudanese papers carried numbers of at least eight killed in Khartoum alone.

The Nile in Khartoum was at 16.40 metres on Sunday, above its height on the same day in 1988, when scores of people were killed and hundreds of

thousands lost their homes due to heavy rains and floods. “This Nile level is high alert,” Hussein told *Reuters*. “It is very serious.” “The difference between now and 1988 is that now we have mostly flooding and then we had heavy rain too,” Hussein said.

Hussein said he did not expect the effects of the floods this year to be as bad as in 1988.

“Now the Sudanese people are more aware of floods and the government is more prepared.” He said there were 10 checkpoints along the river to measure water level.

MNA/Reuters

Indonesia’s car sales plunge 50% in first seven months

JAKARTA, 15 Aug—Car sales in Indonesia fell by 50.31 per cent to 171,525 units in the first seven months of 2006 from 345,166 units in the corresponding period last year, the industry association announced Monday.

July sees the lowest selling of only 21,891 units against 24,564 in the previous month, or the average monthly sales of 24,503 units, according to the data released by the Indonesian Automotive Industries Association (Gaikindo).—MNA/Xinhua



Complete solar halo appears in the sky of Guangzhou on 15 Aug, 2006, capital city of South China’s Guangdong Province. Two layers of halo respectively in red and purple circle the sun and amaze many locals. —INTERNET

Smoke billows from a chemical plant after an explosion in Daqing, northeast China’s Heilongjiang Province on 14 Aug, 2006. A gas tank at the No 2 refining plant of the Daqing Refining & Chemical Company in Daqing, an oil city 160 km (100 miles) west of the provincial capital of Harbin, exploded on Monday.—INTERNET

APEC holds flu pandemic response workshop in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 15 Aug— A two-day APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation) Pandemic Response Lessons Learnt Workshop opened in Singapore Monday with the participation of more than 50 health and government officials from the Asia-Pacific Region.

They are scheduled

to discuss a review of the APEC Pandemic Response Exercise, which was conducted in Australia in June this year, identify gaps and lessons learnt, and propose next steps for the APEC to take to enhance its members’ communication and response capacity against a flu

pandemic.

The participants will also exchange views on APEC’s collaboration with regional and international organizations like the World Health Organization, the Red Cross and the Association of South-East Asian Nations, whose representatives are present at the workshop as well.

MNA/Xinhua

Dell to recall 4.1 mln notebook PC batteries

SAN FRANCISCO, 15 Aug—Dell Inc, the world’s largest personal computer maker, said on Monday it would recall 4.1 million notebook computer batteries with cells made by Sony Corp, the largest recall in Dell’s history. Dell said it issued the recall in cooperation with the US Consumer Product Safety Com-

mission because the devices’ lithium-ion batteries could overheat and, in rare cases, produce smoke and catch fire, Dell spokesman Jess Blackburn said.

The recall of batteries in Dell notebooks sold from April 2004 through last month spans the company’s assortment of Latitude, Inspiron

and Precision models, Blackburn said.

Blackburn also said that the recall would have no “material impact” on Round Rock, Texas,-based Dell. Officials from Sony Energy Devices Corp. of Japan, which made the cells, could not immediately be reached for comment.

MNA/Reuters



SPORTS



China's Shao Jiayi celebrates after scoring against Singapore during the qualifying match for the 2007 Asian Cup Football tournament in north China's Tianjin Municipality, on 16 August, 2006.

INTERNET

Penalty kick gives China embarrassing win

TIANJIN, 16 Aug. -- Bundesliga side Cottbus' player maker Shao Jiayi converted a last-gasp pivotal penalty kick to give China an embarrassing 1-0 win over Singapore at an Asian Cup qualifier here on Wednesday.

Chinese head coach Zhu Guanghu may find it hard to hold his place as China seemed rusty throughout the game and had few methods facing a staunch Singapore side. And it was not until the last minute into additional time that they could clinch victory with Shao's unerring drive.

Zhu was under big pressure before the match as the team lost to Iraq 1-2 in the previous game. Zhu had said that he would leave the post if the squad were defeated by Singapore.

The hosts dominated the first half, launching waves of attacks to claim their superiority. But Singapore's defense deemed pretty solid and China could only produce threats through set-pieces. Shao bent a sharp-angle free kick in the first minute, but goalie Lionel Lewis denied his efforts with a full-stretched save.

The in-form keeper stopped Xu Liang's goal-bound long-range thunderbolt at the end of the first half, parrying the ball aside the far post. Singapore posed pressure to China by some counter attacks, but had small effect. —Internet



Terrell Owens, left, is defended by Anthony Henry during the Dallas Cowboys' football training camp in Oxnard, Calif, on Wednesday, 16 Aug, 2006.—INTERNET

England crush Greece 4-0 on McClaren debut

MANCHESTER (England), 17 Aug — England ushered in a new era under Steve McClaren with a 4-0 thrashing of Greece on Wednesday.

McClaren, who replaced Sven-Goran Eriksson as coach after the World Cup, watched his side romp to a 4-0 lead before the break with new skipper John Terry, Frank Lampard and Peter Crouch, twice, all on target. With former captain David Beckham left out of the squad, Owen Hargreaves wore his old number seven shirt and combined well in midfield with Steven Gerrard and Lampard.

"I thought Owen Hargreaves was phenomenal," McClaren said.

"He set the standard for the others to follow, not

just his attitude but his whole game. You saw the likes of Gerrard and Lampard follow that and produce performances which we're all delighted about," he told the post-match news conference.

Terry opened the scoring after 13 minutes, glancing a header past Greek goalkeeper Antonis Nikopolidis after Stuart Downing had nodded a poor clearance back into the box. Lampard, who endured a poor World Cup, made it 2-0 after 29 minutes with a deflected left foot effort.

Crouch then pounced for the third after

Nikopolidis had done well to keep out a close-range Lampard effort.

The Liverpool striker has a remarkable record at international level and he made it eight goals in 12 games when he headed a Downing cross into the ground, and into the net, four minutes before halftime.

Ashley Cole twice cleared off the line in the second half as Greece produced a much-improved performance, with Georgios Karagounis also forcing substitute goalkeeper Chris Kirkland into a fine save.

The performance was

a welcome fillip for England after a disappointing performance in the World Cup, where they were knocked out in the quarterfinals by Portugal.

"In possession we looked like a team. We looked like a team that was cohesive and worked together — it bodes well," McClaren said.

"For three days we have stressed that possession is key, it doesn't win you football matches but it controls you the game, and it did that today. We got great movement and great passing and we dominated the midfield area." — MNA/Reuters



Nicolas Almagro, from Spain, hits a forehand against David Ferrer, from Spain, in a second round match at the Western & Southern Financial Group Masters tennis tournament, on Wednesday, 16 Aug, 2006, in Mason, Ohio.—INTERNET

Yao leads China 63-61 win over Australia

BEIJING, 16 Aug. -- Yao Ming scored 21 points to give China a much-needed 63-61 win over Australia in Kunshan, East China's Jiangsu Province, yesterday in its final exhibition game before the world championships

China's Yao Ming (Top) drives to the hoop during 2006 Stankovic Continental Champions Cup against Australia in Kunshan, on 15 August, 2006.

INTERNET



in Japan.

With the return of guard Liu Wei, China was finally able to play with its full complement of stars and the difference showed. Liu, who had a tryout with the Sacramento Kings in 2004, had 10 points. Wang Shipeng added 11 more and newly returned Wang Zhizhi, China's first player in the NBA, had nine.

However, the game was largely a battle between Yao and Andrew Bogut, the Milwaukee Bucks' 2005 No. 1 NBA draft pick who scored 20 points.

Yao seemed to get the better of most of their exchanges, repeatedly leaving Bogut on the parquet. Australia had just 12 rebounds in the first half against China's 23.

Going in front in the second minute on a three-pointer from Wang Shipeng, China roared to a 15-point lead in the first quarter before ending it ahead 23-9.

Internet

France beat Bosnia 2-1 in first post-Zidane match

SARAJEVO, 17 Aug — Midfielder Julien Faubert marked his first cap by scoring an injury-time winner to hand France a deserved 2-1 victory over Bosnia on Wednesday.

Second-half substitute Faubert scored with a strike inside the box from a Thierry Henry pass when the Bosnians looked sure of holding Les Blues to another draw following a 1-1 stalemate in France two years ago.

Bosnia went ahead in the 16th minute of a fast-paced first half through 34-year-old skipper Sergej Barbarez who scored his 15th goal in his 42nd match for the national side.

Zvezdan Misimovic hit a free kick from the left into the box where defender Emir Spahic glanced the ball past the French defence for Barbarez to slot home from five metres.

France, in their first match since the World Cup final when they lost on penalties to Italy in Berlin on July 9, equalized shortly before the interval in a move that was similar to the Bosnian goal.

Willy Sagnol sent over a free kick from the right to Henry who headed the ball back into the middle from the far post for defender William Gallas who turn it in from three metres.

"It's a good result. It's important for our confidence as we have several tough challenge ahead of us," said coach Raymond Domenech, who is preparing for France's opening Euro 2008 qualifiers next month against Georgia and Italy.— MNA/Reuters



Christina Vukicevic of Norway clears the last hurdle during the women's 100 metres hurdles heat of the 11th IAAF World Junior Championships in Beijing on 17 August, 2006. Vukicevic clocked the fastest time in her heat with a time of 13.51 seconds to advance to the semi-final.—INTERNET

Iran wants new Mideast without US, British meddling

TEHERAN, 17 Aug—Iran's President said he wanted a new Middle East a phrase that echoes language used by the US Administration — but said his idea of a new region was one without “the hegemony of America and Britain”.

US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said during fighting between Lebanon's Hizbollah guerrillas and Israel that the violence marked the birth pangs of a new Middle East.

“In fact our nations also want a new Middle East. The Middle East that our nations want is a free Middle East, free from the hegemony of America and

Britain,” President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said during a rally in north-west Iran on Tuesday.

The US failure to call for an immediate cease-fire early in the fighting in Lebanon — the line Britain also took — angered many in the Middle East, where there has also been strong opposition to the invasion of Iraq by US and British troops.

Many in the region and muslim world also view US policy as biased towards Israel. “They (Israel) attacked Lebanon as an introduction to the new Middle East plan. They were under the assumption

that they can stabilize their power by breaking the unity and resistance of the Lebanese nation and expand their influence on the rest of the Middle East,” Ahma-dinejad said.

MNA/Reuters

Fire breaks out on 54th Street in Botahtaung Township

YANGON, 17 Aug— A fire broke out in the room

of Hla Bayin Furniture Mart at 163/169 at the corner of 54th Street and Maha Bandoola Street in Ward 4 of Botahtaung Township at 9.50 pm today.

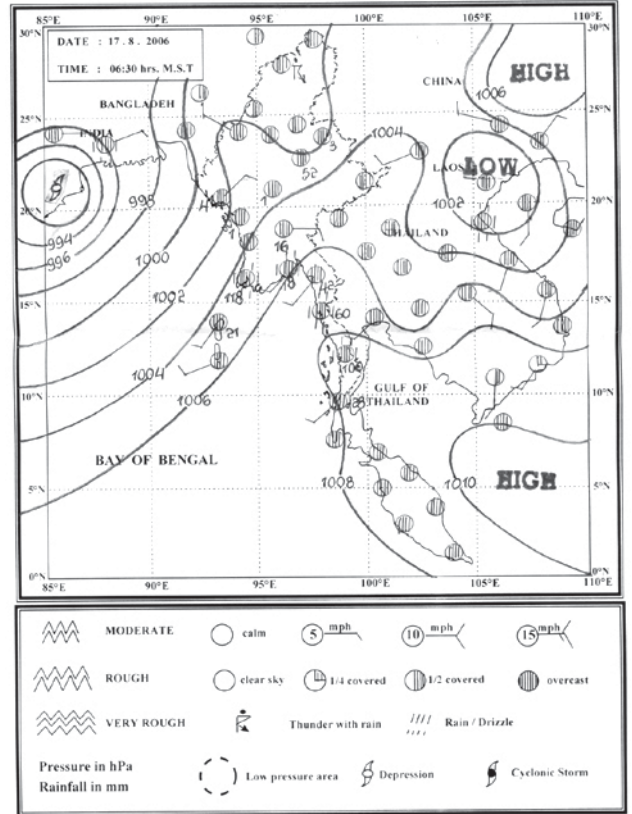
The fire started from a short circuit. The fire died down at 10.35 pm.

Officials and Myanmar Fire Brigade members put out the fire. Only one room was burnt in the fire.

Despite loss of a room and furniture, no one was hurt in the fire.

MNA

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Thursday, 17 August, 2006

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain have been isolated in Kachin State and Magway Division, scattered in Shan State and lower Sagaing Division and fairly widespread to widespread in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfalls in Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Patheingyi (4.72) inches, Myeik (4.02) inches, Dawei (2.04) inches, Thantong (2.37) inches, and Mandalay (2.72) inches.

Maximum temperature on 16-8-2006 was 89°F. Minimum temperature on 17-8-2006 was 74°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 17-8-2006 was (96%). Total sunshine hours on 16-8-2006 was (3.4) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 17-8-2006 were (0.35) inch at Mingaladon, (0.36) inch at Kaba-Aye and (1.26) inches at Central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2006 were (67.83) inches at Mingaladon, (79.57) inches at Kaba-Aye and (83.98) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (8) mph from Southwest at (17:15) hours MST on 16-8-2006.

Bay inference: According to the observations at (12:30) hrs MST today, yesterday's depression over North Bay has crossed the Orissa Coast, near Chandbali, India. Monsoon is strong in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 18-8-2006: Rain will be scattered in Kachin, Shan and Kayah States, lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Divisions, fairly widespread in Chin State, and upper Sagaing Division and widespread in the remaining areas with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Occasional squalls with rough seas are likely off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 35 to 40 mph.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Strong monsoon.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 18-8-2006: Likelihood of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 18-8-2006: One or two rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 18-8-2006: Likelihood of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (60%).

“Storm News”

(Issued at 14:00 hrs MST on 17-8-2006)
According to the observations at (12:30) hrs MST today, yesterday's depression over North Bay has crossed the Orissa Coast, near Chandbali, India.



Crowds gather to look at a tusk and a tooth from a woolly mammoth on display, on 14 Aug, 2006, at the Illinois State Museum in Springfield, Ill. The 11-foot-long tusk is being tested to pin down its age more precisely, but officials believe it dates to an ice age 22,000 years ago. The tusk was discovered nearly a year ago in a creek bed near Lincoln by Judd McCullum, a student in a Lincoln College class on environmental biology. — INTERNET



Friday, 18 August

Tune in today

- 8:30 am Brief news
- 8:35 am Music:
-Nothing stops the rain
- 8:40 am Perspectives
- 8:45 am Music:
-I'll be your shelter
- 8:50 am National news & Slogan
- 9:00 am Music:
-A dream gone away
- 9:05 am International news
- 9:10 am Music:
- 1:30 pm News & Slogan
- 1:40pm Lunchtime music
-Through the rain
-Feel
-Beautiful
-Goodbye is the hardest word
- 9:00pm WOM
-Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, China, Vietnam
- 9:15 pm Article
- 9:25pm Music at your request
-By the way
-Don't wanna lose you
-Every little thing you do
- 9:45 pm News & Slogan
- 10:00 pm PEL



Friday, 18 August
View on today

- 7:00 am
1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Ottamathara
- 7:25 am
2. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am
3. Morning news
- 7:40 am
4. Nice and sweet song
- 7:55 am
5. လှုပ်ရှားပုံပြင် စိတ်ပျော်ရွှင်
- 8:05 am
6. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:10 am
7. The mirror images of the musical oldies
- 8:20 am
8. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:25 am

- 9. မအီရောင်းတံတား
- 8:30 am
- 10. International news
- 8:45 am
- 11. English for Everyday Use
- 4:00 pm
1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm
2. Song to uphold National Spirit
- 4:30 pm
3. အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ -ဒုတိယနှစ် (ရက္ခဗေဒအထူးပြု) (ရက္ခဗေဒ)
- 4:45 pm
4. Song of national races
- 5:00 pm
5. မြန်မာစာ မြန်မာစကား
- 5:15 pm
6. Song of yesteryears
- 5:30 pm
7. “သတိနဲ့ယှဉ် အသိနဲ့ပြင်” (အပိုင်း-၂) (ဝါးခမ်းမရဲမောင်၊ ဘုန်းလျှော်၊ မြတ်ကောသီအောင်၊ ရတနာခင်၊ ဟန်နီထွန်း၊ ပြည့်ဖူးခိုင်၊ နီနီရွှေရည်၊ ဆောင်းနှင်းခေ၊ ဝိုင်းစုခိုင်သိန်း၊

- အိုင်းရစ်လေပြေဦး) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-မင်းအုပ်စိုး)
- 7:45 pm
8. ၂၀၀၆ ခုနှစ်(၁၄)ကြိမ်မြောက် မြန်မာ့ရိုးရာယဉ်ကျေးမှု အဆို၊ အက၊အရေးအတီးပြိုင်ပွဲဝင်များ လေ့လာနိုင်ရန် (ခေတ်ဟောင်း တေးနှင့် ကာလပေါ်တေး) (ပညာရှင်အဆင့်)(အမျိုးသမီး)
- 6:00 pm
9. Evening news
- 6:30 pm
10. Weather report
- 6:35 pm
11. သတိစုံလင် ရွှေညက်ရှင်
- 7:00 pm
12. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “ချစ်လှစေ့လှစေ့” ပြောလေးတစ်လည်လည်” (အပိုင်း-၁၆)
- 8:00 pm
13. News
- 14. International news
- 15. Weather report
- 16. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “မေတ္တာသံစဉ်” (အပိုင်း-၁၂)
- 17. The next day's programme

Diplomats, media persons visit Mongla, Pangsan in Shan State (East)

YANGON, 17 Aug — Diplomats and media persons led by Information Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan on 15 August visited Mongla in Special Region-4 of Shan State (East) and Pangsan in Special Region-2 of Shan State (North).

After attending the 6th Ceremony to Destroy Drugs and the Press Conference No 6/2006 held in Kengtung, Shan State (East), on 14 August, diplomats led by Acting Dean of the Diplomatic Corps Ambassador of Cambodia to Myanmar Mr Hul Phany, resident representatives and officials of UNODC, UNAIDS, WFP and DEA, members of Myanmar Foreign Correspondents Club and media persons led by Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan flew to Mongla on 15 August and visited Drugs Elimination Museum in the town.

They were welcomed by national race leaders of Special Region-4 in Shan State (East) and officials.

National Race Leader of Mongla region U Nwe Oo and officials briefed them on condition in the opium-free region and answered the queries of the diplomats and media persons.



Study tour group led by Information Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan pose for documentary photo at Myanmar-China Border post. — MNA

During the tour, they also visited Dwenayalat Shwe Pagoda in Mongla, the border gate at Myanmar-China border and Mongla market, and viewed the development of the town in a motorcade.

Afterwards, the study group led by Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan proceeded to Pangsan in “Wa” region of Special Region-2, Shan State (North).

On arrival at Pangsan, they were welcomed by national race leaders of Special Region-2 and officials.

During the tour of Pangsan which became the opium-free region in 2005, diplomats and media persons visited Pangsan market and 4,000 acres of poppy-substitute rubber plantation. They also viewed the development of the town.

Since the national race leaders of “Wa” region made peace with the government in 1988, the region has witnessed the fruits of development. — MNA

Since the national race leaders of “Wa” region made peace with the government in 1988, the region has witnessed the fruits of development.



Information Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and party visit Drugs Elimination Museum in Mongla in Special Region-4 in Shan State (East). MNA

INSIDE

Groundnut research project began at a farm of Magway in 1946. In 1976, research was conducted on groundnut, sesame, niger and rape seed at the extended edible oil division of Yehsin Central Agricultural Research Department whose work of producing quality strains was based on differences in soil and climatic conditions of the places cultivating edible oil crops on commercial scale.



Information Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and party visit opium-substitute plantation in Pangsan, Shan State (North). — MNA