Senior General Than Shwe sends message of sympathy to PRC

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Aug — Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of sympathy to His Excellency Mr Hu Jintao, President of the People’s Republic of China for the loss of lives and property caused by the most powerful Saomai storm in (50) years in Fujian, Zhejiang, and Jiangxi Provinces of the People’s Republic of China starting from 12 August, 2006. — MNA

Senior General Than Shwe felicitates Indonesian President

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Aug — On the occasion of the 61st anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of Indonesia which falls on 17 August 2006, a message of felicitations has been sent from Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar to His Excellency Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, President of the Republic of Indonesia. — MNA

Provisions donated to monasteries in Kengtung, Shan State (East)

YANGON, 16 Aug — Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein attended a ceremony to donate provisions to monasteries in Kengtung, Shan State (East), on 13 August.

At the donation ceremony held at Sasana Beikman in Kengtung, Lt-Gen Thein Sein along with member of the State Peace and Development Council, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win of the Ministry of Defence, Military Affairs Security Chief Maj-Gen Ye Myint, Commander of Triangle Region Command Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing and ministers presented offertories to members of the Sangha led by Presiding Sayadaw of Kyaiyin Monastery Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadha Bhaddanta Khemasara. A total of 100 bags of rice, 500 viss of salt and 100 viss of edible oil were donated to monasteries in Kengtung.

The Presiding Sayadaw of Dhammawdaya Monastery delivered a sermon and the congregation led by Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein shared the merits gained.

(See page 8)

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein attends sixth destruction of narcotic drugs in Kengtung

K 9.2 billion or 436m US$ worth narcotic drugs destroyed

YANGON, 16 Aug — Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein attended the sixth destruction of narcotic drugs seized in Shan State (East) at the gymnasium in Kengtung, Shan State (East), on 14 August afternoon.

Also present on the occasion were member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Kyaw Win, Military Affairs Security Chief Maj-Gen Ye Myint, Chairman of Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council Commander of Triangle Region Command Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing, ministers, deputy ministers, Acting Dean of the Diplomatic Corps to the Union of Myanmar Cambodian Ambassador Mr Hal Phany and diplomats, Charges d’Affaires ai and staff of embassies, resident representatives of UN agencies, officials, Secretary of Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control Director-General of Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen Khin Yi and members, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, media personnel, members of Myanmar Foreign Correspondents Club, local journalists, members of social organizations, townsenders and guests.

Before the ceremony, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, accompanied by Lt-Gen Kyaw Win of the Ministry of Defence, Military Affairs Security Chief Maj-Gen Ye Myint, Commander Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing, the ministers, the deputy ministers and officials of the SPDC Office, were welcomed by Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo, Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint, MPF Director-General Brig-Gen Khin Yi and officials.

The Secretary-1 cordially greeted national race leaders and party of Shan State Special Region No 2 and No 4.

First, CCDAC Secretary MPF Director-General Brig-Gen Khin Yi reported on endeavours of Myanmar in narcotic drugs eradication.

(The full text clarification of MPF Director-General Brig-Gen Khin Yi is reported separately.)

The Acting Dean of the Diplomatic Corps to the Union of Myanmar and diplomats, Charges d’Affaires ai of embassies, resident representatives of UN agencies, officials and local and foreign journalists destroyed chemical precursors and liquids. They inspected narcotic drugs including heroin in detail.

(See page 8)
For systematic development of Myanmar traditional medicine

Myanma traditional medicine has been practised since the beginning of the history of Myanmar. Wide, deep and delicate Myanma traditional medicine has been handed down from practitioners to their students or from parents to their children.

Myanmar traditional practitioners in different periods of history have compiled numerous treatises on Myanma traditional medicine. Their potent medicines and therapies have contributed a great deal to public health care services.

It is due to encouragement of the government and directives of the Ministry of Health, supervision of the Traditional Medicine Department and diligence of traditional medicine practitioners that Myanma traditional medicine has been developing.

It is up to traditional medicine practitioners to constantly endeavour to keep up with the development and popularity of Myanma traditional medicine. Traditional medicine is the heritage of a people and medicines have to be based on wide variety of herbal plants. To know the correct terms for herbal plants is very important for compounding medicines and using them.

The Traditional Medicine Department, members of the Council of Traditional Medicine and Traditional Medicine Practitioners Association are to work together for systematic development of Myanmar traditional medicine.

Officials urged to boost agricultural production, green Meiktila plains

Nay Pyi Taw, 16 Aug — Secretary-General of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Htay Oo held a meeting with departmental officials, executives at district and township USDA’s and members at the meeting hall of Myanma Cotton and Sericulture Enterprise in Meiktila on 7 August. He gave instructions on boosting of agricultural production and greening of Meiktila plains.

First, Secretary-General U Htay Oo made a speech on the occasion, saying that the ministry was taking measures on growth of the state economy based on the agricultural sector. He stressed the need to lay emphasis on meeting the targeted production of ten major crops. Efforts are to be made for acquiring of water and dissemination of agricultural technologies for the rural development. Measures are to be taken for increase of income with the use of quality strains.

Next, Chairman of Meiktila District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Lu Tin briefed the minister on measures for greening Meiktila plains and supply of water to Meiktila Lake. Director of Irrigation Department U Aye Thein on endeavours for seeking water, and Manager of Myanma Agriculture Service U Thein Zaw on striving for the boosting of agricultural production.

Afterwards, Secretaries of Thazi Township, Wundwin Township and Meiktila Township USDA’s, and the Joint-Secretary of Mahlaing Township reported on endeavours for seeking ways to get water and performance on boosting of agricultural production.

Foreign Minister sends felicitations to Indonesia

Nay Pyi Taw, 17 Aug — On the occasion of the 61st anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of Indonesia which falls on 17 August 2006, U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Dr N Hassan Wirajuda, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia. — MNA

Wundwin Township and Meiktila Township USDA’s, and the Joint-Secretary of Mahlaing Township reported on endeavours for seeking ways to get water and performance on boosting of agricultural production. — MNA

Minister inspects repair of cargo vessel Cosmic Master

Yangon, 16 Aug — Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe on 14 August inspected renovation of cargo vessel Cosmic Master of Myanmar Five Star Line at the 12,000 ton-capacity dry dock of Myanma Shipyards on Bayintnaung Road where he heard reports presented by officials of MFSL, and MS on repairing works and future tasks.

The minister gave instructions on timely completion of the work, worksite safety and meeting the set standards.

The vessel is being repaired by the Myanmar Shipyards under the supervision of Class NK, and it is the third of its kind being renovated at the dockyard. — MNA

Transport Minister Maj-Gen Thein Swe inspects cargo vessel Cosmic Master being docked at 12,000-ton-capacity dry dock. — TRANSPORT
Australia offers incentives to run cars on LPG

Canberra, 15 Aug—Car-loving Australians on Monday were offered cash rebates to convert their vehicles to run on liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) than petrol in a government move to reduce the country’s dependence on Middle East oil.

Prime Minister John Howard unveiled a 1.6-billion-Australian-dollar (1.2-billion-US-dollar) programme over eight years to help combat high world oil prices, but said there was no way to escape rising prices. “This is a difficult time for Australians faced with high petrol prices,” Howard told Parliament.

He said world oil prices had risen by about 17 percent in the past year and the price of petrol at pumps had followed suit, causing voter anger at the rising cost of filling up the family car.

Under the new programme, the government will give a 1,000-Australian-dollar rebate to people who buy new LPG-powered cars for personal use, and a 2,000-Australian-dollar rebate to people who convert their cars to use LPG.

An ACNielsen poll in Fairfax newspaper on Monday said 75 per cent of voters were unhappy with the government’s response to high petrol prices — about double the number who were dissatisfied about petrol prices a year ago.

MNA/Reuters

Anti-smoking law takes effect in Chile

Santiago, 15 Aug--A tough anti-smoking law took effect on Monday across Chile to ban tobacco advertising and drastically reduce smoking in public places.

Under the law, even at points of sale, tobacco companies cannot use posters bigger than two metres by one metre, and must carry a warning about the health risks posed by smoking.

The law prohibits smoking in schools, hospitals, government offices, stadiums, buses and other public places.

Bans are required not to permit customers aged under 18 to smoke. Smoking will also be restricted in restaurants, with large eateries given until May 2007 to create fully partitioned nonsmoking sections.

Smaller restaurants can choose between going all-nonsmoking or upgrading their ventilation systems.

The law demands that all work-places with more than 10 employees be made nonsmoking and that smaller work-places must vote on the issue.

The law also stipulates that cigarette packages must dedicate at least 50 per cent of their surface to health warnings, and that no shop can sell tobacco within 100 metres of a school.

MNA/Xinhua

Protein ‘may stop asthma attacks’

London, 15 Aug—Scientists have found why colds make people with asthma more likely to have a severe and potentially fatal attack.

UK researchers found there were low levels of proteins which should act as lung cells’ first line of defence. Writing in Nature Medicine, they say boosting levels of these proteins could protect people with asthma from having an attack because of a cold.

Experts welcomed the research, saying it offered a promising avenue for further work.

Around 80% of asthma attacks in children and 60% of adults are caused by respiratory viruses.

The researchers, from Imperial College and the Medical Research Council Centre in Allergic Mechanisms of Asthma, tested lung cells from people with and without asthma.

It was found that when the people with asthma were infected with a common cold virus, a rhinovirus, their lung cells produced half the usual levels of a type of interferon—a protein with antiviral properties generated by the immune system.

This lower the level of the antiviral protein, the more severe the asthma attack. The team, led by Professor Sebastian Johnston, say uncovering this mechanism could lead to a new way of treating or preventing asthma attacks.

Inhalers could be used to get extra interferon directly to the lungs to help the immune system fight viral infection, they suggest.—INTERNET

Heavy hydrogen find alters galaxy theory

Washington, 15 Aug—A heavy form of hydrogen created just moments after the Big Bang has been found in larger quantities than expected in the Milky Way, a finding that could radically alter theories about star and galaxy formation, researchers said on Monday.

This form of hydrogen called deuterium, has apparently been hiding out in interstellar dust grains, changing from an easily detectable gaseous form to a harder-to-see solid form, the French and US team of astrophysicists said.

Writing in the 20 August issue of the Astrophysical Journal, the researchers said they used NASA’s Far Ultraviolet Spectroscopic Explorer, or FUSE, satellite, to ferret out the hidden hydrogen. Deuterium—a form of hydrogen with not only a proton but also a neutron in its nucleus—produces a telltale spectral fingerprint in the ultraviolet light range, which FUSE can see.

MNA/Reuters

Flood hits central Indian city, 22 feared dead

New Delhi, 15 Aug—Downpour hit Bhopal, capital of India’s central state of Madhya Pradesh, on Monday with 22 people feared dead, the Indo-Asian News Service reported.

Several parts of the city were submerged with water around one-metre deep while a wall of the governor’s residence caved in, the report said.

The Army has been called in for rescue work in the flooded area.

The city has recorded about 11.43 centimetres of rainfall in the past 12 hours since Sunday midnight.

In the neighbouring state Chhattisgarh, heavy rain and flood claimed seven lives on Sunday.

MNA/Xinhua

The world’s second tallest peak K-2 is seen in northern area of Pakistan, in this undated photo provided by Pakistan Tourism office in Islamabad.—INTERNET

A convenience store in downtown Hatch, New Mexico, is seen after a monsoon storm caused flooding in the town on earlier 15 Aug, 2006.—INTERNET
Myanmar will adhere to its resolute conviction and intention to eradicate narcotic drugs from its soil

Continue to cooperate with friendly countries and international organizations in endeavours to eliminate narcotic drugs

YANGON, 16 Aug — The following is the clarification made by Director-General Brig-Gen Khin Yi of Myanmar Police Force at the ceremony to destroy seized narcotic drugs held in Kengtung on 14 August.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today’s clarification will emphasize on four successful drug cases in the Eastern Shan State during May and June 2006. From this clarification of the cases, you will realize that these successes emanate from the full cooperation and active participation of the local public as well as the national ethnic groups to eliminate narcotic drugs in the whole country.

Let me start with the first case.

**Special Region (2) in Northern Shan State**

On 25 May 2006 learnt of the illicit drug production in Khampar area of Eastern Shan State by the terrorist group SSA-S led by Ywet Sit. The 2 clandestine refineries were run by a Chinese named Kyaik Pauk and a Lishaw Loi Taing Lyan Camp of SSA-S terrorist outpost was only one and a half hours’ walk from the local public as well as the national ethnic groups.

Let me explain this case in detail:

**Special Region (2) in Northern Shan State**

On 31 May 2006, the task force from Special Region No (2) left their base on 30 May 2006 at 1030 hours and launched the raids. It was surrounded the two refineries at 1130 hours. On 31 May 2006, the task force seized their base on 30 May 2006 at 1030 hours. On 31 May 2006, the task force

**Seized items**

- 100,000 methamphetamine tablets
- Precursor chemicals and paraphernalia
- Arms and ammunition
- Drugs
- Chemicals

**Seized Refineries**


Director-General of Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen Khin Yi speaks at the 6th ceremony to destroy seized drugs in Kengtung. — MNA

The support and participation of the public is crucial in the fight against drug related crimes. Due to this fact, the law of enforcement agencies attach great importance to advocate the scourge and dire consequences of drugs among the general public to get their full support, cooperation and participation in collecting information to fight against drugs.

A good example of this is the result of another case in the Special Region 4 of eastern Shan State. Based on the information received through such interactions, our anti-drug unit managed to wait and interdict 3 traffickers with 48 blocks of heroin weighing 16 kg, one satellite telephone and two mobile phones in a spot 5 miles from Sup Lwi river port in Special Region 4 in.

(See page 5)
Myanmar will adhere to its... (from page 4)

Eastern Shan State. Upon interrogation, it was learnt that these blocks were in transit from Mongbyan to Sop Lwi rivulets. The 3 couriers led by Yang Ah Phan are now under investigation for legal action. The value of these heroin blocks is estimated to be around 1.28 billion kyats (or) 2 million US dollars.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to report to you a similar one where 600,000 methamphetamine tablets were seized in Mongpyin, an area known for smuggling, and uncovered in the information and assistance rendered by the local citizens.

On 28 May 2006, our drug units received information that Aik Sann and 15 of his men were trafficking drugs using the route from Monghayin to Mongpyin route heading for Hopan/ HoYwet in two pickup trucks. When they arrived at Mongpyin on 29 May 2006, a combined team made up of Anti-drug Unit, Special Branch and Mongpyin Police Force stopped and searched the vehicles at the Mongpyin Military Affairs Security Unit who were in front of the units.

Consequently, a total of 688,000 WY branded methamphetamine tablets were found hidden in the vehicle that Aik Sann was riding. One 45 pistol together with six rounds of ammo were found on Aik Sann. From this incident, it came to the fore that Aik Sann took 300,000 baht from Aik Kim from Mongmao to smuggle more heroin. 600,000 methamphetamine tablets were seized from the vehicle.

The street value of these items to be burnt and destroyed today:
- Heroin 44.55 kg
- Opium 936.96 kg
- Morphine powder 4.00 kg
- Low grade opium 0.178 kg
- Liquid opium 0.2 litres
- Methamphetamine tablets 211,277 kg
- Methamphetamine tablets (crushed) 21.1 kg
- Ephedrine 467,493 kg
- Caffeine 545.00 kg
- Bone charcoal 74.00 kg
- Ammonia powder 186.00 kg
- Chloroform 600.00 litres
- Acetic anhydride 1001.00 litres
- Ethyl alcohol 6236.00 litres
- Lysine caustic soda 18.00 kg
- Phenyl Acetic acid 115.00 kg
- Yellow crystal (unidentified) 74.00 kg
- Yellow powder (unidentified) 60.00 kg
- Parts of iron blocks 1 set
- Tablet punch machine 1 No
- Unbranded mould 18 Nos
- WY brand mould 37 Nos
- Colouring powder 50 packets
- Small blue plastic bags 100 Nos

The street value of these items to be burnt and destroyed today is estimated to be around 9.2 billion kyats or 436 million US dollars.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The following is the list of drugs and paraphernalia to be burnt and destroyed today:

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In conclusion, I would also like to report that although the cultivation and production of poppy and opium are declining, new and fancy drugs such as ice, ecstasy and ketamine are making inroads to the markets in Myanmar. In this connection, we will steadily pursue and enhance our law enforcement efforts to achieve the set goals and objectives.

In addition, we are aware that law enforcement measures alone will not curb the problem of narcotic drugs. Only by implementing follow-up programmes to generate alternative incomes, to develop social status and to upgrade the standard of living for farmers in poppy cultivated areas that there will be a sustainable decline in cultivation and production of narcotic drugs and crops. In this aspect, I wish to state that the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control and its related ministries are also working in close tandem to this end.

I would like to reaffirm that Myanmar will adhere to its resolute conviction and intention to eradicate narcotic drugs from the face of its map through the reality. We assure you that the government is determined to eradicate narcotic drugs from the face of Myanmar by the year 2014. Due to our wide undertakings, I can assure you that the prospect of reaching our national goal to eradicate narcotic drugs from the face of Myanmar by the year 2014 is indeed a reality.

At the same time, we will utilize the incumbent strength of our nationals and ethnic organizations as well as the clout deriving from cooperation with friendly neighbours, with countries in the region and with international organizations and agencies to augment our endeavors in eliminating narcotic drugs.

The third case I would now like to explain the fourth case in which how a clandestine laboratory was discovered and seized in Tachilek through the information provided by the local citizens.

On 6 June 2006, members of Tachilek anti-drug unit got information that the residence of one Sai Sam Noon in Makabo Kham Ward, Tachilek is involved in drug trafficking. The house was searched on 26 June 2006 at 1400 hours after the information was verified and confirmed. At the time of the raid, Sai Sam Noon himself was across the border in Mai Sai and only his wife Nang Ein Shan was at home.

After a thorough search of the house, the drug unit found the basement beneath the store room at the back of the house with a hydraulic lever to open the basement door. Hidden in the basement were 9,150 moulds, two handguns, tablet punch machine, 55 parts of iron blocks under the dryer, a tablet punch machine, 21.1 kg of mixed methamphetamine paste, 20.88 kg of mixed paste under the dryer, a tablet punch machine, 55 moulds, two handguns, two cartridges and 24 assorted rounds of ammunition, which were all confiscated.

Further investigation revealed that the tablet punch machine was delivered to Sai Sam Noon’s residence by Lauk Kyuang at the instructions of Aik Nwe, a Thai living near Noon’s residence by Lauk Kyaung and Sai Sam Noon’s wife Nan Ein Shan were arrested and CC DAC is already in touch with ONCB in Chiang Rai to cooperate in investigating the offenders in Thailand.

The involvement of the local inhabitants as well as the national races in fighting against this evil. Due to our far and wide undertakings, I can assure you that the prospect of reaching our national goal to eradicate narcotic drugs from the face of Myanmar by the year 2014 is indeed a reality.

At the same time, we will utilize the incumbent strength of our nationals and ethnic organizations as well as the clout deriving from cooperation with friendly neighbours, with countries in the region and with international organizations and agencies to augment our endeavors in eliminating narcotic drugs.
Allegations Myanmar subject to...

*From page 16*

arson, collecting extortion money, and forced recruitment of Ywet Sit of SSA (South) who has constantly been committing such terrorist acts. Next, I will clarify points on Wa group which has already returned to the legal fold, its anti-drug activities and development achievements in Wa region.

As known to you all, it was clarified with sound evidences at the press conference No 4/2006 in last April in Kengtung of eastern Shan State that SSA (South) Ywet Sit group who surrendered or who were arrested that Ywet Sit ordered local people of far-flung areas to grow poppy; collected taxes; Ywet Sit also asked the local people to sell poppy only to his group to produce drugs.

Likewise at the press conference No 5/2006 held in Leikha of southern Shan State last month, it was revealed by members of SSA (South) brigade-758 who returned to the legal fold that although Ywet Sit ordered his members to stay away from narcotic drugs, he himself got involved in poppy cultivation, levying of opium taxes and narcotic drug trafficking; Ywet Sit refined opium near Nampan creek and Katphwee village of Mongkai Township in 1996-97; later Ywet Sit’s group refined opium at border areas; Ywet Sit’s younger brother Saw Peta smuggled stimulant tablets in 80 rucksacks from Mongshu to Loitailian in 2001; Ywet Sit asked 15 youths led by Sai Punn to smuggle drugs from Loilan to Thailand and that group encountered with Thai troops and 13 of them were killed in 2003; and Ywet Sit’s bodyguard Sai Tun while smuggling 174 kilos of heroin was arrested by Thai police in March 2005. Ywet Sit’s drug trafficking activities were exposed with evidences of seized persons and seized materials before the diplomats and media-persons occasionally and convinced to the world through media.

However, the cohorts and their western masters are still trying to put the blame on the Government and peace groups while turning a blind eye to misdeeds of Ywet Sit. They used to conceal the misdeeds of Ywet Sit and point accusing finger at other groups. The truth cannot be concealed for long. Although the western masters and their cohorts tried to conceal the Ywet Sit group’s misdeeds like covering the elephant carcass with goat’s hide, drug lord Ywet Sit’s atrocities came out one after another. More is heard about his group today.

If we study two opium refineries of SSA (South) Ywet Sit group in Khampar area of eastern Shan State, it is found that Ywet Sit kept refineries in far-flung remote areas close to the peace group. It was aimed to mislead others that the peace groups were committing opium refining work. (See page 7)
Allegations Myanmar subject to…
In Khampar region, Ywet Sit’s two refineries were located in the ravine surrounded by mountains. They were 3 hours’ walk from Loitailian camp of Ywet Sit. They were one-and-an-half-hours’ walk from outpost of Loitailian camp. It can be found that these refineries were set up close to a unit of Wa group of Shan State special region-2 in northern Shan State. Due to Ywet Sit’s trick, the local Wa leaders were misunderstood as if they were involved with drug trafficking.

The Government has been providing all-out assistance for security and development of peace groups including the Wa national race group. As a result, the Wa region has been declared as drug free zone since the year 2005. When the Wa group got information about the two refineries of Ywet Sit in Khampar region, it attacked and occupied them sacrificing lives and blood in order to convince the world with evidence who are the real culprits.

There were some 100 insurgents at the two refineries of Ywet Sit and they tried to resist the Wa group. The skirmishes took place for about 40 minutes. As a result, 20 drug trafficking insurgents were killed and the rest fled to SSA (South) Loitailian camp with the loss of 15 arms. At the two refineries, adequate ration for one year had been stored and various narcotic drugs including brown opium powder, heroin No 3, heroin, “WY” stimulant pills, “R” stimulant pills, etc. were produced in huge quantity. The seized narcotic drugs and chemicals were destroyed and incinerated.

Since taking over State responsibilities in 1988, the Government has been giving priority to the national reconsolidation. Realizing the genuine goodwill and development endeavours of the Government, the former national race armed groups have made peace with the Government beginning 1989 March and returned to the legal fold. Those groups include Wa group of Shan State special region-2.

The Wa group has striven for security and development of the region. The Government designated the areas of peace group as special declared as opium free zone in June 2005.

For the development of Wa region, the Government has spent 2,865.66 million kyats and provided cash and material assistance worth 1,256 million kyats. In Wa region, about 900 miles of new road have been built while some 1,000 miles of existing roads were maintained and upgraded. Along the roads, 5 major bridges and 43 small bridges were also built. As regards education promotion in Wa region, 58 basic education schools have been opened. As regards health care services, 6 hospitals, 11 dispensaries and 8 health care centres were opened there. To provide assistance for agricultural development of Wa region, many agricultural offices, agricultural stations, tractor stations, nurseries, poultry and cattle farms and livestock breeding offices have been opened while dams and canals have been built. Regarding energy, altogether 5 towns in Wa region are being supplied with electricity. A village and a town in Wa region is being supplied with hydro-electric power. As regards communication, many post offices, telegraph offices and telephone exchanges have been established. There are also 5 television retransmission stations. The Wa national race group, hand in hand with the Government, made strenuous efforts for security and development of the region.

Hence, the Wa region has developed significantly in comparison to that before 1988. Arrangements have also been made for you to witness development in Wa region.

Pangsas of Wa region was formerly a small village and now it has become a border town achieving rapid development. You can see with your own eyes in tomorrow’s trip.

Border area development fund was also used in wiping out poppy cultivation in Wa region. As poppy-substitute crops, 3,000 acres of rubber and over 1,100 acres of lychee are grown in Namtip and 4,000 acres of rubber in Pangsas. The development works are carried out there in cooperation with international organizations such as UNDP, UNODC, WFP, etc. Thus, the international organizations are keeping their offices open in Wa region. Their foreign staff are travelling to and fro and they know the daily developments of the region. The international organizations are also providing necessary assistance to residential people as regards narcotic drugs elimination and regional development. Likewise, some foreign diplomats in Yangon have also visited Waregon. Like those of international organizations, these diplomats are believed to be rendering assistance to combatting drug menace and bringing about regional development in Wa region. We also hope them not to deter but to contribute towards the success of our programmes for ensuring stability, solidarity and development.

In line with the aim to wipe out the drug menace once and for all from Myanmar in the year 2014, the three tactics of supply reduction, demand reduction and suppression with public participation are being implemented in cooperation with international organizations.
Secretary-1
Lt-Gen Thein Sein
attends sixth destruction of narcotic drugs in Kengtung

Provisions donated to...
(from page 1)
Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, accompanied by Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and Maj-Gen Ye Myint and ministers, left here for Kengtung on 13 August to participate in the provisions donation ceremony and arrived at Kengtung’s airport at 2:45 pm. On arrival at the airport, they were welcomed by Chairman of Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council Commander of Triangle Region Command Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Director-General of Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen Khin Yi, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Wai Lin, senior military officers and members of social organizations. — MNA

Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein presents offertories to a Sayadaw in Kengtung, Shan State (East). — MNA

Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein attends the 6th destruction of narcotic drugs seized in Shan State (East). — MNA

Lt-Gen Thein Sein welcomes national race leaders of Special Region-2 and Special Region-4 of Shan State attending the 6th destruction of narcotic drugs seized in Shan State (East). — MNA

Next, CCDAC Chairman Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo, Acting Dean of the Diplomatic Corps to the Union of Myanmar Cambodian Ambassador Mr Hul Phany and Wa national race leader U Paw Laik Kham of Shan State Special Region 2 pressed the button to incinerate the narcotic drugs.

After the ceremony, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein cordially greeted the Acting Dean of the Diplomatic Corps to the Union of Myanmar Cambodian Ambassador and diplomats, officials and responsible persons of UN agencies.

At today’s ceremony, 44.55 kilos of heroin, 936.69 kilos of opium, 4 kilos of morphine powder, 0.178 kilo of inferior opium, 0.2 litre of liquid opium, 119.2577 kilos of methamphetamine, 21.1 kilos of methamphetamine tablets (crushed), 467.4973 kilos of Ephedrine, 545 kilos of caffeine, 74 kilos of bone charcoal, 186 kilos of ammonia powder, 60 litres of chloroform, 1,001 litres of acetic anhydride, 6,236 litres of ethyl alcohol, 18 kilos of lysine caustic soda, 115 kilos of phenyl acetic acid, 74 kilos of yellow crystal (unidentified), 60 kilos of yellow powder (unidentified), one pair of iron block part, one tablet punching machine, 18 moulds without brand, 37 WY brand moulds, 50 packets of food colouring powder and 100 small blue plastic bags were destroyed. The street value of the seized items to be burnt today were K 9.2 billion or about US$ 436 million. — MNA

Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein shakes hands with a diplomat at the 6th destruction of narcotic drugs seized in Shan State (East). — MNA
**Diplomats, media persons hosted dinner in Kengtung**

*Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein presents flower basket to traditional dance troupe that presented entertainment at the dinner. — MNA*

**Press conference 6/2006 held …**

(from page 16) and officials, members of Myanmar Foreign Correspondents Club, local journalists, members of social organizations, town-selders, national race leaders of Shan State Special Region No 2 and No 4, local people and guests.

Chairman of the Information Committee Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan clarified terrorist acts such as drug trafficking, ethnic cleansing, rapes, massacres, planting of mines, setting fire, collecting extortion money, and forced recruitment of Ywet Sit of SSA (South). (The clarification of Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan is reported separately.)

Next, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo and MPF Director-General Brig-Gen Khin Yi replied to the queries raised by local and foreign journalists.

After the press conference, diplomats, responsible persons of UN agencies and local and foreign journalists viewed documentary photos on raiding two opium refineries of Ywet Sit of SSA-S in Khampar area, seizures of narcotic drugs in Tachileik, Hsualay and Mongpyin, the destruction of seized narcotic drugs held in Laikha, the 20th destruction of seized narcotic drugs in Yangon and the destruction of seized narcotic drugs in Kengtung on 26 April 2006, seizures of narcotic drugs in Wamyein and Tachileik, handing over of drug trafficker Han Yu Wam from Myanmar Police Force to the Police Force of the People’s Republic of China, seizures of narcotic drugs from Soe San Zone, and occupying of 15 assorted arms, 582 rounds of ammunition, three grenades and 26 assorted magazines from two opium refineries from Khampar area of Ywet Sit of SSA-S group. — MNA

**Diplomats, representatives of UN agencies, local and foreign journalists go on study tour of Kengtung region**

*MAGONG, 16 Aug — Chairman of Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council Commander of Triangle Region Command Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing on 14 August hosted a dinner in honour of diplomats and media persons who attended the press conference No 6/2006 of the Information Committee and a destruction ceremony to incinerate seized narcotic drugs in Kengtung, Shan State (East).

The Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Kyaw Win of the Ministry of Defence, Military Affairs Security Chief Maj-Gen Ye Myint and ministers also attended the dinner at Pyinuyat Hall of the command headquarters.

During the dinner, Shan State (East)’s cultural troupe entertained them with traditional cultural dances and songs. After the dinner, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein presented a flower basket to the artistses. — MNA

The study group together with Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint, Director-General of Protocol Department U Kyaw Kyaw and responsible personnel arrived at Government Computer College (Kengtung) on Kengtung-Monglaroadsection and they were welcomed by Acting Principal Daw Thida Win, faculty members and students. First, Acting Principal Daw Thida Win briefed them on salient points of the college and replied to the queries raised by members of the study group.

Next, the study group went on a study tour of Government Technological College on Kengtung-Loinway near Wunmaing village. They were welcomed by Acting Principal Dr Yan Aung Oo and faculty members. Acting Principal Dr Yan Aung Oo briefed them on main points of the college and replied to the queries raised by the members of study group.

Afterwards, the members of study group viewed Kengtung General Hospital and development images of Kengtung and its environs.

Next, the members of study group proceeded to Kengtung Degree College and they were welcomed by Deputy Principal U Chit Swe and staff. The deputy principal briefed them on salient points of the college and replied to the queries raised by the members of study group.
Allegations Myanmar subject to ... (from page 7)
The Wa group like others can be found actively taking part in the anti-drug activities. However, SSA (South) Ywet Sit group has been committing drug trafficking in gangs while preaching for the prosperity of the region. The following are the atrocities of SSA (South) Ywet Sit group after March 2006. Ywet Sit group robbed the house of U Maung San in Hukham village in April 2006 and took away one million kyats and a motorcycle. They also robbed six Nambkway villages. Also in July 2006, Ywet Sit group killed U Nyanphyar of Mongkaing village and forcibly recruited 8 villagers from Mongkaing village, 2 villagers from Khonmon village and 3 villagers from Wanky village. The Ywet Sit group attacked Mongkai town in June and Mongyan village in July. The SSA (South) Ywet Sit terrorist group exploded bombs in Tachilek on 28 June and 4 August this year. We received such information from the local people who suffered the atrocities of Ywet Sit group. With the help of the public, authorities exposed the culprits.

It was found that the bomb explosion in front of Nay Min store in Tachilek on 28 June was committed by 4 insurgents and 4 hardcores of SSA (South) Ywet Sit. It is learnt that Ywet Sit planted hardcores in Tachilek to collect extortion money and mobilize new recruits. The Ywet Sit group phoned up the Nay Min store twice to pay extortion money. When the store failed to oblige, the Ywet Sit group brought in explosives from a neighbouring country and exploded them in front of the store. The Government has made peace with several national race armed groups including Wa group and has been implementing border areas and national races development projects and developing the respective regions. Likewise, 24 special regions development projects as well as rural development projects are implemented to ensure simultaneous development of all parts of the country. Kengtung region includes the 24 special development regions. In each special development region a University, a Government Computer College and a Government Technological College are opened by the Government to provide equal opportunities of education promotion for the local people. Nowadays, national race youths of eastern Shan State can pursue advanced science and technologies conveniently in their own regions. Health care services for the local people are also promoted. The local people no longer need to go to Taunggyi or Mandalay for medical treatment as they now have the 200-bed upgraded Kengtung hospital. At present, there are over 630 schools, 2,500 teachers and 65,260 students in eastern Shan State. As regards the Government for socio-economic development of various States and Divisions, food sufficiency has been ensured in the entire country. However, internal and external destructive pessimists are making false accusations and instigation to the effect that Myanmar is subject to poverty and commodity prices are skyrocketing.

Recently, rice prices rose temporarily as it was nearing the time of new harvest. In Myanmar rice production does not decrease. Rice is not short in supply either. It is normal according to the nature of the market that rice prices fluctuate at time of new harvest. Taking advantage of this, unscrupulous traders speculated the rice prices. In this context, the Government in cooperation with private entrepreneurs has taken necessary steps through organizational and administrative means. Rice is thus sold at normal price at present. Rice production in 1988 was merely 650 million baskets. Today, annual output of rice is 1,200 million baskets.

The annual consumption of rice by the entire country is over 800 million baskets. It is to be attributed to triple cropping of paddy the whole year round. The production of rice and other commodities will surely increase year by year.

However, we should be aware of the fact that to jeopardize the economic development momentum of Myanmar, a western power and cohorts are imposing economic sanction, trade sanction, investment sanction and tourism sanction against Myanmar. In addition, Myanmar’s internal affairs are being interfered politically.

Hence, the false internal and external accusations that Myanmar is subject to poverty, famine and economic slump are totally untrue. It is a propaganda attack plotted by an opposing political party whose political and organizational status is on the decline, cohort self-seeking politicians and BCP UGs acting in collusion with foreign masters. The concealed aim of the internal and external destructive elements is to destabilize the country and create unrest in order to grab power through short cut. It is incumbent upon all of us to make collective efforts for preserving the momentum being achieved in ensuring stability, solidarity and development of the nation.

MNA
Campaign to end poppy cultivation concerns only with nation as it must be launched with internal strength

Press conference holds Q&A session

NA MYI TAW, 16 Aug — The following are the questions raised by journalists and the answers given by officials at the press conference of the Information Committee of the State Peace and Development Council held at Kengtung in Shan State (East) on 14 August.

Dr Tin Tun Oo of Pyi Myanmar Journal said that Wa national race group truly quit poppy cultivation in 2005, and is fighting Ywet Sit’s drug-trafficker group without taking assistance from Tatmadaw and anti-drug bodies. Kokang region also declared itself a drug free zone in 2003. He asked whether any other national race group is also eradicating the drug problem without any one’s urge. He said he wished to know the situation of the Drug Free Myanmar Programme within 8 years left to be realized in 2014.

Myanmar Police Force Director-General Brig-Gen Khin Yin replied that other national race groups are also participating in the drug elimination task. Mongla in Shan State Special Region 4 has been declared an Opium Free Zone in 1997. The government conferred an award on excellent performance in social tasks (milieu) leader of Shan State Special Region 4 U Sai Lin. The region is also seizing traffickers under its own arrangements. All in all, national race groups are rendering a helping hand to reach the nation’s drug elimination goal.

Kokang region declared itself an Opium Free Zone in 2003, and Shan State (North) Special Region 2 followed suit in 2005. The most basic factor in this matter is to end poppy cultivation for profit. As a part of Myanmar is contiguous to the notorious Golden Triangle Region, the initial task is to end poppy cultivation. The campaign to end poppy cultivation concerns only with the nation as it must be launched with internal strength.

On the other hand, drug elimination is a task to be carried out with the cooperation of other nations. For example, there are no precursor chemicals needed in manufacturing stimulant tablets in Myanmar. So stimulants cannot be manufactured inside Myanmar territory. Stimulants are smuggled into Myanmar from other countries. Hence anti-stimulants campaign remittants were using in launching political attacks against Myanmar.

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan said that the strength of U Mein Sin’s group was 848 precisely. All the over 800 men were real members of the group, but no locals in uniforms as slandered by those foreign media.

It is not true that U Mein Sin went underground again. It is totally drugs with dealers which means that we have addicts. These drugs addicts are like HIV/AIDS addicts. It is very dangerous, so what I want to know is regarding these drug addicts’ conditions and the works of rehabilitation.”

Brig-Gen Khin Yi said that the 1993 law stipulates that drug addicts must register themselves at the respective centres and undergo treatment, and that rehabilitation centres should be set up. The government with the participation of all NGOs collected a baseline data in June 1989. There were about 66,000 addicts according to the data. In accord with the law, the government set up Shwepyayee rehabilitation centre in Phek hon, southern Shan State, Shwepyayee at Wethitkan, and Shwepyayee near Teemar, Muse. Registered addicts have to attend a 36-week course at one of the centres. During the first five weeks the addicts have to undergo treatment to quit the habit of using drugs. The remaining weeks concern the vocational training.

The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement set up six or seven treatment centres in Yangon, Mandalay and other major towns of states and divisions. NGOs like the Myanmar Anti-Narcotics Association are searching and recording former addicts who after receiving treatment fail to go to rehabilitation centres to help them earn their living. (See page 12)
Campaign to end poppy...  

(from page 11)  

Community based treatment centres have been opened at present. The nation has been seriously realizing its policy stipulating to register themselves and undergo rehabilitation and treatment to set up rehabilitation centres.

Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo said, “I am the Deputy Minister for Health and I am responsible for the treatment of the drug addicts. I am the Chairman of the Subcommittee, our Subcommittee is under the CCDAC. Regarding the treatment, Police Director-General has mentioned that about 67,000 is from 1974 to up to date. Our subcommittee has the 26 major drug treatment centres in all the most required areas, especially, Shan State, Kachin and so on and so forth. So, these rehabilitation centres are working especially for the youth. In the major centres, we have all the requirements for rehabilitation including the vocational training, social healing and counselling sectors. The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement is also running rehabilitation centres. In average 40 to 50 per cent of the drug addicts are infected with HIV. But due to our efforts in cooperation with UNODC and NGOs, the infection rate has been reduced to 36 per cent.

Another thing is we have good collaboration with the National AIDS programme regarding the counselling work, the conducting of medical examination and the distribution of condoms to sexual partners. In average 40 to 50 per cent of the drug addicts are infected with HIV. But due to our efforts in cooperation with UNODC and NGOs, the infection rate has been reduced to 36 per cent. Another thing is we have good collaboration with the National AIDS programme regarding the counselling work, the conducting of medical examination and the distribution of condoms to sexual partners.

Concerning the second question, six ceremonies have been held to destroy the drugs seized in Shan State (East) and the value of the drugs is about 1,972 million US dollars. 

U Ko Ko (Flower News Journal and Yangon Times): I would like to put three questions. Regarding the first question, it is said that Wa region was a drug free zone in 2005. Is it true? If true, what criteria are prescribed to designate a region as a drug free one. I think the opium refinery that has been mentioned recently is in Wa region.

For the second question, these days, compu- ter accessories and electronics are almost running out. Then, I happened to ask some people about that, and they said that it was because containers with such materials in the port could not be cleared. Is it true? If so, I would like to know why. I would like to know the action taken in connection with this.

Dr Tin Tun Oo, MNA:

The last one is that the Counter Narcotic and Crime of the US watches the hot spot areas in the poppy-grown regions. They pay attention to the countries where poppy is grown and how much poppy output is.

And then, the estimated figures and data are made known to the world. These two organizations declared that poppy cultivation was on the decrease in Myanmar and Wa region was free from poppy cultivation in 2005. The UNODC has not issued any announcement about its findings of its survey for 2006, but as far as I know generally that region is free from poppy cultivation per cent. So, it can be deduced that region is a poppy free one.

Wa Special Region invited the National Narcotic Control Commission of the People’s Republic of China to the region to conduct a survey. The NNCC also announced that no poppy was found in the region.

We made rapid assessments in that region and found that it was free from poppy. So, as Wa national race leaders declared, I would say what I have presented are a concrete evidence that the region is free from poppy in June 2005. Khampar is not in Wa region.

As we explained in the drug-destruction ceremony, it is situated in a place a three-and-half-hour walk from Lwetainglyan, a stronghold of SSA-S and an over-an-hour walk from the outpost of Ywet Sit’s SSA-S. 

Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo

Regarding the container, container importers have some difficulties for clearance. They dare not make the imported container clearance. If interested, one may inquire the traders, agents and service personnel. Under the

(See page 15)
A Filipino fisherman scavenges at Manila bay on 16 August, 2006. The bay, which Greenpeace says is one of the most polluted in Asia, is being monitored by the group to document the sort of pollution that exists there. — INTERNET

### Canadian PM asserts sovereignty over Arctic coastal waters

**Ottawa, 15 Aug—** Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper has asserted Canada’s sovereignty over its Arctic coastal waters while calling on the United States to ratify the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Harper made the comments on Sunday during a visit to the northern city of Iqaluit, where he launched Operation Lancaster, a 12-day military exercise in the eastern Arctic aimed at asserting Canada’s control over the Far North.

Harper vowed to guard Canada’s Arctic territory by beefing up its military presence. “Sovereignty over one’s territory is not a theoretical concept. It is earned and it is retained by being present, by having planes in the air, ships in the sea and, most importantly, boots on the ground,” he told an audience at the remote military outpost in Alert on the northern tip of Nunavut’s Ellesmere Island.

Harper said growing international recognition of the vast natural resources in the Far North had made Canada’s assertion of its sovereignty more urgent.

Stressing that Canada’s jurisdiction over a 200-nautical-mile, or 370 kilometres, zone off its Atlantic and Pacific coasts was undisputed, Harper called on the United States to ratify the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea and “certainly to respect our sovereignty in this part of the world.”

The UN sea treaty, which originated in the 1970s and was revised in the early 1990s, recognizes a 200-nautical-mile exclusive economic zone off a country’s coast. While 150 nations have ratified the treaty, the US Congress has refused to do so.

Harper said law enforcement by previous governments has allowed foreign vessels to enter Canada’s Arctic waters without permission, or without the federal government even being aware of it.

There have been at least three incursions into the Northwest Passage by US Government vessels without Canada being informed, most recently by a US Navy submarine in 1995. — MNA/Xinhua

### China’s Vice-Premier calls for sustainable, harmonious eco growth

**Beijing, 15 Aug—** Chinese Vice-Premier Zeng Peiyan has urged local governments to carry out the macroeconomic control policies adopted by the central government to secure a sustainable and harmonious economic development.

Industrial restructuring and upgrading should be sped up while the fixed assets investment and energy consumption must be reined in, said Zeng during a recent inspection trip to southwest China’s Yunnan Province.

After China’s economy registered a 10.9 per cent growth in the first half of the year, Chinese top leaders have warned of possible overheating and emphasized better macroeconomic control.

The State Council, China’s Cabinet, arranged the work plan for the following half of the year at a recent videoconfer-ence, urging local government to keep in accordance with the central government, carry out macroeconomic policies from the overall public interest rather than regional benefits.

To curb the overheated fixed assets investment, Zeng said local governments should secure the full effective use of land resources and bank loans and bring only qualified investors into the market.

In term of the development of urban and rural infrastructure facilities, Zeng stressed that farm land must be strictly protected while the principal of land conservation must be abided by. — MNA/Xinhua
**Sports**

**Sofia**, 16 Aug—Bulgarian international defender Aleksandr Domakiev has been fined by the president of his club, Botev, for not congratulating team mates after missing a penalty. The club president Dimitar Hristolov fined Domakiev, who had watched the game from the stands because of illness, 1,000 levs (650 US dollars) for “showing no respect to his team mates”.

**London**, 16 Aug—British sprinter Darren Campbell has called for those who helped guide team mate Dwain Chambers into taking illegal performance enhancing drugs to be made accountable.

**Berlin**, 16 Aug—The reported threat of a "shoe strike" among German players was averted on Tuesday after senior members of the squad held talks with Football Association (DFB) chiefs over sponsorship rules.

**Bucharest**, 15 Aug—Dorinel Munteanu, player-coach of Romanian league leaders CFR Cluj, has fined his players for playing in a late goal in a 3-1 victory with Chambers after the 2nd half of their National League game in San Diego on 15 August, 2006.—INTERNET

**Manchester (England), 16 Aug—**Steve McClaren is ready to make Owen Hargreaves the linchpin of his England team in a bid to get the best out of his profile midfielders Frank Lampard and Steven Gerrard.

Hargreaves has been named in the England midfield to face Greece in a friendly at Old Trafford on Wednesday, with Liverpool captain Gerrard playing on the right to make way for him. The Bayern Munich player will take up a holding role in the centre of midfield behind Lampard, with Middlesbrough winger Stewart Downing providing balance on the left.

It is the first indication that the new England coach, who dropped David Beckham from his squad, is ready to tackle the Gerrard-Lampard problem headon. The pair have been described as two of the best attacking midfielders in the world when playing for their clubs but have struggled to reproduce that form when playing together for England.

Cheese's Lampard, in particular, had a disappointing World Cup with many critics suggesting the two are too similar in style to form an effective partnership. But with Hargreaves impressing in a holding role in Germany and Beckham's absence freeing up the right, the team has been tweaked in an attempt to accommodate both their talents.

**Berlin**, 16 Aug—The reported threat of a "shoe strike" among German players was averted on Tuesday after senior members of the squad held talks with Football Association (DFB) chiefs over sponsorship rules.

Under the terms of Germany's sponsorship and equipment contract, players must wear boots made by Adidas when playing for their country even if they have individual contracts with other sportsware firms. Bild newspaper reported that the players were threatening to boycott the friendly international against Sweden in Gelsenkirchen on Wednesday in a bid to get the rule overturned. It is unclear how serious a threat was but it was enough for DFB co-presidents Gerhard Mayer-Vorfelder and Theo Zwanziger to hold lengthy talks with leading players Miroslav Klose, Jens Lehmann, Bernd Schneider and Torsten Frings.

**Bucharest**, 15 Aug—Dorinel Munteanu, player-coach of Romanian league leaders CFR Cluj, has fined his players for playing in a late goal in a 3-1 victory at the weekend.

CFR Cluj triumphed at Ceahlau Piatra Neamt with goals by Dan Arca, Vasile Jula and Cosmin Tilinca to make it three wins out of three in the new season but the coach, called up on Monday to the Romania squad, was not happy.

"My players relaxed after 3-0 and we conceded a goal in the last minute," Munteanu said on Monday. "I fined them 100 euros (127.4 US dollars) each for their lack of concentration."—MNA/Reuters

**Sofia**, 16 Aug—Bulgarian international defender Aleksandr Domakiev has been fined by the president of his club, Botev Plovdiv, for failing to congratulate his team mates on their 3-1 win over Belasitsa Petrich on Saturday.

Club president Dimitar Hristolov fined Domakiev, who had watched the game from the stands because of illness, 1,000 levs (650 US dollars) for "showing no respect to his team mates".

Domakiev, 26, left the stadium before the end of the match because he had a temperature, incurring the wrath of Hristolov, who also banned him from training with the team.

"I have no idea why Hristolov is behaving like this," said Domakiev, who has a year left on his contract and has refused to sign an extension. "I want to fulfill my contract with Botev. This is the club where I began my playing career."

"I don't want to say a bad word about the president but if he's going to treat me like this I'll come into my rights soon."—MNA/Reuters

**London**, 16 Aug—British sprinter Darren Campbell has called for those who helped guide team mate Dwain Chambers into taking illegal performance enhancing drugs to be made accountable.

Campbell refused to take part in a lap of honour with Chambers after the pair helped Britain's 4x100 metres relay team to European championship gold in Gothenburg on Sunday.

Chambers has recently completed a two-year ban for testing positive for the designer steroid THG in 2003. "I felt it was about time somebody actually made a stand," Campbell told BBC Radio on Tuesday, in explaining his decision not to celebrate with his team mates after winning Britain's only gold at the event.

"I had already had a private conversation with Dwain about it but I feel those who helped him get into that situation should be held accountable."

Campbell said he was prepared to forgive his team mate if he gave details of the people who had supplied him with his illegal drugs.

"If Dwain does the right thing and makes a difference for the sport...I'm retiring and I want to sit at home and think of the future of British athletics is in safe hands," he said from Beijing, where he is acting in a mentor role at the world junior championships.

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After those talks, the DFB released a statement saying the players would all wear Adidas boots for the Sweden game. It also said the rule could be changed in time for the European Championship qualifier against Ireland on 2 September.—MNA/Reuters

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CFR Cluj triumphed at Ceahlau Piatra Neamt with goals by Dan Arca, Vasile Jula and Cosmin Tilinca to make it three wins out of three in the new season but the coach, called up on Monday to the Romania squad, was not happy.

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Syrian President blasts US plans for Middle East

DAMASCUS, 16 Aug — Syrian President Basharal-Assad said on Tuesday Hizbollah’s “victory” in the recent war with Israel had destroyed US plans to reshape the Middle East.

German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier described Assad’s speech as a “negative contribution” and cancelled a trip to Syria planned for later in the day.

Assad also aimed sharp criticism at Israel and said peace in the Middle East would remain elusive for the foreseeable future. Their “New Middle East”, based on subjugation and humiliation, and denial of rights and identity, has turned into an illusion,” Assad said in reference to Washington’s goal of helping to shape what it calls a new, democratic Middle East.

It is evident that after six years of this (US)Administration that there is no peace and there will be none in the foreseeable future,” he told the Syrian Journalists Union in his first public comments since the Israel-Hizbollah war.

“The Israeli leadership is in front of an historic crossroads. Either it moves toward peace and gives back rights or face constant instability until an (Arab) generation comes and puts an end to the issue”.

MNA/Reuters

WEATHER

Wednesday, 16 August, 2006

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kayah State and Magway Division, rain have been isolated in Shan State, Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions, scattered in Kayin State and Bago Division and fairly widespread to widespread in the remaining States and Divisions with isolated heavyfalls in Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Myeik (6.85) inches, Pathon (3.31) inches, Kawthoung (2.84) inches, Haka (2.56) inches, Ye (2.20) inches and Sittway (1.26) inches.

Maximum temperature on 15-8-2006 was 88°F. Minimum temperature on 16-8-2006 was 76°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 16-8-2006 was (92%).

Total sunshine hours on 15-8-2006 was (3.1) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 16-8-2006 were (0.87) inch at Mingaladon, (0.04) inch at Kaba-Aye and (0.04) inch at Central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2006 were (79.21) inches at Kaba-Aye and (82.72) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (5) mph from Northwest at (13:05) hours MST on 15-8-2006.

Bay inference: According to the observations at (12:30) hrs MST today, the low pressure area over North Bay has further intensified into a depression centred about (90) miles South-East of Balasore, Orissa Coast, India. It is forecast to move West-Northwest direction and cross Orissa Coast, within next (36) hrs commencing this afternoon.

Forecast valid until evening of 17-8:2006: Rain will continue to be scattered in Kayah State, Sagaing, Magway and Magway Divisions, scattered in Kayin, Chin and Shan States, upper Sagaing Division, fairly widespread in Kayin State, Ayeyawady, Bago and Yangon Divisions and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Mon State and Taninthayi Divisions. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Decrease of rain in Northern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 17-8-2006: Likelihood of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 17-8-2006: One to two rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 17-8-2006: Likelihood of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (60%).

“Storm News”

(issued at 14:00 hrs MST on 16-8-2006)

According to the observations at (12:30) hrs MST today, the low pressure area over North Bay has further intensified into a depression centred about (90) miles South-East of Balasore, Orissa Coast, India. It is forecast to move West-Northwest direction and cross Orissa Coast, within next (36) hrs commencing this afternoon.

MNA/Reuters

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A documentary photo displayed at Press Conference No 6/2006. — MNA
Four political objectives
* Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
* National reconsolidation
* Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
* Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

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

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

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye sends message of sympathy to PRC

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Aug — Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of sympathy to His Excellency Mr Zeng Qinghong, Vice-President of the People’s Republic of China for the loss of lives and property caused by the most powerful Saomai storm in (50) years in Fujian, Zhejiang, and Jiangxi Provinces of the People’s Republic of China starting from 12 August, 2006. — MNA

Prime Minister sends message of sympathy to PRC

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Aug — General Soe Win, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of sympathy to His Excellency Mr Wen Jiabao, Premier of the State Council of the People’s Republic of China for the loss of lives and property caused by the most powerful Saomai storm in (50) years in Fujian, Zhejiang, and Jiangxi Provinces of the People’s Republic of China starting from 12 August, 2006. — MNA

Allegations Myanmar subject to poverty, famine and eco slump totally untrue

It is propaganda attack plotted by opposing political party whose political and organizational status on decline

Yangon, 16 Aug — The following is the full text translation of the clarification of Chairman of Information Committee of the State Peace and Development Council Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan at the press conference No 6/2006 held in Kengtung, Shan State (East), on 14 August.

As regards the seizure of narcotic drugs in Shan State (East), you have just been clarified by Myanmar Police Force Director-General Brig-Gen Khin Yi. Now I will clarify points on drug trafficking, ethnic cleansing, rapes, massacres, planting of mines.

Yangon, 16 Aug — The Information Committee of the State Peace and Development Council held the press conference 6/2006 at the city hall in Kengtung, Shan State (East), on 14 August afternoon.

Present on the occasion were Chairman of the Information Committee of SPDC Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and members, the ministers, the deputy ministers, Acting Dean of the Diplomatic Corps to the Union of Myanmar Cambodian Ambassador Mr Hul Phany and diplomats from foreign missions, Charges d’Affaires ai and staff of embassies, resident representatives of UNODC, UNAIDS, WFP and DEA, advisers and officials, Director-General Brig-Gen Khin Yi of Myanmar Police Force and departmental heads, the Director (News) of News and Periodicals Enterprise

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