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

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

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 Hsuan, 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, resident representatives of UN agencies, officials, Myanmar Police Force Director-General Brig-Gen Khin Yi and departmental officials, left Kengtung by helicopter for Mongla 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 Pangsan, 73 trainees are attending the basic construction course, basic mechanic course, basic electrical course and welding course.

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 Khamper 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.

**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 MOWA of the local military hospital. At Meiktila General Hospital, Vice-President of Meiktila District Peace and Development Council, U Tin Hlaing of Department of Police, U Tun Hlaing of Department of Health, U Maung Tun of Myanma Airways, Director of Hotels and Tourism and Daw Aye Aye presented medicines and medical equipment to Medical Superintendent U Myo Than. Also present on the occasion were Chairman of the MOWA members, doctors and nurses.

Afterwards, the vice-president and party viewed the Child Nursery in Paukchaung Ward and presented toys to the children.

**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 Myanma Airways, Director-General U Hay Aung of Directorate of Hotels and Tourism, Thai Ambassador Mr Suphot Dhirakosol and Chairman of Thai Air Asia Mr Arak Cholthanan formally opened the ceremony.

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

**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 U Tin Hlaing of Department of Police, U Maung Tun of Myanma Airways, Director of Hotels and Tourism, Thai Ambassador Mr Suphot Dhirakosol and Chairman of Thai Air Asia Mr Arak Cholthanan formally opened the ceremony.

The new digital printer processor and refreshment can produce business cards and photos up to 24 inches by eight inches in size. Accel International Co Ltd sells Noritsu brand printer processor and film developer at No 422-426, the sixth floor, Forest Product Joint-Venture Commercial Building on Botataung Pagoda Road, Tel: 202092 and 202096.

A responsible person introduces Noritsu Digital printer processor Noritsu Singapore Pte Ltd and Accel International Co, Ltd at Traders Hotel.— MNA
Iranian President lauds Hizbollah, blasts US "crimes"

TEHERAN, 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 revealed 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

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/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 screwdriver, 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 Massachusetts' 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 Defense 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

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

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

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

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
**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 Phar- maceutical 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 company’s 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, Mr Karim said.

The team trying to scale the 8,611m (28,251ft) K2 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 FedEx 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

**North China city reports more Encephalitis B cases**

**Yuncheng (Shanxi Pro- vince), 16 Aug —** Yuncheng City of north China’s Shanxi Province reported 65 cases of Encephalitis B as of 28,251ft) K2 was trying to clear a backlog of 5,000 bags at Heathrow and other airlines were experiencing similar problems.

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MNA/Reuters

**Romania to establish national air quality assessment system**

**Bucharest, 16 Aug** — Romania plans to establish an integrated air quality assessment 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

**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 trans- atlantic airliners.

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

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MNA/Reuters

**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

**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
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 (mcfd) for 20 years starting in January, from 20 million mcfd.

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 one 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 the 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, Mitsu said. The spill was contained and there was no danger of further leaks. The spill was the largest involving a Japanese-operated tanker, Mitsu 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 other vessel, 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.

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 MeritCare 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. — MNA/Reuters

The study tested 49 patients after they were diagnosed with 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.’ — MNA/Reuters

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 Singaporean 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

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

Strongman Bakhram Akhazarian 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

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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 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 management.

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 in Indonesia, Sabah and Sarawak states and the Federal Territory of Labuan in Malaysia, and Mindanao and Palawan in the Philippines.

MNA/Phinma

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

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 Gebenet, 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 Omoerate 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

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 ill-fed 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 tract 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/Phinma

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

MNA/Reuters

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

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.

MNA/Reuters


INTERNET
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr.</th>
<th>Crop</th>
<th>Total yield (baskets)</th>
<th>Oil in metric tons</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Groundnut</td>
<td>83,448,963</td>
<td>212,112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Sesame</td>
<td>22,107,422</td>
<td>196,877</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Sunflower</td>
<td>26,519,80</td>
<td>99,366</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Mustard</td>
<td>16,59,644</td>
<td>12,260</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Niger</td>
<td>2,126,134</td>
<td>17,445</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>538,060</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr.</th>
<th>Crop</th>
<th>Oil production yield rate</th>
<th>Disease resistance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Hsinpadetha5</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Hsinpadetha6</td>
<td>49%-51%</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Hsinpadetha7</td>
<td>40%-50%</td>
<td>107</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crop</th>
<th>Sown acreage</th>
<th>Per acre yield in baskets</th>
<th>Output in baskets</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monsoon groundnut</td>
<td>797677</td>
<td>42.62</td>
<td>33,988,242</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cold season groundnut</td>
<td>1007251</td>
<td>57.25</td>
<td>57,766,855</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>50.79</td>
<td>91,655,097</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 Myanmar Agriculture Service of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation to produce more groundnut.

(Translation: TMT)

Myanma Alin: 16-8-2006
Secretary-1 discusses regional development with national race leaders of Shan State

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

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, practicing thrifty, and carrying out of greening task.

On 14 August, the minister inspected banking services of Myanma 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 12 retransmission stations and construction of two retransmission stations in Mongka and Mongyan 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 compounded and attended to the needs.

A total of 22 retransmission stations— nine in Kengtung District, six in Monghsat, four in Tachileik 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 called for becoming well-qualified human resources.

The minister and party arrived back Kengtung in the evening. MNA

Ministry of NPED, UNICEF ink Country Programme Action Plan


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

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

Minister receives Japanese Ambassador

Nay Pyi Taw, 17 Aug — Minister for Science and Technology and for Labour U Thaung 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.
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.2006rus.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

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 centered 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 paint by Pablo Picasso. — MNA/Reuters

Donate blood

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
Illegal trade in wild animals 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's 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 wildlife resources will 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

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

MNA/Xinhua

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

MNA/Reuters

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MNA/Xinhua

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MNA/Xinhua

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MNA/Reuters
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

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 Widatatalla 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.

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

Dell to recall 4.1 mn 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 Commission 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
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 on Wednesday.

Chinese head coach Zhu Guanghu may find it hard to hold his place as China seemed rusty throughout the day. Zhu had said 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 seemed pretty solid and China could only produce threats through set-pieces. Shao bent a sharp-angle free kick in the first minute, but goalkeeper Lionel Lewis denied his efforts with a full-stretched save.

The in-form keeper stopped Xu Liang's goal-bound drive to the hoop during the first half against the 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 Chinese team lost to Iraq 1-2 in the previous game. Zhu had 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, 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 Antonios Nikopolidis after Stuart Downing had nodded in a goal from a free-kick to put England ahead.

England crushed 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 Antonios Nikopolidis after Stuart Downing had nodded in a goal from a free-kick to put England ahead.

Lampard whoeduring 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 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 quarter-finals 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

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

Terrell Owens, left, is defended by Anthony Henry during the Dallas Cowboys’ football training camp in Oxnard, Calif, on Wednesday, 16 Aug, 2006.—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 France to a 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 Sergei Barbarez who scored his 15th goal in his 42nd match for the national side.

Zvjesdan Misimovic hit a free kick from the left into the box where defender Emil Spahić 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 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

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 in Japan.

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

France and Greece at the semi-final.

England crush Greece 4-0 on McClaren debut

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 perimeter. 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.

China’s Yao Ming (Top) hits a forehead 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

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 Ming, China’s first player in the NBA, had nine.

Christina Vukicevic of Norway clears the last hurdle during the women’s 100 metres hurdles heat of the 11th IAAF World Junior Championships in Athletics 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

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
Iran wants new Mideast without US, British meddling

The 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 Hezbollah guerrillas and Israel that the violence marked the birth of a new Middle East, free from the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and their influence on the region.

“I am not saying there is no conflict in the Middle East, but there is a new sense of looming violence that marked the birth of a new Middle East,” said Rice.

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,” Ahmadinejad said.

Fire breaks out on 54th Street in Botataung 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 Botataung 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.

WEATHER

Thursday, 17 August, 2006

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain has 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 Puthu (4.72) inches, Myeik (4.02) inches, Dawei (2.04) inches, Thanon (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

(ability to be used in the weather map and future weather map)

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MNA/Reuters

MNA
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.

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

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 opium-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

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

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

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

PAGE 7 MAUNG WA (AGRICULTURE)