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

Four political objectives
- Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
- National reconsolidation
- Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
- Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

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

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

Friday, 1 September, 2006

**Continue working towards a polio-free country**

Polio, also called poliomyelitis, is a contagious viral disease. There are three types of polio, namely, abortive polio, nonparalytic polio and paralytic polio. Children who have abortive polio or nonparalytic polio usually make a full recovery. However, paralytic polio can damage the nervous system and cause paralysis.

Polio is most common in infants and young children and it is preventable by immunization. There are two types of polio vaccine and they are oral polio vaccine (OPV) and inactivated polio vaccine (IPV) and experts say that OPV is more effective in preventing the spread of polio virus.

Myanmar has been working towards eradicating polio since 1996, holding the national immunization days twice a year and feeding polio vaccine to children under five. Myanmar has now vaccinated at least 95 per cent of its children under five. Polio mainly affects children under three years of age and it is important to continue vaccinating kids against polio.

The last case of wild polio was reported in Myanmar in 2000. Then, there had been no cases of the disease for three successive years. Therefore, Myanmar was recognized as polio-free country by a regional committee on 13 February, 2003.

But in May this year, there was a case of a highly infectious polio caused by a virus like wild-type polio virus in PyinOoLwin Township, Mandalay Division. As the disease is likely to rear its head in our polio-free county, it has been designated as national immunization days to check the spread of the virus timely.

This year, 3 September and 1 October have been designated as national immunization days and more than two million children in 80 townships in Mandalay, Magway and Sagaing Divisions and Shan State (North) and Kachin State will be given polio vaccine. We believe that the entire people will take an active part in national immunization activities region-wise in order that all their children can be healthy and their nation can remain a polio-free country.

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**OUTSTANDING STUDENTS HONOURED**

— Mingala Taungnyunt Township’s No 1 Basic Education High School’s six-distinction winner (L) accepts an award presented by a member of the Board of Trustees of the school on 30 August 2006. — MNA

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**Appointment of Ambassador agreed on**

**MYANMAR GAZETTE**

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Sept— The Government of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the proposed appointment of Mr Michael Sternberg as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Denmark to the Union of Myanmar.

Mr Michael Sternberg served for UNDP and World Bank in 1970s and then joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Denmark in 1979. He served in various capacities at different departments of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark and at Royal Danish Embassies in New Delhi and Nairobi. Then from 1995 to 2001, he served as Ambassador of the Kingdom of Denmark to the Republic of Indonesia. Currently he is the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Denmark to the Republic of India and also accredited to Sri Lanka, Bhutan and Maldives.

He is married and has a daughter.

MNA

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**Yangon East District holds Performing Arts Competitions**

**Yangon East District**

Yangon East District opened its Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions at Yankin Education College yesterday, attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win.

Chairman of District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Maung Maung Shein gave an address after formally opening the competitions in which 79 professionals and 326 amateurs totalling 405 are taking part.

The venue of singing and composing contests is Thangyangyn Education College and that of dance and music contests is Thangyangyn Township Peace and Development Council Office.

The commander presented gifts to artistes who entertained the audience at the opening ceremony.

MNA

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**Foreign Minister sends felicitations to Qatar**

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Sept— On the occasion of the Independence Day of the State of Qatar which falls on 1 September, 2006, U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Sheikh Hamad Bin Jassem Bin Jabir Al-Thani, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar.

MNA

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**Foreign Minister sends felicitations to Uzbekistan**

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Sept— U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Norov Vladimir Imamovich, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan, on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of Uzbekistan which falls on 1 September, 2006.

MNA

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All this needs to be known

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

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**Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win presents a flower basket to artistes**

MNA
Six ASEAN countries agree to connect flights to boost tourism

Jakarta, 30 Aug—Six member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) have agreed to open flights to each other in their efforts to boost tourist arrivals, an Indonesian official said Tuesday.

The six countries—Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam—are determined to boost international arrivals by 15 percent a year, said Minister of Culture and Tourism Jero Wacik.

Speaking to journalists after meeting with President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono here, Wacik said the number of tourists visiting the six countries totalled only around half a million a year.

The six countries also agreed to jointly launch tourism promotion and open training programmes for tourism workers from each country.

Iranian VP says Iran to help rebuild Lebanon

BEIRUT, 30 Aug—Visiting Iranian Vice-President Ali Saeedlou said here on Tuesday that Iran would do its endeavour to help rebuild Lebanon.

“We have come as an official delegation to say that we in the Islamic Republic of Iran put all resources at the disposal of Lebanon’s reconstruction and development process,” Saeedlou told reporters after his meeting with Lebanese officials.

He added that “We discussed with Lebanese officials how Iran can participate in rebuilding infrastructure in Lebanon, including schools, roads and places of worship that were damaged and destroyed in the Israeli aggression.” Meanwhile, Saeedlou said his meeting with Lebanese Prime Minister Fouad Siniora was positive, saying “With all honesty, during my meeting with Siniora, I heard only positive indications, understanding and readiness to cooperate whether in the reconstruction stage or in enhancing bilateral cooperation.”— MNA/Xinhua

Venezuela seized 300 pistols bound for Colombia

CARACAS, 30 Aug—The Venezuelan Customs officials seized 300 pistols at the Maiquetia International Airport in the capital, said the country’s top Tax and Customs official Jose Gregorio Vielma Mora on Tuesday morning.

“The warehouse at La Guaira did not report to SENIAT (the National Tax and Customs Service),” said Vielma, noting it would be fined about 39.98 million bolivars (18,633 US dollars) for violating Customs rules.

The 300 millimetres Vernadelo-brand pistols, bound for Colombia, were transported by the Alitalia Airlines from Turkey, he said, stressing that by law all arms that arrive in Venezuela are required to be registered with the Armed Forces Munitions Directorate.—MNA/Xinhua

Nepali registered in “Guinness Book” as world’s shortest man

Fourteen-year-old Khagendra Thapamagar from the West Nepal village of Baglung walks in the capital Kathmandu.

KATHMANDU, 30 Aug—A fourteen-year-old Nepali has been registered in the Guinness Book of World Records as the world’s shortest man, The Himalayan Times newspaper reported on Tuesday.

With 20 inches height and 4.5 kilograms weight, Khagendra Thapamagar of Baglung, western Nepal, has his name recorded in the Guinness Book of World Records as the world’s shortest man, according to the newspaper.

“The Guinness Book people sent us information that Khagendra contested for the title with Jordan’s Youanswain, who is 25.5 inches tall and weighed 10 kilograms, but Khagendra came out as the winner.”

Min Bahadur Rana, chairman of the Khagendra Thapamagar Academy, which organizes exhibitions on Khagendra to support him and his family, was quoted as saying by the daily.

Khagendra’s mother Dhan Maya said her son started moving around only when he was eight and his physical growth stopped at the age of 11, the daily said.—MNA/Xinhua

Iran’s President wants TV debate with Bush

TEHERAN, 30 Aug—Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad on Tuesday proposed holding a live television debate with US President George W Bush to discuss global affairs.

“I suggest holding a live TV debate with Mr George W Bush to talk about world affairs and the ways to solve those issues,” Ahmadinejad told a news conference in which he complained about the US and British roles in the world after World War II. The United States and Britain are abusing the privileged positions they hold in the international order set up after World War II, he said.

“We think the special privileges that America and Britain are taking advantage of today are the origin of all disturbances in the world,” he said, adding that they were abusing their roles as permanent members of the Security Council.

“Isn’t it time that international relations were founded on democracy and equal rights of the nations?” he said.

He made similar complaints about the world order in a recent letter to German Chancellor Angela Merkel in which he suggested that both Iran and Germany were subject to the “tyranny” of the winners of World War II.— MNA/Reuters

A worker carries a statue of a golden-winged lion, the symbol of Venice Film Festival, during preparations for the festival in front of Cinema Palace in Venice on 30 Aug, 2006. The 63rd edition of the Venice Film Festival will take place from 30 Aug to 9 Sept, 2006. —INTERNET

Workers walk beside cars lined up at a Brazilian Volkswagen plant, which employs 12,000, in Sao Bernardo do Campo, near Sao Paulo on 30 Aug, 2006. —INTERNET
US data show one in eight Americans in poverty

WASHINGTON, 30 Aug — In the world’s biggest economy, one in eight Americans and almost one in four Blacks lived in poverty last year, the US Census Bureau said on Tuesday, both ratios virtually unchanged from 2004.

The survey also showed 15.9 per cent of the population, or 46.6 million, had no health insurance, up from 15.6 per cent in 2004 and an increase for a fifth consecutive year, even as the economy grew at a 3.2 per cent clip.

It was the first year since President George W. Bush took office in 2001 that the poverty rate did not increase. As in past years, the figures showed poverty especially concentrated among Blacks and Hispanics. In all, some 37 million Americans, or 12.6 per cent, lived below the poverty line, defined as having an annual income around 10,000 US dollars for an individual or 20,000 US dollars for a family of four. The total showed a decrease of 90,000 from the 2004 figure, which Census Bureau officials said was “statistically insignificant”.

The last time poverty declined was in 2000, the final year of Bill Clinton’s presidency, when it fell to 11.3 per cent.

The stagnant poverty picture drew attention from Democrats and others who said not enough is being done to help the nation’s poor.

Bush took office in 2001, since President George W. Bush took office in 2001, the US economy grew at a 3.2 per cent clip.

Singapore conducts inter-agency maritime security exercise

SINGAPORE, 30 Aug — Singapore is now holding a major inter-agency maritime security exercise, which started on 21 August and will end on 1 September.

Confirming the exercise on Tuesday, Singapore’s Defence Ministry said that some 1,600 personnel from the city state’s Air Force and the Army, as well as the Police Coast Guard (PCG), Maritime Port Authority (MPA), and the Immigration and Checkpoints Authority (ICA), are participating in the exercise, code-named Exercise APEX 06.

Some Singapore Navy’s mine countermeasures vessels and Fokker 50 maritime patrol aircraft, as well as boats from the above-mentioned agencies were also involved in the annual drill, the fifth and largest in the series.

Various scenarios played out in the exercise, including the disposal of a sea mine detected in the Singapore Straits by the country’s mine-hunting assets, as well as a ferry mishap which required co-ordinated responses by different agencies to handle various consequence management issues, such as evacuation and medical aid for casualties, according the Defence Ministry.

Police find 11 bodies in S-W Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 30 Aug — Iraqi police found 11 bodies in execution-style in southwestern Baghdad on Tuesday, an Interior Ministry source said. The bodies were dumped in the backyard of the Alam school in Al-Furat neighbourhood, the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

The bodies, with bullets in the back of their heads, were blindfolded and bound, the source said.

The almost daily gruesome body findings, assassinations and explosions in Baghdad and other cities were seen as a major setback for the Iraqi Government’s efforts to stem violence and achieve national reconciliation.

Blast at Iraqi pipeline site kills at least 29

NEAR DIWANIYA (Iraq), 30 Aug — At least 29 people were killed when a blast ripped through scavengers siphoning petrol from pools around a breach in a disused pipeline in central Iraq late on Monday, health officials said.

A Reuters reporter at the rural site near Diwaniya, 180 kilometres (110 miles) south of Baghdad, saw 15 charred bodies, including that of a boy. The explosion severely wounded 26 people.

“Some of the wounded have burns in 75 per cent of their bodies,” Hamid Jaafi, a health official in Diwaniya told Reuters, adding the death toll is expected to climb.

A police source said more than 50 were killed, although that figure could not be confirmed. Witnesses said the blast occurred at 11 pm (1900 GMT), while a group of impoverished people were scooping fuel from two large pools.

The cause of the blast was still under investigation, officials said. — MNA/Reuters

Residents gather near a crater after an explosion near Diwaniya, 180 km (112 miles) south of Baghdad on 29 Aug, 2006. —INTERNET

A farmer gathers peanuts leftover from the harvest in Sichuan, southwest China’s Sichuan Province on 29 Aug, 2006. —INTERNET

Jing Jing, a panda who was chosen as one of the Olympic mascots, sits in a tree at the Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding in China’s western province of Sichuan on 31 Aug, 2006. —INTERNET

Firefighters use water to control natural gas leaking from a destroyed pipeline on a street in southwest China’s Chongqing Municipality on 30 Aug, 2006. More than 200 people were evacuated and gas supply to 170 thousand users was cut off due to this gas leakage. —INTERNET

The survey also showed 15.9 per cent of the population, or 46.6 million, had no health insurance, up from 15.6 per cent in 2004 and an increase for a fifth consecutive year, even as the economy grew at a 3.2 per cent clip.
Depleted ozone layer to be recovered

The scientists said the ozone layer’s comeback is due in large part to compliance with a 1987 international agreement called the Montreal Protocol, which aimed to limit emissions of ozone-depleting chemicals.

"These results confirm the Montreal Protocol and its amendments have succeeded in stopping the loss of ozone in the stratosphere," said Eun-Su Yang of the Georgia Institute of Technology, who led a team that analyzed the data.

Google CEO joins Apple board of directors

"The 30-seater minibus was carrying four families from the neighbouring Koppal District on a sightseeing trip to Bagalkot," Bagalkot superintendent of police Ramesh Harihar said.

Two passengers and the driver survived the accident, he said. The wreckage of the bus has yet been traced and the police and local residents were busy searching for bodies.

The police have registered a case of rash and negligent driving against the driver.

Zambia, Botswana, Zimbabwe to build bridge on Zambezi River

Zambian President Levy Mwanawasa, Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe and Botswana President Festus Mogae signed the MoU in Harare, the capital of Zimbabwe.

Speaking before the signing ceremony, Mugabe said the construction of the bridge linking the three countries will boost tourism in the region and enhance the flow of trade.

Mogae said the signing of the MoU captures the true spirit of Africa.

According to a joint communiqué, the objective of the MoU is to record the undertakings and commitments of the three countries regarding their intended cooperation to the construction of the bridge.

The countries will explore and agree on suitable arrangements for the development of the project.

BEIJING, 31 Aug—Earth’s protective ozone layer, which was notably thinning in 1980, may be fully recovered by mid-century, climate scientists said Wednesday.

Ozone in the stratosphere, outside the polar regions, stopped thinning in 1997, they found after analyzing 25 years of observations, published in the Journal of Geophysical Research - Atmospheres.

The ozone layer shields the planet from the sun’s harmful ultraviolet radiation, but human-made chemicals — notably the chloro-fluorocarbons found in some refrigerants and aerosol propellants — depleted this stratospheric ozone, causing the protective layer to get thinner.

"The scientists said the ozone layer's comeback is due in large part to compliance with a 1987 international agreement called the Montreal Protocol, which aimed to limit emissions of ozone-depleting chemicals. These results confirm the Montreal Protocol and its amendments have succeeded in stopping the loss of ozone in the stratosphere," said Eun-Su Yang of the Georgia Institute of Technology, who led a team that analyzed the data.

Zambia, Botswana and Zimbabwe on Monday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for the construction of the Kazungula Bridge along the Zambezi River, according to Zambia News and Information Service.

Speaking before the signing ceremony, Mogae said the construction of the bridge linking the three countries will boost tourism in the region and enhance the flow of trade.

Mugabe paid tribute to Zambia and Botswana for providing shelter to many Zimbabweans who were running away from persecutions by the racist colonial regime. Speaking after the signing ceremony, Mwanawasa said he was happy with the agreement signed and looked forward to its implementation.

Mogae said the signing of the MoU captures the true spirit of Africa.

According to a joint communiqué, the objective of the MoU is to record the undertakings and commitments of the three countries regarding their intended cooperation to the construction of the bridge.

The countries will explore and agree on suitable arrangements for the development of the project.

WASHINGTON, 30 Aug—Google Inc Chief Executive Officer Eric Schmidt has joined the board of directors of Apple Computer Inc, Apple said on Tuesday.

Apple, maker of the Macintosh personal computer, elected Schmidt to the board at a meeting earlier in the day, according to a statement by California-based Apple.

Schmidt, 51, joined Mountain View, California-based Google from Novell Inc in 2001. Before Novell, Schmidt was chief technology officer at Sun Microsystems Inc.

"The statement signals closer professional ties between Apple CEO Steve Jobs, whose iPod is the most popular digital music player, and Schmidt, who witnessed Google’s rise to become the most-used Internet search engine. There have been few instances that really top-flight people with operational experience can become directors, technological analysts in Silicon Valley said.

MNA/Xinhua

Strong aftershock hits S-W China, injuring 16

KUNMING, 30 Aug—A major aftershock measuring 4.7 degrees on the Richter Scale was recorded on Tuesday in the southwestern Chinese province of Yunnan, injuring 16 people and destroying thousands of buildings.

The quake, which lasted about five seconds, occurred at 9 am on Tuesday, local authorities said, adding that more aftershocks may hit the area in the next few days.

The tremour has caused some buildings to collapse in Yunnan County, forcing all students to move out of their classrooms. Among the 16 injured, three are in critical condition.

Local governments are making efforts to prevent possible geological disasters triggered by the quake such as landslides and rockfalls in mountainous areas.

The quakes caused economic losses of 700 million yuan (87.5 million US dollars), affecting more than 300,000 people.

MNA/Xinhua

27 drown in bus mishap in south India

NEW DELHI, 30 Aug—At least 27 people, including 12 women and eight children, drowned Tuesday when a minibus plunged into a river in south Indian state of Karnataka, Indian news agencies reported.

The driver lost control of the bus when trying to avoid colliding with a motorcycle on a bridge over the Krishna River in Bagalkot District of Karnataka at around 1:00 pm Tuesday, the local police said.

"The 30-seater minibus was carrying four families from the neighbouring Koppal District on a sightseeing trip to Bagalkot," Bagalkot superintendent of police Ramesh Harihar said.

Two passengers and the driver survived the accident, he said. The wreckage of the bus has yet been traced and the police and local residents were busy searching for bodies.

The police have registered a case of rash and negligent driving against the driver.

MNA/Xinhua

Internet
Koizumi discusses energy ties with Uzbek President

TASHKENT, 30 Aug—Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, seeking to bolster Tokyo’s role in Central Asia, discussed energy ties on Tuesday with Uzbek President Islam Karimov and cautiously pressed him on human rights.

At least five killed in train collision in Zimbabwe

HARARE, 30 Aug—At least five people were confirmed dead and eight others were injured in a train collision when a Victoria Falls-bound passenger train collided with a goods train at Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe on Sunday, sources told Xinhua on Monday.

The sources with the National Railways of Zimbabwe (NRZ) said three people were confirmed to be dead on the spot, and two others died in the hospital on Monday.

An NRZ official who was on the scene said Sunday that burnt limbs could be seen in the mangled coaches suggesting more people died. Rescuers could not pull out the limbs from the coaches because of heat from the fire.

The official said the Spoornet goods train, which was carrying copper sulphate and fuel tanks, left the Victoria Falls station after the NRZ officials had confirmed that the passenger train had been alerted to wait at the Dibamombe junction until the Spoornet goods train had passed.

Mugariiri could not confirm the number of causalties saying he could only confirm three deaths, a woman and two men. The two men were the engine drivers.

India, Iran talk about nuclear, energy issues

NEW DELHI, 30 Aug—India and Iran discussed the nuclear issue and cooperation in energy sector at the meeting between visiting Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister and Indian counterpart Tuesday, the Ministry of External Affairs said.

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Asia, Oceania and Common-wealth Mehdi Safari arrived here Tuesday and met with Rajiv Sikri, Secretary (East) with Indian Ministry of External Affairs, the ministry said in a Press release.

Safari said Iran is open to negotiations and willing to cooperate fully with International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) but insist on its rights under the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and the issue being reverted to the IAEA.

India does not want confrontation and destabilization in the region, Sikri said. “India wants all issues to be resolved through dialogue and discussion rather than coercion.”

India believes that as a signatory to the NPT Iran must enjoy all its rights and honour all its obligations, he said. The two sides reaffirmed the commitment to the Iran-Pakistan-India gas pipeline project while India emphasized the importance of Iran to honour the liquefied natural gas (LNG) deal signed in June 2005, the Press release said.

Eight Egyptians killed in building collapses

Cairo, 30 Aug—Eight people were killed while two buildings collapsed within hours of each other in Egypt, and rescuers were searching for any others who could be trapped in the rubble, security sources said on Monday.

The two residential buildings, one in Cairo and another in the town of Qalyoub 20 kilometres (12 miles) north of the city, collapsed between on Sunday evening and Monday morning. Qalyoub was also the scene of a train crash which killed 58 people last week.

Building collapses are frequent in Egyptian cities because of poor construction and maintenance. — MNA/Reuters
Myanmar football heading for era of gold

When I heard the news that Myanmar National Football Team cruised into the final by winning over host Malaysian team in the Merdeka Tournament, I wanted to welcome the return of the championship trophy of the Merdeka Cup which we all the people have desired for 35 years. I was eager to listen to the song entitled “Myanmar has won victory.”

In retrospect, the Merdeka Cup Football Tournament commenced in 1957. Myanmar National Football Team secured champions for three times in the competitions of the Merdeka Tournament in 1964, 1967 and 1971. Furthermore, Myanmar team stood at the second positions in the Merdeka Cup for three times in 1966, 1968 and 1970. Moreover, the national team clinched the third prizes for four times in 1965, 1969, 1973 and 1975. After having been away from the trophy for 35 years, the present Myanmar National Team fulfilled the desire of all the people of Myanmar in 2006 by securing the championship trophy in the 38th Merdeka Tournament. Whiling participating in the Merdeka Tournaments for 17 times, Myanmar team was held in high esteem by its opponent teams from South-east Asian countries. With the concept that if Myanmar did not take part in the competitions, the Merdeka Tournament would be less meaningful, the host country invited Myanmar team to the tournament.

Speaking on the occasion on 30 August evening, Minister for Olympic Committee Dr Than Oo (Trs) said, “I take a great pride in the present Myanmar team in securing Merdeka Championship more than that of ours. After 35 years of hard work, our expectation finally comes to fruition.” Team captain Soe Myat Min said, “We have achieved success due to concerted efforts of all the teammates. I am so happy because the Myanmar team has fulfilled the desire of the Myanmar football fans who expected to win victory in the football event. We will try harder in future.”

Striker Kyaw Thura who scored equalizer in the match said the support of Myanmar people at home and those in Malaysia meant a lot for the success. And Sithu Win who shot two goals for Myanmar team also expressed his happiness. The mass of fans welcomed the team back and honoured the footballers with garlands at the airport.

Victorious Myanmar Team welcomed back by people at junction of Paya Road and Kamayut Road.

Aye Maung Gyi said, “I take a great pride in the present Myanmar team in securing Merdeka Championship more than that of ours. After 35 years of hard work, our expectation finally comes to fruition.” Team captain Soe Myat Min said, “We have achieved success due to concerted efforts of all the teammates. I am so happy because the Myanmar team has fulfilled the desire of the Myanmar football fans who expected to win victory in the football event. We will try harder in future.”

Striker Kyaw Thura who scored equalizer in the match said the support of Myanmar people at home and those in Malaysia meant a lot for the success. And Sithu Win who shot two goals for Myanmar team also expressed his happiness. The mass of fans welcomed the team back and honoured the footballers with garlands at the airport. By waving to the sports enthusiasts, the victorious players left the airport by car and proceeded to Karaweik Palace along Pyay Road through Thamaing junction and Myenigon junction.

On arrival at Karaweik Palace, President of Myanmar Football Federation U Zaw Zaw handed over the championship trophy to Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig Gen Thura Aye Myint. After that, the minister delivered an address. At the dinner, those present including the footballers were entertained with music by Emperor Band.

On its return, Merdeka Champion Myanmar National Football Team was accorded a rousing welcome by a large number of people including enthusiasts along the route from the airport to Karaweik Palace. The people welcomed back the team with garlands and shook hands with them.

Myanmar Victorious

* Myanmar team at Merdeka
  Won three gold, three silver
  Bronze several times
  Are facts to be chronicled.
  * This time around, has won again
  And knowing the fact for sure
  Caused us to hold the Union Flag
  And make it flutter in the wind
  True as the nation’s sons.
  * When on screen MRTV
  Further vouched for sure
  “Myanmar Victorious”, the song reverberated
  The sight and sounds touched us
  Overjoyed, with brimming smiles
  So brimmed over, our joyfulness.
  Dr Than Oo (Trs)

Artistes wait to welcome back winning football team.

Sue Myat Min. Kyaw Thura. Sithu Win.

Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint said that Myanmar selected footballers Than Toe Aung, Myo Hlaing Win and Sue Myat Min had been trying their best for many years to be able to lift the trophy of the Merdeka Cup again, and the dream has come true now.

Indeed, Myanmar had established a golden era as far as football is concerned in the past. All the footballers desired to be victorious players. Former selected players of Myanmar teams in the golden era of the football arena looked forward to achievements of the present Myanmar National Team.

Media persons from State-run newspapers, Myanma Radio and Television and Myawady TV made preparatory tasks to welcome back the Myanmar National Team that would arrive back at Yangon International Airport at 9.15 pm on 30 August after clinching the championship title in the final match of the 38th Merdeka Tournament by beating Indonesian with a 2-1 result. Likewise, journalists from various private journals and magazines waited for the victorious Myanmar team at the airport. Similarly, artistes joined the crowd to garland the footballers at the airport.

In an interview, vocalist and actress Tha Zin said that she was waiting for victorious footballers who brought honour to the State to welcome back them at the airport. Being a Myanmar national, she was proud that Myanmar team had emerged champion in the Merdeka Tournament, she added.

So also, vocalist and actor Tun Tun spoke with delight about the victorious Myanmar team. He realized that Myanmar had become Merdeka Champions in the past is not a legend. He expressed his feeling of esteem to the players.

After the aircraft landed at the airport, the Myanmar footballers alighted. In an interview, former selected player U Aye Maung Gyi said, “I take a great pride in the present Myanmar team in securing Merdeka Championship more than that of ours. After 35 years of hard work, our expectation finally comes to fruition.” Team captain Soe Myat Min said, “We have achieved success due to concerted efforts of all the teammates. I am so happy because the Myanmar team has fulfilled the desire of the Myanmar football fans who expected to win victory in the football event. We will try harder in future.”

Striker Kyaw Thura who scored equalizer in the match said the support of Myanmar people at home and those in Malaysia meant a lot for the success. And Sithu Win who shot two goals for Myanmar team also expressed his happiness. The mass of fans welcomed the team back and honoured the footballers with garlands at the airport.

By winning the Merdeka Championship Myanmar football is again heading for the era of gold.
for the upgrading of the facility in the dry season. The commander and officials gave supplementary reports.

From Shukinthar (Kyeegar Bazar) at mile post No 150/6, Lt-Gen Ye Myint viewed the second defile of the river.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party, accompanied by Sagaing Division PDC Chairman North-West Command Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye, inspected the progress of Shwegu.

They met township level service personnel, social organizations, townelders and local authorities. The township PDC chairman gave an account of work progress for regional development. The commander gave a supplementary report.

The officials concerned also reported on progress of work in respective sectors.

Concerning the report, Lt-Gen Ye Myint said that the government has been implementing various projects for equitable development of all parts of the Union, that calls for harmonious efforts of the people, departments and local administrative bodies. In the past, local people had to stop over a night in Thabeikgyin to travel by boat between Shwegu and Mandalay. Now, thanks to the emergence of Myitkyina-Bhamo-Tagaung-Mandalay Road the government has constructed for expediting tasks for regional development, the travelling time can be reduced to one day. He urged local people to maintain the facility for its durability and to strive for exceeding the targeted per acre yields of monsoon paddy, physic nut, vegetables, pineapple, banana, djenkol bean, cashew, tamarind and physic nut of Shwegu Station.

Next, they looked into the sugarcane farm of Yuzana Co Ltd in Shwegu. Project director U Sonny reported on progress of cultivation of sugarcane on 121.91 acres of land. Commander Maj-Gen Ohn Myint gave a supplementary report.

In response, Lt-Gen Ye Myint said that the government is encouraging national agricultural entrepreneurs and reclaiming vacant lands, while local authorities are attending to the needs to meet the goal. He called for extended cultivation of crops. They inspected the 1,500-acre teak plantation of the Forest Department and three companies at NgaO Village-tract, Mabein Township, Kyakme District, Shan State (North).

They viewed the plantations of physic nut, vegetables and perennial crops of local regiment. Next, they inspected the 2,330-foot Shweli Bridge (NgaO) spanning the Shweli River at mile post No 101 of Shwegu-Tagaung-Twinnge-Momeik Road.

Afterwards, they inspected Hunda-Myanmar Co’s factory project that will be able to produce 30,000 tons of gasohol from sugarcane at Pyindaunglay Village in Katha Township, and the 800-acre teak plantation of the company in Indaung forest reserve in Htigyaing Township. They saw over the Great Wall 1,500-ton sugar mill project in Htigyaing Township.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Commander Maj-Gen Ohn Myint and Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye met with local authorities, service personnel, social organizations and the employees at the factory. Lt-Gen Ye Myint called for concerted efforts for regional development.

Together with Shan State (North) PDC Chairman North-East Command Commander Brig-Gen Aung Than Htut, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party visited the Twinnge-Momeik Road Project site. Lt-Gen Ye Myint called for completion of the project by the coming dry season.

MNA

Myanmar, India to discuss trade cooperation

YANGON, 31 Aug — The Indian-Myanmar Business Matching, jointly organized by the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and Indo-Myanmar Chamber of Commerce and Industries based in Mumbai, India, will be held at UMFCCI Office Tower from 1 pm to 4 pm on 5 September.

The 15-member Indian trade delegation led by Mr G L Goenka, chairman of Indo-Myanmar CCI, will discuss matters related to forest products, medicines, auto parts, household appliances, handicraft, chemicals and tourism with Myanmar businessmen.

Those wishing to take part in the discussion may dial the numbers between 214344 and 214349 of UMFCCI. — MNA

Refresher course for general practitioners on 2 September

YANGON, 31 Aug — The Orthopaedic Group of Myanmar Medical Association will hold a refresher course for general practitioners under the title of “Common Geriatric Orthopaedic Problems” at the association on Theinbyu road in Mingala Taungnyunt Township at 8.30 am on 2 September.

Interested persons can register at 7.30 am and attend the course. — MNA

Yangon West District MCWSC holds quiz and cooking contest

YANGON, 31 Aug — A prize presentation ceremony of quiz and cooking contest organized by Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee of Yangon West District, was held at No 2 Basic Education High School in Latha Township today.

Chairperson of Yangon Division MCWSC Daw Mar Mar Wai made an address at the ceremony. Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win presented the first prize to Daw Lwin Lwin Cho, the second prize to Daw Khine Khine Win and the third prize to Daw Thandar Win of the quiz contest.

Next, Chairperson Daw Mar Mar Wai of MCWSC gave the first prize in cooking contest to Kyimyindaing Township, the second prize to Sangyaung Township and the third prize to Kyaunktada Township.

After the prize presentation ceremony, the commander and wife Daw Mar Mar Wai viewed meals of the cooking contest participated by 13 townships of Yangon West District.

MNA

Donate Blood
Lt-Gen Myint Swe... (from page 16)

After the ceremony, Lt-Gen Myint Swe met with the rector, professors, faculty members and students at the convocation hall and briefed on measures being taken by the government for the development of human resources in the country. In his address, Lt-Gen Myint Swe said the State laid down the seven-point road map and has been striving for the emergence of the peaceful, modern and developed nation. Thanks to the community peace and tranquility, urban and rural areas have rapidly developed.

In an attempt to underpin the economy of the country, the government has constructed necessary infrastructures and stepped up efforts to increase the country’s productivity including agricultural produce. So, the country has enjoyed the growth of GDP year by year.

He continued to say that building a peaceful, modern and developed nation depends on the community peace and tranquility, development of the economy and development of human resources of a country. Therefore, he said, with a view to developing human resources, the government established 24 develop-ment zones and universities and colleges across the country so that residents in rural areas can also get access to higher education.

In conclusion, Lt-Gen Myint Swe urged students to try hard to become educated persons and to safeguard the cultural heritage and national character with union spirit and patriotic spirit. — MNA

Prevention against bird flu discussed in Mandalay

NAV Pyi Taw, 31 Aug — Minister-Counsellor, Mr Patrick Deboyser of European Union Delegation of the European Commission, Health and Food Safety, who will conduct survey on controlling bird flu in Myanmar and technical assistance for prevention against bird flu to be provided by EU through World Bank.

On 23 August, participants of the meeting held a meeting with ASEAN Economic Ministers and exchanged views on founding of Asean Economic Community (AEC). — MNA

Cultivation of pepper to be...

(from page 16)

They viewed paddy harvesters, Leyar-16 power-tillers, combined harvesters and tractors. At the local battalion in Kyaukpyu, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than gave instructions on undertakings of agriculture and livestock breeding to Tatma-dawmwn and family members.

At Rammawady Hall in Yanbye, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than met with departmental personnel and local people. In his address, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than said that the Government had opened Yangon-Kyaukpyu Highway and built 15 bridges on the road. Departmental personnel and local people are to join hands in maintaining the construction facilities. Departmental personnel are to cooperate with local people in their field trips to grassroots levels in undertaking rural development tasks.

He presented cash and school stationery to Township Education Officer U Nyo Tun.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than visited wards and gave cash assistance to the patients. He inspected the operation theatre and medical store of the hospital and left necessary instructions.

Myanmar delegation attends 5th officials’ meeting on ASEAN Charter

NAV Pyi Taw, 31 Aug — A delegation led by Chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board Dr Than Nyun attended the 5th officials’ meeting on ASEAN Charter held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from 22 to 24 August.

Abdullah Ahmad Badawi hosted a dinner in honour of the participants of the meeting. — MNA

Ambassador of Malaysia HE Dato’ Shahauddin Bin Md Som welcomes Deputy Foreign Minister U Kyaw Thu at a reception to mark 49th Anniversary Independence Day of Malaysia on 31 August. — MNA
H&T Minister arrives back from Indonesia

NAY PYI TAW, 31 Aug — A Myanmar delegation led by Minister for Hotels and Tourism Maj-Gen Soe Naing arrived back here by air this morning after attending the ministerial and senior officials meetings and symposium on Ancient Cultural Heritage Tourism of Cambodia, Laos, Indonesia, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam held from 27 to 30 August in Jogjakarta, Indonesia.

They were welcomed back at the Nay Pyi Taw Airport by Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and for Immigration and Population Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung.

While they were in Indonesia, the minister and party attended the opening ceremony of ministerial meeting held at Mercure Hotel in Jogjakarta on 28 August and visited Borobudur image. In the evening, the minister made an address at the meeting held at Amonjiwo Hotel and signed Borobudur Declaration to promote the culture based tourism sector.

On 29 August, the minister together with ministers and deputy ministers of member nations called on Indonesian President Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono at Merdeka Palace in Jakarta.

21st Gem and Jade Sales 2006 of UMEHL commences

YANGON, 31 Aug — The 21st Gem and Jade Sales 2006 of the Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings Ltd commenced at Myanmar Convention Centre in Yangon last evening.

A total of 224 gem lots were sold through bargain system and auction. Managing Director Maj-Gen Win Than and members of BODs presented gifts to the gem merchants who bought the gems with highest prices. Jade lots will be sold through bargain system tomorrow. — MNA

Introduction for Daewoo Air conditioner held

YANGON, 31 Aug — A ceremony to introduce new model of Daewoo Air Conditioner conducted by OK Myanmar Co Ltd was held at Sedona Hotel this evening. Present were departmental officials, developers and representatives of electric and electronic sale centres.

Firstly, Managing Director of OK Myanmar Co Ltd made an introductory speech and Director U Zaw Weik explained import and distribution plans, its guarantee on quality and services. Next, officials answered the queries raised by those present and conducted them round the showroom.

OK Myanmar Co Ltd is the sole distributor for Daewoo electric products for Myanmar market and it will distribute refrigerators, TV and DVD sets later. Its products were tested under the international standard and a three-year guarantee was provided for customers. During the sale promotion, the products will be distributed at a reasonable price at its outlets in other townships.

Those wishing to make inquires may contact Headquarters (Ph.: 544463, 544464, 544465) and showroom (Ph: 241077, 387644, 377627).

Merdeka Trophy handed over to MOC

YANGON, 31 Aug — Victorious Myanmar football team handed over the trophy of the 38th Merdeka Tournament to Myanmar Olympic Committee (MOC) yesterday.

The football team who emerged the champion of the 38th Merdeka Tournament arrived back here at 9.15 pm yesterday and President of Myanmar Football Federation U Zaw Zaw handed over the trophy to Chairman of MOC Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint at Karaweik Palace Hotel.

Afterwards, the team held a press briefing and President of MFF U Zaw Zaw, Manager U Thein Aung, Coach U San Win and responsible officials replied the queries raised by journalists.
A model presents a creation by Indian designer Rohit Bal at a fashion show on the first-day of India fashion week in New Delhi on 30 Aug, 2006. —INTERNET

CHANGSHA, 31 Aug — Archaeologists have discovered a building that served as a drug rehabilitation centre about a century ago in central China’s Hunan Province.

The building, the ancestral hall of the Li family in Daweishan township, Luyang, was built in 1815 and turned into a rehabilitation centre in 1907 after many younger family members became addicted to opium.

The experts with the cultural relics protection bureau in Changsha, capital of Hunan, identified the building during a recent provincial investigation.

Opium became legal in the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911) after Britain defeated the government in the Opium War, resulting in millions of Chinese developing an addiction.

MNA/Xinhua

CANBERRA, 31 Aug — As many as 7,000 people were evacuated from a shopping centre and government offices at a suburb of Canberra Tuesday as part of one of the biggest anti-terrorist exercises in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT).

Some 300 police and emergency services personnel were also involved in the exercise, aimed at testing the ACT government’s emergency response systems in case of a terrorist attack such as car explosion or a hostage situation.

ACT Police Minister Simon Corbell said the evacuation was the largest evacuation ever in the territory, and a very good test of emergency response systems. “The possibility of a terrorist incident in Canberra cannot be discounted,” he said.  

MNA/Xinhua

Anti-terrorist exercise starts in Canberra

Century-old drug rehabilitation centre found in C China

VIETNAM, 31 Aug — Vietnam is estimated to earn 733 million US dollars from exporting coffee in the first eight months of this year, up 33.8 per cent over the same period of last year, despite lower volume of the goods, according to a local trade agency on Wednesday.

Between January and August, the country is set to ship abroad 634,000 tons of coffee, mainly to the European Union, the United States, Japan and Singapore, posting a year-on-year decrease of 8.7 per cent, said the Trade Information Centre under the Trade Ministry.

Vietnam, the world’s second biggest coffee exporter, is diversifying coffee products for export, partaking more actively in international coffee trading floors, and applying more advanced farming and processing techniques.

MNA/Xinhua

Over 40 firefighters battle central London blaze

LONDON, 31 Aug — More than 40 firefighters tackled a blaze on Tuesday at the former Museum of Mankind behind the Royal Academy of Arts in Piccadilly, the London Fire Brigade said.

Eight fire engines were sent to the three-storey building on Burlington Gardens, after fire crews were alerted at 1:40 pm.

Plumes of smoke could be seen billowing across the district, which is home to some of London’s most upmarket shops. A fire brigade spokesman said it was too early to say what had caused the blaze, which has also set the roof of the building alight.

The former museum building, now owned by the Royal Academy and used for special exhibitions, was empty at the time of the fire which did not spread.

MNA/Reuters

A model presents a creation by Indian designer Rohit Bal at a fashion show on the first-day of India fashion week in New Delhi on 30 Aug, 2006. —INTERNET

Vietnam reaps bigger coffee export revenues in 8 months

HANOI, 31 Aug — Vietnam is estimated to earn 733 million US dollars from exporting coffee in the first eight months of this year, up 33.8 per cent over the same period of last year, despite lower volume of the goods, according to a local trade agency on Wednesday.

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MNA/Xinhua
CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV YANGON STAR VOY NO (412)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV YANGON STAR VOY NO (412) are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived on 1.9.2006 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S EAGLE SHIPPING CO., LTD

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Indonesia plans $50m new investment in Indonesia

Jakarta, 30 Aug—Japanese carmaker Nissan plans a new investment of 50 million US dollars to expand assembly plant and increase dealerships in Indonesia, a newspaper reported on Tuesday.

Nissan has announced a plan to introduce a new multi-purpose vehicle model, the Levina, whose assembling will be based in Indonesia.

The new investment is aimed at increasing production capacity in its plant in Purwakarta, West Java Province, from 1,000 units per month to 1,500 units, reported Bisnis Indonesia.

Nissan plans $50m new investment in Indonesia
France urges Iran, Syria to work with the world

Paris, 30 Aug—Iran and Syria should not isolate themselves from the international community but instead work towards building a lasting peace in the Middle East, French President Jacques Chirac said on Monday.

In a speech to French ambassadors, Chirac called Iran "a great country" and urged it to negotiate with world powers over its nuclear ambitions.

"Iran will not find security in the development of hidden (nuclear) programmes, but in its full immersion into the heart of the international community," Chirac said.

"Once again, I urge Tehran to send the necessary signals to create the conditions for trust. There is always room for dialogue," he added.

Turning to Syria, Chirac said it should: "Abandon its insular mentality."

The French President used to have a good rapport with Syria's leaders, but those ties suffered following the assassination last year in Beirut of one of Chirac's close friends, former Lebanese prime minister Rafik al-Hariri.

The killing was blamed on pro-Syrian agents. —MNA/Reuters

Study shows ovarian cancer more aggressive in obese women

London, 30 Aug—Research has suggested that obese women are less likely to survive ovarian cancer than those of normal weight, according to a national newspaper The Guardian Tuesday.

The research done by US scientists suggested for the first time that a woman's weight can affect the course of the disease.

Those who are obese not only have lower survival rates, but the cancer recurs sooner in them than in women of normal weight, and they face an earlier death than women who are diagnosed at their ideal body weight.

The weight of the tumours was greater among the obese women, the researchers found.

Researchers compared the progression of the disease in 216 women, 35 of whom were obese, and 108 were of ideal weight.

The scientists discovered that in addition to their findings on mortality and recurrence of the disease, the cells of the tumours appeared different.

"While further molecular studies are warranted, our study suggests that fat tissue secretes a hormone or protein that causes ovarian cancer cells to grow more aggressively," Andrew Li, the study's principal investigator, was quoted as saying.

The next steps will be to examine this relationship more closely, and to determine the exact biological mechanisms that influence tumour growth in ovarian cancer.

Li said.

Magnitude 6.4 quake jolts E Indonesia

Jakarta, 30 Aug—A magnitude 6.4 undersea earthquake struck Indonesia's Moluccas Islands on Tuesday and there was a possibility of a tsunami, an official at the meteorological agency said.

"There is a possibility of a tsunami, but until now we have not received a report that it has happened," Fauzi, head seismologist at the agency, told Reuters.

The epicentre of the quake lay southwest of Tual Island at a depth of 33 kilometres beneath the Banda Sea, he said. That would put it due east of Tual Island.

The French President was frequently quoted as saying that Iran would put it due east of Darwin in northern Australia.

MNA/Xinhua

Hurricane John lashes Mexico's Pacific coast

Beijing, 31 Aug—A Category 4 Hurricane John lashed Mexico's Pacific coast on Wednesday, pounding tourist resorts with heavy winds and rain in Acapulco.

Acapulco, home to some one million people and a popular tourist destination, had sea surges of up to 10 feet (3.5 metres), seashore roads were ankle-deep in water and people struggled to stay on their feet in 135 mph (215 kph) winds.

The hurricane could dump up to a foot of rain along parts of Mexico's southern coast, causing landslides or flooding, meteorologists warned.

The Miami-based National Hurricane Center upgraded John to Category 4, the second-strongest type of hurricane, capable of extensive damage if it hits inhabited areas directly.

It was expected to strengthen somewhat throughout its path. —Internet

In this photo released by China's Xinhua News Agency, a robot harpist developed by Shanghai Electric Group plays music at the Fifth China International Equipment Manufacturing Exposition held in Shenyang, capital city of northeast China's Liaoning Province on 29 Aug, 2006. —Xinhua

The killing was blamed on pro-Syrian agents. —MNA/Reuters

Workers clear the court during a rain delay at the US Open tennis tournament in New York, on 29 Aug, 2006. —Internet

Hong Kong actors Jackie Chan (L), Tony Leung Ka-fai and others take part in a protest against local weekly magazine "Easy Finder", which published semi-nude photos of Hong Kong pop star Gillian Chung, in Hong Kong on 29 Aug, 2006. —INTERNET

In the photo released by China's Xinhua News Agency, a robot harpist developed by Shanghai Electric Group plays music at the Fifth China International Equipment Manufacturing Exposition held in Shenyang, capital city of northeast China's Liaoning Province on 29 Aug, 2006. —Xinhua

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Workers clear the court during a rain delay at the US Open tennis tournament in New York, on 29 Aug, 2006. —INTERNET
Top seed Mauresmo wins delayed first-round match

NEW YORK, 31 Aug — Top seed Amelie Mauresmo reached the second round of the US Open a day later than originally scheduled when she beat German qualifier Kristina Barrois 6-1, 7-5 on Wednesday.

After the rain delays of Tuesday, the Wimbledon champion resumed a set up but 5-2 down in the second to the world number 131.

Although Barrois got to within two points of leveling it up at one set apiece, Mauresmo won five games in succession to complete victory.

“When we came back on the court it wasn’t easy but I was able to do it,” the Frenchwoman told reporters.

“IT’s been a great year. I feel great physically, but tennis-wise I still have a few things to work on.”

Mauresmo will play the winner of the match between American Meghann Shaughnessy and Italian Roberta Vinci.

Former World Cup winner
Kohler named new Ivory Coast coach

ABIDJAN, 31 Aug — Former West Germany defender Juergen Kohler has been named Ivory Coast’s new coach, charged with getting the team to the 2008 African Nations Cup finals, the Ivorian football federation said on Wednesday.

Kohler, who made 105 international appearances, winning the World Cup in 1990, succeeds Frenchman Henri Michel, who quit after taking the team to the World Cup finals in June.

Kohler, who has signed a two-year contract with the Elephants, was sacked as coach of MSV Duisburg in April. — MNA/Reuters

Sharapova advances to second round

NEW YORK, 31 Aug — Third seed Maria Sharapova used a dominant serve and laser-like groundstrokes to outlast Dutch teenager Michaella Krajicek 6-3, 6-0 and advance to the second round of the US Open on Wednesday.

Sharapova hit 10 aces and was successful on 82 per cent of her first serves to defeat Krajicek in 59 minutes.

The 17-year-old Krajicek lost her serve to open the match and then hung in with Sharapova until getting broken again in the ninth game to lose the set.

Krajicek, making her Open debut, hit four double faults and just one ace in the match. — MNA/Reuters

Poland’s Agnieszka Radwanska returns a shot to China’s Yan Zi during their match at the US Open tennis tournament in New York, 30 Aug, 2006. — INTERNET

Nadal makes impressive start to US Open bid

NEW YORK, 31 Aug — Second seed Rafael Nadal made an impressive start to his US Open title bid on Wednesday when he beat former runner-up Mark Philippoussis 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 in the first round on Wednesday.

The Spaniard, who has never been beyond the third round in three visits to Flushing Meadows, looked full of confidence as he brushed aside the Australian wildcard in just over two hours.

Philippoussis hammered 19 aces but French Open champion Nadal broke once in each of the first two sets to take command. Nadal broke again in the opening game of the third set and after saving four break points in the fourth game, held on to set up a clash with Luis Horna of Portugal or Spaniard Guillermo Garcia-Lopez. — MNA/Reuters

Eight-time Grand Slam winner Roger Federer retracts a forehand to unseeded Wang Yeu-Tzuoo of Taipei during the first round of the 18.5 million dollar US Open in Flushing Meadows. Federer won 6-4, 6-1, 6-0. — INTERNET

Fine start for relaxed champion Federer

NEW YORK, 31 Aug — Roger Federer took the first step towards what he hopes will be a third consecutive US Open title as he cruised past Wang Yeu-tzuoo of Taipei 6-4, 6-1, 6-0 in the first round on Wednesday.

The world number one was at his effortless best as he raced to victory in just one hour 41 minutes to set up a clash with the winner of the all-British clash between Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski.

Federer, who has won four of the past five Grand Slam events, was pushed hard by the world number 109 in the first set but then romped through the remainder of the match. The growing rivalry between Federer and second seed Rafael Nadal has captured plenty of attention on the ATP Tour this year.

The Spaniard beat Federer to win the French Open in June but the Swiss got his revenge in the Wimbledon final. The pair are seeded to meet in the final here but Federer said he was not looking that far ahead.

John McEnroe and Ivan Lendl are the only other men to have won three consecutive titles at the US Open in the professional era. — MNA/Reuters

US overrun Germany to reach semis

SAITAMA (Japan), 31 Aug — The United States broke out of a first-half slumber to beat Germany 85-65 and reach the last four of the world basketball championship on Wednesday.

The Americans will take on Greece in Friday’s semifinals after the European champions overpowered France 73-56 earlier on Wednesday.

“We won despite not having a good offensive night,” US coach Mike Krzyzewski told reporters.

“They deserved to win — no question,” said German coach Dirk Bauermann.

They deserved to win — no question,” said Germany coach Dirk Bauermann. “They were the better team defensively and they killed us on the offensive glass.” — MNA/Reuters

Poland’s Agnieszka Radwanska returns a shot to China’s Yan Zi during their match at the US Open tennis tournament in New York, 30 Aug, 2006. — INTERNET
Philippines coastal oil spill reaches 500,000 litres

MANILA, 31 Aug — The Philippine Coast Guard said on Wednesday that more than half a million litres of bunker oil have been discharged from a sunken tanker near Guimaras Island, Western Visayas Region of the country.

“The leak is continuous,” local TV ANC quoted Coast Guard spokesman Joseph Coyme as saying.

The spokesman said that the Coast Guard estimated that 500,000 to 700,000 litres of industrial fuel oil have been spilled, according to the TV report. The country will hire a Japanese remote-operated vehicle, which is able to dive down the sea, to determine how many tankers have ruptured and how many litres of oil are still remaining in the vessel.

Coyme added that from the Coast Guard’s initial report of 200,000 to 300,000 litres of oil that leaked out after the Philippines tanker’s sinking on August 11, the report said.

The tanker has yet to be refloated due to the Philippines’ lack of technical capability. With practical foreign help, two to three months will be needed to siphoning off the remaining oil without raising the ship, Coyme said.

Survey says children’s hour most important for NZ parents

WELLINGTON, 31 Aug — Two-thirds of fathers and a half of mothers in New Zealand want to spend more time with their children, according to a survey released on Wednesday.

The survey for Relationship Services of 1,000 New Zealanders showed that 66 per cent of men and 52 per cent of women surveyed want to have more time with their children. Exactly half of them want to have more time with their partners. Only 2 per cent or less said they wanted to spend less time with any of these.

Jeremy Robertson, a researcher at Victoria University’s Roy McKenzie Centre, said the findings showed that “policies that help achieve a better work and family life balance are more likely to lead to better individual wellbeing”.

Despite feeling that they would like to spend more time with their children, New Zealanders in the sample were happier with their relationship with their offspring than with anyone else in their lives. — MNA/Xinhua

French driver Sebastien Loeb of Citroen chats with his team staff before his second run during the shakedown for P1 drivers of the Japan Rally 2006 in Obihiro on Japan’s northernmost main island of Hokkaido Thursday, 31 Aug, 2006. — Internet

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French driver Sebastien Loeb of Citroen chats with his team staff before his second run during the shakedown for P1 drivers of the Japan Rally 2006 in Obihiro on Japan’s northernmost main island of Hokkaido Thursday, 31 Aug, 2006. — Internet

Myanmar

Friday, 1 September
View on today
7:00 am
1. Recitation of Paritas by Missionary Saya-daw U Ottamathara
7:25 am
2. To be healthy exercise
7:30 am
3. Morning news
7:40 am
4. Nice and sweet song
7:55 am
5. Myanmar national song
8:10 am
6. Morning news
8:15 am
7. The mirror images of musical oldies
8:25 am
8. Myanmar national song
8:35 am
9. Myanmar national song
8:45 am
10. English for Everyday Use
4:00 pm
1. Martial song
4:15 pm
2. Songs to uphold National Spirit
4:30 pm
3. Practice in reading
4:45 pm
4. Myanmar national song
5:00 pm
5. Song of national races
5:15 pm
6. “”(Song of love and war) (”)(”)(”)(”)
6:00 pm
6. “”(Song of love and war) (”)(”)(”)(”)
6:15 pm
7. The next day’s programme
5:35 pm
8. Song of yester year
5:45 pm
9.
10. Evening news
6:30 pm
11. Weather report
6:35 pm
12. National News
7:10 pm
13. National News
8:00 pm
14. News
8:15 pm
15. International news
16. Weather report
17. “”(Song of love and war) (”)(”)(”)(”)
18. The next day’s programme

WEATHER

Friday, 31 August, 2006
Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST. During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in lower Sagaing Division. Rain have been isolated in upper Sagaing and Magway Divisions, scattered in Mandalay Division and fairly widespread to widespread in the remaining areas with locally heavyfall in Mandalay Division. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Nay Pyi Taw (1.02) inches, Pyinuma (0.19) inches, Hpa-an (2.56) inches, Taunggg (2.17) inches, Loikaw (2.01) inches and Shwegyin (1.66) inches.

Maxumum temperature on 30-8-2006 was 89°F. Minimum temperature on 31-8-2006 was 75°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 31-8-2006 was (89%).

Total sunshine hours on 30-7-2006 was (0.2) hour approx.

Rainfalls on 31-8-2006 were (0.43) inch at Mingaladon, (0.59) inch at Kaba-Aye and (0.43) inch at Central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2006 were (79.80) inches at Mingaladon, (91.42) inches at Kaba- Aye and (96.10) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (5) mph from Southwest.

Bengal is under the next (72) hours cmmencing noon today.

Forecast valid until evening of 1-9-2006: Rain will be isolated in lower Sagaing and Magway Divisions, scattered in upper Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions, fairly widespread in Kachin and Rakhine States and widespread in the remaining areas with likelihood of isolated in heavyfalls in Mon State and Deltaic area. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Sea will be moderate in Myanmar water.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Strong monsoon

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 1-9-2006: Likelihood of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 1-9-2006: Some rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 1-9-2006: Likelihood of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (60%).

“Flood Bulletin”

(issued at 12:30 hrs MST on 31-8-2006)

According to the (18:30) hr MST observation today, the water level of Sittoung River at Madauk is (1141) cm. It may remain above its danger level (1070cm) during the next (72) hours cmmencing noon today.
Prime Minister sends felicitations to Qatar

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Sept — General Soe Win, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Sheikh Abdullah Bin Khalifah Al-Thani, Prime Minister of the State of Qatar, on the occasion of the Independence Day of the State of Qatar which falls on 1 September, 2006. — MNA

Cultivation of pepper to be extended as main crop in Rakhine State

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than on inspection tour of Kyaukpyu, Yanbye

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Lt-Gen Myint Swe participates in Dagon University’s tree planting ceremony

YANGON, 31 Aug — Dagon University in Yangon East District organized a tree planting ceremony today and Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence planted a Gangaw (Meswarferrea) tree in front of the university’s main building. As a part of the plan of the university to grow 10,000 plants on the campus, over 3,000 plants were grown at the ceremony. Chairman of Dagon University Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win, Central Executive Committee Member of Union Solidarity and Development Association Member of Yangon Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Patron of Yangon Division Women’s Affairs Organization Chairperson of Yangon Division Material and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Daw Mar Mar Wai, the rector and faculty members of the university, students and members of USDA and social organizations also participated in the tree planting ceremony which was formally opened by Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win, Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and Rector U Kyaw Myint Oo. At the ceremony, Lt-Gen Myint Swe, Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win, Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Chairperson Daw Mar Mar Wai and Rector U Kyaw Myint Oo and distributed to the participants. (See page 9)

Lt-Gen Myint Swe meeting with the rector, faculty members and students of Dagon University. — MNA