Established 1914

YANGON, 9 Sept — A cash and kind donation ceremony of families of Defence Services (Army, Navy and Air) and wellwishers for 15 monastic education schools and one nunnery in Hlinethaya Township, Yangon North District was held at Maha Aungmyae Yeiktha Monastery in Ward 7, Hlinethaya Township this afternoon, attended by Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence.

It was also attended by Presiding Nayaka Sayadaws and nun of the monastic education schools and nunnery in the township, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win, Vice-Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa, senior military officers, departmental officials, chairmen and members of District/Township PDCs, members of social organizations and wellwishers.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe offered robes and provisions to Chairman of Sangha Nayaka Committee of the township Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw of Thaunggyi Monastery Bhaddanta Vicitta and the commander, the vice-mayor and senior military officers offered provisions to the members of the Sangha.

Next, Lt-Gen Myint Swe, the commander, the vice-mayor and senior military officers accepted K 13,307,000 donated by wellwishers and presented certificates of honour to them. Later, Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party and the congregation shared the merits gained.

Today’s donation for the monastic education schools and one nunnery in the township totalled

YANGON, 9 Sept — A cash and kind donation ceremony of families of Defence Services (Army, Navy and Air) and wellwishers for 15 monastic education schools and one nunnery in Hlinethaya Township, Yangon North District was held at Mawlamyine Station at 5.40 am today.

Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Thet Naing Win, USDA CEC member Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint and Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation U Pe Than cut the ribbon to launch the Mawlamyine-Ye-Mawlamyine Express Train. They sprinkled scented water on the train before its departure for Ye.

The commander, the CEC member and the deputy minister cordially greeted passengers and presented gifts to them.

After the train had left Mawlamyine Station, the commander, the minister and the deputy minister posed for documentary photo.

On the 90-mile-long Mawlamyine-Ye railway, the 173-Up Train leaves Mawlamyine Station at 5 am daily and arrives in Ye at 11.30 am. The 174-Down Train also leaves Ye Station at 12.30 pm and arrives at Mawlamyine Station at 6.40 pm daily.

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Building clean, beautiful cities for better quality of life of dwellers

To enable the people to live in peace and better conditions is vital for national development. Establishment of clean and beautiful cities, towns and villages contributes towards the high living standard of the people. Creating healthy environment also contributes towards producing healthy good citizens with high spirit who can bring about national development.

Tasks for equal development of cities and towns including proper drainage, collecting garbage regularly, designating the city as garbage free areas and proper repair of roads are to be undertaken. Moreover systematic arrangements for maintenance of roads and bridges, traffic safety and improvement of traffic system are to be made.

The city dwellers should observe rules and regulations on garbage disposal. Clean cities and towns with green environment are to be built for pleasure and recreation of the people.

It is necessary to create beautiful landscapes by growing flowery plants and perennial trees along the streets.

It is believed that the quality of life of the city dwellers will be raised with the development of clean and beautiful cities.

National Convention will be able to bring about flourishing of genuine democracy

42 members of Taikkyi, Kyimyindine and Kawhmu Township NLDs resign

Yangon, 9 Sept — Members of Taikkyi Township National League for Democracy Ko Maung Win on 31 August, U Aung Hsan Win, Daw Hnin Zi and Daw Shwe Tin on 1 September, members of Kyimyindine Township NLD Daw Thein Mya and Ma San Aye on 5 September, 36 members of Kawhmu Township NLD including U Min Naing, U Ko Naing, U Sein Min, U Than Hla, U Tin Win, U Kyaw Oo, U Bo Aye, U Maung Ei, U Kyi Htwe and Daw Thein Myint on 6 September resigned from the NLD of their own accord, sending letters of resignation to the NLD Headquarters and local authorities concerned.

In their letters sent to Taikkyi, Kyimyindine and Kawhmu Township Multiparty Democracy General Election Subcommissions, they said that when they joined the party as members, they believed NLD would have ability to bring about flourishing democracy; they were fed up with NLD as it stuck only to individual interest, expecting foreign aids; they believed that the National Convention will be able to ensure the flourishing of genuine democracy and that they took no interest in the NLD’s activities. That was why they resigned from the NLD of their own volition, they said. — MNA

Minister gives instructions to Israel-trained agriculturist personnel

Nay Pyi Taw, 9 Sept — Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Hsu Oo met 50 service personnel who already arrived back Myanmar after attending the 10-month course in Israel, at the hall of the ministry on 4 September afternoon.

Speaking on the occasion, the minister said that the government is carrying out supply of water for agricultural purpose, change of crop strains and applying of suitable agricultural technology for development of the agricultural sector. Hence, the trainees are to apply their experiences from the training courses in their respective fields.

Next, the trainees recounted their experiences. Those trainees are from the departments concerned and University of Agriculture. — MNA

General Banking Services Course No 10 (Officer Level) concludes

Yangon, 8 Sept — The concluding ceremony of General Banking Services Course No 10 (Officer Level) organized by Banks Supervisory Committee was held at the hall of Myanmar Banks Association, here, this morning, with an address by Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar Secretary of the supervisory committee chairman of the association U Than Nyein.

It was also attended by Vice-Governor U Maung Maung Win, members of the supervisory committee, directors-general of the Ministry of Finance and Revenues, executives of the association, monetary and banking services experts, trainers and trainees.

H&T Minister attends China Jilin Northeast Asia Trade and Investment Expo

Yangon, 9 Sept — Minister for Hotels and Tourism Maj-Gen Soe Naing and party attended the Third China Jilin Northeast Asia Trade and Investment Expo in Changchun City of Jilin Province of the People’s Republic of China from 2 to 5 September.

On 1 September, the minister received Jilin Province Party Secretary Mr Wang Min at the guest house of the province. On 2 September, the minister attended the opening ceremony of the fair. Vice-Premier Mr Zen Panyan of the PRC delivered an opening address. In the evening, the Vice-Premier hosted a dinner to the delegation leaders.

On 3 September, the minister received Director-General Mr Fan Fei of Foreign Economic Relations Department of the province and Deputy Director Mr Lin Tian of Tourism Service Administration Department at Redburds Hotel.

On 4 September, the minister met with Chenchun City Mayor Mr Cui Jie at Chajian International Exhibition Centre on 4 September. In the evening, the minister received Vice-Governor Mr Yang Qingcai of Jilin Province and discussed bilateral cooperation.

Seven CDs, 100 books donated to Culture University

Yangon, 9 Sept — Writer Shweka Nan Nwe Nwe donated seven religious songs CDs and 100 different publications to University of Culture (Yangon) to mark her 66th birthday today. Rector U Tin Soe of the university accepted the donation.

Also present were pro-rectors, professors, officials concerned and family of the donor.

MNA
Musical concert in Mt Everest Base Camp for cancer society

KATHMANDU, 8 Sept — Different musical groups will be playing in a music concert at the Mt Everest Base Camp in October later this year to help Nepal’s Bhaktapur Cancer Hospital, reported the local media house’s website THT Online Friday.

Cancer survivors and co-founders of the Love Hope Strength Foundation (LHSF) Mike Peters and James Chippendale will lead 40 musicians, cancer survivors and mountaineers to Base Camp to perform an acoustic concert to help the hospital build the infrastructure of its clinic by providing it with much needed equipment and funding.

“Everest Rocks is a fourteen-day trek and acoustic concert at the base camp of Mt Everest, with a grand finale rock concert in Kathmandu.

The entire journey will be captured by a documentary team headed by Alex Coletti (the acclaimed producer of MTV’s Unplugged series),” the organizers said on their website everestrocks.com.

The trek will begin on 13 October. For this team will arrive in Nepal on 11 October. — MNA/Xinhua

Moderate earthquake hits eastern Indonesia

JAKARTA, 8 Sept — A moderate earthquake with magnitude of 5.4 rocked eastern part of Indonesia on Friday, there has been no report of casualty or damage so far, Meteorology and Geophysics Agency said here.

The quake struck at 15.32 Jakarta Time (0932 GMT) with epicentre at 144 kilometres southeast Manokwari of West Papua Province and at 33 kilometres in depth, an official of the agency said. Indonesia is positioned on a vulnerable volcanic movements. — MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam sentences six drug traffickers to death

HANOI, 8 Sept — A Vietnamese court Thursday gave death sentences to six Vietnamese people, and life sentences on two women for heroin trafficking, Vietnam News Agency reported.

The People’s Court of northern Thanh Hoa Province also handed down jail terms of 16-20 years on four local people in the drug trafficking ring, which trafficked 14 cakes of heroin (4.9 kilos of heroin) from northern Son La Province to Thanh Hoa between December 2005 and March 2006. The death sentence receivers include Giang A Pao, 26, and his father-in-law Song A Vang, 41, from Son La; and Nguyen Kim Tian, 38, Nguyen Kim Hai, 33, Tran Dang Hinh, 35, and Tran Dang Binh, 43, from Thanh Hoa.

Tuan’s younger sister named Nguyen Thi Chinh, 28, and Binh’s wife named Doan Thi Thanh Huong, 41, got life imprisonment sentences.

— MNA/Xinhua

Bodies wash up in Nicaragua from deadly hurricane

PUERTO CABEZAS (Nicaragua), 8 Sept — Bodies of Miskito Indians killed by Hurricane Felix, floated in the Caribbean off Central America and washed up on beaches on Thursday as the death toll from the storm rose to over 60. Many of the dead were travelling by boat when they were hit by huge waves as Felix struck near the border between Honduras and Nicaragua on Tuesday as a giant Category 5 storm, fishing their way from the shore. Nicaraguan fishermen told reporters they saw bodies of people still tied to trees in a vain bid to stay safe from winds of 160 miles per hours (256 kilometres per hour) and roaring seas. — MNA/Reuters

Report says virus leakage possible cause of British FMD

LONDON, 8 Sept — Virus leaked from labs was the possible cause of a foot-and-mouth disease outbreak in southern England in early August, a report said on Friday.

The recent foot-and-mouth disease outbreak in Surrey was probably caused by a live virus leaked through the drainage system of two Pirbright labs, according to a final report by the British Health and Safety Executive (National).

However, it was not clear which of the two labs at Pirbright, four miles from where the disease was found, was responsible, the report said. Although the report failed to pin down the exact cause of the disease, it outlined a possible scenario.

“During our investigation... we judged it likely that waste water containing the live virus strain O1BFS entered the drainage pipework, then leaked out and contaminated the surrounding soil,” Health and Safety Executive Chief Geoffrey Podger told a Press conference.

The virus was flushed out with waste water during the flooding in July, was picked up later by passing trucks and was then spread into nearby areas before it affected cattle. — MNA/Xinhua

Chinese State Councilor Chen Zhili (L Front) and Novosibirsk Governor Viktor Tolokonsky unveil the plaque of Confucius School in the Siberian city of Novosibirsk, on 7 Sept, 2007. Confucius School was opened Friday in the Novosibirsk State Technological University.—XINHUA

At least five people were killed in a cargo plane crash in the eastern Congolese town of Goma on Friday. — XINHUA
Hong Kong detonates massive World War II bomb

Hong Kong, 7 Sept — Hong Kong police evacuated hundreds of people from a densely populated area of the main island before detonating a World War II bomb discovered during construction work, local media reported.

The 400-pound (180-kilo) bomb, believed to be the second largest found in Hong Kong, was dug up by construction workers at North Point in the east of Hong Kong island on Wednesday, the South China Morning Post reported.

Around 800 people were evacuated from nearby buildings before police triggered two controlled explosions to destroy the rusting, oval-shaped weapon, the Post reported.

Wartime bombs are found periodically in Hong Kong, which was occupied by Japan from 1941-1945.

Local history expert Siu Kwok-kin was quoted as saying there used to be an oil depot in North Point which Japanese bombers had targeted.

A tree uprooted by Hurricane Felix lies on top of a pickup truck in Puerto Cabezas on Nicaragua’s Caribbean coast on 5 Sept, 2007. — Xinhua

Mentaly ill undertreated globally

CHICAGO, 7 Sept — Most people in the world with mental illness get no treatment at all, and scarce mental health resources are not reaching the people who need them most, US researchers said on Thursday.

“Many aren’t receiving healthcare at all. The situation is concerning,” said Dr Philip Wang of the US National Institute of Mental Health, whose study appears in the Lancet medical journal.

Wang and colleagues studied mental health treatment data on 84,850 adults in 17 developed and developing countries taken from the World Health Organization’s mental health surveys.

The lack of mental health treatment was most severe in less-developed countries, where only a few people with serious disorders received any treatment in the past year.

But even in developed nations, roughly half of those with severe disorders got no care at all.”Even in the United States, which is by far the most resourced country, it is by no means adequate. In our country, folks who meet the criteria for the most serious illness, only about half get anything,” Wang said in a telephone interview.

Patients who were male, married, less-educated and at the extremes of age or income got the least amount of care, the researchers found.

Not surprisingly, the number of people using any mental health services was generally lower in developing countries compared with developed countries.

The researchers also found a correlation between use of mental health services and the percentage of a nation’s gross domestic product spent on health services.

WASHINGTON, 7 Sept — Black American women are more likely to have a hard-to-treat form of breast cancer, get it earlier and they are more likely to die of it, researchers said on Thursday.

Their findings, presented at a breast cancer conference in San Francisco, support other studies that show clear ethnic differences in breast cancer that are likely to be genetic in origin.

The findings held regardless of a woman’s income, education or insurance coverage, Dr Catherine Lee of the University of Michigan Comprehensive Cancer Centre said.

“We found overall that African-Americans are diagnosed at younger ages and at more advanced stages than their White American counterparts,” Lee told reporters in a telephone briefing.

Blacks are also far more likely to have a form of cancer called estrogen receptor-negative cancer — the type that is not helped by estrogen-based drugs such as tamoxifen.

“Many aren’t receiving healthcare at all. The situation is concerning,” he said.

Study confirms breast cancer worse in US Blacks

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“Many aren’t receiving healthcare at all. The situation is concerning,” he said.

Truth stranger than fiction as Polish author jailed

WARSAW, 7 Sept — A Polish crime writer has been jailed for 25 years after authorities found he had committed a murder that had been described in one of his thrillers, officials said on Wednesday.

In his 2003 book Amok, Krystian Bala described in detail the brutal murder of a Polish businessman.

Police found that the fictional crime had similarities with a case in 2000 when a body was fished out of the River Oder in the town of Wroclaw, near the German border.

Prosecutors said Bala had humiliated, tortured, starved and later killed his victim, who had a love affair with the writer’s wife.

“The court has sentenced Krystian B. to 25 years in prison for the murder of his ex-wife’s lover,” said a spokesman for the court in Wroclaw.

Bala told authorities that he had taken details of the case from Press reports and made up other aspects of the story.

Police sniper falls to death ahead of Sarkozy trip

COLMAR, 7 Sept — A sniper from an elite police unit died on Thursday after falling from a rooftop while getting ready for a visit by President Nicolas Sarkozy in eastern France, a local official said.

The officer, who was part of a security detail from the national GIPN force, fell some 15 metres (50 feet) from the roof of a machine parts factory that Sarkozy was about to visit.

The French President called for a minutes’ silence when he reached the factory and promised to attend the funeral of the dead man, who was married and had two children. — MNA/Reuters

A woman walks past a fallen tree in front of a cafe in Mitaka City in western Tokyo on 7 Sept, 2007. A typhoon pounded Tokyo and surrounding areas on Friday, killing at least one man and prompting a flood warning, while snarled transport and power cuts affected thousands. — INTERNET

Passengers take a rest inside a Shinkansen bullet train shortly after midnight at Tokyo railway station on 7 Sept, 2007, as Typhoon Pitow, which was heading north on a collision course with the Kanto area, disrupted transportation services in and around the Tokyo metropolitan areas. — INTERNET
**ECONOMIC NEWS**

**Thailand to purchase more Lao hydropower**

**BANGKOK, 8 Sept—** Thailand and Lao this year will sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Thailand's commitment to raise its purchase level of electricity from Lao from 5,000 megawatts to 7,000 megawatts. Thai Energy Minister Piyavasti Amranand said on Friday.

Piyavasti on Friday held talks with Bosay-kham Vongdara, Lao Minister of Energy and Mines on the sidelines of the High Level Forum on Lao-Thai Partnership in Sustainable Hydropower Development in Bangkok.

He told reporters after the talks that under the terms of the MoU, Lao will be ready to supply the electricity to the system after 2015. The conditions will be similar to the present MoU, that Thailand should play a role as a co-investor in the project and electricity prices should be competitive with the cost of electricity from coal or natural gas power plants in Thailand.

However, the agreement must be approved by the National Legislative Assembly and then the Cabinet before the signing of MoU, he said.

There are four projects under the MoU, namely Nam Theun-Hinboun, Nam Ngeip, Nam Ngum 3, and the Nam Theun 1 Hydropower plants, and Piyavasti said the power purchase agreements of the four projects would be signed this month.

**Countrywide to cut up to 12,000 jobs in US**

**NEW YORK, 8 Sept—** Countrywide Financial Corp, the largest US mortgage lender, said on Friday it would cut up to 12,000 jobs, the biggest job reduction by a single company to stem from the deepening US housing crisis. The lender expects to eliminate up to 20 per cent of its workforce over the next three months, for a loss of 10,000 to 12,000 jobs.

It said the cuts were needed because mortgage volume may decline 25 per cent in 2008 from this year's level.

"You need to right-size the ship," said Peter Kovalski, who helps run the company to stem from the deepening US housing crisis. The lender expects to eliminate up to 20 per cent of its workforce over the next three months, for a loss of 10,000 to 12,000 jobs.

Bilateral ties have been developing smoothly since the two countries established diplomatic ties 36 years ago, Hu said.

China-Peru ties have entered a new stage of development since the two countries established a comprehensive partnership of cooperation in 2005, Hu said.

High-level exchanges have been frequent, mutual understanding and trust deepened, and economic and trade cooperation expanding, said the Chinese President.

Several business agreements were signed on Friday.

The lender expects to eliminate up to 20 per cent of its workforce over the next three months, for a loss of 10,000 to 12,000 jobs.

**Manila, 8 Sept—** Other members of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) were the largest trading partners of the Philippines in 2006, the Philippine National Statistics Office (NSO) reported on Friday.

Total external trade of the Philippines with the other 20 members of APEC last year amounted to 78.183 billion US dollars or 78.8 per cent of the entire trade, the NSO said in a news release. Exports to APEC members amounted to 37.577 billion dollars or 79.3 per cent of the total export receipts while import payments reached 40.606 billion dollars or a 78.4 per cent share.

Topping the list were the United States, 17.126 billion dollars or 21.9 per cent share; Japan, 15.188 billion dollars or 19.4 per cent share; Chinese Mainland, 8.275 billion dollars or 10.6 per cent share; and Singapore, 7.884 billion dollars or 10.1 per cent share of the APEC total trade.

**APEC members are largest trading partners of Philippines**

**ECONOMIC NEWS**

**Sydney (Australia), 8 Sept—** China and Peru have established formal diplomatic relations.

During their meeting, Hu noted that Peru was among the first Latin American countries to establish formal diplomatic relations with China.
China’s police crack gang trafficking over 60 babies

NANJING, 8 Sept — Police in Nanjing, east China’s Jiangsu Province, have nabbed 47 suspects over human trafficking and rescued 40 babies, said senior officers with the Nanjing railway police office on Friday.

A group of four women, each holding a newborn baby in arms but never breast-feeding the infants, aroused police suspicion on 24 May on a train from Kunming, capital of southwest China’s Yunnan Province, to Nanjing and were questioned.

The women, including one identified as Lang Chuanfam from Tancheng County of east China’s Shandong Province, confessed that the babies were bought from Yunnan and they had been doing so with the help of two other suspects, Dao Xiuwen and Ding Fachang, since 2005.

While Lang’s husband, Shen Yuzhou, was in charge of selling babies with help of 10 human traders in Shandong.

Lang also confessed that they usually buy a baby girl at 1,500 yuan (200 US dollars) but sell it for 8,000 yuan, while a baby boy usually costs them 8,000 yuan and can fetch 20,000 yuan for them.

The Nanjing railway police set up a special team of more than 10 policemen to investigate the case.

The team arrived in Yunnan on 27 May and arrested Dao, Ding and seven other suspects. Shen was later arrested in Shandong.

Investigations found that the gang of human traders headed by Shen and Lang have bought 27 newborn babies in Yunnan during 16 trips and then sold them in Shandong.

Forty out of more than 60 babies who were trafficked by the gang have been rescued by police so far, while police were trying to find the others.

At least 70 Indian pilgrims die in truck crash

JAIPUR (India), 8 Sept — A truck packed with pilgrims travelling to a Hindu shrine plunged off a mountainous road in India’s desert state of Rajasthan on Friday, killing at least 70 people, police said.

Another 30 to 40 people were injured.

Thousand of devotees flock every year to the shrine at Ramdevra, near the tourist city of Jaisalmer.

Trucks with huge trailers of up to 10 wheels often carry dozens of passengers in India.

Traffic accidents killing dozens of people are not uncommon across the country where roads and the state of many vehicles are often poor.

Risk of pig disease outbreaks high in Vietnam

HANOI, 8 Sept — Risk of Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS) outbreaks among pigs is still high in Vietnam although the disease has cooled down in the country, local newspaper Pioneer reported Friday.

The PRRS vaccination for pigs is not very effective, as the disease has hit many vaccinated animals, the paper quoted Mai Van Hiep, vice head of the Department of Animal Health under the Vietnamese Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Now, the disease is hitting three provinces, Quang Ngai and Binh Dinh in the central region, and Ba Ria Vung Tau in the southern region, said the department.

PRRS outbreaks have occurred in 13 cities and provinces across Vietnam since March, affecting 65,000 pigs and causing property losses worth tens of billions of Vietnamese dong (hundreds of thousands of US dollars).

PRRS was first recognized in the United States in the mid-1980s and is now present in most pig producing countries. The symptoms include reproductive failure, pneumonia and increased susceptibility to secondary bacterial infection.

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Nicaraguan sailors in Puerto Cabezas attend to members of the indigenous Miskitos people who survived Hurricane Felix on 8 Sept, 2007. The survivors are amongst the 41 people found alive at sea four days after the storm hit.—INTERNET

“Felix” tropical depression leaves 25,000 victims in Guatemala

MEXICO CITY, 8 Sept— Felix tropical depression left at least 25,000 victims in Guatemala due to the heavy rains which caused floods in coastal populations.

Guatemala’s National Disaster Reduction Coordination (Conred) said on Thursday that Felix caused four rivers to overflow and it flooded at least 5,000 homes without causing deaths at Puerto Barrios in eastern Izabal department.

According to news reaching here from that Central American country, Guatemala’s National Weather Institute said Felix ceased to be a threat and headed towards Mexico, although the heavy rains will continue in most of Guatemala.

Some 1,000 people were displaced prior to floods and 20 percent arrived at the shelters opened by civilian protection officials.

Felix reached the maximum Saffir-Simpson scale category-5 when it passed by Nicaragua and it weakened becoming a tropical depression causing intense rainfalls.

INTERNET

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INTERNET
China proposes Asia-Pacific Forest Rehabilitation Network

SYDNEY (Australia), 9 Sept — Chinese President Hu Jintao on Saturday proposed setting up an Asia-Pacific Network on Forest Rehabilitation and Sustainable Management in order to better tackle climate change.

Hu put forward the initiative at the Economic Leaders Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum which opened earlier in the day at Sydney Opera House.

The meeting, with the theme of “strengthening our community, building a sustainable future,” is focusing on climate change and other issues at the first-day session.

Citing China’s work and experience in forestation between 1980 and 2005, Hu said forest protection has an important role to play in addressing climate change.

He proposed the setting up of the Asia-Pacific Network on Forest Rehabilitation and Sustainable Management.

The network will provide a platform for APEC members to share best practices, conduct policy dialogue and carry out personnel training on forest rehabilitation and management, he said.

The Chinese President invited APEC members to join the proposed network to promote forest rehabilitation and expansion, so as to increase carbon sink and mitigate climate change in the Asia Pacific region.

Bombs kill 20 in Iraq, Bush pledges resolve

BAGHDAD, 9 Sept — Bombs killed 20 people in Iraq on Saturday, including 15 in Baghdad, police said, as US President George W Bush said his resolve to press on with the job of stabilizing Iraq was as strong as ever.

Police said a parked car exploded near a police station in Baghdad’s Shiite area of Sadr City at dusk, when people were shopping. The blast killed 15 people and wounded 45, they said.

Another explosion at a market in the holy Shiite town of Kufa, possibly caused by an roadside bomb, killed five people and wounded eight, police said.

The bombs were a reminder of Iraq’s security headaches despite a reduction in violence following Bush’s decision early this year to send 30,000 additional troops to Iraq.

Bash, visiting wounded soldiers at Hickam Air Force Base in Hawaii as he headed back to Washington from an overseas trip, said he told them he was encouraged by what he saw during his unannounced trip to Iraq last Monday.

Iraqi security forces kill leading al-Qaeda figure in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 9 Sept — Iraqi security forces killed the finance minister of al-Qaeda, a self-styled Islamic State in Iraq in a military operation in Diyala province, a provincial security source said on Saturday.

A security force from Diyala Province killed on Friday afternoon Thaer Salim Dawoud, the finance minister of the so-called Islamic State in Iraq, during a military operation in al-Hashemiyat Village in northeast of the provincial capital of Baquba, the source said on condition of anonymity.

The village is a Sunni extremists’ stronghold coming from Afghanistan and some Arab countries, the source told Xinhua by telephone.

Bali bomber, on death row, loses final appeal

JAKARTA, 9 Sept — Indonesia’s Supreme Court has thrown out a final appeal by one of three people on death row for the 2002 bombings on the resort island of Bali, a court official said on Friday.

Lawyers for Muslim militant Amrozi had sought a review of his case, arguing that the Constitutional Court had in 2004 ruled that anti-terrorism laws could not be applied retrospectively.

The decision to reject Amrozi’s appeal was made on 30 August, Supreme Court judge Djoko Sarwoko said.

“Did not meet the requirements of the law,” he told Reuters, saying that it was now up to the attorney general’s office to decide the date of his execution.

Verdicts for the two other death-row convicts, Imam Samudra and Mukhlas, also known as Ali Gafri, were still pending, he said.

The three men were tried using anti-terrorism laws which were written in the wake of the 12 October, 2002 bombings that killed 202 people, mostly foreign tourists.

Indonesia may allow Israeli businessmen to invest in bio-fuel

JAKARTA, 9 Sept — Indonesian may allow Israeli investor to invest in bio-fuel sector in the country, but it would not change its political stance on Israel, the Indonesian Foreign Ministry said here on Friday.

Spokesman of the ministry Kristianto Legowo made the statement in response to the plan of Israeli investors to invest in bio-fuel production in East Nusa Tenggara Province.

“We do not restrict person to person relation in condition that it did not use an official symbol that can indicate our acknowledgment of Israel,” Legowo told a Press conference here.

Indonesia does not have diplomatic relation with Israel and has long supported the struggle of Palestinian people to establish an independent state.

“Israeli citizen that visit Indonesia must not use diplomatic passport,” he said.

Indonesia has been seeking investment to boost development in the country. Many effort have been done to improve investment climate in the rampant corruption country, including enforcing strict law against corrupt people, improving law of investment and others.

Managing Director
U Aung Maw Thein of Myanmar Distribution Group Co Ltd presents prize to Thura Ye Aung (Myanmar Pyithar) who stood first in Walterweight Class in 4th Myanmar Traditional Boxing Golden Belt Championships, organized by MOC and Myanmar Traditional Sports Federation, on Sunday.— NLM
Lt-Gen Myint Swe attends cash and...

(from page 1)

365 bags of rice, 957 viss of edible oil, 1556 viss of iodized salt, 925 bottles of medicines, 311 viss of gram, 96 cakes of soap, 311 tubes of toothpaste, 450 packet of chilly powder and K 13, 307, 000.

Similarly, a ceremony to donate cash and kind for four monastic education schools in Kyimyindine Township, Yangon West District was held at Thadu Pariyatti Monastery in the township this afternoon.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe, the commander, the vice-mayor and senior military officers offered robes and provisions to Chairman of Sangha Nayaka Committee of the township Bhaddanta Uggamsa and members of the Sangha.

Next, they accepted K 5, 865, 000 and presented certificates of honour to wellwishers.

Today’s donation for the monastic education schools in the township totalled 142 bags of rice, 288 viss of edible oil, 483 viss of iodized salt, 1, 274 bottles of medicines, 102 viss of gram, 96 tubes of toothpaste, 450 packet of chilly powder and K 5, 865, 000. — MNA

Lt-Gen Myint Swe of Ministry of Defence accepts cash donation from a wellwisher. — MNA

Mawlamyine-Ye-Mawlamyine express train...

(from page 1)

The train can carry 76 passengers at ordinary class carriage and 100 passengers at the first class carriage, totalling 276. Fare for the route is K 370 per head for the ordinary class and K 460 for the first class. The express train will stop over at Thayetgon, Meinkanein, Mudon, Kamawet, Thanbyuzayat, Panga, Karokpi, Hninshu, Ahnin, Hnitkayin, Lamang, Taungbon and Palangkoe stations.

Thanks to launching the Mawlamyine-Ye rail service, local people residing in the regions along the railroad will have access to Ye, Dawei, Mawlamyine, Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw through the railroads. In addition, transport of commodities can rely on the newly-launched rail service. Transportation of passengers and commodities in a short time will contribute much towards development of the region. — MNA

NPED Minister back from Austria

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Sept — Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha arrived back here by air this morning after attending the ceremony to sign agreement on loan for agricultural development and Thone and Khambang Dams-Project of Myanmar and OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID) held in Vienna, Austria on 6 September.

The delegation was welcomed back at the Nay Pyi Taw Airport by Minister for Hotels and Tourism Maj-Gen Soe Naing, Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein, Deputy Minister for NPED Col Thurein Zaw and departmental officials.

In Vienna, the minister met with Chairman of Board of Governors Mr Jamal Nasser Lootah of OFID, Director-General Mr Suleiman Jasir Al Herbish and Director Mr I Bukader of Asia Division of OFDI and dealt with matters on the development of agriculture sector, cooperation with OPEC and electric sector.

The delegation members Director-General U Tin Htut Oo of Agriculture Planning Department and Director U Maung Maung Khin of Foreign Economic Relations Department also arrived back on the same flight.

Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries holds coordination meeting

YANGON, 9 Sept—The Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries held its coordination meeting on fish and meat sector at the office of Myanma Fisheries Federation yesterday with an address by Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein.

The minister said that the fish and prawn cold storage has increased the basic salary of employees and facilitated them with transport for the development of fish and meat sector, and stressed the need for employers to give a helping hand to employees regarding them as their families whenever necessary.

This was followed by a general round of discussions.

The meeting ended with the concluding remarks by the minister. — MNA
Lt-Gen Myint Swe inspects production process of Yuzana Palm Oil Mill in Thakaya

Entrepreneurs to invest in cultivation of oil palm to ensure local edible oil sufficiency and to export surplus oil

YANGON, 9 Sept — Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence inspected Yuzana Palm Oil Mill of Yuzana Co Ltd on Shukhintha Road in Thakaya Township this morning.

At Yuzana Palm Oil Mill, Lt-Gen Myint Swe was welcomed by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win, Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, departmental heads, Chairman of Yuzana Co Ltd U Htay Myint and officials.

At the briefing hall, U Htay Myint reported on production of various kinds of oil, refining of over 2,000 tons of crude palm oil, transportation of crude oil by chartered vessel of Myanma Five Star Line from Kawthoung to Yangon, cultivation of 15,599 acres of oil palm in 2007, arrangements for growing more 10,000 acres of oil palm in 2008, use of palm fruits and production process of finished oil and crude oil.

After attending to the needs, Lt-Gen Myint Swe said that the government is giving encouragement for growing of oil palm as a project. In order to ensure local edible oil sufficiency and to export surplus oil, the entrepreneurs are invited to invest in the cultivation of oil palm. Hence, it is necessary to produce imported substitute finished palm oil. Departments concerned are to provide necessary assistance for the entrepreneurs to producing the oil at full capacity. He stressed the need to emphasize pollution, health and welfare of employees. The entrepreneurs are to control quality of products for gaining success in the market.

Next, Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party viewed production process of the mill.

The Yuzana Palm Oil Mill was opened on 25 June 2006, and the mill refines 300 tons of crude oil daily. Arrangements are being made to refine 2,000 tons of crude oil in September.

In accord with the guidance of the Head of State, Yuzana Agricultural Group has been growing oil palm in Kawthoung and Bokpyin districts since 1999. So far, 102,297 acres of oil palm have been planted against the target of 104,000 acres. — MNA

All USDA members will have to strive together with public for emergence of a new Constitution that truly represents the people

YANGON, 9 Sept — Advanced management (special) course No 7 for executives of Union Solidarity and Development Association concluded today at USDA Central Training School in Hmawby Township, Yangon Division.

Speaking on the occasion, USDA Secretary-General U Htay Oo said that during the period of 14 years beginning from its formation, the association has been striving for national peace and development with firm belief and conviction and patriotism. The association formed with the participation of national races from various parts of the nation is taking part in the development undertakings in every region and at the same time organizing the people to join hands with its members. It is gaining public assistance because of its practical efforts. The association now has over 24 million members. The USDA has been running training courses to enhance the individual qualifications of its members. The members will have the opportunity to carry out regional development undertakings. As the association is formed with qualified persons, it can serve the interest of the nation and people well.

At present, efforts are being made for emergence of a new nation desired by the people. There are precise resolve, correct policies and objective work programmes to build a new nation. The National Convention, the first step of the seven-point Road Map has successfully concluded. The Convention has adopted fundamental principles and detailed basic principles to draw a Constitution that is as important as the lives and blood of the people. The successful completion of the Convention is awaited with great hope. — MNA

Secretary-General of USDA U Htay Oo delivers an address at the conclusion of advanced management (special) course No 7 for USDA executives. — MNA

(See page 11)
NLD has made seditious declarations which are against the government and cause the people to lose respect for the government, has instigated public unrest, has also urged the international community to sanction Myanmar, in synchronicity with the so-called “88” generation students and the expatriate groups. Moreover, they had increased their activities at a time when the seven-step road map has to be implemented with momentum after the completion of the National Convention.

NLD took advantage of increased price...

While the government has been implementing to bring about genuine, disciplined democracy by adopting the policy of seven-step road map, it has also laid down the necessary political, economic and social infrastructure for the future democratic state as well as the market oriented economic system.  

_{(See page 11)}_
NAY PYI TAW, 9 Sept — Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin attended the prize presentation ceremony for outstanding students for 2006-07 academic year at No 3 Basic Education High School (Nay Pyi Taw) in Nay Pyi Taw Pyimmana this morning.

Commander Maj-Gen Wai Lwin delivered an address and presented prizes to outstanding students who had passed the matriculation examination for 2006-07 academic year.

Daw Swe Swe Oo, wife of the commander, handed prizes to teachers who nurtured the outstanding students. Staff officers of the command headquarters and the headmaster also gave prizes to outstanding students at different grades.

A total of 1,517 students under teaching of 57 teachers attended at No 3 BEHS (Nay Pyi Taw) that was opened in 2006-07 academic year. In the 2007-08 academic year, 2,104 students are attending the school under the teaching of 60 teachers. — MNA

The NLD while on the one hand trying to stage such demonstrations, on the other hand in collaboration with western embassies put out malicious news and declarations in order to create the impression internationally that many citizens were involved in the demonstrations and also that the government was savagely oppressing the peaceful demonstrators. The NLD’s declaration of 5 September 2007 stated that it wished to make known to NLD members and the general public that the people’s expression of their desires did not contravene the order No. 2/88 which banned groups of more than five people from assembling, demonstrating, making speeches and shouting slogans. It is clear that the NLD is blatantly instigating its members who have the objective of creating riots and disturbances and breaking the existing laws.

It is known that at the same time on 5 September the chairman of NLD U Aung Shwe went to a western embassy and gave a letter stating that the people were demonstrating daily because they could not stand condition any more, and that if peace and stability was desired for Myanmar, help should be given to open a dialogue between the government and the NLD.

Because of the agitation of the NLD headquarters the NLD members in Pakokku agitated the clergy to demonstrate and through foreign news media announced the names of those whom they falsely accused of hindering the demonstration of the clergy, and agitated mobs to destroy the homes and shops of those whom they had falsely accused. In the same way intelligence was obtained that NLD party members in other cities contacted and agitated the clergy to demonstrate and through foreign news media announced the names of those whom they falsely accused of hindering the NLD’s declaration of 5 September 2007.

Likewise, officials of the US Embassy visited the NLD Headquarters on West Shwegondine Road 11 times in April, 21 times in May, 18 times in June and 11 times in July.

YANGON, 9 Sept—The National League for Democracy (Central) is constantly having contact with the US Embassy officials visited the NLD Headquarters 18 times in August to join hands with the people in warding off all attempts to harm national interest; to carry out regional development undertakings; and to strive to become good organizers understanding the importance of duty.

The acting of the party stood witness that it has made seditious declarations which are against the government and cause the people to lose respect for the government, has instigated public unrest, has also urged the international community to sanction Myanmar, in synchronicity with the so-called 88 generation students and the expatriate groups. Moreover, they had increased their activities at a time when the seven-step road map has to be implemented with momentum after the completion of the National Convention.

In doing so, the NLD and the so-called 88 generation student groups declared that their movements were peaceful and explained it to the media time and again.

By observing the incidents which occurred in Pakokku city, the real intention of the NLD is vividly shown that they have been trying to seize the State power by short cut through inciting unrest like in 1988.

While the government has been implementing to bring about genuine, disciplined democracy by adopting the policy of seven-step road map, it has also laid down the necessary political, economic and social infrastructure for the future democratic state as well as the market oriented economic system.

In doing so, it is quite natural to face with some difficulties and obstacles since it is a transitional period. Although sanctions are being imposed on Myanmar, the government together with the people is trying to overcome these difficulties and obstacles.

Exploiting these situations, some are trying to disrupt the prevailing peace, stability and law and order and the momentum of development and to derail the seven-step road map. Under these circumstances, the government will never tolerate such malicious acts and will take effective action against those committing such acts in accordance with the existing law.

Information Committee

commander attends prize presentation ceremony of BEHS No 3 (Nay Pyi Taw)

All USDA members will have... (from page 9)

the Convention is a milestone in history.

The government has to face and overcome challenges and obstacles and disturbances generated by fake democracy organizations from inside and outside the nation and some persons. The people have already faced the evil consequences of personality cult and factional and ideological prejudices.

All should be aware of attempts and perpetration to create unrest. If there occurs unrest it will have adverse impacts on economic enterprises set up by the citizens, and the persons relying on those enterprises will face social sufferings. Sanctions will hurt economic enterprises set up by the people.

The entire people can now differentiate between right and wrong and what is constructive and what is destructive. People can differentiate between the perpetration carried out with foreign assistance just for personal popularity and goodwill endeavours for national interest.

In conclusion, the secretary-general urged the members to always serve as a body for perpetuation of the new nation and its long-term development and prosperity; to strive for further strengthening of patriotism, to take part together with the people in the task of successfully implementing the seven-point Road Map; to join hands with the people in warding off all attempts to harm national interest; to carry out regional development undertakings; and to strive to become good organizers understanding the importance of duty.

The secretary-general cordially greeted the trainees totalling 203. They attended the four-week course. — MNA

NLD receiving instructions of US Embassy, harming interest of the State and the people

US Embassy officials visited the NLD Headquarters 18 times in August

YANGON, 9 Sept—The National League for Democracy (Central) is making attempts to push the nation to a life under foreign subjugation and to become a minion of colonialists instead of participating in the drive for the emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation hand in hand with the government.

The acts of the party stood witness that it relies too much on foreign nations, especially western powers.

The people are commenting that the NLD (Central) is constantly having contact with the US Embassy and received the embassy’s instructions to harm the interest of the State and the people.

 Officials of the US Embassy visited the NLD Headquarters on West Shwegondine Road 11 times in April, 21 times in May, 18 times in June and 11 times in July.

Likewise, officials of the US Embassy visited the NLD Headquarters 18 times in August. They met with CEC members of the party and presented letters and parcels to them.
NY City carriage horses work in shoddy conditions

NEW YORK, 8 Sept — Horses that pull passengers along Central Park South, where there are not adequate water spigots, shade or drains for horse waste, the audit found.

The city Department of Consumer Affairs is in charge of licencing drivers and carriages, while the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene regulates the horses and stables.

The agencies generally comply with city regulations, but efforts to enforce them are spotty, the audit found. — MNA/Xinhua


Algeria bomb kills 14 before presidential visit

ALGIERS, 8 Sept — A suicide bomber killed 14 people when he blew himself up in the Algerian town of Batna on Thursday shortly before a scheduled visit by President Abdelaziz Bouteflika, the Interior Minister said.

Bouteflika, who later visited some of the dozens wounded in hospital, blamed Islamist rebels, denouncing them as “criminals”.

“These people are working for the interests of foreign capitals and foreign leaders,” he added, without elaborating. Residents said the blast took place among crowds waiting to see the President arrive in the town 430 kilometres (270 miles) southeast of the capital Algiers. Interior Minister Noureddine Yazid Zerhouni said 14 people had been killed and 60 wounded, most of them lightly, by the explosion, the official APS news agency reported. State television had earlier reported 15 dead. “A suspect person in the crowd tried to get through the security cordon. Pushed back by an agent of the security forces, this person ran off. Immediately afterwards the explosion took place,” Zerhouni said. — MNA/Reuters

Newspaper says Vietnam’s rivers polluted by waste

HANOI, 8 Sept — Many rivers across Vietnam are polluted by wastes, mainly those discharged by craft villages and industrial zones, local newspaper Vietnam News reported Thursday.

The Cau, Nhue and Day rivers in the northern region are seriously polluted, according to a report on national environment situations recently released by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. Many rivers in the southern region are in the same situation.

Wastes dumped in rivers affect natural levels of bacteria and nutrients, and make biochemical reactions occur. These levels are measured by Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) and Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD) tests that assess levels of oxygen depletion.

A section of the Cau River, which runs past a steel industrial zone in northern Thai Nguyen City, has a concentration of pollutants with BOD and COD levels 2-3 times higher than recommended limits. At a lower section of the river, the BOD and COD concentration is 10 times higher because of wastes from craft villages and industrial zones in the three provinces of Bac Giang, Bac Ninh and Hai Duong. — MNA/Xinhua

Armed robbers assault shops in Nigeria’s Anambra State

LAGOS, 8 Sept — Armed robbers, dressed in Army and police uniforms, on Thursday raided shops and homes on Old Market Road, Onitsha City in Nigeria’s southeastern Anambra State, taking away 3 million naira in goods and cash, according to news reaching here Thursday afternoon.

It is learnt that the incident, which witnessed sporadic shootings by the robbers, was the second in seven months in the commercial city.

No casualty was recorded while some of the victims had reported the incident to the police.

Local reports quoted eyewitness as saying that the robbers held their victims hostage for about four hours during which they descended on cyber cafes, grocery stores and residences.

According to an account, the operation was unchallenged by either the police or vigilantes, in spite of the new security measures in place. — MNA/Xinhua

The Apple iPhone is on display with new pricing at the new Apple Store in Los Gatos, Calif on Thursday, 6 Sept, 2007. Apple Inc CEO Steve Jobs apologized and offered $100 credits on Thursday to people who shelled out up to $599 for an iPhone this summer and were burned when the company chopped $200 from the expensive model’s price.

INTERNET

The Apple iPhone is on display with new pricing at the new Apple Store in Los Gatos, Calif on Thursday, 6 Sept, 2007. Apple Inc CEO Steve Jobs apologized and offered $100 credits on Thursday to people who shelled out up to $599 for an iPhone this summer and were burned when the company chopped $200 from the expensive model’s price.

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Experts say lung cancer must be detected earlier

HONG KONG, 8 Sept — Lung cancer kills one person every minute in Asia, and in most cases, the disease was detected too late for effective treatment, medical experts said. Authorities must consider ways for early detection of lung cancer including greater use of CT (computed tomography) scans as a more proficient tool in detecting the disease than chest X-rays, they said.

“Now, 60 to 70 per cent of lung cancer cases are diagnosed at the late stage, so most would have an incurable disease upon diagnosis,” said Tony Mok, a professor at the clinical oncology department at Hong Kong’s Prince of Wales Hospital.

Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer deaths in men and women and more than 570,000 people die from it in Asia each year. Fewer than half of the people who develop lung cancer live for more than a year and only 15 per cent of victims survive beyond five years from the time of diagnosis. Smoking is widely seen to be the major cause of lung cancer and the disease is expected to weigh heavily on Asia in coming years as the number of smokers continues to rise.

Mok said authorities in Asia should consider better and more efficient ways to detect the killer disease.

Australia, Singapore ink film, TV co-production deal

SYDNEY, 8 Sept — Australia and Singapore signed a joint agreement on film and television co-production here on Friday.

The deal will make both governments’ film and TV production incentives available to producers and will cover the production of new media projects, said a Press release issued by the office of Australia’s Minister for the Arts and Sports.

The agreement grants national-production status of either country to an approved film or TV programme and thus enables the producers apply for benefits or assistance available on either side, including investment and tax incentives.

A production, under the treaty, is treated as “local content” in both countries for the purpose of audio-visual regulations.

US Mars rovers survive severe dust storms

WASHINGTON, 8 Sept — Two months after sky-darkening dust from severe storms near-killed NASA’s Mars exploration rovers, the solar-powered robots are awake and ready to continue their mission, NASA reported Friday.

Opportunity’s planned descent into the giant Victoria Crater was delayed, but now the rover is preparing to drive into the half-mile diameter crater as early as 11 September. Victoria is the biggest crater Opportunity has visited.

Spirit, Opportunity’s rover twin, also survived the global dust storm. The rovers are 43 months into missions originally planned to last three months. On 5 September, Spirit climbed onto its long-term destination called Home Plate, a plateau of layered bedrock bearing clues to an explosive mixture of lava and water.

“These rovers are tough. They faced dusty winds, power starvation and other challenges — and survived. Now they are back to doing ground-breaking field work on Mars. These spacecraft are amazing,” said Alan Stern, associate administra-tor of NASA’s Science Mission Directorate. Martian dust storms in July blocked so much sunlight that researchers grew concerned the rovers’ daily energy supplies could plunge too low for survival.

Engineers at NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory put Opportunity onto a very low-energy regimen of no movement, few observations and reduced communication with Earth.
Lucky Russia beat Macedonia

3-0 to stay on track

Moscow, 9 Sept — Russia beat Macedonia 3-0 in a Euro 2008 Group E qualifier on Saturday to stay on track for next year’s finals.

For that the Russians had to thank their reserve goalkeeper Vyacheslav Malafeyev, who saved a 70th minute penalty from Igor Mitrizki to preserve a 1-0 lead just after replacing Vladimir Gabulov.

Gabulov was sent off in the 69th minute for a professional foul on Velice Sumulikoski in his own penalty box. Vasily Berezutsky put the home side ahead five minutes into the game, slotting the ball in at the far post box. MNA/Reuters

Italy, France in thrilling goalless draw

Milan, 9 Sept — Italy drew 0-0 with France in a passionate and tough-tackling Euro 2008 qualifier on Saturday, which dropped the world champions to third in Group B.

The repetition of last year’s World Cup final was full of drama despite the lack of goals, with Filippo Inzaghi clipping the ball on half an hour. Both sides had other good chances in an intense and noisy atmosphere at a sell-out San Siro where France coach Raymond Domenech was forced to watch the game from the stands because of a UEFA touchline ban.

France top the group with Scotland second after their 3-1 win over Lithuania and Italy a point behind in third.

The first half featured some tough challenges with Claude Makelele and Gennaro Gattuso booked. Basten told reporters.

“We organized our midfield and defence to prevent any problems and that worked out.”

The Real Madrid pair made the difference in a one-sided Group G match against the Bulgarians, who relied almost completely on playing on the counter attack. The Dutch are now second in the group with 17 points from seven matches, three points behind leaders Romania, who have played eight matches.

“I am satisfied with the result and for phases we played good football and it was attractive to watch,” Dutch coach Marco van Basten told reporters.

“We organized our midfield and defence to prevent any problems and that worked out.”

Despite lots of possession, the Dutch needed a dead-ball situation to break the deadlock as Bulgaria’s tight rearguard proved a match for their slow build-up.

Midfielder Sneijder curled a free kick around the wall from 25 metres in the 23rd minute, beating goalkeeper Dimitar Ivanov at the near post.

MNA/Reuters

England score morale-boosting win over Israel

London, 9 Sept — England scored a morale-boosting 3-0 victory over Israel at Wembley Stadium on Saturday to improve their chances of qualifying for Euro 2008.

Goals by Shaun Wright-Phillips, Michael Owen, with an outstanding 38th goal in his 84th international, and a header from Micah Richards — his first for England — moved Steve McClaren’s side up from fourth to third in Group E.

Though missing injured players such as Wayne Rooney, Frank Lampard, David Beckham and Owen Hargreaves, England dominated as they recorded their first win at the newly re-built stadium after drawing with Brazil and losing to Germany in friendlies.

Israel, fourth in the group, did not have a goal attempt until an off-target shot by Yuval Shpungin after 74 minutes.

On this evidence, though they have 17 points, the same as England, their hopes of advancing to the finals are remote, especially if England beat Russia at Wembley on Wednesday.

Russia are top on eight points from eight games, ahead of Croatia, who have 17 points and who were playing Estonia later.

McClaren told BBC TV: “That was a good performance, a good win, a good result and we have to follow that on Wednesday.”

MNA/Reuters

Serbia, Finland stay in hunt after 0-0 draw

Belgrade, 9 Sept — Serbia and Finland stayed in contention for a berth at the Euro 2008 finals in Austria and Switzerland after a 0-0 draw in their Group A qualifier on Saturday.

The result left the Finns second in the group on 18 points from 10 matches, one point adrift of leaders Poland who were away to Portugal later on Saturday.

Third-placed Portugal had 15 points from eight matches before the game with Poland, while Serbia were on 15 from nine.

Serbia dominated a scrappy affair but their unfamiliar 4-5-1 formation with Danko Lazovic as the lone striker produced hardly any clearcut chances against a firm Finnish defence.

Lazovic missed the best chance for the home side in the first half when he directed a poor close-range header at keeper Just Kasakainen with the goal at his mercy.

MNA/Reuters

Spain draw in Iceland despite Alonso red card

Reykjavik, 9 Sept — Spain midfielder Andres Iniesta scored four minutes from time to scramble a 1-1 draw with Iceland in their Euro 2008 qualifier on Saturday.

The visitors had midfielder Xabi Alonso sent off after 19 minutes and fell behind to a header by Emil Halldfroddsson 20 minutes later.

Spain poured forward in search of an equalizer and were rewarded when substitute Iniesta poked the ball past keeper Arni Arason.

The result left Spain third in Group F with 16 points from eight games, level with second-placed Northern Ireland and three behind leaders Sweden.

MNA/Reuters
Iran blasts US over massive fine for 1983 Lebanon attack  

TEHRAN, 9 Sept — Iran on Saturday lashed out at a recent US court decision to fine the Islamic Republic $2.65 billion dollars for the 1983 bombing of the US Marine barracks in Lebanon, terming the verdict was “baseless”.

“The verdict is not legally defendable, and we can see the political pressure from the decision to grab Iranian assets in America,” he added.

A US federal court ruled on Friday that Iran must pay 2.65 billion dollars to the family members of the 241 US servicemen killed in the 1983 bombing of the US Marine barracks in Beirut, Lebanon. According to a previous ruling of the same federal judge in 2003, Iran was held responsible for the 1983 suicide attack. The suicide attack was carried out by Hezbollah with the approval and funding of Iran’s government officials, the judge said then. Hezbollah, or Party of God, is based in Lebanon and has waged a campaign for decades of years against Israel’s occupation of southern Lebanon as a self-declared security zone. — MNA/Xinhua

13 suspected insurgents arrested in Thailand  

BANGKOK, 9 Sept — Thirteen suspected insurgents were arrested by the government forces on Saturday morning in Thailand’s violence-torn far southern province Narathiwat, a local media reported.

A special security task force surrounded Todehng sub-district, Sungai Padi District of Narathiwat, and took 13 individuals back for questioning Saturday morning, according to a report by news network The Nation. The forces searched some 70 homes in Todehng and seized one shotgun, an unspecified number of ammunition rounds and a kilogramme of fertilizer, a material frequently used to make bombs by local militants.

The latest wave of insurgent violence that erupted in January 2004 have claimed more than 2,400 lives in Thailand’s deep South, mainly comprising the three southernmost provinces—Narathiwat, Yala and Pattani, which have been under the rule of the Emergency Law. — MNA/Xinhua

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas

WEATHER

Sunday, 9 September, 2007

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hour MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kayah State, lower Sagaing and Magway Divisions and rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Chin and Mon States, fairly widespread in Rakhine State and upper Sagaing Division, scattered in Kachin State and Mandalay Division and isolated in the remaining States and Divisions. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Kyauktaw (1.50) inches, Hikanti (1.11) inches, Machanbaw (1.02) inches, Mawlamyine (0.87) inch, Patuo (0.83) inch and Maungtaw (0.82) inch. Maximum temperature on 8-9-2007 was 88°F. Minimum temperature on 9-9-2007 was 7°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 9-9-2007 was 82%. Total sunshine hours on 8-9-2007 was (3.1) hours approx. Rainfall on 9-9-2007 was (Nil) Mingaladon, (Nil) at Kaba-Aye and (0.04) inch at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2007 was (103.27) inches at Mingaladon, (105.94) inches at Kaba-Aye and (108.90) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Central Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 43 whp from Southwest at (15:30) hours MST on 8-9-2007.

Bay inference: Monsoon is weak in the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal. Forecast valid until evening of 10-9-2007: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Kayah State, Magway and lower Sagaing Divisions, scattered in Chin, Rakhine, Shan, Mon, Kayin States, Mandalay and Tannintharyi Divisions and fairly widespread in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Weak monsoon. Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 10-9-2007: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%). Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 10-9-2007: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%). Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 10-9-2007: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Flood Warning (Issued at 12:30 hr MST on 9-9-2007) According to the (10:30) hr MST observation today, the water level of Thanlwin River at Hpa-an is (746) cm. It may exceed its danger level (750) cm during the next (24) hrs commencing noon today.

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NLD took advantage of increased price of fuel, tried to exploit the situation to mount a political attack

So-called “88” generation student group in collusion with NLD brought about disturbances and demonstrations

NLD is blatantly instigating its members who have the objective of creating riots and disturbances and breaking existing laws

Some trying to disrupt prevailing peace, stability, law and order, momentum of development, to derail seven-step road map

Government will never tolerate such malicious acts and will take effective action against those committing such acts

In connection with the protest that broke out in Pakokku, Magway Division, on 5 and 6 September, some foreign radio stations and anti-government organizations are spreading false propaganda in various forms and methods daily to instigate members of the Sangha to take part in unrest. Similarly, destructionists inside the country are exaggerating the matter and channeling the exaggerated information to the members of the Sangha of some monasteries in major towns through trunk calls to agitate Buddhist monks. They are also sending letters to the members of the Sangha requesting monks to solve the problem instead of ignoring it. Spoliors from inside and outside the nation failed to achieve success in attempting to cause unrest among workers and students. In addition, the people who wish peace and stability have never accepted their plots. So, they are trying to organize and agitate Buddhist monks. The saboteurs are constantly hatching evil plots and making wicked attempts to cause unrest and organize the members of the Sangha to participate in the unrest without fail.

Weather Forecast for 10-9-2007

Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas
Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Yangon and neighbouring areas
Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Mandalay and neighbouring areas
Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

AFF Women’s Championship 2007

Indonesia 3 - 2 Philippines

Vietnam 9 - 0 Malaysia