Maubin (South) region has potential oil field

YANGON, 19 July—Minister for Energy U Lun Thi yesterday afternoon inspected deep test oil well (1) under the Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise in Maubin (South) region in Maubin Township, Ayeyawady Division.

Those in charge of the oil well reported on progress in drilling test oil wells in the region. The managing director of MOGE gave a supplementary report.

In his address, the minister said that the region had potential for a new oil field, calling for completion of the drilling of the test oil well on schedule.

He inspected the test oil well being drilled with the use of ZJ 50D SR1 drilling machine.

Next, he inspected the installation of compressors in the natural gas compressing plant under construction in Nyaungdon oil field in Nyaungdon Township.

He viewed the process of producing oil and natural gas at oil rig (1) and called for minimizing loss and wastage and worksite safety.—MNA

Development of roads and bridges in Myanmar

Better transport and regional development are interrelated. Better transport contributes not only to improving socio-economic status of local people but also to having more relationships among the national brethren.

Before 1988, there were no motor ways in border areas—even in Ayeyawady Division and Rakhine State due to poor transport. So, people had to rely solely on waterway and airway. Most of the roads could not be easily used at any time people wanted. Then, there existed tarred road and earthen roads, totaling over 20,000 miles. There were over-180-foot 198 bridges and under-180-foot 3,305 bridges.

(See page 8)
**PERSPECTIVES**

**Tuesday, 20 July, 2010**

**Grow trees for greening**

Now, the rainy season has well set in, and it is the most opportune time to grow trees to help green the surrounding areas. Forests and trees contribute substantially to climate patterns and make the environment pleasant and green.

Deforestation is followed by climate changes and shortage of water for agricultural purposes. It is in Myanmar people’s nature to cherish woodlands and geographical features of the nation.

It is therefore mandatory not only for staff members of the Forest Department but also for the people to conserve forests and trees in order to avert unnecessary deforestation.

Today, respective ministries, townships, wards, wards and organizations hold monsoon tree planting ceremonies on their own on a broad scale around the Union.

The species of trees they grow are fruit trees and many others including mahogany, teak, ironwood, padauk (gum-kino), eucalyptus and mango.

By growing trees, we can gain a variety of benefits such as fruit, shade, wooden utensils, fresh mind, and good health.

Not only human beings but also birds benefit from forests, now that forests and trees are natural habitats for birds, and they someway maintain species of birds.

Myanmar people live in the motto “With love, we grow trees annually for further greening”. Therefore, the people need not only to grow trees for greening their regions and the nation, but also to nurture the trees they have planted.

**MDY Mayor visits No (1) Malun Waterworks**

**NAV PYI TAW, 19 July—**Chairman of Mandalay City Development Committee Mandalay Mayor U Phone Zaw Han inspected No (1) Malun Waterworks and gave instructions on water supply tasks on 15 July.

He inspected supply of potable water and roadwork in Maahauengmye Township.

At the monsoon tree planting ceremony held in Aungmyethazan Township, the mayor planted some shade trees and viewed the process of planting saplings of various species.

**Greening activity of MCDC**

**NAV PYI TAW, 19 July—**Chairman of Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council Commander of Triangle Region Command Maj-Gen Kyaw Phyo on 11 July attended the monsoon tree planting ceremonies of the command and Kengtung Station.

The Commander handed over saplings and planted young trees. The Commander then graced School Environment Day activity with his presence at Kengtung Basic Education High School and viewed students planting saplings collectively.

**Triangle Region Command green Mother Earth**

**NAV PYI TAW, 19 July—**Chairman of Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council Commander of Triangle Region Command Maj-Gen Kyaw Phyo on 11 July attended the monsoon tree planting ceremonies of the command and Kengtung Station.

The Commander handed over saplings and planted young trees. The Commander then graced School Environment Day activity with his presence at Kengtung Basic Education High School and viewed students planting saplings collectively.

**Made in Thailand Festival at Ga Mon Pwint Shopping Mall**

**YANGON, 17 July—**Mainly sponsored by Ga Mon Pwint Co Ltd and Department of Export Promotion (DEP) of Thailand, the fourth “Made in Thailand Festival” was launched at Ga Mon Pwint Shopping Mall on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road here today.

Thai Ambassador to the Union of Myanmar Mr Apirath Vienravi formally opened the sales which run up to 26 July.

The festival provides a one-stop sales centre where shoppers can purchase Thai-made branded clothes, cosmetics, personal and household goods, and foodstuff at fair prices. —MNA

**Government Office holds Monsoon tree planting ceremony**

**NAV PYI TAW, 19 July—**The Government Office held monsoon tree planting ceremony 2010 at its compound, here, this morning.

Director-General U Thant Shin of the Government Office, office staff and staff families attended the ceremony.

The Director-General planted a mahogany sapling and viewed participation of those present in the tree planting ceremony. The government office planted 1420 mahogany, teak, ironwood, gum-kino, Seintalon mango saplings and other crops at the tree planting ceremony. —MNA

**All this needs to be known**

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

**Thai Ambassador Mr Apirath Vienravi formally opens the sales of festival.**

MNA
**Taliban kill over 180 Afghan civilians since June**

KABUL, 19 July— The spokesman for NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) on Sunday said that more than 180 Afghan civilians have been killed by Taliban militants since last June as Taliban Mullah Mohammad Omar ordered his men to attack specific targets.

“Since 1 June, 188 civilians have been killed by militants,” Josef Blotz told reporters at weekly press briefing in ISAF fortified headquarters. “Today I want to share with you a recently declassified message that was intercepted in June.

The message was from Mullah Omar, who is hiding in Pakistan, ordered his subordinate commanders in Afghanistan to fight NATO-led troops and kill Afghans who support Afghan government.

The spokesman of over 130,000-strong NATO-led ISAF forces also said that many of these deaths were caused by militants’ use of indiscriminate IEDs (Improvised Explosive Device), automatic machine gun fire and suicide bombers. In this regard he named three Afghan officials — Gul Mohammad, Hayatullah Agba and Mohammad Reza had been assassinated by Taliban militants in Logar, Kandahar and Ghazni Provinces over the past couple of weeks.

US troops to withdraw in time from Iraq

WASHINGTON, 19 July— US Vice President Joe Biden said on Sunday the US combat troops in Iraq are on schedule to withdraw by the end of August, and would not be delayed by lengthy power-sharing negotiations in the Iraqi government. Speaking to ABC’s “This Week” program, Biden said the Iraqi transition government is “in place that’s working. Iraqi security is being provided by the Iraqis.”

The US forces last year have pulled out of Iraqi cities and are working to formally end combat operations by 1 Sept of this year, cutting the US military force from just under 90,000 to 50, 000. A full withdrawal is also in sight at the end of 2011. However, Iraq’s political blocs are still discussing the formation of a new government, months after the 7 March elections. Biden said he is confident the withdrawal won’t affect the physical stability of Iraq.

**Roadside bomb wounds four German soldiers in northern Afghan province**

Duz (Afghanistan), 19 July— Four German soldiers were injured as a roadside bomb struck their vehicle in Afghanistan’s northern Kunduz Province on Monday, spokesman with the NATO-led forces in the province Lieutenant Colonel Webber said.

“The incident occurred in Ali Abad District at 05:30 am local time as a result three or four German soldiers were injured,” Webber told. Meantime, governor of Kunduz Province Mohammad Omar also said that the blast took place in Lala Maidan village of Ali Abad District this morning injuring four German soldiers.

On the other hand, a Taliban purported spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid in talks with media via telephone from undisclosed location claimed that Taliban is responsible for the bomb attack, adding that the four German soldiers were killed in the blast.

**Taliban-style bombing kills foreign soldier**

KABUL, 19 July— A foreign soldier was killed in Afghanistan on Monday after a Taliban-style bomb attack, NATO said.

The death brings to 379 the number of foreign soldiers to die in the Afghan war so far this year.

NATO’s International Security Assistance Force did not give the soldier’s nationality but said the bombing took place in the south, where the Taliban-led militancy is at its fiercest.

The death comes as Kabul and its international allies are at the scene of a suicide bombing in eastern Kabul, Afghanistan, 18 July, 2010. A suicide bombing in eastern Kabul killed three civilians on Sunday, two days before an international conference that will host representatives from about 60 nations, an Afghan official said. The bomber was foot and his target was unclear, police official Abdul Ghafar Sayedzada said.

Afghan police and officials are at the scene of a suicide bombing in Kabul, Afghanistan, 18 July, 2010. —Xinhua

Five killed in bomb explosions near Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 19 July— Five people were killed and three others were injured in two bomb explosions targeted Awakening Council group members in west of Baghdad on Sunday, an Interior Ministry source said.

Three Iraqi army soldiers, including an explosives expert officer, were killed by multiple explosions when they were trying to defuse bombs planted in a house of a former Awakening Council group member in a village in Abu Ghraib area, just west of Baghdad, the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

**17 killed, 17 injured in shooting in northern Mexico**

MEXICO CITY, 19 July— At least 17 people died and 17 others were injured on Sunday early morning in the northern state of Coahuila, Mexico when an armed group fired at the people who were attending a party, authorities said. According to the first reports of Coahuila’s Police, the shooting occurred about 1:30 am local time in the real estate of “Italia Inn” in San Luis municipality. The General Prosecutor’s Office of Coahuila said that the attackers arrived at the party aboard five vehicles and began shooting at the people attending the party.

17 killed, 17 injured in shooting in northern Mexico

**Soldiers rescue a woman trapped by flood water in the old downtown area of Guang’an City, southwest China’s Sichuan Province, on 18 July, 2010. Due to the upriver flood triggered by heavy rainfall in Qujiang River, the old downtown area of Guang’an City was deluged by knee-level flood water. Soldiers promptly relocated local residents and properties to safe zones before the arrival of the next flood peak.**

**Xinhua**
Observer, Charles

for the initial of the famed 18th century comet
and sits the constellation Hercules. The ‘M’ stands

for their Stories feature; stories that receive the

number? For example: the famous Andromeda

have their lives changed by Facebook.

will be a collection of short tales about users who

to celebrate, the giant will be launching a

the world’s largest stand alone
integrated photovoltaic (BIPV) project started
transmitting power to the

tons, while reducing carbon emissions by 6,600
tons. The project has been
installed on the awnings of DC, according to the

Facebook reaches 500 million users

BEIJING, 19 July — Social networking giant
Facebook is expected to officially announce its 500
millionth user sometime this week, media reported on
Monday.

To celebrate, the giant will be launching a
special feature called “Facebook Stories,” which
will be a collection of short tales about users who
have had their lives changed by Facebook.

The company is currently accepting submissions
for their Stories feature, stories that receive the
most Likes could be included in the final product.

As well, Facebook recently announced that it
had reached a milestone of 150 million mobile
users, an increase of approximately 50 percent since
A pril’s 100-million-mobile-user measurement.

Huge solar station starts operation in Shanghai

BEIJING, 19 July — The
world’s largest stand alone
integrated photovoltaic
(BIPV) project started
transmitting power to the
grid in Shanghai on
Sunday in another move
showcasing China’s
commitment to reduced
carbon emissions.

The 6.68-megawatt
solar system can produce
6.3 million kilowatt-hours
(kwh) of electricity per
to meet the needs of
12,000 Shanghai
households. It will cut
carbon consumption by 2,254

When was the last earthquake near Washington, DC?

WASHINGTON, 19 July — The mild, 3.6-
magnitude earthquake that rattled Washing-
ton, DC, and the
surrounding area at
5:04 am local time was
the largest earthquake
to strike near the
country’s capital since
1984. On April 23 of
that year, a 4.4-
magnitude quake
struck near Wilson
to the north of DC, according to

Deep-Sea Amphipod©, photograph courtesy
Queensland Brain Institute.—INTERNET

Night Sky’s great globular cluster
visible in telescopes

NEW YORK, 19 July — A fascinating deep sky
object called the Great Globular Cluster can currently
be found in telescopes looking nearly overhead on
clear summer nights, and there’s good story behind
how it and other objects are classified.

How often in looking through books on
astronomy have you noticed star clusters and nebulae
designated by the letter M, followed by some
number? For example: the famous Andromeda
Galaxy is known as M31 and the Great Orion Nebula
is M42.

The Great Globular Cluster is known as M 13
and sits the constellation Hercules. The ’M’ stands
for the initial of the famed 18th century comet
observer, Charles Messier (1730-1817).

Messier was deeply interested in discovering
comets but he was plagued by the same trouble that
besets all comet hunters.

Technology

Australian research reveals impact of
online social networking

SYDNEY, 19 July — More than half of Australian
parents with children using online social networking
services like Facebook and Twitter said the services
are distracting them from their studies, the latest
Cyber-safety Research Report commissioned by
Telstra revealed on Monday.

The survey of parents with children aged 10 to 17
years was conducted by Newspoll and shows the
problem is more pronounced with teenagers aged
between 14 and 17 years, with 65 percent of parents
reporting social networking is frequently or
occasionally distracting their children from their
homework.

The Telstra Cyber-safety Research Report has led
cyber-safety expert Dr Martyn Wild, Managing
Director of SuperClubzPLUS Australia, to encourage
parents to place computers in family areas such as a
lounge room, in an effort to keep younger school
children focused on their studies.—Xinhua

Science

People attempt to contain a huge oil slick from further
contaminating the Yellow Sea on 18 July, 2010 in
Dalian, northeast China’s Liaoning Province.
Authorities have launched an ocean clean-up
operation after an oil pipeline explosion and fire
spilled 1,500 tonnes of crude in the coastal region,
state media said on Monday.—INTERNET

US raises concern over Gulf oil well seepage

NEW ORLEANS, 19 July — BP has raised hopes that no
more toxic crude will leak into the Gulf of Mexico, saying
it intends to keep its runaway oil well sealed until a
permanent “kill” operation later this month.

The US government is granting extensions to
extensive well tests on a 24-hour basis, but BP said the
valves on the containment cap that is staunching the flow
will remain shut as long as no leaks are discovered.

This could mark the beginning of the end of what
estimates suggest is the biggest oil spill ever, although
the true damage from one of America’s worst environmental
disasters might not be known for decades.

“We clearly don’t want to reinitalize flow into the
Gulf if we don’t have to,” said BP chief operating officer
Doug Suttles.

“We’re hopeful that if the encouraging signs continue
we’ll be able to continue the integrity test all the way
to the point where we get the well killed.”

The start of the two-week operation to plug the well
permanently by pumping in heavy drilling fluids and
then cement is now less than two weeks away as engineers
have only 100 feet (30 metres) left vertically to drill.

Internet

INTERNET
Many false-positive HIV test results for those in AIDS vaccine trials

NEW JERSEY, 19 July—Almost half of HIV-negative people who participate in clinical trials for HIV vaccines end up testing positive on routine HIV tests — even though they’re not actually infected, a new study shows.

The reason: They underwent what experts call “vaccine-induced seropositivity/reactivity” (VISP), meaning that they possess immune system antibodies to the virus but not the virus itself. That’s an important distinction, since routine HIV screening looks for virus antibodies only. Experts pointed out that the results are not new or surprising, but simply underline the delicacies of conducting trials into HIV/AIDS.

“You need to make sure to use other forms of testing for HIV, for example, viral load or p24 antigen, not just HIV antibodies. And people who’ve been in trials need to know their antibody status by the end of the trial,” said Dr Michael Horberg, director of HIV/AIDS at Kaiser Permanente in Santa Clara, Calif. “If it is a false positive but they do not have HIV infection, that would be very important for them to know, especially if they do repeat testing as part of good preventive health.” — Internet

Flu Vaccine via skin patch shows promise in mice

GEORGIA, 19 July—Wouldn’t it be nice if you could get the flu vaccine through a stick-on skin patch instead of a shot? Experiments in mice show that using skin patches containing tiny, painless “microneedles” to deliver the influenza vaccine may someday be a viable alternative to traditional shots.

The microneedles — less than 1 millimetre in length, or about half the thickness of a nickel turned on its side — dissolve into the skin and are small enough that they don’t draw blood or cause pain, researchers said.

Shanghai Expo providing platform for business success

BEIJING, 19 July—Expo 2010 Shanghai is proving to be a boon for successful Chinese entrepreneurs eager to tap into the global market.

The 184-day event, which is predicted to attract an estimated 50 million foreign visitors along with global media coverage, is considered to be a golden platform for business success and explore business opportunities for Chinese companies to raise their brands to an international level and explore business opportunities.

According to survey released last year by the information office of Shanghai Municipal Government, more than a quarter of the respondents were hoping to visit Shanghai during the Expo to seek future business. — Xinhu

Kuwait, Cuba to boost cooperation in trade, culture

Havana, 19 July—Cuba and Kuwait have signed agreements aimed at boosting cooperation in trade and culture, the official Radio Reloj reported on Sunday.

The documents were signed by visiting Kuwaiti Prime Minister Sheikh Nasser al-Mohammed al- Ahmad Al-Sabah and Cuba’s first Vice-President of the Council of State Jose Ramon Machado Ventura. Al-Sabah and Machado Ventura also “talked on the good state of bilateral relations” and expressed the common will to further strengthen cooperation, said the radio. — Xinhua

US stocks down on recovery fears

NEW YORK, 19 July—Leading US stock markets tumbled more than 2.5% as poor company results and fresh economic data hit investor confidence in the economic recovery.

On Wall Street the benchmark Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 2.5%, while the S&P 500 index was down 2.9%.

Shares in Citigroup and Bank of America were hit, with both reporting falling revenues.

US consumer confidence also fell to its lowest level since August 2009, according to one

US investors remain concerned about the strength of the US recovery. — Internet

The poor results were not limited to US banks, however, with General Electric also down 5% after reporting falling revenues, despite a rise in profits.

Google also worried investors, with its profits for the last three months falling short of expectations for the first time in its history.

Its shares ended the day down nearly 7%.

Investors warned that the economic recovery appeared to be losing momentum, but denied that a double-depression was on its way.

“The economic recovery is still intact,” said Jim O’Sullivan, chief economist at MF Global. — Internet

Aggressive drug therapy may help slow spread of AIDS

VIENNA, 19 July—Effective and widespread treatment of HIV disease may also help cut the rate of new infections, researchers report.

Since the introduction of powerful anti-HIV drugs known as highly active antiretroviral (HAART) in 1996, the number of new cases of HIV infection in the Canadian province of British Columbia has decreased by more than half, the team report.

The study is published online July 18 in The Lancet in conjunction with its presentation Sunday at the International AIDS Society (IAS) meeting in Vienna.
FIFA inspectors in Japan to check World Cup bid

FIFA president Sepp Blatter (right) is seen beside the president of the Japan Football Association and Chairman of the Japan bid Motoaki Inukai during a ceremony at FIFA’s headquarters in Zurich, in May. —INTERNET

Osaka, 19 July—Hot on the heels of the World Cup in South Africa, FIFA kicked off a whirlwind two-month tour on Monday to inspect nine candidates vying to host the 2018 or 2022 tournaments, the first stop in Japan.

A five-member team from the sport’s world governing body was to arrive in the western megacity of Osaka at 0820 GMT on a four-day trip to see stadiums, facilities and presentations there and in Tokyo.

They will go on to South Korea, Australia, the Netherlands-Belgium (joint bid), Russia, England, Spain, Portugal, the United States and Qatar in that order and draw up reports on the feasibility of each bid.

Palestinians, Israelis set to start direct talks

CAIRO, 19 July— The Middle East region on Sunday witnessed unprecedented meetings focused on promoting the direct Palestinian-Israeli negotiations as Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak held separate talks with Israeli, Palestinian leaders and US Middle East peace envoy George Mitchell.

Analysts believe that through these extensive meetings, the two sides will be set to start direct talks, maybe secretly, although the indirect meetings, the two sides will be set to start direct and US Middle East peace envoy George Mitchell.

They held separate talks with Israel, the Palestinians and the US Middle East peace envoy.

Oslo, "Fakhry al-Tahtawy, a professor of political affairs at Cairo University, told Oslo,” Fakhry al-Tahtawy, a professor of political affairs at Cairo University, told Oslo.

He said, “There are Egyptian-American efforts to push the peace process to move from the indirect talks to direct ones,” he said, adding “there is a need for direct negotiations as the US realizes that there are some differences which require the two rivals to sit face to face to resolve.”

Emad Gad, an Israeli affairs expert with Egypt’s Al-Ahram Centre for Political and Strategic Studies, also told Xinhua on Sunday that Palestinians and Israelis will start secret direct talks soon. “As long as the direct talks were secret and away from the media, it will be more likely to succeed,” Gad said. —Xinhua

Indonesia lifts tsunami warning after Papua New Guinea strong quakes

JAKARTA, 19 July— Indonesian Meteorology and Geophysics Agency lifted tsunami warning after a 7.1 magnitude aftershock and a 7.2 magnitude main shock in Papua New Guinea on Sunday.

“Tsunami warning is lifted,” as the tsunami did not occur over an hour after the strong quakes, the agency said.

The agency issued the warning immediately after an aftershock taking place on sea, the agency said.

The after shock struck at 20:04 Jakarta Time (1335 GMT) with epicentre at 537 km northeast of Port Moresby in Papua New Guinea with the depth at 26 km under sea bed, the agency said.

The main shock occurred at 20:04 Jakarta Time (1304 GMT) with epicentre at 503 km northeast Port Moresby and with the depth at 77 km under land, an official of the agency Andri Sembiring told Xinhua. —Xinhua

Trouble for Brazil-Paris flight for 4th time

SAO PAULO, 19 July— Air France says a Rio de Janeiro to Paris flight has been canceled because of electronic problems. It is the fourth incident in eight days involving an Air France passenger jet from Brazil.

Air France spokeswoman Leticia Lyra says problems were detected on the before the flight was to leave for Paris on Saturday with 170 passengers. It was rescheduled for Sunday night.

Two days earlier, an Air France Rio to Paris flight was forced to return to Brazil because of malfunctioning bathrooms. On 10 July, a bomb threat forced a Paris-bound Air France jet bound to make an emergency landing in northeastern Brazil.

Singapore arrests British writer for defamation

SINGAPORE, 19 July—Singaporean police said Monday they arrested a British author as part of a criminal defamation investigation related to his book on the city-state’s death penalty policy.

Alan Shadrake, 75, was in Singapore to promote the book and was arrested on Sunday, police said in a statement.

He hosted an event the day before promoting “Once a Jolly Hangman: Singapore Justice in the Dock.”

Police said they arrested Shadrake based on a complaint by the government’s Media Development Authority and were investigating him for other offenses. They declined to give details.

The attorney-general’s office is also seeking contempt of court charges against Shadrake because statements in the book allegedly impugn the impartiality, integrity and independence of the judiciary, a spokesman said.

She spoke anonymously in line with the attorney-general’s office policy. —INTERNET

A South Korean child cools himself off by playing in a fountain in Seoul, South Korea. On 19 July, 2010. In South Korea, on 19 July is typically the day that signals the beginning of the hottest time of the year. —INTERNET
63rd Anniversary Arzani Day observed

YANGON, 19 July—The 63rd Anniversary Arzani Day was marked at the Martyrs’ Mausoleum here this morning. Chairman of the Committee for Observance of the 63rd Anniversary Arzani Day Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor U Aung Thein Lin laid wreaths at the tombs of Bogyoke Aung San and the fallen leaders and paid tributes to them, dispensing Metta.

Also present on the occasion were Chairman of the Work Committee for Observance of the 63rd Anniversary Arzani leaders. That was followed by dispensing of Metta and two-minute silence in memory of the Arzani leaders.

U Aung San Oo, eldest son of Bogyoke Aung San, and wife Daw Le Le Nwe Thein laid a wreath at the tomb of Bogyoke Aung San and paid tribute to him and dispensed Metta.

Next, family members of the fallen leaders laid wreaths at respective tombs and paid tributes to them and dispensed Metta.

Representatives from the Myanmar War Veterans Organization, the Myanmar Fire Brigade, Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association, Myanmar Motion Pictures Association, Myanmar Music Association, Myanmar Thabin Association, and Myanmar Artists and Artisans Association also graced the ceremony, concluding with dispensing Metta.

Mayor U Aung Thein Lin lays wreaths at the tombs of Bogyoke Aung San and the fallen leaders at 63rd Anniversary Arzani Day.

Chin State Chairman on inspection tour of Chin State

NAY PYI TAW, 19 July—Chairman of Chin State Peace and Development Council Brig-Gen Hong Ngai on 1 July visited Zalae Hydroelectric Plant in Tiddim Township, Chin State.

The Commander also graced the monsoon tree planting ceremony at Lwebwai Ward and planted trees together with departmental personnel, members of social organizations and people.

Wanna make a study tour of Australia?

YANGON, 19 July—If you have been considering to go on a vacation with your family or make study tour of Australia, there is an opportunity right now. There will be a package tour of Perth of Australia in October to be jointly organized by STI Education and education and training department of Western Australian government.

The tour will help you make friends with students at Australian Government Schools, and enjoy the taste of Australian traditional foods and homestay.

The package tour covers flight charges, transportation charges, training fees, charges for welcoming ceremony, concluding ceremony, study tours of schools, other study tours, health insurance, visa letter, homestay inclusive of meals. Certificates of completion will be presented at concluding ceremony in which training staff of the schools will also appraise the performance of each student.

For details, contact No. 377, Upper Shwebontha Street, Pabedan Township, here or Room No. 7, Building 4, Myanmar Info-Tech, Hlone Township, Ph: 507048, 250056, 507151, 700273, 507152.
Development of roads and bridges in Myanmar

Byline: Maung Saw Win (Myanna Alin); Photos: Myanna Alin

Pilaung gravel road section into 18 feet wide tarred one on 8 August, 2009. In addition, 1,760 feet long Lenti suspension bridge, located at mile post No. 42/6 of Nay Pyi Taw-Pilaung road section, is under construction. Its withstand is 13 tons of loads. Now, it is a steel truss suspension bridge and can withstand 75 tons of loads. After completion, it will be the highest, most prominent and most distinct one. Plans are under way to open 49 miles and 7 furlongs long tarred (Koegway-Pilaung) road section.

Now, roads being constructed by Ministry of Construction are: 450 miles and five furlongs long Pathein-Monywa, 42 miles and seven furlongs long Taikkyi (Taikkyi-10th mile road section), 143 miles and four furlongs long Pyi Taw Pinlampa-Pinlaung road (Nay Pyi Taw-Pinlaung road section), 143 miles and six furlongs long Pyi Taw Pinlampa-Pinlaung road, 10 miles and 750 feet long Tharrawaddy-Phoeinvyi (Tharrawaddy-P𪩘invyi) road section.

Regarding roads and bridges sectors, there were 13,635 miles of roads before 1988, but now it has increased to 21,361 miles and 2 furlongs. In 2009-2010 financial year, Ministry of Construction handed over 1,147 miles and one furlong long miles of roads to other ministries and Directorate of Military Engineers’ Office.

In accord with the guidance of the Head of State, Pyay-Paukaung-Toungoo (125 mile and one furlong) was opened in March, 2010, Passein-Thaletkhwa-Mawtinson (96 miles) in May and Nay Pyi Taw Pinya-Pinlaung (Koegway-Pinlaung) road section.

The bridges all are designed in such a way that the cars can run smoothly, Ministry of Construction has upgraded 12 feet wide six furlongs long Minhla-Seinkantlant-Myo chaung-Phado-Peinzakoke-Mawin-10th mile road section, 143 miles and six furlongs long Paletwa.

Construction site of Yazudai Bridge No.1 seen on the bank of Mawlamyinegyun.

The government is implementing infrastructural developments in order to be peaceful and not to have much difference among the national brethrens. It can be said that regional developments is a result of peace and stability.

For the development of the country in the future to have adequate transport infrastructure, Public Works is extending the number of roads and bridges. From 1988 to date, 2,915 bridges (between 100 feet and 180 feet) and 240 bridges (over 180 feet) have been opened. Now, five Ayeyawady River crossing bridges are being built, four of them are rail-cum-road and one of them is only two lane motor roads. For having better transport between Yangon Division and Ayeyawady Division, Ayeyawady Bridge (Nyaungdon), which is a rail-cum-road, is being built passing Ayeyawady near Nyaungdon. It has 9,382 feet long two lane motor way and 10,377-foot-long one rail road.

Tharrawaddy Bridge (Mawlamyine) helps facilitate better transport between the north and the south.

(See page 9)
**Development of roads and bridges in Myanmar**

Byline: Maung Saw Win (Myanma Alin); Photos: Myanma Alin

Waingmaw-Bhamo motor road in Kachin State.

(from page 8)

The width of motor way is 28 feet long and that of railroad 14 feet long, and it has three feet wide pedestrian way on both sides.

Ayeyawady Bridge (Malun), is being built by passing Ayeyawady River near Pahtanago and Malun. The purpose of building the bridge is to connect Pathet-Hnin-Thada-Kayahin-Pakokku road and through Laos to Yoga Goyn. Ayeyawady Bridge (Pakokku) will be a main bridge on Thai-Myanmar-India border ASEAN-BIMSTEC road. The railroad on the east. Its 11,431 feet long and rail road on the west bank of Ayeyawady River with the west bank. It is a RC structure. On completion, it will emerge as Union Road. People can travel to Kalay and Mostoy through Yangon-Pahtain road section and Pathet-Hintha-Kayangin-Pakokku road and through Laos to Yoga Goyn. Ayeyawady Bridge (Pakokku) will be a main bridge on Thai-Myanmar-India border ASEAN-BIMSTEC road. The railroad on the east. It will be the longest and most prominent one.

Ayeyawady Bridge (Sinkhan) is located near Bhamo of Kachin State. It is a 4,695 feet long railroad and steel truss structure. On completion, goods from other states and divisions can be swiftly transported to Bhamo by cars and trains. There will be trade with China through border trade camp. These Ayeyawady River Crossing Bridges are RC Type Steel trusses, which connect the regions on the east bank of Ayeyawady River with the west bank. It will contribute to the development of the region.

Public Works is now building 22 bridges including five Ayeyawady River Crossing Bridges. Plans are under way to build bridges in Shan, Kayin and Kachin States and Sagaing, Ayeyawady Divisions. In addition, arrangements are being made to build 720 feet long Sittang Bridge (Natthangwin) on Pennagewon-Kyaukkyi road.

With political, economic and nationalistic view, the government is building the roads and bridges by spending huge amounts of money nation wide. The aforesaid roads and bridges development, a good legacy, which is to be handed down to the next generation, can be regarded as a success of the present time.

Translation: MT

Myanma Alin

(19-7-2010)

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**Main roads under construction**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr</th>
<th>Names</th>
<th>Miles</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Pathet-Monywa road</td>
<td>450 miles and five furlongs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Taikkyi-Paunggyi-Bago</td>
<td>42 miles and seven furlongs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Minhla-Seinkantlant-Myochoang-Phado-</td>
<td>143 miles and six furlongs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Peinazoke -Bankwynagon-Panwegen</td>
<td>96 miles and three furlongs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Goebin-Thagara</td>
<td>108 miles and four furlongs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Magway-Kanha-Myotith-Taungnyo-Nay Pyi Taw road</td>
<td>91 miles and four furlongs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Magway-Natmauk-Pyawbwe road</td>
<td>97 miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>PyinOoLwin-Mogok road</td>
<td>65 miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Katha-Sinkhan road</td>
<td>218 miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Myitkyina-Swanparabawan-Putao</td>
<td>330 miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Thekkaekyn-Phaung Pyin-Hktani</td>
<td>70 miles and two furlongs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Nay Pyi Taw Pyimana-Pinluang road</td>
<td>22 miles and six furlongs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Ponnyin-Pahta-edraun road</td>
<td>24 miles and six furlongs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Myeboon-Minbya road</td>
<td>20 miles and six furlongs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Paunkaw-Minbya road</td>
<td>33 miles and five furlongs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**The numbers of over-180-foot bridges (completed, under construction and proposed) from 1988 to date.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr</th>
<th>State/division</th>
<th>Completed</th>
<th>Under construction</th>
<th>Proposed</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Kachin</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Kayah</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Kayin</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Chin</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Sagaing</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Taninthayi</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Bago</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Magway</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Mandalay</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Rakhine</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Yangon</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Shan (East)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Shan (South)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Shan (North)</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Ayeyawady</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>5</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total 240 22 5
Oil cleanup workers skim for oil from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Perdido Pass in Orange Beach, Ala., during a heavy rain storm on 18 July, 2010.

Oil cleanup workers skim for oil from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Perdido Pass in Orange Beach, Ala., during a heavy rain storm on 18 July, 2010.

BP, feds clash over reopening capped Gulf oil well

NEW ORLEANS, 19 July—BP and the Obama administration offered significantly differing views Sunday on whether the capped Gulf of Mexico oil well will have to be reopened, a contradiction that may be an effort by the oil giant to avoid blame if crude starts spewing again.
Pilloried for nearly three months as it tried repeatedly to stop the leak, BP PLC capped the nearly mile-deep well on Thursday and wants to keep it that way. The government’s plan, however, is to eventually pipe oil to the surface, which would ease pressure on the fragile well but would require up to three more days of oil spilling into the Gulf.

“No one associated with this whole activity… wants to see any more oil flow into the Gulf of Mexico,” Doug Suttles, BP’s chief operating officer, said Sunday.

Strong earthquake shakes Papua New Guinea

NEW YORK, 19 July—A magnitude-7.3 earthquake hit New Britain region of Papua New Guinea on Sunday, according to the US Geological Survey (USGS).
The quake struck at 11:35 pm (1335 GMT) at the epicenter, 65 km southeast of Kimbe, New Britain with a depth of 57.6 km, the USGS said.

There is no immediate report of any casualties or damages in the quake.

Philips report big profit on consumer electronics

THE HAGUE, 19 July—Dutch electronics group Philips reported on Monday a net profit of 262 million euros for the second quarter of 2010, boosted by sales of consumer lifestyle electronics.

The figure was nearly six times the profit for a year earlier and sales rose by 12 percent to 6.19 billion dollars from the first quarter, the group said in a statement.

Sales grew in all sectors of the group’s activities, especially in consumer lifestyle electronics which grew by 20 percent compared to the second quarter of 2009, while lighting sales grew by 13 percent, it said.

Sales to emerging markets grew 29 percent.

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THE ZEPHYR project was conceived in 2001 and funded by the United Kingdom’s Ministry of Defence.

Saltmash says the aircraft demonstrates genuine military utility.

“It has the persistence to stay up there for long periods of time and it carries payloads that are doing things that the military will find useful,” he said.

The Zephyr weighs just 117 pounds, has a wingspan of 74 feet and a wing area of about 323 square feet.

The top side of the wing is covered in solar panels thinner than a sheet of paper, CNN reported.

Solar-powered plane sets endurance record

FARNBOROUGH, 19 July—An unmanned solar-powered plane has set a record by remaining aloft for seven straight days, flying day and night, its designers say.

The “Zephyr” drone, developed by British defense technology company QinetiQ in Farnborough, England, took off from the US Army’s Yuma Proving Ground in Arizona on 9 July, CNN reported.

It was still flying at the weekend, and its designers say they hope it can remain airborne for another seven days, the US news network said.

“It’s extremely exciting,” Zephyr programme director Jon Saltmarsh said. “What we now have is an eternal plane. It has the same amount of fuel at the start of one day as it does at the start of another.”

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Global biodiversity conference opens in Indonesia

JAKARTA, 19 July — The 2010 International Meeting of the Association of Tropical Biology and Conservation (ATBC) opened on Monday in Indonesia’s Bali Province amid growing concerns that the world is facing a biodiversity crisis on an unprecedented scale, a press statement said here.

Theme of this year’s meeting is Tropical biodiversity: surviving the food, energy and climate crisis, as habitat destruction from agricultural expansion and climate change is likely to lead to the mass extinction of irreplaceable plant and animal species.

"Crisis is a much overused term," said Dr Terry Sunderland of the Bogor based Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) and a member of the conference organizing committee. "But in terms of global biodiversity at this point, I think it entirely justified. For Indonesia, with its extraordinary wealth of plant and animal life, this crisis is acute."

Sunderland said that biodiversity loss is a time bomb that has the potential to severely damage the global systems that sustain life on earth.

"We are all an integral part of nature; our fates tightly linked with biodiversity. Yet this rich resource is being lost at a greatly accelerated rate because of human activities. This impoverishes us all and weakens the ability of the living systems, on which we depend, to resist growing threats such as climate change," he said.

Workshop on int’l aid, protection against chemical weapons held in Beijing

BEIJING, 19 July — A training class on international assistance and protection against chemical weapons was opened here on Monday.

The week-long workshop is jointly held by the Chinese government and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) with 22 trainees from 21 countries.

The class is designed to equip the trainees with better knowledge on protection against chemical weapons and provide a platform to related nations to exchange information and experience.

It eyes implementing Article 10 of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and helping the involved countries to improve their ability to deal with the threat of chemical weapons and chemical accidents.

The Chemical Weapons Convention, which entered into force 13 years ago, establishes far-reaching rights and obligations aimed at freezing the world of chemical weapons.

China has consistently fulfilled its obligations of the CWC and maintained sound cooperation with the OPCW by offering it with protective equipment, donation and holding related training classes, said a statement from the Chinese foreign ministry.—Xinhua

Wild elephants create panic in eastern Nepal

KATHMANDU, 19 July — The people of Bahundangi Village Development Committee in Jhapa district are once again suffering from the menace of wild elephants that are crossing over the border from India to the eastern part of the country.

According to Monday’s Republica daily report, the elephants entering Jhapa district every year in herds of 100 to 150 not only destroy property worth millions, but also pose threat to the lives of the locals, who are now contemplating taking extreme measures to get rid of the tuskers.

"The people are now agitated and they could even kill the elephants if need be," a conservation worker engaged in field research in Jhapa said.

At least 50 killed, over 100 injured in trains collision in eastern India

NEW DELHI, 19 July — At least 50 people were killed and more than 110 injured as a passenger train hit from behind a stationary passenger train at a railway station in the eastern Indian state of West Bengal early Monday morning, said police.

Rescuers have so far recovered the bodies of 40 people from the wreckage of the Bhagalpur-Ranchi Vananchal Express train, which was stationary at the Sainthia station some 200 kilometres from the city of Kolkata, when it was hit from behind by the Sealdah-bound Uttaranchal Express, said police.

Casualties could rise as rescuers were still trying to find the bodies in compartments reduced to junks, said police.

Local TV channel showed footage of rescuers trying to bring injured people from the wreckage. Rescue works began two hours after the collision took place at 02:00 am local time, said the TV reports.

Some survivors said the accident took place when most of the passengers were sleeping.

The exact cause of the accident is not known, although human error or signal error were the most likely ones, said police.—Xinhua

Workers begin to lay tracks for Beijing-Shanghai high-speed railway

XUZHOU, 19 July — Workers began to lay tracks for a high-speed railway connecting Beijing and Shanghai on Monday, according to China’s Ministry of Railways (MOR).

MOR held a ceremony in Xuzhou City, east China’s Jiangsu Province, on Monday to mark the event.

MOR said the laying of 1,318-km of railway track would be finished by the end of the year. The railway is scheduled to open in 2012.

The construction of the Beijing-Shanghai high-speed railway was started in April 2008. Total investment was estimated at 220.9 billion yuan (32.5 billion US dollars).

The high-speed railway would cut travel time between Beijing, China’s capital in the north, and Shanghai, the country’s economic centre in the east, to less than five hours, compared with the 10-hour journey by train between the two cities now.

By 2012, China would have a railway network of 110,000 km, 13,000 km of which would be high-speed rail, according to the MOR.

Two die from cholera symptom in S Philippine city

MANILA, 19 July — At least two children died while more than 30 people were hospitalized after suffering symptoms of cholera in southern Philippine city of Zamboanga over the weekend, local media reported on Monday.

Local health workers have advised residents in the area not to get their water from a local well that they suspected was the source of contaminated water, Radio dzBB reported.

But local residents said they will have problems looking for water, as the well is their only source of water.

The World Health Organization defines cholera as an acute intestinal infection caused by ingestion of food or water contaminated with the bacterium Vibrio cholerae.—Xinhua

Onlookers gather around the mangled wreckage of train coaches following a railway accident in Sainthia, some 200 kilometres from Kolkata, on 19 July. A speeding express rammed into the back of a stationary passenger train, killing more than 50 people and trapping others in the wreckage, according to officials.—Xinhua

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Xinhua

Passers-by admire a grouper and other tropical fish in an aquarium set up at Tokyo’s Ginza shopping District on 19 July, 2010. Xinhua
Scientists baffled by unusual upper atmosphere shrinkage

HOUSTON, 19 July—An upper layer of Earth’s atmosphere recently shrank so much that researchers are at a loss to adequately explain it, NASA said on Thursday. The thermosphere, which blocks harmful ultraviolet rays, expands and contracts regularly due to the sun’s activities. As carbon dioxide increases, it has a cooling effect at such high altitudes, which also contributes to the contraction. But even these two factors aren’t fully explaining the extraordinary contraction which, though unlikely to affect the weather, can affect the movement of satellites.

Dengue epidemic threatens Caribbean as number of infections and deaths increase

SAN JUAN, 19 July—Mosquito-borne dengue fever is reaching epidemic stages across the Caribbean, with dozens of deaths reported and health authorities concerned it could get much worse as the rainy season advances. The increase in cases is being blamed on warm weather and an unusually early rainy season, which has produced an explosion of mosquitoes. Health officials say the flood of cases is straining the region’s hospitals.

In the Dominican Republic, where at least 27 deaths have been reported, hundreds of health workers and soldiers went door-to-door Saturday to warn about the virus and destroy mosquito breeding areas. Hospitals in Trinidad are running out of beds, and Puerto Rico is facing what officials say could be its worst dengue outbreak in more than a decade.

Malaria-proof mosquito engineered

LONDON, 19 July—Scientists in the US have succeeded in genetically engineering a malaria-resistant mosquito. The researchers, from the University of Arizona, introduced a gene that affected the insect’s gut, meaning the malaria parasite could not develop. They report the advance, which also reduced the insects’ lifespan, in the journal Geophysical Research Letters. “We cannot explain the abnormally low densities, which are about 30 percent lower” than from previous contractions, Emmert told CNN.com.—Internet

Out-of-hours births ‘are riskier’

LONDON, 19 July—Births born at night or at the weekend are at a greater risk of dying than those born within normal working hours, a study suggests. The analysis of more than one million births in Scotland over two decades found the risk of death for babies born out of hours, while small, was a third higher than for those born in the day.

Night staffing and access to facilities were possible explanations, Glasgow and Cambridge universities suggested. Most babies died from lack of oxygen. Those born between 0900 and 1700 on Monday to Friday were classified as being within normal working hours, all others as out-of-hours, the British Medical Journal reported. In all, there were 539 deaths.

The team adjusted for a wide range of factors and excluded babies born via planned caesarean, who are usually delivered during the day. The team argued that as the risk of death for these babies was so much lower than for those born vaginally, their inclusion could overstate the risks of out-of-hours birth.—Internet

Smuggled rare Madagascar tortoises seized in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, 19 July—Customs officers at Kuala Lumpur airport have found nearly 400 rare tortoises smuggled from Madagascar. The Radiated and Ploughshare tortoises were on the last leg of their journey to pet shops and possibly cooking pots, Malaysian officials believe. Also recovered were more than 40 rare tomato frogs.

There are fears that as Madagascar’s political problems continue, illegal exportation of the country’s animals and plants is on the rise. It is the second such find in the last month. Two Malagasy women have been arrested. Officials say the animals were found in their luggage.

Richard Thomas of Traffic International, an organization trying to stop the illegal trade in exotic animals, said both species of tortoise involved in this case were incredibly rare.

One-year-old female elephant Ko Raya (bottom) and her five-year-old sister Shaina Pali cool off in a pool on a hot summer day in the Berlin Zoo.—INTERNET

Fish costumes of “Fish Leather Tribe”

BEIJING, 19 July—The “Fish Leather Tribe” of the Hezhe ethnic group live in northeastern China, along the Heilongjiang, Songhuajiang and Wusuli rivers.

In ancient times, they made their living mostly by fishing. Not only did they cook fish for food, they also made marvelous clothing from fish skins, and thus were known as the “Fish Leather Tribe.” They also made shelters and boats using fish skins. They made marvelous clothing from fish skins, and by fishing. Not only did they cook fish for food, they also made shelters and boats using fish skins.

The scientists tagged the gene with a fluorescent marker to ensure it had been inserted.—INTERNET

Riehle from the University of Arizona a principle investigator on the project. In the study the researchers altered a gene that codes for a “signalling molecule”.

Boeing, Airbus await orders at Farnborough show

FARNBOROUGH, 19 July—The Farnborough International Airshow kicks off Monday with Boeing and Airbus hopeful of securing big orders for their planes in the face of rising competition.

One of aviation’s biggest trade shows is renowned for being an arena for major deal announcements and this year’s event is set to follow suit, as airlines in Asia and the Middle East seek to meet growing travel demands. Dubai’s Emirates airline will on Monday announce it is ordering more than 30 Boeing long-range 777 jets, only a month after it ordered 32 A380 superjumbo jettliners from Airbus in a record deal, The Wall Street Journal reported.—Internet

A Boeing 787 Dreamliner aircraft is seen at the Farnborough Airshow in Hampshire on 18 July, 2010.—INTERNET

Internet

It is the second such find in the last month.

Fish costumes of “Fish Leather Tribe.”—XINHUA

A beautiful catch: A California sea lion catches a fish during a public feeding in the zoo in Stuttgart, southern Germany.—INTERNET

Soldiers went door-to-door Saturday to warn about the Dengue epidemic in the Caribbean as number of infections and deaths increase.

British Medical Journal

The risks of out-of-hours staffing are more than one million births in Scotland over two decades found the risk of death for babies born out of hours, while small, was a third higher than for those born in the day.

Night staffing and access to facilities were possible explanations, Glasgow and Cambridge universities suggested. Most babies died from lack of oxygen. Those born between 0900 and 1700 on Monday to Friday were classified as being within normal working hours, all others as out-of-hours, the British Medical Journal reported. In all, there were 539 deaths.

The team adjusted for a wide range of factors and excluded babies born via planned caesarean, who are usually delivered during the day. The team argued that as the risk of death for these babies was so much lower than for those born vaginally, their inclusion could overstate the risks of out-of-hours birth.
Sushi-hungry Japan sells monster tuna

A monster tuna caught off Japan turned heads at a Tokyo fish market on Friday, where the 445 kilogramme (981 pound) bluefin — the biggest caught here since 1986 — sold for 3.2 million yen (36,700 dollars).

"Many of the people who work at the market have never seen a tuna that big," said an official of the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, which runs the Tsukiji fish market, the world’s biggest seafood market.

The fish, which was auctioned at 7,200 yen per kilogramme, had already been gutted and cleaned of its gills, meaning it must have weighed more when it was caught off Nagasaki prefecture this week, the official said.

No autos on the autobahn: Germans party on highway

Germany’s autobahns are renowned for average speeds well in excess of 80 miles (130 kilometers) an hour. But the average dropped near zero on Sunday as tens of thousands of people sat at a 37-mile table for a cultural celebration titled, appropriately enough, “Still Life.”

Cars were strictly verboten.

Attention on the A40, a radio traffic report warned. “There is a 60-kilometre (37-mile) closure between Duisburg and Dortmund due to the longest table in the world.”

Hollywood coming to China

BEIJING, 19 July—The US team behind new Sino-US co-production Double Lives is currently in China, working with their local partners on developing the film and scouting for future possibilities.

Director Rob Cohen (Dragon: The Bruce Lee Story (1993), The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor (2008)) said during the film’s signing ceremony in Beijing on Wednesday that he was thrilled to be back in China.

“It is very important for us to learn from China. I first came to China in 1991 to direct Dragon: The Bruce Lee Story and loved this land.

The reason I directed The Mummy was because I could come back to China. I converted to Buddhism because of the influence of here. Jet Li once said I was a Chinese in another life, that is the biggest compliment I ever got,” he said. “With Double Lives, I get the chance to come here again, I am very excited and I am looking forward to it.”

This year several joint Sino-US film productions have found success, including The Karate Kid, Reign of Assassins and Shanghai. Sheng Boys, producer of Double Lives, told the Global Times that the new film will be bigger and better than anything before.

In this film publicity file photo provided by Warner Bros., Leonardo DiCaprio is shown in a scene from ‘Inception.’

‘Inception’ earns dreamy reception with $60.4M

LOS ANGELES, 19 July—Leonardo DiCaprio and Christopher Nolan’s “Inception” is anything but a sleeper as the thriller opened big with $60.4 million and a No 1 finish at the weekend box office, according to studio estimates on Sunday.

The Warner Bros action tale about a team that sneaks into people’s dreams is DiCaprio’s biggest opening weekend, topping his previous best of $41.1 million for last winter’s “Shutter Island.”

“Inception” falls far short of director Christopher Nolan’s best, though. Nolan is the man who directed the Batman blockbuster “The Dark Knight,” which opened over the same weekend two years ago with a record $158.4 million.

Warner Bros has carved out a niche with this particular mid-July weekend.—Internet

Starz casts “Spartacus” prequel

LOS ANGELES, 19 July—Starz is firming up the cast and story line for its “Spartacus” prequel series, whose subtitle will be the epic-sounding “Gods of the Arena.”

Three Australian actors have joined the cast, including Dustin Clare (“Underbelly”) in the lead role. He will play Gannicus, the champion gladiator in the House of Batiatus before Spartacus came along.

“Spartacus” star Andy Whitfield, who was sidelined for several months after being diagnosed with cancer, will make a brief appearance in the prequel. He has been cleared by doctors to return to work.

“Spartacus: Gods of the Arena” will begin production on six episodes next month and will hit the air in January.
Capello will axe Terry says Cannavaro

LONDON, 19 July—Fabio Capello is likely to drop John Terry from the England team next season, according to Italy defender Fabio Cannavaro.

Cannavaro got an insight into Capello’s ruthless style of management when he worked with the Italian at Real Madrid and the Juventus star is convinced Terry is in severe danger of losing his England place after his controversial comments at the World Cup.

Earlier this year Capello had stripped Terry of the captaincy following revelations about the Chelsea player’s affair with the ex-partner of former teammate Wayne Bridge.

And Capello was further angered when Terry used a Press conference during the World Cup to claim that he was ready to confront the Italian over his tactics and team selection. —Internet

England defender John Terry, pictured during the World Cup, is likely to be dropped by manager Fabio Capello. —Internet

Real focus on Brazil back Thiago Silva

MADRID, 19 July—Spanish giants Real Madrid have turned their attention towards signing Brazilian Thiago Silva as coach Jose Mourinho hunts down a world class centre back, according to sports daily Marca on Sunday.

However, it appears that their interest in signing his Brazilian teammate Maicon from Mourinho’s old club Inter Milan has cooled because of the money being demanded by the European champions.

Inter would have lowered their price for Maicon, the only Brazilian to make the World Cup, according to the report. However, Real are not prepared to pay more than 28 million euros and now consider Silva a good alternative. —Internet

Werder Bremen ready for Ozil offers

BERLIN, 19 July—Werder Bremen are ready to listen to offers for their German international playmaker, Mesut Ozil, the club’s sporting director Klaus Allofs admitted on Sunday.

The German first division side had been hoping to extend the 21-year-old’s contract but with negotiations having hit a wall, they are now bracing themselves for his exit. “I can imagine that in the coming weeks or before the transfer window closes, one club or another will begin to press us a little harder,” said Allofs, according to sports agency SID, an affiliate of AFP.

“We will have to listen to those offers if that is what Mesut and his advisors want.” —Internet

Portland Timbers soccer fans cheer during the first half of their against Manchester City exhibition. —Internet

Manchester City opens US tour with 3-0 victory

PORTLAND, 19 July—Manchester City of the English Premier League kicked off its summer exhibition tour of the United States with a 3-0 victory over the Portland Timbers on Saturday night.

Stephen Ireland and Emmanuel Adebayor scored quick back-to-back goals for City, which has been training at the Nike corporate headquarters in Beaverton for the past week.

It was the fourth international friendly this season for the Timbers, who will make the leap to Major League Soccer next season.

The game, played at the University of Portland’s Merlo Field, was sold out with all of the 5,018 seats going to Timbers’ season ticket holders. —Internet

Almagro beats Soderling to win Swedish Open

BAASTAD, 19 July—Spain’s Nicolas Almagro came through a tough three-setter to beat top seed and defending champion Robin Soderling in the final of the claycourt ATP Swedish Open on Sunday.

The 24-year-old survived dropping the second set to win 7-5, 3-6, 6-2 in just under two hours. It was his sixth ATP title and his first of 2010.

“It’s a great feeling to win here,” said Almagro.

It’s always amazing to win a final and I’m very happy with the week. I’m going to enjoy this moment and then prepare for next week in Hamburg.”

Woods faces 12-shot deficit heading to Open finale

ST ANDREWS, 19 July—Tiger Woods was clearly enjoying himself between shots, yakking it up with good buddy Darren Clarke as they played 18 holes at the birthplace of golf.

Not a bad way to spend a sunny afternoon. But the number on the card needed to be lowered. A lot lower.

All Woods could manage Saturday at the British Open was a second straight 73, despite having four putts for eagle on the Old Course. None of them would drop, and the distance between the world’s No. 1 player and the only spot he really cares about grew from eight shots at the beginning of the third round to a daunting dozen by the time it was done.

Brad Keselowski, driving car #22, drives on his way to a third place finish at the Missouri-Illinois.—Internet

Liverpool World Cup stars to miss Europa opener

LIVERPOOL, 19 July—Liverpool boss Roy Hodgson says he won’t risk any of his squad’s World Cup stars in their early Europa League qualifier.

Hodgson’s team face a third qualifying round clash against either Macedonian side Rabotnicki or Armenia’s Mika later this month in what will be the former Fulham manager’s first competitive match in charge of the Reds.

With the first leg scheduled for July 29, Hodgson knows he is going to have to kick off without Steven Gerrard, Xabi Alonso, Jose Reina, Dirk Kuyt, Ryan Babel, Daniel Agger, Glen Johnson, Jamie Carragher and the already injured Fernando Torres.

Hodgson’s medical staff have warned him about forcing those players back into action too early after their grueling season finally came to an end in South Africa earlier this month.—Internet

Steven Gerrard, seen during the World Cup, is among the Liverpool stars who will not be risked in their early Europa League qualifier.—Internet

Cleveland Indians starting pitcher Fausto Carmona throws against the Detroit Tigers.—INTERNET

Kearns’ hit in 11th gives Indians sweep of Tigers

CLEVELAND, 19 July—Austin Kearns lined a two-out RBI single in the bottom of the 11th inning to give the Cleveland Indians a 2-1 win and doubleheader sweep of the Detroit Tigers on Saturday. Fausto Carmona (9-7) outlasted Justin Verlander in a matchup of All-Star right-handers to win the opener 4-3.

Rafael Perez (2-0) pitched 1 1-3 scoreless innings in the second game for the win.—Internet

AC Milan’s Brazilian defender Thiago Silva is said to be being hunted by Real Madrid.—Internet

Spanish’s Nicolas Almagro (L) shakes hands with Sweden’s Robin Soderling (R).—INTERNET

Edwards beats Keselowski in wild finish

MCLEAN, 19 July—Carl Edwards meant no harm to Brad Keselowski. He just wanted to take the checkered flag that he deserved.

Edwards prevailed in a wild final lap, nudging Keselowski out of control on the final straightaway to take the Nationwide Dodge Dealers 250 on Saturday night. Ten cars were involved in the mess.

“The deal is he’ll eventually learn he can’t run into my car over and over and put me in bad situations,” Edwards said. —Internet

Tiger Woods of the United States chips onto the 17th green during the third round of the British Open.—INTERNET

It was a second straight straight 73, despite having four putts for eagle on the Old Course. None of them would drop, and the distance between the world’s No. 1 player and the only spot he really cares about grew from eight shots at the beginning of the third round to a daunting dozen by the time it was done.

Tiger Woods of the United States chips onto the 17th green during the third round of the British Open.—INTERNET

Carragher and the already injured Fernando Torres.
**WEATHER**

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr. M.S.T. During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Kayah State and Mawgyaw Division, scattered in Mandalay Division, fairly widespread in lower Sagaing and Bago Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with isolated heavy falls in Kachin and Kayin States and upper Sagaing Division. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Hkamti (6.22) inches, Bhamo (4.52) inches, Kawkariek (3.98) inches, L ong lon (2.66) inches, K yakky wu (2.60) inches, K awth oung (2.40) inches, M aunga u (2.32) inches, Z alun (2.09) inches and Sittway (2.05) inches.

Rainfall on 19-7-2010 was (1.97) inches at M ingala dod, (1.18) inches at K aba A ye and (0.71) inch at C entral Y an g on. T otal rain fall since 1-1-2010 was 36.54 inches at M ingala dod, (42.72) inches at K aba A ye and (49.96) inches at C entral Y an g on. M aximum wind speed at Y an g on (K ab a A ye) was (5) mph from South at (15:30) hours M S T on 18-7-2010.

**Bay Inference:** M onsoon is moderate to strong in the A ndaman Sea and Bay of B engal.

Forecast valid until evening of the 20th July 2010: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Kayah State, lower Sagaing and M awgyaw Divisions, scattered in Chin State and Mandalay Division, fairly widespread in Shan State, upper Sagaing, Bago and Y an g on Divisions and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions with high likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Kachin, Shan, Kayin and Mon States and Taninthayi Division. Degree of certainty is (80%).

**State of the sea:** Squa ll is moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coast. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) mph.

**Outlook for subsequent two days:** Strong monsoon.

Forecast for N ay P yi Taw and neighbouring area for 20-7-2010: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 20-7-2010: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 20-7-2010: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).
Only with stability and peace will the nation develop
Only with stability and peace will democratization process be successful
Anarchy begets anarchy, not democracy
Riots beget riots, not democracy
Democracy can be introduced only through constitution

People’s Desire
- We favour peace and stability
- We favour development
- We oppose unrest and violence
- Wipe out those inciting unrest and violence

VOA, BBC-sowing hatred among the people
RFA, DVB-generating public outrage
Do not allow ourselves to be swayed by killer broadcasts designed to cause troubles

Business as usual’ crop development won’t satisfy future demand, research finds

SCIENCE DAILY, 19 July—Although global grain production must double by 2050 to address rising population and demand, new data from the University of Illinois suggests crop yields will suffer unless new approaches to adapt crop plants to climate change are adopted. Improved agronomic traits responsible for the remarkable increases in yield accomplished during the past 50 years have reached their ceiling for some of the world’s most important crops.

“Global change is happening so quickly that its impact on agriculture is taking the world by surprise,” said Don Ort, U of I professor of crop sciences and USDA/ARS scientist. “Until recently, we haven’t understood the urgency of addressing global change in agriculture.”

The need for new technologies to conduct global change research on crops in an open-field environment is holding the commercial sector back from studying issues such as maximizing the elevated carbon dioxide advantage or studying the effects of ozone pollution on crops.

From an agricultural standpoint, one of the few positive aspects of global change has been the notion that elevated carbon dioxide in the atmosphere will stimulate photosynthesis and result in increased crop yields.

But recent studies show that crops grown in open fields under elevated carbon dioxide levels resulted in only half the yield increase expected and half of what the United Nation’s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change used in their model predictions regarding the world’s food supply in 2050.

From an agricultural standpoint, one of the few positive aspects of global change has been the notion that elevated carbon dioxide in the atmosphere will stimulate photosynthesis and result in increased crop yields.

Amy Betzelberger, a graduate student in the U of I Department of Crop Sciences, discusses with students how wind speed and wind direction apparatus are being used in a CO2 FACE ring to control the carbon dioxide concentration within the ring. The elevated carbon dioxide experiment is being conducted in both corn and soybean at the Urbana SoyFACE facility.—INTERNET

Books donation held in Insein Township

YANGON, 19 July—A ceremony to donate informative and creative books took place at Information and Public Relations Department in Insein Township, Yangon North District on 18 July. It was attended by staff officer Daw Phyu Phyu and Township staff officer Daw Khin Hnin Kyi, staff and donors.

On behalf of wellwishers, writer Ponnawady Tint Hnaung explained the purpose of donation. The writer donated 392 books worth K 112,950 and U Mya Thin and wife Daw Tin Tin Yi, 100 books worth K 21,500. Staff officer Daw Phyu Phyu accepted donation and presented certificates of honour to them.

Township IPRD

Noteworthy amounts of rainfall (19-7-2010)

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