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Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

Senior General Than Shwe felicitates Ukrainian President

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Aug — Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Viktor Yushchenko, President of Ukraine, on the occasion of the Independence Day of Ukraine, which falls on 24 August 2008. — MNA

True patriotism

- * It is very important for everyone of the nation regardless of the place he lives to have strong Union Spirit.
- * Only Union Spirit is the true patriotism all the nationalities will have to safeguard.

Prime Minister General Thein Sein receives UN Secretary-General's Special Advisor Mr Ibrahim Agboola Gambari

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Aug — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Thein Sein received UN Secretary-General's Special Advisor Mr Ibrahim Agboola Gambari at the hall of Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyinthta in Yangon at 1 pm today.

Also present at the call were Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, Director-General Col Thant Shin of the Government Office and Director-General U Kyaw Kyaw of the Protocol Department.

Likewise, the Spokes Authoritative Team of the State Peace and Development Council and UNSG's Special Advisor

Mr Ibrahim Agboola Gambari met at the hall of National Defence College in Yangon for the second time at 9.45 am.

Also present on the occasion were Leader of the Spokes Authoritative Team of the SPDC Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and members Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win and Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint.

Afterwards, Mr Gambari met Ambassadors of foreign missions in Yangon, Charges d'Affaires ai and officials at Seinle Kantha State House at 2.20 pm.

Mr Gambari left Yangon by air in the evening.

MNA



Prime Minister General Thein Sein receives UN Secretary-General's Special Advisor Mr Ibrahim Agboola Gambari at Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyinthta in Yangon. — MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein shakes hands with Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Tej Bunnag.

MNA



Prime Minister General Thein Sein receives Thai Minister of Foreign Affairs

YANGON, 23 Aug — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Thein Sein received Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Tej Bunnag and party of Thailand at the hall of Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyinthta, here, at 4 pm today.

Also present at the call were Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Director-General Col Thant Shin of the Government Office and Director-Gen-

eral U Kyaw Kyaw of the Protocol Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Thai Minister of Foreign Affairs and party were accompanied by Thai Ambassador Mr Bansarn Bunnag.

MNA

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 24 August, 2008

Prevent cross border infection of avian influenza

Avian influenza is caused by HPAI virus. Bird flu spread to 61 countries in Asia, Africa and Europe, and about 260 million of chicken, ducks and birds were thus culled.

People who come into contact with animals infected with bird flu can be infected with the virus. In 14 countries of Asia, Africa and European regions, 243 died of HPAI infection out of 385 persons infected.

In 2006, in Sagaing and Mandalay divisions as the first wave, in 2007, in Yangon and Bago divisions and Mon State as the second wave, and in Shan State (East) as the third wave, outbreaks of H5N1 occurred.

As a result of the endeavours the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization and participation of the people, the spread of the disease was under control in Myanmar, and on 20 April 2008, Myanmar claimed to be an H5N1 free country.

There have been cross border infection cases, so it is needed to prevent possible transnational outbreak of the disease.

It is also required to place under surveillance live bird markets, and animals that can become reservoir of virus, and to prevent illegal cross border trade of day-old chicks, duck babies, and chicken products.

Therefore, stakeholders such as poultry farmers, entrepreneurs and poultry dealers have to cooperate and coordinate with related departments and local administrative bodies to prevent the virus from spreading into the nation through cross border cases.

Hotels and Tourism Minister inspects reconstruction of schools

YANGON, 23 Aug—Member of National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee Minister for Hotels and Tourism Maj-Gen Soe Naing inspected new 60 feet by 30 feet classroom and 75 feet by 30 feet classroom and gym constructed by Yuzana Construction Company for the storm-stricken Pyapon BEHS No. 1 on 19 August and attended to the needs.

Next, the Minister together with officials looked into 90 feet by 30 feet two-storey school building being constructed by Dagon International Construction Company for BEPS No. 11 and gave necessary instructions.

Likewise, BEPS No. 2 BEPS No. 3, BEPS No. 5, BEPS No. 14, BEPS No. 15, BEPS No.16 have been reconstructed. So far, 103 basic education schools have been repaired and 30 are under repair in Pyapon Township.—MNA

People's Desire

- * Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
- * Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation
- * Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
- * Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy

Measures for smooth transport discussed

YANGON, 23 Aug — A coordination meeting of Yangon Division Supervisory Committee for Ensuring Secure and Smooth Transport was held at the meeting hall of Yangon Command here yesterday evening.

Chairman of Yangon Division Supervisory Committee for Ensuring Secure and Smooth Transport

Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Win Myint delivered an address on the occasion.

Next, those present reported on matters related to ferrying services for university students, enforcement of traffic rules and road safety measures for the people.

The meeting came to an end with the concluding remarks by the commander. —MNA



Minister U Nyan Win meets Thai delegation led by Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand Mr Tej Bunnag and party.—MNA

Foreign Affairs Minister meets Thai FM

YANGON, 23 Aug —Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win received Thai delegation led by Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand Mr Tej Bunnag and party at the ministry here this morning.

It was also attended by officials of the ministry, Thai Ambassador to the Union of Myanmar Mr Bansarn Bunnag and officials.

MNA

Thai Government donates 2 million baht for new Tachilek Hospital

YANGON, 23 Aug — Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Tej Bunnag of Thailand attended a ceremony to present 2 million baht donated by the Thai Government to new Tachilek Hospital, at the hall of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, here, this morning.

Also present on the occasion were Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, Thai Ambassador to the Myanmar Mr Bansarn Bunnag and officials.

Thai Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Tej Bunnag explained the purpose of donation and presented 2 million baht donated by the Thai Government for new



Tachilek Hospital.

Minister Dr Kyaw Myint spoke words of thanks.—MNA

Minister Dr Kyaw Myint accepts cash donated by Thai Government through Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand Mr Tej Bunnag.—MNA

Minister: Russia completes withdrawing troops from Georgia

Moscow, 23 Aug — Russia has withdrawn its troops from Georgia to South Ossetia “as planned,” Russian Defense Minister Anatoly Serdyukov said on Friday.

“The withdrawal of the Russian forces and units has gone by without incident and was completed by 7:50 pm Moscow time (1550 GMT), as planned,” Interfax news agency quoted Serdyukov as saying.

Some of the forces that had left Georgia have already arrived at their bases in Russia, Serdyukov said.

“So the Russian side has complied with the agreements recorded in Moscow’s Medvedev-Sarkozy principles,” Serdyukov said.

Georgia launched attacks against its breakaway South Ossetia on 7 Aug in an attempt to regain control of the breakaway region bordering Russia.

In retaliation, Moscow sent in troops that drove Georgian forces out of the region and took over parts of Georgian territory.

Moscow promised in a French-brokered cease-fire agreement that it will withdraw its troops as of Friday.

South Ossetia, formerly an autonomous region within Georgia, declared independence from the former Soviet republic in the early 1990s. However, its independence has not been internationally recognized.

Internet



Russian military vehicles line up before leaving the Georgian town of Gori.—INTERNET

Obama chooses Biden as VP candidate

WASHINGTON, 23 Aug — US presumptive Democratic Presidential nominee Barack Obama’s campaign announced early Saturday that Joseph Biden has been chosen as the vice presidential candidate.

“Barack Obama and Joe Biden are the leaders who will bring the change our country needs,” Obama’s official campaign said in a brief statement.

The announcement came as it was planned, first on Obama’s website and then through text messages to his registered supporters early Saturday morning, hours after US media’s overwhelming



US Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Barack Obama (D-IL) (L) and Sen. Joe Biden (D-DE) talk before the AFL-CIO Presidential Forum at Soldier Field in Chicago.—XINHUA

coverage on the reported selection of the 65-year-old Senator.

“Barack has chosen Senator Joe Biden to be our VP nominee,” said the message.—Xinhua

Cuba blames US for undocumented people traffic

HAVANA, 23 Aug — Cuba blamed the United States on Friday for its responsibility on the illegal immigration of many Cubans to Mexico and Florida, which is a millionaire business controlled by Cuban-US “mafia” gangs since years ago. According to Cuba’s official daily Granma, the Cuban-US mafias charge each of the immigrants around 10,000 to 15,000 US dollars to avoid them from being detained.

The “dangerous” business that prevails in the Mexican Gulf is mainly attributed to the refusal of the White House to give Cubans visas, the impunity of the operations of those mafia groups and the Cuban Adjustment Law adopted by the US congress, according to Granma.

Granma, an organ of the Communist Party of Cuba, said that Cubans’ arrival in the US is supported by the Cuban Adjustment Law, which gives them the legal rights once they enter the US territory. However, the US does not fulfill its promise of giving 20,000 visas as agreed with Cuba. —Internet

Minor uranium leak detected in French uranium conversion plant

PARIS, 23 Aug — A French uranium conversion plant said Friday that a minor uranium spill was found in one of its pipelines in a test on Thursday.

The Comurhex conversion plant, located in Pierrelatte of France’s Drome department, is under the French industrial giant Areva.

A spokesman from Areva said the breakdown of a valve on one of the underground pipelines transporting liquid uranium caused the spill. A statement from Comurhex said the amount of spill was limited, with an average of 250 gram of uranium seeping into earth per year. —Internet

DPRK makes achievement in applying space information science into economy

PYONGYANG, 23 Aug — The Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) has made some achievements in introducing space information science into sectors of the national economy, an English newspaper issued at Pyongyang said on Saturday.

The country applied such technologies as 3S technology, Global Posi-

tioning System (GPS) and Global Information System (GIS) to agriculture, land management, environmental protection and coal industries, the English-language weekly *Pyongyang Times* said.

Scientists also schemed to build a computer network to better serve the 3S technology which could be applied to the early warnings of for-

est fire and facilitate traffic control, the paper added.

The DPRK held a national symposium on global space information science recently at Pyongyang, where dozens of scientists, technicians, university lecturers and post-graduates introduced and exchanged achievements based on space information science. —Internet

Nuclear Suppliers Group fails to agree on nuclear trade with India

VIENNA, 23 Aug — A two-day meeting of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) ended here Friday with no agreement on whether to lift a ban on nuclear trade with India.

The 45 NSG member countries have decided to meet again on Sept. 4-5 to try to resolve their difference over whether to allow nuclear fuel and technology exports to India for its civilian use.

The United States, Russia and France stood for lift of the nuclear trade ban, while others such as Norway, Ireland, New Zealand, Switzerland, the Netherlands and Austria insisted on amendments to a US draft for a waiver breaking a trade embargo imposed on India.

India conducted its first nuclear test in May 1974 and so far has not signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). The South Asian country, therefore, has

been under a nuclear trade embargo, which the NSG imposes on countries which are not signatories of the NPT.

Under a US-Indian agreement signed in March 2006, as long as India separates its military and civilian nuclear facilities and agrees to supervision by International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), it will be allowed to buy nuclear technology and nuclear fuel from the United States.

The agreement has cleared the Indian parliament and the UN nuclear watchdog also approved the deal by signing a nuclear safeguards agreement with India this month. An NSG go-ahead is the last step for the deal to be submitted to the US Congress for approval. —Internet



An artillery man fires his 105 mm howitzer towards the position of rebels Saturday, on 23 Aug, 2008 in Shariff Aguak in Maguindanao province in southern Philippines. Government troops, backed by bomber aircraft, have bombarded rebels stronghold with bombs and artillery fire for three days after the rebels attacked civilian communities.—INTERNET

Typhoon Nuri forces 160,000 to evacuate

BEIJING, 23 Aug — Nearly 160,000 people in 13 coastal cities in Guangdong were evacuated on Friday after Typhoon Nuri, the strongest this year, hit the southern province.

The provincial observatory issued a Class-I warning - the highest level - before the tropical cyclone landed in Hong Kong at 5 pm on Friday, bringing strong winds and heavy rainfall. But it inflicted little damage.

Sources with the Guangdong provincial flood control center said more than 45,000 vessels



A float bridge is damaged by the gale at Dayawan sea area in Shenzhen, south China's Guangdong Province, 22 Aug, 2008. —INTERNET

working at sea had been recalled before Nuri hit.

Nuri, which packed gale force 12 at its center, weakened into a tropical

storm after its landfall and was moving northwest around 14 km an hour, the Hong Kong Observatory said.—*Internet*

Argentina declares state of emergency in five provinces hit by severe drought

BUENOS AIRES, 23 Aug — Argentine President Cristina Fernandez on Friday declared a state of emergency in five provinces hit by a months-long drought.

The government also granted 25 million pesos (over 8 million US dollars) in aid to the five provinces of Cordoba, Buenos Aires,

Santa Fe, La Pampa and Chaco.

The presidential decree came after the provincial governments launched a bail-out program to defer some obligations and credit payment of grain producers in the region.

The drought, the worst in 50 years, has left 10 percent of the farm land in

the five provinces sterile and 400,000 livestock dead.

President of the Agrarian Federation (FAA) Eduardo Buzzi had appealed for a government aid of 500 million pesos (about 160 million dollars) to help affected grain producers avoid going bankrupt. —*Internet*

Passive smoking kills seven people per day in Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO, 23 Aug — The diseases caused by passive smoking kill seven people per day, or 2,655 people per year in Brazil, according to a study released on Friday.

The study, released by the Rio de Janeiro State University and the Cancer Institute, showed that passive smoking could cause serious diseases, such as lung cancer, cerebral hemorrhage, angina pectoris, myocardial infection and coronary thrombosis.

Scientists also found out

that for every 1,000 deaths due to cerebral hemorrhage, 29 are caused by secondhand smoke. The proportion is 25 of 1,000 deaths of heart diseases, and seven of 1,000 deaths of lung cancer.

According to the study, women are 1.3 to three times more vulnerable to those diseases than men. Additionally, people aged 65 or more are most likely to die from those diseases.

Internet

NASA destroys rocket after launch failure

WASHINGTON, 23 Aug — NASA destroyed a rocket carrying two hypersonic experiments shortly after its failed liftoff from the Wallops

Flight Facility in Virginia early Friday, the US space agency reported.

The failure was caused by an anomaly that occurred approximately 27 seconds into the flight, which began at 5:10 am EDT (0910 GMT) on Friday, said NASA. The nature of the anomaly is unclear.

The rocket was destroyed by range safety officials after the liftoff failure.

“No injuries or property damage were immediately reported,” NASA said in a statement, noting that most debris from the rocket is thought to have fallen into the Atlantic Ocean.

Internet

Austrian artists struggle to make decent living

VIENNA, 23 Aug — Almost 37 percent of Austrian artist earn less per month than the official poverty indicator of 893 euros (1321 US dollars), Austrian daily Der Standard reported on Friday.

This is nearly three times the proportion of the Austrian population living below the poverty line, which is about 12.6

percent, said the report, citing figures from a survey on the social status of Austrian artists initiated by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education.

The average monthly income of Austrian artists is only 1000 euros (1480 dollars), far below the national average income of 1488 euros (2202 dollars), the report said.—*Internet*



A toucan is seen at the Noel Kempff Mercado Zoo in Santa Cruz.

Boy wanders into Mexico after school bus mix-up

School officials in San Luis, Ariz., are investigating a busing mix-up that ended with a 6-year-old boy wandering alone in Mexico. Gadsden Elementary School District board President Luis Marquez says that if any failure is found in the school transportation system, it will be corrected immediately.

The boy was headed home last week when he boarded a school bus with a different route than the one he usually takes.

The boy's mother said her son was disoriented when he got off and crossed into San Luis Rio Colorado, Mexico. She says her son thought he could reach his grandfather's home in Mexico.

Ohio student aces ACT and SAT tests

An Ohio high school student who says he has been taking practice tests since sixth grade has received perfect scores on both the SAT and ACT college entrance exams.

Ray Wang had a perfect 2,400 on the SAT earlier this year. Now Wang has learned that he scored a perfect 36 on the ACT test.

The incoming senior at Mason High School north of Cincinnati says he's interested in biomedicine but hasn't decided which college to attend.



Gorilla mother Gana carries her dead baby at the zoo in Muenster, western Germany, Wednesday, 20 Aug, 2008. The baby died on 16 Aug, but can only be recovered from the enclosure once the mourning mother leaves the corpse behind, zoo spokesperson Ilona Zuehlke said.

New Zealand Kiddie Disco forced to turn down noise

A group of children rocking out to kiddie tracks at a kindergarten disco party were told to turn down the tunes or face a shut down of their party by noise control officials who raided the soiree.

The raid — called “absurd” by one teacher — happened on Friday night at One Tree Hill Kindergarten in Auckland, New Zealand's largest city.

As parents and the gaggle of children blasted the theme song to “Bob the Builder” and the “Chicken Dance,” an irate neighbor spoiled the fun by calling noise control.

Teacher Jenny Skeritt said on Tuesday that officers — who were “a little red faced” — suddenly appeared at the door with a noise abatement notice.



A nine-month-old female octopus holds a jar, which contains her favourite seafood snacks of shrimps, crabs and clams between her tentacles in Munich's Hellabrunn Zoo.

Japan 61-yr-old surrogate mum gives birth: clinic

A 61-year-old Japanese woman has given birth to a surrogate child, an obstetrician in central Japan said on Wednesday. She is believed to be the oldest surrogate mother yet recorded in Japan.

The woman became pregnant with an embryo created from the egg of her daughter, who has no uterus, and sperm from the daughter's husband, the maternity clinic involved said in a statement.

The clinic is run by Yahiro Netsu, who has defied longstanding opposition to surrogate births from Japanese obstetricians.

The clinic declined to confirm when the woman gave birth or to give her name, citing privacy concerns.

“The clinic hopes that Japan will hold forward-looking discussions on surrogate births and that it will take place in Japan without abuses,” the clinic said.

NEWSALBUM

H e a d s o f G o v e r n m e n t , M i n i s t e r s o f F o r e i g n A f f a i r s o f M y a n m a r a n d T h a i l a n d e x c h a n g e f e l i c i t a t i o n s t o m a r k 6 0 t h a n n i v e r s a r y e s t a b l i s h m e n t o f d i p l o m a t i c r e l a t i o n s

On the occasion of the Sixtieth Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Union of Myanmar and the Kingdom of Thailand which falls on 24 August, the following messages of felicitations were exchanged between the Heads of Government and the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the two countries.

M e s s a g e f r o m G e n e r a l T h e i n S e i n , P r i m e M i n i s t e r o f t h e U n i o n o f M y a n m a r , t o M r S a m a k S u n d a r a v e j , P r i m e M i n i s t e r o f t h e K i n g d o m o f T h a i l a n d

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Aug — On behalf of the Government and the people of the Union of Myanmar, I would like to convey my heartfelt congratulations to Your Excellency, and through you, to the Government and the people of the Kingdom of Thailand on this auspicious occasion of the 60th Anniversary of the establishment of the diplomatic relations between the Union of Myanmar and the Kingdom of Thailand.

Looking back on the past six decades, our two countries have been collaborative in every way to uphold and further develop the existing ties of friendship and cooperation to a higher level.

Since Myanmar has always pursued a policy of good neighbourliness in our relations with countries in the region upholding the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence, I wish to express my firm conviction that the relations between our two countries will continue to grow, based on those cardinal principles.

I am also of the view that the frequent exchange of high level visits between our two countries would further promote our mutual understanding and accord us opportunities for exchanging views on regional and international issues of mutual concern in the coming decades.

I am fully confident that through our joint efforts, we will be able to enhance the existing friendly relations and cooperation between our two countries for the common interests of our two peoples as well as for promoting peace, stability and prosperity in the region. — MNA

M e s s a g e f r o m U N y a n W i n , M i n i s t e r f o r F o r e i g n A f f a i r s o f t h e U n i o n o f M y a n m a r , t o M r T e j B u n n a g , M i n i s t e r o f F o r e i g n A f f a i r s o f t h e K i n g d o m o f T h a i l a n d

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Aug — I wish to extend to Your Excellency my warm felicitations and sincere wishes on the occasion of the 60th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Union of Myanmar and the Kingdom of Thailand.

The commemoration of this auspicious occasion has laid another important milestone in the history of relations between our two countries. I firmly believe that his event would add momentum in further consolidating the fine relations between our two countries, based on our mutual interests and respect.

I look forward to working closely with Your Excellency in enhancing the relations and cooperation not only at the bilateral level but also at regional and international contexts. — MNA

F o r e i g n M i n i s t e r s e n d s f e l i c i t a t i o n s t o U k r a i n e

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Aug — U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to Mr Volodymyl Ogryzko, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, on the occasion of the Independence Day of Ukraine which falls on 24 August, 2008.—MNA

M e s s a g e f r o m M r S a m a k S u n d a r a v e j , P r i m e M i n i s t e r o f t h e K i n g d o m o f T h a i l a n d , t o G e n e r a l T h e i n S e i n , P r i m e M i n i s t e r o f t h e U n i o n o f M y a n m a r

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Aug — As this year marks the auspicious occasion of the 60th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Kingdom of Thailand and the Union of Myanmar, on behalf of the Royal Thai Government and the Thai people, I have the honour to extend my warmest congratulations and best wishes to the Government and peoples of the Union of Myanmar.

Our bonds of friendship and understanding are deeply rooted because we share similar cultures and traditions. With common aspirations to nurture cordial ties, the seeds of friendship that we have cultivated in the past 60 years have grown into a strong tree, bearing fruits for the common benefits of our two nations. Our cooperation in bilateral fora, such as the JC and GBC and in multilateral fora, such as in ASEAN, ACMECS and GMS reflect the common resolve to improve the lives of our peoples and to ensure peaceful development and prosperity of our region as a whole.

We are now living in an increasingly interdependent world beset by many unconventional challenges. No single country can cope with them alone. I am therefore confident that if we, Thailand and Myanmar, work hand in hand, we will be able to overcome any difficulties and together reap the benefits from the opportunities ahead.

In this light, I would like to reaffirm that the Royal Thai Government is committed to promote the existing amicable ties of friendship and to enhance our cooperation for the mutual benefits of our two countries and peoples in the years to come. — MNA

M e s s a g e f r o m M r T e j B u n n a g , M i n i s t e r o f F o r e i g n A f f a i r s o f t h e K i n g d o m o f T h a i l a n d , t o U N y a n W i n , M i n i s t e r f o r F o r e i g n A f f a i r s o f t h e U n i o n o f M y a n m a r

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Aug — On the auspicious occasion of the 60th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Kingdom of Thailand and the Union of Myanmar, it gives me great pleasure to extend my sincere congratulations to the Government and peoples of the Union of Myanmar.

On 24 August 1948, we started a new chapter in our neighbourly relations. Sixty years later, our relations have grown to encompass a wide range of cooperation. Similar religious and cultural values have contributed to the bonds of friendship between our peoples, while our two Governments are joined by a common desire for stability and prosperity for our nations as well as the region and beyond. We now have a firm foundation upon which to build stronger political and socio-economic cooperation.

I am thus delighted to witness the activities organized by both countries throughout the year to commemorate this important event. This reflects our common desire to strengthen further the excellent relations existing between our two countries. I wish to thank Your Excellency and all our friends in Myanmar who have worked to promote the ties of friendship and understanding between the Kingdom of Thailand and the Union of Myanmar. I look forwards to working with you to build upon our accomplishments and help create a future of peace and prosperity for our peoples.

MNA

SPDC's Spokes Authoritative Team meets Mr Ibrahim Agboola Gambari for second time

National Referendum held under the aegis of the Government resulted in ratification with 92.48 per cent of voters

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Aug — The Spokes Authoritative Team of the State Peace and Development Council met with Special advisor to the United Nations Secretary-General Mr Ibrahim Agboola Gambari for the second time at National Defence College this morning.

Leader of the Spoke Authoritative Team of SPDC Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and members Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win and Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint were present on the occasion.

Leader of the Spoke Authoritative Team of SPDC Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan made clarifications first.

The clarifications of Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan are as follows:-

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan's discussion

Your Excellency and delegation members are warmly welcome. We are glad to have an opportunity to meet with Your Excellency for the second time during this trip. Since arriving Myanmar on 18th August 2008, Your Excellency spares no time in the interest of our country with goodwill and we appreciate it deeply. In response to Your Excellency's goodwill, we would like to reiterate that we would continue to cooperate with Your Excellency at our utmost.

This trip is Your Excellency's sixth trip to Myanmar. As Your Excellency has visited and exchanged views for many times, we believe that Your Excellency has learned our country's political, economic and social situations extensively.

During the trip, Your Excellency has got opportunities to meet and discuss with our Spokes Authoritative Team, other Cabinet Ministers, diplomats, officials of UN agencies, social organizations and UMFCCI (Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry), representatives of official political parties, other political individuals and organizations, etc from various fields. Moreover, Your Excellency has got the opportunity to study about relief, rehabilitation and health care services being carried out in the aftermath of cyclone Nargis. Hence, we assume that Your Excellency has extensively learned about political, economic and social developments of our country as well as the attitudes of the majority of the people.

We are deeply regretted as Daw Aung San Suu Kyi declined to meet with Your Excellency. On our part, we have made all necessary arrangements for Your Excellency to meet with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. Your Excellency also wished to meet with her and tried your best, we understand.

Today, the people have three major aspirations. I have clarified them to Your Excellency during the previous visits. The first point is peace and stability. The people do not want instability or violence, which can harm the tranquillity. The second point is development of the country as well as individual socio-economic development.



Mr Erwan Pouchous and Ms Hua Jiang, members of Mr Gambari, trying to meet Daw Aung San Suu Kyi before the compound of her house.—MNA

We are deeply regretted as Daw Aung San Suu Kyi declined to meet with Your Excellency. On our part, we have made all necessary arrangements for Your Excellency to meet with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. Your Excellency also wished to meet with her and tried your best.

The people cannot accept any hindrance to it. The third point is to earn livelihood in accordance with the law while marching on speedily towards the desired goal of democracy. These are the true aspirations of the people in Myanmar today.

The nation had experienced the Parliamentary Democracy period from 1948 to 1962, which lacked stability as well as tangible developments in economic, social and educational fields. The majority of the people were economically poor and lived in fear of violence from the internal strife. So, it can be said that our people had encountered unavoidably that period which bore no improvement to the nation and the people.

From 1962 to 1988 was the period of Burma Socialist Programme Party. There was political stability to a certain extent but no progress as regards national development and economic development. The people had to endure various difficulties such as shortage of rice, edible oil as well as imbalance of income and expenditure, etc. On the other hand, the internal insurgency had not been uprooted and thus the national development could not be dreamed.

At present period after 1988, all-round development is brought about in various sectors such as political, economic, social, education, health, transportation, etc. Hence, today's people have enjoyed the fruits of stability and development. Inasmuch as stability and development are ensured, the people can enjoy progressive life individually. So, the people support and rely on the endeavours of the present Government. The people absolutely recognize the unprecedented accomplishments of the present Government.

Though the present Government has not won the hundred per cent support of the people today, it is being assumed and appreciated by the people as the Government which ensures stability, national development as well as democratization. Under the leadership of the present Government, the majority of people are unitedly marching on. It is the actual situation of our country. So, the National Referendum held under the aegis of the Government resulted in ratification with 92.48 per cent of voters.

Recently we suffered casualties and devastation caused by unavoidable natural disaster of Nargis cyclone. Your Excellency, you might have known that the Government efficiently carried out rescue, relief and rehabilitation works together with disaster preparedness measures taken for the long run. Under the close supervision of the National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee headed by the Prime Minister, works are carried out expeditiously. With the generous donation of cash and kind by local wellwishers, national private entrepreneurs and foreign donors, the storm victims are provided with food, clothing and shelter assistance. Though the devastation was huge, energetic efforts are made with the concept of substituting stone bricks in the place of fallen earth bricks.

(see page 7)

The dynamic relief works in the aftermath of cyclone Nargis are to be attributed to the leadership of the Government as well as trust, encouragement and active cooperation of the people, it is obvious. In other words, it can be said that as the Government endeavoured to its utmost in the interests of the people, the mass of people responded with active participation.



Prime Minister General Thein Sein meets Special Advisor to UNSG Mr Ibrahim Agboola Gambari. (News on Page 1)—MNA

SPDC's Spokes Authoritative Team meets...

(from page 6)

After carrying out the rescue and relief works considerably, rehabilitation and reconstruction works have begun. All-round assistance are given to the storm victims at relief camps to return to the original native places. The victims are also provided with facilities for resuming their vocations. The farmers are provided with tractors, power-tillers, cattle, pedigree seeds, fertilizers, cultivation loans, etc while the fishermen are facilitated with fishing boats, engines, fishing nets and related accessories. Likewise, for those who were engaging in salt industry, salt-water embankments are repaired and assistance is given to reclaim salterns before the salt-production season.

Before the storm victims can resume their vocations regularly, the State is providing them with food, clothing and shelter supplies by spending huge sum of funds. Though local and foreign donors are making donations, the State has to share reserved stocks of rice daily to provide the victims sufficiently. Disaster preparedness measures are also taken for the long run. In this regard, the network of five major highway project is under implementation while cyclone shelters, salt-water embankments and refuge-hillocks against cyclone tides are being built. Mangroves are also reserved too.

In addition, the Tripartite Core Group of Government, UN and ASEAN ensured the relief works dynamic and success. We cooperated successfully with international aid groups, medical teams, etc.

The dynamic relief works in the aftermath of cyclone Nargis are to be attributed to the leadership of the Government as well as trust, encouragement and active cooperation of the people, it is obvious. In other words, it can be said that as the Government endeavoured to its utmost in the interests of the people, the mass of people responded with active participation. We mention it for Your Excellency to notice.

Now, I would like to mention some points regarding our discussions on 19th August 2008. Your Excellency has requested to have an UN officer in Myanmar in view of regularizing relations between the Myanmar Government and the UNSG office. We had replied that it is believed Your Excellency's good offices is running smoothly as UN agencies based in our country are providing necessary assistance. However, in paying serious attention to Your Excellency's request and as a gesture to show our willingness for promoting cooperation between UN and Myanmar, we will try our best to make coordination.

Moreover, the proposal for providing assistance to Myanmar's socio-economic issues is noted down and being studied with seriousness by us. The Ministry concerned will give a proposal to Your Excellency to seek possible areas

for cooperation.

In conclusion, we believe that frank and cordial discussions between Your Excellency and our Spokes Authoritative Team will surely lead to common goal of successful achievements in endeavouring for Myanmar political development. In conformity with the Myanmar tradition, the Myanmar people wish Your Excellency to have a good trip back home. And we are anticipating to hear positive developments regarding this trip when Your Excellency arrive back home. Thank you.

Mr Gambari's clarification

Next, Mr Gambari made clarification. He said that he specially thanked the Myanmar Government for its hospitality and full cooperation. He said that he was pleased with reaffirmation of the Myanmar government for regularizing relations with the UN Secretariat and the UN. Cooperation between the Myanmar government and himself can be assumed as making cooperation with international community. He continued to say that by cooperating with him, it shows the attitudes of Myanmar for the UN Secretary-General, the UN General Assembly, the UN Security Council, UN member countries and friendly countries of Myanmar. Therefore, he added that he called for emergence of obvious results during every trip. He said that these results would reflect Myanmar's serious attention to the role of the UN Secretariat and progress in cooperation.

The accusations against Myanmar Government could be rebutted if there were such obvious results. He thanked Myanmar government for giving help to him to meet Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. He was sorry that he did not meet with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. That was not due to Myanmar government nor him. Though he had the opportunity to meet with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in his previous trips, it was regrettable that he had no opportunity of meeting her in that trip. But there was no need to be disappointed that event and the discussions between them need not to be ended. Although there were agreements and disagreements between them, they would continue to seek ways of cooperation from those. He reaffirmed that the discussions between NLD's CEC including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the Minister for Relations and the UN were to be made. He was ready for the time Myanmar Government would set for him to come to the country. In the previous day, he met with NLD's CEC for over one hour. Their discussions focused on the ways to be sought for cooperation, agreements and disagreements. That was a good beginning and to be continued. To obtain obvious results, it was consistent with the five points he had submitted.

Myanmar government should issue an official announcement that talks will continue, he said. Among the detainees, the aged, the sick and those who could make constructive effort for Myanmar's affairs should be released, he added. He said that he was pleased to hear that the ministry concerned is considering to seek possible area for cooperation regarding to his proposal for economic forum. UN would like to coordinate matters for rendering expertise after the election commission has been formed. He said he believed to establish regular relations between the UN and the Myanmar government regarding the appointment of a UN representative to Myanmar. He then requested another visit to Myanmar before the UN Secretary-General's tour of Myanmar. He hopes that Myanmar's government will be able to address its internal issue successfully and serve the interest of its country.

The meeting ended at 10.45 am.—MNA

Though the present Government has not won the hundred per cent support of the people today, it is being assumed and appreciated by the people as the Government which ensures stability, national development as well as democratization.

Prime Minister receives special ...

(from page 16)
On 21 August, he met with member of the Commission for Holding National Referendum U Thaung Nyunt and members, and Minister for Relations U Aung Kyi separately.

Yesterday, Mr Gambari worshiped at Bengali Sunni Jameh Mosque on Sule Pagoda Road. In the afternoon, he met Chairman of National League for Democracy U Aung Shwe and members for the second time.

Today, Prime Minister General Thein Sein received Mr Gambari and party at Zeyarthiri Beikman Hall on Konmyinttha in Yangon. Also present on the occasion were Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win and Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint. Likewise, Mr Gambari met with the Spokes Authoritative Team of the State Peace and Development Council led by Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan for the second time. He met diplomats of foreign missions in Yangon in the afternoon



Special Advisor to UNSG Mr Ibrahim Agboola Gambari meets with diplomats, officials of foreign missions in Yangon for the second time.—MNA

and left Yangon by air in the evening.

During his trip to Myanmar, arrangements were made for Mr Gambari to meet with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at 10 am on 20 August. But Daw Aung San Suu Kyi denied to meet him. Therefore, Mr Gambari wrote a personal letter to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi through officials concerned in a bid to meet with her. However, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi rejected the letter and made no response. Hence, the officials concerned from 10.30 to 11.40 am informed her from the brick wall at the backyard, of her house, shouting over the hand loudspeaker that Mr Gambari wanted to give her a letter. From 1.45 to 1.55 pm, the officials concerned again informed her that Mr Gambari wanted to give her a letter and if she

didn't accept it they would stick it on the brick post of the fence. And at 2.40 pm, the letter was stuck on the brick post of the fence. On that day, however much Mr Gambari tried to meet with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, he was unable to meet with her since she made no response.

However, at the request of Mr Gambari that he wanted to try again to meet with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, members of Mr Gambari team Mr Erwan Pouchous and Ms Hua Jiang, accompanied by Deputy Director-General U Soe Win of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Police Col Win Naing Tun of Myanmar Police Force, went to the house of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at 7.50 am on 22 August. Officials concerned tried to reach Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in front of her house's from

8.00 to 8.25 am, shouting over the loudspeaker many times that two representatives of Mr Gambari were there to meet with her. But there was no response. Therefore, the second efforts of Mr Gambari to meet with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi were met with failure.

As his attempts to meet with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi failed, Mr

Gambari on 20 August sought permission again to meet with executives of National League for Democracy he had already met. Upon his request, the government made arrangements for Mr Gambari and he was able to meet with executives of the NLD two times.

Paying serious attention to the role of UN Secretary-General's Office, the government tried its

utmost for the convenience of every trip of Mr Gambari to Myanmar. Meanwhile, with a view to forging national reconsolidation, the government made arrangements for Mr Gambari to be able to meet with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi on every trip to Myanmar. But this time, Mr Gambari was unable to meet with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, for she denied to meet him.—MNA

Thai Foreign Affairs Minister, wife and members arrive in Yangon

YANGON, 23 Aug — A Thai delegation led by Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Tej Bunnag and wife Madam Phensri Bunnag arrived here by

air this morning. They were welcomed at Yangon International Airport by Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win and wife Daw Myint Myint

Soe, Thai Ambassador to the Union of Myanmar Mr Bansam Bunnag and wife, departmental officials and staff of Thai embassy. MNA

Foreign Affairs Minister and wife host dinner to Thai delegation

YANGON, 23 Aug — Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win and wife Daw Myint Myint Soe hosted dinner to Thai delegation led by Minister

of Foreign Affairs of Thailand Mr Tej Bunnag and wife Madam Phensri Bunnag at Mya Yeik Nyo Royal Hotel here this evening.

In the evening, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand Mr Tej Bunnag, wife and party visited the Shwedagon Pagoda.—MNA

Deputy Minister for Health inspects functions of FDA

YANGON, 23 Aug — Deputy Minister for Health Dr Paing Soe yesterday morning inspected functions of the sections and laboratories at Food and Drug Administration on Minkyaung Street in Dagon Township.

At the meeting hall, the deputy minister instructed to discharge

daily duties and obligations with goodwill while studying the modern technologies. — MNA

Flood News

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Aug — The Department of Meteorology and Hydrology issued a flood news today that according to the 10:30 hr MST observation today, the water level of Thanlwin River at Hpan-an is 827 cm and it has exceeded by 77 cm (about 2.5 ft) above its danger level. It is forecast to remain above its danger level 750 cm during the next 3 days.

MNA



Mr Erwan Pouchous and Ms Hua Jiang, members of Mr Gambari trying to meet Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in front of the compound of her house.—MNA



Prime Minister General Thein Sein receives delegation led by Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Tej Bunnag at Zeyathiri Beikman. (News on Page 1) —MNA

Road Map recognized, supported by...

(from page 16)

including the cyclone victims. We would like to establish regular ties between the Myanmar government and UN Secretariat. From the humanitarian perspective, the Myanmar government should consider the release of old and sick detainees. Moreover, it would be of much benefit if those who are able to participate in discussions on Myanmar's affairs are released. UN would like to know how it can cooperate with Myanmar in her affairs. If there is any difficulty on Myanmar's side, let us know. And if there is any new issue that has never been discussed before, I am ready to discuss it.

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan's clarification

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan said: At the outset, I would like to say that Your Excellency and delegation members are warmly welcome and I am very glad to meet you again. This is the fourth time for our Spokes Authoritative Team of the State Peace and Development Council to discuss with Your Excellency. As we have discussed and exchanged views frankly and cordially thrice, we have understood each other very well and we have become very intimate friends. Hence, we do hope that this fourth discussion will surely bring out good results by discussing and exchanging views more frankly and cordially than the previous times.

Our country exercises the independent and active foreign policy. In accordance with the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, Myanmar is also maintaining friendly relations with neighbouring countries, regional countries and global countries. Being a member of the United Nations Organization, to constantly cooperate with the UN is also the main point of our foreign policy. Therefore, our country has been and is actively cooperating with the UN and it will certainly continue to do so. Similarly, we highly regard the role of the UN

Secretary-General. We do appreciate the UNSG and the UN for their role in rendering a helpful hand to us as regards relief and reconstruction works after the cyclone "Nargis". So, we invited Your Excellency to come and see the Myanmar political developments and prevailing conditions of Myanmar so that Your Excellency can play a positive role. On our side we will fully cooperate with Your Excellency at our utmost for bearing fruitful results of your trip.

I would like to explain points regarding the latest developments in implementing the seven-step Road Map of the country. As Your Excellency has known, the entire people of Myanmar aspire democracy. Accordingly, the seven-step Road Map is being implemented to bring about democracy. **The seven-step Road Map has been adopted and declared to the world since 2003. The implementation of the seven-step Road Map has been recognized and supported by ASEAN countries, neighbouring countries, regional countries and Non-Aligned Movement member countries as well as the UN.**

According to the prevailing objective situations and conditions of our country, the seven-step Road Map is the most suitable and appropriate to bring about democracy. We firmly believe that the way to bring about democracy peacefully is the seven-step Road Map. The National Convention, the first step of the Road Map, has been convened successfully with the extensive participation of the entire people and national brethren. The seriousness of the National Convention has been known by Your Excellency as you have visited it time and again. Likewise, efforts were made to ensure all inclusiveness in holding the National Referendum to ratify the draft Constitution in the fourth step of the Road Map. The public approval of the draft constitution in the referendum has also approved that the seven-step Road Map is to continue till its success. **Today, we will continue efforts to implement the remaining fifth, sixth and seventh steps successfully. Efforts will also be made properly to ensure all inclusiveness and democratic practices in the general elections, the fifth step of the Road Map which you have mentioned.**

But it is rather difficult for us to accept any attempt to harm or jeopardize or hinder the implemen-

tation of the Road Map. We assume that our process for transition to democracy is accepted by the international community including Your Excellency as well as internal and external anti-government groups. Hence, those all who aspire democracy should render a helping hand to us in implementing the seven-step Road Map, we honestly believe.

The National Referendum, the fourth step of the Road Map, was successfully held on 10th and 24th May 2008. In doing so, necessary law and rules were promulgated and the National Referendum was held in accordance with them. These law and rules were prepared in accordance with international norms. Such law and rules were promulgated systematically and Central-level, State/Division-level, District-level, Township-level and ward/village-tract level commissions were formed to supervise the referendum properly. Regarding voting system, we did not use the system of ballot card and yes/no double ballot boxes. We used the system of ballot slip, single ballot box and secret voting, which is difficult to commit malpractices.

Moreover, the draft constitution as well as the Referendum Law and Rules were published for public information. The preparations made and systems to be used in the referendum were clarified to Your Excellency during your last visit.

When the National Referendum was held the whole country, diplomats and UN officials were taken to various places to witness the processes in which the people cast votes independently and freely. Hence, I would like to reiterate that the National Referendum was free and fair.

According to the results of the National Referendum, there are 27,288,827 eligible voters who have attained the age of 18. Of them, 26,776,675 or 98.12 per cent cast votes. Of the votes, 24,764,124 votes representing 92.48 per cent were yes-votes while 1,631,712 votes representing 6.1 per cent were no-votes. Altogether 380,839 votes representing 1.42 per cent were cancelled. Thus, the draft constitution was ratified with the support of 92.48 per cent of the voters. **So, the Constitution has now become the one mandated by the majority of the people.**

The Constitution was approved by the majority of the people as they truly like it. Moreover, the people really trust and rely on the ruling government. For your knowledge, I would like to recount some points regarding the previous National Referendum held to ratify the 1974 Constitution. It was held under the aegis of the Burma Socialist Programme Party when the socialism was flourishing without any opposition or antagonism. Besides, party fractions were formed at different levels and well-organized.

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When the National Referendum was held the whole country, diplomats and UN officials were taken to various places to witness the processes in which the people cast votes independently and freely.

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Yet, the outcome of the referendum was 90.17 per cent of votes in favour. The percentage should have been higher. However, the people who did not like failed to support it and the result was as such.

Nowadays, the National Referendum was held amidst the anti-government elements from various angles. The internal and external anti-government groups instigated the public to cast no-votes or not to cast vote. Even the insurgents put pressure on the people dwelling near their areas to cast no-votes. Some big nations imposed various sanctions and tried hard to instigate the people to have negative views against the Government. Among these conditions, the outcome of the referendum is 92.48 per cent surpassing the 1974 referendum result. It can vividly be seen that the people truly like and accept the draft Constitution. You can study by yourself it is true or not.

Hence, I would like to say that the existing Government is making efforts on behalf of the people in accordance with the Constitution ratified by the people. Article 442 in Chapter 14 Transitory Provisions of the Constitution states: "The State Peace and Development Council shall continue to exercise State sovereignty, before this Constitution comes into force." Article 443 states: "The work done by the State Peace and Development Council to bring the Constitution into force shall be deemed to have been carried out in accord with this Constitution." **Hence, the existing Government has become the Transitional Government mandated to implement the provisions of the Constitution before the commencing date of the First session of the Union Hluttaw on which the Constitution will come into force.**

Being the Transitional Government, our Government will continue to implement the seven-step Road Map in accord with the mandate of the people. We cannot accept any attempt to jeopardize or harm our process. We will oppose and wipe out those attempts to jeopardize or harm the Constitution.

Multiparty general elections, the fifth step of the Road Map, will be held in 2010 as announced in advance. Before it, necessary laws and rules concerning establishment, organizing and entering elections of political parties, will be promulgated. Then, those in favour of or against the Government and the Constitution will have above-mentioned rights equally in accordance with law. **This is designed to ensure all inclusiveness. Moreover, the Election Commission and necessary sub-commissions at different levels will be formed properly for holding the free and fair elections. After forming the commission, it will make necessary arrangements to hold free and fair elections.**

If elected, those representatives-elect can participate as Hluttaw representatives in the proceedings of various Hluttaws as the sixth step of the Road Map. They can enjoy the rights to take part in discussing, coordinating and seeking solutions in legislative matters including political, economic and social affairs of the State at the Hluttaws. Likewise, they can enjoy the rights to exercise the legislative matters in a democratic way.

The Government will continue to implement the democracy processes, paying serious attention to the aspiration of the people. In so doing, the Government will carry out tasks on behalf of the people in accord with the Constitution ratified by the people. So, it is reasonable that the Government cannot accept any attempt to jeopardize or harm the process. In addition, efforts for bringing about democracy, developing the nation and the people, flourishing human rights, etc are the processes to be favoured and supported by neighbouring countries, regional countries, global countries and the United Nations including Your Excellency. **So, we believe that all will render cooperative hands to the process of our seven-step Road Map. We also believe that Your Excellency will kindly con-**

The existing Government has become the Transitional Government mandated to implement the provisions of the Constitution before the commencing date of the First session of the Union Hluttaw on which the Constitution will come into force.

vince the UN Secretary-General and other dignitaries and groups of the actual conditions and situations. We also hope that Your Excellency will kindly convince the anti-government political groups which Your Excellency will meet following days.

Actually, the stability of the State is essential for the development of the nation and the people as well as national economic development. Hence, the Government has constantly been striving to ensure State stability. As a result, peace has been attained between the Government and almost all the national race armed groups. Our country is now enjoying unprecedented peace and stability. In addition, peace door is kept open to the remaining national race armed groups. **The Government is also making continued efforts for the national reconsolidation. In recognition of your discussions, talks with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi will be held in line with the previous procedures.**

As regards the storm "Nargis", we fully cooperated with the UN as well as ASEAN. We also smoothly cooperated with international aid groups, health care groups, medical teams, etc. In addition, we are providing cooperative hands closely to UN agencies to conveniently carry out their works. We believe the UN agencies based in our country are also rendering a helpful hand to see to the success of your good offices.

Today, the Government has been striving its utmost for the national development as well as the socio-economic development of the people. Yet, the difficulties encountered are, as Your Excellency might have known, various sanctions imposed by western powers. Under such circumstances, we are very grateful to Your Excellency for being interested in helping promote the socio-economic development of the people. We are also seriously considering it. In that regard, Your Excellency should hold talks with the ministry concerned.

Regarding your question of how we will cooperate to win trust of the international community in the 2010 elections, an election commission will be formed when it is opportune. The commission will take necessary measures to ensure free and fair elections.

Regarding the case of the detainees, old ones and sick ones should be released to show humanitarianism, along with those capable of helping work out the Myanmar affairs, I would say the government always has a tradition to do so.

At present, the transition to democracy is being implemented with the timeframe in Myanmar as wished by the UN and international community. Hence, we assume that now is the prime time for the UN and international community to lend a helpful hand with goodwill as regards Myanmar's affairs.

The positive changes of our country are prevailing conditions and cannot be ignored. If review with right sense and clear outlook, it is fair to say that the future State can be visualized now. The State affairs are the internal affairs to be handled by the people themselves. Through the collective efforts by the combined force of the Government, the people and the Tatmadaw with own strength, we have achieved many accomplishments nowadays. In such conditions and situations, the attacks of internal and external anti-government groups are merely worthless, we assume.

The explanation I have made also covers your question of how we want the UN to cooperate with our country in the affairs. Now, I would like to reiterate that the State constitution has been adopted with the approval of the people. That reflects their desire. So, we will try in accordance with the State constitution to

transit to democracy as soon as possible. Only with the assistance of the UN in that regard, the people's desire can be brought to fruition. Now, the State constitution has been approved. So, law on political parties, and election law will come into being. Then, the people, supporting or opposing the constitution, and both anti-government persons and pro-government persons will be able to enjoy the right to form political parties and canvass for the votes in accordance with the law. After that, all will have the right to stand for election in the multi-party democracy election scheduled to take place in 2010. That path is the most practical, the most appropriate and the safest way. Furthermore, it is the most peaceful way for transition to democracy. Therefore, I would say the UN including you should extend a helping hand for peaceful and successful transition to democracy in accordance with the people's desire.

In conclusion, I would like to say that the Government with the support of the people has successfully launched tasks for transition to democracy. And it will continue to see to the desired goal. We hope that Your Excellency will render a helpful hand to us for achieving greater successes while we are bringing about democracy in conformity with prevailing situations of the nation and the people. As Your Excellency has understood the subtleness of Myanmar politics to a certain extent, we believe that Your Excellency can fully cooperate in implementing the seven-step Road Map and provide us good advice. Thank you.

Further discussions of Mr Gambari

Holding further discussions, Mr Gambari said that the main aim of him and the United Nations Secretary-General is to win greater support of the international community in the process of transition to democracy in Myanmar; that he himself respects the sovereignty of Myanmar; that at present, even super powers are unable to stand on their own separately; that it is required to take into account the positive suggestions of neighboring countries; that both the UN Secretary-General and him accept that economic sanctions are a serious impediment to national development of Myanmar; that he will put forward the facts presented by the Spokes Authoritative Team of the State Peace and Development Council to the UN Secretary-General on his arrival; that at the request of Your Excellency he will continue striving for opposition parties to cooperate; the UN Secretary-General is trying its best for the international community to response in a positive manner to prevailing situations of Myanmar; and Your Excellency will see it sooner.

He continued to say that he welcomes the necessary measures to be taken by the election commission without harming the sovereignty of Myanmar; that he will discuss matters on dispatching the working level technical team with the ministers concerned as to the establishment of Economic Forum; that those who oppose the government at present can turn out to be an alliance in future; that the transitional period of Myanmar politics is aimed at the emergence of a civilian government; and therefore, he wants the government to review the actions taken against those who do not post a threat to national security with a view to forging national reconsolidation.

In his discussions, Leader of the Spokes Authoritative Team of the State Peace and Development Council Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan said that he would pay serious attention to what Mr Gambari discussed and has made arrangements to meet him again. The meeting ended at 4.30 pm.

MNA



Beijing 2008 Olympic Games
同一个世界 同一个梦想 One World One Dream



News &
Photos
by
Xinhua



Angel Di Maria (#11) of Argentina makes a goal during the men's gold match of football event between Nigeria and Argentina at Beijing 2008 Olympic Games in the National Stadium, known as the Bird's Nest, in Beijing, China, on 23 Aug, 2008.



Leryn Franco of Paraguay is pictured during the women's javelin throw qualification round at the 'Bird's Nest' National Stadium during the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games on 19 August, 2008. Leryn Franco has been named by many the most beautiful woman at this year's Olympics



Lena Schoneborn of Germany competes during the women's running 3000m competition at the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games morden pentathlon event in Beijing, China, on 22 Aug, 2008. Lena Schoneborn of Germany won the gold medal of Olympic women's modern pentathlon on Friday.

Medal Standings (23-8-2008)

Sr	NOC Name	G	S	B	T	Sr	NOC Name	G	S	B	T
1	China	49	19	28	96	45	Belgium	1	1		2
2	United States	34	37	36	107	46	Dominican Rep	1	1		2
3	Russian Fed.	21	21	27	69	47	Estonia	1	1		2
4	Britain	19	13	15	47	48	Mongolia	1	1		2
5	Germany	16	10	15	41	49	Portugal	1	1		2
6	Australia	14	15	17	46	50	India	1		2	3
7	ROK	13	10	8	31	51	Iran	1		1	2
8	Japan	9	6	10	25	52	Bahrain	1			1
9	Italy	7	10	10	27	53	Cameroon	1			1
10	Ukraine	7	5	15	27	54	Panama	1			1
11	Netherland	7	5	4	16	55	Tunisia	1			1
12	France	6	15	17	38	56	Sweden		4	1	5
13	Jamaica	6	3	2	11	57	Croatia		2	3	5
14	Spain	5	9	2	16	58	Lithuania		2	3	5
15	Belarus	4	5	9	18	59	Greece		2	2	4
16	Kenya	4	5	4	13	60	Trinidad/Tobago		2		2
17	Romania	4	1	3	8	61	Nigeria		1	3	4
18	Ethiopia	4	1	1	6	62	Austria		1	2	3
19	Canada	3	9	6	18	63	Algeria		1	1	2
20	Poland	3	6	1	10	64	Bahamas		1	1	2
21	Norway	3	5	2	10	65	Colombia		1	1	2
22	Brazil	3	3	8	14	66	Kyrgyzstan		1	1	2
23	Czech Republic	3	3		6	67	Serbia		1	1	2
24	Slovakia	3	2	1	6	68	Tajikistan		1	1	2
25	New Zealand	3	1	5	9	69	Chile		1		1
26	Georgia	3		3	6	70	Ecuador		1		1
27	Cuba	2	9	11	22	71	Malaysia		1		1
28	Hungary	2	5	2	9	72	South Africa		1		1
29	Denmark	2	2	3	7	73	Singapore		1		1
30	Thailand	2	2		4	74	Sudan		1		1
31	DPRK	2	1	3	6	75	Vietnam		1		1
32	Switzerland	2		4	6	76	Armenia			6	6
33	Argentina	2		3	5	77	Chinese Taipei			4	4
34	Mexico	2		1	3	78	Ireland			2	2
35	Kazakhstan	1	4	7	12	79	Afghanistan			1	1
36	Turkey	1	4	3	8	80	Egypt			1	1
37	Zimbabwe	1	3		4	81	Israel			1	1
38	Azerbaijan	1	2	4	7	82	Morocco			1	1
39	Uzbekistan	1	2	3	6	83	Moldova			1	1
40	Slovenia	1	2	2	5	84	Mauritius			1	1
41	Bulgaria	1	1	3	5	85	Togo			1	1
42	Indonesia	1	1	3	5	86	Venezuela			1	1
43	Finland	1	1	2	4	Total:		290	291	347	928
44	Latvia	1	1	1	3						



Sabine Spitz of Germany competes during the women's cross country of the Beijing Olymic Games cycling-mountain bike event at Laoshan Mountain Bike Course in Beijing, China, on 23 Aug, 2008. Sabine Spitz of Germany claimed the title in this event with a time of 1:45.11.



Meng Guanliang and Yang Wenjun of China plunge into water to celebrate in the men's canoe double (C2) 500m final at Beijing 2008 Olympic Games in the Shunyi Rowing-Canoeing Park in Beijing, China, on 23 Aug, 2008. They won the gold medal.



Russian synchronized swimming team perform during the team event free routine at the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games synchronized swimming event in Beijing, China, on 23 Aug, 2008. Russian team ranked 1st in synchronized swimming team event.

New software enables sign language over cell phones

WASHINGTON, 23 Aug — The University of Washington announced on Thursday that a group of engineers have developed software that for the first time enables deaf and hard-of-hearing Americans to use sign language over a mobile phone.

This is the first time two-way real-time video communication has been demonstrated over cell phones in the United States. The engineers have

received a US National Science Foundation grant for a 20-person field project that will begin next year in Seattle.

The research team posted a video of the working prototype on YouTube. “A lot of people are excited about this,” said principal investigator Eve Riskin. For mobile communication, deaf people now communicate by cell phone using text messages. “But the point is you want to be able to

communicate in your native language,” Riskin said. “For deaf people that’s sign language.”

Video is much better than text-messaging because it’s faster and it’s better at conveying emotion, said Jessica DeWitt, a researcher in psychology who is deaf. She says a large part of her communication is with facial expressions, which can be transmitted over the video phones.

MNA/Xinhua



Venezuela’s President Hugo Chavez (R) meets Vu Huy Hoang, Vietnam’s Minister of Industry and Commerce, in the Miraflores Palace in Caracas on 22 Aug, 2008.—INTERNET



Officials inspect the wreckage of a car after a bomb explosion in Thailand’s province of Sungai Kolok, south of Bangkok on 22 Aug, 2008. A car bomb exploded on Thursday in a town in southern Thailand that has been a target of insurgent attacks, killing a journalist and wounding 30 government officials and shoppers, security officials said.—INTERNET

Malaysia to start flexible hours for women at work

KUALA LUMPUR, 23 Aug — Malaysia’s women may soon be able to put in flexible hours instead of the nine-to-five workday, local media reported on Friday.

Less rigid job arrangements would encourage more women into the workforce, thus boosting national productivity and economic growth, Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Najib Razak said at the launch of the sixth Women’s Summit organized by the Women, Family and Community Ministry here on Thursday.

“Flexi-hours is an

approach that women want and we need to take into account their needs and aspirations. We want more women in the workforce,” the *New Straits Times* quoted Najib as saying.

MNA/Xinhua

Dancers perform a traditional dance during a cultural performance in Banda Aceh of the Indonesia’s Aceh province on 20 August, 2008. Picture taken on 20 August, 2008.
INTERNET

Protesters clash with police near India car plant

KOLKATA (India), 23 Aug — At least 1,000 protesters opposing the seizure of farmland for a Tata Motors plant, due to assemble what has been billed the world’s cheapest car, clashed with police in eastern India on Thursday. Protesters said several people were beaten up by police when they tried to march towards the plant in Singur, an hour’s drive from Kolkata. Police said no one was injured in the demonstration.

The 100,000-rupee (2,380-US-dollar) snub-nosed Nano was unveiled in January to a popstar reception, but violent protests and political opposition against land seizures for the factory in West Bengal state threatened to delay its long-awaited launch. “No one was injured. They blocked a highway near the project for hours and then dispersed,” senior police official Raj Kanojia said. — MNA/Reuters



Typhoon “Nuri” shuts down HK, flights cancelled

HONGKONG, 23 Aug — Hong Kong was buffeted by gale force winds on Friday as typhoon Nuri churned toward the major financial hub, with most of the city and its markets shut down in anticipation of a direct hit.

The tropical cyclone signal No. 8 was hoisted at 7.40 am Hong Kong

Time (2340 GMT) as typhoon Nuri closed to within 100 kilometres of the city after wreaking a path of destruction in the northern Philippines. Several flights were cancelled. Howling winds swept across the former British colony early on Friday and white-tipped waves

thrashed in Victoria harbour.

“It may be necessary to issue higher signals this afternoon,” the Hong Kong Observatory said, adding gales were already affecting many parts of the territory with winds speed of up to 98 kph recorded.

MNA/Reuters

US military frees “Reuters” cameraman in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 23 Aug — The US military freed a Reuters television cameraman on Thursday after holding him for three weeks in Iraq without charges. Ali al-Mashhadani, who also works freelance for the BBC and Washington-based National Public Radio, was detained in Baghdad on 30 July while

he was in the Green Zone government compound for routine checks for a US military Press card.

US forces have detained Mashhadani twice before, at one point holding him for five months, but no charge has ever been filed against the cameraman, who is based in Ramadi, the capital of western Anbar Province.

The US military said at the time of his latest arrest that he was held “because he has been assessed to be a threat to the security of Iraq and coalition forces”, but did not elaborate.

Reuters Editor-in-Chief David Schlesinger said he was pleased Mashhadani was released but concerned that it was the third time he was “detained without explanation”.

MNA/Reuters

White powder delivered to McCain's campaign office not anthrax

WASHINGTON, 23 Aug — The suspicious white powder delivered with a threat letter to US Republican presidential candidate John McCain's regional campaign office was not anthrax or other lethal substance, officials said on Friday.

The Colorado National Guard spokesman, Rick Breitenfeldt, told reporters that after a complete testing, the white powder is determined to be not lethal, but authorities have not yet find out what it is. McCain's campaign office in Denver,

Colorado, was immediately evacuated after it received the suspicious mail on Thursday afternoon.

According to local authorities, the letter was sent by Marc Harold Ramsey, a 39-year-old inmate at the Arapahoe Detention Center, who was prisoned since September, 2007, on charges of felony menacing, harassment and assault.

Internet



Canadian singer Celine Dion (L) smiles as she receives an honorary doctorate in music from Laval University superintendent Denis Briere (R) during a ceremony at the Palais Montcalm in Quebec City, 21 Aug, 2008.—INTERNET

Moderate earthquake hits west of Panama

PANAMA, 23 Aug — An earthquake measuring 5 on the Richter scale hit western Panama Friday, without causing casualties or damages, Geosciences Institute of the University of Panama said.

The earthquake occurred at 6:04 local time (1104 GMT), with its epicenter 10 km underground in the province of Chiriqui that borders Costa Rica.

Internet



Athletes dive into the water attending the swim contest of Men's Final of Beijing 2008 Olympic Games triathlon event in Beijing, China, 19 Aug, 2008. — INTERNET

Bomb blast kills 20 in NW Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 23 Aug — Curfew was immediately imposed in northwestern Pakistan's Swat valley on Saturday morning as a blast occurred near a police station, killing at least 20 people, state television said. The suicide bomber rammed a explosive-laden car into a police station in Charbagh Tehsil of Swat valley of North West Frontier Province (NWFP), PTV quoted the police as saying.

There are also paramilitary soldiers in the police station.

The injured were rushed to hospital nearby.

Reports said a spokesman for Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), or Pakistan Taliban Movement, claimed responsibility shortly after the suicide bombing.

The TTP is believed to launch the attack to counter back the army's

operation in the Swat valley.

This was the third blast since former Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf declared resignation on Monday.

The TTP also launched suicide attacks near two gates of the Pakistan Ordnance Factory in Wah Cantt in eastern Pakistan's Punjab province on Thursday, killing at least 70 and injuring dozens.

Internet

People arrested for Internet drug trafficking in Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO, 23 Aug — Eight people were arrested on Friday in the southeastern Brazilian city of Curitiba during an operation against international drug trafficking via the Internet, Federal Police said.

The police said the criminals sent prescription drugs on the Internet, especially morphine, sedatives and psychoactive

drugs, as well as some drugs containing opium, to the United States, Europe and Canada.

The drugs were disguised in vitamin bottles or hidden inside other objects to be sent abroad. At least four pharmacies and one medicine distribution company in Curitiba were involved in the case.

Internet

ICRC says over 200,000 have fled violence in Pakistan

GENEVA, 23 Aug — More than 200,000 people have fled fighting in northwestern Pakistan this month and are in urgent need of relief assistance, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said on Friday.

The humanitarian agency said it had

launched an initial aid operation to help 64,000 of the 200,000 people forced to flee Bajaur. Pakistan has launched military operations against militants in the restive tribal region on the Afghan border, a known sanctuary for al-Qaeda and Taleban militants.

The figure includes 50,000 people who have left for relatively safer areas of Pakistan in the North West Frontier Province, including Peshawar, as well as 14,000 who have crossed into eastern Afghanistan, the ICRC said in a statement.

Internet

Two killed, 25 injured in train derailment in Portugal

LISBON, 23 Aug — Two persons died and 25 others were injured on Friday when a train derailed in the north of Portugal, the National Authority for Civil Protection said.

A Portuguese woman and a child died in the accident while 25 others were injured, with 10 of them in serious condition.

The injured had been taken to a nearby hospital.

The train, with 47 passengers aboard, was traveling from Miranda to the tourist resort of Tua in northern Portugal, when it derailed about 1 km from Brunheda station on Friday morning. Fortunately, the derailed train did not fall into a nearby river, but halted on the slope of

a hill, avoiding greater casualties.

The causes of the accident are still unknown, but the operator allegedly heard a great noise before the derailment.

This is the third accident on the same railroad this year. Two were injured in the previous two accidents.

Internet



Palestinian youths fly kites as they enjoy warm weather in a Gaza City beach 20 August, 2008.—INTERNET

SPORTS

Real to let Robinho go
Spaniards admit they won't keep
an unhappy player



Robinho

MADRID , 23 Aug — Real Madrid have revealed they are prepared to allow Robinho to move on after the Brazilian asked to leave.

Robinho has cut an unhappy figure in recent weeks after he was linked with a switch to Manchester United as part of a deal for Cristiano Ronaldo.

He has been targeted by Chelsea, with the Premier League club confirming they had made an offer for the gifted forward.

The Spanish champions had previously resisted all offers for Robinho, saying the 24-year-old was not for sale. However, on Friday, Robinho reiterated his desire to leave the Bernabeu in order to link up with Luiz Felipe Scolari's Chelsea.

Real have responded to Robinho's comments and admit they do not want to keep an unhappy player in Bernd Schuster's squad.

"Real Madrid have become aware of the declarations by the player and deeply regret their content," read a statement on the club's official website.

"Real Madrid would never want to retain a player against his wishes and as a result they have no alternative, but to accept his unilateral decision to rescind his contract if that is what the player wants."—Internet

Santa Cruz signs Rovers deal
Striker commits to Ewood Park
until 2012



Santa Cruz

LONDON, 23 Aug — Blackburn Rovers striker Roque Santa Cruz has ended doubts about his future by signing a new four-year contract.

Santa Cruz has been coveted by a string of rival Premier League clubs, with Manchester City having an offer turned

down. Arsenal, Aston Villa, Manchester United and Tottenham Hotspur have also been linked with bids for the Paraguay international.

Rovers boss Paul Ince has insisted that Santa Cruz is not for sale and will be heartened by the player's commitment to the club.

The 27-year-old has accepted an extension to his contract which ties him to Ewood Park until 2012.

Santa Cruz has been a huge success for Blackburn since joining the club in a cut-price deal from Bayern Munich last summer.

He scored 23 goals last season and opened the new campaign with a goal in last Saturday's 3-2 win at Everton.—Internet

PREMIER LEAGUE		
(23-8-2008)		
Blackburn	1 - 1	Hull City
Fulham	1 - 0	Arsenal
Liverpool	2 - 1	Middlesbrough
Newcastle	1 - 0	Bolton
Stoke City	3 - 2	Aston Villa
Tottenham	1 - 2	Sunderland
WBA	1 - 2	Everton

Fergie losing Berba battle

LONDON, 23 Aug — Sir Alex Ferguson admits he is "less optimistic" of making any new signings this summer.

The Manchester United boss has been unusually quiet in the transfer market this year, failing to add any new faces to his double-winning squad of last season.



Internet Sir Alex Ferguson

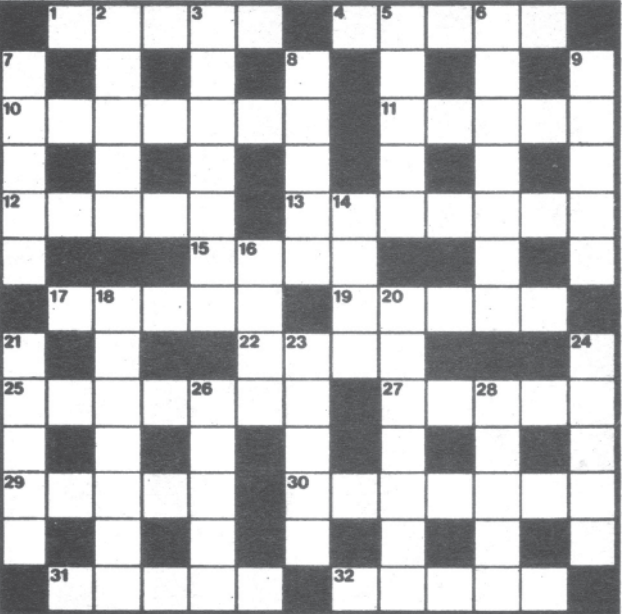
Argentina brave heat to take gold

BEIJING, 23 Aug — Argentina retained their Olympic men's football title as they overcame the heat to beat Nigeria 1-0 in the Bird's Nest stadium.

Benfica striker Angel Di Maria's neat chip after 58 minutes was enough to give the Argentines victory.

Nigeria had their fair share of chances, but were unable to beat goalkeeper Sergio Romero. Play was stopped twice to allow players to take on water to deal with the searing 42C (107F) heat.—Internet

CROSSWORDS PUZZLE



ACROSS

- 1 Narrow parts of bottles
- 4 Sharp pinch
- 10 Peculiar
- 11 Varlet
- 12 Risked
- 13 Brief, comprehensive
- 15 Portent
- 17 First class
- 19 Freight
- 22 Require
- 25 Train
- 27 Indistinct
- 29 Happening
- 30 Moment
- 31 Remains
- 32 Viper

DOWN

- 2 Mistake
- 3 Realm
- 5 Arouse
- 6 Astounding
- 7 Stage whisper
- 8 From here
- 9 Smooth
- 14 One time
- 16 Bill of fare
- 18 Go back
- 20 Counsellor
- 21 Command
- 23 Weird
- 24 Ship's cabin
- 26 Dapper
- 28 Fireplace

Report says Real
set price to sell
Robinho to Chelsea

MADRID, 23 Aug — Real Madrid will consider selling Robinho to Chelsea if the English club offer 40 million euros (59.46 million US dollars) for the Brazilian forward, Spanish media reported on Friday.

Robinho is reported to be unhappy because Real were prepared to sell him in order to raise funds in their unsuccessful attempt to sign Cristiano Ronaldo and for the club's refusal to release him to play at the Olympic Games.

The Brazilian had been a target of Chelsea and their new coach Luiz Felipe Scolari for most of the off-season before the west-London club made a formal offer for him on 7 August.—Internet

China-aided sports
information centre
opens in Costa Rica

SAN JOSE, 23 Aug — A sports information centre, aided by the Chinese Science and Technology Ministry, opened in the Costa Rican capital of San Jose on Friday.

Addressing the opening ceremony, Chinese Ambassador to Costa Rica Wang Xiaoyuan said that since China forged diplomatic ties with Costa Rica last year, the two countries have continuously broadened cooperation and exchanges in such fields as politics, economy, culture, science and technology. The ongoing 2008 Beijing Olympic Games are a high-level sports event with its own characteristics, he said, adding that China is willing to strengthen cooperation with Costa Rica and share technological achievements in the Games.—Internet



Argentina's Lionel Messi, right, is challenged by Nigeria's Chibuzor Okonkwo during the men's soccer tournament final between Nigeria and Argentina in the National Stadium at the Beijing 2008 Olympics in Beijing, on 23 Aug, 2008.—INTERNET



Ana Ivanovic of Serbia returns a shot during Day 4 of Rogers Cup Tennis in July 2008 at Stade Uniprix in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. World number Ivanovic will face some notable obstacles in her quest for her first ever title at the US Open which begins next week.—INTERNET

Ferdinand primed for
Manchester United captain's job

MANCHESTER (England), 23 Aug — Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson assured Rio Ferdinand on Friday that the defender remains in line to lead the club despite missing out on the England captaincy.

England coach Fabio Capello chose John Terry ahead of Ferdinand to become the new national team captain on a long-term basis ahead of England's 2-2 draw with the Czech Republic on Wednesday.

Ferguson said however that he would hand 29-year-old Ferdinand the United captain's armband once Gary Neville and Ryan Giggs were no longer around.

Internet

Six killed in storm-related accidents in Florida

WASHINGTON, 23 Aug — Six people were killed after a strong tropical storm swept Florida's northern peninsula, said a TV report on Friday.

Citing the National Hurricane Centre, the CNN report said that the tropical storm, coded Fay, were slowly moving westward in the region, at 6 miles (9.7 kilometres) per hour, pouring heavy rain of over 20 inches (50.8 centimetres) and is expected to weaken later the day and on Saturday.

"Regardless of its exact track ... Fay will be moving rather slowly during the next several days ... posing a significant heavy

rainfall and flood hazard to a very large area," the centre said. Florida Governor Charlie Crist told reporters that the six deaths related to the storm included two killed by drowning, three in traffic accidents and one in carbon monoxide poisoning.

Considering that many houses, hospitals and roads in Florida had been blooded, George W Bush has declared a state of emergency in the state and ordered to release federal fund to provide aid and relief to victims.

It was the sixth storm that hit Florida recently during what experts earlier forecast will be a busy Atlantic hurricane season.

MNA/Xinhua

World trade growth slows to 7-year low in Q2

GENEVA, 23 Aug — Growth in world trade slowed in the second quarter of this year to its lowest for nearly seven years, the CPB Netherlands Bureau for Economic Policy Analysis said on Friday.

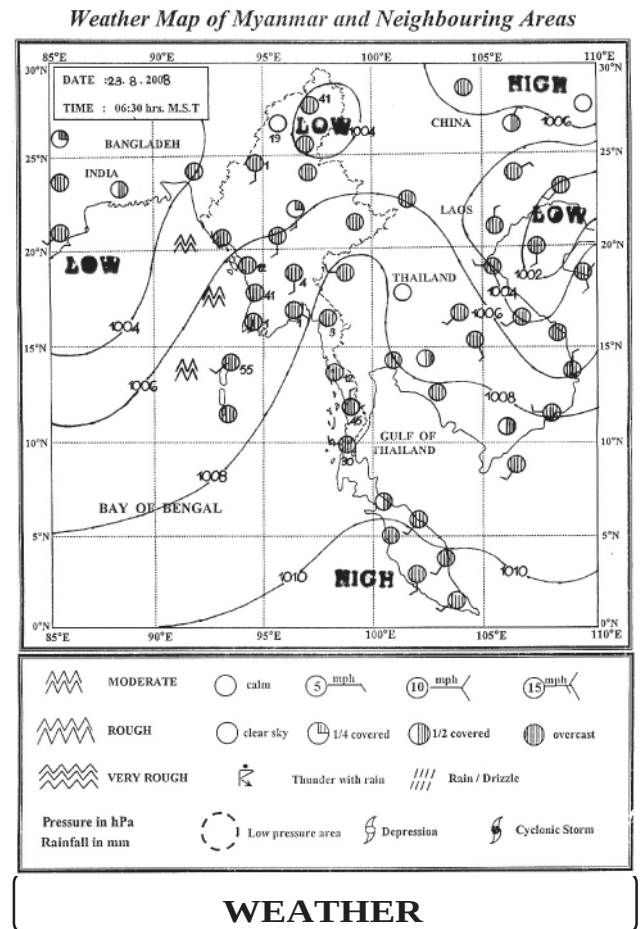
In the three months ended June, world trade rose by only 0.6 per cent at an annual rate compared with the previous three months, CPB said.

"This is the weakest quarterly performance since the drop in world trade in the final quarter of 2001," it said in its monthly analysis of global trade flows. CPB provides trade data to the EU Commission

for its surveys of the euro area, and also works closely with the World Bank on its trade series.

Steeply falling US imports were one of the main factors in the weak second-quarter growth, which followed a rise of 7.1 per cent in the first quarter, it said. On a 12-month perspective, trade growth has been slowing steadily since late 2006, CPB data show.

Trade in the 12 months ended June was 6.0 per cent higher than in the previous 12 months, compared with a high in the current cycle of 9.4 per cent in 2006, it said. — MNA/Reuters



Saturday, 23 August, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kayah State and Magway Division, rain have been isolated in Lower Sagaing Divisions, scattered in Kachin, Shin and Rakhine States, Mandalay and Ayeyawady Division, fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing Division and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions with isolated heavy fall in Bago Division. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Zaung Tu (5.51) inches, Co Co Island (2.16) inches, Thandwe (1.89) inches, Myeik (1.77) inches, Putao (1.73) inches and Machanbaw (1.65) inches.

Maximum temperature on 22-8-2008 was 86°F. Minimum temperature on 23-8-2008 was 70°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 23-8-2008 was 96%. Total sunshine hours on 22-8-2008 was (1.8) hours approx.

Rainfall on 23-8-2008 was (0.59) inch at Mingaladon, (0.04) inch at Kaba-Aye and (0.32) inches at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was (79.72) inches at Mingaladon, (88.82) inches at Kaba-Aye and (105.35) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (5) mph from West at (15:30) hours MST on 22-8-2008.

Bay inference: Monsoon is moderate in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 24-8-2008: Rain will be isolated in Kayah State, lower Sagaing and Magway Divisions, scattered in Kachin, Chin and Shan States, Upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Yangon, Bago and Ayeyawady Divisions and fairly widespread in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of decrease of rain in the Upper Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 24-8-2008: Possibility of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (40%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 24-8-2008: One or two rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 24-8-2008: Possibility of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (40%).

Hajee Hafiz Ahmed Kasmet (a) U Tin Aung 79 years

B.Com, B.L., DJ, D.M.A.

Son of (Hajee Gulam Mohamed Kasmet)-(Marium Bi (a) Daw Yan) of No. 26 on 139th Street in Maugon Ward of Tamway Township, Yangon, son-in-law of (Hajee Mahamud Esoof Bhymeah)-(Marium Bi), beloved husband of Amena Bhymeah (a) Daw Khin Mya Mya, elder brother of Zubayda Kasmet (a) Jabbu (a) Neylee-U Tin Shwe (a) Feroz, Dr. Musa Kasmet-Sara Bolat, Hajee Hafiz Ahmed Kasmet (a) U Tin Aung passed away at 4:30 pm on 18-8-2008 and buried at Yayway Sunni Cemetery at 10 am on 19-8-2008.

Bereaved Family

Georgia seeks \$1-2b for reconstruction

TBILISI, 23 Aug — The Georgian Government is seeking one billion US dollars to two billion US dollars in aid to repair and develop infrastructure after its conflict this month with Russia, the head of the US Government aid agency said on Friday.

"They have a proposal for what they call a Phoenix Fund, which is somewhere between one (billion) and

two billion dollars," Henrietta Fore, the administrator of USAID, told reporters.

"That's really reconstruction, it's for infrastructure. It's not just because of hostilities. It's for development," she told reporters on a plane returning from a visit to Georgia to assess the government's needs after the conflict.

MNA/Reuters



Sunday, 24 August
View on today

7:00 am

1. တောင်တန်းသာသနာပြု ဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၏ ဝရိတ်တရားတော်

7:25 am

2. To be healthy exercise

7:30 am

3. Morning news

7:40 am

4. စစ်ကိုင်းတောင်ရိုးမညိုသည့် သာသနာ (အပိုင်း - ၂)

8:00 am

5. လှုပ်ရှားပုံပြင်စိတ်ပျော်ရွှင်

8:30 am

6. International news

8:40 am

7. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:30 am

8. International news

8:40 am

9. Islands of Dhamma

11:00 pm

1. Martial song

11:10 am

2. Musical programme

11:25 am

3. Round up of the week's local news

11:40 am

4. ထက်မြက်ပျော်ရွှင်အိမ်ထောင်ရှင်

12:05 pm

5. မြန်မာ့ရုပ်ရှင် "ပျော်လှိုက်ရအောင်" (လွင်မိုး၊ စိုးမြတ်နန္ဒာ၊ ခိုင်သင်းကြည်၊ ရတနာခင်၊ ပွင့်နဒီမောင်၊ ခင်လေးနွယ်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ကိုဇော်အာရုဏ်ဦး)

1:30 pm

6. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ

1:40 pm

7. Musical programme

1:55 pm

8. Dance of national rance

2:10 pm

9. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ

2:15 pm

10. ယဉ်ကျေးလိမ္မော်(၃၈)ဇာတ်လမ်း

2:30 pm

11. International news

4:00 pm

1. Martial song

4:10 pm

2. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

4:20 pm

3. ရန်ကုန်တိုင်း၊ အမှတ် (၃) အခြေခံပညာဦးစီးဌာန စတုတ္ထမြောက်အကြိမ်ဓမ္မစကြာ ဝတ်ရွတ်ပူဇော်ပွဲ (တတိယဆု) (အထက(၂)ဒဂုံ) (အမျိုးသမီးဝတ်ရွတ်အဖွဲ့)

4:40 pm

4. Song to uphold National Spirit

4:50 pm

5. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ

5:00 pm

6. Musical programme

5:15 pm

7. ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သံစုံတီးဝိုင်းပျော်ဖြေ တင်ဆက်မှုအစီအစဉ်

5:20 pm

8. ဆိုကြမယ်ပျော်ကြမယ်

6:00 pm

9. Evening News

6

:30 pm

11. Weather report

6:35 pm

12. Musical programme

7:00 pm

13. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ

"ရွှေမင်းသားလေးချစ်ပုံပြင်" (အပိုင်း-၂၄)

8:00 pm

14. News

15. International news

16. Weather report

17. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ

လူယောင်ဆောင်သော

ရွှေငါးနတ်သမီးလေး

(အပိုင်း-၁၆)

18. မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော်ဘုရား

ကြီး၏ အရပ်ဆယ်မျက်နှာ

မေတ္တာဘာဝနာပွားများခြင်း

တရားတော်

Prime Minister receives special advisor to UN Secretary-General

Mr Gambari meets SPDC's Spokes Authoritative Team, ministers, organizations, diplomats; unable to meet with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi however much he tries due to her rejection

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Aug—Special Advisor to the United Nations Secretary-General Mr Ibrahim Agboola Gambari and party arrived in Yangon by air on 18 August.

Mr Gambari met with Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, diplomats of foreign missions in Yangon, those from the International Committee of the Red Cross and Tripartite Core Group separately.

On 19 August

morning, Mr Gambari and party observed the reconstruction tasks being carried out in storm-hit Kungyangon Township, Yangon Division. In the afternoon, Mr Gambari met with the Spokes Authoritative Team of the State Peace and Development Council led by Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan.

On 20 August, Mr Gambari met with Minister for Health Dr Kyaw

Myint, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, President of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Win Myint and members, leaders of Kayin national races that had made peace with the government and Joint Secretary-General of the Union Solidarity and Development Association U Zaw Min and members

separately.

In the evening, he met with political parties, namely, the Naional

League for Democracy, Union Pa-O National Organization, National Unity Party, independent repre-

sentatives-elect and those from other organizations separately.

(See page 8)

Prime Minister felicitates Ukrainian counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Aug—General Thein Sein, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to Her Excellency Mrs Yulia Tymoshenko, Prime Minister of Ukraine, on the occasion of the Independence Day of Ukraine which falls on 24 August, 2008.—MNA

Road Map recognized, supported by ASEAN, neighbouring countries, regional countries, NAM as well as UN SPDC's Spokes Authoritative Team meets UNSG special advisor Mr Gambari



Spokes Authoritative Team of the State Peace and Development Council meets Special Advisor to UN Secretary-General Mr Ibrahim Agboola Gambari.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Aug – Spokes Authoritative Team of the State Peace and Development Council met Special Advisor to UN Secretary-General Mr Ibrahim Agboola Gambari at the guesthouse of the National Defence College at 3 pm on 19 August.

Present on the occasion were team leader Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and members Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win and Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint.

Mr Gambari's discussion

Mr Gambari said: The aim of my visit is to strongly build confidence between the two sides and to promote the role of UN Secretariat in Myanmar. I first

visited Myanmar in May 2006 when the National Convention, the first step of the seven-step Road Map, was in progress. I praise Myanmar for its reaching the fifth step of the Road Map during the two-year period. I also recognize the Myanmar government for its efforts for being able to approve the constitution and address the problem of cyclone Nargis. Nonetheless, for the past two years, the international community has paid more attention to Myanmar. There prevailed negative attitude towards the country. After the cyclone Nargis, the UN Secretary-General himself visited the country and his visit to Myanmar was the first ever one during the period of 44 years. He pointed out two facts: it was encouraging to see that Myanmar

had shown its positive and flexible attitude and begun to accept the international aids; and he believed there would be more cooperation between the UN and Myanmar. Now I frankly welcome and invite any proposals and suggestions from Myanmar's side. I assume it is necessary to continue discussions between the Myanmar government and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi for national reconsolidation and democratization. Myanmar should accept expertise from the UN in the general election to be held in 2010 in order to win the trust of the international community. Economic forum shall be established for improving the socio-economy of the people

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