

# The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Sunday, 20 August, 2006

## Senior General Than Shwe felicitates Hungarian President

NAY PYI TAW, 20 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 Laszlo Solyom, President of the Republic of Hungary, on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of Hungary which falls on 20 August 2006. — MNA

## Lt-Gen Kyaw Win assists in renovation of Takaw-Mongping-Kengtung Union Road in Shan State (East)

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Aug — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Kyaw Win of the Ministry of Defence on 17 August inspected maintenance and renovation of road and bridges along Mongping-Tongtah-Kengtung Road Section in Shan State (East).

At the briefing hall of Public Works at Mile Post No 356/5, Superintending Engineer of Public Works U Thaug Htay and engineers reported on condition of the 114-mile section of Takaw-Mongping-Kengtung Union Road which was upgraded to a tarred road, condition of bridges on the road being upgraded to iron reinforced bridges, construction of the drainage and maintenance of roads and bridges.

Commander Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing also reported on renovation of the Union Road for its

durability. After hearing reports, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win urged officials to broaden the road meeting the set standards and to carry out tarring of road section and to repair the damaged sections of the road in the rainy season. He also urged to take preventive measures to reduce risk of landslide and attended to the needs.

(See page 7)

**With the emergence of the new tarred road, it takes two hours and 30 minutes by car from Takaw to Mongping and about three hours by car from Mongping to Kengtung.**

YANGON, 19 Aug — Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence inspected progress of Ngamoeyeik Bridge (Kamakyi) Construction Project being implemented by Public Works on Thuwunna bank in Thingangyun Township this afternoon.

Accompanied by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win, Lt-Gen Myint Swe heard reports on construction of the approach roads presented by Superintending Engineer (Yangon Division) U Soe Tint, and progress in construction of the bridge by Senior Engineer U Han Soe.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe gave instructions on ef-

orts to be made for completion of the construction tasks meeting the set standards.

Yangon Division Head U Ohn Han of Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems submitted reports on prevention against bank erosion at Ngamoeyeik Creek near Thakayta Industrial Zone. Lt-Gen Myint Swe instructed officials to take preventive measures against bank erosion.

Head of Engineering Department (Water and Sanitation) Dr Tun Than Tun reported on maintenance of the roads.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe gave instructions that roads in Thuwunna and Thakayta are to be expanded to

(See page 7)



Lt-Gen Myint Swe inspects construction of Ngamoeyeik Bridge (Kamakyi). — MNA

### 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

## Lt-Gen Myint Swe inspects construction tasks at Ngamoeyeik Bridge (Kamakyi)

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



# PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 20 August, 2006

## Grow high-yield groundnut for edible oil

Agriculture plays an important role in developing national economy. Hence, sown acreage is being extended while modern agricultural techniques are being applied to boost the per acre yield of paddy and other crops.

Groundnut, sesame, sunflower, mustard, niger and rape seeds are being grown across the nation for self sufficiency in edible oil. Groundnut and sesame are being grown most among the edible oil crops.

With its annual edible oil per capita consumption rate of about six viss, the country needs over 330 million viss of edible oil for yearly consumption.

In 2005-2006, over 700,000 acres of monsoon groundnut and over one million acres of cold season groundnut totalling over 1.8 million acres were grown, and over 90 million baskets of groundnut were produced.

The present-day crops research including groundnut concentrates on producing high-yield strains. Researches on cross-breeding, hybridizing and pest-resistance are being conducted at Yezin Central Agricultural Research Department and research farms in Magway, NyaungU and Myingyan.

At present, the Agricultural Research Department is largely distributing high-yield groundnut to farmers who are engaged in extended cultivation of the crop. The gradual increase in groundnut production is largely due to modern agricultural techniques plus application of organic and natural fertilizers.

The groundnut's popularity among people of all ages and its being suitable item for health have resulted in rapid increase in groundnut sown acreage. This being so, farmers should fully engage in extended growing of pedigree groundnut distributed by Myanma Agriculture Service for surplus edible oil production.

### “သတိပေး နှိုးဆော်ချက်”

(က) မိုးရွာစဉ် ယာဉ်မောင်းလျှင် အောက်ပါအချက်အလက်များ သတိပြုပါ။

- (၁) လမ်းပေါ်တွင် စက်ဆီချောဆီများ ဖိတ်စင်လျှင် လမ်းချော်နိုင်သည်။
- (၂) မော်တော်ယာဉ်ဘီးများ ပန်းမရှိလျှင် လမ်းချော် နိုင်သည်။
- (၃) မော်တော်ယာဉ်များ လေပေါင်ချိန် များလွန်းလျှင် လမ်းချော်နိုင်သည်။
- (၄) လမ်းပေါ်တွင် ရွှံ့နှံ့များရှိလျှင် လမ်းချော်နိုင်သည်။
- (၅) အရှိန်ပြင်းစွာ မမောင်းပါနှင့်။
- (၆) ဘရိတ်ကို ရုတ်တရက် မနင်းပါနှင့်။
- (၇) ကုန်တင်ယာဉ်များ ဟန်ချက်ညီမျှရန် ဂရုပြုပါ။
- (၈) ရေသုတ်တံပါရှိရမည်။ ကောင်းမွန်ရမည်။
- (၉) မိုးသည်းထန်စွာ ရွာသွန်း၍ မြင်ကွင်းမကောင်းလျှင် ရှေ့မီးကြိုးကို ဖွင့်မောင်းပါ။
- (၁၀) မြေသယ်ယာဉ်၊ အုတ်၊ သဲ၊ ကျောက် သယ်ယာဉ်များ ဖိတ်စင်မှု မရှိစေရန် လုံခြုံစွာ တင်ဆောင်ပါ။

(ခ) အထက်ပါစည်းကမ်းချက်များအားမလိုက်နာ၍ ယာဉ်တိုက်မှု၊ ယာဉ်တိမ်းမောက်မှုများ ဖြစ်ပွားပါက ထိရောက်စွာ အရေးယူခြင်း ခံရမည်။

ယာဉ်စည်းကမ်းထိန်းသိမ်းရေးကြီးကြပ်မှုကော်မတီ

## 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

## Self reliant new school building handed over in Pinlaung

YANGON, 19 Aug — A ceremony to hand over self reliant new building for Saungpyaung Model Village Affiliated Basic Education High School was held at the school in Pinlaung Township, Shan State (South), on 10 August.

At the ceremony, responsible persons explained the purpose of donation, and handed over documents of the new building to Headmistress Daw Aye Aye Win. The headmistress also accepted K 1.7 million donated by wellwishers. The building is 60 feet long and 30 feet wide and cost K 6 million.

Pinlaung Township Union Solidarity and Development Association, Women's Affairs Organization, Maternal and Child Welfare Association and Village Peace and Development Council presented K 50,000 and publications for the village self reliant library to a responsible person. — MNA



Headmistress Daw Aye Aye Win accepts documents on new school building from a responsible person. — H

## Stationery provided for Pandapwint Hill monastic education school



Wellwishers donate school stationery to a Sayadaw. — H

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Aug — In memory of late father U Myat Soe, U Myint Soe-Daw Mya Mya Soe and family of Kamayut Township offered 'soon' to the Presiding Sayadaw of Pandapwint Hill Tawya Sasana region who is also Principal of Pandapwint Hill monastic education school, Saddhama Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Paññasara, members of the Sangha and nuns and donated stationery to the monastic education school this morning.

On behalf of wellwisher Bandoola U Shwe, U Aung Thwin also donated seven sets of Buddhism treatise to the Sayadaw. — MNA

## Teachers, students donate cash and kind

YANGON, 19 Aug — A ceremony to donate robes, cash and kind to participate in the robes and alms donation ceremony to be organized by 9900 Lights Offering Association for members of the Sangha and nuns from villages of the Singu, NyaungU Township, Mandalay Division, was held at No 2 Basic Education High School in Dagon Myothit (South) Township on 17 August.

Patron of the association U Soe Win and Chairman U Bo Kyi explained the purpose of the donations.

Later, the patron and executives of the association accepted cash and kind donated by the teachers and the students.— MNA

## School Health Week launched in Mayangon

YANGON, 19 Aug — No 14 Basic Education Primary School in Mayangon Township observed the School Health Week, in conjunction with cash donation and refreshment providing ceremony organized by Ward 2 Union Solidarity and Development Association in Mayangon Township under the supervision of Yangon West District USDA at the school yesterday.

It was attended by Yangon Division USDA Executive Daw Thin Thin Moe, District/Township USDA members, the Chairman of the School Board of Trustees and members of social organizations and the headmistress, teachers and students.

First, Ward 2 USDA provided refreshments and medicines,

inspected personnel hygiene of the students and carried out school sanitation collectively.

At the ceremony, responsible persons accepted K 693,000 donated by District and Township USDAs, and wellwishers. — MNA



Responsible persons accept cash donation from teachers of No 2 BEHS in Dagon Myothit (South) Township. — MNA



# WPF calls for dialogues to solve conflicts

**JAKARTA, 18 Aug—** The World Peace Forum (WPF) on Tuesday urged the governments of all over the world to promote dialogues in a bid to bring the world peace and enhance mutual trusts, according to *Ankara news agency*.

In a Jakarta Peace Declaration, the WPF urged governments of the world to strengthen all the elements in their respective countries to promote inter-faith dialogues and urging all the religious' leaders to intensify communication, the agency reported.

The two-day forum concluded here on Tuesday regretted the failures in solving terrorism issues, and continued resorting to armed force in combating terrorism, protracted conflict in the Middle East and armed conflicts.

The WPF also urged all

countries to condemn armed conflicts causing the death of civilians and the need for protection of the people in conflict-ridden areas under international law.

It stressed the need of the UN for reforms, and to bring it enable to play more effective role in maintaining peace, security and global development.

The WPF said that peace could not be achieved as long as injustice, discrimination, harassment, exploitation, extremism, intolerance and violence prevail.

War is not a solution. Dialogues and diplomacy contacts between the peoples concern are the best way to solve all the problems, the WPF noted.

MNA/Xinhua



*A farmer walks in the rice field as the Mayon volcano remains restive near Legazpi City, Albay Province, south of Manila, on 18 August, 2006.*

INTERNET

## Plane diverted after bomb scare

**LONDON, 18 Aug—** A plane flying from London to Egypt has been diverted to the Italian airport of Brindisi because of a bomb scare.

The 767 plane, operated by charter airline Excel, was flying from Gatwick to Hurghada, Egypt.

Excel said that flight XLA5984 was diverted after a note saying there was a bomb on board was found.

The plane was escorted by an Italian fighter jet and landed safely in Brindisi, to be met by emergency services and anti-terrorist officers.

"The note was written on the back of a sick bag, which stated 'there's a bomb on this aircraft' and was passed among passengers before being handed to a member of cabin crew," said Excel.

"The captain was advised and, as a precautionary measure, made the decision to divert into Brindisi." The pilot had landed at the Italian airport after contacting air traffic control in Zagreb, Croatia.

The plane — with 269 passengers and nine crew — is currently being searched, but officials stood down the emergency.

Excel said the passengers are in the terminal building and are expected to re-board the aircraft shortly to continue their journey.—Internet

*Villagers water the fields in Bishan County of southwest China's Chongqing Municipality, on 17 August, 2006. Searing heat and the worst drought to hit parts of China in 50 years have left millions of people facing drinking water shortage.—INTERNET*



*Assistants pull the airship of Russian aeronaut Stanislav Fyodorov into position before his attempt to set a new world record, some 70 km (43 miles) east of Moscow on 17 August, 2006. The previous record of 7,300 meters was established by German pilots who manned the Zeppelin airship in the early 20th century, Russian NTV television network reported. Fyodorov set a new world record on Thursday as he lifted his airship to an altitude of over 8,000 meters.—INTERNET*

## Strong earthquake jolts island of Russia

**MOSCOW, 18 Aug —** An earthquake measuring 6.1 on the Richter Scale jolted the southwestern part of Sakhalin, Russia, early Friday, local seismological agency said.

The epicenter was initially determined to be 46.6 north Latitude and 141.9 east Longitude, about 390 kilometres north of Sapporo, Japan, and some 20 kilometres southwest of Sakhalin.

ITAR-TASS news agency quoted mayor of the southern Sakhalin town of Nevelsk as saying that a person was injured and small damage were reported in the village.— MNA/Xinhua

## US soldier killed in Iraq's Anbar Province

**BAGHDAD, 18 Aug—** An American soldier was killed on Wednesday in the volatile Anbar Province, the US military said on Thursday.

The soldier, assigned to the 1st Brigade, 1st Armoured Division, died from fatal wounds inflicted by guerillas in fighting in the western Anbar Province, the military said in a brief statement.

More than 2,600 US military personnel have been killed in Iraq since the US-led war in March 2003, most of them died as a result of hostile action, according to media count. — MNA/Xinhua

## \$100 laptops to debut with Thai kids

**BANGKOK, 19 Aug—** The ambitious project to provide low-cost laptop computers to poor children around the world is about to take a small step forward.

More than 500 children in Thailand are expected to receive the machines in October and November for quality testing and debugging.

The One Laptop Per Child programme, which began at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Media Lab and now is a separate nonprofit organization, hopes to deploy 5 million to 7 million machines in Thailand, Nigeria, Brazil and Argentina in 2007.

Thailand's government is expected to buy 1 million in the first year.

But Prime Minister

Thaksin Shinawatra announced in a nationwide radio broadcast that "if this project is completed" it

would reach all Thai elementary students. He said each student would get a free computer "instead of books, because books will be found and can be read on computers."

The creator of the laptop programme, Nicholas Negroponte, has set a goal of making the laptops for about \$100 each, though he expects the initial figure to be slightly higher and the long-term cost slightly lower.

The machines will use the free Linux operating system, include flash memory instead of a hard drive and run on electricity created by a hand or foot pump.—Internet



*The "one-hundred dollar laptop" is designed for use by schoolchildren in developing countries.—INTERNET*





A "wa" robot instructor, makes a motion as "wa," or Japanese style, robot dances during a special summer robot show in Tokyo, on 17 Aug, 2006.—INTERNET

စက်မှုပစ္စည်းအား ခေတ်တော်လွှား

“CAN”, Thailand discuss possible “CAN”-ASEAN meeting

LIMA, 18 Aug — Colombia's Alfredo Fuentes, current Secretary- General of the Andean Community of Nations (CAN), met with visiting Thailand's Deputy Prime Minister Surakiart Sathirathai here on Wednesday to discuss a possible meeting between CAN and ASEAN.

Sathirathai said he was keen to bring together the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) foreign ministers and their CAN counterparts at a meeting in Thai capital Bangkok in the first quarter of 2007.

Fuentes said Thailand was the undoubted leader of ASEAN, and boosting

CAN-ASEAN relations is very important.

He added that CAN has been discussing trade, investment and technology with ASEAN since the two blocs formally came together in a 2000 seminar.

Sathirathai also expressed the hope that CAN would support his campaign for the post of

UN Secretary-General, adding the ASEAN's leaders were supporting him.

CAN, based in Peru's capital Lima, is now made up of Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru.

Venezuela left the organization in April while Chile is considering rejoining.—MNA/Xinhua

Roadside bombs against US troops in Iraq increase

WASHINGTON, 18 Aug — The number of roadside bombs planted in Iraq rose in July to its highest monthly total of the war, the *New York Times* reported Thursday.

The data offers more evidence that the anti-American insurgency has continued to strengthen in Iraq despite the killing of the terrorist leader Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the report said.

Along with a sharp increase in sectarian attacks, the number of daily strikes against American and Iraqi security forces has doubled since January, it said.

The deadliest means of attack, roadside bombs, made up much of that increase.

In July, of 2,625 explosive devices, 1,666 exploded and 959 were discovered before they went off. In January, 1,454 bombs exploded or were found.

An analysis of the 1,666 bombs that exploded in July showed that 70 per cent were directed against the

American-led military forces, 20 per cent struck Iraqi security forces, up from 9 per cent in 2005, and 10 per cent of the blasts struck civilians, twice the rate of last year, according to the report, citing a spokesman for the

US military command in Baghdad.

While the number of Americans killed in action per month had declined slightly — to 38 killed in action in July, from 42 in January, in part reflecting improvements in armour

and other defences — the number of Americans wounded had soared, to 518 in July from 287 in January.

Explosive devices accounted for slightly more than half the deaths.

MNA/Xinhua



Indonesian men try to grab bicycles and other prizes hung on top of greased poles during a game to celebrate the country's 61st anniversary of Independence in Jakarta on 17 August, 2006. Indonesia marked 61 years of Independence from Dutch colonial rule with ceremonies across the country.—INTERNET



Shanghai Petroleum Exchange (SPEX). Shanghai Petroleum Exchange, China's first bourse for the spot transaction of oil products, formally opened for business on 18 August, 2006.—INTERNET

Wounded old woman survives 27 days in Lebanon war zone

TYRE (Lebanon), 18 Aug — With shrapnel lodged in her leg, 73-year-old Mariam Toubeh survived for 27 days in her village on the frontline of the Lebanon war before help came. During her ordeal, she said she and her cousin had to drag themselves along the ground to a rain water storage tank to drink. “I

could not stand up to get any food,” she said, speaking from a hospital bed in the southern city of Tyre. “We would pull ourselves along with our hands. We would look for anything to sweep the glass from the floor.” Toubeh was wounded in her village of Aytaroun during the first days of Israel's war with Hizbollah, which ended this week with a UN-backed truce.

Rescuers said they found her and a cousin on Tuesday when they were finally able to enter the area of some of the most fierce fighting. Aid agencies had been calling for weeks for access to the south to help people trapped by the conflict.

MNA/Reuters

Two killed as small plane crashes near Harbin

HARBIN, 18 Aug — A small plane crashed in northeast China's Heilongjiang Province on Wednesday, killing the two people on board, a local public security official confirmed Thursday. The bodies have not yet been identified.

No one on the ground was injured when the plane plummeted into corn fields on the outskirts of provincial capital Harbin at 4:50 pm on Wednesday, said Dong Jun, a police officer in Binxian County.

The nearest village, Guobaotun, is 1,500 metres away. Dong said the two people on board were already dead when rescuers arrived at the site about 10 minutes after the crash. He said the plane was seven-metre long with a wingspan of around 12 metres, but did not give further details. — MNA/Xinhua

Shenzhen Airlines set up its foreign pilots department on 17 August, 2006, the first department of its kind in China.—INTERNET





## Beijingers live to over 80

BEIJING, 18 Aug — Beijingers' average lifespan has reached 80.09 years old, four years longer than when last surveyed in 2001, according to a joint report from the National Bureau of Statistics and the Beijing Bureau of Statistics on Tuesday.

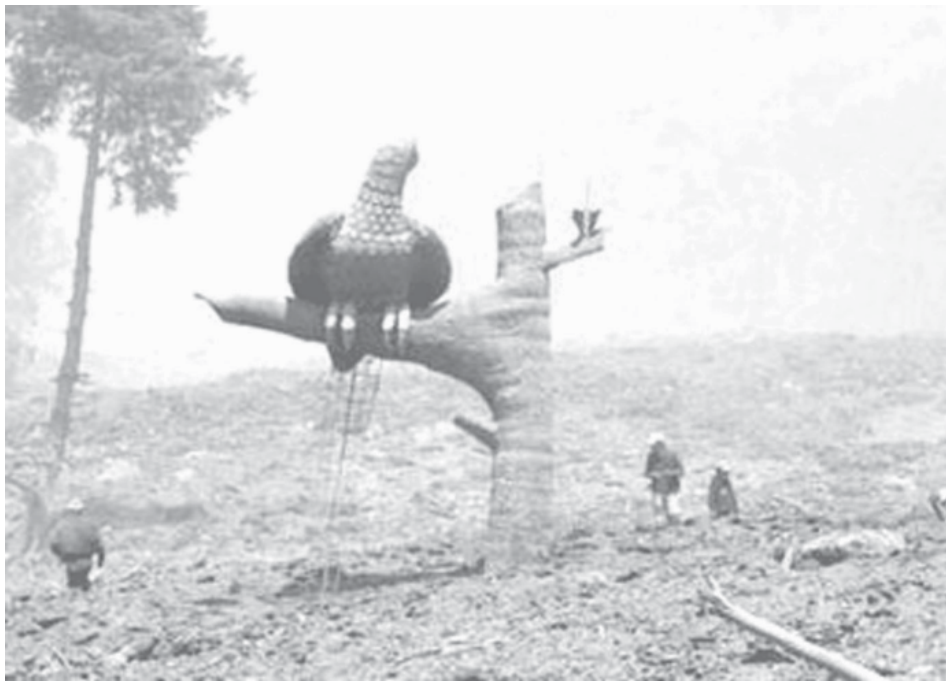
The figures suggest that Beijingers' lifespan has stretched by a year each year since 2000, 10 times quicker than the national average.

According to the report, the average life expectancy for women is now 81.76 years.

Duan Chengrong, professor of demography with China People's University, was quoted by Wednesday's *Beijing Morning Post* as saying that the longevity of Beijing residents is approaching the average for the developed world.

He said that the lives of urban residents in big metropolitan centres like Beijing are relatively stressful. However, the key factors that decide lifespan are general living conditions, sanitary standards and nutrition.

MNA/Xinhua



Residents survey the area around a tourist sculpture after the Tungurahua volcano spewed molten rock on 17 August, 2006, in Pelileo, Ecuador.—INTERNET

## 16.8% of Vietnamese adults suffer obesity

HANOI, 18 Aug — Up to 16.8 per cent of Vietnamese people in the age bracket of 25-64 are overweight or obese under the Asian standard, according to the Nutrition Institute under the country's Ministry of Health on Thursday.

Under a recent survey by the ministry, two-thirds of the obese people are over 45 years old. The number of obese people in Vietnam's urban areas is triple those in rural ones.

Obesity is attributed to the habit of eating much salt, rice and fat content, the institute said, noting that each Vietnamese per-

son eats 18-22 grams of salt, 80 grammes of meat and 350 grammes of rice each day.

In a bid to reduce number of obese people, the ministry has offered local people advice on healthy diets, cooking skills and information about obesity-related illnesses.—MNA/Xinhua



Workers clean a Besturn car made by China's FAW-VW Automobile Co, Ltd at a distributing department in Nanjing on 18 August, 2006.

INTERNET

## Lightning claims 34 lives in Yunnan

KUNMING, 18 Aug — Lightning strikes have claimed 34 lives in southwest China's Yunnan Province this year, after three more people died in the provincial capital of Kunming in the past three days, local authorities said Wednesday.

Yunnan has reported 427 lightning strike accidents so far this year. Apart from the deaths, 27 people have been injured,

said a spokesman with the provincial meteorological bureau.

Experts blame some of the casualties on inept reactions to lightning.

In the latest three fatalities, the victims were hit when they ran from open fields to take refuge under trees, which made them easy targets for thunderbolts, the spokesman said.

MNA/Xinhua

## Subway fire in New York causes evacuation, minor injuries

NEW YORK, 18 Aug — A fire broke out late Wednesday during rush hours on two subway trains in New York, forcing thousands of people to be evacuated and injuring dozens of others.

The fire happened at around 6 pm (2200 GMT) at the Dekalb Avenue stop on the B line, which runs between Brooklyn and Bronx and passes through Manhattan.

The fire department said between 3,000 and 4,000 people were evacuated from the trains and 15 people, including three firefighters, sustained minor injuries.

Due to the fire, service on parts of five subway lines was affected, making the commute of countless New Yorkers complicated.

MNA/Xinhua

## Israeli forces start handing over S Lebanon to UN troops

JERUSALEM, 18 Aug — Israeli forces began handing over positions to the UN force in southern Lebanon early Thursday, stepping up its withdrawal from the area under a UN Security Council resolution.

"The process of transferring authority has begun," an Army statement said. It added that more than 50 per cent of the areas held by Israel had been transferred to UN forces.

Under a UN-brokered truce, Israel should hand over control of its positions in southern Lebanon to the UN's Interim Force In Lebanon, or UNIFIL, which would then give it to the Leba-

nese Army.

Under the Security Council resolution, the UN force in Lebanon would be enlarged from 2,000 to 15,000 troops.

The withdrawal process "will be carried out in stages and is conditional on the reinforcement of UNIFIL and the ability of the Lebanese Army to take effective control of the area", the statement added.—MNA/Xinhua

## Six killed in plane crash in Canada

OTTAWA, 18 Aug — Six people were killed on Wednesday after a small plane crashed in a remote, mountainous area of Canada's Northwest Territories.

The North-Right Airways plane left Fort Good Hope with five passengers and a pilot, and was due to arrive in Norman Wells about 1:15 pm local time, said the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP).

But when it did not arrive by 2:50 pm, a search and rescue effort was mounted by RCMP along with civilian personnel.

An ELT — or emergency locator transmitter — signal was picked up which pointed to a specific area where the plane had gone down somewhere between the two communities.

The Transportation Safety Board will be heading to the site to begin an investigation into what may have led to the crash.—MNA/Xinhua



Ayla, a service monkey for the disabled, throws out the first pitch prior to a baseball game between the Boston Red Sox and Detroit Tigers at Fenway Park in Boston, on Wednesday evening, 16 Aug, 2006.—INTERNET



## China sets deadline for total recall of suspect antibiotic injections

BEIJING, 18 Aug— China's national drug watchdog said on Thursday that all suspect "Xinfu" antibiotic injections, which have allegedly caused six deaths in the country, must be recalled by on 31 August.

The State Food and Drug Administration (SFDA) instructed the drug's manufacturer, Anhui Huayuan Worldbest Biology Pharmacy Co, to retrieve all the "Xinfu" drug it produced in June and July before the deadline.

The administration demanded that all provincial drug departments strengthen supervision of recall work within their jurisdictions, and tighten checks on hospitals, clinics and drugstores.

The administration has discovered that the problematic injection, produced by Huayuan company in June and July, was not properly sterilized, with both sterilization temperature and time being below the state-required

safety level.

Since the first reports about problems with the injection came in on 27 July, the drug has been blamed for killing six and making at least 80 people sick. Severe adverse reactions include chest, kidney or stomach pains, vomiting and anaphylactic shock.

The "Xinfu" drug produced before June could still be in use, said the administration, but local departments should be vigilant about cases of adverse reactions in patients who take the drug.

Earlier investigation results showed the company had produced 3.7 million bottles of drug since June, with more than 3.18 million bottles sold in 26 provinces across China.

MNA/Xinhua

## One killed in suicide attack on NATO, Afghan troops

KABUL, 18 Aug— A suicide attack on a joint convoy of NATO and Afghan troops in southern Kandahar Province left one person dead and another injured Thursday, a local military official said.

"The dead body could be the bomber while the injured one belongs to NATO troops," Ghulam Sakhi told Xinhua. A Town Ace car used in the attack was also destroyed, he said.

The incident took place at around 11:00 local time (0630 GMT), some 10 kilometres east of Kandahar City on Kabul-Kandahar Highway when the Afghan and NATO troops were passing by the road.

Meantime, spokesman

of the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) Toby Jackman said in Kabul that one military personnel was killed in the incident. However, he declined to make further comment.

"There was an IED (Improvised Explosive Device) in Kandahar this morning. There was one military casualty," Jackman told Xinhua, but declined to identify the casualty.

MNA/Xinhua



Christina Aguilera performs on ABC's Good Morning America in New York's Bryant Park, on 18 August, 2006. INTERNET



Boeing said on 17 August, 2006 it would shut down its Connexion in-flight Internet-access service, citing failure to attract much interest among travelers or airlines.—INTERNET

## Probe fails to identify source of gas smell in parts of New York

NEW YORK, 18 Aug — The US Coast Guard stationed in New York on Wednesday suspended its investigation into a strange odour that hospitalized several local residents in part of Queens and Staten Island, New York City.

Officers of the Guard said they have no idea where the smell came from. The city is still investigating, but has yet to discover the source.

Phone calls started coming into the Fire Department on Tuesday morning with reports of a gasoline smell in the air. Seven people were sent to the hospital suffering from headaches and nausea.

At one point it was thought the smell might be coming from New Jersey, but that theory has since been dismissed. — MNA/Xinhua



Three Lebanese stewardesses pose for a photo after arriving at Beirut's Rafik Hariri International Airport on 17 August, 2006. A passenger plane of Lebanon's Middle East Airline landed in Beirut at about 1:00 pm (1000 GMT) on Thursday. It was the first civil plane arriving in Beirut since Israel imposed an air blockade on Lebanon nearly five weeks ago following the eruption of fighting between Israel and Lebanon's Hizbollah.—INTERNET

## 79 arrested in Brazil's biggest foreign trade fraud

RIO DE JANEIRO, 18 Aug— Brazilian Federal Police launched on Wednesday a large-scale operation to crack down on a gang involved in the country's biggest foreign trade fraud, and arrested 79 suspects, police said.

They also said nine of the detainees were employees of Brazil's Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

Police investigations showed that the gang, led by Brazilian entrepreneur Marco Antonio Mansur, imported about 516 million US dollars' worth of goods over the past four years.

Apart from domestic taxes, the gang is charged with evading around 234.7 million US dollars of taxes on imports during the period, which means the prices of imports were reduced averagely by 50 per cent when they arrived at Brazilian Customs.

Twenty-four Brazilian big retailers allegedly bought illegal imports from the gang, ranging from plastic bottles to

car and motorcycle tyres.

The so-called Deluge Operation is the biggest operation ever launched by Brazilian Federal Police. A total of about 1,300 agents from the Federal Police and the IRS are participating in action. Investigations into the fraud started in 2005 and culminated on Wednesday with the arrests.

US Department of Homeland Security has offered assistance in the Brazilian police operation, allowing a team of Brazilian federal agents to investigate in Miami, the United States, where companies run by the gang are located, and thus granting the operation "a transnational character", police authorities stressed. — MNA/Xinhua

## Reports say device found after Sydney plane threat

SYDNEY, 18 Aug— Australian police were investigating reports that a suspicious device may have been found aboard a Pacific Blue flight which landed at Sydney Airport from Fiji on Thursday.

An unspecified number of passengers and crew were safely evacuated from the Boeing 737 airliner which landed at 5.45 p.m. (0745 GMT) in Sydney from Nadi, Fiji's main international hub.

"Emergency services and airport authorities are currently examining an aircraft at Sydney Airport following unconfirmed reports that a suspicious device may be on board," New South Wales state police said in a statement.

A spokesman for Sydney Airport, Australia's largest, said the plane had been parked away from the main terminal buildings while the threat was being investigated.

MNA/Reuters

## Hungary to introduce biometric passports

BUDAPEST, 18 Aug — Hungary will begin to issue biometric passports in conformity with European Union (EU) standards on 29 August, the Interior Ministry's Central Data Office said on Thursday.

The machine-readable document will carry a micro-chip containing the holder's personal data and digital photo, which makes it more difficult to be forged illegally, said Gyorgy Urban, director of the office.

He said the date for introducing the new passport coincides with the deadline set by the EU in February 2005, which allowed an 18-month period for technical development.

The colour of the new document will be dark red, instead of the current blue passport, said the official, adding that as of July 2009, the chip of the new passport will also carry the holder's digital fingerprint.

MNA/Xinhua



### Lt-Gen Myint Swe inspects construction tasks at ...

(from page 1)  
four-lane roads in conformity with the four-lane Ngamoeyeik Bridge (Kamakyi).

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Myint Swe inspected construction of the bridge and stockpiling of gravel for construction of the approach road in Thakayta.

The bridge linking Thuwunna and Thakayta will be 970 feet long. The 48-foot motor way will be flanked by six feet wide pedestrian way. Its clearance is 65 feet wide and 11 feet high. The bridge will withstand 60-ton loads.

Erection of bored piles were completed. Out of 12 bridge spans, seven spans have been built with floor. The whole construction tasks have been completed by 80 per cent. Approach roads on both sides will be 500 feet long. At present, earth works are being carried out on the

approach roads.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe and the commander arrived at the factory of High Tech Concrete Co Ltd on Yangyiaung Road in Thakayta Industrial Zone near Thuwunna Bridge.

They inspected bank erosion at Ngamoeyeik Creek near the factory and gave necessary instructions.

MNA

### Lt-Gen Kyaw Win assists in renovation of Takaw-Mongping-Kengtung Union Road ...

(from page 1)

After his tour of inspection, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party went to the local battalion in Tongtah Station and met with officers and other ranks and their families at the hall of the station.

At the meeting, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win urged to abide by rules and regulations and to participate in regional development tasks joining hands with local people. At the meeting, he also fulfilled the requirements of officers and other ranks and their families and cordially greeted them.

Next, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party inspected Tongtah-Kengtung section, and bridges on the road.

On arrival at the mile post No 386/0, they

looked into renovation of some damaged sections of the road.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win spoke of the need for officials to ensure proper flow of water under the bridge, to stockpile earth on the retaining wall and to ensure safety of the public using the bridge and fulfilled the requirements.

At the mile post No 389/6, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party inspected repairing of road with heavy machinery and gave necessary instructions.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party left there and arrived back in Kengtung in the evening.

The 114 miles long road has been upgraded into a tarred one. With the emergence of the new tarred road, it takes two hours and 30 minutes by car from Takaw to Mongping and about three hours by car from Mongping to Kengtung. This contributes a lot towards smooth and secure transport.

MNA



Lt-Gen Myint Swe inspects erosion of the bank of Ngamoeyeik Creek. — MNA

## Greening and sanitation tasks carried out in Shwepyitha Township

YANGON, 19 Aug — Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee organized a ceremony to undertake greening tasks and carry out sanitation at No 4 Basic Education High School in Shwepyitha Township this morning, attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win.

Chairperson of the Supervisory Committee Daw Mar Mar Wai reported on greening and hygienic tasks. The commander, the joint-secretary of Yangon City Development Committee and the chairperson of the supervisory committee presented sanitary equipment to chairperson of the Ward/Village MCWA branches.

Chairperson Daw Mar Mar Wai accepted 514 membership applications from Theinchaung Village.

Head of Yangon Division Health Department Dr Hla Myint presented educative posters to Shwepyitha Township MCWA Chairperson Daw Khin Moe Moe.

After the ceremony, the commander and wife planted Gangaw trees (Mesua ferrea) in the compound of the school. They inspected sanitary latrines, physic



Chairperson Daw Mar Mar Wai accepts membership applications of MCWA from Chairperson Daw Saw Shwe of Yangon North District MCWSC. — MNA

nut plantations and sanitation tasks in Zigon Village of Shwepyitha Township. — MNA

## Foreign Minister sends felicitations to Hungary

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Aug — U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Kinga Goncz, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Hungary, on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of Hungary which falls on 20 August 2006. — MNA

## Health Minister leaves for Bangladesh to attend ASEAN meetings

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Aug — A Myanmar delegation led by Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint left here by air yesterday morning to attend the 24th ASEAN Health Ministers Meeting to be held on 20 and 21 August and the 59th Regional Committee's Meeting to be held from 22 to 25 August in Dhaka, the Republic of Bangladesh.

The delegation was seen off at Nay Pyi Taw Airport by Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein, Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, Deputy Health Minister Dr Mya Oo and departmental heads and officials of the Ministry of Health.

The delegation also includes Deputy Director-General U Than Aung of Medical Research Department (Upper Myanmar) and Deputy Director Dr Soe Lwin Nyein and Assistant Director Dr Than Win of the Health Department.

MNA

## AIDS ရောဂါ တားဆီးကာကွယ်ရေး နှိုးဆော်ချက် (၂)

AIDS ရောဂါသည် အသက်အရွယ်၊ လူမျိုး၊ ဘာသာ၊ အဆင့်အတန်းမရွေး ကူးစက်နိုင်သည်။ AIDS ရောဂါ ဖြစ်ပွားစေသည့် HIV ပိုး ကူးစက်ခံရသူများစုမှာ အသက် (၁၅)နှစ်မှ (၂၄)နှစ်အတွင်း လူငယ်များဖြစ်ကြသည်။ လူငယ်များသည် စူးစမ်းလိုသည့်စိတ်ရှိခြင်း၊ မှန်ကန်သည့်မျိုးဆက်ပွား ကျန်းမာရေးအသိပညာများ မရှိခြင်း၊ မူးယစ်ဆေးဝါး သုံးစွဲခြင်းတို့ကြောင့် ရောဂါပိုမိုကူးစက်ခံရသည်။

ထို့ကြောင့် AIDS ရောဂါ တားဆီးကာကွယ်နိုင်ရန်-

- (၁) AIDS ရောဂါ ကူးစက်ပုံအကြောင်း သေသေချာချာ လေ့လာ၍ မိမိတို့ အပြုအမူများကို ဆင်ခြင်နေထိုင်ပါ။
- (၂) အန္တရာယ်ရှိမည့် လိင်မှုဆိုင်ရာ အပြုအမူများကို လုံးဝရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။ တစ်ကြိမ်တစ်ခါမှ မစွန့်စားပါနှင့်။
- (၃) နောက်ကြောင်းရာဇဝင်မသိသူနှင့် လိင်မဆက်ဆံပါနှင့်။ မဆင်ခြင်နိုင်ပါက အကာအကွယ်ပစ္စည်း (ကွန်ဒုံး) အသုံးပြုပါ။
- (၄) မူးယစ်ဆေးဝါးသုံးစွဲခြင်းကို ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
- (၅) ရောဂါကူးစက်မှုနှင့်ပတ်သက်၍ မရှင်းလင်းသည့်များကို လူကြီးမိဘ၊ ကျန်းမာရေး ဝန်ထမ်းများ၊ ရောဂါ ကာကွယ်တားဆီးရေး အတွက် လေ့ကျင့်သင်ကြားထားသည့် သူငယ်ချင်း အပေါင်းအသင်းများနှင့် ဆွေးနွေးပါ။

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန



# To eliminate narcotics with international outlook and national awareness

*Chin Gya (Maubin)*

A stone inscription of Bagan era proves that the practice of poppy cultivation for opium did not exist in Myanmar in the early stages of the country's history. The stone inscription found at Maung Chit Sa mound east of the Ananda Pagoda in Bagan states the list of crops cultivated in Myanmar during the era. As poppy is not included in the list, it is certain that Myanmar did not grow the crop for any purpose in the olden days. It was in the mid-16th Century that Dutch and English merchants exported opium produced in East Indies to Myanmar. According to the record of a Western travelogue, Arab traders conveyed opium together with wool and velvet fabrics to Patheingyi and Thanlyin port towns in 1580.

A Western visitor John Crawford to Inwa in 1827 said in his diary that excise tax was not included in the income sources of Myanmar as her people never took narcotic drugs, alcohol or any other intoxicating agents in any manner because of the strict legal and religious prohibitions. King Thibaw promulgated a law totally forbidding all kinds of intoxicating agents on Myanmar soil. This is why, excise tax was not included in the duties imposed by Myanmar kings of successive eras.

After the British annexation of Myanmar, English enterprises forwarded their opinion to the colonial government asking permission for opium trade under license as a means to control opium smuggling and increase income from taxes. In this way, the colonialists started to harm the interest of Myanmar society for making extra economic gains.

The colonial government enacted opium law and excise law in 1878, 1917 and 1931. However, those laws were not meant to curb opium production and abuse, but just to eliminate unlicensed trading of the opium. The British government proclaimed a separate excise act and set up a special excise department to earn more income.

The Myanmar administrative report for 1935 and 1936 revealed the existence of 121 licensed opium dens in Myanmar during the period. Dr Griffiths said that he saw many poppy fields in Hukaung and Mogaung regions during his trip from Assam to Inwa in 1837. He also said that hill people were using opium adding that those people were



*Thriving poppy-substitute crop plantations seen in Pangsan of Shan State (North) Special Region-2.*

bartering opium for other goods and presenting it as gifts.

In 1843, Lord Ashley told the British parliament that the permission of opium trade in colonies tarnished the image of a Christian nation like Britain. But Britain, instead of strictly forbidding opium, concentrated on earning more money from revenues.

Frontier Areas Committee of Enquiry that emerged on 24 April 1947 after the signing of the Panglong Agreement during the colonial era pointed out that opium cultivation and production were flourishing in hill regions; that Myanmar, Shan, Indians, Chinese, Palaung, Wa and Kayin totalling 927,000 were living in southern Shan State; that opium cultivation, production and trade were the main business of about 6,000 people in Kaungton region; that northern Shan State, where opium was the main business in Kokang region and east bank of Thanlwin river, had a population of 690,000; that the largest buyers of opium produced in northern Shan State were the government and the state itself; that the two main products of Wa region with a population of 83,000 were rice and opium. The record stands witness to the fact that poppy was grown in northern and southern Shan State and Wa region before the independence was regained.

Kuomintang intrusion into Myanmar began in 1949 and by 1953, 12,000 KMT troops had entered

Myanmar territory. As for the KMT opium was used to acquire arms and ammunition and it was source of income. The KMT forced Myanmar national races to cultivate poppy and refined heroin. The Myanmar Tatmadaw annihilated the KMT troops in 1961. The KMT remnants holding up at the remote areas where Myanmar, Thai and Lao borders met were running the narcotic business. Till now the region is called the Golden Triangle Region and the opium produced there was smuggled to West Europe and the US via Thailand. Some armed insurgents and local people were also engaging in the drug business due to the plots of colonialist lackeys. In this way the problem of drugs lingered on in the border areas.

Hence, Myanmar enacted a law prohibiting all kinds of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances in 1974 reinforcing her efforts to end the problem of drugs introduced by the colonialists. The Myanmar Tatmadaw launched a number of military operations against drug traffickers and producers, sacrificing many lives, blood and sweat of its members to end the menace. Since 1975, Myanmar has been destroying the narcotic drugs and related equipment and substances as a major military operation. The Tatmadaw launched many military offensives including Operation Kaukyoe I and II, Operation Zin Nu, Operation Moegyo, Operation Phayethi and others to root out the drug problem.

During the time before 1988, Myanmar gave priority to drugs control and eradication campaigns. The Tatmadaw launched military operations to destroy poppy fields and opium refineries. But the control and eradication campaigns alone cannot end the practice of poppy cultivation and opium production that had taken root in Myanmar long ago due to colonialist's evil legacy.

Only with the implementation of alternative income programmes for the farmers who quit poppy cultivation in harmony with programmes for their all-round progress will actually end the drug menace. After 1988, the Tatmadaw government adopted the three tactics — supply elimination, demand elimination and law enforcement.

*(See page 9)*

**On 23 April 1999, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance pointing out the need to foster Union Spirit and organize the people to realize that opium trafficking or production is not a proper and sincere livelihood, but harmful to the mankind and human society.**



# To eliminate narcotics with international outlook and national awareness

*Chin Gya (Maubin)*

(from page 8)

On 23 April 1999, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance pointing out the need to foster Union Spirit and organize the people to realize that opium trafficking or production is not a proper and sincere livelihood, but harmful to the mankind and human society.

In accord with the guidance, the government has been launching campaigns to change the attitude and the way of life of the poppy farmers and addicts, develop the transport sector and work for regional and social progress.

During the past 17 years, the government spent K 84,750 million to develop border areas, while giving priority to national reconsolidation that resulted in the return to the legal fold by a number of national race armed groups.

Myanmar laid down the 15-year drug elimination plan from 1999 to 2014. The plan is divided into three five-year phases.

Now, the second five-year plan has entered its third year, and the government is making a good headway in the drive to ensure supply elimination, demand elimination, law enforcement, participation of local people, and cooperation with the international community in the areas covered by the 15-year plan.

As part of the 15-year Drug Elimination Plan, the New Destiny Project was launched in April 2002 to help former poppy growers start a new life through agriculture and livestock breeding. The project was implemented under the supervision of four deputy ministers, and as a result, the lands that would be put under poppy were covered with crop plantations, and poppy cultivation declined drastically. A task force was formed to ensure the accomplishment of the New Destiny Project. Therefore, Mongla Region was declared poppy free zone in 1997, Kokang Region in 2003, and Wa Region in 2005.

Up to 26 June 2006, Yangon had witnessed 20 ceremonies to destroy seized narcotic drugs as part of the drive for eradication of narcotic drugs in Myanmar. And 41 similar ceremonies have been held so far in border areas in which seized narcotic drugs and precursor chemicals alongside poppy seeds former poppy growers entrusted to the government were destroyed. After the 19th ceremony held in Yangon, many similar ceremonies were held in border areas. On 22 October 2005 alone, seized narcotics were destroyed in Laizar and Lweje in Kachin State. And similar destruction was carried out in Kengtung, Shan State (East), on 26 April 2006. In addition, the fifth ceremony to torch the seized narcotic drugs took place at Leikha, Shan State (South), on 16 July 2006. Shan State (East) again witnessed the sixth destruction on 14 August 2006.

In the annual report (2005) of the UNODC, it was stated that Myanmar's poppy cultivation and production declined by 61 per cent in 2005 if compared with that in 2001. According to the figures the government collected in cooperation with the Counter Narcotic and Crime (CNC) of the US, it

showed that in 2003 poppy cultivation dropped 81 per cent and poppy production, 88 per cent when compared with those in 1996.

According to the report issued on 11 October 2005, the survey jointly conducted by the government and the UNODC showed that 2004's poppy cultivation fell 23 per cent when compared with 2004. Poppy cultivation decreased 26 per cent if compared 2005 with 2004, and 73 per cent if compared that in 2005 and that in 1996.

Approximately, the street value of narcotic drugs inclusive of poppy, heroin, stimulant tablets and precursor chemicals from 1976 when the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control was formed to date is 22.735 billion US dollars.

In July 2004, a case was exposed near Hnitkayin Village, Ye Township, Mon State, that heroin blocks weighing 592.5 kilos worth 74 million US dollars were about to be smuggled to a western nation through international waters. In the case, the perpetrators who managed to escape and fled to a neighbouring country were arrested in the end resulting from the information exchange programme implemented in cooperation with the People's Republic of China and Thailand, and action was taken against the culprits.

On 24 May 2005, the joint operation between the CCDAC and Yunnan Province narcotic drug control committee of the Chinese narcotic drug control commission led to the seizure of 102.5 kilos of Ice worth 61.5 million US dollars along with alien perpetrators in Yangon.

In addition, heroin blocks weighing 496 kilos worth more than 62 million US dollars were seized on 10 September 2005 through the exchange of information between the two organizations of Myanmar and China.

Active participation of local people has added momentum to the achievement in the drive. The CCDAC and special anti-drug squads managed to seize 178 kilos of Ice with a street value of 106.8 million US dollars in Shwepyitha Township, Yangon Division, in January 2005.

In May 2006, opium refineries worth 46.9 million US dollars were exposed in Wanyein, Leikha and Hsihseng regions in Shan State (South). The case

was solely concerned with Maung Hla with the rank of deputy chief of staff from SSNA break-away group, and had nothing to do with SSNA break-away group itself.

Under the leadership of the government, the people of national races, local residents and national race armed groups who returned to the legal fold are pursuing the goal of drug elimination in Myanmar by 2014. Thanks to the drive for drug elimination, poppy cultivation and production of narcotics are on the dramatic decline. However, remnant armed group of SSA-S led by Ywet Sit is still producing narcotic drugs in border areas. The group was operating two opium refineries at Khampar, a three-hour walk from its Lwetainglyan camp. A group of Wa nationals raided the two refineries on 31 May this year, revealing the real image of Ywet Sit. **On the map, Khampar is located in Shan State (East). The region the government has designated for Wa national people as part of the border areas and national races development project is Special Region 2 in Shan State (North). So, Khampar is not a region situated in the Special Region 2 of Shan State (North) but a region not far from Lwetainglyan camp, the base of Ywet Sit's group that is straddling the border.** Showing total disregard for the enthusiastic participation of intentional community in the drug elimination campaign of Myanmar, certain alien powers are resorting to various means to spotlight a drug lord like Ywet Sit.

The historic events in the Myanmar's history indicates that poppy was not native to Myanmar, and poppy cultivation is just the evil legacy the colonialists wilfully left in the nation. The problem of narcotic drugs is an issue Myanmar will be able to tackle only with the collaboration of international community as well as regional countries.

Now, Myanmar is trying its best to wipe out narcotic drugs posing grave danger to the world, with national outlook, and it is believed that greater success can be achieved only if international community with international outlook.

**Translation: TMT+MS**

**Myanma Alin & Kyemon: 19-8-2006**

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*Narcotic drugs and chemical precursors seen at the sixth destruction of narcotic drugs seized in Shan State (East).*



## Lt-Gen Myint Swe places the gem casket at cornerstone for construction of Myanmar Anti-Narcotics Association building

YANGON, 18 Aug — Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence attended the cornerstone laying ceremony for construction of the building of Myanmar Anti-Narcotics Association at the site near Drugs Elimination Museum on Kyundaw Street in Kamayut Township this morning.

Also present on the occasion were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win, Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Police Brig-Gen Khin Maung of Myanmar Police Force, Japanese Ambassador Mr Nobutake Odano and embassy staff, resident representatives and responsible persons of UN agencies, President of MANA U San Thein and CEC members, departmental officials, wellwishers and members of social organizations.

First, the ceremony to lay cornerstone for construction of the

building was held.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence placed the gem casket at the centre of the cornerstone.

Next, Lt-Gen Myint Swe, the commander, the mayor and officials put the jewellery bricks into the designated places. Lt-Gen Myint Swe placed the stone plaque on the cornerstones.

Afterwards, the ceremony to donate cash to the funds for construction of the MANA building followed. President of the association U San Thein reported on construction of the building and fund raising matters.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe accepted K 10 million donated by Central Committee for Drugs Abuse Control of the Ministry of Home Affairs; and K 15 million by U Maung Maung San, on behalf of Dr Daw Khin Yi of Shine Hope Co, and presented certificates of honour to them.

The commander, the mayor, Police Brig-Gen Khin Maung and MANA President U San Thein accepted the



*Lt-Gen Myint Swe lays a stone plaque. — MNA*

cash donations from wellwishers.

The construction of the two-storey building will cost over K 54.9 million. So far, the association has accepted

over K 36.9 million.

Those wishing to donate cash to the fund may contact Myanmar Anti-Narcotics Association. — MNA

## Mines Minister meets gem entrepreneurs



*Minister Brig-Gen Ohn Myint delivers an address. — MNA*

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Aug — Patron of Myanmar Gems Emporium Central Committee Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint met gem entrepreneurs at the Ministry of Mines here this afternoon.

On the occasion, the minister said Myanmar Gems Enterprise was founded on 1 April 1976 under the Ministry of Mines. After the duty assumptions of the Tatmadaw government, Myanmar Gems Law was promulgated on 29 September, 1995 and Myanmar gems by-law on 4 October, 1995. Under the leadership of the State, Myanmar Gems Emporiums started in December, 1964 and it has been held for 67 times so far. Holding the emporium meets success year after year due to more cooperation of entrepreneurs since 2003. Myanmar is rich in natural resources including precious stones. So, only systematic exploration of those gems can help improve the State economy. That is why those who are doing gems business are to abide by policies, rules and regulations of the State. As permission for exploration of more new gem blocks is being granted to the entrepreneurs, they are urged to systematically abide by the prescribed laws, for example, paying taxes in time and selling their gems at the emporium without fail.

The minister quoted Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye as saying that while he was at Myanmar Convention Centre on 26 May, 2006 where Jade, Gems and Pearl Special Sales would be held from June

to July, he said the Ministry of Mines is to make arrangements for enabling private companies that are undertaking joint venture tasks with the State, to participate in the Jade and Gems Special Sales. The companies that cannot take part in the sales are to review their tasks and they need to carry out necessary preparedness. Necessary assistance is to be rendered to private gems companies to manufacture and sell finished jade and gems. Measures are also to be taken for exhibiting finished jade and gems at international trade fairs. On their return from the sales abroad, the companies are to make arrangements for promotion of sales by reviewing the demand of the products. The minister added that in accord with the instructions, gems companies are to cooperate with the Ministry of Mines in doing their gem business. In addition, the companies that fail to sell their products at the gems emporiums will stand less chance in seeking permission to explore gem blocks.

Moreover, those companies, cooperative societies and individuals that have been granted permits to engage in gems mining are not to illegally hand over their plots to others. They are to strictly abide by the Myanmar Gems Law. In his regard, the Ministry of Mines issued the Notification No 123/99 on 1 October, 1999.

Environmental conservation is to be considered as a crucial concern in engaging in gems mining. Gems mining needs to be in line with the prescribed rules and regulations to avoid deforestation and the silting up of rivers and creeks.

## Ministry of Industry-1 holds coordination meeting to review work performance and discuss future tasks

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Aug — Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung delivered an address at the coordination meeting to review the work performance and to discuss future tasks of the ministry for 2006-07 at the training hall of the ministry, here, yesterday morning.

Factory managers and officials of enterprises and departments reported on their respective matters. Directors-General and Managing Directors gave supplementary reports.

Next, the ceremony to present prizes to outstanding factories followed. The minister awarded the first prize to Shwedaung Textile and Finishing Plant, the second prize to Myanmar Pharmaceutical Factory and the joint third prize to Asbestos Cement Tile Factory (Hmawby) and Footwear Factory No (1), and consolation prizes to the other factories. Advisers U Kyaw Myint and U Myint Oo presented outstanding prizes to Win Thuza Shops and factories.

After attending to the needs, the minister instructed those to abide by policies, orders and directives of the ministry and supervise manufacturing of quality products. — MNA

Those who have been granted permits to engage in gems mining are to follow the instructions on safety, welfare, health and rule enforcement of workers. In his regard, the ministry issued the Notification No 121/99 on 4 October, 1999.

In conclusion, the minister called on officials concerned to make Myanmar Gems Market known to the world, to strive for development of the gems market in accord with the Myanmar Gems Law, to produce jewellery with the use of modern techniques rather than uncut gems, statuettes, paintings and personal items and to constantly study the global gems markets.

He said gems entrepreneurs would have a chance to meet each other in Nay Pyi Taw and hold discussions. Later, he urged them to work in the interest of the State and the people as well as themselves.

Afterwards, Myanmar Gems Enterprise Managing Director U Thein Swe reported on allotting of gems blocks, holding of emporium and exporting of finished gems and jewellery. The entrepreneurs also took part in the discussions and the minister gave a concluding remark. — MNA





Photo taken on 2 August, 2006 shows the general view of the old city of Dubrovnik, Croatia. — INTERNET

## Raul Castro says brother Fidel recovering

HAVANA, 19 Aug — Raul Castro, Cuba's Defence Minister who is temporarily in charge of the nation, said in an interview published on Friday that his brother Fidel Castro is recovering.

"Without any doubt, what most interests all of us at this time is the Jefe's health," Raul Castro told Cuba's Granma newspaper.

He expressed thanks to the doctors and others who have cared for his brother.

The doctors "have attended to him in an excellent manner, with an unsurpassable professionalism and, above all, with much love and dedication", he said.

"This has been a very important factor in Fidel's progressive recovery," the younger Castro said. "Moreover, I think that his exceptional physical and mental nature has also been essential to his satisfactory and gradual recovery."

While Fidel Castro recovers, "absolute tranquility is reigning in the country"; the younger brother said. *MNA/Xinhua*

## China jails 5 for human trafficking

SHANGHAI, 19 Aug — Three men and two women on the Chinese Mainland have been convicted of smuggling 43 women to Hong Kong and sentenced to three to 12 years in jail in a court in Shanghai.

Fifty-seven-year-old Dong Weicheng and his accomplices illegally transported 43 young women, all from the southern Chinese city of Shenzhen, to Hong Kong between March and October in 2004, the Shanghai Municipal No 1 Intermediate People's Court heard.

The gang charged each stowaway 3,200 yuan (400 US dollars).

Some of the stowaways were captured by the Hong Kong police for prostitution, the court heard.

Dong and his two female accomplices, Bi Xiaofu and Liu Ying, were sentenced to seven to 12 years in prison for organizing the operation. They were also fined 20,000 to 100,000 yuan (2,500 to 12,500 US dollars).

The other two men, Shi Yisheng and Wu Yongfu, were both sentenced to three years in imprisonment and fined 2,000 yuan (250 US dol-

lars) for fraud in obtaining exit certificates from the local authorities in Shanghai with fabricated business letters, the ruling said. — *MNA/Xinhua*



Middlesbrough's Yakubu, centre, celebrates his goal against Reading during their English Premiership soccer match at Madejski Stadium in Reading, England, on Saturday, 19 Aug, 2006. — INTERNET

## ASEAN not to include labour, environment in FTA talks

KUALA LUMPUR, 19 Aug — ASEAN will not include labour and environment issues in its Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations with Australia and New Zealand, an official said here on Friday.

Although New Zealand is pushing for the two issues to be included, member countries of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) have decided to stick to the position, said Laos Economic Affairs Department Director-General, Bounsom Phommavithane.

Bounsom made the remarks in an interview with the *Bernama* news agency after attending a

consultation meeting in preparations for the upcoming 38th ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM) Meeting and other related meetings.

Progress of FTA negotiations between ASEAN and Australia/New Zealand, covering trade, services and investment, went smoothly and the discussions are expected to conclude in March next year, Bounsom said.

Meanwhile, New Zealand on Friday questioned ASEAN's refusal to include labour and environment issues in the negotiations.

"It is not a new thing as we already have arrangements with Thailand and Singapore on labour and environment. We also have strategic economic partnership with Brunei," New Zealand leading negotiator Martin Harvey said.

On Thursday, Aus-

tralia's Trade Task Force Head for Asia, Michael Mugliston, was reported to have said his country will not link the two issues in their negotiations for a trade pact with ASEAN.

Australia and New Zealand are negotiating free trade talks with the 10-member association under the so-called ASEAN-Australia/New Zealand Close Economic Relationship.

*MNA/Xinhua*

## Three die in South African snow

JOHANNESBURG, 19 Aug — Three people were found dead after they were trapped in snow in Mount Fletcher in the Eastern Cape Province, SABC news reported on Wednesday.

Roads in parts of Mount Fletcher and between Matatiele and Quaggasnek, one of the areas most affected by the snow, and the road connecting the Eastern Cape and Lesotho, were also closed to traffic, according to the report.

Disaster teams in the Eastern Cape were battling to clear roads of snow that fell overnight in Barkly East and Elliot, Arrive Alive said.

*MNA/Xinhua*



Boys welcome Lebanese soldiers who arrived in the city of Tyre (Soure) from Beirut on 17 August, 2006. Lebanese troops crossed the Litani River to deploy in south Lebanon on Thursday in line with a UN resolution that halted 34 days of fighting between Israel and Hizbollah, a Reuters witness said. — INTERNET

## ADB to develop 5-year Energy Policy

MANILA, 19 Aug — The Asian Development Bank (ADB) will conduct a study into its Energy Policy, to promote greater use of clean energy in Asia and Pacific and boost the region's energy security, an ADB report said on Friday.

Backed by a technical assistance grant of one million US dollars, the study will address a broad range of growing challenges in the energy sector, said the report.

With Asia's energy consumption taking a heavy toll on the environment, ADB is planning to

develop a new strategy to guide energy sector operations for the next five years.

According to the International Energy Agency, Asia's current

annual energy consumption of over 2,100 billion tons of oil equivalent is expected to more than double by 2025.

*MNA/Xinhua*

## Death toll of "Saomai" rises to 436 in China

HANGZHOU, 19 Aug — The death toll in China from Typhoon Saomai has risen to 436 with the confirmation of 106 more deaths in east Zhejiang Province on Friday.

The previous death toll in the coastal province was 87, with 52 missing. Eleven people are still missing in Zhejiang, said the provincial flood control headquarters. It said that 144 of the

193 deaths in the province were caused by house collapse in pouring rainfalls and windstorms triggered by Saomai.

More than 2.5 million people in Zhejiang were affected by the deadly typhoon, which destroyed 39,000 houses, causing economic losses of 12.7 billion yuan (about 1.6 billion US dollars).

*MNA/Xinhua*

## English Premiership results (19 Aug, 2006)

Reading	3-2	Middlesbrough
Arsenal	1-1	Aston Villa
Newcastle	2-1	Wigan
Sheffield United	1-1	Liverpool
West Ham	3-1	Charlton
Everton	2-1	Watford
Portsmouth	3-0	Blackburn

*Internet*



## Russia, Ukraine agree gas prices for winter

Moscow, 18 Aug—Ukraine won assurances from Russia on Wednesday that there would be no sharp hike in prices for its natural gas this winter, but there was no word of any agreement on prices beyond that.

Ukraine pays 95 US dollars per 1,000 cubic metres of gas but Russian gas giant Gazprom has said that could go up to 230 US dollars next year. A row over a previous hike in January briefly disrupted gas supplies to Western Europe via Ukraine.

Gas prices were the main subject of discussion when new Ukrainian Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich met his Russian counterpart, Mikhail Fradkov, at the Russian Black Sea resort of Sochi, officials said.

Pro-Moscow Yanukovich, humiliated in Ukraine's 2004 "Orange Revolution" and dramatically returned to power two weeks ago, was making his first foreign trip since his appointment.

"We have roughly determined the price parameters to the end of 2006 and into 2007," said Yanukovich in comments

broadcast by NTV television station.

"I am not prepared to say more than that, except that the prices will of course be market prices ... and they will correspond to the level of economic cooperation between Ukraine and Russia."

Fradkov said gas prices for the winter would be "based on the agreements we reached in January"—suggesting they would stay around the 95 US dollars level agreed at that time.

Analysts say if gas prices reach 230 US dollars per 1,000 cubic metres it could have a crippling effect on Ukraine's economy, which is driven by energy-hungry heavy industry.

Gazprom's customers in Europe are watching the negotiations closely because they are anxious to avoid a repeat of the January row.

MNA/Reuters

## German President tries to calm tensions with Poland

BERLIN, 18 Aug—German President Horst Koehler on Wednesday sought to soothe relations between Germany and Poland which this month took a turn for the worse over a new exhibition about post-war expulsions.

The show commemorating the expulsions of Germans and others from Eastern Europe after World War II opened in Berlin on 10 August, triggering protests from the Polish Government.

Many Poles believe some Germans who were expelled want to try to rewrite history by portraying Germans as victims of a war they started.

"I hope that in Poland too it won't be forgotten

what we've built up together in recent years after the harsh and rather coarse language lately," Koehler told the Foreign Press Association (VAP).

"The joint interests of Germany and Poland are greater than the creation of new problems."

Polish Prime Minister Jaroslaw Kaczynski has called the exhibition a "very bad, worrying and sad event".

MNA/Reuters

## US airport evacuated over suspicious liquid

WASHINGTON, 18 Aug—A terminal at a West Virginia Airport was evacuated Thursday after suspicious liquid was discovered in a bottle carried by a female passenger in her luggage. News reports said a bomb-sniffing dog reacted to the bottle with liquid, and some 100 passengers were evacuated from the terminal of Tri-State Airport.

The woman passenger, who was reportedly going to Charlotte, North Carolina, was detained for questioning, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation was probing into the incident. On Wednesday, a terminal at Seattle, in the northwestern state of Washington, was evacuated after bomb-sniffing dogs smelt possible explosives at two containers.—MNA/Xinhua



Noemi Becerra (C), mother of Mexican fisherman Lucio Rendon, weeps for joy while gathering with other family members at their home in the northwest coastal town of El Limon on 17 August, 2006. Three Mexican fishermen have been rescued on Wednesday near the Marshall Islands after drifting for about nine months across thousands of miles of the Pacific Ocean in a small boat, an ordeal they survived by eating raw birds and fish and drinking rain water.—INTERNET

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## China closes 3,000 shops in crackdown on pirated CDs, DVDs

BEIJING, 18 Aug—China has closed 3,014 shops around the country selling pirated audio-video products and computer software in one month, at the beginning of a 100-day intensive crackdown on piracy.

About 8.371 million illegal products, mainly pirated CDs, DVDs, and computer software, were confiscated, according to the State Press and Publication Administration (SPPA), which oversees the country's anti-piracy efforts.

Police and copyright officials have raided more than 89,000 shops and

street vendors nationwide and 9,508 of them were punished for selling pirated products.

"We are giving shopkeepers a stern lesson

to make it clear that selling pirated products will lead to strict penalties," said Liu Binjie, vice-director of the SPPA.

According to SPPA

officials, more than 60 per cent of shops nationwide registered in the audio-video trade had handed in pirated discs they were storing."—MNA/Xinhua



Lightning strikes during a storm in the city of Port-au-Prince on 17 August, 2006. Despite the downgrade of this year's hurricane season, heavy thunder storms are a near daily occurrence in Haiti.—INTERNET

## Indonesian girl dies of bird flu in afflicted village

JAKARTA, 18 Aug—A nine-year-old Indonesian girl who died this week had bird flu according to two local tests and the

village where she lived is rife with the disease, the Health Ministry said Thursday. The girl died on Tuesday in a hospital in West Java's Cikelet Village where there are many sick and dead chickens, said Runizar Ruesin, the head of the Health Ministry's bird flu information centre.

Her death takes Indonesia's toll from the disease to 45, the highest of any country.

"Bird flu is rife in Cikelet. You can always find dead or sick chickens there," Ruesin told Reuters.

A 17-year-old boy in

the same village has also tested positive for bird flu, but has stayed at home and refused to be treated at the main hospital in Bandung, the provincial capital to the south of Jakarta.

Contact with sick fowl is the usual mode of transmission of the H5N1 bird flu virus that is endemic in poultry in nearly all of Indonesia's provinces.

Most of the human cases in Indonesia have occurred this year and the country has been criticized for not doing enough to stamp out H5N1.

MNA/Reuters



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## Brazil orders Google to cancel drug-related web pages

**RIO DE JANEIRO, 18 Aug**— The Federal Court in Brazil's southeastern state of Minas Gerais on Thursday issued an injunction, asking Google Inc. to cancel four Internet pages from its social network website Orkut.

The pages are charged with trafficking and stimulating the use of a drug named lanca-perfume, an industrialized scented mixture of ether, chloroform and chloroethane that is commonly used in Brazil, particularly during carnival balls and parades.

The Federal Court also ruled that the contents on the web pages must be preserved to assist police investigations, adding that if Google does not abide by the injunction, it would be fined 334,131 reais (156,869 US dollars) for

each page. The Orkut website has become a favourite among Brazilians, especially youngsters, and some members have been using it to traffic drugs and commit other crimes.

Prior to the injunction, the Federal Prosecution Service in Sao Paulo State on Tuesday threatened to sue Google because the company had refused to provide information about users of Orkut.

Google denied the charges, saying it has taken seriously the issue of illegal contents on

Orkut and has been constantly developing new tools to detect and remove those contents from the website.

But Brazilian officials said Google would be expelled from Brazil if it continues to disregard the court's decisions.

MNA/Xinhua



Papantla flyers from Veracruz, Mexico, perform at Bogota's summer festival on 17 August, 2006. —INTERNET

## Over-fed fish dies of obesity in south China

**NANNING, 18 Aug**— Grossly overweight, a 150-kilo, 1.6-metre-long groper, a large edible fish, has died at an aquarium in Beihai, a coastal city in south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.

Ample food and little movement made the fish, which was almost twice the size of its peers, suffer from arteriosclerosis, a chronic disease in which thickening and hardening of the arterial walls resulted in impaired blood circulation, said Yang Chunyong, a breeding engineer at Beihai Sea World after anatomizing the fish's body.

The groper was about 30 centimetres long and weighed around six kilos when it was introduced to the aquarium five years ago. Since then, it had eaten at least 10 kilos of small fish everyday, said Huang Yan, the fish keeper. The fish died on August 8.

The aquarium has decided to reduce feed quantities and propose a more balanced diet for the other five five-year-old gopers, which all weigh over 100 kilos, said Yang. "We will move the five giants to a bigger home and encourage them to do more exercises to keep fit," he said. A groper often inhabits in warm seas and the lifespan of a wild groper is about 10 years, while artificially-raised specimens live for about seven years.

MNA/Xinhua



A firefighter puts out fire devouring a virgin forest in southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region, on 18 Aug, 2006. —INTERNET

## US starts nationwide crackdown on drunken driving

**WASHINGTON, 18 Aug**— The US Government has started a nationwide campaign to crackdown on drunken driving, aimed primarily at men aged between 21 to 35, the USA Today newspaper reported Thursday.

Alcohol was a factor in 16,885 traffic deaths in the country last year, a 0.2-per-cent decrease from 2004, according to

the report.

"Drunk driving is one of America's deadliest crimes," Acting Transportation Secretary Maria Cino was quoted as saying on Wednesday. "Our message is simple: if you drive drunk, you will be arrested."

The Transportation Department has announced an 11-million-US-dollar campaign of television, radio and Internet advertisements, and the campaign — "Drunk Driving. Over the Limit. Under Arrest", — is the largest such effort ever and will coincide with increased roadside sobriety checkpoints between now and Labour Day, which falls on the first Monday in September. — MNA/Xinhua

## Astronomers uncover faintest stars ever seen in star cluster

**WASHINGTON, 18 Aug**— An international team of astronomers led by Harvey Richer of the University of British Columbia of Canada has uncovered the faintest stars ever seen in any globular star cluster, according to the latest issue of Science.

Using NASA's Hubble Space Telescope, the team took hundreds of high-resolution photos and compared the images pixel-by-pixel to identify the dimmest stars in the globular star cluster NGC 6397. This will bring scientists closer to revealing the formation time of one of the earliest generations of stars in the Universe.

thousand other proposals to gain almost five days of access to Hubble.

The team surveyed two distinct stellar populations — red dwarfs and white dwarfs — in NGC 6397. Located in the southern constellation Ara, approximately 8,500 light-years away, NGC 6397 is the second closest globular star cluster to earth.

Approximately 8 per cent of the mass of the sun, the lowest mass red dwarfs are the least massive stars in the universe still capable of burning hydrogen in their cores and supporting stable nuclear reactions.

MNA/Xinhua

## China's largest base for endangered giant salamander under way

**NANGHANG, 18 Aug**— Construction has begun on the largest artificial breeding and protection base for the endangered giant salamander in China.

The base in Jing'an County, in the eastern province of Jiangxi, will breed the amphibians for scientific research, the traditional Chinese medicine industry and for exhibition in aquariums.

Located in the Sanzhaolun Forest Park, the 10.83-million-yuan (1.35 million-US-dollar) project is intended to breed 60,000 giant salamanders annually when it is completed by the end of next year.

The base, covering 10,000 square metres, would boost efforts to save the world's largest amphibian from extinction, said Li Xinfu, head of the Jing'an County Giant Salamander Research Centre.

The number of wild giant salamanders has declined rapidly due to their value as a source of traditional Chinese medicine ingredients and as food, and due to poaching, loss of habitat and pollution. It has been put on the list of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, and it is under state protection in China. — MNA/Xinhua



Cast member Samuel L. Jackson handles Kitty Jr, a python, at the premiere of "Snakes on a Plane" at the Grauman's Chinese Theatre in Hollywood on 17 August, 2006. The movie opens in the US on 18 August. —INTERNET



# SPORTS

## Murray's Cincinnati run ended by Roddick in quarterfinal

CINCINNATI, 19 Aug—A valiant Andy Murray bowed out of the Cincinnati Masters Series at the quarterfinal stage on Friday, beaten 6-3, 6-4 by American ninth seed Andy Roddick.

Murray, who defeated world number one Roger Federer in the second round, saved four match points but Roddick proved too strong as he gained a measure of revenge for his defeats by the Scot in their two previous meetings.

The American will now play the winner of Friday's late match between Spanish 10th seed David Ferrer and Chilean 13th seed Fernando Gonzalez.

MNA/Reuters



Switzerland's Martina Hingis serves to Slovakia's Daniela Hantuchova at the Rogers Cup tennis tournament in Montreal on 17 August, 2006. INTERNET

## Drysdale, three Spaniards battle for lead in Russia

NAKHABINO (Russia), 19 Aug—Spain's Francis Valera shot five-under-par 67 to move into a three-way tie for the lead after two rounds at the Russian Open on Friday.

Valera joined fellow Spaniard Carlos Rodiles and overnight leader David Drysdale at 12-under-par 132.

Another Spaniard Alejandro Canizares had a bogey-free round with five birdies to move into contention, a stroke behind.

Defending champion Mikael Lundberg also had a good round with six birdies despite making a bogey on the last hole. The Swede and England's Andrew Butterfield, whom he beat in a sudden-death playoff last year to win his maiden European Tour title, are now tied for sixth, three shots off the pace.

Briton Drysdale, who shot 70,

struggled to maintain Thursday's electric form when he equalled the course record with 10-under-par 62 at the Moscow Country Club in suburban Nakhabino.

"I was very tired today," said the 31-year-old Scot, still looking for his first European Tour victory.

"Over the last few holes I was very tired. I had a nice run of four birdies in a row but then bogeyed two of the par threes and that is always disappointing."

England's 44-year-old Malcolm Mackenzie finished on level par, just missing the cut in his 599th European Tour event.—MNA/Reuters



Barcelona's Ludovic Giuly (L) celebrates with Ronaldinho after scoring the first goal against Espanyol during the first leg of the Spanish Super Cup at Lluís Companys stadium in Barcelona on 17 August, 2006.—INTERNET

## Less is more for in-form Robredo

CINCINNATI, 19 Aug—Spaniard Tommy Robredo upset third seed Ivan Ljubicic of Croatia 7-6, 6-2 to reach the semifinals of the Cincinnati Masters on Friday and then revealed the secret of his success; practising less.

The world number seven saved three set points in the first-set

tiebreak before easing through the second to set up a clash with fellow Spaniard Juan Carlos Ferrero, who upended second seed Rafael Nadal 7-6, 7-6.

"I am practising a lot less," Robredo said.

"I worked a lot in the last two or three years so hard with my last coach, and I broke up with him in April, May. Then after

that, I was practising a lot less, trying to enjoy a lot more, going to tournaments with friends because I had no coach for three months.

MNA/Reuters

## Safina shrugs off brother Marat's accident to crush Pratt

MONTREAL, 19 Aug—Dinara Safina shrugged off worrying news of a car crash involving her brother Marat Safin to rout

Australian Nicole Pratt 6-1, 6-0 in the quarterfinals of the Montreal Cup on Friday. The Russian took only 48 minutes to win

her match after discovering Safin had sustained minor injuries in an accident in Cincinnati.

"It's family," Safina told reporters. "If it was someone else maybe you would not care so much and you just forget about it but it's my brother.

"I was happy with how I played."

Former world number one Safin suffered suspected mild concussion after his car was struck by another vehicle outside his hotel on Thursday, according to a statement on his website.—MNA/Reuters



John Daly tosses his putter as he reacts to a missed eagle putt on the 18th hole in the first round of the 88th PGA Championship golf tournament in Medinah, Illinois on 17 August, 2006.—INTERNET

he swept to victory in the 400 metres hurdles on another sultry night in the Chinese capital on Friday.

Carter clocked 50.08 seconds to claim the title on a night when China, Kenya, Russia and Estonia each won their third gold medals and Bulgarian Tezdzhan Naimova clinched a sprint double.

Unlike many of his fellow champions here, 19-year-old Mormon Carter has not targeted a return to Beijing for the 2008 Olympics and instead plans to fulfil his obligation to serve as a missionary for two years.

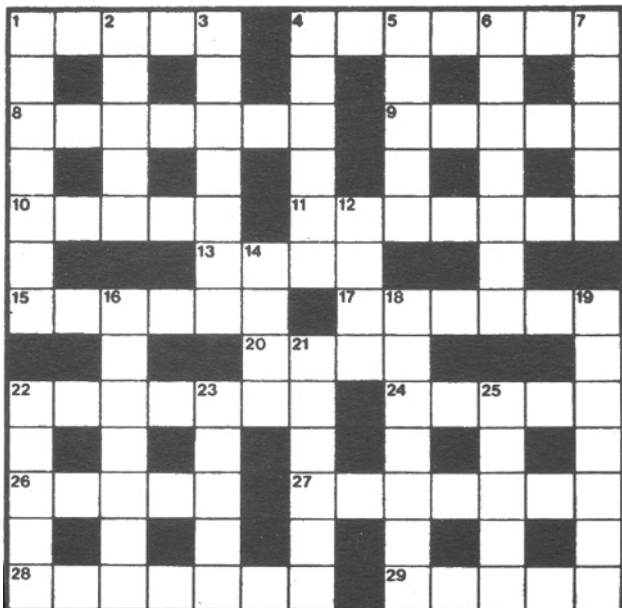
"I feel it's what I have to do," he told Xinhua. "After that I will go back to college for three years and then I will go to London Olympics in 2012."

Naimova added the 200 metres crown to the 100 title she won on Tuesday, sprinting to victory in 22.99 seconds.

Estonia's third gold of the championships went to Marek Niit, who graduated from silver in the men's 200 when Ukrainian Dmytro Ostrovsky was disqualified for running out of his lane.

MNA/Reuters

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE



### ACROSS

- 1 Very fat
- 4 Seer
- 8 Followers
- 9 Carry out
- 10 Wide awake
- 11 Large hat
- 13 Six balls
- 15 Wish for
- 17 Part of Scotland
- 20 Yawn
- 22 Hardy
- 24 Demand
- 26 Small bay
- 27 Miracle centre
- 28 Colonist
- 29 Ring

### DOWN

- 1 Wreath
- 2 Fantastic
- 3 Legislator
- 4 Make happy
- 5 Stout
- 6 Gossip
- 7 Giant
- 12 Horse vehicle
- 14 Bright star
- 16 Brilliant red
- 18 Tell
- 19 Ravenous appetite
- 21 Fisherman
- 22 Humorous plays
- 23 Aggregate
- 25 Tree

## Lyon agree to let Diarra join Real Madrid

LYON, 19 Aug—Olympique Lyon have agreed to let Mali midfielder Mahamadou Diarra join Real Madrid, the five-times French champions said on Friday.

The clubs have agreed an undisclosed fee and Diarra will move providing he agrees personal terms, said a Lyon spokesman.

Diarra is expected in Madrid at the weekend to sort out the final details.

Real president Ramon Calderon told Spain's Radio Marca his club had agreed to buy the 25-year-old.

Marca said Real would pay around 25 million euros (32.09 million US dollars) for the hold-

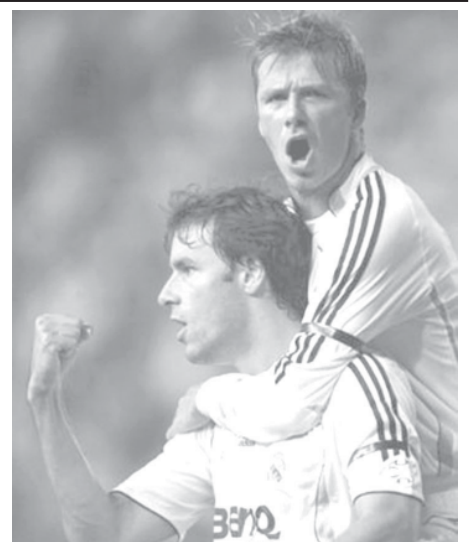
ing midfielder, who joined Lyon in 2002 from Dutch side Vitesse Arnhem and won the last four Ligue 1 titles with the club.

Earlier this week, Calderon said new coach Fabio Capello had asked the club to focus on recruiting Diarra.

Diarra was quoted as saying in French sports daily L'Equipe on Wednesday that he wanted to join Real and was prepared to consider going on strike to force the deal through.

"An offer from a club like Real Madrid happens once in your career," he said.

MNA/Reuters



Real Madrid's Ruud Van Nistelrooy (L) celebrates his goal against Real Betis with team mate David Beckham during their Trophy of Carranza soccer match at the Ramon de Carranza stadium in Cadiz, on 18 Aug, 2006.—INTERNET



## China Mobile subscribers reach 274 million

HONG KONG, 19 Aug — China Mobile Communications Corporation (China Mobile) announced on Thursday that the number of the company's subscribers increased by 25.77 million in the first half of 2006, bringing the total number to 274 million by 30 June.

Wang Jianzhou, president of China Mobile, said at a Press conference on Thursday that the company's net profit in the first half of 2006 reached 30.17 billion yuan (3.78 billion US dollars), up 25.5 per cent over last year's same period.

He said the interim dividend declared per share is 0.62 HK dollar, together with a special dividend of 0.09 HK dollar.

MNA/Xinhua

## Floods, lightning claim 11 lives in central Vietnam

HANOI, 19 Aug — Floods caused by torrential rain and lightning in Vietnam's central region have killed 11 people and left one missing since last weekend, local newspaper *Youth* reported Thursday

Among several central localities hit by the flooding, Binh Thuan Province suffered the biggest human loss, with five fatalities and one case of going missing. In Nghe An Province, two people, including a schoolchild, killed due to being swept

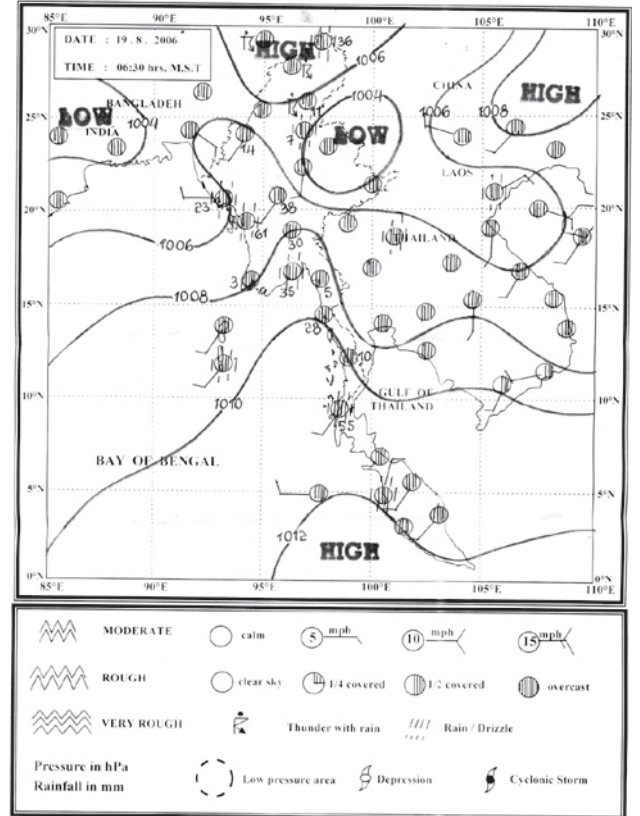
away by strong water flows, and two others were killed by lightning.

In Quang Binh Province, a 40-year-old woman and her six-year-old child were drowned on Tuesday.

Besides the central region, the flooding also hit the southeastern region, damaging tens of thousands of hectares of paddy rice and aquaculture ponds, many houses, schools, irrigation works and road sections, causing property losses of hundreds of billions of Vietnamese dong (tens of millions of US dollars).

MNA/Xinhua

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



### WEATHER

Saturday, 19 August, 2006

**Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:** During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in lower Sagaing Division, Chin and Kayah States and rain have been isolated in Magway Division, scattered in upper Sagaing Division, Shan and Kayin States, fairly widespread in Mandalay and Bago Divisions and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions with locally heavyfalls in Mandalay Division, isolated heavyfalls in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Nay Pyi Taw (2.52) inches, Pyinmana (2.01) inches, Yamethin (1.06) inches, Meiktila (1.50) inches, Kyaukpyu (2.75) inches, Bago (3.11) inches, Pyapon (3.78) inches, Kawthoung (5.19) inches and Yangon (central) (5.32) inches.

Maximum temperature on 18-8-2006 was 87°F. Minimum temperature on 19-8-2006 was 74°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 19-8-2006 was (96%). Total sunshine hours on 18-8-2006 was (0.5) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 19-8-2006 were (1.93) inches at Mingaladon, (1.37) inches at Kaba-Aye and (5.32) inches at Central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2006 were (70.67) inches at Mingaladon, (81.61) inches at Kaba-Aye and (89.45) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (12) mph from Northwest at (13:15) hours MST on 18-8-2006.

**Bay inference:** Monsoon is strong in Andaman Sea and Southeast Bay and moderate elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

**Forecast valid until evening of 20-8-2006:** Rain will be isolated in Chin and Kayah States, lower Sagaing and Magway Divisions, scattered in Shan State, upper Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions, fairly widespread in Bago Division, Kachin and Kayin States and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Mon State, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions. Degree of certainty is (80%).

**State of the sea:** Occasional squalls with rough seas are likely off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coast. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35-40) mph. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

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

**Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 20-8-2006:** Isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

**Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 20-8-2006:** Some rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

**Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 20-8-2006:** Likelihood of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (60%).



China's short-track speed skating celebrities Yang Yang (R) and Li Jiajun announce their retirement in Beijing, capital of China, on 17 August, 2006. — INTERNET



Sunday, 20 August  
View on today

7:00 am

1. ကျေးဇူးရှင်မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃာ့ မဟာနာယကအဖွဲ့အကျိုးတော် ဆောင်ရွက်၊ အဘိဓမ္မဟာရဋ္ဌ ဂုရု အဘိဓမ္မေဂ္ဂမဟာသဒ္ဓမ္မ ဇောတိက၊ တိပိဋကဓရ၊ ဓမ္မဘဏ္ဍာဂါရိက၊ ဆရာတော် ဘဒ္ဒန္တဝိစိတ္တသာရာဘိဝံသ၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်

7:25 am

2. To be healthy exercise

7:30 am

3. Morning news

7:40 am

4. Nice and sweet song

7:55 am

5. ယဉ်ကျေးလိမ္မော်(၃၈)ဖြာ မင်္ဂလာ

8:10 am

6. အတိုးမြှင့်ပွဲ

8:20 am

7. ပန်းလှိုင်တံတား

8:30 am

8. International news

8:45 am

9. Say it in English

11:00 am

1. Martial song

11:15 am

2. Musical programme

11:25 am

3. Round up of the week's international news

11:35 am

4. Yan Can Cook

12:00 am

5. Myanmar movie:

“ဪ ဝိန်းမ ဝိန်းမ”

(ညွန့်ဝင်း၊ ချိုမြိန်)

(ဒါရိုက်တာ-ဦးသုခ)

2:25 pm

6. မျှော်လင့်ခြင်းများစွာ.....၏ ရင်ခုန်သံ (၂)

2:35 pm

7. “ဆွေမျိုးတော်စပ်ပေမယ့်”

(ဒုရဲမွူးတင်လင်း၊ ဗေဒါ)

(ဒါရိုက်တာ-သက်တင်)

2:45 pm

8. International news

4:00 pm

1. Martial song

4:15 pm

2. Songs to uphold National Spirit

4:30 pm

3. English for everyday use

4:45 pm

4. သာယာချိုအေး (၃၈)ဖြာ မင်္ဂလာတေး

5:00 pm

5. အဆေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ

ပထမနှစ် (သိပ္ပံအထူးပြုအားလုံး) (ရုပ်ဗေဒ)

5:15 pm

6. Dance of national race

5:30 pm

7. Sing and enjoy

6:00 pm

8. Evening news

6:30 pm

9. Weather report

6:35 pm

10. သီရိဇေယာ

7:00 pm

11. Discovery

7:15 pm

12. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ

7:30 pm

13. ၂၀၀၆ ခုနှစ် (၁၄)ကြိမ်မြောက် မြန်မာ့ရိုးရာယဉ်ကျေးမှု အဆို၊ အက၊ အရေးအတိုးမြှင့်ပွဲဝင်များ လေ့လာနိုင်ကြရန် (ခေတ်ဟောင်းတေးနှင့် ကာလပေါ်တေး) (ဝါသနာရှင်အဆင့်) (အမျိုးသား)

7:45 pm

14. အရေးပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:00 pm

15. News

16. International news

17. Weather report

18. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “မေတ္တာပန်းတိုင်” (အပိုင်း-၁၂)

19. The next day's programme



Sunday, 20 August  
Tune in today

8:30 am Brief news

8:35 am Music:

-Sweet sweet smile

8:40 am Perspectives

8:45 am Music:

-I see a boat on the river

8:50 am National news & Slogan

9:00 am Music:

-The seeker

9:05 am International news

9:10 am Cultural images of Myanmar:

-Mingalar (or) Blessing

9:20 am Music:

-Doo Dah

1:30 pm News & Slogan

1:40pm Children's delight

-Story for children “Investment for the wealth”

-Songs for children

9:00pm Weekly news review

9:10 pm Article

9:20pm Music:

-To love how you love me

-What's in your mind

9:45 pm News & Slogan

10:00 pm PEL



# Prime Minister sends felicitations to Hungary

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Aug— General Soe Win, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Ferenc Gyurcsany, Prime Minister of the Republic of Hungary, on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of Hungary which falls on 20 August 2006. —MNA

## Objectives of the 14th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions

- To vitalize patriotism and nationalism
- To preserve and safeguard Myanmar cultural heritage
- To perpetuate genuine Myanmar music, dance and traditional fine arts
- To preserve Myanmar national character
- To nurture spiritual development of the youths
- To prevent influence of alien culture, and
- To strengthen national unity and Union Spirit.

# Matters for holding 14th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions discussed



Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Brig-Gen Wai Lwin addresses the meeting on holding 14th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions. — MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Aug—The state/division representatives to the 14th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions this morning met at the meeting hall of Ministry of Culture here.

Chairman of the Leading Committee for holding the 14th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Brig-Gen Wai Lwin in his speech said that the competitions are held annually to preserve and safeguard cultural heritage and national character laid

the major purpose of the competition is further flourishing of Union Spirit. Holding competitions at state and division levels must also reflect the seven objectives of the competitions, he added.

Vice-Chairman-2 Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan said that the holding of the competitions also means carrying out a national duty. Possible future results are to be taken into consideration in holding competitions important to the nation and the people. He urged the maestros who have to take

responsibilities for the competitions to gain improvement in form as well as in essence and to make the competitions popular among the people.

Member of the Leading Committee Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu presided over the second session. Vice-Chairman of the subcommittee for holding the competitions Director-General of the Fine Arts Department U Ngwe Tun reported on programmes for the competitions; chairmen of the respective scrutinizing groups, on categories of the contests; state/division representatives, on preparations for participation in the competitions; chairmen of the subcommittees, on work programmes; and those present, on other matters.

Member of the Leading Committee Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu made the concluding remarks. — MNA

## Every citizen is duty-bound to preserve the traditional culture, and that means to protect the motherland in some way.

down in compliance with the guidance of the Head of State. As the Union of Myanmar is home to diverse national races, it is important to ensure perpetually flourishing of Union Spirit. Holding the competitions further cements national cohesion and helps Union Spirit flourish.

Due to the satellites and TVs, the western culture has influenced 75 per cent of the world population, and that is a challenge to the culture, patriotism and traditions of the nation.

The competitions having held annually since 1993 are part of the way of life of Myanmar people. So, every citizen is duty-bound to preserve the traditional culture, and that means to protect the motherland in some way. He called on those present to make combined efforts in the drive and make preparations for the convenience of the contestants.

Vice-Chairman-1 of the Leading Committee Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint said that



Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan clarifies matters. — MNA



Minister Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint makes clarifications. — MNA