

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Volume XIV, Number 133

5th Waxing of Tawthalin 1368 ME

Sunday, 27 August, 2006

True patriotism

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

Funds for treatment of cancer for children established

YANGON, 26 Aug — A ceremony to establish funds for treatment of cancer for children was held at General Hospital in Kengtung on 23 August.

Present were Chairman of Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council Commander of Triangle Region Command Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing and wife Chairperson of Shan State Maternal and Child Welfare Association Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, members of Supervisory Committee of Shan State Maternal and Child Welfare Association, senior military officers and wives, members of State, District and Township Peace and Development Councils, departmental personnel, members of social organizations, local people and wellwishers.

Commander Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing spoke on the occasion. He accepted K 1 million donated by Triangle Region Command and Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council.

Daw Kyu Kyu Hla accepted K 550,000 donated by Minister for Home Affairs, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation, Minister for Commerce, Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs, Deputy Minister for Education and the director-general of Myanmar Police Force.

*Commander Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing
and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla donate
K 100,000 to Kengtung General Hospital.*

MNA

Medical Superintendent of Kengtung General Hospital Dr Htay Kywe accepted K 100,000 donated by the commander and wife, K 300,000 by MCWA of Triangle Region Command and MCWA, K 100,000 each by State MCWA and State Women's Organization and Daw Nan Lyo. Wellwishers donated K 2.5 million. The commander and wife inspected functions on hypertension and diabete diagnosis of the elderly people.

They also presented medicines and food to 51 elderly patients undergoing treatment at the hospital.

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

Lashio Myoma Market being upgraded

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Aug—Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander of North-East Command Brig-Gen Aung Than Htut and Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Hla Myint on 22 August inspected the construction of the motorbike and car park and shops to be added to the modern Myoma market in Lashio.

Project manager U Thant Sin conducted them round the construction site.

In response, the commander called for meeting the set standard and completion of the project on schedule, and inspected the construction tasks.

The commander also inspected the trade at the market and gave instructions to the officials.

On arrival at Manpyin zinc refining factory being

run jointly by No 1 Mining Enterprise under the Ministry of Mines and Cornerstone Co Ltd near Manpyin Village in Lashio Township, the commander heard report on the factory by project manager U Swe and production processes by project manager Mr Roger. The commander fulfilled the requirements and inspected the factory.

The commander proceeded to Pyidaungsu Myakantha sanctuary from which water is supplied to the people in Lashio. Lashio Township Development Affairs Committee executive U Min Han reported on storage of water and water supply tasks.

The commander assessed the report and viewed the shady trees and landscaping plants and storage of water.—MNA

INSIDE

Monsoon paddy per acre yield of Kontaung village-tract increased to 57.17 baskets during the season from only 30 in the past, thanks to the new high-yield strain the farmers have started to use. According to the calculations of experts, summer paddy per acre yield would be between 105 and 120 baskets that is higher than the target.

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MAUNG WA (AGRICULTURE)

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

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 27 August, 2006

Nurturing human resources for border areas

Peace and stability, proper socio-economic structures and qualified human resources are vital for development of a region.

With the prevalence of peace and stability in border areas more socio-economic infrastructures have been brought into those regions, thereby contributing to improvement of the living standards of local people.

The emergence of the university, degree college, government technological college and government computer college in Kengtung, Shan State (East) has enabled local national race youth to have an easy access to higher education in the region where they live.

A total of 27 nationalities youth development training schools have been opened in border areas to provide free education to the youth. This is the follow-up measure after the opening of more basic education schools in order to improve the qualities of national race youth in border areas.

Moreover, the government has established Nationalities Youth Resource Development Degree Colleges (Yangon) and (Mandalay) where arts and science degrees and AGTI diploma courses are conducted.

The Education and Training Department under the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs has opened the Nationalities Youth Technical Schools in Mongla and Pansang for the local youth to pursue education with peace of mind.

The implementation of a number of projects for development of border areas and national races will surely contribute to improving the qualities of national race youth and producing human resources capable of bringing about regional development.



In memory of Daw Khin Ma Ma Lay of No 29/268, 1st Min Lan Lane in Shwepyitha Township, Lt-Col Ko Lay (Retd) recently donated K 100,000 to Hninzigon Home for the Aged. Joint-Secretary U Tin Maung Win of the Home accepts the donation. — H

Peoples' 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

Shan State (East) to grow green gram extensively

YANGON, 25 Aug—Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council Chairman Triangle Region Command Commander Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing visited the 10-acre model physic nut plantation of the local regiment in Kengtung Station on 23 August.

Major Myint Lwin of the local regiment reported on the physic nut plantation, growing green gram and ginger as mixed crops in the physic nut plantation, and per acre yield of green gram.

The commander inspected mixed crops of green gram and ginger in the plantation, and instructed the officials to minimize loss and wastage and to take measures for boosting per acre yield.

Shan State (East) started to grow green gram on 60 acres last year and the drive has showed success. It is planning to extend growing green gram coming years.—MNA

Installation of electric meters inspected in Mawlamyine



Commander Brig-Gen Thet Naing Win presents an electric meter to a person. — MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Aug — Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council South-East Command Commander Brig-Gen Thet Naing Win accompanied by officials inspected distribution of electric meters by the power supply committee to the applicants at the office of Hline Ward PDC in Mawlamyine Township on 16 August and gave necessary instructions.

The commander also looked into installation of electric meters at households of Shwemyine Thiri, Thayar Aye and Zeya Thiri Wards.

Arrangements are being made to install 7,000 more electric meters in Mon State. — MNA

Inter-Ministry Table Tennis tourney commences

YANGON, 26 Aug—The Inter-Ministry Table Tennis Tournament (2006) was launched at the Myanmar Table Tennis Federation on U Wisara Road yesterday afternoon.

MTTF President U Kyaw Kyaw delivered an introductory speech.

Chairman of the Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint formally opened the tournament.

In the men's semifinal matches, Finance and Revenue beat Construction 3-1 and Home Affairs beat Defence, 3-2.

In the women's semifinal matches, Defence (A) beat Finance and Revenue 3-2 and Home Affairs beat Defence (B), 3-0.—MNA

MTTF President U Kyaw Kyaw addresses Inter-Ministry Table Tennis Tournament (2006). — SPED



Officials of MMPA meet video entrepreneurs

YANGON, 25 Aug — The officials of Shan State (East) Video Industry Scrutinizing and Supervisory Committee and Myanmar Motion Picture Asiayon met with video entrepreneurs in Kengtung on 23 August. The chairman and members of the committee and members of Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council were present.

Joint-Secretary U Maung Maung Oo of MMPA and the officials clarified matters related to illegal distribution and hiring of Myanmar videos and video industries in the state.

The officials replied to the queries raised by those present. — MNA

နိုင်ငံတော်အစိုးရဌာနပိုင် မော်တော်ယာဉ် မသုံးစွဲရနဲ့

လစဉ် လ၏ဒုတိယပတ် (တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့) နှင့် နောက်ဆုံးပတ် (တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့) တို့သည် ရုံးလုပ်ငန်း အတွက် မဖြစ်မနေသွားလာရန် လိုအပ်သည့် ကိစ္စရပ်များမှအပ မော်တော်ယာဉ်များ မသုံးစွဲရနဲ့ ဖြစ်သည်။

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China, Venezuela ink 8 agreements to boost bilateral ties

BEIJING, 25 Aug — China and Venezuela on 24 August inked eight agreements on wide-ranging topics, a sign of stronger ties between the two countries.

Among the eight agreements, two are related to future expansion of bilateral energy cooperation.

In the two agreements, the China National Petroleum Corp. (CNPC) and the PDVSA, the state-owned Venezuelan energy company, agreed to establish joint venture and launch joint development on the Venezuelan oil fields, according to the information from the Chinese Foreign Ministry. The agreements, which ranged from trade and energy to infrastructure construction and tourism, were signed after Chinese President Hu Jintao held talks with visiting Venezuelan President Hugo Rafael Chavez Frias.

During his talks with Hu, Chavez said that the Venezuelan side will make concerted efforts with the Chinese side to implement the proposal and strengthen cooperation in bilateral and multilateral areas so as to push forward the continu-

ous development of bilateral strategic partnership.

The Venezuela side hopes to further bilateral cooperation in such fields as energy, railway construc-



Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez (L) and Chinese President Hu Jintao. —INTERNET

tion, telecommunications, agriculture, tourism, culture and education, and build the bilateral high-level mixed commission into an important platform for enhancing bilateral cooperation, Chavez noted.

As this year marks the fifth anniversary of the establishment of Sino-Venezuelan strategic partner-

ship, Hu also offered a four-point proposal.

The first is to strengthen high-level exchanges and expand strategic consensus.

The second is to deepen

panding exchanges in culture, education, science, technology, Press, and tourism. The fourth is to strengthen international cooperation, especially their coordination and cooperation in international and regional organizations such as the United Nations, World Trade Organization and the Organization of American States, Hu said..

MNA/Reuters

ထုတ်တုန့်နှစ်ဆ တိုးမြှင့်ကြ



UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan presents a news conference at the end of an emergency meeting of EU foreign ministers in Brussels on 25 August, 2006. —INTERNET

UK-US plane diverted over 'scare'

LONDON, 25 Aug—An American Airlines flight from Manchester to Chicago has been diverted following a security scare.

The FBI said AA flight 55 landed in Bangor, Maine at 1257 local time after the authorities learned of a "reported threat to the aircraft."

It said the pilot took the decision to land the Boeing 767-300. Passengers and crew members would be interviewed and the plane would be searched.

American Airlines said 167 passengers and 12 crew members were on board.

The company said it was hopeful of being able to complete the flight later in the afternoon.

The US Transportation Security Administration said: "Given the current threat level, the agency, in conjunction with other federal authorities, took prudent action to assure the safety of the passengers and crew."

"The plane has landed safely and passengers are being de-planed while TSA canines search the airplane. —Internet

107-year-old lady fitted with pacemaker in Xian

XI'AN, 25 Aug — A 107-year-old lady is recovering in hospital after becoming the oldest person in China to be fitted with a pacemaker last week.

Zhai Xiuying, who suffered breathing difficulties and whose heart rate was only 20 beats per minute, had the operation to fit a pacemaker at the No 1

Hospital in Xi'an, north-west China's Shaanxi Province, last Saturday.

The operation lasted more than three hours and was a success, said Dr Song

Qinggang who performed the operation.

Dr Song said Zhai is recuperating and her heart rate has increased to 60 beats per minute. "She was able to sit up for a chat with us yesterday," he said.

Despite her age, Zhai was perfectly healthy apart from her recent heart problems, her daughter told *Xinhua*. "She was never fussy about food and had a good appetite."

The daughter said a good sense of humour and a healthy amount of exercise also contributed to the old lady's longevity.

"She enjoys walking and taking care of the household chores. Red is her favourite colour and she likes scarlet shirts and jackets."

Many Chinese people believe wearing red can induce happiness and bring luck.

Zhai is a native of central China's Henan Province and is now a permanent resident in downtown Xi'an. — MNA/Xinhua



A helicopter searches for "terrorists" during the first phase of a joint anti-terrorism drill "Tianshan-I(2006)" launched by China and Kazakhstan in Kazakhstan's eastern Almaty Region on 24 Aug, 2006. —XINHUA

A French soldier stands while a French navy landing craft prepares to unload equipment in the southern Lebanese port of Naqura, near Tyre (Soure), on 25 August, 2006. —INTERNET

US-led airraid kills seven Afghan civilians

ASADABAD(Afghanistan), 25 Aug — A US-led coalition airstrike killed seven Afghan civilians in an eastern province on Thursday, provincial officials said, the latest casualties in the bloodiest phase of Afghan violence since 2001.

The pre-dawn attack hit a house in the Shegal District, to the east of the capital of Kunar Province, Asadabad, where village elders had gathered to settle a dispute, said two provincial officials who declined to be identified.

"Seven people, several of them village elders, were killed in the bombing and the coalition also made some arrests," one official said.

A spokesman for the coalition in Kabul said he did not know of the incident and was checking.

MNA/Reuters





Hundreds of people gather at Ramses square to take the last look at the 125-ton and 3,200-year-old statue of Pharaoh Ramses II which is moved in early hours of on 25 August, 2006. The giant statue is moved from a crowded, polluted square in Cairo to the Pyramids plateau in Giza, on the outskirts of Cairo, Egypt. —XINHUA

Uzbekistan closes US relief charity

TASHKENT, 25 Aug — An Uzbek court on Wednesday ordered the closure of a US non-profit relief group Crosslink Development International for failing to meet local regulations.

The authoritarian Central Asian state has become increasingly hostile to Western-funded groups and foreign media after criticism from Washington and Europe over what witnesses described as a massacre by troops in Andizhan last year.

"Charges include the following: not providing information about its programmes, carrying out educational projects without a special licence and giving out credits in cash while bypassing banks," said Justice Ministry official Zhalul Abdusattarov.

The official website www.press-uz.info said it was also accused of covertly sponsoring a Christian organization in the former Soviet state.

Crosslink's Tashkent office was not available for comment.

Its website says it was involved in projects to help Uzbekistan's nutritional, health care, water quality and environmental needs.

It also helped develop small businesses in Uzbekistan and carried out some of its projects with the United States Agency for International

Development and the US Embassy, it said.

Since the Andizhan events Uzbekistan has expelled US troops from a military airbase and closed down a number of foreign-funded NGOs, as well as the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and Radio Liberty.

MNA/Reuters

Austrian robber mistakes town hall for bank

VIENNA, 25 Aug — A would-be robber was arrested after he tried to hold up his local town hall, mistaking it for a bank, Austrian police said on Wednesday.

Wearing a mask and waving a toy pistol, the unemployed man burst into the town hall in the village of Poggersdorf, southern Austria, and shouted: "Hold-up, hold-up!"

The building has a sign

signalling there is a cash point on the outside wall, police said.

He realized his mistake when an employee explained to him where he was, police said in a statement, adding he fled to a nearby wood.

The 34-year-old man was arrested when he came back later to pick up his motorbike which he had parked outside the town hall.

MNA/Reuters

Three US soldiers killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 25 Aug — Three US soldiers were killed in Iraq in the latest death toll declared by the US military here Thursday.

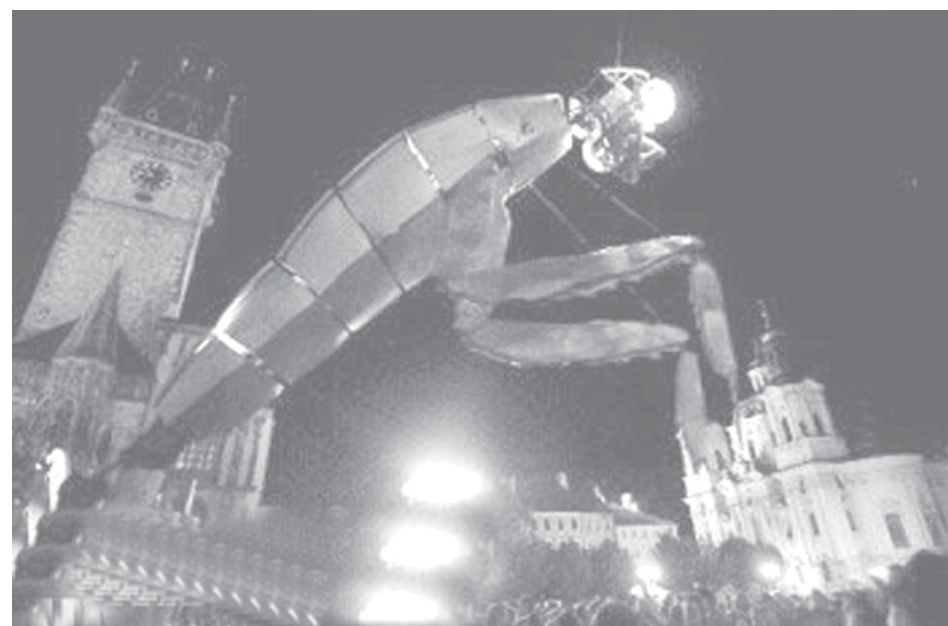
According to a statement issued by the US military command in Iraq, one soldier died Thursday afternoon of his wounds by guerillas attack with small arms in Baghdad.

Earlier in the day, another soldier was killed south of the Iraqi capital when a roadside bomb hit the vehicle carrying him, said the statement.

A third US soldier was killed Wednesday in fight against "enemy forces", the US military said in an earlier statement.

According to media counts, at least 2,614 US

military personnel have been killed in Iraq since the start of the US-led war in the country in March 2003. Most of them died as a result of hostile action. — MNA/Xinhua



A giant "praying mantis" insect float entertains spectators in a street parade by the French circus Malabar in the Old Town Square, Prague recently. —XINHUA

မြန်မာ့အလင်းစာတိုက်

PM says India alone will decide on nuclear testing

NEW DELHI, 25 Aug—Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh Wednesday reassured the Parliament there would be no capping of India's strategic nuclear programme, saying New Delhi alone would decide whether or not to conduct nuclear tests in the future.

Replying to a debate in the Parliament on the India-US civil nuclear deal, Singh said India would be free to take a decision based its on national interest if there were any deviations from the July 18, 2005 joint statement inked by him and US President George Bush.

"If any extraneous elements are introduced in the nuclear legislation or if it (the nuclear deal) goes in the direction that will hurt our national interest or security, we will draw appropriate conclusions," Indo-Asian News Service quoted the Prime Minister as saying. Singh, however, expressed optimism about the implementation of the nuclear deal.

He underlined that the prototype fast breeder

reactor "will be kept out of any surveillance by any agency and nothing would be done to impede the three-stage nuclear fuel cycle programme".

Singh said that India was not willing to give any commitment about

nuclear testing, now or in the future. "We have taken a voluntary unilateral moratorium on nuclear testing. We have not agreed to any moratorium on the production of fissile material," he said.

MNA/Xinhua



The photo taken on 24 August, 2006 shows a Barbie doll dressed as a queen in China's Qing Dynasty (1616-1911) in Hong Kong. —XINHUA

Two million Aussies drinking at 'risky' levels

MELBOURNE, 25 Aug—New figures show there has been an increase in the number of adults drinking at levels considered risky.

The Bureau of Statistics says one in eight adults, or two million people, drink dangerous amounts of alcohol. It says the proportion of people drinking at risky levels has risen from 8 per cent to 13 per cent over the past 10 years.

The National Health and Medical Research Council says five or more drinks a day are risky for men, while three or more are risky for women.

The Bureau of Statistics says mostly males are drinking at risky levels. But the increase in those drinking at a risky/high risk level since 1995 has been greater for women than men.

From the three surveys since 1995, the proportion of females who drank at a risky/high risk level increased from 6.2 per cent to 11.7 per cent, while for males the increase was from 10.3 per cent to 15.2 per cent, after adjusting for age differences.

The figures also show that a quarter of teenagers are drinking on a daily or weekly basis.—Internet

New scheme announced in Singapore to help attract global talent

SINGAPORE, 25 Aug — Singapore on Thursday decided to introduce a new Personalized Employment Pass (PEP) for foreigners from next January as part of its efforts to attract and retain global talent.

According to a statement by the Manpower Ministry, from next January, foreigners who have been working in the Lion City for a few years and earn at least 30,000 Singapore dollars (about 19,031.9 US dollars) a year will be eligible for the new pass, which is valid for five years and non-renewable.

The new pass, which will be issued based on the

foreigners' own merits and they do not need to reapply for a new one when they change jobs, will provide greater flexibility for foreigners to stay and work in Singapore.

With the new pass, the foreign talent will no longer be tied to an employer and they will be allowed to stay in Singapore for up to six months in between jobs.

Singapore, which has a

population of over four million, has been facing a declining birth rate and the government is now embarking on a 3-pronged approach to tackle such problem.

Besides the attraction of foreigners, the government's plan also includes the encouragement of marriage and parenthood, and the engagement and bond with overseas Singaporeans.

MNA/Xinhua

Apple's iBook G4 notebook computer. Apple Computer Inc on 24 August, 2006 announced a recall of 1.8 million lithium-ion notebook batteries that could pose a fire hazard, a move that follows Dell's similar recall just ten days ago. XINHUA



Pakistani police arrest man trying to ram train

KARACHI, 25 Aug — Police in Pakistan have arrested a man who stole a railway locomotive, drove it for 30 kilometres (20 miles) and tried to ram it into a passenger train in an apparent suicide attack, police said on Wednesday.

The man, identified as Madan Lal, stole the engine from a marshalling yard outside the city of Karachi and was speeding towards a passenger train, the Farid Express, on Tuesday evening when his engine was derailed. "God helped us avert a major

human disaster," police officer Irshad Baig told Reuters.

Police managed to derail the engine, Lal was driving just two minutes before it would have smashed into the passenger train at a small Karachi station, he said. Lal tried to run away but was caught, he said.

Lal had driven the locomotive at high speed for about 30 kilometres (20 miles) and he appeared to be an expert driver, Baig said.

"We don't know as yet what his motive was for this attack. But he apparently knows how to drive a railway engine and had planned it," he said.

Senior Railways police officer Malik Mohammad Afzal said Lal appeared to be mentally unstable.

MNA/Reuters

MNA/Reuters



Paris Hilton is seen dressed in a yukata before an in-store CD signing of her debut album entitled "Paris" in Tokyo on 23 August, 2006. INTERNET

Torrential storms kill 13 in Cambodia

PHNOM PENH, 25 Aug — Torrential storms have killed at least 13 people in Cambodia in the last week, including three struck by lightning, officials said on Thursday.

Flash floods killed eight people, many of them children, in southern coastal areas and eastern

provinces along the swelling Mekong River.

A man was killed on Wednesday when his boat sank in a storm on the Mekong, police officials said. A lightning strike killed a pregnant woman in the northern province of Kampong Chhnang as she walked home in the rain

after planting rice.

Lightning killed two people in the eastern province of Kampong Cham — a 66-year-old man in his home and a young man in a rowing boat on the Mekong, said Sok Savy, the military police chief of the district.

Heavy rain and strong winds flattened several houses in another part of Kampong Cham, killing one man and injuring a mother and her two-year-old child, officials said.

Thailand launches door-to-door campaign against bird flu

BANGKOK, 25 Aug — A door-to-door campaign against bird flu has been launched and 800,000 health volunteers will be sent to rural areas to educate people on how to prevent the deadly virus, Thailand's caretaker Public Health Minister Pinij Jarusombat said on Wednesday.

Pinij, now inspecting bird flu control in central Suphan Buri Province, said the so-called "bird flu busters" will be sent into action in the ministry's door-to-door anti-bird flu

campaign nationwide from 23 to 31 August to educate the public on strict rules they must follow in order to prevent the infection and spread of bird flu.

These volunteers will distribute to the public various kinds of bird flu media materials, such as posters, pamphlets, and similar others with the message focusing on

hygienic household practices, especially in relation to poultry contact.

In the first stage, the campaign will focus on at-risk areas in 30 provinces which have experienced bird flu outbreaks before, including 12 provinces in the north, 10 in the central region, seven in the northeast, and one in the south, the minister said.

Meanwhile, Public Health Ministry permanent secretary Prat Boonyawongwirot said on Wednesday that in the 24 hours from Tuesday morning, some 79 patients with flu-like symptoms were hospitalized in 22 provinces, quarantined and monitored for possible bird flu, awaiting laboratory tests to indicate whether they carried the deadly virus or not.

MNA/Xinhua



School children walk past an exhibit of Mayan art inside the National Museum of Archeology and Culture before a ribbon-cutting ceremony for a reorganization project of the facilities in Guatemala City on 24 August, 2006. —INTERNET



Rare newborn albino Pygmy Marmoset monkeys perch on a zookeeper's fingers at Froso Zoo in Ostersund, Sweden on 22 August, 2006. The Pygmy Marmoset, which lives in the upper Amazon basin in South America, is the world's smallest monkey and reaches 35 cm (13.7 inches) in length and weighs up to 100 grams (3.5 ounces) at maturity. —XINHUA

Vietnam, Laos to cooperate on human bird flu prevention

HANOI, 25 Aug— Vietnam and Laos will join hands in preventing bird flu among humans and emerging infectious diseases, partly through exchanging information and sharing experience, *Vietnam News Agency* reported Thursday.

Under a memorandum of understanding signed here on Thursday by the two countries' health ministers, the two sides will also exchange specimens for research purpose and delegations of scientists, organize relevant seminars and training courses, build up anti-bird flu plans, and conduct rehearsals on combating bird flu

epidemics among humans, the agency said.

Vietnam will help Laos to deal with the epidemics when it happens, it added.

Vietnam has detected 93 bird flu patients, including 42 fatalities, in 32 localities since the disease started to hit the country in December 2003, the Vietnamese Health Ministry said on

23 August, noting that it has seen no new human cases of infections since mid-November 2005.

In Laos, bird flu outbreaks among fowls occurred in its Vientiane capital in July. Early this month, the country declared to have basically contained the disease.

MNA/Xinhua



People play in a wave pool at Dino Beach, a water resort in Minhang, a suburb of Shanghai, on 24 August, 2006.—INTERNET

Diamond import surge at Shanghai Diamond Exchange

BEIJING, 25 Aug— Imports of diamonds for non-industrial use through the Shanghai Diamond Exchange surged in July following a tax rebate policy that took effect July 1, the *Economic Daily* said Thursday.

The value of non-industrial diamonds imported through the exchange totalled 7.38 million US dollars in July, up 120 per cent on July 2005, the report says. 8,000 carats were imported.

The new policy issued by the State Administration of Taxation in June cut valued-added tax (VAT) for imported raw diamonds from 17 per cent to zero. Importers of processed diamonds were granted a VAT rebate that cut their tax rate from 17 per cent to less than 4 per cent.

The new policy will support the Shanghai Diamond Exchange by encouraging dealers to import via it, a member of the exchange was quoted as saying.

The Shanghai Diamond Exchange was established in the year 2000 to cater for China's rising demand and to bolster Shanghai's

ambition of becoming the country's economic centre.

The Shanghai exchange now has about 157 members. It is also a member of the World Federation of Diamond Bourses.

Statistics show that diamond imports and exports through the exchange totalled around

225 million carats in its first five years of operation.

The exchange imported 196,000 carats of processed diamonds and 268,000 carats of raw diamonds for jewellery in the first seven months of the year, respectively up and down 10 per cent.

MNA/Xinhua

Over 70 ancient settlements discovered in central Turkey

ANKARA, 25 Aug — Archaeologists working at the ancient settlement of Tavium located in Yozgat Province in central Turkey have discovered more than 70 previously unknown ancient settlements, *Turkish Daily News* reported on Thursday.

The report said that the central province, best known for the Chalcolithic Period discoveries at its Alisar Tumulus and the Hittite era artifacts at Kerkenes, is likely to hold much more archaeological wealth than previously believed, and archaeologists said the new findings would shed more light on history.

Austrian archaeologist, Professor Karl Strobel, who is currently heading surveys and excavations at the ancient city of Tavium, was quoted as saying that he and his assistant had identified the previously unknown settlements in a very large area in Yozgat.

Strobel, who has been studying in the area since 1997, told reporters that the newly found settlements belonged to various periods in history, including Roman, Bronze Age, Byzantine, Hittite, Early Bronze, Chalcolithic, Early Chalcolithic, early and mid-Iron Age, Hellenistic and Ottoman.

MNA/Reuters

Passengers on US plane tell of air marshal action

AMSTERDAM, 25 Aug— Passengers aboard a US plane bound for India and forced to turn back to Amsterdam said air marshals swooped after 12 people began fidgeting with mobile phones and plastic bags, Dutch media said on Thursday.

The 12 were arrested on Wednesday after the plane landed at Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport. Prosecution authorities said they were still holding the 12 but would not give their identities or nationalities.

"I saw the air marshals run and I knew something was amiss," a 31-year-old businessman aboard the plane told Dutch newspaper *Algemeen Dagblad*.

"Some had beards, others were unshaven, one was wearing a robe. Some had baseball caps," another passenger told the paper.

Other passengers commented those arrested were from Asia and aged

between 25 and 35.

Two Dutch F-16 fighter jets accompanied the 273-seat DC10-30 plane which had reached

German airspace en route to Mumbai before it was forced to turn back to Schiphol.

MNA/Reuters

Jessica Simpson has joined hands with her hair stylist Ken Paves to launch a line of hair extension. *Extensions.Com* will be launched on 30 August, 2006. As they are claiming, these hair extension will allow you to change the color, thickness or length of your hair within minutes.—INTERNET



Cars drive through a hail storm in Mexico City on 23 August, 2006. The hail storm shredded leaves from trees and left piles of unmelted ice in Mexico City.—XINHUA

Floods kill 27, damage 10,000 houses in Sudan

KHARTOUM, 25 Aug— Floods and heavy rain have killed at least 27 people and damaged about 10,000 homes in Sudan, the Interior Ministry and other sources said on Wednesday.

The Blue and White Nile rivers, which meet in Khartoum, are threatening government ministries and the Republican Palace as the water in the capital rose to less than a metre below Nile street, home to the government's main buildings. Tens of thousands of square kilometres of farmland, in a country where most people depend on agriculture as a way of life, have been engulfed by the water.

And in the east of the country, aid workers fear flooding will worsen an outbreak of cholera.

"There is great concern that disease will spread very fast ... once the water stops flowing fast," said Caroline Nursey, the head of Oxfam aid agency in Sudan.—MNA/Reuters

Prospering Kontaung Village

Maung Wa (Agriculture)

In the olden days, Kontaung village enjoyed bumper rice harvest and economic progress in years when Meiktila Lake was filled to the brim. Kontaung now is a large village lying in the middle of Meiktila and Thazi on the 14-mile road linking the two towns of the dry central Myanmar.

In November and December 2004 were the days when local people made collective efforts with the help of the Agriculture and Irrigation Ministry in renovating the Kontaung Dam with the aim of helping bring bumper harvest back to the whole Kontaung village-tract. On completion of the renovation work, it was followed by the building of

Kontaung canal linking Kaukwe-taw, a feeder canal of Meiktila Lake passing the area. Thanks to the new canal that is supplying water to Kontaung Dam, the Kontaung village-tract cultivated 736 acres of monsoon paddy through irrigation in 2005-2006 cultivation season in addition to 566 acres of rain-fed paddy totalling 1,302 acres.

The cultivation season also saw the farmers of the village-tract growing summer paddy for the first time on a 67-acre stretch of land with water from the dam and technical and other assistance provided by A & I Ministry. The farmers strictly followed the methods and knowledge disseminated

by the ministry officials in seeding, weeding and fertilizing the ground and pesticide spraying of the crops with the ardent participation of members of the local Union Solidarity and Development Association for boosting summer paddy production. The village-tract's first summer paddy cultivation experience was marked with success because of the local people's will, departmental and USDA cooperation and the advanced techniques they all correctly applied.

The entire local people of neighbouring areas of the village-tract were amazed to see green paddy fields in summer.

Monsoon paddy per acre yield of Kontaung village-tract increased to 57.17 baskets during the season from only 30 in the past, thanks to the new high-yield strain the farmers have started to use. According to the calculations of experts, summer paddy per acre yield would be between 105 and 120 baskets that is higher than the target.

Now the local farmers have witnessed the prosperity that double cropping of paddy has brought to their homes. Besides, they have come to realize that the application of advanced techniques and equipment correctly, the use of fertilizers and pesticides at the right time and the cooperation of departmental personnel and USDA have led to their success. Because of the economic progress resulting from double cropping and rise in the per acre yield of paddy, monasteries of the village-tract are crowded with people holding novitiation ceremonies and making donations.

(Translation: TMT)

Monsoon paddy per acre yield of Kontaung village-tract increased to 57.17 baskets during the season from only 30 in the past, thanks to the new high-yield strain the farmers have started to use. According to the calculations of experts, summer paddy per acre yield would be between 105 and 120 baskets that is higher than the target.

Vietnam's footwear export surges in 8 months

HANOI, 26 Aug — Vietnam is estimated to make footwear export turnovers of 2.4 billion US dollars in the first eight months of this year, a year-on-year increase of 21.7 per cent, according to the country's General Statistics Office on Friday.

Vietnam is expected to gain footwear export turnovers of 3.3 billion dollars this year, up from over three billion dollars last year. Besides the two biggest markets of the European Union (EU) and the United States, it is boosting footwear export to countries and regions with big purchasing power, including Japan, Canada, Hong Kong, South Korea and Australia.

Vietnam is predicted to see average annual growth of 16.7 per cent in footwear export earnings in the 2006-2010 period, said the Trade Information Center under the country's Trade Ministry. It will intensify export of footwear to traditional markets and

markets with high potential growth like Indonesia, Malaysia, the Middle East, Africa, South Asia and Russia in a move to reap 6.2-6.5 billion dollars from exporting the product in 2010,

Vietnam plans to earn over one billion dollars in 2010 from shipping footwear to the United States, equal to more than 5 per cent of the foreign country's total footwear import turnover.

Vietnam also eyes revenue of over 3.2 billion dollars for footwear exported to the EU in 2010, accounting for more than 7.5 per cent of the block's total footwear import turnover in the year, the centre said.

MNA/Xinhua



The photo taken on 24 August, 2006 shows the sunset at the suburb of Beirut, capital of Lebanon. Experiencing more than a month's war fire, people of Beirut began to reconstruct their home to regain the city's beauty and richness.

XINHUA

Yangon Division Supervisory Committee for Ensuring Secure and Smooth Transport holds meeting



Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win addresses the meeting of Yangon Division Supervisory Committee for Ensuring Secure and Smooth Transport. — MNA

YANGON, 26 Aug — Yangon Division Supervisory Committee for Ensuring Secure and Smooth Transport held its meeting at Yangon Command yesterday.

Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win attended the meeting. The commander urged the officials to supervise the matters related to unlicensed vehicles and illegal import of auto parts. He also called for

installation of invertors at every traffic light, contingency plans for traffic accidents and reduction of traffic accidents during Accident Free Month.

Later, the officials of universities and colleges and the chairmen of bus lines reported on measures being taken for smooth transportation and conversion of vehicles into CNG-run ones.

The meeting ended with the concluding remarks by the commander.

MNA

Sittway Sub-Printing House holds Waso robes offering ceremony

YANGON, 26 Aug — A ceremony to mark the third anniversary of Sittway Sub-Printing House was held at the House this morning in conjunction with Waso robes offering ceremony. The ceremony was attended by the members of the Sangha led by Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw Bhaddanta Ganna of Gannayon Parriyatti monastery and officials and staff of the Ministry of Information in Sittway.

The congregation received the Five Precepts from the Sayadaw. Those present offered Waso robes and provisions to the members of the Sangha and shared the merits gained. — MNA

Commander-in-Chief (Air)'s Championship Shield Boxing Tournament held

YANGON, 26 Aug—The finals of the 14th Commander-in-Chief (Air)'s Championship Trophy Boxing Contest was held in conjunction with the prize-distribution ceremony at Thura Maung Thein Hall of Mingaladon Air Base yesterday evening.

After the final events, officials presented prizes to the winning boxers and Commander of Mingaladon Air Base Brig-Gen Zin Yaw, on behalf of the Commander-in-Chief (Air), presented trophy to the Mingaladon Air Base team that emerged champion.

Also present on the occasion were Brig-Gen Ye Chit Pe of Mingaladon Station, the Deputy Commander of Mingaladon Air Base, senior military officers of the Air Base, judges of Myanmar Boxing Federation, Yangon Command, Myanmar Police Force and Yangon City Development Committee, managers and boxers of seven teams, officers and other ranks and their families. — MNA

Education Minister inspects university and schools

YANGON, 26 Aug — Dr Chan Nyein, Minister for Education met the rector, professors and students of Yangon Institute of Education yesterday. The officials conducted the minister around the Institute.

The minister called for the advancement of the school curricula and effective learning through teaching aids.

Minister Dr Chan Nyein later visited No 2 Basic Education High School in Thanlyin

Township and met with the teachers. And the minister also visited No 3 BEHS in the township.

Thereafter, the minister went to East Yangon University and met the rector and faculty members. He called for

conducting research and improvement of qualification of the students.

After hearing reports on teaching and management, the minister attended to the needs.

MNA

No 2 BEHS in Sangyong Township holds annual meeting

YANGON, 26 Aug — The meeting (2005/2006) of the Parent-Teacher Association of No 2 Basic Education High School in Sangyong Township was held this morning at the school in conjunction with a prize presentation ceremony.

Headmistress Daw Khin Lay Myint and Township Education Officer Daw Tint Tint spoke on the occasion.

After the meeting, the chairman of Township Peace and Development Council, the headmistress and officials presented prizes to the students who passed the matric exam (2005/06) with distinctions.

In 2005-2006 academic year, the pass rate of No 2 BEHS in Sangyong Township is 93.37 percent. Among all the schools under No 3

Basic Education Department, the pass rate of No 2 BEHS in Sangyong Township stood first. The school was able to produce 19 six-distinction winners, 25 five-distinction winners, 31 four-distinction winners, 29 three-distinction winners, 49 two-distinction winners and 44 one-distinction winners.

MNA



Commander of Mingaladon Air Base Brig-Gen Zin Yaw presents the shield to the winning team of the 14th C-in-C (Air)'s Boxing Tournament. — MNA



Headmistress Daw Khin Lay Myint presents prize to a six-distinction winner. — MNA

Performing Arts Competitions of Directorate of PRPW continue

YANGON, 26 Aug — The sixth Performing Arts Competitions organized by the Directorate of Public Relations and Psychological Warfare of the Ministry of Defence continued at the theatre of the No 3 Mobile Public Relations Unit in Mandalay on 24 August.

Present on the occasion were Lt-Col Maung Maung Oo of the Directorate of PRPW, commandants of the units and training schools under the Directorate of PRPW, members of the panel of judges of the University of Culture (Mandalay) and the Fine Arts Department (Mandalay) and

contestants. In the morning of five-day competitions, the contestants took part in the modern song (men's and women's) and (group's) contest, and Myanmar Orchestra (men's). In the evening, Nos 1, 3 and 4 Mobile Public Relations Units participated in the magic contests. — MNA

Myogyi dam to irrigate 30,000 acres of farmland

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Aug — Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo visited the Myogyi multi-purpose dam project site near Myogyi village, Ywangan Township, Shan State (South) on 19 August. Director U Myo Tun of Construction-7 of the Irrigation Department reported on construction of irrigation facilities such as the main dam, tunnel and diversion weir.



Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo inspects Myogyi Dam in Ywangan Township in Shan State (South). — MNA

Irrigation Department Director General U Kyaw San Win and officials also reported on construction work. Myogyi dam is being built to benefit 30,000 acres of farmland and generate 30 megawatt.

Next, the minister and party went to Kon

village in Wundwin Township, Meiktila district where Meiktila plain river-water pumping project site is located. At the briefing hall of the project, an official reported on construction

tasks and Director General of the Water Resource Utilization Department U Win Shwe gave a supplementary report. After inspecting project work, the minister gave instructions to officials on

timely implementation of the projects to be able to irrigate 30,000 acres of farmland in Wundwin and Thazi Townships.

MNA

Commander tours Ye Township...

(from page 16)

village and Duya Station Hospital and comforted the patients and provided gifts to them.

The commander and wife and party comforted the patients and provided cash for the patients at Ye Township People's Hospital.

Next, they visited the Hsandawshin Kyaik Kesala Pagoda and made cash donations to the funds of the pagoda.

MNA

SWRR Minister inspects fire stations



Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe inspects a fire station in Kyauktada Township.

FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT

YANGON, 26 Aug — Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe accompanied by Director-General U Myint Tun of Fire Services Department and officials inspected matters related to fire preventive measures and collection of water and maintenance of

fire engines at Sangyong Township Fire Station this afternoon and gave necessary instructions. They inspected construction of a new fire station.

Next, the minister also inspected Kyauktada Township Fire Station and heard reports by an official.

MNA

Site for construction of Kyitaungkan sub-power station, Ahlon power station inspected



Minister for Electric Power No (2) Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint inspects Ahlon Power Station. — MNA

YANGON, 26 Aug — Minister for Electric Power No (2) Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint visited the site chosen for construction of Kyitaungkan 230 KV sub-power station in Pyinmana Township on 23 August. He also visited Ahlon power station on 25 August. At the meeting hall, an official

reported to the minister on arrival of No 3 boiler modules. The minister stressed the need for worksite safety measures and minimizing loss and wastage.

Next, he inspected the control room, operation of No 2 boiler and repair of transformers. — MNA

AIDS ရောဂါ တားဆီးကာကွယ်ရေး နှိုးဆော်ချက် (၂)

AIDS ရောဂါသည် အသက်အရွယ်၊ လူမျိုး၊ ဘာသာ၊ အဆင့်အတန်းမရွေး ကူးစက်နိုင်သည်။ AIDS ရောဂါ ဖြစ်ပွားစေသည့် HIV ပိုး ကူးစက်ခံရသူအများစုမှာ အသက် (၁၅)နှစ်မှ (၂၄)နှစ်အတွင်း လူငယ်များဖြစ်ကြသည်။ လူငယ် များသည် 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၍ မရှင်းလင်းသည်များကို လူကြီးမိဘ၊ ကျန်းမာရေး ဝန်ထမ်းများ၊ ရောဂါ ကာကွယ်တားဆီးရေး အတွက် လေ့ကျင့်သင်ကြားထားသည့် သူငယ်ချင်း အပေါင်းအသင်းများနှင့် ဆွေးနွေးပါ။

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

MWJA holds paper reading session

YANGON, 26 Aug—The knowledge bank paper reading session sponsored by Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association took place at the MWJA's office on the second floor of Sarpay Beikman Building on Merchant Street here at noon today.

It was attended by Vice-Chairmen of MWJA U Tin Kha (Tekkatho Tin Kha) and U Than Maung (Than Maung), Secretary Dr Tin Tun Oo (Dr Tin Tun Oo), joint-secretaries, CEC members, guests and enthusiasts.

Leader of the publication and talks study working group of MWJA U Myo Thant (Maung Hsu Shin) introduced the paper reading session.

Next, resource person U Aye Cho (MA) presented paper on books published in Myanmar alphabet up to 1885 and replied to questions raised by those present.

After that, Vice-Chairman U Tin Kha (Tekkatho Tin Kha) expressed thanks which brought the paper reading session to an end.

MNA

Exceeding targets of Ministry of Finance and Revenue coordinated

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Aug — A coordination meeting on exceeding the targets of the Ministry of Finance and Revenue for 2006-2007 fiscal year was held at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun delivered an address. He said strong and weak points of the work done in the first four months are to be reviewed and plans are to be laid down and implemented for exceeding the economic targets.

He urged the service personnel to

discharge the duties on finance and revenue in accord with rules and regulations.

The directors-general and managing directors of departments and enterprises reported on work done and future tasks.

In conclusion, the minister spoke of the need for departments to successfully undertake the objectives of the State and to apply information and communication technology beneficially.

MNA



Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun speaks at a coordination meeting. — F&R

Myanmar delegation leaves for Indonesia



Minister for Hotels and Tourism Maj-Gen Soe Naing being seen before his departure for Indonesia. — MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Aug — A Myanmar delegation led by Minister for Hotels and Tourism Maj-Gen Soe Naing left here by air for Indonesia this afternoon to attend the ministerial and senior officials meetings and symposium on Cultural Heritage Tourism of Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam to be held from 27 to 30 August in Jakarta, Republic of Indonesia.

They were seen off at the Nay Pyi Taw Airport by Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and

for Immigration and Population Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu and departmental heads, officials and family members.

Director-General U Htay Aung and Assistant Director U Thu Aung of Directorate of Hotels and Tourism and Director U Aye Maung of Department of Archaeology under the Ministry of Culture also left for Indonesia on the same flight. — MNA

Pangsan (Pangkham) and...

(from page 16)

K 2,865.66 million on the projects for the development of Wa region and provided cash and kind worth K 1,256 million for the local people.

Wa region of Pangsan (Pangkham), which was just a hamlet in 1988, is now enjoying considerable progress that is on a par with that of Lashio, capital of northern Shan State.

Being established systematically with concrete streets, fine houses, markets, stores and supermarkets, Pangsan (Pangkham) has become a beautiful and splendid town. A significant point is that the designs of some buildings there are similar to that of some modern buildings in Yangon City, thus providing overwhelming evidence of the rapid development of the region.

The drive for narcotics and poppy elimination in Wa region is being implemented with the cash from the border areas development funds. So far 3,000 acres have been put under rubber and more than 1,100 acres under lychee in Namtit and 4,000 acres under rubber in Pangsan.

Such international organizations as UNDP, UNODC and WFP are extending a helping hand to the government in the programme for the development of Wa region.

To date, the government has constructed five large bridges and 43 medium bridges and roads stretching nearly 900 miles, upgraded roads stretching about 1,000 miles in Wa region.

In the plan for raising the education standard of local people in Wa region, the government has built 58 basic education schools, six hospitals, 11 dispensaries and eight health care centres for providing health care for local people in Wa region.

In Wa region, a village and a town have been served with a hydro-electric power station each and five towns have enjoyed electric power. The government has opened telegraph offices and auto exchange stations in the region for the comfort and convenience of local residents. As a result of the government's efforts to bridge the development gap,

the region has access to TV channels through five TV retransmission stations.

Mongla, Special Region-4 in Shan State (East), has witnessed remarkable development. It is a town that shares the border with the People's Republic of China. So, it has helped enhance relations and friendship between the two countries.

The Drug Elimination Museum is the showcase of Mongla in Shan State (East) that has been established to mark the eradication of poppy in Mongla. The pavilions in the museum show the condition of Mongla drawing a comparison between the past and the present. The booths of the museum attractively feature the measures for elimination of narcotic drugs and poppy. Kengtung saw the torching of the narcotic drugs seized in Shan State (East) on 14 August with the participation of national race leaders. Approximately, the narcotics destroyed that day amounted to K 9.2 billion equivalent to 436 million US dollars.

On 22 April 1997, Mongla region was made known to the world as a poppy free zone. Now, it is making a good progress in growing poppy-

substitute perennial crops such as rubber, mango and cardamom together with sugarcane and exporting the products to China.

In Shan State, Mongla is the region that launched the drive first for eradication of poppy cultivation and opium production. Now, it has been able to catch up with a city in development.

Mongla region has planted rubber on over 20,000 acres of land, and in some areas, rubber trees have begun to yield latex. It is heartening that Mongla region is enjoying unprecedented development.

The government has been taking all possible steps to narrow the development gap between one region and another in the nation. Border areas are now enjoying the taste of significant progress with high standard of living of national races largely due to the goodwill of the government. The dramatic development of Special Region-2 (Pangsan) and Special Region-4 (Mongla) has demonstrated the cohesion of national races that will go down in the annals of the history of the Union.

Translation: MS



A scenic beauty of thriving poppy-substitute rubber trees grown in rows in Pangsan (Pangkham).

ASEAN trade talks end in songfest

KUALA LUMPUR, 26 Aug — Washington's top trade negotiator came to Asia with a plea to topple trade barriers, but her Asian counterparts wrecked some well-known tunes instead.

US Trade Representative Susan Schwab met Southeast Asian trade ministers in Malaysia this week and, as ever in this region, talks ended with a dinner and the inevitable singalong.

Singaporean and Brunei officials opened the night with "My Way", the Vietnamese weighed in with "Rhythm of the Rain" and the Laotians sang "To All The Girls I've Loved Before".

Malaysian Trade Minister Rafidah Aziz launched into an Indonesian number, "Tak Ingin Sendiri" (I Don't Want To Be Alone), with her banker husband, Basir Ahmad.

The feisty, blunt-speaking Rafidah, reputedly the world's longest serving Trade Minister with 20 years in office, later cut a cake to mark their 40th wedding anniversary.

Rafidah, 61, is famous for her forthright views but not her singing. Local journalists call her the "bullet train" and "rapid fire", but she apparently prefers "the golfing grandmother".

But the night belonged to Indonesian Trade Minister Mari Elka Pangestu who recited a poem touching on the on-off free-trade talks between the Association of South-East Asian Nations and India.

MNA/Reuters

Indian state to send Coke, Pepsi samples for testing

NEW DELHI, 26 Aug — The Orissa government in eastern India has ordered administrations of all 30 districts to collect Pepsi and Coca-Cola soft drink samples within the next three days, *Indo-Asian News Service* reported Friday.

The officials were Thursday asked to send the samples to the state capital Bhubaneswar, said a senior health department official.

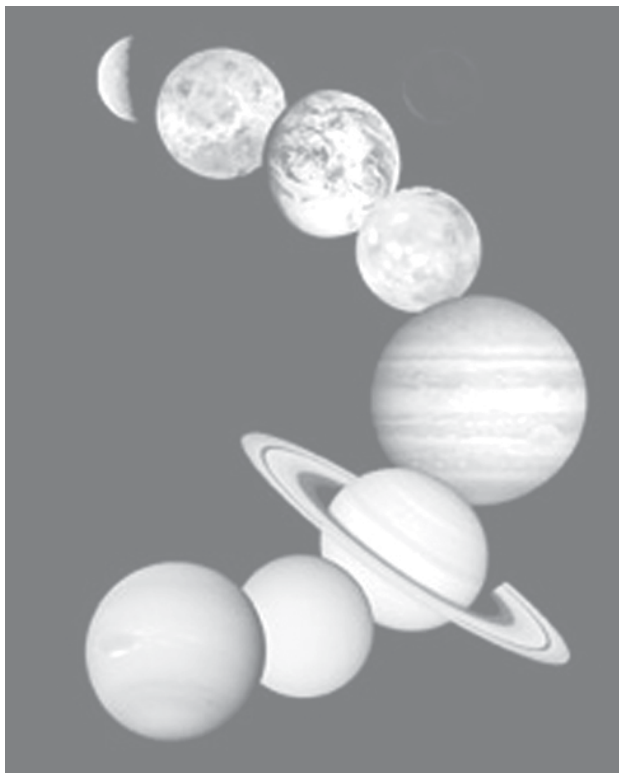
The samples would then be sent to a laboratory in Pune, Maharashtra, as the state government does not have testing facilities to confirm the presence of pesticides. If the tests prove conclusively that the drinks contain

harmful pesticides, the state government may ban products from the two soft drink giants.

The New Delhi-based Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) has recently announced that dangerous levels of pesticide were found in all the samples of the 11 soft drinks brands collected from 25 different manufacturing units of Coca-Cola and PepsiCo spread over 12 states.

As a result, several states in India, including Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Gujarat, have recently banned colas in schools, colleges and government departments.

MNA/Xinhua



The International Astronomical Union (IAU) on 24 August, 2006 adopted a resolution on planet definition, according to which Pluto had been stripped of the planetary status.

XINHUA

ASEAN, US ink framework arrangement to deepen trade ties

KUALA LUMPUR, 26 Aug — The Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the United States on Friday signed a Trade and Investment Framework Arrangement (TIFA) here.

Economic ministers of all the 10 ASEAN member countries inked the pact with the United States Trade Representative Susan C Schwab after concluding their consultations in Malaysia's capital of Kuala Lumpur, co-chaired by Malaysian International Trade and Industry Minister Rafidah Aziz and Schwab.

Under the TIFA, ASEAN and the US will establish a formal dialogue to coordinate on regional and multilateral trade issues and will undertake a Work Plan that will support regional integration and help expand the already strong trade and investment ties between

ASEAN and the US.

"At the initial stage, the Work Plan will include initiatives to support the development of the ASEAN Single Window, which will facilitate the flow of goods within ASEAN and between ASEAN and the United States," said ministers in a joint statement.

In addition, a Joint Council on Trade and Investment will be formed under the TIFA to provide directions on the implementation of the TIFA and the Work Plan, said the statement.—MNA/Xinhua

UN agencies to increase Pacific offices

WELLINGTON, 26 Aug — Responding to island leaders' calls for a greater onsite presence, the United Nations will establish its first local offices in eight Pacific island nations during the next year, including in the North Pacific area.

According to Friday's report from *Pacnews*, a Suva-based regional news agency, Marshall Islands, Palau and Federated States of Micronesia had earlier asked the United Nations to step up its presence in the North Pacific, which has never had a UN office.

In response, UN agencies would be establishing offices in Majuro, Pohnpei and Koror shortly, according to Najib Assifi, the United Nations Population Fund's (UNFPA) representative for the Pacific who is based in Fiji, the headquarters for most of the UN agencies active in the region.

UNFPA is taking responsibility for establishing the Majuro and Pohnpei offices, but is doing so in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme and UNICEF, the UN Children's Fund, said Assifi.

"The move to establish field offices in the region is part of broader reforms within the UN system," said Assifi.

UNICEF is taking the lead to establish offices in Kiribati and Vanuatu, while UNDP is moving ahead to establish offices in Palau, Tuvalu and Nauru.

MNA/Xinhua



Computer engineer Mike performs stunts during a selection in the Global Film Park in Los Angeles, the United States, on 24 August, 2006. Hundreds of players took part in the selection held by the Global Film Park for the "Horror Night" on the All Saints' Day. The "Horror Night" has been held successively for seven years and is popular among tourists, during which players impersonate ghosts and corpses.—XINHUA

US diplomat charged with taking bribes for visas

WASHINGTON, 26 Aug — A US diplomat was charged on Friday with accepting trips with exotic dancers, jewellery and entertainment in exchange for issuing visas to 21 people linked to an international jewel distributor. US Foreign Service officer Michael O'Keefe, 59, and international jeweller Sunil Agrawal were indicted by a grand jury in Washington on three counts of conspiracy and bribery.

O'Keefe, a 22-year State Department veteran who was working at the US Consulate in Toronto as the deputy non-immigrant visa chief, was arrested on Thursday in Washington, the US Attorney's Office said. Agrawal remains at large. The indictment said between 2004 and 2006 Agrawal gave round-trip airline tickets to O'Keefe and two exotic dancers to travel to New

York and Las Vegas. Agrawal paid for hotels, expensive meals and entertainment during the trips. Agrawal also gave O'Keefe jewellery, other gifts and a job reference, the indictment said. In exchange, O'Keefe helped expedite visa requests for employees of Agrawal's company, STS Jewels Inc. He issued visas to 21 people sponsored by Agrawal.

"US Consular officials are on the front line of our border protection," said US Attorney Kenneth Wainstein. "A consular official who violates the rules for personal gain not only erodes public trust in our visa system, but seriously jeopardizes our national security."

The indictment included excerpts of e-mails between O'Keefe and Agrawal detailing plans for their trips and requests for O'Keefe to help STS employees obtain US visas. — MNA/Reuters



Workers watch the last rolls of Fuji film leave the assembly line at the Fuji factory in Tilburg, the Netherlands on 25 August, 2006. Fuji has stopped producing film rolls in Europe after 18 years. — INTERNET

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Dated: 27 August 2006

Singer India Arie performs on stage during their concert at the Rock-en-Seine Festival in Saint-Cloud near Paris, on 25 August, 2006.
INTERNET

Widow says Pluto discoverer would understand demotion

WASHINGTON, 25 Aug—The American astronomer who put Pluto on the solar system map would have accepted its demotion to non-planet status because he was a good scientist, his widow said on Thursday.

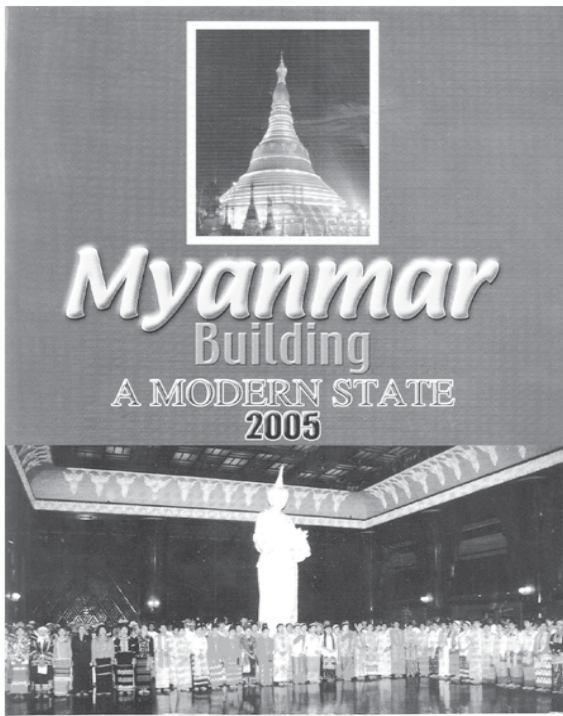
"Clyde said, 'Well, it's there. You can do what you want with it,'" Patricia Tombaugh, 94, said from her home in Las Cruces, New Mexico, after the International Astronomical Union downgraded husband Clyde Tombaugh's crowning achievement.

Tombaugh was 24 years old and working at the Lowell Observatory in Arizona in 1930 when he discovered Pluto, which was then considered the ninth planet in the solar system and the one most distant from the sun.

Patricia Tombaugh told Reuters by phone that her husband was frustrated and disappointed when scientists began questioning whether Pluto had the right stuff to be a planet.

The International Astronomical Union made it official in Prague on Thursday when it voted to demote Pluto to "dwarf planet" status.

Tombaugh said her husband, who died in 1997 at the age of 90, would have accepted the news with scientific detachment.—MNA/Reuters



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Three employees of Italian oil company abducted in Nigeria

ROME, 25 Aug—Three employees of the Italian ENI oil company's Saipem subsidiary have been abducted in the Nigerian city of Port Harcourt, the Italian ANSA news agency reported on Thursday.

The three men, including an Italian, were travelling near their company on the outskirts of Port Harcourt when unidentified gunmen blocked their vehicle and killed one bodyguard, the report said.

The Italian Foreign Ministry confirmed the kidnappings of the three men outside the gates of their company in Port Harcourt in Nigeria's southern oil producing region, according to the report.

The Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta, a Nigerian militant group, said two other Saipem employees were involved in the abduction.

The incident came after six foreign oil workers kidnapped in the same region 10 days ago were released Wednesday

night.

Since January, about 40 foreign oil workers have been kidnapped in Nigeria, the largest oil producer in Africa, with around 15 abducted in the

past two weeks by militants seeking control of local oil and gas.

Kidnappings of foreign oil workers and attacks on oil facilities by militant youths since the

beginning of this year have forced Nigeria to cut production by 670,000 barrels per day, or 26 per cent of its crude production.

MNA/Xinhua



Visitors view Barbie dolls in Hong Kong, on 24 August, 2006. A Barbie doll exhibition was held in Hong Kong on Thursday, displaying 107 limited editions of Barbie dolls.—XINHUA

Britain's population tops 60 mln, fastest in 40 years

LONDON, 25 Aug—Britain's population is growing at its fastest rate since the height of the 1960s baby boom, topping 60 million for the first time — a surge that could halt the expected slowing of the economy's potential growth rate.

The government expects the rate at which the economy can grow without fuelling inflation will dip next year to 2.5 per cent from 2.75 per cent, due to the effect of baby boom women retiring and cutting growth in the working age population.

The trend growth rate is key to Finance Minister Gordon Brown's spending and borrowing plans and also influences whether interest rates rise or fall.

But figures from the Office for National Statistics suggest a surge

in people from Eastern Europe, including younger women, may bolster the trend rate.

"As long as the migrant labour are as productive as those leaving the labour force, then the migrant labour should prevent potential output falling," said Alan Clarke, an economist at BNPParibas.

The ONS said the population grew in line with its forecasts by 375,000 to 60.2 million in the year to the end of July 2005—the biggest annual rise since 1962, and the fastest rate of growth since

1965.

The balance of numbers coming into and out of the UK rose to 235,000 from 167,000 the year before, boosted primarily by the first full year of migration from countries like Poland after their entry to the European Union in 2004.

The balance of people coming into Britain from those countries was 74,000.

"The expansion of the EU has had a substantial effect on the population," the ONS's Peter Goldblatt told reporters.

MNA/Reuters



ဝဠာရူးဖြင့် ခေတ်မီပွဲပြုစိုးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့



A forest officer shows a rare specimen of the Indian Peacock soft shell turtle at the Lataguri rescue centre, about 89 km (55 miles) north from the northeastern Indian city of Siliguri, on 24 August, 2006.—INTERNET

Low Vitamin D linked to seniors' risk of falling

NEW YORK, 25 Aug—Older men and women with Vitamin D deficiency are more likely to fall multiple times in the course of a year than their peers with adequate Vitamin D levels, researchers in The Netherlands have found.

Vitamin D may be best known for its role, along with calcium, in maintaining bone health. However, Vitamin D is also important for muscle mass and strength, and compromised muscle function may explain the fall risk seen in this study, according to the researchers.

The findings suggest that older adults should be sure

to get adequate Vitamin D from food and multivitamins, lead study author Dr Marieke B Snijder, of Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, told Reuters Health. However, she added, clinical trials are needed to prove that this actually prevents falls. Snijder and her colleagues report their findings in the Journal of Clinical Endocrinology & Meta-

bolism.

For their study, the researchers measured blood levels of Vitamin D in 1,231 adults age 65 and older, then followed them for one year to track any falls they suffered. During that time, 33 per cent fell at least once, according to "fall calendars" that each participant kept. Just over 11 per cent fell two or more times.

Overall, men and women who were deficient in Vitamin D at the outset were 78 per cent more likely than those with adequate levels to fall at least twice. Their risk of falling three or more times was more than doubled.

Other fall risk factors, such as exercise, smoking and drinking habits, did not explain the link. However, at the start of the study, participants with Vitamin D deficiency did perform more poorly on tests of physical function, including walking and getting up and down from a chair.— MNA/Reuters

AsiaSat sees moderate growth in first half of 2006

HONG KONG, 25 Aug—AsiaSat, a Hong Kong-listed satellite service provider, sees a moderate growth in the first half year of 2006 with 0.08 HK dollars dividend per share, according to its interim results announced Thursday. The major satellite transmission provider in Asia Pacific said its sales in the first six months reached 475 million HK dollars (61.2 million US dollars), up 7 per cent over the same period last year and the earnings per share increased 30 per cent to 0.61 HK dollars.

The company said, a

new satellite, AsiaSat 5 is expected to replace AsiaSat 2 in the second half of 2008 and the new satellite with wider range of transmitting bands will provide much better services to its customers.

Peter E. Jackson, the CEO of the AsiaSat, said 2006 will probably be "a flat year", but the long term of the market is promising with more opportunities emerged in High Definition TV (HDTV), Video-to-mobile system, and Direct To Home video transmitting system.—MNA/Xinhua



Miss Universe 2006 Zuleyka Rivera Mendoza (L) of Puerto Rico and Miss Indonesia 2005 Nadine Chandra Winata pose for photographers after a news conference in a Jakarta on 25 August, 2006. Mendoza is in Indonesia as part of her worldwide tour and will attend the final contest of Miss Indonesia 2006 on Friday.—INTERNET

Suez Canal reports record daily revenue

CAIRO, 25 Aug—The Suez Canal garnered the highest daily revenue in history at 14.3 million dollars on Monday, Egypt's top-selling daily al-Ahram reported on Wednesday.

Ahmed Fadel, head of the Canal Authority, was quoted as saying that 60 ships, with total tonnage of 2.9 million, transited the canal on Monday.

The previous record of highest single-day revenue at 13.73 million dollars was set on 7 June.

The Suez Canal's revenues increased 7.8 per cent in the first seven months of the year, hitting 2.1 billion dollars, Fadel said. The 170-kilometre-long Suez Canal was opened in 1869 after 10 years of work.

Running north to south across the Isthmus of Suez in northern Egypt, the canal connects the Mediterranean Sea with the Red Sea, providing a shortcut for ships operating between European and Asian ports.

As one of the busiest waterways in the world,

some 18,000 ships carrying a total of 670 million tons of goods sailed through it in 2005, according to the Canal Authority.

The canal is one of Egypt's major hard currency earners. In 2005, it collected a record 3.4 billion dollars.

MNA/Xinhua



Committee on national education set up in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 25 Aug—Singapore on Thursday announced the establishment of a committee to improve its national education.

Speaking at a national education forum here on Thursday, Singapore's Education Minister Tharman Shanmugaratnam said that the committee will consult teachers, students and parents on issues like how to give schools more freedom to run their national education programmes.

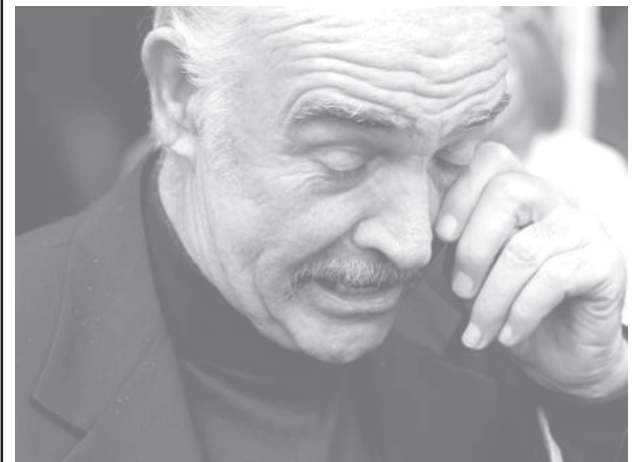
After almost 10 years, the minister said, the national education initiative is set for a revamp to better engage students and nurture a sense of belonging and commitment to the country.

"The committee will

study how we can better engage our young, and encourage them to shape the character and life of our society," the minister said. The committee, which aims to complete its work

by next March, will also be considering the experiences of countries like the United States, Britain and Japan in citizenship education.

MNA/Xinhua



An abandoned lion sits in a cage at Rancho dos Gnomos, a wild animal ranch that volunteered to temporarily house 13 abandoned lions and a Bengal tiger in Cotia, on the outskirts of Sao Paulo on 24 August, 2006. A decision is being made by IBAMA, Brazil's environmental regulator, on the final destination of the abandoned animals.—INTERNET

British actor Sean Connery wipes his eye as he arrives to receive a Bafta Scotland Lifetime Achievement Award at the Cineworld complex in Edinburgh, Scotland on 25 August, 2006.

INTERNET

SPORTS



Barcelona's Brazilian forward Ronaldinho, center, challenges for the ball with Sevilla's Dani Alves, right, as his teammate Julien Escude looks on, during the UEFA Super Cup soccer match at the Louis II stadium in Monaco, on 25 Aug, 2006.—INTERNET

Sevilla tame Barcelona 3-0 in lively Super Cup

MONACO, 26 Aug— Sevilla produced a spirited display to outplay Barcelona 3-0 in a lively all-Spanish European Super Cup on Friday.

The UEFA Cup champions bravely raced forward from kickoff to tame the Champions League winners in the traditional European season curtain-raiser.

Brazilian midfielder Renato opened the scoring seven minutes into a surprisingly one-sided contest, following up after Barca keeper Victor Valdes had failed to block an effort by Luis Fabiano.

Mali forward Frederic Kanoute doubled the advantage with a header from a corner just before halftime. Substitute

midfielder Enzo Maresca wrapped it up from the penalty spot one minute from time after he was brought down in the box.

Sevilla, who demolished Middlesbrough 4-0 in the UEFA Cup final last May to win their first trophy in 58 years, were more aggressive than their prestigious opponents and bravely seized their chances.

"The team worked phenomenally hard," said

Sevilla defender Daniel Alves, who was outstanding. "We know we have a team with great quality and we showed that we knew how to control the game and win it and claim another cup for the club."

Ronaldinho and company did thrill their fans on occasions with clever combinations but Barcelona were too passive and clumsy in front of goal on a warm, still night in the principality.

Barcelona were the clear favourites after crushing King's Cup holders Espanyol 3-0 at the Nou Camp last Sunday to win the domestic version of the Super Cup 4-0 on aggregate. They then thrashed German champions Bayern Munich 4-0 in the Hans Gamper trophy on Tuesday and the air of confidence surrounding them was such that they probably took Sevilla too lightly.—MNA/Reuters

Love shrugs aside cup disappointment with 65 at firestone

AKRON (Ohio), 26 Aug— Davis Love III put his Ryder Cup disappointment behind him by shooting a five-under-par 65 in the WGC-Bridgestone

Invitational second round on Friday.

Overlooked as a wildcard selection by US team captain Tom Lehman on Monday, Love reeled off seven birdies and two bogeys to finish one shot behind the pacesetter Tiger Woods at Firestone Country Club.

The 42-year-old American, a veteran of six Ryder Cup matches, will play with world number one Woods in the final pairing in Saturday's third round.

"It's a good position to be on this golf course," Love told reporters after posting an eight-under total of 132. "It's playing fairly tough and it will be nice to play with Tiger tomorrow."

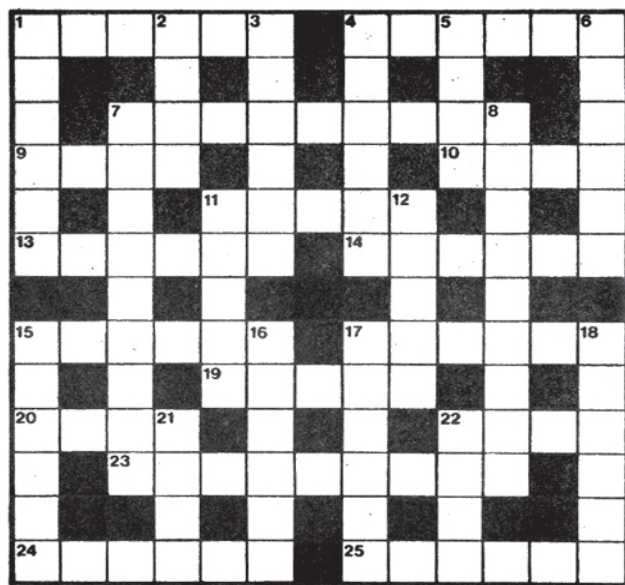
MNA/Reuters

Thatcher charged with serious foul play by FA

LONDON, 26 Aug— Manchester City defender Ben Thatcher was charged with serious foul play by the FA on Friday for his challenge on Pedro Mendes which put the Portsmouth player in hospital.

As Thatcher was cautioned for the offence it would normally fall outside the FA's remit for punishment by video evidence, but in a statement on their website they said it was an exceptional case. "The incident is being considered as an exceptional case because the FA contends that the challenge was sufficiently serious that had Thatcher been sent off, an additional sanction would have been merited," the FA said.—MNA/Reuters

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Across | 25 Brood |
| 1 Husky | Down |
| 4 Ovary of flower | 1 Pester |
| 7 Dutchman | 2 Chamber |
| 9 First man | 3 Enrol |
| 10 Hide | 4 Greek poet |
| 11 Customary | 5 Pace |
| 13 Noiseless | 6 Small |
| 14 Venerate | 7 Pantomime buffoon |
| 15 Result | 8 Dry run |
| 17 Coupled | 11 Beneath |
| 19 Large stream | 12 Hungarian composer |
| 20 Post | 15 Peak |
| 22 Daybreak | 16 Tenacious mollusc |
| 23 Thing of matchless excellence | 17 Storm-bird |
| 24 Special aptitude | 18 Peril |
| | 21 Learning |
| | 22 Regimen |

Porto begin title defence with 2-1 win over Leiria

LISBON, 26 Aug— Champions Porto started their title defence with a 2-1 home win over Uniao Leiria on Friday.

Porto, coached by Jesualdo Ferreira who replaced Dutchman Co Adriaanse, opened the scoring in the 20th minute when Brazilian striker Adriano headed home inside area after great work from Moroccan winger Tarik Sektioui on the left.

Winger Ricardo Quaresma doubled the lead in first-half stoppage time with a shot inside box. Uniao Leiria pulled a goal back through Senegalese striker Moddou Sougout after 68 minutes.

The inaugural round of the Portuguese league was thrown into disarray after games involving top flight club Gil Vicente and Second Division sides Belenenses and Leixoes were postponed over a relegation row.

The Portuguese Soccer Federation (FPF) ruled that Gil Vicente should be suspended from all competitions and their Premier League place taken by Belenenses, who were relegated last season.

The FPF said Gil Vicente had broken rules concerning the mid-season registration of amateur Angolan player Mateus. The club then compounded the error by applying to a civil court to clear the

player's eligibility, contravening more league rules.—MNA/Reuters



FC Porto's Lucho Gonzalez, right, from Argentina kicks the ball past Uniao Leiria's Paulo Machado at the Dragao Stadium during their Portuguese League soccer match on 25 Aug, 2006 in Porto, northern Portugal. Porto won 2-1.—INTERNET



Russia's Svetlana Kuznetsova dives to try to return a shot to Belgium's Justine Henin-Hardenne in their women's semifinal singles match at the Pilot Pen Tennis tournament in New Haven, Conn, on 25 Aug, 2006. Henin-Hardenne defeated Kuznetsova in straight sets, 6-3, 6-3.—INTERNET

Schalke beat Werder Bremen 2-0

BERLIN, 26 Aug— Schalke 04 beat Werder Bremen 2-0 on Friday in an ill-tempered clash in Gelsenkirchen between the two north German clubs who both have Bundesliga title aspirations.

Kevin Kuranyi scored his first goal since March to give Schalke the lead after seven minutes, outjumping Werder defender Pierre Wome to head in a cross from Peter Lovenkrands. Hamit Altintop made it 2-0 with a breakaway goal 18 minutes from time.

It was the first defeat of the season for Bremen, who won their opening two Bundesliga matches and also beat Bayern Munich to win the pre-season League Cup. They had won their last seven Bundesliga matches going back to last season.

Bremen goalkeeper Tim Wiese made three outstanding saves in the fast-paced match played before a sell-out crowd

of 61,482, denying Kuranyi, Halil Altintop and Gerald Asamoah. Schalke moved into first place, at least until Saturday, with seven points from three matches ahead of Nuremberg and Bayern each with six points from two games. Bremen slipped to fourth with six points.

"We weren't able to get on track at any point in the match," said Bremen coach Thomas Schaaf, whose team earlier this week were drawn in the same Champions League group as Barcelona and Chelsea.

"We were too passive and couldn't put up much of a fight against them. They put us under pressure the whole match."

MNA/Reuters

Moderate earthquake jolts

S-W China's Yunnan Province

KUNMING, 26 Aug — Two persons were confirmed dead and one injured in an earthquake measuring 5.1 degrees on the Richter Scale that jolted Yanjin County, southwest China's Yunnan Province, at 1:51 pm on Friday, according to local government.

Yunnan Provincial Civil Affairs Bureau has sent officials and earthquake experts to direct relief efforts in quake-hit areas.

Epicentre of the quake was located at 28.0 degrees North Latitude and 104.2 degrees East Longitude, some 570 kilometres from Kunming, capital of the province.

A Xinhua correspondent based in

Chengdu, capital of neighbouring Sichuan Province, said he felt the quake. Yanjin County is located on the Yunnan-Guizhou Plateau and has a population of 350,000.

An earthquake measuring 5.1 on the Richter Scale hit Yanjin and neighbouring Dagan County on 22 July, killing 22 and injuring 106 people.

The quake toppled

more than 1,400 houses and damaged 38,000 others in 13 townships of the county as most houses in Yanjin are built on hillside and therefore vulnerable to earthquakes.

Yanjin is located on an earthquake belt, where at least nine major quakes were recorded, the strongest of which was measured at 7.1 degrees on the Richter Scale.

MNA/Xinhua

Malaria in PNG kills over 50

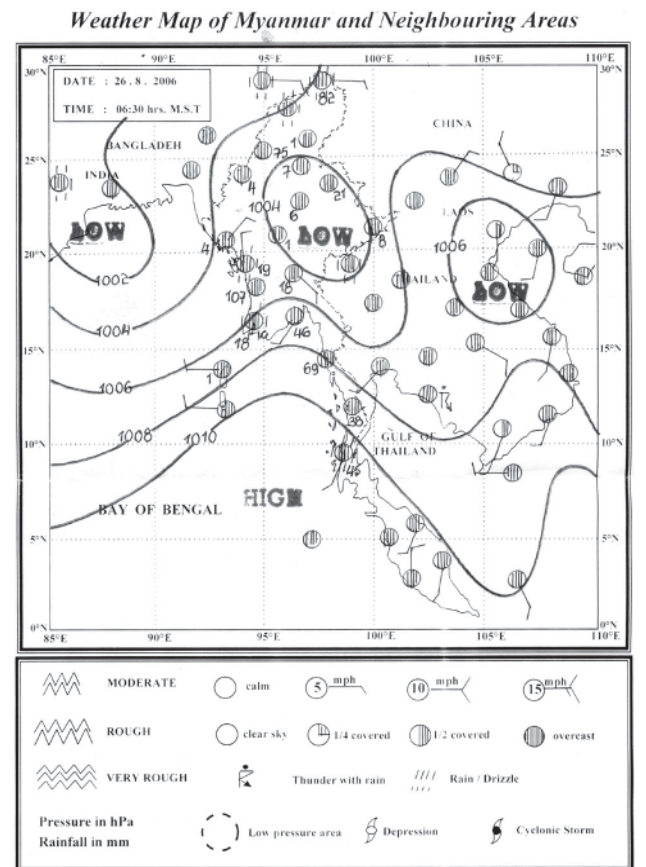
WELLINGTON, 26 Aug — A malaria outbreak in Papua New Guinea has claimed more than 50 lives, a local newspaper reported Thursday.

According to *Post Courier*, a Port Moresby-based daily newspaper, the deaths occurred in four different council wards in and around the Kisap and Banz One Sub Health centres between Nondugul and Banz in the last three months. Although the authorities carried out mass drug administration, the disease was out of control, the province's Preventative Health Services said.

Villages severely affected were Kendu, Tolu, Ambang, Tupa, Mandang, Kisap, Binz, Kum and Kamal located on the western side of the Bilunol creek.

A high number of cases were being reported daily, the department said. Kimil, on the district's western border, also reported malaria outbreaks.

MNA/Xinhua



WEATHER

Saturday, 26 August, 2006

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Chin State and Magway Division, scattered in Kayah State and fairly widespread to widespread in the remaining areas with locally heavyfalls in Mon State and isolated heavyfalls in Kachin and Rakhine States. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Nay Pyi Taw (0.12) inch, Mawlamyine (7.13) inches, Ye (6.89) inches, Thandwe (4.21) inches, Putao (3.90) inches, Homalin (2.95) inches, Dawei (2.75) inches, Myeik (2.52) inches, Bago (2.36) inches and Myingyan (0.59) inch.

Maximum temperature on 25-8-2006 was 85°F. Minimum temperature on 26-8-2006 was 76°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 26-8-2006 was (92%). Total sunshine hours on 25-8-2006 was (1.2) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 26-8-2006 were (0.20) inch at Mingaladon, (1.81) inches at Kaba-Aye and (0.23) inch at Central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2006 were (75.83) inches at Mingaladon, (88.62) inches at Kaba-Aye and (94.29) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (5) mph from Southwest at (10:30) hours MST on 25-8-2006.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 27-8-2006: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Kayah State and Magway Division, fairly widespread in and Rakhine State, lower Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Kachin and Mon States, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Squalls with moderate to rough sea are likely at times Gulf Mottama, off and along Mon- Taninthayi Coasts, Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) to (40) mph, Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Strong monsoon.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 27-8-2006: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 27-8-2006: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 27-8-2006: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).



Porters wait for customers at the parking area of the Hutiao gorge at Lijiang, China's southern province of Yunnan, on 24 August, 2006. — INTERNET



Sunday, 27 August
View on today

- 7:00 am 1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Okktamathara
- 7:25 am 2. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am 3. Morning news
- 7:40 am 4. Nice and sweet song
- 7:50 am 5. ယဉ်ကျေးလိမ္မာ(၃၈)မြာမင်္ဂလာ
- 8:05 am 6. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:10 am 7. ချောင်းမငယ်ရေလှောင်တစ်
- 8:20 am 8. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:30 am 9. International news
- 8:45 am 10. Say it in English
- 11:00 am 1. Martial song
- 11:10 am 2. Musical programme

- 11:25 am 3. Round up of the week's international news
- 11:35 am 4. Yan can cook
- 11:50 am 5. မြန်မာရုပ်ရှင် "အကြင်တို့ လင်မယား" (သုမောင်၊ မေခလာ) (ဒါရိုက်တာ - သာဓု)
- 1:45 pm 6. နောင်ရေး စိတ်အေးစရာ ကျိုင်းတုံမြို့က ဘိုးဘွားရိပ်သာ
- 1:55 pm 7. Musical programme
- 2:10 pm 8. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 2:20 pm 9. "ပြေးပြေးလွှားလွှားသွားသွား လာလာ" (မောင်မောင်မြင့်၊ မအေးမြင့်၊ စိန်ဝှက်ထော်၊ မောင်မောင်မျိုးသန့်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ- မောင်မောင်မြင့်)
- 2:35 pm 13. မန်းချောင်းတံတား
- 2:45 pm 14. 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. အခေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး

- ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ - ဒုတိယနှစ် (ရုက္ခဗေဒအထူးပြု) (ရုက္ခဗေဒ)
- 5:00 pm 5. Song of national races
- 5:15 pm 6. လက်ဆင့်ကမ်းအမွေ
- 5:20 pm 7. ၂၀၀၆ ခုနှစ်(၁၄) ကြိမ်မြောက် မြန်မာ့ရိုးရာယဉ်ကျေးမှု အဆို၊ အက၊အရေးအတီးပြိုင်ပွဲဝင်များ လေ့လာနိုင်ကြရန် (ခေတ်ဟောင်းတေးနှင့် ကာလပေါ်တေး) (အခြေခံပညာ ၁၅-၂၀နှစ်) (အမျိုးသမီး)
- 5:30 pm 8. Sing and enjoy
- 6:00 pm 9. Evening news
- 6:30 pm 10. Weather report
- 6:35 pm 11. သီရိဇေယာ
- 7:00 pm 12. Discovery
- 7:10 pm 13. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ဟေမန်အောင်းရဲ့နေ့ရက်များ" (အပိုင်း-၂)
- 8:00 pm 14. News
- 15. International news
- 16. Weather report
- 17. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတတ်လမ်းတွဲ "မေတ္တာပန်းတိုင်" (အပိုင်း-၁၄)
- 18. The next day's programme



Sunday, 27 August
Tune in today

- 8:30 am Brief news
- 8:35 am Music: -Fame
- 8:40 am Perspectives
- 8:45 am Music: -Daddy DJ
- 8:50 am National news & Slogan
- 9:00 am Music: -Good feeling
- 9:05 am International news
- 9:10 am Cultural Images of Myanmar
- 9:20 am Music: -Sweet dream
- 1:30 pm News & Slogan
- 1:40pm Children's delight -Story for children "The two marchant leaders" -Songs for children
- 9:00pm Weekly news review
- 9:10pm Article
- 9:20pm Let's improve English through songs -Top of the world -Stonay
- 9:45 pm News & Slogan
- 10:00 pm PEL

First Nay Pyi Taw Command Commander's shield soccer tourney ends



Commander Brig-Gen Wai Lwin presents the shield to the team of No 1 Mortor Transport Battalion which emerges champion.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Aug — The final match and prize-presentation of the first Nay Pyi Taw Command Commander's Shield soccer tourney was held at the football ground of the command this afternoon.

Among the spectators were Commander Brig-Gen Wai Lwin and wife and officers and other

ranks and their families. In the final match, the team of No 1 Mortor Transport Battalion beat the team of Central Vehicles Store Depot 2-0.

After the match, the commander presented the shield to the winning team and the best player award. — 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.

Commander tours Ye Township in Mon State

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Aug—Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of South-East Command Brig-Gen Thet Naing Win attended the educative talks organized by Mon State Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee at Ye Township PDC office on 15 August.

Chairperson of the supervisory committee Daw Myint Myint Soe, wife of the commander, delivered a speech. Head of Mon State Health Department Dr Tin Win Kyaw gave educative talks on health.

Daw Myint Myint Soe presented K 100,000 for Ye Township through Chairperson of Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association Daw Khin Moh Moh Tun.

Next, the commander and wife and party inspected sanitation tasks being carried out in Yangyi Aung, Aung Myitta, and Aung Thukha Wards in Ye Township by social organizations and local people.

They visited Thiri Yadana monastery in Ye Township and offered alms to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kovida, and donated stationery to 20

students who are pursuing education at the monastery.

Afterwards, the commander inspected the maintenance tasks for the roads and bridges between mile post Nos 12 and 18

linking Mon State and Taninthayi Division. The chief engineer of Mawlamyine District Public Works reported on the work progress. The commander gave instructions and fulfilled the re-

quirements.

Meanwhile, the chairperson of the supervisory committee visited the delivery rooms in Asin model village and Zeebyuthaung model (See page 9)

Commander visits Sittway University, GTC

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Aug — Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Brig-Gen Maung Shein arrived at the briefing hall of Sittway University construction site on 15 August morning. Project in charge engineer U Khin Maung Htwe reported on construction work and Pro-rector U Ba Shwe on learning of students at the already-constructed buildings.

The commander inspected lecture halls and construction of a two-storey building. On 17 August morning, the commander visited the Government Technological College (Sittway) and left necessary instructions. — MNA

Pangsan (Pangkham) and Mongla on road to development

Article & photos by Thaung Win Bo

Having put trust and support in the government's drive for national reconsolidation, national race armed groups have been returning to the legal fold since 1989, one of them was Wa national group of Special Region-2 in

Shan State (North).

The government has designated the regions where peace and stability had been restored as special zones. So far, it has poured more than K 84,753.33 million into the border areas and national races

development project.

Simultaneously, it is combating narcotic drugs. As a result, Kokang region could be officially declared as narcotics-free zone in 2003, and Special Region-2 of

Wa nationals, as poppy-free zone in 2005.

Apart from the tasks for elimination of narcotic drugs, the government is taking harmonious measures for helping poppy growers earn

alternative income, raising the standard of their living and improving their socio-economic life.

Up to now, the government has spent (See page 10)



The panoramic view of development of Mongla Region.