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Thursday, 4 August, 2005

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

The Union has long been set up with states and divisions including Shan State

All innocent nationals in Shan State oppose and denounce acts of Sao Hkam Hpa and will never accept the secession from the Union

YANGON, 3 Aug — The mass meeting on guarding against the danger posed by internal and external destructionists through united strength of the people took place at the city hall in Taunggyi, Shan State (South), on 31 July morning.

It was attended by USDA members at the state, district and township levels, Shan State Women's Affairs Organization, Maternal and Child Welfare Association,

War Veterans Organization, Auxiliary Fire Brigade, Red Cross Society, teachers, nurses and local people.

Shan State USDA Executive U Sai Tin Htwe presided over the mass meeting together with Chairperson of Shan State WAO Daw Mya Mya Lwin, member of Shan State Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Dr Daw Win Nu Nu Thant, Hopong Township WVO

Chairman Captain Ba Aye (Retd), Company Commander of Shan State AFB U Tint Swe, Deputy Commander U Aye Thwin Oo of Phekhon Township Red Cross Brigade and Deputy Commander U Sai Nyi Nyi Aung of Loilem Township Red Cross Brigade.

U Sai Min Htet and U Sai Kham Laong emceed the mass meeting. First, all the participants saluted the Union

Flag.

Next, Meeting Chairman U Sai Tin Htwe delivered an opening address. He said that all the participants attended the meeting to wipe out hindrances and dangers in building a peaceful, modern and developed nation with momentum.

Shan State USDA is formed with 184,495 farmers, 12,931 workers, 24,205 service personnel, 60,111 entrepreneurs,

Meeting chairman U Sai Tin Htwe delivers an opening address. MNA



Members of social organizations and local people attend the mass meeting in Taunggyi, Shan State.— MNA



Shan State USDA Executive U Win Nyunt. —MNA



Shan State WAO Daw Thi Thi Khaing. —MNA

164,490 student youths and 48,544 others, totaling 494,766. USDA and other social organizations in Shan State upholding Our Three Main National Causes are to cooperate among them as a patri-

otic force to build a peaceful, modern, developed and democratic nation. Those who have the concept of Our Three Main National Causes can develop the nation and safeguard the Union

as well. The Union has long been set up with states and divisions including Shan State. All the national people including local people, social organizations, (See page 8)

It is known to all that the political, economic and social objectives were laid down to serve the interest of the State at every time. It cannot be denied that remarkable progress in all sectors has been made in a short time as the government is implementing the plans for development of the nation.

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

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 4 August, 2005

Active participation in public health care

Out of the 12 objectives the government has been putting into motion for transforming the nation into a peaceful, modern and developed one, the objective "Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation" plays a key role in the national development drive.

The government formed the National Health Committee to raise the living standard of the people and take a leading role in the public health care for enabling the people to enjoy a healthy life and longevity.

The NHC is constantly supervising the policies and functions on public health laid down by the State, while exerting greater efforts to implement the plan in collaboration with relevant ministries apart from the Ministry of Health for better public health.

In his address at the 43rd meeting of the NHC held on Konmyinttha in Yangon on 2 August, Chairman of the NHC Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein said that malaria and tuberculosis are common in rural and urban areas, so the diseases should be effectively put under control. Malaria, one of the six common diseases the Head of State had pointed out, was very common in rural areas causing deaths in some cases. So, malaria eradication should be carried out with added momentum at the grassroots level.

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe stressed the need for prevention and treatment of the six common diseases — malaria, TB, diarrhoea, dysentery, diabetes and hypertension. It is also required to implement the guidance given by the Head of State by conducting research on developing effective therapies and producing medicines. In doing so, research on traditional medicine should be conducted in combination. Now, Myanmar is totally free from small pox, leprosy, and polio. In addition, the drive has resulted in a gradual decline in mortality rate and therefore the life span of national people has improved. In some nations, AIDS is like an epidemic causing deaths more than any other diseases.

Thus Myanmar is taking preventive measures, giving health education talks, and providing medical treatments in order that such an evil disease does not spread in the nation. However, some nations are making false accusations against Myanmar. So, we need to further cooperate with international community.

At a time when the government is making zealous efforts with goodwill in providing better health care services, the entire national people are therefore urged to take an active participation in disease control and sanitation tasks.

UMFCCI officials to attend meetings

YANGON, 3 Aug— Joint Secretary-1 Dr Maung Maung Lay of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and Officer on Special Duty Daw Tin Tin Hlaing at UMFCCI left here for Japan on 30 July to attend the AMEICC Training Program on SME Management Consulting Systems for COEs Basic (AMSM-1) to be held in Tokyo, Japan from 1 to 12 August and the AMEICC Programm on Pollution Control Systems for COEs Basic (AMEM-1).

MNA

People's Desire

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

PBANRDA Minister tours Ayeyawady Division



Minister Col Thein Nyunt delivers an address at the meeting on rural development in Einme.

PBANRDA

YANGON, 3 Aug— Central Executive Committee member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt yesterday attended the tree-planting ceremony in Einme.

Next, the minister attended the meeting for rural development and made a speech. At the meeting,

officials reported to the minister on building of roads and construction of schools for rural development.

In meeting with the secretary, joint secretary and executives of Division and District USDAs and executives in Pathein, Minister Col Thein Nyunt urged them to actively participate in regional development drives and social welfare tasks.

MNA

Vietnamese First Deputy Minister leaves for home

YANGON, 3 Aug— First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, Mr Le Cong Phung, who was on a visit here at the invitation of Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu, left by air yesterday.

During the visit, the Vietnamese delegation led by the First Deputy Foreign Minister and the Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu held bilateral talks on 1 August.

The Vietnamese delegation paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister General Soe Win at Zeyathiri Beikman on 1 August.

The guests also made separate calls on Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein and Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi the same day. Deputy Minister U Kyaw Thu hosted a dinner in honour of the Vietnamese delegation on 1 August.

The First Deputy Minister and party were seen off at the airport by Deputy Director-General of ASEAN Affairs Department U Kyee Myint, Viet-



First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of SRV Mr Le Cong Phung and party being seen off at the airport.—MNA

namese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Tran Van Tung and officials of MOFA and Embassy of SRV.

MNA

Information Sub-committee of 13th MTCPAC meets

YANGON, 3 Aug — The first coordination meeting of the Information Sub-committee of the 13th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions took place at Myanma Radio and Television this afternoon.

Present on the occasion were Chairman of the Sub-committee Director-General U Khin Maung Htay of MRTV, Managing Director of Printing and Publishing Enterprise Col Aung Nyein, officials of Yangon City Develop-

ment Committee, Fine Arts Department, MRTV, Information and Public Relations Department, News and Periodicals Enterprise, Myanma Motion Picture Enterprise, PPE, Myawady TV and Myawady Press, the chairman of Myanmar Traditional Artists and Artisans Asiayon and officials.

In his address Director-General U Khin Maung Htay stressed the need of the Information Sub-committee to make preparations for discharging its duties in perform-

ing arts competitions.

Next, Assistant Director U Hla Win of MRTV presented the lists of respective groups of the

committee followed by a general round of discussions. The meeting ended with concluding remarks by the chairman.—MNA



Director-General U Khin Maung Htay of MRTV speaking at the meeting of Information Sub-committee for the Performing Arts Competitions.—MNA



A family passes in front of the Atomic Bomb Dome near the Peace Memorial Park in Hiroshima. Japan's Lower House of Parliament have adopted a resolution on the 60th anniversary of World War II that states Tokyo regrets the 'suffering' it caused in Asia but avoids the word 'aggression', which was used in a similar statement in 1995.

INTERNET



China, Nepal exchange greetings on 50th anniversary of dip ties

BEIJING, 2 Aug—Chinese President Hu Jintao and Nepali King Gyanendra exchanged congratulations on Monday on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of establishing diplomatic relations.

In his message, Hu said China and Nepal are close neighbours and the two peoples share a long history of friendship.

Facing all those changes and challenges on the international arena, bilateral relations between China and

Nepal have enjoyed sustained development over the past 50 years, he said.

The President said the two countries have made remarkable achievements in cooperation in such fields as politics, economy, trade and education.

To strengthen and consolidate relations with Nepal on the basis of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, Hu said, is an important part of China's foreign policies toward neighbouring countries.

MNA/Xinhua

Japanese auto, steel industries hail basic Japan-Thailand FTA

Tokyo, 2 Aug—Japanese auto and steel industries welcomed a basic free trade agreement reached on Monday between Japan and Thailand, which will remove or lower the Southeast Asian country's tariffs on Japanese auto parts, large vehicles and steel.

Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association Chairman Itaru Koeda hailed the bilateral agreements on the liberalization of auto parts and finished cars, saying that an FTA with Thailand will have great significance as in the cases of accords with the Philippines and Malaysia.

"Although the two countries are to renegotiate some of the items, we hope future negotiations aimed at further liberalization will bear fruit so as to strengthen cooperation between the auto industries of Japan and Thailand," said Koeda, co-chairman of Nissan Motor Co at a joint Press conference of business leaders.

He described the Thai auto industry as "the most important partner" for Japanese automakers.

Akio Mimura, chairman of the Japan Iron and Steel Federation, also said in a statement that the accord "would bring significant gains" to Japanese steelmakers as well as Thai industries which need steel products. Mimura, president of Nippon Steel

Corp, noted that Japanese manufacturers will enjoy immediate tariff cuts on most of the hot-rolled steel products and on about half of such Japanese export items as seamless steel pipes and electromagnetic steel sheets under the FTA accord. — MNA/Xinhua

China's cement production increases 7.4%

BEIJING, 2 Aug —In the first half of this year, China produced 456 million tons of cement, up 7.4 per cent year on year, the Beijing-based Economic Daily reported on Monday.

The growth rate was 10 percentage points lower than that of the

same period last year, the newspaper said.

The total output of cement enterprises in the country during the period reached 122.1 billion yuan (14.7 billion US dollars), up 8.6 per cent year on year.

In the first five months this year, fixed asset investment in the industry dropped 2.19 per cent year on year to 12.6 billion yuan, the newspaper said.

MNA/Xinhua

1,820 US soldiers killed in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 3 Aug—As of Tuesday, 3 August, 2005, at least 1,820 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,390 died as a result of hostile action, according to the military's numbers. The figures include five military civilians.

The AP count is four higher than the Defence Department's tally, last updated at 10 am EDT on Tuesday.

The British military has reported 92 deaths; Italy, 25; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 17; Bulgaria, 13; Spain, 11; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary, Kazakhstan and Latvia one death each.

Since 1 May, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,667 US military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 1,281 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

Since the start of US military operations in Iraq, 13,769 US servicemembers have been wounded, according to a Defence Department tally released on Tuesday. —Internet

Bomb kills 14 Marines in west Iraq

BAGHDAD, 3 Aug—Fourteen Marines are reported killed in a roadside bomb blast in western Iraq, the US military said, and an American journalist was found shot dead in the southern city of Basra.

The bomb exploded near a marine amphibious assault vehicle as it was travelling south of Haditha, a town on the Euphrates River about 200km north-west of Baghdad.

A civilian translator was also killed, and one Marine was wounded.

It is the second major attack against Marines in the area in the past three days and one of the deadliest attacks against US forces since the beginning of the war.

On Monday, six Marines were killed in clashes in Haditha, and a seventh was killed by a car bomb blast in Hyit, southeast of the town.

The western Anbar governorate of Iraq has been one of the deadliest regions for US forces since they invaded Iraq in March 2003.

The towns of Falluja and Ramadi are in Anbar.

At least 1820 US troops have died in Iraq since the beginning of the war.— Internet



The wreckage of an unarmoured civilian truck used by Iraqi police marks the area where three policemen were killed during a car bomb attack in front of the National Theatre, on, 30 July, 2005, in Baghdad, Iraq. —INTERNET

Three children injured in blast in central Nepal

KATHMANDU, 2 Aug—Three children have been seriously injured when explosives left behind by suspected anti-government guerillas went off in central Nepal, Royal Nepali Army said here on Tuesday.

The injured minors, all below 10 years old, were injured when they played with a stray bomb at Bhiaso area in Parsa District, some 200 kilometres west of Kathmandu, on Monday, the Royal Nepali Army Public Relations Directorate said at a Press release.

They have been admitted to Narayani Sub Regional Hospital and the condition of one of them is critical, the Army noted. Meanwhile, one guerilla was killed in an encounter with the security forces at Timurpata area of Brahmadev Village in the far-western Darchula District on Monday, the Army added.—MNA/Xinhua

Beijing civil servants ordered to dress properly

BEIJING, 2 Aug— Male government employees wearing long hair and ladies with shoulder-strap blouses have been barred from entering office buildings of the Haidian District government of this capital city of China as of Monday.

This is just part of the government campaign to burnish the public image of the city's civil servants before the 2008 Olympic Games.

Civil servants are required to dress properly when on duty. Shorts and sandals are strictly forbidden. Ladies are also advised to wear light makeup.

The district government has also set up a committee supervising the appearance of their employees. Those who refuse to correct themselves after warnings will be disqualified for annual evaluations.

Meanwhile, the municipal government of Beijing is drawing up a set of regulations concerning the appearance for civil servants in the city. The rules are expected to stipulate more details from the make-up to

hair styles.

"We all have our own little problems or bad habits with our appearance and behaviour before the public," Liu Guanjun, a deputy to the Beijing Municipal People's Congress, said. "But if you are a civil servant representing the government and are being watched by the public, you should act like a role model."

While admitting shoulder-strap blouses have become vogue among young Chinese women in this hot summer season, bare feet in sandals are also highly visible among the public, Liu maintained that such behaviours, incompatible with public servants' capacity at office, have constituted disrespect to citizens they serve.

MNA/Xinhua



An airline staff member (R) attends to a passenger in Tokyo's Haneda Airport on 2 August, 2005. Flights at Haneda Airport, Japan's busiest domestic airport, resumed on Tuesday about an hour after a power failure hit most air traffic control systems, a transport ministry official said. —INTERNET

Malaysian Govt to balance regional development

KUALA LUMPUR, 2 Aug — The Malaysian Government will make efforts to bridge the development gap between the eastern and western areas, Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said on Monday.

The gap between Peninsular Malaysia and the two eastern states of Sabah and Sarawak must be narrowed as much as possible, and people in the two states should benefit from programmes implemented by the federal government, Badawi said after chairing a special meeting of the Supreme Council of the ruling party coalition National Front here.

Problems in the two states should be addressed properly, given its importance in the implementation of the Ninth Malaysia Plan (from the Year 2006 to 2010) and in the overall national development, Badawi told reporters.

In the next five years, the government will

give priority to the development of rural areas, particularly in eastern Malaysia, Badawi said.

Malaysians, wherever they are from, should have equal access to quality education, Badawi added.

Some party leaders from Sabah and Sarawak raised the issue of imbalanced development at the meeting and cited the lack of infrastructure and quality education in eastern Malaysia, Badawi said.

Compared with areas on Peninsular Malaysia, the two eastern states traditionally lag behind in terms of economic development and infrastructure, despite their rich resources.

MNA/Xinhua

Flights at Tokyo's Haneda suspended after power cut

TOKYO, 3 Aug — All flights at Tokyo's Haneda Airport, Japan's busiest domestic airport, were suspended on Tuesday after power failed for most air traffic control systems, a Transport Ministry official said. Power was restored less than 10 minutes after failing at around 11:30 am (0230 GMT) but it was not known when flights would resume, he said.

A different official was quoted by *Kyodo News* agency as saying that communication with planes had not been affected by the outage.

At least 20 planes were forced to change their destinations, with some heading for Tokyo's main international airport at Narita and others going to Nagoya in central Japan, airline officials were quoted by *Kyodo* as saying. — MNA/Reuters

Worry grows as Iraq's Defence Ministry falls short of expectations

BAGHDAD, 1 Aug—The reformed Iraqi Ministry of Defence, a crucial element of any American plan to withdraw troops, is riddled with crippling problems that have raised concerns about its ability to keep Iraqi units paid, fed and equipped once it assumes full responsibility for the army, American and Iraqi commanders say.

The shortcomings of the ministry, which was overhauled under the American occupation authorities last year, are a growing concern to the American commanders. Hoping to withdraw large numbers of the 135,000 American combat troops in the next year, these commanders say their plans hinge on a functioning ministry. If American troops leave without one in place, they say, the Iraqi Army could quickly collapse.

"What are lacking are the systems that pay

people, that supply people, that recruit people, that replace the wounded and AWOL, and systems that promote people and provide spare parts," said a top American commander in Iraq, who asked not to be identified because his assessment of Iraqi abilities went beyond the military's public descriptions.

"If they don't have that capability, we won't be able to take the training wheels off and let them operate independently," the commander said. —Internet

Report says more than 4,000 Iraqis killed this year

BAGHDAD, 1 Aug — More than 4,000 Iraqis have been killed since the beginning of this year, local *Al Sharq Al Awsat* newspaper reported on Monday.

The report, citing statistics provided by the ministries of defence, interior and health, said that 3,072 civilians were killed in violence for political reasons, while 358 soldiers and 765 policemen also lost their lives.

MNA/Xinhua



US army picture shows a US Marine providing cover on a street in Fallujah recently. —INTERNET

China, Russia to launch first joint military exercises

BEIJING, 2 Aug— China and Russia will hold their first joint military exercises starting from 18 to 25 August, China's Ministry of Defence announced here on Tuesday.

In a Press release, the ministry said the exercises, dubbed "Peace Mission 2005", will be carried out in Vladivostok in far eastern region of Russia and East China's Shandong Peninsular and nearby offshore seaways.

The exercises will involve nearly 100,000 troops from the armies, navies, Air Forces as well as airborne units, Marine corps and logistic units of Chinese and Russian Armed Forces, said the Press release.

Chinese and Russian defence ministries signed a memorandum on conducting joint military exercises in July, 2004. The chiefs of the general staffs of Chinese and Russian Armed Forces will announce the commencement of the exercises in Vladivostok on 18 August.

China and Russia have invited the defence ministers from member countries of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and representatives from SCO's observer countries to watch the joint exercises.

The holding of the manoeuvres is in line with the guideline of the UN Charter, and complies with the widely recognized international laws and the respect of the national sovereignty and territorial integrity of other countries, said the Press release.

"The exercises neither aim at any third party nor concern with the interests of any third country," said the Press release.

The ministry said that the mission of the drills mainly aim to deepen Sino-Russian mutual trust, promote mutual friendship and enhance the cooperation and coordination of the two Armed Forces in the areas of defence and security. — MNA/Xinhua



A Filipino farmer holds newly harvested rice stalks in a field at Gloria Town in Mindoro Island, south of Manila on 31 July, 2005.—INTERNET

China gives green light to private investment in civil aviation sector

BEIJING, 1 Aug — China has recently issued a regulation allowing domestic private investors to join in the civil aviation industry, *Beijing Daily* reported on Saturday.

"The civil aviation sector is capital-intensive," Yuan Yaohui, director of the policy and law department of the General Administration of Civil Aviation of China (CAAC) was quoted as saying. "China opened the civil aviation sector to foreign investors in 2002, and now it is time to further open it."

The agency welcomes domestic private capital to join in areas

including cargo service, civil airport construction, jet fuel sales and storage, airplane maintenance, air-food production, computer-based air-ticket booking system, according to the paper.

But air traffic control system will continue to ban the involvement of private investors, according to the regulation.

Meanwhile, the regulation said private investors could not take a lion

share in the country's three major airlines, including Air China, China Eastern Airlines and China Southern Airlines.

Moreover, private investors could not take dominant shares in big domestic airports either, including airports of all the provincial capitals and nine other booming cities like Dalian, Shenzhen and Ningbo. The new regulation will take effect as of 15 August.

MNA/Xinhua

EU quotas on Chinese textiles hurt German textile trade

BERLIN, 1 Aug — Quotas imposed by the European Union on Chinese clothing are hurting the German fashion trade, two major German trade groups said on Sunday.

The German Textile Retailing Federation and the German Fashion Manufacturers' Association said that consumers might suffer. Quota for this year's pullovers has already been exhausted and there were fears other products were close to bans.

The two groups, which has objected the restrictions from the beginning, said that Germany had used the lead-up time to prepare itself for the full opening of the EU market to Chinese exports, and German firms had signed import deals in good faith based on the rules at the time.

The German clothing trade faced lost sales and businesses losses that could exceed 100 million euros (120 million US dollars), while shoppers could face shortages and higher prices, the groups said, adding they would release more details on Wednesday.

The EU and China reached an agreement in June to limit Chinese exports in 10 categories such as pullovers until 2008 as European clothing factories said they were hurt by the low-cost imports.

MNA/Xinhua

US warns Americans of possible attacks in Kuwait

KUWAIT, 1 Aug — The US Embassy in Kuwait has warned Americans of possible attacks in the pro-Western Gulf Arab state.

"Terrorists do not distinguish between official and civilian targets. Terrorist actions may include bombings, hijackings, hostage taking, kidnappings and assassinations," said an advisory posted on the embassy web site on Saturday. The warning updated a similar advisory issued in January in Kuwait, which hosts some 30,000 US military and 12,000 US civilians and is a main transit route to neighbouring Iraq.—MNA/Reuters

Jet fire at Toronto airport injures 24

OTTAWA, 3 Aug — Only 24 people received minor injuries and no one was killed when an Air France passenger jet overshot the runway and caught fire as it was trying to land at Pearson Airport in Canada's biggest city of Toronto on Tuesday afternoon.

All 297 passengers and 12 crew members of Flight 358 travelling from Paris to Toronto survived the ordeal, officials said.

"According to our current information and the Air France chief there, there are no casualties," an Air France spokesperson said. Steve Shaw, vice-president of corporate affairs for the Greater Toronto Airport Authority, also confirmed there are no known fatalities during a briefing.

Everyone on board the A-340 jet, which is capable of carrying 350

passengers, was able to get off the plane before it caught fire, Shaw said.

Some of the injured passengers had been sent to area hospitals, while others simply received spot treatment before going back home. A Canadian TV report said two babies, one 7 months and the other 1 year old, were among the injured.

The Airbus-340 skidded off Runway 24 Left, an east-west runway laid out parallel to one of Toronto's busiest roads, Highway 401.

MNA/Xinhua

Iraq war makes Australia vulnerable to guerilla attack, says poll

CANBERRA, 3 Aug — Two-thirds of Australians believe the invasion of Iraq has made Australia more vulnerable to a guerilla attack, and are willing to sacrifice privacy and civil liberties for protection from the attack, the latest poll showed.

Only 1 percent of respondents thinks the invasion has made Australia safer, according to the poll released Wednesday by *The Sydney Morning Herald* newspaper, one of Australia's leading newspapers.

Eighty-seven percent of respondents want more security cameras in public places while 78 percent supported the deportation of guerilla suspects.

Despite a recent example that an innocent man was shot dead by London

police, a surprising 40 percent Australian respondents backed shoot-to-death powers for the police, showed the poll, conducted nationally over the weekend by ACNielsen.

Only 30 percent supported the Australian government's position on Australia's vulnerability to attack, which is that the Iraq war made no difference because Australia was already a target "for who we are, not what we've done." —Internet

137 govt buildings damaged in war in Nepal

KATHMANDU, 1 Aug — A total of 137 government buildings have been damaged since the anti-government insurgency took place in Nepal in February 1996, an official at the Department of Urban Development and Building Construction said here on Sunday.

"The anti-government insurgency has so far resulted in the damage of some 137 government buildings in Nepal," Surya Bhakta Sangachhe, the deputy director-general at the department, told reporters.

"The damaged government buildings amount to a loss of some 90 million Nepali rupees (1.29 million US dollars)," Sangachhe noted.

The Nepali Government is focusing on repairing those buildings, he added.

Over 12,000 Nepali people have been killed since the anti-government insurgency took place in the Himalayan kingdom in February 1996.

MNA/Xinhua

Wheat delay prompts Iraq flour stocktake

BAGHDAD, 1 Aug — Iraq has tendered to buy 200,000 tonnes of flour to build up stocks after problems at its main commodities port and delays in negotiations to buy Australian and American wheat, traders say.

"They are asking for first quality wheat," said one trader familiar with the tender, the closing date for which was not immediately available.

Iraq has bought in the past few months around 500,000 tonnes of flour, mainly from Iran, United Arab Emirates trading conglomerate al-Ghurair and to a lesser extent Syria.—Internet



A local Iraqi man watches a car burn after it was ignited by a controlled explosion by US troops, on 31 July, 2005, in the Al-Khadra area of Baghdad.

INTERNET

Environmental issue becomes top concern for most Chinese people

BEIJING, 2 Aug— Environmental degradation has become a top concern for most Chinese people, who also say that the performance of government officials should be evaluated by how well they have done to protect the environment, a recent nationwide survey found.

The survey, conducted by the All-China Federation on Environmental Protection, showed that 94.9 per cent of the people polled regarded environmental degradation a burning issue that must be tackled immediately. Although they differed on how to combat environmental degradation, as many as 45.7 per cent of the people said that the trend must be reversed even at the cost of slowing down the country's economic development, according to the survey aimed at collecting public opinion for drafting the country's Eleventh Five-Year Plan (2006-2010).

After enjoying high economic growth over the past two decades, China is facing increasingly heavy environmental pressure. Official figures indicate that 90 per cent of the rivers flowing through cities in the country have been heavily polluted, and nearly 300

million people in rural areas do not have access to sanitary water.

Meanwhile, nearly one-third of the urban population breathes heavily polluted air and acid rain has ravaged one-third of the country's land.

The Chinese Government has gradually increased spending on environmental protection over the past decades, with such spending accounting for 1.3 per cent of the nation's gross domestic product in 2004.

However, 96.6 per cent of the people polled in the survey said that more should be spent on the environment in the next five years.

And even a higher percentage of people, 97.5 per cent, said that the promotion of government officials should take into account their efforts in protecting the environment. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Vietnam reports new bird flu patient

HANOI, 2 Aug— Specimens from a 49-year-old woman from Vietnam's northern Ha Tay Province have been tested positive to bird flu virus strain H5N1, according to local newspaper *Labour* on Tuesday.

The woman named Nguyen Thi Them from the Quoc Oai District needs respiratory assistance at the Institute of Tropical Diseases in Hanoi capital city, although she has no longer had a temperature. Earlier, she received treatment at a provincial hospital for three days starting on July 27. The woman had bought a chicken at a local market and cooked it. Local healthcare agencies have kept close surveillance on areas where she lives and on those who have close contact with her.

Late last week, local media reported two people, a 26-year-old woman from southern Ho Chi Minh City and a 24-year-old man from southern Tra Vinh Province, died of bird flu. They exhibited the disease's symptoms after eating chicken. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Singapore cos optimistic about business outlook for 2nd half

SINGAPORE, 2 Aug— More companies in the manufacturing and the services sectors in Singapore expect better business conditions in the second half of this year, according to the results of two surveys released on Monday.

A quarterly poll conducted by the Economic Development Board (EDB) showed that a net weighted balance of 24 per cent of manufacturers are optimistic about their business outlook for the second half of this year, up from the 13 per cent as recorded in last poll.

It also indicated that among the 400 manufacturing establishments surveyed, of which 95 per cent responded this time, 64 per cent forecast similar business climate in the period of July to December as that of the second quarter of this year.

As for the services sector, an overall net balance of 26 per cent firms expect improved business conditions in the next six months ending December 2005, as compared with the 19 per cent a quarter ago, according to a separate survey by the Singapore Department of Statistics (SDS).

While 58 per cent of all the businesses polled hold that market conditions will remain the same in the second half of this year, a majority of hotels and companies in the real estate industry project a positive outlook for the same period. — *MNA/Xinhua*



Malaysia's Minister of Youth Azalina Othman, centre, jokingly punches Hong Kong's superstar Jackie Chan, left, while President of California Fitness Steve Clinefelter watches during an official opening of California Fitness Jackie Chan Sport Club at a shopping mall in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 31 July, 2005. — INTERNET

Singapore, Thailand enjoy excellent relations

SINGAPORE, 2 Aug — Singapore and Thailand have been enjoying excellent relations in various aspects since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries 40 years ago, Singaporean Foreign Minister George Yeo said here on Monday.

Speaking at the opening of the seventh Coordinating Meeting of the Thailand-Singapore Civil Service Exchange Programme (CSEP), Yeo said that the two sides "share common goals in the integration of the region and in opening their economies to new opportunities" under the framework of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

"At the regional level, we work together to spur intra-ASEAN cooperation... Our cooperation auger well for our two countries and the region as a whole," Yeo noted.

The bilateral trade between the two countries increased by 20 per cent, reaching 24 billion Singapore dollars (about 14 bil-

lion US dollars) last year as compared with the previous year, which made Thailand Singapore's seventh largest trading partner in 2004.

Yeo also said that the fast-developing low cost carriers in the region has helped boost interaction between peoples of the two countries as well as enhance the understanding and respect for each other's cultures and societies.

Describing globalization as both challenge and opportunity, Yeo stressed that Singapore and Thailand should ride the wave generated by the rapid growth of China and India, and respond intelligently to the changing international environment.

— *MNA/Xinhua*

Foreign arrivals in Indonesia down 3.93% in first semester

JAKARTA, 2 Aug — The number of international arrivals in Indonesia was down by 3.93 per cent to 2.05 million in the first half of 2005 from 2.13 million in the same period last year, the Central Statistics Agency (BPS) reported on Monday.

The resort island of Bali remained the country's largest tourist destination by accommodating 35.24 per cent of total foreign arrivals in the first semester, followed by Jakarta with 25.93 per cent and the industrial island of Batam with 27 per cent.

Foreign arrivals in June rose by 7.08 per cent to 368,300 against 343,900

a month earlier, the agency said in its latest report. The number of air passengers on domestic routes was up by 14.69 per cent to 12.4 million in the first half of 2005 against 10.8 million in the same period last year. Over the period, air passengers to overseas destinations rose slightly by 0.83 per cent to 2.56 million as opposed to 2.54 million. — *MNA/Xinhua*



Singtel public phone booths in Singapore. The company says its combined mobile subscriber base in Asia has exceeded 70 million, the biggest for a company in the region outside of China. — INTERNET

Sri Lanka to bring in laws to combat computer crime

COLOMBO, 2 Aug— Sri Lanka Justice and Judicial Reforms Ministry is to bring in Legislation to combat computer crimes, the official *Daily News* reported on Tuesday.

The proposed Legislation termed the Computer Crimes Act is aimed to prevent all illegal activities committed through the misuse of computers, Minister W D J Seneviratne was quoted by the paper as saying.

A person, found guilty of collecting data illegally through the computer and possessing them, using computers for other illegal activities or divulging computerized data after accessing services without authority, will be liable for a fine of not less than 1,000 US dollars and not exceeding 3,000 US dollars or a jail term of six months to three years, he said.

— *MNA/Xinhua*

The Sasana Flag

(The sacred flag of Buddhists)

Ba Sein (Religious Affairs)

Hoisting of the Sasana Flag is considered to be an auspicious sacred rite by Myanmar Buddhists. But, it is often found that the Sasana Flag is incorrectly hoisted at wrong place due to the ignorance of some people. Buddhists are ready to obey the rules and regulations of hoisting the Sasana Flag if they are properly instructed. Therefore, some important points and rules of the Sasana Flag are stated and presented here.

In Myanmar, the term, "Buddha Sasana" is more usual than the term "Buddhist". Consequently, the Buddha Sasana Council was organized and founded in order to hold the Sixth Buddhist Council in Yangon. The six-colour Flag was used as an official Sasana Flag for the first time in Myanmar.

The First Congregation of the Sangha of All Orders, which was successfully held at the Maha Pasana Cave (Great Cave) on Kaba Aye Hill, Yangon, 1980, passed and adopted the Fundamental Rules of the Sangha Organization of the Union of Myanmar, the Sasana Flag, which consists of the six illuminations of Divine Effulgence, is prescribed in detail in the chapter (10) of the Fundamental Rules of the Sangha Organization. Instructions and directives are mentioned in the Procedures of the Fundamental Rules of the Sangha Organizations and the Manuals of the Sangha Nayaka Course.

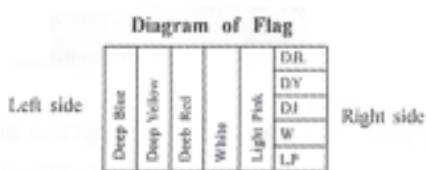
The size of the Sasana Flag

Four sizes of the Sasana Flag are prescribed:—

- The first size of the flag is 9 feet in length and 5 feet in width.
- The second size is 4 feet, 6 inches in length and 2 feet 6 inches in width.
- The third size is 2 feet 3 inches in length and 1 foot 3 inches in width.
- The fourth size is 9 inches in length and 5 inches in width.

Arrangement of colour

The Flag has to be depicted in accordance with a specific range of colours; —



The flag can be used on the following Auspicious Days.

They are;—

- The Fullmoon Day of Kason.
- The Fullmoon Day of Nayon (Maha Samaya Day).
- The Fullmoon Day of Waso (Dhamma Cakka Day).
- The Fullmoon Day of Thadingyut (Abhidhamma Day and Maha Pavarana Day).
- The Fullmoon Day of Tazaungmon (Samannaphala Day).

The Flag can also be used at the following religious ceremonies.

They are;—

- the ceremony of Waso festival.
- the Kathina ceremony.
- the ceremony of the Abhidhamma Day,

- the Shinbyu (Initiation) ceremony.
- the ordination ceremony of bhikkhus,
- the grand ceremony of offerings to the bhikkhus.
- the ceremony of Maha (State) convocation,
- the ceremony of cula (Religious) convocation.
- the state titles Presentation ceremony,
- the ceremony of Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida convocation
- the ceremony of the Religious Examination,
- the Dhamma Seminars by permission of Sangha Nayaka Committees concerned,
- the ceremony of reciting scriptures,
- the ceremony of hoisting the sacred umbrella
- the ceremony of the Sangha Pujaniya veneration,

In Myanmar, the term, "Buddha Sasana" is more usual than the term "Buddhist". Consequently, the Buddha Sasana Council was organized and founded in order to hold the Sixth Buddhist Council in Yangon.

- the meetings of the Sangha (bhikkhus),
- the court of the Sangha Vinicchaya,
- the training centres concerning Religious Affairs.
- the ceremony of recitation of Patthana texts, and
- the ceremony of recitation of Nikaya Scriptures.

Means of hoisting and using the Flag

The Sasana Flag has to be hoisted according to the following procedures;—

- When hoisting the Sasana Flag, the deep blue part of the flag must be at the flag side of the hoister.
- The deep blue strip of the Flag must be permanently at the very top of the five-mixed coloured portion of the flag (see the diagram),
- In hoisting the flag, it must be elevated quickly to the top of the mast, and should be low slowly,
- The Flag must be hoisted from dawn to sunset. But, the Flag can be hoisted the whole night at special important and grand occasions.
- When hoisting the Sasana flag on the stage, it must be put in horizontal position on an elevated part of the background of the stage, And, the flag must be the right position.
- When hoisting the Sasana flag together with other flags, it must be at the centre and in a higher position.
- When hoisting the Sasana flag at the auditorium, it must be on the right side and in front of the preacher.
- When hoisting the Sasana flag together with other flags at the auditorium, the Sasana flag must be placed at the left side of the preacher.
- When hoisting the Sasana flag on big vehicles, the flag must be firmly hoisted on the front part of the roof and if the vehicle is a small one, the flag must be hoisted at the front right of the vehicle.
- The Sasana Flag must be hoisted on the vehicles only when in procession carrying the Bodhi tree, the sacred umbrellas of the Pagoda, the Venerable Sayadaws, the successful candidates of

Sangha and the Dhamma preachers. But, the Sasana flag must be respectfully folded on the vehicles when the procession of the above personages and sacred things concludes (is over).

- When hanging the Sasana Flag, it must be in horizontal position. It must never be in an upside down position. When hanging small pieces of Sasana paperilags, they must always be in vertical position.
- The Sasana Organizations and the religious associations must obey the above instructions concerning the Sasana flag and use it systematically at the Religious meetings and ceremonies.
- The different levels of the Sangha Organizations of the Union Myanmar are compulsorily instructed to hoist or hang or stick the Sasana flag during official meetings.

Points to note

It is necessary to take note of the following points concerning the Sasana flag to ensure respect due to the dignity of the flag. Points to note are as follow;—

- The Sasana flag is not allowed to be hoisted on the pilgrimage vehicle even if there are monks in it.
- Without sound religious reason, the Sasana flag cannot be hoisted at the road sides, junctions, vehicle gates, airports, jetties, markets, stations and others places.
- No one must show disrespect to the Sasana flag. No improper behaviour must be tolerated regarding the flag. The flag must not be inclined towards persons or things.
- The Sasana flag is not allowed to be torn, stained or destroyed in any way.
- No department is allowed to use the Sasana flag as the over-hanging covering of a pavillion.
- The Sasana flag is not allowed to be used as wrapper, trademarks, advertisements or designs on billboards.
- Wallposters and pamphlets are not allowed to be stuck or hung on the post on which the Sasana flag is being hoisted.
- When handling the Sasana flag, it is not allowed to be wrapped or fastened.
- When using the Sasana flag, it must not touch the ground, the surface of water, the floor of things which are under the flag.
- At all times, the Sasana flag must never be used as ground-covers mats or carpets.
- Above the Sasana flag, no other flags must be hoisted.
- The Sasana flag, can be hoisted at the consecration ceremonies of images, holy monuments and statues as a sacred symbol. But the images, the monuments and the statues must not be covered with the flag.
- The Sasana flag must never be thrown away for whatever reason. If the flag becomes torn, soiled and useless, it must be burned respectfully.

All Buddhists will have to be aware of salient points in using the Sasana flag to honour the dignity of the emblem. We wish to express our desire to maintain the dignity and sacredness of the Sasana flag by urging all Buddhists to follow the correct procedures and to avoid even the slightest unseemly manner and behaviour towards the sacred emblem.

All are to guard against the danger posed by internal and external destructionists through united strength of the people, and actively and harmoniously strive for the emergence of a new discipline-flourishing, democratic, modern and developed nation. Only then will a peaceful, modern, developed and democratic nation, the desire of the entire people, emerge.

Objectives of the 13th 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.



The meeting chairman and members of the panel of chairmen at the mass meeting. — MNA

(from page 1)
political parties and national race armed groups that had returned to the

It is known to all that the political, economic and social objectives were laid down to

ment tasks being carried out in all sectors and regions are the better foundations for construction of

ests of the nation and all the national people.

All are to guard against the danger posed

by internal and external destructionists through united strength of the people, and actively and harmoniously strive for the emergence of a new discipline-flourishing, democratic, modern and developed nation. Only then will a peaceful, modern, developed and democratic nation, the desire of the entire people, emerge.

In doing so, USDA and its partner organizations, and national brethren in the state were urged to join hands for the implementation of the aim of the entire people.

Shan State USDA

the national races.

A total of 98 houses including a monastery and the school building was burnt in Htitakhu, Naungdae, Lwemon, south and north Pamaing villages in Hopong Township, and 481 people were homeless.

NLD, SNLD and their members are committing destructive acts instead of participating in realizing the Road Map of the State. Relying on abroad, NCGUB, ABSDF and FTUB are making attempts wickedly to impose political and eco-

The strength of the people plays the most important role in building the developed nation

legal fold oppose and denounce the acts to secede from the Union. On behalf of all national people in Shan State, he said all innocent nationals in Shan State oppose and denounce acts of Sao Hkam Hpa and will never accept the secession from the Union. Therefore, all the national people have to ward off those who are narrow-minded and encroach on the interests of the State and the people.

serve the interest of the State at every stime. It cannot be denied that remarkable progress in all sectors have been made in a short time as the government is implementing the plans for development of the nation.

In setting up a democratic nation, the nation needs peace and stability, booming of the economy of the State and the people and improvement of national education standard. Thus, develop-

the modern, discipline-flourishing democratic nation.

The strength of the people plays the most important role in building the developed nation. In the history, the people could build and safeguard the nation through national consolidation at highest capabilities.

All the national brethren are urged to safeguard further strengthening of national consolidation for serving the inter-



Langkho District USDA Joint-Secretary U Saing Kyaw Htay. — MNA



Shan State MCWA Secretary Dr Thin Thin Lay. — MNA



The mass meeting on guarding against the danger posed by internal and external destructionists in progress at City Hall of Taunggyi in Shan State (South). — MNA

representative U Win Nyunt said that internal and external destructionists are committing conspiracies to undermine peace and stability of the State, slow down the economy and drive a wedge among the national brethren by all means.

In cooperation with the Government, the people are to crush the disturbances in the way of marching towards the peaceful, modern and developed nation.

Insurgent groups including SSA of Ywet Sit commit arsons, robbery, bomb blasts, killing and forced recruitment in Shan State. Furthermore, they set fire to villages of

economic sanctions against the country.

The foreign media are inventing news against some of simple and immature national people. These are also the conspiracies against the nation.

On 7 May, the destructionists exploded bombs at three crowded places in Yangon to cause instability, and 23 innocent monks and people were killed and 149 people injured.

Those with Union Spirit and nationalist spirit realize that it was not only the challenge to the government but also to all the people.

(see page 9)



Members of the panel of meeting chairmen chanting the slogans.— MNA

State on the pretext of democracy and human rights. Therefore, we must ward off all destructionists who have tried to disintegrate the Union.

In an effort to build a peaceful, modern and developed nation, the government is building necessary infrastructures. Twenty-four development zones were designated for equitable development in the country. The government also poured K 68,637.66 million and over US \$ 550 million into rural area development projects.

Myanmar has taken preventive measures against HIV with

types of HIV originate in Myanmar. This criticism was wholly unjustified.

Regarding the development in Shan State, the government has constructed seven over 180-foot-long bridges and 430 under 180-foot-long bridges for smooth transportation. Moreover, the number of railway miles has also increased. Tikyit Coal-fired Power Plant which supplies 120 megawatt was inaugurated in Shan State. Kengtawng Hydel Power Plant and Tarsan Hydel Power Plant are under construction in the state. Upon completion, all power plants will supply

Relying abroad, NCGUB, ABSDF and FTUB are making attempts wickedly to impose political and economic sanctions against the country



All the participants chanting the slogans at the conclusion of the mass meeting.— MNA

(from page 8)

The people, on their parts, are participating in the respective sectors of nation-building tasks with might and main in cooperation with the Government.

It is obvious that acts of internal and external destructionists are unfaithful to the State and the people. So the entire people are urged to ward off the danger posed by internal and external destructive elements through the united strength.

Representative of Shan State Women's Af-

fairs Organization Daw Thi Thi Khaing said that some western countries imposed economic sanction on Myanmar unilaterally. A total of 160 factories had to be closed as a consequence of the sanction and the closure left over 80,000 employees jobless.

The prices of commodities have increased and productivity has decreased. People suffered these ill effects. It is our duty to prevent these acts not to occur again.

All national people are participating in nation-building tasks. Peo-

ple struggled for independence and warded off insurgency joining hands with the Tatmadaw.

However, a handful of internal and external destructive elements accused the Government of practicing forced labour. It is an absolutely wrong accusation.

At a time when the government is trying to build a peaceful State on self-reliance basis, some big countries have accused Myanmar of violating human rights, human trafficking, child labour and prolonging out the National Convention.

All accusations are absolutely wrong.

Afterwards, Joint Secretary of Langkho District USDA U Sai Kyaw Htay seconded the motion of U Win Nyunt and Daw Thi Thi Khaing.

Representative of Shan State MCWA Supervisory Committee Dr Daw Thin Thin Lay presented a report on participation in national development and successful realization of the seven-point Road Map with Union Spirit. In her discussion, she said those people who love the motherland and realize the value of sovereignty and the Union, will safeguard Our Three Main National Causes.

Upholding Our Three Main National Causes, the government is making efforts to build a peaceful, modern and developed nation. However, some countries and a handful of destructionists have interfered in internal affairs of the

added momentum in cooperation with international NGOs.

The government also gained UN agencies' recognition for the activities. Among Asian countries, Myanmar stands at the bottom of the list of HIV infection rate. However, "HIV and National Security: Where are the links" Journal points an accusing finger at Myanmar that many

electricity not only to Shan State but also to all over the country.

In his discussions, delegate of Shan State War Veterans Organization WO II Tha Han (Retd) said there are false accusations that there are no delegates from all strata of life at the National Convention and the delegates have no rights to express their desire.

(See page 10)



U Sai Min Htet and U Sai Kham Laong emcee the mass meeting.— MNA

Upholding Our Three Main National Causes, the government is making efforts to build a peaceful, modern and developed nation. However, some countries and a handful of destructionists have interfered in internal affairs of the State on the pretext of democracy and human rights. Therefore, we must ward off all destructionists who have tried to disintegrate the Union.

Bio-gas power stations commissioned

YANGON, 3 Aug—A bio-gas power station in Natkaungsin Village, Kani Township, Sagaing Division, was put into commission on 31 July.

CEC Member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, the chairman of Monywa District Peace and Development Council and an official formally opened the facility. Member of the Panel of Patrons of the USDA Chairman of Sagaing Division PDC Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye unveiled the signboard that says 'electricity available in our village'.

The commander and the CEC member also attended the opening of the bio-gas power station in Pyintaw Village, Kani Township.

The inauguration of the two bio-gas power stations took place at the basic education middle school (branch) in Pyintaw Village, with speeches by the commander and the CEC member. The commander

presented a 21-inch TV and exercise books to Natkaungsin Village, and cash awards to the experts who contributed towards the construction of the facilities; and the CEC member, a 21-inch TV, exercise books and sport gear to Pyintaw Village.

Thanks to the facilities, electricity is provided for the two villages from 6 pm to 10 pm daily.

The commander and the CEC member visited Maha Loka Marajin Pagoda and made cash donations to it. On arrival at Thakhuttane Village in Budalin Township, they donated sport equipment and exercise books to local people.

Next, they inspected the station hospital built with the donations of K 75 million by wellwishers and local people.

They also inspected the construction of a building for affiliated BEHS in Nyaungkan Village and provided assistance for the project.

MNA



Taunggyi Township
WVO
Secretary
WOII
Tha Han (Retd).
MNA

(from page 9)

At the National Convention, over 1,000

placed emphasis on peace and stability, prevalence of law and order, national

adjoined temporarily reconvened on a wider scale with the participation of 1,000 delegates of eight groups from all strata of life in accord with the Road Map. To the liking of some big nations, some elected parties opposed the National Convention with the intention of copying the western democracy and seizing the power in short cut way. Now all national races are to establish a discipline-flourishing democratic nation in unity. The seven-point Road Map is the political

programmes to be implemented for building of a discipline-flourishing democratic nation and emergence of the enduring constitution.

Next, Secretary of Ywangan Township USDA U Moe Tun reported on the motion tabled by Dr Daw Thin Thin Lay of Shan State Maternal and Child Welfare Association and delegate of Shan State War Veterans Organization WO II Tha Han (Retd) for approval.

Afterwards, Chairman U Sai Tin Htwe sought the approval from the mass meeting and the meeting passed the two resolutions. Later, the meeting ended with the chanting of the slogans. — MNA

In an effort to build a peaceful, modern and developed nation, the government is building necessary infrastructures

delegates including delegates of political parties, delegates of representatives-elect, delegates of national races, delegates of peasants, delegates of workers, delegates of intellectuals and intelligentsia, delegates of State service personnel, other invited delegates and leaders of 17 armed groups that returned to the legal fold are holding discussions frankly.

Taking lessons of the past, the government

reconsolidation and it also making efforts for the Tatmadaw to be able to participate in the national political leadership role of the State. Constitution is the life blood of the State.

The National Convention fixed 15 chapters and laid down 104 basic principles. The government also announced the seven-point Road Map for emergence of a discipline-flourishing democratic nation. The National Convention which has been



Ywangan Township
USDA
Secretary
U Moe Tun.
MNA

Deputy Minister for Health meets with staff of DAC, FDA

YANGON, 3 July — A meeting between committee members of Drug Advisory Committee and staff of Food and Drug Administration was held at the training centre in Dagon Township this morning, with an address by Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo.

First, Deputy Minister Dr Mya Oo delivered an address on the occasion. In his speech he said ways and means for foodstuff inspection are to be found and implemented for prevention against danger of food poisoning. Chemical substances are found in the production process of food.

Moreover they are also found in packing, storage and sales to last longer. Prohibited dyed foods are being sold at schools. Educative talks on health are to

be given on a wide scale to be free from food poison. As part of Foodstuff and Drug Administration, equipment and chemicals are to be provided for intellectuals. If dangerous food and drugs are found, the findings will be presented to report to Myanmar Food and Drug Authority as soon as possible through Drug Advisory Committee to take action under National Food and Drug Law.

Next, Director of FDA Dr Soe Myat Tun reported on matters related to food and drugs. Afterwards, Chairman of DAC Director-General of Department of Health Dr Tin Win Maung and members took part in the discussions and the deputy minister made concluding remarks.

MNA

The Best Times for a Breast-fed Baby

- * From an embryo to a fetus
Inside a world completely dark
For about nine months I stayed
While, with a rhythmic chant, time ticked away.
- * Nowhere could I roam
When, with a sudden 'boom',
Crashed was my tiny cosy room
And I was thrown into a strange world soon.
- * Silhouettes of all shapes
Clad mostly in long drapes
Not a single one could I gape;
Far away, I wanted only to escape.
- * Everything's extremely bright
The whole world full of light
Gripped with so much fright
I closed my eyes pretty tight.
- * Stripped off warmth and security
In no time feeling cold and hungry
I greatly yearned for anything
To bring those back to my feelings.
- * Then I was handed onto someone
Who clasped me in her arms
Fed me from her bosom
For sure, kept me secured and warm.
- * Mornings and evenings rush in and go
Nights and days I quickly come to know.
Over time I started to grow
With bits of memories well in store.
- * For me the breast-feeding times are the best,
The most memorable and the happiest,
My secured feelings, warmest and coziest,
Through all the tender cuddling and caresses
With the person of whom I'm fondest.

Aye Phyu

Deputy Minister for Mines leaves for Malaysia

YANGON, 3 Aug— To attend the First ASEAN Mines Ministers' Meeting to be held in Kuchin, Sarawak Province, Malaysia, on 4 August, Deputy Minister for Mines U Myint Thein left here this morning for Malaysia. The deputy minister was seen off at the airport by Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, the directors-general and managing directors under the ministry and officials. — MNA

Entries invited to open article contest

YANGON, 3 Aug — Hailing the International Literacy Day which falls on 8, September, 2005, the open article contest in commemoration of the UN Literacy Decade will be held.

Anyone may participate in the contest entitled 'Education for Development'. The entry must be between 3,000 and 4,000 words composed by computer, typewriter and hand writing on the only side of A-4 size paper. Two copies of own-created manuscript, brief biography and three colour licensed size photos are to be submitted to Deputy Director U Saw Aung of Myanmar Education Research Bureau on Pyay Road in Kamayut Township not later than 25 August. — MNA

Entries to submit for executives of Basic Video Entrepreneurs' Branch

YANGON, 3 Aug — Myanmar Motion Picture Asiayon invited today the applications of those wishing to discharge the duties after re-organizing Basic Video Entrepreneurs' Branch.

Those who wish to apply for executives need to obtain licence for the video and Karaoke business. The applicant should have time enough to serve the duties of executives as well.

The applications are to be sent to Basic Video Entrepreneurs' Branch at No 16 on Wingaba Road in Bahan Township not later than 15 August for candidates in Yangon Division and 25 August for the states and divisions. — MNA

Basic Course for Cricket Coach opened



Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint addresses opening of Basic Cricket Coach Course 1/2005. — SPED

YANGON, 3 Aug — The Basic Course No 1/2005 for Cricket Coach opened this morning at Youth Training Centre (Thuwanna), here, with an address by Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports

Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint. Present on the occasion were officials of the Ministry of Sports, President of Myanmar Cricket Federation Academy U Nyunt Win, Vice-Presidents U Kyaw Naing,

U Kyaw Kyaw and U Maung Maung, General Secretary Academy Daw Swe Zin Htaik and executives, guests and trainees. The course continues till 14 August with lectures and practical trainings. *MNA*

Member of Secretariat meets USDA members in Kachin State

YANGON, 3 Aug — Member of the Secretariat of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Kachin State in-Charge Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw met members of USDA and local people in Mansi Township, Kachin State on 29 July.

Brig-Gen Thein Zaw fulfilled the requirements and discussed active participation in rural development tasks and prevalence of peace and stability in the region. The organizer of Mantha Village presented USDA membership applications to Secretary of Bhamo District USDA. The minister provided the school children with exercise books and stationery. Member of

the Secretariat of the USDA Brig-Gen Thein Zaw met USDA members and local people in Sikhangyi Village. Members of the Secretariat of the USDA accepted the membership applications. He provided the school children with exercise books and stationery and USDA members with uniforms. He also fulfilled the requirements for construction of post-primary school in Sikhangyi Village. He went to Han Het Village and met local people. On 30 July, Brig-Gen Thein Zaw met executives of Bhamo District USDA and organizers. He presented K 1 million for MoeHLaing Pagoda in Mabein Township. Brig-Gen Thein Zaw also visited Momauk

Township USDA. The organizer of Aungmye Village presented membership applications to the Secretary of Kachin State USDA.

National Convention delegates U Tun Tun and U Yaw Han presented funds and books for the library in Makhwal.

Brig-Gen Thein Zaw inspected maintenance of Tarpain Bridge. He presented offertories to the members of Sangha. He also met USDA members in Myothit, Momauk, Dawphoneyan. He provided the school children with exercise books and stationery. During his inspection tour in Kachin State, altogether 6,438 membership applications were accepted. *MNA*

Hollywood studios launch new lawsuits against film piracy

LOS ANGELES, 3 August — Major film studios in Hollywood filed a new round of lawsuits against individuals who illegally download and trade movies over the Internet, the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA) announced here on Monday.

The MPAA — which has offices in Los Angeles and Washington, D.C. — said the film industry is continuing to aggressively target those who violate copyright laws. The current litigation is part of a larger campaign by the MPAA to raise awareness of the consequences of movie piracy, according to the association. "In the recent Grokster decision, the Supreme Court of the United States stated categorically that those who steal movies using peer-to-peer software are not above the law," said John G Malcolm, the MPAA's senior vice-president and director of worldwide anti-piracy operations.

diolos filed lawsuits against individuals who illegally downloaded or traded movies online.

Under the Copyright Act, statutory damages can be as much as 30,000 dollars for each movie illegally copied or distributed over the Internet — and as much as 150,000 dollars per film if the infringement is proven to be willful.

Federal charges could mean up to five years in prison, up to 10 years for repeat offenders, according to the MPAA. The association estimates that the US film industry lost about 3.5 billion dollars to movie piracy in 2004 — a total that does not include losses due to illegal file sharing online.

Last November, the MPAA announced that, in conjunction with its members and other film studios, it would expand its campaign against film piracy. Meanwhile, the association has identified many of the defendants by name since major Hollywood movie stu-

Also on Monday, the Motion Picture Association — the MPAA's international counterpart — hailed what it called an unprecedented maximum jail sentence for a shop owner in Delhi, India, who sold pirated videos. *MNA/Xinhua*

20 million Bangladeshis suffer from kidney disease

DHAKA, 3 Aug — About 20 million people across Bangladesh have been suffering from kidney disease and 40,000 of them die every year. The official news agency BSS on Tuesday quoted Professor Dr Harun-Ur-Rashid, president of Kidney Foundation, as saying that most

of the people are not aware of the diabetic and hypertension diseases and as a result kidney disease may take epidemic form by 2025. Harun said 69 per cent of the patients are not aware that they are suffering from hypertension and diabetes. Out of the remaining 31 per

cent, only 6 per cent have been undergoing treatment, he added. Since the treatment of kidney disease is costly, many patients die every year. A kidney patient reportedly needs about 250,000 taka to 300,000 taka (4,166 to 5,000 US dollars) each year for dialysis. —MNA/Xinhua



The Bhamo District USDA Secretary accepts membership applications from Mantha Village USDA Organizer in Mansi Township recently. COMMUNICATIONS

အရည်အသွေးကောင်းဂုဏ်လျှော်/ ချဉ်ပေါင်လျှော်ထွက်ရှိရေးနိုးဆော်ချက်

ယခုအခါ ဂုဏ်လျှော်/ ချဉ်ပေါင်လျှော် စိုက်ပျိုးပြီးစီးချိန်ဖြစ်ပြီး၊ မိုးကြိုဂုဏ်လျှော်များ စတင်ခတ်သိမ်းနေပြီဖြစ်၍ အရည်အသွေးကောင်းနှင့် အထွက်နှုန်းကောင်းလျှော်များ ရရှိစေရန် အောက်ပါအတိုင်း လိုက်နာဆောင်ရွက်နိုင်ရန်နိုးဆော်အပ်ပါသည်။

- ၁။ အရည်အသွေးကောင်းပြီး အထွက်နှုန်းမြင့်မားစေရန် သီးကင်းဝင်စ အချိန်တွင် ခတ်သိမ်းပြီး လျှော်ပင်များကို အရွက်ကြွေစေရန် ကွင်းထဲတွင် အရိုးပေါ်အရွက်ပုံးထပ်၍ (၃-၄)ရက် အုပ်ထားပါ။
- ၂။ လျှော်စိမ်ရာတွင် ရေအနည်းဆုံး(၄)ပေရှိပြီး ဖြည့်ညှင်းစွာ စီးဆင်းနေသော ရေတွင် တစ်လွှာချင်းဖောင်ဖွဲ့၍ ရေစိမ်ပါ။ လျှော်ဖောင်အောက်ဆုံးအလွှာကို မြေနှင့် မထိအောင် အပေါ်ဆုံးအလွှာကို ရေတွင်ပေါ်မနေစေရန် ဂရုပြုပြီး လျှော်အမျိုးအစား ကောင်းရန် ရေကြည်ရေသန့်တွင် ရေစိမ်ပါ။
- ၃။ လျှော်ဖောင်ဖိရာတွင် စွန်းထင်းပျက်စီးစေနိုင်သည့် အစေးထွက်သော တုံးများမသုံး စွဲဘဲ သစ်သားတုံး၊ ဝါး စသည်တို့ဖြင့် ဖိထားပါ။
- ၄။ ရေစိမ်ရက် မလိုစေရန်နှင့် မလွန်စေရန် ဂရုပြုပါ။ ရေစိမ်ပြီး ရက်သတ္တပတ် (၁)ပတ် ကြာမှစ၍ နေ့စဉ် လျှော်ဖောင်းအား နူး/မနူး စမ်းသပ်၍ လျှော်နူးပါက ချက်ချင်းခွာယူပါ။
- ၅။ ခွာယူပြီးလျှော်များကို လေသလပ်မခဲဘဲ အခွံအခေါက်နှင့် အမှိုက်သရိုက်များ ကင်းစင်အောင် ရေကြည်တွင် ဆေးကြော၍ တန်းတင်အခြောက်လှန်းပါ။
- ၆။ ကောင်းစွာခြောက်သွေ့သော လျှော်များကို အတန်းအစားခွဲ စည်းထုံး၍ နိစပ်ရာ အဝယ် စခန်းများတွင် ရောင်းချပါ။
- ၇။ နည်းပညာနှင့် အကူအညီ ရယူလိုပါက နိစပ်ရာ မြန်မာဂုဏ်လျှော်ပစ္စည်းလုပ်ငန်း၊ ဒေသရုံးများနှင့် ဆက်သွယ် အကူအညီရယူပါ။

လယ်ယာစိုက်ပျိုးရေးနှင့်ဆည်မြောင်းဝန်ကြီးဌာန

ADVERTISEMENTS

မူလတန်း၊ အလယ်တန်း၊ အထက်တန်း အင်္ဂလိပ်စာ အထောက်အကူပြု Student's Companion စာစဉ် အမှတ်စဉ် (၂) ထွက်ပါပြီ

နယူးလိုက်အော့စ်မြန်မာသတင်းစာ၊ စာတည်းအဖွဲ့က ပြုစုသည့် မူလတန်း၊ အလယ်တန်း၊ အထက်တန်း စာသင်သားများအတွက် အင်္ဂလိပ်စာ အထောက်အကူပြု Student's Companion စာစဉ် အမှတ်စဉ် (၂) ထွက်ပါပြီ။ ရန်ကုန်မြို့၊ နယူးလိုက်အော့စ်မြန်မာသတင်းစာတိုက်၊ မြန်.ချီရေးဌာန၊ အမှတ် ၂၂/၃၀ ကမ်းနားလမ်း၊ ဖုန်း ၂၉၇၀၉၃ သို့ဖြစ်စေ၊ သတင်းစာကိုယ်စားလှယ်များမှ တစ်ဆင့်ဖြစ်စေ ဆက်သွယ်ဝယ်ယူနိုင်ပါပြီ။

Netherlands sees no threat from Russian bird flu

AMSTERDAM, 2 Aug — The Dutch farm ministry played down fears on Monday that a strain of bird flu found in Russia could spread to the Netherlands, saying no extra protection measures were needed. The Russian Veterinary and Phytosanitary Inspection Service warned earlier on Monday that the strain dangerous to humans could spread to parts of the European Union, including the Netherlands and France.

"We have made a risk assessment and it's not necessary to take extra measures," a spokeswoman for the Dutch ministry said. "The outbreak poses no threat to the Netherlands." The Russian official said the bird flu could spread as infected migrating wild birds from China might have been in contact in Russia with birds that will fly on to EU countries. The official said it had been confirmed on Friday that birds in the Novosibirsk region were

infected with the H5N1 strain of bird flu, which is dangerous to humans, and not with H5N2, as had previously been believed. The Netherlands, one of the world's biggest meat exporters, was hit by an outbreak of bird flu disease in 2003, which led to the slaughter of a quarter of all Dutch poultry at a cost of hundreds of millions of euros. Local poultry farms are being tested regularly since then. MNA/Reuters

US trial system against Guantanamo detainees unfair

WASHINGTON, 2 Aug — War crime trials arranged by the Pentagon against detainees at the US naval base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, was faulty and unfair, as disclosed by secret messages written by two US military prosecutors last year. In one of the e-mail messages revealed by the New York Times on Monday, Captain John Carr, an Air Force prosecutor, told his superiors in March 2004 that the Pentagon-appointed military courts had "handpicked" four Guantanamo detainees to ensure all of them would

be convicted. The e-mails were written at a time when the Bush Administration and the Pentagon were eager to start war crime trials against terrorist suspects, the first of this kind since the aftermath of the World War II. Carr also said that he had been told that any exculpatory evidence—information that could help detainees to defend themselves in such trials—would probably be withheld by the military. Another prosecutor, Major Robert Preston, said that he could not bring him-

self to write a legal motion saying the trials would be "full and fair", as he knew they would not be so. However, in a recent interview with the newspaper, Brigadier-General Thomas L Hemingway, a senior advisor for setting up the war crime trials, dismissed these allegations. He said there is no evidence supporting the argument of the two prosecutors. The Bush Administration and the Pentagon have been facing persistent criticisms about the legitimacy of the war crime trial

system, which they have been pushing forward since 2002. The military commission, the new body created to carry out such trials, has overwhelming power in convicting the defendants, who will be deprived of the protection of civil or military laws. The trials, which began last August against four detainees at Guantanamo, were suspended in November when a federal judge ruled the trials violated both US and international laws. MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam's garment export remains flat in first seven months

HANOI, 2 Aug — Vietnam exported over 2.5 billion US dollars worth of textiles and garments in the first seven months of this year, posting a year-on-year slight rise of 0.2 per cent. Last month, the country shipped abroad 490 million US dollars worth of the products, up 11.6 per cent over July last year, according to the Ministry of Trade on Monday. To boost the products' export in the remaining months of this year, Vietnam is promoting

shipment of quota-unbound garments and textiles to the United States, expanding other traditional markets such as the European Union and Japan, and seeking new ones in Africa and East Europe. The ministry is also urging local garment and textile enterprises to use more locally-made materials in production, diversify products and actively build and promote trademarks both at home and abroad. Vietnam earned over 4.3 billion US dollars from exporting garments and textiles to over 100 countries and regions last year, up 17.2 per cent against the previous year. MNA/Xinhua

Fired CIA agent seeks FBI probe of WMD intelligence

WASHINGTON, 2 Aug — A fired CIA agent, whom a newspaper says told superiors in 2001 that Iraq had abandoned part of its nuclear programme, is asking the FBI to investigate allegations that the spy agency dismissed him for refusing to falsify intelligence. A 11 July letter to FBI Director Robert Mueller from the former agent's attorney suggests CIA officials may be guilty of criminal violations involving intelligence he produced on weapons of mass destruction in 2000 that contradicted an official agency position. The former agent's attorney, Roy Krieger, said his client initially asked the CIA's inspector general to investigate charges that CIA officials had pressured him to alter the intelligence and retaliated when he refused. But the inspector general rebuffed his request. "If the CIA is telling him to falsify information, that's potentially a crime. This merits an investigation, and if the CIA's not going to do it, the only

other place is the FBI," Krieger said. An FBI spokesman declined to comment. The letter to Mueller, a copy of which was obtained by Reuters on Monday, reiterates charges in a lawsuit which the former agent filed last December in Washington federal court. Identified only by the alias "Doe," the former agent who worked as a Near Eastern specialist on counter-proliferation issues accuses the CIA of improper action on two separate pieces of intelligence. One was the WMD intelligence the former agent says he was asked to change in 2000. The other was intelligence uncovered in 2001 that the New York Times described on Monday as dealing with Iraq's nuclear programme. The newspaper, citing people it said had knowledge of the case, said the second piece of intelligence came from a credible source and said that Baghdad had dropped a major segment of its nuclear programme years before 2001. MNA/Reuters



A glass-fiber cow hangs under a glass roof in the GUM department store in Moscow's Red Square, on 1 Aug, 2005, during the CowParade. The CowParade is an internationally successful charity initiative, which began in 1998 in Zurich, Switzerland and has since been held in New York, London, and other places. INTERNET

Vietnam calls for investment in power plant construction

HANOI, 2 Aug — Vietnam plans to invite foreign and domestic companies to construct 15 power plants with the total capacity of 11,776 megawatts, the country's biggest power producer and sole distributor said on Monday. The state-owned Electricity of Vietnam (EVN) has just proposed the Industry Ministry

should encourage investors to pour money into building the plants in the form of independent power producers, saying the country's electricity demand will increase 14-15 per cent annually in the 2006-2010 period, while the corporation's financial sources are limited. Now, the EVN needs some over 2.8 bil-

lion US dollars to complete 14 power projects which are under construction. However, it has yet to get the full capital, partly because commercial banks in Vietnam, under prevailing rules, are not allowed to give loans to a project to the tune of more than 15 per cent of their legal capital. MNA/Xinhua

SET delays listing of liquor firm in Thailand

BANGKOK, 2 Aug — The Stock Exchange of Thailand has postponed its decision to allow Thai Beverages to list on the market following strong opposition from protesters, local Press reported on Tuesday. SET governors hold a three-hour long discussion on Monday to discuss the controversial listing, one of the largest in the market's history and is expected to raise some 952 million US dollars funds for the company. Controlled by billionaire Charoen Sirivadhanabhakdi, Thai Beverages is a holding enterprise that includes companies producing market leader Beer Chang, Mekhong rum and Saeng Som and Hongtheng whiskies. MNA/Xinhua

မင်းသားများ ပြန် ခေတ်မီပွဲများ စတင်လာသော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်ခုံ

NASA orders risky spacewalk to repair heat shield

HOUSTON, 2 Aug— Determined not to lose another space shuttle and crew, NASA on Monday decided to send one of *Discovery's* astronauts on a risky spacewalk to the ship's fragile underside to smooth protruding fibers in the heat shield.

The task of removing protruding material from the space shuttle that could theoretically generate dangerous heat on re-entry into the Earth's atmosphere will be added to a third previously scheduled spacewalk on Wednesday.

"This is the new NASA. If we cannot prove that it's safe, than we don't want to go there," deputy shuttle programme manager Wayne Hale told reporters at Mission Control in Houston.

The second spacewalk of the first shuttle mission since the 2003 *Columbia* disaster was completed on Monday, with Japanese astronaut Soichi Noguchi and NASA's Steve Robinson replacing a failed gyroscope at the *International Space Station*.

The gyroscopes keep the orbital outpost properly positioned in space without using the station's limited

supply of propellant for rocket thruster burns.

Discovery does not appear to have suffered the sort of damage to its heat shield that caused *Columbia* to break up over Texas on 1 February, 2003, as the shuttle came in to land.

But NASA engineers do not know enough about how the two bits of material on *Discovery* could affect thermal and aerodynamic forces as the vehicle plunges at 22 times the speed of sound through the atmosphere on re-entry. They both stick out about an inch (2.5 centimetres) from the smoothly tiled surface of the ship's belly.

"The bottom line is there is large uncertainty because nobody has a very good handle on aerodynamics at that altitude and at those speeds," Hale said.

MNA/Reuters

New TB vaccine design called for in poor nations

LONDON, 2 Aug— Tuberculosis vaccines being tested in developed countries will not protect people living in parts of the developing world where they are most needed because they trigger a different body response, researchers said on Monday.

Scientists at University College London (UCL), who looked at variations in immune system responses around the globe, found that in countries near the equator the tuberculosis bacteria turn the body's normal protective response into a harmful one.

So like the BCG, or bacille Calmette-Guerin vaccine, used against TB in some countries, the latest vaccines which use the same approach will not work in developing countries, according to the researchers. "What we have done is identify the mechanisms that we think lead to the fact that BCG vaccine does not work close to the equator, where the problem really is," Professor Graham Rook, an immunologist at UCL, said in an interview.

"We realized that the vaccine candidates going into clinical trials at the cost of hundreds of mil-

lions of dollars haven't in any way answered that particular problem," he added. In countries in the northern hemisphere, the immune system protects the body against TB with TH1 cells. BCG and new candidate TB vaccines are designed to boost the TH1 cells.

But in people living near the equator, the TH1 cells are already on alert, so the protective mechanism is switched on but does not work because another inappropriate response is also turned on which undermines it.

"What is needed, in our opinion, is not a vaccine that turns on the protective mechanism because that is already there but rather a vaccine that turns off the subversive mechanism that shouldn't be there," said Rook, who reported the findings in the journal *Nature Reviews Immunology*.

MNA/Reuters

Saudis mourn King Fahd, maintain business as usual

RIYADH, 2 Aug — Saudis mourned the death of King Fahd quietly on Monday in line with the kingdom's strict Muslim Wahhabi tradition that unquestioningly accepts the will of God.

Recitations of the Koran echoed from mosques, radios and television sets, but shops and businesses remained open as Saudis accepted the long-expected death of their ailing monarch.

"This is a very sad day. But I think the people were ready for this to happen as he was very ill for a long time," said Mohammad al-Aqeel, a 31-year-old Saudi engineer. Fahd was taken to hospital on 27 May with pneumonia. He had taken little part in decision-making in the world's biggest oil exporter since suffering a debilitating stroke in 1995. A Saudi official said that in line with Wahhabi tradition, there will be no official mourning period in Saudi Arabia.

MNA/Reuters



A street theatre artist performs at the Olympic complex of Athens as the Olympic velodrome is seen in the background on 2 Aug, 2005. Greece's Culture Ministry opened some Olympic facilities to the public this week to mark the first anniversary of the Athens Olympics.—INTERNET

US arrest 582 gangsters in nationwide crackdown

WASHINGTON, 2 Aug— US law enforcement agencies have arrested 582 gang members over past two weeks in a major crackdown against street gangs, Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff announced here on Monday.

Gang violence and crimes have posed a great threat to the US society, and crackdown of such crimes will be a top priority for law enforcement authorities, he said at a Press conference at the headquarters of the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, a subsidiary of the Homeland Security Department.

Among the arrested, 11 have been identified as gang leaders while 76 were charged with crimes ranging from illegal possession of weapons to holding fake documents.

Nearly half of the arrested gangsters were foreigners with previous criminal records and would be deported without trials.

The two-week action was the latest stage of a broad anti-gang scheme named "Community Shield," which started since February and has so far netted over 1,000 gangsters.

According to government statistics, there are over 25,000 active gangs across the country, comprising some 750,000 members, many of them

illegal aliens.

Law enforcement agencies were alarmed by the quick spread of gang violence and crimes all over the country.

The recent action targeted 54 most violent gangs, including MS-13, Latin Kings, Mexican Mafia and the 18th Street Gang, etc.

MNA/Xinhua

Police arrest two men in London bomb probe raids

LONDON, 2 Aug— British police arrested two men under anti-terrorism laws in south London on Monday in raids linked to the 21 July attempts to bomb the capital, a police spokesman said.

The men were arrested during police searches of properties in the Clapham area and nearby Stockwell, where police shot dead a Brazilian man they mistook for a suspected suicide bomber on 22 July.

Amateur video footage broadcast on the BBC showed armed police wearing black masks surrounding a man pinned against the front of a red-brick house in Stockwell.

MNA/Reuters

Mozambique launches HIV/AIDS programme for private sector

MAPUTO, 2 Aug— A programme named "Avante" and aiming at supporting the country's private sector initiatives to mitigate the impact of HIV/AIDS, formally started in Mozambique on Monday.

This programme, which will be carried out in partnership with Consultancy and Projects Austral Company (ACP), was launched by Mozambique's National Council for Fight Against HIV/AIDS (CNCS) in the Resano Garcia town, near the border with South Africa. According to a document issued by the CNCS, the programme involves a

component of communications and promotion of initiatives addressed to business people, to empower the companies in the management of such projects, all aiming at "enhancing awareness among the business community and persuade them of the benefits of carrying out activities against HIV/AIDS at the work place, to guarantee the companies' own fu-

ture". Budgeted at two million US dollars, mostly granted by the World Bank, the programme is to have a two-year duration, until 2007.

CNCS Secretary-General Joana Manguera stressed that in Mozambique, fight against HIV/AIDS is a national emergency, because the pandemic endangers the lives of millions of

Mozambicans, and jeopardizes all efforts to develop the economy and the country's progress.

Maputo provincial governor Telmina Pereira said that the private sector is an important part of the country's socioeconomic life and HIV/AIDS is a problem that has been increasingly putting at risk not only the public health, but also the country's development.

For his part, Mozambican Industry and Trade Minister Antonio Fernando called for the participation of all Mozambicans in this task.

"If we want increased production, it is necessary that our workers be healthy, both in the formal and in the informal sector, particularly concerning HIV/AIDS," he said.

MNA/Xinhua

DON'T SMOKE

SPORTS



Brazilian soccer legend Pele (R) watches with an unidentified friend a soccer match between his former club Santos FC and Corinthians in the Brazilian Championship in the port city of Santos on 31 July, 2005. Santos FC's Robinho played one of his last matches for the club a day after his transfer to Real Madrid was announced in a deal worth more than \$30 million.—INTERNET

Pele doubts Brazil to have replacement for Robinho

RIO DE JANEIRO, 3 Aug—Former soccer star Pele said Tuesday it will take a long time for a player at the level of Robinho to appear in Brazil.

"It will be difficult to find a replacement for Robinho, as he has charisma and good soccer," said Edson Arantes do Nascimento "Pele", during a promotional event at Sao Paulo.

Robson de Souza "Robinho" will play for Santos until August 24 and from that date he will be a Real Madrid player, after the Iberian club signed last week an agreement for a fee of at least 30 million US dollars. To Pele, whose successor in Santos is Robinho, the condition as best player the 21-year-old striker has, will be empty for some time.

"I think that, in the future, Brazil will have players to replace him, but not now. I confess I don't see anyone," added Pele. —MNA/Xinhua

Schalke pull out of Baros deal, but sign Larsen

BERLIN, 3 Aug—German Bundesliga side Schalke 04 have pulled out of a potential deal to buy Czech striker Milan Baros from Liverpool but have completed the transfer of Danish forward Soren Larsen.

Schalke coach Ralf Rangnick told German media on Saturday the German club and Baros had agreed personal terms.

However, the respective clubs could not agree a transfer fee and English Premier League side Liverpool were unwilling to loan Baros out to the Schalke, the German club said on Monday.

"The club will only sell and not loan out," said sporting director Rudi Assauer.

"But it's almost impossible to agree to eight to 10 million euros. So Milan Baros will not be moving to Schalke 04".

Baros, 23, had previously said he wanted to remain at Liverpool, but manager Rafael Benitez did not select the striker for the first two qualifying rounds of the Champions League this season.

The European cham-

ion's asking price — believed to be around nine million euros (\$10.89 million) — has been a sticking point.

Aston Villa have reportedly had an earlier offer of seven million euros turned down.

"It would only work if we were guaranteed of playing in the Champions League three times in a row. But no one has such a guarantee," Assauer said.

Schalke have, however, signed Denmark striker Soren Larsen from Swedish league leaders Djurgarden.

The Bundesliga runners-up have agreed a four-year contract with the 23-year-old, who was presented with the prized number nine shirt when he signed the deal on Monday.

German media said his transfer cost Schalke

Everton bid to sign Baros

LONDON, 3 Aug—Everton are planning to sign striker Milan Baros from neighbours Liverpool after failing to land Crystal Palace's Andy Johnson, BBC Sport reported on Tuesday.

Johnson, 24, has signed a new five-year deal with Palace after they turned down Everton's six million-offer.

"We are looking at a number of options and we are currently reviewing them all," chief executive Keith Wyness later confirmed to the Liverpool Echo. And he admitted that Baros, 23, is "one of the names on the list".

German side Schalke 04 were interested in Baros but abandoned their interest because of his price tag.

Baros has not played in any of Liverpool's Champions League qualifiers so far this season in order not to devalue his worth.

While Reds boss Rafael Benitez insists Baros has a future at Anfield, it seems he will let the Czech international leave for the right price.

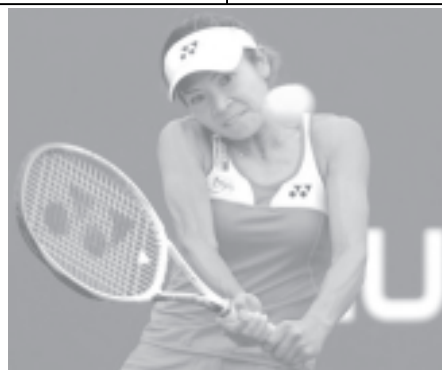
MNA/Xinhua

around two million euros.

The German side, who have qualified for the group stage of the Champions League, are also interested in Greece defender Sotiris Kyrgiakos.

The 26-year-old is currently on loan from Panathinaikos to Scottish side Rangers.

MNA/Reuters



Saori Obata of Japan hits a backhand shot during her first round match against Gisela Dulko of Argentina at the Acura Classic held at the La Costa Resort and Spa in Carlsbad, Calif on 1 Aug, 2005.—INTERNET

Liverpool beat FBK Kaunas 2-0 in Champions League qualifier

LONDON, 3 Aug—Liverpool beat FBK Kaunas 2-0 thanks to late goals from substitutes Steven Gerrard and Djibril Cisse to cruise into the Champions League third qualifying round.

The holders were in lack-lustre mood after establishing a comfortable advantage from the first leg. But Gerrard broke the deadlock with an angled drive after 77 minutes. And Cisse scored from close range with five minutes left, with Liverpool's only worry a hamstring injury for seven million-pound new boy Peter Crouch.

Liverpool boss Rafael Benitez rested eight players from the first leg in Lithuania, including Gerrard and Jamie Carragher. He partnered Fernando Morientes and Crouch up front, with the signing from Southampton making his home debut.

But Crouch had little chance to make an impact in a tedious first 45 minutes, in which Liverpool enjoyed almost total domination of territory and possession but carved out few chances.

The clearest opportunity came after 14 minutes when Bolo Zenden's throw in missed out Crouch and Morientes saw his header saved by Sarunas Kilijonas.

Liverpool made a change at half-time, replacing the bitterly disappointing Morientes with Cisse.

Cisse instantly injected much-needed life into proceedings with a run and rising drive that was nar-

rowly off target. Kaunas were almost gifted an opportunity after 53 minutes when Sami Hyypia sent a clearance straight to Mukri Manchkhava, but he shot well over.

Liverpool suffered a disappointment just after Crouch pulled up clutching his hamstring and was replaced by Darren Potter. Hyypia almost made amends after 69 minutes when he thumped a header on to the bar from Didi Hamann's corner.

Gerrard was introduced after 74 minutes, and claimed Liverpool's

opener three minutes later.

He fired in an angled drive which was fumbled in by keeper Kilijonas under pressure from Garcia, with Gerrard being credited with the goal. That goal continued the Liverpool captain's record of having scored in every game so far during his side's defence of their Champions League crown. Garcia set up the second for the lively Cisse with five minutes left, with a delightful cross that was expertly slotted home by the French striker.

MNA/Xinhua



Liverpool Luis Garcia challenges FBK Kaunas Tomas Kanceliskis during their European Champion League qualifier second leg clash in Liverpool. Liverpool won 2-0.—INTERNET

Way cleared for Manchester United to get Owen

LONDON, 2 Aug—As Liverpool and Arsenal have ruled out a move for Michael Owen, Manchester United are seeing a clear coast in their bid to chase the 25-year-old Real Madrid striker.

Reds manager Rafael Benitez insisted that Owen is not the player he is dreaming of. "I am looking for a centre-back and not a centre-forward," he said.

Arsenal boss Arsene Wenger believed that the Gunners are not in need of a forward. He said: "We've not made a bid for Michael Owen. At the moment I am not looking for a striker, but other areas I am looking at."

But Manchester United boss Alex Ferguson has been told by the club owners Glazers that he can have the funds should he wish.

Real reportedly want at least 11 million pounds for England vice-captain Owen, who they bought for eight million pound

plus Antonio Nunez last summer.

It had been claimed Ferguson would have to sell players to finance any transfer moves. But United chief executive David Gill said: "The money is there for Alex."

"If he identifies a talent that he thinks will improve the squad — and that is the crucial thing — the funds are available."

Gill insisted the Old Trafford takeover by American Malcolm Glazer did not mean United would be limited in the transfer market.

"The Glazers have said that if there is a big player out there who is available, then the money is there to go for him," said Gill.

MNA/Xinhua



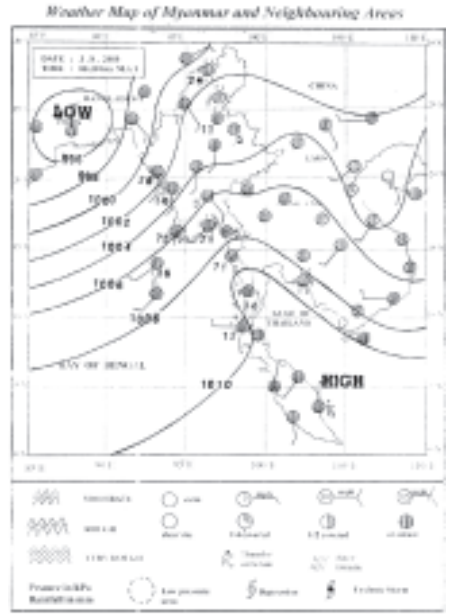
In memory of late father U Kyaw Khin, his family of No 11 (A), 7 1/2 Miles in Mayangon Township, donate K 200,000 to Board of Hninzigon Home for the Aged through an official of the home recently.

သခင်

၁။ ရန်ကုန်တိုင်းအေချမ်းသာယာရေးနှင့်ဖွံ့ဖြိုးရေးကောင်စီသည် ရန်ကုန်ဆိပ်ကမ်း တစ်လျှောက် သန့်ရှင်းသာယာလှပစေရေးအတွက် ပြန်မာ့ဆိပ်ကမ်းအာထာပိုင်အဖွဲ့အစည်းများနှင့် ပူးပေါင်း၍ ဝိုင်းဝန်းကျည်ဆောင်ရွက်လျက်ရှိရာတွင် ရန်ကုန်မြစ်အတွင်း ရန်ဆန်ပျော့ပါ နေသည့် အမှိုက်များကြောင့် ဆိပ်ကမ်းတစ်လျှောက် သန့်ရှင်းသယံဇာတကို ထိခိုက်စေလျက် ရှိကြောင်း တွေ့ရှိရပါသည်။

၂။ ထို့အပြင် ဖော်ပြပါ ခိုက်၊ အမှိုက်များကြောင့် ရန်ကုန်မြစ်အတွင်း သွားလာနေကြသည့် ကူးတိုက်လှေများတွင် ပန်ကား၊ ဒလက်များ၌ ခိုက်၊ အမှိုက်များ ရပ်ပတ်မှုကြောင့် စက်လှေများ ပျော့ပါကာ သင်္ဘောကြီးများနှင့် တိုက်ခိုက်မိပြီး ခရီးသည်များ အသက်အန္တရာယ် ဆုံးရှုံးမှုဖြစ်စဉ်များ ဖြစ်ပွားခဲ့ပါသည်။

၃။ သို့ပါ၍ ၁၉၀၅ ခုနှစ် မြန်မာဆိပ်ကမ်းဥပဒေပုဒ်မ ၆၅ ဖြင့် လည်း မြစ်အတွင်း ယဉ်ကျေးစွာပို့ဆောင်ရာ တားမြစ်ထုတ်ပြန် ထားရှိပါ၍ ရန်ကုန်တိုင်းအတွင်းရှိ မြစ်ချောင်းများအတွင်း အမှိုက်၊ ခိုက်များ စွန့်ပစ်ခြင်းမပြုရန် သတိပေးတားမြစ်ပါသည်။ တားမြစ်ချက်အား ဖောက်ဖျက်ပါက ဥပဒေနှင့်အညီထိရောက်စွာ အရေးယူသွားမည် ဖြစ်ပါသည်။ **ရန်ကုန်တိုင်းအေချမ်းသာယာရေးနှင့်ဖွံ့ဖြိုးရေးကောင်စီ**



Bangladesh gears up crackdown on food adulteration

DHAKA, 3 Aug — Bangladesh has decided to step up a joint drive against the eateries serving customers stale food, in face of the unabated sale of adulterated foodstuff, local newspapers reported on Tuesday.

The government has decided to recruit 176 more personnel for Bangladesh Standard and Testing Institute (BITS) to gear up the drive against food adulteration posing a threat to public health, according to *The Independent*.

Meanwhile, five food traders' organizations, in a joint statement Monday, threatened to enforce a 48-hour strike on 3-4 August to protest the continued raids in different food out-

lets that they said was aimed at "harassing the traders".

Bangladesh Khadya Byabasayi Parishad (BKBP) leaders termed the operation of the mobile courts as "harassment", saying it is nothing but a conspiracy to introduce foreign food items into the country.

"All the restaurant owners and food traders cannot be dishonest. But the court has been fining everybody.

It seems we are committing a crime by our business," Mohammed Jalaluddin, the joint convener of BKBP, was quoted by *The Daily Star* as saying. The leaders of the BKBP alleged that the members of the mobile courts do not have expertise about the system of the food production and food ingredients.

"They charge fines instantly without any laboratory test," Jalaluddin said, adding that the court

should have some proof before charging fines.
MNA/Xinhua

WEATHER

Wednesday, 3 August, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in lower Sagaing Division and rain have been isolated in Mandalay Division, scattered in Kayah State and Magway Division and widespread in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfalls in Rakhine State and Ayeyawady Division. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Maungtaw (3.27) inches, Pathein (3.11) inches, Kyauktaw (2.87) inches, Dawei (2.80) inches, Ann (2.40) inches, Gwa (2.32) inches and Thandwe (2.24) inches.

Maximum temperature on 2-8-2005 was 82°F. Minimum temperature on 3-8-2005 was 67°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 3-8-2005 was 100%. Total sunshine hours on 2-8-2005 was nil. Rainfalls on 3-8-2005 were 1.90 inches at Mingaladon, 1.26 inches at Kaba-Aye, 0.75 inch at central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were 55.32 inches at Mingaladon, 55.67 inches at Kaba-Aye and 57.36 inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 10 mph from Southwest at (18:10) hours MST on 2-8-2005.

Bay inference: Monsoon is strong in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 4-8-2005: Rain will be isolated in Kayah State, Magway, Mandalay and lower Sagaing Divisions, scattered in Kachin, Shan States and upper Sagaing Division and widespread in the remaining areas with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Rakhine State and Ayeyawady Division. Degree of certainty is 80%.

State of the sea: Squalls with rough seas are likely off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) to (40) mph.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Strong monsoon.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 4-8-2005: Intermittent rain which may be heavy at times. Degree of certainty is 80%.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 4-8-2005: Likelihood of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is 60%.

TV Myanmar

Thursday, 4 August

View on today:

7:00 am
1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Oattamathara

7:25 am
2. To be healthy exercise

7:30 am
3. Morning news

7:40 am
4. Nice and sweet song

7:55 am
5. Dance of national races

8:10 am
6. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:20 am
7. Dance variety

8:30 am
8. International news

8:45 am
9. Islands of Dhamma

8:50 am
10. ဘုရားပြည့်စုံသောအခါ (အဘိဓမ္မာ ဖာရဂုရှုရ၊ အဘိဓမ္မာ ဖာရဂုဗျူဟာ) အဘိဓမ္မာ ဖာရဂုဗျူဟာ အဘိဓမ္မာ ဖာရဂုဗျူဟာ အဘိဓမ္မာ ဖာရဂုဗျူဟာ

အရာတော် ရွှေတိဂုံတော်တော် ဂေါပကအဖွဲ့ ဖာရဂုဗျူဟာ အဘိဓမ္မာ ဖာရဂုဗျူဟာ ရန်ကုန်တိုင်းထဲမှ နဂါးပင်တော် သီလဝံသတော်တော်တော်

4:00 pm
1. Martial song

4:15 pm
2. Songs to uphold National Spirit

4:30 pm
3. ရန်ကုန်တိုင်းအမှတ်(၃) အခြေခံ ပညာဦးစီးဌာန၊ ဆဋ္ဌမအကြိမ် ဓမ္မဗျူဟာတော်တော်တော် (တတိယအကြိမ်) (အထက-၁၊ ကျောက်တန်း) (အမျိုးသမီး၊ အမျိုးသား)

4:55 pm
4. အေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်စနစ်စာ -တတိယနှစ် (ရုပ်စေခ) (ရုပ်စေခ)

5:10 pm
5. Cute little dancers

5:20 pm
6. ၂၀၀၅ ခုနှစ် စောလှသပေအကြိမ် (၁၃ကြိမ်) မြန်မာ့နိုးရာ ယဉ်ကျေးမှု အဆို၊ အက၊ အရေး၊ အတီး ဖြိုင်ပွဲဝင်များ လေ့လာနှိုင်းကြည့်ရန်၊ ဖာရဂုဗျူဟာ (ပညာရှင်အဆင့်) (အမျိုးသား၊ အမျိုးသမီး)

5:35 pm
7. မြန်မာစာ၊ မြန်မာစကား

5:45 pm
8. နိုင်ငံအဝန်း သစ်တောစွမ်းမြင့် စီမံကိန်းရေးရာမည်

6:00 pm
9. ကမ္ဘာ့ပိပသနာတော်တော်

6:15 pm
10. ကွန်ပျောင်းရေးလှောင်တံ

6:30 pm
11. Evening news

7:00 pm
12. Weather report

7:05 pm
13. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတိုလမ်းတွဲ "ရုစီမံဝါ" (အပိုင်း-၅)

7:35 pm
14. ဖာရဂုဗျူဟာ (ဒုတိယပိုင်း) (ဗုဒ္ဓဗျူဟာအဖွဲ့တော်၊ အလင်္ကာ ဘုရားဖွဲ့ဦးစီးဌာန)

7:45 pm
15. (၂၃) ကြိမ်မြောက်အရှေ့တောင် အာရှ အားကစားပြိုင်ပွဲဝင်မည့် မြန်မာအားကစားသမားအဖွဲ့များ၏ ကြိုတင်ပြင်ဆင်မှုများ (ရေးရာ)

8:00 pm
16. News

8:15 pm
17. International news

8:30 pm
18. Weather report

8:45 pm
19. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတိုလမ်းတွဲ "ရုစီမံဝါ" (အပိုင်း-၅)

9:00 pm
20. ဖီးတွန်းအရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး ဦးစိန်ညွှန်သရေတော်သခင် အရုပ် ဆယ်ရက်ဆရာတော်ဘုရားပြင် တရားတော်

9:45 pm
21. The next day's programme

Radio Myanmar

Thursday, 4 August

Tune in today:

8.30 am Brief news
8.35 am Music: -Good morning sunshine
8.40 am Perspectives
8.45 am Music: Carry on dancing
8.50 am National news/Slogan
9.00 am Music: -Sugar cane
9.05 am International news
9.10 am Music: -Give me love
1.30 pm News/Slogan
1.40 pm Lunch time music
-Written on my heart
-Love just it
-Love like a river
-Love is all
-To be loved
9.00 pm Aspects of Myanmar
-Best of Asia; Mount Popa, Myanmar
-Best spirit encounter from Time Magazine - July issue
9.10 pm Article
-Best of Asia
9.20 pm Pourri
-Best for the soul
-Best for mind
-Best literary excursion
9.30 pm Favourite songs chosen by music lovers
-Hands (Crystal Gayle)
-Walking in the rain (Tracy Huang)
-If you ever had a broken heart (Jayne Collin)
-Cassablanca (Bertie Higgins)
9.45 pm News/Slogan
10.00 pm PEL

Livestock farms of Yangon Command inspected

YANGON, 3 Aug—Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe this afternoon inspected livestock farms under the command.

The commander viewed the breeding of layers, turkeys and pheasants at the chicken farm and instructed the officials to extend breeding of pedigree layers to boost production of eggs.

He also inspected the fish breeding farm (central) of Yangon Command in Mingaladon Township and called for extended production of fingerlings and fish.

Next, he inspected No 3 pig breeding farm, the cow breeding farm, and No 1 poultry farm in Sawbwygyon in Insein Township.

The commander inspected sales at Taing Shwegon meat and fish and vegetables shop and the nursery run by the Command.

The Yangon Command raises 21,000 broilers, 15,200 layers, 330 pigs, and 932.4 acres of fish ponds, and distribute the produce to local people in Yangon at reasonable prices.



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe inspects raising of layers at the poultry farms of Yangon Command.

YANGON COMMAND

MNA

Minister looks into construction of roads, bridges

YANGON, 3 Aug — Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, accompanied by officials concerned of Public Works, inspected construction tasks of Pathein-Monywa road section and Mone Creek bridge and visited Mone

Creek bridge construction project on 1st August.

At the briefing hall, Senior Engineer U Ba Saw of Road Construction Group-3 reported to the minister on progress in building of Mone Creek bridge and future tasks.

Regarding the reports, the minister gave necessary instructions to them.

Mone Creek bridge is located on Pathein-Monywa road section. It is 940 feet in length. It is of reinforced concrete and of steel frame suspension.

Upon completion, the bridge will benefit transportation between Kazunma from Pathein-Monywa road section (North) and Saw Townships. Next, the minister and party looked into the site chosen for construction of

Tharew Creek bridge and construction tasks of Zaya Creek bridge at mile post No 166/4.

On arrival at briefing hall of Kanle maintenance station, the minister heard reports on maintenance of Pathein-Monywa

road section and future tasks presented by Senior Engineer U Ba Saw of Road Construction Special Group-3. In connection with the reports, the minister gave instructions to officials.

Afterwards, the minister and party inspected construction tasks of bridges and Padaung-Taungup road section and Okshitpin-Pyay road section. The minister oversaw earth work between mile post No 194/0 and No 200/0 and proceeded to Bwetgyi bridge construction project. At the briefing hall, U Myint Lwin of Bridge Construction Special Group-1 reported to him on progress of work of the project and future tasks.

MNA



Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun inspects Thabyaychaung Bridge on Pathein-Monywa Road.— CONSTRUCTION



Noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded

(3-8-2005)

Maungtaw	3.27 inches
Pathein	3.11 inches
Kyauktaw	2.87 inches
Dawei	2.80 inches
An	2.40 inches
Gwa	2.32 inches
Thandwe	2.24 inches

INSIDE

We wish to express our desire to maintain the dignity and sacredness of the Sasana Flag by urging all Buddhists to follow the correct procedures and to avoid even the slightest unseemly manner and behaviour towards the sacred emblem.

BA SEIN (RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS)

Religious Affairs Minister receives Korean Ambassador

YANGON, 3 Aug — Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung received Korean Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Lee Ju-Heum at the ministry on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road this morning.

Also present at the call were Director-General of the Religious Affairs Department U Myo Kyaw, Director-General of the Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana Dr Myo Myint, Pro-Rector (Admin) of the International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University Dr Myint Kyi, the head of office and officials. — MNA



Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung receives ROK Ambassador Mr Lee Ju-Heum.— MNA