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Friday, 5 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

Prime Minister General Soe Win receives WFP Executive Director

YANGON, 4 Aug— Prime Minister General Soe Win of the Union of Myanmar received Mr James T Morris, Executive Director of the World Food Programme (WFP) of the United Nations and party, at Zeyathiri Beikman, Konmyinthta, here, at 4.45 pm today.

Also present on the occasion were Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt, Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, Deputy Ministers for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu and U Maung Myint, and Director-General Thura U Aung Htet of the Protocol Department.

At the meeting, they cordially discussed matters on collaboration between the government of Myanmar and UN agencies. — MNA



INSIDE

As the Head of State knows the suffering of the people of the dry zone, he has initiated the water supply project. It is a ten-year project. But up to 89 per cent of the project have been completed at present. We are working harder to complete the project in less than ten years.

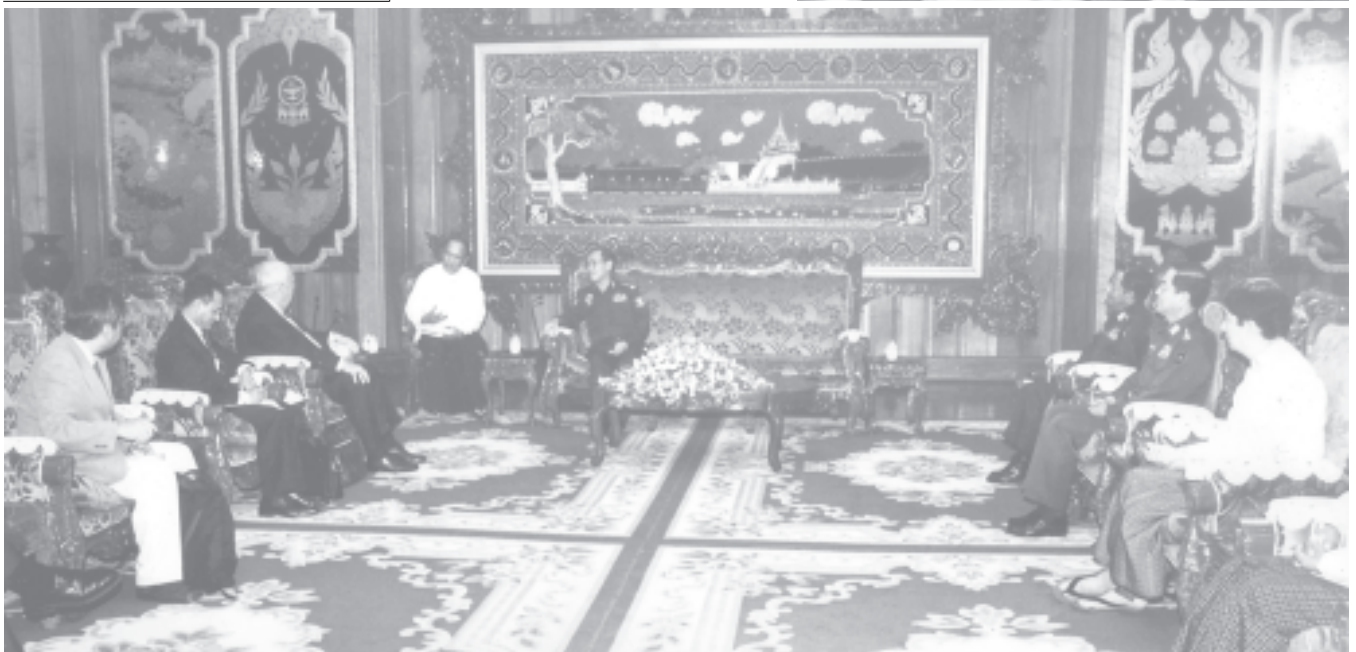
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MAUNG BA PE (OKTHA)

Prime Minister General Soe Win shakes hands with Mr James T Morris, Executive Director of WFP, at Zeyathiri Beikman. — MNA

Prime Minister General Soe Win meeting with Mr James T Morris, Executive Director of the WFP, and party at Zeyathiri Beikman.

MNA



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

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 5 August, 2005

Upgrade transport facilities to cement relations among national brethren

The government has been building and upgrading roads and bridges large and small in respective regions after laying down projects for ensuring smooth transport the length and breadth of the nation.

In compliance with the guidance given by Head of State Senior General Than Shwe, a five-year project is being implemented phase by phase in upgrading 37 roads across the nation from earth roads to gravel ones, and then to tar ones.

The transport facilities built by the government are making significant contribution towards regional development, and smooth transport between one region and another and strengthening amicable relations and friendship among the national brethren.

Taungdwingyi-Myothit-Natmauk Road (28 miles) and Ywamon-Zeebyugon-Kyaukpadaung Road (21 miles and 2 furlongs) in Taungdwingyi Township were put into service on 31 July. The tar roads, upgraded from gravel ones, were part of the plan initiated by the Head of State.

The newly-inaugurated Ywamon-Zeebyugon-Kyaukpadaung Road was just a granite one when it was commissioned in 1997. To complete the 12-foot-wide road, many small bridges and culverts had to be constructed along the facility.

In the past, people had to use the 117-mile section of Yangon-Pyay-Mandalay Road to travel from Taungdwingyi to Kyaukpadaung. Now, it is just 77 miles long, and so it saves 40 miles with the use of the new road section.

Similarly, people had to use 153-mile Pyawbwe-Meiktila-Kyaukpadaung-Yenangyoung-Magway Road to travel from Pyawbwe to Magway. Now, they can save 55 miles and two furlongs by using 98-mile Pyawbwe-Ywamon-Natmauk road section.

The emergence of new transport facilities has brought social and economic development to local people, and they are therefore to maintain the facilities for their durability.

In Magway, Minbu and Thayet Districts in Magway Division, roads are being promoted to tar ones, and 180 feet and above long bridges built across the creeks in the region.

The projects for the upgrading of 37 roads implemented under the guidance of the Head of State for smooth transport have helped enhance friendship and relations among the national people and speed up regional development tasks.

Tasks of greening Bago mountain range inspected

YANGON, 4 Aug — Mandalay Division Director U Kyaw Soe Khaing of Arid Zones Greening Department toured Tatkon Township and Yamethin Township from 16 to 19 July.

On his tour, the director inspected progress of watershed plantations in Hlwabon Reserved Forest, Byinkyei, Thithson and Indawlay Protected Public Forests, village firewood plantations and others for greening Bago mountain range in 2005-06, and model villages.

The director oversaw functions of the township AZGDs and gave necessary instructions.—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

Industry-1 Minister receives Chinese guests

YANGON, 4 August — Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung received Chairman of Chengda Chemical Engineering Corporation of the People's Republic of China Mr Zhang Sheng Can and party at the ministry yesterday evening.

They discussed matters related to the paper production and implementation of the project of Yeni pulp plant of the Myanmar Paper and Chemical Industries.

Also present at the call were Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thein Tun and managing directors and



directors under the departments and industries of the ministry.

MNA

Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung receives Chairman Mr Zhang Sheng Can of Chengda Chemical Engineering Corporation of China.
INDUSTRY-1

Commander, Minister look into development tasks in Ayeyawady Division



Commander Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung and Minister Col Thein Nyunt inspect maintenance of Strand Road in Patheingyi.—DAD

YANGON, 4 Aug — Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Com-

mander of South West Command Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung together with Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt inspected repair work of Strand Road being carried out by Patheingyi Township Development Affairs Committee yesterday morning and gave instructions on timely completion of the work.

Next, the commander and the minister inspected measures being taken for proper drainage on both sides of the road and the dredging of the drains with the use of heavy machinery and manpower and gave necessary instructions to officials.

While inspecting greening and beautifying tasks and landscaping being carried out by TDAC in Patheingyi, the Township Executive Officer and the Engineer In-charge reported relevant facts to the commander and party. The minister then gave instructions on planting of flowers and trees.

Afterwards, the minister visited Kyaunggon Township in the afternoon. The minister heard reports on measures being taken for development affairs tasks with the help of charts presented by Township Executive Officer U Aung Kyaw Moe and Engineer In-charge U Zaw Min Thaik. And the minister made arrangements to fulfil the requirements.

After that, the minister inspected maintenance of roads and greening and beautifying tasks in Kyaunggon Township and left instructions to officials. — MNA



PRIZES PRESENTED: Radio Myanmar held the ASEAN Radio Quiz for July 2005 at Myanmar Radio and Television on 2 August morning. The photo shows the winners in the Radio Quiz (from L) — first prize winner Ma Thet Thet Mar of Thingangyun Township, Ma Nay Yi Win of Dawbon Township, third prize winner Maung Aung Khin Zaw of Thingangyun Township and consolation prize winner Ma Zu Zu Aung of Dagon Myothit (North) Township. — H

Thailand, Japan reach free trade agreement in principle

BANGKOK, 3 Aug—Thailand and Japan have reached a free trade agreement (FTA) in principle, with controversy rising over its concession on automobile and steel tariffs.

"We have reached a conclusion on a policy level," the *Bangkok Post* on Tuesday quoted the Thai chief negotiator Pisan Manavapat as saying.

Thailand will cut down tariffs from 80 per cent to 60 per cent for Japanese cars with engines over 3,000cc by 2009, while tariffs for auto parts will be reduced to zero by 2011.

Under the FTA framework announced on Monday by both sides, Thailand also immediately waived tariffs for steel unavailable or in short storage on local market and planned to realize duty free for other steel products in eight to 10 years. In return, Japan cut down tariffs over processed chicken by half to 3 per cent and immediately liberalized trade in processed

shrimp, fresh vegetable and fruit, canned fruit and juice.

A formal agreement will be signed in April next year following the approval by the Japanese Parliament and related terms will take effect in next September. So far, trade officials of both countries are still negotiating details of the free trade agreement, trying to include more items under the FTA framework, such as cars with small engine, Thai textile and shoes etc.

The Thai-Japanese FTA framework completed over years of negotiation is expected to boost bilateral trade, which totalled 36 billion US dollars in last year and some 20.5 billion dollars in the first half of this year.

MNA/Xinhua



Indian brokers engage in trading at a brokerage firm in Mumbai on 3 August, 2005. Indian shares surged past the 7,800-mark for the first time on Wednesday. — INTERNET

US, China strategic dialogue "useful"

BEIJING, 3 Aug—The first strategic dialogue between the United States and China is "useful", and the discussion is "open" and "transparent", said US Deputy Secretary of State Robert Zoellick here on Tuesday.

Zoellick told the Press that the two sides exchanged views on US-China relations and international and regional issues of common concern.

The US side thinks that China enjoys rapid development and increasing international influence, he said, noting that the United States and China have broad common interest, and the two countries should reduce differences and strengthen cooperation.—MNA/Xinhua

ADB experts discuss new lending strategy for Asian cities

MANILA, 3 Aug—With some 250 billion US dollars per year needed to meet infrastructure investment to support urban growth in Asian cities over the next 25 years, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) needs to boost its infrastructure lending, a senior ADB official told a meeting here on Tuesday.

Bindu Lohani, Director General of ADB's Regional and Sustainable Development Department, said: "Urbanization has the potential to bring substantial economic and social benefits to the Asia and Pacific Region."

"To fulfill this potential, each city must establish

a collective vision for its future, develop a carefully planned and fully resourced strategy to achieve it, and mobilize the political will and managerial capacity to implement it," Lohani added.

Speaking to urban development experts from across Asia last week, Lohani said urban infrastructure needs far outstrip the levels of investment coming into Asia. From 2005 to 2010, ADB expects demands for investments in infrastructure to increase further, mainly in transport, energy, water supply and wastewater in its developing member countries (DMCs), Lohani said at Tuesday's meeting.

ADB must also explore new lending avenues, given that decentralization has shifted major service responsibilities to local governments while the finances remain with central governments, Lohani said.

MNA/Xinhua

Hunan Province hit by droughts

CHANGSHA, 3 Aug—The continuous high temperature causes severe droughts in Hunan, bringing about water shortage to the central China Province, said the Provincial Flood Control and Drought Relief Headquarters here on Tuesday.

As of Tuesday, 81 counties of 11 cities and prefectures in Hunan are greatly affected by the droughts.

The famous tourism city of Zhangjiajie suffers the most serious water shortage in the province.

The continuous droughts have brought difficulties to the drinking water supply to 300,000 people and 50,000 livestock in the city.

About 70 small reservoirs in the city are on the verge of drying up and 137 rivers and streams had no water flow since June.— MNA/Xinhua

Two to three typhoons to slash China in August

BEIJING, 3 Aug—China would receive two to three typhoons in August, after typhoon Haitang had wrecked havoc at southeast China in mid-July, meteorologists said on Tuesday.

Five to six tropical cyclones or typhoons would be formed at the north-western Pacific and South China Sea in August and two to five of them were expected to land at the coastal areas in southeast China, said Wang Yongguang, an engineer with China Meteorological Administration. The No 9 tropical cyclone Matsa was formed Sunday at the ocean to the east of Philippine and was

moving towards China's southeastern coastal areas at a speed of 20 kilometres per hour. The first typhoon landing at China came about one month later this year than the previous years. The first typhoon Haitang landed at the island province of Taiwan on 18 July, in contrast with the normal typhoon season starting from mid-June and ending at mid-October.—MNA/Xinhua



People look at a damaged vehicle after a mortar fell, close to a former government building in central Baghdad on 3 August, 2005.

INTERNET

Marines bearing brunt in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 3 Aug —The loss of 21 Marines over three days in Iraq is a stark reminder that the service has borne more than its proportional share of casualties there. Since the war began in 2003, Marines have accounted for less than 20 percent of the 138,000 US troops in Iraq. But about 30 percent of US troops killed and wounded have been Marines.

Fourteen Marines and a civilian translator died near Haditha on Wednesday when their amphibious assault vehicle was hit by an explosive device. That followed the deaths Monday of seven Marines — including six snipers ambushed in the same area.

Veteran Marines were particularly chagrined by the latter incident, which they said constituted the worst single loss of snipers in memory and must have been the result of a perfect ambush.

"I can't remember reading or hearing of that many snipers being killed," said retired Gunnery Sgt. Jack Coughlin, who published a book on his experiences in Iraq, *Shooter: The Autobiography of the Top-Ranked Marine Sniper*. "It seems like they were completely overwhelmed immediately and taken by surprise," Mr Coughlin said. "My guess is they all must have been hit within the first 10 to 15 seconds of the battle." Army Brig Gen Carter Ham, deputy director for regional operations on the Pentagon's Joint Staff, told reporters that details were still being gathered on the incidents, including what kind of explosive device destroyed the amphibious assault vehicle.—Internet



Disney executives join Mickey Mouse in front of Sleeping Beauty Castle at Hong Kong Disneyland Park in this 19 July, 2005 photo released on 4 August, 2005. —INTERNET

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Nepali authorities let off mystery Austrian plane

KATHMANDU, 3 Aug— Nepali authorities on Tuesday let off the mysterious Austrian plane that ventured into the Nepali airspace on Monday without prior permission and was forced to land at the Tribhuvan International Airport (TIA).

An 11-member probe team involving officials from the Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal, Immigration, Customs, Royal Nepali Army and Nepal Police was formed to probe the incident, which is first of its kind in the history of Nepali aviation, a statement issued by the TIA Civil Aviation Office said here Tuesday.

they did not find any " sensitive item" in the aircraft from security point of view, the statement noted. The crew members of the private Austrian jet have said they flew over the Nepali air space as they wanted to "view Mt Everest," according to the statement. The aircraft was en route to the Indian capital of New Delhi from Lilabari of Indian state of Assam, the statement said. — MNA/Xinhua

After investigation, officials said

Six parties continue discussing common document

BEIJING, 3 Aug— Negotiators to the six-party talks will continue exchanging views on the latest draft common document in their bilateral meetings on Wednesday morning to seek a possible agreement as the negotiation on the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue inched into the ninth day.

According to diplomatic sources here, the Chinese side will propose a new version of the draft common document for further discussion on Wednesday.

Although some delegates believe the fourth round of the talks might come to an end soon, the exact date of conclusion remains undecided.

US delegation head Christopher Hill said here Tuesday evening that this round of negotiation is "close to the end".

Hill also expressed appreciation over China's good job in drafting the common document, saying the six delegations would make a "final comment" on the latest fourth draft on Wednesday.

The negotiators "are really getting close, close to the end of this round", he said.

"Whether we have a draft everyone agrees on, or whether it is decided that there should be a recess of some kind, we don't know yet," said Hill. "Because it all depends on what the responses all the delegations have on the draft."

Hill said he was satisfied with China's latest draft, saying though the other sides may look at it differently, "it is a good draft" and a "negotiated document".

The delegation of North Korea, another major part in the talks, made its first open statement on the current talks Tuesday afternoon.

North Korean delegation head Kim Kye-gwan said, his delegation had hours of consultations with the US delegation over past days. "Though there are disagreements between the two, we wish to be able to minimize the differences and achieve a result in the talks," he said.

Kim, also Vice-Foreign Minister of North Korea, said, "It is well known that our stance is whether we are going to give up our nuclear weapons and nuclear arms programme depends on whether the United States will remove its nuclear threat against North Korea and build up mutual understanding between our two sides."

MNA/Xinhua

Two Iraq veterans commit suicide near Fort Hood

FORT HOOD (Texas), 3 Aug—Two young Fort Hood soldiers who served in the Iraq war have killed themselves in separate incidents in Killeen since the weekend, post officials said on Wednesday.

Sgt Robert Decouteaux, 24, of Rosedale, NY, died on Saturday from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. He had been airlifted from his home to a Temple hospital for emergency surgery, but he died while doctors tried to save his life.

And on Monday morning, Spc Robert Hunt, 22, of Houston, was found dead in his apartment by Killeen police, who were alerted after members of his unit tried to contact him when he failed to report to work.

Carol Smith, a Killeen police spokeswoman, said on Wednesday that Hunt's cause of death was listed as asphyxiation. Decouteaux, a soldier for five years, was an M-1 tank mechanic assigned to the 4th Infantry Division.

Fort Hood spokesman Dan Hassett said Decouteaux served in Iraq from April 2003 to March 2004, and that he was scheduled to redeploy when the division returns to the war zone beginning this fall.

Hunt, a radio operator-maintainer, joined the Army as a teenager in 2001 and had been assigned to Fort Hood since August 2003.

He deployed to Iraq for a year-long tour in March 2004 as part of the 1st Cavalry Division.—Internet

Thai account to gain surplus in Q4

BANGKOK, 3 Aug— Thailand's current account is likely to gain surplus in the fourth quarter as the trade balance and the tourism industry are expected to improve, the Bank of Thailand has said.

During the second half of the year, the current account will turn to surplus with the increase of export and the slowdown of import, said Atchana Waiquamdee, assistant governor of the central bank.

Likewise, the service and transfer account are also expected to record a surplus since tourism will enter a high season at the end of the year and overseas dividend payment will decline, she was quoted on Tuesday by the Bangkok Post as saying

MNA/Xinhua

India, South Korea deepen bilateral ties

NEW DELHI, 3 Aug — India and South Korea on Tuesday agreed to deepen their bilateral engagement and expand cooperation in various areas, including economic relations, defence, security and science and technology.

At a meeting between Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and South Korean Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Ban Ki-Moon here Tuesday, both sides discussed the entire range of bilateral issues, with focus on investment.

"It was a very friendly, warm and cordial meeting. Dynamic growth has been observed in all sectors, including economic relations, commercial relations, defence, security, science and technology and investment," External Affairs Ministry spokesman Navtej Sarna said.

Manmohan Singh and South Korean President Roh Moo Hyun are likely to meet on the margins of the East Asia Summit in Kuala Lumpur in December, he said. Trade and commercial relations

between India and South Korea are set to grow further with the two countries deciding to boost bilateral trade to 10 billion US dollars by 2008. The two countries signed an agreement on visa exemption for diplomatic and official passport holders after the fourth India-South Korea joint commission meeting concluded here Monday. The flow of investment from South Korea has accelerated, resulting in more South Korean companies coming to invest in India. The two countries have agreed to step up efforts to promote foreign direct investment. The two sides agreed to hold the second meeting of India-South Korea Joint Committee on Investment Promotion in India later this year. — MNA/Xinhua

Singapore officially launches competition commission

SINGAPORE, 3 Aug— The Competition Commission of Singapore (CCS) was officially launched on Tuesday to help form a fair business environment for all companies operating here.

"Its mission is to administer and enforce the Competition Law so as to promote healthy competitive markets that will benefit the Singapore economy," said Minister for Trade and Industry Lim Hng Kiang at the launching ceremony.

MNA/Xinhua



Xin Fuchun, a 63-year-old Chinese farmer, draws a Beijing Opera mask on a gourd shell at his home in Yanggu County, east China's Shandong Province on 4 August, 2005. The works sell from ten RMB (\$1.2) to 100 RMB (\$12). —INTERNET

Parts of Mumbai still flooded, more rain expected

MUMBAI, 3 Aug— Transport in Mumbai resumed near-normal service on Tuesday as heavy monsoon rains finally let up around India's financial capital, but parts of the city remained under water.

Weather officials forecast more rains, but said they did not expect it to be on the scale that wrought death and destruction in the sprawling metropolis last week.

Officials said 942 people died in last week's floods in the western state of Maharashtra, including 429 in the capital Mumbai due to landslides, drowning and electrocution in floodwater. A further 109 people were injured in the state and 59 were missing.

More rain and floods on Monday closed key roads and delayed trains in Mumbai, a city of more than 15 million people.

"We expect a decline in the rainfall activity in Maharashtra on Tuesday, with only coastal areas of the state getting heavy rains," said an official of the India Meteorological Department.

Officials define 'heavy' rain as more than 6.5 centimetres (2.6 inches), which pales compared to the 94 centimetres that pounded the city last Tuesday and set off days of deadly flooding and disruption.

Authorities said they had evacuated about 25,000 people living near dams in parts of Maharashtra.

"We have taken adequate precautions to evacuate more people in case there is a rise in the water level of these dams," said Suresh Kakine, a director for relief for the state. "Today seems to be normal and water levels are receding."

About 300 cases of cholera, gastroenteritis and dysentery have been reported in the state, he added. Medical teams have been deployed to help treat the injured and cremate the dead.

MNA/Reuters

Indonesia's fiscal policy in mining still unattractive

JAKARTA, 3 Aug— The Indonesian Government's fiscal policy in mining sector has yet to succeed in persuading foreign companies to invest in the country, the Indonesian Mining Association (INA) said here on Monday.

"Since 1998, no new investor has entered the mining sector in Indonesia. There are only long standing investors who work in cooperation with local investors to optimize the exploitation of old mines," said Jeffrey Mulyono, chairman of the association.

Citing an example, he said fiscal rules in coal mining stipulated that taxation policy would be imposed for working contract until the expiration of the contract. "But now, it seems that any changes in tax regulation would be followed by changes in the contract," Jeffrey who was quoted by the *Antara* news agency as saying.

In such a long term investment in mining sector, he said, businessmen would calculate the cost of taxes over the next 25 years.

Another discouraging fiscal policy was a regulation which excluded coal and gold bars from the tax target. "In other countries, both products are subject to tax thus it become more attractive".

Jeffrey called on the government to approve draft law on policy in energy in a bid to ensure continuity of investment.

MNA/Xinhua



Toyota Motor Corp's luxury sedan Crown drives past a Toyota dealership in downtown Tokyo on 3 Aug, 2005.—INTERNET

Pentagon denies US Marine seized in Iraq

DUBAI, 4 Aug — An Iraqi guerilla group posted a video tape on Wednesday of what it said was an attack on US Marines, but appeared to drop an earlier claim that it had captured one of them.

The Pentagon had swiftly denied the Internet claim by The Army of Ansar al-Sunna that a Marine had been seized. "I don't have anything to suggest that is accurate. I have no indication that there are any unaccounted-for personnel," Defence Department spokesman Bryan Whitman told reporters.

The group had earlier said on its web site that it would issue pictures of a Marine it said had been captured in an ambush near the town of Haditha, northwest of Baghdad.

But a video later posted by the group on the same web site only showed the body of what it said was a US Marine killed in the ambush.

The group said eight Marines were killed in the attack, but did not give the date of the ambush.

MNA/Reuters

Suicide bomber kills at least six in Mosul

MOSUL (Iraq), 3 Aug— A suicide bomber rammed his car into a police vehicle in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul, killing at least five policemen and one child, hospital and police sources said.

The attack at a police checkpoint on a road leading south from Mosul to Baghdad also wounded eight people, including two policemen, the sources said.

Suicide bombers, mostly Arab Muslim militants, have killed hundreds of Iraqi police and security forces in a bid to topple the US-backed government.

MNA/Reuters

China to promote relations with Vietnam

BEIJING, 3 Aug — China is ready to make joint efforts with Vietnam to further promote bilateral ties, Jia Qinglin, head of China's top advisory body, said on Tuesday.

Jia, chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), made the remarks in a meeting with Do Duy Thuong, vice chairman of Presidium of Central Committee of the Vietnam Fatherland Front (VFF).

Jia said China and Vietnam, as two close neighbours, enjoy long-term friendship between the two peoples. China-Vietnam relations achieved quite a great progress in the past few decades and continue to move forward in the new century.

The two sides maintain frequent high-level visits, increasingly deepen the political mutual trust, and make fruitful cooperation in various fields, Jia said.

Vietnamese President Tran Duc Luong paid a state visit to China last month. During his stay in Beijing, Luong and Chinese President Hu Jintao reached important consensus on further cementing and promoting bilateral relations. The two sides issued the joint communique, pointing out right direction for the development of the China-Vietnam relations, said Jia.

"Further enhancing China-Vietnam friendship accords with fundamental interests of the two countries, and is conducive to peace and stability of the region and the world at large," he said, noting that China attaches importance to relations with Vietnam, and is willing to work with Vietnam to push forward the China-Vietnam relations.

Jia expressed his appreciation for Vietnam's adherence to the one-China policy and support to China's reunification.

Jia called for the CPPCC and the VFF to further expand exchanges, in a bid to play more active role in increasing understanding between the two peoples and promoting the bilateral ties.—MNA/Xinhua

Iran says resumption of nuclear work irreversible

TEHERAN, 3 Aug— Iran said on Tuesday its decision to resume activities at a sensitive nuclear plant near the central city of Isfahan was irreversible.

Two years of hard bargaining over a nuclear programme that Teheran had kept secret for 18 years appeared to be heading towards a crisis that could see Iran's case sent to the United Nations Security Council for possible sanctions.

The so-called EU3 of Britain, France and Germany have been trying to mediate between the United States, which

insists Iran is trying to produce nuclear weapons, and the Islamic Republic, which says it has a right to develop atomic technology for power generation.

"The political decision has been taken ... The resumption is irreversible," Supreme National Security Council spokesman Ali Aghamohammadi told *Reuters*.

MNA/Reuters



US Marines inspect the remains of a vehicle destroyed by a roadside bomb on Wednesday, killing 14 Marines and a civilian interpreter in Barwana, near Haditha, Iraq, on 4 Aug, 2005. This was the deadliest roadside bombing suffered by American forces in the Iraq war.—INTERNET



An Indonesian vegetables vendor sits next to the railway track as she waits for customers, in a slum area of the capital Jakarta on 3 August, 2005.—INTERNET

Foreign countries not allowed to send warships in Malacca Strait

JAKARTA, 3 Aug—Indonesian Defence Minister Juwono Sudarsono said here Tuesday that foreign countries, which do not include in coordinated patrol in the Malacca Strait, can not send their warships or troops in the busiest lane.

The minister said that foreign countries could participate in the security of the strait by assisting a technical assistance but not directly involve in securing the line. "It should be prevented other countries present their warships and troops there," he said. "We want the assistance not to disturb the sovereignty of the three countries (Indone-

sia, Malaysia and Singapore) in safeguarding the Strait," he said.

The minister also said that Indonesia asked to beef up coordination in handling the security on the strait, as the foreign ministers from Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore are discussing the security of the strait, and military commanders from the ASEAN countries are hav-

ing a meeting to discuss the issue in Kuala Lumpur now.

The piracy and robbery have been escalated in the strait recently.

Some 50,000 ships, carrying one third of world trade material, pass through the narrow 965 kilometres length strait a year, making it one of the world's busiest waterways.—MNA/Xinhua

Malacca Strait nations plan air patrols in September

KUALA LUMPUR, 3 Aug—Three nations bordering the Malacca Strait plan to conduct air patrols over the strategic waterway starting next month to help fight piracy and any terrorist threat, officials said on Tuesday.

Defence Chiefs from the three littoral states of Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore told a news conference the "eyes in the sky" plan would increase security in one of the world's busiest sealanes.

"We have to act now", Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Najib Razak told reporters after a meeting of defence officials on security in the strait. "We

have to prevent something more serious, more sinister from happening."

Najib, who is also Defence Minister, said Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore will initially deploy their own maritime aircraft for surveillance.

He said planes offered by other countries would have to be manned by military officials from the three nations.

Japan, the United States, and lately, China, have offered assistance, but Malaysia and Indonesia have opposed foreign military involvement in the strait, citing concerns over territorial sovereignty.

"We need more resources to ensure the level of security of the Strait of Malacca," Najib said. "The only way we can do it is to engage the international

community, but not at the expense of principles of national sovereignty and territorial integrity."

Thailand, which also attended the meeting, said it needed more time to consider the proposal for air surveillance over the strait, which carries a quarter of global trade and nearly all the oil imports of Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and China.—MNA/Reuters

Hu Jintao mourns death of Saudi King

BELING, 3 Aug—Chinese President Hu Jintao on Monday mourned the passing of Saudi King Fahd Ibn Abdul-Aziz and welcomed the naming of Crown Prince Abdullah Ibn Abdul-Aziz as the new King.

In a message of condolences to the newly-appointed King Abdullah, Hu expressed his deep condolences over the death of King Fahd, calling the late monarch a great leader of Saudi Arabia and an old esteemed friend of the Chinese people.

King Fahd "has made an important contribution to the construction of a modern Saudi Arabia, the development of the Saudi national economy, and peace and development in the region and the world as a whole", Hu said, noting that his efforts have been widely praised around the world.

Hu also paid tribute to King Fahd's efforts to promote the Sino-Saudi relations, saying the demise "is not only a great loss to the Saudi people, but also the loss of an old esteemed friend to the Chinese

people".

President Hu pledged in another congratulatory message to the new monarch that China will further promote the friendly relations with Saudi Arabia under his rule.

Abdullah, 81 and a half brother of Fahd, was swiftly pronounced monarch early Monday in an apparently smooth succession in the Gulf state.

"I believe Your Majesty will carry out the behest of King Fahd and under your leadership, the Saudi Government and people will achieve continuous achievements in national construction," Hu said.

The Chinese leader also highly praised the importance the new King has consistently attached to the development of the Sino-Saudi relations.

MNA/Xinhua

Malaysian Govt to establish industry-driven forum for SMEs

KUALA LUMPUR, 3 Aug—The Malaysian Government will establish an industry-driven forum as a venue for the exchange of information for small and medium scale enterprises (SMEs), Deputy Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak said on Tuesday.

The forum will involve entrepreneurs, researchers, financiers and relevant government agencies, who can take this opportunity to swap information on best business practices, new market and technology trends, challenges and opportunities on SMEs, Razak said at the opening ceremony of Asian SME Convention 2005 here.

The active involve-

ment of industry associations, chambers of commerce, research institutes and financial institutions will help create a vibrant entrepreneurial community, which is very important for the healthy growth of SMEs, Razak said.

A newly established SME bank, which will begin operation soon, will further promote the development of SMEs in

Malaysia, Razak said.

The bank is dedicated to the financial and non-financial services for the SMEs. To cite some of its services, it will be responsible for the creation of an entrepreneurial community, provide guarantees for loans granted by banking institutions and offer credit ratings as well as business analysis on SMEs.

MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam's bicycle export falls in first 7 months

HANOI, 4 Aug — Vietnam exported 101 million US dollars' worth of bicycles and their spare parts in the first 7 months of this year, down 29.5 per cent over the same period last year.

In July, the country shipped 10 million dollars' worth of the products to 40 countries and regions, including the United Kingdom, Germany, Austria and Canada, according to the Vietnamese Trade Ministry on Wednesday.

The local bicycle industry is facing export difficulties, because the European Union, the biggest importer of Vietnamese bicycles and their spare parts, has recently imposed anti-dumping tariffs of 15.8-34.5 per cent on the local products.

Due to the tariffs, export revenues of Vietnamese bicycles are forecast to drop 30-50 per cent this year.

MNA/Xinhua

China scraps export rebate policy for manganese

BELING, 3 Aug—China scrapped export rebate policy for manganese and related products starting Monday in a bid to help increase domestic supply and reduce prices, China Securities Journal reported.

Industry insiders believe that the move is part of the government's efforts to restrain exports of manganese and related products in order to crack down on rampant exploration of manganese to better protect the country's mineral resources, the paper said on Monday.

Manganese is an es-

sential material in steel-making, and 90 to 95 per cent of manganese produced by the country are used in the iron and steel industry.

China used to impose a 17-per-cent value-added tax on manganese products and exporters enjoyed a 13-per-cent export tax rebate policy.—MNA/Xinhua

Singapore police arrest Internet pirates

SINGAPORE, 4 Aug — Singapore police on Tuesday arrested four men and a woman who had sold pirated optical discs and other materials on the Internet, Channel NewsAsia reported.

The five pirates, aged between 23 and 41 years old, were caught at their homes, along with some 1,600 discs and other equipment.—MNA/Xinhua



NBA star LeBron James of the Cleveland Cavaliers listens to emcee David Wu (R) during a Press conference in Beijing on 4 August, 2005. Lebron James kicked off the China leg of his 2005 Asia Tour which aims to create a cultural basketball exchange among Asian youth.—INTERNET

Maintenance of rural water supply facilities

Maung Ba Pe (Oktha)



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein accepts cash K 250,000 donated by USDA Headquarters for supply of clean water in rural areas on 26 July 2005. — MNA

“See, the tube-well is producing water as usual again after the pipe has been cleaned. I can imagine the delight of the entire village as they were when the drilling of the tube-well started. You are so good at your work.”

Maung Pyone Cho of Kanbauksu village, Pakokku Township, praised engineer U Aye Ko of Pakokku Township Development Affairs Committee, who cleaned the pipe of the tube-well. Maung Pyone Cho was a member of the village water supply committee.

“It’s only a common problem. As water was pumped again and again, sand in the underground spring came to block the pipe. Thus, water pumped from the tube-well became less and less. When sand in the sieve of the pipe was removed with the use of air-compressor, water output has become normal.

“If you do regular inspection and maintenance, its pumping capacity will not dwindle. We have already taught you all the basic requirements of pump maintenance at the course. You should always check the pipe and the pump to inform us of any default as soon as you notice it. Ah,

there comes Chairman Grandpa Phyo of the village water supply committee.”

“Mr Engineer! Is everything going well. Villagers were worried as the tube-well was pro-

ducing less water. As the monsoon has not arrived yet, the whole village is relying on the well. Is the machine functioning properly now?”

The section is now running three operations — inspecting and repairing the tube-wells and conducting tube-well maintenance courses for villagers. Up to now, it has conducted inspection of the facilities for 4,741 times in 2,388 villages and courses for 4,494 trainees of 1,929 villages.

“Yes, Grandpa. As I have already blown off the sand dust blocking the sieve of the pipe, the well is starting to produce water as usual. I have also explained Maung Pyone Cho about the problem. As he is always inspecting and repairing the pump, it has no default. You must change lubricant regularly and use clean engine oil for durability of the machine.”

“Maung Pyone Cho is good at handling and maintaining the machine. He is doing his work according to the

method you have taught him at the course. He has also imparted knowledge to other members of the tube-well maintenance team.”

“How clever and worthy he is! Please do

send other members of the team to attend a new course that will begin at the end of this month.”

“Yes, I will. You know, dependable and skilled persons will benefit the village. By the way, I watched on TV a ceremony to provide financial assistance for water supply in the whole dry zone. Our regions are going to get more tube-wells and man-made lakes. Well done!”

“That was the tenth such ceremony, at which 180 wellwishers presented over K 120.8 million and US \$ 4,000. The grand total of donations is over K 1,173.9 million, US \$ 74,252, euro 770 and Fec 10,012, and the number of the donors is 1,515. How

generous they are!”

“Thanks to the government’s assistance and encouragement and emergence of a large number of donors, many of the villages in the dry regions are now free from facing water shortages.

I wish all donors gain merits. By the way, how is the Development Affairs Department managing and using the donated funds in drilling tube-wells in the rural areas.”

“The funds we received from donors up to the ninth ceremony were used in erecting 1,793 water supply facilities in 1,600 villages — 1,313 villages in the three dry-divisions and 287 villages in other states and divisions. The DAD also built 14,401 water supply facilities in 9,999 villages — 4,904 villages in dry regions and 5,095 villages in other states and divisions — with the State financial assistance and its own contributions.

The local social organizations and international organizations have also implemented 10,044 mini-water supply projects in 7,157 villages of the dry zone and 10,430 mini-water supply projects in 7,152 villages of other states and divisions.

In the whole nation, 20,474 water supply

facilities have been erected in 14,309 villages. The work will continue with the cash donated at the tenth ceremony in addition to the State financial assistance and Development Affairs Committee funds.”

“Oh, it’s a mammoth project.”

“As the Head of State knows the suffering of the people of the dry zone, he has initiated the project. It is a ten-year project. But up to 89 per cent of the project have been completed at present. We are working harder to complete the project in less than ten years.”

“We had hand-drilled wells in the dry zone before your project came into being. But they were all ruined and out of use. Now you have started a new rural water supply project. Here, the most important thing is the durability of the facilities to solve our water shortage problem in the long run.”

“Dignitaries of the State have made arrangements in advance to look into the matter.

In the past, Township DACs had only one engineering section (construction) that was always overburdened with the task of building, maintaining and repairing urban and rural development facilities. When the DACs were reformed, a maintenance section was added to them. Its task is to check, maintain and repair the existing development facilities. The section is now running three operations — inspecting and repairing the tube-wells and conducting tube-well maintenance courses for villagers. Up to now, it has conducted inspection of the facilities for 4,741 times in 2,388 villages and courses for 4,494 trainees of 1,929 villages. “Be rest assured, Grandpa. I pledge that our section will do its best for durability of the water supply facilities some of them built with the generous donations of the wellwishers.”

(Translation: TMT) Myanma Alin, Kyemon 4-8-2005



Villagers taking a bath with delight under water gushed out of a four-inch tube well in Nyaungbintha Village, Monywa.

Guarding against the danger posed by internal and external destructive elements through united strength of the people



Members of the panel of chairmen seen at the mass meeting. — MNA

(from page 16)

Therefore, the national brethren in the state are joining hands to ward off internal and external enemies. On behalf of all participants at the mass meeting, he warmly lauded U Kan Na, U Aik Mone, U Gon Khay, U Sai Ku and U Sai Yee and members for their resolve to unconditionally exchange arms for peace.

All the people wish the remaining armed groups to unconditionally exchange arms for peace in Shan State

The national traitors relying on some western countries slandered through media the endeavours made in the interests of the regions and the local people and fruits of exchanging arms for peace. They said that the unconditional exchange of arms for peace is wrong. They interfere in internal affairs of Myanmar to undermine peace and stability under the pretexes of human rights.

Some western countries are concentrating on development of

internal and external destructive elements through the united strength of the people.

Member of Shan State (North) WAO Dr Nan Soe Soe Aung said that according to the guidance of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe, those who have the concept of Our Three Main National Causes — Non-disintegration of the Union, Non-disintegration of national solidarity, Perpetuation of Sovereignty — can develop the nation and safeguard the Union

However, following the instructions of officious persons from abroad, a group led by expatriate Sao Hkam Hpa declared the secession of Shan State from the Union. In conclusion, Daw Nann Soe Soe Aung declared that all the national people in Shan State will never accept the secession from the Union.

Afterwards, Representative of Lashio Township USDA U Sai Hla Tun said that NLD (LA), SNLD, SURA, ABSDF, NCGUB,

In conclusion, he called for guarding against the danger posed by internal and external destructive elements through united strength of the people.

Afterwards, Lashio Township Union Solidarity and Development Association Executive U Sai Aung Nyunt seconded the motion on guarding against the danger posed by destructionists through the united strength of the people tabled by Shan State (North) Women's Affairs Member Dr Daw Nan Soe Soe Aung and Lashio USDA Member U Sai Hla Tun.

Next, Lashio Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association Secretary Dr Daw Ni

It can be found that marine products are rich along the coast of the nation. According to the geographical condition, Myanmar is situated in the important main point. There are many developed countries relying only on great efforts of the citizens though they lack the good basic condition of land and water, and natural resources.

In fact, Myanmar possesses the good basic condition of land and water which is supportive for the development of the nation and, if all national brethren strive all out for the nation, it is sure to become a developed nation in a short time.

Myanmar is maintaining friendly relations



Shan State (North) WAO member Dr Daw Nang Soe Soe Aung. MNA

All the national people in Shan State will never accept the secession from the Union

(North) one after another. These ceremonies contribute much towards building a new peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation.

While restoring peace, Shweli hydel power project is being implemented in Shan State (North). In the near future, people in Shan State (North) will enjoy unprecedented development.

their social, economic and political affairs constantly. However, they drive a wedge among the people of Myanmar encouraging emergence of governments in exile. He, therefore, totally opposed their acts to disintegrate the Union of Myanmar.

In conclusion, he urged all the national brethren to build the Union for its perpetual existence and guard against the dangers posed by in-

as well. Thanks to the efforts of the Tatmadaw and the people for the development of the State, remarkable progress has been achieved in all sectors. In an effort to carry out the development tasks in border areas, the government also set up the Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs.

For smooth transportation in Shan State (North) (South) and (East), Takaw-at and Tapa bridges across Thanlwin River and Dokhtawady Bridge have been constructed in the region. Moreover, the government also constructed Aungban-Pinlaung-Loikaw, Shwenyaung-Yaksawk, Shwenyaung-Taunggyi railroads and other railroad sections.

The national races in Shan State enjoy the peace and development.

FTUB, KNPP, SSA led by Ywet Sit, SSNA led by Sai Yi and a group led expatriate Sao Hkam Hpa has attempted to disintegrate the Union. In an attempt to discredit the State, the exile groups and destructionists created fabricated news. Especially, Pyithit Nyunt Wai (a) Maung Maung has made false accusations against the government. In the pretext of democracy and human rights, NCGUB led by Expatriate Sein Win has incited the people to come out to stage strike.

Ni Tun presented a report on participation in the successful realization of the seven-point Road Map and nation building endeavours with Union Spirit, upholding Our Three Main National Causes.

She said that the Union of Myanmar is covered with many forests and rich in natural resources including gold, silver, other precious stones and mineral resources. Many plantations and fertile fields can be also seen all over the nation.

with global countries including neighbouring ones and never interferes in the internal affairs of other countries. Besides, Myanmar never commits the instigation that can damage the interests of others. In the same way, Myanmar people do not accept the interference of other countries endangering the perpetuation of sovereignty of the nation and they are determined to shape the fate of the nation and people.

Myanmar people are making efforts for (See page 9)



Lashio Township USDA member U Sai Hla Tun. MNA

According to the guidance of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe, those who have the concept of Our Three Main National Causes — Non-disintegration of the Union, Non-disintegration of the National solidarity, and Perpetuation of Sovereignty — can develop the nation and safeguard the Union as well. Thanks to the efforts of the Tatmadaw and the people for the development of the State, remarkable progress has been achieved in all sectors.

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.

(from page 8)

development of the nation with the own strength of the citizens without asking for the assistance of others.

The infrastructures have been constructed in momentum for the good political, economic and social conditions with a view to building a developed nation.

She said that the government is implementing the project of the 24 special development zones to develop the border areas and national races, narrow the development gap and equally develop the length and breadth of the nation.

In a decade, the infrastructures including

dams, bridges, rail roads, new runways, universities, colleges and basic education schools, could be built with the strength of the intellectuals and intelligentsia in the nation. Laying down the seven-point Road Map, the government is implementing it for the emergence of the democratic nation and it is not so far to reach the developed and discipline-flourishing country.

In conclusion, she said that it is sure to reach the goal of the State and people sooner if all national people including social organizations join in under the good leadership and, goodwill of the government.

Next, Shan State (North) War Veterans

Shan State (North) WVO Supervisory Committee member Sergeant Aung Kyi (Retd). MNA



Organization Supervisory Committee Member Sergeant Aung Kyi (Retd) continued to present the report.

In spite of the mountainous region, food has been sufficient thanks to the goodwill of the officials of the State, encouragement of local authorities and efforts of the personnel and farmers.

We have complimented the local cultivators for growing of

Lashio Township USDA Executive U Sai Nyunt Aung. MNA



Myanmar people are making efforts for development of the nation with the own strength of the citizens without asking for the assistance of others

high-yield Hsin Shweli hybrid-paddy to produce over 200 baskets per acre with the use of modern technique and in addition, we have been striving for boosting production of other crops, he noted.

Rural health care services and Lashio People's Hospital have been upgraded. In higher education sector, technical

To sum up, we will have to strive for successful realization of seven-point Road Map and emergence of a new discipline-flourishing democratic nation in collaboration with the government.

Afterwards, Daw Nan San San Myat of Lashio Township USDA seconded the two motions, tabled by Dr Ni Ni Tun of

It is sure to reach swiftly the goal of the State and people if all national people including social organizations, join in under the goodwill and good leadership of the government



Daw Nwe Ni Myint and Daw Nan Wah Wah Moe of Shan State (North) USDA emcee the mass meeting. MNA

Lashio Township MCWSC Secretary Dr Ni Ni Tun. MNA



Lashio Township USDA member Daw Nan San San Myat. MNA



college and computer college have been opened to provide access to higher education for local students. Thanks to the goodwill of the State, nurses training school, handicraft training school and vocational training school had been opened as well, he said.

Lashio Township MCWA and Sgt Aung Kyi (Retd) of Shan State (North) WVO.

The meeting chairman then sought the approval of the mass meeting that passed the two resolutions and the meeting ended with chanting of slogans.— MNA

CEC member meets with USDA members in Pyay

YANGON, 4 Aug — USDA CEC member Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay together with Chairman of Bago Division (East) Peace and Development Council Brig-Gen Hla Min met with secretaries, joint-secretaries and executives of division, district and township USDAs at Khittaya Yadana Hall

in Pyay this afternoon. The CEC member explained progress of the State at length, participation of the members in the all national activities of the State and organizational tasks.

Next, they visited the Khittaya social welfare association at Kanphya Monastery in Ywabe region of the town-

ship and attended to the needs.

Afterwards, the deputy minister proceeded to Pyay Taungtan oil field of Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise. He met with workers and inspected oil and gas exploration, supply of natural gas to fertilizer plants and natural gas power plants.

MNA

ကျေးရွာတိုင်းကိုယ်အားကိုယ်ကိုးစာကြည့်တိုက်များ ထူထောင်ဖို့၊
ဝိုင်းဝန်းကူညီဆောင်ရွက်ဖို့။

၂၀၀၅-ခုနှစ်၊ ဩဂုတ်လ (၂)ရက်နေ့အထိ
နိုင်ငံအဝန်းတွင်ကျေးရွာကိုယ်အားကိုး စာကြည့်တိုက် (၂၄၃၈၆)တိုက်
ဖွင့်လှစ်ပြီးဖြစ်ပါသည်။

ကျေးလက်နေပြည်သူများ ဗဟုသုတတိုးပွားစေရန် ကျေးရွာကိုယ်အားကိုး
စာကြည့်တိုက်များအတွက် စာအုပ်များကို ပြန်ကြားရေးနှင့် ပြည်သူ့ဆက်ဆံရေး ဦးစီးဌာန
ခရိုင်/မြို့နယ်ရုံးများသို့ လှူဒါန်းနိုင်ပါသည်။

ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန
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Commander inspects tax-free markets

YANGON, 4 Aug— Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe inspected producers' tax-free markets in Yangon City this morning.

The commander inspected the sales at shops of ministries, Yangon City Development Committee, Yangon Division Vegetables Cultivation and Livestock Breeding Special Zone, district and township PDCs, local registries and units, Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings Ltd, and companies in the tax-free markets in Mayangon, Yankin, Kamayut, Dagon



Yangon Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe inspects producers' tax-free market in Kamayut Township. — MNA

and Tamway townships and cordially conversed with the sellers and customers.

In his inspection tour, the commander instructed the officials to ensure sale of goods at reasonable prices in accord with regulations, and the night weights and measures. — MNA

Poll shows Americans anxious about US foreign policy

WASHINGTON, 4 Aug — Americans are anxious about the direction of US foreign policy and how the country is perceived overseas and a majority believe the government has been too quick to go to war, a survey released on Tuesday said.

"Contrary to conventional wisdom that the American public doesn't know and doesn't care how it is seen abroad, strong majorities" believe the US image overseas is suffering and "large majorities are worried about it," the survey concluded.

Some 63 per cent of Americans say the charge that the United States has been too quick to go to war is justified and three-quarters worry about losing trust abroad and about the growing hatred of the United States in Muslim countries, it said. "So far, public thinking is a disquieting mix of high anxiety, growing uncertainty about current policy and virtually no consensus about what else the country might do," the survey concluded.

The national survey of 1,004 American adults between June 1 and June 13 was conducted by the Public Agenda, a non-profit organization dedicated to public policy research, in conjunction with *Foreign Affairs* magazine, which is published by the Council on Foreign Relations.

It was funded by the Ford Foundation and is intended to be the first in a

series of surveys designed to produce a "foreign policy index" that measures long-term US thinking on foreign policy.

Dan Yankelovich, Public Agenda's chairman, declined to describe the results as a reprimand of the Bush Administration but said "there is definitely dissatisfaction ... a feeling that we're not on the right track". Although much of the concern focused on Iraq and US relations with Muslim countries, the survey found that the problems of illegal immigration and the outsourcing of American jobs overseas also resonated strongly with the public. — MNA/Reuters

Malaysia to introduce smart schools to rural areas

KUALA LUMPUR, 4 Aug— Malaysia will expand its smart school concept, which was introduced in 1996 to bring out students with critical and creative thinking, to the country's rural areas, a senior Malaysian education official said here on Tuesday.

The definition of the smart schools for the rural areas, whose learning and teaching process as well as administration aimed to help students face the challenges of the Information Age, would be different from the 88 existing smart schools in towns, Malaysian Education Minister Hishammuddin Tun Hussein said. The definition will depend on Malaysian experts and be announced in the future, he told reporters after launching an information and communication technology (ICT) strengthening programme in schools here.

The establishment of smart schools in the rural areas was necessary to narrow the gap between the schools in rural and urban areas, the education official was quoted as saying by local media. Earlier, he launched the "Strengthening ICT In School and Schoolnet Project In ASEAN Setting", a three-year programme organized by the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Secretariat since 2003. — MNA/Xinhua

CEC Member calls for successful realization of five rural development tasks

YANGON, 4 Aug — CEC member of Union Solidarity and Development Association Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko together with Patron of Chin State USDA Chairman of Chin State Peace and Development Council Col Tin Hla met with executives of Chin State USDA and held discussions with them at the hall of the association on 1st August morning.

First, Col Tin Hla delivered an address on the occasion. Next, Secretary of Chin State USDA U Aung Min reported on participation of members in successful realization of five rural development tasks, cultivation of tea and extended breeding of domesticated wild ox.

Afterwards, secretaries and executives reported on functions of the association and future tasks respectively.

Next, Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko together with Lt-Col Win Bo of Falam Station and Falam District PDC Lt-Col Htay Aung encouraged the members in cooperation with the local people carrying out cleaning tasks in canal of Ngasitbar hydel power plant which is distributing electricity to Falam Township. With the supervision of Township PDC U Thein Zaw and Secretary U Tan Aung, 150 members and 150 local people totalling 300 collectively performed public welfare activities.

The canal of Ngasitbar hydel power plant is 8,930 feet in length. Its width is four feet and its height is three feet. The dam holds 250,000 gallons

of water and its height is nine feet.

The following day, Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko arrived at Kale, Kale District, Sagaing Division. Next, he together with Brig-Gen Kyaw Oo Lwin of Kale Station, Police Col Tin Maung Maung of Sagaing Division Police Force, Chairman of Kale District PDC Lt-Col Aung Moe Myint and officials went to Kale Township Mahasi Monastery and supplicated religious affairs to Member of Sagaing Division Sangha Nayaka Committee Presiding Sayadaw of Mahasi Monastery Bhaddanta Aggasara and members of Sangha.

MNA

Breastfeeding Week Activities 2005 to be launched

YANGON, 4 Aug — Jointly-organized by Myanmar Medical Association (Central) of Health Department and UNICEF, "Seminar on Breeding and Family Food: Loving & Healthy" for breastfeeding week activities for 2005 will be held at the Hall-B of the association on 7 August.

Interested doctors can attend the ceremony.

MNA

Staff families donate blood

YANGON, 4 Aug — A 100-staff family members from the Auditor-General's Office collectively donated blood for 11th time at National Blood Unit this morning.

Director-General of Auditor-General's Office U Myo Myint and officials, Medical Superintendent of Yangon General Hospital Dr Daw Nu Nu Tha, Dr Thida Aung of NBU and officials concerned encouraged the blood donors.

MNA

Sarpay Beikman manuscript award winning books out

YANGON, 4 Aug— Printing and Publishing Enterprise under the Ministry of Information is publishing the Sarpay Beikman manuscript award winning books.

The books may be bought at Sarpay Beikman Book shops in Yangon and Mandalay and sale agents in Yangon and others. — MNA

Breastfeeding for All Mothers

- * **Human or breast milk**
Brings a vast array of benefits
With protein, vitamins and minerals in it
Plus protective factors and fatty acid
- * **Coming straight from mom's breast**
For infants, easy to digest
Enables them to fight many illnesses
And raises their level of intelligence
- * **Breastfeeding mothers**
From childbirth and pregnancy, quickly recover
Get lifelong health advantages
With savings in time, labour and expenses
- * **Breastfeeding's best part**
Holding baby close to mom's heart
The time just starts
To get a special love string knotted fast

Aye Phyu

MOC Chairman's Cup Special Tune-up Match held, Myanmar League for 2005-06 commences



Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint addresses opening ceremony of Myanmar League for 2005-06 football season— MNA

YANGON, 4 Aug — Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint delivered an address at the ceremony to commence the MOC Chairman's Cup Special Tune-up Match and Myanmar League for 2005-06 at Youth Training Centre (Thuwunna) this evening.

Also present on the occasion were officials of the Ministry of Sports, Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee

bers, President of Myanmar Football Federation U Zaw Zaw (Max Myanmar) and executives, officials of sports federations and others.

Before the opening ceremony, vocalists Zaw Win Htut, Tu Tu, Hsaung Oo Hlaing, Ei Toe, May Khalar, Corny, Tin Zar Maw, Hson Thin Par, Yuzana, Shwe Htaik, Ar Mu, Nang Myat Thandar Ko and others presented stereo songs to the accompaniment of Emperor Band.

Next, all the football

Commerce team played the special tune-up match and the former beat the latter 3-0.

At the prize presentation ceremony, President of MFF U Zaw Zaw gave away the trophy and K 100,000 to man of the match award winner Yan Paing of Finance and Revenue; and MOC General Secretary Director-General of Sports and Physical Education Department U Thaug Htaik presented trophy and K 500,000 to Commerce team.



Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint presents trophy to Finance and Revenue Team.— NLM

Soccer fans enjoy entertainment of vocalists to the accompaniment of Emperor Band before the ceremony to commence 2005-06 Myanmar League at Youth Training Centre in Thuwunna.— MNA



Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, the chairman of Central Work Committee for Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation and mem-

teams took the designated places. The minister delivered an address.

Afterwards, Finance and Revenue team and

Later, Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint awarded trophy and K 1 million to Finance and Revenue team.— MNA



Commerce team playing against Finance & Revenue team in the special tune-up match.— MNA

Myanmar swimming team leaves for Thailand

YANGON, 4 Aug — Under the programme of Asian Olympic Council to turn out Asian outstanding youth swimmers, the 4th Asian Youth Age-wise Swimming Championship will be held in Bangkok, Thailand. The Myanmar swimming team left here

for Thailand to participate in the championship by air this evening. They were seen off at Yangon International Airport by Vice-President of Myanmar Swimming Federation U Han Tun Maung, Assistant Director of Sports and Physical Education De-

partment U Kyaw Oo and officials and families.

Myanmar swimming squad comprises Joint-Secretary of MSF Manager-cum-Coach U Myint Lwin, swimmers Ye Myint Hein (SPEd) and Hnin Hnin Ei (Federation). — NLM

Myanmar swimming team seen at the airport before departure for Bangkok. NLM



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Myanma Agricultural Produce Trading
No. 302/304, Pansodan Street, Yangon**

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1. Sealed Tenders are invited by Myanma Agricultural Produce Trading, for export of the following rice and rice products in as it is position-

Sr No.	Commodity	Ton-nage
1.	Rice Emata 25% Broken (yellow)	6
2.	Parboiled Rice 10% Broken (low grade)	10
3.	Parboiled Rice 10% Broken	62
4.	Broken Rice A1 & Extra (Yellow)	150
5.	Broken Rice A1, 2 (Yellow)	280
6.	Broken Rice B1, 2 (Yellow)	300
7.	Broken Rice B2, 3, 4 (Yellow)	1400
8.	Broken Rice (glutinous)	8
	B2, 3, 4 (Yellow)	
9.	Rice Bran	510
10.	Oil Extracted Rice Bran	670

2. Tender documents are available at Warehousing, Handling and Export Department, second floor at Myanma Agricultural Produce Trading, No. 302/304, Pansodan Street, Yangon. The price of the tender is 80,500 Kyats. The price of the tender is to be submitted in the following currencies:-

Quantity Supervising Commission
Price of tender in US Dollars
Payment: 254031, 254023, 254836, 246337
Closing Date - 15-8-2005, 12.00 Hrs Noon

2. Tender Document are available at Engineering Department, Department of Development Affairs No (245) Than Lyat Soon Road, Yangon starting from (5.8.2005) on Payment of Ten Thousand Kyats (Kyats 10000)

3. Detailed information will be available at the office of Engineering Department Phone No, 01-291967, 01-291970. Only Tender bid purchased officially will be accepted for evaluation.

**Director General
Department of Development Affairs**

Peru, Ecuador to promote development in common border areas

QUITO, 3 Aug—Ecuadorian Foreign Minister Antonio Parra Gil and his Peruvian counterpart Manuel Rodriguez Cuadros signed on Tuesday a joint declaration aiming to promote development in common border areas. The two ministers signed the agreement in the Ecuadorian coastal city of Guayaquil, where a meeting of South American Foreign Ministers is being held. Rodriguez Cuadros said that the two countries "have overcome all the

pending problems" and are going forward in the spirit of friendship. Parra Gil said the only way to develop the common border region is through cooperation "with loyalty, sincerity and cordiality". Then, he made reference to the recent increase in bilateral trade, which amounted to 310 million US dollars in 1999 but had risen to 873 million dollars by 2004. The agreement includes projects to build sewage and potable-water infrastructure along the

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MYANMAR TRADEMARK AND PATENT LAW FIRM
E-mail: mtplaw@optimal.net.mm
Tel: 254937 G.P.O. Box: 956
Yangon. 5 August 2005

Ahmadinejad becomes Iran's President

TEHERAN, 3 Aug—Conservative Mahmoud Ahmadinejad became Iran's new president on Wednesday, taking power amid international turmoil over Teheran's nuclear ambitions and his own past. The 48-year-old conservative former mayor of Teheran, deeply loyal to the values of Iran's 1979 Islamic revolution, won a landslide election victory in June and was appointed president by Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. "I therefore ... approve the vote of the nation and appoint Dr Mahmoud Ahmadinejad as the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran," said a text by Khamenei read out at an official

ceremony by outgoing reformist President Mohammad Khatami. Ahmadinejad takes the helm as Iran edges closer to possible UN Security Council sanctions over its nuclear programme, which Washington says is a smokescreen for building atomic bombs. Teheran insists its ambitions are peaceful. In order to break this impasse, EU diplomats have been trying to get Iran to surrender its nuclear fuel work in return for economic incentives. But Iran says such a compromise is unacceptable and that it will resume part of the nuclear fuel cycle, a move that threatens to end EU mediation. *MNA/Reuters*

US weather agency warns more hurricanes this year

WASHINGTON, 3 Aug—This year will see much more tropical storms and hurricanes that could threaten US eastern and Gulf coasts, US weather agency warned here on Tuesday. US Weather Service Director David L. Johnson said in a news briefing that based on the latest analysis, there will probably be as many as 21 tropical

storms, including 11 hurricanes, in this year's Atlantic hurricane season, which lasts from 1 June to 30 November every year. The figure matches the record number of 21 tropical storms in 1933. There have already been 7 tropical storms this year, two of them hurricanes. Johnson urged inhabitants living in the hurri-

cane-prone areas in the eastern and Gulf coasts to be better prepared for enhanced threats. However, he declined to predict how many tropical storms or hurricane will hit the country this year and how big the loss will be. But based on historical records, during an especially active season such as this one, usually there will be two to three

hurricanes striking the United States. One thing is clear that hurricanes have become increasingly destructive since 1995, with duration and speed rising by 50 per cent, a phenomenon attributed by many experts to global warming. In early last month, Hurricane Dennis hit the US Gulf coast at a speed of some 192 kilometres per hour, causing loss estimated at around 5 billion US dollars. *MNA/Xinhua*

Blair says investigation into killing of Brazilian continues

BRASILIA, 3 Aug—British Prime Minister Tony Blair said on Tuesday that an independent investigation committee is probing the mistaken killing of a Brazilian citizen in London, Britain's capital. During telephone talks with President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, Blair ex-

pressed his regret again at the shooting of the Brazilian citizen, Jean Charles de Menezes. The Prime Minister told the President that Britain was going through difficult times as a result of terrorist acts. Lula expressed his understanding of Britain's current situation. However, he emphasized that Britain must adopt effective meas-

ures to prevent such incidents and avoid the killing of innocent people. Besides, Lula also informed Blair of his conversation with Menezes' family and the pain brought to the family by the killing. Menezes, 27, was shot eight times by armed officers at the Stockwell Underground station in London on 22 July. *MNA/Xinhua*

Peruvian police seize 450 kilos of cocaine

LIMA, 3 Aug—Peruvian police said on Tuesday its agents seized 450 kilos of cocaine in operations in the centre and south of the country. In the operations conducted on 28-30 July, anti-narcotics agents also destroyed poppies, dismantled coca-leaf maceration wells and captured chemicals used in the production of cocaine. According to the National Peruvian Police, 378 kilos of cocaine was seized in Chucchis, in La Oroya, in the central department of Junin, 280 kilometres east of Lima. The drug, found inside a truck that carried parquet, was hidden in 164 one-kilos packages and two metal cases underneath the platform. *MNA/Xinhua*

Relief contingent of Argentine peacekeepers sent to Haiti

BUENOS AIRES, 3 Aug—Argentina on Tuesday sent its third detachment of peacekeepers to Haiti as part of the UN Stabilization Mission there, known as MINUSTAH. The contingent, named Argentine Joint Battalion "Haiti III," consists of 302 members of the Army, 152 Navy personnel, and one member of the Air Force, all of whom are under the command of Marine Captain

Guillermo Uberti. The Argentine battalion will be deployed in the Haitian city of Gonaives, 150 kilometres north of the country's capital Port-au-Prince. Argentines have been deployed in Haiti as UN peacekeeping "blue-helmets" since August 2004, when MINUSTAH's first group of military personnel was formed. Currently, there are 7,000 foreign soldiers in the Caribbean country. *MNA/Xinhua*

ပညာရေးနှင့် ခေတ်မီပို့ဒိုးတိုးတက်လာ ခိုင်ခံ့ကျန်းမာ တည်ဆောက်ဖို့

Combined Chinese, Western medicine prolong AIDS patients' lives

CHANGSHA, 3 Aug — Chinese herbalists say Chinese and Western therapies have proven complementary in the treatment of HIV/AIDS and integration of the two will prolong AIDS patients lives.

“Traditional herbal medicine can enhance human immunity and ease many symptoms of HIV/AIDS, while Western medicine has a stronger anti-virus effect,” said Wang Jian, an AIDS prevention and treatment specialist with China Academy of Traditional Chinese Medicine.

He said Chinese medicine is believed to be more effective in treating early stage HIV/AIDS, and combined Chinese-Western therapies can be tailored for different patients at different stages. “Such therapies will enjoy massive potential in the Chinese as well as the world markets”.

The academy has worked out a new anti-AIDS formula, Zhongyan II, which was approved by the State Food and Drug Administration in June to be used for clinical trial, said Liang Jusheng, vice director of the academy.

Liang said the academy has sold the formula to Shanghai Sanxiang Biotech Co. — the first pharmacy dedicated to the development of anti-AIDS drugs in China, for 6.08 million yuan (750,000 US dollars).

The privately-owned pharmacy has also launched the country's largest research, development and production base for anti-AIDS drugs in

central China's Hunan Province, according to Liang. As the side-effects and high costs of Western medicine have discouraged many patients from seeking treatment, worldwide experts have come to realize the milder, yet healing power and cost-effectiveness of traditional Chinese medicine.

So far though only one traditional medicine — Tangcaopian — has won a State Food and Drug Administration licence to be used in HIV/AIDS treatment, yet only in the auxiliary treatment. Meanwhile, six other anti-AIDS herbal formulas have been approved

for production at domestic pharmacies.

Traditional Chinese medicine, featuring herb, acupuncture and massage, stresses the wholeness of the human body and good coordination of the organs are vital in keeping fit.

Ministry of Health figures say there are 840,000 HIV carriers on the Chinese Mainland, of whom 80,000 are suffering from AIDS.

Ministry of Health, in line with State Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine and Ministry of Finance, offered free herbal therapy to 2,300 AIDS patients in the five provinces of Hebei, Anhui, Henan, Hubei and Guangdong in 2004.

MNA/Xinhua

Chinese ancient beverage re-created by US brewer

BEIJING, 3 Aug — Villagers in Jiahu, where world earliest wine making evidence was found, were surprised to hear the news that the beverage their ancestors made 9,000 years ago has been re-created by a brewer from the United States and registered with a brand name.

According to the website of National Geographic, a Delaware brewer with a penchant for exotic drinks recently concocted a beer similar to one brewed in China some 9,000 years ago.

The Dogfish Head Brewery in Behoboth Beach, Delaware, used a recipe that included rice, honey, grape and hawthorn fruits. The brewer got the formula from archaeologists who derived it from the residues of pottery jars found in the late Stone Age Village of Jiahu in Wuyang County in central China's Henan Province. The report said the re-created beverage was registered with a

brand name of “Chateau Jiahu”. And the brewer planned to produce the beverage on a large scale in autumn and introduce it to market.

A local official of Wuyang County said he was shocked by the news. “Jiahu” was regarded as a symbol of local culture. This is the same site where archaeologists have found the earliest evidence of musical instruments.

According to Yu Hengzhao, curator of Wuyang County Museum, it was a joint research and the chemical analysis of the archaeological site was conducted by American experts. —MNA/Xinhua

China considering to ban medical treatment ads

BEIJING, 3 Aug — Fake, shoddy medicine and treatment advertisements, flooding on Chinese media, have caused serious problems, and the government is considering to ban all the medical treatment ads.

Chinese Minister of Health Gao Qiang recently said the ministry had submitted the plan of banning medical treatment ads to the State Council for approval. Medical treatment information should be released by the government free of charge in the future.

In China, ads of medicine and treatment can be found in any newspaper. The ads usually use exaggerated words and the opinions and experiences of false experts and patients.

Most of those ads are

illegal according to Chinese related laws. However, they still appear on Chinese newspapers, magazines and even the authoritative TV stations.

A survey conducted by an advertisement supervision department of Beijing among 38 key media found that 100 per cent of the medical treatment ads on those media since April broke regulations, although the total rate of illegal ads of those media were only 0.39 per cent.

About 62 per cent of the ads released on 45

Chinese television wave bands from January to September in 2004 broke related laws and regulations. Among the 7,315 medicine ads on 98 Chinese newspapers from June to August in 2004, 95 per cent were illegal.

Chinese Government took measures to crack down on the fake advertisements in recent years. More than 70,000 illegal medical treatment ads were investigated and punished by the State Administration for Industry and Commerce from 2001 to 2004. —MNA/Xinhua



A member of the IMPS Motorcycle display team jumps over the Guard of His Majesty The King of Norway Band and Drill team during a rehearsal for the Edinburgh Military Tattoo at the Redford Barracks, Edinburgh, on 3 Aug, 2005. The IMPS is a non profit youth motorcycle display team, and is Britain's largest motorcycle display team. —INTERNET

Malawi President threatens to expel foreign tobacco buyers

LUSAKA, 3 Aug — Malawi President Bingu wa Mutharika has threatened to throw out international tobacco buyers from his country next season if they continue exploiting small scale farmers by offering low prices. Malawian newspaper The Nation said in a report carried on its web site Tuesday.

“You should pack up and go, you are exploiting small farmers. Next year I want to see prices up. I don't care, I will close you down (if this will continue),” Mutharika was quoted as saying Monday in Blantyre, the commercial capital of Malawi.

His remarks came as tobacco sales at the Lilongwe and Mzuzu auc-

tion floors were suspended indefinitely after farmers protested against the low prices of tobacco, the main foreign exchange earner for the poor southern African country.

Tobacco Exporters Association chairman Charles Graham refused to comment on what he called a tough speech from the President.

MNA/Xinhua

Study shows new health risk found for teen smoking

WASHINGTON, 3 Aug — People trying to stop teens from smoking may have a new weapon — a study showing that even secondhand smoke raises the risk of metabolic syndrome, a condition marked by obesity, high blood pressure, unhealthy cholesterol levels and pre-diabetes.

The American Heart Association estimates that 47 million US adults have metabolic syndrome, which greatly raises the odds of heart disease, stroke and diabetes. It is associated with obesity and smoking in adults.

But a study published in the journal *Circulation* on Monday shows that teens who smoke — and those who are around people who smoke — also have a higher risk of this condition.

“This is the first study to link this syndrome, which most people associate with obesity, to secondhand smoke,” Dr. Michael Weitzman of the University of Rochester in New York, who led the study, said in a telephone interview.

“All things equal, you are almost five times more likely to develop the metabolic syndrome if you are exposed to secondhand smoke,” Weitzman added. “Active smoking increases the risk to at least

six times that of a non-exposed individual.”

For the study, Weitzman's team looked at interviews of 2,273 adolescents aged 12 to 19 done as part of the US Centre for Disease Control and Prevention's National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey.

Overall 5.6 per cent of adolescents had metabolic syndrome, including 1.2 per cent of those with no exposure to smoke, as defined by their own reports and by measuring levels

of a chemical byproduct of nicotine called cotinine in their blood.

More than 5 per cent of those whose cotinine levels suggested smoke exposure had metabolic syndrome, and 8.7 per cent of those who actively smoked had metabolic syndrome.

And it was worse for overweight teens. The researchers found that 23.6 per cent of overweight teen smokers had metabolic syndrome.

MNA/Reuters

SPORTS

Steaua finally overcome Shelbourne, Cypriots oust Turks

LONDON, 4 Aug — Former European Cup winners Steaua Bucharest overcame a jittery start and two red cards to reach the Champions League third qualifying round on Wednesday.

Belgium's Anderlecht also went through but Dynamo Kiev and Trabzonspor of Turkey joined 1967 European Cup winners Celtic on the scrapheap.

Steaua, the 1986 winners, beat Ireland's Shelbourne 4-1 in the second leg of their second qualifying round tie to go through by the same score on aggregate after managing only a 0-0 draw in the away leg.

The Romanian team meet Rosenborg Trondheim of Norway for a place in the lucrative group stage of Europe's elite club competition.

Holders Liverpool, who have had to



Ireland's Shelbourne's Jamie Harris (top) jumps above Romania's Steaua Bucharest's Laurentiu Dinita to head the ball during their UEFA Champions League second qualifying round, second leg soccer match in Bucharest, Romania, on 3 August, 2005. Steaua Bucharest won the match 4-1.

INTERNET

play in the qualifying rounds because they finished only fifth in the English Premier League last season, went through on Tuesday with a 5-1 aggregate victory over FBK Kaunas of Lithuania.

Liverpool face Bulgaria's CSKA Sofia in the next round with the first leg at Anfield next week.

Steaua and Shelbourne were both down to 10 men after just five minutes of an ugly and often brutal match in Bucharest.

Steaua midfielder Nicolae Dica and Shelbourne's Dave Rogers were sent off for punching each other and continued their fight in the tunnel on their way to the locker rooms.

The home side's defender Mirel Radoi and goalkeeper Vasili Khamutovski then almost conceded an own goal when they tried to clear the ball and it hit the post in the 12th minute.

Striker Banel Nicolita and Victoras Iacob put Steaua 2-0 up inside half an hour but Jason Byrne pulled one back before halftime.

Substitute Laurentiu Dinita scored Steaua's third just past the hour and Daniel Oprita converted an injury-time penalty two minutes after Dinita was dismissed for a second bookable offence.

Trabzonspor beat Anorthosis Famagusta 1-0 but lost their tie 3-2 on aggregate to the Greek Cypriot team in a match played amid heavy security because of the tension between the rival communities in Cyprus.

Anorthosis face Scottish champions Rangers in the third qualifying round.

The Cypriot champions, reduced to 10 men with 15 minutes to play, held off a late flurry from the Turkish side who had a goal disallowed for offside in the fifth minute of injury time.

MNA/Reuters

Figo to sign two-year deal with Inter

MADRID, 4 Aug — Real Madrid midfielder Luis Figo has agreed to sign a two-year deal with Inter Milan, Spanish media reported on Wednesday.

Radio Marca said the 32-year-old Portuguese international would travel to Milan on Thursday to have a medical and sign a contract with the Serie A club for a reported salary of 4.5 million euros (5.54 million US dollars) a year.

The former World and European Player of the Year, who fell out with Real coach Vanderlei Luxemburgo after being consigned to the bench for the latter part of last season, had been given permission to negotiate with

other clubs.

Figo joined Real in 2000 in one of the most controversial transfers in Spanish football history when newly elected club president Florentino Perez paid a then world record 56 million US dollars to buy him out of his contract with arch-rivals Barcelona.

The midfielder, viewed as Real's first Galactico signing, helped them to the league title in his first sea-



Real Madrid's Luis Figo of Portugal —INTERNET

son at the club and played an important part in their victories at the 2002 European Cup and the 2003 Spanish championship.

Figo, who had a year to run on his Real contract, agreed recently to come out of international retirement and has made it clear he wants to continue playing for Portugal until next year's World Cup. If he does sign for Inter, he would be the fourth Real Madrid player to join the Serie A side in the last 12 months.

Argentine midfielder Esteban Cambiasso joined Inter last year and compatriots Santiago Solari and Walter Samuel have followed the same route in the close season. —MNA/Reuters

Owen speaks to Premier League clubs over possible move

LONDON, 4 August — England striker Michael Owen has spoken to three or four Premier League clubs over the possibility of a transfer from Real Madrid, he said in a statement on Wednesday.

The 24-year-old's future at the Spanish giants has been questioned after only one season at the Bernabeu following the purchase last week of Brazilian forwards Julio Baptista and Robinho.

Their arrival will move him further down the pecking order at Real where another Brazilian, Ronaldo, and Spain's Raul are the first choices up front.

"During my four days off there have been two big signings confirmed by the club and I can understand why this has resulted in speculation about my future," Owen's statement read.

"Real Madrid con-

tacted my advisers over the weekend and explained that they wanted me to stay but they would not stand in my way if the right opportunity arose for my return to the Premiership.

"With the knowledge of Real Madrid, there have been brief negotiations with three or four Premier-

ship clubs although no formal negotiations of any kind have taken place.

"I am off to Austria with the rest of the squad today to undertake an important 14-day pre-season fitness programme and I don't envisage anything happening during this time.

MNA/Reuters



Real Madrid's English player Michael Owen runs alone during a training session in Madrid on 3 August, 2005. —INTERNET

Zidane decides to resume playing for France

PARIS, 4 Aug — Zinedine Zidane has decided to play for France again, the midfielder announced on Wednesday.

The Real Madrid player had announced his retirement from international football after Euro 2004 a year ago.

"(France coach) Raymond Domenech came to see me two or three times in Madrid and he told me what he

expected from me," Zidane said on his personal website.

Zidane will play for France in their next match, a friendly against Ivory Coast on August 17 in Montpellier.

The 33-year-old has won 93 caps, scoring 26 goals for France. He helped his country win the World Cup in 1998 and the European championship in 2000.

MNA/Reuters

India's Sania thrashes world number nine Petrova

CARLSBAD (California), 4 Aug — India's Sania Mirza provided the upset of the second round at the San Diego Classic on Wednesday with a 6-2, 6-1 victory over fourth seed Nadia Petrova.

Number 14 seed Daniela Hantuchova was the other seed to fall on Wednesday, losing 7-5, 4-6, 6-2 to doubles partner Ai Sugiyama of Japan, while fifth seed Patty Schnyder survived a 6-4, 6-7, 6-1 match against Czech Kveta Peschke. Playing with a right elbow strain, Petrova was unable to impose herself against Mirza, who dictated play during the match.

Mirza, who had to qualify for the main draw, went all out with her forehand returns and was never threatened by the 2005 French Open semifinalist.

Mirza said nothing was easy playing a top-10 ranked player.

"I knew if I relaxed for a second she would have jumped on me," said Mirza, who will face Japan's Akiko Morigami in the next round. "I had a game plan in my mind and I'm glad I was able to do what I needed to.

"I believed I could do it, but I always knew that everyone is beatable." Ranked a career high 59, Mirza is almost sure to crack the top 50 in the next two weeks, achieving the goal she had set herself at the beginning of the year.

She has already won her first career title, at Hyderabad beating four seeds on the way, beat the then world number seven Svetlana Kuznetsova in Dubai

and made two other quarterfinals.

"A lot has happened since January," the 18-year-old added. "I started this season losing in the second round of qualifying of Tasmania. "I didn't expect so much to happen so soon, but I'm not complaining." —MNA/Reuters



Sania Mirza of India pumps her fist after winning her second round match against Nadia Petrova of Russia at the Acura Classic held at the La Costa Resort and Spa in Carlsbad, Calif. on 3 August, 2005. Mirza won the match in straight sets 6-2, 6-1. —INTERNET

Boat capsizes in Nigeria, more than 30 drowned

LAGOS, 4 Aug—More than 30 people were drowned when a wooden boat capsized on the River Niger in southeastern Nigeria, police said on Thursday. State-run Radio Nigeria said the death toll could rise as high as 135 after the boat which was carrying 150 people and large quantities of farm produce, hit a submerged object.

The boat was travelling from the Ogidi district of Anambra state to a large market town located on the banks of the

river. Nigeria's waterways and roads are some of the most dangerous in the world, a situation made worse by the lack of emergency services. Police routinely blame the large number of deaths on overloading, speeding and poor maintenance.

Last week, newspapers said at least 20 people drowned when their boat capsized near a remote village in southwest Nigeria, although police said only five died.—*Internet*



Secretary of Hninzigon Home for the Aged Administrative Board Major Aung Than (Retd) accepts K 100,000 donated by U Ko Ko Naing, U Win Shwe, U Hla Min, U Than Sein, U Nay Soe Lin, U Than Win Oo, U Kyaw Kyaw Naing and U Saw Aung Tun recently.—H

Landslides in northern Turkey kill seven

ANKARA, 4 Aug—Seven people were killed by floods and landslides in Turkey's Black Sea region, the Turkish Daily News reported on Thursday.

The floods and landslides were triggered by heavy rains started on Tuesday in the mountainous provinces of Trabzon and Rize in northern Turkey, inundating houses,

sweeping away bridges and blocking roads, said the report.

The bodies were found in a village in Trabzon.

Heavy downpours will continue on Thursday in northern Turkey, said the State Meteorological Directorate, warning citizens of possible floods and landslides.

Internet

Heavy rainstorm kills four in E China province

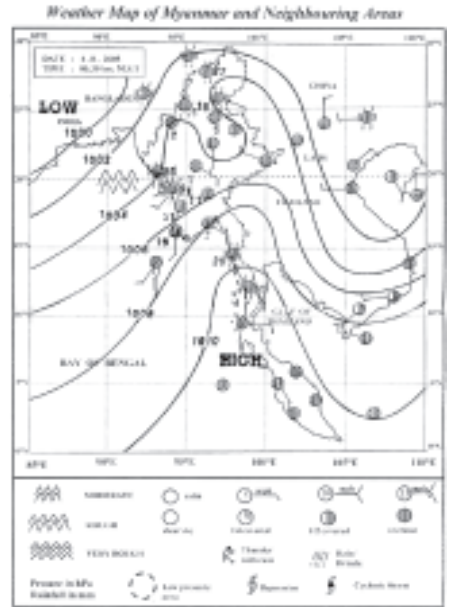
HEFEI, 4 Aug—A heavy rainstorm has ravaged the northern part of east China's Anhui Province claiming four lives and affecting a population of 1.87 million, said the provincial civil affairs department on Thursday.

Heavy rainstorms struck 13 counties in four cities including Suzhou, Bengbu, Huaibei and Fuyang in the province since Tuesday morning, with rainfall reaching 200 mm in the worst-hit areas.

The disaster afflicted

166,666 hectares of farmland and completely destroyed croplands of 24,666 hectares, the source said, adding that the direct economic loss caused by the accident was estimated at 500 million yuan (60.2 million, US dollars).

Internet



WEATHER

Thursday, 4 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, rain has been isolated in Shan State, scattered in Chin and Kayah States, Mandalay and Magway Divisions, widespread in the remaining areas with locally heavyfall in Rakhine State, isolated heavyfall in Taninthayi Division. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Kyauktaw (5.32) inches, Kyaukpyu (2.84) inches, Myeik (2.80) inches, Hkamti (2.28) inches.

Maximum temperature on 3-8-2005 was 83°F. Minimum temperature on 4-8-2005 was 67°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 4-8-2005 was 92%. Total sunshine hours on 3-8-2005 was nil. Rainfalls on 4-8-2005 were 1.02 inches at Mingaladon, 0.27 inch at Kaba-Aye, 0.16 inch at central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were 56.34 inches at Mingaladon, 55.94 inches at Kaba-Aye and 57.52 inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 12 mph from Southwest at (11:59) hours MST on 3-8-2005.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 5-8-2005: Rain will be isolated in Kayah State and lower Sagaing Division, scattered in Shan and Chin States, Mandalay and Magway Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Rakhine State and Taninthayi Division. Degree of certainty is 80%.

State of the sea: Occasional 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: Decrease of rain in the eastern Myanmar.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 5-8-2005: One or two rain. Degree of certainty is 80%.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 5-8-2005: Likelihood of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is 60%.

Radio Myanmar

Friday, 5 August

Tune in today:

- 8.30 am Brief news
- 8.35 am Music: -Love's got a hold on my heart
- 8.40 am Perspectives
- 8.45 am Music: If I only had the heart
- 8.50 am National news/Slogan
- 9.00 am Music: -I think I'm in love with you
- 9.05 am International news
- 9.10 am Music: -All I ever need is you
- 1.30 pm News/Slogan
- 1.40 pm Lunch time music
- You are the one
- Here for you
- Love
- 9.00 pm World of music
- German, Japanese, Chinese, Spanish and French songs
- 9.15 pm Article/Music
- 9.25 pm Music at your request
- My everything
- Baby I was made for loving you
- For all that I am
- 9.45 pm News/Slogan
- 10.00 pm PEL

TV Myanmar

Friday, 5 August

View on today:

7:00 am	1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Ottamathara	8:45 am	10. English for Everyday Use	5:45 pm	9. မိုးလွန်ကြီးရေဆိုးတံခါး
7:25 am	2. To be healthy exercise	4:00 pm	1. Martial song	6:00 pm	10. သုတေသနစုံအညွှန်
7:30 am	3. Morning news	4:15 pm	2. Songs to uphold National Spirit	6:30 pm	11. Evening news
7:40 am	4. Nice and sweet song	4:30 pm	3. Musical programme	7:00 pm	12. Weather report
7:50 am	5. လှုပ်ရှားပုံပြင် မိတ်ဆွေချစ်	4:45 pm	4. အစားသစ်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ချစ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ -ပထမနှစ် (ဓာတုဗေဒအထူးပြု) (ဓာတုဗေဒ)	7:05 pm	13. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ချစ်ဝတ်ပါ" (အပိုင်း-၆)
8:00 am	6. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ	5:00 pm	5. Song of national races	7:35 pm	14. နို့ချိုတိုတာ မိသားစုအစာ ရည်ရွယ်ချက်စာ ချစ်ကြင်ရာ
8:10 am	7. The mirror images of the musical oldies	5:15 pm	6. ၂၀၀၅ ခုနှစ် ဝေရာသီအကြိမ် (သုတေသန) မြန်မာ့အလင်း ရေလှောင်ပြိုင်ပွဲ (မဟာဂီတ) (ပညာရှင်အဆင့်) (အမျိုးသား၊ အမျိုးသမီး)	7:45 pm	15. ဝေသာဓိစာပေလှူပွဲ ဆင်းရွေးလမ်းစဉ် နိတ်ကြိုပွဲ (အပိုင်း-၆)
8:20 am	8. မအိဇျောင်းတံတား	5:30 pm	7. လက်ဆင့်ကမ်းပေး ဂီတတေး	8:00 pm	16. News
8:30 am	9. International news	5:35 pm	8. Song of yesteryears	17. International news	17. International news
				18. Weather report	18. Weather report
				19. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ	19. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ချစ်မိတ်ဆွေ" (အပိုင်း-၁၀) (ဇာတ်သိမ်းပိုင်း)
				20. The next day's programme	20. The next day's programme

The Union of Myanmar overcame much instigation of colonialists, internal and external disturbances

All people wish remaining armed groups to unconditionally exchange arms for peace in Shan State (North) one after another



Chairman U Sai Naw Kham Oo delivers an address at the mass meeting in Lashio, Shan State (North).— MNA

YANGON, 4 Aug — The mass meeting on guarding against the danger posed by internal and external destructionists through united strength took place at the city hall in Lashio, Shan State

(North), on 31 July morning. Present on the occasion were national race leaders, members of Shan State (North), District and Township USDAs, Women's Affairs Organization,

Maternal and Child Welfare Association, War Veterans Organization, Auxiliary Fire Brigade, Red Cross Brigade, nurses association members, social organizations and local people.

Together with members of the panel of chairmen Mantong/Palaung region national race leader U Aik Mone, Shan State (North) WAO member Daw Myint Myint Than, Lashio District WAO Joint-Secretary Dr Daw Khin Nan Thi, Shan State (North) WVO member Major Myo Win (Retd), Company Commander U Thit Lwin of Lashio Township Auxiliary Fire Brigade and Platoon Commander U Aung

Aung of Lashio Township Red Cross Brigade, Shan State (North) USDA Secretary U Sai Naw Kham Oo presided over the mass meeting. Daw Nwe Ni Myint and Daw Nan Wah Wah Moe of Shan State (North) USDA acted as masters of ceremonies. Members of the panel of chairmen and those present saluted the Union Flag. First, meeting chairman U Sai Naw Kham Oo delivered a speech. He said that in the long his-

tory, the Union of Myanmar overcame much instigation of colonialists, internal and external disturbances and the 40-year internal conflict. Due to the instigation of the colonialists, it lost a long time to develop the Union.

Shan State (North) is home to Shan, Bamar, Palaung, Wa, Danu, Kokang and Kachin national races. Thanks to the endeavours of the Tatmadaw Government, danger of narcotic drugs in Shan State (North) faded out. At present, hill regions are witnessing opium-substitute crops, gardens and high yield paddy. To show unity, SSA Brigade-11 of U Kan Na from Hsenwi-SeU region handed over their assorted arms and ammunition to the State thereby unconditionally exchange of arms for peace. At about the same time, PSLA U Aik Mone and party of Mantong region, SSNA Brigade-19 U Gon Khay of Lashio-Namhpaung region, SSNA Brigade-6 U Sai Ku and party and SSA (Breakaway Group) U Sai Yee and party unconditionally exchanged arms for peace.

(See page8)

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The mass meeting on guarding against the danger posed by internal and external destructionists through united strength in progress in Lashio.— MNA