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Saturday, 6 August, 2005

Senior General Than Shwe sends message of sympathy to India

YANGON, 5 Aug— Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar has sent a message of sympathy to His Excellency Dr APJ Abdul Kalam, President of the Republic of India on the loss of life and property caused by devastating monsoon floods in Maharashtra State on 26 July 2005. —MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye sends message of sympathy to India

YANGON, 5 Aug— Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar has sent a message of sympathy to His Excellency Mr Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, Vice-President of the Republic of India on the loss of life and property caused by devastating monsoon floods in Maharashtra State on 26 July 2005. —MNA

Ward off every encroachment upon sovereignty through united strength of people

YANGON, 5 Aug— The mass meeting on guarding against the danger posed by internal and external destructionists through united strength of the people took place at City Hall on Bogyoke Street in Monywa, Sagaing Division, on 1 August morning.

It was attended by

executives and members of Sagaing Division, Kalay, Katha, Hkamti, Sagaing, Tamu, Monywa, Mawlaik and Shwebo districts and township Union Solidarity and Development Association, National Convention delegates in Sagaing Division, members of Division,

district and township Women's Affairs Organizations, Maternal and Child Welfare Associations, War Veterans Organizations, auxiliary fire brigade, and Red Cross Society, faculty members and students of Monywa Education College and nurses training schools, townsenders and local people.

Sagaing Division USDA Joint-Secretary Dr Win Myint chaired the meeting together with leader of working group for education of Division WAO Principal of Monywa Education College Daw Khin Myat Myat, executive

of Monywa Township MCWA Daw Nwe Nwe Aung, Wuntho Township WVO Organizing

Committee Lt-Col Nyo Win Aung (Retd), company commander U Maung Maung Aye of

Monywa Township Red Cross Brigade, and townselder U Myo Win. (See page 8)

In line with the motto the strength of the nation lies within, the dangers of internal and external destructive elements are to be crushed with national solidarity.



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



Those present chant slogans at the mass meeting on guarding against the dangers of internal and external destructionists through people's united strength. —MNA

- Four political objectives**
- * Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
 - * National reconsolidation
 - * Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
 - * Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution
- Four economic objectives**
- * Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well
 - * Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system
 - * Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad
 - * The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples
- Four social objectives**
- * Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
 - * Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
 - * Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
 - * Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation

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

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 6 August, 2005

Preserve natural environment by planting trees every year

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe, on one occasion, said that land, forests, water and climate are natural resources of a nation and, if forests are destroyed, it can have an adverse effect on land, water and climate. Therefore, it is up to all of us to preserve forests and carry out afforestation work all over the nation.

Forests can keep the natural environment balanced. Moreover, it can contribute to the social, economic and health sectors. This being the case, the Ministry of forestry, social organizations and local people, under the leadership of the government, are collectively implementing plans for greening their respective regions, carrying out afforestation work and increasing the production of the forest sector.

Due to the construction of dams, sluice gates and river water pumping stations, the cultivation of seasonal crops, in addition to planting of trees that can contribute to the economy, can be extended.

For example, as dams and sluice gates were constructed in Yangon Division, the plan for greening the area at 30-mile radius of the Yangon International Airport could be successfully implemented.

Moreover, Yangon Division Peace and Development Council, District and Township Peace and Development Councils in the division, Women's Affairs Organizations, Maternal and Child Welfare Associations, members of USDA, Red Cross and Fire Brigades and local people have held tree planting ceremonies every year since 2002. It is necessary to grow not only trees that can contribute to the economy but also Thitseint (Belleric myrobalan), rubber, cashew and mango trees.

Planting trees every year is leaving valuable heritage for posterity. Therefore, we would like to call on the tree-loving national people to preserve forests and grow trees every year to keep our natural environment balanced.

Deputy Mines Minister arrives back from KL

YANGON, 5 Aug — Deputy Minister for Mines U Myint Thein arrived back here by air this evening after attending the 1st ASEAN Mineral Ministers' Meeting in Malaysia yesterday.

He was welcomed back at the airport by Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, directors-general and managing directors of departments and enterprises under the ministry and families.

MNA

Myanmar beat Brunei 3-0 in AFF U-20 Championship

YANGON, 5 Aug — Myanmar youth team beat Brunei youth team 3-0 in the group (A) of the AFF U-20 Youth Championship 2005 in Palembang of Indonesia at 6.45 pm local time today.

Aung Moe scored an opening goal for Myanmar team in 26th minute of the first half. Aung Myint Aye seconded in 3rd minute of the second half, and Hla Aye Htwe shot a third in 40th minute of the second half.

On 9 August, Myanmar youth team will play against Thai youth team.

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

Talks on fine tradition of ancient universities given at YWU



Head of Information Department Daw Kyi Kyi Win gives an opening address at the talks on fine tradition of ancient universities at Yangon West University. — MNA

YANGON, 5 Aug — The Information Department of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation and Yangon West University organized the talks on fine tradition of ancient universities at the lecture hall-1 of the university this morning.

Rector U Saw Kyaw Min extended greetings and Head of Information Department Daw Kyi Kyi Win gave an opening speech.

Next, writer Dr Ma Tin Win, retired professor of Yangon Institute of Education, gave a lecture on

fine tradition of ancient universities.

Chairperson of Htantabin Township Women's Affairs Organization Daw Shwe Mya Tha handed over membership cards and brooches for the educational staff of the university to Pro-Rector U Thein Win.

Professor/Head of Department of Zoology Department Daw Thin Thin Naing presented gifts to writer Dr Ma Tin Win. Later, the rector spoke words of thanks. — MNA

Coord meeting on fish breeding tasks held



Adviser to Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries U Hla Win speaking at meeting on extended fish breeding. — L&F

YANGON, 5 Aug — With a view to contributing toward the socio-economic development, the Fishery Department of the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) held a coordination meeting on extended fish breeding tasks on a manageable scale, at the meeting hall of the quality control section of the Fishery Department in Thakayta Township this morning.

Adviser U Hla Win to the ministry made an opening speech. Next, Mr Shingo Takahashi of JICA discussed matters related to the educative programmes with the aid of video slides.

Afterwards, officials of the departments from states, divisions, districts and townships took part in the discussions. — MNA

New Yangon-Bago-Yangon tour service launched

YANGON, 5 Aug — Myanma Tourism Service has launched a new transport service for Yangon-Bago-Yangon tour (two-day trip).

Travellers can enjoy a game of golf at the Hanthawady International Country Golf Club visit famous pagodas, enjoy bird-watching at Moeyungyi Lake and stay at Shwe Wah Tun Hotel for a night in Bago.

For further information, contact Myanma Tourism Service of No 77-91, Sule Pagoda Road in Yangon (Tel: 252859 and 387002).

MNA

Thai delegation calls on D-G of Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department

YANGON, 5 Aug — A 10-member Thai delegation led by Mr Sawang Ungkuro of Department of Livestock Development-DLD of Thailand called on Director-General of the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department under the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries in Insein this morning.

During their meeting, they discussed matters related to the Ayeyawdy-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategies (ACMECS) Project covering Thailand's technological help in the development of livestock breeding and control of animal diseases. While in Yangon, the Thai delegation will visit livestock breeding farms and markets. — MNA

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China, US hold conference discussing economic development, reform

BEIJING, 4 Aug—China's economic development and reform agency and the US State Department jointly held a conference here on Tuesday to discuss economic development and reform.

Ma Kai, Minister-in-charge of the National Development and Reform Commission, and US Deputy Secretary of State Robert Zoellick attended the conference. During the conference, China and the US held in-depth talks on topics including economic development strategy, energy policy and energy security, overseas investment, and the role of international organiza-

tions. The conference is the fourth of its kind since 2003. Both parties held that it has become an effective channel for communication and exchange. In previous conferences, China and US have discussed such topics as economic reform, information technology, old industrial base upgrades, and agricultural development.—MNA/Xinhua



Huge waves pound Taiwan's northern coast as Typhoon Matsa menaces the island on 5 August, 2005. —INTERNET

Indian Ocean nations discuss tsunami warning system

CANBERRA, 4 Aug— Technical plans for an Indian Ocean tsunami warning system are being discussed at a conference in Perth, capital of Australia's state of Western Australia.

Around 100 representatives of 27 Indian Ocean countries are participating in the three-day meeting starting on Wednesday to work on plans including coordinating data and communicating warnings.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has taken on the task of getting the warning system up and hopes to have it running by the middle of next year.

Patricio Bernal, executive secretary of UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), said putting a monitoring system in place would be the easy part of the project while making it effective is more of a challenge.

"Well, the system is a really complex one, not so much in terms of the instrumentation and the network, but the operation of a warning system requires at least three major components that are different," Bernal told Australian Broadcasting Corporation radio.

"One is the detection... one is the assessment of

the risk — and this has to be done by each of the nations of the region — and the third element is, of course, emergency preparedness," he said.

"There is no use to have a very fine warning system if you don't have plans to prepare and evacuate the populations and to communicate to them, alert the authorities and coordinate logistics to move people," he said.

He said he is confident the system will be up and running in a short period of time because several major meetings have yielded positive responses from nations surrounding the Indian Ocean, and an interim tsunami warning information delivering system was established in March.

MNA/Xinhua

Singapore, S Korea to sign free trade agreement

SINGAPORE, 4 Aug— Singapore and South Korea (ROK) will sign a free trade agreement on Thursday, according to a statement by the Ministry of Trade and Industry on Wednesday.

The Korea-Singapore Free Trade Agreement (KSFTA) will be signed by Minister for Trade and Industry of Singapore Lim Hng Kiang and the South Korean Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Ban Ki-Moon in

Seoul during Lim's two-day visit to South Korea.

The comprehensive agreement covers areas including trade in goods, services, investment, Customs procedures, mutual recognition agreements, intellectual property rights, competition policy, government procurement and co-operation, according to the ministry.

Seventy-five per cent of Singapore's domestic exports to South Korea worth more than three billion Singapore dollars (about 1.8 billion US dollars) and all imports from South Korea will be traded free of tariff under the agreement.

MNA/Xinhua

Simple roadside bombs defy US military in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 4 Aug—One militant held a remote control. Another chanted "God is greatest" as a US Humvee drove toward Iraq's biggest death trap, a roadside bomb — a makeshift device that defies the world's most powerful military.

Captured on an Islamic militant video, the image highlights how the US military, which lost 14 Marines to

a roadside blast on Wednesday, is struggling against simple explosives in spite of its warplanes, tanks and high-tech weaponry.

The attack, which destroyed an armored amphibious assault vehicle in northwest Iraq, was the bloodiest roadside bombing since the start of the war that toppled Saddam Hussein in 2003.

Internet

Four more US soldiers killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 4 Aug—The US military said on Thursday that four more American service members died in Iraq, including a Marine killed in the Euphrates River valley where 14 Marines lost their lives in the worst roadside bombing targeting American forces in the Iraq war. A car bomb also hit members of a radical Shiite militia in northern Iraq as attacks nationwide killed at least 11 people on Thursday.

Three US soldiers were killed on Wednesday night in a roadside bombing in Baghdad, the military said. The statement identified them only as members of the Army's Task Force Baghdad, but Georgian officials said they were assigned to the 48th Brigade of the Georgia National Guard. The 48th has lost 11 soldiers since arriving in Iraq in May.

At least 1,825 members of the US military have died since the Iraq war started in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. Bombs in vehicles or planted alongside roads account for up to 80 percent of US deaths in Iraq, military spokesman Lt Col Steven Boylan said.

Internet



Iraqi and US soldiers examine the wreckage after a suicide car bomb attack in the northern Iraq on 4 August, 2005. —INTERNET

Scientists discuss global climate changes in Beijing

BEIJING, 4 Aug— The ninth Scientific Assembly of the International Association of Meteorology and Atmospheric Sciences (IAMAS) opened on Tuesday in Beijing.

About 1,300 scientists and experts from 82 countries will participate in the 10-day academic discussion.

The topics in the discussion will include global warming, sea level rise, sand storms, tsunamis, extreme climate incidents, air pollution and the climate scenarios in the coming hundred years.—MNA/Xinhua

Kelon to resume production in mid August

GUANGZHOU, 4 Aug — The scandal-stricken Kelon Electrical Holdings Co made an official announcement here on Tuesday, saying that this Guangdong-based fridge maker will resume production in mid August.

The public security bureau of Foshan detained five top leaders of Kelon including its board chairman Gu Chujun on Monday, accusing them of "economic crimes".

The company news spokesman Liu Weixiang said on Tuesday that the staff members of Kelon are basically working in stable condition and the company are communicating with some financial institutions and material suppliers so that it can quickly resume production.

As a matter of fact, Kelon has never completely halted its production, said the spokesman.

The company keeps receiving international order forms from General Electrics and Whirlpool and has already finished the 300-million-US-dollar

processing task in the first half of this year.

Liu said Kelon boasts China's largest fridge production capacity and it also has excellent managing and technological teams.

"We will restore our sales to the level of this May within three months and entirely resume the original production scale by the end of this year if we have 700 to 800 million yuan starting funds (about 84.6 to 96.7 million US dollars)." Liu said Kelon is a large-scale company with about 30,000 staff members and the government will not let it collapse.

Liu said Kelon is a large-scale company with about 30,000 staff members and the government will not let it collapse. — *MNA/Xinhua*



Chinese residents in Indonesia perform the dragon dance during a ceremony to mark the 600th anniversary of the first voyage of Admiral Zheng He in Semarang, Indonesia on 4 August, 2005. —INTERNET

Monitoring teams from EU, ASEAN arrive in Indonesia

JAKARTA, 4 Aug— Twenty-eight members of monitoring teams for Aceh from the European Union and Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) arrived in Aceh on Wednesday, reported the Antara news agency.

The team will oversee the peace process between the government and the separatist Free Aceh Movement that will formally be signed on 15 August.

The team was divided in three flights using state-run Garuda airlines.

The first flight landed at Sultan Iskandar Muda Airport at 10:15 am, the second flight at 11:00 am while the last flight is scheduled to arrive at 6:00 pm. Of the 28 members, 18 are from the European Union, six are from ASEAN while the remainder are from Indonesia. — *MNA/Xinhua*

China urges global community to honour MDG commitment

JAKARTA, 4 Aug— The attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) pledged by world leaders in 2000 will require all countries around the world to work together and to honour the commitments, a Chinese official said here on Wednesday.

"Countries around the world shoulder major responsibility for development," said Liu Jian, head of China's State Council's Leading Office of Poverty Alleviation and Development, adding developing countries should take the initiatives to step up reforms and adopt effective social and economic policies to enhance their capacity for development.

Liu said at the regional ministerial meeting on MDGs that the international community, the developed countries in particular, should honour their commitments in real earnest by providing more support to developing countries in areas such as market access, official development assistance, technology transfer and debt relief so as to create a favourable external environment and help developing countries achieve social and economic progress.

In dealing with poverty in the Asia-Pacific

Region, Liu recommended that countries in the region highlight the priorities and solve the pressing issues of poverty and trade.

Another crucial thing for the attainment of the MDGs is for countries in the region to give full play to competitive strength and deepen regional economic cooperation, he said.

"We shall enhance cooperation in trade and investment within the region, open up markets for each other, and promote trade and investment facilitation and liberalization, and strengthen regional economic integration," Liu told delegates from 40 countries.

According to Liu, the Chinese Government has taken poverty alleviation as an important part of the national development strategy, which helps the country make major progress in poverty alleviation.

MNA/Xinhua

Briton arrested in Bangkok for possessing fake passports

BANGKOK, 4 Aug— Bangkok police have arrested a Briton possessing some 452 fake passports, Bangkok Post reported on Thursday.

The 35-year-old British national of Algerian descent was nabbed at the departure lounge of Bangkok International Airport on early Wednesday morning, *Bangkok Post* on Thursday quoted police Major-General Suwat Tham-rongsrisakul as saying. The British named Mahieddine Daikh was about to get onboard of a flight to Amsterdam. A total of 452 passports for Spain, Belgium, Portugal and France were found in his luggage.

MNA/Xinhua

1826 US soldiers killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 5 Aug—As of Thursday, 4 Aug, 2005, at least 1,826 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,406 died as a result of hostile action, according to the military's numbers. The figures include five military civilians.

The AP count is eight higher than the Defence Department's tally, last updated at 10 am EDT on Thursday. — *Internet*



An Iraqi soldier mans a gun at a random checkpoint, to search some of the passing vehicles on 4 August, 2005.

INTERNET

Iraq guerillas change techniques

LONDON, 5 Aug—As the toll of US marine lives has mounted in Iraq, the Americans have conceded that guerillas opposing them are using more sophisticated techniques.

Fourteen marines and a translator working with them were killed in a single roadside bombing close to the town of Haditha shortly after sunrise on Wednesday, adding significantly to US casualties as they battle guerillas along a corridor formed by the River Euphrates.

Beyond Haditha lies Iraq's border with Syria which, according to the Americans, is an infiltration route for guerillas.

There were graphic accounts of the Haditha blast. The marines were in an armoured amphibious assault vehicle. It was said to have flipped over after a thunderous explosion.

Eyewitnesses spoke of there being "shrapnel everywhere". That blast is still being investigated. But the US military are now talking of the adaptability of the guerillas.

They suggest that the guerillas have developed new ways of penetrating the armour of military vehicles and now appear to have more sophisticated firing mechanisms.

It is a new challenge before the Americans — and indeed the Iraqi security forces working with them — as they seek to contain and defeat the guerilla.

Internet



A Chinese boy stretches his legs out together in a vessel during gymnastic training as three other children practise handstands with the help of their trainer at a sports school in Bozhou, in east China's Anhui Province on 3 August, 2005. —INTERNET

India counts financial toll as floods recede

MUMBAI, 4 Aug — India will be hit by billions of dollars in losses because of last week's heavy rains and floods in the west, and many already-impo- verished people will be wiped out financially, insurers and aid workers said on Wednesday.

Record rainfall eight days ago in Mumbai set off days of flooding that killed nearly 1,000 people across the western state of Maharashtra and brought India's commercial capital to a standstill.

"It is too early to estimate the size of losses, we can only assess it when the flood waters recede," Maharashtra Finance Minister Jayant Patil told Reuters. "But the damage will run into hundreds of billions of

rupees (billions of dollars)." *The Times of India*, quoting government estimates, reported on Wednesday that Maharashtra's losses could be 150 billion rupees (3.5 billion US dollars), including 100 billion rupees alone in Mumbai.

Insurers have received plenty of claims from businesses, but these wildly underestimate the overall costs because most people in India simply cannot afford insurance.

ICICI-Lombard General Insurance has received about 1,000 claims, totaling nearly 850 million rupees, mostly from corporate houses.

"We believe the majority of claims have come in, and the final tally could be a bit higher," said Kartik Jain, head of marketing, who estimates that overall general insurance claims will be in the region of 10 billion rupees (230 million US dollars). — MNA/Reuters

First China International Violin Competition to debut in E China

BEIJING, 4 Aug — The first China International Violin Competition will debut in Qingdao, a scenic port city of east China's Shandong Province, from 17 to 29 September, sources with the Chinese Ministry of Culture (MoC) said here on Wednesday.

The competition will attract 50 contestants from 20 countries and regions to compete for a 20,000-US dollar top prize, said Pu Tong, a senior official of MoC and also vice-secretary-general of the organizing committee.

Pu said the jury committee is composed of well-known violinists worldwide, including David Cerone from the United States, Mauricio Fuks from Canada, Andras Kiss from Hungary, Gerard Poulet from France, and Sheng Zhongguo from China. Professor Lin Yaoji of the China Central Conservatory of Music will chair the jury committee. Wu Zuqiang, honorary president of the conservatory will be the artistic director.

Lin told *Xinhua* that in the first and semifinal round of the competition, contestants were requested

to play masterpieces by Bach, Beethoven, Mozart and Paganini, which were all seen as high-level repertoires difficult to play. Most of the 50 candidates to the final round have won prizes in their national competitions.

Lin stressed the competition will set up six awards for best players, one prize for the best performance of Chinese works, and special prizes as well.

He expressed his hope that the competition could attract world's top violin players, and showcase the achievements in the musical education of China to the outside world.

From now on, the competition will be held every three years. World-renowned violinist Lu Siqing, who was born in Qingdao, will be the publicity image of the competition. — MNA/Xinhua

HK steps up inspections of pig farms

HONG KONG, 4 August — Hong Kong Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has stepped up farm inspections to minimize the risk of any Streptococcus suis outbreaks on local pig farms.

Following recent inspections of the 266 local pig farms, which cover the monitoring of the health status of pigs and pig counts, the department is satisfied that there has been no unusual deaths. A department spokesman said on Wednesday that the enforcement of license conditions had been strengthened to ensure that pig carcasses and pig waste were handled appropriately.

"A new licence condition has been added to the farm licence under the Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Licensing of Livestock Keeping) Regulation requiring farmers to disinfect and wrap dead pigs before disposal at animal carcass collection points," he said. "We have stepped up monitoring of these collection points. Failure to comply with the new licence condition may lead to revocation of a farm license," he said.

Pig farmers have been reminded not to dispose of live pigs at carcass collection points, the spokesman said, adding that the government hotline 1823 had been updated so that any public inquiries about live pigs would immediately be referred to AFCD for prompt action. The department has issued letters asking farmers to observe personal hygiene and to cover any cut wounds with bandages.

"If they feel unwell, they should stop working immediately, report to the AFCD and consult a doctor," the spokesman said. Information leaflets on Streptococcus suis are being distributed to pig farmers and staff involved in handling live or dead pigs. — MNA/Xinhua

59 percent of Poles want all Polish troops out of Iraq

WARSAW, 4 Aug — Fifty-nine percent of Poles want a total withdrawal of Polish troops from Iraq, a survey said.

Thirty percent wanted a partial pull-out from Iraq, where Poland has been a staunch ally of the United States since 2003, six percent said they wanted Poland to keep all of its soldiers in Iraq, and five percent had no opinion, the poll, conducted last month among a sample of 500 people, showed.

The number in favour of a total withdrawal marks a fall of 11 percentage points from a poll published in March by the CBOS institution, which showed 70 percent of Poles in favour of ending Polish troops' mission in Iraq "as soon as possible."

But, the two polls were not directly comparable, having been carried out by different organisations and using different methodologies, said Michal Kotnarowski of PBS. — Internet

London Mayor says 'Withdraw from Iraq to protect Britain'

LONDON, 4 Aug — Britain must withdraw its troops from Iraq in order to prevent further terrorist attacks, London Mayor Ken Livingstone wrote in a British newspaper.

Britons need to support the police, treat Muslims with respect and pull out from Iraq to "make us all safer"; "All are inter-related", Livingstone wrote in *The Guardian* daily published Thursday.

"Acceptance that the invasion of Iraq increased the likelihood of a terrorist attack on London now extends far beyond the usual suspects," the anti-war left-winger wrote. London was hit by two waves of terrorist attacks last month. On 7 July, 56 people were killed, four suicide bombers included, in blasts on

three underground trains and a bus. A repeat attack on 21 July failed when the bombs did not detonate fully.

"If the invasion of Iraq had been justified, it would be possible to argue that we must bear the sacrifices necessary to achieve an outcome," wrote Livingstone, who staunchly opposed the March 2003 US-led invasion.

Livingstone said Britons should also treat all members of the community equally to "shrink the pool of the alienated" that bombers draw upon. — Internet

Iraqi group says captures US marine after clash

DUBAI, 4 Aug — An Iraqi guerilla group said on Wednesday it has captured a US Marine who was wounded in a clash in western Iraq in which eight other Marines were killed.

The Army of Ansar al-Sunna said on its web site that it would soon issue pictures of the Marine, who it said it captured after ambushing US forces near the town of Haditha, northwest of Baghdad.

It did not say when it carried out the attack. The statement could not be verified immediately. The US military said on

Tuesday six Marines were killed on Monday in the same area. The body of one Marine was initially unaccounted for but was recovered later, the statement said.

The guerillas' statement, dated Wednesday, said: "The Lions of unity take an American Marine hostage and kill eight of the crusaders in a successful ambush north of

Haditha."

It said the Marine was wounded in the clash, but it did not give details.

On Wednesday, a roadside bomb explosion tore through a US assault vehicle near Haditha, killing 14 American Marines and a civilian interpreter in the deadliest attack of its kind against US forces since the war began.

MNA/Reuters



Chiquita bananas are piled on display as Kyle Korensek unloads a cart of tomatoes at the Heinen's grocery store in Bainbridge, Ohio on 3 Aug, 2005. —INTERNET

China's demand for gold and jewellery ornaments blooming

BELING, 4 Aug—A latest Ministry of Commerce report predicts that China's gold and jewellery consumption will maintain a fast growth trend this year.

With the country's rapid economic growth and improving living standards, gold and jewellery ornaments have become another hot consumption item for the Chinese, like houses and cars.

A survey on market supply and demand development trends in the latter half of 2005 sponsored by the ministry, and an analysis of 600 kinds of main consumer goods by concerned experts

found that China has a large number of consumers for gold and jewellery, especially as the generation born between 1960s and 1980s enters the period of consumption.

The survey also indicated that the depreciation of the US dollar in recent years has stimulated investment in gold and diamonds.

In the first half of this year, the retail sales volume of 1,000 of China's major gold, silver and jew-

ellery companies increased by 13.9 per cent.

China's diamond imports reached 900 million dollars in the period, up 17.5 per cent.

Twenty-five per cent of the respondents believed that gold ornaments prices will rise in the latter half of this year, 19 per cent said that the price of platinum ornaments will also rise.

Also, 65 per cent of the informants believed that the demand and sup-

ply for gold and jewellery ornaments will keep balance in the second half of this year.

China's platinum consumption exceeded half of the world's total output in 2004 and both China's gold output and sales volume rank fourth in the world.

In 2003 and 2004, China's retail sales of gold and jewellery ornaments increased by 11.7 per cent and 27.5 per cent respectively.—MNA/Xinhua

New airline set up in Hong Kong

HONG KONG, 4 Aug—Hong Kong Express Airways announced its formal establishment on Wednesday evening.

Hong Kong Chief Executive Donald Tsang attended a reception marking the founding of the new Hong Kong-based airline.

He said it is a great pleasure to celebrate the launch of Hong Kong Express — a new Hong Kong-based airline that will provide multiple daily services between Hong Kong and various cities in the Chinese Mainland.

He said "we all know that running an airline is a very capital-intensive undertaking. So, the launch of this new airline is a great vote of confidence in the future of our economy, and in the status of Hong Kong as a regional and international aviation hub."

Tsang added that Hong Kong's aviation policy encourages the entry of new players. "Our highly regarded Hong Kong International Airport provides 'best in the world' support for the efficient operation of airlines," he said.

"The strategy to focus on Mainland destinations will further strengthen Hong Kong's ability to provide seamless connections to our comprehensive international network. This in turn will strengthen our position as one of the most efficient gateways to the Mainland," he said.

He said, with strong economic growth and increasing travel demand, the Chinese Mainland is widely recognized as the dominant source of global air traffic growth over the next decade.

Tsang said he believed that the launching of Hong Kong Express will bring new jobs to Hong Kong. Newly created jobs range from positions in management, flight crew, maintenance staff to cabin attendants and cleaners. These jobs will broaden employment opportunities for Hong Kong people, and help to consolidate the recovery of Hong Kong's job market.

MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam's fruit, vegetable export to China soars

HANOI, 4 Aug—Vietnam's fruit and vegetable export to China surged 16.7 per cent in the first 5 months of this year, according to the Vietnamese Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development on Wednesday.

Vietnam is developing local fruit traders in border provinces into big exporters. It has set up several wholesale markets along its border to facilitate shipments of large and stable amounts of products to China, which consumes 50 to 60 per cent of Vietnam's total fruit and vegetable exports. Local producers and exporters strive to participate in fruit trade fairs in China more actively, the ministry said. They are trying to raise the quality of such fruits as coconut, longan, litchi, dragon fruit, watermelon, pineapple, banana and mango in order to compete with similar products from Thailand and some Southeast Asian countries on the Chinese market. Vietnam is intensifying investment in cultivation of certain fruits and vegetables, new technology application, construction of trademarks and trade promotion abroad in a move to earn 600 million dollars from supplying its fruits and vegetables in 2010.

Vietnam, which had 1.3 million hectares under fruits, vegetables and flowers with the output totalling 13.9 million tons last year, is expected to gain over 200 million dollars from shipping products to over 50 countries and regions this year, up 19.8 per cent.

MNA/Xinhua



A couple pose in the MTR (Mass Transit Railway) Disneyland Resort station in Hong Kong on 4 August, 2005. More than 10,000 people visited the MTR Disneyland Resort Line when it opened on 1 August, 2005. —INTERNET

NZ language schools cut fees, earn less

WELLINGTON, 4 Aug—New Zealand's English schools earned 26 per cent less revenue from international students in the past year as competition drove schools to cut fees and students took shorter courses, said the Statistics New Zealand on Thursday.

Its survey shows English-language schools' revenue from tuition and related fees was 156.3 million NZ dollars (109 million US dollars) for the year to March, nearly 57 million NZ dollars (40 million US dollars) less than the previous year.

The number of students enrolled this year stood at 41,546, lower than 71,503 enrolled in the March 2003 year.

The total spending by all international students studying in New Zealand was 1.48 billion NZ dollars (1.04 billion US dollars), down from 1.61 billion NZ dollars (1.13 billion US dollars) in the previous year, and due to the lower spending at English-language schools.

The lower revenue reflects more students enrolling in shorter courses than the previous year and some English-language schools lowering their fees

because of increased competition, said Statistics New Zealand.

Schools themselves said other factors in the falling revenue are the high New Zealand dollars making the country more expensive for overseas students, competition from other countries and negative publicity in China, the main source of students, about student safety and discrimination.

The number of students from China fell 37 per cent to 6,944. The sharp fall in the number of Chinese students was more than offset by smaller rises in the number of students from nearly all other countries, said Statistics New Zealand.

The biggest increases were from Japan, up 13 per cent, followed by South Korea, Switzerland, Saudi Arabia, and Russia. MNA/Xinhua

India provides \$71m to upgrade check posts on Nepal-India border

KATHMANDU, 4 Aug—India has agreed to provide over 5 billion Nepali rupees (71 million US dollars) for upgradation of four major checkposts along Nepal-India border, a statement issued by the Indian Embassy in Kathmandu said on Wednesday.

A memorandum of understanding was signed Wednesday by Shiv Shankar Mukherjee, Ambassador of India and Bhanu Prasad Acharya, Nepali secretary at the Ministry of Finance, the statement noted.

The infrastructures at Raxaul-Birgunj, Sunauli-Bhairahawa, Jogbani-Biratnagar and Nepalgunj

Road-Nepalgunj checkposts will be uplifted within next three years, according to the statement.

The project is expected to bring comfort and convenience to more than 4,000 vehicles per day and the innumerable number of people crossing the borders everyday for economic and social interaction, the statement

said.

"The project will not only obviate problems related to traffic blockage, delay in Customs checking, inconvenience to passengers, but also enhance greater interaction and encourage increased connectivity between the two friendly neighbours," the statement added.

MNA/Xinhua



A man builds houses out of bamboo at Hajari Bagh, near the capital Dhaka, Bangladesh on 5 August, 2005. —INTERNET

Disseminate tourism knowledge to boost national economy

Dr Shwe Pyi Soe

A variety of herbal plants and tubers and bulbs thrive well at Mt Popa. Blessed with excellent geographical features, Myanmar is like a garden where diverse species of flowers are in bloom.

Since the Stone Age, man has gained various experiences, while searching a greener pasture for their existence, and activities of travelling have begun since then. With the civilization and the development of transport and communication technologies, the travel industry was making gradual progress. Myanmar's travel industry has come into being since the Bagan period.

Ecotourism is travel to regions of unique natural or ecological beauties and study the lifestyles of local people. Myanmar's climate and topography attract tourists from around the world.

Myanmar is a temperate region with three seasons — summer, rainy season and cold season. Shan, Rakhine and Bago Yoma mountain ranges, wildlife, rare species of birds, natural lakes such as Twintaung Lake of Monywa that is full of blue-green algae, Bayintnyi Cave and Hsaddan Cave near

Hpa-an in Kayin State, Peikchin Ravine near PyinOoLwin, natural lime caves, and large natural lakes such as Inlay, Indawgyi and Moeyungyi are inherited from the ancestors for the ecotourism of the nation.

In Myanmar, PyinOoLwin National Gardens, Hlawga and Natmataung Wildlife Parks, sanctuaries and waterfalls are suitable for ecotourism; Moeyungyi Lake in Bago Division, for bird-watching; ancient cities of Pyu era such as Srekestra, Beikthanoe and Hanlin, Shwebon Yadana Palace of King Alaung Mintraygi in Shwebo, Mandalay Mya Nan San Kyaw Palace, and Kanbawzathadi Palace of King Bayintnaung in Bago, for study of the nation's history and culture; and pagodas and temples built in AD 11th Century and 12th Century in Bagan archaeological region, for study of religious edifices.

In the past, Myanmar tourism industry was run by the Trade Corporation, and in the time of the Tatmadaw Government, the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism was established to carry out tourism services. Now, the tourism industry is in full swing in the nation, and that is one of fruitful results of



Worldwide-wellknown scenic beauties of Inlay Lake in Shan State (South) completely capture the hearts and minds of tourists around the world.

nation-building tasks being undertaken by the Tatmadaw Government.

The development of the tourism industry is the fundamental factor for all-round development of the nation, and secure and smooth transport plays a vital role in promoting the tourism industry. That is why the government has been stepping up measures day in, day out for ensuring secure and smooth transport in both urban and rural areas. Now, it has built river-crossing bridges and tunnels through mountains where necessary for construction of roads. As a result, that has narrowed down the development gap to a certain degree between hill regions and the plain, and reduced the travelling time from one region to

another. Such better conditions are necessary for the development of the tourism industry.

The improvement of communication technology has contributed towards smooth arrangements in drawing work programmes and organizing package tours. The government is giving every encouragement and assistance to expand the

May 2005. It was attended by Deputy Minister for Education U Myo Nyunt, Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu, Director-General of Higher Education Department (Lower Myanmar) U Saw Lwin, Rector of Yangon University U Soe Yin and professors, course in charge Professor Daw Khin Swe Myint

means of effectively harnessing its human resources and natural resources. So, all are to strive for boosting the national economy through tourism industry to be able to keep abreast of the world level.

With natural scenic beauties and natural resources in abundance, the Myanmar's tourism industry is expected to catch up with that of world nations in the near future.

Indeed, tourism is a smokeless industry through which a nation can earn foreign exchange most and that creates many jobs and other opportunities. Hence, it is incumbent upon all responsible persons to make collaborative efforts sector-wise to ensure further improvement of Myanmar's tourism industry.

The DTSM post-graduate course prescribed in the education sector is aimed at contributing towards the tourism services, and such a course has opened a new chapter of the education sector and tourism industry of Myanmar because the education and economic sectors play a key role in the drive for national development.

Translation: MS
Myanma Alin,
Kyemon: 5-8-2005

Indeed, tourism is a smokeless industry through which a nation can earn foreign exchange most and that creates many jobs and other opportunities. Hence, it is incumbent upon all responsible persons to make collaborative efforts sector-wise to ensure further improvement of Myanmar's tourism industry.

building of modern hotels.

The Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism jointly conducted a post-graduate diploma in tourism course at Yangon University from 17 March 2004 to April 2005 to disseminate tourism knowledge for greater development of Myanmar's tourism industry.

A total of 30 faculty members completed the course. The concluding ceremony of the course took place at Kandawgyi Hotel on 31

(Myanmarsar Department, Yangon University), officials of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, the chairman of the Myanmar Tourism Industrialists Association, course instructors, and trainees. As a result of the opening of the course, the nine-month Diploma in Tourism Studies and Management is being conducted at Yangon National Management College commencing June 2005.

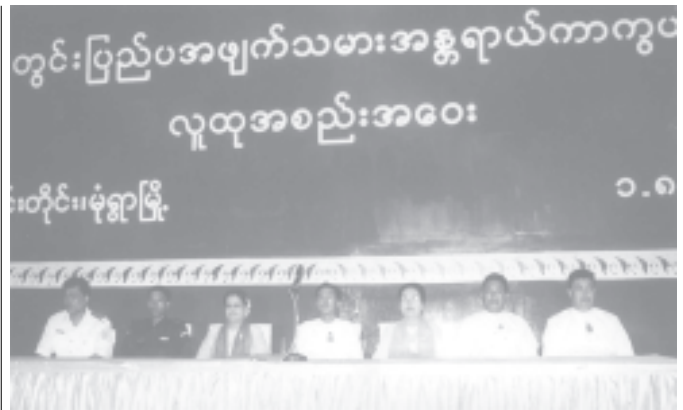
Tourism industry can help a nation accelerate implementation of its development tasks by



A swimming pool of a modern hotel in Ngwehsaung Beach Resort is seen with the sea in the background.

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.



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

The mass meeting is totally against attempts to secede Shan State from the Union

(from page 1)

USDA member Daw Thi Thi Win acted as MC together with USDA member Daw Marlar Tun.

The meeting chairman in his speech said that the government has been stepping up the nation-building tasks in all spheres for enabling the nation to keep abreast of global nations. Now, harmonious efforts the Tatmadaw, the people and the government have been making with lofty aims have yielded fruitful results of unprecedented development. The people are convinced well of the fact that the government's all efforts focus on the building of basic foundations for a transition to discipline-flourishing democracy in the nation. After realizing the State's national policy and work programmes based on na-

and prospects of border areas.

The people are now asking the government for the declaration of FTUB, NCGUB and ABSDF unlawful associations.

In line with the motto the strength of the nation lies within, the dangers of internal and external destructive elements are to be crushed with national solidarity. And it needs to protect and safeguard the mother country for its perpetual existence through the unity of various social organizations, national forces. All are to adhere to Our Three Main National Causes and to crush all destructive acts in conformity with the four-point people's desire.

Now, self-reliant nation-building tasks are in the teeth of pressure, but are gaining momentum due to

Sagaing
Division
USDA
Joint-Secretary
Dr Win
Myint
Aung.
MNA



Members of social organizations and local people attend the mass meeting in Monywa.— MNA

tional solidarity, national race armed groups have returned to the legal fold and have been lending themselves to the regional development tasks hand in hand with the government, thereby bringing about progress

national unity and peace restored well through nationalistic fervour and Union Spirit.

Secretary of Budalin Township USDA U Sein Win Hlaing said that some nations of the

world fell apart and the peoples were suffering from bloodbaths. Perpetuation of sovereignty depends on unity. In the international relations, Myanmar is strictly adhering to the five principles of peaceful co-existence. A group led by Sao Hkam Hpa under the foreign influence announced the formation of independent Shan State from abroad. It is a plot of colonialist minions to break up the Union.

The government on 19 April 2005 declared Sao Hkam Hpa's group and other related bodies unlawful. Sao Hkam Hpa's acts have connections with the plot of SSA led by Ywet Sit, SNLD and Shan State Intellectuals Advisory Council to set up a state in name only and to break away from the Union of Myanmar.

The mass meeting is totally against attempts to secede Shan State from the Union. Some big nations are using the ILO as a political podium to install a puppet government in Myanmar. Because of the sanctions, over 160 garment factories had to close down and another 40 reduced the number of workers. Over 80,000 workers were laid off.

ABSDF, FTUB, NCGUB and NLD (LA) are committing inhuman terrorist attacks against innocent people to destroy peace and stability of the State.

(See page 9)



The mass meeting to guard against the dangers posed by internal and external destructive elements through the united strength of the people in progress in Monywa.— MNA

NCGUB and FTUB always have a hand in all the terrorists acts committed in Myanmar



Meeting chairman Secretary of Budalin Township USDA U Sein Win Hlaing holds discussions at the mass meeting.
MNA

(from page 8)

The people will never forget the terrorist acts of the groups. They will crush the groups with the united strength. Sagaing Division is a place where King Alaungphaya started his venture to establish the Third Myanmar Empire and where a number of Myanmar heroes, patriots and intellectuals emerged.

Secretary of Sagaing Division OWA Daw Nu Nu Win said that it is a sad thing to see lackeys of colonialists colluding with external destructive elements to destroy peace and stability of the State when the government and the people are in the process of developing the entire nation.

The entire people want peace and progress. But the destructionists from inside and outside the nation are turning to all-round destruction with negative attitude to gain power.

NCGUB and FTUB always have a hand in all the terrorists acts committed in Myanmar. The two

sovereignty of the State.

For the emergence of a new discipline-flourishing democratic nation, the government has laid down seven-point Road Map and the national convention is well under way.

In translating the nation into a democratic one, it should be the system that suits the traditions and culture of the nation. This being so, the government and the people have been surmounting the disturbance of internal and external destructive elements. Some big nations and a handful of persons constantly put pressure on the government on the pretext of working for democracy and human rights.

It is obvious that ABSDF, FTUB and NCGUB, the terrorist groups are committing the acts of terrorism to put the State and the people into trouble. ILO has been making decisions on Myanmar one after another, based on the fabricated news, incited by



Secretary of Sagaing Division Women's Affairs Organization Daw Nu Nu Win deals with matters on guarding against dangers of destructionists.
MNA

Moreover, social organizations are to do their bit for the success of nation-building endeavours and national development tasks with Union Spirit, regardless of regions and time.

Safeguarding the nation and endeavouring for national development are the inborn-duty of each and every citizen. In safeguarding the nation the national people are to do their bit in upholding Our Three Main National Causes and in striving for national development they are to play their respective roles in implementing the 12 national objectives.

Here, every citizen is to be well aware that the will to implement the 12 national objectives and keep in the fore Our Three Main National Causes are Union Spirit and nationalistic spirit.

In the drive to implement the seven-point Road Map the government has been able to hold the National Convention, the first step of Road Map, which was adjourned for various reasons.

At present, marked progress has been made in various sectors owing to combined and concerted efforts of the Tatmadaw, the people and social organizations under the leadership of the government and the national brethren are now enjoying the fruitful results of the national development.

At such a time, regrettably, there emerged instigation and attempts made by internal and external destructive elements to undermine national unity.

On 17 April 2005, a group led by renegade Sao Khan Hpa from a foreign nation announced the Shan State provisional government there by establishing the independent Shan State. They did so to the liking of some big nations, turning a blind eye to the wishes of Shan people.

Their sinister schemes are directly connected with the acts of the SSA led by Ywet Sit, the SNLD and Shan State Intellectuals Advisory Council, which are making attempts to establish a nominal Union in order to secede from the Union one day.

Therefore, he reiterated that the entire national people will not accept at all any plots to secede from

All should ward off and crush the terrorists according to the four-point People's Desire

groups are committing terrorist acts in collusion with some of the citizens of western nations. The groups under the guise of democracy activists are begging money from global nations and bodies. While deceiving the world just for self-interest, the NCGUB has been perpetrating terrorist acts against the entire people of Myanmar. All should ward off and crush the terrorists according to the four-point People's Desire.

Next, U Win Myint, townselder of Budalin Township seconded the two motions, tabled by U Sein Win Hlaing of Budalin Township USDA and Daw Nu Nu Win of Sagaing Division WAO.

Secretary Daw Aye Aye Than of Monywa Township MCWA then joined in the discussion.

She said, there are three perils of which the State and the people must be aware when the nation is in jeopardy. Those are disintegration of the Union, disintegration of national reconsolidation and loss to

FTUB. As known to all, we submitted the proposals that ABSDF, FTUB and NCGUB are unlawful associations to the State. The mass meeting will support whatever decision made by the government.

The document HIV and National Security; Where are the Links recently stated that HIV virus breaking out in Asia originated in Myanmar. It is the one-sided statement. At present, the government has been widely implementing national level six strategies and ten tasks on HIV in cooperation with 43 AIDS control teams. Similarly, due to the collaboration with WHO on a wide range of health activities, resident representatives of UNITO and UNDP in Myanmar as well as UNODC in Geneva always stand by the endeavours of Myanmar, she said.

In conclusion, she said all are to actively participate in successful realization of seven-point Road Map and nation-building tasks with Union Spirit, upholding Our Three Main National Causes. Major Ko Ko Myint (Retd) of Sagaing District War Veterans Supervisory Committee made a speech. He said that the MWVO is an organization making relentless efforts together with the people for national defence and security under the leadership of the Tatmadaw.



Townselder U Win Myint of Monywa seconds the motion on guarding against dangers of destructionists.
MNA

the Union and oppose any acts detrimental to Our Three Main National Causes.

The national forces or constructive forces are to ward off all the attempts and attacks made by destructive elements with Union Spirit and nationalistic spirit in accordance with the four-point people's desires.

(See page 10)



Secretary of Monywa Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association Daw Aye Aye Than speaks at the mass meeting.
MNA

It is a sad thing to see lackeys of colonialists colluding with external destructive elements to destroy peace and stability of the State when the government and the people are in the process of developing the entire nation. The entire people want peace and progress. But the destructionists inside and outside the nation are turning to all-round destruction with negative attitude to gain power.

FM sends message of sympathy to India

YANGON, 5 Aug— U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar has sent a message of sympathy to His Excellency Mr K Natwar Singh, External Affairs Minister of the Republic of India on the loss of life and property caused by devastating monsoon floods in Maharashtra State on 26 July 2005. —MNA

Mines Minister receives Malaysian guests

YANGON, 5 Aug— Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint received Managing Director Mr Parameswaran of Addgrowth Industries (M) SDN Company of Malaysia and party at the ministry this afternoon.

It was also attended by the officials of the ministry. —MNA

Cooperatives Minister inspects cooperative shop, furniture factories

YANGON, 5 Aug— Minister for Cooperatives Col Zaw Min together with officials, arrived at the model shop of Yamonna General Economic Cooperatives Association opened at No 495 on Yamonna Road in Dawbon Township this morning.

The minister and party viewed the shop and gave necessary instructions. The foodstuff, household goods, cosmetics and medicines are available at the shop. So

far, altogether 18 shops have been opened.

Afterwards, the minister and party proceeded to rubber wood furniture factory of Shwe Yaung Lwin Pyin Agriculture Production Cooperatives Association on Pinya Road in Dagon Myothit (East) Township and left instructions.

Next, the minister inspected the rubber wood furniture factory in Yankin Township.

After viewing the products and designs of

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspects agricultural services in Bago Division



Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspects rubber plantations in Indagaw Research and Plant Propagation Farm.—MNA

YANGON, 5 Aug— Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence arrived at Wanbawdat Bridge situated between Yangon and Bago Division by car yesterday afternoon. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than was welcomed there by Bago Division PDC Chairman Southern Command Commander Maj-Gen Ko Ko, Brig-Gen Win Myint of the local battalion, senior mili-

tary officers and departmental officials.

Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party went to Indagaw research and plant propagation farm of Myanma Perennial Crops Enterprise under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation. Farm Manager U Hla Moe Aung reported on area and location of the farm, land use, strength of staff and cultivation tasks and Managing Director U Yu Tin of MPCE on cultivation of rubber nurseries to mark the friendship between Myanmar and China.

divisional Manager U Soe Myint reported on 50,000-acres cultivation of rubber in the division, extended cultivation of up to 60,000 acres of rubber to meet the target of 100,000 acres. Commander Maj-Gen Ko Ko gave a supplementary report. Rubber growers recounted their experiences in cultivating rubber.

In response to the reports, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than said in Bago Division arrangements are being made to extend up to 60,000 acres of rubber cultivation to meet the target of 100,000 acres. So, the

department is to provide methods for cultivation of rubber and other necessary assistance to growers. He said growers on their part are needed to strive for the successful implementation of the project. The division is making arrangements to grow 100,000 pieces of rubber budding and 50,000 saplings of quality strains.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party viewed the cultivation of rubber and left necessary instructions. Later, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party left the farm and went to Bago.

—MNA

MNA

Yangon Division MCWSC organizes World Breastfeeding Week

YANGON, 5 Aug— The ceremony to mark the World Breastfeeding Week for Yangon Division, co-organized by Yangon Division Health Department and Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee, was held at BEHS No 2 in Sangyoung Township this morning.

Chairperson of Yangon Division MCWSC Daw Khin Thet

gave an opening speech, and presented prizes to the winners in essay to commemorate the World Breastfeeding Week and others.

Head of Yangon Division Health Department Dr U Hla Myint accepted permanent membership applications for MCWA from Yangon West District MCWSC Chairperson Daw Ni Ni

Sein. Next, specialists gave lectures on breastfeeding and health of children and expectant mothers.

A similar ceremony was held at Kanaung Hall of Shwepyitha Industrial Zone this morning, attended by Chairperson of Yangon Division MCWSC Daw Khin Thet Htay. —MNA



Daw Khin Thet Htay presents best winner prize to a winner at Sangyoung BEHS No 2.—MNA



Minister for Cooperatives Col Zaw Min inspects the shop of Yamonna General Economic Cooperative Ltd in Dawbon Township.—COOPERATIVE

NCGUB and FTUB always ...

(from page 9)
Putting in the fore Our Three Main National Causes, he pledged that

the entire national people are to take part in nation-building endeavours and the successful realization

of the seven-point Road Map by doing their bit.

Lecturer U Kyaw Tun of History Department of Monywa University,



Major Ko Ko Myint (Retd).—MNA



U Kyaw Tun of Monywa University.—MNA

MNA

Bago Division stands second...

(from page 16)
 acres of monsoon paddy and 3.44 million acres of summer paddy. Therefore, all are to strive for meeting the target. In 2001-2002, 13 million acres of land were put under monsoon and 2 million acres under summer paddy, yielding 1,050 million baskets of paddy. In 2004-2005, 14.39 million acres of monsoon paddy and 2.55 million acres of summer paddy were grown to yield 1,184 million baskets of paddy. However, the paddy production has not met the target of the State yet.

Bago Division stands second position in paddy cultivation with 21

per cent of sown acreage of the nation. The division grew 2.4 million acres of monsoon paddy in 2003-04 and 2.6 million acres in 2004-05. Out of 2.8 million acres of monsoon paddy in 2005-06, districts and townships in Bago Division (East Sector) have put 1.4 million acres under monsoon paddy to date. Officials are to make efforts for exceeding the target. In addition, preparations are to be made for growing 100,000 acres of summer paddy in the division for 2005-06.

He urged those present to grow rubber and Thitseint (Belleric myrobalan), tea, coffee and pepper in the division

and to raise poultry farm as well. For meeting the target of growing monsoon and summer paddy, the Government has built 36 irrigation facilities in the division, and another four dams are under construction.

In conclusion, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than urged them to strive for achieving success in implementing the target in the agriculture sector and officials are to make field trips to the grassroots level.

Next, the commander gave a speech.

Chairmen of Toungoo and Bago District PDCs handed over the reports related to the



Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than awards prize-winning team at the ceremony to mark completion of ploughing for monsoon paddy cultivation in Bago Division.—MNA

completion of ploughing in their respective districts to the commander.

Afterwards, township teams participated in the direct seeding skills

contest. Brig-Gen Win Myint of local LID presented third prize to Thanatpin Township team; Commander Maj-Gen Ko Ko second prize

to Oktwin Township team; and Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than first prize to Nyaunglebin Township team.

MNA

Second Triathlon Contest held

YANGON, 5 Aug — Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint opened the Second Triathlon Contest at Kandawgyi Lake, here, this morning. A total of 28 athletes participated in the 1,500-m swimming event, 40-km cycling event and 10-km race.

Chit Oo of Ayeyawady Division stood first with 2 hours, 19 minutes and 36.8 seconds, Min Zaw of Mandalay Division with 2 hours, 22 minutes and 11.1 seconds, Maung Maung Nay Yu of Yangon Command with 2 hours, 25 minutes and 9.1 seconds.

Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint presented cash prizes to the winners from first to tenth



MOC Chairman Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint awards first prize to Chit Oo. — NLM

positions. The winners from first to 10th positions were selected tentatively for taking part in

the XXIII SEA Games, and they will be undergoing training as of 9 August. — NLM

MHF delegation leaves for Bangladesh

YANGON, 5 Aug — The representatives of Myanmar Hockey Federation led by President of the federation Brig-Gen Myo Myint and Vice-President U Kyaw Naing, left here for Dhaka, the People's Republic of

Bangladesh by air this afternoon. They were seen of at the airport by Deputy Director of the Sports and Physical Education Department U Win Htut and officials, Vice-Presidents U Kyaw Kyaw Thein and U Thet Oo, General Sec-

retary Maj Myint Tun, Joint Secretary U Kyaw Htay Thein, executives, Defence Attaché of Bangladesh Embassy to Myanmar Brig-Gen Helal Uddin Ahmed, First Secretary Mr Md Eusuf Ali and families. In Bangladesh, MHF delegation led by Brig-Gen Myo Myint will discuss with Bangladeshi Sports Minister and officials on the development of Myanmar Hockey Sport and cooperation matters and building the hockey pitch with the help of Bangladesh. During the tour, they will view the BKSP Cup 2005 in which totalling eight hockey teams from Myanmar, India and Sri Lanka will participate.—MNA



Delegation of Myanmar Hockey Federation led by Brig-Gen Myo Myint being seen at the airport before departure. — SPED

Foundry Plant inspected in Ayethayar Industrial Zone



Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi inspects foundry plant in Ayethayar Industrial Zone, Taunggyi. — ENERGY

YANGON, 5 Aug — Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi met with members of the board of directors of Foundry Plant and entrepreneurs at Ayethayar Industrial Zone in Taunggyi this morning.

The minister heard reports on functions of BODs, financial matters, completion of building the plant and its operation. The minister said that the government invested capital of foreign currency together with shares of local entrepreneurs for ensuring development of the industrial sector. It is necessary to collect raw materials for the plant. He

stressed the need to manufacture quality products to be sold at reasonable price. He urged officials to seek markets at home and abroad.

Next, all the participants took part in the discussions. And, the minister attended to the needs.

Afterwards, the minister inspected running of the Foundry Plant. Plant Manager U Than Hsin Myint conducted the minister round the plant.

The plant started its operation on 1 August and manufactures flywheels and brake drums, and accepted orders of the local entrepreneurs.

In the afternoon, the minister oversaw Filling Station No 0701 in Shwemyaung and gave necessary instructions to officials. — MNA

Forestry Minister...

(from page 16)
 teak and other crops in the model plantation of Yangon Division Forest Department in Taikkyi Township and gave instructions to officials.

After that, the minister proceeded to the Lathagon Nursery in the township, where Head of the Forest Department U Khin Win reported on work carried out. And the minister fulfilled the needs. On arrival at the Central Forest Development Research Division, the minister heard reports presented by officials on work being carried out and gave necessary instructions.

Next, the minister inspected classrooms and hostels under the research division.—MNA

I&P Minister receives UNFPA Resident Representative

YANGON, 5 Aug — Minister for Immigration and Population Maj-Gen Sein Htwa received UNFPA Resident Representative Mr Daniel B. Baker and party at the ministry this morning.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Minister U Maung Aung, Director-General of Immigration and National Registration Department Col Maung Maung Than, Director-General of Population Department U Tin Yi, Deputy Director-General Daw Khin May Aung and officials. — MNA

ADVERTISEMENT

(၁)အောင်စ၊ (၂)အောင်စနှင့် (၃)အောင်စ ပလတ်စတစ်ပုလင်း (အဖုံးပါ) ဝယ်ယူလိုခြင်း
ပစ္စည်းအမျိုးအစား လိုအပ်ချက် ပေးသွင်းရမည့်နေရာ
(၁) 1 Oz Plastic Bottle With Cap (Screw Type) ၂၃၀၀၀၀၀-လုံး မြန်မာနိုင်ငံဆေးဝါးလုပ်ငန်းစက်ရုံ
(၂) 2 Oz Plastic Bottle With Cap (Screw Type) ၃၄၀၀၀၀၀-လုံး မြန်မာနိုင်ငံဆေးဝါးလုပ်ငန်းစက်ရုံ
(၃) 3 Oz Plastic Bottle With Cap (Screw Type) ၂၃၀၀၀၀၀-လုံး မြန်မာနိုင်ငံဆေးဝါးလုပ်ငန်းစက်ရုံ
တင်ဒါခေါ်ဝေါ်ခြင်း (၁၂-၈-၂၀၀၅) သောကြာနေ့မှစ၍ (၂၀၀၅) ခုနှစ် ဇူလိုင်လ ၁၂ ရက်နေ့မှစ၍ အသေးစိတ်အကြောင်းအရာများကို မြန်မာနိုင်ငံဆေးဝါးလုပ်ငန်းစက်ရုံ ပစ္စည်းစီမံရေးဌာနတွင် ရုံးချိန်အတွင်း စုံစမ်းနိုင်ပြီး တင်ဒါခေါ်ဝေါ်မှုများကိုလည်း ဝယ်ယူနိုင်ပါသည်။ (ဆက်သွယ်ရန် တယ်လီဖုန်းအမှတ်- ၆၆၃၄၈၁)
စက်ရုံမှူး မြန်မာနိုင်ငံဆေးဝါးလုပ်ငန်းစက်ရုံ

London's Piccadilly Line to resume normal service

LONDON, 4 Aug— All stations on the London Underground will be opened for service on Thursday for the first time since 52 commuters died in attacks exactly four weeks ago, transport officials said on Wednesday. A normal service will return to the Piccadilly Line, the site of the deadliest attack where 27 people died. That leaves the Circle line as the only service still suspended. All stations on this line are served by other trains however. "The return of the Piccadilly line is a major step as the Underground and London gets back to normal," London underground managing director Tim O'Toole said in a statement. "We are now serving all stations and are determined to get on with the job of transforming the Tube." O'Toole thanked his staff who had worked to restore a normal service. "Not only did they perform magnificently on 7 and 21 July, but they have enabled the Tube and London to get back to normal within four weeks." MNA/Reuters

လူ့စွမ်းအားအရင်းအမြစ်ဖွံ့ဖြိုးမှုဌာန (ရန်ကုန်နိုင်ငံခြားဘာသာတက္ကသိုလ်) ကြေညာချက်
၁။ လူ့စွမ်းအားအရင်းအမြစ်ဖွံ့ဖြိုးမှုဌာန (ရန်ကုန်နိုင်ငံခြားဘာသာတက္ကသိုလ်) နှင့် ဂျပန်နိုင်ငံ၊ တိုကျိုမြို့၊ TOPA 21st Century Language School တို့ပူးပေါင်း၍ ရန်ကုန်နိုင်ငံခြားဘာသာတက္ကသိုလ်တွင် ဂျပန်ဘာသာစကား (Basic Course) အထူးသင်တန်းအမှတ်စဉ် (၂၆) ကိုဖွင့်လှစ်ပါမည်-
(က) ဂျပန်နိုင်ငံ၊ တိုကျိုမြို့၊ TOPA 21st Century Language School မှ လာရောက်ပို့ချမည်။
(ခ) အချိန်ပြည့်သင်တန်း ရက်သတ္တ (၁၀) ပတ် နာရီပေါင်း ၂၀၀ နာရီ (ဂ) ၂၀၀၅ ခုနှစ်အတွက် (၂၆) ရက်နေ့ဖွင့်လှစ်မည်။
(ဃ) အခြေခံပညာအထက်တန်းစာမေးပွဲကို (က) အဆင့်မြင့်အောင်မြင်သူများ (သို့မဟုတ်) တက္ကသိုလ်ဝင်တန်းစာမေးပွဲအောင်မြင်သူများလျှောက်ထားနိုင်သည်။
၂။ အသေးစိတ်ကိုရုံးချိန်အတွင်း လူ့စွမ်းအားအရင်းအမြစ်ဖွံ့ဖြိုးမှုဌာန (ရန်ကုန်နိုင်ငံခြားဘာသာတက္ကသိုလ်) တွင် စုံစမ်းနိုင်ပါသည်။
ဖုန်း - ၅၁၄၃၇၁ လိုင်းခွဲ - ၁၂၃

Britain seeks extradition of bomb suspect from Italy

ROME, 4 Aug— An Italian court has received a formal extradition request from Britain for a man suspected of involvement in the 21 July attempted bombings in London, legal sources said on Wednesday. The sources said the court will fix on Thursday the date for the extradition hearing. A police source in Britain said the British authorities thought the suspect, Hamdi Issac, would be handed over within 90 days. Issac, also known as Osman Hussein, was seized in Rome last week. He has told Italian magistrates that he took part in the 21 July attacks, but has indicated he will fight extradition. Britain is expected to invoke a new European arrest warrant to try to secure his return to London. However, the case may be slowed by the fact that Issac also faces legal proceedings against him in Italy that could take precedence. The British Press has reported that anti-terror police in London are frustrated that they have not yet been able to question the 27-year-old Issac, with only Italian prosecutors thus far granted access to the suspect. An Italian court earlier this week validated Issac's arrest on accusations of international terrorism and possession of false documents. According to the law, Italy may refuse extradition if Issac is prosecuted by Italian magistrates for the same act as the one for which London police are seeking him. However, the police source in Britain said London did not expect that the Italians would charge Issac. MNA/Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V. ZHE HAI 315 VOY: NO (021)
Consignees of cargo carried on M.V. ZHE HAI 315 VOY NO (021) are here by notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7-8-2005 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S INTERASIA LINES
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Belarus accuses EU, US of meddling in its internal affairs

Moscow, 4 Aug— Belarus on Wednesday accused the European Union (EU) and the United States of interfering in its internal affairs by encouraging an association of ethnic Poles to act against the Belarussian Government. The Belarussian Foreign Ministry said in a statement that Minsk did not violate its obligations within the framework of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the ITAR-TASS news agency reported. The statement rejected as "groundless fabrication" EU and US accusations that the Belarussian Government oppresses non-governmental organizations, describing the charges as yet another reflection of the double standards practiced by Brussels and Washington. The move has once again showed the EU and US attempt to capitalize on all excuses to exert political pressure on Minsk, the statement said. In March, the Association of Poles, an organization grouping ethnic Poles living in Belarus, elected Anzhelika Boris, who has close ties with the opposition, as its new leader. The result of that election was declared invalid by the Belarussian Ministry of Justice, and neighbouring Poland accused Minsk of violating human rights. The spat led to an exchange of expulsions of diplomats. Poland recalled its ambassador on 28 July. MNA/Xinhua

Man charged over failed London bomb attacks

LONDON, 4 Aug— A 23-year-old man arrested in connection with the 21 July failed bomb attacks on London's transport network has been charged under British terrorism laws, the police said on Wednesday. He is the first person to be charged as part of the investigation into the attacks, but is not one of the four men suspected of being a would-be bomber. Ismael Abdurahman, from Kennington in south London, has been charged with hindering the police investigation by protecting a possible suspect, said a police spokeswoman. He will appear in a London court on Thursday. British police believe all four men they were hunting over the failed 21 July bombings on three underground trains and a bus have now been captured. Three are in custody in Britain, a fourth in Rome. British police also said a man arrested in Brighton, in southern England, was released without charge. In addition to Abdurahman, British police said they were holding 14 suspects in connection with the botched attacks after a total of 37 arrests. — MNA/Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V. YONG JIANG VOY: NO (192)
Consignees of cargo carried on M.V. YONG JIANG VOY NO (192) are here by notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7-8-2005 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: COSCO, SHIPPING CO LTD. CHINA
Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

Russia to scrap more strategic missile launches in 2005

Moscow, 4 Aug— Russia has decided to scrap four more rail-based missile launchers and 18 Topol missile launchers by the end of 2005, the commander of the Russian Strategic Missile Troops said on Wednesday. "Five rail-based missile launchers have been scrapped in Bryansk this year and four others are to be scrapped before the end of this year," the Interfax news agency quoted Nikolai Solovtsov as saying. "Nine Topol missile launchers have been destroyed in Pibanshur and 18 others will have been destroyed by year end," he added. According to the commander, the Strategic Missile Troops' arsenals, including missiles and missile launchers, are included in the Soviet-US Treaty on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (START). Russia's rail-based missile launchers and Topol mobile missile complexes have been drawing increased attention from the United States, the commander said. MNA/Xinhua

At least 11 killed in South Korea floods

SEOUL, 4 Aug— Heavy rains and flooding across South Korea have killed at least 11 people, left five missing and damaged hundreds of homes, officials said on Wednesday. Almost all the fatalities were in the southwestern provinces of north and south Cholla, where 10 people had been confirmed dead, police said. Some 200 millimetres (8 inches) of rain has fallen over the past day in areas in the provinces, flooding 12,225 hectares (30,000 acres) of rice fields and damaging 552 houses, police and meteorological officials said. MNA/Reuters

ပန်းမန်သစ်ပင် လေသန့်စင်၍
ဥယျာဉ်တောတန်း စိတ်ရွှင်လန်း၏။

ပညာရေးနှင့် ခေတ်မီပွင့်ဖူးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်ဖို့

US study drug cuts overnight shift fatigue

BOSTON, 4 Aug — A drug that treats the uncontrollable sleepiness of narcolepsy can also help the 300,000 to 600,000 Americans who face chronic fatigue and sleep problems from working overnight shifts, according to a study released on Wednesday.

Cephalon Inc's modafinil, sold under the brand Provigil, produced fewer lapses in attention and 25 per cent fewer reports of accidents or near-accidents on the commute home, according to the study published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

Cephalon paid for the testing, conducted at 28 US medical centres.

Modafinil "gets patients about one-third of the way toward normalcy", said the study's chief author, Charles Czeisler of Brigham and Women's Hospital.

"The cautionary note is that they are still quite sleepy. It doesn't immediately eliminate the symptoms of (shift-work sleep) disorder, but it is a clinically significant improvement." Shift-work sleep disorder

is caused by a misalignment of the body's natural sleep rhythms.

It becomes severe in 5 per cent to 10 per cent of workers who are on the job after midnight, making it difficult for them to sleep during the day and stay awake during work.

The disorder increases the risk of accidents and people with the disorder are more likely to suffer from depression, heart disease and ulcers.

While healthy, well-rested people take 10 to 20 minutes to fall asleep, people who doze off in five minutes or less are considered pathologically sleepy.

MNA/Reuters

Metal airway stents can cause problems

WASHINGTON, 4 Aug — Metal stents used to prop open the airway can cause infections, throat constriction, and obstruct tissue if used to treat certain benign disorders, US regulators said in a letter to doctors released on Wednesday.

The US Food and Drug Administration said it alerted physicians after receiving at least 60 reported problems with such stents and was working with makers of the device to change product labels to make sure they "adequately convey the risks".

Boston Scientific and CR Bard Inc both manufacture the device, according to the FDA. Privately-held firms including Cook, WL Gore, and Alveolus, also produce it. Boston Scientific spokesman Paul Donovan said the company's label was adequate. "Our existing label language is in agreement with FDA's recommendation," he said. A CR Bard spokeswoman did not return a call seeking comment. Stents are short mesh-like tubes made of plastic or metal that work like scaffolding to open up arteries and other

passageways in the body. Metallic tracheal stents are used to help prop open the airway.

Agency officials said using them to treat patients with disorders from accidents, surgery or other noncancerous causes could lead to complications preventing them from getting other treatments.

The FDA said it came to the conclusion after reviewing reports it received on the device, professional journal articles and information from doctors.

Agency spokeswoman Julie Zawisza said the FDA was still reviewing its own reports but had received about 60 reports, though some included more than one patient "so the real number is actually higher."

About 40 to 50 incidents were reported in the medical literature, she added.

MNA/Xinhua

Panda cub born at San Diego Zoo from natural mating

LOS ANGELES, 4 Aug— San Diego Zoo on Wednesday welcomed a new giant panda cub — the second to be born in the United States this year and one of the few of the endangered species in captivity to be born naturally.

Zoo officials said the four-ounce (113.5-grammes) cub, whose name and gender have yet to be determined, was born late on Tuesday. Thirteen-year-old mother Bai Yun, on loan from China, was originally carrying twins but one of the fetuses died in the womb.

In Washington, Mei Xiang gave birth to a male panda cub at the National Zoo last month after artificial insemination.

Giant pandas are notoriously difficult to breed because they are normally solitary creatures and the female is fertile only three-five days a year.—MNA/Reuters



Japanese astronaut Soichi Noguchi, left, works in the foreground as pilot James Kelly, back center, and astronaut Wendy Lawrence look at a checklist in this televised view from the space shuttle Discovery's middeck on 5 August, 2005.—INTERNET

Smart bio-nanotubes for drug delivery developed

LOS ANGELES, 4 Aug— A novel bio-nanotube that can open or close ends under deferent electrical charges have been developed, scientists reported on Tuesday.

The nanotubes are "smart" so that in the future they could be designed to encapsulate and then open up to deliver a drug or gene in a particular location in the body, according to the researchers at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

The scientists found that by manipulating the electrical charges of lipid bilayer membranes and microtubules from cells, they could create open or closed bio-nanotubes, or nanoscale capsules. This finding will be published in the 9 August issue of the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

The scientists used microtubules purified from the brain tissue of a cow for their experiments. Microtubules are nanometre-scale hollow cylinders derived from the cell cytoskeleton.

In an organism, microtubules and their assembled structures are critical components in a broad range of cell functions, from providing tracks for the transport of cargo to forming the spindle structure in cell division. Their functions include the transport of neurotransmitter precursors in neurons.

MNA/Xinhua

NY authorities battle intruding snakehead fish

NEW YORK, 4 Aug — The snakehead fish, a voracious predator from Asia, has taken up residence in a lake in New York, and experts are mulling options, including salt and poison, to evict it.

Snakeheads, which can grow to about three feet long, have the capacity to ravage the local fish population.

This is the first time these fish have surfaced in New York State and environmentalists are racing against the clock to prevent them multiplying in lakes and rivers, as has occurred in some other US states.

Experts are unsure whether the fish are breeding but want to stop them before they do.

The snakehead was found at Meadow Lake in the New York borough of Queens. — MNA/Reuters

Shuttle "Discovery" may need another space repair

LOS ANGELES, 4 Aug — Although astronaut Steven Robinson removed two gap fillers from Discovery's underside, a ruffled thermal blanket below the shuttle commander's window worried mission managers at NASA.

Engineers informed the shuttle crew on Wednesday there was a chance that a fourth spacewalk might be needed Friday to deal with the torn thermal blanket.

They said the blanket does not pose a danger to overheating. However, engineers are performing tests overnight to determine the likelihood of the blanket coming off during the shuttle's descent and becoming a source of debris.

The 50-centimetre section of the blanket could rip away during re-entry, whip backward and slam into the shuttle, perhaps causing grave damage, NASA said. Engineers expect to know by Thursday evening whether the danger is real and whether any blanket trimming is required.

In a Wednesday afternoon briefing, NASA's deputy shuttle programme manager Wayne Hale said a team

of aerodynamic engineers are working around the clock to perform several tests with three sample blankets.

The team will try to replicate the damage and simulate the shuttle's descent in a wind tunnel to learn how the insulating material might react. The aerodynamics team is seeking to understand when, if at all, the blanket could tear away and what size piece or pieces could come off.

Meanwhile, the mission control team is developing a plan for a potential additional spacewalk repair for the thermal blanket, Hale said.

NASA hailed shuttle crew's third spacewalk as "an excursion in the history books". The spacewalk featured the first-ever on-orbit repair of a shuttle's heat shield and attachment of a stowage platform onto the *International Space Station*.

The heat shield repair efforts occurred quickly and just as planned on the shuttle *Discovery's* underbelly. Robinson removed gap fillers that were protruding from two areas between heat-shielding tiles on *Discovery*. He gently tugged the gap fillers until they came out.

After he removed the second protrusion, Robinson declared, "it looks like th

MNA/Xinhua

S P O R T S

Figgo leaves Real training camp to sign for Inter

MADRID, 5 Aug — Real Madrid midfielder Luis Figgo left the club's pre-season training camp in Austria on Thursday to sign for Inter Milan.

Real said the 32-year-old Portuguese international would undergo a medical with Inter and be presented to the Italian media on Saturday.

Spanish media reported that Figgo would sign a two-year deal with the Serie A club for a reported salary of around 4.5 million euros (5.55 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.

Figgo joined Real in 2000 in one of the most controversial transfers in Spanish football history when newly-elected Real 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 season at the club and played an important part in their victories in the 2002 European Cup and 2003 Spanish championship.

MNA/Reuters

Two Koreas draw 0-0 in first match for 12 years

CHONJU (South Korea), 5 Aug — North and South Korea, divided for more than half a century, battled to a diplomatically goalless draw in the East Asia soccer championship on Thursday, their first encounter in 12 years.

Both sides had one solid chance each during a closely fought match played in near-tropical heat and humidity in a stadium used during the 2002 World Cup hosted by South Korea and Japan.

Those two sides have qualified for next year's finals in Germany but the North failed again to make the grade.

Yet on Thursday, North Korean substitute Choe Ung-chon caught the South's defence off guard in the 58th minute, forcing keeper Lee Woon-jae to punch the ball clear.

In the 70th minute, popular South Korean striker Lee Dong-gook's header skimmed just over the bar.

South Korea's "Red Devils" fans kept up a steady drumbeat and chants. At the other end of the stadium, fans unfurled a huge white flag showing the Korean Peninsula united and in blue.

Others chanted "Uri-nun hana" ("We are one"), which is also the title of a popular song about Korea's divided people.

National teams from China, Japan, North Korea and South Korea are playing in men's and women's events at three venues in South Korea from July 31 to August 7. Each team has three matches and whoever tops the table is the winner.

Regional tensions have been uncommonly high, not just because of North Korea's declared nuclear weapons arsenal,

which the four Asian countries are discussing with the United States and Russia at six-party talks in the Chinese capital.

China and South Korea have criticized Japan over its war past, Seoul has protested to Tokyo about Japanese claims to a clutch of disputed islets and both Koreas are suspicious about China's motives for reassessing history in their backyard.

MNA/Reuters



North Korea's Pak Chol-jin (R) heads the ball over teammate Cha Jong-hyok (L) and South Korea's Kim Mi-jung in the second half their East Asian Football Championship match in Chonju, South Korea on 4 August, 2005. The game ended in a 0-0 draw.—INTERNET

Everton complete Phil Neville signing

LONDON 5 Aug — Everton have completed the signing of Manchester United's England defender Phil Neville for an undisclosed fee, the Merseyside club said on Thursday.

The 28-year-old full back, who has 52 international caps, signed a five-year contract after passing a medical.

He completed the transfer in time to be eligible for Everton's Champions League third qualifying round tie with Spanish side Villarreal, the first leg of which takes place at Goodison Park on Tuesday.

Neville, who can also play in midfield, has spent his entire 10-year playing career at Manchester United after coming through the trainee ranks alongside brother Gary.

He won six Premier League titles,

three FA Cups and the Champions League.

However, he struggled to command a regular starting position last season and with next year's World Cup on the horizon he opted to move.

"I spoke to Alex Ferguson and it was made clear that I wasn't going to get enough football next season," Neville told the Everton website.

"I was frustrated last season, he knew that, and we came to an agreement that it would be best if he gave me permission to talk to other clubs."

MNA/Reuters

Real boss says competition for places tougher than ever

MADRID, 4 Aug — Competition for places at Real Madrid will be stiffer than ever next season and leading players will have to get accustomed to spending some time on the bench, coach Vanderlei Luxemburgo said on Wednesday.

"Not everyone will be able to play all the time," the Brazilian told a news conference in Madrid before the squad departed for a pre-season training camp in Austria.

"There is a lot more quality in the squad and a lot more competition, so we can afford to rotate the players a bit more. It's going to be a very demanding season."

Luxemburgo's squad could, however, soon be shorn of two big names in Portuguese winger Luis Figgo and England striker Michael Owen although the Brazilian is working on the assumption that they will remain at the club. Figgo, who lost his place in the starting line-up in the closing stages of last season, made a flying visit to

Italy to negotiate with Inter Milan on Tuesday, but has yet to agree terms with the Serie A side.

Owen, whose future has been cast into doubt after the club's decision to sign Brazilian forwards Julio Baptista and Robinho, released a statement saying he had spoken to some Premier League clubs about the possibility of leaving Real.

"Figgo is still a Real Madrid player," said Luxemburgo. "He has been in talks, but until something is decided he will remain with us just like any other player."

"Owen also has a contract with Real and I am counting on all the players that are at my disposition. Anything else is nothing to do with me."

Luxemburgo said that after an exhausting promotional tour of the US and Asia, he was impatient to get down to the hard work of preparing his new squad for the season.

"The true pre-season begins now. The tour was important and necessary for the club, but in pure sporting terms this is when the hard work begins." One of the new faces at the Austria training camp will be England defender Jonathan Woodgate.

The 25-year-old centre-back is in the final stages of recovery from a serious thigh injury that has prevented him from playing a game since signing for Real for close to 20 million euros (24.6 million US dollars) last August. — MNA/Reuters

Sugiyama stuns Kuznetsova on day of upsets

CARLSBAD (California), 5 Aug — Japan's Ai Sugiyama stunned second seed Svetlana Kuznetsova 2-6, 6-4, 6-3 in one of several upsets in the third round of the San Diego Classic on Thursday.

Russian 18-year-old Anna Chakvetadze upended ninth seed Elena Likhovtseva 6-3, 6-1 and China's Shuai Peng took down number 16 seed Dinara Safina 7-6, 6-0.

Japan's Akiko Morigami, meanwhile, ended Indian qualifier Sania Mirza's run with a 6-2, 4-6, 6-4 victory.

The 30-year-old Sugiyama counterpunched brilliantly against US Open champion Kuznetsova, who was rusty after a month's break since Wimbledon.

Kuznetsova got off to a fast start but in the second set, the Japanese veteran began to wear her down with sharply angled shots.

In the third set, Kuznetsova committed a series of unforced errors to be broken to 4-2 and lost the contest when she flailed at an easy backhand.

"She concentrated during the whole match and I didn't," said Kuznetsova.

"I had too many ups and downs. That month was the longest break I've ever had from tennis and I need some more matches before I get my form back."

After winning her first Grand Slam title at the 2004 US Open and taking the title in Bali the following week, Kuznetsova has lost her stride. She has not won a tournament since then or reached the semifinals of a grand Slam.

"I'm not very satisfied with my year," Kuznetsova said. "If you compare it to last year, maybe it's 50 per cent as good, but I can't ask that of myself all of the time. Hopefully with more matches, my confidence will come back before the US Open."

A one-time member of the world top 10, Sugiyama's level has also dropped. At the end of last year when her standard began to fall, she thought about retiring.

"I'd lost my energy and my motivation," said Sugiyama, who reached her first quarterfinal of the year.

But Sugiyama hired a new hitting partner, Italy's Simone Amorico, and is also travelling full time with a fitness trainer.

"My goal is to get back into the top 10. My fitness is getting better (and) with the new team I'm getting my confidence back," she said. "I don't want to end my career not playing at the level I'm capable of."

Sugiyama will face 15-year-old Sesil Karatantcheva, who downed American Mashona Washington 6-1, 6-2.

It is the first time since 1996 that there are no Americans in the last eight and only the second time in the 21-year history of the tournament. — MNA/Reuters



Ai Sugiyama of Japan smiles after her win against Svetlana Kuznetsova of Russia during the Acura Classic at the La Costa Resort and Spa in Carlsbad, California. Sugiyama defeated Kuznetsova 2-6, 6-4, 6-4.—INTERNET

Japan plans full-fledged revision of disarmament resolution

Tokyo, 5 August — Japan is set to completely revise a nuclear disarmament draft resolution it submits annually to the UN General Assembly, by simplifying the document and underscoring priority to restore confidence in the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, *Kyodo News* reported on Thursday.

As this year marks the 60th anniversary of the

atomic bombings of Japan's Hiroshima and Nagasaki by the United States in World War II, the revised draft resolution will declare determination to completely eliminate nuclear weapons and call on all nuclear powers to reduce their nuclear arms, including tactical nuclear weapons, in an irreversible manner. Japan has submitted the draft resolutions on nuclear disarmament, titled "A Path to the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons", to the UN General Assembly annually since 1994.

According to *Kyodo*, while partial amendments were made yearly a comprehensive revision will be made for the first time in five years in response to the significant changes in the international security environment since the 11 September terrorist attacks in the United States in 2001. The government plans to ask European and other countries to co-sponsor the draft and will submit it to the first committee of the Assembly in early October, *Kyodo* said.

The draft will urge other countries to ratify the Comprehensive Test

Ban Treaty (CTBT) to facilitate its early entry into force, even though the United States is refusing to ratify it.

The draft will also call for the continuation of moratoriums on nuclear tests and for immediate negotiations on a proposed Fissile Material Cutoff Treaty. Last year's resolution was adopted at the UN General Assembly in December with the support of 165 countries, the largest number so far.

But with opposition expected from Washington, which is opposed to CTBT ratification, it remains unclear how much impact this year's resolution will actually have on facilitating disarmament diplomacy.—*MNA/Xinhua*

According to the (06:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Sittoung River at Madauk is (1085) cm. The water level may remain above its danger level (1070) cm during the next (72) hrs commencing noon today.

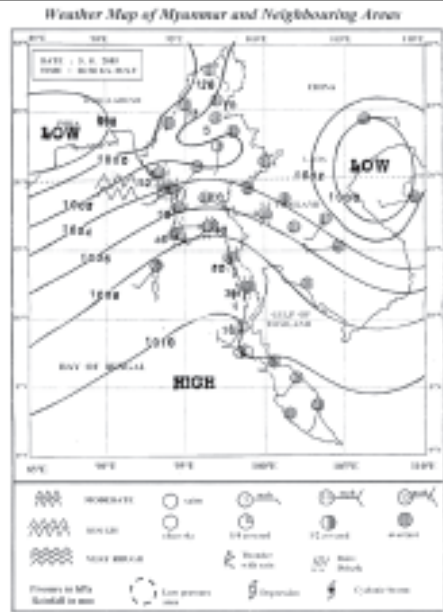


Hninzigon Home for the Aged Administrative Board Joint-Secretary U Thein Aung accepts K 200,000 donated by U Chin Chin-Daw Htay Htay Kyu of Building 63/65, Baho Road, Sangyoung Township, recently, for construction of three-storey hospital for the aged.— H

Flood Warning

(Issued at 12:30 hrs MST on 5-8-2005)

According to the (06:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Thanlwin River at Hpa-an is (734) cm. The water level may reach above its danger level (750) cm during the next (24) hrs commencing noon today.



WEATHER

Friday, 5 August, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kayah State and lower Sagaing Division and rain has been isolated in Magway Division, Shan and Chin States, scattered in upper Sagaing, Mandalay and Yangon Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with locally heavyfall in Rakhine State, isolated heavyfall in upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Maungtau (6.06) inches, Hkamti (5.87) inches, Ye (5.55) inches, An (4.84) inches and Dawei (3.19) inches.

Maximum temperature on 4-8-2005 was 86°F. Minimum temperature on 5-8-2005 was 67°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 5-8-2005 was 100%. Total sunshine hours on 4-8-2005 was 1.1 hours approx. Rainfalls on 5-8-2005 were 1.81 inches at Mingaladon, 1.66 inches at Kaba-Aye, 0.83 inch at central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were 58.15 inches at Mingaladon, 57.60 inches at Kaba-Aye and 58.35 inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 10 mph from Southwest at (23:10) hours MST on 4-8-2005.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 6-8-2005: Rain will be isolated in Kayah and Chin States, lower Sagaing and Magway Divisions, scattered in Kachin and Shan States, upper Sagaing Division and widespread in the remaining areas with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Rakhine and Mon States. 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 southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 6-8-2005: Some rain. Degree of certainty is 80%.


Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 6-8-2005: Likelihood of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is 60%.

Weather outlook for second weekend of 2005: Rain will be widespread in Yangon Division and isolated in Mandalay Division.

Flood Bulletin

(Issued at 12:30 hrs MST on 5-8-2005)

According to the (06:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Sittoung River at Madauk is (1085) cm. The water level may remain above its danger level (1070) cm during the next (72) hrs commencing noon today.



Saturday, 6 August

View on today:

7:00 am

1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Ottamathara

7:25 am

2. To be healthy exercise

7:30 am

3. Morning news

7:40 am

4. Nice and sweet song

7:55 am

5. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:05 am

6. Musical programme

8:20 am

7. ဘော်ဘင်ရေလှောင်တစ်

8:30 am

8. International news

8:45 am

9. Grammar made easy

11:00 am

1. Martial song

11:15 am

2. Musical programme

11:30 am

3. News

11:40 am

4. Games for children

12:05 pm

5. Round-up of the week's TV local news

12:35 pm

6. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတမ်းတွဲ "စောရင်စာနှင့်မိစ္ဆာစွန်းစား" (အပိုင်း-၂၆)

1:15 pm

7. ဩစတြေးလျသို့ ပြည်ပစေရာ စာပဒေသာ

1:20 pm

8. လောကနီတိ (၂) "မိတ်ကောင်းအဖွဲ့ဖွဲ့နီ" (ကိုကိုလင်းမောင်၊ မျိုးသန္တာထွန်း၊ စင်ထိုင်း၊ ရုစိစရာ) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-စင်စော်)

2:05 pm

9. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ

2:10 pm

10. (၂၃)ကြိမ်မြောက် အရှေ့တောင် အာရှအားကစားပြိုင်ပွဲအတွက် ကြီးစားလေ့ကျင့် ပြေးခုန်ပစ်

2:20 pm

11. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ

2:25 pm

12. ပြည်ထောင်စုတိုင်းရင်းသား ရိုးရာအက

2:40 pm

13. ရွှေလိပ်တား

2:45 am

14. International news

4:00 pm

1. Martial song

4:15 pm

2. Songs to uphold National Spirit

4:30 pm

3. English for everyday use

4:45 pm

4. Musical programme

5:00 pm

5. အစောသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ -ဒုတိယနှစ် (ရုက္ခဗေဒအထူးပြု) (ရုက္ခဗေဒ)

5:15 pm

6. နားထင်စီယံသူလက်သံ

5:25 pm

7. ၂၀၀၅ ခုနှစ်၊ ဇေလသမ အကြိမ်(သုကြိမ်) မြန်မာ့ရိုးရာ ယဉ်ကျေးမှု အမျိုးအနက်အရေ၊ အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲဝင်များ လေ့လာနိုင် ကြရန် (မဟာဂီတ) (ဝါသနာရှင် အဆင့်) (အမျိုးသား၊ အမျိုး သမီး)

5:35 pm

8. မြန်မာစာ မြန်မာစကား

5:45 pm

9. Musical programme

5:55 pm

10. Games for children

6:20 pm

11. Musical programme

6:30 pm

12. Evening news

7:00 pm

13. Weather report

7:05 pm

14. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတမ်းတွဲ "ရုစိစွန်းမြေသံတစ်ရာတစ်လီ" (အပိုင်း-၄၅)

7:35 pm

15. Musical programme

7:45 pm

16. မိခင်နို့ တိုက်ထွေးခြင်း၏ အကျိုးကျေးဇူးများ

8:00 pm

17. News

8:15 pm

18. International news

8:30 pm


19. Weather report

8:45 pm

20. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတမ်းတွဲ "အချစ်သံသရာ" (အပိုင်း-၆၄)

9:00 pm

21. The next day's programme



Saturday, 6 August

Tune in today:

8.30 am Brief news

8.35 am Music: -One of us

8.40 am Perspectives

8.45 am Music: You learn

8.55 am National news/Slogan

9.05 am Music: -Oh oah

9.10 am International news

9.15 am Music: -Mysterious girl

1.30 pm News/Slogan

1.40 pm Request -Always be my baby -I'll be there -In love with you

9.00 pm ASEAN Review

9.10 pm Article

9.20 pm Myanmar culture by Dr Khin Maung Nyunt -U Po Kya's History Text Book Part II

9.35 pm Souvenirs -Sweeter than you -I wish you love

9.45 pm News/Slogan

10.00 pm PEL

Out of 2.8 million acres of monsoon paddy in 2005-06, districts and townships in Bago Division (East Sector) have put 1.4 million acres under monsoon paddy to date. Officials are to make efforts for exceeding the target. In addition, preparations are to be made for growing 100,000 acres of summer paddy in the division for 2005-06.

General Soe Win sends message of sympathy to India

YANGON, 5 Aug— General Soe Win, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar has sent a message of sympathy to His Excellency Dr Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of the Republic of India on the loss of life and property caused by devastating monsoon floods in Maharashtra State on 26 July 2005.— *MNA*

Bago Division stands second position in paddy cultivation with 21% sown acreage of the nation

YANGON, 5 Aug — The ceremony to mark completion of ploughing fields for early monsoon paddy cultivation for 2005-2006 was held at the quality seed strain farm in Bago this morning, attended by member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence.

Also present on the occasion were Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Southern Command Maj-Gen Ko Ko, local authorities, departmental personnel, social organization members and local people.

Speaking on the occasion, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than said that the Government is carrying out development tasks in all regions of the nation for narrowing the gap between rural and urban regions. The State economy depends on the agricultural sector. Similarly, economic growth of rural people also depends on the agricultural development.

Targets of growing 10 main crops, three new items and three perennial crops were set for States and Divisions annually for ensuring local food sufficiency. Out of them, the government set the target to yield 1,200 million baskets of paddy from 15.04 million (See page 11)



Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspects a direct-seeding farm equipment. — MNA

Yangon Division Supervisory Committee to Ensure Smooth and Secure Transport meets



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe addresses meeting of Yangon Division Supervisory Committee to Ensure Smooth and Secure Transport. — YANGON COMMAND

YANGON, 5 Aug — Supervisory Committee to Ensure Smooth and Secure Transport in Yangon Division held a meeting at All Bus Lines Control Committee (Yangon Division) here this evening.

Chairman of the committee Chairman of

Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe delivered an address at the meeting. He said that there is a significant decrease in the number of traffic accidents and deaths. Officials should strive to further decrease the number of road accidents and to enforce traffic rules, he noted.

Heads of department and registrars of universities and colleges in Yangon and officials presented the transport arrangements being made for convenience of students and teachers and the traffic rules enforcement work.

After looking into the requirements, the commander delivered the concluding address.

MNA

Forestry Minister attends tree planting ceremony

YANGON, 5 Aug—A tree planting ceremony for ensuring greening of Bago Mountain Range took place at the Taunglaing Reserve Forest in Taikkyi Township this morning, attended by Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung, directors-general and managing directors of departments and enterprises under the Ministry of Forestry, officials from Yangon East and Yangon North District Forest Departments, local authorities, departmental officials and local people.

Those present on the occasion planted 3,600 teak saplings in the reserve forest.

Next, the minister viewed round thriving of (See page 11)



Forestry Minister Brig-Gen Thein Aung plants a teak sapling. — FORESTRY

INSIDE

Indeed, tourism is a smokeless industry through which a nation can earn foreign exchange most and that creates many jobs and other opportunities.