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Senior General Than Shwe sends message of felicitations to Indonesia

YANGON, 17 Aug— On the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of Indonesia which falls on 17 August 2005, a message of felicitations has been sent from Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, to His Excellency Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, President of the Republic of Indonesia. — MNA

Work began on the construction of the Ponnyataung railroad tunnel, a section of Gangaw-Kale Railroad, on 18 February, 1996. Now, boring of the tunnel has completed and it is 5,610 feet long.

Boring of Ponnyataung tunnel completed through self-reliant efforts Laying of rails will be completed by March, 2006

Prime Minister General Soe Win inspects Ponnyataung railroad tunnel construction



Prime Minister General Soe Win inspects construction of Ponnyataung railroad tunnel in Gangaw Township. — MNA

YANGON, 16 Aug — Prime Minister General Soe Win, accompanied by Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-

Gen Tha Aye, the ministers and deputy ministers and officials, on 14 August afternoon inspected construction of Ponnyataung railroad tunnel in Gangaw Township.

First, the prime minister and party inspected

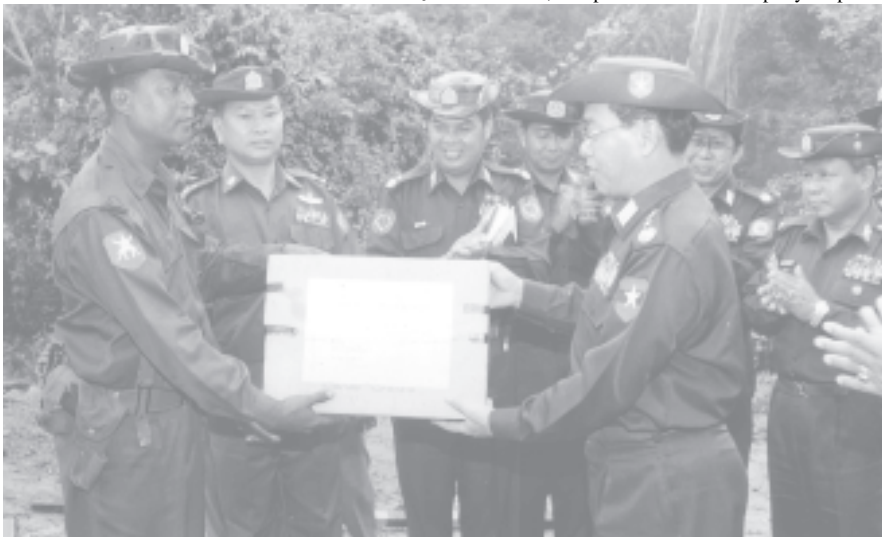
extension of Pale-Gangaw Road on Pontaung Mountain range and presented gifts to the Tatmadawmen who had taken part in construction of the road.

Next, Prime Minister General Soe Win and party inspected the construction of Ponnyataung railroad tunnel including progress of work at the west portal of the tunnel. They greeted engineers and staff of Myanma Railways and had a documentary photo taken.

At the briefing hall of the tunnel construction project, Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min reported to the prime minister. He said that work began on the construction of the Ponnyataung railroad tunnel, a section of Gangaw-Kale Railroad, on 18 February, 1996.

Now, boring of the tunnel has completed and it is 5,610 feet long. Engineers, staff personnel of the Myanma Railways had tunnelled the mountain simultaneously from east and west sides of it. It is

(See page 7)



Prime Minister General Soe Win presents gift to Tatmadawmen who are taking part in the construction of Pale-Gangaw Road on Ponnya Mountain Range. — MNA

INSIDE

The national culture of national races residing together in a nation usually flourishes with own style, own norm and own principle on the basis of their religion, traditions and customs and literature.

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(TEKKATHO TIN KHA)

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

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 17 August, 2005

Produce goods of high quality

The government is striving for the development of the industrial sector by encouraging private industries in order that the Union of Myanmar can be on a par with other industrialized nations. In enhancing the nation's industrial sector in accordance with the market-oriented economic system, priority is being given to participation of private industrialists and production of import-substitute items sufficient to meet the domestic demand.

For development of industries, private industries scattered all over the nation have been mobilized into 19 industrial zones and the government is rendering all the necessary assistance to them. Prime Minister General Soe Win met with members of the Pakokku Industrial Zone Supervisory Committee and industrialists in Pakokku, Magway Division, on 14 August.

At the meeting, the Prime Minister said that the purpose of establishing industrial zones in the regions where there are private industries was to bring about parallel development of industries in these regions, that the Pakokku Industrial Zone should produce jeeps and trucks based on their own technology and experience and that, in doing so, they should constantly innovate new ideas and products without relying much on the government.

Industrialists are required to try as much as they can to modernize their workshops and factories and to improve the quality of their products. Seven hundred and fourteen plots of land in the Pakokku Industrial Zone have been allotted to industrialists. The establishment of the Pakokku Industrial Zone has paved the way for production of new items and created job opportunities. Now the zone produces foodstuffs, textiles, farm machinery, jeeps, 10-wheel trucks and other vehicles.

In Pakokku Township, a textile factory is being built and it will soon be completed and commissioned into service. Therefore, we would like to call on the industrialists to work for the nation's industrial sector by making the best use of the assistance rendered by the government and to produce goods of high quality.

MWEA to mark its 10th anniversary

YANGON, 16 Aug—The Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs Association will celebrate its 10th anniversary of its founding in conjunction with its 10th annual general meeting at the Sedona Hotel at 9 am on 21 August.

All the members of the panel of patrons, advisers, executives and members are to attend the ceremony without fail. And a dinner to mark the anniversary will be hosted at 6 pm the same day.

MNA

တုပ်ကွေးရောဂါမှကာကွယ်ရန်

- * နေပူလှေ့ခြင်း၊ ရေချိုးခြင်းကို ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
 - * တစ်ကိုယ်ရည် သန့်ရှင်းရေးကို ဂရုစိုက်ပါ။
 - * လူများပြားထူထပ်သောနေရာများကို ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
 - * နှာချေလျှင်၊ ချောင်းဆိုးလျှင်၊ လက်ကိုဝါးဖြင့်ဖုတ်အုပ်ပါ။
 - * ဖျားနာမည်တူသံသယရှိပါက ရေများများသောက်ပါ။ အနားယူပါ။
 - * အာဟာရပြည့်ဝအောင် စားသုံးပါ။
 - * ဗီတာမင်စီအပြည့်အဝပါသော အသီးအနှံနှင့်အရွက်များကို စားပါ။
- လိုအပ်ပါက နီးရာဆေးပေးခန်း၊ ဆေးရုံများသို့ သွားရောက်ပြသစစ်ဆေးမှုခံယူပါ။

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

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

Commander, Mayor inspect proper drainage in city



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Linn inspect sanitation tasks in South Okkalapa Township. — YANGON COMMAND

YANGON, 16 Aug — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein

Lin inspected proper drainage and upgrading of streets in the city this morning. The commander and the mayor inspected sanitation work along Bayintnaung Road near Institute of Marine Technology in Kamayut Township and

Thamainbaran Road in Tamway Township, on Pyay Road in front of the National Museum and Waizayanta Road in South Okkalapa Township, laying concrete slabs on the pavement in front of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, nurseries

of toddy palm in the People's Park and roadwork near Waizayanta and Parami Roads.

They gave instructions on maintenance of pavement and called for cooperation in efforts to make the city clean and pleasant.— MNA

Basic cricket instructor course No 1/2005 concludes

YANGON, 16 Aug — The conclusion of the basic cricket instructor course No 1/2005 was held at the meeting hall of Aung San Stadium yesterday.

Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint donated K 1 million for promotion of cricket to President of

Myanmar Cricket Federation U Nyunt Win.

The minister presented prizes to outstanding trainees and cricket equipment to six basic education high schools in Yangon Division and Mandalay Division Sports and Physical Education Department.

The president of MCF presented prizes to the best players.—MNA



President of Myanmar Cricket Federation U Myunt Win presents a trophy to winner team. — MCF

Talks to impart knowledge on ISO 9000 and TQM held

YANGON, 16 Aug — Talks to impart knowledge on ISO 9000 and TQM cosponsored by the Standardization Sub-Committee of the

Myanma Industrial Development Work Committee and the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry was held at

the meeting hall of the UMFCCI this afternoon.

Secretary of the Standardization Sub-Committee Director-General of Myanma Science

and Technology Research Department under the Ministry of Science and Technology U Tin Htut and Vice-President of the UMFCCI U Zaw Min Win made opening speeches on the occasion.

Afterwards, head of the Standardization Department, directors and researchers presented the salient points of ISO 9000 and TQM and exchanged views with entrepreneurs of the respective industrial zones.

MNA



Talks to impart knowledge on ISO 9000 and TQM in progress. UMFCCI

China remembers war to promote peace

BEIJING, 15 Aug— Chinese President Hu Jintao said here Sunday the Chinese people are commemorating the victory of the resistance war against Japanese aggression to keep history in mind, cherish peace and create a better future.

"We will seize the opportunity to concentrate on Construction and development," Hu said during his visit to a large-scale commemorative exhibition held near the Lugou Bridge (also known as the Marco Polo Bridge).

"We will always steadfastly pursue the peaceful development road and join with all nations in the world to collectively advance the lofty causes of peace and development of humankind," said Hu. The exhibition, which is about the 60th anniversary of the victory of China's resistance war against Japanese aggression and the world war against fascists, consists of pictures, relics, reconstructed scenes and other articles to reflect the war period.

Hu presented a basket of flowers to a large scale sculpture of a mass of people entitled the Bronze and Iron Walls, which portrays the Chinese civilians and Army joining hands to fight Japanese aggressors.

At the close of the visit, Hu said holding the exhibition at the 60th anniversary of the victory of China's resistance war against Japanese aggression is of great significance.

"The exhibition faithfully reflects the glorious path of the Chinese people's heroic fight against Japanese aggressors," said Hu. "They are vivid teaching materials for education in patriotism among the people, especially the young people." —MNA/Xinhua



Employees describe the attack of a suicide bomber in front of their restaurant, on 15 August, 2005, in Baghdad, Iraq.—INTERNET

Haze in northern Malaysia persists, criticism grows

KUALA LUMPUR, 15 Aug— A choking smog persisted over northern Malaysia on Sunday as Kuala Lumpur lashed out at Indonesia's handling of forest fires causing the haze.

Environment officials said the northern states of Penang, Perlis, Kedah and Perak were still badly hit by the smoke blown in from forest fires in neighbouring Indonesia's Sumatra.

Malaysia on Saturday lifted a state of emergency in two areas near the capital after air pollution levels drifted below the danger mark, easing the nation's worst pollution crisis in eight years.

Changing winds dispersed the smog to the northern states, forcing flag carrier Malaysian Airline System to cancel six flights to the northern cities on Saturday. Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said the government would remain on alert due to raging fires in Sumatra, separated from Malaysia by the narrow Malacca Strait.

"With the unpredictable wind patterns and presence of fire, anything can happen," he said.

But the harshest word came from Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar, who said the health of Malaysians was at stake.

"Indonesia must be made aware of the extent of our people's sufferings," he told the *New Sunday Times* in an interview.—MNA/Reuters

US lowers sights on what can be accomplished in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 15 Aug—US President George W Bush and his administration are significantly lowering expectations of what can be achieved in Iraq, recognizing that the United States will have to settle for far less progress than originally envisioned during the transition due to end in four months, the *Washington Post* said Sunday.

The US no longer expects to see a model new democracy, a self-supporting oil industry or a society in which the majority of people are free from serious security or economic challenges, the leading newspaper said.

"What we expected to achieve was never realistic given the time-table or what unfolded on the ground," an unidentified senior US official involved in policy since the 2003 invasion of Iraq was quoted as saying.

"We are in a process of absorbing the factors of

the situation we're in and shedding the unreality that dominated at the beginning," the official said.

The goal now is to ensure a Constitution that can be easily amended later so Iraq can grow into a democracy, US officials say.

On security, the Bush Administration originally expected the US-led coalition to be welcomed with rice and rosewater, traditional Arab greetings, with only a limited reaction from loyalists of ousted Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.—MNA/Xinhua

Kuwait reports biggest drug seizure in Middle East

KUWAIT CITY, 15 Aug—Kuwait authorities announced on Sunday the seizure of around 1,000 kilos of smuggled narcotics, marking the biggest single haul in the Middle East, the *Kuwait News Agency* (KNA) reported.

Director General of the Hawally Criminal Investigation Ahmad Al-Abdullah Al-Khalifa Al-Sabah said that the smuggled narcotics, contained in

narrow plastic tubes woven into the fabric of a large carpet, were discovered and seized at Kuwait International Airport. The smugglers were two students who used an innovative way to bring in drugs, sale of which was to be used to finance terrorist plots, he disclosed. He said there was a tip-off a month and a half ago on this operation, obtained through out-of-border investigation.—MNA/Xinhua

Coach-train collision in Vietnam kills 10, injures 15

HANOI, 15 Aug—A coach crashed into a train in Vietnam's central Binh Dinh Province on Sunday afternoon, killing 10 people and injuring 15 others.

The coach with 25 passengers on board collided with the train departing from Hanoi on the north-south railway in the province, the *Vietnam News Agency* reported Sunday evening. All the dead and injured were the coach's passengers. According to local authority's initial reports, the coach driver might pay inadequate attention when crossing the railway. The case is under investigation. Vietnam experienced 7,375 traffic accidents with 5,747 fatalities and 6,388 injuries in the first half of this year, posting year-on-year decreases of 19 per cent, 5.7 per cent and 25.6 per cent, respectively.—MNA/Xinhua

Disaster relief continues in quake-hit areas in Yunnan Province

KUNMING, 15 Aug—More than 1,000 Army men and militia men have joined in the disaster relief efforts in Wenshan County of southwest China's Yunnan Province which was hit by an earthquake measuring 5.3 on the Richter Scale on Saturday.

As of 6 p.m. Sunday, they had evacuated more than 12,000 people and rescued more than 600 from dangerous sites. At the same time, they had helped build over 300 shelters for quake victims.

The epicentre of the quake was determined to be at the juncture of three towns of Matang, Binglie and Hongdian in the county which is under the jurisdiction of the Zhuang-Miao Autonomous Prefecture of Wenshan. The earthquake has destroyed houses and damaged reservoirs, highways and telecommunication facilities. The quake left 26 people injured, according to the local government sources.—MNA/Xinhua



Malaysian firefighters carry their belongings as they arrive in Pekanbaru airport, the capital city of Riau Province, Indonesia, on 15 August, 2005. Malaysia sent firefighters and a rescue team to help Indonesia fight the forest fires on the islands of Sumatra and Borneo. —INTERNET



An Iraqi youth is carried into Al-Rahbat Hospital after being injured in a suicide bomb attack in Baghdad on 15 August, 2005. —INTERNET

ဝက်မှစွမ်းအား ခေတ်ကျော်လွှား

Pakistan to contribute for regional peace, security

ISLAMABAD, 15 Aug — Pakistani Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz said Sunday that his country was pursuing an independent foreign policy and it would make every possible contribution for regional peace and security.

Addressing the nation after the flag hoisting ceremony in Islamabad on the occasion to celebrate Pakistan's 58th anniversary of independence from the British rule in 1947, Aziz said a strong and stable Afghanistan was not only in the interests of Pakistan but also for the region and the world.

strategic partner of Pakistan and Islamabad was striving to improve its relations with the United States and the European Union, Aziz said Look East was a new element in the country's foreign policy and Islamabad was giving new dimensions to its relations with countries like Malaysia, South Korea, Thailand and Singapore.

While emphasizing China was a

MNA/Xinhua

Body of crashed Cyprus plane's pilot found

GRAMMATIKO, 16 Aug — Rescue workers on Monday recovered the body of the pilot of a Cypriot plane that crashed in Greece with all 121 passengers and crew, believed dead or unconscious when the Boeing 737 plunged to earth.

Most bodies recovered from the plane were "frozen solid", a Greek Defence Ministry source said.

Rescuers said they had also recovered the plane's two black box flight recorders, including the one that records pilot conversations, crucial to determining the cause of the worst air disaster in Greece and the worst involving a Cypriot airline.

Relatives of some victims, many already enraged by delays in Helios Airways releasing details of passengers on board, were on their way from Cyprus to the crash site near Athens to start the grim task of trying to identify loved ones.

The Mediterranean island of Cy-

prus started three days of mourning with flags at half mast in a long weekend holiday that is the busiest of the summer for Greeks and Cypriots.

Sunday's crash perplexed aviation experts astounded by what appeared to have been a catastrophic failure of cabin pressure or oxygen supply at 35,000 feet — nearly 10 kilometres (six miles) up, higher than Mount Everest.

Many questions remained, including how the plane appeared to fly for nearly an hour with the pilot and co-pilot already unconscious or dead. Media speculated the plane may have been on auto pilot before its approach to Athens airport.

MNA/Reuters

Kissinger finds parallels to Vietnam in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 15 Aug—An architect of the US war in Vietnam more than 30 years ago said Sunday that he has "a very uneasy feeling" that some of the same factors that damaged support for the conflict there are re-emerging in the 2-year-old war in Iraq.

"For me, the tragedy of Vietnam was the divisions that occurred in the United States that made it, in the end, impossible to achieve an outcome that was compatible with the sacrifices that had been made," former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger told CNN's "Late Edition with Wolf Blitzer."

Support for the war has dropped in recent polls, and criticism of President Bush's handling of the conflict has grown.

The latest CNN/USA Today/Gallup poll, taken on 5-7 Aug, found that 54 percent of those surveyed thought the 2003 invasion of Iraq was a mistake.

Kissinger said the United States faces a battle to halt the spread of radical Islam in Iraq, and it would be "a catastrophe for the whole world" if it fails.

Kissinger, who served as national security adviser and secretary of state

in the Nixon and Ford administrations, said the United States should remove any troops that are not necessary to the American goal of stabilizing Iraq, "But we cannot begin with an exit without having first defined what the objective is."

"If a radical government emerges in Baghdad or if any part of Iraq becomes what Afghanistan used to be, a training ground for terrorists, then this will be a catastrophe for the Islamic world and for Europe, much as they may — reluctant as they may be to admit it — and eventually for us." US losses have spiked sharply in August, with 54 Americans killed in Iraq since the beginning of the month. Iraq's transitional government faces a Monday deadline to present a proposed constitution for an October referendum, followed by elections for a permanent government.

Internet

India unveils tough anti-hijack policy

NEW DELHI, 15 Aug— Unveiling a tough anti-hijack policy, the Indian Government on Sunday said any hijacked plane being used as a missile to target vital installations like the 9/11 terror attack would be shot down.

The policy, cleared by the Cabinet Committee on Securities (CCS), ruled out negotiations with hijackers on their demands and said talks would only be aimed at preventing the loss of life or ending the incident.

Outlining the measures, Defence Minister Pranab Mukherjee told PTI if the hijacking took place on the Indian soil, the aircraft would be immobilized and not allowed to take off.

On not holding talks with hijackers, he said these would only be aimed at rescuing the aircraft and passengers, and if the plane was hijacked to a third country, negotiations would be conducted with authorities concerned.

Mukherjee said if the aircraft was in

Indian air space, Air Force fighters would be scrambled to intercept it and force it to land on the Indian soil.

On shooting down the aircraft, the Minister said these would be undertaken in extreme circumstances as happened in the 9/11 terror attack.

He said the aircraft would be shot if it chose not to identify itself and appeared to have evil intentions of targeting vital installations.

The CCS gave its approval to fresh proposals by Bureau of Civil Aviation Security, Indian Air Force and other agencies to tighten existing guidelines in view of the September 11 terror attack in the US and Kandahar hijack in December, 1999.— MNA/PTI

Three US soldiers killed by bomb in northern Iraq

BAGHDAD, 15 Aug — Three US soldiers were killed and another was wounded when their patrol struck a roadside bomb in northern Iraq, the US military said on Sunday.

The attack at Tuz, some 180 kilometres (110 miles) north of Baghdad, occurred late on Friday, the military said in a statement. It gave no further details.

Four US soldiers were killed and six were wounded in an attack on a patrol in the same area on Tuesday.

US commanders have acknowledged guerillas have been designing more effective bombs, killing entire crews of armoured vehicles with increasing frequency.

MNA/Reuters



A worker checks electronic chips through a microscope at Agilent Technology's hub in Singapore. Agilent said it would sell its semiconductor operations for 2.66 billion dollars as it reorganizes to focus on its core business of electronic and scientific measurement —INTERNET



Chinese soldiers repair a section of the bank along the Hunhe River that is damaged by rain-storms in Shengyang, northeast China's Liaoning Province, on 15 August, 2005.

INTERNET

Ghana, US company sign MoU for Floating Storage Oil

NAIROBI, 15 Aug— Ghanaian Ministry of Energy and Kampac Oil Company of the US have signed a 70-million-dollar memorandum of understanding for a Floating Storage Oil (FSO) Unit, *Ghana News Agency* reported on Saturday.

The FSO Unit is a large oil facility, which is part of the deregulation process and will sit offshore Tema with fuel for sale to buyers across the country. It will enable persons interested in setting up fuel filling stations and oil marketing companies to do so easily and make pricing competitive.

The FSO Unit will have a storage size of 2.3

million barrels, approximately 310,000 tons with five compartments for crude oil, fuel oil, gas oil, petrol and kerosene.

Briefing the media before the signing, Charles Ampofo, chairman of Kampac Oil said energy had become the most defining issue in the West African country.

"One thing is certain, the era of dependence on

other countries for easy oil is over. What we do next will determine how well we meet the energy challenges of this century and the next."

He said in order to increase investment attraction and meet its demand in this current competitive world, Ghana would require increasing energy at reasonable cost and price. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Iran defies demand to halt uranium conversion

TEHRAN, 15 Aug— Iran said on Sunday that it would never resume suspension of its sensitive uranium conversion at Isfahan plant, but negotiate keeping uranium enrichment work frozen at Natanz.

"Iran would never again suspend its uranium conversion activities. The Isfahan case is over, and we are to negotiate on matters of Natanz," Mohammad Saeedi, Deputy Chief of Iran's Atomic Energy Organization, told state television.

Meanwhile, Foreign Ministry spokesman Hamid-Reza Asefi told his weekly news briefing that Iran's next step would depend on the European Union's (EU) future moves.

"The Europeans' behaviour in the upcoming days will play a determining role in Iran's future decisions including resumption of nuclear work at Natanz power plant," Asefi was quoted by the official *IRNA* news agency as saying.

The spokesman reiterated Iran's rejection of the resolution adopted by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on Thursday, which urged Iran to re-establish full suspension of all enrichment-related

activities.

"Suspension of nuclear activities at Isfahan's uranium conversion facilities is not on agenda at all," he said.

The IAEA board of governors has asked the chief of the UN nuclear watchdog Mohamed El Baradei to report on 3 September about Iran's compliance with its resolution.

Asefi also dismissed US President George Bush's recent remarks that all options, including the use of force, are on the table over Iran's nuclear programme.

Iran restarted uranium conversion in the Isfahan facilities last week regardless of the stern warnings of the EU and the United States to refer Iran to the UN Security Council for possible sanctions if it resumed nuclear fuel work.

MNA/Xinhua

Spanish troops die in Afghan crash

MADRID, 16 Aug — Spain's Defence Minister has said he does not rule out hostile fire as the possible cause of a helicopter crash in Afghanistan that killed 17 Spanish soldiers.

"It may have been an accident or it may have been an attack from the outside," Bono told a news conference. "It has absolutely not been ruled out that it might have been an attack."

Earlier Tuesday, Spanish officials confirmed the country's first troop fatalities in Afghanistan. The troops were serving under NATO command as part of a Spanish contingent of about 800 peacekeeping troops there. A spokesman in the Spanish Prime Minister's office told CNN "a helicopter crashed" although he had no immediate further information on the circumstances of the accident, near the western Afghan city on Herat. Fighting has been raging between US and Afghan forces and Taliban militants during the runup to the 18 September Afghan parliamentary elections.

MNA/Xinhua

Quake jolts northern Japan, injuries reported

TOKYO, 16 Aug — A strong earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 6.8 jolted northern Japan on Tuesday, and media reports said some people had been injured.

Buildings also swayed in Tokyo, about 300 kilometres (190 miles) to the south, when the tremor struck at 11:46 am (0246 GMT).

A tsunami warning was issued for the coast of Miyagi prefecture and some buildings had been damaged, TV reports said.

The region is a mostly agricultural area with several large cities and some high-tech factories.

An official in Sendai, a city with a population of about one million, said some people were injured at an indoor swimming pool after parts fell from the roof.

Early reports said the injured could total as many as 80 but NHK said one person had been seriously hurt and 13 others were slightly injured.

Trains were halted, although there were no reports of derailments, and some soon resumed ser-

vice.

Tokyo's major airports resumed operations after runways were briefly closed for checks.

There was also a report of a landslide but it was not clear if people had been injured.

About 17,000 households were without electricity, Tohoku Electric said. "Things were falling off the shelf, but otherwise it seems business as usual for the most part," said Takeshi Saito, a flight instructor in Sendai.

The focus of the tremor was 20 kilometres below the sea off the coast of Miyagi, the Japan Meteorological Agency said.

Tohoku Electric said all three nuclear power generators at its Onagawa plant stopped automatically after the quake and Nippon Oil said it suspended operations at its refinery in the district.

MNA/Reuters

Pakistan negotiating for 75 "F-16s"

ISLAMABAD, 15 Aug — Pakistan, which would get the first delivery of two *F-16* fighters by year end, has said it is currently negotiating with the US for 75 aircraft.

"Pakistan should be getting two *F-16s* by December and a number of stages have passed ever since Washington approved the sale of *F-16s* to Pakistan early this year and things have moved smoothly on this front," Pakistan's Ambassador to the US Jehangir Karamat said. Right now the exact configuration, cost and numbers are being negotiated between the two coun-

tries. "We are looking at something like 75 *F-16s*," he told Pakistan's official new agency *APP*.

Pakistan has around 32 *F-16s* made in 1980s which continue to be its mainstay and hopes to refurbish its fleet with a combination of new and serviced *F-16s*. The package of 75 *F-16s* was expected to cost around three billion dollars. Commenting on the recent US-India de-

fence agreement, Karamat, a former Army chief, said Pakistan was carefully analysing it and "Islamabad has its own relationship with the US which is independent of the relationship the US has with India."

About US-India civil nuclear cooperation, he said the deal has to pass through certain stages like approval by the US Congress followed by enactment of legislation. "Those things are

going to take time and we will see how it goes."

Pakistan does not want any upset in the balance of power between the two states, "as, then, Pakistan has to inevitably take steps to redress that (an imbalance)." I think, this is an accord, which sort of, sets the criteria which a state has to meet to be eligible for such a cooperation with the US," Karamat said.

MNA/PTI

Canadian merchant abducted and murdered in Iraq

OTTAWA, 15 Aug—A Canadian man has been killed in Iraq by kidnappers.

Officials announced Monday that Zaid Meerwali, who held dual Canadian-Iraqi citizenship, was abducted on 2 August and murdered. Prime Minister Paul Martin issued a statement expressing condolences to the man's family and condemning the murder.

Internet



A cargo ship waits to be unloaded at Singapore's main container port on 15 August, 2005.—INTERNET

Myanma fine arts, own national culture

(Tekkatho Tin Kha)

Although many periods have passed, Myanma songs, Myanma dances and Myanma music remain the eye-catching performing arts for Myanmar people. In other words, they are invaluable cultural heritage handed down by ancestors of Myanmars.

At present, efforts are being made to revitalize the invaluable cultural heritage of Myanmar.

The State Peace and Development Council has been holding the Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions on a grand scale as national level competitions.

The Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competi-

tions organized by the State has now entered its 13th year. There is a saying which goes "If the culture is lost so will the race". Myanma culture is the soul and heart of Myanmars.

The national culture of national races residing together in a nation usually flourishes with own style, own norm and own principle on the basis of their religion, traditions and customs and literature. Hence, the national culture is own quality overwhelmed by religion and traditions and customs of a race. Likewise, the national character is also a characteristic of the said race.

In other words, the perpetuation of the national culture and character highlights strong spirit, patriotism, firm national-

istic fervour, safeguarding national prestige and integrity and wisdom and prowess of the respective races.

The fine arts of an era depicts the living standard of a country. The city states such as Beikthano, Srikestra and

Hanlin that flourished about 2000 years ago and city states such as contemporary Vesali of Rakhine and Suvanna Bhummi of Mon were endowed with high civilization.

According to the Chinese records, music of

younger brother of the King Thunanda and 35 musicians. According to the Chinese records, the cultural mission presented their entertainment with 22 kinds of musical instruments which are made up of metal, oyster shell, bamboo, leather, horn and ivory.

Out of singing, dancing, composing and playing music, singing is the earliest one. Even at the time before literature came into existence there was singing. When literature emerged there was composing.

In Myanmar literature, composing of Myanmar literature was found round about 900 BC.

Popa Nattaung verse, which came into existence in the time of King Thaylekyang round about 900 BC (266-309 ME), was the earliest composing of Myanmar literature. The researchers unanimously approved that when one recited the verse one felt its rhythm.

Stone inscriptions of various eras found at the pagodas tell us that beginning from the Pyu era, the performing arts developed throughout the Bagan, Pinya, Myinsaing, Sagaing, Inwa, Toungoo, Nyaungyan and Konboun periods. According to the Pyu records, the performing arts gradually improved in harmony with the innovations. The statues of Srikestra era

show the style of the traditional dances during the time and those of Shwezigon pagoda, the dance styles of Bagan period. Although the performing arts did not develop much more in Myinsaing and Pinyeras, they continued to exist.

The doyen artistes of ancient times loved and cherished Myanmar traditional performing arts. They recorded the traditional cultural performing arts with stone inscriptions for the future generations. The ancient Myanmars had shown the way to preserve Myanmar performing arts and handed them down to future generations. The genuine Myanmar songs have great artistic value. They help make Myanmars to love and value the national prestige. The loss of Myanmar culture can be followed by the loss of race. We would like to praise the thousand-year old Myanmar performing arts.

We can study the history of Myanmar performing arts in Myanmar literature. With this article we honour the Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions for helping preserve the genuine Myanmar traditions and culture.

Translation: TS+TMT
(Myanmar Alin, Kyemon: 16-8-2005)

The doyen artistes of ancient times loved and cherished Myanmar traditional performing arts. They recorded the traditional cultural performing arts with stone inscriptions for the future generations. The ancient Myanmars had shown the way to preserve Myanmar performing arts and handed them down to future generations. The genuine Myanmar songs have great artistic value. They help make Myanmars to love and value the national prestige.



A girl competes in the dancing contest of 12th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions.

Pyu era had been most enchanting. At the end of 800 BC, the Pyu king sent a mission of Pyu to the palace of the Chinese king. The mission included musicians, dancers and singers of Pyu.

One will be able to imagine and assess the standard of the performing arts of Pyu era, which had been able to penetrate and attract China which enjoyed the high civilization.

In 801-802 BC, a special cultural mission led by Pyu King Yon Chan arrived in Chiangan, China. The cultural mission was accompanied by

Nigeria intensifies campaign for permanent seat at UN

NAIROBI, 16 Aug — Nigeria has launched a campaign for a permanent representation on the United Nations Security Council, citing the size and population of the oil rich West African country as factors for consideration, Ghana News Agency reported on Sunday.

"Nigeria is a regional power in its own right. It is a potential economic giant. With an estimated population of 130 million, Nigeria is easily the largest single market in Africa," Abdullahi Adamu, executive governor of Nasarawa state of Nigeria, was quoted as saying at the weekend in Accra, the capital of Ghana.

Adamu, who was a guest speaker at the

launch of a 319-page book that eulogized the foreign policies of Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo, at a seaside hotel in Accra, said his country was the most populous Black nation in the world.

"One out of every four Africans is a Nigerian. One out of every five Blacks in the world is a Nigerian," he said, attracting cheers at the function

attended by Ghana's Vice-President Alhaji Aliu Mahama and ministers of state from the two West African countries.

Adamu said although the UN effected some reforms in 1965 by increasing the membership of the Security Council from 11 to 15, no change was made to the five permanent members structure.

MNA/Xinhua

Collision kills at least 16 near Dar-es-Salaam

DAR-ES SALAAM, 16 Aug — At least 16 people were killed on the spot late on Sunday when a bus and a heavy-duty truck collided near Dar-es-Salaam, according to police sources.

Coast Regional Police Commander Ali Mbilikila told the Press that the fatal accident had occurred at Kibaha, just outside the city of Dar-es-Salaam, where a Shabaha bus and a Scania truck rammed into each other.

The bus was travelling from Arusha to Dar-es-Salaam while the truck was going from Dar-es-Salaam to Tanga.

The injured had been hurried to nearby hospitals and clinics for first-aid treatment but police feared that

the death toll might rise as some of the hospitalized were seriously injured.

The police have detained the drivers of both the bus and the truck as eyewitnesses claimed that they were speeding and driving carelessly.

Reckless driving accounted for 76 per cent of the road accidents between 1999 and 2004 while unworthy motor vehicles caused 16 per cent of the accidents. The remaining 8 per cent of accidents were caused by poor road conditions in the country.

MNA/Xinhua

Ponnyatang railroad tunnel to contribute towards development of Pakokku, Kale and Gangaw regions

(from page 1)

expected that laying of railways will be completed by March, 2006.

Afterwards, Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation U Pe Than reported on tunnel construction work, construction of bridges on Kyaw-Yemyatni Railroad section, arrangements for laying of railways, construction of railroad meeting with ASEAN standards and requirements to be fulfilled.

After hearing reports, Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave instructions.

Next, Prime Minister General Soe Win said that the railroad tunnel is the fruit of the efforts of Myanma Railways, and the officials are to carry out the tasks systematically. The railroad tunnel is 14 feet and 3 inches in width and 19 feet and 4 inches in height. It is 5610 feet long.

ChaugU-Pakokku-Gangaw-Kale Railroad plays a part in implementing the development



Prime Minister General Soe Win and party pose for a photo together with officials and engineers at eastern entrance of the tunnel. — MNA

tasks in the region west of Chindwin River and Ayeyawady River.

The 142.54-mile-long ChaugU-Kyaw Railroad Section and 105.35-mile-long Yemyatni-Gangaw-Kale Railroad Section on

the ChaugU-Pakokku-Gangaw-Kale Railroad have been inaugurated.

Ponnyataung Railroad tunnel is on Kyaw-Yemyatni Railroad Section of the Pakokku-Kale-Gangaw Railroad.

Out of 130 bridges on Kyaw-Yemyatni Railroad Section, 121 have been constructed.

The prime minister and party also inspected progress of a bridge on the railway near the tunnel.

Upon completion of the railroad tunnel, people can travel along Pakokku-Kale-Gangaw railroad. Therefore, Ponnyatang railroad tunnel will make a valuable contribution towards the development of Pakokku, Kale and Gangaw regions and its neighbouring regions. — MNA

The railroad tunnel is 14 feet and 3 inches in width and 19 feet and 4 inches in height. It is 5610 feet long.

ChaugU-Pakokku-Gangaw-Kale Railroad plays a part in implementing the development tasks in the region west of Chindwin River and Ayeyawady River.

The 142.54-mile-long ChaugU-Kyaw Railroad Section and 105.35-mile-long Yemyatni-Gangaw-Kale Railroad have been inaugurated.

Foreign Minister felicitates Indonesian counterpart

YANGON, 17 Aug— On the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of Indonesia which falls on 17 August 2005, U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Dr N Hassan Wirajuda, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia. — MNA

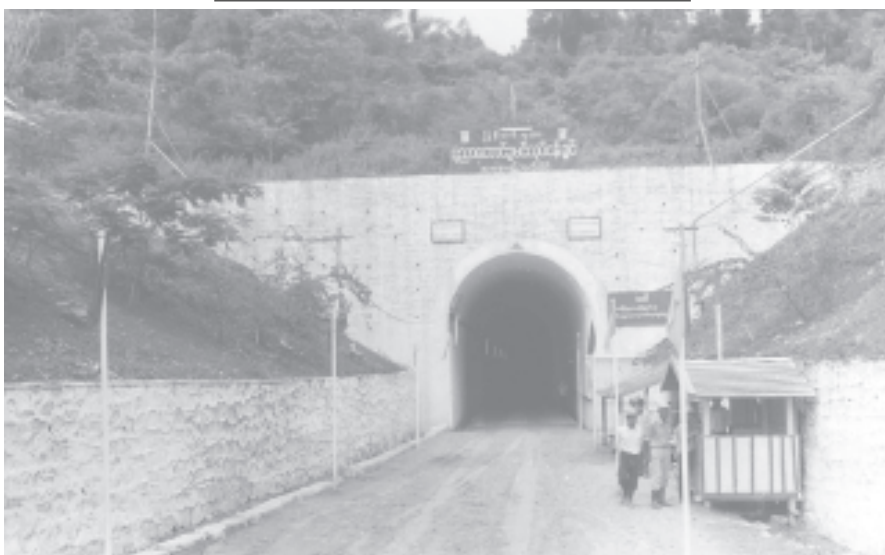
Workshop on Resources Mobilization-Skill Development for Project Proposal Writing & Communication kicks off

YANGON, 16 Aug — Workshop on Resources Mobilization-Skill Development for Project Proposal Writing and Communication organized by Ministry of Health and WHO was opened this morning at the Traders' Hotel here with opening addresses by Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint and Resident Representative of WHO Prof Adik Wibowo.

In his opening address, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint said that in an effort to raise health standards of Myanmar, the Ministry of Health is implementing the long- and short-term plans such as Myanmar Health Vision 2030, National Health Plan (2001-2006), rural health development plan (2001-2006) and plan for upgrading hospitals.

It is important for those participating in implementing the plans to acquire writing skill for project proposal and communication, he added.

Technical Officer (Resource Mobilization) Ms Clare Elizabeth Creo of WHO, Facts International Managing Director Mr Finlay Craig and medical experts participated in the workshop. Senior officials, doctors and researchers under the Ministry of Health also attended the workshop which will last till 19 August.



The western entrance of Ponnyataung railway tunnel on Pakokku-Kalay-Gangaw Railroad. — MNA

Htilin sees better transport thanks to concerted efforts of officials at different levels and the people



Prime Minister General Soe Win and party pay homage to Buddha Statue near ShwetaungOo Pagoda. — MNA

(from page 16)

the Htilin People's Hospital.

Next, member of Central Panel of Patrons of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Prime Minister General Soe Win met executives of the Township USDA and members at the USDA Office.

Later, they inspected Winthuzha Shop of the Ministry of Industry-1 in Htilin.

At 10.30 am, the Prime Minister met departmental officials, members of social organizations and townsenders at the Township PDC Office.

At the meeting, the Chairman of the Township PDC presented matters on self-sufficiency in



Prime Minister General Soe Win inspects booth of Myanmar culture of the Ministry of Education in Monywa. — MNA

Inndaw River Water Pumping Project is built near Inndaw Village in Budalin Township. Inndaw Village and nearby villages are in the arid zone and they mainly rely on rain. That was why the Head of State gave guidance on implementation of river water pumping project for cultivation of crops all year round.

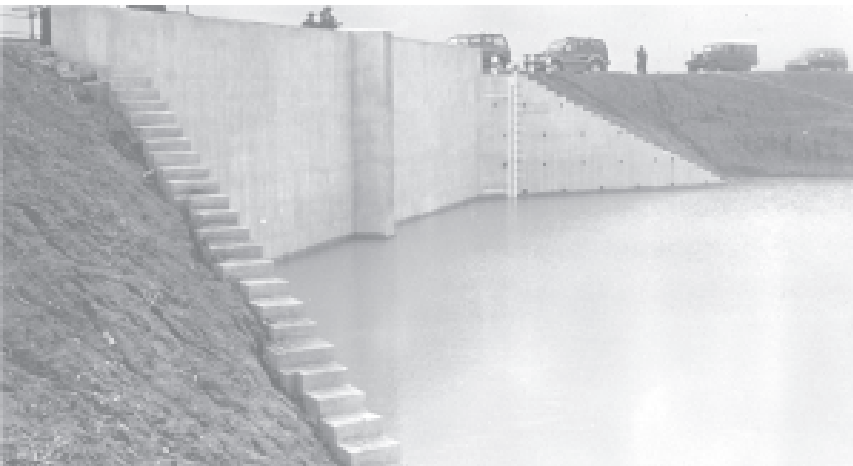
rice, the per capita income of the township, pass rate of matriculation exam, potable water supply to 93 villages and regional development.

Next, the Secretary of the Township USDA

reported on requirements to be fulfilled for power supply and measures to be taken for better telephone communications.

(See page 9)

Prime Minister General Soe Win inspects progress in construction of Obotaung Sluice Gate in Monywa. — MNA



Prime Minister inspects regional development tasks in Pakokku, Htilin, Budalin



Prime Minister General Soe Win holds a meeting with service personnel, members of social organizations and townsmen in Htilin Township. — MNA

(from page 8)

After that, the Prime Minister gave instructions, saying that in the past one found it difficult to travel to Htilin due to poor transport. Nowadays,

will soon make progress and necessary assistance will be provided to this regard.

The Prime Minister cordially greeted those present on the occasion.

progress of the project work.

Next, the Director-General of Water Resources Utilization Department and officials reported on establishment of Inndaw River Water Pumping Station and benefited acreage and thriving of crops in the region.

Next, Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye reported on thriving of agriculture in Budalin Township.

In response to the report, the Prime Minister stressed the need for officials concerned to strive for full supply of water in the region for agricultural purpose.

The Prime Minister and party inspected control panel structure and turbines, water supply through the main canal and water pumping from Chindwin River. They cordially greeted local people and chatted with them on education, health, agriculture and livestock breeding.

Inndaw River Water Pumping Project is built near Inndaw Village in Budalin Township. Inndaw Village and nearby villages are in the arid zone and they mainly rely on rain. That was why the Head of State gave guidance on implementation of river water pumping project for cultivation of crops all year round. Under the project, water will be supplied to 10,000 acres of farmland. Altogether 550 acres of monsoon and summer paddy were cultivated in 2004-2005. Arrangements are being made for cultivation of 10,000 acres.

(See page 10)



Prime Minister General Soe Win inspects control panel of Inndaw Water Pumping Station Project.—MNA

Htilin saw better transport thanks to concerted efforts of officials at different levels and the people, and one can easily move about from one place to another.

The land of Htilin region is fertile and arable. With better transport in the region agricultural sector

In the evening, the Prime Minister and party arrived at Inndaw River Water Pumping Project in Budalin Township.

At the briefing hall of the project, the Prime Minister heard a report presented by Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo on



Prime Minister General Soe Win and party at the intensive care unit of Pakokku General Hospital (200-bed). — MNA



Prime Minister General Soe Win hears a report on cultivation in Budalin Township presented by Maj-Gen Tha Aye at Indaw River Water Pumping Project. — mna

Prime Minister inspects regional development...

(from page 9)

The Prime Minister and party went back to Monywa where they were welcomed by Deputy Commander of North West Command Brig-Gen Tin Maung Ohn and departmental officials.

In the evening they visited historic ShwetaungOo Pagoda in Yinmabin Township. The Prime Minister donated cash to the members of the pagoda board of trustees and signed in the visitors' book.

They proceeded to Tipitaka Dhammapala Mahavihara and paid obeisance to Buddha Images in Dhamma Vinaya Dhammayon. The Prime Minis-

ter observed collection of books and CDs at the Vija Magga Dipani Library. Tipitaka Dhammapala Mahavihara was built for provision of requisites with the aim of turning out Tipitaka title recipients in Monywa District.

On 15 August, the Prime Minister and party inspected the embankment along Chindwin River, Obotaung sluice gate, construction of Kanthaya ring road and Kanthaya Bridge on the Union Highway.

The Prime Minister and party visited the ancient Myanmar literature department of National Human Resource Development Centre under the

Ministry of Education near Monywa BEHS No-2, where they were welcomed by Rector Dr Maung Htoo of Monywa University, professors and officials. Next, they viewed the booth on Myanmar literature and learning of the students at the e-education resource centre with the use of computers.

Dr Maung Htoo reported on opening of ancient Myanmar literature department on 15 July last year, purpose of the opening of the centre, establishment of booths on Myanmar literature and stone inscriptions, e-library, reference room and other rooms, opening of translation courses and plans to open library science course and other courses.

Prime Minister General Soe Win gave necessary instructions to officials and signed the visitors' book. He then viewed the booths. The department is opened to those who want to seek knowledge and those who want to do research.

USDA Secretary General Maj-Gen Htay Oo, Joint Secretary-General Col Zaw Min, CEC members Brig-Gen Thein Aung and Maj-Gen Aung Min, who accompanied the Prime Minister, met with Sagaing Division USDA Secretary U Htay Aung, executives, organizers and members at the USDA office in Monywa on 14 August evening. Maj-Gen Htay Oo explained implementation of organizational tasks and public welfare tasks.

Similarly, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo on 14 August evening visited Monywa General Hospital and the nursing and midwifery training school and left necessary instructions.

MNA



Prime Minister General Soe Win meeting with departmental officials and townsenders in Htilin Township. —MNA



Prime Minister General Soe Win meeting with local people at Indaw River Water Pumping Project.— MNA

Mid-Year Myanmar Gems Emporium in October

YANGON, 16 Aug—The Myanmar Gems Enterprise under the Ministry of Mines will hold the Mid-Year Myanmar Gems Emporium (2005) in October in the interests of the State and national gems entrepreneurs.

As quality precious stones are in demand, and gems with floor prices will be sold through competitive bidding at the emporium, national entrepreneurs will have an opportunity to make healthier profits from the sales.

The MGE as the previous gems emporia will coordinate with the departments concerned for ensuring prompt acquisition of earning, swift export of gems and jewellery and fixation of the earnings of national gem merchants as export earning and others. Respective departments and organizations at home and abroad are working in concert for the attendance of more local and foreign merchants at the emporium.

Scrutiny, acceptance and price fixation of the jade, gems and jewellery that the national entrepreneurs want to sell at the emporium will take place commencing from 17 August.

Those who wish to sell their jade, gems and jewellery are to contact the MGE (Head Office).

MNA

Mayanggu Bridge in Einme,...

(from page 16)

The minister delivered a speech, saying that in the past the rivers and creeks in the region in addition to Ayeyawady, Chindwin, Sittoung, Thanlwin and Dokhtawady rivers were barriers to the region in the transport sector. Now, a number of bridges have been built across these waterways.

Rivers and creeks are like a network in the region that has to rely on water routes as a means of transportation. The region lagged behind in economic, education and social sectors. So, bridges and roads have to be constructed one after another until they become a network in the region. In 1988, there existed only 440 miles of roads in the region. Now the total length of the roads in the region has touched 1,332.2 miles. Ayeyawady Division has got roads and bridges more than any other states and



Mayanggu Bridge in Einme Township, Myaungmya District, Ayeyawady Division. — CONSTRUCTION

divisions.

A five-year project has been laid down for the upgrading of these transport facilities. Mayanggu Bridge will benefit some 1.6 million local people in 53 wards and 2,742 villages in six townships.

The purpose of the government's building transport facilities is to ensure equitable development of the entire national

people. He urged local people to strive for regional and national development through the effective use of the transport facilities and for their durability.

The commander in his address said that being blessed with favourable geographical conditions, Ayeyawady Division has prospects for rapid development with peace and sta-

bility and a fine transport sector. It is a reliable region in the agricultural sector and livestock breeding sector. Ayeyawady Division has been designated as the granary and the rice bowl of the nation for a long time. Now, it can also be designated as the curry bowl of the nation.

On behalf of local residents of Ayeyawady Division, he expressed

thanks to the government for its leading role in the drive for emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation. In response to the goodwill of the government, local people pledged to make strenuous efforts to carry out the duties assigned by the State, and to maintain the facility for its durability.

The commander and

the minister formally opened the bridge. Next, the commander unveiled the stone plaque of the facility. The commander, the minister and party inspected the bridge.

The 240-foot-long reinforced concrete bridge has a 24-foot-wide motorway and two three-foot-wide walkways on it. It can withstand 60-ton loads. — MNA

“Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose: The Forgotten Hero” is on

YANGON, 16 Aug — A ceremony to introduce “Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose: The Forgotten Hero” film directed by Mr Sharmbhanigirl was on Naypyitaw Cinema on Sule Pagoda Road at 4:30 pm today.

Present on the occasion were Deputy Minister for Information Brig-

Gen Aung Thein, Indian Ambassador Mr Rajiv Kumar Bhatia and family members of the Embassy, families staff of the Foreign Embassy, director Mr Sharmbhanigirl, directors-general and directors under the Ministry of Information, artists, journalist and guest.

First, the Indian Am-

bassador made a speech and then director of the film Mr Sharmbhanigirl explained the facts relating to producing of the film.

Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Thein gave a speech.

After the film, the ceremony ended.

MNA

Russia reports bird flu in sixth region

Moscow, 16 Aug — A bird flu outbreak in Russia appeared to be spreading westward on Monday after officials confirmed the virus had broken out in a sixth region since the epidemic struck the country in mid-July.

It was unclear whether the virus found in the Urals region of Chelyabinsk was the deadly H5N1 strain that has killed more than 50 people in Asia since 2003. It has been confirmed in a number of Siberian regions and neighbouring Kazakhstan.

Interfax news agency quoted Andrei Gasilov, vice-governor of Chelyabinsk, as saying the virus had killed 60 birds in the village of Oktyabrskoye on the Kazakh border since Saturday.

Other Russian regions hit by the flu include Novosibirsk, Tyumen, Omsk, Kurgan and Altai.

Chelyabinsk, which borders Kurgan on the east side of the Ural Mountains dividing Europe and Asia, is the westmost region to have been struck so far.

The Emergencies Ministry in Moscow, contacted by Reuters, could not

confirm the Chelyabinsk outbreak.

Although no humans have yet been affected, there are fears the disease could spread to humans on the Eurasian landmass, possibly unleashing a global influenza pandemic.

Interfax quoted Gasilov as saying domestic birds were being culled in the village to prevent the virus, which has killed more than 10,000 birds countrywide, from spreading further.

Officials said wild birds, increasingly active in August as they prepare to migrate to warmer regions in Europe, Asia and America, were to blame.

“Results of epizootic checks have shown that they (migrant birds) are the main source of infection,” *Ria-Novosti* news agency quoted an official with the Novosibirsk state consumer rights watchdog as saying.

MNA/Reuters

Blast on small bus at airport in Sinai

CAIRO, 16 Aug — A small bus in an airport which is used by the multinational observation force in Sinai exploded on Monday and initial reports indicated there were dead and injured, an Egyptian security source said.

“A microbus inside the airport exploded,” the security official in North Sinai said. He said he did not know the reason for the blast.

The source said the blast occurred at an airport at El Gorah, a camp in the North of Sinai which is used by Multinational Force and Observers (MFO).

The MFO was set up to supervise the implementation of the security provisions of the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty.

An MFO official had no immediate comment. Egypt's Interior Ministry also had no immediate comment.

The North Camp at El Gorah, which is about 13 miles south of Sinai's Mediterranean coast, is the MFO's largest installation and site of the force commander's headquarters, the MFO's web site said. — MNA/Reuters

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago.

The second best time is now.

Cypriots refuse to board new Helios airline flight

LARNACA, 16 Aug — Crew and passengers in Cyprus refused on Monday to board an aircraft belonging to the owner of a Cypriot plane that crashed on Sunday, killing 121 people, the state-run *Cyprus News Agency* reported.

About 100 passengers scheduled to fly from Larnaca to the Bulgarian capital of Sofia demanded to travel on planes of other airlines, the news agency said.

“First the crew refused to board, then the passengers,” it added.

On Sunday a Helios Airways Boeing 737 — the same model involved in Monday's revolt — flying from Larnaca to Athens crashed into a mountain in Greece. Preliminary investigations suggested the disaster was caused by a catastrophic loss of cabin pressure and oxygen supply. — MNA/Reuters

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List of new Iranian Cabinet submitted to Parliament

TEHERAN, 15 Aug— Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad submitted his Cabinet list to the Majlis (Parliament) for approval on Sunday, the official IRNA news agency reported.

The Majlis is to vote on Ahmadinejad's list within a week, according to Iran's law.

The list of the ministers is as follows:

- Minister of Foreign Minister: Manouchehr Mottaki
- Minister of Defence: Mostafa Mohammad Najjar
- Minister of Oil: Ali Saeedlou.
- Minister of Education: Ali Akbar Ash'ari
- Minister of Communications and Information Technology: Mohammad Soleymani
- Minister of Information: Gholam Hossein Mohseni Ejeie
- Minister of Economy: Davoud Danesh-Ja'fari
- Minister of Commerce: Masoud Mir-Kazemi
- Minister of Health, Treatment and Medical Education: Kamran Baqeri Lankarani
- Minister of Cooperatives: Ali-Reza Ali-Ahmadi
- Minister of Agriculture Jihad: Mohammad-Reza Eskandari
- Minister of Justice: Jamal Karimi-Rad
- Minister of Transportation: Mohammad Rahmati
- Minister of Welfare and Social Security: Mehdi Hashemi
- Minister of Industries and Mines: Ali-Reza Tahmasbi
- Minister of Science, Research and Technology: Mohammad-Mehdi Zahedi
- Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance: Mohammad-Hossein Saffar-Harandi
- Minister of Labour and Social Affairs: Mohammad Jahromi
- Minister of the Interior: Mostafa Pour-Mohammadi
- Minister of Energy: Parviz Fattah
- Minister of Housing and Urban Development: Mohammad Saeedi-Kia.

MNA/Xinhua

Five Israeli troops hurt in Gaza "friendly fire"

JERUSALEM, 15 Aug— Five Israeli soldiers were hit by "friendly fire" near a Jewish settlement in the Gaza Strip on Sunday, days before Israel is due to start evacuating settlers from the occupied territory, the Army said.

Tension is high around the Gaza settlements where residents have vowed to resist peacefully.

The Army said a Palestinian militant opened fire on the Kfar Darom settlement and soldiers returned fire.

A tank shot at an uninhabited building where the gunman was concealed, hitting him with one shell and wounding the soldiers in an armoured vehicle, the

Army said. An officer was among those hurt.

There was no immediate comment from the Palestinians.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas has urged militants to hold fire during Israel's planned removal of its first Jewish settlements from land Palestinians seek for an independent state.

MNA/Reuters

More remittances from OFW sent back to Philippines

MANILA, 5 Aug— The remittances of overseas Filipino workers (OFW) in June reached 935.28 million US dollars, 32 per cent higher than the same month last year, the local television network ABS-CBN NEWS reported on Sunday.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) (Philippine Central Bank) said migrants have sent 4.89 billion US dollars in the first six months of 2005, 21.5 per cent higher than the same period last year, according to the news network. Most of OFW remittances come from the United States, Saudi Arabia, Italy, United Kingdom, Singapore, Hong Kong, United Arab Emirates and Japan.

According to the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, 527,573 workers had left the country to work overseas from January to June.

The BSP said overseas remittances could attain the 10 billion US dollars target this year, higher than 2004's 8.55 billion US dollars. — MNA/Xinhua

Two fake ID-card selling suspects nabbed in Macao

MACAO, 15 Aug— Macao police have arrested two suspects allegedly manufacturing and selling bogus Macao identification cards, local media reported Monday.

The Macao Post quoted police sources as saying that the two female suspects were captured in two separate police swoops over the past week.

The two detained are believed to be part of an ID card and travel document forgery and selling racket, according to the newspaper.

The police arrested 17 people last week in separate cases and most of them were over-stayers using fake documents to seek gainful employment in Macao.

MNA/Xinhua

DONATE BLOOD



Bathers leave the beach during a heavy thunderstorm in Santa Marinella, 60 km (37 miles) north of Rome on 15 August, 2005.—INTERNET

S Korean President calls on national integration

SEOUL, 15 Aug — South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun on Monday called on national integration in his congratulatory speech to a ceremony commemorating the 60th anniversary of the liberation from the Japanese colonial rule.

The ceremony, held in central Seoul in Gwanghwamun area, attracted some 20,000 participants, including political leaders, victims of the Japanese colonial rule, representatives of ordinary South Korean citizens and foreign diplomats.

Roh's speech mainly addressed the topic of opening a new era of reconciliation and integration by coping with past wrongdoing, regionalism, economic and social divides.

"The first thing we should do to address regional rivalry is to change the election system, although it may not put an end to the regionalism at once," said Roh.

The South Korean President demanded the political parties make a "bold decision" to relinquish their vested rights

to their easy control of votes in their own political turf to cut off the vicious circle of engaging in political propaganda and emotional showdown based on regionalism in the National Assembly.

"Political parties are divided not by policies and ideologies but by regions," he said, adding the government cannot proceed with personnel affairs management, budget allocations and any other state affairs without considering regional rivalry.

"The most serious problem is that regional rivalry divides the country so seriously that people mistrust each other without due grounds," Roh said. Roh pointed out economic polarization is another threat to the future of the nation.

"We see a widening gap between classes, regions, businesses and

those with access to information and chances and those without," Roh said. The South Korean President vowed his government will improve the social safety net, create new jobs and focus on developing an education system which provides equal access to all people.

In order to celebrate the 60th anniversary of liberation from the Japanese colonial rule, various sports and cultural events will also be held across the country.

North Korea also sent a 182-member delegation to Seoul to attend a joint civic celebration of the anniversary last Sunday.

Japan conducted colonial rule on the Korean Peninsula during 1910-1945. The August 15 "Independence Day" is a big festival both in South Korea and North Korea.

MNA/Xinhua

US, Afghan troops launch big offensive in E Afghanistan

KABUL, 15 Aug— The US military and Afghan troops have launched a big offensive in eastern Kunar Province to root out militants from the mountainous area, spokesperson of the US-led coalition said Sunday.

"The operation begun in the weekend to wipe out enemies of peace and ensure security for the Afghans," Cindy Moore confirmed but refused to give more details. "As the operation is going on so it is against our policy to disclose the details and put in danger the lives of our servicemen," she noted.

Kunar, a former base of Taliban and stronghold of faction leader

Gulbudin Hekmatyar has been the scene of bloody clashes between Taliban-led insurgents and Afghan and US troops over the past two months.

Nineteen US soldiers including three Marines and 16 troopers aboard helicopters were killed in Taliban attacks in late June. While two more American soldiers downed to Kunar River last week. — MNA/Xinhua

S P O R T S

Anderlecht go top as Bruges slip up

BRUSSELS, 16 Aug— Anderlecht won 2-0 at Cercle Bruges on Sunday for a tally of eight goals in two games and top place in the Belgian First Division on goal difference.

The only other teams with a maximum six points are Standard Liege, who won 2-1 at promoted Zulte Waregem, and Westerlo, 1-0 winners at Germinal Beerschot on Saturday night.

Goals in either half from Serhat Akin and Mbo Mpenza gave Anderlecht, who crushed La Louviere 6-0 last weekend, victory against a Cercle side reduced to 10 men after Melenko Milosevic was booked for a second time.

Anderlecht have an early two-point advantage over their traditional rivals and champions Club Bruges, who were surprisingly held to a 1-1 draw at FC Brussels on Saturday.

Bruges looked set to bounce back

from their midweek Champions League qualifying defeat against an injury-ravaged Brussels when they went ahead in the 24th minute through Ishiaku.

However, former Racing Genk striker Igor De Camargo equalized for the home team four minutes later.

The visitors were reduced to 10 men after defender Philippe Clement received two yellow cards and misses Bruges' next game at home to SV Roeselare.

Injury-time goals from Michel Garbini and Mohammed Tchite gave Standard a last-gasp victory at Zulte after the home side had taken the lead through Stijn Meert 10 minutes from time.

MNA/Reuters

Lyon let Essien join Chelsea for record fee

LYON, 16 Aug— Ghana midfielder Michael Essien is leaving Olympique Lyon to join Chelsea, the French champions confirmed on Monday.

Essien will sign a five-year-contract with the English champions for a 38 million euro (47.06 million US dollars) transfer fee, club official Bernard Lacombe told reporters. The fee for the 22-year-old is a record in transfers involving Ligue 1 players.

Ivory Coast striker Didier Drogba set the previous record when he left Olympique Marseille for Chelsea for an estimated 37.5 million euros in July last year.

Chelsea, Lacombe said, would pay cash next week. "Financially, it's an extraordinary operation," he said.

"It's one third of our

budget and it represents the entire budget of some Ligue 1 clubs." A Lyon club official said Essien's medical at Chelsea was expected to take place on Tuesday morning.

The French champions resisted pressure from the wealthy London club for weeks. Essien had said he was desperate to join Chelsea and no longer wanted to play for Lyon.

"For him it was not a question of money," Lacombe said. "It was his dream to play in England."

The gifted Ghanaian has not played a competitive match for Lyon this season, with coach Gerard Houllier saying he could not select a player whose mind was not on the game.

A powerful defensive midfielder, Essien won the Ligue 1 Player of the Year award last season. Houllier has said he regards him as being in the same league as Liverpool's Steven Gerrard and Chelsea's Frank Lampard.

"It's sad to see him go, but for him it's extraordinary and we all wish him good luck," said Lyon defender Sylvain Monsoreau. Aulas and his players real-

ize they are losing a special player whose role was decisive in Lyon's campaigns to the last two French titles.

"Lyon existed before Michael Essien and will exist after him but it's true that we're losing a fantastic player," said defender Anthony Reveillere.

"It's his choice to leave and you have to respect that."

Lyon, chasing an unprecedented fifth successive Ligue 1 title, will now concentrate on trying to persuade inspirational Brazil midfielder Juninho to extend his contract while looking for a top striker.

"We will do what we have to make him (Juninho) stay," said Aulas. "We need him."

"Contacts have been made but it will be difficult," Aulas said when asked about the prospect of a world-class forward joining Lyon to make up for Essien's departure.

Aulas previously said he was interested in England's Michael Owen, who is expected to leave Real Madrid, and Liverpool's Czech striker Milan Baros.

MNA/Reuters



Belgium's Kim Clijsters hits a shot to Daniela Hantuchova of Slovakia during the final of the Los Angeles Open tennis tournament in Carson, California, on 14 August, 2005. Clijsters won 6-4, 6-1.—INTERNET

Espanyol sign Real Madrid midfielder Juanfran on loan

MADRID, 16 Aug— Espanyol have signed Real Madrid B midfielder Juanfran on loan for a season, the Barcelona-based club said on Monday.

The Spain under-21 international brings new attacking options to the Catalan club after last season's top scorer Maxi Rodriguez joined Atletico Madrid in July.

Juanfran, 20, provides some comfort for an Espanyol side still smarting after missing out on Barcelona striker Javier Saviola, who joined Sevilla on loan last week.

Espanyol finished fifth in the Primera Liga last season, earning a place in the UEFA Cup.

MNA/Reuters

Brazilian goals give Milan win over Juve in friendly

MILAN, 16 Aug— Brazilians Kaka and Serghino scored as AC Milan came back to beat Italian champions Juventus 2-1 in the pre-season Berlusconi Trophy on Sunday.

Juventus had taken the lead through Frenchman Patrick Vieira but Fabio Capello's side suffered two injuries which could hamper their remaining preparation for the Serie A season.

Czech midfielder Pavel Nedved went off with an ankle injury and after the break goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon was stretched off with a shoulder injury.

Buffon, who was hurt after racing out to foil Kaka, is now doubtful for Italy's friendly match with the Republic of Ireland in Dublin on Wednesday.

After an impressive start Juve went in front in the 20th minute when Jonathan Zebina put Vieira through and the midfielder, signed from Arsenal during the close season, confidently fired past Milan keeper Dida.

Juve's Swedish striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic, having gone close earlier with a fierce strike that hit Dida in the face, struck the post with a left-foot drive from the edge of the area as the champions dominated.

Kaka was the most dangerous threat from Milan and he went close twice before the break and then brought the defeated Champions League finalists level eight minutes after the restart.

It was a superbly worked goal with Clarence Seedorf sweeping the ball out to European Footballer of the Year Andriy Shevchenko on the right and the Ukrainian picked out Kaka with a pinpoint pass which the Brazilian drove home with a first-time shot from the edge of the area.— MNA/Reuters

China coach slams showing at world championships

BEIJING, 16 Aug— China's national athletics coach Feng Shuyong says that some of his athletes were holding back at the world championships in Helsinki for financial reasons, Xinhua news agency reported.

The country came away from the championships, which finished on Sunday, with only one medal — a silver in the 110-metre hurdles won by Olympic champion Liu Xiang.

Feng said that instead of focusing on world competition, many of his athletes were saving their strength for October's 10th Chinese National Games, where they had better chances of winning a

medal and picking up tempting financial rewards. "As far as I know, some of them had decided to give up even before competing in their own events. They came here just for holiday," Feng was quoted as saying on Sunday.

"Some of the athletes were even told before coming here by the provincial officials: 'Take care of yourself and don't get yourself injured.'" —MNA/Reuters

Corinthians beat Ponte Preto 5-3 in Brazilian C'ship

SAO PAULO (Brazil), 16 Aug— Corinthians has a 5-3 victory over Ponte Preto on Sunday to stay atop of the Brazilian Championship.

Argentine international Carlos Tevez and midfielder Roger each scored twice and defender Sebastian Dominguez added one for Corinthians.

In the 13th minute, Tevez of Corinthians converted a penalty kick to the right of Ponte Preto goalie Lauro. And Kahe levelled for Ponte Preto in the 30th minute, but Roger scored twice in the first four minutes of the second half which led Corinthians seemingly in control.

Danilo scored a goal for Ponte Preto in the 67th. But a minute later, Tevez

restored the two-goal advantage. With 16 minutes remaining, Dominguez put Corinthians ahead by three, but Izaias added the last on for Ponte Preto in the 84th.

Corinthians leads with 38 points in the first place which is two more than second placed Goais.

In other 20th-round games, Vasco downed Atletico Mineiro 2-1, Parana beat Cruzeiro 1-0 and Sao Paulo beat Fortaleza 3-2. Figueirense tied Brasiliense 2-2, and Botafogo tied Santos 3-3. — MNA/Xinhua



Oliver Kahn, goalkeeper of the German national soccer team, makes a save during a practice session in Frankfurt on 15 August, 2005. Germany will play the Netherlands in a friendly match on Wednesday.—INTERNET

Airliner with 152 people crashes in Venezuela

CARACAS, 16 Aug —An airliner with 152 people onboard crashed near Venezuela's border with Colombia on Tuesday after suffering engine trouble, Venezuela authorities said.

Interior Minister Jesse Chacon told local television authorities they were searching for survivors from the aircraft that was en route from Panama to the French Caribbean island territory of Martinique.

"When it was flying over Venezuelan airspace they had problems with one engine and then with

another engine, and at that moment it went down" the minister added.

Air traffic controllers said the airliner carried 152 people. One air rescue official said the aircraft carried Colombian markings but it was not clear which airline it belonged to.

MNA/Reuters



To mark the birthday anniversary of U Tun Sein, the family of U Tun Sein and late wife Daw Kyin of No 275, Pinya 12th Street, Ward 5, South Okklapa Township, donates K 110,000 for construction of the three-storey hospital of the Hninzigon Home for the Aged to Joint Secretary U Thein Aung. — H

WHO calls for more efforts to restrain increasing suicide rate

MANILA, 16 Aug — The World Health Organization (WHO) regional office Monday warned an increasing suicide rate worldwide due to the lack of connectedness in modern life.

WHO Regional Director for the Western Pacific Dr Shigeru Omi said at a meeting on suicide prevention in the region that efforts should be made to "revitalize our communities so that the connectedness people once felt in their communities, workplaces and even families can be restored".

According to the WHO, suicide currently represents 1.4 per cent of the global burden of disease.

In 2001, the global toll from suicide was more than 815,000 deaths, exceeding both the number of deaths by homicide at 500,000, and war at 230,000.

In addition, WHO estimates that there are 10 to 20 times more failed suicide attempts than suicide deaths, resulting in injury, hospitalization, and emotional and mental trauma.

In the Western Pacific Region, WHO sta-

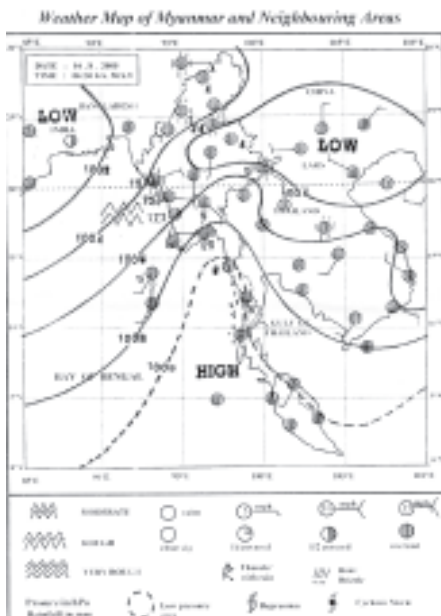
istics show that suicide was the leading cause of death by injury in 2000, outpacing traffic accidents, falls and other causes.

In 2002, there were approximately 331,000 suicides in the Western Pacific Region, accounting for 38 per cent of the world's total, it said.

WHO also estimates the crude suicide rate for the Region at 19.3 deaths per 100,000 persons, compared with a global estimate of 14 per 100,000.

In view of the rising suicide rate, Dr Omi called on WHO members in the region to develop a better understanding of the suicide situation and more closely monitor the situation and implement suicide prevention programmes.

MNA/Xinhua



WEATHER

Tuesday, 16 August, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain have been isolated in Kayah State, Mandalay Division, scattered in Kachin and Chin States, lower Sagaing and Magway Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfalls in Rakhine and Mon States. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Thandwe (6.73) inches, Thaton (3.66) inches, Hpa-an (2.84) inches, An (2.20) inches and Mogok (2.13) inches.

Maximum temperature on 15-8-2005 was 85°F. Minimum temperature on 16-8-2005 was 67°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 16-8-2005 was 96%. Total sunshine hours on 15-8-2005 was 1.4 hours approx. Rainfalls on 16-8-2005 were 1.38 inches at Mingaladon, 0.99 inch at Kaba-Aye, 0.43 inch at central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were 65.08 inches at Mingaladon, 65.91 inches at Kaba-Aye and 67.99 inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 8 mph from Southwest at (15:20) hours MST on 15-8-2005.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 17-8-2005: Rain will be isolated in lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Divisions, scattered in Kachin, Shan, Chin and Kayah States, upper Sagaing Division and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Rakhine and Mon States. Degree of certainty is 80%.

State of the sea: Sea will be moderate in Myanmar water.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Moderate monsoon.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 17-8-2005: One or two rain. Degree of certainty is 80%.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 17-8-2005: Likelihood of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is 60%.

Flood Bulletin

(Issued at 12:30 hrs MST on 16-8-2005)
According to the (06:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Sittoung River at Madauk is (1136) cm. It is falling slightly and may remain above the danger level (1070) cm during the next (3) days commencing noon today.

Earthquake report

(Issued at 10:45 hrs MST on 16-8-2005)
An earthquake of strong intensity (7.2) Richter Scale with its epicenter outside of Myanmar (Near the sea of Honshu, Japan) about (3200) miles Northeast of Kaba-Aye seismological observatory was recorded at (09) hrs (24) min (42) sec MST on 16th August 2005.



Wednesday, 17 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
- 7:50 am
5. အတီးမြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:00 am
6. မြူးမြူးကြဲကြဲ ယဉ်ကျေးမှုအက
- 8:10 am
7. အတီးမြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:20 am
8. ထပ်ဆင့်အောင်ပွဲ ဧရာဝတီ တံတား (ဒေးဒရို)
- 8:30 am
9. International news
- 8:45 am
10. Let's Go

- 4:00 pm
1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm
2. Songs to uphold National Spirit
- 4:30 pm
3. အစေးသင်တန်းသို့လှည့်လာရေး ရုပ်မြိုင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ -ဝထမနွမ် (သရဲအထူးပြု) (သရဲ)
- 4:45 pm
4. Song of national races
- 5:00 pm
5. ၂၀၀၅ ခုနှစ်၊ ဧရာဝတီအကြိမ် (သရဲ)မြိုင်ပွဲအားဖြင့် ရာယဉ်ကျေးမှု အဆို အက၊ အရေး၊ အတီး မြိုင်ပွဲဝင်များ လေ့လာနိုင်ကြရန် (ဧရာဝတီ) (ဝါသနာရှင်အဆင့်) (အမျိုးသမီး)
- 5:10 pm
6. အတီးမြိုင်ပွဲ
- 5:20 pm
7. သီချင်းကြီးသရုပ်ဖော်
- 5:30 pm
8. ရွှေယဉ်ကျေးမှု အားဆီယံအစီအစဉ်
- 5:40 pm
9. မြိုင်ပွဲအားဖြင့် လက်တွေ့ပွဲ
- 6:00 pm
10. သုတစုံလင် ရွှေ့တံရှင်

- 6:30 pm
11. Evening news
- 7:00 pm
12. Weather report
- 7:05 pm
13. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတိုလမ်းတွဲ "ချစ်သောအရာ" (အပိုင်း-၁)
- 7:45 pm
14. ကြားမြင်သူတို့ပြည်ဝေရာ စာပဒေသာ
- 7:45 pm
15. Strong and healthy Myanmar
- 7:50 pm
16. ဝေါင်းလောင်းရေးသားတံတံနှင့် လျှပ်စစ်စာတိုအားပေးစက်ရုံ
- 8:00 pm
17. News
- 8:00 pm
18. International news
- 8:00 pm
19. Weather report
- 8:00 pm
19. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတိုလမ်းတွဲ "ချစ်သောအရာ" (အပိုင်း-၂)
- 8:00 pm
20. ရန်ကုန်ပန်ကျာ သန့်ထွင်အောင် နှစ်ပတ်သုံးသုံးအကချစ်မြေခန်း
- 8:00 pm
21. The next day's programme



Wednesday, 17 August
Tune in today:

- 8:30 am Brief news
- 8:35 am Music: -Drive
- 8:40 am Perspectives
- 8:45 am Music: -Time after time
- 8:50 am National news/Slogan
- 9:00 am Music: Smooth operator
- 9:05 am International news
- 9:10 am Music: -Everybody
- 1:30 pm News/Slogan
- 1:40 pm Lunch time music: -Take a bow -All by myself -Nothing's gonna change my love for you -Wind breath my wings
- 9:00 pm Variations on a tune: -Dream lover -Tanya Tucker/Earl Pauler
- 9:15 pm Article
- 9:25 pm Music at your request: -You belong to me -Reach up -Call it wave
- 9:45 pm News/Slogan
- 10:00 pm PEL

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

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye felicitates Indonesian Vice-President

YANGON, 17 Aug— On the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of Indonesia which falls on 17 August 2005, a message of felicitations has been sent from Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, to His Excellency Mr Muhammad Jusuf Kalla, Vice-President of the Republic of Indonesia. —MNA

Under the Inndaw River Water Pumping Project, water will be supplied to 10,000 acres of farmland. Altogether 550 acres of monsoon and summer paddy were cultivated in 2004-2005. Arrangements are being made for cultivation of 10,000 acres.

**Htilin sees better transport thanks to concerted efforts of officials at different levels and the people
Prime Minister inspects regional development tasks in Pakokku, Htilin, Budalin**



Prime Minister General Soe Win inspects pumping of Chindwin River water and supply of water at Indaw River Water Pumping Station. —MNA

YANGON, 16 Aug— Prime Minister General Soe Win, accompanied by member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Chairman of Sagaing Division PDC Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye, the ministers, the deputy ministers and officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, on 14 August morning, inspected Hsugyi Pantaung Water Supply Station in Pakokku, where Chief Engineer of Development Affairs Department under the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs U Kyaw reported on matters related

to current water supply and arrangements for more water supply.

After hearing the report, the Prime Minister gave necessary instructions and inspected the water tank.

Next, the Prime Minister and party looked into pleasant scenery of Pakokku.

On arrival at the Pakokku General Hospital, the Prime Minister and party were welcomed by Medical Superintendent U Htay, specialists, doctors, nurses and others.

Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo conducted the Prime Minister and party round the hospital, where they inspected X-ray Unit, Op-

eration Theatre-1, Intensive Care Unit and the Sangha Ward and attended to the needs. At 9.45 am, the Prime Minister and party arrived in Htilin, where they inspected medical ward, medical store, operation theatre and laboratory of (See page 8)

Prime Minister sends felicitations to Indonesia

YANGON, 17 Aug— On the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of Indonesia which falls on 17 August 2005, a message of felicitations has been sent from General Soe Win, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, to His Excellency Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, President of the Republic of Indonesia. —MNA

Mayannu Bridge in Einme Township, Myaungmya District, Ayeyawady Division, inaugurated

YANGON, 16 Aug—The opening of Mayannu Bridge in Einme Township, Myaungmya District, Ayeyawady Division, took place at the pavilion of the bridge this morning.

The facility at mile post No 70/0 on Labutta-Myaungmya-Einme-Kyaunggon Road was constructed by Myaungmya District Public Works under the Ministry of Construction.

It was attended by Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, senior military officers, officials, social organizations, Kayin national cultural troupes, guests and local people.

(See page 11)