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Friday, 19 August, 2005

Four political objectives

- * Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
- * National reconsolidation
- * Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
- * Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

Four economic objectives

- * Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well
- * Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system
- * Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad
- * The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples

Four social objectives

- * Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
- * Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
- * Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
- * Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation

Serious attention to be paid to ensuring success in water supply as arid zone greening and water supply tasks directly benefit the people



Prime Minister General Soe Win inspects progress of building Mytinge Bridge between Singaing and Amarapura Township on Yangon-Mandalay Six-lane Union Highway. — MNA

YANGON, 18 Aug — Prime Minister General Soe Win, accompanied by Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Chairman of Mandalay Division PDC Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw, ministers, deputy ministers, the Mandalay Mayor and officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, arrived MICT Park on third floor of Yadanabon Market in Mandalay on 16 August morning. They were welcomed by Deputy Commander of Central Command Brig-Gen Nay Win, heads of department, members of the board of directors from Mandalay MICT Development Corporation Ltd.

At the hall of MICT Park, Chairman of Mandalay MICT Development Corporation Ltd U Thein Htut extended greetings that Mandalay MICT Park was opened on 16 August 2003. He expressed thanks for attendance of the Prime Minister on the second anniversary of the Park. Next, he briefed the Prime Minister on measures being taken for development of Mandalay MICT Park.

Next, the Prime Minister cordially greeted members of the board of directors. At the meeting hall, (See page 16)



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

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 19 August, 2005

Work for national unity and national development

The Union of Myanmar is home to many national races and they have been living in unity and amity in the Union for ages. Though the names of the national races might vary, they have a long tradition of living through thick and thin. And they have been able to do so because Union Spirit binds them together.

During his tour of Sagaing Division on 15 August, Prime Minister General Soe Win met with the rector, pro-rectors, heads of department, professors, lecturers and assistant lecturers at the meeting hall of the university.

At the meeting, the Prime Minister said that it was very important for Union Spirit to flourish among the national races and that, in addition to teaching respective subjects, the faculty members were to inculcate the students with a strong conception of development of national races and Union Spirit and only with this spirit will the national brethren be able to live in unity and amity, keeping eggs and nest intact.

Due to the nurturing of the government, the support of local authorities and the efforts of the successive heads of the university, the University for Development of National Races has been in continuous existence since 1964.

The University for Development of National Races has been constantly turning out educated youths of national races, good teachers and organizers who can actively take part in national development endeavours.

Teachers, especially the products of the University for Development of National Races, are required to lend themselves to regional and national development endeavours, including development plans for rural and border areas, together with local people and social organizations.

We believe that the teachers who have graduated for the University for Development of National Races will try to the best of their abilities to become not only good teachers but also good organizers who can further consolidate the national unity, widen the horizons of national races and bring about their development.

Development affairs tasks in Sagaing Division inspected

YANGON, 18 Aug — Officer on special duty of the Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Brig-Gen Kyaw Thu together with Director of Development Affairs Department U Myint Oo and Director of Sagaing Division Development Affairs Committee, inspected the tasks of township development committees in Sagaing Division from 7 to 13 August.

Brig-Gen Kyaw Thu and party inspected the tasks for proper flow of drainage, the beautifying and greening of townships, nature of saplings, cleaning of markets and water supply in the townships, and gave necessary instructions.

MNA

People's Desire

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



CASH DONATED: Ministry of Construction donated K 295,250 for offering 'soon' for monks of State Pariyatti Sasana University (Yangon) in Kaba Aye Hill Wednesday morning. Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun presents cash donation to an official. (News reported)

CONSTRUCTION

MYANMAR GAZETTE

YANGON, 18 Aug — The State Peace and Development Council has appointed the following persons as heads of service organizations shown against each from the date they assume charge of their duties.

Names	Appointments
(a) U Thein Aung Director (Finance)	Director-General Directorate of Industries Directorate of Ministry of Industry-1 Industries
(b) U Soe Pro-Rector Myitkyina University Higher Education Department (Upper Myanmar) Ministry of Education	Rector Myitkyina University Higher Education Department (Upper Myanmar) Ministry of Education

MNA

Credit Cooperative Ltd holds annual meeting



Director-General U Soe Win speaking at the annual meeting of Credit Cooperative Ltd of Cooperative Department.—COOPERATIVE

Meeting of Credit cooperative Society Ltd

YANGON, 18 Aug — Annual meeting of the Credit Cooperative Society Ltd of Myanmar Agriculture Development Bank under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, held the annual meeting for 2004-2005 financial year at the meeting hall of the bank at the corner of Strand Road and Latha Road this afternoon, attended by Managing Director of the bank U Tin Lwan, departmental officials, officials of Latha Cooperative Society Ltd and staff.

At the meeting, the annual report for 2004-2005 and financial statements were read out and new CEC members were elected. — MNA

of the Office of the Director-General of the Cooperative Department held annual general meeting for 2004-05 at the Ministry of Cooperatives here this afternoon.

At the meeting, Director-General of the Co-

operative Department U Soe Win approved the report of the Board of Directors, financial statement and audit statement of the members.

At the meeting, an 11-member new board of directors led by Chairman U Hla Myint was

also approved and two members were elected as auditors.

The meeting was also attended by the deputy director-general and directors of the department, members of the Ltd and officials.

MNA

တိုင်းရင်းဆေးဝါးမှတ်ပုံတင်ထားခြင်းမရှိသော ဆေးဝါးများဖြစ်၍ ပြည်သူ့အများ သုံးစွဲရန်မသင့်ကြောင်း ကြေညာခြင်း

မြန်မာနိုင်ငံ တိုင်းရင်းဆေးဝါးဈေးကွက်အတွင်း ရောင်းချလျက်ရှိသော အောက်ဖော်ပြပါ ဆေးဝါးများသည် တိုင်းရင်းဆေးဝါး မှတ်ပုံတင်ထားခြင်းမရှိသော ဆေးဝါးများဖြစ်၍ စစ်မှန်အစွမ်းထက်မှုကို အာမခံချက်မပေးနိုင်သည့် ဆေးဝါးများဖြစ်၍ ပြည်သူ့အများ သုံးစွဲရန်မသင့်ကြောင်း အသိပေးအပ်ပါသည်။

စဉ်	ဆေးဝါးအမည်	ထုတ်လုပ်ရာဌာန
(၁)	ကျော် ပန်းနုရင်ကြပ်ပျောက်ဆေး	ဖျာပုံဆေးတိုက်၊ ပဋ္ဌမလမ်းနှင့် အပြောင်လမ်းထိပ်၊ ဖျာပုံမြို့
(၂)	စိန်သောတဆိပ် အကိုက်အခဲပျောက်ဆေးမှုန့်	စိန်သောဆေးဝါးထုတ်လုပ်ရေးဥက္ကဋ္ဌ(က)လမ်း(၂၀)၊ လသာမြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့
(၃)	ကျားခေါင်းအမှတ်တံဆိပ် အပူကျ အကိုက်အခဲပျောက်ဆေး	လိပ်စာဖော်ပြထားခြင်းမရှိပါ။
(၄)	ဘုရင်မအပူကျ ဖျားနာကိုက်ခဲပျောက်ဆေး	လိပ်စာဖော်ပြထားခြင်းမရှိပါ။
(၅)	ချမ်းအေးဖျားနာကိုက်ခဲပျောက်ဆေး	၁၄၈၊ ကျောက်လမ်း၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့
(၆)	အဆစ်ပုံတံဆိပ် အဆစ်အမြစ်အကိုက်အခဲပျောက်ဆေး	ကျောက်ကုန်းထိပ်၊ ရန်ကင်းမြို့နယ်။
(၇)	Pain Cure Powder	လိပ်စာဖော်ပြထားခြင်းမရှိပါ။

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန



Hello Kitty designer Yuko Yamaguchi poses with a 'Fairy Hello Kitty' at an exhibition called 'Hide and Seek' during the celebration of the 30th anniversary of the Japanese cartoon character in Hong Kong, on 17 August, 2005.

INTERNET

ထုတ်ကုန်နှုန်းစာ တိုးမြှင့်ကြ

SIA prefers compensation for delivery delay of "A380"

SINGAPORE, 17 Aug—To be compensated by Airbus for the eight-month delivery delay of its first A380 aircraft is Singapore Airlines' (SIA) preferred option up to now, SIA's vice-president for public affairs Stephen Forshaw said on Tuesday.

According to *Channel NewsAsia* report, SIA, the first customer of the largest commercial aircraft ever built, "has not ruled out a lawsuit against the plane manufacturer" while having compensation talks with it.

SIA might ask for over six million US dollars, said the report.

As an A380 plane has 555 seats, which is 30 per cent more than a *Boeing 747-*

400, SIA said that it has to expand the leases on some of the *Boeing 747s* to deal with high passenger loads during the period of the delay. SIA has ordered 10 A380 planes, together with another 15 on option. The first delivery was scheduled in March 2006. In early June this year, Airbus confirmed the delay of the delivery of its super-jumbo jet for no specific reason.—*MNA/Xinhua*

Saudi Arabia plans to ease restrictions on tourist visas next year

DUBAI, 17 Aug—Saudi Arabia is planning to issue tourist visas to all visitors from early next year regardless of their religion as it implements a liberalized visa regime to gain entry into the World Trade Organization.

The move is also part of the oil-rich kingdom's efforts to boost tourist inflow.

The Saudi Arabian Foreign Ministry plans to issue tourist visas to Muslims as well as non-Muslims from February 2006. Muslim tourists will get visas to visit both religious places and tourist spots, a media report said Tuesday. Muslim women visiting the country must have a legal companion while non-Muslim women should have a sponsor in order to get visas, the *Arab News* reported. Prince Sultan bin Salman, secretary-general of the Supreme Commission for Tourism, said the tourist visa project was in the final stages and would come into effect in a few months.

The kingdom has set up a committee comprising representatives of various government departments to work out mechanisms for issuing business and tourist visas at airports, it said.

Abdul Rahman Al-Jeraisy, chairman of the Council of Saudi Chambers of Commerce and Industry, hoped that the panel would make recommendations to enable businessmen and tourists to get visas at airports. The Foreign Ministry issued 5,537 tourist visas this year to Americans, Europeans and Africans under the Saudi Arabian Airlines' "Discover Saudi Arabia" package.—*MNA/PTI*

China's fixed assets investment up 27.2% in first seven months

BELING, 17 Aug—China's investment in fixed assets stood at 3,463.7 billion yuan (about 428 billion US dollars) in the first seven months of this year, up 27.2-per-cent year-on-year, according to a monthly report released on Tuesday by the National Bureau of Statistics.

The fixed assets investment for July alone increased by 27.7 per cent over the same month last year, representing 1.1 percentage points lower than in June. According to the report, during the January-July period, the investment by the state-owned and other state-related entities reached 1,744.4 billion yuan (215 billion US dollars), a rise of 10.8-per-cent year-on-year.

The investment in primary, secondary and tertiary industries rose by 17.7 per cent, 35.4 per cent, and 21.9 per cent respectively, the report says.

The report also reveals an 83.2-per-cent growth of investment in coal mining and dressing, which reached 45.5 billion yuan (5.62 billion US dollars).

Meanwhile, investment in petroleum and natural gas was up 28.6 per cent to 65.5 billion yuan (8.09 billion US dollars), while investment in oil processing, coking and nuclear fuel processing was up 15.1 per cent to 36.1 billion yuan (4.46 billion US dollars). China's fixed assets investment in the first half year was 3,289.5 billion yuan (406 billion US dollars), a year-on-year increase of 25.4 per cent.—*MNA/Xinhua*

Helicopter gunfire wounds 25 Iraqi workers

BAGHDAD, 17 Aug—At least 25 workers were wounded on Tuesday by what appeared to be helicopter fire as some slept on the roof of a central Baghdad hotel, and the US military said it was investigating the incident.

"The helicopter shot at the hotel three times," Rahim al-Ta'ie, a worker who said he witnessed the attack, told *Reuters*. He said some of the wounded men were having breakfast on the street below in the open air at the time, which he put at between 05:00 (0100 GMT) and 05:30 in the morning. A *Reuters* cameraman at the scene saw blood spattered around the rooftop of the low-rise hotel, situated in the poor Allawi District of the capital.

Police told *Reuters* at least 25 men were wounded.

The men, who were taken to three hospitals, refused to say who they thought had fired on them or could not speak because they were being treated for wounds, mostly in the legs.

Four US soldiers later arrived at the Yarmuk Hospital to investigate the incident, checking the conditions of the workers and registering their names. They told a *Reuters* cameraman that they could not confirm if US troops were involved.

"We can't confirm anything at this stage. We're looking into it to see what precisely happened," US military spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Steve Boylan later said. "All we've got at this stage are reports we've heard about labourers being shot." An attack on a US military patrol followed by US gunfire last Saturday left 15 Iraqis dead and 17 wounded in the town of Ramadi west of Baghdad, residents said. The US military said it was not responsible.—*MNA/Reuters*

Families in High Court fight for Iraq war inquiry

LONDON, 18 Aug—The families of seventeen British soldiers killed in the Iraq war, and one who committed suicide after returning home, began a legal challenge yesterday in an attempt to force the Government into holding an independent public inquiry into the legality of the conflict.

Lawyers formally lodged papers at the High Court seeking a judicial review of the Government's refusal in May to order an inquiry. They are seeking an urgent preliminary hearing so that the review can be held before the end of the year.

Phil Shiner, the families' solicitor, wants an inquiry that will cross-examine

the Prime Minister, the Attorney-General, Geoff Hoon, the former Defence Secretary, and Jack Straw, the Foreign Secretary.

The families argue that, under human rights laws, if the State is involved in the use of lethal force, there must be an independent inquiry. The court will also be asked to decide the remit of any inquiry.

Among the questions raised by the families is "why the equivocal advice of 7 March, 2003, from the Attorney-General, Lord Goldsmith, changed so that ten days later it was completely unequivocal in giving legal support for the war?". —*Internet*



An Iraqi woman sits with her grandson, who was injured by a car bomb which killed two and wounded nine, at the Al Fallujah Hospital in Fallujah, 50 km (32 miles) west of Baghdad, on 17 August, 2005 —INTERNET

China ready to authenticate all foreign degrees, diplomas

BELING, 17 Aug— China's Ministry of Education (MOE) has begun to offer authentication services for all foreign degrees and diplomas so that Chinese employers can verify the academic credentials of job applicants.

The MOE can now authenticate degrees and diplomas received from overseas higher educational institutions and diplomas received from overseas joint venture schools approved by China's State Council, an MOE official told *Xinhua* on Monday.

The official said that before the new service programme, it could only offer notary services for university degrees from some 30 countries and regions. The new service, however, can authenticate degrees and diplomas from any country as long as the institutions of higher learning are included in the an MOE list of acknowledged overseas schools.

The official says students can log

onto the MOE's web site to complete the authenticating process, which is more efficient. Under the previous mechanism, students had to submit written text to the MOE or through visits and and calls for authentication.

According to the MOE, before the end of 2004, 6,000 students had their degrees notarized. Authentication is normally required by most employers.

Chinese students often seek advice on the validity of degrees issued by overseas schools before they go abroad to avoid fraudulence.

Since 1978, more than 400,000 Chinese students have studied abroad, with more than 100,000 coming back to the country in the last two decades.

MNA/Xinhua



A Chinese guard overlooks the construction site of the Aquatic Centre for the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing recently. —INTERNET

Two US soldiers killed in Iraq in separate incidents

WASHINGTON, 17 Aug— Two US soldiers were killed in Iraq in the last two days.

A Task Force Baghdad soldier died when his patrol struck an improvised explosive device in southwest Baghdad on 16 August.

On 15 August, a Task Force Freedom soldier was killed by gunfire while conducting security operations in central Mosul. Guerillas employed small-arms fire as they drove by his position in a civilian vehicle.

Guerillas also attacked a Task Force Baghdad patrol in central Baghdad on 16 August. In the ensuing fight, US helicopters tracked and engaged the guerillas, and resulted in an undetermined number of civilian casualties.

Multinational Force Iraq officials expressed regret over any civilian loss of life or injuries.

In other news from Iraq, a mechanical problem forced a Task Force Baghdad helicopter to make a precautionary landing in southwest Baghdad on 17 August.

Internet

HK to issue special stamps to mark opening of Disneyland

HONG KONG, 17 Aug— A set of special stamps would be issued to mark the grand opening of Hong Kong Disneyland on 12 September, 2005, Hong Kong Postmaster General Allan Chiang announced on Monday.

Hongkong Post will issue a set of four commemorative stamps, a souvenir sheet, a stamp sheetlet and a gold-foiled stamp sheetlet on 12 September.

A Souvenir Pack will also be available, containing a set of the "Hong Kong Disneyland" stamps issued in 2003 to commemorate the groundbreaking, together with a set of the new "Hong Kong Disneyland Grand Opening" stamps and a gold-foiled stamp sheetlet, Chiang said.

The set of special stamps consists of views of four themed lands familiar to Disney lovers worldwide. The stamps feature Disney's version of Main Street, USA, the wonders of Fantasyland, an enticing view of

Adventureland and the world's favourite mouse, Mickey of course.

"The opening of the Disneyland in Hong Kong is no doubt a reason for Hong Kong people to celebrate," Chiang said. "Not only will it bring those who visit it many hours of pleasure, but it will also draw tourism from around the world and provide work for many local people in a broad range of activities from the hospitality industry to the leisure sector." The stamps and stamp sheetlets are designed by Walt Disney Imagineering and printed in lithography by Cartor Security Printing, France.

MNA/Xinhua

Anti-war demonstrators move nearer to Bush

CRAWFORD, 18 Aug—Anti-war demonstrators led by the mother of a soldier killed in Iraq will move their campsite closer to President Bush's Texas ranch.

The new site, offered by a sympathetic landowner, is a mile from Bush's Crawford home. The move comes after the President's neighbours complained about sanitation and traffic problems.

The landowner is a relative of the rancher who fired shots into the air Sunday, saying he was preparing for dove season, said Cindy Sheehan, the California woman who has maintained a vigil outside Bush's ranch since 6 August.

Fred Mattlage, 52, said he's offering the site to

Sheehan as "an act of compassion for a parent that's lost a son in combat."

Sheehan, founder of Gold Star Families for Peace, is demanding a meeting with Bush in hopes of asking the President what her son Casey died to achieve and to press for a US troop withdrawal from Iraq.

The protesters plan to move "Camp Casey" to Mattlage's property on Thursday and Friday.

Demonstrators have said they won't leave until the commander in chief meets with Sheehan.—Internet

MNA/Xinhua

Singapore to install crash barriers at land checkpoints

SINGAPORE, 17 Aug— Singapore will install crash barriers at land checkpoints later this year, *ChannelNewsAsia* said on Tuesday.

The Immigration and Checkpoints Authority (ICA) expects the installation to help "stop vehicles that do not halt for immigration and security clearance".

As terrorism and transnational crimes remain a global threat, Singapore has been enhancing the security measures at its land checkpoints in the past few months.

MNA/Xinhua

1,860 US soldiers killed in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 17 Aug—As of Wednesday, 17 Aug, 2005, at least 1,860 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 1,440 died as a result of hostile action, according to the military's numbers. The figures include five military civilians.

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

The British military has reported 93 deaths; Italy, 26; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 17; Bulgaria, 13; Spain, 11; Slovakia, three; El Salvador, Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, Hungary, Kazakhstan and Latvia one death each.

Since 1 May, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,721 US military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 1,331 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

Since the start of US military operations in Iraq, 14,021 US servicemembers have been wounded, according to a Defence Department tally released Tuesday.—Internet



Automobiles, cyclists and pedestrians compete for space at a busy intersection in Beijing, China, on 18 August, 2005. —INTERNET

China to open air market wider to overseas airlines

GUIYANG, 17 Aug — China will further open its air market and promote flight right reforms to invite more overseas airlines into western China, said Yang Guoqing, vice director of the General Administration of Civil Aviation of China (CAAC) on Monday.

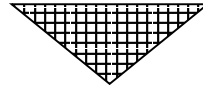
He made the remarks at the 20th forum on economic cooperation among six provinces, regions and municipality in southwestern China. The two-day forum closed Monday in Guiyang, capital of southwest China's Guizhou Province.

"As long as overseas airlines are willing to open flights to western China cities, We (CAAC) won't have flight right limitations, and the domestic airlines are also welcome since many other measures are tailor-made for them," Yang said.

Meanwhile, the air market in the Pan-Pearl River areas will open to the low-cost airlines in the ASEAN (Association of South-East Asian Nations) countries to boost tourism cooperation, Yang said.

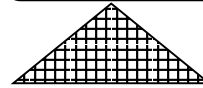
The air market in southwestern China has been booming in recent years. Air passengers increased by 34.9 per cent in 2004 from the previous year in the six provinces, regions and municipality, according to statistics from the CAAC.

MNA/Xinhua



A Kashmiri rows a small boat on the waters of Dal Lake in Srinagar, on 17 August, 2005.

INTERNET



Russia, India sign \$350m aircraft engine deal

ZHUKOVSKY (Russia), 17 Aug — India and Russia on Tuesday signed a 350-million US dollars deal for the joint development, production and marketing of a new aircraft engine for use on the Intermediate Jet Trainers HJT-36 and HJT-39 developed and built by Indians.

The deal was signed by the Chairman of Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL), Ashok Baweja, and Director General of Rosoboronexport State Corporation, Sergei Chemezov, in the presence of Russian President Vladimir Putin, Indian Ambassador to Moscow Kanwal Sibal and Russian Defence Minister Sergei Ivanov, immediately after the inauguration of International Aerospace Show

MAKS-2005 here.

Putin, who arrived here onboard a special helicopter, immediately after formally inaugurating the air show went straight to the Rosoboronexport Chalet to bless the signing of the Indo-Russian deal with his presence, signalling the importance attached by the Kremlin to defence cooperation with New Delhi.

Under the general contract signed Tuesday,

HAL will initially produce 250AL-551jet engines and would have right to produce 1,000 more. The inter-governmental agreement on licensed production of the engine is scheduled to be signed in New Delhi on 18 August.

The Russian engine developed by NPO Saturn scientific-production enterprise is first of its kind to be serially produced in Russia and India, General Designer Alexander

Sarkisov told PTI on the sideline of the air show.

"It would replace French Larsac engines in 2008, currently being used in HJT-36 proto-types," Sarkisov said.

"The Indian side has chosen our engine as the result of a convincing victory over European manufacturers in the tender for engine project for the prospective HJT-36 and latest HJT-36 trainer jets developed by HAL for the Indian Air Force," he said.

MNA/PTI

One feared dead in rail tunnel fire in S Britain

LONDON, 17 Aug — One person was feared dead and another was seriously injured on Tuesday in a train fire on a high-speed railway line being built between London and the Anglo-French undersea link, emergency services said.

More than 50 firefighters were called to the blaze on a construction train in a section of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link (CTRL), a 68-mile line, in Kent, southeast of London.

"The fire has been brought under control," a Kent Fire and Rescue Service spokesman said. "One person has been taken to hospital with burns." He said a search was under way for a second person who was believed to have died in the tunnel. — MNA/Reuters

Four US soldiers killed north of Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 18 Aug — Four US soldiers were killed on Thursday in a roadside bomb attack in the northern Iraqi city of Samarra, the US military said.

"Four Task Force Liberty Soldiers were killed by an improvised explosive device in Samarra at about 11:15 am (0715GMT) on 18 Aug," the military said in a statement.

The names of the soldiers are being withheld pending notification of next of kin, the statement added.

Samarra, some 110 km north of Baghdad, has long been a bastion of attack against US and Iraqi forces.

Over 1,850 US soldiers have been killed in Iraq since the US-led invasion in March 2003, according to media tally. — MNA/Xinhua

Indonesian President points to peace, economic challenges

JAKARTA, 17 Aug — Indonesia's President pointed with pride on Tuesday to efforts to bring peace to tsunami-devastated Aceh Province but warned of economic challenges ahead for the world's fourth most populous nation.

Indonesia and Free Aceh Movement (GAM) rebels signed a peace agreement on Monday aimed at ending nearly three decades of war in the province.

"The government places hope that the signing of the Memorandum of

Understanding with GAM will become the starting point for a permanent conflict settlement in Aceh," Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono told Parliament.

In the annual presidential address ahead of Indonesia's 17 August Independence Day, Yudhoyono said a history marked by the sorrow of the civil war "became even more dreadful when a devastating earthquake and tsunami waves struck Aceh".

MNA/Reuters

Japanese voters could deal US a blow in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 17 Aug — Japan's election next month could end up costing the United States another ally in Iraq, a symbolic blow to Washington even if Tokyo's overall pro-US foreign policy doesn't change, experts said on Tuesday.

Both Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi's Liberal Democratic Party and the opposition Democratic Party support the decades-old US-Japan security alliance, and the 11 September vote is being fought largely over Koizumi's financial reform agenda.

Koizumi has forged close ties with US President George W Bush, bucking opposition to provide logistics support for US forces in Afghanistan and to send 550 Japanese troops to Iraq in Tokyo's first significant overseas deployment since 1945.

Internet

2 US troops killed, 2 wounded in blast in Afghanistan

KABUL, 18 Aug — Two US soldiers were killed and two wounded when an improvised explosive device struck their armoured vehicle as it traveled north of Kandahar, Afghanistan, on Thursday, the US-led coalition force said.

Their vehicle was part of a convoy operating in the area in support of the Tarin Kowt road construction project, a US effort to build a modern major highway and improve local infrastructure, the coalition said in a news release.

The two US soldiers wounded in the attack were evacuated to Kandahar airfield for treatment where they are both listed in stable condition, added the coalition.

"This is a tragic loss for us all," said Brig Gen Jack Sterling, Combined Joint Task Force 76 deputy commanding general. "These terrorists are attacking the every forces working to improve Afghanistan."

MNA/Xinhua



An Iraqi soldier secures the area following a car bombing at the Al-Nahda bus station which links the capital with the predominantly Shiite regions to the south of Baghdad on 17 August, 2005. — INTERNET

Int'l specialists suggest more testing on pig-borne epidemic samples

BELING, 17 Aug— International specialists have suggested further testing on samples of Streptococcus suis outbreak in southwest China's Sichuan Province, according to Beijing-based office of World Health Organization.

A group of international specialists on Streptococcus suis, including WHO technical staff, held a teleconference on 9 August to discuss this outbreak.

"The specialists suggested that further testing on samples from the Sichuan outbreak might be helpful, as would comparisons between the strain associated with this outbreak and strains linked to other occurrences in the past in China and other countries," said WHO's report on Tuesday.

"Chinese authorities have indicated that they are keen for such studies to be conducted," it said.

Though the Streptococcus suis genome has been sequenced, the specialists observed, the function of between 20 and 30 per cent of the genome is still unknown. The specialists were reassured by the lack of evidence to suggest person-to-person transmission in the outbreak, as well as the lack of cases among children.

They said person-to-person transmission was unlikely to occur unless there was very close contact with infected material such as blood (something that would almost only occur in hospital settings).

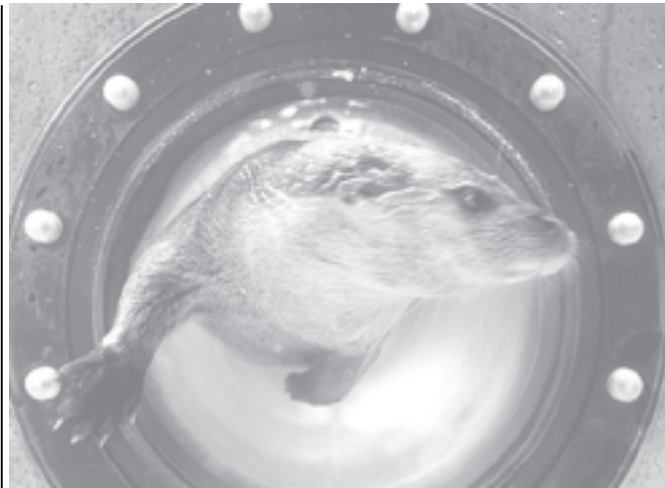
Regarding a possible national and international spread of the outbreak, the specialists concurred with the Chinese authorities that the movements of live pigs, and the trade of pig carcasses and meat within and from the outbreak area, had to be carefully regulated and monitored. China says it has put strict measures in place to ensure this.

To date, the Ministry of Health of China (MOH) has reported 215 cases of human disease associated with the outbreak. Of these human cases, 39 have been fatal. No new cases have been reported since 5 August. Chinese authorities add that based on their investigation so far there is no evidence of human-to-human transmission, and no healthcare workers tending to the patients have been infected.

Further study is still needed, however, to try to determine why this outbreak was so large and included so many fatalities, especially compared to previous outbreaks in recent years, according to the MOH.

The MOH has provided WHO with regular updates through the course of this outbreak. "WHO will continue to monitor the situation, and is pleased to offer the Ministry of Health of China its support," said the report.

MNA/Xinhua



An otter swims through a tube at a feeding box, made of transparent acrylic boards at Tokyo's Ueno Zoo recently. —INTERNET

Nepali Govt cuts fee by 50% for mountaineering teams

KATHMANDU, 17 Aug— The Nepali Government has decided to provide a 50-per-cent concession in the royalty charged to the mountaineering teams seeking permission to climb Mt Mansalu and Mt Lhotse from March to June 2006, a Press release issued by the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation said on Tuesday.

The decision has been made under the policy of observing golden jubilee of the first ascent to the mountains above 8,000 metres, the release said.

According to the release, an expedition team consisting up to seven

members will be made to pay 10,000 US dollars, while the additional amount of royalty on the additional number of mountaineering team has been slashed to 50 per cent.

The government expects that the decision will

play positive role in the promotion of mountain tourism in Nepal, the release added.

The golden jubilee year of first ascent to the two mountains is being observed this year in Nepal. — MNA/Xinhua

India, next only to US, in drug patent applications

NEW DELHI, 17 Aug— India has received 1,312 applications for patent of pharmaceutical products, becoming only the second country after the US to get a large number of such requests.

The US, which topped the list of countries that received patent application for pharma products, received 2,111 applications. Germany finished third with 1,090 applications.

For the fourth position, there was a relatively close competition between Britain and Switzerland, which received 573 and 538 applications respectively.

Japan secured the sixth place in the list with 434 applications, Sweden seventh with 351, France eighth with 289, Denmark ninth with 261 while Belgium came tenth with 170 applications.

MNA/PTI

China to launch top environmental award

BELING, 17 Aug— China Environmental Protection Foundation (CEPF) will invest 3.5 million yuan (432,098 US dollars) annually to reward those who make outstanding contributions to environment protection, with the highest premium scoring 500,000 yuan.

"Though the amount is very limited, it is China's highest in this field so far," said Qu Geping, head of CEPF, a non-governmental organization.

The award, titled "China Environment Award", is the third time

that CEPF launched since 2000, but the largest bonus in past two times was only 100,000 yuan (12,340 US dollars).

"We set up the award to encourage the whole society to contribute to environmental protec-

tion," said Qu.

In the past years, China has stipulated several environment laws, including "recycling production law", "prairie protection law", "law on desertification prevention and control" and so on,

showing the government's concern to environmental protection.

"What pleased me is that environmental protection seems to root in people's minds, making them more environmental sensitive," Qu said.

MNA/Reuters



Indonesian youths attempt to knock each other down into the water during a pillow fight game at a city canal in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 17 August, 2005. — INTERNET

Malaysian firms deny of setting fires in Sumatra

KUALA LUMPUR, 17 Aug— Malaysian plantation firms operating in Indonesia say they had no role in starting forest fires that wafted a choking haze over peninsular Malaysia last week, a Malaysian minister said on Tuesday.

The fires, many deliberately lit on Indonesia's island of Sumatra to clear land for agriculture, are once again testing ties between the two Southeast Asian neighbours after the smoke caused Malaysia's worst pollution crisis in eight years.

Indonesia named eight Malaysian plantation companies on Monday that it wants to hold responsible for setting fires on Sumatra in a practice that is illegal, although slash-and-burn clearing still happens.

Smoke from the fires blanketed the Malaysian capital for nearly a week, threatening public health, disrupting transport and shutting down schools, until rain and breezes scattered the smog last Friday, carrying it north. On Tuesday, Malaysia's Commodities Minister Peter Chin said the heads of plantation companies accused of setting some of the fires had told him they were not involved.

"I confirmed with the CEOs involved. They categorically denied carrying out any burning operations," Chin told Reuters. The Malaysian firms practiced zero-burning techniques, he added. "In any case, their estates are already matured, so why should they clear

land for plantation by burning?"

The plantation firms plan to resolve the issue by talking to their Indonesian counterparts and the authorities, Chin added.

Malaysia, fearing a return of the haze if the fires are not quickly put out, has sent a team of 100 firemen to help douse off the flames. Australia plans to send a team of 12 bushfire experts.

Indonesian officials said the situation had improved. "The situation is getting better. Hotspots are reduced. I don't know for sure how much," said Chaerul Zainal, chief of the environmental supervisory agency in Riau, where the bulk of the fires are concentrated.

In 1997, haze from mainly Indonesian fires blotted out skies across Southeast Asia. The fires are a perennial irritant, with Indonesia urged to act more quickly and Malaysian firms accused in turn of being part of the problem.

Malaysia is the biggest producer of palm oil and, during drier weather at this time of year, plantation owners sometimes flout bans on open burning to clear land to plant new trees. — MNA/Reuters

Agricultural and ...

(from page 16)

for systematic use of roads. Local authorities, departmental officials and those in charge of the zones are to provide necessary assistance through coordination for extension of businesses and betterment of roads. Measures are to be taken for export of goods if the special zone produces surplus of vegetables, meat and fish. All the vacant plots are to be put under 28 species of designated vegetables.

Afterwards, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and officials inspected Linn Arkar Farm where over 7200 broilers are bred, cultivation of over 12,000 rubber plants in the garden of the police force at Nyaungnabin and cultivation of turmeric in Zone-3.

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe urged the officials to extend the farming and fulfilled the requirements. There are 5765 acres of crops in Yangon Division Agriculture and Livestock Breeding Special Zone. Moreover, over 1 million broilers and over 2



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe inspects Yangon Division Vegetable Cultivation and Livestock Breeding Zone. — MNA

million layers are raised in the zone. Over 1 million broilers have been sold. In the zone, the number of fish ponds reaches 515 where over 1.3 million fish are bred. —MNA

Special envoy of UN Secretary-General calls on Foreign Minister



Mr Ali Alatas, special envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General, calls on Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win. — MNA

YANGON, 18 Aug — Mr Ali Alatas, special envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General on the United Nations reform for the Asia and Pacific, arrived here this afternoon.

He was welcomed at Yangon International Airport by U Win Mra, Director-General of International Organizations

and Economic Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

At 4 pm, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win received Mr Ali Alatas at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Present on the occasion were Deputy Minister U Maung Myint and Director-General U Win Mra of International

Organizations and Economic Department. Mr Ali Alatas was accompanied by Ms Elizabeth Noorthy, the Resident Coordinator of External Affairs Office.

Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win hosted a dinner for Mr Ali Alatas at the Sedona Hotel at night.

MNA



Special envoy of the UN Secretary-General being welcomed at Yangon International Airport. — MNA

Pre-Civil Service, Basic Civil Service courses conclude

YANGON, 18 Aug — Pre-Civil Service Course No 19 and Basic Civil Service Course No 169 concluded at the Central Institute of Civil Service (Phaunggyi) this morning, attended by

Rector of the institute U Win Maung.

The rector awarded model prizes to Daw Khine Thandar Nyunt and U Htein Min of pre-civil service course and Daw Khin Htwe Yi

and U Myo Min of basic civil service course.

Afterwards, the rector made a concluding speech and presented the completion certificates to the trainees.

MNA

Education Minister inspects School Health Week activities

YANGON, 18 Aug — The period from 15 to 20 August 2005 was designated to carry out activities for School Health Week for 2005-06 academic year. During the week, five school health tasks are being carried out at basic education schools in the entire nation.

Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein arrived at Tamway BEHS No 1 where Deputy Ministers U Myo Nyunt and Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min, directors-general, the chairman of Myanmar Board of Examinations, officials of the Health Department and officials welcomed

the minister.

First, the minister, the deputy ministers and guests enjoyed health education video, and viewed school health tasks and participation of students in cartoon and essay competitions to mark the School Health Week. The minister gave necessary instruction to students.

Next, they viewed round the school health exhibition.

At Yankin Education College Practising Middle School, the principal and students briefed the minister and party on matters related to five points of school health programme. The minister

and party viewed hygienic foodstalls of the school, and conducting test of blood groups, and measurement of student's height and weight.

Likewise, they looked into school health tasks at No 8 Post-Primary School in Thingangyun Township. Next, they oversaw the five-point school health booth and gave necessary instructions.

The minister and party viewed round feeding refreshment to the student, participation of the students in the health quiz and cartoon contest and showing of health education video.

MNA

Bago Yoma greening tasks inspected

YANGON, 18 Aug — Director-General of the Forest Department under the Ministry of Forestry U Sein Win Hlaing together with General Manager of Timber Extraction U Aye Win met the staff of

Myanmar Timber Enterprise (Timber Extraction) of Bago District and Toungoo District in Bago and Toungoo on 14 August.

The director-general gave instructions to the staff on timely com-

pletion of the tasks.

On 15 and 16 August, the director-general inspected the research works of Bago Yoma greening tasks. Next, the director-general left necessary instructions.

MNA



BODY BUILDING & BEAUTY CONTEST OF UYE —The closing session of Body Building & Beauty Contest organized by Fine Arts Association of the University of East Yangon seen on 5-8-2005. Rector U Kyi Win, Pro-rector (Retd) Advisor U Kyi Win and Chairperson of FAA Prof Daw Khin Aye Nwe awarded the winners after the contest. — H

Performance of service personnel will be noble if they discharge duties with goodwill



Prime Minister General Soe Win meets board of directors of Mandalay MICTDC in Mandalay MICT Park.— MNA

(from page 16)

The Prime Minister and party helicoptered to Zawgyi (Myogyi) dam project site near Myogyi Village, Ywangan Township, Shan State via Mandalay Industrial Zone. They were welcomed by Chairman of Shan State PDC Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint, Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Myint and officials.

At the briefing hall, Deputy Minister U Ohn Myint briefed them on arrangements for implementation of Zawgyi dam project for water supply of greening Meiktila Plain, preliminary

nary engineering works and preparatory tasks being carried out for construction of Kengkham dam project with the aid. Lt-Gen Ye Myint raised the queries on project tasks for greening Meiktila Plain and Deputy Minister U Ohn Myint and Deputy Director-General of Irrigation Department U Khin Zaw reported on the greening tasks.

Next, the Prime Minister heard reports on construction of Zawgyi (Myogyi) dam, requirements for implementation of Kengkham dam project and water supply to Meiktila Plain, and gave instructions to officials to get down to the business of construction in the

upcoming open season.

Arrangements are being made for supply of water from Zawgyi dam built on Zawgyi River in Yaksawk Township and water from the watershed area between Zawgyi Dam and Zawgyi (Myogyi) Dam to farmlands and Meiktila Plain.

Zawgyi (Myogyi) dam will be 2,650 feet in length and 282 feet in height. It is an earth embankment. It will store 480,580 acre feet of water. It can also generate electricity.

Kengkham Dam project will be implemented on Nan-et Creek in Yaksawk Township with a view to supplying water to Zawgyi Dam for

contribution much to greening Meiktila Plain.

The Prime Minister and party flew to inspect irrigation facilities constructed and under construction between Zawgyi (Myogyi) Dam Project site and Meiktila.

On arrival at Meiktila Station in the afternoon, they were welcomed by Brig-Gen Khin Maung Tin, senior military officers and officials.

They proceeded to Meiktila Institute of Economics. Rector U Than Swe reported on subjects prescribed, strength of students and faculty members, and buildings constructed and under construction; and Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein and Deputy Minister for Science and Technology U Kyaw Soe, on academic matters and construction tasks.

The Prime Minister gave instructions on the construction tasks and inspected the convocation hall, e-Education learning

centre, e-Education resource centre, computer training centre, language lab, lecture halls, and progress of construction of hostels for female faculty members.

Next, the Prime Minister attended the meeting held at Kandaw Mingalar Hall in Meiktila to seek ways for greening Meiktila Plain and irrigation of farmland.

Also present were departmental officials, local authorities, and members of the agricultural coordination committee.

Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw reported on phased implementation of the project; Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Myint, on irrigation of more than 539,000 acres of farmland in Mandalay Division in 2005-2006, arrangements for supply of water to over 555,000 acres in 2006-2007, measures taken to meet the target of cultivation of crops in-

cluding over 800,000 acres of monsoon paddy and 200,000 acres of summer paddy, and all-round efforts for water supply including Zawgyi (Myogyi) Dam and Kengkham Dam projects for greening Meiktila Plain; and Director-General of the Water Resources Utilization Department U Win Shwe and Deputy Director-General of the Irrigation Department U Khin Zaw, on the tasks being carried out for greening Meiktila Plain and water supply.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint assessed the reports and gave a supplementary report.

The Prime Minister said that during the inspection tour, he attended to needs for regional greening, irrigation of farmland, and supply of safe potable water in Magway and Sagaing divisions. Prior to the tour, he inspected Zawgyi (Myogyi) Dam Project

(See page 9)

Measures are to be taken for establishment of Data Centre and Public Access Centre in collaboration with private business organizations and departments for the development of Mandalay MICT Park and constant coordination with Yangon MICT Park.



Prime Minister General Soe Win inspects lecture halls of Meiktila Institute of Economics.— MNA

Carry out tasks with sense of duty under the leadership of the State for regional and national development



Prime Minister General Soe Win delivers a speech at the meeting on greening of Meiktila Plain and irrigation. — MNA

of service personnel will be noble if they discharge duties with goodwill. They are thus to carry out their tasks with a sense of duty under the leadership of the State for regional and national development.

In the evening, the Prime Minister held a meeting with Lt-Gen Ye Myint, the commander and departmental officials at Yeiktha where they were putting up. The meeting focused on the drive for greening Meiktila Region and water pumping projects.

The Prime Minister and party arrived back

Committee Members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Col Zaw Min, Brig-

Minister, met with secretaries, executives and members of USDAs of Meiktila District and

Similarly, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo inspected Meiktila People's Hospi-

Arrangements are being made for water supply to Meiktila Plain with the use of water from Zawgyi Dam built on Zawgyi River in Yaksawk Township, Shan State (South), and Zawgyi (Myogyi) Dam being built.

Zawgyi (Myogyi) Dam will be 2650 feet in length and 282 feet in height. It is of an earth embankment. It will hold 480,580 acre feet. It can also generate electricity.



(from page 8) and other projects for greening of Meiktila Plain.

The Water Resources Utilization Department and the Irrigation Department are implementing the projects effectively to meet the target, while other relevant ministers and local people are taking part in the project.

In that regard, serious attention needs to be paid to ensuring success in water supply as the arid zone greening tasks and water supply

tasks directly benefit the people. The performance

here by air yesterday morning. Central Executive

Gen Thein Aung and Maj-Gen Aung Min, who accompanied the Prime

townships at the office of Meiktila District USDA on 16 August evening.

tal and the Nurses Training School on 16 August evening. — MNA



Central Executive Committee Member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Col Zaw Min meeting with USDA members at Meiktila District USDA Office. — MNA



Meiktila Institute of Economics. — MNA

USDA Secretariat Member Information Minister tours Yinmabin, Pale and Salingyi

YANGON, 18 Aug — USDA Secretariat Member Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan made a field trip to Yinmabin, Pale and Salingyi townships, Sagaing Division, from 13 to 17 August.

On 13 August, the Secretariat Member met with local authorities, people, members of USDA and MCWA, and social organization members, totalling 870 of villages at Pepinzu Village BEMS in Yinmabin Township.

After giving instructions on regional development, the Secretariat Member accepted 4,308 USDA membership applications from the village organizer.

Next, he presented soap, kitchen items, blankets, textbooks and exercise books, various books



USDA Secretariat Member Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan meeting with locals in Yinmabin Township. — MNA

for self-reliant libraries and donations of Myanmar Red Cross Society to Minkangyi Village-tract.

Officials of Yinmabin Township IPRD, Monywa District and Yinmabin Township USDAs, Yinmabin Township Peace and De-

velopment Council and Seinlan Thitpin Library of Yinmabin Township donated various kinds of books to representatives of respective villages.

Afterwards, the minister and party attended the ceremony to open the Yaunggyithit Library of Pebinsu Vil-

lage.

Speaking on the occasion, Secretariat Member Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan said that he arrived there to know correct conditions of rural areas and provide necessary assistance to villages in accord with the guidance of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe.

The Government is giving priority to improvement of the education sector for development of human resources development. As today is education age, efforts are being made for turning out educated persons. At the same time, parents are responsible for giving encouragement to their children to pursue education. Only when technologies improve, will the country achieve development. Regional development reflects improvement of the State. At present, the Government is carrying out rural development tasks in over 60,000 villages of the whole nation.

During 10-year pe-

riod, the Tatmadaw Government has built 176 dams for agricultural purpose. Likewise, the Government provided facilities in the education sector and the construction sector.

The Government is undertaking nation-building tasks overcoming various hindrances of internal and external destructive elements. Nowadays, colonialists are applying new enslavement method to control the subject nations through their lackeys.

All are to be aware of their new enslavement plot. And, the people are to harmoniously take part in realizing the seven-point Road Map and setting up the democratic nation.

On 15 August evening, the Secretariat Member enjoyed skill demonstration of Pale BEHS Band and presented K 100,000 to it.

At Bo Tha Kyi Hall at Pale BEHS, he met with departmental personnel and members

of social organizations of Monywa District and Pale Township. In his address, he said that as the Government is performing development tasks with momentum, departmental officials and staff are to discharge their duties with goodwill. Strength of the Government, that of local authorities and departments and that of local people are essential in building a new modern and developed nation. All are to collaborate in supplying power to rural areas through bio-gas and windmills. He urged the local people to cooperate with the Government for technological development.

Next, the minister presented K 3 million for new building of Pale BEHS, K 500,000 for Pale Township USDA, K 300,000 for Yinmabin Township USDA and K 100,000 for construction of a new building at Ingon BEPS in Yinmabin Township to officials.

MNA



USDA Secretariat Member Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presents K 3 million for construction of Pale BEHS building. — MNA



USDA Secretariat Member Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan accepts 4308 USDA membership applications at a meeting with locals, USDA members, social organizations in Yinmabin Township. — MNA

ကျေးရွာတိုင်း ကိုယ့်အားကိုယ်ကိုးစာကြည့်တိုက်များ ထူထောင်ဖို့၊
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ကျေးလက်နေပြည်သူအများ ပညာဗဟုသုတတိုးပွားစေရန်
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Cambodia to build second Special Economic Zone

PHNOM PENH, 18 Aug — Cambodia will build its second Special Economic Zone after the first was inaugurated last week, local media reported on Wednesday.

Cambodia's Attwood Investment Group unveiled a master plan Tuesday to invest 89 million US dollars in the country's second Special Economic Zone, to be built in October.

The zone will cover 200 hectares of land in Sihanoukville's Stung Hav District, where a port, utility supply facilities and other infrastructure will be built, according to Khmer newspaper *Rasmei Kampuchea*.

"We intend to develop this area into an economic and commercial zone to improve the living conditions of rural residents and to provide jobs for young people," said Attwood President Lim Chhiv Ho.

The zone will also make it easy to import raw material and export products thanks to its proximity to the Sihanoukville International Port, she added.

Cambodia's first special economic zone officially began construction in Svay Rieng Province, bordering Vietnam, last week.

Deputy Prime Minister Sok An praised Attwood for its active role in local investment, saying it was in line with the government's policy to set up special economic zones to reduce poverty among Cambodian people.

Attwood will receive a nine-year tax break, in accordance with a draft law on Special Economic Zones, and investors could import raw materials duty-free as soon as construction is completed, *The Cambodia Daily* said.

Cambodia also plans to build special economic zones in the provinces of Koh Kong, Takeo, Kompong Cham, Kratie, Banteay Meanchey and possibly in Pailin. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Chinese family planning officials join in fight against AIDS

ZHENGZHOU, 18 Aug — Over 140 family planning officials from seven provinces in China attended a two-day training seminar here, learning how to combine their population work experience with the fight against HIV/AIDS.

At the 15-16 August Initiative and Training Workshop for Population and Family Planning Sectors in Global Fund HIV/AIDS Programme Areas, family planning officials from 58 counties or districts received training on China's HIV/AIDS situation, prevention and control measures, condom use programmes and how to care for and support people living with HIV/AIDS. Officials and medical experts from the National Population and Family Planning Commission (NPFPC), Global Fund HIV/AIDS China programme office, World Health Organization and Chinese Central for Disease Prevention and Control shared their knowledge of the epidemic at the workshop.

China's population and family planning department has a nationwide network, including the grassroots level, which helps it outperform others in carrying out educational programmes on HIV/AIDS, HIV monitoring, consulting and offering assistance to the HIV-infected, Ma Yugen, HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment expert and one of the trainers, said.

He said the participation of population and family planning commissions is beneficial to helping the general public to protect themselves and care about the HIV-infected by knowing more about the disease.

"I used to think AIDS was not our domain, but the training has changed my mind. I think we should fight

against it and moreover, take the initiative," said Yang Fujian from the Hubei provincial population and family planning commission in central China.

"The biggest change the two-day training has made on me is I come to understand that the HIV-infected not only need material support, but more humanitarian care and understanding from the public."

These officials each received a questionnaire to evaluate their understanding about HIV/AIDS transmission channels, prevention measures, the right attitude toward the HIV-infected and how they think they should do in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

In central Henan Province, family planning officials have launched a campaign designed to help people with HIV/AIDS, including holding training programmes on AIDS prevention among village family planning officials and the newly-weds, handing out material on AIDS to the migrating population, issuing free condoms in rural areas and educating the public on correct condom use methods and benefits of condom use.

They have also invested more in building HIV voluntary counselling and testing (VCT) capacity and offering financial assistance to disadvantaged HIV-infected groups such as poor mothers, orphans and pregnant women. — *MNA/Xinhua*

ADB funds to develop remote areas in Fiji Islands

MANILA, 18 Aug — The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is preparing a project to help develop rural and outer islands in the Fiji Islands, through a technical assistance (TA) grant approved for 700,000 US dollars, according to ADB news release on Tuesday.

The total cost of the TA is estimated at 994,000 US dollars, toward which the Fiji Government will contribute 294,000 US dollars equivalent.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Sugar, and Land Resettlement of Fiji Island is the executing agency for the TA, which is due for completion in November 2005.

The planned project

will help improve income-earning opportunities and reduce economic disparities in the poor rural and outer islands of the Fiji Islands.

"These remote areas have tremendous potential for tourism, marine, and agriculture development," says Philip Erquiaga, Director General of ADB Pacific Department.

The TA will identify potential income-generating opportunities and priority infrastructure to support development, and the potential for private-sector collaboration with island communities to develop locally available resources.

It will also evaluate policy and institutional constraints affecting the development of outer islands, the ADB official said. The Fiji Islands' 320 islands are scattered across 150,000 square kilometres in the South Pacific Ocean.

About 75 per cent of the population of 825,000 lives on the two main islands, with the rest residing in about 106 small scattered outer islands.

MNA/Xinhua

New Iran atomic negotiator backs talks to solve row

TEHERAN, 18 Aug — Iran's new chief nuclear negotiator has given his backing to talks to resolve its atomic standoff with the West, while insisting that Teheran will not give up its plans to develop a full nuclear fuel cycle.

"Iran deems it a principle to continue talks and it accepts negotiation as the right manner," Ali Larjani, installed as secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council on Monday, told the *Sharq* daily in an interview published on Tuesday.

European diplomats have expressed concern that Larjani, a conservative close to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, will adopt a tougher line on the nuclear issue than his predecessor Hassan Rohani.

Larjani takes over the nuclear portfolio with Iran in the international spotlight after removing UN seals at a nuclear facility and resuming uranium conversion — a process which yields material that can be used to make atomic bombs.

Iran, which says its nuclear programme will only be used to generate electricity, rejected a resolution adopted by the UN atomic watchdog last week calling on it to halt all nuclear fuel work.

But Larjani said a solution to the dispute could be found.

"We can reach a conclusion with a win-win situation defined for both sides... We should try to solve the

problem in a friendly way and our objective is still preserving the fuel cycle," he said.

Iran angered the European Union and the United States by resuming uranium conversion at the Isfahan plant on 8 August after rejecting an EU offer of political and economic incentives in return for giving up its nuclear programme.

Iranian officials have said they will never suspend work at the plant again and Teheran now wants to discuss resuming the most sensitive part of the nuclear fuel cycle — uranium enrichment — at its facility in Natanz.

"Natanz is a part of our fuel cycle and we insist on it. However, it should pass the channel of negotiations," Larjani said.

MNA/Reuters

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



Indonesian men struggle during a greased-pole climbing competition in Jakarta, Indonesia on 17 August, 2005.

INTERNET

ADVERTISEMENTS

**လုပ်ငန်းလုပ်ကိုင်ခွင့်အငှားချထားရန်
ချိပ်ပိတ်ဈေးနှုန်းလွှာ ခေါ်ယူခြင်း**

ရက်စွဲ ၂၀၀၅ ခုနှစ် ဩဂုတ်လ ၁၂ ရက်
ရန်ကင်းမြို့တော်စည်ပင်သာယာရေးကော်မတီ၊ အခွန်ဌာန၊
ဘုရင့်နောင်ပွဲရုံနှင့် အဝေးမြေကုန်တင်ယာဉ် ရပ်နားစခန်းရှိ
ယာဉ်ဝင်ခွင့်နှင့်ညီအိမ်ခွန်ကောက်ခံခြင်းလုပ်ငန်းအား ၁-၉-၂၀၀၅
နေ့မှ ၃-၁-၂၀၀၆ နေ့အထိ (၇)လကာလ အငှားချထားလိုပါသည်
စိတ်ပါဝင်စားသည့် လုပ်ငန်းရှင်များအနေဖြင့် ချိပ်ပိတ်ဈေးနှုန်းလွှာများ
တင်သွင်းနိုင်ပါကြောင်း ဖိတ်ခေါ်အပ်ပါသည်။
ချိပ်ပိတ်ဈေးနှုန်းလွှာများကို တစ်စုလျှင် ကျပ် ၁၀၀၀/-
(ကျပ်တစ်ထောင်တိတိ) နှုန်းဖြင့် ဝယ်ယူရရှိနိုင်ပြီး ၂၆-၈-၂၀၀၅
နေ့ (၁၆:၀၀) နာရီခန့်အထိ ထား၍ ပစ္စည်းဝယ်ယူရောင်းချရေး
အဖွဲ့ ရုံးသို့ တင်သွင်းနိုင်ပါသည်။ သိရှိလိုသည့်အသေးစိတ်
အချက်အလက် များရှိပါက ဖုန်းအမှတ်-၃၈၆၆၆၆ နှင့် ၂၈၂၅၃၄
သို့ ရုံးချိန်အတွင်း ဆက်သွယ်မေးမြန်း နိုင်ပါသည်။

၃၉၆

ပစ္စည်းဝယ်ယူရောင်းချရေးအဖွဲ့

INVITATION FOR TENDER

Sealed bids are invited for the supply of Road
Bitumen 80/100 Grade to Myanma Petrochemical
Enterprise, Ministry of Energy. Tenders are to be
submitted under the following terms and conditions:-
Quantity - 10,000 ± 10% MT
Price (in bulk) - USD/MT CIF Exship
Thanlyin

Payment - LC at sight
Country of Origin - Thailand
Closing Date- 1.9.2005 12:00 HRS
Tender Documents are available at Finance Department,
Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise, No. (23),
Min- Ye- Kyawswa Road, Yangon starting from
(19.8.2005) on payment of one hundred (100) FEC.
Only tender bid purchased officially will be accepted
for evaluation.

Managing Director
Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise

**Coal price begins to drop
from zenith in China**

BEIJING, 17 Aug — Although China's power consumption, which is heavily dependent on thermal generation, reaches its peak in the summer, local coal prices in many places have start to dive, the *Economic Information Daily* reported on Tuesday.

In east China's Jiangxi Province, the coal price has dropped 10 yuan (1.2 US dollars) per ton, and in Shandong Province, the coal price has fallen 30 to 50 yuan from the beginning of this year, the newspaper said.

In north China's Shanxi Province, a leading coal production base, the coal price for power generation dropped 20 to 30 yuan in the first half of this year.

Due to the rapid development of China's national economy as well as its fixed asset investment, coal and other energy products had been in great demand since 2003, leading to a lasting price hike.

This situation is

changing, however, owing to the fluctuation of supply-demand relations, insiders said.

Since June this year, the falling trend of coal prices has become obvious in many places and in many categories of coal, Hao Xiangbin, an expert with the Coal Transport and Sales Association was quoted by the newspaper as saying.

Hao attributed the coal price drop to shrinking demand. Due to abundant rainfall this year, electricity provided by hydro-electric generators has surged in some provinces, reducing the demand for thermal power and coal products as fuels, he said.

According to an investigation by the China Electricity Council (CEC) of 422 large reservoirs in the country, on 1 July the total amount of water stored was 166.8 billion cubic metres, 21.98 billion cubic metres more than in the same period last year.

MNA/Xinhua

TRADE MARK CAUTION
TRIUMPH INTERNATIONAL AG., a Company incorporated in Germany, of Marsstrasse 40, D-80335 Munchen Germany, is the owner of the following Trade Marks:-

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Reg. No. 1093/1959
in respect of "Foundation garments i.e. bodices, corsets, corselettes, roll-ons, hip-shaping garments, suspender belts, girdles, dancing belts, brassieres and parts and accessories of such foundation garments".



Reg. No. 4282/1997



Reg. No. 4283/1997

Reve

Reg. No. 4284/1997

Poesie

Reg. No. 4285/1997

Compliment

Reg. No. 4286/1997

Solfage

Reg. No. 4287/1997

Sweeties

Reg. No. 4288/1997

Maximizer

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in respect of "Class 25: Clothing, footwear, headgear".

Fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use of the said Trade Marks will be dealt with according to law.

Win Mu Tin,
M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L
for TRIUMPH INTERNATIONAL AG.
P.O. Box 60, Yangon.
Dated: 19 August 2005

Regional workshop on climate scenario begins in Nepal

KATHMANDU, 17 Aug— A five-day-long regional workshop on "Climate Scenarios for South Asia" kicked off here on Tuesday.

"The changing global climate has affected Nepal as well and the topic is new but holds significance in context of least developed countries

TRADEMARK CAUTION
NIKON CORPORATION, a Corporation organised under the laws of Japan, of 2-3, Minamiohshi 3-chome, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, Japan, are the Owners and Sole Proprietors of the following trademark:

Nikon

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Tri Class 7: Semiconductor manufacturing apparatus; liquid crystal display substrate manufacturing apparatus; magnetic head manufacturing apparatus; parts and fittings for all the aforesaid goods;

Class 8: Physical or chemical apparatus and instruments; electrical distribution or control machines; electrical communication apparatus and instruments; electronic machines; surveying, photographic, cinematographic, optical, weighing, measuring, life-saving and teaching apparatus and instruments; water inspecting systems; parts and fittings for all the aforesaid goods; measuring microscopes; autocollimators; rotary encoders; illuminating optical devices for CCD inspection; monoculars; spectacles, lenses and frames for spectacles; sunglasses and sunglasses frames; goggles; telescopes; loupe; LCD projector and optical parts and fittings for LCD projectors; optical parts and components for optical communication; profile projectors; visualizers; digital video cameras; digital still cameras; lenses for digital cameras; infrared cameras; television cameras; lenses for television cameras; closed circuit television cameras; lenses for closed circuit television cameras; printers for digital photographs; records; apparatus for recording, transmission or reproduction of sound or images; magnetic data carriers, recording discs; stop-and-repeat exposure systems; exposure systems for liquid crystal display substrates; stop-and-repeat exposure systems for magnetic head; recorded computer programs, especially, for managing medical information including patient lists, patients' files and medical and pharmaceutical knowledge stored or recorded on electronic circuits and/or magnetic disks and/or magnetic tapes and/or optical disks and other recording medium, and for image analyzing and image processing stored or recorded on electronic circuits and/or magnetic disks and/or magnetic tapes and/or optical disks and other recording medium; optical processing units; scanners, film scanners; printers for computers; batteries; electric wires and cables; cinematographic films; slide films; slide film mounts, pre-recorded video discs and tapes.

Fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use or other infringement whatsoever of this trademark will be dealt with according to law.

Hsin Lin Oo (LL.B) Advocate
MYANMAR TRADEMARK AND PATENT LAW FIRM
E-mail: mtpip@optima.net.mm
Tel 254037 G.P.O Box 666
Yangon. 19 August 2005

Boat with 100 migrants intercepted off Spain

MADRID, 17 Aug— Two African migrants died after two months at sea trying to reach Spain on a fishing boat crammed with about 100 people, officials said on Tuesday after intercepting the vessel.

Thirty passengers were in a serious condition, a spokeswoman for the Tenerife regional government said. Authorities were guiding the boat to land, where a medical team was waiting to treat them.

"It is being tugged,

but very slowly because the boat is in a bad state and there are poor sea conditions with strong waves," Rosa Lopez, a spokeswoman for the emergency services, told RNE national radio.

Another boat with about 37 immigrants on board was around 120 miles off the coast of the Canary Islands and was making its way towards land, officials said.

They could not say where the immigrants were from.

MNA/Reuters

TRADEMARK CAUTION
NHA MAY CA PHE BIEN HOA (BIEN HOA COFFEE FACTORY) a Company incorporated in Vietnam at KHU CONG NGHIEP BIEN HOA 1, TINH DONG NAI, Vietnam is now change the name of the Company to CONG TY CO PHAN VINACAFE BIEN HOA (VINACAFE BIENHOA JOINTSTOCK COMPANY) at KHU CONG NGHIEP BIEN HOA 1, TINH DONG NAI, Vietnam the Owner and Sole Proprietor of the following Trademark:-



Reg: No. 48161/2004
Reg: No. 44249/2005

In respect of: "Roasted coffee; ground coffee; instant coffee; instant coffee mix containing milk; instant coffee mix containing milk in powdered form; instant coffee mix containing non-dairy creamer." Fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use of the said Trademark shall be dealt with according to law.

U Myint Lwin, Advocate,
LL.B, DIL
Dip in Marine Affairs (UK)
Email: MYINT.AVOCATE@optima.net.mm
Ph: 371 990 19 August 2005

Philippines cuts tariff on oil products

MANILA, 17 Aug— Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has reduced the tariff on imported oil products and is planning to abolish excise taxes on them to mitigate the impact of rising oil prices, officials said Tuesday.

The tariff rate on imported oil was reduced to 3 per cent. In particular, President Arroyo ordered to cut down the tariff on bio-ethanol fuel as an alternative to the high-cost crude, local reports said.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves and Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye announced that the excise taxes would be eliminated, according to the new executive order issued by Arroyo.

Excise taxes on diesel, kerosene and bunker fuel oil would also be removed pending the Supreme Court's action on the Expanded Value Added Tax Law, the order said. — MNA/Xinhua

like Nepal," said Bangladesh and Pakistan most as these countries have less capacity to cope with it," said Arshad Muhammad Khan, executive director of Global Change Impact Studies Centre (GCISC).
The ever-increasing fossil fuel consumption is the major reason for the erratic climatic pattern,

Khan noted, adding, "The workshop will help address the adaptation method to tackle the adverse effect of climate change."
The workshop will also carry an assessment of corresponding likely impact of changing global scenario, Khan noted.
MNA/Xinhua

မညာရေးနှင့် ခေတ်မီပွဲများတိုးတက်လာ နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်ဖို့

Mysterious reptile eludes capture in LA park

LOS ANGELES, 17 Aug—A mysterious, alligator-like creature that surfaced in a Los Angeles suburb has eluded capture for nearly a week, shrewdly passing up raw chicken bait and dodging reptile wranglers in pontoon boats.

The five-foot-long (1.5-metre) reptile was first spotted last Wednesday swimming in a lake at an urban park in the gritty Los Angeles suburb of Harbour City.

Park officials concluded that it was probably a Caiman, a relative of the alligator indigenous to South America, and speculate that it may have been an exotic pet that was abandoned when it grew

too large. As word of the odd sighting spread, hundreds of spectators have turned up to watch crews of police, firefighters, park rangers, state fish and wildlife workers and even local herpetologists comb the 53-acre (21-hectare) lake in pontoon boats, carrying nets and dangling raw chicken over the side.

Park officials are planning to take the reptile to

the LA zoo when they capture it but all efforts so far to nab the creature have failed, despite claims by a local fisherman that he briefly ensnared it in a net by using flour tortillas as bait.

“They’re very fast, you can’t believe how fast these animals are,” Jarron Lucas of the Southwestern Herpetologist Society told local KABC-TV.

MNA/Reuters



AJ Hackett of New Zealand jumps from the Macau Tower in his attempt to set the record for the highest sky jump in the world, Macau, on 17 August, 2005.

INTERNET

New aerospace technologies go on display at Moscow Air Show

MOSCOW, 17 Aug—Russia put its latest aerospace technologies on display on Tuesday as the Moscow International Air Show opened to offer visitors a close look at state-of-the-art aircraft and spacecraft from Russia and other countries.

Aerospace companies from some 40 countries gathered at the Zhukovsky airfield just outside Moscow with about 200 aircraft and spacecraft and more than 650 exhibits for display at the biennial event.

At the invitation of the Russian Federal Space Agency, China’s first astronaut Yang Liwei attended the opening ceremony of the show.

Anatoly Perminov, head of the Federal Space Agency, told Xinhua that China is moving fast forward in the aerospace sector and the two countries

can boost cooperation in many areas, including developing new manned spacecraft.

Russia showcased its new Sukhoi and MiG fighter jets. The US Air Force flew in its F-15 and F-16 fighter jets and B-1B strategic bomber. French Mirage-2000 fighter jets are also present at the show.

Civilian aircraft on display included Russia’s Il-76 transport plane, An-124 passenger plane and Tu-214 passenger-cargo plane, and US aircraft giant Boeing’s new 787 Dreamliner.

MNA/Xinhua

Water-borne diseases claim 247 lives in Maharashtra State

NEW DELHI, 17 Aug—With 14 more deaths in India’s financial hub Mumbai, the death toll due to water-borne diseases including leptospirosis rose to 142 in the metropolis on Tuesday, while the Maharashtra State reported a total of 247 deaths so far, the Press Trust of India reported from Mumbai.

“The number of serious cases was going down and there is a marked decrease in cases reported and admissions to hospitals in the city and surrounding areas, hospital sources told PTI on Tuesday.

MNA/Xinhua

Scientists find key for forecasting solar storms

LOS ANGELES, 17 Aug—A new study revealing previously unknown aspects to solar eruptions may lead to better understanding of solar storms and more reliable forecasts for space weather, scientists reported on Tuesday.

Solar forecasts are important because radiation from particles from the sun associated with large solar flares can be hazardous to unprotected astronauts, airplane occupants and satellites, said Karel Schrijver of the Lockheed Martin Advanced Technology Centre, lead author of a paper published in the Astrophysical Journal.

While researchers have learned much about the Sun’s temper in recent years relying on new data from satellites that keep a constant eye on the situation, many mysteries remain and forecasts are only about as reliable as weather predictions were in the

1950s, experts said.

But the new study has made big strides in learning how to forecast “all clear” periods, when severe space weather is unlikely, said Schrijver.

Solar flares are violent explosions in the atmosphere of the sun caused by the sudden release of magnetic energy. Like a rubber band twisted too tightly, stressed magnetic fields in the sun’s atmosphere can suddenly snap to a new shape. They can release as much energy as one 10-billion-megaton nuclear bomb.

Probe into the causes of the largest solar flares came in two steps, the re-

searchers said.

“First, we discovered characteristic patterns of magnetic field evolution associated with strong electrical currents in the solar atmosphere,” said Schrijver. “It is these strong electrical currents that drive solar flares.”

Then the researchers discovered the regions most likely to flare had new magnetic fields merge into them that were clearly out of alignment with the existing field.

This emerging field from the solar interior appears to induce even more current as it interacts with the existing field.

MNA/Xinhua

US media outlets report computer outages

SEATTLE, 17 Aug—An unidentified software virus was being blamed for computer system outages on Tuesday at ABC News, CNN and The New York Times, as computer security companies tried to pin down the cause of the disruption.

CNN, breaking into regular programming, reported on air that personal computers running Microsoft Corp’s Windows 2000 operating system at the Cable News Network were affected by a worm that caused them to restart repeatedly.

Over the last week, Microsoft and security companies warned of a new worm, called “Zotob”, that could allow an attacker to access PCs by exploiting a recently discovered flaw in Windows 2000.

But security software

company McAfee Inc. and Microsoft said that they did not see any heightened activity from Zotob or any indication that the worm caused outages at US media outlets on Tuesday.

The New York Times said it had faced internal systems computer outages earlier in the day.

“We just don’t have a lot of details,” said Catherine Mathis, spokeswoman for the New York Times Co. “It was earlier today. We’re fully operational and we don’t expect (the outage) to affect the

production of the paper.”

Officials at ABC News also reported system outages.

“We haven’t seen any huge uptick or impact today,” said a spokeswoman with Microsoft’s security unit, “a fairly small number of customers are being impacted.”

McAfee, the world’s second largest security software maker, said that it is investigating whether there was a new worm or virus circulating on the Internet.

MNA/Reuters

Turkish police seize 265 kilos of heroin

ISTANBUL, 18 Aug—Turkish police have seized 265 kilos of heroin, 15 kilos of hashish and 179,000 illicit pills in three separate operations in Istanbul, the state Anatolia news agency said on Tuesday. The agency quoted Istanbul chief of police Celalettin Cerrah as saying police had arrested 15 people, including three foreigners, in connection with the hauls. It gave no further information.

A 265 kilos haul of heroin would be worth many millions of dollars.

MNA/Reuters

Switzerland runs info bus for elderly immigrants

GENEVA, 17 Aug—A minibus stocked with information for elderly immigrants started a 15-month nationwide tour of Switzerland on Tuesday to explain to these pensioners their entitlements and how the social and health systems function.

Foreign Minister Micheline Calmy-Rey launched the “Migration bus” from Parliament Square in the capital Bern at a ceremony.

At each stop, the bus project will collaborate with local organizations and institutions involved in care for the elderly. The organizers have chosen locations where immigration plays or has played an important role.

“We hope we can reach elderly people

who may eventually need care and inform them about their options and entitlements,” said Christina Schneider of the Swiss association of retirement homes and social institutions.

According to the Federal Statistics Office, the number of foreign pensioners in Switzerland is expected to reach 123,000 by 2010. Foreigners account for more than one in four workers in Switzerland.—MNA/Xinhua

S P O R T S

Zidane celebrates comeback with classy 3-0 win

MONTPELLIER (France), 18 Aug — Zinedine Zidane marked his international comeback with a goal in France's 3-0 win over Ivory Coast in a friendly on Wednesday.

The Real Madrid playmaker, returning to the France team with Juventus defender Lilian Thuram and Chelsea midfielder Claude Makelele, treated the fans to some tricks but failed to make a real impact until his goal shortly after the hour.

Before and after, defender William Gallas and striker Thierry Henry celebrated their 28th birthdays with goals, scoring in the 28th and 67th minutes respectively.

Zidane received a deafening welcome from the crowd at Montpellier's Mosson stadium, with both France and Ivory Coast fans chanting his name, 11 years to the day

after he won his first cap in a 2-2 draw with the Czech Republic in Bordeaux.

"Zizou, France say thank you," read a banner.

"Zizou, show us the way to the World Cup," said another.

France were hoping for a good warm-up before resuming their World Cup qualifying campaign in two weeks time. They are fourth in European Group Four behind leaders Ireland, Switzerland and Israel.

But the Ivory Coast "Elephants" made the better start with RC Lens forward Aruna Dindane wreaking havoc in the French defence.

France had two clear chances early in the game but Henry and midfielder Florent Malouda, who replaced the injured Patrick Vieira in the starting lineup, shot wide.

Ivory Coast almost went ahead in the 20th minute but keeper Gregory Coupet parried a powerful Didier Drogba volley from just outside the box.

In the 22nd minute, Thuram, who became France's second most capped player with his 104th appearance overtaking former captain Didier Deschamps, limped off.

"It looks like a thigh injury," said France coach Raymond Domenech.

MNA/Reuters

Beckham, Owen say no excuses for England's defeat

COPENHAGEN, 18 Aug — Captain David Beckham and striker Michael Owen said there were no excuses for England's 4-1 friendly rout by Denmark on Wednesday.

With two World Cup qualifiers scheduled next month, England's defence was ripped apart by a Danish side who scored three goals in the space of seven minutes. "I don't know what went wrong," Beckham told reporters.

"There are no excuses... We should still be winning these games. The only positive thing we can take out of the game is that it was a friendly."

As for the manner of the defeat, he said: "It's always a slight embarrassment when a team scores three

quick goals against you in front of five or six thousand fans that have travelled all the way from England to watch the team play.

"We've just got put that right and perform in the games that matter."

England are two points behind Group Six leaders Poland with a game in hand, before playing Wales and Northern Ireland away in September and Austria and the Poles at home in October. "We have a lot of work to do before four tough games coming up," Beckham said. "Confi-

dence-wise we just have to forget about this game."

Owen, who started the second half in place of Jermain Defoe up front, was on the same wavelength as his Real Madrid club team mate. "It was a disappointing night and there's not really any excuses," Owen said. "It's the start of the season, everyone's fit and there are no injuries."

"Everybody knows that we are a better team than that," Owen added.

"Thank God it wasn't a qualifying game."

MNA/Reuters

Japan edge out Iran 2-1 to qualify in top spot

YOKOHAMA (Japan), 18 Aug — Japan overcame Iran 2-1 at home on Wednesday to finish top of their World Cup qualifying group, although both teams had already secured their places at next year's finals.

"We've had earthquakes, typhoons and political arguments along the way but we've come through," Japan coach Zico told the crowd of

66,000 at an emotional post-match ceremony.

"This team has the self-belief and the mental strength to overcome those sorts of obstacles. We still need to improve but finishing top will give us a lift before the World Cup."

Midfielder Akira Kaji struck from close range in the 28th minute and striker Masashi Oguro was credited with Japan's second 20 minutes into the second half in sweltering Yokohama.

Iran's talisman Ali Daei pulled one back from the penalty spot moments later to mark his 105th goal in 141 internationals. The 36-year-old also hit the post with a fierce drive just before halftime.

Iran had beaten Japan 2-1 in Teheran in March but both sides were below full-strength for their final Group B match.

Japan finished with 15 points from six matches, two ahead of Iran. Bahrain were already assured of a playoff spot before their game at home to North Korea later on Wednesday.

Iran coach Branko Ivankovic insisted he was not concerned over the result and was magnanimous in defeat.

"I think you saw both teams prove they are the best teams in Asia," said the Croatian. "I was happy with the way we came back in the second half. We showed a lot of character."

MNA/Reuters



Malaysia's Lee Chong Wei rushes to the net during his second round match against Martyn Lewis at the IBF World Badminton Championships in Anaheim, California, on 17 August, 2005. Lee won 15-1, 15-4.—INTERNET

Striker Kanoute signs four-year deal for Sevilla

MADRID, 18 Aug — Sevilla have signed Mali striker Frederic Kanoute on a four-year contract from Tottenham Hotspur for a fee of 6.5 million euros (eight million US dollars), the Primera Liga club said on Wednesday. Spurs said on their website the 27-year-old had agreed personal terms with Sevilla and would sign for the Spanish club subject to a successful medical.

Sevilla said they would present the player to the media at their Sanchez Pizjuan stadium at 0800 GMT on Thursday. Kanoute, who joined Spurs in August 2003 from West Ham United, will compete with Argentine striker Javier Saviola and Brazilian forward Luis Fabiano for a place in the Sevilla attack.

The three players will attempt to fill the gap left by leading striker Julio Baptista, who signed for Real Madrid last month for a fee of up to 24.5 million euros.

Sevilla, who finished sixth last season to earn themselves a place in the UEFA Cup for the second year in succession, said Kanoute was signed at the request of the club's technical staff and new coach Juande Ramos. The lanky striker began his career at Olympique Lyon and went on to become an Under-21 international for France, although he later changed his allegiance to Mali for whom he played at the 2004 African Nations Cup.—MNA/Reuters

Vicente leads Spain to 2-0 victory over Uruguay

GIJON (Spain), 18 Aug — Spain midfielder Vicente led his side to an encouraging 2-0 victory at home to Uruguay in a friendly international on Wednesday. The Valencia player gave a live-wire performance on the left wing, creating Spain's opener in the 25th minute after a jinking run into the area and extending his side's lead from the penalty spot before halftime.

For Spain the victory will provide them with a boost ahead of next month's potentially decisive World Cup qualifier against Serbia & Montenegro, but coach Luis Aragones will remain concerned about his strikers' continued failure to cash in on their domination. Fernando Morientes, making his return after almost a year out of the national side, was unable to add to his impressive tally of 24 goals, while substitutes Fernando Torres and Albert Luque both failed to convert clear chances in the second half.

But Aragones's opposite number Jorge Fossati will be far more worried by his side's lukewarm performance ahead of their important qualifier at home to Colombia on 4 September.

Vicente, who missed

much of last season because of a niggling ankle injury, was denied an early goal when Uruguay keeper Fabian Carini produced a fine full-stretch save to turn his curling free kick past the post. The Valencia winger enjoyed a slice of luck seven minutes later when he broke down the left flank, checked past two players into the area and then saw his hopeful shot spin off Pablo Garcia and beat a helpless Carini at the near post.

MNA/Reuters



Japan's midfielder Mitsuo Ogasawara (L) and striker Masashi Oguro (R) fight for the ball with Iran's Mohammad Nosrati during the second half of the second round qualifying final match of the FIFA World Cup Germany 2006 Asian Group B at Yokohama International Stadium, south of Tokyo, on 17 August, 2005. Japan defeated Iran 2-1 to place first in the group. Iran finished at second. The both of the countries have already qualified for the World Cup 2006 finals.—INTERNET

Construction of Myitnge bridge with six lanes cent per cent complete and soon to be opened

(from page 1)

he gave instructions to them on measures to be taken for establishment of Data Centre and Public Access Centre in collaboration with private business organizations and departments for the development of Mandalay MICT Park and constant coordination with Yangon MICT Park.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister and party viewed computer hardware and software, company office rooms which are conducting courses and disseminating techniques, training halls, use of sophisticated accessories and Cyber Square Internet Cafe.

After that the Prime Minister signed in the visitors' book.

Next, the Prime Minister and party proceeded to the construction project of Myitnge bridge situated on No 6 Yangon-Mandalay Highway between Singaing and Amarapura being implemented by Public Works.

At the briefing hall, Deputy Minister for Construction Brig-Gen Myint Thein and the engineer in-charge briefed them on progress in building of Myitnge bridge.

After giving instructions to officials concerned, the Prime Minister and party inspected construction tasks of the bridge.

Construction of Myitnge bridge with six lanes is cent per cent complete and it will be opened soon.

(See page 8)



Prime Minister General Soe Win inspects progress of Zawgyi (Myogyi) Dam Project near Myogyi Village in Ywangan Township. — MNA



Agricultural and livestock breeding tasks inspected

YANGON, 18 Aug—Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe inspected Yangon Division Vegetables Cultivation and Livestock Breeding Special Zone near Nyaunhnabin Village in Hmawby Township this afternoon.

The commander inspected the breeding of over 11,000 layers, over 100 turkeys and over 2,000 pheasants, and vegetable patches in No 2 livestock breeding farm, and provided assistance for extension of

the farming.

At No 2 Zone of Yangon Division Vegetables Cultivation and Livestock Breeding Special Zone, the commander heard reports by officials on agricultural and livestock tasks, reconstruction of roads, and assistance rendered for smoothness of the tasks.

Chairman of the Supervisory Committee for the Special Zone Commissioner of Yangon Division General Administration Department U Hla Soe gave an account of progress in repairing roads and agricultural and livestock breeding tasks in the zone; Director of Division Irrigation Department U Kyaw Thein, on work for proper drainage; officials, on sufficient supply of electricity, upgrading of communication system, and measures being taken for enforcing regulations in the zone; and national entrepreneurs, on requirements for extension of the tasks.

The commander gave instructions on repairing roads linking one zone and another, and supervision

(See page 7)

Myanmar to meet Malaysia in final

YANGON, 18 Aug — The ASEAN U-20 Youth Championship continued at Palenbang of Indonesia, at 7 pm local time yesterday.

At the second semifinal match, Malaysia beat Laos 2-1 and cruised into the final.

Myanmar selected youth team will play against Malaysian youth team at Palenbang of Indonesia at 7.15 pm local time on 19 August.

MNA

Noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded

(18-8-2005)

Gwa	(4.88) inches
Hpa-an	(2.16) inches
Tharawady	(2.05) inches
Bhamo	(1.97) inches
Pyinmana	(1.06) inches
Shwebo	(0.91) inches

INSIDE

Teachers, especially the products of the University for Development of National Races, are required to lend themselves to regional and national development endeavours, including development plans for rural and border areas, together with local people and social organizations.

PAGE 2

PERSPECTIVES