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Senior General Than Shwe sends felicitations to Hungary

YANGON, 20 Aug — Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Ferenc Madl, President of the Republic of Hungary, on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of Hungary which falls on 20 August 2005. — MNA



Senior General Than Shwe greets Mr Ali Alatas, Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General on the United Nations reform for the Asia and the Pacific. — MNA

Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

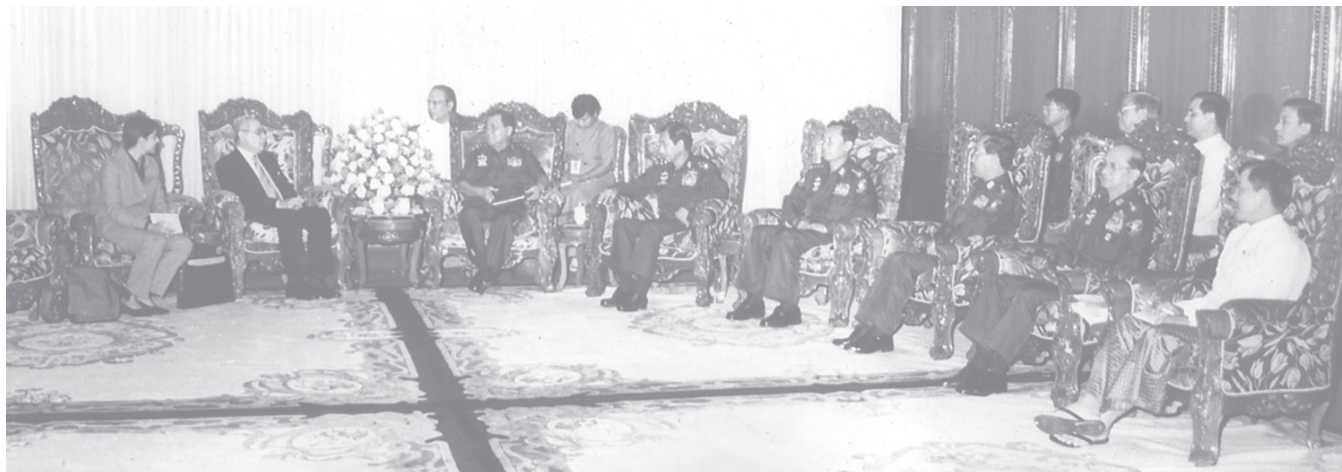
Senior General Than Shwe receives Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General

YANGON, 19 Aug — Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Than Shwe received Mr Ali Alatas, Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General on the United Nations reform for the Asia and the Pacific at the Credentials Hall of Pyithu Hluttaw Building on Pyay Road, here, at 10 am today.

Also present at the call were Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann, Prime Minister General Soe Win, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and

Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Director-General of the State Peace and Development Council Office Col Kyaw Kyaw Win and Director-General of the Protocol Department Thura U Aung Htet.

MNA



Senior General Than Shwe receives Mr Ali Alatas, Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General on the United Nations reform for the Asia and the Pacific. — MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 20 August, 2005

Work for development and increased production of agriculture sector

Myanmar being an agricultural country, agriculture is the main industry of most of the people and the agriculture sector is the main pillar of the national economy. This being so, the government has been spending a lot on water supply projects not only for the development of agriculture but also for the greening of dry zones. As a result, the production of the agriculture sector has been on the increase and the dry zones have become lush and green.

During his tour of Mandalay Division, Prime Minister General Soe Win attended the meeting on the greening of the Meiktila plain and water supply for agricultural purpose and took part in the discussion. At the discussion, the Prime Minister said that Water Resources Utilization Department and Irrigation Department were systematically implementing the plan for greening the Meiktila plain and the plan for supplying water for agricultural purpose, that related ministries and local people are co-operating with these departments and that special care should be taken to ensure the success of these plans as they could promote the interests of the people.

The State Peace and Development Council has placed special emphasis on water supply projects for drinking and agricultural purposes in Magway and Sagaing Divisions and at the same time is giving priority to the construction of the Zawgyi (Myogyi) Dam and other water supply projects in Mandalay Division. As the government is building dams and river water pumping stations in Mandalay Division, more than 800,000 acres of farmland will be put under monsoon paddy and 200,000 acres of farmland under summer paddy this year.

In Mandalay Division, more than 539,000 acres of farmland can be irrigated during the year 2005-2006 and efforts are being made to be able to irrigate up to 555,000 acres in the year 2006-2007. The Zawgyi (Myogyi) Dam is being built to be able to supply more water to the Meiktila plain for the cultivation of crops and for the greening of environment. The Kengkham Dam to be built in Yaksawk Township in Shan State (South) will be a support dam for the Zawgyi Dam.

We would like to call on all the regional authorities and local people to cooperate with the government in all the measures being taken to develop the agriculture sector and to increase the agricultural production.

New waterways under Bo Myat Tun Bridge (Nyaungdon)

YANGON, 19 Aug—The Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems today announced that the waterway between piers Nos 10 and 11 of Bo Myat Tun Bridge (Nyaungdon) will be designated for vessels sailing upstream and waterway between piers Nos 11 and 12 for those sailing downstream.

The changes will come into effect on 22 August 2005.

The clearance of new waterways is 110 metres wide and 17 metres high. A green triangle mark is stuck at the entrance, and a red cross mark represents no entry for vessels.

Vessel are to pass through the entrance one by one.

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

Minister for Transport meets with agents of ocean-going vessel lines



Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe meets with agents of ocean-going vessel lines.—TRANSPORT

YANGON, 19 Aug — A meeting between the Ministry of Transport and agents of ocean-going vessel lines in Myanmar was held at the Ministry of Transport, here, this afternoon.

Present were Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Deputy Minister U Pe Than and Col Nyan Tun Aung, departmental heads, officers of Department of Marine Administration and agents of ocean-going vessel lines in Myanmar.

In his speech, the minister urged the ocean-

going vessel lines companies to follow laws, rules and regulations promulgated by the State. More job opportunities are to be sought for qualified sailors. And, it is necessary to supervise earning of foreign exchange for the State without loss and waste.

On behalf of the agents, three persons reported on matters related to their tasks.

Later, Deputy Minister U Pe Than gave a supplementary report to the Minister.

MNA

Minister visits Vocational Training Centre for Women

YANGON, 19 Aug—Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa, together with officials from the Social Welfare Department and the Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation, inspected the Vocational Training Centre for the Women on Natmauk Road in Bahan Township this morning.

He inspected the lecture hall and spoke words of encouragement to the trainees.

The minister also inspected the tailoring hall, hostels, messing hall, training hall, weaving workshop, and laundry services. —MNA



Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa inspects trainees at Women's Vocational Training Centre for Women.—SWD

Entries invited to World Teachers Day commemorative article contest

YANGON, 19 Aug — As a gesture of hailing World Teachers Day which falls on 5 October 2005, the article contests at the higher education level, the basic education high level, the basic education middle level and the basic education primary level will be held.

Faculty members of

universities and colleges and retired teachers may take part in the higher education level contest, and basic education school heads, senior assistant teachers, JATs, PATs and retired teachers at respective level contests.

Township Education Officers and officers may participate in the basic

education high level contest.

The title of the contest is 'Pyinnyaywa-ei zathsaya'. The entry must be between 3,000 and 4,000 words on only one side of paper.

The name of the contestant, qualification, rank, school, and address must be written on the back of the manuscript.

The entrants are to send their own created works with brief biography and three licence size colour photos to Director U Thuang Shwe (Training/Local), Education Planning and Training Department, 123, Natmauk Road, Bahan Township, not later than 16 September.

MNA

Russia, China open first joint military exercises

BEIJING, 18 Aug—China and Russia began eight days of war games on Thursday aimed at boosting cooperation between the former adversaries and sending a message to the United States about their growing influence in the region.

The first-ever joint military exercises between the giant neighbours, who share a 2,700-mile border, also present a commercial opportunity for Russia, China's biggest supplier of arms and weapons technology, to flog its wares, analysts say. "The main target is the United States. Both sides want to improve their position for bargaining in terms of security, politics and economics," said Jin Canrong, a professor of international relations at the People's University of China.

Both countries say "Peace Mission 2005", which involves 10,000 troops and Army, Navy and Air Force exercises, is aimed at building ties between their militaries and analysts say it is

not targeted at any third country. "Military cooperation is linked with political and economic cooperation as part of a bigger package," said Robert Karniol, Asia-Pacific editor for *Jane's Defence Weekly*. "It's not an adversarial posture." But with the drills also helping to "strengthen the capability of the two armed forces in jointly striking international terrorism, extremism and separatism", according to China's *Xinhua* news agency, they are likely to be viewed with concern by others in the region. The exercises are taking place in the Russian Pacific near Vladivostok and in the Chinese coastal province of Shandong and run through 25 August.—MNA/Reuters



A harvester collects grapes at a farm in Cambodia's Battambang Province on 18 August, 2005.—INTERNET

ASEAN, dialogue partners conduct police affairs exchanges

BEIJING, 18 Aug—Capital police agencies from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), China, Japan and South Korea are to enhance exchanges and cooperation in police affairs and various other unconventional public security fields in a bid to safeguard public security in the capital cities of concerned countries.

The information came from the Workshop on Policing Exchange and Cooperation among Capital Police Agencies from ASEAN, China, Japan and South Korea, which opened in Beijing on Wednesday.

More than 80 major police officers from 10 ASEAN countries, China, Japan and South Korea met at the workshop and will exchange views and conduct face-to-face discussions on ways to enhance exchanges and cooperation in the coming three days. Meeting participants said they would offer suggestions for maintaining safety during the

2008 Beijing Olympic Games.

"The Olympic Games are a grand eye-catching event and Chinese police can cooperate with the police of other countries to secure safety during the games," said Han Jin-Hee, senior superintendent general of Seoul Metropolitan Police department of the South Korea. Han said the current workshop provides a good opportunity for South Korea and Chinese police to conduct exchanges and cooperation, suggesting that the two sides should have more mutual visits in the future.—MNA/Xinhua

Indonesian Minister says Aceh will not become federal state

JAKARTA, 18 Aug—Indonesia's Aceh Province will not become a federal state after the signing of the Helsinki peace accord by the government and the Free Aceh Movement (GAM), Communication and Information Minister Sofyan Djilil said here on Wednesday.

"No, Aceh won't become a federal state as feared by various quarters," Sofyan said before attending a Merdeka Palace function to mark Indonesian Independence Day.

The rejection of the agreement's contents by a number of parties was something normal in a democracy, *Antare* news agency quoted Sofyan, who was also one of the members of the Indonesian delegation to the Helsinki peace talks, as saying.

Sofyan said the things the government had agreed on with GAM were conform to the law on special autonomy for Aceh.

Earlier, Indonesia's second largest political party — the Democrats Party expressed hope that Aceh Province after the signing of the MoU would not become the embryo of a federalist or neo-separatist movement.

Meanwhile, Indonesian Vice-President Jusuf Kalla said on Tuesday that those who worried that Aceh would become a federal state had failed to read and understand the law.

"A federal state is a figure of speech from those who haven't read and understood the law on special autonomy," Kalla said.—MNA/Xinhua

1,864 US soldiers killed in Iraq since beginning of war

WASHINGTON, 18 Aug—As of Thursday, 18 Aug, 2005, at least 1,864 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 1,447 died as a result of hostile action, according to the military's numbers. The figures include five military civilians.

Since the start of US military operations in Iraq, 14,021 US servicemembers have been wounded, according to a Defence Department tally released Tuesday. The latest deaths reported by the military:

Four US soldiers were killed on Thursday by an explosive in Samarra, Iraq.

Internet

Putin calls for Iraq troop pullout timetable

MOSCOW, 18 Aug—Russian President Vladimir Putin called for a timetable for the withdrawal of foreign military forces from Iraq.

"We deem it necessary to work out a schedule for the staged withdrawal of foreign troops" in Iraq, Putin told reporters following talks with Jordan's King Abdullah II.

"Many Iraqis perceive these forces as occupying forces, and this is a reality that should be taken into account," the Russian leader said on Thursday. Putin also suggested an international conference on Iraq to be held by year's end.

"We consider that holding an international conference this year would give a new impulse to the normalization of the situation" in Iraq, the Russian leader told reporters.—Internet



A group of homeless Iraqis demand housing during a protest against the government for the sudden eviction from their homes, on 18 August, 2005, in Baghdad.—INTERNET

Guerillas shoot dead six Iraqi soldiers

KIRKUK (Iraq), 18 Aug—Six Iraqi soldiers were killed on Wednesday when guerillas fired automatic weapons at their car in northern Iraq, police said.

Police spokesman Yadgar Mohammed said the men were killed near the town of Hawija as they headed to their military base in the oil centre of Kirkuk.

Guerillas have killed thousands of Iraqi police and security forces in a bid to topple the US-backed Iraqi Government.

Iraqi forces are expected to eventually take over security from US troops, but many of them can barely protect themselves from guerillas.

MNA/Reuters

China, Kenya agree to further political, economic ties

BEIJING, 18 Aug— Chinese President Hu Jintao on Wednesday told Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki that China is ready to expand political and economic cooperation with Kenya to deepen bilateral ties.

During his hour-long talks with Kibaki, Hu said that China-Kenya ties have developed steadily over the past 42 years since the two forged diplomatic ties and the bilateral relations continued to grow since President Kibaki took office in 2002.

He expressed his appreciation for Kenya's firm adherence to the one-China policy and its precious support to China on the Taiwan question and human rights issues.

Kibaki said Kenya-China friendship dated back to 600 hundreds years ago, when legendary Chinese navigator and explorer Zheng He led a fleet from China to the east coast of Africa and made a stop in Kenya.

Kibaki said China is a close friend and sincere partner of Kenya and Kenya appreciates China's long-term help and support to its economic and social development.

The Kenyan Government firmly abides by the one-China policy and supports China's efforts for national reunification, Kibaki said.

Hu said Kenya is an important country in east Africa and China's key partner in that region.

To further the long-term stable and mutual beneficial cooperation, Hu suggested that the two countries maintain high-level visits and give full play to the cooperative mechanisms already established, to enhance mutual understanding and trust and lay down a more solid political foundation for the development of bilateral ties.

He also suggested the two countries expand pragmatic cooperation to achieve win-win results and seek common development.

"China is ready to expand economic and trade cooperation with Kenya and actively implement the cooperative projects agreed by the two sides in the areas of transportation, telecommunication, electric power, and infrastructure construction," Hu said.

He also suggested the two enhance exchanges in the fields of education, health, news service and human resources and improve consultation and cooperation on major international and regional issues to jointly safeguard the rights and interests of the developing countries.

MNA/Xinhua



Oslo explosion kills one, injures another

OSLO, 18 Aug— An explosion in an apartment in Oslo killed one person and seriously injured another late on Wednesday night, police said.

They said the cause of the blast shortly before midnight was unknown but the Internet site of the daily Aftenposten, giving no sources, said it was probably caused by a homemade bomb.

Police evacuated about a dozen people from other apartments in the three-storey residential building after the explosion, which blew out several windows. They also cordoned off the area.

"One person was killed and another has been taken to hospital with serious injuries," a police spokesman said. "We do not know the cause of the blast."

The head of Norway's security police, which would investigate if there were any suspicion of terrorism, said he had been informed of the blast.

"This is for the time being a case for the Oslo police. Beyond that I won't comment," Joern Holme told Aftenposten. — MNA/Reuters



Rickshaw-pullers in Kolkata. India's West Bengal state says its plan to ban hand-pulled rickshaws in Kolkata is a long overdue step to end a backbreaking, 'inhuman' form of work. — INTERNET

New computer worms attack over 100 US companies

LOS ANGELES, 18 Aug— New worms caused the computers in over 100 companies across the United States to restart repeatedly. Security experts warned on Wednesday that attackers could potentially take control of those flawed computer systems.

Among those being hit are large media organizations, including the cable news station CNN, television network ABC and *The New York Times*. Antivirus companies blamed the havoc on various worms, including the Zotob worm that hit the Internet over the weekend and new variants of the Rbot worm.

All of the worms exploit a security hole in the plug-and-play feature in Microsoft Windows 2000 operating system. The software maker offered a critical fix for the bug last week, but experts said many users have not yet installed the patch.

Symptoms of infection include the repeated shutdown and rebooting of a computer, said experts with F-Secure, a Finnish anti-virus company.

The worms replicate by scanning machines, and when a victim is found,

they use the exploit code to download the main virus file from infected machine, meanwhile scanning for more targets, the company said in a statement.

Some security researchers claimed the outbreak is tied to a "war" between rival virus writers. "We seem to have a botwar on our hands," Mikko Hypponen, chief research officer at F-Secure said.

"There appear to be three different virus-writing gangs turning out new worms at an alarming rate, as if they were competing to build the biggest network of infected machines," he said.

Individual organizations, rather than computer users at large, are most badly hit by the worms, experts said.

The pain is being felt "on the inside", according to US anti-virus software maker Symantec.

MNA/Xinhua

Nationwide vigils call for end to Iraq war

WASHINGTON, 18 Aug— Hundreds of candlelight vigils calling for an end to the war in Iraq lit up the night Wednesday, part of a national effort spurred by one mother's anti-war demonstration near President Bush's ranch.

The vigils were urged by Cindy Sheehan, who has become the icon of the anti-war movement since she started a protest on 6 Aug in memory of her son Casey, who died in Iraq last year.

Sheehan says she will remain outside the President's ranch until he meets with her and other grieving families, or until his monthlong vacation there ends.

Bush has said he sympathizes with Sheehan but has made no indication he will meet with her. Two top Bush administration officials talked to Sheehan the day she started her camp, and she and other families had met with Bush shortly after her son's death.

More than 1,600 vigils were planned Wednesday from coast to coast by liberal advocacy groups MoveOn.org Political Action, TrueMajority and Democracy for America. A large vigil was also planned in Paris.—Internet

Over 100 Ecuadorean emigrants die as boat sinks

BOGOTA/QUITO (Colombia), 18 Aug— More than 100 Ecuadoreans trying to illegally emigrate to the United States drowned last week when the overcrowded fishing boat they were travelling aboard sank in the Pacific Ocean, authorities said on Wednesday.

The boat, which was designed to hold 15 people, was carrying 113 when it sank off the coast of Colombia, an Ecuadorean Navy spokesman said. The boat left the port of Manta, Ecuador, on Thursday without authorization, he said.

Nine people survived days in the water by clinging to plastic containers and other wreckage before being rescued by fishermen on Tuesday, the Colombian Navy said.

There were conflicting reports about when the boat sank. The spokesman for the Ecuadorean Navy said it went down on Friday. But Colombian Adminal Jairo Pena told Reuters the boat sank on Saturday, probably after the wooden hull sprang a leak.

MNA/Reuters



Iraqi soldiers inspect a car damaged from a road-side bomb attack, on 18 August, 2005, in eastern Baghdad. Three people were wounded in the attack.

INTERNET



Planes of Korean Air park on the tarmac at Gimpo Airport in Seoul, South Korea, on 18 August, 2005. — INTERNET

Vietnam intensifies fowl vaccination against bird flu

HANOI, 18 Aug— Vietnam has targeted to complete bird flu vaccination among poultry nationwide by mid-November, local newspaper *New Hanoi* on Thursday quoted the National Steering Committee on Anti-Bird Flu as saying.

Fowls, mainly chickens and ducks, in 47 out of 64 cities and provinces must be vaccinated against bird flu viruses, including the deadly strain H5N1, for the first time between 1 September and 15 November.

They will receive further vaccination until next year.

The total fund for vaccinating over 200 million fowls in the 2005-2006 is estimated at 44.3 million US dollars. Vietnam will have had 415 million doses of vaccines, products of China and the Netherlands, in stock by late next month.

According to local veterinary agencies, up to 70 per cent of waterfowls in the southern Mekong delta have been recently tested positive to H5N1. Vietnam has culled over 1,300 fowls in the eight localities of Dong Thap, Ben Tre, Can Tho, Tra Vinh, Yen Bai, Ha Giang, Bac Ninh and Hanoi since early April.

MNA/Xinhua

Britain's inflation at highest since 1997

LONDON, 18 Aug— Britain's inflation rate rose above its target in July to the highest level since comparable records began in 1997 as the price of petrol surged, official figures showed on Tuesday.

The Office for National Statistics said the consumer price index rose 0.1 per cent on the month, taking the annual rate up to 2.3 per cent from 2.0 per cent in June.

This marked the first time it has risen above the Bank of England's 2.0 per cent target since the CPI was adopted as Britain's main inflation measure in December 2003.

The central bank last week predicted that inflation was likely to rise above its target on the back of sky-high oil prices but the latest number is still above expectations and likely to douse expectations of further interest rate cuts ahead.

The BoE cut interest rates this month by a quarter-point to 4.5 per cent in response to news that the economic growth is slowing down.

The ONS said petrol prices added 0.13 percentage points to the annual CPI rate as crude oil costs have risen. There were also upward contributions from air and sea travel.

Another large upward effect came from furniture where prices were little changed this year as price recoveries in some major retail chains offset summer sales in others. The main downward effect came from food prices.

MNA/Reuters

WTO panel issues ruling in US steel case

WASHINGTON, 18 Aug — World Trade Organization experts ruled against the United States on Wednesday on some aspects of a long-running dispute with the European Union over special US duties on carbon steel products from Britain and Spain.

The three-man panel also recommended that the 148-nation WTO's Dispute Settlement Body call on Washington to come into line over the issue.

The panel found that US amendments to the way Washington applied the duties to British and Spanish products after losing an earlier case brought by the EU did not comply fully with WTO rules.

But they found the US methods of assessing new duties on carbon steel flat products from France were in order.

The Office of the US

Trade Representative contended later Wednesday that the ruling was at worst a mixed result for the

United States.

"The findings of the panel are mixed, though largely favourable to the

United States," said USTR spokeswoman Neena Moorjani.

MNA/Reuters

Expired food causing health problems

BAGHDAD, 18 Aug— A serious rise in food poisoning cases caused by expired and contaminated food in Iraq has been reported by the Ministry of Health.

"Government hospital directors have alerted our ministry that there is an increase in cases on a daily basis, especially in children, caused by poor food quality in the markets," to Mustafa al-Aani, a senior official at the ministry said. Muhammad Shambar, a Baghdad doctor, said initial symptoms for the food poisoning are characterised by intense diarrhoea and constant vomiting. He added that urgent action should be taken by the patient before dehydration sets in.

"We have at least three cases of food poisoning every day in our hospital and when you analyse the patient's history you find that they ate food that had passed the sell by date or that it was prepared in unhygienic conditions," Shambar added.

Expired food had been sold in northern Iraq, which was considered to have

the best food monitoring system in Iraq, officials said. One of the main reasons for this recent increase in tainted food in the market is due to the removal of border customs check points, officials said.

Dr Salah Hassan, a food quality control expert at the Ministry of Health, further explained that shopkeepers were being duped into buying such goods as the sellers were changing the date of expiry by sticking new labels on products.

"I am sick now because I ate cheese which was supposed to be good quality. My son found that the label had been changed giving a longer expiry date. But you can see on the old label that it expired more than a year ago," Saluwa Ali, a patient at Yarmouk hospital, said.

The food sold is full of bacteria and harmful, doctors say. —Internet

Philippines, US start annual joint naval exercise

MANILA, 18 Aug — Five vessels carrying around 1,200 US Navy soldiers docked at the Alava Pier, Subic Bay, on Tuesday for a new round of joint Philippine-US Marine exercises, local reports said.

The US troops are joining the naval exercise called Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT), an annual joint training activity between the naval forces of the United States and six Southeast Asia nations including the Philippines.

A total of 800 Philippine Navy soldiers will be joining the event.

The week-long training, which will be held in various training sites in Manila, Zambales, and Palawan, will end on 23 August.

MNA/Xinhua



A park employee carries two leopards at the Wildlife Protection Manda Park in Jammu, India, on 18 August, 2005. The cubs were found by the Indian Army during a patrol in Rajouri and was handed over to the park. —INTERNET



Indonesian employees of the state electricity company check a power grid located on the outskirts of Jakarta on 18 August, 2005.

INTERNET

Surveys find unpaid wages still haunt migrant workers in China

BEIJING, 18 Aug — Two recent surveys have found that unpaid wages are still haunting China's migrant workers, reported on Wednesday's *China Daily*.

A quarter of 3,288 migrant workers questioned said they had not been fully paid, according to a survey released on Tuesday by the National Economic Research Institute under the China Reform Foundation.

In 2004 alone, unpaid wages totalled an estimated nearly 20 billion yuan (2.5 billion US dollars), Wang Xiaolu, deputy director of the institute, was quoted as saying. Around 100 billion yuan (12.5 billion US dollars) of wages have gone unpaid in China in the last few years.

Statistics from the Ministry of Labour and Social Security indicate there are 120 million rural migrant workers nationwide, more than 80 per cent of them working in cities. Most are male labourers under 40 from central and western parts of the country, who mostly work in construction and manufacturing sectors.

A similar report by a think tank of the Ministry

of Labour and Social Security said, citing Beijing as an example, that up to three billion yuan (375 million US dollars) was owed to 700,000 rural migrant labourers working on construction sites last year.

The think tank's report also says many employers deliberately withhold wages from their employees.

An investigation by the National Bureau of Statistics last year discovered some companies charge their staff 20 to 30 per cent of their wages as a "deposit". But money was rarely paid back.

The survey by Wang's institute also says the average per capita annual income for migrant workers reached 9,236 yuan (1,140 US dollars) last year, half of which was sent back to their hometowns, benefiting the local economy.

The money sent home in 2003 accounted for 3.9 per cent of the country's gross domestic product, said Wang. — *MNA/Xinhua*

India plans to hold Pakistani film festival

NEW DELHI, 18 Aug — In another step towards normalizing its once-severely strained ties with Pakistan, India said on Wednesday it plans to hold a Pakistani film festival in the country.

"There is a proposal to hold a Pakistani film festival in India which is to be finalized by mutual consultation," Indian Minister of State for External Affairs E Ahmed said in the Parliament on Wednesday.

The Minister said that India also proposed to open more pilgrim centres in the country for Pakistani nationals.

According to government officials, at the talks at the culture secretary-level held on 26-27 July, the two sides agreed to expand the protocol on visits to religious shrines to increase the number of shrines in both countries as also the number of pilgrims.

At present, Pakistani pilgrims are permitted to visit five pilgrim centres in India.

In order to increase people-to-people contact between the two countries, India has been allowing additional pilgrim places outside the protocol, the Indian minister said.

MNA/Xinhua

China to explore Japanese POWs ship wreckage torpedoed during WWII

ZHOUSHAN (Zhejiang), 18 Aug — A Hong Kong underwater search team has decided to explore the wreckage of a Japanese prisoners of war (POWs) vessel torpedoed and sunk in the East China Sea during World War II.

The non-governmental team, with several popular Hong Kong TV series and movie stars as members, was sponsored by the Hong Kong Underwater Association Limited (HKUA) and will try the water for the ship wreckage on Thursday. The team arrived at Zhoushan on Wednesday.

"We aim to accurately locate the ship, get details of the vessel and screen the wreckage," said curly FT Wong, a diving instructor of the team.

Named "Lisbon Maru" and armed fore and aft, the ship was a large cargo vessel with more than 1,800 British POWs on board. It was torpedoed by an American submarine and sank in the seaways near the Dongji Islands of Zhoushan, a city in east China's Zhejiang Province, on 2 October, 1942.

Nearly 200 Chinese fishermen living on the Dongji Islands rescued 384 British prisoners during the shipwreck.

This is not the first time for the team to come to Zhoushan, as it has planned to try the water for Lisbon Maru twice in the last three months. The first trial was made in June but failed due to bad weather and inadequate equipment. The second was delayed by the savage Typhoon Matsa. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Tourist arrivals to Sri Lanka tops 300,000

COLOMBO, 18 Aug — Tourist arrivals to Sri Lanka have surpassed 300,000 within the first seven months of the year after the tsunami hit the country, an increase of 13.38 per cent compared with corresponding period from January to July in 2004, the *Daily News* reported on Thursday.

According to latest statistics from the Research and International Affairs Division of the Sri Lanka Tourist Board (SLTB), 304,613 tourist arrivals have been indicated from January to July this year.

The SLTB is targeting one million tourist arrivals by 2010. The tourism sector is one of the major foreign exchange earners. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Indian researchers warn Monsoon can alter drastically

NEW YORK, 18 Aug — Human impact on environment could drastically alter the state of Monsoon, the lifeblood of India, with disastrous results for the subcontinent, climate researchers have warned.

The Monsoon could run dry, spelling disaster for its rain-fed agriculture, or become more intense due to global warming caused by rising levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide which would be equally bad as illustrated by the recent deluge in Maharashtra where over 1,000 people were killed.

The worst case scenario, they say, would be a "roller-coaster effect": drying of the monsoon, followed by the return of an even more intense wet monsoon as aerosol emissions are cleaned up but carbon dioxide goes on increasing.

Such a series of changes "would seriously challenge the adaptive capabilities of India's rural

society", Kirsten Zickfeld and her colleagues at the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research were quoted as saying by *Nature* magazine.

Even a minor change in monsoon timing or intensity can have a big impact. "If the rains are delayed by just a few days, that affects the agricultural yields," says Zickfeld.

The monsoon's disappearance would wreak havoc, probably requiring Indian farmers to completely change their crops and methods.

Zickfeld and colleagues, *Nature* says, have shown that changes in land use and air pollution on the Indian continent are pushing conditions towards the off state. They don't know

if or when it might happen, but they say there is cause for concern. The monsoon is driven by an air-pressure difference between the land and the Indian Ocean. Usually, the hot season creates low-pressure zones over the warm continent. Air rushes in from the higher-pressure zone over the water, bringing rain to the land.

Anything that reduces this pressure difference — such as cooler land temperatures — can weaken the monsoon. And once the weakening exceeds a certain threshold, the climate switches into a new state in which moist air over the ocean is no longer carried inland, they report in *Geophysical Research Letters*. — *MNA/PTI*



Chinese residents watch a water buffalo fight during a festival in Majiang county, southwest China's Guizhou Province on 18 Aug, 2005.

INTERNET

Drive safely

Rainy Season Photo Show of Shwedagon Pagoda opens

YANGON, 19 Aug — The Rainy Season Photo Show of the Shwedagon Pagoda was opened at Chanthagyi Prayer Hall on the platform of the pagoda this morning. Fullmoon Day of Wagaung, Metta Akhadaw Day.

Chairman of the Photo Show Subcommittee member of the Pagoda Board of Trustees U Mya Thein explained matters concerning the photo show.

Next, Chairman of the Leading Committee for All-round Perpetual Renovation of the Shwedagon Pagoda Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, member of the Pagoda Board of Trustees



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe pressing the button to formally unveil the signboard of the photo show. — MNA

U Kyee Myint and Chairman of Myanmar Photographic Society Mann Tekkatho Nay Myo Win formally opened the photo show.

Afterwards, Patron of the Leading Committee Chairman of Yangon

Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe unveiled the signboard of the show.

Indian Ambassador Mr Rajiv Kumar Bhatia donated photos related to

religious matters, and US\$ 26,700 for publishing religious books to Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung. After the opening ceremony, the commander, the minister, the Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko

and officials visited the photo show. Rare documentary photos concerning Shwedagon Pagoda are being put on display at the photo show for public and members of the Sangha obeisance. A to-

tal of 350 photos are being displayed at seven booths. The photo show is being kept open for the pilgrims and public at Chanthagyi Prayer Hall of the platform of the pagoda up to 17 September. — MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe observes works at the photo show.

MNA



Indian Ambassador Mr Rajiv Kumar Bhatia presents the donation to Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung. — MNA

Entries invited to Military and Marching Song Contests to mark 61st Anniversary Armed Forces Day

YANGON, 19 Aug — The Military and Marching Song Organizing Subcommittee under the Poem and Arts Competition Organizing Committee chaired by Deputy Minister for Culture Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung announced today that Military and Marching Song Contest to mark the 61st Anniversary Armed Forces Day which falls on 27 March 2006 will be held.

There will be only one category, professional level, for the marching song competition while the military song contest is divided into two categories, level-1 and level-2. First, second, and third prizes as well as consolation prizes will be awarded in every level. Rules and regulations of the competition are as follows:-

In the marching

song contest, songs must be composed based on the twelve objectives of the State, the objectives of the 61st Anniversary Armed Forces Day and the twelve fine traditions of the Tatmadaw.

Composers and vocalists of level 1 are not permitted to compete at level 2 of the military song contest nor are those who stood first, second and third at level 2 of the last year's military song contest. They are to enter the level-1. Only one song is allowed for individuals or groups. Entry songs must be in accord with military songs competition methods.

Military songs must be in melody and modes as well as in own tune. The time designated for the song must be between four and six minutes. The entry songs are to be with strong vocal and suitable

music.

Only a song must be recorded on the entry cassette or reel. A suitable title may be given. Words of the entry song together with its typed copies and an original of its music notes must be attached to the cassette or reel.

The brief autograph of the entrant and the singers together with three passport size colour photos must be sent. Those tentatively selected will be informed.

The tentatively selected songs must be recorded and are to compete for the final. Entry songs should be sent to U Ko Ko Htwe, Secretary, Subcommittee for the military and marching song contests, Myanma Radio and Television, Pyay Road, Yangon, not later than 31 December 2005.

MNA

Staff of Customs Department donate blood

YANGON, 19 Aug — The 14th blood donation ceremony of the staff of the Customs Department under the Ministry of Finance and Revenue was held at No 2 Military Hospital (500-bed) on U Wisara Road here at 9.30 am today.

At the ceremony, Director-General of the Customs Department U Khin Maung Lin explained the purpose of the blood donation and Head of Pathology Department Pathologist Lt-Col Nyan Htein Lin matters related to the blood.

Director-General U Khin Maung Lin presented medical equipment



Director-General U Khin Maung Lin and officials visit blood donors at No 2 Military Hospital.

MNA

worth K 70,000 and medicines worth K 30,000. Commandant Col Myint Maung of the hospital gave away certificate of honour to the director-

general. Next, Director-General U Khin Maung Lin, Commandant Col Myint Maung and officials looked around 27 blood donors. — MNA

School health activities inspected

YANGON, 19 Aug — Chairperson Daw Khin Mya Mu of Yangon South District Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee and party inspected school health care week activities in

Thanlyin Township today.

They supervised the health care activities and sports demonstrations at No 2 Basic Education High School, a basic education middle school and

post primary education schools in the township.

At the health education talks held at Thanlyin Hospital, they presented stationery and exercise books to the students.

MNA

Collective efforts required...

(from page 16)

Officials also explained efforts being made to meet the cultivation target of 850,000 acres in Mon State, and land reclamation projects to extend paddy sown acreage. Local authorities presented the list of sown acreage region-wise to Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo and Maj-Gen Soe Naing presented gifts to farmers and officials for their outstanding performances.

The commander said that efforts are being made to put 1 million acres of monsoon paddy in Mon State according to the guidance of the Head of State. Cultivation of summer paddy, beans and pulses and pepper has been extended till reaching 699,000 acres in 2005-

2006.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo cordially greeted farmers.

Accompanied by officials, Lt-Gen Maung Bo visited rubber farming project of Shwethanlwin Agricultural Co Ltd in Kyaikto Township. The government has already permitted the company to grow 1,763 acres of rubber in Mon State. Up to now the company has planted rubber on 527 acres of land. It is planning to grow 118,132 rubber saplings in 2005-2006. Chairman of the company U Kyaw Win presented a request to allot more land to the company.

Speaking on the occasion, Lt-Gen Maung Bo stressed the need to conduct research on increasing rubber production, and reclaim large stretches of land on either side of Mottama-Shwegyin road. He then inspected rubber plantations and nurseries.

In the afternoon, he inspected patient wards, delivery room and medical stores at Zingyaik village health centre. The centre was built at a cost of K 16,500, K 15,000 contributed by the government, and K 1,500 by the public. The centre is being upgraded and extended with funds totalling K 3.5 million presented by the people. The extended building will include an operation theatre and more delivery rooms. Mon State Red Cross Society presented medical equipment to Zingyaik village Red Cross brigade.

In his speech, Lt-Gen Maung Bo said that as Zingyaik is a large village, it needs a health centre equipped with necessary facilities. He then cordially greeted members of the social organizations and local people.

Together with officials, Lt-Gen Maung Bo



Lt-Gen Maung Bo visits booth of Myanma Agriculture Enterprise displayed at ceremony to mark completion of ploughing in Mon State. — MNA

inspected the construction of a 140-ft by 30-ft building of Natkyichaung village high school. The schools had a total of 36 education employees and 877 students. Its matriculation examination pass rate in 2004-2005 was 38.6 per cent. The government contributed K 14.5 million and the public K 3 million to construct the building. Construction work has completed up to 60 per cent. — MNA

Minister for Foreign Affairs sends felicitations to Hungarian FM

YANGON, 20 Aug — U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Ferenc Somogyi, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Hungary, on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of Hungary which falls on 20 August 2005. — MNA

Minister for Foreign Affairs receives Japanese guests

YANGON, 19 Aug — Mr Keishiro Fukushima, Parliamentary Secretary and Member of the House of Councilors of Japan arrived in Yangon by air at 11.50 am yesterday.

The visiting Parliamentary Secretary and Member of the House of Councilors of Japan Mr Keishiro Fukushima called on U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs at his office at 8.30 am today and had cordial discussions relating to bilateral relations.

Also present at the call were Deputy Director-General U Phae Than Oo of the Political Department, Deputy Director-General U Soe Win of the Protocol Department, and Director Daw Than Than Htay of East Asia and Pacific Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Parliamentary Secretary and Member of the House of Councilors of Japan was accompanied by delegation members and Japanese Ambassador Mr Nobutake Odano. — MNA

Prizes awarded to outstanding students of staff

YANGON, 19 Aug — The seventh prize-presenting to outstanding students of the staff of the Ministry of Labour took place at the meeting hall of the ministry this afternoon, attended by Minister for Labour U Thaug.

First, the minister made a speech. Afterwards, the minister, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Win Sein and directors-general awarded prizes to those who passed in the matriculation examination of 2004-2005 academic year with flying colours. Next, three-distinction winner Maung Nay Oo expressed thanks on behalf of prize winners. — MNA



Minister U Thaug presents a prize to an outstanding student. — LABOUR

Special envoy of UN Secretary-General calls on USDA Secretary-General

YANGON, 19 Aug — Union Solidarity and Development Association Secretary-General U Htay Oo received Mr Ali Alatas, special envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General on the United Nations reform for the Asia and the Pacific, at the head office of USDA at 4 pm today.

Also present at the call were USDA CEC members U Soe Tha, U Thein Swe, secretaries of Yangon, Mandalay, Bago (East) and Ayeawady Division USDas. At the meeting, the aim and organizational tasks of USDA and participation of USDA in the regional



USDA Secretary-General U Htay Oo receives special envoy of United Nations Secretary-General Mr Ali Alatas. — MNA

development tasks were cordially discussed. The special envoy of UN Sec-

retary-General was accompanied by Ms Elizabeth Noorthy, Resident Coor-

dinator of External Affairs Office.

MNA

Special envoy of UN Secretary-General calls on Chief Justice

YANGON, 19 Aug — National Convention

Convening Work Committee Chairman Chief-

Justice U Aung Toe received Mr Ali Alatas,

special envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General on the United Nations reform for the Asia and the Pacific at Zeya Thiri Beikman on Konmyinthta this afternoon.

Also present at the call were National Convening Work Committee Vice-Chairman Attorney-General U Aye Maung and Secretary U Thaug Nyunt, and Ms Elizabeth Noorthy, Resident Coordinator of External Affairs Office.

MNA



Chief Justice U Aung Toe receives special envoy of United Nations Secretary-General Mr Ali Alatas. — MNA

NPED Minister receives Japanese guests



Minister U Soe Tha meets with Mr Keishiro Fukushima and party. — MNA

YANGON, 19 Aug— Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha at 9.30 am today met Parliamentary Secretary and Member of the

House of Councilors of Japan Mr Keishiro Fukushima and party at his office on Theinbyu Road.

Also present at the call were Deputy

Minister Col Thurein Zaw, departmental heads, Japanese Ambassador Mr Norutake Odano and embassy staff.

MNA

Supervisory Committee for Ensuring Smooth and Secure Transport meets

YANGON, 19 Aug — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe delivered an address at the coordination meeting of Yangon Division Supervisory Committee for Ensuring Smooth and Secure Transport at the meeting hall of Yangon Command Headquarters, here, this evening.

Speaking on the occasion, the commander said that arrangements are being made for ensuring convenience of the people in their travels and smooth transport of students and faculty

members of the universities and colleges. Vehicles from bus-lines in Yangon City are being converted to CNG vehicles. Officials are to supervise supply of fuel to the vehicles that have not been converted to CNG yet. All are to strive for bringing down traffic accidents.

Officials of the universities and colleges,

Commander of Yangon Division Wireless and Traffic Police Force Police Lt-Col Aung Naing, members of the supervisory committee, departmental officials and chairmen of bus-lines reported on their respective sectors.

Later, the commander attended to their needs.

MNA

Naunglaing TV re-transmission station put into service

YANGON, 19 Aug — The construction tasks of TV re-transmission station were completed in Naunglaing, Shan State (North), on 14 August 2005.

The station started its functions to telecast MRTV programmes on 15 August 2005. — MNA

USDA Secretariat Member Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan inspects regional development tasks in Pale Township

YANGON, 19 Aug— Secretariat member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan on 14 August met local people and members of social organizations of Kyetyin Village, Ledhamma Village, Nyaungkai Village, Mogyaung Village, Lekan Village and Letpan Village in Pale Village at the hall of Kyetyin Village Basic Primary School and discussed matters on regional development.

At the meeting, officials reported on work being carried out for development of their regions to the minister who gave necessary instructions.

Next, the minister accepted the membership applications of Kyetyin Village USDA and presented K 100,000, clothing, publications, stationery, plastic containers, plastic sheets and cans for the village.

After presenting publications for Sagaing Division and Monywa In-



USDA Secretariat Member Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan meets people of the villages in Pale Township. — MNA

formation and Public Relations Departments and Sagaing Division and Monywa USDAs, the minister went to Thirimingalar Kyetyin Monastery and presented offertories to the Presiding Sayadaw.

At 2.30 pm, the USDA Secretariat member looked into band skill demonstration at Mintaingbin BEHS and presented K 150,000 for the band troupe.

At 4.30 pm, the minister attended the ceremony to open the tubewell in Ywatha-Leinkon

Village, Pale Township and formally opened it.

After that, the USDA Secretariat member met local people and discussed matters on regional development and accepted the USDA membership applications.

Next, the minister presented K 300,000 for construction of Ywatha-Leinkon rural road to the Chairman of the Village PDC.

Afterwards, the minister presented soap, blankets, clothing, stationery, publications, plastic

containers, plastic sheets and cans for the village.

In meeting with the local people, the minister explained matters on assistance provided by the government for regional development and for development of education, health, economic and social sectors in the region, measures being taken by the Ministry of Information for opening of self-

reliant libraries in all the villages in 2005-2006, relentless efforts of high-ranking officials for regional and national development, convening of the National Convention for the emergence of a modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation, efforts for successful realization of the seven-point Road Map, opening of more ba-

sic education schools, universities, colleges and institutes in the states and divisions and launching of e-Education System.

In the evening, the USDA Secretariat member inspected progress of construction of new two-storey buildings for Pale BEHS and gave necessary instructions to officials concerned.

MNA

Cash donations offered for religious purposes

YANGON, 19 Aug— The presenting of cash donations for religious tasks to be carried out in hill regions and to the State Pariyatti Sasana University (Yangon) and monastic education schools took place at the Ministry of Religious Affairs on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road here this afternoon.

It was attended by Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, Adviser U Arnt Maung, Director-General of the Religious

Affairs Department U Myo Kyaw, officials and wellwishers.

Siha Sudhamma Manijotadhara Siri Sudhamma Manijotadhara U Kyaw Min and family of Yankin Township presented K 2 million; Police Brig-Gen Tin Soe (Retd) and family, K 2.5 million; U San Nyein-Daw Thein Win (Taw Win Family Co), K 1.7 million; U Win Shwe-Siha Sudhamma Singi Daw Aye Myint and family, K 1 million; Siha Sudhamma Manijotadhara U Chu Than-Daw Win Kyi and

family, U Hla Myint and family of Kathy Pan Traditional Medicine Enterprise, and Managing Director of Asia Express Co Ltd Daw Mi Mi Sein and family, U Aung Maw (Myint Aung Myat Co Ltd) and family, K 500,000 each; U Win Swe-Siha Sudhamma Singi Dr Yee Yee Hla and family, K 200,000; and Mr Jame Ross and family, 120 copies of Nivvana Dipani (English version) by Leti Sayadaw.

The minister accepted the donations.

MNA



USDA Secretariat Member Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presents gifts to people of Kyetyin Village in Pale Township. — MNA

Metta Akhadaw Day commemorated in Yangon

YANGON, 19 Aug — Today is Fullmoon Day of Wagaung (Metta Akhadaw Day). Devotees and pilgrims paid homage to pagodas and practised meditation at religious buildings.

At 6.30 am today, members of the pagoda board of trustees and wut association members paid homage to Shwedagon Pagoda and offered flowers to Buddha images in commemoration of the Metta Akhadaw Day.

Similarly, ceremonies to mark the Metta Akhadaw Day were observed at Botahtaung Pagoda, Kaba Aye Pagoda, Maha Wizaya Pagoda, Shwephonepwin Pa-



Metta Akhadaw Day being observed at Maha Ordination Hall on Kaba Aye Hill on Fullmoon Day of Wagaung.— MNA



goda, Meilamu Pagoda, Mogaung Pagoda, Kyaikkasan Pagoda, Kyaikwaing Pagoda, Ngadatgyi, Chaukhtetgyi and Koedatgyi Pagodas.

In addition, people freed birds and fish in commemoration of the Metta Akhadaw Day.

MNA



The bird releasing ceremony to mark Metta Akhadaw Day being held on the platform of Kaba Aye Pagoda.— MNA

Courses on vocational training conclude in border areas

YANGON, 19 Aug— The concluding of No 11 tailoring course (advanced) and No 39 tailoring course (basic) took place at the training hall of the centre in Kengtung this morning.

The courses were conducted by Kengtung Vocational Training Centre for the Women of the Education and Training Department under the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs.

It was attended by Chairman of Shan State

(East) Peace and Development Council Commander of Triangle Region Command Brig-Gen Min Aung Hlaing, local authorities, officials, members of women's affairs organizations, Maternal and Child Welfare Associations, social organizations, guests and 45 trainees.

Similarly, Myeik Vocational Training Centre for the Women held the conclusion ceremony of No 10 tailoring course (advanced) and No 39 tailoring course (basic) at the centre this morning,

with an address by Chairman of Tainthay Division PDC Commander of Coastal Region Command Maj-Gen Maung Swe. Likewise, the concluding ceremonies of 14-week vocational training courses were held at the vocational training centres for the women in Lashio, Muse, Monghsat, Tachilek, Loikaw, Hpan, Myawady, Ye, Kawthoung, Maungtaw, Haka, Falam, Mindat, Matupi, Tiddim, Kanpetlet, Putao, Bhamo, and Mudon. —MNA

Plenary Meeting of Myanmar Academy of Medical Science held

YANGON, 19 Aug— The Myanmar Academy of Medical Science held its Plenary Meeting for 2005 at the Institute of Nursing (Yangon) on Bogyoke Aung San Street here this morning with an address by Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya

Oo. Also present on the occasion were directors-general of departments under the Ministry of Health, deputy directors-general, rectors, officials of Directorate of Medical Services, CEC members of MAMS, directors, medical superintendents, resident representatives of UN agencies, social organizations and others.

Oo. This was followed by the plenary meeting.

Director-General of the Medical Science Department Professor Dr Maung Maung Wint made a speech.

Next, Vice-Chairman-1 Dr Ko Lay and Vice-Chairman-2 Dr Tha Hla Shwe presented the CEC report, followed by a general round of discussions.—MNA

SANYO-brand electronic items introduced

YANGON, 19 Aug—The demonstration of SANYO-brand electronic items by OK Myanmar Co took place at the Grand Ballroom of the Summit Parkview Hotel at 7 pm today.

Present on the occasion were departmental officials, businessmen, the SANYO sale agents, Chairman of SANYO (Commercial) of Japan Mr Katsushisa Kawashima and officials.

Managing Director of OK Myanmar Co U Kyaw Kyaw Hlaing extended greetings while Mr Katsushisa Kawashima expressed thanks.

Next, General Manager of SANYO (Commercial) Mr Tetsuju Tokunaga explained the quality of

SANYO-brand electronic goods and market conditions in Myanmar.

Later, the electronic items were demonstrated with the use of charts and the ceremony ended. Ok Myanmar Co imported and distributed a wide range of the electronic goods and is making arrangements for extended distribution of the goods to meet local demand.

The showroom of the company is at No 163, Bo Aung Kyaw Street (Middle Block) (Tel: 01-377627), and its head office is on the ground floor of Dagon Tower near Shwegondine Traffic Light (Tel: 01-544463 or 544464 or 544465 or 552510).—MNA

61st Armed Forces Day commemorative competitions to be held

YANGON, 19 Aug—The work committee for organizing 61st Armed Forces Day (2006) commemorative literacy and photo competitions today announced that it will hold novel, short story and article contests.

Entries for novel and short story contests are to reflect the 12 noble traditions of the Tatmadaw. It is free to entitle the entries. Word count for novel story must be between 50,000 and 70,000 words, short story, between 4,000 and 10,000, and article, between 3,000 and 5,000. The title designated for article contest is "Only when Tatmadaw is strong, will the nation be strong".

Every contestant is to attach a testimony that the work is own creation and is not prize-winning one, a brief biography, and two colour photos (2" x and 2.5"). Contestants may send one entry for each competition. Handsome prizes including consolation prize will be presented to winners. Entries are to be sent to U Ko Htwe, Secretary of the work committee in Myanmar TV and Radio and Television on Pyay Road here by 15 January 2006. — MNA



Chairman of Sanyo Commercial of Japan Mr Katsushisa Kawashima speaking at the demonstration of SANYO-brand electronic items at Summit Parkview Hotel.— MNA



A tortoise, the oldest habitant at the Alipore Zoological Gardens, is fed by a zoo keeper in the eastern Indian city of Kolkata on 17 August, 2005. — INTERNET

Climate conference begins in Greenland

STOCKHOLM, 19 Aug — An informal climate summit began in Greenland on Wednesday, as ministers from the world's major countries gathered in Ilulissat in the Disco Bay to discuss climate changes, *Ritzau* news bureau reported.

The unconventional setting in the picturesque fiord of Isfjord, recently added to UNESCO's World Heritage List, is intended to improve the international dialogue on future climate cooperation, as contention among major players complicated issues such as CO2 quotas and energy conservation.

"Climate change is a 'hot' issue in Greenland," said Hans Enoksen, leader of the Greenlandic Home Rule government in his welcome message at the conference.

"We see many changes in our environment, and it affects our traditional way of life. Glaciers are melting and retreating, permafrost is thawing, the ice is thinning, it arrives late and thaws early," he said.

The winter offers warm periods, while summers are becoming dry, with deluges of rain. You don't need to be a scientist to notice these changes," he added.

Danish Minister for the Environment Connie Hedegaard said she hoped that the informal setting and the chance to see the effects of global warming firsthand would encourage ministers to put aside their differences and discuss climate changes open-heartedly.

In contrast to typical UN conferences, where ministers are usually surrounded by hordes of specialists and officials, ministers will only be allowed to bring one official. In addition, the conversations will be confidential, and media attention will be minimal.

Approximately 25 ministers are expected to take part in the meeting in Ilulissat, representing both developed and developing countries, including India, Brazil, China, the United States and Japan.

MNA/Xinhua

Asians targeted in stop and search operations in Britain

LONDON, 19 Aug — Asians are targeted the most in the "stop and search operations" conducted by the British police, which they increased by over 15 times in the wake of the 7 July bombings here, a study said on Wednesday.

According to figures compiled by British Transport police, people of Asian appearance were five times more likely to be stopped and searched than White people though none of the stops has resulted in a terrorism charge.

Transport police stopped and searched 6,747 people, mostly in London, between 7 July and 10 August and out of this 2,390 were Asians, about 35 per cent, figures revealed.

Police stopped 2,168 Whites, about 32 per cent, during the same

period.

Interestingly, Asian people comprise just 12 per cent of the population of London, while White people constitute 63 per cent.

In June, the force stopped 408 people nationwide, with less focus on Asians. Of that month's stops, 51 per cent were White, 8.6 per cent African-Caribbean, and 16.2 per cent Asians.

The stop and search operations in July led to 25 arrests, mainly for drugs and weapons offences.

Transport police believe intelligence-led stop and searches have got to be the way after the London attacks.

"We should not waste time searching old White ladies. It is going to be disproportionate. It is going to be young men, not exclusively, but may be disproportionate when it comes to ethnic groups," Transport police sources said.

Meanwhile, Hazel Blears, a Home Office Minister, said the operations "will not discriminate against Muslims".

MNA/PTI

US officer says 11 Sept panel fails to probe intelligence lapse

WASHINGTON, 19 Aug — A US military intelligence officer asserted on Wednesday that the 11 September Commission failed to thoroughly probe a major intelligence error related to the deadly terror attacks in 2001.

Showing up in US TV network CBS's "The Early Show", Lieutenant-Colonel Anthony Shaffer said the panel has not pressed hard enough for documentation of claims that the US Army knew about 11 September hijackers as terror suspects operating within the country before the attacks.

He said he was once a member of an Army intelligence unit code-named "Able Danger," which had identified four future 11 September hijackers as al-Qaeda members by mid-2000.

However, military lawyers in the Pentagon stopped the unit from sharing the important information with the FBI, saying the four suspects were legal immigrants so information on them could not be shared with law enforcement agencies such as FBI based on relevant government codes.

Shaffer said after the 11 September attacks, he provided the information to the 11 September Commission staffs, but the panel did not include it

in its final report released last year.

As a result, there is no suggestion in the report that the US Government knew about the hijackers as early as 2000, he said.

"I don't believe they (the Commission) ever got all the documents," said Shaffer.

The officer is the second person to reveal the intelligence lapse.

US Congressman Curt Weldon, also a former member of the "Able Danger" intelligence unit, made similar claims on 9 August.

The 11 September Commission said in a statement last week that it did learn about some information related to "Able Danger" in 2003, but none of those documents referred to the name of the hijackers.

The Commission explained that it decided not to incorporate the intelligence error into its final report because it "did not turn out to be historically significant".

MNA/Xinhua

France sees trade deficit of 11b euros in first half year

PARIS, 19 Aug — French trade deficit for June reached 1.194 billion euros after 1.148 billion euros in May, according to figures released by the French Customs service on Wednesday.

The French trade deficit for the first half of the year stood at a record of 11.193 billion euros, compared with a deficit of 581 million euros in the same period of 2004, the Customs service said.

Exports in June totalled 29.768 billion euros compared with 30.610 billion euros last month, while imports fell to 30.962 billion euros

from 31.758 billion euros in May.

The energy balance in the month gave a deficit of 2.520 billion euros compared with a deficit of 2.868 billion euros in May.

The industrial balance showed a deficit of 127 million euros, while food products showed a June surplus of 640 million euros against a 573-million surplus in May.

French Finance Ministry said in the same day that at prices prevailing at the beginning of August, France could face an energy sector deficit of more than 40 billion euros this year after 29 billion euros last year.

"The increased impact of the energy component has accounted for nearly half the deterioration in the overall trade balance for France" in the past year, the ministry said.

First-half sales of French products to the other 11 members of the eurozone increased by 2.1 per cent, while sales accelerated to other trading partners.

Exports to Asia increased by 12.3 per cent compared to the second half of 2004. They grew by 11.7 per cent to Africa and by 4.8 per cent to the Americas, the Customs service said.

MNA/Xinhua

Oil price pushes British inflation to 8-year high

LONDON, 19 Aug — A sharp rise in petrol prices has pushed the target measure of inflation to its highest level in eight years.

The annual rate of inflation, measured by the consumer prices index, surprised analysts by rising to 2.3 per cent in July from 2 per cent in June, according to *Financial Times* on Wednesday.

The monetary policy committee of the Bank of England, Britain's central bank, is concerned about rising fuel prices as well as other factors pushing up inflation.

Core inflation, which excludes energy and seasonal foods, rose from 1.5 per cent in June to 1.8 per cent in July.

It was driven higher by fewer bargains appearing in the shops in the July sales, rising costs of banking services and insurance, and higher health charges.

With the prospect of possible further petrol-induced price rises next month, inflation in the third quarter is set to exceed the forecast made by the central bank last month. — MNA/Xinhua

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ADVERTISEMENT

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV ZHE HAI 315 VOY NO (023)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ZHE HAI 315 VOY NO (023) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21-8-2005 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the by-laws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority
Agent For: M/S INTERASIA LINES
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

လူ့စွမ်းအားအရင်းအမြစ်ဖွံ့ဖြိုးမှုဌာန (ရန်ကုန်နိုင်ငံခြားဘာသာတက္ကသိုလ်)

နိုင်ငံခြားဘာသာစကားသင်တန်းသားလျှောက်လွှာခေါ်ယူခြင်း

၁။ လူ့စွမ်းအားအရင်းအမြစ်ဖွံ့ဖြိုးမှုဌာန (ရန်ကုန်နိုင်ငံခြားဘာသာတက္ကသိုလ်)တွင် တရုတ်၊ အင်္ဂလိပ်၊ ပြင်သစ်၊ ဂျပန်၊ ဂျပန်၊ ကိုရီးယား၊ ထိုင်းဘာသာစကား၊ ပြင်သစ် (ဘာသာပြန်/စကားပြန်)နှင့် မြန်မာဘာသာစကား (နိုင်ငံခြားကျောင်းသားအတွက်) ဥပဒေသင်တန်းများ ဖွင့်လှစ်မည်ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

၂။ သင်တန်းစတင်ဖွင့်လှစ်မည့်ရက်မှာ (၁၉-၉-၂၀၀၅)ရက်နေ့ ဖြစ်ပြီး သင်တန်းဝင်ခွင့်လျှောက်လွှာများကို (၂၉-၈-၂၀၀၅) ရက်နေ့မှစတင်လက်ခံပါမည်။ သင်တန်းဝင်ခွင့်နှင့် ပတ်သက်၍ အသေးစိတ်သိလိုပါက ရုံးချိန်အတွင်း ရန်ကုန်နိုင်ငံခြားဘာသာတက္ကသိုလ်တွင်လာရောက်စုံစမ်းမေးမြန်းနိုင်ပါသည်။
ဖုန်း-၅၁၄၃၇၁ (လိုင်ခွဲ-၁၂၃)

ရန်ကုန်နိုင်ငံခြားဘာသာတက္ကသိုလ်

မဟာဝိဇ္ဇာသင်တန်းအတွက် သင်တန်းသားများခေါ်ယူခြင်း

၁။ ၂၀၀၅-၂၀၀၆ ပညာသင်နှစ်အတွက် မဟာဝိဇ္ဇာဘွဲ့ (အင်္ဂလိပ်ဘာသာစကား) ပထမနှစ် သင်တန်းကို ၂၀၀၅ ခုနှစ်၊ စက်တင်ဘာလ(၁၉) ရက်နေ့တွင်ဖွင့်လှစ်မည်ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

၂။ သင်တန်းတက်ရောက်လိုသူများသည်-
(က) ပြည်ထောင်စုမြန်မာနိုင်ငံသားဖြစ်ရမည်။
(ခ) မဟာဝိဇ္ဇာဘွဲ့ (အင်္ဂလိပ်ဘာသာစကား) ပထမနှစ် သင်တန်းတက်ရောက်ရန် သတ်မှတ်ထားသော အရည်အချင်းများနှင့် ပြည့်စုံသူဖြစ်ရမည်။

၃။ ၂၀၀၅ ခုနှစ်၊ ဩဂုတ်လ(၆)ရက်နေ့ နောက်ဆုံးထား၍ လျှောက်လွှာတင်သွင်းကြရမည်။ သင်တန်းဝင်ခွင့် ပြေညာချက် အပြည့်အစုံကို ရုံးချိန်အတွင်း ရန်ကုန်နိုင်ငံခြားဘာသာတက္ကသိုလ် ကျောင်းသားရေးရာဌာနတွင် လာရောက်စုံစမ်းမေးမြန်းနိုင်ပါသည်။

နိုင်ငံခြားငွေဖြင့် ချိပ်ပိတ်တင်ဒါခေါ်ယူခြင်း

စဉ်	ပစ္စည်းအမျိုးအမည်	အရေအတွက်	တင်ဒါပိတ်ရက်
၁။	Grinding Media	366 MT	၁၅-၉-၂၀၀၅

အမှတ်(၁)စက်မှုဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ မြန်မာ့ကြေးတည်မြေတည်လုပ်ငန်း၊ ရောင်းဝယ်ရေးဌာန၊ အမှတ်(၁၉၅)၊ ကမ္ဘာအေးဘုရားလမ်း၊ ရန်ကုန်တွင် ရုံးချိန်အတွင်း ဆက်သွယ်စုံစမ်းပြီး တင်ဒါပုံစံများကို လာရောက်ဝယ်ယူနိုင်ပါသည်။

တင်ဒါပုံစံကုမ်းဝင်ဝယ်ယူမှုအား တင်ဒါကိုသာ လက်ခံမည်။

(အသေးစိတ်သိလိုပါက စုံစမ်းရန်တယ်လီဖုန်းအမှတ်၊ ၅၆၆၂၉၅၊ ၅၆၆၂၉၆) မြန်မာ့ကြေးတည်မြေတည်လုပ်ငန်း

Manchester police arrest four under terrorism laws

LONDON, 18 Aug — Police have arrested four people under terrorism legislation at Manchester Airport, police in the northern English city said on Tuesday.

The four — two men aged 48 and 23 and two women aged 48 and 27 — were held shortly after midnight on Monday under Section 15 of the Terrorism Act 2000, a Greater Manchester

Police spokeswoman said. That section relates to providing money or other property suspected of being used for the purpose of terrorism. "They are still being

questioned at a police station in Greater Manchester," she said, adding that police had searched a property in the west Midlands as part of their investigation. MNA/Reuters

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ECOCERT a company incorporated in France at Lieudit Lamothé Ouest, L'Isle Jourdain 32600 France is the Owner and Sole Proprietor of the following Trademark:-



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U Myint Lwin, Advocate, LL.B, DBL, Dip in Marine Affairs(UK)
Email : MYINT.Advocate@mptmail.net.mm
Ph : 371 990 20.August.2005

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Reg. No. 1287/1995
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Reg. No. 1288/1995
Reg. No. 3205/2000

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Win Mu Tin, M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L., for YKK CORPORATION. P. O. Box 60, Yangon
Dated: 20 August 2005.

Mass bird deaths reported in European Russia region

Moscow, 18 Aug — Russian health workers have found mass bird deaths in a region on the western side of the Ural mountains in what could become the first case of the deadly bird flu virus spreading to Europe, officials said on Wednesday.

The state health watchdog, in a statement posted on its web site, said the bird deaths occurred on a farm in the Caspian region of Kalmykia — 1,200 miles from the region where Russia's first flu outbreak was reported.

"That case is being investigated," the Federal Consumers' Rights and Welfare Watchdog said, adding no cases among humans had been confirmed in Russia. MNA/Reuters

Test of Proficiency In Korean (TOPIK)

Host Institutions : Yangon University of Foreign Languages (YUFL), Embassy of Korea Institute of Curriculum and Evaluation (KICE)

Date : September 25th, 2005 (Sunday)
Place : Yangon University of Foreign Languages (YUFL)
Mandalay University of Foreign Languages (MUFL)

Application Period : from August 12 (Friday) 2005 to August 26 (Friday) 2005

The TEST has six different levels; the examinee can choose the level that best matches his or her ability and training.

Each TEST is made up of four sections:

- Vocabulary & Grammar
- Writing
- Listening
- Reading

Further informations and TEST GUIDE are available at Host Institutions as follows.

YUFL Tel : 514371 (Ext-123)
MUFL Tel : 02-32330

India rules out Israeli Greenpine radar for its "Prithvi" missile

NEW DELHI, 18 Aug — Indian Defence Minister Pranab Mukherjee on Wednesday ruled out any move to convert the short range surface-to-surface Prithvi missile into an anti-missile or a nuclear shield.

There are no plans to integrate Prithvi missile with Israeli Greenpine radar as a defence cover in respect of nuclear threat, Mukherjee said at the Indian Parliament on Wednesday.

The minister's statement assumes significance amidst reports that India's Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) has been working on a project to develop an anti-missile shield.

However, experts feel that Prithvi with its liquid base propellant does not fill the bill.

While working on development of an indigenous system, India is also looking to acquire such a system from abroad with the US administration now offering it advanced Patriot PAC-3 anti-missile system.

Indicating this, the minister said during recent bilateral discussions, Washington had conveyed its readiness to enter into defence supply, co-production and research and development relationship in areas of advanced defence technologies with India.

On whether the country has proposed to increase the range of Prithvi missiles from 150 kilometres to 350 kilometres, Mukherjee said the missile already had a range exceeding 150 kilometres. — MNA/Xinhua

China selects 3,000-year-old pattern as cultural heritage logo

BEIJING, 18 Aug — A gold adornment featuring sunbirds made by the ancient Chinese some 3,000 years ago has been selected as the logo of "China's Culture Heritage".

The logo will be introduced in China's cultural heritage protection sites, but commercial use of the logo will be restricted, the State Administration of Cultural Heritage (SACH) announced on Tuesday.

The gold sunbirds adornment was unearthed in 2001 in Jinsha, one of China's most important archaeological discoveries at the start of the 21st Century, in Chengdu, capital of southwest China's Sichuan Province.

The pattern features four birds flying around the sun, and features a complex aesthetic and exquisite technology.

SACH director Shan Jixiang said choosing the pattern as the "China Cultural Heritage" logo shows the Chinese people's respect for their country's long history and cultural legacy.

The logo will help enhance people's awareness of cultural heritage protection, and will also help standardize cultural heritage protection work in China, said Shan. — MNA/Xinhua



ပညာရေးနှင့် ခေတ်မီပွဲများတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်ဆဲ

Over 3,000-year-old bronze wares unearthed in Henan Province

ZHENGZHOU, 18 Aug—Chinese archaeologists have unearthed a batch of 40 bronze ritual artifacts in a well-preserved noble tomb dating back to more than 3,000 years.

The tomb, belonging to a noble family of China's late Shang (also called Yin) Dynasty (1600-1100 BC), was excavated in the famous Yin Ruins in Anyang city of central China's Henan Province.

The excavations include seven bronze cooking vessels in different shapes, as well as plates, cups and various types of other ancient food vessels, all of which were used as ritual materials in funerals. Bronze weapons and ceramics were also discovered in the tomb.

One of the most important discoveries of the Yin Ruins is the inscribed animal bones and tortoise shells, known as oracle bones, which carry the earliest known examples of Chinese characters.

MNA/Xinhua

Encephalitis kills 46 in northern India

LUCKNOW (India), 18 Aug—Forty-six people, mostly children, have died of encephalitis sweeping parts of India's northern Uttar Pradesh State, health officials said on Wednesday.

Another 180 people are in hospital, many of them in a critical condition, following the outbreak during the monsoon season.

The water-borne disease, an acute form of brain fever dubbed Japanese Encephalitis, is caused by a virus spread by mosquitoes.

"Ninety per cent of the victims are children," OP Singh, director-general of the state's health department, told Reuters.

"Though it is not unusual for the killer virus to proliferate during every rainy season, the damage is likely to be worse this time."—MNA/Reuters



A child rides on a pony at the amusement park set in the city of Qingdao, Shandong Province, China, on 18 Aug, 2005. —INTERNET

Russia cosmonaut sets record for most days in space

Moscow, 18 Aug—Russian cosmonaut Sergei Krikalev on Tuesday set a record for the most days spent in space, clocking almost 748 days over a 20-year career.

Krikalev, scheduled to remain aboard the International Space Station (ISS) until October, beat the previous record of 747 days 14 hours 14 minutes and 11 seconds held by fellow Russian Sergei

Avdeyev, mission control said.

Krikalev's space travels have included stints on the MIR space station—the crown jewel of the Soviet space programme which was destroyed in

2001—as well as the ISS, and he has travelled on US shuttles and Russian Soyuz spaceships.

The 46-year-old made his first long-duration mission to MIR in 1988.

MNA/Reuters

Off-hours hospital visit delays heart treatment

NEW YORK, 18 Aug—Patients who have suffered a heart attack and visit the hospital during off-hours do not receive angioplasty, a common blood-vessel opening procedure, as quickly as those who show up during regular hours, new research shows. This is particularly concerning since most patients do come during off-hours.

The findings, which appear in the Journal of the American Medical Association, are based on a study of 68,439 patients treated with clot-busting drugs and 33,647 treated with angioplasty between 1999 and 2002. Regular hours were defined as 7 am to 5 pm on weekdays, while all other times were considered off-hours.

Nearly 68 per cent of clot-busting patients and 54 per cent of angioplasty patients were treated during off-hours, Dr Harlan M Krumholz, from Yale University School of Medicine in New Haven, Connecticut, and colleagues note.

The time until clot-busting drugs were given during off-hours was 34.3 minutes, while the time during regular hours was 33.2 minutes, a slight but statistically significant dif-

ference. By contrast, with angioplasty, the difference was more pronounced: 116.1 minutes during off-hours compared with 94.8 minutes during regular hours.

The authors also found that angioplasty patients treated during off-hours were less likely to be treated within the time period recommended in treatment guidelines than those treated during regular hours.

Further analysis of the time interval revealed that most of the off-hours delay occurred between obtaining the ECG and patient arrival at the treatment laboratory. Lastly, showing up during off-hours was associated with a slight but significant increase in hospital death rates, the report indicates.

MNA/Reuters

S Africans charged over illegal kidney transplants

JOHANNESBURG, 18 Aug—Nine South Africans, among them several prominent doctors, have been charged with assault and fraud in connection with an illegal organ transplant scheme in which wealthy patients bought kidneys from poor Brazilians.

All nine appeared in court in the coast city of Durban on Tuesday and were released on bail, police superintendent Phindile Radebe said. Four were arrested in early 2004 and five earlier on Tuesday, she said.

"They are facing 110 charges of assault, 110 of fraud and 110 under the Human Tissue Act," Radebe said, adding that the case had been remanded until 16 September.

South Africa's Human Tissue Act bars trade in human organs, but officials say such cases are often difficult to prove despite a growing trade in organs stemming from an acute shortage of donor kidneys in rich countries.

State prosecutors allege that the doctors worked for a syndicate which

brought poor Brazilians to South Africa's well-equipped hospitals to sell a kidney to foreigners, mainly Israelis.

Police say the Brazilians were paid about 10,000 US dollars per kidney.

The doctors in court on Tuesday have been linked with 110 suspect kidney transplants carried out at one hospital, and police said the investigation could extend to more hospitals as further evidence emerges.

"At this stage we still believe we have just the tip of the iceberg," Durban police spokesman Bala Naidoo said.

Lawyers representing several of the doctors denied in court on Tuesday that their clients had a case to answer.

MNA/Reuters

Britain debates whether parents can choose babies' sex

LONDON, 18 Aug—The right of British parents to use fertility treatment to choose the sex of their children is to be debated by medical experts under a three-month consultation launched by the government on Tuesday.

"We are asking a specific question—should sex selection play a role in terms of family balancing," said Public Health Minister Caroline Flint.

Current legislation allows sex selection only to avoid gender-linked medical conditions such as haemophilia, a position supported by a public consultation held in 2002 and 2003.

But a parliamentary committee earlier this year reviewed the issue and could find no adequate justification for banning sex selection in cases of family balancing—for example a family with four sons wishing to have a daughter.

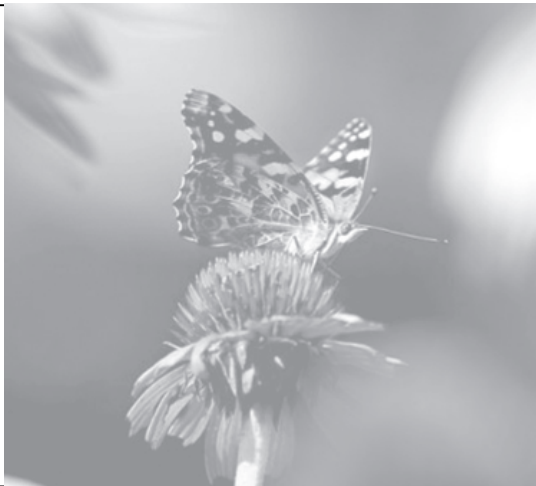
The issue is one of a number to be considered under a review of Britain's 1990 Human Fertil-

ization and Embryology Act, designed to bring it up to date with recent medical developments.

Private clinics which provide sperm for single women and lesbian couples will also be considered under the consultation, with web sites offering donor sperm facing tighter regulation or possible prohibition.

MNA/Reuters

A monarch butterfly rests on a purple cone flower in Arrowsic, Maine, on 18 Aug, 2005. INTERNET



S P O R T S

Latvia hold Russia in World Cup qualifier

RIGA, 19 Aug— Russia remained third in the Group Three table after being held to a 1-1 draw by Latvia in a World Cup qualifier on Wednesday.

Captain Vitalijs Astafjevs opened the scoring for Latvia after six minutes before Andrei Arshavin equalized 18 minutes later.

The visitors were without six first-choice players through injury and suspension including striker Dmitry Sychev, playmaker Dmitry Loskov and skipper Alexei Smertin.

Russia now have 15 points from eight matches, two behind Slovakia and five adrift of leaders Portugal.

Slovakia visit Liechtenstein later on Wednesday. Latvia are fourth in the table on 14 points.

Yuri Syomin, who guided his team to

a 2-0 triumph over Latvia in St. Petersburg on his debut as coach in June, said Russia's World Cup hopes were still intact.

"My forwards played well. This is not to be regarded as a defeat," Syomin told reporters.

"The qualifying rounds are not over yet...Russia still has a chance."

Astafjevs told Latvian television: "We went out intending to win. After the first goal we decided to change tactics and rebuild our game."

Among the crowd in Riga was Latvian President Vaira Vike-Freiberga.

MNA/Reuters

Heinze heads winner in Argentina's 2-1 win over Hungary

BUDAPEST, 19 Aug— Defender Gabriel Heinze headed home a corner just past the hour to give Argentina a 2-1 win over Hungary in a friendly international on Wednesday.

Teenager Lionel Messi had an unhappy debut when he was sent off for elbowing an opponent soon after coming on as a substitute after Heinze had netted Andres D'Alessandro's corner from the middle of the box. Midfielder Maxi Rodriguez put Argentina ahead and Sandor Torghelle equalized just before the half hour.

MNA/Reuters

Zidane celebrates France comeback with goal in 3-0 rout

MONTPELLIER(France), 19 Aug — Zinedine Zidane marked his international comeback by scoring 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. — MNA/Reuters



France's Zinedine Zidane is pictured during the friendly soccer match between France and Ivory Coast, on 17 August, 2005 at the Mosson Stadium in Montpellier, France.

INTERNET

Berbatov spurs Bulgaria to friendly win over Turkey

SOFIA, 19 Aug — Bayer Leverkusen striker Dimitar Berbatov scored twice to earn Bulgaria a 3-1 friendly victory over Turkey on Wednesday.

Striker Fatih Tekke headed in a 21st-minute corner from Hasan Sas to put Turkey in front but Berbatov nodded the equalizer from close range three minutes later.

Atletico Madrid's new signing Martin Petrov gave Bulgaria a 2-1 lead when he hammered a left-foot shot beyond goalkeeper Rustu Recber in the 38th minute.

The 24-year-old Berbatov, set up by midfielder Blagoi Georgiev, added the third goal with a low angled shot from seven metres two minutes before the break.

Sas went close to a second goal for Turkey with a first-half header while Serhat Akin also hit the post in the second period.

But Petrov almost made it 4-1 for Bulgaria in the dying seconds.

"We had many injured players and many were physically not ready," Turkey coach Fatih Terim told Bulgarian television.

Terim took charge of Turkey again in June following a nine-year gap.

"We started the match very well, we did not give away possession of the ball and we scored but after that everything went wrong...we made a lot of mistakes," he added. "It is my first game so we need time to improve."

Turkey are second in World Cup Group Two while Bulgaria, fourth in Group Eight, have little chance of qualifying for the finals in Germany next year. — MNA/Reuters



China's Bao Chunlai (top) celebrates match point against Wong Choong Hann of Malaysia (bottom) during third round play at the IBF World Badminton Championships in Anaheim, California, on 18 August, 2005. Bao advanced with a 15-6, 15-12 win.—INTERNET

Henry dedicates goal to crash victims

MONTPELLIER (France), August 19 — France striker Thierry Henry dedicated his goal in the 3-0 victory over the Ivory Coast to the victims of Tuesday's air crash that killed 160 people on a flight to Martinique.

A minute's silence was observed before Wednesday's friendly international at Montpellier's Stade de la Mosson in memory of those who died when the West Caribbean Airways holiday charter jet came down in western Venezuela after taking off in Panama. "I'm from the Antilles. Tonight, I've thought of them. I dedicate my goal to them," said Henry.

Most passengers on the plane were local government officials in French-speaking Martinique who had been on holiday with their families. One baby and four children were among the dead.

MNA/Reuters

Norwich agree fee for striker Morrison

LONDON, 19 Aug — Irish international striker Clinton Morrison is set to move from Premier League Birmingham City to Second Division Norwich City after the clubs agreed a fee on Thursday.

Morrison, 26, moved to Birmingham for a club record 4.25 million pounds (7.67 million US dollars) from Crystal Palace three years ago. He eventually struck up a good partnership with Emile Heskey but the arrival of Uruguay international Walter Pandiani in

January saw his appearances drop off.

Morrison, who won his 28th Irish cap in Wednesday's 2-1 home defeat by Italy, has only a year left on his contract and travelled to Norwich on Thursday to discuss personal terms. "I am aware that we are losing our fourth striker but we are facing the prospect of losing someone on a Bosman free transfer or accepting a deal worth a couple of million quid," coach Steve Bruce told the Birmingham website.

MNA/Reuters

Mutu double helps Romania beat Andorra 2-0

CONSTANTA (Romania), 19 Aug — Juventus striker Adrian Mutu scored twice for Romania as they beat Andorra 2-0 in a World Cup Group One qualifier on Wednesday.



Romania's striker Adrian Mutu (R) heads the ball in front of Andorra's Fernando Silva (L) to score Romania's first goal during their World Cup European Zone Group One qualifying soccer match at Gheorghe Hagi stadium in Constanta, 260km (161 miles) east of Bucharest on 17 August, 2005.—INTERNET

Romania, who began the match in third place three points behind group leaders the Netherlands, needed 29 minutes to break the deadlock when Mutu headed home Cosmin Contra's cross.

Mutu added his second with a fine 20-metre shot 10 minutes later but Romania failed to breach the Andorran defence again despite dominating a poor second half.

The bottom-placed Andorrans failed to create a single chance throughout the match.

MNA/Reuters

Villarreal defender Armando Sa set to move to Espanyol

MADRID, 19 Aug — Villarreal defender Armando Sa is set to join Espanyol on a two-year deal, the two Primera Liga sides said on Wednesday.

The 29-year-old Mozambique international joined Villarreal from Benfica at the start of last season and played 20 league games for the Mediterranean side.

However, coach Manuel Pellegrini made it clear that he was surplus to requirements following the recent signing of Dutch international fullback Jan Kromkamp.

MNA/Reuters

Tunisia edge closer to World Cup finals

TUNIS, 19 Aug — A second minute goal from Haykel Guemamdia was enough to earn Tunisia a 1-0 home win over Kenya at Rades on Wednesday and edge them closer to a place at next year's World Cup finals in Germany.

The win puts Tunisia at the top of the African qualifying zone Group Five standings for the first time, one point ahead of arch rivals Morocco. Tunisia now need only to win their penultimate match against Kenya in Nairobi on September 3 and then draw at home against Morocco in October to qualify for a third successive World Cup finals.

MNA/Reuters

US policy on "axis of evil" suffers spate of setbacks

WASHINGTON, 19 Aug — US President George W Bush's campaign against what he once termed the "axis of evil" has suffered reverses on all three fronts in recent days, *The Washington Post* said on Wednesday.

The reverses also underscored the profound challenges confronting him three and half years after he vowed to take action against the three countries, said the newspaper. First, the newspaper said

in an analysis, multilateral talks orchestrated by the United States to pressure North Korea to give up nuclear weapons adjourned last week as the six parties came to a halt without agreement after

13 days of bargaining.

Then Iran restarted its programme to convert uranium, in defiance of the United States and Europe.

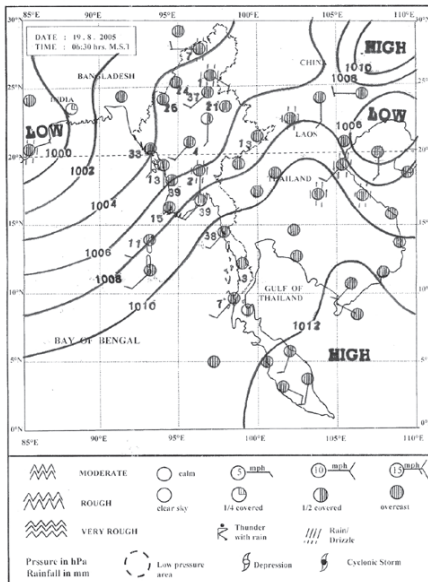
Finally, negotiators in Iraq failed to draft a new Constitution by Monday's deadline amid an unrelenting guerilla war against US forces, the newspapers said. None of these developments may be fatal to Bush's policy goals, but the quick suc-

cession of setbacks has left his national security team privately discouraged and searching for answers, the analysis said.

Whereas Bush in his first term vowed to reinvent foreign policy with a new doctrine of military preemption to deal with rogue states, he has largely dropped such talks since the invasion of Iraq in 2003.

MNA/Xinhua

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



CASH DONATED: U Min Lwin-Daw Khin Htay Mhi and family of No 45, Thukha Street, Hline Township, donated K 100,000 to Hninzigon Home for the Aged recently. Joint-Treasurer of the Home U Maung Maung Gyi accepts the cash donation.—H

Flood Bulletin

(Issued at 12:30 hrs MST on 19-8-2005)
According to the (06:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Thanlwin River at Hpa-an is (820) cm. It may remain above the danger level (750) cm during the next (72) hours commencing noon today.

According to the (06:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Sittoung River at Madauk is (1163) cm. It may remain above the danger level (1070) cm during the next (72) hours commencing noon today.

WEATHER

Friday, 19 August, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain have been isolated in lower Sagaing Division, scattered in Mandalay Division and widespread in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfall in Mon State. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Thaton (5.47) inches, Hpa-an (2.72) inches, Hmawbi (2.52) inches, Shwegyin (2.24) inches, Ye (2.05) inches and Aunglan (0.67) inch.

Maximum temperature on 18-8-2005 was 82°F. Minimum temperature on 19-8-2005 was 68°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 19-8-2005 was 92%. Total sunshine hours on 18-8-2005 was nil. Rainfalls on 19-8-2005 were 1.22 inches at Mingaladon, 1.54 inches at Kaba-Aye, 2.32 inches at central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were 66.85 inches at Mingaladon, 68.86 inches at Kaba-Aye and 71.81 inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 6 mph from Southwest at (11:05) hours MST on 18-8-2005.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 20-8-2005: Rain will be isolated in lower Sagaing and Magway Divisions, scattered in Chin and Kayah States, Upper Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Mon State and Taninthayi Division. Degree of certainty is 80%.

State of the sea: Temporary squalls with rough seas are likely in Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) to (40) mph. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar water.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Generally strong monsoon.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 20-8-2005: Some rain. Degree of certainty is 80%. **Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 20-8-2005:** Likelihood of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is 60%.

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

Earthquake report

(Issued at 15:00 hrs MST on Today)
An earthquake of slight intensity (4.3) Richter Scale with its epicenter inside Myanmar about (130) miles Northwest of Mandalay seismological observatory was recorded at (13) hr (43) min (59) sec MST on 19th August 2005.



Saturday, 20 August

View on today:

7:00 am

- 1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Ottamathara

7:15 am

- 2. တီပီကေရ ရေပွားကန်က ဝိသုဒ္ဓိတ ဝိသုဒ္ဓိတ (သောသရာတော်) ဟောကြားတော်မူအပ်သော ဥပ္ပါတသန္တပါဠိတော်

7:25 am

- 3. To be healthy exercise

7:30 am

- 4. Morning news

7:40 am

- 5. Nice and sweet song

7:55 am

- 6. အတူညီညွတ်

8:05 am

- 7. Musical programme

8:20 am

- 8. ရုပ်မြင်စုံအစောင့်စောင့်

8:30 am

- 9. International news

8:45 am

- 10. Grammar made easy

11:00 am

- 1. Martial song

11:15 am

- 2. Musical programme

11:30 am

- 3. Games for enjoy

12:55 pm

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

12:55 pm

- 5. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတမ်းလမ်းဆုံ "အာရှတိုက်မှ နေ့စဉ်အသံ" (အပိုင်း-၃၀)

1:35 pm

- 6. ကြားမြင်သတင်း ဖြည့်စေ့ရာ စာပေအသံ

1:50 pm

- 7. "အန္တရာယ်ဆိုတာ လက်တစ်ကမ်းမှာ" (နိုးသူ၊ နန်းလှလှလှိုင်၊ ဆရာမင်၊ နေဇာ၊ ကောင်းမွန်သန်း၊ ယင်းစာ) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-တေးဇော်လှိုင်)

2:00 pm

- 8. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ

2:10 pm

- 9. Dance of national races

2:20 pm

- 10. အတိုးပြိုင်ပွဲ

2:30 pm

- 11. (၂၃)ကြိမ်မြောက် အရှေ့တောင်အာရှအားကစားပြိုင်ပွဲဝင်မည့် မြန်မာအားကစားအဖွဲ့များ၏ ကြိုတင်ပြင်ဆင်မှုများ (ဇော်ဦး)

2:45 am

- 12. International news

4:00 pm

- 1. Martial song

4:15 pm

- 2. Songs to uphold National Spirit

4:30 pm

- 3. English for everyday use

4:45 pm

- 4. Musical programme

4:55 pm

- 5. အဆောင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ -ပထမနှစ် (ဓာတုဗေဒ၊ ရူပဗေဒ၊ သတ္တဗေဒ၊ ရုက္ခဗေဒ အထူးပြုများ) (ဓာတုဗေဒ)

5:10 pm

- 6. နားဝင်စိတ် သူ့လက်သံ

5:20 pm

- 7. ၂၀၀၅ ခုနှစ်၊ တေရသမ အကြိမ်(၁၃)ကြိမ် မြန်မာရိုးရာယဉ်ကျေးမှု အဆိုအက၊အရုပ်၊ အတိုးပြိုင်ပွဲဝင်များ လေ့လာနိုင်ကြရန် (ဗမာ့ပညာရေး) (အဆင့်မြင့် ပညာအဆင့်) (အမျိုးသမီး)

5:25 pm

- 8. မြန်မာစာ မြန်မာစကား

5:35 pm

- 9. Musical programme

5:45 pm

- 10. "ဆေးလိပ်တင်ကော အနုပညာကဏ္ဍ" (လှိုင်မိုး၊ စင်းမော်ကွန်း၊ စာနည်းတင်ကော၊ နိုးမြတ်နိုး၊ လှအောင်လှိုင်၊ ကြည်လှလှိုင်၊ ရွှေမိမိ)

5:55 pm

- 11. Games for children

6:20 pm

- 12. Musical programme

6:30 pm

- 13. Evening news

7:00 pm

- 14. Weather report

7:05 pm

- 15. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတမ်းလမ်းဆုံ "ချစ်ခင်မြတ်နိုးစိတ်စာတမ်းလမ်းဆုံ" (အပိုင်း-၄၉)

7:35 pm

- 16. (၂၃)ကြိမ်မြောက် အရှေ့တောင်အာရှအားကစားပြိုင်ပွဲဝင်မည့် မြန်မာအားကစားအဖွဲ့များ၏ ကြိုတင်ပြင်ဆင်မှုများ (ဇော်ဦး)

7:45 pm

- 17. ဒေသခံစာပေလှည့်ပွဲ ဆင်းရွှေလီ စပါးရိတ်ကြွေ (အပိုင်း-၇)

7:55 pm

- 18. ခေါင်းစည်းအင်အား ရောဂါတိုက်ဖျက်ရေးများ

8:00 pm

- 19. News

- 20. International news

- 21. Weather report

- 22. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတမ်းလမ်းဆုံ "အချစ်သံသရာ" (အပိုင်း-၆၈) (ဇော်ဦးစိုးစိုး)

- 22. The next day's programme



Saturday, 20 August

Tune in today:

8.30 am Brief news

- 8.35 am Music: -Brother Louie

8.40 am Perspectives

- 8.45 am Music: -I give to this heart

8.55 am National news/Slogan

- 9.05 am Music: - Cross the room

9.10 am International news

- 9.15 am Music: -Heart beat of hope - Good time

1.30 pm News/Slogan

- 1.40 pm Lunch time music: -Happy -More than a friend -When do I love you

9.00 pm ASEAN review

- 9.10 pm Article Myanmar culture by Dr Khin Maung Nyunt

9.20 pm

- Wagaung, the month of casting lots festival

9.35 pm

- Sounveys: -Sealed with a kiss - Single girl

9.45 pm News/Slogan

10.00 pm PEL



Senior General Than Shwe poses for documentary photo together with Mr Ali Alatas, Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General at Credentials Hall of Pyithu Hluttaw Building. (News on page 1)— MNA

Noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded

(19-8-2005)

Kalewa	(1.03) inches	Hpa-an	(2.72) inches
Sittway	(1.45) inches	Mawlamyine	(1.49) inches
Bago	(1.41) inches	Dawei	(1.49) inches
Yangon (Kaba-Aye)	(1.54) inches		



Prime Minister General Soe Win sends felicitations to Hungarian counterpart

YANGON, 20 Aug — General Soe Win, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitation to His Excellency Mr Ferenc Gyurcsany, Prime Minister of the Republic of Hungary, on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of Hungary which falls on 20 August 2005. — MNA

Collective efforts required to apply mechanized farming

YANGON, 19 Aug — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence attended the ceremony to mark the completion of ploughing for 2005-2006 in Mon State. The ceremony was held at Letpya village in Kyaikhto Township in the state yesterday.

Speaking at the ceremony, Lt-Gen Maung Bo said that the government has been striving for well rounded development of the entire nation. Despite the sound foundations and the government's endeavours, some regions do not achieve progress to a satisfactory level.



Lt-Gen Maung Bo views paddy transplanting in Latpya Village of Kyaikhto Township.— MNA

The government has been making efforts in all sectors for development of agriculture to produce surplus amount of food for the growing

population.

Mechinized farming, correct cultivation methods, quality strains, fertilizers must be used for boosting agricultural production in Mon State which has favourable conditions. Collective efforts should be made for introducing the mechanized farming.

As the nation is now manufacturing farm machinery, the farmers

are in the golden age to improve their socio-economic life.

The government is rendering all-round assistance to farmers. The farmers on their part should fully apply the techniques disseminated to them, while collectively striving to introduce mechanized farming for the development of the nation and their own.

(See page 8)

Myanmar wins ASEAN U-20 Youth Championship

YANGON, 19 Aug — The final match of the ASEAN U-20 Youth Championship was held at Palenbang of Indonesia, at 7 pm local time today.

Myanmar selected youth team beat Malaysian youth team 1-0. In the 2nd minute of the first half, Hla Aye Htwe (9) scored the winning and only goal for Myanmar team. In the second half, both teams tried hard to score more goals but the goal score remained unchanged till the final whistle. Myanmar selected youth team emerged champion.

The victorious Myanmar selected youth team will arrive back here by air at 4.50 pm on Sunday, 21 August.—MNA

INSIDE

In Mandalay Division, more than 539,000 acres of farmland can be irrigated during the year 2005-2006 and efforts are being made to be able to irrigate up to 555,000 acres in the year 2006-2007.