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Sunday, 21 August, 2005

Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

Preparations well under way for reconvening of National Convention Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein addresses NCCC meeting



NCCC Chairman Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein addresses meeting 3/2005 of National Convention Convening Commission.—MNA

YANGON, 20 Aug — The National Convention Convening Commission held meeting 3/2005 at its meeting hall at Kyaikkasan Grounds, here, at 1 pm today, with an address by Chairman of NCCC Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

Also present on the occasion were Vice-Chairmen of NCCC Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut and Chief Justice U Aung Toe, Secretary Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and commission members.

Joint-Secretary-2 of the Commission Director-General U Myint

Thein of Pyithu Hluttaw Office acted as master of ceremonies.

First, Chairman of NCCC Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein delivered an address. He said that the meeting of the NCCC was held to make preparations for reconvening the National Convention towards the end of 2005. Hence, the National Convention Convening Work Committee was to submit tasks to be carried out at the National Convention to the meeting.

He said that members of the Commission were to give suggestions and take part in the discussions on matters submitted by the National Convention Convening

Work Committee. Furthermore, members of the NCCC were to perform their respective tasks in time and to present reports to the Commission's meeting, he added.

Chairman of the NCC Work Committee Chief Justice U Aung Toe reported to the meeting on the preparations of the Work Committee prepared for the National Convention.

Next, members of the NCCC participated in the discussions for laying down detailed basic principles of the State Constitution at the National Convention. The meeting ended with concluding remarks of Lt-Gen Thein Sein. — MNA

The Government of the Union of Myanmar Ministry of Labour Notification No. 1/2005

Yangon, the 1st Waning Day of Waso, 1367 M.E.
(21st July 2005)

The Ministry of Labour, in exercise of the powers conferred under the Law Amending the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 (The State Peace and Development Council Law No. 4/2005) hereby issues this Notification in respect of the monetary rates and compensation, with the approval of meeting No. (26/2005) of the Government of the Union of Myanmar held on 14th July, 2005.

1. In the definition of the expression "workman" under clause (n) (i) of subsection (1) of Section 2, any person employed otherwise than by way of manual labour whose wages exceed kyats 40,000 per month shall not be included.
2. The provisions contained in the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 shall be as follows:—

(See page 8)

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

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 21 August, 2005

Brighter prospects in Ayeyawady Division

A large number of rivers and creeks including Ayeyawady, Chindwin, Sittaung and Thanlwin in Myanmar were a major hindrance to transport in the past.

To overcome the obstacle, the Tatmadaw government, since its assumption of the State responsibilities, has been building a network of roads and bridges. Nowadays, with the emergence of bridges large and small, one can easily travel from one place to another.

As there are numerous rivers and creeks in Ayeyawady Division, the state has built the largest number of roads and bridges in the division. As a result, different parts of the division can now be easily accessible by road.

Up to date, 422 miles and 3 furlongs of tarred roads, 638 miles and 6 furlongs of gravel roads and 220 miles and one furlong of earth roads totaling 1281 miles and 3 furlongs have been constructed in Ayeyawady Division.

The emergence of 59 major river-crossing bridges in the division has brought about better transport in the region, in which the people had to rely only on waterways in the past.

At present, Mayangu Bridge with a length of 240 feet on Labutta-Myaungmya-Einme-Kyaunggon Road in Einme Township was constructed and the facility was opened on 16 August 2005, thereby bringing about better transport in the region.

With better transport and prevalence of peace and tranquillity, Ayeyawady Division will be able to make progress in a short time.

Efforts are being made to put 3.6 million acres under monsoon paddy and over 1.6 million acres under summer paddy in the division in 2005-2006.

Ayeyawady Division, which is termed as the granary or rice bowl of the State in the past, has now turned out also to be the curry bowl of the State as livestock breeding is making progress in the region.

The government has been building a network of roads and bridges the length and breadth of the nation in order to enhance the living standard of the entire national people. Hence, efforts are to be made for national and regional development by making better use of those facilities already in place.

Therefore, we would like to call upon the entire national people to do their bit in nation-building endeavours in response to the goodwill of the government that is striving for the emergence of a modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation.



Mother Daw Aye Kyi, son U Nyi Nyi Tun and daughter Dr San San Myint present K 100,000 for construction of a new hospital for the Aged to Chairman U Maung Tin of Hninzigon Home for the Aged Administrative Board recently.— H

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

Special Envoy of UN Secretary-General concludes visit

YANGON, 20 Aug — Mr Ali Alatas, Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General on the United Nations reform for the Asia and the Pacific, left here by air this evening.

The guest seen off at Yangon International Airport by Director-General U Win Mra of International Organizations and Economic Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and officials of the UN Resident Coordinator's Office.

MNA



Mr Ali Alatas, Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General on the United Nations reform for the Asia and the Pacific, leaves Yangon.—MNA

Development affairs tasks supervised in Bago

YANGON, 20 Aug — Director-General U Myo Myint of the Development Affairs Department under the Ministry for

Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs inspected development affairs tasks in Bago Town-

ship yesterday.

At the Bago Development Affairs Committee office, officials reported on construction of

roads and bridges, and tasks for water supply, development affairs, proper drainage, and sprucing up the region carried out by the committee in 2005-2006 fiscal year. The director-general provided assistance for the project. He inspected the digging of drains, progress in tarring Shwemawdaw Pagoda Road, and construction of traffic islands along the road.

He also inspected the park of the committee, and the sluice gate for letting out waste water into Bago River.—MNA



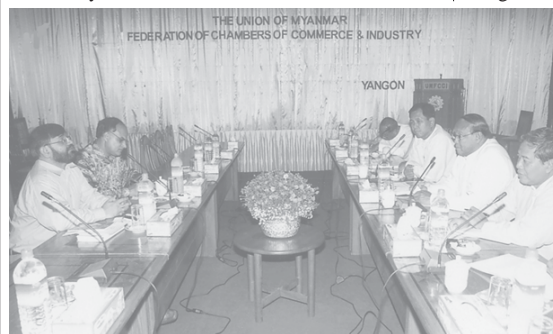
Director-General U Myo Myint inspects tasks for proper drainage in Bago Township.— MNA

UMFCCI Vice-President meets Pakistani Minister

YANGON, 20 Aug — Excise & Taxation Minister Dr Muhammad Shafique Chaudhary of Punjab of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, accompanied by Pakistani Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Muhammad Nawaz Chaudhry, called on

Vice-President of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Aung Lwin, General Secretary U Sein Win Hlaing and CEC Member U Tun Aung at the federation yesterday. They discussed matters related

to boosting bilateral trade, creating opportunities for investment in production of medicines, cement, sugar, pesticides, fertilizer and paper, participation in the trade fairs to be held in Pakistan, and exchange of delegations.— MNA



Minister Dr Muhammad Shafique Chaudhary and Vice-President of UMFCCI U Aung Lwin hold discussions.— MNA

Waso robes offering ceremony to be held

YANGON, 20 Aug — Under the aegis of the Sanantana Dhammapalaka Organization, Hindu families will offer "soon" and Waso robes to the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Sayadaws and 472 members of the Sangha of State Pariyatti Sasana University at 9 am on 28 August at Mogok Refectory on Kaba Aye Hill here.

Hindu families are invited to attend the ceremony and for further information dial phone Nos: 525165, 242751 and 256717.

MNA

Chinese PM raises 5-point proposal to enhance Sino-Bangladeshi ties

BEIJING, 19 Aug — Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao set forth a five-point proposal here on Thursday to enhance the relationship with Bangladesh during talks with visiting Bangladeshi Prime Minister Khaleda Zia.

The proposal includes using the 30th anniversary of Sino-Bangladeshi relations to realize common ground reached by the two countries in all fields; exploring new areas for cooperation; strengthening exchanges on high-tech and agriculture; expanding cultural and personnel exchanges; maintaining close cooperation on the reform of the United Nations, south-south cooperation and other major international and regional issues.

Wen visited Bangladesh this April. He said China and Bangladesh declared to establish a comprehensive and cooperative partnership of long-term friendship, equality and mutual benefits this April. This further pushed forward the traditional friendship, he added.

He went on to say that China and Bangladesh are developing countries

facing the same challenges of development and sharing a common interest in international affairs. "Developing a comprehensive and cooperative partnership with Bangladesh is an important component part of China's good-neighbourly policy," he said.

Wen also expressed gratitude for the support of Bangladesh to China on the issues of Taiwan and Tibet. On the situation in South Asia, Wen said, currently the countries in the region are comparatively stable, and the economy has developed. As the largest member of the South Asian Association Regional Cooperation, China will continue to work for peace and stability in the region, he said.

Zia said it is significant to achieve an exchange of visits between the two prime ministers in the year marking the

30th anniversary of Bangladesh-China relations.

She expressed gratitude for China's long-term assistance to Bangladesh, saying that Bangladesh attaches importance to its relations with China, and would like to promote cooperation in the political, security and cultural fields, and strengthen consultations on regional and international issues.

MNA/Xinhua



Tourists look out over a river and mountains near Kanasi, near the border with Kazakhstan, in China's western Xinjiang region on 13 August, 2005. The area, featuring spectacular trees, mountains, and alpine lakes, is becoming a popular destination for many Chinese tourists. —INTERNET

Badawi urges Malaysians to preserve agreement among races

KUALA LUMPUR, 19 Aug — Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi urged all races in the country to preserve the cooperative agreement forged between them as a national legacy, local media reported on Thursday.

"It is a formula bequeathed to us, which we must treasure and protect, so that it will continue to bring us success," Badawi said on Wednesday night when launching the National Independence Month Celebration in Johor Baharu, the capital city of the southern state of Johor.

Badawi said he was convinced that the racial unity, which was the result of the agreement and supported by the patriotic younger generations, would help the Malaysians to achieve the national aspiration of becoming a developed nation by the year 2020.

"For 48 years, we had proven to the world that this country — although multi racial — has harmony and unity ... This

unity among Malaysians has prevented our country from being taken over by other powers," Badawi was quoted as saying by local media.

An estimated crowd of 300,000 people took part

in the grand celebration, which lasted until early Thursday morning.

As shown by local TV reports, the Danga Bay area, with about 100 decorated boats and fishing boats sailing on the

water, was in indeed a sea of joy and flying national flags. At the stroke of midnight, the celebration reached climax when a brilliant fireworks display lightened up the sky.

MNA/Xinhua

Indonesia, Malaysia agree on artificial rain against forest fires

JAKARTA, 19 Aug — The governments of Indonesia and Malaysia have agreed to cooperate in the artificial rain project to combat forest fires on Sumatra and Kalimantan islands that send thick haze to Malaysian territory and cause serious air pollution.

The joint efforts will begin on 22 August with priority given to the provinces of Riau, North Sumatra and West Kalimantan, the Indonesian Ministry of Forestry said in a statement reaching here Thursday.

Artificial rain project will also target Jambi and Central Kalimantan if deemed necessary, it said.

During a meeting on 16 August, both governments agreed to take legal actions against those committed crime of burning the forests.

Many plantation companies, including eight funded by Malaysian investors, have been indicated of using fire in land clearance.

MNA/Xinhua

Indonesia to grant amnesty to GAM members later this month

JAKARTA, 19 Aug — Indonesian Minister of Justice and Human Rights Hamid Awaluddin said on Thursday the amnesties pledged by the government to members of the separatist Free Movement (GAM) would be granted by the end of this month.

"Hopefully all the amnesties will have been granted by 31 August at the latest," said the minister who was quoted by the Antara news agency during a visit to the Sukamiskin penitentiary in Bandung, West Java.

Hamid, who was the chief negotiator for the

Indonesian Government at the informal talks with GAM to end the armed conflict in the oil-rich province, was visiting Sukamiskin Prison to oversee the preparations for a ceremony marking the release of GAM members after the granting of am-

nesty. During his visit, Hamid talked to 18 GAM members detained in Sukamiskin penitentiary. "I have come here to discuss how to return them to Aceh after the granting of amnesties," he said.

MNA/Xinhua

Iran blames US for Iraq bombings

TEHRAN, 19 Aug — Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on Friday denied fresh US allegations that the Islamic republic was linked to bombings in Iraq, and instead pointed the finger at US occupying forces.

"We support the government of Iraq. We are very disturbed by the lack of security in Iraq, especially the daily killings of the Iraqi people," Khamenei said in a sermon at Tehran University.

"American machine-guns are criminal, but those elements who plant bombs are also criminals," he added.

US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said on Tuesday that US forces had found Iranian weapons inside Iraq on more than one occasion over the past couple of months, accusing Tehran of seeking to replicate its own Islamic regime in Iraq by back-

ing insurgents. But Khamenei said the US was behind the regular bombings, arguing that Washington needed a "pretext" to stay put in Iraq.

"For us, the prime suspect in these incidents is America, because terrorism in Iraq functions under the eyes of the US. Thousands of American forces are spread across Iraq and if they wanted to eradicate insecurity they could have," he said.

"There are some signs which point to the spy services of the US and Zionist regime," he said.

Internet



A women screams during the funeral procession of three Iraqis killed in the Ameriya district of Baghdad on 19 August, 2005. —INTERNET



A visitor enjoys an exhibit of traditional puppets in Jakarta. These puppets, known as wayan, are perforated leather figures, manipulated in front of an illuminated cotton screen stretched across a bamboo frame. — INTERNET

Huge power failures in Indonesia's Java, Bali

JAKARTA, 19 Aug — Power supplies to large areas of Java and Bali islands in Indonesia, including the capital Jakarta, were disrupted on Thursday, state electricity company PT Perusahaan Listrik Negara said.

"There was a disruption in the Java-Bali transmission network.

It was quite big and we are still checking for the cause," said Mulyo Aji, an official at the company.

MNA/Reuters



Sino-Russian joint military exercises pose no threat to any country

VLADIVOSTOK, 19 Aug — The first China-Russia joint military exercises neither aim at any third party nor concern the interests of any third country and will pose no threat to any country, commanders of the military drill said here on Thursday.

This is part of the remarks by Liang Guanglie, Chief of the General Staff of the Chinese People's Liberation Army, and his Russian counterpart Yuri Baluyevsky, at a Press conference after the military exercises, code-named Peace Mission 2005, began in the Russian Far East city of Vladivostok Thursday morning.

The joint military exercises are aimed at deepening mutual trust, promoting mutual friendship and enhancing cooperation and coordination between the two Armed Forces, in order to improve their capabilities to meet new challenges and threats, according to the two generals.

Liang said the 10,000 participating troops from the Army, Navy and Air Force of the two countries will focus on the manoeuvres of strategic consultations and battle planning, transportation and deployment of troops, and combat practice.

Baluyevsky echoed Liang's view and said the holding of the joint military exercises does not mean that the two countries want to form something like a military bloc. — MNA/Xinhua

Mubarak rejects foreign intervention

CAIRO, 19 Aug — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on Thursday rejected any foreign pressure on Egypt's decisions regarding its domestic and foreign policies.

"I do not accept pressure from anybody," Mubarak told a youth rally of his ruling National Democratic Party (NDP).

Mubarak, who has been in power since 1981, will run for a fifth six-year

term in Egypt's first multi-candidate presidential election on 7 September as the NDP candidate.

As part of his election campaign, Mubarak said the main objective of his election pro-

gramme is to provide more job opportunities and housing for all Egyptians. Additionally, he affirmed that he rejects any constitutional amendment that would cancel free education

and would not accept any infringement on the rights of workers and farmers.

As for the ongoing political reforms, Mubarak pledged to increase Parliament powers and promote multi-party system.

Regarding foreign policy, he underlined the importance of the Egyptian role in the Mideast region and the necessity of dealing with various issues via a wise and balanced strategy.

At the end of the rally, Mubarak signed copies of his election programme and distributed them to participants.

Ten presidential candidates kicked off their campaigning on Wednesday, which will end on 4 September, three days before the polling day. If no candidate wins at least 51 per cent of the votes, the top two candidates will enter the second round of voting on 17 September.

MNA/Xinhua

Thailand to import device to fail bombs

BANGKOK, 19 Aug — Thai Army will buy 10 mobile phone jammers from Israel to block signals detonating bombs, Bangkok Post reported on Thursday.

The small mobile phone jammer produced by Israel will cost 10 million baht (about 250,000 US dollars) for each and can block mobile signals in 40-metre radius region.

Thus, the devices would be used when ordnance exports are called to check on suspicious parcels, or to prevent a second explosion after a bomb has exploded.

In a bid to crack down bomb attacks, the Thai Government in May required registration of all pre-paid cell phone SIM cards so as to track down the owner of phones triggering of bombs.

MNA/Xinhua

Flood kills 12 in Hubei Province

WUHAN, 19 Aug — Twelve people were killed and another 18 went missing in a major flooding and landslide caused by powerful rainstorms in central China's Hubei Province.

Sources with the civil affairs bureau of the province said that 17 counties in Shiyan, Xiangfan and Suizhou cities of the province were hit by heavy rainstorms from Sunday to Monday, which led to a serious flooding and landslide.

The flooding and landslide also levelled civilian houses and caused failures in transportation, telecommunications and power supply in some areas, said the sources, adding that Party and government authorities of the province have called for all-out rescue and relief efforts. — MNA/Xinhua

Mainstream news media suffer collateral damage from Iraq war

WASHINGTON, 19 Aug — As the battle for Iraq's future plays out half a world away, the American news media are caught in the crossfire at home.

War supporters accuse journalists of undercutting the troops by highlighting problems and ignoring progress in Iraq. War opponents also are unhappy. They say the media failed to question the need for war and sanitize the conflict by refusing to show gruesome scenes of carnage.

Military mom Cindy Sheehan, who got extensive media coverage for her anti-war protest outside President Bush's Texas ranch this month, voiced the view from the left in a conference call with supporters on 10 Aug.

"Thank God for the Internet or we wouldn't know anything and we would already be a fascist state," she said. "The mainstream media is a propaganda tool

for the government."

That's not the view from the right.

"If you believe the liberal media's reporting on the American military effort in Iraq, you're almost forced to be ashamed of America," the Media Research Center, a conservative media-watchdog group, said in a recent message to potential donors.

In return for a donation, the organization will send a specially inscribed military-style dog tag to a soldier in Iraq. "Don't believe the liberal media!" the dog tag says. "I'm just one of millions of Americans who realize that powerful elements in the media are undermining the war effort."

Internet

India not very optimistic on UNSC seat

NEW DELHI, 19 Aug — The Indian Government said on Thursday that getting a permanent seat in an expanded UN Security Council would not be a cakewalk.

"Despite our best effort, it is possible that nothing will happen and that getting a permanent seat at UNSC would not be a cakewalk," Indian Minister of State for External Affairs Rao Inderjit Singh said in the Parliament on Thursday.

The government's apprehension on the UNSC seat has prompted the principal opposition party, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), and the ruling United Progressive Alliance's Left ally the CPI-M to inquire whether it was due to lack of support from developing nations as a result of New Delhi's tilt towards the United States.

Addressing the question of fellow lawmakers on the issue in the Upper House of the Parliament, External Affairs Minister K Natwar Singh asserted that India shared good relations with all countries and had sent special envoys to mobilize support in this regard.

MNA/Xinhua



Residents gather around a house damaged in a rocket attack in Al-Tameen near Ramadi, some 113km (70miles) west of Baghdad, on 19 August, 2005. The home was hit by a rocket while family was away and nobody was injured.

INTERNET

East China accounts for third of India-China bilateral trade

SHANGHAI, 20 Aug — Over 60 Indian businesses have set up operations in Shanghai, part of the dynamic East China region which accounts for a third of India-China bilateral trade.

"The dynamic region of East China plays a vital role in China's economic development. It also enjoys the pride of place in India's growing economic engagement with China, accounting for a third of bilateral trade," Consul-

General of India in Shanghai, Sujan Chinoy said.

Inaugurating an India-China Buyer-Seller meet organized by the Federation of Indian Export Organizations (FIEO) here in the eastern metropolis, Chinoy said that

more and more Indian entrepreneurs were setting up operations in and around Shanghai in the East China region, contributing to the growing bilateral trade.

India-China trade in 2004 touched a record 13.6

billion US dollars. According to latest Chinese Customs statistics, during the first six months of 2005, the bilateral trade volume has touched 9.3 billion US dollars.

While bilateral trade has witnessed a remarkable increase in recent years, there has emerged a very welcome spurt in investments and technical collaboration as well, he said. —MNA/Xinhua

India offers Bangladesh "any kind of assistance"

NEW DELHI, 19 Aug — Conveying its serious concern over the serial blasts in Bangladesh, India on Thursday offered to it "any kind of assistance" while asking Dhaka to identify the perpetrators of the terror acts.

"A stable, prosperous, secular and democratic Bangladesh is not just in the interests of the people of Bangladesh, but also of India and the region as a whole," External Affairs Ministry spokesman Navtej Sarna told reporters here.

"We urged the Government of Bangladesh to identify the perpetrators of these terrorist acts and offered any kind of assistance," he said.

Sarna said reports relating to an unprecedented 459 blasts in 63 of the 64 districts in Bangladesh in a short space of 30 minutes continued to come in.

MNA/PTI

Cave dwellers in Muslim region to have new homes

YINCHUAN, 19 Aug — Cave dwellers in the Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, a Muslim inhabited community in northwest China, are soon to move out of their ramshackle caves into new houses, the regional government said on Thursday.

A spokesman with the regional civil affairs department said the first 7,000 rural families in the mountainous Longde and Jingyuan counties in the southern part of the region will move into new homes in May 2006. "In three years, all cave dwellers in the region will bid farewell to their primitive dwellings," he said.

About 40,000 families are living in ramshackle cave dwellings in the nine mountainous counties in southern

Ningxia and 3,000 of these caves are located in areas prone to geological disasters.

The regional government has injected 50 million yuan (6.2 million US dollars) to relocate all these cave dwellers by the end of 2007, the spokesman said.

According to the government's blueprint, each family will be subsidized at least 5,000 yuan (616.5 US dollars) for them to build new houses with bricks and to move out of their dangerous old dwell-

ings in time.

Cave dwelling has remained prevalent for several thousand years among farmers in mountains of northwest China. Caves are comfortable to live in because they are cool in summer and warm in winter. Yet they are also vulnerable to natural disasters. A latest survey has found between 2,000 and 4,000 cave dwellings collapse each year in rain-inflicted floods and various geological disasters in Ningxia.

MNA/Xinhua



Japanese girl clad in summer kimonos takes part in a Bon Odori festival, a Japanese traditional dance festival, in Tokyo on 19 August, 2005. —INTERNET

US vigils support anti-war mother

CRAWFORD (Texas), 19 Aug — Anti-war protesters held candles, sang, and chanted in vigils across the country on Wednesday in support of Cindy Sheehan, who has camped out near President George W Bush's ranch to urge him to bring US troops home from Iraq, where her son was killed a year ago.

Sheehan has become a magnet for anti-war protesters who have crowded around her since her vigil began on 6 August in Crawford, a community of 705 people, where Bush is on a monthlong vacation.

More than 1,800 Americans have been killed in Iraq and thou-

sands more have been wounded.

"Each one was a valuable human life," Sheehan said at an evening vigil at her campsite. "Each one was an indispensable member of his or her family, not playthings for the people who lust for greed and power."

Liberal groups

MoveOn.org, TrueMajority, and Democracy for America organized 1,627 candlelight "Vigils for Cindy Sheehan" in all 50 states with at least 60,000 people planning to attend, Tom Matzzie, Washington director for MoveOn.org, said.

In Crawford, a couple of hundred supporters held

white candles and flowers and walked single file around a triangular patch of grass as the sun went down and a full moon emerged.

MNA/Reuters

Four suspects arrested after Baghdad suicide car bombings

BAGHDAD, 19 Aug — Iraqi security force arrested four men suspected of involvement in Wednesday's three suicide car bombings in central Baghdad, Iraqi Interior Ministry said in a statement.

The four suspects were carrying remote control equipment at the time of the blasts.

Forty-three people were killed and 76 others wounded when three suicide car bombs went off in and out of the government-run bus station in Nahdha District and on the road leading to the nearby Kindi Hospital.

MNA/Xinhua

Two helicopters crash in Russia, killing four

MOSCOW, 19 Aug — Two Mi-8 helicopters crashed in Russia on Thursday, killing four people and injuring five others, the Interfax news agency reported.

A military Mi-8 helicopter crash-landed near the eastern city of Khabarovsk after its tail propeller malfunctioned, injuring three pilots.

Hours later, another Mi-8 helicopter used for

civilian purposes crashed near the Siberian oil centre of Nefteyugansk, killing four of the six crew members. The other two were injured, one in critical condition

MNA/Xinhua

Iran condemns "inhumane" car bombings in Baghdad

TEHRAN, 19 Aug — Iran strongly condemned the fatal explosions in the Iraqi capital of Baghdad on Wednesday, terming them as the "inhumane moves against the Islamic and humane values and principles".

Foreign Ministry spokesman Hamid-Reza Asefi voiced outrage at the terrorist acts and condoled with the Iraqi Government and people, the official IRNA news agency reported.

MNA/Xinhua

Gunmen kill city council member in northern Iraq

BAGHDAD, 19 Aug — Gunmen shot dead a city council member of a town near the northern oil city of Kirkuk on Friday, police said.

Unknown armed men opened fire at Aswad Umar Nayef, a city council member of Hawija, some 60 km west of Kirkuk, as he was driving his car to Kirkuk.

Kirkuk, some 250 km

north of Baghdad, is a multi-ethnic city which has frequently been the scene of assassinations bearing ethnic overtones and attacks against US and Iraqi forces. —Internet



Russian MIG-29 fighters. The first ever large-scale Sino-Russian war games have moved onto Chinese soil with the participation of elite troops from the two countries. —INTERNET

Singapore FM outlines three challenges affecting Chinese overseas

SINGAPORE, 19 Aug—Singapore's Foreign Minister George Yeo on Thursday outlined three challenges affecting the world affairs and the Chinese overseas profoundly.

Speaking at a three-day conference of institutes and libraries for Chinese Overseas Studies here, George Yeo said that the three challenges are good Sino-US relations, pan-Asian cooperation and harmony between Muslims and non-Muslims in Asia.

The success or failure of these challenges will lead either to a better world or to another tragedy, he said, adding that success will help the Chinese overseas to flourish and make contributions wherever they live.

As for Sino-US relations, the minister said that it is unlikely the rivalry between the two sides will lead to war. It is more likely they will cooperate and compete at the same time, he added.

On the second challenge, which is the construction of a new architecture of cooperation in Asia itself, bringing together East, Southeast and South Asia, he stressed that good relations between China and India are the foundation of such an architecture.

"If we succeed, the centre of the world economy will move to Asia, which, by opening to North America, Europe and the rest of the world, will sustain and advance the multilateral trading system," he said.

The third challenge, the minister said, is the establishment of better relations between Muslims and non-Muslims in Asia.

He also noted that the conference commemorates the 600th anniversary of the first of Zheng He's voyages amidst considerable optimism about China's future in the 21st Century.

"We have every reason to weigh in on the right

side, and maximize the likelihood that the next centennial celebration of Zheng He will be a happy one," he said. Over 80 researchers and academics from around the world gathered here on Thursday for the "Third International Conference of Institutes and Libraries for Chinese Overseas Studies," which is held in conjunction with the 600th anniversary of the western voyages of Chinese maritime explorer Zheng He. —MNA/Xinhua



A visitor watches a sand tigershark swim overhead during a media preview of Aquaria KLCC in Kuala Lumpur recently.—INTERNET

HK issues stamps featuring "Four Great Inventions of Ancient China"

HONG KONG, 19 Aug — Hongkong Post issued on Thursday a set of special stamps featuring the "Four Great Inventions of Ancient China".

Hong Kong Postmaster General Allan Chiang said at the special stamps issuing ceremony that in this new set of stamps entitled "Four Great Inventions of Ancient China", Hongkong Post showcases four revolutionary Chinese technologies — the compass, printing, gunpowder and papermaking of which every Chinese is proud. The concept of the set of special stamps came from a middle school student who put forward the idea for Hongkong Post who solicited themes for stamp designing two years ago.

Chiang said "China has a glorious ancient civilization. Our numerous discoveries and inventions have shaped the development of science and impacted on human civilizations around the world."

He said print and papermaking facilitated wide spreading of knowledge and universal access to education. —MNA/Xinhua



Japanese Crown Prince Naruhito shakes hands with a humanoid robot HRP-2 Promet as he visits a laboratory of the Tokyo University's graduate school on 19 August 2005.—INTERNET

China's first regional socioeconomic development strategy launched

BEIJING, 19 Aug—A research report on the socioeconomic development strategy of China's Hebei Province, drawn out by Chinese and foreign experts with aid from the Asian Development Bank (ADB), was launched here on Wednesday, becoming the first of its kind in China.

The research report is the product of a technical assistance (TA) project approved by the Bank in November 2002, and financed with a 600,000-US-dollar grant from its Asian Development Fund, according to the ADB.

This is the first time the Bank has assisted a Chinese province in preparing its development strategy.

Hebei Province in north China, despite its coastal location and proximity to Beijing and Tianjin, has lagged behind other coastal provinces over the last two decades in terms of output growth, employment growth, economic diversification, productivity improvements, and social development.

The ADB TA project is expected to help the provincial government formulate a socioeconomic development strategy that takes advantage of Hebei's access to Beijing, Tianjin, and global markets.

In about 11 months, Chinese and foreign experts working for the TA project produced a four-volume report which comprises strategic considerations for Hebei Province's development; strategic considerations from an international perspective; and sector studies including poverty alleviation, the environment, industrial restructuring, urbanization, Bohai coastal development, hi-tech development, tourism, investment financing, and fiscal reform; and 17 international case studies in seven sectors.

According to Guo Gengmao, deputy governor of Hebei Province, the experts from Shanghai, Canada and the United States were invited through international biddings.

MNA/Xinhua

Bleaching rather than tsunami threatens Andaman Sea coral reefs

BANGKOK, 19 Aug—Last year's tsunami had limited impact on coral reefs in the Andaman Sea, which is now more threatened by bleaching phenomenon, said Thai marine officials.

"Marine scientists are no longer worried about the impact of the tsunami on coral reefs, which have recovered rapidly over the past six months," Bangkok Post on Thursday quoted marine official Ukkrut Satapoomin as say-

ing. The overall extent of coral reef damage caused by the tsunami was far less than had been expected, said Ukkrut from Phuket Marine Biological Centre under the Thai Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment.

Only 5 per cent of the seagrass bed in the Andaman Sea was affected by the tsunami, according to a study, jointly conducted by the Phuket Marine Biological Centre and

marine biologists from nine Thai universities. From a total of 174 sites representing the principal area of coral reef in the region, up to 60 per cent were either untouched, or had suffered very little damage. Only 23 sites were severely damaged, which meant that more than 50 per cent of the coral had been damaged.

Massive clean-up and coral recovery operations carried out after the tsu-

nami proved to be effective for the restoration of coral reefs in the Andaman Sea. The Andaman Sea lying along Thailand's western coast is home to several coral reef sites, such as Phi Phi Island, Similan Islands and Surin Islands. All are famous diving sites for tourists.

However, coral reefs at these sites are threatened by coral bleaching phenomenon.

MNA/Xinhua

Indonesian Energy Minister predicts drop in world oil price

JAKARTA, 19 Aug—Indonesian Energy and Mineral Resource Minister Purnomo Yugiantoro predicted Thursday that the average world crude oil price will drop by 10 US dollars in 2006, citing better supply.

Purnomo said improvement in world oil supply could be expected to spur a decline in the international price in 2006. Non-member countries of the Organization of Petroleum-Exporting Countries (OPEC) could fulfill the increased de-

mand of oil to 1.5 million barrels per day. "Thus, there will be an excess supply of oil from OPEC production of 4.5 million barrel per day," Purnomo was quoted by the Antara news agency as saying.

In addition, 12 oil refineries in the United States that suffered from overhaul and other disturbances, would begin operation in 2006. "Additional supply will also come from new refineries that will begin operation next year," the minister said. —MNA/Xinhua

Minister tours regions on west bank of Chindwin River

YANGON, 20 Aug— Secretariat Member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan held a meeting with about 1,500 people from Kokkozu Village and nearby villages in Pale Township on 15 August morning.

Officials reported on measures for development of their villages. The secretariat member assessed the reports and presented K 100,000 each for the development tasks to Kokkozu and Monkyaing villages.

He also presented soap cakes, clothes, blankets, household utensils, textbooks and exercise books to Kokkozu and Monkyaing village-tracts, publications to self-reliant libraries, and raincoats, plastic containers, meat and bean tins to the villagers.

Sagaing Division and Monywa District Information and Public

Relations Departments and USDAs also donated publications to the libraries.

The secretariat member provided assistance for the development of Poppa, Pahtotha, Ywathit and Gabaryat villages.

In the afternoon, he attended the opening of Pyinnya Waiponla library. Together with Sayadaw U Vepulla, the secretariat member formally opened the facility and inspected it. He visited Ywanaung Ywale Monastery and offered alms to Sayadaw U Vannita.

He met with over 1,400 folks from Ywanaung, Monthwin, Poppa, Pahtotha, Pekhinma, Gabaryat, Padauk, Chinpit and Kangyi villages at the BEMS in Ywanaung Village.

After hearing reports on tasks for development of respective villages, the secretariat member dealt with regional de-



Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and Sayadaw Bhaddanta Vepulla formally open Pyinnya Waiponla Library.—MNA

velopment tasks, and presented K 100,000 for development tasks to Ywanaung Village, and K 50,000 each for renovation of Poppa Village BEPS and Pahtotha Village BEPS.

He presented soap cakes, clothes, blankets, household utensils, textbooks and exercise

books to Ywanaung, Poppa and Pahtotha village-tracts, publications to self-reliant libraries, and raincoats, plastic containers, meat and bean tins to the villagers, and K 30,000 awarded by Pyinnya Waiponla Library and education promotion team to Maung Shine

Min Hset who passed the 2004-05 matriculation examination with three distinctions.

Sagaing Division and Monywa District Information and Public Relations Departments and USDAs also donated publications to the libraries.

In his speech, the

secretariat member said that the government has given priority to public welfare services and rural development for the development of the nation and the people.

In the process, too much reliance should not be placed on agricultural methods, he said, calling for extended cultivation of all suitable seasonal crops, perennial crops, mixed cropping and multiple cropping, and breeding of livestock for the benefit.

At a time when the government is paving way for higher education standard of rural folks, the people on their part are to ensure enrollment of all school-age children and their completion of education. —MNA

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presents gifts for people of Ywanaung, Poppa and Pahtotha village-tracts to an official.—MNA



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



ကျေးရွာတိုင်း ကိုယ့်အားကိုယ်ကိုးစာကြည့်တိုက်များ ထူထောင်ဖို့၊
ဝိုင်းဝန်းကူညီဆောင်ရွက်ဖို့။

၂၀၀၅-ခုနှစ်၊ ဩဂုတ်လ (၁၆)ရက်နေ့ထိ နိုင်ငံအဝန်းတွင်
ကျေးရွာ ကိုယ့်အားကိုယ်ကိုးစာကြည့်တိုက် (၂၅,၄၉၂)တိုက်
ဖွင့်လှစ်ပြီး ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

ကျေးလက်နေပြည်သူအများ ပညာဗဟုသုတတိုးပွားစေရန်
ကျေးရွာကိုယ့်အားကိုယ်ကိုး စာကြည့်တိုက်များအတွက် စာအုပ်များကို
ပြန်ကြားရေးနှင့် ပြည်သူ့ဆက်ဆံရေးဦးစီးဌာန၊ ခရိုင်/မြို့နယ်ရုံးများသို့
ပူးပေါင်းနိုင်ကြပါသည်။

ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန
ပြန်ကြားရေးနှင့် ပြည်သူ့ဆက်ဆံရေးဦးစီးဌာန



Lt-Gen Maung Bo inspects rubber nursery in Phedo Village of Mudon Township. — MNA

Lt-Gen Maung Bo inspects...

(from page 16)

the target of 400,000 acres of rubber plantations.

The Mon State Manager of Myanmar Perennial Crops Enterprise reported on extended cultivation of rubber plantations in Mon State and the commander on assistance being provided by local authorities to the growers.

Speaking on the occasion, Lt-Gen Maung Bo said that it is necessary to increase the number of acres of rubber plantations in Mon State. Growers are to establish rubber plantations on a

commercial scale. Officials are making arrangements for allotting plots for rubber plantations and distributing rubber saplings and agricultural technologies to the growers. As the Government has permitted growers to plant, produce and trade rubber freely they are to extend cultivation of rubber not only for their benefit but also for the conservation of environment.

In the afternoon, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party arrived at Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine) Construction Project Site. Senior Engineer on

Mawlamyine bank U Tint Lwin reported on progress in construction of the main railroad of the bridge and approach bridge and Senior Engineer on Mottama bank U Myo Win on progress of work.

At present, both sides of railroads on the bridge and approach bridges have been completed by 47 per cent. In charge of the project Senior Engineer U Lwan Thu briefed him on construction of the approach railroad, the station yard and the station and laying of rail tracks. Lt-Gen Maung Bo gave necessary instructions to them.

The Government of the Union of Myanmar Ministry of Labour Notification No. 1/2005...

(from page 1)

- (a) the amount of compensation where death results from the injury under the proviso of clause A (i) and clause A (ii) of sub-section (1) of Section 4, shall be from a minimum of kyats 150,000 to a maximum of kyats 450,000.
 - (b) the amount of compensation where permanent total disablement results from the injury under the proviso of clause B (i) and clause B (ii) of sub-section (1) of Section 4, shall be from a minimum of kyats 200,000 to a maximum of kyats 600,000.
 - (c) in the case of a deceased workman, the advances on account of compensation not exceeding an aggregate of kyats 100,000 may be made by an employer to any dependant under the proviso of sub-section (1) of Section 8.
 - (d) any other sum amounting to not less than kyats 50,000 may be deposited with the Township Workmen's Compensation Committee by the employer under sub-section (2) of Section 8.
 - (e) an amount not exceeding kyats 20,000 shall be deducted for the cost of the workman's funeral expenses under sub-section (4) from the deposit of money under sub-section (1) of Section 8, and shall pay the same to the person by whom such expenses were incurred.
 - (f) the amount in dispute in the appeal under the proviso of sub-section (1) of Section 30 shall be not less than kyats 30,000.
3. The monetary rates and compensation as prescribed by this notification shall come into force commencing from 11th May, 2005.

(Sd.)

U Thaug

Minister

Ministry of Labour

Lt-Gen Maung Bo viewed the flow of water in Thanlwin River and instructed officials to take preventive measures against bank erosion.

Next, he oversaw

construction of the railroad on the bridge and approach sections.

At Mawlamyine Station Yard, he inspected construction of Mawlamyine Station. He

heard reports on progress in building the station and corridor presented by officials of Good Faith Co Ltd and gave necessary instructions.

MNA

Kandawgyi swimming pool opened

YANGON, 20 Aug — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin attended the opening of Kandawgyi swimming pool in Education Zone in Yangon City Kandawgyi Natural Gardens this morning.

Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu, members of YCDC, officials of Myanmar Agriculture Service, YDPDC Secretary Lt-Col Myint Kyi, local authorities, Managing Director U Win Aung of Wood Land Co, officials and guests.

Managing Director U Win Aung explained facts about the swimming pool. Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, MAS Manager U Hla Myo and U Win Aung formally opened the swimming pool, and the commander



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe unveils the signboard of Kandawgyi Swimming Pool. YANGON COMMAND

formally unveiled the signboard of the pool. Next, the commander and party inspected the swimming pool.

The swimming pool is 105 feet in length, 50 feet in width and 3-9 feet in depth. In the compound of the swimming pool are ticketing house, changing room, children's swimming pool, water purifiers and club house. — MNA



Transport Minister inspects jetties of Myanmar Port Authority

YANGON, 20 Aug — Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe, accompanied by officials, arrived at Myanmar Port Authority in Kyimyindine and heard reports on port beautifying tasks and inland freight handling this afternoon. Next, the minister attended to the needs.

The minister and party proceeded to Wadan jetty of Myanmar Port Authority and gave necessary instructions.

On arrival at Lanthit jetty, the minister and party inspected the passenger lounge of the Inland Water Transport and jetty beautifying tasks.

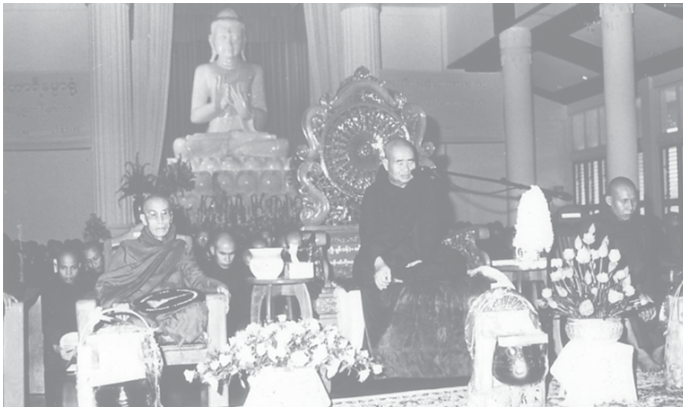
Afterwards, they inspected Taitan jetty No-1, Phonegyi jetty No-1, Lanmadaw jetty No-1 and Sint Ohdan jetty.

After hearing reports of the officials, the minister left instructions on jetty beautifying tasks, jetty safety, freight handling without delay and worksite safety. — MNA



Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe inspects beautifying of Wadan Jetty. — TRANSPORT

Lt-Gen Maung Bo attends merit sharing ceremony of three-storey Myittavihari Dhammayon



Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party taking the Eight Precepts from Hpa-uk Tawya Buddha Sasana Yeiktha (Main) Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Arçinna at the merit-sharing ceremony of Myittavihari three-storey Dhammayon.—MNA



YANGON, 20 Aug — Merit sharing ceremony of three-storey Myittavihari Dhammayon of Hpa-uk Tawya Buddha Sasana Yeiktha (Main) Monastery in Mawlamyine Township, Mon State was held at the Dhammayon yesterday morning, attended by Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence.

Present on the occasion were Presiding Sayadaw of the monastery Agga Maha

Kammathanaçariya Bhaddanta Arçinna and members of the Sangha, Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of South East Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing and wife Daw Tin Tin Lat, senior military officers, officials of the office of the State Peace and Development Council and others.

Sayadaw Agga Maha Kammathanaçariya Bhaddanta Arçinna administered the Eight Precepts to the congregation. Next, Lt-Gen

Maung Bo, Commander and officials donated provisions to the Sayadaw and members of the Sangha and shared merits gained.

After that, Lt-Gen Maung Bo inspected the Dhammayon.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo, the commander and officials offered *soon* to the Sayadaw and members of the Sangha.

The Dhammayon was funded by the donors at home and those from abroad, and it was built at a cost of K 439 million.—MNA



Newly built Myittavihari three-storey Dhammayon of Hpa-uk Tawya Buddha Sasana Yeiktha (Main) in Mawlamyine.—MNA

Special Envoy of UN Secretary-General calls on MWAF General Secretary



MWAF General Secretary Prof Dr Daw Khin Mar Tun receives Mr Ali Alatas, Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General on the United Nations reform for the Asia and the Pacific.—MNA

YANGON, 20 Aug — Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation General Secretary Prof Dr Daw Khin Mar Tun received Mr Ali Alatas, Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General on the United Nations reform for the

Asia and the Pacific at the federation on Than Lwin Road in Bahan Township this morning.

Also present on the occasion were the joint-secretary, secretariat members and officials of the federation and Ms

Elizabeth Noorthy, Resident Coordinator of External Affairs Office.

At the meeting, the aim, organizational tasks and participation in regional development tasks of the federation were cordially discussed.—MNA

Rules on 61st Anniversary Armed Forces Day Commemorative Painting and Sculpture Contests announced

YANGON, 20 Aug — As a gesture of hailing the 61st Anniversary Armed Forces Day which falls on 27 March 2006, the Painting and Sculpture Contests and Exhibition Organizing Sub-committee, under the Poem and Arts Competitions Organizing Work Committee chaired by Deputy Minister for Culture Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung, announced rules on the Painting and Sculpture Contests.

Six Categories

The Painting Contest will be divided into six categories — the pre-primary level (school children from Pre-Primary School, the primary (junior) level (KG, first and second standards), the primary (senior) level (third and fourth standards), the middle school level (fifth to seventh standards), the high school level (ninth and tenth standards and technical and agricultural schools), and the open level (university, college and institute, State Schools of Fine Arts and Drama), and amateur and professional level contests.

Sculpture Contest

The Sculpture Contest is open to all. But, contestants may take part in the two events — the open class (plaster) and the open class (wood). All the contestants including amateurs, professionals and students may take part in both contests.

In the pre-primary and all basic education levels of the Painting Con-

test, the size of the entry must be 20" by 15" created by any colour and system. The entry must be endorsed by respective principals with the name of contestants, standard, school, township, date of birth, father's name, full address and two passport size photos.

The entries of the open division painting and sculpture contests must be sent to the Secretary of Myanmar Traditional Artists and Artisans Asiayon (Central), 187, East Wing of Bogyoke Market, or the secretary of the organizing sub-committee, Tatmadaw Convention Hall, U Wisara Road, Yangon, not later than 1 March 2006.

Apart from the other entries, other paintings and sculptures may be sent to be displayed at the 61st Anniversary Armed Forces Day Exhibition. They must also reflect the 12 Objectives of the State, objectives of the 61st Anniversary Armed Forces Day, and 12 fine traditions of the Tatmadaw.

In addition, the works may reflect the ancient Myanmar Tatmadaw, historic events of the Tatmadaw which occurred during the periods of Pre-Independence and State Peace and Development Council, and its endeavours in safeguarding the State. The other paintings and sculptures are to be sent directly to Tatmadaw Convention Hall on U Wisara Road from 1 to 5 March 2006.—MNA

MOGE, HEPD win ASEAN Engineering outstanding awards (2004), Mt Popa Resort ASEAN Energy Award (2005)

YANGON, 20 Aug— Myanmar Engineering Society held a ceremony in honour of the Ministry of Electric Power and the Ministry of Energy that won ASEAN Engineering outstanding awards (2004) and the Ministry of Forestry that won ASEAN Energy Award (2005) at Sedona Hotel this afternoon.

Present were Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung, Deputy Minister for In-



Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung delivers an address at the ceremony held in honour of the Ministry of Forestry that won ASEAN Energy Award (2005).— MNA



Myanmar Engineering Society Chairman U Than Myint presents ASEAN Energy Awards 2005 to Director-General U Win Kyaw of Hydro-electric Power Department.— MNA

dustry-2 Lt-Col Khin Maung Kyaw, Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay, Ambassadors of ASEAN nations and diplomats, heads of departments, President of MES, executives, engineers and wellwishers.

Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi delivered an opening address. He said the MES was proud of Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise and Hydro Electric Power Department and Woodland Group for winning awards on engineering and energy saving.

He said MOGE is exploring oil and gas inland and offshore regions for energy requirements. A large amount of natural

gas has been found in Yadana and Yedagun natural gas fields and Rakhine coastal region. ASEAN Engineering Federation presented award for the measures of MOGE, he said.

He said hydroelectric power projects being implemented by Hydro-Electric Power Department would contribute towards the development of industry in the near future.

He said the government is exploring various kinds of energy resources such as hydro-electric power while carrying out energy saving tasks.

ASEAN Centre for Energy presented ASEAN Energy Effi-

cient Building Award 2005 for Mount Popa Resort designed by Woodland Co, he added.

Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung also delivered an address. He said the government was very proud of the department's efforts and Mount Popa Resort which won the ASEAN Energy Award 2005 for the first time.

Mount Popa Resort is in Kyaukpadaung Township, Myingyan District in central Myanmar. On 24 August, 1989, the Ministry of Forestry launched Mt Popa Garden project for greening and conservation of environment near Mt Popa under the guidance of the Head of State. That was

why Popa became an oasis. Construction of Popa Mountain Resort started in 1995 and completed in 1999. Achievement at international level promotes both efficiency of individual and department and technology development, he said.

President of MES U Than Myint presented the awards to Director-General U Win Kyaw of HEPD, Managing Director U Sann Lwin of MOGE and Director-General U Soe Win Hlaing of Forestry Department. Eighteen entrepreneurs donated K 30 million and 2,500 FECs for construction of MES building.

MNA

Cash donated to the funds for all-round renovation of PhaungdawU standing Buddha Image in Insein

YANGON, 20 Aug — The second cash donation ceremony for all-round renovation of PhaungdawU standing Buddha image in Insein was held at the prayer hall of the Image in Insein this morning.

Present on the occasion were member of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee PhaungdawU Standing Buddha Image Ovadaçariya Sayadaw Insein Ywama Pariyatti Monastery Administrator Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Tilokabhivamsa and members of the Sangha, Minister for Religious

Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, local authorities, departmental officials and local people.

Nikaya Monastery Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw Tipitakadhara Dhammabhandagarika Bhaddanta Silak-khandhabhivamsa of Dagon Myothit (South) Township administered the Five Precepts.

Chairman of the Pagoda Board of Trustees Secretary of Insein Township PDC U Myat Thu supplicated on all-round renovation of the Image.

Next, Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung and officials donated

alms to the Sayadaws.

Afterwards, the minister and officials accepted K 22,603,700 for the image donated by wellwishers and presented certificates of honour to them.

The congregation took the Ovadaçariya from Sayadaw Bhaddanta Tilokabhivamsa. Later, member of the State Central Working Committee of the Sangha Ovadaçariya of the Image Insein Mahamyang Pariyatti Monastery Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw Bhaddanta Suriya delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits.

MNA

Yangon Division opens...

(from page 8) The competitions. Then, students showed their performing arts skills, and the commander and wife presented them with cash awards and a basket of flowers.

In Yangon Division, 64 students from BEHSs are participating in song contest, 27 in dancing contest and 5 in song composing contest and 80 in music contest. The competitions con-

tinue till 22 August at Latha township BEHS No 1, Botahtaung township BEHS No 6, Dagon township BEHS No 2 and Lanmadaw township BEHS No 1.

MNA



Director-General U Aye Kyu of No 3 BED formally opens basic education level performing arts competitions of Yangon Division.

MNA

Magnetic stimulation may improve stroke recovery

NEW YORK, 20 Aug — The results of a small preliminary trial suggest that a type of magnetic stimulation of the brain — repetitive transcranial magnetic stimulation (rTMS) — may produce short-term improvements after stroke.

With rTMS, the head is placed close to intermittent magnetic fields. No anesthesia is required and the procedure is performed on an outpatient basis. Patients may complain of headaches during rTMS, depending on the strength of the field used.

Previous trials of rTMS used to treat depression and movement disorders have yielded mixed results, the study investigators note.

In their current study, reported in the medical journal *Neurology*, Dr Eman M Khedr, from Assiut University Hospital in Egypt, and colleagues recruited 52 patients within 5 to 10 days of stroke onset. In addition to standard physical and medical therapies, patients were randomly assigned to 10 daily sessions of rTMS or a fake "sham" treatment.

Stimulation was applied intermittently for 10 minutes over the area of the brain in which the stroke occurred.

When evaluated 10 days after the last rTMS session, 35 per cent of those in the rTMS group and 8 per cent in the sham group had a good-to-excellent functional outcome. On the same day, 50 per cent of the treatment patients and 19 per cent of the sham patients exhibited only mild disability.

However, the six patients in the rTMS group and five in the sham group who had massive strokes had no improvement associated with treatment.

Conclusions that can be drawn from this study are limited because of the small number of subjects and short duration of follow-up, Dr Paolo Maria Rossini, at University Campus Biomedico in Rome, and Dr Claiborne S Johnston, from the University of California San Francisco, comment in an accompanying editorial.

While lauding this "new avenue of research," the editorialists suggest that more studies should be conducted with animals before proceeding to human trials. —MNA/Reuters

Rocket narrowly misses US ship in Jordan port

AMMAN, 20 Aug — Attackers fired a rocket near a US military ship in Jordan's Aqaba Port on Friday, but the missile missed the vessel and hit a nearby warehouse instead, US military officials said.

"I can confirm that a rocket flew over the bow of USS Ashland and the rocket impacted in the roof of a warehouse. No sailors or Marines were injured," said Commander Jeff Breslau of the US Fifth Fleet.

Jordanian Interior Minister Awni Yarfah said the rocket caused little damage to the warehouse and no casualties. "Security forces are investigating the source of the explosion. It was a very weak incident and there was no damage whatsoever," he told *Reuters*.

A shipping source confirmed to *Reuters* there had been no casualties.

"There was an explosion at warehouse number five in the main container

terminal, which is used for general cargo vessels," the source said.

The main terminal is used for general cargo and visiting vessels, including two US military ships docked there.

Jordan's Red Sea Resort, once a sleepy port, has seen a surge in tourism and investment in recent years in part because it is seen as safe haven. It is also logistics hub for Iraq, used by the US military and for moving commodities.

Yarfah said the blast did not disrupt activities in Aqaba. "Life is normal in Aqaba and there is no panic. Investigations are taking place quietly," he said. — MNA/Reuters

Japan project aims to create 3D television by 2020

TOKYO, 20 Aug — Imagine watching a football match on a TV that not only shows the players in three dimensions but also lets you experience the smells of the stadium and maybe even pat a goalscorer on the back.

Japan plans to make this futuristic television a commercial reality by 2020 as part of a broad national project that will bring together researchers from the government, technology companies and academia.

The targeted "virtual reality" television would allow people to view high-definition images in 3D from any angle, in addition to being able to touch and smell the objects being projected upwards from a screen parallel to the floor.

"Can you imagine hov-

ering over your TV to watch Japan versus Brazil in the finals of the World Cup as if you are really there?" asked Yoshiaki Takeuchi, director of research and development at Japan's Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications.

While companies, universities and research institutes around the world have made some progress on reproducing 3D images suitable for TV, developing the technologies to create the sensations of touch and smell could prove the most challeng-

ing, Takeuchi said in an interview with *Reuters*.

Researchers are looking into ultrasound, electric stimulation and wind pressure as potential technologies for touch.

Such a TV would have a wide range of potential uses.

It could be used in home-shopping programmes, allowing viewers to "feel" a handbag before placing their order, or in the medical industry, enabling doctors to view or even perform simulated surgery on 3D images of someone's heart.

The future TV is part of a larger national project under which Japan aims to promote "universal communication", a concept whereby information is shared smoothly and intelligently regardless of location or language.

Takeuchi said an open forum covering a broad range of technologies related to universal communication, such as language translation and advanced web search techniques, could be established by the end of this year.

MNA/Reuters

China holds US citizen accused of spying for Taiwan

BEIJING, 20 Aug — China has detained a US citizen on suspicion of spying for ideological foe Taiwan, keeping him under house arrest without charge for nearly three months, the US Embassy in Beijing said on Friday.

Chinese-born Xie Chunren was arrested in the southwestern province of Sichuan on 31 May after he had travelled there from the United States, the embassy spokeswoman said.

"He is currently under residential surveillance under suspicion of espionage for Taiwan," she said.

China claims the self-ruled island of Taiwan as its own and both sides have been spying on each other since their split

at the end of the Chinese civil war in 1949.

The charges have come to light just weeks before Chinese President Hu Jintao makes his first trip to Washington as leader, adding new frictions to ties already strained over issues from China's military buildup to textile trade.

The United States recognizes the Mainland as China's sole legitimate government — the "one-China" policy — but in a deliberately ambiguous piece of foreign policy is also obliged by law to help Taiwan defend itself.

Xie, who lives in

New Jersey, is the latest in a string of Chinese-born American citizens to fall foul of Chinese authorities.

David Ji, the co-founder and chairman of US electronics distributor Apex Digital Inc, was arrested in late 2004 for cheque fraud in a dispute with Changhong Electric Appliance Co. Ltd. He was released from custody earlier this week.

Last August, Beijing accused David Dong, a Chinese-American, of spying for Taiwan. Dong has been held since 2003 when he travelled to the southern city of

Guangzhou on a business trip.

Chinese media have said he was recruited by Taiwan military intelligence and received a monthly salary to steal state secrets.

It was not immediately clear if Xie's detention was related to Dong's case.

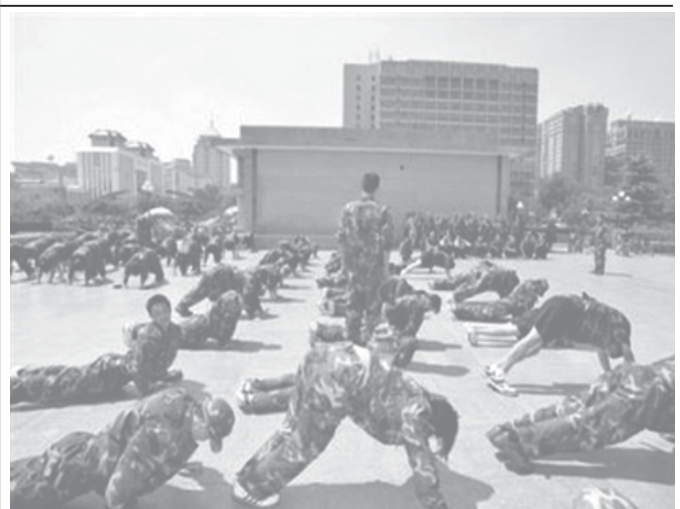
The US Embassy spokeswoman said officials from the consulate in the Sichuan capital Chengdu had visited Xie three times since his detention and had frequent contact with his son in the United States.

MNA/Reuters

HK Customs seize unmanifested electronic products

HONG KONG, 20 Aug — Hong Kong Customs of Lok Ma Chau Control Point seized unmanifested electronic products worth about 2.88 million Hong Kong dollars (about 370,000 US dollars) in an anti-smuggling operation early Thursday morning, the Customs said in a Press release.

The Customs said in a suspicious car they found 300 computer hard discs bearing suspected forged trade mark and trade description, 3,207 mobile phones of assorted brands, and 2,800 pieces of RAM, worth about 2.88 million Hong Kong dollars in total. —MNA/Xinhua



Workers for a physical fitness company exercise out in the open street wearing military fatigues during the traditional mid-day lunch break in the Chinese capital of Beijing on 19 August, 2005.

INTERNET

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INVITATION TO SEALED TENDER

1. Sealed Tenders are invited by Myanmar Railways, for supply of the following Stores which will be purchased in Myanmar Kyats, US Dollars (or) Euro-

Sr. No.	Tender No.	Description	Quantity
1.	14(T)1/MR(S&T) 2005-2006	Point Machine	17-Nos
2.	12(T)11/MR(ML) 2005-2006	Spare Parts for Locomotives Carriages & Wagons	1-Lot (369-Items)

Closing Date. -22.9.2005 (Thursday) (12:00) Hours.

2. Tender documents are available at the office of the Deputy General Manager (Supply), Myanmar Railways, Corner of 51st Street and Merchant Street, Botataung, Yangon starting from 22.8.2005 during the office hours.

3. For further details please call: 291982, 291985, 201555 (Ext-602,605,612)
Deputy General Manager
Supply Department, Myanmar Railways, Botataung Yangon

TRADE MARK CAUTION
SOCIETE DES PRODUITS NESTLE S.A., of 1800 Vevey, Switzerland, is the Owner of the following Trade Mark:

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Win Mu Tin,
M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L.,
for SOCIETE DES PRODUITS NESTLE S.A.
P. O. Box 60, Yangon
Dated: 21 August 2005.

Kuwait to airlift first batch of food aid to Niger

KUWAIT CITY, 19 Aug—Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) is to deliver on Thursday its first batch of airlifted aid to Niger, aimed at alleviating the suffering from famine, the *Kuwait News Agency* (KNA) reported Wednesday. Barjas Al-Barjas, Chairman of the KRCS, was quoted by KNA as saying that KRCS' initiative comes to combat famine and disease outbreak in the country after calls were made by the international community and humanitarian organizations.

He added that the 10-ton food aid, including rice, sugar, vegetable oil, lentils, powder milk, salt, biscuits and canned food, was being carried by a Kuwaiti Air Force aerotransport.

Kuwaiti Ministry of Defence gives its cooperation in facilitating the delivery of the aid, reported KNA. — MNA/Xinhua

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

Lithuanian President, PM meet Chinese FM

RIGA, 19 Aug—Lithuanian President Valdas Adamkus and Prime Minister Algirdas Brazauskas on Thursday met with visiting Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing separately on bilateral ties, according to reports from Vilnius, capital of Lithuania.

Adamkus hailed the relations between Lithuania and China, saying that good momentum has been maintained for the development of the ties in recent years.

He noted that there are no disputes between the two countries and the two sides have had good cooperation in international affairs.

Adamkus expressed the wish that the two countries would push the ties to a new high next year by seizing the opportunity of the 15th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations.

The President said the two countries should strengthen trade and economic cooperation, adding that Lithuania is will-

ing to provide better environment for Chinese companies. He hoped China could make full use of Lithuania's free trade zones and seaports.

Brazauskas said his 1993 China tour has left him good memories and his country is delighted to see China play a bigger role in international affairs.

Li said since China and Lithuania established diplomatic ties, the relationship has made steady development.

With bilateral trade exchanges increasing, Lithuania has become the biggest trading partner of China in the Baltic region, the top Chinese diplomat said.

MNA/Xinhua

Foam problems force NASA to delay shuttle launch

WASHINGTON, 19 Aug—NASA has been forced to delay the next launch of a space shuttle until March 2006 because more time is needed to fix a problem with foam flying off the external fuel tank, space agency officials said on Thursday.

"From an overall standpoint we think really 14th March is the time frame we are looking at," Bill Gerstenmaier, NASA's associate administrator for Space Operations, told a news conference.

The announcement came just a day after some members of an oversight panel accused the agency of compromising safety in the rush to return to flight.

NASA is still trying to determine why a large piece of foam broke off the shuttle *Discovery's* fuel tank during launch

last month, Gerstenmaier said.

The shuttle *Columbia* was torn apart when it re-entered Earth's atmosphere on 1 February, 2003, after a piece of foam insulation fell off its tank during launch and damaged its wing. All seven of *Columbia's* crewmembers were killed.

The *Discovery* returned to earth successfully after 14 days in orbit but NASA is working to make repairs to ensure that the problem does not happen again.

"Last week we iden-

tified the major areas where foam came off the tank. We are starting to make some sense of the data... what the mechanism for the foam loss was," Gerstenmaier said.

Atlantis was scheduled to be the next vehicle to take supplies to the *International Space Station* and will not now have to do back-to-back missions to carry a heavy truss to the station, said Gerstenmaier, newly appointed to direct NASA's return to human space flight.

MNA/Reuters

Italian jet fighter scrambles to intercept Egyptian plane

ROME, 19 Aug—Italy's Air Force scrambled an *F-16* jet fighter on Wednesday to intercept an Egyptian passenger plane that entered Italian airspace without following appropriate procedures, Italian aviation authorities said.

The Egyptian plane was on a flight from Paris to Egypt when it entered Italy's airspace about noon (1000 GMT) without communicating with Italian aviation authorities as required, said Captain Salvatore Demaio of the Air Force's Press office.

The Egyptian plane,

which was going to refuel in Brindisi, southern Italy, eventually identified itself to the *F-16* jet.

Italy's air safety agency ENAV later said the Egypt plane's radio system could have broken down.

The Egyptian aircraft was allowed to refuel in

Brindisi and it took off for Egypt about three hours later, Demaio said.

MNA/Xinhua

Turkish plane makes emergency landing in Budapest

BUDAPEST, 19 Aug—A Turkish passenger jet with more than 300 people on board made an emergency landing in Budapest early on Thursday after reporting that one of its two engines had failed, a spokeswoman for Budapest Airport said.

The Fly Air *Airbus A300*, which was carrying 292 passengers and 11 crew en route from Istanbul to Brussels, landed safely and no injuries were reported.

"The pilot reported that one of its engines failed and the plane made an approach with just one engine," Ibolya Forika, a spokeswoman for Budapest Airport, the operator of Hungary's largest international airport told Reuters.

There were no immediate indications as to what caused the engine failure.

Fly Air, which started operations in 2002, has a fleet of 13 aircraft, including seven *Airbus A300s*, the company said on its web site. —MNA/Reuters

24th China-Japan Student Conference opens

BEIJING, 19 Aug—More than 40 Chinese and Japanese university students gathered in Beijing on Wednesday to discuss such topics as employment, Sino-Japanese friendship and causes for the deterioration of mutual impression between the people of the two countries.

Altogether, 23 Japanese students and 21 Chinese students joined the 24th China-Japan Student Conference, which opened Wednesday.

During the eight-day meeting, students of both countries are divided in four groups to confer on the topics of China-Japan

economy, friendship, life, culture and careers.

The reasons for the deterioration of the two peoples' mutual impression poses a focus of the meeting. Students will discuss the topic by an exchange of views and through responding to questionnaire, and make a

report on the topic at the end of the meeting.

Li Hao, one of the participants, said he holds that the exchanges between the university students of both countries are necessary, for face-to-face exchanges are "more true" than acquiring information from

media.

China-Japan Student Conference, set up in 1986, is aimed at promoting exchanges and understanding between the students of the two countries. To date, 14 sessions have been held in China and nine held in Japan.

MNA/Xinhua

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Kids learn eating and exercise habits from parents

NEW YORK, 19 Aug— Kids whose parents do little to discourage bad eating habits and sedentary activities, such as television and video games, are significantly more likely to grow into overweight or obese young adults, according to new study findings.

And kids do not appear to need to do much to stave off obesity in adulthood, for even those who replaced TV and video games with non-athletic activities such as jobs, marching bands and school clubs were less likely to carry excess weight into adulthood.

“When children are doing anything but sitting on the couch watching TV...they’re much less likely to become obese,” study author Ashley Fenzi Crossman of Arizona State University in Tempe told *Reuters Health*.

Crossman presented the findings this weekend at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association in Philadelphia.

As part of the study, Crossman reviewed information collected from 6,400 children between the ages of 12 and 19, who were recontacted six years later.

She found that parents who did not monitor their children’s diets and did not make sure their children ate breakfast were more likely to have children who

grew up to become overweight or obese.

In an interview, Crossman explained that eating breakfast is important because it appears to boost metabolism, and may prevent people from binge eating later in the day when they get very hungry.

Interestingly, children who were very close with their parents were more likely to become overweight in adulthood. This suggests that these children may get very upset when they move away from their parents, causing them to overeat. Alternatively, children close with their parents may model themselves after parents who do not eat well themselves, Crossman noted.

Children with high self-esteem were less likely to become obese, as were those whose parents had a relatively high level of education. Household income had no effect on children’s later risk of weight gain.

For parents, the overall message of the study is very simple, Crossman noted: “Get (children) off the couch.”

MNA/Reuters



A model presents a creation by designer Chaichon Savantrat during Bangkok Fashion Week 2005 in Bangkok on 19 August, 2005. The event runs from 17-21 August.—INTERNET

Court says drug dealer must forfeit lottery winnings

HOUSTON, 19 Aug— A Mexican citizen must forfeit about 2.75 million US dollars in Texas lottery winnings because of his drug-trafficking conviction, a federal appeals court said on Wednesday.

Jose Luis Betancourt, 52, was arrested after making a cocaine delivery shortly after accepting 5.5 million US dollars for having the winning ticket in the 11 December, 2002, lottery drawing, according to court documents.

A jury convicted Betancourt, who was living in the border city of Brownsville, Texas, of conspiracy and two counts of possession with intent to distribute cocaine in May 2003 and also found he must forfeit his one-half

interest in the lottery ticket.

A three-judge panel of the 5th US Circuit Court of Appeals agreed with the trial court judge’s ruling that Betancourt bought his share of the ticket with drug proceeds because that was his only apparent source of income. The court also upheld his punishment of more than 24 years in prison without parole.

“Mr Betancourt’s luck ran out, and appropriately so,” said US Attorney Chuck Rosenberg.

MNA/Reuters

IAF to place orders for LCA with Hindustan Aeronautics

NEW DELHI, 19 Aug— The Indian Air Force will soon place orders for the first tranche of 20 Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) with the state-run, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), Indian Defence Minister Pranab Mukherjee said on Thursday.

According to Mukherjee, orders for 20 LCA will be placed. And then at a later stage orders for additional 20 will also be placed. Touted as India’s largest self-development programme, the 5.5 billion US dollars LCA project has been going on for the past 20-odd years.

The project aims at replacing India’s aging fleet of MiG-21 and MiG-27 fighter aircraft. Denying reports about problems between the Aeronautical Development Agency

(ADA) and HAL over the project, the minister said the government will ensure that there is no difference in approach between the two. However, he said transfer of technology to the HAL for production of the LCA was progressing in coordination with the ADA and there are no problems in this regard.

The ADA was authorized to design and develop the LCA since the beginning and the HAL’s role in producing these warplanes came later.—*MNA/Xinhua*

“ISS” crew begins spacewalk

CAPE CANAVERAL (Florida), 19 Aug — The two men serving aboard the *International Space Station* donned Russian spacesuits and floated outside the orbital complex to begin a six-hour spacewalk on Thursday.

Commander Sergei Krikalev, who turns 47 next week, and flight engineer John Phillips, 54, opened the hatch in the Pirs docking compartment just after 3 pm EDT (1900 GMT) to begin their first spacewalk since arriving at the station four months ago.

Krikalev, a Russian cosmonaut who is making his eighth spacewalk, immediately tackled the first task on the to-do list and retrieved a Russian medical experiment. Phillips, a US astronaut making his first spacewalk, remained in the air lock to prepare equipment and adapt to the new environment.

“I feel great,” Phillips radioed in Russian to ground control teams outside of Moscow.

The men are scheduled to retrieve and replace several other experiments stashed on the outside of the complex, photograph a materials science experiment and retrieve radiation sensors.

They also plan to install a television camera that will be needed when Europe’s new cargo vessel makes its debut flight to the station next year.

The final task of the spacewalk will be to relocate a grapple fixture for a crane from outside the Zarya navigation and communications module and reposition it on the *Unity* connecting node.

Moving the gear will clear space for the next shuttle crew to deliver radiation shields which are to be installed on the Zvezda module by a future station crew. Zvezda houses the living quarters.—*MNA/Reuters*

Children who eat fries raise breast cancer risk

WASHINGTON, 19 Aug— Very young children who eat French fries frequently have a much higher risk of breast cancer as adults, US researchers reported on Wednesday.

A study of American nurses found that one additional serving of fries per week at ages three to five increased breast cancer risk by 27 per cent.

“Researchers are finding more evidence that diet early in life could play a role in the development of diseases in women later in life,” said Dr. Karin Michels, of Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston and Harvard Medical School, who led the study.

“This study provides additional evidence that breast cancer may originate during the early phases of a woman’s life and that eating habits during that phase may be particularly important to reduce future risk of breast cancer.”

For their study, Michels and colleagues used an ongoing survey of female registered nurses. They studied 582 women with breast cancer and 1,569 women free of breast cancer in 1993.

Writing in the *International Journal of Cancer*, the researchers said they looked at the women’s diets and at questionnaires filled out by the mothers of the participants.

One risk factor for breast cancer stood out: women whose mothers who said their daughters ate French fries had a higher risk of breast cancer. This increased 27 per cent for each weekly serving reportedly eaten.

MNA/Reuters

HK successfully utilize ultrasonic scissors for tongue tumour resection

HONG KONG, 19 Aug— The University of Hong Kong announced on Thursday a study result that ultrasonic scissors can achieve better surgical outcome than traditional tongue tumour treatments.

The Faculty of Medicine of the university has successfully performed glossectomy, the surgical removal of tongue, with the use of the ultrasonic scissors in 14 patients since January 2004.

Satisfactory results were obtained while the patients had nearly zero blood loss and none of them developed post-operative complication. The operation results were recently published in an international medical journal *Head and Neck* in August 2005.

According to information given by the university, conventional surgical methods for the removal of tongue tumour utilize knife, scissors, diathermy or laser. Those

methods can cause severe burn to the wound, resulting in more post-operative pain, inflammation, speech, swelling and potential wound healing problems.

Statistics from the Hong Kong Hospital Authority showed that there are about 130 new tongue cancer patients every year.

Carcinoma of tongue is more common in men than in women and is associated with chronic consumption of tobacco and alcohol, betel nut chewing and irradiation. Early symptoms include persistently painful tongue ulcer, white or red discoloration.

MNA/Xinhua

SPORTS

Federer rolls into semis, Ginepri upsets Safin

CINCINNATI, 20 Aug— World number one Roger Federer rolled into the semifinals of the Cincinnati Masters on Friday while fourth seed Marat Safin was dumped out by American wildcard Robby Ginepri.



Roger Federer, see here, has lined up a semifinal with the hottest of the current American hopes, crushing Jose Acasuso 6-4, 6-3 to storm into title contention at the 2.45-million-dollar ATP Cincinnati Masters.—INTERNET

Top seed Federer let slip an early lead in the first set when his Argentine opponent Jose Acasuso recovered from 3-0 down to 3-3. But once the Swiss, in his first event since he won a third consecutive Wimbledon title, had taken the first set it was plain sailing as he clinched a 6-4, 6-3 victory.

He will meet Ginepri in the last four after Safin, who had impressed in his victory over Dominik Hrbaty in the previous round, was dumped out 6-2, 6-3 in 56 minutes.

With Ginepri cutting down on the unforced errors, Safin self-destructed, smashing a ball out of the stadium and throwing his racket in disgust at his performance.

"I just tried to stick to my game, that's what I've been doing all week," said Ginepri, who won the title in Indianapolis earlier this summer.

"This is definitely the best I've been playing and all the hard work I've been doing is paying off." Safin, who is still struggling with a left knee injury, said he

had half-expected a bad performance.

"I woke up this morning and didn't have any energy," he said.

"I couldn't really run enough and it's a little bit to be expected as I couldn't practise for a month and a half.

"I am now going to take a week off, not play New Haven (where he had been given a wildcard), and get ready for the US Open. "It's probably not enough matches, but it could have been worse. I beat some good players and could have lost first round here and first round in New Haven."—MNA/Reuters

Olympic champion Hidayat reaches world semis

ANAHEIM (California), 20 Aug— Reigning Olympic champion Taufik Hidayat staged a stirring comeback to defeat second-seed Kenneth Johassen in a men's singles quarterfinal at the world badminton championships on Friday.

The Indonesian number six seed lost the first game 15-3 to the Dane and made a slow start to the second before rallying to clinch it 15-10. He won the decisive third game 15-7.

Hidayat will meet fifth seed Lee Chong Wei of Malaysia in the semifinals. Lee easily defeated fourth seed Bao Chunlai of China 15-5, 15-7.

"I'm not one to give up easily and I want to make it as far as I can. I need to prove that I'm not just the 'jaguh kampung' (hometown hero) just because I always win on home ground and not elsewhere," Lee said after his win. Lee said he surprised his opponent by playing a fast game.

"I feel like I couldn't keep up with the speed of

his game. He was very fast," Bao told reporters after the game.

Top seed Lin Dan survived a scare, losing the first game to 13th seed Lee Hyun-il of South Korea before recovering to win 5-15, 15-7, 15-8 to set up a semifinal clash with third seed Peter Gade of Denmark.

Gade beat China's Chen Hong 15-13, 15-4 earlier in the day.

"I think I will beat Lin Dan in the next one," Gade told reporters. "It will be tough but I am ready.

"Lin Dan is very good, he's been dominating for the last one and a half years. I've come close before and maybe tomorrow will be the day."

In the women's singles, sixth seed Xu Huaiwen of Germany overwhelmed third seed Pi Hongyan of France 11-3, 11-2.

"I was surprised it was an easy game. I feel that Pi could not adapt to the conditions on court, whereas I could," said Xu, who set up a semifinal clash with top seed Zhang Ning.

MNA/Reuters

New signing Deivid gives Sporting winning start

LISBON, 20 Aug— Brazilian striker Deivid gave Sporting a 2-1 home win over Belenenses in the opening match of the Portuguese Premier League on Friday. Sporting, who finished third last season, opened the scoring five minutes before the break when Brazilian defender Rogerio unleashed an unstoppable shot from 25 metres.

Goalkeeper Ricardo gifted Belenenses the equalizer when he fumbled a long-range strike from midfielder Pinheiro after 59 minutes.

Five minutes later, new signing Deivid grabbed the winner from close range after the ball bounced out of the hands of Belenenses keeper Marco Aurelio as he tried to cut out a cross from the right.

Benfica kick off the defence of their title at Academica on Saturday. — MNA/Reuters

Uruguayan pair authorized to play for Paris St Germain

PARIS, 20 Aug— Paris St Germain said on Friday Uruguay internationals Carlos Bueno and Cristian Rodriguez have been authorized by FIFA to play for the Ligue 1 club.

"After a FIFA decision on August 19, the French federation has been authorized to provisionally register Cristian Rodriguez and Carlos Bueno for PSG, with immediate effect," PSG said on their website.

Their previous club Penarol can appeal the decision. Both players had signed four-year deals last month but Montevideo-based Penarol claimed the pair still belonged to them.

Forward Bueno, 25, and 19-year-old Rodriguez, a left-sided midfielder nicknamed Onion, had not played for their former club since March when the two parties fell out over a pay dispute.

Bueno has 15 Uruguayan caps and nine international goals, while Rodriguez has eight caps. Both were in the Uruguay squad at last year's Copa America in Peru.

MNA/Reuters

Armando Sa completes Espanyol move

MADRID, 20 Aug— Defender Armando Sa completed his delayed move to Espanyol on Friday by signing a two-year contract with the Barcelona-based club after being released by Primera Liga rivals Villarreal.

The 29-year-old Mozambique international was unveiled to the media seven hours after his scheduled presentation because of bureaucratic problems over documents needed to close the transfer.

"I was delighted to find out Espanyol were interested in signing me and I did not hesitate when they asked me to sign for them," Sa told a news conference in Barcelona. The Mozambican joined Villarreal from Portugal's Benfica at the start of last season and made 20 appearances for the Mediterranean side.

However, with Villarreal signing Dutch international Jan Kromkamp, coach Manuel Pellegrini made it clear Sa was surplus to requirements.

Espanyol, who finished fifth in the league last season to earn a place in the UEFA Cup, have made six other signings for the new campaign including Argentine international Pablo Zabaleta and Real Madrid midfielder Juanfran. — MNA/Reuters

Woods stumbles to allow Donald share of NEC lead

AKRON (Ohio), 20 Aug— Tiger Woods double-bogeyed his final hole at the 7.5 million US dollars WGC-NEC Invitational to fall back into a share of the second-round lead with Briton Luke Donald on Friday.

A triple winner at the Firestone Golf Club, the world number one had looked in complete control and was two shots clear of the field with five holes to play.

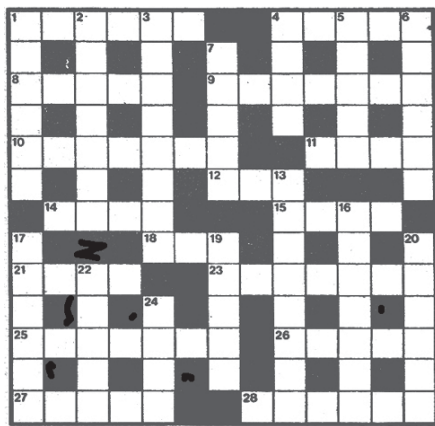
But Woods suddenly lost his way, dropping three strokes including a double-bogey six at the 18th which had the 29-year-old American muttering to himself and angrily flailing one of his clubs.

He finished with a level-par 70 to join Donald on four-under 136.

Playing the back nine first, Donald made a bogey on his second hole but then notched three successive birdies from the 13th followed by another on the second to record a three-under 67.

One shot back on a tightly-packed leaderboard was a group of five players led by world number two Vijay Singh and Sweden's Henrik Stenson, who shared the overnight lead with Woods but slipped back after carding matching one-over 71s.—MNA/Reuters

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

- 1 Village land
- 4 Remain
- 8 Get up
- 9 Motor cycle seat
- 10 Twinkling shine
- 11 Hand over
- 12 Tow-boat
- 14 Culture-jelly
- 15 Chess piece
- 18 Poor horse
- 21 Haystack
- 23 Paying guests
- 25 Hero's lover
- 26 Avoid
- 27 Milk fat
- 28 Standing

DOWN

- 1 Launch attack
- 2 Injuring
- 3 Upset
- 4 Ring bell
- 5 German river
- 6 Over there
- 7 Small gush
- 13 Incline
- 16 Play role excessively
- 17 Gambol
- 19 Dazzling light
- 20 Estimate
- 22 Fret
- 24 Dutch cheese



Vijay Singh watches his tee shot on the second hole during the second round of the NEC Invitational at the Firestone Country Club in Akron, Ohio.

INTERNET

Bulgarians discover 5,000-year-old hoard of gold

SOFIA, 20 Aug — Bulgarian archaeologists have unearthed thousands of intricate gold artefacts from the 3rd millennium BC, remnants of a so far unknown but highly advanced civilization.

Discovered by a farmer, the trove showed that a mysterious Bronze Age civilization in the heart of modern Bulgaria produced and traded elaborate gold jewellery, said Bozhidar Dimitrov, head of Bulgaria's National History Museum. "We can conclude that around 5,000 years ago, the centre of an until now unknown civilization was here and it exported processed gold in Central Europe, the Balkan Peninsula and Anatolia on a massive scale," he told Reuters on Thursday. Similar gold pieces had been found in other

countries and they were assumed to have come from ancient Troy, but it now appeared the production centre was in Bulgaria, he added.

So far, his team has recovered more than 15,000 gold items, mainly tiny beads and spirals of fine workmanship, from three mounds near Dabane in central Bulgaria, about 130 kilometres (80 miles) west of Sofia.

"I think by the end of the year, we will have found around 100,000 items," he said.

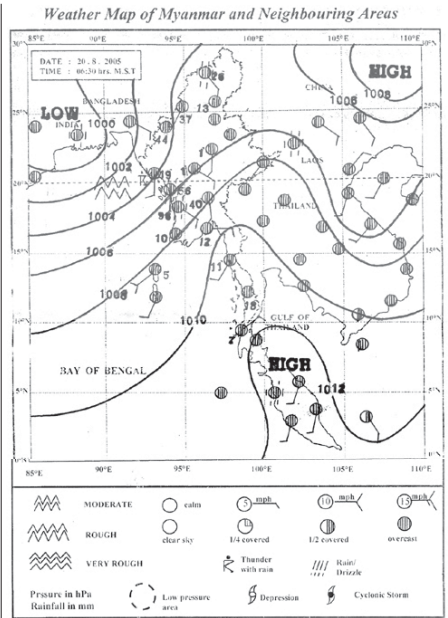
The hoard is the most recent in a series of important finds in the Black Sea country, which has seen a revival in the study of its ancient history since the end of Communist rule in 1989. Since last year, archaeologists have unearthed a solid gold mask the size of a dinner plate, a golden wreath, and many other

items from tombs dating to the 5th Century BC which have been hailed as significant finds in classical antiquity.

They are attributed to the Thracians, people with no written history who lived in what is now Bulgaria, Romania, Macedonia, Turkey and Greece from as early as 4,000 BC until the Romans absorbed them at about the time of Christ.

The latest discovery was the work of a people preceding the Thracians, said Dimitrov, who stumbled on the find by chance.

One day last year, two of Dimitrov's young archaeologists were buying cigarettes in a small shop when they saw a woman with a finely-wrought gold necklace. The woman said her husband, a farmer, had found it in a field where he ploughed with his tractor. *MNA/Reuters*



WEATHER

Saturday, 20 August, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain has been scattered in Kachin, Kayah, Shan States, lower Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with locally heavyfalls in Rakhine State and isolated heavyfall in Mon State. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Kyauktaw (3.98) inches, Thandwe (3.78) inches, Thaton (3.54) inches, Toungoo (1.57) inches, Magway (0.59) inch, Minbu (0.55) inch.

Maximum temperature on 19-8-2005 was 84°F. Minimum temperature on 20-8-2005 was 67°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 20-8-2005 was 93%. Total sunshine hours on 19-8-2005 was nil. Rainfalls on 20-8-2005 were 0.71 inch at Mingaladon, 0.47 inch at Kaba-Aye, 1.89 inches at central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were 67.56 inches at Mingaladon, 69.33 inches at Kaba-Aye and 73.70 inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 12 mph from Southwest at (14:30) hours MST on 19-8-2005.

Bay inference: Monsoon is strong in the North and Central Bay and moderate elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 21-8-2005: Rain will be isolated in Mandalay and lower Sagaing Divisions, scattered in Kayah and Shan States, Magway Division and widespread in the remaining areas with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Rakhine State. Degree of certainty is 80%.

State of the sea: Temporary squalls with rough seas are likely off and along Rakhine Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) to (40) mph. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Moderate monsoon.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 21-8-2005: Some rain. Degree of certainty is 80%. **Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 21-8-2005:** Likelihood of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is 60%.

Seven Cypriots die in Egyptian minibus accident

CAIRO, 20 Aug— Seven Cypriots died and six more were injured when a burst tyre sent their tourist minibus tumbling down a mountain road in Egypt on Friday, officials said.

Medical and police officials on the Sinai Peninsula said the Egyptian driver was also injured when the bus turned over several times on the mountainous road from St Katherine's monastery towards the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh.

"There are seven dead. The minibus had a group of 13 people and our information is that they were all Cypriots," Cyprus' Foreign Minister George Iacovou said.

One man phoned a television station in Cyprus in tears, saying five members of his family were on the bus, including grandchildren aged nine and six. "I can't find anyone to tell me what is happening," he said. — *MNA/Reuters*



Sunday, 21 August
View on today:

- 7:00 am
 1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Ottamathara
- 7:15 am
 2. တီပီဂကရေ ဓမ္မာတုတ္တာဂါရိနာ အဂ္ဂမဟာပဏ္ဍိတ၊ တန္တုသိရိန္ဒာ ဘိဝံသ(ယောဆရာတော်)ဗဟာ ကြားတော်မူအပ်သော ဥပ္ပါတ သန္တီပါဠိတော်
- 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. ယဉ်ကျေးလိမ္မာ(၃၈)မြောက်ဟာ
- 8:10 am
 7. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:20 am
 8. ခေါင်းလောင်းခရေလှောင်တစ်နှင့် လျှပ်စစ်တော်အားပေးစက်ရုံ
- 8:30 am
 9. International news
- 8:45 am
 10. Say it in English
- 11:00 am
 1. Martial song
- 11:10 am
 2. Musical programme
- 11:30 am
 3. Round up of the week's International

- news
- 11:40 am
 4. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတမ်းတွဲ "ဆာရီစွာနှင့်မိစ္ဆာခွင့်ခား" (အပိုင်း-၃၀)
- 12:20 pm
 5. (၂၀)ကြိမ်မြောက် အရှေ့တောင် အာရှအားကစားပြိုင်ပွဲဝင်မည့် မြန်မာအားကစားအဖွဲ့များ၏ ကြိုတင်ပြင်ဆင်မှုများ (ဂျူနီ)
- 12:30 pm
 6. Myanmar video feature: "ဝန်သတင်းမကြားတဲ့နားတစ်ခုံ" လူမင်း၊ ကြည့်လုံလုံဦး၊ ဒါရိုက်တာ-ဟိန်းနိုး
- 2:20 pm
 7. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 2:25 pm
 8. Musical programme
- 2:35 pm
 9. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 2:40 pm
 10. လယ်ယာစီးပွားဖြင့်မားစေရန် ဖဒ် ခရေလှောင်တစ်
- 2:45 am
 11. 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. အစောသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ -ဒုတိယနှစ် (ရက္ခဗေဒ၊ သတ္တဗေဒအထူးပြုများ) (ရက္ခဗေဒ)
- 5:00 pm
 5. Song of national races

- 5:15 pm
 6. ၂၀၀၅ ခုနှစ်၊ တေရသမ အကြိမ်(၁၃ကြိမ်) မြန်မာ့ရိုးရာ ယဉ်ကျေးမှု အဆိုအကအရေ၊ အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲဝင်များ လေ့လာနိုင် ကြရန် (ဓမ္မဗုဒ္ဓစာတော်)
- 5:30 pm
 7. လက်ဆင့်ကမ်းပေး ဂီတတေး
- 5:40 pm
 8. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 5:45 pm
 9. Musical programme
- 5:55 pm
 10. Sing and Enjoy
- 6:30 pm
 11. Evening news
- 7:00 pm
 12. Weather report
- 7:05 pm
 13. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတမ်းတွဲ "ချစ်ခွန်းမြေသီတစ်ရာတစ်လီ" (အပိုင်း-၅၀) (ဓာတ်သိမ်းပိုင်း)
- 7:30 pm
 14. ၂၀၀၅ ခုနှစ်၊ တေရသမ အကြိမ်(၁၃ကြိမ်) မြန်မာ့ရိုးရာ ယဉ်ကျေးမှု အဆိုအကအရေ၊ အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ ဓမ္မဗုဒ္ဓစာတော် (ရုပ်သံပြိုင်ပွဲ)
- 7:15 pm
 15. Agricultural Source Country's Development
- 8:00 pm
 16. News
- 8:15 pm
 17. International news
- 8:30 pm
 18. Weather report
- 8:45 pm
 19. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတမ်းတွဲ "တာဝရချစ်သူ" (အပိုင်း-၁)
- 9:00 pm
 20. The next day's programme



Sunday, 21 August
Tune in today:

- 8:30 am Brief news
- 8:35 am Music: -Love is love
- 8:40 am Perspectives
- 8:45 am Music: -Sometimes
- 8:55 am National news/Slogan
- 9:05 am Music: -Love changes
- 9:10 am International news
- 9:15 am Cultural Images of Myanmar -Wagaung - the month of food offering by casting lots festival
- 1:30 pm News/Slogan
- 1:40 pm Story for children "The story of Mahadok"
- 1:50 pm Songs for children
- 9:00 pm Weekly news review
- 9:10 pm Article
- 9:15 pm Music -Another day in paradise -If you come back
- 9:45 pm News/Slogan
- 10:00 pm PEL

Lt-Gen Maung Bo inspects rubber plantations in Mudon, construction of approach railroad and main bridge at Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine)



Lt-Gen Maung Bo inspects construction of approach railroad of Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine) on Mottama bank.— MNA

YANGON, 20 Aug — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing

and officials, inspected the rubber plantation of U Htu in Phedo Village of Mudon Township, near Mawlamyine-Mudon-Thanbyuzayat Road, yesterday morning.

At the briefing hall, he heard reports on exten-

sion of rubber plantations in Mon State and land reclamation for new rubber plantations. Officials briefed him on data collection for extended cultivation of rubber plantations and arrangements for meeting

(See page 8)

Yangon Division opens 13th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts competitions

YANGON, 20 Aug — The 13th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts competitions (Basic education level) of Yangon Division commenced at the BEHS No 6, Botahtatung township, here this morning.

The opening ceremony was attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and wife, Chairman of the committee for organizing the competitions No 4 Military Region Commander Col Hla Aye, departmental heads of the Ministry of Education, local authorities, school heads, teachers and judges of the competitions.

Patron of the committee Director General of the Basic Education Department (Yangon City) U Aye Kyu formally opened the contests.



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe addresses opening ceremony of basic education level performing arts competitions of Yangon Division.— MNA

Speaking on the occasion, the commander said it is very important to nurture the students of basic education level for their mental development. That is why they are to be trained to preserve Myanmar's genuine culture. Measures are to be taken for the implementation of the seven objectives of the competitions,

he said. In cooperation with maestros and officials of the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Culture, the Yangon Division PDC conducted courses in last April and May for the Yangon Division to keep up its status of victory. He praised the maestros for their system-

atic teaching of performing arts skills to new generation students. That will be very beneficial to the State and the people, he added.

Next, Director (Education) of the No 3 BED U Aung Chein explained the purpose of (See page 10)

Victorious Myanmar soccer team arrives today

YANGON, 20 Aug — The Myanmar selected youth team that emerged champion in the ASEAN U-20 Youth Championship 2005 will arrive here tomorrow afternoon by air.

The victorious Myanmar selected youth team will be welcomed from Yangon International Airport to Youth Training Centre (Thuwunna) along Pyay Road until Thuwanna Sports Ground through 8th mile junction, Hledan junction, Hanthawady Roundabout and Tamway Roundabout.

Myanmar U-17 team which will participate in the ASEAN U-17 Youth Championship to be held in Thailand will play a friendly match against the victorious team at the Thuwunna Sports Ground and the ceremony to honour the Myanmar selected youth team will be held.

MNA

INSIDE

Ayeyawady Division, which is termed as the granary or rice bowl of the State in the past, has now turned out also to be the curry bowl of the State as livestock breeding is making progress in the region.

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PERSPECTIVES

Noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded

(20-8-2005)

Kyauktaw	(3.98) inches
Thandwe	(3.78) inches
Thaton	(3.54) inches
Toungoo	(1.57) inches
Magway	(0.59) inches
Minbu	(0.55) inches