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Monday, 22 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

Secretary-1 Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein attends donation ceremonies for monasteries, nunnery in South Okkalapa, Hline Townships

YANGON, 21 Aug — Families of Defence Services (Army, Navy and Air) and wellwishers donated rice, edible oil, salt, medicines, gram and cash to 17 monasteries in South Okkalapa Township and 15 monasteries and one nunnery in Hline Township this afternoon, attended by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

At Maha Muni Dhammayon of Okkalapa Pagoda in South Okkalapa Township, the

donation ceremony was held at 1 pm.

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein offered alms to Chairman of South Okkalapa Township Sangha Nayaka Committee Sayadaw Bhaddanta Nandamala.

Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa, Minister for Religious

Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa and senior military officers donated provisions to the Sayadaws.

Next, Vice Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Hla Shwe, Chief of Staff (Navy) Commodore Nyan Tun and Colonel General Staff (Air) Col Nay Win presented offerings donated by

Tatmadaw families to members of the Sangha.

Similarly, wellwishers offered cash and kind to the Sayadaws. Afterwards, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Ministers Maj-Gen Sein Htwa and Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa and senior military officers accepted donations

for the monasteries from wellwishers.

Colonel General Staff (Air) Col Nay Win supplicated on the purpose of the donations.

Sayadaw Bhaddanta Dhammadinna of Ngwekyaryan Pariyatti Monastery delivered a sermon, and the Secretary-1 and party shared merits gained.

Today's donations

for monasteries in South Okkalapa Township were 402 bags of rice, 159 viss of edible oil, 1,595 viss of iodized salt, 319 tubes of tooth paste, 287 viss of gram, 12,482 bottles of traditional medicines, 4,194 bars of soap, 75 litres of fish sauce, 848 viss of dry fish, 600 packets of vermicelli, 480 boxes of mosquito coils, 100 pictures of



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and party take Five Precepts from members of the Sangha at the ceremony to donate provisions to monasteries in South Okkalapa Township.— MNA

INSIDE

The hotel should provide the guest with a transport service of a comfortable automobile with a tour guide in it on the way to the destination. Such hospitable services as giving a warm welcome to him when the automobile arrives at the hotel and serving him with a cold drink in the lobby can relieve his tiredness and anxieties.

PAGE 7

HTAY AUNG (TOURISM)



Kyaikhtyoe Pagoda and K 12,417,450.

A similar ceremony for 15 monasteries and one nunnery in Hline Township was held at Panditayama Pariyatti Monastery in Hline Township at 3 pm.

Secretary-1 Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein presented provisions to the State Ovadaçariya Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Pandita.

(See page 8)

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

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 22 August, 2005

Maintain momentum of already-achieved success

Development of human resources plays a pivotal role in building a peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation. In the same way, advancement of technology is indispensable for development of human resources.

Therefore, the government has laid down education promotion programmes and is implementing them to develop human resources—intellectuals and technocrats. With the active participation of intellectuals and technocrats produced from the education sector remarkable progress has been made in such sectors as agricultural, fish and meat, forest and energy.

The Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise under the Ministry of Energy, the Hydroelectric Power Department under the Ministry of Electric Power and the Woodland Group under the Ministry of Forestry won ASEAN Engineering Outstanding Awards for 2004 and ASEAN Energy Award for 2005. For the State and the people these achievements are something to be proud of.

Exploring oil and gas inland and offshore regions for meeting the energy requirements, the MOGE struck a large amount of natural gas in Yadana and Yedagun natural gas fields and Rakhine coastal region. The ASEAN Engineering Federation presented the award for the success of MOGE.

Likewise, the successful implementation of hydel power projects in various parts of the nation by the HPD will contribute much to industrial development and will serve the interest of the national people. In this regard, the ASEAN Engineering Federation presented the award to the department.

In building the Popa Mountain Resort, the Woodland Group has been able to draw a design that saves energy and reduces pollution. In this connection, the ASEAN Centre for Energy presented the award to it.

The achievements of Myanmar in the international competitions would enhance both efficiency of individuals and the department concerned as well as the momentum of technological development. Moreover, more engineers, architects and environmentalists will emerge.

Therefore, we would like to call upon intellectuals and technocrats who are engaged in development of human resources and industrial development to do their bit in building a modern and developed nation, while maintaining the momentum of the already-achieved success.

MMA to hold medical talks

YANGON, 21, Aug — Organized by General Practitioners Society of Myanmar Medical Association, the talks on Toward Better Care For Diabetes: from theories to practice will be held at MMA at 9 am on 27 August in Mingala Taungnyunt Township.

Prof Than Than Aye and Dr Tint Swe Latt will give talks, and anyone interested in the talks may attend it.

MNA

People's Desire

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

Bonus presented to employees under Yangon Division All Bus Lines Control Committee

YANGON, 21 Aug — A ceremony to present prizes to conscientious and honest workers of bus lines under the All Bus Lines Control Committee (Yangon Division) for 2004-2005 financial year, took place at the committee's office on Laydauntkan Road in Tamway Township this morning, attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Supervisory Committee for Ensuring Smooth and Secure Transport Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe.

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe delivered an address. In his speech, he said that there are over 2,100 buses under the supervision of the committee. Among them, over 1,800 buses carry over 2.4



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe presents cash prize to an official of a committee under All Bus-line Control Committee (Yangon Division). — MNA

million passengers plying over 16,500 times daily. Besides, the target income of 2004-2005 financial year for the management of the committee exceeded, he added.

Afterwards, the commander presented bonus for the bus owners, workers and staff of the bus

lines branches. Next, Yangon Station Commander Brig-Gen Myo Myint and officials presented prizes to 383 bus owners, 383 drivers and 383 conductors from 107 bus lines.

Later, officials awarded K 795,000 to 120 honest workers from the

bus lines and the meeting ended.

At the ceremony, altogether K 90,691,670 were presented to conscientious and honest workers of bus lines by the All Bus Lines Control Committee (Yangon Division) for 2004-2005 financial year. — MNA

MWEA's annual general meeting held

YANGON, 21 Aug — The 10th Annual General Meeting of the Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs Association - MWEA took place at Sedona Hotel here today.

Chairperson of the Association Thiri Thudamma Theingi winner of Award for Excellent Performance in Social Field (First Class) Daw Khin Myint Myint and adviser

Professor Daw Yi Yi Myint delivered addresses.

At the meeting, Secretary of the Association Daw Hla Wady read out the annual report of the association.

The Vice-Chairperson, the joint secretary and three members of the association also presented papers on the association's achievements in a decade.

The Vice-Chairperson winner of Award for Excellent Performance for Social Field (Second Class) Daw Thet Yi expressed gratitude.

The meeting came to an end in the afternoon, and the association's annual dinner was held in the evening at Sedona Hotel.

A total of 400 members of the association and guests attended the meeting.

MNA



Professor Daw Yi Yi Myint addresses MWEA's 10th annual general meeting. — MWEA

Myanmar divers bag one gold, three silver, two bronze

YANGON, 21 Aug — Myanmar youth divers

have swept one gold, three silver and two bronze in the Fourth Asian Age-wise Swimming and Diving Championship held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 19 August to date.

Naw El Sae Hti secured one gold in the women's 3-m spring board diving event and Khin Lay Nu one silver, Soe Sanda Nyunt won a silver in the women's 5-m diving event and Hla Hla Hsan one

bronze, Khin Lay Nu one silver in the women's 1-m spring board diving event and Naw El Sae Hti one bronze.

A total of 50 men and 34 women swimmers from Myanmar, Macao, Kuwait, China

(Taipei), Qatar, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Kirgystan, India, Hong Kong, Iran, Malaysia and Vietnam totalling 13 countries are taking part in the championship. Now, the events of the championship continue. — NLM



Two silver medallist Khin Lay Nu. — NLM

All this needs to be known

- * Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
- * Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
- * Do not be softened whenever appeased

Khamenei says Iran not interested in nuclear arms

TEHERAN, 20 Aug — Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on Friday reiterated that the Islamic state had no interest in atomic arms but would never halt its nuclear programme.

Addressing worshippers at Friday prayers at Teheran University, Khamenei accused Western officials of misleading public opinion by suggesting that Iran was secretly building nuclear weapons.

"They talk as if Iran seeks nuclear weapons and that they oppose it," he said in a sermon broadcast live on state radio. "That is lie and they know it. They use it to deceive their own public opinion.

"There's no talk about nuclear weapons in Iran. We don't want nuclear weapons," he said.

"They make a propaganda lies about a global consensus against Iran," he added. "There is no global consensus against Iran and even if there was, our nation wouldn't abandon its rights."

Iran, which says its nuclear facilities will only be used to generate electricity, upped the ante in its nuclear standoff with the West earlier

this month, resuming uranium conversion — a preliminary step in the process to make fuel for nuclear reactors or bomb-grade nuclear explosive.

The board of the UN's atomic watchdog has called on Iran to halt uranium conversion. Iran says it will not and insists it will soon resume the most sensitive part of the process — uranium enrichment.

Displaying a grasp of technical issues,

Khamenei said Iran wanted to enrich uranium to a grade useable in atomic reactors but not to the higher grade needed to make atom bombs.

"We want to produce the fuel for our power plants by ourselves, and they say don't.

"They say buy the fuel from us. What does that mean? It means we should stay dependent. They want the Iranian nation to stay dependent on the powers which produce nuclear power," he said. The European Union has called on Iran to resume the suspension of nuclear fuel activities to build trust, a suggestion Khamenei rejected.

MNA/Reuters

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Japanese children play with a big Pokemon cube during Pokemon Festa 2005 in Yokohama, south of Tokyo on 20 August, 2005. Over 900,000 people attended the largest Pokemon event in Japan in nine places during this summer.

INTERNET

Centam nations support Japan's UNSC bid

TOKYO, 20 Aug — Japan won seven critical votes for its campaign to win a permanent seat on the Security Council on Thursday when a group of Central American nations agreed to support its bid to modify the UN Charter.

Leaders of Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Panama and Dominican Republic agreed to back Japan's plan which is co-sponsored by Germany, Brazil and India, the so-called G-4 countries.

"Japan's request to join the Security Council is absolutely legitimate," Nicaraguan Vice-President Jose Rizo Castellon told journalists in Tokyo.

In exchange Japan has committed itself to invest heavily in Central American infrastructure projects and help train its security forces as the region struggles to strengthen its young democracies, Central American diplomatic sources said.

Earlier this month momentum for change on the Security Council was crippled after the 53-member African Union refused to join forces with the G-4.

That decision prompted UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan to move a target date for expansion from September to December.

The Council currently has 10 non-permanent seats, rotating for two-year terms, and five permanent members with veto power — United States, Russia, Britain, China and France.

To begin the Council expansion, the 191-member General Assembly must approve any change by a two-thirds vote, each

member casting one vote.

Central American diplomats said support for Japan's UN ambitions was a small price to pay at a time in which they are desperately seeking greater international recognition.

For much of its history Central America has been ravaged by civil war, regional rivalries and corrupt governments which combined to make it one of the poorest regions of Latin America.

Speaking at a meeting with Japanese business leaders Costa Rican President Abel Pacheco de la Espriella sought to assuage Japanese concern over corruption and security threats in the region. —MNA/Reuters

Two more arrested in Red Sea explosions case

CAIRO, 20 Aug — Egyptian police have arrested two more men suspected of being members of the group behind three explosions which killed at least 64 people in the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh last month, security sources said on Friday.

The sources, who asked not to be named, said the two men, named as Hassan el-Arayshi and Abdel Hadi Mahmoud Hamida, were arrested in the Sinai Peninsula. They did not give the circumstances of the arrests.

The arrests bring to at least five the total number of people arrested on suspicion of carrying out the 23 July attacks, the most deadly in Egypt for more than 20 years. The state newspaper *al-Ahram* said on Sunday that police had arrested three suspected members of the group and had found about a ton of high explosives at a farm near the north Sinai town of el Arish.

A group suspected of attacking three tourist targets in Sinai last October

was based in el Arish and Egyptian officials have linked the two sets of explosions. An Interior Ministry official said he had no information on the report of new arrests.

Another suspect and his wife were killed in a confrontation with police near the town of Suez around the beginning of

the month, security sources said at the time.

Apart from those arrested, Egyptian police have held hundreds of people for questioning about the explosions, which they suspect were the work of a militant Islamist group with roots in the Sinai Bedouin community. —MNA/Reuters

At least one woman hurt in San Francisco explosion

SAN FRANCISCO, 20 Aug — An explosion in San Francisco's central financial district on Friday injured at least one woman, and police closed several city blocks while they searched cause of the blast.

A police spokesman said it may have been an underground explosion. An electrical transformer could have been the cause of the explosion, one official said. Witnesses reported a large bang shortly before 10 am near Post and Kearny streets in front of a Ralph Lauren store in the central business district. —MNA/Reuters



An unidentified woman looks from shrapnel riddled gate of her damaged home after a rocket exploded outside the house, in Monsur District in Baghdad, on 20 August, 2005. —INTERNET

1,865 US troops killed in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 20 Aug — As of Saturday, 20 Aug, 2005, at least 1,865 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an *Associated Press* count. At least 1,447 died as a result of hostile action, according to the military's numbers. The figures include five military civilians.

Since 1 May, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,726 US military members have died, according to *AP's* count. That includes at least 1,338 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

Internet

Danish firm admits paying Iraq oil-for-food kickbacks

COPENHAGEN, 20 Aug — A Danish maker of industrial pumps, Grundfos, on Friday admitted paying kickbacks to authorities in Saddam Hussein's Iraq under the UN oil-for-food programme.

"We deeply regret that two employees have taken part in bribery in connection with Grundfos' sales of pumps under the oil-for-food programme," Grundfos Chief Executive Jens Joergen Madsen said in a statement.

The company said an internal investigation in May 2004 had revealed that the employees had paid bribes to Iraqi authorities in 2001-2002 to win two orders. It fired them and notified the Danish Foreign Ministry and the United Nations about

the matter.

The company, which sold products worth up to 100 million Danish crowns (16 million US dollars) under the oil-for-food plan during 1996-2003, declined to comment on the size of the bribes.

Earlier this month Benon Sevan, former head of the 67-billion-US-dollar oil-for-food humanitarian plan for Iraq, was accused of receiving nearly 150,000 US dollars in kickbacks, and UN Secretary-General Kofi

Annan last week ordered a broad independent review of the world body's procurement practices.

Grundfos has been contacted by the UN in the investigation of the oil-for-food programme being conducted by former chairman of the US Federal Reserve Paul Volcker.

"We have done everything to openly cooperate with the United Nations in New York to end the case in a satisfactory way," Grundfos said.

MNA/Reuters



Firefighters from Singapore spray water to douse remaining fires on a peat land in Rokan Hilir, Riau Province, Sumatra island, Indonesia, on 20 August, 2005. —INTERNET

Intel, NIIT join hands to train 50,000 IT pros in three years

NEW DELHI, 20 Aug — Taking their partnership forward, Indian computer education major NIIT and Intel on Thursday joined hands to train 50,000 IT professionals over the next three years by introducing specialized training programme on Intel technologies for software developers and architects.

Initially, the training programme will focus on multi-core processing in 10 select centres of NIIT and in the long run the programme will be extended to around 50,000 students which is 10 per cent of

India's current IT workforce over the next three years, said NIIT's Chairman Rajendra S Pawar.

The upper-end of the courseware meant for CEOs and CIOs of IT com-

panies is fee-free while for developers and architects it would be fee based. Pawar did not reveal the cost for these courses.

The programme which would do away with "Hour Glass" by performing multi task at the same time would also be taken to other Asia Pacific countries including China at a later stage.

Intel India's President Ketan Sampat said Intel was in discussion with operating systems vendors like Microsoft, OEMs, engineers and packaged software companies to offer the courses in a holistic manner.

Intel has a 10-per-cent stake in NIIT through Intel Capital and is also a partner in the school education project. — MNA/PTI

Internet

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Lucent CEO says prospects bright for Sino-US economic, trade ties

WASHINGTON, 20 Aug — Patricia Russo, Chairman and CEO of Lucent Technologies, one of the major communications firms in the United States, has said that the prospects of the economic and trade relations between China and the United States are bright.

She also said that the economy between the two nations complement each other in important ways and the bilateral trade will increase over time.

"Without a doubt, the prospects (of China-US economic and trade relationship) are bright," Russo said in a written interview with Xinhua.

Lucent Technologies opened its business in China in 1985 and has ever since witnessed great changes taking place in China over the past two decades.

"We have seen China's economy growing at 8-9% over the past few years and in particular within the telecom industry there has been rapid developments in technology and innovation enhancements," Russo said.

Pointing to the fact that China today is a country with about 700 million subscribers, with about

100 million new users being added annually, Russo said that her company "can help the continued growth of China's telecom industry" by partnering with the Chinese Government and service operators, leveraging Bell Labs innovation technology and local resources.

Russo, who would make her trip to China next month, said that Lucent's goal is to build on the success of the past and deepen the trust and confidence it has enjoyed with customers and suppliers in China.

As economic and trade relations between China and the United States have increased, trade disputes have also grown over the past years. Russo regards these disputes as the "products of success" in bilateral trade.

"I think it is very important to recognize that these disputes are the pro-

duct of success in the economic relationship, not failure," she said.

"Trade disputes are the normal product of growth in trade. If China had not taken the courageous steps to reform its economy, open itself to foreign participation, and join the global trade system, we wouldn't have disputes," she added.

Speaking of the trade imbalance between China and the United States, she said that this is "in part because so many US and foreign invested firms are making products (in China) for sale to the US Experience teaches us that this imbalance can and should be rectified over time".

She also expressed her confidence in the Chinese Government's intentions of setting the implementation of WTO obligations as its high priorities.

MNA/Xinhua

SSA Global Technologies to invest \$4m in India

HYDERABAD, 20 Aug — Enterprise solutions and services provider SSA Global Technologies Inc will invest four million US dollars in India over the next 12 months.

"The investment in India will expand our headcount and space in Hyderabad development centre to make it account for 50 per cent of our global design activity," SSA Global president and CEO Michael E Greenough told

reporters here on Thursday. The company has major plans for organic and inorganic growth.

"We have closed a deal to acquire city-based software firm, Boniva Software Inc, last week," Michael said.

Boniva's product in human capital management would now become a part of SSA and the founder would continue to be with SSA, he added. He, however, declined to announce finances of the acquisition. —MNA/PTI

20 injured in grenade attack in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 21 Aug—The US military says attackers threw two grenades into a crowd in the Iraqi city of Fallujah, injuring 20 people.

US officials said on Saturday, they had received no reports of Iraqi military casualties in the attack. But hospital sources said three Iraqi soldiers were injured.

Meanwhile, an American soldier was killed when his vehicle struck an explosive device in Baghdad.

And gunmen injured the head of Iraq's border guard, Major General Ali Hamadi, who was driving in the Iraqi capital.



Iraqi children refresh themselves in a fountain in Baghdad, on 20 August, 2005. Temperatures in Iraq are reaching over 45°C (114° F). —INTERNET

Kenya to host World Lakes Conf in October

NAIROBI, 20 Aug — Kenya will host an international conference on the conservation and management of lakes in October this year, officials disclosed here on Thursday.

The 11th World Lakes Conference (WLC) to be held from 31 October to 4 November will bring together over 1,500 delegates from around the globe, said Kenyan Minister for Water and Irrigation Martha Karua.

Addressing a news conference in Nairobi, Karua said the conference will review progress on the ongoing lake basin initiatives as well as set future goals for lake basin management in general and Africa in particular.

Karua said the meeting will bring together diverse groups of people and organizations dealing with lakes to provide a rich forum for exchange of knowledge and experiences on the management of lakes in the world.

"The conference will raise an alarm on the need

to conserve this rich natural endowment of Kenyan lakes thereby raising local and international awareness," the minister said.

She said the meeting whose theme is "Management of Lake Basins for their Sustainable Use: Global Experiences and African Issues" is organized by the Kenyan Government in collaboration with the International Lakes and Environment Committee (ILEC).

Karua said the conference will place Kenyan lakes and their rich biodiversity on an international platform thereby attracting sustainable exploitation for economic returns.

The conference which is held every two years will attract representatives from governments, scientists, research institutions,

lake management organizations stakeholders and young water professionals.

This will be the first time that the conference will take place on the African continent.

Previous conferences have been held in Japan, the United States, Hungary, China, Italy, Argentina and Denmark.

Water experts say African lakes contribute significantly to socio-economic development of the African region. However, the lakes are subject to

high levels of rapid population growth, urbanization, industrialization, mining development, growth of irrigated agriculture, and impacts of climate change.

"These pressures have altered ecosystem processes and resulted in several threats on the lakes including: loss of biodiversity, over-fishing, eutrophication, proliferation of invasive weeds, siltation, toxic contamination and over-abstraction of water," said an expert. — *MNA/Xinhua*

UN says Bulgarian floods cause \$633m in damage

UNITED NATIONS, 20 Aug — More than a quarter of Bulgaria's 7.4 million people have been touched by flooding that has killed 20 and caused some 633 million US dollars in damage, the United Nations said on Thursday.

Following more heavy rainfall last weekend, a state of emergency remained in force in 15 cities and unfavourable weather conditions were expected to continue in some parts of the country, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs said.

The office has been helping coordinate the international response to the emergency.

Nearly all arable land has been destroyed in five regions including around the capital Sofia, it said.

Bulgaria and neighbouring countries have been swept for weeks by torrential rains. Bulgaria's response has been hampered by the absence of a government following inconclusive elections in June. But a new centre-left Cabinet started work on Wednesday, ending the political stalemate. — *MNA/Reuters*

Ottawa police begin issuing high-tech tickets

OTTAWA, 20 Aug — Ottawa police become the first in Canada to patrol with e-ticketing systems on Thursday, using a handheld electronic ticketing system instead of a pen and a piece of paper.

The small machine with a "pocket citation" software helps make issuing traffic tickets faster and more accurate.

All an officer has to do is swipe a driver's licence and the information, such as license number, expiry date and date of violation, will begin filling in the ticketing template.

"The violations are all preformatted. And one of the features here is that we've got the approved wording from the ministry," Ottawa police Chief Vince Bevan explained to TV viewers early on Thursday.

The system ensures that a typography of poor penmanship helps prevent some drivers escape their penalty.

In studies that have been done elsewhere, up to 20 per cent of tickets are thrown out because they turn out to be illegible or there are small mistakes that are made on the tickets.

What is more, data that used to go on paper back to headquarters now is beamed from the handheld device or from an in-car laptop to the station.

— *MNA/Xinhua*

Top Army General says current US troop levels may be needed in Iraq through 2009

WASHINGTON, 20 Aug — The US Army's top general says the Army is planning for the possibility of keeping the current number of troops in Iraq — well over 100,000 — for four more years.

General Peter Schoomaker told the *Associated Press* on Saturday he was confident the Army could continue to provide the current number of forces in Iraq for several more years.

President Bush, in his weekly radio address, expressed confidence in what he called the "ultimate triumph of our cause."

In Saturday's Democratic radio address, former Senator Max Cleland of Georgia said Mr Bush's plan for victory is not working.

Mr Cleland said the United States needs a strategy to win in Iraq or an exit strategy to leave. Mr Bush has said there will be no timetable for withdrawing the troops, because that would signal the United States is weak.

— *Internet*



Iraqi children look at a mortar rocket that landed in the al-Mansur District of Baghdad recently. —INTERNET



A camera man films a Thai tuk tuk covered with over 100,000 crystals inside a studio in the outskirts of Bangkok on 19 August, 2005. Tuk tuks, which are named after the sound of their engines, are generally used as taxis in Thailand. —INTERNET

Drought wipes out Portugal wheat, tourist area at risk

LISBON, 20 Aug — Portugal's worst drought on record has wiped out the wheat crop and is threatening the country's richest tourism region, authorities said on Thursday.

With Portugal among the worst hit European countries suffering from drought, taps have run dry in 43 towns and the quality of drinking water in scattered areas is worsening, according to the government's Water Institute.

In a sign of the drought's impact, the National Statistics Institute said output of hard winter wheat, used in bread, had fallen 95 per cent from last year's harvest, to 9,000 tons.

Overall grain output was down 60 per cent, "confirming the current grains season as the worst in recent decades", the agency said in its July agriculture forecast.

Joao Machado, head of the Farmers' Confederation of Portugal, called for greater gov-

ernment assistance for the agricultural sector.

"This drought is so severe that it's going to affect all national production this year. We're going to see how it is already affecting next year's output through shortage of water," he told private TSF radio.

The southern coast's Algarve Region, a playground for millions of tourists, has already cut water use by a fifth by shutting pools and letting city gardens and fountains go dry.

But Macario Correia, head of the regional metropolitan board, warned that the area would face a water shortage next year if winter rains failed again.

"For next summer, the solution is to save water and obviously to

hope that it rains. But hoping is not enough," he told TSF.

He added that the area might have to turn to desalination plants and to piping water from distant reservoirs in coming years.

All of the Iberian nation of 10 million people is in severe or extreme drought, the Water Institute said in a routine report.

About 54,000 people are getting water from tanker trucks as local sources go dry, it said.

Forest fires have averaged more than 100 a day this year and burned about 114,000 hectares (285,000 acres) of woodland through Sunday, more than all of 2004, according to Agriculture Ministry numbers. — *MNA/Reuters*

Microsoft to set up more centres in Indonesia

JAKARTA, 21 Aug — PT Microsoft Indonesia plans to set up seven more community-based Technology and Learning Centres (CLTCs) in West Java and Kalimantan in September as part of its commitment to boost domestic computer market penetration.

Microsoft Indonesia has joined hands with the Bogor Institute of Agriculture (IPB) to set up centres in the two provinces' rural areas to provide farmers a chance to get acquainted with computers, *The Jakarta Post* newspaper reported on Saturday.

"Microsoft Indonesia has made a major commitment to promote skill development that will enable people from a different way of life to use software in productive ways," company President Director Tony Chen was quoted as saying.

Chen said currently there were 21 CLTCs across Sumatra, Java, Bali, Lombok, Kalimantan and Sulawesi.

He also said that establishing more CLTCs would

narrow the country's digital divide as well as boost computer market penetration.

"At present, the country's computer penetration stands at about 2 per cent, or about four million personal computers from 223 million people. This figure is too low," he said.

To support the success of the programme, Microsoft Indonesia signed a one-year agreement with the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Foundation to prepare a group of people who come from the existing CLTCs to become trainers. Under the agreement, the ASEAN Foundation would facilitate the training — comprising of eight modules such as word processing, web design and Internet usage.

Executive Director of the ASEAN Foundation Apichai Sunchindah hoped such collaboration could be expanded to other neighbouring countries that also experienced a huge gap in information technology, such as Cambodia and Laos.

"Why is Indonesia the first? Because there is a great need here. If we can succeed here, we can expand to other member countries," he said.

He added that without narrowing the digital gap among ASEAN countries — Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam — it would be impossible for them to emerge as one economic community.

MNA/Xinhua



Tourists leave the ship *Fuji Maru* after arriving at a port in Dandong, northeast China's Liaoning Province on 19 August, 2005.

INTERNET

Firefighting plane crashes in France, pilots killed

PARIS, 21 Aug — A *Tracker* firefighting aircraft crashed on Saturday while battling a forest fire in the Ardeche region in southeastern France, killing its two pilots in the third such accident in a month, emergency services said.

"According to initial information, the aircraft crashed and exploded. Two Canadair (aircraft) came to help to put out the flames," said Patrick Duprat, head of the Ardeche Prefecture's office. The accident follows the 19 July crash of another *Tracker* firefighting aircraft in the Var region in southern France in which the pilot escaped unhurt. On 1 August two

Canadair pilots died when their firefighter crashed in Haute Corse, northern Corsica. The causes of the accidents are yet to be established.

The *Trackers* are made by US firm Grumman now part of the Northrop Grumman Corp.

President Jacques Chirac and Interior Minister Nicolas Sarkozy sent their condolences to the

families of Saturday's accident.

"This new appalling accident reminds us again of the heavy toll which firefighters, pilots and co-pilots of the civil safety planes pay each year in the fight against forest fires," Sarkozy said in a statement, urging vigilance on the part of the public to curb the outbreak of forest fires.

MNA/Reuters

Nine injured as Qantas jet in emergency landing in Japan

TOKYO, 21 Aug — A Qantas jet made an emergency landing in Japan early on Sunday after what was most probably a false smoke alarm, and nine people were injured when they used chutes to escape, police and the airline said.

The Perth-bound *Airbus A330*, carrying 178 passengers and 13 crew, landed in the central Japanese city of Osaka at about 1 am local time (1620 GMT), shortly after leaving Tokyo, Qantas said in a statement released on its web site.

"The Osaka Control Tower reported smoke on landing so an emergency evacuation was declared as a precaution and emergency slides deployed," Qantas said.

The nine passengers were injured during the evacuation and were taken to hospital.

"Nine people were taken away by ambulance. They were hurt when they tried to escape using (emergency) chutes," a police official at Kansai

Airport in Osaka said.

Kyodo news agency said a Japanese woman had suffered a pelvic fracture. The others, who included two Australians and a Chinese, sustained minor injuries.

Early inspections of the aircraft had shown no sign of smoke or fire and the airline believed the incident was due to a faulty reading from a sensor in the cargo hold.

"There's been no sign of fire or smoke at all," Qantas spokesman Lloyd Quartermaine said.

Police were planning to inspect the plane to check whether a fire had actually broken out on the plane, he said.

MNA/Reuters

Quake jolts northern Japan, no damage reported

TOKYO, 21 Aug — An earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 5.0 jolted northern Japan on Sunday, the Meteorological Agency said.

The quake occurred at 11:29 am (0229 GMT).

There were no immediate reports of injuries or damage and no tsunami warning was issued.

The focus of the tremor was very shallow in Niigata Prefecture, the agency said.

The superfast bullet train system was stopped briefly when the quake caused electricity to be cut off, but resumed operations minutes later, *NHK* said.

No irregularities were found at a nuclear plant at Kashiwazaki in Niigata

after the quake, *NHK* said.

The magnitude of the earthquakes was measured according to a technique similar to the Richter Scale, but adjusted for Japan's geological characteristics.

MNA/Reuters

France seizes three tons of cocaine from Venezuelan boat

PARIS, 21 Aug — French Guiana's Navy seized three tons of cocaine from a Venezuelan fishing boat in an anti-narcotics operation in Guianese international waters last Sunday, the territory's authorities said on Saturday.

They said in a statement that French anti-drugs authorities had classified the boat as suspicious after aerial surveillance by the US Coast Guard.

"When the French ship approached it, the fishing boat threw into the sea 150 packages of cocaine each weighing about 20 kilos,

then tried to flee," the statement said. The naval ship then recovered the packages and caught up with the fleeing boat which they searched after authorization from Ven-

ezuelan authorities. The fishing boat, its nine sailors and contraband were handed over on Friday to Venezuelan Coast Guards, near Trinidad.

MNA/Reuters



Miss Hong Kong Pageant 2005 winner Tracy Ip Chui Chui (C) poses with first runner-up Sharon Luk Sze Wan (L) and second runner-up Carrie Lam Lee at the Miss Hong Kong Pageant 2005 in Hong Kong on 20 August, 2005.

INTERNET

Home away from home

Htay Aung (Tourism)

Human beings have been keen on traveling since early times. They have travelled in search of better places. They set sail for trading. They waged war to colonize other countries. In this way, they moved about from one place to another. The development of industries has brought about a rise in travels. With the advent of computer age, different parts of the world can be easily accessible in a short time to spare. This situation saves working hours and provides more time to spare. The spare time is used for rest, relaxation and the search of geographical knowledge. Here, traveling has turned out to be a business. Traveling is acknowledged to be a good relaxation that can refresh man. So, tourism has been making progress with added momentum since the 1980s.

Regarding traveling, research has been conducted. Before setting out a trip, anxiety and fear arises in those who are to travel by air, by sea or by land. That is why tour operators often inform their customers of the circumstances that may happen. The local tour operators are to take the above-mentioned facts into consideration.

Recently, we were on a trip to Upper Myanmar. There are more hotels owned by the national entrepreneurs than those established with foreign investment in Hsipaw, Kyaukse and Lashio. Although there emerged hotels and motels with foreign investment in line with the market-oriented economic system in the nation the majority are those owned by the nationals. The nationals have gained ample experience in this business as they established it in the 1990s. They are able to equip their hotels and motels with advanced facilities and offer good services to attract tourists.

On our return from Lashio, we proceeded to Kalaw, Pindaya, Nyaungshwe and Taunggyi via Mandalay. In Kalaw, there are 19 hotels, motels and inns that are complete with modern amenities. The tourist attraction in Pindaya is a cave. In the past, there was only a hotel owned by the government. Pindaya has become a transit for local travelers with the emergence of the Aungban-Ywangan-Myogyi-Mandalay road. The number of hotels and motels has increased in Pindaya as many travelers on the trip stay for the night there. The Conqueror and Inlay Inn are popular among local and foreign tourists to Pindaya.

There are some 40 hotels and motels in Inlay region. Most of them are situated along the edges of the lake in order to prevent environmental pollution. To match with scenic background of the mountain those lodgings are of medium height decorated with various kinds of flowers. Most of hotel staff wear Shan national costumes. The sounds of Shan traditional oxis or long open-ended drum and the gong are pleasant to the ear. Shan traditional dance is one of the main attractions in the region. There is a steady rise in the number of tourist arrivals in Inlay region year after year. To be qualified in hotel services and fully imbued with hospitality these hotel staff were sent to Yangon to un-

dergo theoretical and practical training.

Managers from European countries have been appointed in some advanced hotels. This was done to inculcate local managers and hotel staff with the knowledge and experience from those foreigners. Some European managers are just the front men for European tourists. All the services are usually provided by local managers. Hotel business needs to be artistic in addition to good service. Design and decoration is indispensable. Most tourists love and value local designs and utensils. Myanmar businessmen, local managers, architects and engineers are much familiar with such decorations.

There have been artistic works of architects and engineers at local hotels in Yangon, Mandalay, Bagan, Inlay and Ngapali. In Inlay, Shwekyunmyaw, Khaungdaing, Inlay Ahphanphyay, Inlay Minthamee and Kanthaya are popular among tourists. In Bagan, Bagan Hotel, Ayeya Hotel, Thazin Garden, Htan Uyin and Tharapa are well known. In Mandalay, Mandalay Myodaw, Mandalay View Inn, Mya Sein Yaung Inn and Mya Mantala are noted. In Yangon, Mya Yeik Nyo Royal, Panda, Asia Plaza, Central, Yuzana, Yuzana Garden, Excel Treasure and Panorama are

With a view to enhancing the interests of national businessmen, the government has recently granted permission to them, and so they can engage in trade in accord with laws after paying prescribed per cent of their income (foreign exchange) realized from the hotel and tourism industry as taxes.

better known among local and foreign tourists.

In answer to inquiry, hotels and motels often use pamphlets, books, Internet, e-mail and telephone. If necessary, a customer is given a warm welcome at the airport and provided with transport services. A traveler will breathe a sigh of relief when he sees a placard describing the name of the hotel or motel he is going to put up, at the airport.

The hotel should provide him with a transport service of a comfortable automobile with a tour guide in it on the way to the destination. Such hospitable services as giving a warm welcome to him when the automobile arrives at the hotel and serving him with a cold drink in the lobby can relieve his tiredness and anxieties.

As soon as receptionists and staff have taken the customer to the room and showed him the facilities around it, and presented the room key to him, he may try to check if the key is easy or safe to use. When he is left alone, he may be curious about the facilities in the room. At that time, the customer's satisfaction depends much on the services provided by the house-keeping staff.

After he has observed the facilities, he may test the telephone and telephone record. He may give at least a call to the operation room or the reception

counter to know if the telephone works well. Some hotels provide a telephone installed with alarm. After that, the customer may view the surroundings through the windows of his room, take a seat on the verandah, observe paintings, try fruits served, and browse pamphlets or directives. Most of hotels install directives, system of local and oversea calls, programmes of hotel services, publications, directories, and stationery. Some hotels provide their customers with umbrella, religious books, local traditional and foreign medicines.

Some guests would do nothing but watch TV in the room. They should have an access to at least a receiver with access to satellite channels, and Myawady and Myanma Radio and Television programmes.

When the guest has found out that he is provided with above-mentioned services, he will be fully satisfied with what is provided, and he will feel as if he were at home. If he finds something unsatisfactory, it can harm his reliance on the hotel, and that may lead to his complaints. Unsatisfactory services of a hotel can attract criticisms from the guests, and that can tarnish the reputation of the hotel. Therefore, those responsible are to constantly supervise the services to be offered by the employees so as to enhance the role of respective hotels, motels and inns.

As a matter of fact, hotel and tourism services mean sale of services by a hotel to a customer, a stranger, through information about what the hotel will provide him, or his purchase of services for a trip to a place to which he has not been with expectations. If a hotel wins the satisfaction of a guest through its good services, the latter will spread the good reputation of the hotel. A group of words that can effectively promote the services of a hotel is "Home away from home" that is very popular in the world of hotels.

According to the market-oriented economic system, the government has granted permission to local and foreign businessmen for 15 years to run hotel and tourism services in conformity to the laws in order to raise the standard of the nation's hotel and tourism industry. Now, national entrepreneurs have well understood how to provide hotel and tourism services for their customers. The number of staff in the hotel and tourism industry is on the increase year by year. The people enjoy benefits from the hotel and tourism industry indirectly. With a view to enhancing the interests of national businessmen, the government has recently granted permission to them, and so they can engage in trade in accord with laws after paying prescribed per cent of their income (foreign exchange) realized from the hotel and tourism industry as taxes.

Therefore, national entrepreneurs are urged to raise the standard of the home away from home for tourists, while doing business in the interests of the State and their own.

Translation: TS + MS

(Myanma Alin+Kyemon:21-8-2005)



Lt-Gen Thein Sein presents offertories to a Sayadaw. — MNA



Lt-Gen Thein Sein accepts cash donated by wellwishers for 17 monasteries in Yangon East District. — MNA

Secretary-1 Adjutant-General ...

(from page 1)

The commander, the ministers, the deputy minister, the vice-mayor, senior military officers and wellwishers donated alms to the Sayadaws.

On behalf of Tatmadaw families, Maj-Gen Hla Shwe, Commodore Nyan Tun and Colonel

General Staff (Mechanical) (Air) Col Chan Maung offered donations to the Sayadaws and a nun.

Ministries, departments, social organizations and wellwishers donated rice, edible oil, salt, medicines, gram and alms to members of the Sangha.

Next, the Secretary-1, the commander, the ministers and officials accepted cash donations from wellwishers.

Col Chan Maung supplicated on the purpose of the donation ceremony. After taking a sermon delivered by Sayadaw Bhaddanta Pandita, the Secretary-1 and party shared merits gained.

Today's donations for the monasteries and a



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe presents offertories to a Sayadaw. — MNA



Maj-Gen Hla Shwe, Commodore Nyan Tun and Col Chan Maung present offertories to a Sayadaw. — MNA

Victorious sports teams of Yangon Command honoured

YANGON, 21 Aug — The sports teams that won championship shields in Karatedo, Judo, gymnastics, women's badminton and women's table tennis events of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services' Shield Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) sports tournaments were honoured at the hall of Yangon Command Headquarters yesterday evening.

First, victorious karatedo, Judo, gymnastics, women's badminton and women's table tennis teams handed over their championship shields to Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe.

Next, the commander awarded cash prizes to

them.

Afterwards, the commander delivered an address.

Later, the commander and wife hosted a dinner to the athletes.

Yangon Division secured championship shields of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services in the gymnastics event for 16 years consecutively, Judo event for six years, women's badminton three years.

So far, Yangon Command has swept three championship shields and two championship trophies in women's event in the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services' Shield tournaments in 2005.

MNA

nunnery in Hline Township amounted to 336 bags of rice, 134 viss of edible oil, 1,346 viss of iodized salt, 269 tubes of tooth paste, 6,210 bottles of traditional medicine, 242 viss of gram, 1,346 bars of soap, 1,346 cakes of soap, 72 bags of dry fish, 17 bottles of fish sauce, 16 boxes of powdered chilli and K 7,223,010.

MNA

President of (SEAMEO Council) visits Shwedagon Pagoda

YANGON, 21 Aug—A delegation led by President of Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO Council) Minister of Education and Training of Vietnam Prof Dr Nguyen Minh Hein visited the Shwedagon Pagoda at 2 pm today.

First, the visiting minister and party offered flowers and light to the pagoda and signed in the visitors' book.

Next, member of the Pagoda Board of Trustees U Thant Zin and officials presented the salient points of the pagoda to the visitors.

After making cash donations, the minister and party viewed round the jade Buddha image, the royal bell of King Thayawady and the old royal umbrella.

Afterwards, the visitors proceeded to the National Museum on Pyay Road where they were conducted round by Deputy Director U Than Win and Assistant Curator Daw Htay Htay Swe.

MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe delivers an address at a ceremony to honour the victorious sports teams of Yangon Command. — MNA

One million acres of paddy, 400,000...

(from page 16)

The government built Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine) that plays an important role in transportation. Locals term it a "Dream Bridge". In a bid to exceed the food sufficiency in the region, it is needed to set a target of 1 million acres of monsoon paddy in coming rainy season and 400,000 acres of rubber, he instructed.

Afterwards, state level departmental officials reported on implementation of the projects in agriculture, forestry, mining, industry, electric, construction, transportation and communication sectors by June.

Head of the Planning Department of Mon State U Tun Myat and Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing reported on GDP, services and tasks implemented by the end of July.

Mon State has achieved 4 % in agriculture sector, 18.5 % in fisheries sector, 33.4 % in forestry sector, 34.8 % in mining sector, 39.3 % in industry sector,

21.1 % in power sector and 50.1 % in construction sector by the end of July of 2005-2006 fiscal year. Therefore, 22.1 per cent of the target have been realized.

Efforts are being made to extend paddy cultivation in coming rainy season. Mon State sets its target of 1 million acres in paddy and 150,000 acres in double cropping in coming rainy season, the commander added. In education sector, Mon State ranked second in the country for its higher passing rate in matric exam.

After the flood caused by torrential rain in the region, evacuations were carried out timely, and assistance is being provided to farmers, the commander said.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Maung Bo urged the officials to make efforts to meet the state's target of 1 million acres of monsoon paddy and 400,000 acres of rubber in coming year. He also called for systematic cultivation, use of wind-

power generators and smooth running of State-owned factories in Mon State.

After the meeting, Lt-Gen Maung Bo greeted those present. Next, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party attended the ceremony to give assistance to the households of flood-hit region in Kyaikmaraw township held at the township PDC office. In meeting with the flood victims, Lt-Gen Maung Bo said the State is giving aid to those who were evacuated due to the natural disaster. The local people are urged to strive for the recultivation of crops and improvement of socio-economy when the disaster relieves and all the conditions come to normalcy.

Next, Lt-Gen Maung Bo presented cash assistance for the victims to the chairman of township PDC. Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing and Director-General of the Relief and Resettlements Department also presented relief gifts and exercise books to them. A local resident spoke



Lt-Gen Maung Bo presents assistance for flood victims to Kyaikmaraw Township PDC Chairman U Khun Soe Lwin.— MNA

words of thanks. After the ceremony, Lt-Gen Maung Bo cordially greeted those present.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party visited the temporary emergency unit opened at the No 1 BEPS in Kyaikmaraw township and encouraged victim families who are undergoing treatment. They then went to Khayon agricultural camp where they inspected recultivation of paddy and put fingerlings in the rice fields.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party next attended the ceremony to give relief aid to the local people from the flood-stricken region in Hpa-an at the Shweyin Myaw Pyidawaye Pagoda.

It was also attended by Kayin State PDC Chairman Col Khin Kyu, local authorities and members of social organizations. Lt-Gen Maung Bo gave words of encouragement to the flood victims. Director-General U Than Oo, Col Khin Kyu and the commander presented relief aid and cash assistance to the victims. A local people expressed thanks to the State for the donations.

After the ceremony, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party visited the site for construction of the main building of the Government Computer College (Hpa-an). At the briefing hall, Chief Engineer of Shwe Thanlwin Construction U Thet Naing reported on construction tasks. Then Lt-Gen Maung Bo gave necessary instructions and inspected the con-

struction of main building. On arrival at the Thanlwin Bridge (Hpa-an), Lt-Gen Maung Bo inspected the flow of the river and durability of the bridge. He next gave instructions to officials on measures to be taken for the maintenance of the bridge. Later, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party went to Hpa-an.

MNA



Lt-Gen Maung Bo free fingerlings into the farmland in Khayon Village of Kyaikmaraw Township.— MNA



Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint and Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin seen together with victorious Myanmar U-20 football team at the airport. (News on page 16)— NLM

Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint holding up championship trophy of AFF U-20 Championship. (News on page 16)— NLM



Championship trophy of Myanmar U-20 Football team.— NLM



Member of Secretariat of USDA Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan makes field trip to Salingyi Township

YANGON, 21 Aug — Member of the Secretariat of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan attended the opening of Alinthis Library in Bikethayet Village in Salingyi Township on 16 August.

Member of the Secretariat of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and Monywa District Information and Public Re-



Secretariat member Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan meets with local people from villages of Salingyi Township on 16 August.— MNA

lations Department donated books to the library and visited it. The minister presented offertories

to a Sayadaw of Bikethayet Village and inspected construction of new building of self-reliance primary school in the village.

The minister went to the compound of Basic Education Primary School in Mataunkta (South) Village tract and met local people of Mataunkta (South) and (North), Shwethamin, Myingyanpwa, Thanmataw, Ywathit-gon, Aungchantha Villages, members of Village Peace and Development Councils, village-elders, officials of social association totaling over 2,500.

Officials reported on measures undertaken for regional development. In his discussions, Member of the Secretariat of the USDA Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan said he made field trips to most of the villages in the region. He was glad to hear that most of the villages paid serious attention to education. Promotion of education is important for rural and national devel-

opment.

Promotion of education, the human resource, is one of the objectives of the State.

He said in the past there was a wrong concept on literacy that girls of rural region should have just the level of functional literacy and it is out of date. Nowadays, both men and women have equal rights and parents are responsible for the education of their children.

It is not sufficient for someone to obtain a

called for maintenance of libraries.

He said the government is publishing newspapers without any profits and it is also publishing Dohkyeywa Journal at a loss with the aim of gaining knowledge on agriculture, health and livestock breeding.

He also spoke on cultivation of seasonal and perennial crops and export crops.

Next, he presented K 200,000 for regional development and personal goods, clothing and



Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan gives gifts to the people of Salingyi township.

MNA

Birthday anniversary of Sayadaw of Waipolla Rama Monastery in Pyay held

YANGON, 21 Aug — The 61st birthday anniversary of Bago Division (West) Sangha Nayaka Committee Chairman Sayadaw of Waipolla Rama Monastery in Pyay Maha Saddhama Jotika Dhaja Bhaddanta Vepolla was celebrated Seindamaratheikdi Beikman on 19 August morning.

The birthday ceremony was graced by State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Vice-Chairman Jotikaron Pali Takkatho Kyaungtaik Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhama Jotika Dhaja Bhaddanta Kondala and 108 members of the Sangha. Chairman of Bago Division (West) Peace and Development Council Brig-Gen Hla Min, departmental officials, donors and local people.

First, alms were offered to the Sayadaws. On behalf of the Sayadaw Bhaddanta Vepolla, his lay persons donated a typewriter worth K 530,000 for Bago Division (West) Religious Affairs Department to Brig-Gen Hla Min.

Next, Brig-Gen Hla Min and wife offered Shwekya Thingan to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Vepolla. Then the Sayadaw administered the Nine Precepts to the congregation and members of the Sangha recited parittas.

Later, the Sayadaws delivered a sermon followed by sharing of merits gained.

MNA

SEAMEO Council President arrives

YANGON, 21 Aug — President of South-East Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO Council) Prof Dr Nguyen Minh Hien and party arrived here by air this morning.

They were welcomed at Yangon International Airport by Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein, Deputy Minister U Myo Nyunt, directors-general and officials of departments under the Ministry of Education, Vietnamese Ambassador Mr Tran Van Tung and embassy staff.

MNA

Promotion of education is important for rural and national development.

single degree.

The nation can keep abreast of others through education of high quality and development of human resources. Only those who have life long learning can be socially accepted. Rural libraries were opened with the aim of enabling the public to gain knowledge. He

utensils, textbooks and exercise books, publications and canned food donated by Myanmar Red Cross Society to officials.

Officials of Sagaing Division, Monywa District USDA and Division and District IPRD donated books to the library.—MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan attending the opening of Alinthis Library in Beikthayat village, Salingyi township. — MNA

No 1 Tyre and Rubber Factory in Thaton, rubber plantations in Hpa-an inspected

YANGON, 21 Aug — Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin, accompanied by Managing Director U Oo Zun of Myanmar Tyre and Rubber Industries and officials, arrived at No 1 Tyre and Rubber Factory (Thaton) in Thaton, Mon State, on 19 August afternoon. The minister heard reports on the plan to meet the targeted production for 2004-05 and monthly products till July, manufacturing of various size of tyres, and supply of raw materials presented by the managing director and officials. After hearing the reports, the minister instructed them to make efforts for meeting the target, manufacture tyres for trucks, operate the machines at full capacity, export rubber products and extend new rubber plantations.

He inspected production process of tyres for vehicles, and gave instructions on production of tyres meeting the set standard, stockpiling of raw materials and systematic use of power and fuel.

On 20 August, the minister proceeded to Hpa-an Rubber and Cashew Farm in Hpa-an Township. Farm manager U Hla Naing briefed the minister on growing of rubber plantations and the rubber nursery. Next, the minister went to Myaingale Rubber and Cashew Farm. Farm Manager U Saw Nay Tun explained matters related to rubber plantations and productions and nurturing of rubber saplings.

The minister inspected rubber nurseries and gave necessary instructions. — MNA

Myanmar delegation leaves for Indonesia



CEC member of Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs Association seen at the airport before departure for Indonesia. — MWEA

YANGON, 21 Aug — A Myanmar delegation led by Director U Aye Win of Social Welfare Department left here by air this morning to attend the 12th ASEAN Youth Day Meeting and the ceremony to present ASEAN Youth Award in Semarang of Indonesia, from 23 to 25 August.

The delegation members CEC member of Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs' Association Daw Theingi Win and observers association members Daw Chaw Su Myat and Daw Thiri Myint also left on the same flight. They were seen off at the airport by officials of the Social Welfare Department and CEC member of MWEA. — MNA

Bulgarian police seize 276 kilos of amphetamine

SOFIA, 21 Aug — Bulgarian police have seized 276 kilos of amphetamine pills bound for Arab countries with a street value of more than 40 million US dollars, the Interior Ministry said on Saturday.

Police arrested two men in a drugs laboratory — a Bulgarian and a Turkish citizen — near the southern Bulgarian town of Harmanli, the ministry said in a statement on its website.

It was the latest in a string of major drug busts in the Balkan state, which has long served as a key route for smugglers moving goods between Asia and Western Europe. In January police made their largest haul ever, seizing chemicals that could produce 1.4 billion US dollars' worth of amphetamines.—MNA/Reuters

Spanish police free Italian kidnapped by drug gang

MADRID, 21 Aug — Spanish police have freed an Italian man kidnapped by South American drug traffickers and held for three days, the Interior Ministry said on Saturday.

The Bolivian and Venezuelan gang kept their hostage first in a telephone call centre and later in an apartment with his hands and feet bound, demanding a ransom of 315,000 euros (385,200 US dollars).

The victim made daily calls to his wife.

Police arrested two kidnapers outside the apartment in the city of Valencia, then stormed the building and seized two more, the ministry said.

They later arrested three Colombian men suspected of forging documents and trafficking drugs for the group.

Spain is a major entry point for South American drugs coming into Europe and in the past year Spanish police have arrested dozens of suspected drug traffickers and seized several tons of cocaine.

MNA/Reuters



A Chinese boy enjoys the mist from a water fountain causing a rainbow in Shanghai on 20 August, 2005. Hot summer weather continues to prevail over China's financial capital of Shanghai.—INTERNET

Pakistani, Russian scientists maintain al-Qaeda's N-Arsenal

WASHINGTON, 21 Aug — Terror outfit al-Qaeda is paying nuclear scientists from Russia and Pakistan to maintain its existing nuclear arsenal and assemble additional weapons, claims a forthcoming book by former FBI consultant.

Quoting documents purportedly seized in Afghanistan, the author Paul Williams said the terror group also plans to assemble its own nuclear weapons with fissile material it purchased on the black market over a period of ten years.

In the book *The al-Qaeda Connection: International Terrorism, Organized Crime and the Coming Apocalypse*, he contends that al-Qaeda has already planted in the US nuclear weapons it obtained from the Soviet Union. "It has obtained 40 of them from the Soviet Union and these include suitcase nukes, nuclear mines, artillery shells and even some missile warheads," he said.

In addition to capability to detonate its own nuclear weapons also smuggled through criminal gangs across the Mexican border and already planted in the US, Williams' book said there was evidence to suggest that al-Qaeda was paying former Russian special forces Spetsnaz to assist them in locating nuclear weapons formerly concealed inside the US by the Soviet Union during the Cold War. At least half the nuclear weapons in

the al-Qaeda arsenal were obtained for cash from the Chechen terrorist allies, said a summary of the book published on the Internet by WorldNetDaily.

There is virtually no doubt among intelligence analysts that al-Qaeda has obtained fully assembled nuclear weapons, Williams said. The only question is how many.

Estimates range between a dozen and 70. An undetermined number of these weapons, including nuclear suitcase bombs, mines and crude tactical nuclear weapons, have al-

ready been smuggled into the US — at least some across the US-Mexico border.

The future plan, according to captured al-Qaeda agents and documents suggests the attacks will take place simultaneously in major cities throughout the country, including New York, Boston, Washington, Las Vegas, Miami, Chicago and Los Angeles, it claimed.

The book says Osama bin Laden's goal is to kill at least four million Americans, including two million children.

MNA/PTI

Romanian floods death toll rises to 14

BUCHAREST, 21 Aug — The death toll from extensive floods across Romania over the past four days has risen to 14, with more than 1,200 people evacuated from their collapsing houses, the Interior Ministry said on Saturday.

A 25-year-old man and two shepherds from northern Romania were killed by lightning and two other men drowned in a swollen river in central Romania in the last 24 hours.

Lightning killed four and three other people have drowned in southern Romania in the past four days.

A 9-year-old girl drowned in the northern region of Botosani and an elderly villager was crushed under a collapsing electricity pole.

Interior Minister Vasile Blaga said floods destroyed 200 houses and damaged some 5,500 others.

As many as 33,000 hectares (81,540 acres) of farmland were flooded and 88 villages remained

without electricity.

The government has yet to estimate losses.

Torrential rains have swept across the Balkans for most of the summer, killing dozens of people in Bulgaria and its neighbour Romania and causing hundreds of millions of euros in damage to roads, bridges, railways and crops.

About 30 people lost their lives in the worst floods in 50 years, which hit Romania in April, May and in July.

Meteorologists said more rain was expected next week.

MNA/Reuters

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

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Chongqing Wanguang Power Co., Ltd. of Wanzhou Science-Tech Industrial Area, Chongqing Hi-Tech Industrial Development Zone, Chongqing, China is the Owner and Sole Proprietor of the following trademark:



(Reg. No. W/3346/2005)
used in respect of - Batteries, galvanic cells, galvanic batteries, batteries for lighting, electric batteries, electric accumulators, batteries for pocket lamps, electric batteries for vehicles, battery chargers, plates for batteries, batteries for mobile phones, lithium batteries, lithium-ion batteries.
Fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use or other infringement whatsoever of this trademark will be dealt with according to law.
Their Aang & Co. (PVT) LTD. Advocate
MYANMAR TRADEMARK AND PATENT LAW FIRM
E-mail: mtpp@optnet.net.mm
Tel: 254037 G.P.O. Box: 686
Yangon. 22 August 2005

TRADE MARK CAUTION
Mitsui Takeda Chemicals, Inc., a Company incorporated in Japan of 5-2, Higashi-Shimbashi 1-chome, Minato-ku, Tokyo, Japan, is the Owner of the following Trade Marks:-

TAKENATE
Reg. No. 4619/2005
TAKELAC
Reg. No. 4620/2005

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Win Mu Tin
M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L.,
for Mitsui Takeda
Chemicals, Inc.
P.O. Box 60, Yangon
Date: 22 August 2005

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

ပြည်ထောင်စုမြန်မာနိုင်ငံတော်
ရန်ကင်းမြို့တော်စည်ပင်သာယာရေးကော်မတီ
ပစ္စည်းဝယ်ယူရောင်းချရေးအဖွဲ့
ရောင်းဝယ်ရေးနှင့်အဖွဲ့ဝင်များ

ရက်စွဲ၊ ၂၀၀၅ ခုနှစ် ဩဂုတ်လ ၁၅ ရက်

ရန်ကင်းမြို့တော်စည်ပင်သာယာရေးကော်မတီမှ အကျဉ်းချုပ်ဖော်ပြချက်များတွင် တစ်ဆင့်အသုံးပြုရန် လိုအပ်သော အောက်ပါပစ္စည်းများကို ဌာနအရောက် ကျပ်ငွေဖြင့် ဝယ်ယူရန် ချိတ်ပိတ်ချေးနှုန်းလွှာများ စိတ်ဝင်စားပါသည်။

| စဉ် | ပစ္စည်းအမျိုးအမည် | အရေအတွက် |
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| (၁) | ကျောက်ခွက်သုံးအရန်ပစ္စည်းများ | 1 Lot |

ဈေးနှုန်းလွှာပိတ်ရက်မှာ (၃၁-၈-၂၀၀၅)နေ့ (၁၆:၀၀)နာရီ ဖြစ်ပြီး ဈေးနှုန်းတင်သွင်းလွှာပိတ်စာစီရင်လျှင် ကျပ် ၁၀၀၀/- (ကျပ်တစ်ထောင်တိတိ) နှုန်းဖြင့် ဘတ်ဂျက်နှင့် ငွေစာရင်းဌာန၊ ပစ္စည်းဝယ်ယူ ရောင်းချရေးဌာနမှ တွင် ဝယ်ယူနိုင်ပါသည်။ အသေးစိတ်အချက်အလက်များကို ဖုန်းအမှတ်-၂၅၅၅၃၄၊ ၂၄၈၁၁၂ လိုင်စွဲ(၂၃၅)တို့ သို့ ရုံးချိန်အတွင်းဆက်သွယ်မေးမြန်းနိုင်ပါသည်။

၂၀၀၅
ပစ္စည်းဝယ်ယူရောင်းချရေးအဖွဲ့

Black boxes from Garang's crash to be sent to Moscow

KAMPALA, 20 Aug— Both black boxes from the wreckage of the helicopter crash that killed Sudan's Vice-President John Garang will be sent to Russia for analysis, investigators said on Friday.

Garang's death in Uganda's presidential helicopter stunned Africa, triggered riots and fed fears the peace deal he crafted with Sudan's Islamist government might unravel. Sudanese investigator Abel Alier said the Russian-built aircraft's flight data recorder and cockpit voice recorder would be sent to the Russian aviation authority in Moscow, possibly as soon as Saturday.

"There they will ascertain the contents of the recorders and will bring back the results," Alier, a former Sudanese vice-president, told a news conference in the Ugandan capital.

"We are trying to get all the available information."

Dennis Jones, a US National Transportation Safety Board chief investigator and the lead technical adviser in the probe, said it would take about

five days to study the black boxes and estimated the crash investigation could take about six months.

The investigators were addressing reporters after seven Sudanese officials arrived in Kampala to join the probe, a multinational effort involving officials from Sudan, Uganda, Kenya and the United States.

Heading Uganda's team, Minister of Works, Housing and Communication John Nasasira rejected a United Nations report that 17 bodies were found in the wreckage.

He said forensics experts from the United States, Kenya, Uganda and Sudan had all verified there were 13 bodies: seven Ugandans, Garang, and five other Sudanese.

"We have been trying to get a clarification from the UN on that, and we hope it will come soon," Nasasira said.

On 10 August, a UN spokeswoman in the Sudanese capital Khartoum said the remains of 17 people had been recovered.

Garang signed a peace deal in January to end Africa's then longest civil war in Sudan's south. His death triggered riots that killed at least 130 people in Sudan, mostly in Khartoum.

Ugandan Internal Affairs Minister Ruhakana Rugunda was one of the first people to visit the remote crash site in the mountainous border area between the two East African countries. He denied local media reports that the bodies of Garang and the other passengers were found riddled with bullets.

"We did not find any evidence of bullet wounds when we jointly examined the bodies of the victims," Rugunda said.

MNA/Reuters

Angola launches polio appeal as more cases emerge

LUANDA, 20 Aug— Angola has appealed to the international community for funds to fight a new polio outbreak, fearing the disease could spread beyond its borders after the number of confirmed cases rose to seven.

In a statement, the Ministry of Health and its polio eradication partners including the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF appealed for 1.8 million US dollars for an additional round of immunisation coverage.

"If the transmission is not halted in the next four months, Angola would have re-established wild polio virus transmission," the ministry said in a statement released late on Thursday.

"Failure to halt transmission could also lead to the spread of the virus to neighbouring countries such as Republic of Congo, Democratic Republic of

Congo, Namibia and Zambia or even beyond the confine of the sub-region or region," it added.

The first polio cases were detected in June and are the first in Angola in four years. Coupled with an outbreak in Indonesia, they have dealt a major blow to WHO's campaign to stop the global spread of polio by the end of the year.

Polio, which mainly affects children under five and can cause total paralysis in a matter of hours. The country is only just getting to grips with an outbreak of the rare Ebola-like Marburg fever which has claimed more than 300 lives.

Cases have been detected in the capital Luanda, the coastal province of Benguela and in the eastern border provinces of Moxico and Lunda Sul.

Angola carried out one round of immunization at the end of July, targeting 5 million under fives, and a similar three-day campaign is planned for the end of August. Several doses of the vaccine are needed to fully protect a child from polio.

To ensure a "rapid interruption" of the virus, the third round, scheduled in September, would use a vaccine targeted against the strain of the disease which is believed to have been imported from India, the ministry said.

Until now, Angola's national routine immunisation coverage was just 45 percent, with treatment in remote areas particularly patchy as the health network struggled to rebuild following the end of 27 years of civil war.

MNA/Reuters

Road accident claims 20 lives in Afghanistan

KABUL, 21 Aug — Twenty people were killed and 27 others got wounded as two passengerbuses collided in southern Kandahar Province Saturday, Afghanistan's Interior Ministry spokesman said.

"The incident occurred in Shar-e-Safa district at 1:30 pm when a Kabul-bound bus hit another bus coming from opposite direction killing 20 on the spot and wounded 27

others," Lutfullah Mashal confirmed to media.

All the wounded passengers have been taken to Kandahar Hospital while the dead bodies are in Shar-e-

Safa to determine their identifications, he added.

Around a dozen others were killed in another road accident in southern Afghanistan last week.

Mainly bad driving, poor condition of roads and unprofessional traffic police are blamed for deadly road accidents in the war-battered Afghanistan.

MNA/Reuters

တရားရုံးဖြင့် ခေတ်မီပွဲပွဲတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

Texas jury in first Vioxx trial awards \$253m

ANGLETON (Texas), 20 Aug— A Texas jury on Friday found drug maker Merck & Co Inc negligent in the death of a man who took its popular painkiller Vioxx and awarded his widow 253 million US dollars in the first of thousands of Vioxx lawsuits to go to trial.

The stunning verdict was certain to be greatly reduced under Texas law, but Merck's stock fell sharply as investors feared it could set a precedent for more than 4,200 lawsuits charging that the company hid the drug's health risks.

Merck pulled Vioxx off the market in September 2004, saying its long-term usage could double users' risks of heart attack or stroke.

Merck shares fell 2.35 US dollars, or 7.73 per cent, to 28.06 US dollars and put a damper on the Dow, which ended up just 4.3 points to 10559.23.

The case filed by

widow Carol Ernst charged that Vioxx had caused her husband, Robert Ernst, a 59-year-old marathoner who took the drug for eight months, to die of a heart attack in 2001.

Merck disputed the accusation, saying an irregular heartbeat and clogged arteries killed Ernst, not Vioxx.

But the 12-member jury in Texas state court voted 10-2 that Merck should pay 24 million US dollars to Carol Ernst for mental anguish and loss of companionship and 229 million US dollars in punitive damages.

Merck attorney

Jonathan Skidmore said the company would appeal the decision, but estimated that even if it is upheld the punitive damages would be trimmed to less than 2 million US dollars.

Texas law limits punitive awards to two times economic damage — in this case 450,000 US dollars — plus up to another 750,000 US dollars. There is no financial limit for loss of companionship and mental anguish.

At the reading of the verdict in the six-week-long trial, the courtroom erupted in an uproar and Ernst broke into tears. Her lawyer, Mark Lanier, leaped up and shouted "Amen".

"They knew and could see what the truth was," she told reporters. "He (Robert Ernst) wouldn't have taken that pill everyday if he knew the risks."

Lanier urged Merck to settle the pending Vioxx lawsuits, not fight them. He vowed to file more lawsuits against Merck and "pound them again".

"Merck, you need to address this, you need to be responsible, you need to be accountable. You can't just use your money and your resources and run. At some point, the running stops," he said.

Merck general counsel Kenneth Frazier said the company would fight on, not settle.—MNA/Reuters



In an image from NASA television, a silhouette of one of the astronauts conducting a space walk is seen outside the International Space Station, on 18 August, 2005 in space.

INTERNET

Station crew finish spacewalk

CAPE CANAVERAL (Florida), 20 Aug — The two men serving aboard the International Space Station donned Russian spacesuits and floated outside the orbital complex for a five-hour spacewalk on Thursday.

The outing was the first for the crew since they arrived at the station four months ago and was cut short by an hour when they ran out of time for their final task. That work will be rescheduled for a future spacewalk.

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 work. Krikalev, a

Russian cosmonaut who was making his eighth spacewalk, immediately tackled the first task on the to-do list and retrieved a Russian medical experiment. Phillips, a US astronaut who made his first spacewalk, lingered in the airlock for a few minutes to prepare equipment and adapt to the new environment before joining Krikalev outside the space station. "I feel great," Phillips radioed in Russian to ground control teams outside of Moscow. The men retrieved and replaced several other space science experiments stashed on the outside of the complex and photographed a materials

science experiment.

Among the gear brought back inside the station was a dummy embedded with radiation sensors that is part of an international effort to understand how radiation affects the human body.

Krikalev and Phillips also installed 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 was to relocate a grapple fixture used by a crane from outside the Zarya navigation and communications module and reposition it on the Unity connecting node.

MNA/Reuters

World's biggest cruise liner launched

OSLO, 20 Aug — A gigantic cruise ship launched in Finland on Friday dethroned the Queen Mary Two as the largest liner afloat, its manufacturers said.

Norwegian-based Aker Yards said the Freedom of the Seas, at 158,000 tons, was the world's biggest, outranking Cunard's 151,400-ton Queen Mary Two. Both are longer than 41 London double decker buses parked end-to-end.

"The giant of the cruise market, Freedom of the Seas is like a seaborne urban community with its own energy and drinking water production as well as waste management," Aker Yards said in a statement. The ship will carry 5,740 passengers and crew.—MNA/Reuters

Plea to stop squabbles ends Greenland climate talks

COPENHAGEN, 20 Aug— Representatives of 23 nations deeply split about how to combat global warming ended talks in Greenland on Friday with a plea from the host to stop years of squabbling and take urgent action.

"The blaming game has to stop," Denmark's Environment Minister Connie Hedegaard, said in a statement after the four-day meeting she chaired in Ilulissat, north of the Arctic Circle. "Instead of blaming other countries for the lack of action, all governments should present credible visions on how they could make their own fair contribution to combating global climate change."

Representatives at the talks toured a fast-receding glacier. Areas of summer melt in Greenland have expanded sharply in recent years. Many scientists say that a build-up of greenhouse gases from fossil fuels burnt in cars, factories and power plants is contributing to what could become catastrophic global warming. Representatives of nations including the United States, Japan, China, India, Mexico and the European Union were at the informal talks hoping to smooth policy splits after Washington pulled out of the United Nations' Kyoto protocol in 2001.—MNA/Reuters



A man wades through a flooded street with empty containers in Kolkata, India, on 20 August, 2005.—

INTERNET

100 suspects arrested after Bangladesh bombings

DHAKA, 20 Aug—About 100 people have been arrested for suspected links to the never-heard-of coordinated bombings across Bangladesh which left two people dead and 140 injured, police said on Friday.

Nine of them, including two who admitted their involvement in Wednesday's bombings, were being questioned by detectives in the capital Dhaka, they said.

Sixty-three enquiry committees which had been set up were working round-the-clock to find clues to the near simultaneous explosions of over 400 crube bombs in 63 of the 64 districts of the country.

Police sources said that at this stage of probe everything was being looked at and nothing, including involvement of

the Jamiat-ul-Mujahedin Bangladesh, was being ruled out.

The Jamiat-ul Mujahedin wants establishment of Islamic rule and has warned of serious action if its demand is not met.

The activities of Jamiat-ul Mujahedin came to light in 2002 when its "commander" and eight others were arrested from Dinajpur distributing leaflets quoting Osama bin Laden's call for "Jihad" as well as cassettes containing speeches of the al-Qaeda leader.

MNA/PTI

SPORTS

Liverpool confirm bids for Baros, deny Owen offer

LIVERPOOL, 21 Aug— Liverpool manager Rafael Benitez confirmed on Friday that Liverpool are weighing up bids from Aston Villa and Olympique Lyon for striker Milan Baros.

"We have a good offer from Olympique Lyon and another one from Aston Villa and we must analyse both and while we analyse he will be playing with us," Benitez told a Press conference. Benitez also denied reports in the Spanish Press that Liverpool had made an offer to Real Madrid for their former striker Michael Owen.

He insisted he was happy to carry on with his current group of forwards and said his top target was a central defender.

"I have seen the Spanish Press and I can say we have not made an offer for

Owen," he added. "We have not made an offer. We are looking for a centre back.

"Michael is a good player but we have six strikers now and we are trying to find solutions at the back, not up front.

"When you think that we sometimes play with one striker, even if we lose one forward, we will still have four strikers on the bench."

When asked whether he would sign Owen if the England player was offered to him on loan, Benitez said: "I would prefer to work with the players I have at the moment and it's difficult to talk about hypotheses." — MNA/Reuters



Monaco's Patrice Evra, right, challenges Bordeaux's Julien Faubert for the ball during their French League One soccer match in the Bordeaux Stadium, southwestern France, on 20 August, 2005. —INTERNET

Veron earns Inter Supercup win over Juve

TURIN (Italy), 21 Aug— Inter Milan won the Italian Supercup on Saturday with a 1-0 extra-time win over league champions Juventus at a rain-drenched Delle Alpi Stadium. Argentine Juan Sebastian Veron struck in the sixth minute of added time with a first-time drive after being set up by Brazil-

ian Adriano.

The Supercup, the curtain raiser to the Serie A season, pits last season's Serie A champions against the Italian Cup winners.

There were few clear-cut chances in normal time but Juventus had an effort from French forward David Trezeguet harshly ruled out for offside on

the stroke of half-time.

Alessandro del Piero missed a great opportunity for Juve in the 72nd minute, firing wide from close range after Pavel Nedved had taken advantage of an error from Inter's Argentine defender Walter Samuel.

There was little to choose between the two teams in a competitive game that lacked real spark in attack.

Inter opted not to feature their biggest new arrival of the close season, former Real Madrid winger Luis Figo, but Juve did play their major purchase, French midfielder Patrick Vieira from Arsenal, who has recovered from a thigh injury.

Inter finished third in Serie A last season but this win will boost their hopes that they could get their hands on the "scudetto" this term for the first time since 1989.

MNA/Reuters

Premier League match reports

LONDON, 21 Aug — Brief reports of Premier League matches played on Saturday:

Birmingham City 1 Manchester City 2

Two former England players combined for Manchester City's winner two minutes after the interval when striker Andy Cole netted winger Trevor Sinclair's right-wing cross at the far post. Birmingham took an early lead when Uruguayan striker Walter Pandiani headed down a Julian Gray cross and ex-Manchester United midfielder Nicky Butt shot home. Joey Barton equalized for the visitors in a counter-attack midway through the first half.

Blackburn Rovers 2 Fulham 1

Striker Morten Gamst Pedersen put Fulham ahead in the 15th minute from Shefki Kuqi's cross from the right wing.

US striker Brian McBride equalized four minutes into the second half from Niclas Jensen's left cross but Tugay restored Fulham's lead when he volleyed Pedersen's corner home.

Charlton Athletic 1 Wigan Athletic 0

Charlton went joint top on six points with Tottenham Hotspur and Manchester United, though second on goal difference.

New signing Darren Bent scored his third goal in two games three minutes before halftime, heading home Danny Murphy's right cross to give Charlton their second successive victory.

Liverpool 1 Sunderland 0

Midfielder Xabi Alonso struck the winner after 24 minutes, steering a 25-metre free kick inside the top right corner after a

foul on Boudewijn Zenden.

Sunderland were reduced to 10 men a quarter of an hour from time when Andy Welsh was sent off for violent conduct.

Newcastle United 0 West Ham United 0

Alan Shearer's Newcastle have yet to get off the mark after two games.

West Ham were down to 10 men for the last 36 minutes after a dismissal that surprised most observers when Paul Konchesky was sent off for a tackle on midfielder Jermaine Jenas in which he appeared to win the ball cleanly.

Tottenham Hotspur 2

Middlesbrough 0

Spurs went top with their second consecutive 2-0 win for a perfect record of six points and no goals conceded.

England's Jermain Defoe struck shortly after start of the second half with a rasping shot into the roof of the net from 25 metres.

Mido increased Spurs' lead in 75th minute when keeper Mark Schwarzer failed to prevent his weak shot going in under his body from Defoe's pass.

West Bromwich Albion 2

Portsmouth 1

Geoff Horsfield scored twice to give West Brom victory, opening his account after only two minutes with a header from Jonathan Greening's left cross and adding his second just before the hour. Former Newcastle United winger Laurent Robert pulled one back in the 63rd with a trademark left-footed free kick that found the top corner of the net. —MNA/Reuters

Van Nistelrooy gives Man Utd 1-0 win over Villa

LONDON, 21 Aug— Manchester United made it two wins out of two in the fledgling Premier League season when Ruud van Nistelrooy scored the only goal in a 1-0 home success against a toothless Aston Villa yesterday.

Tottenham Hotspur also made it two in a row; though for the Londoners, it was the first time they had managed it for 11 years, beating Middlesbrough 2-0 at White Hart Lane. European champion Liverpool beat Sunderland 1-0, while Premiership champion Chelsea hosts last season's runner-up, Arsenal, in the round's top game today.

Manchester United fully deserved the points against a Villa side that played with one striker, defended from the start and never looked likely to end its 22-year run without an Old Trafford victory over the hosts. Korean midfielder Park Ji-sung had a shot tipped onto the crossbar by goalkeeper Thomas Sorensen in the first half as United was kept at long range for an hour. However, the introduction of Cristiano Ronaldo turned the match, with the Portuguese winger immediately stretching the game before crossing for van Nistelrooy to tuck in the winner in the 66th minute.

United manager Sir Alex Ferguson was delighted to have his chief

goalscorer back in the groove. "His fitness in preseason has been fantastic and we are getting the benefit of that," Ferguson said. "It is important for the team that Ruud scores because once he gets on a run, he is

unstoppable.

While United fans routinely expect a winning start, Tottenham supporters merely hope. This season, however, Martin Jol's attractive-looking side has made an encouraging start.

Internet



Manchester United's Wayne Rooney, right, controls the ball from Aston Villa's Olof Mellberg during their English Premier League soccer match at Old Trafford Stadium, Manchester, England, on 20 August, 2005. Manchester United won the match 1-0. —INTERNET

Answers to yesterday's Crossword Puzzle

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| F | | | N | A | G | | A | V | | A | | | |
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Massage improves weight gain in preterm infants

NEW YORK, 21 Aug — Moderate-pressure massage therapy increases weight gain in preterm infants by improving stomach motion, investigators at the University of Miami School of Medicine report.

Clinical trials have documented greater weight gain in premature infants after five to 10 days of massage, even though food intake and total sleeping time are not increased, Dr Miguel A Diego and his associates point out in the *Journal of Pediatrics*.

To determine the reason behind massage's beneficial effects, Diego's group randomly selected 48 preterm infants to receive moderate-pressure massage therapy, nontherapeutic light massage or no massage. The electrical activity of the

heart and the stomach was sessions before during and after the treatment sessions on the first day of the trial.

Moderate massage therapy was applied with the infant positioned on his or her stomach, with pressure sufficient to produce a slight skin colour change from pink to white in a white infant or slight indentations in the skin. The light massage was identical to the therapeutic

massage, except that the massage produced no skin colour change or skin indentation.

The investigators note that infants in the true massage group gained 27 per cent more weight than those in the other groups, but food intake was not affected. Further analysis showed that this weight gain was related to improvements in stomach motion.

MNA/Reuters



Treasurer U Aung Than of Hninzigon Home for the Aged Administrative Body accepts K 200,000 for construction of three-storey hospital for the aged donated by Daw Phwa Khin and family of Thabawa Monhinga Shop of 61, 22nd Hanthawady Lane, Ward-6, South Okkalapa Township, recently.— H

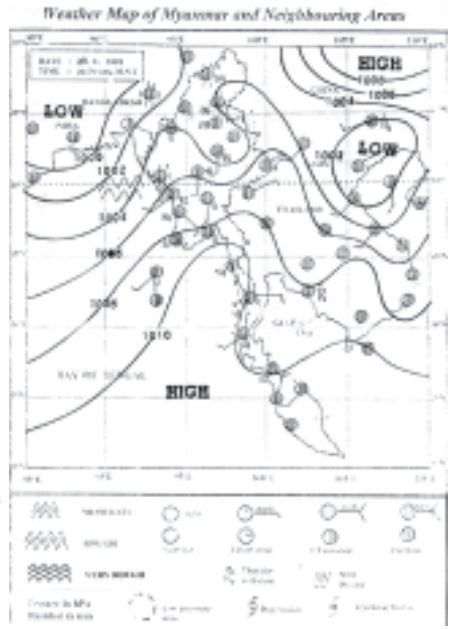
Japanese Encephalitis claims 20 lives in far-western Nepal

KATHMANDU, 21 Aug — At least 20 people have died of Japanese Encephalitis in far-western Kailali District in two weeks, Radio Nepal reported on Saturday.

About ten each Japanese Encephalitis deaths have occurred in Tikapur and Dhangadi in Kailali District until Friday while over 80 patients have been

undergoing treatment in various local hospitals, the state-run radio said, adding, "All deaths occurred in Seti Zonal Hospital and Tikapur Hospital."

MNA/Xinhua



WEATHER

Sunday, 21 August, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain has been isolated in Chin and Kayah states. lower Sagaing and Ayeyawady Divisions, scattered in Shan State, Magway and Yangon Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Kyauktaw (2.52) inches, Yamethin (1.26) inches, Meiktila (0.75) inch, Mogok (0.71) inch and Mandalay (0.51) inch.

Maximum temperature on 20-8-2005 was 84°F. Minimum temperature on 21-8-2005 was 70°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 21-8-2005 was 93%. Total sunshine hours on 20-8-2005 was 0.1 hrs approx. Rainfalls on 21-8-2005 were 0.08 inch at Mingaladon, 0.20 inch at Kaba-Aye, 0.55 inch at central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were 67.64 inches at Mingaladon, 69.53 inches at Kaba-Aye and 74.25 inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 10 mph from Southwest at (15:05) hours MST on 20-8-2005.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 22-8-2005: Rain will be isolated in Chin, Kayah and Shan States, Mandalay, lower Sagaing and Magway Divisions. scattered in Kachin State, upper Sagaing, Bago and Ayeyawdy Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is 80%.

State of the sea: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Moderate monsoon.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 22-8-2005: One or two rain. Degree of certainty is 80%.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 22-8-2005: Likelihood of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is 60%.



Monday, 22 August
View on today:
7:00 am

1. ကျေးဇူးရှင် မင်းကုန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃာ မဟာနာယကအဖွဲ့ အကျိုးတော်ဆောင်ရွက်၊ အဘိဓမ္မာ မဟာရဋ္ဌရူပ၊ အဘိဓမ္မာမဟာသဒ္ဓမ္မဇာတိတ၊ တိပိဋကဓမ္မ မေတ္တာဂါရိတ၊ ဆရာတော် ဘဒ္ဒန္တဝိစိတ္တသာရာဘိဝံသ၏ ဝရိတ်တရားတော်
- 7:15 am
2. တိပိဋကဓမ္မ မေတ္တာဂါရိတ၊ အဂ္ဂမဟာပဏ္ဍိတ၊ ဘဒ္ဒန္တသိရိန္ဒာ ဘိဝံသ(ယောဆရာတော်)မဟာ ကြားတော်မူအပ်သော ဥပ္ပါတ သဒ္ဓိပါဠိတော်
- 7:25 am
3. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am
4. Morning news
- 7:40 am
5. Nice and sweet song
- 7:50 am
6. Song of national races
- 8:00 am
7. Cute little dancers
- 8:15 am
8. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ

- 8:20 am
9. မြန်မာ့ဒီဂျစ်လ်အား ကျောက် ရေကွင်း ခုံးကျော်တံတား
- 8:30 am
10. International news
- 8:45 am
11. Grammar Made Easy
- 4:00 pm
1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm
2. Songs to uphold National Spirit
- 4:30 pm
3. Musical programme
- 4:45 pm
4. အစားသင့်တော်သည့်အရား ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ -တတိယနှစ် (သရုပ်) (သရုပ်)
- 5:00 pm
5. Dance variety
- 5:15 pm
6. ၂၀၀၅ ခုနှစ်၊ တေရသမ အကြိမ်(၁၃ကြိမ်) မြန်မာ့ရိုးရာ ယဉ်ကျေးမှု အဆိုအကားအရေး၊ အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲဝင်များ လေ့လာနိုင် ကြရန်(ဓမ္မဇာတိ) (အခြေခံ ဝဉာ ၁၅-၂၀နှစ်) (အမျိုးသမီး)
- 5:30 pm
7. မြန်မာစာ မြန်မာစကား
- 5:45 pm
8. Song and dance of national races

- 5:50 pm
9. Musical programme (The Radio Myanmar Modern Music Trope)
- 6:00 pm
10. Industrial achievement
- 6:10 pm
11. နိုင်ငံခြားတက္ကသိုလ်များ စာတိုလမ်းတွဲ "ရယ်ရင်ဆေးဆေး ပုဇွန်စိတ်လေး" (အပိုင်း-၁၅)
- 6:30 pm
12. Evening news
- 7:00 pm
13. Weather report
- 7:05 pm
13. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတိုလမ်းတွဲ "ဓမ္မနိမ္မလေးရဲ့ ချစ်ပုံပြင်" (အပိုင်း-၁၅)
- 7:35 pm
15. ၂၀၀၅ ခုနှစ်၊ တေရသမ အကြိမ်(၁၃ကြိမ်) မြန်မာ့ရိုးရာ ယဉ်ကျေးမှု အဆိုအကားအရေး၊ အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ ချေးခန်းခန်း (ဓမ္မဇာတိတော်ကြီး)
- 8:00 pm
16. News
17. International news
18. Weather report
19. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတိုလမ်းတွဲ "ချစ်သောနေ့ပြည်" (အပိုင်း-၅)
20. The next day's programme



Monday, 22 August
Tune in today:

- 8:30 am Brief news
- 8:35 am Music: -ET...Toy box
- 8:40 am Perspectives
- 8:45 am Music: -I gotta know ... Solid Base
- 8:50 am National news/Slogan
- 9:00 am Music: -I like your style... My Town
- 9:05 am International news
- 9:10 am Music: -Sunshine ... Archies
- 1:30 pm News/Slogan
- 1:40 pm Lunchtime music -2 hearts...Phil Collins
- Call it love...Poco
- Shattered dreams...Johnny Hates Jazy
- Just another day... Jon Sedace
- 9:00 pm "Spotlight on the Star"
- New inside
- It's you
- Tenderly
- 9:10 pm Article
- 9:20 pm Drug elimination
- 9:35 pm Vocal Gems -AGroovy Kind of love (Wine)
- If you come back
- 9:45 pm News/Slogan
- 10:00 pm PEL

One million acres of paddy, 400,000 acres of rubber to be cultivated in Mon State in coming year Lt-Gen Maung Bo assesses implementation of projects for 2005-2006 in Mon State



Lt-Gen Maung Bo addresses the ceremony to provide cash assistance to flood victims in Hpa-an at Shweyin Myaw Pagoda in Hpa-an. — MNA

YANGON, 21 Aug — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence yesterday attended a work meeting to assess the projects for 2005-2006 held at the office of Mon State Peace and Development Council in Mawlamyine.

At the meeting, Lt-Gen Maung Bo made an address and attended to the needs.

It was attended by Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing, Deputy Commander Col Zaw Min, senior military officers and departmental officials.

In his address made at the meeting, Lt-Gen Maung Bo said community peace and tranquillity, and prevalence of law and order play a key role in imple-

menting the regional development tasks. Now, law and order are prevails in the nation including Mon State, and therefore, development tasks have been implemented in Mon State. As Mon State is endowed with favourable conditions for development, the government has rendered assistance to establish factories and to cultivate cash crops in the state.

(See page 9)

Minister for Sports welcomes back AFF U-20 Champion Myanmar Youth Football Team



Myanmar Football Federation Chairman U Zaw Zaw hands over the trophy to Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint. — NLM

YANGON, 21 Aug — Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint welcomed back the victorious Myanmar youth football team led by Deputy Director-General U Thein Aung of Sports and Physical Education Department that won first prize trophy in the 2005 AFF U-20 Championship (2005) held in Jakarta, Indonesia, from 5 to 19 August 2005, at Yangon International Airport at 5.15 pm today.

Also present at the

airport to welcome back the team were Chairman of Committee for Ensuring Success of Myanmar Sports Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, officials of the Ministry of Sports, Chairperson of Central Committee for Myanmar Women's Sports Federation Daw Aye Aye and members, President of Myanmar Football Federation U Zaw Zaw and executives, film actors, sports athletes and students.

They presented

flower baskets and garlanded the Myanmar youth footballers at the airport.

The victorious footballers were welcomed back by USDA members, students and people from Yangon International Airport along Pyay Road to Youth Training Centre (Thuwunna) through 8th mile junction, Hledan junction, Hanhawady Roundabout, U Wisara Roundabout, U Htaung

Bo Roundabout and Tamway Roundabout.

At Youth Training Centre (Thuwunna), the ceremony to hand over the first prize trophy to the minister was held.

Leader of the team Deputy Director-General U Thein Aung handed over the first prize trophy for the AFF U-20 Youth Championship 2005 to President U Zaw Zaw.

Next, the players of the victorious youth team were introduced individu-

ally to the fans who are enjoying the warm-up match of Myanmar U-17 team.

Afterwards, MFF President U Zaw Zaw handed over the first prize trophy to Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint again. The minister cordially greeted the footballers.

Later, artistes presented songs in honour of the victorious youth footballers.

°MNA



Myanmar football team being welcomed by soccer enthusiasts. — NLM