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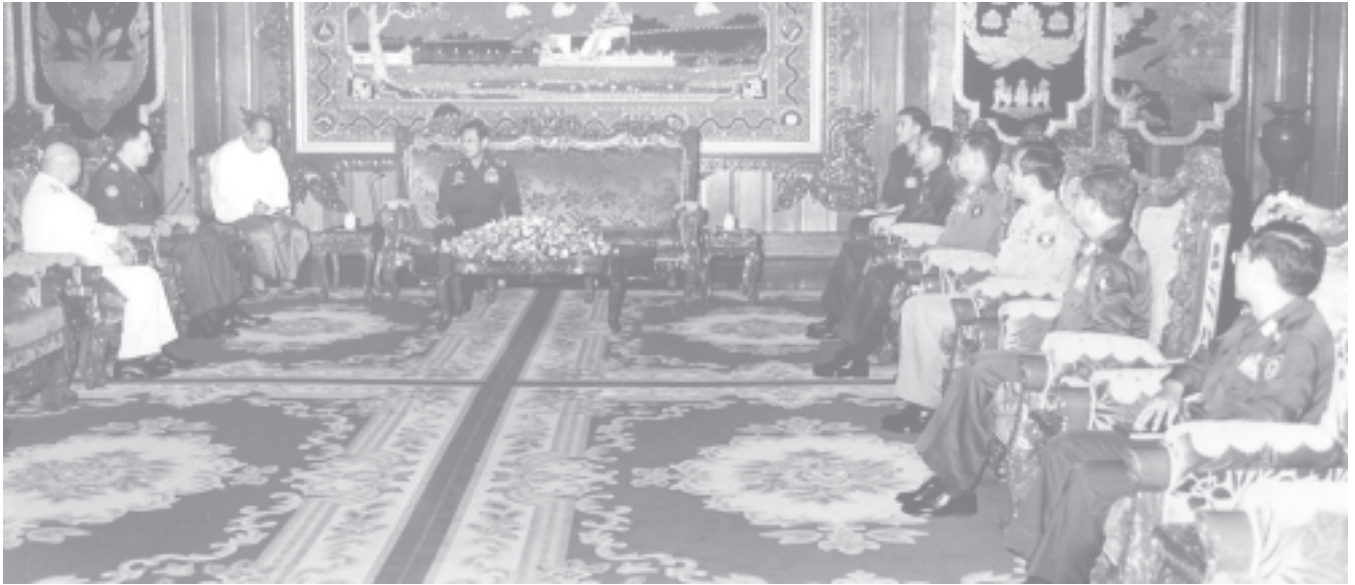
Wednesday, 24 August, 2005

Outgoing Military Attaché of Russia to Myanmar Col Victor S Timoshkov and his successor Col Vladimir I Konchakov call on Vice-Senior General Maung Aye.

MNA

Senior General Than Shwe sends felicitations to Ukraine

YANGON, 24 Aug— Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Viktor Yushchenko, President of the Republic of Ukraine, on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of Ukraine which falls on 24 August 2005. —MNA



Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Vice-Senior General Maung Aye receives Russian Military attaches

YANGON, 23 Aug— Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye received Military Attaché of Russian Federation to the Union of Myanmar Col Victor S Timoshkov, who had completed his tour of duty and his successor Col Vladimir I Konchakov at Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyintha, here, this

morning.

Also present on the occasion were members of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann and Quartermaster-General Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo of the Ministry of Defence, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein and Chief of Military Affairs Security Maj-Gen Myint Swe. — MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye shakes hands with outgoing Military Attaché of Russia Col Victor S Timoshkov.

MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye shakes hands with incoming Military Attaché of Russia Col Vladimir I Konchakov.

MNA



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

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 24 August, 2005

Produce more industrial items for development of industrial sector

As the government places special emphasis on strong national economy, it is striving for all-round development of the nation by enlisting the best use of national forces and making the best use of natural resources.

For the development of the industrial sector, the government is building new factories and plants, establishing industrial zones wherever possible, installing modern machinery at industrial zones and providing assistance to the industrial zones in order that they can produce modern industrial items.

Prime Minister General Soe Win, also Chairman of the Industrial Development Committee, visited a mould and die industry in the Shwepyitha Industrial Zone (3) in Insein Township. In his meeting with responsible personnel, the Prime Minister said that the private industrialists being able to run a mould and die industry was a turning point for the industrial sector of the nation and that it was necessary for industrialists to exchange experience and cooperate with one another and produce industrial items in such a way that their prices should be as reasonable as possible.

Only with the development of private industries will the modernization of the nation will be possible. Moreover, job opportunities will be opened up in all regions and the living standard of the national people enhanced.

Due to the goodwill and assistance of the government, there have emerged foundries and forging shops in the Mandalay, Monywa and Ayethaya (Taunggyi) industrial zones and these plants have begun producing the industrial items. Mould and die industries are necessary for producing industrial items of good quality. Previously, mould and die were imported. Therefore, the government has provided assistance to the industrial zones to be able to establish mould and die industries. For mills and factories to be able to increase their production and to improve the quality of the products, mould and die are necessary.

We believe that the industrial sector of the nation will become more developed if local factories and the industrial zones are able to produce mould and die instead of importing them.

Vietnamese guests conclude visit

YANGON, 23 Aug—Vietnamese delegation led by Chairman of SEAMEO Minister for Education and Training of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Prof Dr Ngyyen Minh Hien left here for home this morning.

The guests were seen off at Yangon international airport by Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein, Deputy Ministers U Myo Nyunt and Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min, departmental heads, Vietnamese Ambassador to the Union of Myanmar Mr Tran Van Tung and embassy staff.

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

Commander, Mayor inspect city beautifying task



Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin inspect repaving of U Chit Maung Road in Bahan Township. — (YANGON COMMAND)

YANGON, 23 Aug — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin observed the on-going task of beautifying Yangon City today.

Accompanied by officials, the commander and the mayor inspected the drain unblocking, bush clear-

ing, garbage cleaning and road repair and upgrading work in Kamayut, Bahan, Yankin and Thingangyun townships.

The commander and the mayor urged officials to constantly supervise the work of unblocking drains, repairing and upgrading roads and systematic dumping of garbage in Yangon city. They also made arrangements for work facilitation. — MNA

Home Minister receives guests

YANGON, 23 Aug—Chairman of UNOCAL Mr David C Peters called on Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo at the latter's office this afternoon.

Also present at the call were Director-General of Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen Khin Yi, Director-General of General Administration Department U Myat Ko, Deputy Director-General U Maung Win, Police Colonel Sit Aye of Trans-Border Crime Department and Head of Office U Kyaw San. —MNA



Home Minister Maj-Gen Maung Oo receives Mr David C Peters, Chairman of UNOCAL. — (HOME AFFAIRS)

Malaysian delegation visits Yangon

YANGON, 23 Aug — A delegation led by Col Sheikh Mokhsin bin Sheikh Hassan of Malaysian Armed Forces Staff College visited the National Defence College

here today.

Col Sheikh Mokhsin bin Sheikh Hassan and delegation called on Commandant of the college Maj-Gen Moe Hein who extended greetings, and

explained the history and academic matters of the college with audio-visual aids.

Officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Home Af-

fairs and the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development explained the foreign policy of Myanmar, the nation's anti-transnational crime campaign and developments of the country. Maj-Gen Moe Hein and Col Sheikh Mokhsin bin Sheikh Hassan exchanged gifts.

The Malaysian guests then visited the Memorial to Fallen Heroes and signed in the visitors' book. They also visited Defence Services Museum, Gems Museum and Drug Elimination Museum where officials conducted them round the museums. —MNA



Col Shekh Mokhsin bin Sheikh Hassan and delegation members lay a wreath at the Memorial to Fallen Heroes. —MNA

Chittagong selected as "Potential Pilot City" in Asia

DHAKA, 22 Aug — Bangladesh's port city Chittagong has been selected as "Potential Pilot City" in Asia by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) under its "Sustainable Urban Integrated Transport" project.

Besides Chittagong, four other Asian and Latin American cities have been brought under the programme as part of developing transport and environment management system at city level in developing countries, local daily *The New Nation* reported on Saturday. UNEP will implement the project in the five others at a cost of 4.4 million US dollars. The first phase work of the project will be

implemented for development of transport system of the Chittagong City, maintaining its socio-economic advancement and environment status as well, UNEP Programme Officer Kamala Ernest was quoted by the daily as saying.

The work will be completed within four years from the date of its beginning while the Chittagong Development Authority (CDA) will

execute the project as a local party.

Meanwhile, the Public Works Ministry has given its consent to the CDA. The work will start on 26 August after the signing of a letter of agreement between the UNEP and CDA, the report said.

Located in the southeastern portion of the country near Myanmar, Chittagong is the largest sea ports of the country, a covered post which it has held for thousands of years.

Chittagong is the main route for almost all of Bangladesh's import and export, and thus generates a huge amount of revenue each year, attracting many investors from home and abroad.

MNA/Xinhua

Narrowing China income gap key to stability

BEIJING, 22 Aug — China's growing gap between rich and poor is likely to trigger social instability if no action is taken to narrow the difference, the *China Daily* said on Monday.

A team from the Ministry of Labour and Social Security found the wealth gap had been widening since 2003 despite measures to increase incomes among the rural poor, including scrapping agricultural taxes. "We are going to hit the red-light scenario after 2010 if there are no effective solutions," the newspaper quoted ministry researcher Su Hainan as saying.

Although China is the world's fastest-growing major economy, the ministry team found rural incomes last year averaged only about 355 US dollars, less than a third of urban incomes. The Ministry of Civil Affairs has said some 26 million rural Chinese live in absolute poverty, earning less than 80 US dollars a year. "The government's top priority is to make those farmers still in poverty earn more," the report said.

Even within urban areas, however, the gap is growing. The richest 10 per cent of urban dwellers held 45 per cent of wealth, a separate report from the *Xinhua* news agency found, while the poorest 10 per cent held 1.4 per cent of wealth.

But other statistics indicate rural incomes may be catching up. Urban Chinese had 9.5 per cent more yuan in their pocket in the second half of last year than the first half, while rural incomes rose 12.5 per cent, according to the National Bureau of Statistics.

MNA/Reuters

Eastern Georgia hit by power breakdown

MOSCOW, 22 Aug — A breakdown on a high-voltage power transmission line caused power cuts to all districts in Eastern Georgia, including the capital Tbilisi, on Sunday, the Russian *ITAR-TASS* news agency reported.

The transmission line was snapped by gale winds during a thunderstorm on Sunday morning, which put out of action a section of the power transmission line, the report said.

MNA/Xinhua



Spain sees record increase of foreign tourists in first half

MADRID, 22 Aug — Spain received 31.5 million foreign tourists in the first half of 2005, 6 per cent more than the same period of 2004, the Ministry of Industry, Tourism and Commerce said on Saturday.

Britain contributed most to the increase with 9.1 million sun-seekers in the first seven months. In July alone, 1.9 million Britons spent their summer holidays in Spanish coastal areas, the ministry said in a statement.

Germany ranked second, with 5.6 million of its citizens packing their bags and heading for Spain.

MNA/Xinhua

Russia fears bird flu cases in major farm

MOSCOW, 22 Aug — The deadly bird flu virus may have struck a big commercial poultry farm in Russia for the first time, a news agency reported on Saturday.

So far bird flu outbreaks in Russia have largely been confined to villages that make little contribution to the national food chain.

Health officials in the western Siberian region of Omsk may have found the virus on a farm with up to 142,000 birds, *Interfax* news agency reported.

Interfax quoted Omsk officials as saying the area would be quarantined and all poultry slaughtered immediately if laboratory checks confirmed cases of bird flu.

Russian officials are battling to ensure the deadly H5N1 strain of bird flu, confirmed in other parts of Omsk weeks ago, does not infect humans as it has done in some Asian countries.

"There have been no cases of people getting ill... To prevent mass bird deaths...the Federal Consumers Rights and Welfare Agency has mapped out and passed on to the regions a package of sanitary and anti-epidemic measures," the state consumers rights and health watchdog said in a statement.—MNA/Reuters



A police officer inspects the trunk of a car before it is disinfected at a barrier to the quarantine zone around the village of Oktyabrskoye affected by bird flu, some 170 km southeast of the Siberian town of Chelyabinsk, Russia, on 22 August, 2005. —INTERNET

Power cut shuts down Iraq oil exports

BASRA, 22 Aug — Iraq's oil exports were shut down Monday by a power cut that darkened parts of central and southern Iraq, including the country's only functioning oil export terminals, Iraqi and foreign oil officials said.

Exports through the country's other main route, the northern export pipeline to Turkey, have long been halted by incessant sabotage.

Iraqi officials said sabotage was also responsible for Monday's blackout, which prevented oil from being pumped into tankers waiting at berths.

A port official and an employee at the South Oil Co, which runs Iraq's southern oil fields, said workers stopped pumping stopped at 7 am Monday. Both men spoke on condition of anonymity because they are not authorized to

talk to media. They gave no further details.

A tanker agent with a shipping company in Jordan confirmed that exports from southern Iraq had ceased due to the power cut.

"Oil terminals have completely stopped exports from Basra and Khor al-Amaya," said Mohammed Hadi, head of Iraq operations for Norton Lilly International. "Both terminals use the same power source."

Hadi said the shutdown, which costs Iraq some \$4.25 million per hour, would probably push up

the price of oil while curtailing the chief revenue source for Iraq's government.

Electricity was cut across Baghdad and many parts of Iraq early Monday after an attack on a major electricity feeder line between Beiji, 155 miles north of Baghdad, and the capital.

Government spokesman Laith Kubba said Sunday the attack occurred two days ago, "and this will, of course, affect the power supply in Baghdad." He said repairs were under way.

Internet



An Iraqi policeman looks at a police car damaged by a roadside bomb in the northern Iraqi city of Kirkuk, 280 km northeast of Baghdad, on 22 August, 2005. —INTERNET

India capable of developing 150-seater passenger jet aircraft

BANGALORE, 22 Aug — Underlining the importance of a national aerospace policy, President APJ Abdul Kalam on Saturday said India with its vast infrastructure and human resource in aerospace sector was capable of launching various aerosystems, including a 150-seater passenger jet aircraft.

"There are more than 300,000 engineers and technicians with infrastructure of more than 200 billion rupees. There is a strong mission management culture and committed partnership," the President said, noting that there was a large business opportunity before the country. Delivering the JRD Tata Memorial Lecture at the National Institute of Advanced Studies, he said: "It is essential that this strength is integrated into a national aeronautics policy for integrating the strengths of both civil and military aviation sectors to bring synergy in the aviation sector.

A study undertaken by an expert committee on "India's vision 2020" has estimated that with the fast growing aviation industry in India and opening of the aviation to the private sector, there is a demand for around 60 300-plus seater aircraft, 30 200-plus seater aircraft, 70 150-plus seater aircraft and 65 100-plus seater aircraft, the President said.

Similarly, in the export market there is a demand for about 280 aircraft of 100-plus seater. Hence the findings state that it would economically viable for producing 150-seater aircraft in India, Kalam said. — *MNA/PTI*



A Chinese labourer works near a new luxurious residential property in Shanghai on 22 August, 2005. —INTERNET

Gunmen kill five family members in northern Iraq

TIKRIT, 22 Aug — Gunmen have stormed a house and killed five people in the northern Iraqi city of Samarra, police said on Sunday.

"The only nine-year-old survivor said that four masked armed men wearing

Iraqi Army uniform stormed the house late Saturday, and killed five of his family," a police officer in Samarra hospital told *Xinhua* on condition of anonymity.

The boy was hiding in the house when the masked men gunned down his parents, sister and two brothers in cold blood, the officer said.

According to initial inquiry with neighbours, the father was accused by militants of collaborating with US forces, the officer said.

MNA/Xinhua

Jordan rejects Iraq's terror criticism

AMMAN, 22 Aug — Jordan has rejected Iraq's criticism that it failed to act firmly in helping to combat the terrorism that has been sweeping Iraq.

An official source quoted in Amman's daily al-Rai said Monday that Iraq never asked Jordan to sign a joint agreement to combat terrorism, "although Jordan's stance is clear about condemning and fighting terrorism through regional and international efforts."

Iraqi government spokesman Laith Kibbe, commenting Sunday on Friday's rocket attack on Jordan's port of Aqaba, said Iraq sympathized with its neighbour, especially in that Iraqis were among the suspects involved in the attack.

"We have warned in the past that the wrath of terrorism, which is blazing in Iraq and which has been ignored by some countries, will spill over," Kibbe said. "It is in the interest of all to extinguish the blaze before it reaches them, and we have to have an agreement with Jordan on combating terrorism." — *Internet*

Two US soldiers killed by roadside bomb in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 22 Aug — Two US soldiers from Task Force Liberty were killed Monday by a roadside bomb during a combat patrol north of Baghdad, the US military said.

One soldier died instantly in the blast about 12:40 pm southwest of Samarra, a tense city 95 kilometres north of Baghdad, the statement said.

Three wounded were rushed to a hospital, where the second soldier died of wounds, the statement added. Names of the victims were not released.

The deaths bring the number of US service members killed this month in Iraq to at least 63. — *Internet*

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Serbia-Montenegro, China agree to promote cooperation

BELGRADE (Serbia-Montenegro), 22 Aug — Serbia-Montenegro and China agreed on Saturday to promote bilateral cooperation as the two countries have similar views on a number of international policy topics.

"Serbia-Montenegro supports the one-China policy," Serbian President Boris Tadic said at a Press conference following talks with visiting Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing.

Tadic said that he opposed political fragmentation in the Far East, just as he opposed the inde-

pendence of the Serbian province of Kosovo and further political fragmentation in the Balkans.

He thanked China for its support to Serbia-Montenegro in the UN Security Council when the issue of Kosovo was discussed.

Li said that he was satisfied with the good

bilateral ties and was ready to promote the bilateral cooperation.

Li, arrived on Friday afternoon on a two-day visit to Serbia Montenegro.

MNA/Xinhua

Flood displaces 200 families in central Nepal

KATHMANDU, 22 Aug — Over 200 families in central Nepal have been displaced due to recent flood in a local river, local government office confirmed here Sunday.

The families have been displaced due to the flood at Thalahi River in Piprabirta Village of Bara District, some 100 kilometres south of capital Kathmandu, District Administration Office said in a Press statement.

MNA/Xinhua

HK to issue special stamps on Chinese Mainland scenic spots

HONG KONG, 22 Aug — Hong Kong Postmaster General Allan Chiang announced on Sunday that Hong Kong is to issue a new stamp sheetlet, the latest in the "Chinese Mainland Scenery Series" on 16 September.

He said the "Chinese Mainland Scenery Series No 4 — The Qiantang Bore" is the fourth issue in the Chinese Mainland scenery series.

The 10-HK-dollar stamp on the sheetlet captures the Haining Yanguan Rolling Tide below the Zhan'ao Pagoda. The bore-watchers and the location map are illustrated in ink strokes in the foreground with the legendary Iron Ox that guards the Qiantang River in the middle.

MNA/Xinhua

US Mily probes killing of relative of Iraq's Ambassador to UN

BAGHDAD, 22 Aug — The US military said on Sunday it had opened a criminal investigation into the killing by US Marines of a relative of Iraq's ambassador to the United Nations.

A statement from the military said the commanding general of the II Marine Expeditionary Force had referred the case of the death of Mohammed al-Sumaida'ie to the US Naval Criminal Investigative Service for further investigation. "At the conclusion of the investigation, a report will be provided to the

command for review and further action as appropriate," the statement said.

Mohammed al-Sumaida'ie, the son of Ambassador Samir al-Sumaida'ie's first cousin, was shot dead near Haditha, western Iraq, as Marines were searching his family's home on 25 June. In July, Ambassador Sumaida'ie, who has been Iraq's representative at the United Nations since last year, accused US troops of killing his 21-year-old relative, an engineering student, "in cold blood" and demanded a full inquiry. — *MNA/Reuters*



An Iraqi worker operates a valve at the oil pipeline near southern Iraqi city of Basra, on 22 August, 2005. — INTERNET

Japan to give up adoption of G-4's UNSC reform resolution

TOKYO, 22 Aug — Japan will give up efforts to seek adoption of a resolution it submitted to the UN General Assembly with three other countries as a joint bid for permanent seats on the UN Security Council, the *Sankei Shinbun* reported Sunday.

The Japanese Government, which determined the resolution would be voted down by the General Assembly, will now have to review its strategy for seeking a permanent seat, the Japanese newspaper said in its top article.

Japan, Brazil, Germany and India — or the Group of Four — have

submitted a resolution proposing to increase the number of Security Council permanent seats by six and non-permanent seats by four, with a 15-year freeze on veto rights for the new permanent members.

But the prospects for the G-4's resolution to be adopted by the 191-member General Assembly

with at least a two-thirds vote virtually evaporated after the 53-member African Union decided in early August not to pursue a joint proposal with the four nations.

The Japanese Government agreed Saturday on a plan to give up trying to have the resolution adopted, but will keep its intention to seek a perma-

nent seat on the Security Council as one of its main diplomatic issues, the *Sankei* reported.

Japan plans to consult with Germany, India and Brazil shortly to confirm that they would give up the resolution, and will look to 2020 when a conference to review the structure of the Security Council will take place to try to join the body, the paper said.—MNA/Xinhua

Thailand short of psychiatrists

BANGKOK, 22 Aug — Thailand is in dire need of psychiatrists to treat the growing number of people suffering mental diseases, said the Public Health Ministry.

The country now has less than 300 psychiatrists nationwide, far less than the required number of 1,000 to serve its 65-million population, said Apichai Mongkol, Deputy Director-General of the Mental Health Department of the ministry. The country now trains 20 new psychiatrists a year, up from five in the past, *Bangkok Post* on Monday quoted Apichai as saying.

Though the government has adopted incentives package to encourage medical students to study psychiatry, many of them shun the choice because the society respect for psychiatrists is less than other doctors, said Apichai.

They also worried being a psychiatrist would not make as much money as they could in other specialty medical fields.

On the other hand, Thailand's growing number of people with mental disease has required more qualified psychiatrists.

In 2003, 1.76 million people were diagnosed with mental health problems, according to the Public Health Ministry. That is up on the 1.38 million patients in 2002 and 1.34 million in 2001.

Last year, seven people for every 100,000 in the Thai population committed suicide due to depression.—MNA/Xinhua



A view of the Singapore central business district on 22 August, 2005.

INTERNET

Minister says evidence proves Greece's innocence in plane crash

ATHENS, 22 Aug — The Greek Government on Sunday dismissed speculation that an out-of-control Cypriot airliner, which subsequently crashed near Athens a week ago killing all 121 people on board, was shot down by Greek F-16 jetfighters.

"The fact that the plane crashed and was not shot down is proven by data from flight recorders and the ammunition checks made on the F-16s," Public Order Minister George Voulgarakis said in a front-page interview with the *Chora* newspaper.

The minister was referring to the two Hellenic Air Force warplanes that were dispatched to intercept a Helios Airways Boeing 737-300 passenger after the aircraft lost communications with air controllers.

A mid-air explosion caused by an air-to-air missile strike or machine-gun rounds would have left debris over a much wider area than the actual crash site recorded—a handful of hilltops and slopes near Marathon, he said.

Asked what measures would be taken during Olympic Games in such a case, the minister, who was responsible for the security of last year's successful Athens Olympic Games, replied that it would most probably be shot down.

"If the plane had not crashed, and had been classified as a 'renegade', then, essentially, an order would have been given for its downing if there was a certainty that it threatened populated areas," he said. "If this incident had taken place during the Olympics, the chances of it being shot down would

have been extremely high," he added.

Also on Sunday, chief state coroner Fillippos Koutsafitis said autopsies on 118 bodies recovered from the 14 August plane crash near Athens show all passengers and crew died on impact instead of dying from poison before the crash.—MNA/Xinhua

Floods, landslides kill 15 across China

BEIJING, 22 Aug — Heavy rain and landslides have killed at least 15 people across China as storms snarled transport and flooded reservoirs, domestic media reported on Monday.

The southern manufacturing hubs of Shenzhen and Dongguan, north of Hong Kong, were the hardest hit, with 30 landslides and house collapses reported over the weekend in and around Shenzhen where eight people died.

"Many streets in the busy downtown areas were flooded, bringing traffic to a standstill as cars and buses were stranded," the *China Daily* said.

At least 10 towns were flooded in Dongguan, where at least one person was killed.

Weather officials warned the rain was likely to continue through the early part of the week.—MNA/Reuters

Flash flooding wreaks havoc in Slovenia

BELGRADE (Serbia-Montenegro), 22 Aug — Heavy overnight rain has triggered flash flooding in parts of Slovenia, wreaking havoc in transport and causing extensive damage, but there were no reports of casualties, the *Slovene Press Agency* reported on Sunday. The hardest hit is the east of the country, particularly the area around Slovenia's third-largest city Celje and the area around the southeast town of Krsko, the Civil Protection and Disaster Relief Administration was quoted as saying.

A number of roads have been closed around Celje due to the flooding and subsequent mudslides. Two road bridges have been washed away near Zalec, some 10 kilometres south of Celje. The Army has been asked for assistance in putting up pontoon bridges.

MNA/Xinhua



Chinese police officers rappel down a building during a security drill in Nanjing, capital of east China's Jiangsu Province, on 21 August, 2005.

INTERNET

Pakistani workers kidnapped in Iraq freed

ISLAMABAD, 22 Aug — Eleven Pakistani workers who were kidnapped in Iraq earlier this month have been freed, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said on Monday.

The men, who worked for a Kuwaiti company, were kidnapped near the southern city of Nasiriyah on 13 August as they were travelling to Baghdad from Kuwait by bus, said the spokesman, Mohammed Naem Khan.

He did not specify their professions or what work the company, al-Hamra, did in Iraq — or whether any ransom was paid.

"We have just been informed by the Kuwaiti company that all 11 Pakistanis have been freed. Thanks be to God,"

Khan told a weekly news briefing in the capital of Islamabad. "They will return to Kuwait within the next 24 hours."

He said they are staying for now in Basra.

It was at least the fifth reported abduction of Pakistani nationals in Iraq. In April, a Pakistani Embassy official was kidnapped and later freed. In July 2004, a Pakistani engineer and a driver were abducted and killed.

Khan renewed a call for Pakistanis not to go to Iraq.—Internet



People watch fireworks by the Spanish 'Penarroja' pyrotechnics company at the 42nd International Fireworks Contest in San Sebastian, northern Spain, on 21 August, 2005.

INTERNET

Iran denies threat to block Hormuz Strait

TEHERAN, 22 Aug— Iran on Saturday strongly denied a recent Western media report that its top nuclear official had threatened to block Hormuz Strait if its nuclear standoff could not be settled, the official IRNA news agency reported.

Some Western media, including the *Wall Street Journal*, had recently quoted Mohammad Saeedi, Deputy Chief of Iran's Atomic Energy Organization (IAEO), as saying that Teheran would block Hormuz Strait if Iran were dealt with in an illogical and arrogant way on the nuclear issue.

The IAEO denied on Saturday in a statement that "foreign newspapers affiliated to certain lobbies have attributed such a statement to Saeedi to misrepresent the region as a trouble spot."

Saeedi himself also said that he had not spoken about Hormuz Strait so far, IRNA said. Meanwhile, Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Hamid-Reza Asefi also told his weekly news briefing that

the report about Saeedi's comments has been "imprecise and misinterpreted".

Hormuz Strait, the waterway from the Gulf to the Indian Ocean, plays a considerable role in the global transportation of oil.

The Iranian nuclear standoff has been escalated since Teheran on 8 August defiantly resumed uranium conversion activities in the central city of Isfahan and rejected a comprehensive nuclear proposal made by the European Union (EU).

The EU and the International Atomic Energy Agency have urged Iran to reestablish the suspension on its sensitive nuclear activities, which has been rejected by Teheran. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Two US Embassy staff hurt near Kabul's blast

KABUL, 22 Aug— Two US Embassy officials were hurt by a roadside bomb that hit their convoy near the Afghan capital on Sunday, a spokesman said.

The blast near Kabul came hours after a bomb attack killed four US soldiers in the restive Zabul Province, in the southern part of the country.

"I can confirm that two American personnel of the US Embassy were slightly hurt while on a routine embassy mission," Michael Macy, a US Embassy spokesman, told *Reuters*.

He declined to identify the two and also refused to say if the US Ambassa-

dor to Afghanistan, Ronald Neumann, was in the convoy when the blast occurred. An investigation was launched to find out who was behind the attack, he added.

Afghan Interior Ministry Spokesman Lutfullah Mashal said the incident occurred on a dirt road in Paghman, a resort area located some 20 kilometres (12 miles) west of the capital.

MNA/Reuters

Four US soldiers killed in Afghan blast

KABUL, 22 Aug— Four US soldiers were killed and three wounded in a bomb attack in Afghanistan on Sunday as they were trying to clear militants from an area before an election next month, the US military said.

The three wounded men were hurt in secondary explosions as they tried to pull their fellow soldiers to safety after the first blast in Zabul Province, in the south of the country.

"Attacks such as this strengthen, not weaken, the resolve of the US/Coalition, Afghan National Security Forces, and the Afghan people," said a US commander, Major-General Jason Kamiya.

US forces have now suffered 47

deaths in combat in Afghanistan this year making it the worst period since they arrived to oust the Taleban in October 2001.

The unit attacked on Sunday in Dai Chopan District was involved in operations in support of the September 18 parliamentary and provincial elections, which the Taleban and other militants have condemned and vowed to disrupt.

MNA/Reuters

King, PM join funeral for Spanish peacekeepers

MADRID, 22 Aug— Soldiers' wives and parents clutched each other for support and wept as Spain's royal family and Prime Minister joined them on Saturday at a funeral for 17 peacekeepers killed in Afghanistan this week.

The Spanish troops died in a helicopter crash on Tuesday on an exercise near the western city of Herat, in what the government suspects was an accident. Before the soldiers' colleagues carried in the 17 flag-draped coffins to a military band's

funeral march, the royal family greeted dozens of relatives. Queen Sofia affectionately hugged and kissed the mourners.

One of the widows, Sergeant Susana Perez, had been serving in Afghanistan with her husband Sergeant Alfredo

Francisco Joga, when he died in the crash.

Government ministers and members of the opposition broke off their vacations to attend the funeral, held in the sun-drenched courtyard of Army headquarters in central Madrid.

MNA/Reuters

Aceh rebels, Indonesia troops meet after peace deal

BANDARCH (Indonesia), 23 Aug— Indonesian rebels and government troops in tsunami-ravaged Aceh Province met on Monday for the first time since their 15 August peace deal to hash out new security arrangements.

European and Southeast Asian peace monitors mediated the meeting which the Indonesian Government described as positive.

"I can report to you that the atmosphere of the first meeting was excellent," said Pieter Feith, chief of the Aceh Monitoring Mission.

"Both parties have reaffirmed their commitment to the implementation of the MoU," he said referring to the memorandum of understanding signed in Finland on August 15 ending nearly three decades of fighting. More talks have been scheduled for next week.

The peace deal was spurred by the wide-spread destruction of the December 26 Asian tsunami which left some 170,000 Acehese killed or missing.

Indonesian Information Minister Sofyan Djalil was similarly optimistic after the meeting, which was also attended by a senior Free Aceh Movement (GAM) official and the province's military and police chiefs.

"The result of this meeting is very positive," he said, without giving details.

MNA/Reuters

Sony mobile phones on display in Tokyo. Sony said it will begin selling comics via mobile telephones in Japan in a move to dominate the small but rapidly growing market in downloading the country's 'manga' cartoons.

INTERNET



Philippines, US navies hold joint amphibious assault exercise

MANILA, 22 Aug— The Philippines and United States navies on Saturday conducted an amphibious assault joint exercise at the Subic Bay former US Navy base, west of Manila, according to Philippine Navy sources.

Members of the First Marine Battalion of the Philippines Navy joined the exercise at the Naval Education and Training Centre in San Antonio, Zambales bordering the Subic Bay, with their American counterparts as part of the ongoing Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training 2005, or CARAT, an annual bilateral exercise between the US and Philippines navies, said the sources.

During the exercise in Zambales, members of the Philippines Marines boarded the *USS Harpers Ferry*, a dock landing ship, and were made to attempt a beach landing and assault using a US amphibious assault vehicle.

The exercise is aimed at increasing capability of the Philippine Marines to fight maritime terrorism, piracy and sea robbery. American ships docking in Subic for CARAT included docking landing ship the *USS Harpers Ferry*, guided missile destroyer the *USS Paul Hamilton*, and two amphibious assault vessels of the *USS Rodney M. Davis* and the *USS Safeguard*.

The US naval ships have just come fresh from the completion of CARAT exercises with the Royal Brunei Navy.

A total of 2,000 naval officers and enlisted personnel coming from the Philippines and US navies are participating in the exercise. — *MNA/Xinhua*

The national cause and the literary world

Chingya (Maubin)

“One thing I have noticed at present is the national cause and the situation of literary world. The nation at present sees the scheme plotted by foreign masters in collusion with their minions trying to launch a three-pronged attack on her on aboveground and underground fronts and from abroad. In this context, there can emerge matters concerning national defence and security.”

I have noted a phrase “the national cause and the situation of the literary world” in the address delivered by Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan at the sixth anniversary of the Naing-Ngan Gonyi magazine published by the ministry.

The nation was prospering for over 800 years with her own literature and culture from Bagan period to Konboug era. The Myanmar literature and culture started to wane when the whole nation fell under subjugation. English had taken the place of Myanmar. Thus, the status of the race began to fall too as race and literature have interrelations.

As the danger of the disappearance of the literature and race was looming large then, the Doh Bamar Asiayon awakened the whole nation with the motto — Myanmar is our country, Myanmar is our literature and Myanmar language is our language; love thy country, cherish thy literature and honour the language.

National schools, which gave priority to teaching Myanmar, were set up commencing 1920. A committee to purify Myanmar was also formed. A committee was also founded with U Pe Maung Tin at the helm to disseminate knowledge in Myanmar. The committee published the Gantha Loka magazine that helped open the eyes of educated youths and pave the way for the flourishing of modern literature. Thuriya daily featured two articles one on 16 June 1923 and another, two days later on 18 to promote Myanmar literature and to form a writers’ association. An announcement concerning the formation of a writers’ association in Thawutti town appeared in the daily.

The journalists and writers after meeting in Yangon in 1935 and 1940 founded the Burma Writers’ Union. But the BWU met its end when the Fascists invaded Myanmar. A military school, Burma Writers’ Association and the Sarsodaw Day emerged in Myanmar during which she was suffering from Fascist rule.

The entire nation including writers were suffering from the War. Thus, over 70 writers attending a meeting held in Yangon on 9 September 1942 founded the association, with the aim of translating world literature into Myanmar, helping rebuild the country, finding means to extend bilateral relations with global writers, improving the standard of Myanmar writers, serving the interest of the Myanmar writers and setting up an association-

owned business. In order to realize the aims, the association set up libraries, held literary talks, published papers on various subjects, published the works of its members, set up a publishing company of its own, extended relations with writers’ associations of other nations, and sent delegates abroad. The association published the first issue of its magazine in the month of Nadaw 1304 Myanmar era.

The magazine on its first page urged patriotic youths to join the Burma Defence Army. The association organized the Sarsodaw Day on 1st waxing of Nadaw 1306 ME, when the country was under Fascist occupation.

A play was performed to awaken the people to fight back the Fascists, who were oppressing and torturing the Myanmar people through various means. The play also cautioned that the people should stay in unity, and that any acts to betray the national cause would lead to the destruction of the whole country. Respects were paid to the aged literati on the day. Since then the Sarsodaw Day has been designated a gazetted holiday.

The entire nation led by the Tatmadaw

Now the Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association that is free from party politics has emerged. Actually, the Burma Writers Association was founded along with the Tatmadaw. With this article, I would like to urge all the persons of the literary profession to perform their duty promoting the national cause.

launched the resistance against Fascists on 27 March 1945. Some of the men of letters joined the Tatmadaw. As the Tatmadaw, on behalf of the entire nation, led the national political cause to drive out the Fascists, it has become the national Armed Forces since then.

The Tatmadaw was born of the people during the resistance against the Fascists, and the Burma Writers’ Association emerged during the Fascist rule. The Tatmadaw and the people have been indivisible and the people and the writers in oneness since the time.

The Tatmadaw is discharging the national duty to protect the lives and property of the people. Likewise, men and women of letters have the duty to vitalize patriotism of the people, and to educate them to have the correct knowledge to raise the prestige of the nation and to develop her.

The Tatmadaw took over the State duties as the 1988 unrest was threatening the very existence of the nation. Some writers were hesitant to express the true situation of the people, and some were under the influence of political parties longing for titles and decorations to be offered by the aliens. Those writers even criticized and ridiculed columnists contributing articles to the dailies and did not feature the works of the columnists in the periodicals they were running.

The columnists writing articles in dailies and other magazines published by the State do not want any honours from abroad. They are performing the literary duty well only with the honorarium they receive.

There are some people who say that they have never read the dailies. However, the people of the rural areas had to read the pages of the dailies used for packing goods. Thanks to the arrangements made by the Information Ministry, rural people can now read dailies every day.

The Information Ministry plays a key role in organizing people to set up own libraries, and up to now they have established 25,492 libraries in the entire nation. A large number of people are providing financial assistance, land, furniture and publications for the libraries.

At the ceremony, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan also said, “The literati have already known, 11 innocent monks and people died and another 162 were wounded in the three terrorist bomb attacks in Yangon on 7 May 2005. The explosions concerned not only with a particular ministry and the shopping centres where bombs were blown off. It is a security concern of the whole nation. Although the government-run media effectively and strongly responded to and condemned the conspiracy of encroaching on the national security, the response of the literary world was weak. The members of the literary profession should unitedly refute and respond to the acts endangering the national interest.

They should always get in touch with the present prevailing or changing situations and should write letters in the service of the people. They should educate the people, and only with the collective efforts, the dangers of the destructive elements can be warded off successfully.”

Now the Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association that is free from party politics has emerged. Actually, the Burma Writers Association was founded along with the Tatmadaw. With this article, I would like to urge all the persons of the literary profession to perform their duty promoting the national cause.

(Translation; TMT)

Myanma Alin+Kyemon: 23.9.2005.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win makes field trip...

(from page 16)
100-acres perennial and seasonal crops. Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party then checked honey orange, lemon, lime, oleander, jack fruit and djenkol bean grown on nursery farm No 2. They viewed thriving soya-bean and corn plantations.

Afterwards, plantation in-charge Lt-Col Myo Chit reported to them on cultivation of jack fruit, lychees, perennial trees and mixed crops. On arrival at 1000-acres model plantation, they inspected thriving Hsinshweli corn cultivation.

Upon arrival at Government Technological College (Lashio) construction project, principal Dr Swe Swe Maw reported to them on loca-

tion of the college, its area, student population, number of faculty members, conducting courses. Next, construction in-charge U Kaung Myat Thu also reported to them on progress in constructing three-storey college building. Afterwards, Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing gave supplementary reports.

In connection with the reports, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win gave instructions on paving the entrance road to the college meeting the set standard and growing of flowery plants. The college is situated on Lashio-Theikdi roadside. It is being built on an area of 52.15 acres. It is 573 feet in length and 358 feet in width. It holds a capacity of 3000 students.

After that, Lt-Gen

Kyaw Win and party looked into progress in building of the college and left necessary instructions. They visited 100-acre coffee plantation and Col Aung Moe Myint reported to them on measures taken for growing of coffee.

On arrival at high-land farming-1 in Shuyatkon, plantation in-charge Lt-Col Nay Lin Aung reported to them on measures being taken for boosting the per acre yield and water supply to irrigated areas. Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing gave supplementary reports.

Next, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party proceeded to 500-acre corn and honey orange plantation cultivated by Hnin Hnin Khine Co Ltd. Member

of board of directors U Kyaw Myint reported to them on cultivation of honey orange and arrangements being made for production of Ve Ve soft drinks and canned corn milk and canned pineapple; plantation in-charge U Kyaw Kyaw on land preparation; Head of Division Irrigation Department U Kyaw Win on water supply to Hnin Hnin Khine's plantations and nearby ones. Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing then gave supplementary reports.

Regarding the reports, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win made arrangements to fulfill the needs and viewed plantations of corn, pineapple and honey orange. After that, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party went returned to Lashio.

MNA

Appointment of Ambassador agreed on

YANGON, 24 Aug— The Government of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of Mr Arno Riedel as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Austria to the Union of Myanmar in succession to Dr Herbert Traxl.

Mr Arno Riedel was born in 1953. He got his Bachelor Degree from the University of Innsbruck in 1975 and obtained a Master Degree in Business Administration from the Vienna University of Economics in 1977. He joined the Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1980 and served in various capacities in the Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as in the Austrian Embassies in Budapest, Jakarta, Teheran and Rome. He served as Austrian Ambassador to Albania from 1998 to 2001. From 2003 to 2005 he served as Director for EU enlargement in the Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Mr Arno Riedel is currently serving as Austrian Ambassador to the Kingdom of Thailand. He will be concurrently accredited to the Union of Myanmar with residence in Bangkok, Thailand. He is married and has two children. —MNA

Cash donated for second...

(From page 16)

Development Committee this afternoon. Chairman of the leading committee for organizing the competitions Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe attended the ceremony. YCDC Chairman Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa, No 4 Military Region Commander Col Hla Aye, Chairman of the subcommittee YCDC Joint-Secretary U Tin Soe, officials and wellwishers were present. First, Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin presented K 3 million donated by the YCDC to the commander. Next, ministries, private companies and public wellwishers donated K 8,209,000. The commander, mayor and officials accepted the donations and presented certificates of honour to the donors. In his speech, the commander said the 13th Myanmar traditional cultural performing arts competitions will be held with the seven noble objectives. Sharing borders with the big countries, Myanmar has been standing tall with its own national sovereignty, culture, literature and national character for thousands of years. So, the good legacy of these characteristics is to be handed down to future generations. In so doing, the Myanmar performing arts skills play an important role in national cause, he said. That is why the Head of State himself encouraged to hold the competitions.

He continued to say that over K 10 million has been raised in the first cash donation ceremony. He said he, on behalf of the leading committee, thanked the wellwishers for the cash donations for the second time. The total of cash donations including the first time have amounted to K 18,259,000. —MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye addresses the opening of Saw-Kyaukhtu-Htilin-Yaymyetni road. — CONSTRUCTION

Saw-Kyaukhtu-Htilin-Yaymyetni Road...

(from page 16)
facilities in the region. And Gangaw-Htilin-Kyaukhtu Road stretches from south to north but it was not a through facility.

Under the guidance of the Head of State, bridges were constructed over the mountain torrents. For the second step, the bridges that are 180 feet or above long in the districts that are adjacent to Gangaw District and divisions were built. There also emerged Saw-Kyaukhtu-Htilin-Gangaw, Pauk Bridge No 1 (Ohndaw) and No 2 (Yaypya). For enabling the people to travel from Pakokku to Mandalay in any season, P a k o k k u - P a u k - Kyaukhtu-Mindat road was upgraded to a tar road.

As a result, local products can be transported to other regions and people can travel to

southern and northern Chin State, and it will make contributions towards a rapid regional development and cementing amicable friendships and relations among local national races. Arrangements will have to be made to upgrade the

standards of local people. Speaking on the occasion, the commander said that the government has placed emphasis on better transport for all-round development of the nation. With the use of Saw-Kyaukhtu-Htilin-

Haka in a day. Similarly, they can travel to Kalay in Sagaing Division from towns in Gangaw District in a day. The commander expressed thanks to those who contributed to the project.

Afterwards, the commander, the minister and the chairman of the division PDC formally opened Htilin-Yaymyetni Section at archway No 5, archway No 6 at mile post 114/0 on Pakokku-Pauk-Htilin-Gangaw Road in Saymindaw Village. They cordially greeted local people at archway No 7.

Thanks to the emergence of Saw-Kyaukhtu-Htilin-Yaymyetni Road, local residents can travel to other states and divisions via Pakokku, from Mindat and Haka in Chin State to Magway, Sagaing and Mandalay divisions, and from Gangaw to Pale Monywa in a day. —MNA

For enabling the people to travel from Pakokku to Mandalay in any season, Pakokku-Pauk-Kyaukhtu-Mindat road was upgraded to a tar road.

road to a gravel one, then to tar one. From 1988 to date, the government has constructed roads of 435 miles and 14 bridges that are 180 feet and above long. In conclusion, the minister called for collective efforts to ensure durability of the transport facilities, effective use of the facilities for boosting regional development, and economic and social

Yaymyetni Road, local people can travel to Chin State and Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions that are adjacent to Magway. Previously, people had to spend three days to travel from Mindat in southern Chin State and Haka in northern Chin State. In contrast, thanks to the emergence of the facility, they can now travel from Mindat to

Sarpaybeikman Book Club to distribute books

YANGON, 23 Aug — Sarpaybeikman Book Club is going to distribute its twentieth book titled "Amay-thar-jar-aye and other short stories" written by Lwint Kyaw (Maubin), winner of Sarpaybeikman manuscripts award in 2002 to members from Yangon and other states and divisions. Yangon member can take out books. Books have already been sent to those from other states and divisions. Book enthusiasts wishing to join Sarpaybeikman Book Club may pay K 1,500 in advance. Books will be sent to member from other states and divisions by mail, by air, by boat and by train.

Anyone wishing to join Sarpaybeikman Book Club can make contact with Sarpaybeikman Book Club at No 529/531 on Merchant Street, Yangon Division.—MNA

Seminar on teaching medical ethics begins



Minister Dr Kyaw Myint addresses the opening of seminar on teaching medical ethics subject. — MNA

YANGON, 23 Aug — Medical Science Department sponsored a seminar on teaching medical ethics subject at Traders Hotel here today, with an address by Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint.

Also present were Deputy Minister Dr Mya Oo, officials of the Ministry of Health, resident representatives of WHO and other UN agencies, academics of the medical field, Professor Yali Cong of People's Republic of China, Dr Anita J Tarzian of US and guests.

The minister said that Myanmar Medical Council was founded to supervise the principles concerning the medical ethics. In world countries the medical ethics subject has been taught in degree and post-degree courses. The participants are going to give suggestions on lecturing the subject in accord with the

traditions and culture and customs of Myanmar. The syllabus should be drawn according to general ethical principles and Four Cardinal Values.

At the meeting chaired by Dr Tha Hla Shwe, Director-General of MSD Dr Maung Maung Wint discussed teaching of medical ethics in Myanmar, Dr Anita J Tarzian, the medical ethics and Professor Yali Cong, the medical ethics subject in the PRC.

Professors and heads of departments of medical universities, representatives of Academy of Myanmar Medical Science, Myanmar Medical Association and Traditional Medicine University, house surgeons and medical students will take part in the meeting which continues till 25 August.

MNA

Special Refresher Course No 3/2005 for doctors opens

YANGON, 23 Aug—Special Refresher Course No 3/2005 for doctors organized by the Ministry of Health was opened at health staff training school in Dagon Township this morning.

Present were Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, Chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board Dr Than Nyun and members, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo, officials of the Ministry of Health, guests, course instructors and trainee doctors.

Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint spoke on the occasion. He said the course was conducted for assistant doctors and specialists who will be working in

Malaysia with the aims of understanding the twelve objectives, national politics, social relations and leadership, the Union Spirit, the Union Solidarity and Development Association and international affairs and preserving Myanmar traditional culture.

He said the purpose of sending doctors to Malaysia was to earn foreign exchange, to create overseas job opportunities and to serve the interest of the country after gaining experience.

The five-day course is being attended by altogether 63 trainees— 23 specialists and 40 assistant surgeons.—MNA

Rural development work inspected in Shan State (North)

YANGON, 23 Aug — Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Chairman North East Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing, Joint Secretary General of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Cooperatives Col Zaw Min and CEC member Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein met USDA members at the office of Shan State (North) USDA in Lashio township on 19 August morning.

Next, they visited the 24-acre plantations of local corn and paddy. On arrival at the Kutkai township USDA office, they met with USDA members, social organization members and locals. The commander and the ministers then went to the camp for

construction of border trade department in Muse (105 miles). Border Trade Department Deputy Director General U Hla Maw Oo reported on construction tasks. The joint secretary general and CEC member visited the Muse District USDA office and met with the members. On 20 August, they attended a ceremony to broadcast fertilizers to Hsinshweli monsoon paddy fields in Teinlon village in Muse District. Officials reported on cultivation of crops and participation of USDA members in the cultivation tasks. Then the ministers gave necessary instructions.

Later, they visited the plantations of Hsinshweli paddy strain in Selant village-tract in Muse Township. MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein addresses a ceremony to broadcast fertilizer. — L & F

67th birthday ceremony of Ngasutaung Sayadaw in Shwedaung township held

YANGON, 23 Aug — The 67th birthday ceremony of Buddhist missionary Sayadaw Bhaddanta Khemasara of Ngasutaung Dhama Yeiktha Monastery in Shwetaung township, Pyay District, Bago Division (West), was held in the precinct of Maha Muni Buddha Image on 19 August morning.

The birthday ceremony graced by State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Vice-Chairman Pyay Zotikayon Pali Takkatho Kyaungtaik Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhama Jotika Dhaja Bhaddanta Kondala, members of the Sangha and nuns, Chairman of Bago Division (West) Peace and Development Council Brig-Gen Hla Min, departmental officials, wellwishers and local people. Sayadaw Bhaddanta Khemasara invested the congregation with the Five Precepts.

Next, Brig-Gen Hla Min and wife offered alms to the Sayadaws, who delivered a sermon followed by sharing of merits gained. — MNA

Waso robes offering ceremony held in Pyinmana Station

YANGON, 23 Aug — A ceremony to donate Waso robes and provisions to members of Sangha was held in Pyinmana Township, Mandalay Division on 19 August.

Present on the occasion were members of Sangha, Col Tin Ngwe of Pyinmana Station and senior military officers, local authorities, departmental personnel, members of social organizations and wellwishers.

First, the ceremony was opened with three-time recitation of Namō Tassa. The congregation received the Five Precepts from Vice-Chairman of Township Sangha Nayaka Committee Sayadaw Bhaddanta Nānavamsa.

Next, Col Tin Ngwe supplicated on religious affairs and the congregation donated 575 Waso robes and 218 bags of rice to members of Sangha and shared merits gained. —MNA

FM sends felicitations to Ukraine

YANGON, 24 Aug—U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Borys Tarasyuk, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Ukraine, on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of Ukraine which falls on 24 August 2005.

MNA

Cooperatives Minister inspects weaving school in Amarapura Township

YANGON, 23 Aug — Minister for Cooperatives Col Zaw Min on yesterday met with officials and trainees of the weaving training school of the Cottage Industries Department in Amarapura Township, Mandalay, and fulfilled the requirements.

After the meeting, the minister inspected the Suvanna Bhummi Museum & Shop of the training school and Myanmar Association of Japan.

A total of 56 trainees from the Myanmar Textile Industries under the Ministry of Industry-1 are attending the training course at the school.

The minister also went to Mandalay Industrial Zone and production of water tanks for motor vehicles and fulfilled the requirements.

MNA

PBANRDA Minister inspects regional development tasks in Shan Sate (North)

YANGON, 23 Aug— Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt, accompanied by Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Phone Swe, Deputy Minister for Education Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min and officials, on 20 August went to the Basic Education High School in Pansang, in “Wa” region, Shan State (North), and inspected multi-media rooms of the school and fulfilled the requirements.

During their tour of Pansang, the minister and

party also inspected the out-patient department, medical store and operation room of the Pansang 50-bed hospital and the posts and telegraphs office in Pansang.

When they arrived at Myanmar Agriculture Service in Pansang, officials concerned reported on pilot cultivation of opium substitute crops and paddy and future tasks.

In the evening, Minister Col Thein Nyunt, Deputy Ministers Brig-Gen Phone Swe and Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min met with service personnel in Pansang.

At the meeting, Minister Col Thein Nyunt presented text books and clothes for students in “Wa” region and uniforms and foodstuff for the service personnel.

On 21 August, Minister Col Thein Nyunt and party inspected construction of Moneah Bridge across Namkha Creek in the east of Pansang. On completion, the bridge will be 450 ft long and 45 ft wide. Work has begun on the construction of the bridge in April, 2005, and it scheduled to complete by December 2005.

MNA

MWAF Vice-President visits Women's Domestic Science School



Vice-President of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation Daw Khin Lay Myint visits Women's Domestic Science School. — MNA

YANGON, 23 Aug — Vice-President of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation Daw Khin Lay Myint visited Women's Domestic Science School here today.

Accompanied by leader of Working Group of Protection and Rehabilitation of Women Daw Khin Aye, Head of Or-

ganization Department Daw Nyunt Nyunt Oo, General Secretary Dr Daw Khin Mar Tun, Joint General Secretary Daw Khin Hta May, Leader of Sub-working Group of Rehabilitation and Reintegration Daw Kyi Kyi Mya, Sub-working Group of Trafficking in Persons Daw Khin May Soe and

officials, Daw Khin Lay Myint visited the trainees of tailoring, embroidery, and vocational science courses.

She and party also met with all the trainees at the main hall. The vice-president presented K 2,000 each to all the 23 trainees.

MNA

Badminton tourney of F&R Ministry commences

YANGON, 23 Aug— Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun this morning opened the second badminton tournament of the Ministry of Finance and Revenue at the National Badminton Court on Kyongyin Street in Lanmadaw Township, here.

Also present on the occasion were wife of the minister, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Hla Thein Swe and wife, President of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Kyaw Kyaw Maung and wife, Chairman of Badminton Subcommittee Managing Director of Myanma Insurance U Thein Lwin, de-

partment heads, President of Myanmar Badminton Federation U Maung Maung Swe, officials of Great Wall Traditional Medicine Enterprise, invited guests and athletes.

First, the minister delivered an address. Next, men and women teams of Myanma Investment and Commercial

Bank, champions of the first tournament, returned the championship shields to the minister.

Chairman of the Badminton Subcommittee U Thein Lwin presented cash donation for MBF through President of MBF U Maung Maung Swe.

Altogether 10 men's teams and 10 women's teams will take part in the tournament which will be held up to 26 August.

MNA



F&R Minister Maj-Gen Hla Tun speaks at the opening of the badminton tourney. — (F&R)



Myanma Insurance Managing Director U Thein Lwin presents cash to MBF President U Maung Maung Swe. — NLM

Third coord meeting on annexes and protocols stage-3 of cross-border transport agreement in Greater Mekong subregion held

YANGON, 23 Aug— The third coordination meeting on annexes and protocols stage-3 of cross-border transport agreement in Greater Mekong subregion was held in Traders Hotel this morning.

Chairman of Work Committee for Ensuring Road Transport in Myanmar Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation Thura U Thuang Lwin

delivered an address.

Present were 32 delegates from Cambodia, China, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam, Asian Development Bank (ADB) and two consultants from Padeco Co Ltd and officials from the Ministry of Rail Transportation, the Ministry of Finance and Revenue, Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development, the Ministry of Construction, the Un-

ion of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and International Freight Forwarders Association.

In his address, Deputy Minister Thura U Thuang Lwin said he was glad to host the third meeting and expressed thanks for assistance of ADB. He spoke on removing of non-physical barriers for ensuring smooth transport in GMS countries. Now six GMS

countries have signed cross border agreement, he said.

Next, Senior Regional Cooperation Economist Mr Yushu Feng of Greater Mekong section of ADB also spoke on the occasion.

Those present at the meeting had documentary photos taken.

The meeting continues till 26 August.

MNA

Noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded

(23-8-2005)

Hkamti	(8.19) inches
Myitkyina	(3.67) inches
Kyauktaw	(3.50) inches
Kawthoung	(3.19) inches
Thaton	(2.09) inches,
Aunglan	(1.66) inches
Pyinmana	(1.03) inches.

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs leaves to attend the 21st ASEAN-Japan Forum

YANGON, 23 Aug— Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu left here by air this evening for Japan to attend the 21st ASEAN-Japan Forum to be held on 25-26 August 2005 in Tokyo, Japan.

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu was seen off at the Yangon International Airport by the Directors-General and officials concerned of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ambassador of Japan HE Mr Nobutake Odano. The Deputy Minister was accompanied by Deputy Director-General of the ASEAN Affairs Department U Kyee Myint.



Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister U Kyaw Thu being seen off at the airport by officials concerned on his departure for Japan to attend the 21st ASEAN-Japan Forum to be held in Tokyo.

MNA

MNA

Earthquake jolts Rome, coastal towns

ROME, 23 Aug — An earthquake shook Rome and nearby coastal towns on Monday, rattling buildings and sparking panic throughout the region, witnesses said.

The earthquake registered 4.4 on the Richter Scale, a spokesman at Italy's Civil Protection unit said.

Italy's National Geographic Institute said the epicentre appeared to be under the sea bed southwest of Rome near the coastal town of Anzio. "It felt very strong, my legs are still shaking,"

Valentina, an employee at Anzio city hall told Reuters. "We ran outside when it started so we still don't know the effects." Residents and workers throughout Rome fled their homes and offices as buildings in the Italian capital shook for around five seconds shortly after 2 pm (1200 GMT). — MNA/Reuters

Report says nearly half of Asia's children in poverty

BANGKOK, 23 Aug— From the garbage dumps of New Delhi to the tsunami-hit coastlines of Indonesia, nearly 600 million Asian children, or half its young population, are living in poverty, a leading child charity said on Monday.

"What is happening here is catastrophic," said Michael Diamond, Asia director for Plan, an international development agency, at the launch of a 'Growing up in Asia' report on child welfare in the region.

Despite rapid economic growth in many countries, including the world's most populous nations, China and India, many Asian children are being left behind and lack access to basics such as food, clean water, shelter, healthcare, education and sanitation.

If nothing is done by rich and poor countries alike, the lost potential — and lost lives — could be one of the most tragic failings of modern times, Diamond said.

"We will be judged in future generations, the future centuries, when they write the history and compare us maybe to the Holocaust," he said.

Detailing poverty across the region, the report said around 350 million children — nearly one in three of Asia's youngsters — were "absolutely poor", meaning they do not have access to two or more of a child's basic necessities. Another 250 million or so had no access to one of the basics, making for a total of about 600 million poor children in the region.

Outlining a strategy to spend one billion US dollars in 12 Asian countries in the next decade, the 68-year-old agency said it would try to give children a voice and change the attitudes of many societies towards their treatment of the under-18s.

"People say, 'Why do you have this problem? Is it lack of good governance? Is it corruption? Is it attitudes, cultures, Customs, mores?' The answer is it's all of those," said Plan chief executive Tom Miller.

"We are talking about the next generation, about children who haven't had a say in their lives to date, who have had adults taking their decisions for them," he added. — MNA/Reuters

China opens moon mission command centre

BEIJING, 23 Aug — China moved one small step closer to its goal of launching three unmanned missions to the moon by opening a lunar exploration centre in Beijing, the *China Daily* reported on Tuesday.

The centre, opened on Monday, would oversee the launch of a moon orbiter in 2007, a lunar lander in 2012 and a third satellite designed to reach the moon and bring back soil samples for research in 2017, the newspaper said. "The centre has also recruited a galaxy of promising and enterprising scientists to work on the lunar missions," it said.

China has developed an ambitious space programme since its first *Long March* rocket blasted off in 1970. It became the third country to send a man into space in October 2003 and regularly puts research satellites in orbit.

MNA/Reuters

Scientists send skin cell back to embryo stage

WASHINGTON, 23 Aug — US researchers said on Monday they have created a new human embryonic stem cell by fusing an embryonic stem cell to an ordinary skin cell.

They hope their method could someday provide a way to create tailor-made medical treatments without having to start from scratch using cloning technology.

That would mean generating the valuable cells without using a human egg, and without creating a human embryo, which some people, including President George W Bush, find objectionable.

But the team, led by stem cell expert Dr Douglas Melton, Kevin Eggan and others at Harvard Medical School, stress in a report to be published in next Friday's issue of the journal *Science* that their method is not yet perfect.

Stem cells are the body's master cells, used to continually regenerate tissues, organs and blood.

Those taken from days-old embryos are considered the most versatile. They can produce any kind of tissue in the body.

Doctors hope to someday use embryonic stem cells as a source of perfectly matched transplants to treat diseases such as cancer, Parkinson's and some injuries.

But because some people object to the destruction of or experimentation on a human embryo, US law restricts the use of federal funds for this kind of research. It is a hot debate in Congress and

several bills have been offered for consideration when the Senate comes back next month that would either relax the federal restrictions or tighten them even more. Melton has complained about the restraints and, like other experts, has used private funding to pursue stem cell work.

He and other stem cell experts say they only want to understand how to re-programme an ordinary cell and hope the use of human embryos would only be a short-term and interim step to learning how to manufacture these cells. The Harvard team say they have taken a big step in this direction.

MNA/Reuters

China's diplomacy contributes to world peace, development

BEIJING, 23 Aug — Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing highlighted in his signed article China's commitment to world peace, development and cooperation.

"China's diplomacy has made bold headway, serving domestic development and contributing to world peace and common development," said Li in the article titled "peace, development and cooperation".

Describing peace, development and cooperation as the irresistible trend of the times, Li said as new situations and new contradictions keep cropping up without letup, maintaining world peace and promoting common development remains the mission of all countries in the world.

Li said the international community has arrived at a deeper understanding that it must secure peace and promote development through cooperation.

China needs cooperation to maintain common security, realize common development and promote inter-civilization harmony and coexistence, Li said.

MNA/Xinhua

Nepal King tours areas after landmine blast

KATHMANDU, 23 Aug — Maoist rebels blew up a police vehicle in western Nepal on Monday, killing four policemen, as King Gyanendra began a tour of an area further to the west, officials said.

The Maoists, who have been fighting to replace the constitutional monarchy with a Communist republic for the past nine years, set off a mine under the police vehicle near the town of Butwal, 185 miles west of Kathmandu.

MNA/Xinhua



Local residents sign a banner to advocate the selection of the 'China rose' as the official flower for the 2008 Summer Olympics, in Zhengzhou, central China's Henan Province, on 22 August, 2005. China will host the 2008 Summer Olympics, scheduled to open in Beijing on 8 August, 2008. —INTERNET

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Civil Service Selection and Training Board

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV SANG THAI RADIUM VOY NO (14/2005)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V. SANG THAI RADIUM VOY NO (14/2005) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24-8-2005 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: SANG THAI TRANSPORT CO LTD, BANGKOK

Phone No: 256924/256914

S Korea, US kick off 12-day joint military drill

SEOUL, 22 Aug—South Korea and the United States kicked off a joint military exercise on Monday as scheduled despite of a protest from North Korea.

The annual training, dubbed the Ulchi Focus Lens, draws about 10,000 American troops and an undisclosed number of South Korean troops during its 12-day session, Kim Yong-kyu, a spokesman at the US Forces Korea (USFK)'s command in Seoul, was quoted by South Korean major news agency *Yonhap* as saying.

Half of the US forces came from the US bases in Japan, Guam and other bases outside the Korean Peninsula, Kim added.

The joint exercise has aroused strong criticism from North Korea who condemned exercise as a preparatory move to launch a preemptive nuclear attack against it.

MNA/Xinhua

Congo Republic police seize 253 kilos of smuggled ivory

BRAZZAVILLE, 22 Aug—Police in Congo Republic seized 253 kilos of elephant tusks that poachers were trying to smuggle out of the country by air, police said on Saturday.

Police discovered the haul consisting of 66 pieces of ivory at the Maya-Maya International Airport in the capital Brazzaville on Friday, saying it was probably destined to be smuggled out of West Africa via Ivory Coast's main city Abidjan.

"We have caught the forwarding agent, and the investigation in progress will allow us to find the destination," the head of airport security, Maxime Dikele, told reporters.

Elephants are protected by law in Congo Republic, where poachers hunt the animals for their tusks.

MNA/Reuters

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HONDA GIKEN KOGYO KABUSHIKI KAISHA (also trading as HONDA MOTOR CO., LTD), a company incorporated in Japan, of 1-1, 2-chome, Minami-Aoyama, Minato-ku, Tokyo, Japan, is the Owner of the following Trade Mark:-



Reg. No. 2442/2000
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In respect of "Infr Class 7: Machines and machine tools; motors and engines (except for land vehicles); Machine coupling and transmission components (except for land vehicles); agricultural implements other than hand-operated; incubators for eggs; especially, snowploughs, sprayers, washing apparatus, current generators, filters, pumps, power carriers, brush cutters, cultivators, outboards, lawnmowers, cargo handling machines and apparatus, motors other than for land vehicles, pneumatic or hydraulic machines and instruments, agricultural machines, starters, alternating or direct current motors (except for land vehicles), dishwashers, painting machines, washing installations for vehicles, waste compacting machines, waste crushing/shredding apparatus, control mechanisms; parts and fittings for the above mentioned goods. Infr Class 12: Vehicles; apparatus for locomotion by land, air and water, including automobiles and motorcycles; parts and accessories for the above mentioned goods. Infr Class 37: Repair, maintenance and installation services in this class, including such services for vehicles".

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

Win Mu Tin, M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L. for HONDA GIKEN KOGYO KABUSHIKI KAISHA P. O. Box 60, Yangon. Dated: 24 August 2005.

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TIN OHNMAR TUN BA(LAW)LLB(LLM)(UK)
P.O. Box. 109,
Ph:248108/723043
(For. Domnrm Songiat & Boonma Attorneys at Law, Thailand.)
Dated: 24 August 2005

Polish Air Force chief dies in private plane crash

WARSAW, 22 Aug — General Jacek Bartoszcze, the chief of Poland's Air Force, died in the crash of a two-seater plane on Saturday, a military spokesman said on Sunday.

"An inquiry is under way into the crash of the plane in which the General Bartoszcze was killed," Army General Staff spokesman Colonel Zdzislaw Gnatowski told *Reuters*.

Bartoszcze, 44, was performing aerobatics with an unnamed Belgian friend when the plane crashed in a rural area of eastern Lublin Province, reported private television channel TVN-24.

MNA/Reuters

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(Reg. No. 1/4854/2005)
used in respect of Infr Class 9 - "TV sets, computer software for controlling the operation of TV sets, mobile phones, computers, personal digital assistants, computer monitors, computer printers, digital versatile disc players, digital cameras, and MP3 players".
Fraudulent imitation or unauthorised use or other infringement whatsoever of this trademark will be dealt with according to law.
Hain Lin Oo (LLB) Advocate MYANMAR TRADEMARK AND PATENT LAW FIRM
E-mail: hlinoo@myanmar.net.mm Tel:254037 G.P.O Box:686 Yangon. 24 August 2005

Head-on collision kills 13 in South Africa

JOHANNESBURG, 22 Aug — Thirteen people were killed and eight injured, five of them critically, in a head-on collision near Beaufort West in the Karoo, about 900 kilometres southwest of Johannesburg, on Friday night, Southern Cape police said on Saturday.

Captain Eddie Cronje said a minibus and a car collided on the N1 between Beaufort West and Leeu Gamka, about 30 kilometres from Beaufort West.

Cronje said that at this stage it was not clear what happened, as the accident occurred on a straight stretch of road.

Police were also still trying to find out how many people were in the minibus and how many in the car.

MNA/Xinhua

China no threat to world by grain security

HARBIN, 22 Aug—China has marvellously succeeded in raising its grain output steadily through the introduction of reform and opening-up drive, along with the development of agrosocieties.

The remark was made by Nourddin Mona, China Representative of the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, who is here in this northeast Chinese province attending a

forum on cold and black soil held in Harbin, the provincial capital.

"China is no threat to the world in terms of grain or food security," said the FAO China representative, "because the country, despite its vast population, has solved its food problem in an exemplary way by following a path of reform, opening-up and unrelentingly developing agriculture through science and technology."

Statistics and a great number of agricultural bases prove China is capable of producing grain not only enough to feed its population sufficiently, but also to export to overseas markets, said Mona.

Because of its miracle of success, China has been cited as an example of success by UN in advocating the Millennium Development Plan, the FAO China representative said.—MNA/Xinhua

ပညာရေးနှင့် ခေတ်မီပွဲပြုစိုးတတ်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်ဖို့

Venezuela, Cuba reject US charges of destabilizing Latam

HAVANA, 22 Aug — Cuban leader Fidel Castro and visiting Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez refuted on Sunday US accusations that their governments exercised a destabilizing influence in Latin America.

During a special broadcast of Chavez' weekly radio and television show, "Hello Mr. President," from Cuba's western Pinar del Rio Province, the two leaders dismissed the US charges. It is the United States that "represents the greatest threat weighing on the world," Chavez said.

He stressed that Venezuela and Cuba want peace, but if "an imperialist aggression" happens, the two countries will join

hands to defend Cuba's independence and sovereignty.

During the programme, Castro scoffed at the US charges. According to the understanding of the United States, the Cuban leader said, "we cannot make a student study because that would be destabilizing," and "we cannot invite patients to get medical care because that is destabilizing."

The Venezuelan leader

travelled to Cuba Saturday to attend the graduation of 1,600 medical students from across Latin America who had studied here for free. US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld last week accused Venezuela and Cuba of trying to destabilize Bolivia, where indigenous revolts have overthrown two presidents in two years.

MNA/Xinhua



A fire-fighting aircraft refills water from Castelo de Bode River during a forest fire in Abrantes near Carreira do Mato, central Portugal on 22 August, 2005.

INTERNET

Yemen flash floods kill 12 in two days

SANAA, 22 Aug — Flash floods have killed a dozen people in Yemen and have injured at least six others in the poor Arab state, officials said on Sunday.

"Twelve people have died in the last two days due to heavy rains and there have been six injuries," a police official said, adding that 50 farmland animals had also died in the floods. The country's meteorological office has warned the heavy rains will continue for the next two days. Yemen, at the southern tip of the Arabian Peninsula, is prone to floods in spring and summer. The worst rains hit Yemen in 1996 and officials at the time estimated damage at 1.2 billion US dollars. — MNA/Reuters

Study shows women spot ovarian cancer signs early

WASHINGTON, 22 Aug — Many women with ovarian cancer complained of symptoms up to a year before diagnosis, but their doctors did not order the right tests for the fast-growing tumour until later, researchers said on Monday.

Elderly women with ovarian cancer were at least twice as likely to visit a doctor and report symptoms such as abdominal swelling or pelvic pain, Dr Lloyd Smith of the University of California at Davis School of Medicine in Sacramento and colleagues reported in Monday's issue of the journal

Cancer. "Our findings suggest that ovarian cancer could be diagnosed earlier in some patients," Smith said in a statement.

For their study they looked at the claims records of 1,985 elderly women with ovarian cancer, 6,024 elderly women with breast cancer, and 10,941 Medicare-enrolled women of the same age without cancer.

They compared diagnosis codes — which doctors write down when making insurance or Medicare

claims — and claims for diagnostic procedures.

They found about 40 per cent of the women had physician claims indicating one or more visits for abdominal or pelvic symptoms before their ovarian cancer was diagnosed.

While abdominal pain and swelling are not always symptoms of ovarian cancer, the disease is especially deadly because it usually is diagnosed after it has spread.

And it is a tumour that grows quickly, progressing from early to advanced

stages in as little time as a year, so speedy diagnosis is key.

This year, more than 22,000 women in the United States will be diagnosed with ovarian cancer and more than 16,000 will die of it, according to the American Cancer Society, which publishes Cancer.

It can be diagnosed with pelvic imaging, or a blood test for a protein called CA-125, although neither of these tests will detect all cases of ovarian cancer.

MNA/Reuters



Folk music legend Joan Baez performs at an anti-war protest camp near US President George W Bush's ranch in Crawford, Texas, on 21 August, 2005. — INTERNET

Folk legend Joan Baez joins protesters near Bush ranch

CRAWFORD (Texas), 22 Aug — Folk singer Joan Baez joined anti-war protesters near US President George W Bush's ranch on Sunday to meet with military families who want troops pulled out of Iraq.

"You know in the first march I went on against the war in Vietnam there were 10 of us," Baez said as she met with a group of women whose sons died in Iraq or were being deployed there.

"This is huge," she said. Hundreds of anti-war

supporters sat on fold-out chairs under a huge white tent on a pasture provided by a local landowner adjacent to a checkpoint near Bush's ranch.

It is the new campsite where supporters of Cindy Sheehan, whose son Casey died in Iraq last

year, moved. Sheehan drew attention to the anti-war movement when she came to Crawford on 6 August and camped out along a country road, asking that Bush meet her again and explain the cause for which her son died. — MNA/Reuters

Lions kill Japanese diplomat in Zimbabwe

HARARE, 22 Aug — A 50-year-old Japanese national attached to the Japanese Embassy in Harare has died from wounds she sustained when a pride of lions attacked her in a park on Thursday afternoon, police confirmed this to Xinhua on Sunday.

Police spokesperson Assistant Commissioner Wayne Bvudzijena told Xinhua through telephone that police were withholding the Japanese national's name as they were waiting for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to finalize some procedures. Bvudzijena said the woman was in the company of five other Japanese Embassy staff members during the outing at the Lion and Cheetah Park in the capital of Harare on Thursday afternoon.

The first two employees went into an enclosure housing lions in the company of a guide and came out unharmed. The same guide accompanied the woman and another embassy employee into the pen and proceedings seemed to flow smoothly until one of the lions suddenly pounced on the woman as she was about to leave the lion's pen. — MNA/Xinhua

New treatment works against SARS in monkeys

WASHINGTON, 22 Aug — An experimental treatment approach called RNA interference reduced the severity of SARS infections in monkeys, US researchers reported on Sunday.

A tiny Maryland-based biotech company less than a year old said monkeys infected with SARS either before or after treatment became less ill than untreated monkeys.

They believe their approach helps prevent the virus from infecting cells and perhaps also from spreading from cell to cell, they report in the September issue of the journal Nature Medicine.

Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, caused by a never-before-seen virus now named the SARS coronavirus, swept China's Guangdong Province and then spread globally in 2003. It infected more than 8,000 people and killed around 800 by causing pneumonia and lung failure.

It was contained using quarantine and isolation. But experts fear another outbreak could come at any time and companies are working on vaccines to prevent it and drugs to treat it.

MNA/Reuters

SPORTS

Federer downs Roddick to win Cincinnati Masters

CINCINNATI, 22 Aug— World number one Roger Federer won his ninth title of 2005 on Sunday, outgunning American Andy Roddick 6-3, 7-5 to clinch the Cincinnati Masters.

The top-seeded Swiss came from a break down in the second set to take the title, extending his winning streak in finals to 22 and sealing his fourth Masters Series title of the year.

"It's fantastic," Federer told the crowd.

"It's a little bit of a surprise because I hadn't played since Wimbledon, but I'm really happy to be back and I'm really looking forward to the US Open now."

One break was enough to give Federer the first set and although he was

broken in the fifth game of the second, he hit back immediately and repeated the feat in the 12th game.

The 24-year-old, in his first tournament since he won his third consecutive Wimbledon title in July, has now won 18 straight matches since losing to Spaniard Rafael Nadal in the semifinals of the French Open.

Roddick, who had some treatment to his right foot at 5-6 in the second set, said Federer had been too good.

"It was looking like a good match," he said.

"But then Roger started being Roger, and yada, yada, yada... But in all seriousness, Roger is a great champion, off the court as well as on it.

"I only felt something in my foot at 5-5, and I really don't know what to say about it. I'll get it looked at but hopefully it will be OK for New York City." —MNA/Reuters

Russian tycoon buys Israeli club Betar Jerusalem

JERUSALEM, 22 Aug— Russian-born businessman Arkady Gaidamak said on Sunday that he had taken total ownership of Israeli Premier League club Betar Jerusalem in a move likened in the Jewish state to that of Roman Abramovich at Chelsea.

Gaidamak, who last week bought a 55-per-cent stake in Betar, did not reveal how much he spent to increase his holding to 100 per cent when speaking at a news conference to make the announcement alongside Finance Minister Ehud Olmert.

Gaidamak was largely unknown to Israeli soccer fans before Sunday. He broke onto the Israeli sports scene last month when he took a controlling stake in Hapoel Jerusalem basketball club.

Abramovich has poured a fortune into Chelsea, a move which paid off last season when they won the Premier League title for the first time in 50 years.

Gaidamak said he was surprised by the relatively small amount he needed to invest in Betar, a distant fourth last season, and felt confident his money could make a great difference to the faltering club.

MNA/Reuters

Inter defender Samuel handed three-match ban for spitting

ROME, 23 Aug— Inter Milan defender Walter Samuel was handed a three-match ban on Monday after being found guilty of spitting at Juventus midfielder Pavel Nedved during Saturday's Italian Supercup.

The referee failed to spot the incident at the time, but Samuel was punished by the disciplinary committee of the Italian Football League on the basis of television footage of Saturday's match, which Inter won 1-0.

The 27-year-old Argentine international, who joined Inter from Real Madrid in August, will miss his side's opening three Serie A fixtures against Treviso, Palermo and Lecce.

MNA/Xinhua



Inter Milan's Argentine Walter Samuel, left, challenges for the ball with Juventus' Zlatan Ibrahimovic of Sweden during the Italian Supercup soccer match between Juventus and Inter Milan in Turin, northern Italy, on Saturday, 20 Aug, 2005, in this photo made available on Monday, 22 Aug, 2005. —INTERNET

Villa agree terms with Liverpool for Baros

LONDON, 23 Aug— Aston Villa have agreed undisclosed terms with Premier League rivals Liverpool to buy Czech Republic striker Milan Baros.

Baros will have a medical on Tuesday with a view to signing a four-year contract, Villa said on their official web site on Monday.

"We have reached an agreement with Liverpool to sign the player and the next step is for him to have a medical," said Villa operations director Steve Stride.

"Hopefully we can conclude the deal." Baros, who is under contract with the European champions until 2007, joined Liverpool from Banik Ostrava for a fee of 3.6 million pounds in December 2001.

The 23-year-old Baros has scored 18 goals in 27 appearances for the Czech Republic.

MNA/Reuters



Milan Baros, seen here on 9 August, 2005, was on the brink of joining Aston Villa from Liverpool after the Premiership rivals agreed on Monday a fee for the Czech striker. —INTERNET

Chinese mixed pair wins silver at World Badminton C'ships

LOS ANGELES, 22 Aug— Chinese duo Xie Zhongbo and Zhang Yawen won the silver medal at the World Badminton Championships here on Sunday.

The Chinese duo lost to fourth seeded Nova Widiyanto and Liyana Nastir of Indonesia on Sunday 15-13, 8-15 and 2-15 in three games.

This is the first gold Indonesia won at the championships.

Xie and Zhang are the 11th seed at the championships and the only Chinese mixed duo to enter the semifinals after Olympic gold medallists Ling Gao and Jun Zhang from China had failed to qualify for the semifinals.

Xie and Zhang faced Widiyanto and Nastir at 2005 Noonnoppi Korea Open and lost to the Indonesian pair 6-15 and 16-17. —MNA/Xinhua

Australian claims 7th stage title at Tour of Germany

BERLIN, 22 Aug— Australian cyclist Cadel Evans won the 177-kilometre seventh stage of the Tour of Germany from Singen to the top of the Feldberg mountain on Sunday.

Swiss Fabian Jeker finished second behind the 28-year-old Davitamon Lotto leader with German Joerg Jaksche third in an exciting mountaintop finish.

American Levi Leipheimer retained the overall lead after finishing fourth, 12 seconds behind the winner. German T-Mobile rider Jan Ullrich lost another 30 seconds. —MNA/Xinhua

Jarosik joins Birmingham on loan

LONDON, 23 Aug— Midfielder Jiri Jarosik has joined Birmingham City on loan from champions Chelsea, with a view to making the deal permanent at the end of the season.



Out-of-favour midfielder Jiri Jarosik has been loaned by champions Chelsea to Premiership rivals Birmingham. INTERNET

The 27-year-old Czech international made 20 appearances for Chelsea after transferring from CSKA Moscow in January. "At his best I think he's an attacking midfielder player who likes to get on

the end of crosses and it's his versatility that really appeals," Birmingham manager Steve Bruce told Birmingham's web site.

Jarosik has been pushed down the Chelsea pecking order by the arrival of Michael Essien from Olympique Lyon and Shaun Wright-Phillips from Manchester City.

He will be in the Birmingham squad for Tuesday's Premier League match at home to Middlesbrough. Jarosik takes over the position vacated by former England and Tottenham Hotspur midfielder Darren Anderson, who on Monday completed a free transfer to second division Wolverhampton Wanderers. —MNA/Reuters

Arsenal's Ljungberg to have scan on knee injury

LONDON, 23 Aug— Arsenal midfielder Freddie Ljungberg will have a scan after injuring his knee during Sunday's 1-0 Premier League defeat by champions Chelsea.

The Sweden international was carried off the pitch on a stretcher 30 minutes into the match after colliding with advertising hoardings. "The first X-ray was clean and clear... but I feel that we need a scan on Monday because he cannot walk," manager Arsene Wenger told the Arsenal web site.

"It does not look too bad but he is on crutches at the moment."

The club did not say how long Ljungberg could be sidelined but the 28-year-old will almost certainly miss Arsenal's next match at home to Fulham

in the Premier League on Wednesday. Arsenal start their Champions League campaign in the second week of September while

Sweden have World Cup qualifiers against Bulgaria on September 3 and Hungary four days later.

MNA/Reuters

Bulgaria's Kamburov gets four-game European ban

SOFIA, 23 Aug— Lokomotiv Plovdiv striker Martin Kamburov has been banned for four European games after spitting at an opponent during his side's UEFA Cup second qualifying round tie against OFK Belgrade earlier this month.

The 24-year-old Bulgarian international was sent off during the 2-1 first-leg defeat by OFK Belgrade on 11 August.

Lokomotiv coach Eduard Eranosian said on Monday the ban would start with immediate effect after European soccer's governing body UEFA informed the Bulgarian club of their decision.

MNA/Reuters

US breaks up counterfeiting ring, arrests 59

WASHINGTON, 23 Aug — US authorities seized more than 4 million US dollars in high-quality counterfeit 100 US dollars bills and Viagra in sting operations that involved luring suspects to a fake wedding on a yacht, Justice Department and Homeland Security officials said on Monday.

The officials said the undercover operations in New Jersey and across the country broke up an international counterfeiting and smuggling ring with ties to Asia. They arrested 59 people on racketeering charges and another 28 were indicted but have not yet been arrested.

The charges related to an international conspiracy to launder money

and smuggle counterfeit US currency, weapons, drugs and cigarettes into the United States. "This essentially was an organization that was willing to be a one-stop shop for illegal goods," said John Richter, acting head of the Justice Department's criminal division.

"We seized more than 4 million US dollars of highly deceptive currency. ... And we did it

before it could enter circulation and before it could do damage, any damage, to our economy," Richter said.

In New Jersey, the FBI sent invitations to a fake wedding of two undercover agents, then arrested 42 people as they arrived for the event which was supposedly going to take place on a yacht in Atlantic City. Another 17 people were arrested across the country and the rest have not been arrested.

Authorities seized the fake 100 US dollars bills as well as more than 700,000 US dollars worth of counterfeit US postage stamps, 10,000 US dollars worth of counterfeit Viagra pills and 36,000 ecstasy pills.

The goods were smuggled into ports in New Jersey and the Los Angeles area on container ships with false bills of lading for toys, rattan and plastic furniture and other goods.

Officials said the or-

ganization had ties to factories overseas which were manufacturing counterfeit cigarettes and smuggling them to the United States in the same manner.

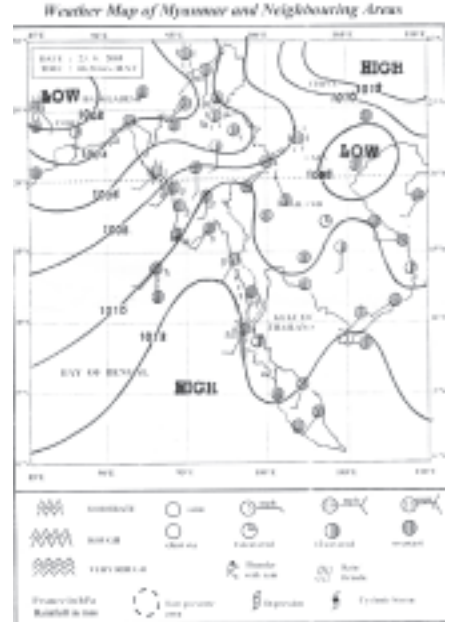
Officials would not give specifics of what Asian countries were involved, except to say that the counterfeit cigarettes came from China.

The indictments also charge two people with conspiring to engage in arms trafficking for setting up a one-million-US-dollar deal to sell weapons including silencer pistols, rocket launchers and silencer sub-machine guns.

MNA/Reuters



U Chit Myaing, member of Administrative Board of Hninzigon Home for the Aged accepts K 100,000 donated to the fund by U Myint Soe Aung - Daw Zin Mar and family of No 20 A, 4th floor, Byaingyehsin, Tarmway Township, recently. — H



WEATHER

Tuesday, 23 August, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kayah State and lower Sagaing Division, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Chin State, Mandalay, Magway and Ayeyawady Divisions, scattered in Shan, Rakhine and Kayin States, upper Sagaing and Bago Divisions and widespread in the remaining states and divisions with isolated heavyfalls in Kachin and Rakhine States, upper Sagaing, Magway and Taninthayi Divisions. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Hkamti (8.19) inches, Myitkyina (3.67) inches, Kyauktaw (3.50) inches, Kawthoung (3.19) inches, Thaton (2.09) inches, Aunglan (1.66) inches and Pinyinman (1.03) inches.

Maximum temperature on 22-8-2005 was 86°F. Minimum temperature on 23-8-2005 was 69°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 23-8-2005 was 93%. Total sunshine hours on 22-8-2005 was 0.3 hr approx. Rainfalls on 23-8-2005 were 0.04 inch at Mingaladon, 0.12 inch at Kaba-Aye, 0.16 inch at central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were 67.84 inches at Mingaladon, 70.47 inches at Kaba-Aye and 74.92 inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 6 mph from Southwest at (14:50) hours MST on 22-8-2005.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 24-8-2005: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Chin and Kayah States, lower Sagaing and Magway Divisions, scattered in Shan and Rakhine States, upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago and Ayeyawady Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Kachin State, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions. Degree of certainty is 80%.

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Decrease of rain in the coastal areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 24-8-2005: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 80%.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 24-8-2005: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 60%.

Earthquake Report

(Issued at 09:00 hrs MST on 23-8-2005)
An earthquake of slight intensity (4.2) Richter Scale with its epicenter inside Myanmar about (48) miles Northwest of Kaba-Aye seismological observatory was recorded at (05) hrs (34) min (12) sec MST on 23rd August, 2005.

Flood Warning

(Issued at 12:30 hrs MST on 23-8-2005)
According to the (06:30) hrs MST observation today, the water levels of Chindwin River at Hkamti and Homalin are (1237) cm and (2753) cm respectively. The water levels may reach the Hkamti danger level (1360) cm during the next (48) hours and the Homalin danger level (2900) cm during the next (72) hours commencing noon today.



Wednesday, 24 August

- Tune in today:**
- 8.30 am Brief news
 - 8.35 am Music: - We've got it going on (BSB)
 - 8.40 am Perspectives
 - 8.45 am Music: - B r e a t h e (Xtrene)
 - 8.50 am National news/Slogan
 - 9.00 am Music: - One & one (Myles)
 - 9.05 am International news
 - 9.10 am Music: - Offshore - (Chiance)
 - 1.30 pm News/Slogan
 - 1.40 pm Lunch time music - I can't wait forever (Air Supply)
 - Something to talk about (Bonnie Rai H)
 - One more night (Kenny Wayne)
 - While we cry (Shephant)
 - 9.00 pm Variations on a tune - Eternal Flame (B e n g l e s , MLTR, Human Nature, Atomic Kitten)
 - 9.15 pm Article
 - 9.25 pm Music at your request - Too much love - When you believe - Song for the asking
 - 9.45 pm News/Slogan
 - 10.00 pm PEL



Wednesday, 24 August

View on today:

- 7:00 am
 1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Ottamathara
- 7:15 am
 2. တိပိဋကဓမ္မ ဓမ္မတာဇာနိတိက၊ အဂ္ဂမဟာပဏ္ဍိတ၊ ဘဒ္ဒန္တသိန္ဓိယာ ဘိဝံသ(ဇောဆရာတော်)ဇောကြားတော်မူအပ်သော ဥပသုတ္တံ သဒ္ဓါပါဠိတော်
- 7:25 am
 3. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am
 4. Morning news
- 7:40 am
 5. Nice and sweet song
- 7:55 am
 6. အတိတ်ပြန်ပွဲ
- 8:00 am
 7. ပြုပြင်ကြည့်ရုံ ယဉ်ကျေးမှုအထ
- 8:10 am
 8. အရေးပြိုင်ပွဲ

- 8:20 am
 9. ဓါင်းစည်းအင်အား ရောဝတီ မြစ်ကူးတံတား
- 8:30 am
 10. International news
- 8:45 am
 11. Let's Go
- 4:00 pm
 1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm
 2. Songs to uphold National Spirit
- 4:30 pm
 3. အခင်းသစ်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ - ဒုတိယနှစ်(ဓာတုဗေဒသိပ္ပံ)အထူးပြုများ (ဓာတုဗေဒ)
- 4:45 pm
 4. Song of national races
- 5:00 pm
 5. ၂၀၀၅ ခုနှစ်၊ ဇေယျာခမ အကြိမ်(သုကြိမ်) မြန်မာ့ရိုးရာ ယဉ်ကျေးမှု အဆိုအကားအရေ၊ အတိတ်ပြန်ပွဲဝင်များ လေ့လာနိုင် ကြရန်(ဓမ္မစုစာတော်) (အခြေခံ (အမျိုးသမီး) ၁၀-၁၅ နှစ်)
- 5:15 pm
 6. Classical song
- 5:30 pm
 7. ရွှေယံရုံလင်အာဆီယံအစဉ်
- 5:40 pm
 8. မြန်မာ့ရိုးရာ လက်တွေ့ပွဲ
- 6:00 pm
 9. သုတစုံလင် ဓမ္မဉာဏ်ရှင်
- 6:30 pm
 10. Evening news
- 7:00 pm
 11. Weather report
- 7:05 pm
 12. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ချောက်ဆုံးသွားသောအရာ" (အပိုင်း-၂)
- 7:35 pm
 13. Strong and healthy Myanmar
- 7:45 pm
 14. ကြားမြင်သုတပြည့်စုံစေရာ စာပဒေသာ
- 8:00 pm
 15. News
- 8:05 pm
 16. International news
- 8:10 pm
 17. Weather report
- 8:15 pm
 18. "စာအုပ်အတွင်းမှ သိရန်များ" (ဇွဲလ်ကလေးတင် အောင် တင်ဆက်သည်)
- 8:20 pm
 19. The next day's programme

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

Prime Minister felicitates Ukrainian counterpart

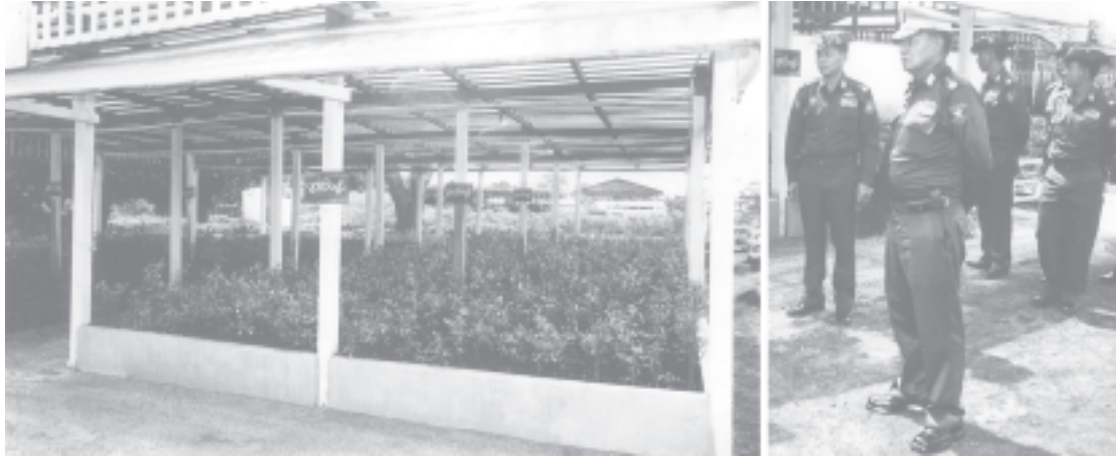
YANGON, 24 Aug— General Soe Win, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to Her Excellency Ms Yulia Tymoshenko, Prime Minister of the Republic of Ukraine, on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of Ukraine which falls on 24 August 2005. —MNA

Government Technological College is situated at Lashio-Theikdi roadside. It is being built on an areas of 52.15 acre. It is 573 feet in length and 358 feet in width. It holds a capacity of 3,000 students.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win makes field trip to construction site of GTC in Lashio

YANGON, 23 Aug — Accompanied by Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing, senior military officers and national race leaders, member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Kyaw Win of the Ministry of Defence went on an inspection tour of cultivation of 1,500 honey orange trees in nursery farm No 1 of North-East Command on 20 August afternoon.

On his arrival, plantation in-charge Lt-Col Myo Chit reported to Lt-



Lt-Gen Kyaw Win of the Ministry of Defence inspects honey orange tree plantation of the local battalion under the North-East Command. MNA

Gen Kyaw Win on cultivation process of honey orange trees through modern method. Lt-Gen Kyaw Win then attended to the needs.

Next, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party inspected Hsinshweli soya-bean sunflower and corn and foodstuff manufactured from these crops displayed in the farm of (See page 8)

Cash donated for second time for 13th Myanmar performing arts competitions

YANGON, 23 Aug — The second cash donation ceremony of the fund-raising and prize-

presentation subcommittee for organizing the 13th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts competitions took place at the city hall of the Yangon City (See page 8)



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe accepts K 3 million donated by YCDC presented by Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin for the 13th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions. — MNA

Saw-Kyaukhtu-Htilin-Yaymyetni Road in Gangaw District, Magway Division, put into service

YANGON, 23 August— The 77 miles and seven furlongs long Saw-Kyaukhtu-Htilin-Yaymyetni Road constructed by Public Works (Gangaw District, Magway Division) under the Ministry of Construction was opened at the pavilion at mile post No 24/2 on Kyaukhtu-Saw Section in Saw, Gangaw District, yesterday.

It was attended by Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye, Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, Chairman of Magway Division PDC

Col Phone Maw Shwe, Vice-Chairman of Chin State PDC, senior military officers, officials, social organizations, and local people.

The commander, the minister and Chairman of Magway Division PDC Col Phone Maw Shwe formally opened Saw-Kyaukhtu (Pansan) Section at the archway No 1, archway No 2 at mile

post No 6/0 on Kyaukhtu-Saw Section, and Pakokku-Pauk-Htilin-Gangaw Section at mile post No 78/2 near Kyaukhtu.

They proceeded to the pavilion of archway No 4 at mile post 17/0 on Pansan-Htilin Road. The minister in his speech said that in the past there were no better transport (See page 8)

INSIDE

The literati should always get in touch with the present prevailing or changing situations and should write letters in the service of the people. They should educate the people, and that only with the collective efforts, the dangers of the destructive elements can be warded off successfully.

PAGE 7 CHINGYA (MAUBIN)