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Thursday, 25 August, 2005

Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

Only when service personnel at all levels follow the instructions will they win the trust of the people

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win makes field trip to Shan State (North)

YANGON, 24 Aug — Accompanied by Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing, Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Kyaw Win of the Ministry of Defence went on an inspection tour of Tangyan on 21 August morning.

After inspecting Tangyan-Mongkaung-Monghsu road section, 4 miles from Tangyan, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party



Lt-Gen Kyaw Win makes a speech in meeting with service personnel, members of social organizations and townselders in Tangyan. —MNA



Government is implementing programmes for the emergence of new, modern developed democratic nation through the strenght of the entire people upholding Our Three Main National Causes. Moreover, it has laid down projects and is implementing all-round development tasks in all parts of the country. Service personnel are not only to carry out the tasks for the country with goodwill but also to try to become reliable ones.



Lt-Gen Kyaw Win presents gifts for family members of Tatmadawmen through an officer. — MNA

arrived at project briefing hall.

At the briefing hall, Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing reported to them on measures taken for progress in building of Hsipaw-Nanlung-Tonlaw-Pankaytu-Leikha road section and Mongyai-Nanlong road section implemented by North-East Command. Measures are being taken for building the remaining Tangyan-Mongkaung-Monghsu road section which 52 miles and three furlongs long. It links Shan State (North) and (South). Now 40-foot

wide earth road has reached Monghsu.

Twenty-five per cent of tarring of road section was finished from Tangyan to Mongkaung.

Next, Col Khin Maung Myint of Tangyan Station reported to them on stockpiling of gravel to build the remaing road section and maintenance of the road section. In connection with the reports, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win gave instructions on tasks to be carried out for building the remaining road to be used in all seasons.

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INSIDE

A look at the developments of Myanmar sports shows that Myanmar athletes, especially Myanmar soccer team, were qualified to be able to take part not only in Asian sports events but also in the Olympic games and gained victories for the nation. The Myanmar football team had been able to remain at the top of the Asian football matches.

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PERSPECTIVES

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

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 25 August, 2005

Raise dignity and sports standard of the nation

The ceremony to honour the Myanmar youth football team, the AFF U-20 ASEAN Champion, was held at the Sedona Hotel on 22 August and it was attended by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, who is also Chairman of Myanmar National Olympic Council. In his address, the Secretary-1 called on the athletes to make constant efforts with sporting spirit to gain more achievements in international sports events in response to encouragement and support of the people.

A look at the developments of Myanmar sports shows that Myanmar athletes, especially Myanmar soccer team, were qualified to be able to take part not only in Asian sports events but also in the Olympic games and gained victories for the nation. The Myanmar football team had been able to remain at the top of the Asian football matches.

Now, in accordance with the objective — uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation — the government and the entire national people have been giving enthusiastic support and encouragement to Myanmar athletes to enhance the standard of Myanmar sports. Due to such support and encouragement, Myanmar athletes have now begun winning successive victories. Myanmar football team had been away from trophy for about 30 years. But now, it has been able to gain successes as selected Myanmar youth football teams emerged ASEAN U-17 Youth Football Champions in 2002, ASEAN U-18 Youth Football Champions in 2003 and U-18 BIMSTEC Youth Football Champions in 2004. This year also, selected Myanmar youth football team has emerged AFF U-20 Champions and it can be seen as the beginning of the new history of Myanmar football team.

The success of U-20 selected Myanmar youth football team has paved the way for the team to gain more achievements in the international competitions. At a time when the government and the people are giving full support and encouragement to sports, all athletes should not be complacent with some of their achievements but are required to put their energies into sports to be able to achieve more successes in ASEAN, Asia and international sports meets and to raise the dignity and sports standard of the nation.

နိုင်ငံတော်အစိုးရဌာနပိုင် မော်တော်ယာဉ်မသုံးစွဲရနေ့

လစဉ်လ၏ ဒုတိယပတ် (တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့)နှင့် နောက်ဆုံးပတ် (တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့)တို့သည် ရုံးလုပ်ငန်းအတွက် မဖြစ်မနေသွားလာရန်လိုအပ်သည့် ကိစ္စရပ်များမှအပ မော်တော်ယာဉ်များ မသုံးစွဲရနေ့ ဖြစ်သည်။

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(၂၅-၉-၂၀၀၅) ရက်နေ့။

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

PBANRDA Minister inspects regional developments

YANGON, 24 Aug — Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt, accompanied by Director-General of Progress of Border Areas and National Races Department U Than Swe, Director of Shan State (North) Development Affairs Committee U Kye Myint and officials, arrived at the training school for development for national races in Tangyan, Shan State, on 19 August.



Minister Col Thein Nyunt meeting with students of the training school for development of national races in Tangyan, Shan State (North). — PBANRDA

The minister and party inspected the teaching at the training, hostels and mess halls of the trainees and planting the vegetables in the compound of the school.

Afterwards, the minister met the staff and at-

tended to the needs. Next, the minister provided cash assistance to the trainees.

On arrival at Shwe Moun Nunnery in Tangyan, the minister and

party offered rice to the nuns and Wailuw-on Monastery.

When they arrived at the township development affairs committee office, the minister gave neces-

sary instructions.

At Kaingkon Pariyatti Monastery, the minister and party offered provisions and rice to the member of Sangha.

MNA

Myanmar delegation leaves for ROK

YANGON, 24 Aug — A Myanmar delegation led by Managing Director U Bo Kyi of Myanmar Motion Picture Enterprise left here by air this evening to attend the 5th Guamju International Film Festival to be held in Guamju, the Republic of Korea, from 26 August to 4 September, and the ceremony to mark the 30th Anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between Korea and Myanmar.

The delegation was seen off at Yangon International Airport by Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein, directors-general and managing directors of departments and enterprises under the Ministry of Information, Head of Office U Ye Tint, officials of MMPE and families.

Managing Director U Bo Kyi of MMPE was accompanied by Head of Branch U Hla Yi of the Ministry of Information.



Myanmar delegation seen at the airport before departure for Korea. — MNA

MNA

Malaysian delegation visits Hlinethaya Industrial City



Malaysian delegation visits Hlinethaya Industrial Zone-1. — MNA

YANGON, 24 Aug — A delegation led by Col Sheikh Mokhsin bin Sheikh Hassan of Malaysian Armed Forces Staff College visited Hlinethaya Industrial City this morning.

First, an official briefed them on the industrial city at the administration office.

They visited an iron foundry in Industrial Zone-1, the wood finished factory in Industrial Zone-3 and the foundry of Fair Sun Co Ltd in the industrial city. — MNA

S Korean President to visit US Mexico, Costa Rica next month

SEOUL, 23 Aug — South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun will visit the United States, Mexico and Costa Rica early next month, Roh's spokesman Kim Man-soo said on Monday.

The President will first fly to Mexico City on 8 September for a four-day state visit there, during which Roh will hold summit meeting with his Mexican counterpart Vicente Fox on ways to enhance their comprehensive cooperative relationship in security and trade, said Kim.

Roh will then fly to San Jose on 11 September to meet with Costa Rican President Abel Pacheco.

On the last leg of the three-nation tour, Roh will visit New York on 13 September to attend a roundtable meeting with leaders from around the world on ways of reforming the United Nations, said Kim.

The South Korean leader will make a keynote speech to the UN General Assembly on 14 September on establishing a new order of peace and co-prosperity.

The UN visit will be the first time for Roh since he took office in early 2003.

MNA/Xinhua



A worker washes away blood as a wounded person is transferred to the hospital in Baquba, 60 kilometres (35 miles) northeast of Baghdad, on Tuesday, 23 Aug, 2005.—INTERNET

ထုတ်ကုန်နှစ်ဆ တိုးမြှင့်ကြ

Singapore-Australia hold joint ministerial committee meeting

CANBERRA, 23 Aug — Australian and Singaporean ministers will focus on joint efforts to promote a secure and stable region and to combat terrorism in the fifth Singapore-Australia Joint Ministerial Committee (SAJMC) meeting starting from Monday in Perth, Australia.

Announcing the meeting in a statement, Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer said, "Singapore and Australia have an excellent bilateral relationship."

"This meeting of the SAJMC will provide a timely opportunity to share perspectives on a range of key areas of cooperation, including defence, counter-terrorism and on the commercial front," Downer said.

Ministers will also discuss progress on the economic front, including implementing the Singapore-Australia Free Trade Agreement and new trade and investment opportunities. — MNA/Xinhua

China to host Sino-African summit next year

BEIJING, 23 Aug — China will host a summit meeting involving Chinese and African leaders next year in Beijing, in a bid to institute the layout of Sino-African cooperation.

Lu Guozeng, Chinese Assistant Foreign Minister, told the Fourth Senior Officials Meeting of the China-Africa Cooperation Forum started here on Monday that the summit will be accompanied by the third ministerial meeting of the forum.

"Since the second ministerial conference held in Addis Ababa,

capital of Ethiopia at the end of 2003, China and Africa have worked vigorously to implement follow-up actions with quite some effective measures, which have achieved expected results," Lu said.

China and Africa maintained a frequent exchange of high-level visits and close consultation and cooperation in international affairs since

then, he said.

The two sides also carried out sound economic and trade cooperation and fruitful cooperation in human resource training, peace-keeping, environmental protection, tourism, culture, education and sanitation.

"The forum has become a good, effective mechanism for consultation and dialogue and a

sound platform for practical cooperation between China and African countries," he said.

The senior diplomat said China will, along with Africa partners, further enrich the new China-Africa partnership featuring long-term stability, equality, mutual benefit and an all-round cooperation.

Haile-Kiros Gessesse, special envoy for China-Africa Cooperation Forum of Ethiopia, told the opening ceremony of the meeting that both Africa and China exerted relentless efforts to implement the Addis Ababa Action Plan adopted by the ministerial conference.

He said China's duty-free grant for some African products is "indeed an encouraging development". He also appreciated China's contribution to Africa's human resource training and aid in other fields.

China's development experience is helpful for African countries and he hopes to enhance Sino-African cooperation in the spheres of trade and investment, he said.

MNA/Xinhua

1,874 US soldiers killed in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 23 Aug—As of Tuesday, 23 August, 2005, at least 1,874 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,451 died as a result of hostile action, according to the military's numbers. The figures include five military civilians.

Since the start of US military operations in Iraq, 14,120 US servicemembers have been wounded, according to a Defence Department tally released Tuesday.—Internet

Portugal battles on against fires

LISBON, 24 Aug—Forests, farm and scrubland continue to blaze in Portugal despite some success in containing some of the fires.

Hundreds of firefighters are tackling fires near the historic city of Coimbra, and other districts remain on high alert.

Water-dropping aircraft provided by other European countries continue to work alongside Portuguese firefighters.

A summer of drought has sparked fires across southern Europe, with Spain and France also fighting flames.

At least 15 people have died and 140,000 hectares have been destroyed in Portugal this year from fires, often started deliberately in bone-dry countryside forests.

Four people, including a former firefighter, were arrested on Tuesday on suspicion of arson, police said. A total of 102 people have been held this year.

The fire near the university city of Coimbra has been burning since Sunday. More than 400 firefighters are trying to contain the blaze and there are hopes that cooler temperatures could help the situation.

Portugal's fire service (SNBPC) said six fires were now under control but three were still burning out of control in the Viseu district.—Internet

Encephalitis claims 131 in north India

NEW DELHI, 23 Aug— The rapidly spreading encephalitis has claimed 131 lives in north India's Uttar Pradesh by Sunday, Indo-Asian News Service reported.

Ten children have died of the killer virus across Uttar Pradesh since Saturday.

Doctors are finding it hard to cope with the rising number of patients, said the special encephalitis unit under the Gorakhpur Medical College, adding that despite pumping in all available resources they are unable to curb the death.

MNA/Xinhua

Gunmen kill eight Iraqi policemen north of Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 23 Aug — Gunmen ambushed a minibus carrying eight policemen in Tarmiyah area north of Baghdad on Monday, killing them all, police said.

"Armed men opened fire at a minibus carrying eight policemen wearing civilian cloths as they were heading for work at Tarmiyah police station," an Interior Ministry source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

Three civilians aboard and the driver were wounded in the attack,

which took place about one kilometre away from the police station, the source said.

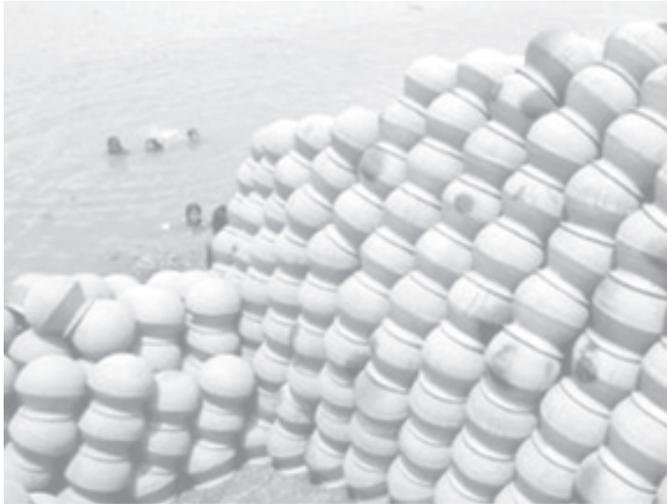
The source said the victims were evacuated to Kadhumiyah Hospital in northern Baghdad.

Militants have frequently attacked and kidnapped Iraqi officials, government employees and security forces in an attempt to cripple the Shiite-dominated government formed in late April.

MNA/Xinhua



A US soldier looks inside a car which is overturned after being shot by unknown gunmen in Baghdad on 23 August, 2005.—INTERNET



Vendors pile earthen pots on the bank of the River Buriganga in Dhaka on 23 August, 2005. The pots are used to keep yogurt in sweet meat shops.

INTERNET

ဝတ်မှုစွမ်းအား ခေတ်ကျော်လွှား

Vietnam to host Int'l Agriculture Fair in December

HANOI, 23 Aug— The International Agriculture Fair 2005 will be held in Vietnam's southern Can Tho City in December with the expected participation of 500 local companies and over 100 foreign ones, its organizers said on Monday.

The fair on December 6-12 will mainly showcase agricultural machines and technologies, animal strains, seeds and seedlings of local and foreign firms from China, Thailand, South Korea, the United States, France and other countries.

During the fair, to be hosted by Vietnam's ministries of trade, agriculture and rural development and the Can Tho People's Committee, seminars on farm produce trademarks and ceremonies to honour well-performing enterprises will be held.

The International Agriculture Fair 2004 attracted 550 Vietnamese companies and 80 foreign ones. The embassies of the United States, Israel, Denmark, Canada and Thailand in Vietnam also partook in the fair, introducing achievements, cooperation programmes and investment projects in the fields of agriculture and rural development, the organizers said. —MNA/Xinhua

Li Zhaoxing on China's international relations

BEIJING, 23 Aug — Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing said here Monday that the relations between China and the United States have kept growing steadily over the past decades.

"China-US relations have, on the whole, maintained stability and growth. Dialogues and exchanges at the various levels have improved mutual understanding and mutual trust," Li said in a signed article posted on the ministry's official web site.

He said the two countries have strengthened dialogue and cooperation in the economic, scientific, technological, counter-terrorism, non-proliferation, regional security and other fields, which serves not only the fundamental interests of the two countries but also peace and stability in the world.

On the China-Japan relations, Li said China attaches importance to China-Japan relations and the two countries have enjoyed close economic cooperation and frequent personnel exchanges.

Li said in the face of the complex political relations in recent years, China maintains that the two sides, the leaders of the two countries in particular, should act in the strategic and long-term interests, strictly abide by the principles enshrined in the three bilateral political documents and, following the principle of "taking history as a guide and looking to the future", step up exchanges and cooperation and create conditions for steady and sound development of bilateral relations by removing obstacles. Talking about the China-Russia ties, Li said the strategic partnership of cooperation between China and Russia continues to deepen, as the leaders of the two countries have kept up close exchanges in mutual trust and mutual respect.

He said the two countries have worked in close coordination and cooperation on regional and international concerns, promoting in a concerted effort multilateralism and greater democracy in international relations.

Li also hailed China-EU relations, saying that the overall strategic partnership between China and Europe has become richer in substance.

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PT Microsoft Indonesia plans to set up SME centre in Jakarta

JAKARTA, 23 Aug — PT Microsoft Indonesia, the Indonesian subsidiary of US software giant Microsoft Corp, plans to set up a center this year to promote the use of information technology among the country's small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

"We have millions of SMEs but their competitiveness in the global market lags far behind those in neighbouring countries. Our company is seeking a way to support them by using IT to improve their skills," the company's President Tony Chen was quoted on Monday by *The Jakarta Post* as saying.

"If they (SMEs) succeed in growing, our economy will also grow and more jobs will be created," he said.

Data from the Ministry of Cooperatives, and Small and Medium Enterprises show that as of the end of last year there were 42.4 million SMEs nationwide employing a total of 79 million people.

Chen also said that the centre could be opened some time this year. "We will open it in Jakarta," he said.

However, Chen denied previous reports that Microsoft would set up a research centre here. He said that setting up such a centre would not be feasible in the near future.

—MNA/Xinhua

China, Russia concludes second-phase joint military drill

QINGDAO, 23 Aug — The second-phase of the Sino-Russian joint military exercise ended Monday afternoon, to be followed by combat manoeuvre starting from on Tuesday, said a Chinese general here Monday.

Ge Zhenfeng, Deputy Chief of the General Staff of the Chinese People's Liberation Army, made the announcement in East China's Qingdao City.

According to previous report, the upcoming three-day third-phase exercise will cover three military courses, including offshore blockade,

amphibious landing and forcible separation. The "Peace Mission 2005" joint military drill, an unprecedented event involving 10,000 servicemen from China and Russia, was launched in the Russian port city of Vladivostok on August 18 and moved to the Chinese soil the day after. —MNA/Xinhua



A Chinese warship fires missiles during a China-Russia joint military exercise off China's Shandong Peninsula on 23 August, 2005. —INTERNET

Four die in Swiss light plane crash

GENEVA, 24 Aug — A light plane crashed near the Simplon mountain pass in south-central Switzerland on Tuesday, killing all four people on board, Swiss police said.

"I can confirm four people died. There were no survivors," Vincent Favre, police spokesman in the canton (state) of Valais, told Reuters.

No information was immediately available on the victims' nationality or

the single-engine turbo prop aircraft's takeoff point and destination.

Witnesses reported that the plane had gone into a tailspin in good weather and said the pilot had probably lost control, according to Favre. — MNA/Reuters

Iraqi Minister escapes assassination

BAGHDAD, 23 Aug — Iraqi Minister of Environment Narmine Othman escaped an attempt to assassinate her near the oil-centre of Kirkuk in northern Iraq, police said Tuesday.

They said masked gunmen attacked with rifles Othman's convoy late Monday night in al-Azim on the road between Kirkuk and Baghdad.

The gunmen clashed with Othman's bodyguards before fleeing. Three of the bodyguards were injured.

In the meantime, the US army announced Tuesday three American soldiers were killed and another injured in

separate incidents in Iraq.

An army statement said a soldier was killed and three injured when an explosive charge blew up near their convoy in Samara, north of Baghdad, late Monday. One of the wounded soldiers later died. Another US soldier was slain Monday night in a rocket attack in western Baghdad.

Internet

Hu likely to sign China textiles deal on US trip

BEIJING, 23 Aug — Chinese and US negotiators aim to thrash out a deal over China's surging textile exports for President Hu Jintao and US President George Bush to sign next month, an industry executive said in remarks published on Monday.

The *Market Daily* newspaper quoted Li Lingmin, Vice-President of the China National Textiles Import and Export Corp., as saying talks would take place in Beijing before the end of August.

"Barring the unexpected, a final agreement is very likely to be signed in September during the meeting of the two leaders," said Li, whose firm is one of China's top 20

foreign trade companies.

Hu will travel to the United Nations next month and will hold talks with US President George Bush.

A Commerce Ministry official confirmed that textile talks, the fourth round between the two sides, would take place in the Chinese capital but provided no further details.

Two days of meetings last week in San Francisco yielded progress but no breakthrough.

The United States imposed curbs on several categories of Chinese clothing after exports soared following the abolition on January 1 of a decades-old system of quotas on developing countries' textile exports.

Chinese exports of textiles to the United States leapt to 8.3 billion US dollars in the first six months, up 76 per cent from a year earlier.

MNA/Reuters

A man studies stock prices in front of a

Tokyo brokerage firm

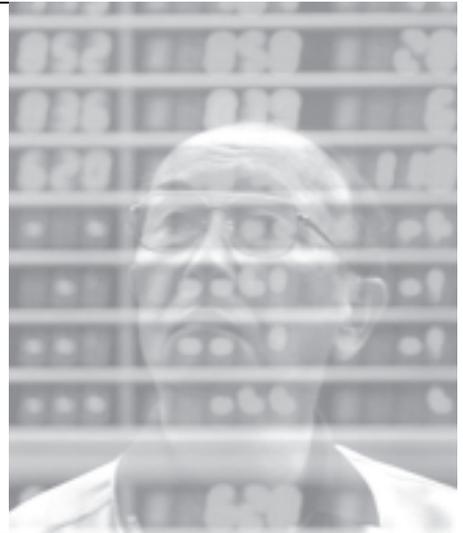
as the Japanese stocks

surged to a fresh

4-year-high on 22

August, 2005.

INTERNET



Oil holds above \$65 on supply jitters

NEW YORK, 23 Aug — Oil prices rose slightly on Monday, to hold above 65 US dollars a barrel after rising late last week on fears of potential supply disruptions in the Middle East.

US crude ended Monday up 10 cents at 65.45 US dollars a barrel, after having jumped more than 2 US dollars a barrel on Friday.

London Brent crude ended the trading day up 14 cents to 64.50 US dollars.

US crude reached as high as 66.25 US dollars before following gasoline futures prices in a late-day swoon. Only a week remains in the US summer driving season.

Global production and refining constraints combined with political tensions in oil-producing countries have kept US oil at an average 53.79 US dollars this year versus an average 41.47 US dollars in 2004. The rally has yet to slow economic growth dramatically.

"Unless one or more of the factors underpinning oil prices eases, we can expect oil to trade above 50 US dollars again in 2006," said

the Centre for Global Energy Studies (CGES) in its monthly report.

A series of production outages — and the threat of more to come — has overshadowed relatively comfortable crude stock levels in the United States, the world's biggest consumer.

Dealers were relieved to see Iraq's south oil exports of some 1.5 million barrels per day restart on Monday after being stopped for more than 10 hours by a power cut.

Vulnerability in the oil supply chain is leading analysts to speak again of a "fear factor" inflating prices.

"Behind this is a realization that it would only require one severe supply disruption (e.g. from Iraq, Iran, Venezuela, Nigeria) to wipe out the crude stock cushion," said a Standard Bank report.

MNA/Reuters

Seattle man arrested for federal building bomb plot

SEATTLE, 23 Aug — A man claiming to be a former member of US military special forces was arrested on Monday for plotting to blow up a federal office in Seattle.

Charles Whitaker, 53, was arrested by federal officers, who also seized bomb-making materials as well as guns, ammunition and a hand grenade from a storage locker that Whitaker rented, the Federal Protective Service said.

Whitaker is facing state charges in the King County Superior Court district and also may face federal charges, the Federal Protective Service said.

Whitaker had told his roommates he was planning to blow up the Department of Veterans Affairs office in Seattle's downtown federal building after being denied benefits for his military service, said Ian Canaan, a commander with the Protective Service, which is responsible for guarding and protecting federal buildings.

"We take threats seriously and the message is we're going to investigate

all of them," Canaan said.

Discharge papers found in Whitaker's apartment showed that he had been a photography technician for the US Army in the early 1970s but so far the government said it could not confirm his status or whether he had served in a special forces unit.

The arrest comes amid heightened protection for federal buildings during the war on Iraq.

MNA/Reuters

Seven killed by suicide bomber in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 23 Aug — A US soldier, an American contractor and five Iraqis were killed on Tuesday when a suicide bomber detonated an explosive device in a city north of Baghdad, the military said.

A statement said the blast occurred in Diyala Provincial Joint Coordination Center in Baquba, 35 miles north-east of Baghdad, at 12:50 pm. The explosion also killed four Iraqi employees of the centre and one Iraqi police officer.

Nine US soldiers were wounded, along with one US civilian contractor, six Iraqi civilians and four police officers. All the wounded were evacuated to a military hospital for treatment, the statement said.

No further details were released.

Internet

Powerful blast hits north of Beirut

BEIRUT, 23 Aug — A powerful blast hit a Christian neighbourhood north of Beirut on Monday night, wounding at least two people, Lebanese security officials said.

The explosion rocked the Zalka area north of the capital, said the security officials.

A bomb went off outside a commercial centre which houses a hotel, cafes and shops, blowing out the wall of the building

and causing heavy damage to it, they added.

Billows of black smoke were seen rising into the sky over the area and ambulances were racing to the scene.

The cause of the blast was not immediately known.

Lebanon has witnessed a string of bomb-

ing attacks since the February assassination of former prime minister Rafik al-Hariri.

The latest explosion occurred in July following a surprise visit by US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice to Beirut. The blast in a Christian neighbourhood injured 12. — MNA/Xinhua



Children play next to a pile of rubbish in a poor part of the Baghdad Sunni neighbourhood of Azamiyah, on Tuesday, 23 Aug, 2005. —INTERNET

Malaysia Airlines records loss in first quarter

KUALA LUMPUR, 23 Aug — Malaysia Airlines (MAS) recorded a post-tax loss of 73.86 million US dollars in the first quarter of the fiscal year 2005 which ended on 30 June, the airlines' Chairman Munir Abdul Majid said on Monday.

However, the national flag carrier's total revenue for the quarter increased by 17 per cent to 750 million US dollars compared with the same period last year, Munir said at a news conference.

Munir attributed the loss to rising fuel prices and several other factors.

During the first quar-

ter, MAS's fuel costs rose by 58 per cent to 315.78 million US dollars.

MAS was aware of the issues existing within the airlines and had planned a systematic approach to address them, Munir told reporters.

"Most importantly, we are committed to meeting these challenges and we

will take the necessary steps to create better focus on performance improvement," he said. Munir also announced the retirement of Ahmad Fuaad Dahalan as MAS managing director, saying that Ahmad sought early retirement for personal reasons and would step down as of on Monday. — MNA/Xinhua

WHO says poor countries to miss 2015 health goals

GENEVA, 23 Aug— Most poor countries will miss global targets to reduce child mortality, improve maternal health and reverse the toll of AIDS and other diseases by 2015, the World Health Organization (WHO) warned on Monday.

None of the poorest regions of the developing world is on track to meet the target of reducing by two-thirds the rate of child mortality, now around 11 million deaths each year, in the next decade, according to the United Nations agency.

HIV/AIDS, which kills three million people worldwide a year, is growing gradually in major parts of Asia, according to the WHO report "Health and the Millennium Development Goals".

Health is at the heart of the UN Millennium Declaration, adopted by 189 heads of state in September 2000, which set out a roadmap of eight goals to be reached by 2015. Using 1990 data as baselines, they aim to reduce poverty and hunger, tackle gaps in health services, education and boost access to clean water.

"The evidence so far suggests that while there has been some progress, too many countries — particularly the poorest — are falling behind in health," WHO Director-General Lee Jong-wook said in a statement.

"This is likely to affect other areas, including education, gender equality and poverty reduction," he said.

Millennium issues will be high on the agenda at the September summit meeting for heads of state in New York.

On the positive side, more poor women delivering babies now have a skilled medical person helping them. The use of insecticide-treated bednets against mosquito-borne malaria, which kills at least one million people a year, has also risen.—MNA/Reuters

Bulgaria to write off Iraq \$340m in debt

SOFIA, 23 Aug—Bulgaria has decided to reduce Iraq's debt by 340 million US dollars, one-fifth of Iraq's debt owed to the eastern European country, the daily *Monitor* reported Monday.

Bulgarian Finance Minister Plamen Oresharski said that Iraq owed Bulgaria a total of 1.7 billion US dollars and the remaining 80 per cent of the debt can be paid in a period extended by 20 to 25 years.

Oresharski added that Bulgaria's move was following suit of the Paris Club creditor countries, which wrote off 80 per cent of Iraq's arrears owed to the group of creditors. He also mentioned Bush's call for debt relief from non-Paris Club nations as a motive behind Bulgaria's decision.

Iraq accumulated most of its debt owed to Bulgaria during the Gulf War as a result of buying machinery equipment, weapons and other commodities. The two countries have discussed the debt issue but failed to reach any concrete settlement.—MNA/Xinhua

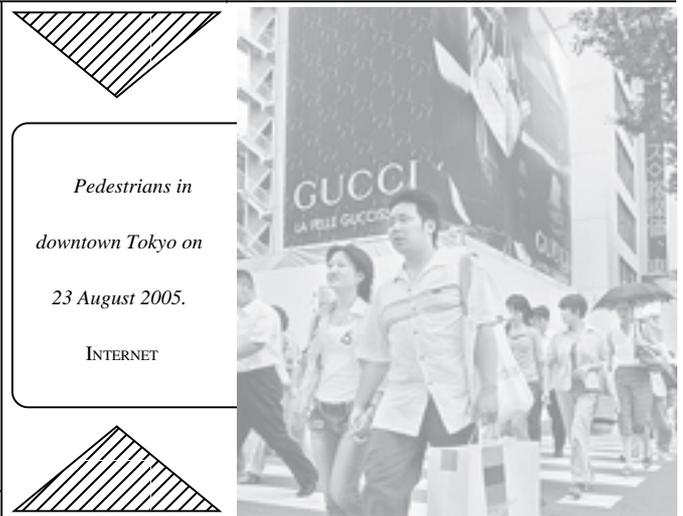
Russia grounds planes after Putin flight hiccup

Moscow, 23 Aug— Russia grounded all long-distance *Ilyushin 96-300* passenger aircraft on Monday due to safety problems similar to one that disrupted a trip by President Vladimir Putin earlier this month, transport officials said.

"In August 2005 there were a number of incidents involving *Il-96-300* that affected flight safety," the Transport Ministry said in a statement, adding the main problem involved the aircraft's brakes. "Similar incidents had happened before, too."

Flag carrier Aeroflot, which has six of the 13 planes currently in use, said it was forced to cancel some of its flights to the United States, Canada, Vietnam, China and South Korea to comply with the deci-

sion. "It's a critical situation for us," Aeroflot Deputy General-Director Lev Koshlyakov said in televised remarks. Koshlyakov told *Interfax* news agency that Aeroflot could lose 20 million US dollars if the planes were grounded until the end of October. Earlier this month, Putin had to switch to a back-up plane during a visit to Finland after his *Il-96* encountered a technical problem, according to state news agencies.—MNA/Reuters



Pedestrians in downtown Tokyo on 23 August 2005. INTERNET

Two Indians, 11 Pakistanis released in Iraq

ISLAMABAD, 23 Aug—Two Indians and 11 Pakistanis who had been abducted by unidentified persons in Iraq earlier this month have been released.

"I can confirm that the Indians too were released along with 11 Pakistanis and three Egyptians in Iraq," Pakistan's Foreign Office spokesman, Naeem Khan told *PTI* here today.

Pakistan has been informed by the Kuwaiti company MSN Hamrai that all the abducted persons were released. They are currently in Basra and would be transported to Kuwait in the next 24 hours, he said.

The 16 were abducted when they travelled to Iraq in a bus on 13 August and were reported missing.

After hearing the reports Pakistan kept in touch with the Kuwaiti company as well as the Iraqi government to get them released, he said.

Advising Pakistanis to refrain from going to Iraq to work in the very "fluid" situation there he said several groups were operating in Iraq and there have been a number of incidents of kidnapping in which two Pakistani workers were executed in the past while one was released.—Internet

France opens probe into firefighting aircraft crash

LYON (France), 23 Aug— France has opened an involuntary manslaughter probe into the death of two pilots from a firefighting *Tracker* aircraft that crashed on Saturday, the region's public prosecutor's office said on Sunday. "This preliminary investigation concerns not only the accident but also the fire," Ardeche deputy public prosecutor Ghani Bougerra told *Reuters*.

He said the investigation related particularly to the cause of the accident "be it a technical problem or hu-

man error".

"The last radio exchanges with the pilot registered before the crash do not indicate any particular problem. All the same, experts explain that when a plane is turning around, the tone of its engine changes, which could have made one think of (engine) failure," he added.

Some witnesses had said on Saturday they heard the aircraft's engine faltering before it crashed while fighting a forest fire in the southeastern Ardeche Region.—MNA/Reuters



Chinese construction workers in Beijing on 23 August 2005. INTERNET

US soldiers wounded, two children killed in car bombing in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 23 Aug—Two children were killed and six wounded, including two US soldiers in a car bomb attack targeting a US patrol in western Baghdad on Monday, police said.

"A car bomb went off on the al-Rabie Street in western Baghdad as a US patrol was passing by, killing two children and wounding four people," an Interior Ministry source told *Xinhua* on condition of anonymity. Two US soldiers were also wounded in the blast and a US Humvee damaged, the source added. The blast destroyed five civilian cars and several nearby buildings, he said.—MNA/Xinhua

13 killed, 29 injured in bus mishap in far-western Nepal

KATHMANDU, 23 Aug—Thirteen persons were killed and 29 others injured when a passenger bus met with an accident at Tokhang Village of Baitadi District in far-western Nepal on Sunday, Radio Nepal reported Monday.

The bus skidded 400 metres off the road at around 5:30 pm local time (1145 GMT), killing 12 passengers on the spot. Another passenger died while undergoing treatment, the state-run radio said.

The bus was heading towards Mahendranagar from Baitadi District, some 800 kilometres west of Kathmandu, when the tragic happened, according to the radio.

MNA/Xinhua

Myanmar delegation led by Industry-1 Minister arrives back



Minister U Aung Thaung being welcomed back at the airport.

INDUSTRY-1

YANGON, 24 Aug — The Myanmar delegation led by Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung arrived back here by air yesterday evening after attending the 1st China-ASEAN Eminent Persons Group (EPG Meeting) held in the People's Republic of China from 17 to 20 August.

The Myanmar delegation was welcomed back at the airport by Industry-2 Minister Maj-

Gen Saw Lwin, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Deputy Minister for Industry-1 Brig-Gen Thein Tun, directors-general, managing directors and officials of the departments and enterprises under the ministry.

The minister was accompanied by Adviser to the Ministry of Industry-1 U Kyaw Myint and General Manager of Myanmar Paper and

Chemical Industries U Ko Ko Lwin.

At the meeting, Myanmar delegation exchanged views on the 10 policy proposals and the 16 additional proposals submitted by the People's Republic of China and discussed the 76 masterlists of the ASEAN Secretariat for ASEAN-China future relations together with ASEAN EPGs.

MNA

'Soon' offered to monks of State Pariyatti Sasana University (Yangon)



Minister Maj-Gen Hla Tun and wife Daw Khin Than Win offer alms to a member of the Sangha. — FINANCE & REVENUE

YANGON, 24 Aug — Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun and wife Daw Khin Than Win made cash donation for offering 'soon' to 450 members of the Sangha of State Pariyatti Sasana University (Yangon) at Mogok Refectory on Kaba Aye Hill, here, this morning.

Present were Deputy Minister Col Hla Thein Swe and wife, Governor of Central

Bank of Myanmar U Kyaw Kyaw Maung and wife and officials.

Rector Sayadaw of SPSU (Yangon) Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Ganthavaçaka Pandita Bhaddanta Panditabhivamsa administered the Five Precepts, and the Minister and wife, the Deputy Minister and wife and departmental heads donated provisions to members of the Sangha. Minister

Maj-Gen Hla Tun handed over K 382,500 for offering 'soon' to the Sayadaws through Director-General Dr Myo Myint of Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana. The Sayadaw delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits gained. Later, the Minister and wife, the Deputy Minister and wife and departmental heads offered 'soon' to the Sayadaws.—MNA

Energy Minister inspects No 2 Oil Refinery in Chauk



Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi inspects packaging of candles. — ENERGY

YANGON, 24 Aug — Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi yesterday morning inspected No 2 Oil Refinery of Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise in Chauk, Magway Division, and gave instructions on operating the refinery at full capacity and maintenance of the machinery.

Factory Manager U Nay Linn, Managing-Director of MPE U Kyaw Shein and Director-General of Energy Planning Department U Soe Myint reported on the refining and sale of petroleum products of the refinery. The minister also

inspected production of candles at the refinery.

In the afternoon, Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi went to the main store & distribution branch of MPE in Chauk and inspected storage and distribution of fuel oil and candles.

MNA

Cash, stationery donated to Ministry of Religious Affairs



Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung accepts donations from wellwishers.

MNA

YANGON, 24 Aug — Wellwishers donated cash and stationery to missionary monasteries and monastic education schools through the Ministry of Religious Affairs this afternoon.

At a donation ceremony at the ministry on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung accepted cash donations amounting to K 2 million and stationery worth K 1 million in the presence of

Chairman of Thanlyin Township Sangha Nayaka Committee Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumara. After the donation ceremony the congregation shared merits gained.

MNA

Only when service...

(from page 1)

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party inspected tarring of road from Naungpaing to Mongyawng on Tangyan-Mongkaung-Mongsu road section and stockpile of gravel. They then proceeded mile post No 20/3 and observed Nanhsein Htaungkya Creek's flash flood and gave necessary instructions.

Tangyan Mongkaung-Mongsu road section is 52 miles and 4 furlongs in length. A road Section from Tangyan to Mongkaung road has been tared. After that, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party met with military officers, other ranks and their families in local battalion near Mongkaung village and presented souvenirs to them. They proceeded to Tangyan and met with departmental officials, members of social organizations and locals.

At the meeting, the chairman of Tangyan Township PDC reported to them on measures taken for agriculture, education, economic and social sectors in the region.

Next, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win made a speech on the occasion. In his speech he said the Government is making efforts for the emergence of new, modern developed democratic nation through the strength of the entire people upholding three main national causes. Moreover, it has laid down projects and is implementing all-round development tasks in all parts of the country. Service personnel are not only to carry out the tasks for the country with goodwill but also to try to become reliable ones. Only when service personnel at all levels follow the instructions will they win the trust of the people. In doing so, the nation will speedily develop. Service personnel are to make efforts for the interests of the people and the State.

Tatmadaw government is shaping infrastructures such as roads, bridges, universities, colleges, hospitals and airports by spending a large amount of money round the clock. As a result, local people and service personnel are to comprehend

genuine goodwill of the State and to discharge their duties conscientiously.

For the time being, internal and external destructive elements are hatching plots with various ways and means to break up national consolidation and not to provide assistance from local and abroad. Therefore, locals and the entire people of the nation are to stamp out the danger of internal and external elements through consolidated strength.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win urged those present to actively participate in realization of seven-point Road Map with Union Spirit and cordially greeted them. Next, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win arrived at Lwepanlon hall of Tangyan Station and met with military officers, other ranks and their families. After clarifications on development of the State, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win asked requirements of the locals and urged them to participate in nation-building tasks actively and to carry out cultivation and livestock breeding tasks on small scale. — MNA



Lt-Gen Maung Bo views the students learning at multi-media room of Nabu Station BEHS, Kawkareik Township. — MNA

Lt-Gen Maung Bo on inspection tour...

(from page 16)

hard to become outstanding human resources, and the teacher to nurture the students with the effective use of the pedagogical aids.

At a ceremony to hand over exercise books and stationery to Nabu Station BEHS held at the school, Lt-Gen Maung Bo said that development in Nabu and its high passing rate of matric examination for 2004-2005 academic year are the pride of the town. He urged teachers to make efforts to achieve the higher passing rate in coming years in cooperation with parents. He also called on students to raise their morale.

Afterwards, Deputy Director-General of the No 1 Basic Education Department U Tun Kyi and Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing presented exercise books and stationery and cash to the headmistress.

After the ceremony, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party went to Nabu Station Hospital and inspected the wards.

Next, Deputy Director-General of the Health Department Dr Ye Myint handed over medicines for the hospital to doctors.

During his tour to Nabu, Lt-Gen Maung Bo met with officers, other ranks and their families at Nabu Station. After the

meeting, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and Maj-Gen Soe Naing presented cash assistance, clothes and provisions to families of officers and other ranks.

In the afternoon, Lt-Gen Maung Bo went to Kawkareik District People's Hospital to assess the upgrading project of the hospital.

At the briefing hall of the project, an official reported on construction of buildings.

Next, Lt-Gen Maung Bo urged officials concerned to finish the project by the end of March, 2006. The hospital will be upgraded to a 100-bed facility.

MNA

Cash donated to be spent on rural development, narcotic drug control measures

YANGON, 24 Aug — A ceremony to present cash assistance provided by Gano Excel Company of Malaysia to be spent on rural development tasks and narcotic drug control measures was held at the Ministry of Information on Theinbyu Street, here, this afternoon, attended by Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan.

At the ceremony, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan accepted the cash donations and expressed his gratitude to wellwishers for the donations.

Also present on the

occasion were Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Thein, directors-general, managing directors of the departments and enterprises under the ministry, officials of Myanmar Police Force and donors.

First, the minister explained a wide range of measures being taken for development of national races residing at border areas, all-round development tasks with the establishment of special zones, rural development tasks and preventative measures against narcotic drugs. He expressed his gratitude to

wellwishers for their donation.

Next, Managing Director Daw Nwe Nwe Soe and Director Daw Thazin Maw of M&M Gano Trading Co Ltd (Gano Excel Myanmar) explained about their donations. The wellwishers presented K 1 million to the minister to be spent on rural development tasks and another K 1 million to Police Lt-Col Kyi Soe of Central Committee for Drugs Abuse Control of MPF on narcotic drug control measures.

MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan speaks words of thanks to wellwishers at a cash donation ceremony. — MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan accepts cash donation presented by wellwishers. — MNA



Wellwishers presents K 1 million to Police Lt-Col Kyi Soe of CCDAC.

MNA

Lt-Gen Maung Bo meets departmental officials of Kayin State in Hpa-an



Lt-Gen Maung Bo meets departmental officials at Kayin State Peace and Development Council Office. —MNA

YANGON, 24 Aug — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence met with departmental officials at Kayin State Peace and Development Council Office in Hpa-an on 21 August.

Chairman of South-East Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing, Chairman of Kayin State PDC Col Khin Kyu, officials and local authorities were present.

Speaking on the occasion, Lt-Gen Maung Bo said that peace and stability has been restored in Kayin State. Local national people desire to sustain progress of peace and stability of the region. Departmental personnel are to strive for discharging their duties and development of the state. Implementation of the plans of States and Divisions laid down by the State is to be reviewed, and preparations are to be made for achieving results of the plan at the end of financial year. As it is the final year of the plan, departments concerned in Kayin State are to make efforts for meeting the targets.

At present, internal and external opposing organizations and some big countries that are against Myanmar's interest put pressure on the country applying various ways and means. After laying down the seven-point Road Map,

the Government is building a developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation step by step. Peace and stability and prevalence of law and order of the State, uplift of living standard of the people and development of human resources are essential in building the nation. Therefore, the Government, the Tatmadaw and the people are to cooperate in the tasks. Thus, authorities of Kayin State are to actively perform uplift of living standard of the local people and development of Kayin State with Union Spirit and nationalist spirit.

Departmental officials and district authorities reported on their respective sectors.

Chairman of Kayin State PDC Col Khin Kyu reported on reported on geographical condition of the state, carrying out of rural development tasks, agricultural matters, education, health and social affairs. Lt-Gen Maung Bo gave necessary instructions.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party proceeded to Aukyepe Village-tract in Hlaingbwe Township. They were welcomed by U Tha Htoo Kyaw and local people at the monsoon paddy plot of the local national race group. Kayin State Manager of Myanma Agriculture Service U Kyaw Thein reported on

completion of cultivating 189 acres of monsoon paddy of 500 acres, arrangements being made for cultivation of 20 more acres of paddy, the plan to reclaim virgin lands and assistance provided by MAS to the local farmers.

Next, Chairman of Hpa-an District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Ko Gyi and Kayin State PDC Chairman Col Khin Kyu gave supplementary reports. Officials also briefed them on cultivation of paddy and rubber.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Maung Bo delivered an address. He said that as the Government is placing emphasis on agriculture and regional development tasks with goodwill, the national race groups are to undertake development and peace and stability of the region and agricultural tasks. Local authorities and the Kayin State Manager of MAS are to provide assistance to them for growing 500 acres of paddy next year and 1,200 acres of rubber plantations.

At Dawna Hall of the local battalion in Hlaingbwe Township, Lt-Gen Maung Bo urged officers and other ranks to carry out agricultural and livestock breeding and regional development tasks. Next, he presented cash assistance to family members. Maj-Gen Soe Naing

and Col Khin Kyu gave away clothes to officials.

In the afternoon, Lt-Gen Maung Bo attended the ceremony to provide cash and kind to flood victims at Aung San Hall in Hlaingbwe. Chairman of Hlaingbwe Township Peace and Development Council U San Tha Aung reported on rescue tasks of flood victims in time in Hlaingbwe and supervision

sanitation tasks.

Next, Lt-Gen Maung Bo presented cash assistance for flood victim students and schools to the Township Education Officer. The commander also gave away relief items to officials. Col Khin Kyu, Director-General U Than Oo of Relief and Resettlement Department, Deputy Director-General U Ye Myint of Health Depart-

school stationery and necessary assistance to local authorities.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party inspected upgrading of 25-bed Hlaingbwe Hospital to the 50-bed hospital. The hospital will have the OPD, the laboratory, the X-ray room, two patient wards, the operation theatre and delivery room, two toilets and corridor. The construc-



Lt-Gen Maung Bo provides cash assistance for flood victims through the Township Education Officer. — MNA

of local authorities.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo said that the Government performed rescue tasks and giving of necessary assistance to the victims. Likewise, wellwishers made donations to them. Hence, local people should actively participate in the uplift of living standard and regional development tasks, growing of paddy on the flooded farmland as soon as water level falls, and carry out

ment, Deputy Director-General U Tun Kyi of No 1 Department of Basic Education and Hlaingbwe Township USDA provided relief items, medicines,

tion tasks will complete at the end of March 2006.

After that, they went back to Hpa-an and spent the night there.

—MNA

Joint Secretary General...

(from page 16)

Association, future tasks, and speeding up of rural development tasks and public welfare services. Officials reported on work progress. They provided assistance for the projects.

In meeting with USDA members on 21 August at Hsipaw Township USDA office, the CEC member instructed them to adhere to Our Three Main National Causes, to be fully imbued with Union Spirit, to improve their abilities and efficiency, and to participate in building a modern developed nation.

The joint secretary-general gave instructions on speedy implementation of rural development tasks, being one with the people, constantly carrying out community welfare services, and to sharpen abilities of the members.

They also held meetings with USDA members at Kyaukme USDA office and Nawngkhio Township USDA office.

Afterwards, they viewed the 10-acre field of corn of Nawngkhio Township USDA near Shwenyaung Village, Ohnmdar Village-tract, and the cow farm of PyinOoLwin Township General Business Cooperative Society in Htonbo Village. — MNA



Joint Secretary-General Minister Col Zaw Min meets USDA members in Lashio. —MNA

MWAF President receives WHO Resident Representative

YANGON, 24 Aug — Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation President Daw Than Than Nwe received World Health Organization Resident Representative Prof Adik Wibowo at the federation on Thanlwin Road in Bahan Township this afternoon.

Also present at the call were Vice-President Daw Khin Lay Myint, Head of International Relations Department Daw Myint Myint Soe, the general secretary and personnel of the federation.

At the meeting, the officials explained the aim and the organizational tasks of the federation and participa-



tion of the federation in public health and regional development tasks, and answered the queries of the resident representative. — MNA

Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation President Daw Than Than Nwe receives World Health Organization Resident Representative Prof Adik Wibowo. — MNA

Cash donated to North Okkalapa General Hospital and Teaching Hospital

YANGON, 24 Aug — Myanmar-ASEAN Women's Friendship Association donated K 1 million to North Okkalapa General Hospital and Teaching Hospital at the hospital yesterday morning.

Present on the occasion were Honourable Patrons of the association Daw Nilar Thaw, wife of Minister for Health, Daw Le Le Kyi, wife of the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu, Dr Daw Khin Mya Win, wife of Deputy Minister U Maung Myint, wives of ASEAN Ambassadors, wives of the officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Director-General of the Health Department Dr Tin Win Maung, medical superintendents and specialists.

The medical superintendent presented the certificate of honour after cash donation. Next, those present encouraged the members of Maubin Blood Donors Association who were donating blood and child patients under medical treatment at the hospital.

MNA

U-20 footballers honoured

YANGON, 24 Aug — Footballers of the Ministry of Commerce who played for Myanmar team in the AFF U-20 Championship were honoured at the office of Myanmar Agricultural Produce Trading here yesterday.

Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein and Managing Director of MAPT U Min Hla Aug gave speeches.

The minister presented K 500,000 to the Commerce Ministry, MAPT and Sunye teams and K 200,000 each to the coach and seven footballers of the U-20 team. The coach and the seven footballers were also promoted. Dinners was also hosted. — MNA

Upgrading of roads and bridges inspected

YANGON, 24 Aug — Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun yesterday morning inspected tasks for maintenance of road and bridges along Pakokku-

Pauk-Kyaukhtu-Mindat Road and the laying of gravel for construction of a new axis between mile post Nos 54/1 and 54/2.

The minister called

for construction tasks to be carried out under close supervision of engineers in charge.

Next, he inspected the junction of No 2 Pauk Bridge (Yaaypya) and

Seikpyu-Gangaw-Pauk Road, and the laying of gravel and gravel along Seikpyu-Gangaw-Pauk earth road.

MNA

Two new bird species identified in Colombia

WASHINGTON, 24 Aug — Two new species of birds called tapaculos have been identified in the mountains of Colombia, a conservation group said on Tuesday.

The shy, dark-coloured birds, which live in thick forest, are mostly identified by their songs and it was their calls that distinguished the two new species, BirdLife International said.

He said experts had suspected the existence of the tiny bird, named the Upper Magdalena Tapaculo or *Scytalopus rodriguezii*, since the 1980s.

"It was frustrating, waiting for years, knowing there were new species to be discovered and protected," Salaman said in a statement.

"Then we learned it was safe to visit the Finca Merenberg Mountains and soon found the new species in

dense understory of primary forest. In appearance it's very like other *Scytalopus tapaculos*, but has a distinctive voice."

The other new species is called Stiles' Tapaculo, or *Scytalopus stilesii*.

Niels Krabbe of the Zoological Museum at the University of Copenhagen in Denmark and colleagues first suspected this bird was a new species when listening to recordings of their songs.

It is genetically distinct and is found throughout a 185-mile stretch of the Cordillera Central Mountains.

MNA/Reuters



Minister Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein presents cash awards to Assistant Coach U Soe Moe. —NLM



BOOKS DONATED: Director-General of Health Department Dr Tin Win Maung donates books on anti-AIDS for Education Ministry through an official at the ceremony to donate health aid on 24-8-2005. HEALTH

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World First Aid Day
10th September, 2005

'First Aid with vulnerable (marginalized) people'

‘ဘေးဖြစ်လွယ်သူအားပေးကာ ရှေးဦးပြုစုခြင်းဖြင့် တာဝန်ယူ’

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No proof found of Iran nuclear arms programme

WASHINGTON, 24 Aug — Traces of bomb-grade uranium found two years ago in Iran came from contaminated Pakistani equipment, and are not evidence of an alleged clandestine nuclear weapons programme, a group of US Government experts and other international scientists noted.

"The biggest smoking gun that everyone was waving is now eliminated with these conclusions," said the *Washington Post*, quoting an anonymous senior official who disclosed the still-confidential findings on Tuesday.

Scientists from the United States, France, Japan, Britain and Russia met secretly during the past nine months to scrutinize the data collected from Iran by inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The group successfully matched samples of highly enriched uranium — a key ingredient in nuclear weapons — with centrifuge equipment turned over by the Pakistani government recently, according to the front-page report.

Iran has long contended that the uranium traces were the result of contaminated equipment bought years ago from Pakistan, but the Bush Administration had pointed to the material as evidence that Iran was making bomb-grade ingredients, the report said.

The *Post* article also said the conclusions will be shared with IAEA board members in a report due the first week of September, quoting US and European officials who agreed to discuss details of the investigation on the condition of anonymity.

US officials have privately acknowledged for months that they are losing confidence that the uranium traces constituted proof of a nuclear weapons programme. A recent US intelligence estimate found that Iran is further away from making bomb-grade uranium than previously thought, the *Post* said.

MNA/Xinhua

Experts say local strategies crucial to save Asia's mangroves

KUALA LUMPUR, 24 Aug — Tsunami-stricken Asian nations that are planting mangrove thickets to protect against future disasters must give coastal communities a financial stake in the campaign if it is to succeed, experts said on Tuesday.

Asian nations hit by the earthquake and tsunami disaster that killed about 188,000 people last December have launched programmes to plant mangroves along their coasts as a natural buffer against similar waves in the future. But the strategy will fail unless governments can convince local communities of the financial benefits they stand to gain from the mangroves, such as firewood, medicinal herbs and bigger fish catches, among others, the experts said.

"We need to think about wealth creation for people living in coastal areas so they are able to link up with a broader society," Chris Gordon, an environmental expert at the University of Ghana, told a meeting in the Malaysian capital.

Mangroves are a family of evergreen trees and shrubs that grow on still-like roots in dense thickets, providing both a barrier to extreme weather and a rich ecosystem for marine life.

Following the December disaster, several Asian nations took a new look at their struggling mangroves. Malaysia has called for mangroves to be protected from coastal development.

Indonesia has earmarked 600,000 hectares of mangrove for revitalization. In the northern province of Aceh on Sumatra, where the tsunami killed more than 110,000 people, it plans to replant at least 30,000 hectares with the trees.

Many of the schemes have a limited effect because they are poorly designed and managed, said Faizal Parish, of the Global Environment Centre, a Malaysian non-governmental organization.

"Something needs to be done quickly, but from our perspective it would be more effective to have a clearer strategy plan."

Mangrove trees take five years to mature, he added, so it is crucial to convince local communities to nurture them until then. — MNA/Reuters

UN warns developing countries might fail to achieve MDGs

UNITED NATIONS, 24 Aug — The UN has warned that millions of children would die annually in developing countries mostly from preventable diseases and the world would fail to achieve Millennium Development Goals in health unless international community makes new and sustainable investments in vital areas.

In its first study on progress made on MDGs, the World Health Organization pointed to weak and inequitable health systems as a key obstacle, including a crisis in health personnel and the urgent need for sustainable health financing.

"We have the treatments; the technology is known and affordable. The problem in many countries is getting the staff, medicines, vaccines and information to those who need them on time and in sufficient quantities. In too many coun-

tries, the health systems to do that either do not exist or are on the point of collapse," UN World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General Lee Jong-wook said.

"Providing universal access to broad-based health services could save several million children's lives each year," Lee said.

Building strong health systems, however, requires improvements across governments — in public financial management, manpower planning, roads and infrastructure, and many other areas. "We

need to look beyond the health sector if we are to be successful, and we must take an integrated approach. If we do, success is possible," Lee said.

The report, which paints a dismal scenario on the MDGs, comes almost three weeks before the world leaders are scheduled to hold summit to review the progress.

The UN Millennium Project recently said that meeting all the MDGs would require an estimated 135 billion dollars of Official Development

Assistance, rising to 195 billion dollars by 2015.

"Global political commitment for long-term financing of the MDGs is crucial," WHO Director of MDGs, Health and Development Policy Andrew Cassels said. "We must use all potential means of raising resources, including debt relief. We need resources which are predictable and sustained to allow countries to make long-term plans. And health must be at the centre of these efforts."

MNA/PTI

Pakistan to provide electricity, drinking water to all by 2007

ISLAMABAD, 24 Aug — Pakistani Minister for Water and Power Liaquat Ali Jatoi on Tuesday reiterated the government's commitment to provide clean drinking water and electricity to all the people by the end of year 2007.

"This is the top most priority of the government and the highest leadership of the country are seriously involved in evolving strategy to meet the target," Jatoi said in a statement. President Pervez Musharraf and Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz held a meeting Monday to devise ways and means to fulfill the promise.

Due to Musharraf's keen interest, the present government has succeeded in providing safe drinking water to 41 per cent of the total population.

"We will hopefully achieve 100 per cent by the end of 2007," Jatoi said.

He revealed that the government has planned to set

up 5,845 new water purification plants which would be installed by the provincial and district governments.

Impure water is the major cause of illness in Pakistan and 60 per cent diseases are related to drinking of contaminated water. Realizing the severity of the issue, Jatoi said, the present government has allocated two billion rupees (about 33 million US dollars) for providing safe drinking water.

Similarly, he added, the government has planned to provide electricity to all the population by the year 2007. In this regard, electrification of 21,882 villages will be expedited. — MNA/Xinhua

Mysterious disease kills 5 in eastern Nepal

KATHMANDU, 24 Aug — At least five people have succumbed to a mysterious disease in eastern Nepal, a government officer confirmed here Tuesday.

"The unknown disease has claimed the lives of three patients in Beltar Village and two in Siddipur Village of Udyapur District, some 300 kilometres east of Kathmandu," Jeevan Prasad Oli, chief district officer, told reporters. The symptoms included high fever, headache as well as bleeding from the nose and vomiting blood, Oli noted, adding "Patients infected with the disease have been taken to a hospital in Dharan City for treatment".

A three-member medical team has already been sent to the disease affected area, Oli said.

MNA/Xinhua

Canada considers tariffs on US exports

OTTAWA, 24 Aug — Canada may put tariffs on certain areas of American exports to retaliate against the US policies on softwood lumber, Cabinet ministers said Tuesday.

Trade Minister Jim Peterson is identifying areas where Canadian tariffs could put maximum pressure on the US economy with minimal damage domestically, Industry Minister David Emerson said.

The warning comes one week after the United States announced it would ignore a decision by a NAFTA panel that found Canadian lumber exports posed no threat of injury to US producers.

MNA/Xinhua



Shoppers walk inside the market among Chinese made goods at the giant Rahat Bazaar market in Almaty, Kazakhstan, on 22 July, 2005.

INTERNET

ADVERTISEMENT

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 Used in respect of:-
 "Body lotion, shower gel, massage and bath oils, essential fragrance oils, body mist, and hair care preparations".
 Any unauthorized use, imitation, infringements or fraudulent intentions of the above mark will be dealt with according to law.

TIN OHNMAR TUN
B.A(LAW)LL.B,LL.M(U.K)
 P.O. Box. 109, Ph:248108/723043
(For. Domnern Songiat & Boonma Attorneys at Law, Thailand.)
 Dated: 25 August 2005

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV LIANG SHAN VOY NO (63)
 Consignees of cargo carried on MV LIANG SHAN VOY NO (63) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25-8-2005 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W/ AWPT 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: M/S COSCO SHIPPING CO LTD, CHINA.
 Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

Russia confirms foot and mouth disease in Far East
 Moscow, 23 Aug—The Federal Veterinary and Phytosanitary Control Service (Rosselkhoz-nadzor) confirmed Monday foot and mouth disease has been found in a group of cattle in Russia's Far East.
 Tests confirmed foot and mouth disease was present on a cattle farm in the Khabarovsk region, the *Interfax* news agency reported citing a Rosselkhoz-nadzor Press release. Quarantines have been set up in three communities.
 Experts from the All-Russian Centre for Control of Animal Health have left for the Khabarovsk region and vaccines have also been delivered to the area, according to the report.
 Foot and mouth disease is a severe, highly contagious viral disease affecting cloven-hoofed animals like cattle, pigs and sheep.
MNA/Xinhua

Tropical storm "Jose" nears Mexican coast in gulf
 MEXICO CITY, 23 Aug—Jose, the 10th tropical storm of an unusually active Atlantic hurricane season, dumped heavy rain in the Gulf of Mexico on Monday and was expected to make landfall overnight near the port of Veracruz, authorities said.
 None of Mexico's key oil ports farther southwest was closed to shipping, the Transport Ministry said.
 Miami's National Hurricane Centre said Jose, packing sustained winds of 50 mile per hour and higher gusts, was expected to strengthen before making landfall.
MNA/Reuters

TRADEMARK CAUTION
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 Used in respect of - "Inf1 Class 38: Cellular telephone communications, communications by telephone, telephone communications network; communications by computer terminals, computer aided transmission of messages, images, voice and data, communications by fibre optic network; electronic bulletin board services [telecommunication services]; electronic mail, message sending; news agencies; paging services [radio, telephone or other means of electronic communication]; providing telecommunications connections to a global computer network; providing user access to a global computer network [service providers]; wireless local area network services; wireless broadband access to a global computer network; global wireless local area network services; satellite transmission; telecommunication routing and junction services; teleconferencing services; information about telecommunication, all included in Class 38".
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 Hoan Lin Oo (LL.B) Advocate
MYANMAR TRADEMARK AND PATENT LAW FIRM
 E-mail: mtplp@mpdmail.net.mm
 Tel: 254037 G.P.O Box: 688 Yangon. 25 August 2005

Rio police gun down five suspects in slum shootout
 RIO DE JANEIRO (Brazil), 23 Aug—Police in Rio de Janeiro killed five suspected drug traffickers, including a 15-year-old, during a shootout in one of the crime-ridden city's slums, authorities said on Monday.
 Police commander Alvaro Garcia said the five offered "strong armed resistance" during a police raid on the Andarai hillside slum on Sunday night, the state security agency said in a statement.
 Arms, including a grenade, and drugs were found on the suspects, it said.
 Gunfights between police and drug gangs that nest in Rio's teeming slums occur almost daily but the weekend clash was the highest single toll in recent weeks.
MNA/Reuters

TRADE MARK CAUTION
 Ciba Specialty Chemicals Holding Inc., of Klybeckstrasse 141, CH-4057 Basel, Switzerland, is the Owner of the following Trade Marks:-
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 Win Mu Tin, M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L. for Ciba Specialty Chemicals Holding Inc. P.O. Box 60, Yangon Dated: 25 August 2005.

Foreign companies target Vietnam's biggest pulp project
 HANOI, 23 Aug—Two foreign firms want to team up with a local partner to establish the biggest paper pulp joint venture with an estimated cost of 1.1 billion US dollars in Vietnam, a local official told *Xinhua* on Monday.
 "The New York-based International Finances Development Corp, the Sweden-based Industrial Project Services Patents and a Vietnamese firm, the Hiep Phuoc Paper Company in Ho Chi Minh City, are seeking licence for building a factory with annual capacity of 450,000 tons of pulp in our province," said an official at the Department of Planning and Investment of central Phu Yen Province.
 The investment for the project will include some 900 million dollars for construction and 200 million dollars for plantation of 150,000 hectares of forests.
MNA/Xinhua

Mumbai building collapse kills 11, many injured
 NEW DELHI, 24 Aug— At least 11 people were killed and several injured when a four-storey residential building collapsed in Indian economic hub Mumbai early Tuesday morning, *Indo-Asian News Service* reported.
 The 125-year-old building, located in a populous middle-class community in Mumbai, collapsed around 1:30 am when most residents of its 16 flats were asleep, local officials said.
 At least 50 people have been rescued and many more were feared buried under the rubble, the local authority said. Mumbai Police and government agencies launched rescue operations.
 "Initially we faced some difficulty in conducting rescue because the lanes that lead to the building are very narrow. The youths in the area came forward to help those trapped under the debris," said Johny Joseph, commissioner of the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC).
 "We were fast asleep when we heard a loud noise. Initially, we suspected it to be a bomb blast but when we came out we saw the collapsed building," said Abdul Sheikh, who lives in a building next door.
 The injured have been sent to hospital. Hospital officials say at least five of the injured are in critical condition.
 The residents of the building would be relocated and 100,000 rupees (about 2,298 US dollars) would be paid as compensation to victims' families, said Suresh Karande of the Maharashtra Housing and Development Authority.
 Mumbai has 18,000 dangerous old buildings. Five were killed in a building collapse in June this year in the western city suburb of Khar.
MNA/Xinhua



A crowd gather at the site of a collapsed building in Mumbai. At least 11 people were killed and some others believed to be trapped under rubble after a four-storey building in India's flood-hit city of Mumbai collapsed, police said.—INTERNET

Iran nabs over 900 kilos of hashish, smashes trafficking gangs
 TEHERAN, 23 Aug — Iranian anti-drug police seized over 900 kilos of hashish and smashed two drug trafficking gangs in the southern port city of Bandar Abbas on Monday, the official *IRNA* news agency reported.
 The gangs were involved in trafficking drugs throughout the country and were in contact with international drug rings smuggling drugs to the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Iraq, *IRNA* reported citing police source.
 Drug addiction and transportation has been a serious social problem in Iran, a country sitting in the crossroad linking drug producing Afghanistan and Pakistan and markets in the Persian Gulf states, Central Asia, Western Europe and other regions.—*MNA/Xinhua*

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China's CNPC to buy PetroKazakhstan for \$4.2b

LONDON/SINGAPORE, 23 Aug—State-owned Chinese oil company CNPC has agreed to buy PetroKazakhstan Inc. for 4.18 billion US dollars in China's largest foreign takeover, beating rival bidders including top Indian oil firm ONGC.

The parent of PetroChina, the world's fifth-largest listed oil company, will pay 55 US dollars a share in cash, a 21.1-per-cent premium to Friday's closing price, said PetroKazakhstan, a Canadian-listed oil company operating in central Asia.

The deal, if it goes through, would be China's first successful takeover of a foreign listed energy firm and highlights Beijing's scramble to secure supply security for the world's second-largest oil consuming nation and the world's fastest-growing major economy.

"It's a very high price but this is a strategic investment. Finally, it reserves that you can bring to China," said Stephen O'Sullivan, oil analyst at United Financial Group in Moscow.

Chinese oil companies have been scouting the world for buys since the country became a net oil importer in 1993.

A recently established joint venture set up by

CNPC and PetroChina is looking at 10 overseas deals, a PetroChina executive said earlier this year.

Industry sources familiar with the strategy of Chinese state oil companies said the companies may have put more overseas listed energy companies on their radar screen, such as Britain's BG, some Canadian oil sand producers, and possibly exploration and production companies listed in Australia or London.

But Chinese oil firms have suffered a string of setbacks in their foreign forays due to political opposition and sky-high valuations of oil assets inflated by near record high oil prices.

CNOOC, China's third largest oil producer, lost out last month in an 18.5-billion-US-dollar bid battle for US energy producer Unocal Corp.

MNA/Reuters



A vendor weighs the fresh water fishes at a market in Hong Kong on Wednesday, 24 Aug, 2005.

INTERNET

Foot-and-mouth hits Zimbabwe's beef exports

HARARE, 23 Aug— Success in foot-and-mouth control will determine whether Zimbabwe can resume beef exports to the European Union (EU), according to the official media the *New Ziana* on Sunday.

Cold Storage Company chief executive Ngoni Chinogaramombe was quoted as saying that Zimbabwe would regain its annual 9,100 tons quota to EU.

The EU banned Zimbabwe exports in 2000 following an outbreak. The last outbreak was in July 2004, he said. "EU requires beef suppliers to wait for 24 months after an outbreak of the disease before they resume exports," Chinogaramombe said. The vaccination of cattle in areas prone to foot-and-mouth was underway to year end.

Livestock and Veterinary Services principal director Stuart Hargreaves said there were adequate vaccines. Zimbabwe earned about 29 million US dollars from beef exports annually prior to the ban. — MNA/Xinhua

Britain lowers terror alert level

LONDON, 23 Aug — The official level of threat to Britain from a terrorist attack has been lowered for the first time since the 7 July bombings in London.

Officials have secretly reduced the threat level from "critical" — the highest rating — to "severe general" due to lack of any specific information relating to imminent attacks, Sky news reported on Sunday. — MNA/Xinhua

Swiss downpour brings floods, landslides

ZURICH, 23 Aug— Torrential rain has lashed Switzerland non-stop for nearly three days, unleashing landslides and floods which have cut off villages in central Switzerland and killed two firefighters.

Flooding stretches from the Bernese Alps in central Switzerland to the city of St. Gallen in the north-east, as rivers burst their banks and lakes overflow.

Two firefighters were killed in a landslide during the night in Entlebuch in the canton (state) of Lucerne, Swiss television said on Monday, adding the region remained cut off after roads and rail tracks were flooded.

Lucerne police said in a statement there had been several landslides in the Entlebuch area, while the rivers Reuss and Emme had burst their banks.

Rain continued to fall on Monday as bulldozers cleared mud from the streets and firefighters pumped water from flooded cellars in towns across central and eastern Switzerland. — MNA/Reuters

Heavy clashes in Baghdad as guerillas attack police

BAGHDAD, 23 Aug — Heavily armed guerillas attacked Iraqi police checkpoints with rocket-propelled grenades in western Baghdad on Wednesday and heavy clashes broke out, police and witnesses said

Around 40 guerillas, some of them wearing masks, could be seen brandishing weapons in the streets of Hay al-Jamma, a district in the west of the city, shortly after they attacked the checkpoints with rockets and assault rifles.

A Reuters cameraman at the scene said at least six police vehicles were on fire and gunfire and explosions could be heard.

The police said they had called for reinforcement from US forces to repel the attacks.

Hay al-Jamma is close to the Amiriya district, which has been a stronghold of the Sunni attack over the past two years.

Iraqi security forces conducted raids in Amiriya and Ghaziliya, in northwestern Baghdad, late on Tuesday, rounding up several suspected guerilla ring-leaders. — MNA/Reuters



In this photo released by the Austrian Ministry of the Interior, a rescue worker fixes cables onto a car in the river Lavant near St Leonhard in the southern province of Austria on Tuesday, Aug. 23, 2005. The car was rescued with the driver inside. The woman suffered shock, but no other injuries. — INTERNET

Aqaba attack may signal new Zarqawi front in Jordan

AMMAN, 23 Aug— A rocket attack which narrowly missed two US warships in Jordan may be a signal Iraq's al-Qaeda leader Abu Musab al Zarqawi has opened a new front against Washington's closest Arab ally, security experts said on Sunday.

The two US warships were likely to be carefully chosen targets, the experts said. The vessels are among those that have been regularly docking and unloading supplies in the Red Sea port of Aqaba since the US led the invasion of Iraq in 2003.

Jordanian intelligence experts say the attack using *Katyusha* rockets indicates Zarqawi may favour expanding military attacks to pro-US ally Jordan to hurt Washington's war effort in Iraq.

"Zarqawi appreciates more than ever that by hitting the US military in Jordan he would score not just a symbolic victory but maybe disrupt a hitherto safe

supply route for the US Army into bases in the western desert (of Iraq)," said one intelligence expert and official who requested anonymity.

Jordan denies providing logistical backing to Washington's military campaign though the US military have said in briefings it has used the country as a main supply route.

Friday's attack missed the *USS Ashland* and its sister ship the *USS Kearsage* and was the most serious on US targets in the staunchly pro-Western kingdom since the killing of US diplomat Lawrence Foley in Amman in 2002.

MNA/Reuters

SPORTS

Tiny Thun reach Champions League group stage

BERN, 24 Aug— Tiny Swiss club Thun secured an unlikely place among Europe's soccer elite by clinching a spot in the Champions League group stage on Tuesday.

Thun beat Swedish champions Malmo 3-0 in the second leg of their third qualifying round tie at Bern's Wankdorf Stadium for a remarkable 4-0 aggregate victory.

Cobbled together on an annual budget of just 5.5 million Swiss Francs (4.3 million US dollars), Thun looked anything but underdogs on Tuesday, overwhelming the 1979 European Cup finalists with an impressively assured performance.

New Brazilian signing Bernardi fired Thun in

front after 26 minutes, heading home a well-weighted cross from Portuguese defender Jose Goncalves after a quick-flowing build-up involving half the team.

Five minutes before the break, newly-capped Swiss international Mauro Lustrinelli doubled the lead after profiting from a terribly mis-struck back pass by Malmo defender Joseph Elanga.

Lustrinelli, whose 20 goals in the Swiss league last season helped lift Thun to an unprecedented

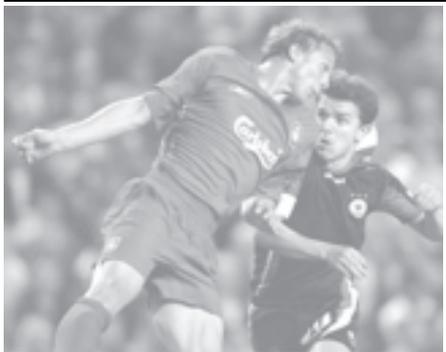
second place finish, compounded Malmo's misery in the 66th minute when he curled a speculative lob from 30 metres into the top right corner of Mattias Asper's goal.

The introduction of Malmo's Finnish striker Jari Litmanen brought about an improvement in the visitors' play, but a string of fine saves from Thun keeper Eldin Jakupovic prevented the Swedes from grabbing even a consolation goal.

With their own dilapidated Lachen stadium failing to meet UEFA standards, and also currently under water following a weekend of heavy flooding in Switzerland, Thun set a new benchmark even before the game had begun.

The small club, who only returned to the Swiss top flight in 2002 and disposed of Champions League regulars Dynamo Kiev in the second qualifying round, attracted a club record 31,243 spectators to the Swiss capital.

MNA/Reuters



Liverpool's Steven Warnock is challenged by CSKA Sofia's Emil Gargarov during the second leg of their UEFA Champions League Qualifying game at Anfield, Liverpool, England, on Tuesday.—INTERNET

Marseille, Lens complete French Intertoto double

LONDON, 24 Aug— Olympique Marseille and Racing Lens recorded a French double by winning their Intertoto Cup finals to qualify for the UEFA Cup on Tuesday.

They were joined by Germany's Hamburg SV, the 1983 European champions, who drew 0-0 at Valencia to secure a 1-0 aggregate victory.

Deportivo Coruna finished the game with eight men as Marseille romped to a 5-1 win, 5-3 on aggregate, in the second leg of their final.

Lens also went through with a 3-1 win over Romanian side CFR Cluj to seal a 4-2 aggregate triumph.

Deportivo had midfielder Aldo Duschier and defender Joan Capdevila sent off in a fiery match at the Stade Velodrome. The Primera Liga side finished the game with eight men after using up all their substitutions.

Marseille also had striker Frank Ribery dismissed. The French team halved Deportivo's first-leg advantage after four minutes with a goal from Ribery.

Depor equalized through Jorge Andrade before Marseille ran away with the game with two goals from substitute Mamadou Niang and one apiece by Abdoulaye Meite and Wilson Oruma.

"It was pure magic. It was a moment you can only have at the Stade Veldrome," said Marseille coach Jean

Fernandez whose team have collected only one point from their first four Ligue 1 games, their worst start since 1968.

"I think that we went through such a difficult period that the players really wanted to prove their worth and gave everything to regain some of their pride," he told reporters.—MNA/Reuters



Lindsay Davenport hits a shot back to Kveta Peschke of the Czech Republic during their second round singles match at the Pilot Pen Tennis Tournament in New Haven, Conn, on Tuesday, 23 Aug, 2005.—INTERNET

Rosenborg beat Steaua, reach Champions League group stage

TRONDHEIM (Norway), 24 Aug— Rosenborg Trondheim held off a late surge by Steaua Bucharest to qualify for the Champions League group phase for a 10th time on Tuesday.

Rosenborg won the second leg of their third qualifying round tie 3-2 at home to go through 4-3 on aggregate.

The success contrasts with the Norwegians' grim form at home. Rosenborg have won the domestic league for a record 13 years in a row but are ninth in the table and have long ago given up hope of retaining the title.

The Norwegians went three goals up on Wednesday and seemed to be cruising to victory until two late goals threw the match wide open.

Jan Gunnar Solli knocked in the first from a throw-in that Steaua failed to clear in the 38th minute.

Early in the second half, Rosenborg's Alexander Odegaard dodged past two defenders to score and Romania's Mirel Radoi netted an own goal on the hour to give the Norwegians an apparently unsailable lead.

But Radoi interrupted the crowd's celebrations by scoring in the 74th minute and Victorias Iacob made it 3-2 one minute later by knocking in a rebound. Rosenborg rallied to hold off a fierce challenge in the final minutes.

MNA/Reuters



Germany's Jan Ullrich (R) (T-Mobile) shakes hands with US' Levi Leipheimer (Gerolsteiner) during the ninth stage from Bad Kreuznach nach Bonn of the cycling Tour of Germany on 23 August 2005.

INTERNET

Real warm up for season with 5-0 rout of All-Stars

MADRID, 24 Aug— Real Madrid warmed up for the new season with a 5-0 rout of the Major League Soccer (MLS) All-Stars to win the 27th edition of the Santiago Bernabeu Trophy on Tuesday.

A David Beckham free kick, an impressive double from Ronaldo, a classy solo effort from substitute Guti and a late strike from Raul gave Real a morale-boosting win in the traditional curtain-raiser to their domestic season. The game is more likely to be remembered, though, for Jonathan Woodgate's first appearance in a Real Madrid shirt a year after signing for the club from Newcastle United for around 20 million euros (24.47 million US dollars).

The 25-year-old England centre-back, who had not played a competitive match since tearing a thigh muscle in a league match for Newcastle against Chelsea last April, came on for Ivan Helguera for the final four minutes of the game.

England captain Beckham got Real off the mark when he curled a trademark free kick around the wall and inside the far post midway through the first half.

Ronaldo extended Real's lead five minutes before the break, charging on to a through ball from Zinedine Zidane and checking inside a defender before rifling a fierce shot into the top corner.

The Brazilian helped himself to a second 17 minutes before time, powering on to a pass from Beckham, fending off two defenders and clipping the ball over keeper Matt Reis and into the net.

Guti added a fourth when he turned a defender inside out and stroked the ball into the corner and Raul completed the rout just before the final whistle.

Real's new signings Julio Baptista, Pablo Garcia and Carlos Diogo were all given run-outs, although none made much of a mark on their first appearance at the Bernabeu. England striker Michael Owen, whose future at Real is in the air after the club's decision to sign Brazilian duo Julio Baptista and Robinho, came on for the final 10 minutes.—MNA/Reuters

Betis secure Champions League berth with draw

MONACO, 24 Aug— Brazilian striker Ricardo Oliveira scored twice as Real Betis snatched a 2-2 draw at AS Monaco to secure a place in the Champions League Group Stage for the first time on Tuesday.

The Spanish side, who won the first leg 1-0 thanks to a late goal scored by their other Brazilian striker Edu, eliminated the beaten 2004 Champions League finalists 3-2 on aggregate.

Betis doubled their lead from the first leg in the 17th minute when Edu outpaced the Monaco defence and set Oliveira up for an easy header at the near post.

Monaco replied 15 minutes later when Spanish midfielder Gerrard half-volleyed home just under the bar after a pass from Olivier Kapo.

Monaco however missed a golden opportunity of taking the lead when

young midfielder Camel Meriem missed a penalty after a foul on France international defender Patrice Evra.

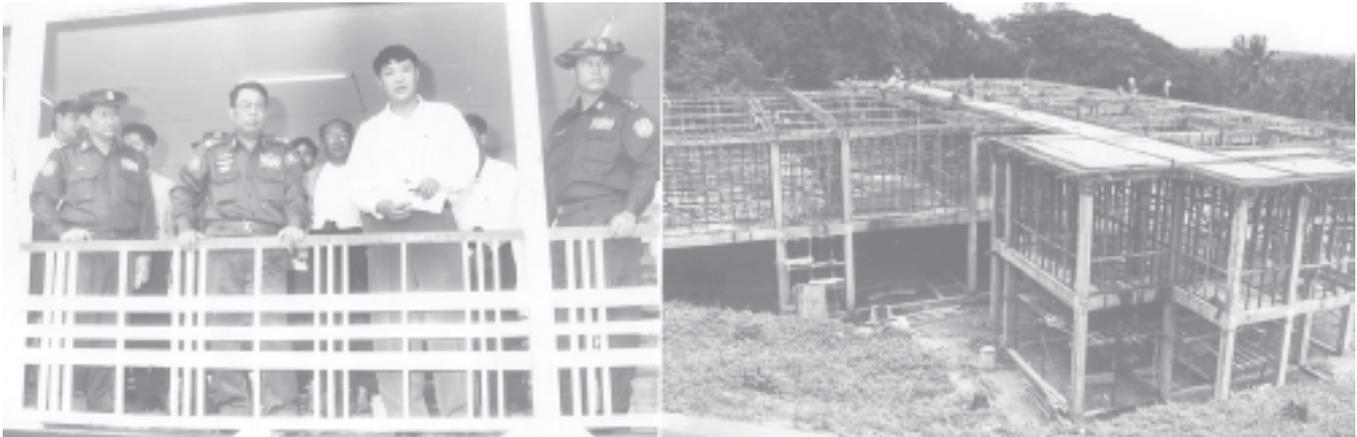
But Monaco went 2-1 ahead on the night when striker Toifilou Maoulida headed home after 63 minutes, two minutes after replacing Kapo.

Oliveira dashed the hopes of Monaco's 20,000 supporters fifteen minutes from time firing home into the far corner of the net after a swift counter-attack.

Monaco will now compete in the UEFA Cup this season while Betis will enjoy a first season at soccer's top table.

MNA/Reuters

Lt-Gen Maung Bo views mixed cropping in Kayin State



Lt-Gen Maung Bo inspects tasks for upgrading of district people's hospital in Kawkaeik to a 100-bed one. — MNA

YANGON, 24 Aug—Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Mon State PDC Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing, and Chairman of Kayin State PDC Col Khin Kyu, inspected the rubber plantation of Mya Htay Kywe Lin Co (Myainggyingyi Special Region) near Wekayin Village in Hpa-an Township on 22 August.

They were welcomed there by U Tha Htoo

Kyaw, U Kyaw Than, U Saw Kya In and members of national race group of Myainggyingyi Special Region in Kayin State.

Officials reported on allotment of 10,000 acres to the national race group in Myainggyingyi Region and arrangements for meeting the target in four years.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo gave instructions on allotment of more lands on both sides of Hpa-an-Hlaingbwe, Hpa-an-Gyaing, and roads at the entrance to and from Hpa-an, and priority to be given to those who will

effectively run the farming of rubber. They viewed mixed cropping of groundnut, corn and kitchen crops in the 200-acre rubber farm of the company.

On arrival at Gyaing (Kawkaeik) Bridge, Lt-Gen Maung Bo inspected the fitness of the bridge and gave instructions to the officials on constant supervision of tasks through cooperation of relevant officials for durability of the facility.

He also inspected local regiments and units in Nabu Station. He visited Nabu Basic Education High School in Kawkaeik Township. After inspecting the multimedia classrooms, he urged the students to study

(See page 8)

Commander attends 13th Performing Arts Competitions of Yangon South District

YANGON, 24 Aug — The 13th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions of Yangon South District were held at Shwehmawwon Hall in Kyauktan Township this morning.

Present were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Thanlyin Station Commander Commodore Maung Oo Lwin, Chairman of Committee for the holding of the 13th Yangon Division Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions Commander of No 4 Military Region Col Hla Aye, Commander of No 2 Military Region Col Tin Tun, Secretary of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Lt- Col Myint Kyi and members, Chairman of Yangon South District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Aung Pyae, departmental officials, senior artistes, judges and guests.

Chairman of Yangon South District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Aung Pyae formally opened the performing arts competitions.



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe presents gift to artistes. — YGN COMMAND

Next, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe presented a flower basket and cash award to artistes.

Altogether 122 contestants took part in the competitions.

The commander went to the paddy field of Daw Ni Ni Win and inspected the harvesting and threshing of first paddy.

He inspected ploughing of the fields for second cultivation of monsoon paddy.

Manager of Yangon Division Myanmar Agriculture Service U Aung San reported on cultivation of monsoon paddy in over 5,000 acres of farmland and recultivation of

monsoon paddy for the second time. Then, he fulfilled the requirements.—MNA

Myanmar vs Brunei 26 Aug in U-17

YANGON, 24 Aug — Myanmar U-17 team will play its first match against Brunei in Bangkok on 26 August at 18 hours local standard time.

The 25-member Myanmar U-17 team left here by air for Bangkok this evening.

Officials saw off the team at Yangon International Airport. — MNA

Noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded

(24-8-2005)

Hkamti	(4.96) inches
Kyauktaw	(4.17) inches
Kyaukpyu	(3.30) inches
Gwa	(2.60) inches
Bhamo	(2.48) inches
Aunglan	(0.28) inch
Pyinmana	(0.08) inch

Joint Secretary-General meets USDA members

YANGON, 24 Aug—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 held a meeting with USDA members, service personnel, members of women's affairs organization, Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Red Cross Society, auxiliary fire brigade, War Veterans Organization and townselders at Hsenwi Township USDA office on 20 August.

They dealt with measures being taken by USDA members in cooperation with social organizations for ensuring a rapid development of ur-

ral areas, towns and villages, making endeavours upholding Our Three Main National Causes to build a modern developed nation, implementation of State's seven-point Road Map. The joint secretary-general and party inspected Hsinshweli paddy farm in Hsenwi Township, 500-acre model plot of Hsinshweli coconut palm and corn plantations of Bala Min Htin Co, and the 10-acre paddy field of Shan State (North) USDA.

USDA members urged to adhere to Our Three Main National Causes, to be fully imbued with Union Spirit, to improve their abilities and efficiency, and to participate in building a modern developed nation.

In the evening, they met with secretaries and executives of Shan State (North), district, Lashio, Tangyan, Mongyai, and Laukkaï Township USDAs and organizers and held discussions on objectives of the (See page 9)