

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Volume XIII, Number 133

8th Waning of Wagaung 1367 ME

Saturday, 27 August, 2005



Lt-Gen Kyaw Win meeting with representatives of national race groups of Shan State (North) Special Region-1 Kokang Region.— MNA

Participation of entire national people in regional development tasks will contribute towards emergence of peaceful, developed nation

YANGON, 26 Aug — Accompanied by Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Com-

mander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing and officials, Member of the State Peace and Development

Council Lt-Gen Kyaw Win of the Ministry of Defence inspected thriving 50 acres of opium-substitute Hsinshweli sugarcane plantations near Manmaw Village on Hsenwi-Lashio Road in Lashio on 23 August morning.

Plans are under way to grow opium-substitute Hsinshweli sugarcane plantations against the target of 100 acres.

Next, they over-

saw thriving 250 acres of maize plantations at the project site of opium-substitute maize, sunflower, pigeon pea, sugarcane cultivation and bee-keeping project of North-East Command. They also

looked into bee keeping in 500 honeycombs.

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing and in-charge of the farm Lt-Col Nay Lin Aung and officials reported on agriculture and livestock

breeding tasks. Lt-Gen Kyaw Win attended to their needs and urged officials to fulfil requirements of national race groups and local farmers.

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INSIDE

Many tourists, especially Thai visitors, usually buy the Yangon-Bago one-day round trip ticket as they find the ancient Hanthawady interesting as a royal seat of ancient Bamar and Mon kings.

PAGE 7 TIN THAN YU (MYANMAR TRAVELS AND TOURS)

It is necessary to invite entrepreneurs for growing rubber on vacant and virgin lands to be able to earn foreign exchange.



Lt-Gen Kyaw Win of the Ministry of Defence inspects Hsenwi-Kunglong bypass construction project. — MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 27 August, 2005

Mass media for enhancing national political awareness of the people

The Union Solidarity and Development Association is a national force that is doing its bit in building a peaceful, modern and developed nation. It is doing so with the aim of realizing the national goal.

Since it came into being, the association has been serving the interest of the State. In consequence, the firm stand, noble aims and work programmes of the association are now flourishing among the youths and people, resulting in an increase in the membership from all strata of life.

With a view to ensuring qualitative and quantitative improvement, members of the association are being nurtured and trained. In this regard, the central level and associations at different levels have been conducting courses and workshops to develop conception, conviction, knowledge and skills of the association members.

The Journalism Course (Basic) No 1 organized by USDA concluded at the headquarters of the association on New University Avenue in Bahan Township on 25 August 2005.

The journalism course is one of the courses being conducted for USDA members to be imbued with cognitive and physical abilities and skills.

Nowadays, the government has laid down and is implementing the seven-point Road Map for the emergence of a peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation.

As the association members, the people and the Tatmadaw are engaged overtime in different spheres of nation-building tasks under the leadership of the government remarkable progress has been made in various sectors.

However, saboteurs from inside and outside the nation with the help of foreign media are floating slanderous accusations against the nation. Taking advantage of technological and development gaps the neo-colonialists are attempting to penetrate the political, social, economic and cultural arenas of the nation.

At such a time, the association members with information machinery are to refute the slanders of those foreign media, while supporting the nation's fourth estate. In the meantime, they are to organize people from all walks of life to enhance their national political awareness and pay attention to the public voices.

Therefore, we would like to call upon all the course graduate association members to rebut the slanders of foreign media and to try to become reliable information personnel and organizers.

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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

Second Inter-Department Badminton Tournament 2005 of Ministry of Finance and Revenue ends

YANGON, 26 Aug — The prize presentation ceremony of the Second Inter-Department Badminton Tournament 2005 of the Ministry of Finance and Revenue was held at the National Badminton Gymnasium on Kyongyi Street, here, this afternoon, attended by Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun.

Among the spectators were Daw Khin Than Win, wife of the minister, Chairman of the Central Sports Committee of the Ministry Deputy Minister Col Hla Thein Swe and wife, Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar U Kyaw Kyaw Maung and departmental heads, President of Myanmar Badminton Federation U Maung Maung Swe (Great Wall Traditional Medicine Industry and Construction) and executives.

After the final matches, CBM Governor U Kyaw Kyaw Maung and officials presented prizes to the winners.

Next, Deputy Minister Col Hla Thein Swe gave away prizes to the winners in the men's doubles event. Later, Minister Maj-Gen Hla Tun presented prizes to the winners in the singles events and cham-



Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun presents championship trophy to MICB team.— NLM

pionship trophy to Myanma Investment and Commercial Bank team in the team event.— MNA

Raft jetties inspected in Ahlon, Pazundaung



Minister Brig-Gen Thein Aung inspects log lots to be sold through tender system at Setsan Raft Jetty.— FORESTRY

YANGON, 26 Aug — Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung inspected sorting of log lots to be sold through tender system at Kan-3 raft jetty of Foreign Trade and SawMill Division of Myanma Timber Enterprise in Ahlon Township and Setsan raft jetty in Pazundaung Township this morning.

Officials briefed the minister on sorting of the log lots. The minister gave necessary instructions to officials.

MNA

Dr Kyaw Hsan of University of Veterinary Science wins Asian Veterinary Science Prize, Hill's Award

YANGON, 26 Aug — The annual meeting and the paper-reading session of the Asian Association of Veterinary Schools was held at Maruay Garden Hotel in Bangkok, Thailand, on 24 August. Professor Dr Kyaw Hsan (Head of Pathology and Microbiology Department) of University of Veterinary Science presented a paper.

Professor Dr Kyaw Hsan's paper was selected as one of the four best papers. Therefore, Association of Veterinary Schools awarded Asian Veterinary Science Prize, Hill's Award for 2005 and ¥100,000 to Dr Kyaw Hsan.

In 2004, Dr Myint Thein of University of Veterinary Science won the similar prize awarded by the Asian Association of Veterinary Schools.

Dr Kyaw Hsan got PhD from Hannover School of Veterinary Medicine in Germany in 2003.

MNA

Centennial Mawgun of YMBA published

YANGON, 26 Aug — The centennial ceremony of Young Men's Buddhist Association (YMBA) will be held on a grand scale in 2006. Now, the Centennial Mawgun booklet was published.

The booklet carries the photos of Bagyi Ba Pe (BA), Sir Maung Gyi (MA) Dr Ba Yin who founded the association in 1906 and the picture of the building of the association, the important role of the association in struggling for the independence of the nation, performance of the association for the national cause, religion and education of the nation during the period from regaining the Independence to date.

Furthermore, matters related to the sharing of the funds of Merchant U Maung Gyi is included in the booklet.

Those wishing to purchase the booklets may contact YMBA Building at 77, Yegyaw Road, Pazundaung Township, Tel: 290409. — MNA

Chinese Premier sets out major eco, social, institutional reforms

BEIJING, 25 Aug — Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao said on Wednesday China will focus its efforts to push forward economic, social and institutional reforms for sustainable economic development and the improved well-being of the general public.

Addressing the executive meeting of the State Council, the Premier said China will continue to restructure its economy and further transform its mode of economic growth to improve efficiency. China has recently been striving to improve its irrational and inefficient economic structure by curbing the excessive investment in sectors and fields that are energy-intensive, resources-intensive, highly polluting and inefficient.

The Premier said structural reform is needed to solve the problems and implement the scientific concept of development.

He said China will continue its efforts to promote the transformation of governmental functions so that the government will not intervene in matters that should be dealt with by enterprises, intermediate organizations and the market.

The related department of the State Council will pay more attention to macroeconomic management so that enterprises will play a key role in investment, while the central government will exercise necessary guidance, control and supervision of investment in general to prevent "blind" investment and duplicated

construction, the Premier said.

Wen said China will continue to carry out major economic reforms to safeguard the fundamental interests of the general public, involving employment, social security, education, medical services, poverty reduction, environmental protection, and workshop safety.

He said China will also continue its reform to open its door wider to the outside world by improving its foreign economic management system and properly handling various affairs in the post-transitional pe-

riod of China's entry into the World Trade Organization.

China will properly deal with trade disputes, improve its foreign trade structure and its investment environment, and upgrade its utilization of overseas capital.

Participants at the meeting held that the economic and social situation in China is generally good and the economy is moving in the direction envisaged by the central government in regulating the economy.

China has made breakthroughs in some key areas, including rural tax reform, financial, investment and logistic reforms, said the participants.

MNA/Xinhua



Russia pledges to work for continued stability in Afghanistan

Moscow, 25 Aug — Russia is concerned about the security situation in Afghanistan and will work for continued stability there and in the whole region, the Foreign Ministry said on Wednesday.

As a member state of the Collective Security Treaty Organization, Russia remains committed to "ensuring reliable security in Afghanistan under UN auspices," the Foreign Ministry said in a statement, issued in response to a presidential statement of the UN Security Council on the situation in Afghanistan a day earlier.

Russia "is concerned about the aggravation of the situation in Afghanistan as far as security is concerned," for which the Taliban, al-Qaeda and other radical forces are responsible, the Foreign Ministry said.

The UN Security Council statement expressed grave concern about the increased terrorist attacks in Afghanistan over the past few months and encouraged all Afghan participants, especially the candidates and their supporters to work to ensure peacefully electoral campaigns and successful elections.

The statement is an important document that accurately reflects the situation in Afghanistan and its development tasks, the Foreign Ministry said.

MNA/Xinhua



An acrobatics team from Italy performs during the closing ceremony of the Moscow International Air Show in Zhukovsky, outside Moscow, capital of Russia, on 21 August, 2005. Aerospace companies from some 40 countries attended the six-day air show which attracted over 650,000 visitors.

INTERNET

Hungarian Culture Week to debut in Beijing

BEIJING, 26 Aug — Hungarian Culture Week will debut in Beijing at Tianqiao Theatre from September 8, featuring performances of the work of Franz Liszt and patriotic poet Petofi Sandor.

The China-Hungary convention on cultural cooperation was signed in July 1951. In October 1999, China hosted the first China Culture Week in Hungary, and in return, the Hungarian Culture Week will come to China this September.

According to the China Art and Entertainment Group (CAEG), the organizer, the Hungarian Culture Week will open with one performance by Hungarian National Dancing Ensemble and an exhibition of Hungarian puppetry.

On September 10, two Hungarian troupes, namely: "Romano Drom", and "Five-Person Brass Band", will stage

performances. "Romano Drom" has established fame for its strong gypsy flavour, and the members of the "Five-Person Brass Band" all graduated from the world's renowned Liszt musical conservatory.

Apart from these performances, a painting exhibition of contemporary Hungarian artists like Gabor Rosko, Agnes Eperjesi, and Imre Bukta will be held in China's Centennial Altar.

From September 9, five Hungarian films that have won top international prizes will be displayed in a local theatre at the city centre.

MNA/Xinhua

Gunmen kill four people in western Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 25 Aug — A senior Iraqi official of the Justice Ministry escaped a second bid for his life when gunmen opened fire on his convoy in western Baghdad on Wednesday, killing four of his bodyguards and wounding five others, police said.

"Unknown gunmen attacked the convoy of Busho Ibrahim, the Kurdish undersecretary of the Justice Ministry on the highway near Adil District as he was heading to work, killing four bodyguards and wounding five others," an Interior Ministry source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

MNA/Xinhua

Defence Minister says Romania expected to withdraw troops in Iraq from 2006

ROMANIA, 26 Aug — Romania will begin to withdraw its troops in Iraq from next year, Defence Minister Teodor Atanaxiu said in remarks published on Thursday.

The Romanian contingent will remain in Iraq this year and begin to pull out gradually in 2006, the Adevarul (Truth) newspaper quoted Atanaxiu as saying. "We hope Iraqi troops would take over the mission from us from next year so that we could scale down our troops," said Atanaxiu.

He didn't give the exact date of the start of the withdrawal. Atanaxiu's remarks appeared to be conflicting with those by Romanian President Traian Basescu who said last month that it was "unrealistic" for the allied peacekeeping troops to withdraw from Iraq before the end of 2006. Basescu said Romanian troops would only pull out after the Iraqi government makes a request and reaches agreement with other members of the coalition countries who have contributed troops to the Middle East country. At present, Romania has 860 troops in Iraq. They are responsible for maintaining security and training Iraqi troops. Up to mid-August, the Romanian troops have provided training for 420 Iraqi soldiers.—Internet

A wounded Iraqi man waits for treatment at the Yarmouk hospital after a car bomb explosion in the Hay al-Jamma district in west Baghdad on 24 August, 2005.

INTERNET



Iranian President says to offer nuclear-initiative

TEHRAN, 25 Aug — Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said on Wednesday that Iran will offer an initiative on the current nuclear standoff with Europe.

"The Supreme National Security Council will offer an initiative on the (nuclear) fuel cycle standoff and will make it known to the public," Ahmadinejad was quoted by the official IRNA news agency as telling a Parliament session.

Ahmadinejad reiterated that Iranian nuclear programme is transparent and has been designed within the framework of international conventions. "Iran seeks its rights stipulated by the Non-Proliferation Treaty," Ahmadinejad said.

The President's an-

nouncement echoed what he told UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan on 9 August. "We are ready to proceed with (the nuclear) talks. Of course, I will put forward initiatives in this respect after forming my Cabinet," he said in a telephone conversation in reaction to Annan's appeal that Iran return to the negotiating table with Europe.

However, the President has not revealed anything on the so-called "new initiative" to resolve the nuclear dispute.

Iran resumed uranium conversion activities on

8 August, a move escalating the nuclear standoff and drawing stern warnings from the European Union (EU).

The EU and the International Atomic Energy Agency have both urged Iran to stop the resumed activities.

Top Iranian officials have insisted that Tehran is ready to continue nuclear negotiations with the EU but will never suspend the uranium conversion work again, saying the future talks should be focused on the restarting of more advanced nuclear activities.—MNA/Xinhua



The photo taken on 23 March, 2003 shows a section of the "Great Wall Under Water", which emerges out of the Panjiakou Reservoir in Kuancheng Manchu Autonomous County, north China's Hebei Province. —INTERNET

More room for enhancing Asia-Latam relations

SINGAPORE, 25 Aug—As economies in Asia and Latin America are expected to sustain healthy growth, there exists great potential for enhancing relationship between the two regions, said Singapore Deputy Prime Minister S Jayakumar on Tuesday.

S Jayakumar was speaking at the opening of the inaugural Young Parliamentarians Forum (YPF) under the framework of the Forum for East Asia-Latin American Cooperation (FEALAC).

"Fast growing demand for commodities has led to a significant increase in Latin America-Asia trade," Jayakumar said, adding that the increasing bilateral Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) between countries of the two regions will help strengthen such economic ties. He urged countries in the two regions to bet-

ter market themselves to each other's regions so as to enhance mutual understanding and promote business presence.

"We can also do more by increasing air links between our two regions. Bilateral air services agreements between the

two regions are useful starting points," Jayakumar suggested.

He noted in particular the rise of China and India, whose "economic resurgence is reshaping the global political and economic landscape", saying that their re-emergence

has helped revive old linkages and forge new ones between the two regions. Southeast Asian countries may serve as the springboard for Latin American companies' access to China, India and the rest of Asia, according to Jayakumar.

MNA/Xinhua

No plans to allow US military base in Azerbaijan

MOSCOW, 25 Aug — Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev said on Wednesday that his government has no plans to allow the United States to establish military bases in his country.

Reports that foreign military bases will be set up on Azerbaijan's territory are groundless, Aliyev told the media.

Azerbaijan and the United States have not held any talks on the establishment of a US military presence in

the Caucasus country, *Interfax* news agency quoted Aliyev as saying.

No countries will be allowed to set up military bases in Azerbaijan, as the presence of foreign military bases will do no good for the stability of the country," Aliyev said.

Aliyev also said his government's top priority now is to resolve the territorial dispute with neighbouring Armenia.

MNA/Xinhua

Kazakhstan may join WTO next year

ALMATY, 25 Aug — Kazakhstan may join the World Trade Organization (WTO) next year, President Nursultan Nazarbayev said on Wednesday.

"We've worked very actively for WTO entry. I myself have been concerned with it... It's possible that next year we will join," Nazarbayev said during a live television broadcast in which he answered voters' questions.

The veteran leader, who has ruled the vast oil-producing state since 1989, also confirmed that, as expected, he would run for re-election in a presidential vote due in December.—MNA/Reuters



Athena Nolan joins about 200 demonstrators in support of anti-war protester Cindy Sheehan, whose son was killed in Iraq, during a candlelight vigil, on the north side of the White House in Washington, DC, on 17 August, 2005.

INTERNET

Nepali FM says China trip fruitful

KATHMANDU, 25 Aug — Nepali Foreign Minister Ramesh Nath Pandey has said that his visit to China was crucial in further bolstering the diplomatic ties between the two countries and exploring possibilities of investment and trade, Radio Nepal reported on Wednesday.

"The visit has been important in terms of strengthening the economic cooperation and boosting investment in social and cultural sectors," Pandey, who returned to Kathmandu from an 11-day tour to China on Tuesday, was quoted by the state-run radio as saying.

"A Chinese team is arriving in Kathmandu very soon to study the possibilities of investment in Nepal," Pandey added.

During Pandey's visit, five agreements, including the 870 million Nepali rupees (12.42 million US dollars) Chinese budgetary support for the current Nepali fiscal year (16 July, 2005-15 July, 2006) and import of goods via Tibetan route, were signed.—MNA/Xinhua

Filipino worker killed in Iraq attack two more hurt

BAGHDAD, 25 Aug—Guerillas ambushed a convoy carrying workers of the US electronics firm Lucent Technologies in Iraq's volatile northern city of Kirkuk, killing a Filipino and wounding two of his compatriots, the Department of Foreign Affairs said yesterday.

The fatality was identified as Federico Samson, said DFA spokesperson Gilberto Asuque.

Samson died along with two Iraqis in the attack early Wednesday on the convoy transporting the Filipinos from the oil-rich city to the Iraqi capital of Baghdad. He was the third Filipino to die this year in the war in Iraq.

The wounded Filipinos were Pedro Galila and Roderick Tayo, according to Asuque. They have been declared out of danger after being flown to Baghdad for treatment, he said. The casualties were among at least 10 Filipinos in the Lucent convoy. There were no other details on the rest of the Filipinos in the convoy.

The Philippines' charge d'affaires in Iraq, Ricardo Endaya, who is temporarily based in Jordan, has been instructed to immediately coordinate with employers of the victim and bring his remains back home, the department said.

"Endaya informed me this morning about this sad development and I have instructed him to arrange with authorities for a flight to Baghdad from Jordan to speak with the concerned officials," Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo said.—Internet

Chinese Defence Minister meets Russian counterpart

QINGDAO, 25 Aug—Chinese and Russian defence ministers met here on Wednesday on the sidelines of the China-Russian joint military exercises, for an exchange of views on the eight-day war game.

"The China-Russia joint military exercises are a key strategic decision made by the state and military leaders of the two countries," Chinese Defence Minister Cao Gangchuan told his Russian counterpart Sergei Ivanov. Cao said the decision was made in view of the international changes and was intended to deepen the bilateral strategic cooperative partnership.

"It's a significant event in the history of China-Russia military relations," acknowledged Cao, also vice-chairman of the Chinese Central Military Commission and State Councillor.

Cao said the military drills have demonstrated the new development of the China-Russia strategic cooperative partnership and the might of China-Russia military cooperation.

He said the war game helps deepen the two countries' mutual trust in military and security affairs, enhance bilateral cooperation in military training and improve the two armies' capability of responding to crises and conducting immediate joint operations.

"The joint military exercises have an important realistic significance and profound historic impact on the safeguarding of regional and world peace and security," Cao said.

Ivanov said it is particularly significant to hold China-Russia military drill at the 60th anniversary of the victory of the international anti-fascist war.

MNA/Xinhua



A gold mooncake is displayed at a jewellery store in Hefei, East China's Anhui Province, on 11 August, 2005. The cake sells at a price of some 3,000 yuan. China will be celebrating the traditional Mooncake Festival on 18 September.—INTERNET

Arroyo to visit Saudi Arabia, for more oil supply

MANILA, 25 Aug—Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is set to begin her oil supply-generated trip to Saudi Arabia and the United States next month, a local newspaper reported on Thursday.

President Arroyo, according to *Manila Bulletin*, will appeal oil-producing countries to increase oil supply at affordable prices to the Philippines, which is facing the looming oil crisis, when she attends the summit of world leaders in New York City next month.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita told the newspaper that Arroyo will arrange dialogue with leaders of petroleum-producing countries since they are also scheduled to attend the world summit.

Prior to the New York summit, Arroyo will make a state visit to Saudi Arabia, the country which is among the biggest petroleum-producing countries and homing a million overseas Filipino workers (OFWs), the report said.

According to the energy department, as a net oil importer, the Philippines' oil import recorded a surge of 27.2 per cent increase in the first five months of this year to 2.308 billion US dollars from 1.815 billion US dollars in the same period last year.

MNA/Xinhua

Bangladesh police detain more bombing suspects

DHAKA, 25 Aug—Police picked up 15 more suspected activists of the Jamaat-ul-Mujahedin, the Islamic militant group blamed for last week's serial bombings that killed two people and injured

about 100 across the country, police said on Wednesday. "We are looking for the mastermind, his associates and some 500 activists who are believed to have been involved in the coordinated bombings," a police officer in Dhaka said. Hundreds of homemade

bombs went off nearly simultaneously across Bangladesh last Wednesday, hours after Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia had left for a visit to China. She came back cutting short the trip, and ordered an immediate crackdown on the suspected militants.

Moulana Fariduddin Mashud, a former director of government-run Islamic Foundation who was arrested at Dhaka Airport while leaving for London on Monday, was being interrogated by a joint interrogation cell.

MNA/Reuters

Malaysian manufacturing sales up 14.9% in June

KUALA LUMPUR, 25 Aug—The sales value of Malaysia's manufacturing sector rose by 14.9 per cent to 39.3 billion ringgit (10.34 billion US dollars) in June on a year-on-year basis, the Department of Statistics said on Tuesday.

The growth was generated by the increases in sales value for 47 industries out of 73 industries covered by the survey, the department said in a statement released here.

Five major industries experiencing significant increases in their sales value are manufacture of office, computing and accounting machinery; primary iron and steel industries; crude oil refineries; manufacture of plastic products as well as manufacture of semi-conductors and other electronic components and communication equipment and appliances.

Compared with May,

the sales value for June grew by 5.6 per cent.

The number of employees engaged in the manufacturing sector rose by 0.7 per cent to 1,020,295 on a year-on-year basis and down by 0.2 per cent on a month-on-month basis.

The monthly manufacturing survey covers 73 out of a total of 137 manufacturing industries in Malaysia, the department said.—MNA/Xinhua

Hurricane kills six in Uruguay

MONTEVIDEO, 25 Aug—A hurricane of 175 kilometres per hour killed six people and caused serious damage in south and east Uruguay, according to official sources on Wednesday.

The wind tore roofs and brought down trees and posts along the Uruguayan coasts on Tuesday night and early Wednesday, causing casualties and water-supply interruption and blackouts.

In the country's capital, Montevideo, the fall of a radio-broadcasting antenna in the poor neighbourhood of Cerrito killed two people.

In Canelones Department, neighbouring the capital, a 53-year-old man

was killed when he was removing a fallen tree and a falling tree killed a 50-year-old woman while she was looking for her dog.

In the tourist department of Maldonado, 120 kilometre east of Montevideo, a tree fell on a precarious house, killing its occupants.

Montevideo and the affected departments showed the effects of the hurricane, with hundreds of fallen trees and posts and houses without roofs.

The municipal authorities said it will take them at least 48 hours to restore services and electricity supply and clear the roads.—MNA/Xinhua

Chevron to set up new unit for Indonesia

JAKARTA, 25 Aug—Following the recent merger of US energy giants Unocal and Chevron, the company plans to establish a new business unit to take charge of its subsidiaries working in the upstream and geothermal sectors in Indonesia and the Philippines.

The new unit will be called Chevron IndoAsia, said Wahyudi Yudianto Ardiwinata, the President Director of PT Caltex Pacific Indonesia (CPI)—a Chevron subsidiary after the merger with Caltex. "We have started the preparations and expect the business unit will be established this year," he was quoted Wednesday by *The Jakarta Post* as saying.

The downstream businesses, such as Caltex Oil Indonesia, which sells lubricants, would not be included in IndoAsia.

Unocal, the ninth-largest US oil company, accepted an improved takeover bid worth 17.1 billion US dollars by Chevron on 20 July.

Yudianto said there were no plans to merge Chevron and Unocal's subsidiaries in Indonesia.

"The companies' core businesses are different, with CPI concentrating on upstream onshore activities and Unocal operating onshore and in the LNG (liquefied natural gas) business," he said.

The subsidiaries would be able to share services with one another under the IndoAsia umbrella, he added.

CPI is the largest oil producer in Indonesia, producing 478,000 barrels per day at present, roughly half of the country's total oil output, from its wells across Riau Province.—MNA/Xinhua



People play on a flooded sidewalk on the banks of the Hanjiang River in Wuhan, the capital of Central China's Hubei Province, on 24 August, 2005.

INTERNET

Sri Lanka to host S-E Asia Health Ministers Meeting

COLOMBO, 25 Aug— Sri Lanka will host the South East Asia Health Ministers Meeting in Colombo beginning from 4 September to 10 September, the *Daily News* reported on Wednesday.

Healthcare and Nutrition Minister Nimal Siripala de Silva said that the meeting will provide a forum to discuss important health issues pertaining to the region and will also focus attention to forge bilateral arrangements.

Health Ministers attending the meeting will take up such topics as health action in emergencies, including responses to earthquakes and tsunamis like the 26 December, 2004 one.

The meeting will also focus on strengthening of public health infrastructure with emphasis on education and

practice and access to medicines and vaccines-implications of the intellectual property protection and trade agreements.

The Regional Health Ministers meeting is held annually in one of the countries in the region and the 1995 Regional Meeting was held in Sri Lanka, the minister said.

Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Indonesia, South Korea, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Timor are expected to participate in the meeting. — MNA/Xinhua



A polar bear cub gets a swimming lesson from first-time mum Barle at a zoo in Royal Oak, Michigan. — INTERNET

Prince Charles probes alternative healthcare

LONDON, 25 Aug— Britain's heir-to-the-throne Prince Charles has commissioned a report into how the government could save money by using alternative medicine in the public healthcare system, the *Times* newspaper said on Wednesday.

Charles, a long-time advocate of complementary medicines, asked a former chief economics adviser to Barclays Bank to see where savings could be made by avoiding traditional drug treatments for certain conditions, the report said.

A spokeswoman for the Prince declined to comment on the report.

"As you know, the report has not been completed yet, so it would be inappropriate to comment on it," she told *Reuters*.

According to leaked draft conclusions of the report in the *Times*, the report will argue that the state-owned National Health Service could save millions of pounds by using alternative treatments.

It will say up to 480 million pounds (863.4 million US dollars) could be saved if one in 10 family doctors offered homeopathy as an alternative to standard drugs, the *Times* said.

Savings of up to 3.5 billion pounds could be achieved by offering spinal manipulation rather than drugs to people with back pain.

Charles has a reputation in Britain as an environmental crusader, but he has been mocked in the media ever since he admitted talking to plants in his garden.

He has championed organic food at his Highgrove Estate in western England and has warned of the "disastrous consequences" of genetically modified crops.

MNA/Reuters

PetroChina interim earnings set new record

HONG KONG, 25 Aug—The PetroChina Company Limited announced here on Wednesday that it recorded a net profit of 61.6 billion renminbi (about 7.59 billion US dollars) for the first six months which ended in 30 June, 2005, an increase of 36.1 per cent from the same period of last year.

Earnings per share reached 0.35 renminbi, which was approximately 0.09 renminbi higher than that for the same period of 2004.

The Board of Directors of the Company proposed to allocate 45 per cent of the half year net profits for paying interim dividend for 2005, equivalent to approximately 0.157719 renminbi per share.

By leveraging the continued high crude oil prices and the steadily rapid growth of the domestic economy, the company achieved improved operational results and a notable increase in earnings during the first half of 2005.

"We have seen sound performance in our major

business segments during the first half of 2005. Our oil and gas exploration achieved significant breakthroughs in both the eastern and western China regions thanks to the great efforts we have made, while oil and gas production also saw increases," said PetroChina president Jiang Jiemin.

He added, "Our refinery segment improved key technical indicators, the chemical segment increased both the output and sales of major products, and our pipeline construction progressed rapidly. All these achievements have contributed to laying a solid ground for us to reach our full year performance target."

MNA/Xinhua

NATO exercises joint air operations

BRUSSELS, 25 Aug— Twenty two NATO and partner countries started on Wednesday an exercise of joint air operations codenamed "Cooperative Key 2005" in Bulgaria, the headquarters of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) announced here on Wednesday. — MNA/Xinhua

Iran says Iranian freed from Guantanamo mistreated

TEHERAN, 25 Aug— An Iranian man freed from Guantanamo Bay prison developed mental disorders as a result of his treatment there, Iran's Foreign Ministry said on Tuesday.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Hamid Reza Asefi said the released man Mohammad Anuarkord required medical care to recover from the ordeal.

"Assessments show he has developed mental disorders and psychological problems in Guantanamo due to the inhumane attitude and harassment of his jailors," the semi-official ISNA

students news agency quoted Asefi as saying.

The Pentagon said on Monday that three men were released from Guantanamo and sent home to Iran, Yemen and Tajikistan. It said the Iranian detainee was recommended for release by an annual administrative review board.

MNA/Reuters

Seven killed in landslides in India's Assam Pradesh

NEW DELHI, 25 Aug— At least seven people were killed and a dozen were injured on Wednesday in mudslides triggered by heavy rains in northeast India's Assam Pradesh, *Indo-Asian News Service* reported.

The local police said several houses were demolished when small hillocks caved in, trapping scores of people, in Guwahati, a major city in Assam.

"There were at least three major incidents when mounds of earth trapped people living near hillocks in and around

the city," Guwahati District Magistrate Samir Sinha said.

Police and rescue workers recovered at least seven bodies, including two children.

The city with a population of 1.5 million was flooded on Wednesday after three hours of heavy rain. — MNA/Xinhua

Suicide bomb at US, Iraqi military centre kills five

BAQUBA (Iraq), 25 Aug — A suicide bomber killed a US soldier, an American contractor and four Iraqi security guards at a joint coordination centre in a town north of Baghdad on Tuesday, the US military said in a statement.

The attack in Baquba also wounded nine US soldiers, four Iraqi police officers and six Iraqi civilians, the statement said.

Such attacks have raised fears that guerillas seeking to topple the government are infiltrating the Iraqi military and security forces.

MNA/Reuters



In Austria, floods have caused chaos in the west of the country, leaving three people dead and one missing recently. — INTERNET

The interesting Yangon-Bago tour programme

Tin Than Yu (Myanmar Travels and Tours)

Myanmar is a tourist destination having a myriad of places that can capture the hearts of visitors. And the Myanmar Travels and Tours is arranging and conducting tour programmes for foreign visitors as well as local vacationers.

In addition to Bago, Thanlyin and Twantay, other tourist destinations such as Chaungtha and Ngwesau beach resorts are not far from Yangon. Thanks to the better transport, tourists can now visit destinations within a short period for leisure, regional knowledge and studying the archaeological sites.

Of the destinations, Bago is only 47 miles from Yangon by train and 50 miles by car. Bago was famous in history as Hanthawady, the royal seat of the nation during the Hanthawady period. The legend has it that a small plot rose from the sea at the place now called Bago, and on it were a female hintha bird (Brahminy duck) resting on the back of the male hintha bird; and that seeing the two birds, the Buddha prophesied the emergence of a state called Hanthawady in the future. The statues of a female hintha resting on the male was erected on a hillock called Hinthagon as the symbol of Bago. Thus, it is no wonder that Bago is famous for its many ancient edifices.

Along the Yangon-Bago road are the picturesque villages and large stretches of paddy and other crops, a scene that will refresh the mind of a traveller.

Located at Htaukkyant, a place 21 miles north of the city centre on Yangon-Bago road, is the War Cemetery where 27,000 souls of the Allied soldiers lay rest in peace.

The Kyaikpon Laymyethna Pagoda with four large sitting Buddha statues facing the four different directions welcomes tourists at a place three miles south of Bago. The height of each statue is

about 50 feet. Tourists will feel amazed to see large images of Buddha at a place surrounded by hills and forests. The pagoda was built by King Dhammazedi in AD 1476. Tourists can also visit the nearby old monastery.

In the eastern sector of Bago lies the Shwemawdaw Pagoda, believed to be one of the most important monuments of Myanmar history. According to our ancestors, two Mon merchants enshrined two hair relics of Buddha in the pagoda. Various kings raised the height of the pagoda till reaching

Another interesting statue is the Shwethalyaung Reclining Buddha Image, said to be the finest of its kind in Myanmar. Due to a lack of care for years, the image was left hidden in the trees, bushes and creepers for a long time. But after a foreigner accidentally found the image, it was renovated and a building was erected in 1906 to shelter it. The image is 180 feet long and 52 feet at the highest part.

297 feet in AD 1796. Strong earthquakes in 1912, 1913 and 1930 destroyed many parts of the pagoda. The pagoda was rebuilt in 1954 to become a 375 feet high religious edifice. It has 121 encircling cetis.

Another interesting statue is the Shwethalyaung Reclining Buddha Image, said to be the finest of its kind in Myanmar. Due to a lack of care for years, the image was left hidden in the trees, bushes and creepers for a long time. But after a foreigner accidentally found the image, it was renovated and a building was erected in 1906 to shelter it. The image is 180 feet long and 52 feet at the highest part.

A passage from the image passes through the many monasteries in Mon architectural design lo-

cated on either side and ruins of the place walls and the moat till reaching the Hinthagon lying on the south-east sector of the Shwethalyaung. A hermit of Mandalay also built a pagoda on the hillock.

In the west of Shwethalyaung is the 333-foot high Maha Ceti, a pagoda built by King Bayintnaung in AD 1560 according to the design of the Maha Zediya in Sri Lanka. The pagoda was renovated again and again by people of the later periods as it suffered from earthquakes many times.

Shinpinthalyaung or Seinthalyaung is another attractive place for visitors. The ancient reclining Buddha image is kept under shelter like the Shwethalyaung.

Kanbawzathadi Palace was rebuilt at its original place as a tourist attraction. The original palace constructed by King Bayintnaung was destroyed and burnt down by the enemy in 1599 during the reign of the king's son. Many ancient artifacts have been found at the palace site since the start of the excavation project in 1990.

Many tourists, especially Thai visitors, usually buy the Yangon-Bago one-day round trip ticket as they find the ancient Hanthawady interesting as a royal seat of ancient Bamar and Mon kings.

Located in the old palace the Hanthawady Museum displays cultural objects of foreign nations extending trade and other relations with the Hanthawady in addition to ancient Buddha images, bronzeware, ironware, weapons of various types, teak pillars of the palace, the painting and replica of the palace. Now a one-night stay trip to Bago is being conducted for package tours, individuals and families. The tour programme includes golfing, a visit to nearby Moeyungyi Lake Bird Sanctuary and a night stay at Shwewatun Hotel.

(Translation: TMT)

Kyemon+Myanma Alin: 26.8.2005.

ကျေးရွာတိုင်း ကိုယ့်အားကိုယ်ကိုး စာကြည့်တိုက်များ ထူထောင်ဖို့၊

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A defender of Energy trying to block the attack of Tun Tun Win of Finance & Revenue in the first semifinal match of the Opening Cup of Myanmar League for 2005-06 football season at AungSan Stadium, on 26-8-2005. Finance & Revenue beat Energy 5-1.-NLM

Participation of entire...

(from page 1)

In 2005-06 cultivation season, 439,665 acres of land have been put under monsoon paddy, 144,673 acres under maize, 34,625 acres under monsoon groundnut, 8,112 acres under monsoon sunflower, 16,745 acres under pigeon pea, 568 acres under monsoon green gram and 3,691 acres under sugarcane in the whole Shan State (North).

On arrival at the breeding hall of 50 acres of model Hsinshweli paddy plantation in Hsenwi, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win heard reports on development of Hsenwi Township by officials.

Brig-Gen Soe Oo of Hsenwi Station reported on cultivation of 4,400 acres of summer and monsoon paddy in four zones of Hsenwi Station and water supply tasks. Lt-Gen Kyaw Win attended to the needs.

After hearing the reports, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win said that it can be seen that progress in the agriculture sector and regional development have been made in Hsenwi Township due to harmonious cooperation of departments concerned and local farmers under the supervision of North-East Command. Hsenwi Township is a food suffi-

ciency. Hence, the food sufficiency of the township will contribute to development of the region.

It is the genuine goodwill of the Government not only for development of the region but also for peace and stability of the State and uplift of living standard. The participation of the entire national people in regional development tasks will contribute towards building a peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation. Township level departmental personnel are to discharge their duties with goodwill.

Next, they inspected thriving high

yield Hsinshweli paddy plantation on 50 acres of model plot.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party oversaw maintenance of Lashio-Hsenwi-Kunlong Road. At the briefing hall of Hsenwi-Kunlong bypass construction project, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing reported on reported on progress in maintaining the road at mile posts 38/0 and 43/0 and construction of 32 miles long Holi-Narti Road.

Shan State (North) Superintending Engineer U Kyaw Min Thein briefed them on construction of earth road section on Holi-Narti road and Karmai-Kyukawyam-Hopon-Hpahsam Road.

At the hall of Kunlong Station, he met with officers, other ranks and families of the station and urged them to carry out livestock and agriculture tasks on a manageable scale and to participate in

regional development tasks in cooperation with local people.

Similarly, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win met with district and township departmental personnel, social organization members and local people at the office of Kunlong Township Peace and Development Council. Chairman of Kunlong District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Pe Kyaing reported on matters related to the township, growing of 4,255 acres of rubber plantation, and progress of education, health and rural development sectors.

Speaking on the occasion, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win said that he was pleased to learn knowing food sufficiency of the district and growing rubber plantations. It is necessary to invite entrepreneurs for growing rubber on vacant and virgin lands to be able to earn foreign exchange. He stressed the

need to extend cultivation of other industrial crops suitable for the region. As peace and stability has been restored in Kunlong region, all are to actively take part in regional development tasks with goodwill.

Next, they inspected rubber plantations along Kunlong-Chinshwehew Road and Namting Creek. At Kunmyint Village, near Chinshwehew, they oversaw thriving rubber plantations and opium-substitute Hsinshweli paddy and sugarcane plantations.

At the Yeiktha of Laukka Station, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win met with representatives of national race groups of Shan State (North) Special Region-1 Kokang Region. He urged them to participate in regional development tasks harmoniously and grow Hsinshweli strain crops for local food sufficiency.

MNA

The participation of the entire national people in regional development tasks will contribute towards building a peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation. Township level departmental personnel are to discharge their duties with goodwill.

All national people...

(from page 16)

332,156 acres, and arrangements being made for growing of paddy in the flooded plots as soon as water level falls.

In his address, Lt-Gen Maung Bo said that the business of 70 per cent population in the nation is agriculture. Thus, the agricultural sector serves the interest of the people.

At present, peace and stability has been restored in Kayin State.

Therefore, progress has been made in the region. The Government is placing emphasis on fulfilling requirements of the local people who long for regional development.

Hence, all the national people are to cooperate with the Government in undertaking regional development tasks. Furthermore, he invited national race groups from some remote areas to join hands with the Government and

national people for carrying out development tasks.

Authorities of three districts handed over documents on data and accounts for completion of growing early monsoon paddy cultivation to Chairman of Kayin State PDC Col Khin Kyu.

Next, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party viewed demonstrations of ploughing, weeding and broadcasting of fertilizers.

Afterwards, they put fingerlings into the farmlands for the fish paddy farming.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo presented prize to the paddy transplanting team of Chaungtaung Village. The commander and officials also gave away prizes to the transplanting teams.

They viewed



Kayin State PDC Chairman Col Khin Kyu presents relief items for flood victims in Kyondoe through an official. — MNA

The Government is placing emphasis on fulfilling requirements of the local people who long for regional development. Hence, all the national people are to cooperate with the Government in undertaking regional development tasks.

round the agricultural booths of Myanma Agriculture Service.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party oversaw manageable crops plantations of local regiments and units of Kawkareik Station and gave necessary

instructions.

Next, they attended the ceremony to hand over the two-storey hall of BEHS in Kyondoe. First, Col Khin Kyu, Deputy Director-General U Tun Kyi of No 1 Department for Basic Education and U Saw Phyu Ohn of the School Board of Trustees formally opened the new school building.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo unveiled the stone plaque. He inspected rooms of the new school building and gave necessary instructions.

After that, Lt-Gen Maung Bo delivered an address at the ceremony to present relief items for flood victims in Kyondoe at the school hall.

Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing, Brig-Gen Maung Shein of Kawkareik Station and officials handed over relief items for the flood victims through officials.

After the ceremony, Lt-Gen Maung Bo cordially greeted flood victims and members of social organizations.

On arrival at Shwe Phyu Soe Rubber Nursery in Bingyi Village of Hpa-an Township, Lt-Gen Maung Bo heard reports on production of rubber saplings presented by departmental officials and inspected the nursery.

At the local battalion in Kyaikto, the rubber sapling production farm in-charge Major Maung Maung Oo reported on seeding and nurturing of 220,500 rubber saplings on 100 acres, expense and benefit. Lt-Gen Maung Bo stressed the need for production of from 500,000 to 1 million rubber saplings, saving the cost and water supply tasks.

Afterwards, they left there and arrived back here in the evening.

MNA



Newly opened two-storey building of Kyondoe BEHS seen at the opening ceremony. — MNA

Myanmar women delegation leaves for China

YANGON, 26 Aug—Myanmar delegation led by President of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation Daw Than Than Nwe left here today for the People's Republic of China to attend the 10th anniversary conference of the 4th World Women's Conference.

The anniversary conference will be held from 29 August to 1 September in Beijing.

Daw Than Than Nwe was accompanied by General-Secretary of MWAFF Prof Dr Daw Khin Mar Tun.

The delegation was seen off at Yangon International Airport by Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlements Maj-Gen Sein Htwa, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint, patrons of MWAFF, president, vice president and executives of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, officials of MWAFF and Ambassador of PRC to Myanmar Mr Li Jinjun and officials. — MNA



MWAFF President Daw Than Than Nwe and party being seen off at the airport before departure for China.— MNA

Fair Sun Mould and Die Industry introduces moulds and dies



Minister for Cooperatives Col Zaw Min speaking at the introduction of moulds and dies assembled by Fair Sun Mould and Die Industry in Shwepyitha Industrial Zone.— COOPERATIVE

YANGON, 26 Aug — Chairman of the Industrial Development Study and Cooperation Committee Minister for Cooperatives Col Zaw Min attended the introduction of moulds and dies assembled by Fair Sun Mould and Die Industry in Shwepyitha Industrial Zone this afternoon.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation Thura U Thuang Lwin, Deputy Minister for Industry-2 Lt-Col Khin Maung Kyaw, officials and technicians of Cottage Industries, Myanmar Dockyard, Myanmar Electric Power Enterprise, Myanmar Railways, Myanmar Textile Industries and Myanmar Engineers Association and industrialist.

First, Minister Col Zaw Min made a speech. Next, Deputy Minister Thura U Thuang Lwin explained measures being taken for use of technical methods for development of industrial equipment and parts, fulfilling the domestic requirements, production of import-substitute items and iron and steel industry.

Managing Director Dr Pe Khin of Fair Sun Mould & Die Industry explained the machinery installed at the industry, manufacturing of eight kinds of industrial parts such as water pump housing, oil pump bracket, shock absorber, oil pump housing, rocket arm support, nozzle holder, prechamber and idler gear shaft and production of six kinds of foundry machine such as sand dryer machine, sand washing machine, shot hanger machine, sand cooler machine, shake out machine and conveyor and various kinds of plastic injection mould. He also reported on nine kinds of machine parts to be manufactured — band saw machine, ban saw tip brazing machine, hand jointer

machine, router machine, rice huller machine, plate machine and one ton battery forklift. After that, those present viewed coordinate measuring machine, vertical CNC machine centre, and other machine parts.

At the hall of the industry, Fair Sun Co Director U Thein Ngwe reported on production of import-substitute items and rubber moulds. Managing Director of Excellence Mineral Manufacturing Col Ltd U Tun Hlaing reported on production of machine parts assembled by their company, and Deputy Minister Lt-Col Khin Maung Kyaw gave a supplementary report. Myanmar Engineers Association Chairman Col Nyan Tun Oo explained manufacturing of vacuum moulding machines with the use of pro-engineering programming system. Later, the minister gave concluding remarks. — MNA

Thailand seeks ways to assist business, to cooperate in research in Myanmar

YANGON, 26 Aug— An 11-member Thai delegation yesterday met with officials of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry-UMFCCI and discussed matters on opening of training courses in Myanmar for human re-

source development, ways of providing assistance for booming of small- and medium-size businesses and opportunities to cooperate in research.

At a meeting held at UMFCCI here, Myanmar side was comprised of Vice-presidents

Rubber plantations in Sagaing Division, Chin State inspected

YANGON, 26 Aug — The Managing Director of Myanmar Perennial Crops Enterprise inspected rubber plantations of entrepreneurs and local battalions in Kalay Township on 18 August.

On 19 August, the managing director oversaw private rubber farms and the rubber plantations of the merchant association in Tamu.

On 20 and 21 August, he inspected Htazyan rubber plantation in Tiddim Township and Yanhtalo rubber plantation in Falam Township and gave instructions on feeding of fertilizers, weeding tasks and fire preventive measure to officials.

On 22 August, he met with rubber growers in Kalay Township and attended to the needs. — MNA

PRC hands over weather instruments to Meteorology and Hydrology Department

YANGON, 26 Aug— Under World Meteorological Organization/Voluntary Cooperation Programme, the People's Republic of China handed over PCVSAT and AWOS worth US\$ 41120 to Department of

Meteorology and Hydrology-DMH this afternoon.

At a hand-over ceremony held at the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology here, Dr San Hla Thaw, Director-General of the DMH and Ms Xu Qingyuan, First Secretary of the Economic and Commercial Counsellor's Office of the Embassy of PRC, inked the documents.

Also present were Deputy Director General, directors and responsible staff from the DMH, responsible personnel from the Chinese Embassy and four communication engineers from China Meteorological Administration.

MNA

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MOGE holds coordination meeting

YANGON, 26 Aug — Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise held the coordination meeting at the Ministry of Energy on Pyay Road this morning.

Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi gave an opening speech. Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Than Htay, Director-General U Soe Myint of Energy Planning De-

partment, Managing Director U San Lwin of MOGE and officials took part in the discussions.

Next, the minister gave instructions on drilling and test of new oil and natural gas fields for local fuel sufficiency, preparations to be made for drilling new wells after reviewing

seismic data, use of funds in accord with financial regulations, nurturing technicians, efficient use of fuel and power and minimizing loss and wastage.

The meeting ended in the evening.

MNA

Religious Affairs Ministry holds tree planting ceremony

YANGON, 26 Aug — Tree planting ceremony 2005 of Ministry of Religious Affairs was held this afternoon at Thirimingalar Kaba Aye Hill.

Minister for Religious Affairs Thura U Myint Maung, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, departmental heads and officials and staff planted 2,000 toddy palm trees.

MNA

Staff of Ministry of Religious Affairs participate in tree planting ceremony at Kaba Aye Hill.

MNA



Waso robes, umbrellas donated

YANGON, 26 Aug — The Waso robes offering ceremony for 315 members of the Sangha and nuns from Singu and its surrounding villages was held at Sai Phone Htoo Photo Studio on 48th Street in Botahtaung Township this morning.

Patron of Buddha Pujaniya 9,900 Lights Organization U Soe Win (Singu Soe Win), Chairman U Bo Kyi (Dr Bo Thanmani-Taungdwingyi) and officials accepted 140 sets of robes and six umbrellas donated by wellwishers.

Those wishing to donate robes, umbrellas, slippers and medicines may contact the organization at the combined office (Insein), Tel: 640487 and 640489.

H



Officials of Buddha Pujaniya 9,900 Lights Organization accepts robes donated by wellwishers. — H

Coordination meeting of...

(from page 16)

requirements and the meeting ended with the concluding remarks by Maj-Gen Myint Swe.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Wai Lwin, military region commanders, station commanders, secretary of Yangon Division PDC Lt-Col Myint Kyi and others.—MNA

Objectives of the 13th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions

- To vitalize patriotism and nationalism;
- To preserve and safeguard Myanmar cultural heritage;
- To perpetuate genuine Myanmar music, dance and traditional fine arts;
- To preserve Myanmar national character;
- To nurture spiritual development of the youths;
- To prevent influence of alien culture; and
- To strengthen national unity and Union Spirit.

Proficiency course for heads of Township Internal Revenue Department concludes



Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun speaking at the concluding ceremony of Proficiency Course No 25 for Heads of Township Internal Revenue Department. — F&R

YANGON, 26 Aug — The Proficiency course No 25 for heads of Township Internal Revenue Department of the Ministry of Finance and Revenue, concluded at the meeting hall of the department on Pansodan Street this morning, attended by Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla

Tun. Also present on the occasion were Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Col Hla Thein Swe, Chairman of Central Bank of Myanmar U Kyaw Kyaw Maung, Director-General of Internal Revenue Department U Hsan Tun, directors-general, managing directors, directors, deputy directors and

officials of the departments and enterprises under the ministry.

Minister Maj-Gen Hla Tun delivered an address. Afterwards, the minister awarded the prizes to the outstanding students. On behalf of trainees, the completion certificates were presented to a trainee. — MNA

30th Inter-State/Division Chess Tournament commences

YANGON, 26 Aug — Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint delivered an address at the opening ceremony of the 30th Inter-State/Division Chess Tournament at Aung San Gymnasium, here, this morning.

Previous year's champion Mandalay Di-

vision team, Rakhine State team and Yangon Division team handed over their championship trophies to the minister.

Next, the minister opened the tournament.

Also present were Chairperson of Central Committee for Myanmar Women's Sports Federation Daw Aye Aye, the President of Myanmar

Chess Federation and officials.

Altogether 11 teams of states and divisions are taking part in the International Chess event, seven teams of states and divisions in the International Chess U-20 event and seven teams from States and Divisions in the Myanmar Traditional Chess event. — MNA

Traditional medicine law clarified

YANGON, 26 Aug — In accord with the directive of supervisory committee for central traditional medicine under the Ministry of Health, Yangon Division supervisory committee for traditional medicine clarified traditional

medicine law at the Yangon Division Traditional Medicine Department this morning.

Present on the occasion were Director of Traditional Medicine Department U Khin Maung Win, officials of office of the commander of

Yangon Division Police Force and Division Health Department and others.

The officials made a wide range of discussions and replied to the questions raised by the traditional medicine dealers.—MNA

Indonesia, S Africa plan energy cooperation

JAKARTA, 26 Aug — Developing alternative sources of energy will be one of the key areas of cooperation between South Africa and Indonesia following the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the two governments earlier this week.

Visiting South African Minister of Science and Technology Mosibudi Mangena, who was in Jakarta to sign the MoU on science and technology cooperation, said that research in this area was urgent because of economic and environmental issues.

"The price of oil is going up all the time, causing lots of hardship to all nations," he was quoted on Thursday by *The Jakarta Post* as saying. "Fossil fuels also cause pollution and contribute to global warming."

"The days of using oil and other fossil fuels to power the economy are numbered," he said.

The MoU also proposes scientific collaboration in biotechnology, the aerospace industry and in nuclear power development. The agreement will also facilitate an exchange of scientists between the two countries.

Indonesia's State Minister for Research and Technology Kusmayanto Kadiman agreed that finding renewable sources of energy would be a focus of the cooperation between the two countries.

"Wind energy, sea wave energy, solar energy

or hydrogen energy could be considered in a joint strategy in developing alternative energy," Kadiman said.

He said Indonesia could provide technological assistance to South Africa in the development of biofuels, such as biodiesel or bioethanol.

The ministry has identified research in alternative and renewable energy as one of its six priority areas for scientific research and development expenditure, which accounted for roughly 0.05 per cent of Indonesia's GDP in 2001.

Mangena, who is trying to push up South Africa's research and development expenditure from 0.81 per cent of GDP to 1 per cent by 2008, said that his country was focusing on developing hydrogen-powered fuel cell technologies as alternatives to fossil fuels.

He said that hydrogen would provide a clean source of energy as its byproducts consisted of only heat and water, as opposed to the harmful carbon-dioxide emissions from fossil fuels.

MNA/Xinhua

Experimental vaccine can help immune system fight lymphoma

NEW YORK, 26 Aug — Researchers have found that an experimental vaccine could prime the immune system to help fight an aggressive form of lymphoma — cancer of lymph node — even though prior therapy had eliminated virtually all of the B cells thought necessary to mount such a defence.

The finding demonstrated that few, if any, B cells were needed to trigger an effective T-cell immune response, a finding which overturned the commonly accepted notion that both were needed to prime the human immune system, they said.

The results of the study by researchers at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Centre and the National Cancer Institute would be published in the September issue of *Nature Medicine*.

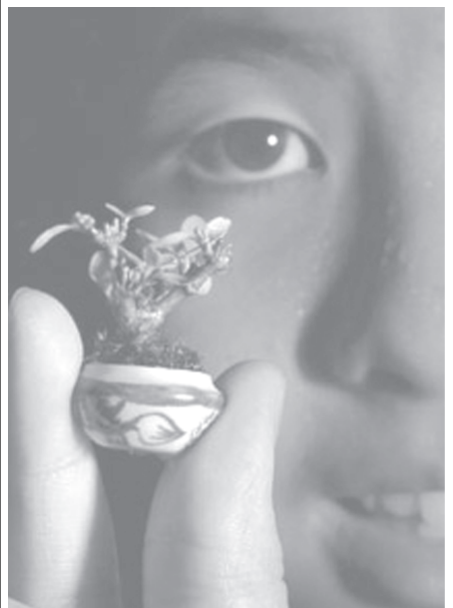
Their research also tested the use of personalized vaccines to help lymphoma patients fend off a recurrence of their cancer after treatment. Several such cancer vaccines were in the human testing stage.

In the study, conducted at the Centre for Cancer Research, National Cancer Institute (NCI), treatment with a B-cell depleting treatment regimen followed by an experimental vaccine resulted in an impressive 89 per cent survival rate at 46 months for 26 patients with mantle cell lymphoma, which was difficult to control.

"This is the first human cancer vaccine study to see T-cell responses in the absence of B cells, and this paves the way to use vaccines in a number of hematological cancers that are treated by eliminating diseased B cells," said the study's first author, Sattva Neelapu, an assistant professor in the Department of Lymphoma at MD Anderson.

Those cancers include forms of lymphoma and leukemia in which the cancer evolved in B-cell lymphocytes, white blood cells which produce antibodies that activate a response by the immune system. New treatments, such as rituximab, were designed to completely wipe out diseased as well as healthy B cells and could prolong patient survival.

However, because researchers were concerned that B-cell depletion from rituximab may impede immune responses to cancer vaccines, and animal studies were contradictory, rituximab had been omitted from lymphoma vaccine studies, Wyndham Wilson, the study's principal investigator and Chief, Lymphoid Malignancies Therapeutic Section, NCI, said.—*MNA/PTI*



Malaysian Kiah Mershel, daughter of a bonsai cultivator, holds the smallest of her miniature bonsai at her residence in Kuala Lumpur on 24, August 2005.—INTERNET

Typhoon "Mawar" bears down on Tokyo

TOKYO, 26 Aug — A powerful typhoon was beating a path towards Tokyo on Thursday and was forecast to make landfall near the Japanese capital in the evening, bringing with it strong winds and heavy rainfall that was snarling transportation and disrupting oil shipments.

Typhoon Mawar, named for a type of flower in the Malay language, was 170 kilometres (105 miles) south-southwest of the Shizuoka Prefecture coast at 1.45 pm (0445 GMT), the Meteorological Agency said.

It was moving north at 20 kilometres an hour, and winds were gusting up to 144 kilometres an hour at the centre of the typhoon.

Mawar is expected to hit the Tokyo region or areas slightly to the west at around 6 pm (0900 GMT), and then move north across the country. The capital and its surrounding prefectures are home to around 27 million people.

The agency issued flood warnings for the Tokyo region, and some flights and express trains out of Tokyo were cancelled. Television footage showed high waves hitting the coastline of Shizuoka Prefecture. Officials said waves up to 11 metres high were observed in some areas.

Oil refiners said they were forced to suspend waterborne operations in eastern and central Japan.

Top Japanese refiner Nippon Oil Co halted shipments and unloading of crude oil from tankers at the country's largest refinery.—*MNA/Reuters*

Nepal tries minimize earthquake damage

KATHMANDU, 26 Aug — The Nepali Government is committed to reducing possible earthquake damage in the country, state-run *Radio Nepal* reported on Thursday.

Speaking at the end of the three-day "Earthquake Safety Friendship Gathering — 2005" between Nepali and Japanese students on Wednesday, Minister for Education and Sports Radha Krishna Mainali said Nepali people have started to be aware of the possible hazards of natural calamities and adopt necessary safety measures to reduce damage.

In order to prevent possible earthquake damage, the Department of Building Construction and all the five municipalities of Kathmandu Valley need to take effective steps on constructing quake-resistant buildings and developing necessary infrastructures, the minister said. The government is committed to providing assistance for the purpose, Mainali added.

Mainali stressed that the role of different non-governmental organizations can be of paramount importance in promoting awareness against possible earthquake damage.

Kathmandu Valley is mentioned as one of the most hazardous area for earthquake, the minister said, adding that the active participation of students becomes essential in promoting awareness for the reduction of earthquake damage.

The gathering was organized in memory of the earthquake that had caused huge damage in eastern Nepal in 1988.—*MNA/Xinhua*

Vietnam to accelerate industrialization, modernization

HANOI, 26 Aug — In the next five years, Vietnam will accelerate its industrialization and modernization and develop its economy in a sustainable way, according to the Vietnamese Minister of Culture and Information.

The country will "implement the doi moi (renovation) process in a stronger, more comprehensive and more uniform manner, accelerate industrialization and modernization, and integrate into the international economy more proactively", Minister Pham Quang Nghi said.

Pham Quang Nghi made the statement when addressing a Press conference on Thursday to introduce activities for celebrating the 60th anniversary of the August Revolution (on 19 August) and the National Day (on 2 September).

Keeping on carrying out the process, putting resources of the whole society, and rapidly developing its economy in a sustainable way will help "bring Vietnam out of underdevelopment, and improve its people's living standard, thus creating the foundation for the country to become industrialized by 2020", the minister stated.

The August Revolution led to the establishment of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (now the Socialist Republic of Vietnam) in 1945.

MNA/Xinhua

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV SEA BRIGHT VOY NO (719)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SEA BRIGHT VOY NO (719) are here by notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28-8-2005 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the 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 upto 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 ADVANCE CONTAINER**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV BOUGAIN VILLA VOY NO (089)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BOUGAIN VILLA VOY NO (089) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29-8-2005 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P 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 upto 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 PREMIER SPECTRUM**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Small bomb blast in Indonesia's Ambon, wounds 4

AMBON (Indonesia), 26 Aug — A small bomb exploded in a market on Thursday in Indonesia's eastern city of Ambon, wounding four people, officials said.

The Moluccas city of Ambon is about 2,300 kilometres (1,440 miles) northeast of Jakarta.

"From our reports, a bomb exploded near the Ambon Manise Mardika Hotel... The bomb, packed in a carton, was placed on a rickshaw," a spokeswoman for the provincial governor said.

Police have arrested a man in connection with the blast, but officials said they were investigating the motive. A Reuters photographer on the scene said the explosion did not cause any serious damage and the situation quickly returned to normal.

Moluccas Governor Karel Lalahu, on a visit to Jakarta, said four people had been injured.

MNA/Reuters

UN, Britain help promote girls' education in Nigeria

LAGOS, 25 Aug—The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the British Department for International Development (DFID) have jointly launched a project to help promote girls' education in northern Nigeria, the official *News Agency of Nigeria* reported on Wednesday.

According to the report, the two bodies have so far selected six local government areas in Nigeria's northern state of Bauchi as pioneers for the project, part of the Girl Education Project (GEP) in the west African country.

The GEP aimed at ensuring 100 per cent enrollment of school-age girls into schools by September 2007 is also being implemented in five other states — Borno, Jigawa, Sokoto, Katsina and

Niger — in the north.

Apart from sensitizing parents and other stakeholders to allow girl children to acquire education, said Muhammad Bello, chairman of the Bauchi State Special Mobilization Committee of the GEP, the GEP would also make the schools girls-friendly.

To make this possible, he added, more female teachers would be recruited for the schools, in addition to the rehabilitation of dilapidated primary schools and the provision of utilities such as water and health facilities.

Bello said the project would also "push for new legislative policies and reform, not only to promote high enrollment, but also prevent the withdrawals of girls from school".

He said UNICEF and DFID had acquired instruc-

tional materials for schools in the six selected local government areas and planned to offer training to teachers in the areas.

He said the social mobilization committee had already embarked on sensitization tour of communities in the affected local government areas to garner support for the success of the project.

He therefore urged the people to support the initiative to facilitate a brighter future for their children. In Nigeria, about 7.3 million children do not go to school, of whom 62 per cent are girls.

In northern Nigeria, the number of children out of school is particularly high and the proportion of girls to boys in school ranges from 1 girl to 2 boys and even 1 to 3 in some northern states.

MNA/Xinhua

India sees financial constraints due to welfare schemes

NEW DELHI, 25 Aug — India sees major financial constraints in this fiscal year due to various welfare schemes, but stable macro-economic environment in areas like inflation and growth is reassuring, an official report said on Wednesday.

"Major fiscal challenges lie ahead in management of subsidies, finding resources for funding the food for work and employment guarantee programmes," India's Minister of State for Finance S. S. Palanimanickam said in the Parliament on Wednesday while presenting the report in the Lower House.

"These are likely to

strain the fiscal situation in the months to come," said the quarterly review of the trends in receipts and expenditure in relation to the national budget at the end of the first quarter of the 2005-06.

But the review noted that the government's efforts at fiscal consolidation by improved tax administration and expenditure control, as well as neutralizing the decline in receipts due to higher devolution to the states were continuing.

"Here, the current favourable macro-economic environment of low inflation, low interest rates, and widespread growth mo-

mentum are providing an added impetus to the government in these efforts," the review added.

"Concerns arising out of high and volatile level of international crude prices and recent natural calamities notwithstanding, the economy has demonstrated considerable resilience," government's review report observed.

Giving an overview of the macro economic situation in the first quarter of this fiscal, the review said the real economic growth was estimated at 6.9 per cent and monsoon was favourable in 81 per cent of the meteorological subdivisions.—MNA/Xinhua

Carpets out as Iran President pursues humble image

TEHRAN, 25 Aug — Iran's new President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has ordered the removal of dozens of expensive Persian carpets from his office to preserve his modest image, newspapers reported on Wednesday.

The carpets, some of them worth tens of thousands of dollars, will be sent to a museum "in order for his office to have a humble appearance," the conservative *Siyasat-e Rouz* daily said.

Elected in a landslide in June after promising to

redistribute the OPEC heavyweight's oil wealth to the poor, Ahmadinejad has imposed a series of austerity measures since take office earlier this month.

One of his first acts as President was to order state offices not to hang his portrait and he has instructed officials to eschew unnecessary expenditures and luxuries.

The son of a blacksmith, Ahmadinejad's campaign adverts emphasized his humble origins and modest lifestyle,

showing him driving himself to work and contrasting his stark, small home with the large villa and swimming pool of his predecessor as mayor of Teheran.

Unlike previous governments, he refuses to use the opulent palaces of Iran's pre-1979 Islamic revolution monarchy to receive foreign dignitaries — a move which some local newspapers said had angered Syrian President Bashar al-Assad on a visit to Teheran this month.

MNA/Reuters

China marks its first Customs' 60th founding anniversary

BEIJING, 25 Aug — China celebrated the 60th founding anniversary of Yantai Customs in east China's coastal province of Shandong on Wednesday, the first of its kind established by the Chinese Communist Party to retrieve its Customs control from Western powers.

The Customs were taken over by the revolutionary forces led by the Party in Jiaodong Liber-

ated Area in Shandong on 24 August, 1945, about four years before New China was created.

Some Customs in east China were controlled by Western powers before the founding of New China in 1949 as China's last dynasty of Qing (1616-1911) had bowed to the gun-boat policy of Western powers.

In a message of congratulation, Chinese Vice-Premier Wu Yi said the

Yantai Customs were the first new Customs established shortly after the Japanese surrendered in the face of insurmountable Chinese and allied opposition at the end of the Japanese War of Aggression.

The new Yantai Customs now collect three billion yuan (nearly 400 million US dollars) in Customs duties each year.

MNA/Xinhua

700,000 new rural houses to have electricity in Bangladesh

DHAKA, 25 Aug — Bangladesh's Rural Electrification Board (REB) has undertaken a programme to provide electricity to 700,000 new rural houses and construct 10,000-kilometre lines in the next three years.

The programme will be implemented with the financial assistance of World Bank's (WB) "Rural Electrification and Renewable Energy Development" (RERED) project, local daily *The New Nation* reported on Wednesday.

The project, which started in 2003, has a total fund allocation of 12 billion taka (about 185 million US dollars).

The daily quoted REB sources as saying that under the project, the board had so far connected 233,000 houses with the electricity grid and about 8,250 kilometres of lines have been constructed during the last two and a half years.

At present, 500,000 new connections are being given by Rural Electrification Committee of REB

every year.

Sources in the World Bank was quoted as saying that with the current pace of connections, Bangladesh would need nearly 30 years to achieve universal electricity access although REB has targeted to attain the goals of universal power connections by the year 2020.

MNA/Xinhua

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SMOKE**

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Education row looming as students await GCSE results

LONDON, 25 Aug— Another row over the quality of school exams is likely to brew on Thursday when over half a million pupils learn how they fared in their GCSE exams.

Record results are expected after 594,650 students took GCSE exams this year. Like A-level exams, the tests have been condemned by critics who say they are becoming easier and fail to provide a challenge to bright pupils.

Last year students scored more top grades than ever before although the overall pass rate remained the same at 97.6 per cent. Earlier this week, the exams watchdog attacked the standard of marking after one board, Edexcel, said it had used

administrative staff to mark religious studies GCSE scripts.

Newspapers also reported that some independent schools were now considering ditching the exams completely arguing they had been "dumbed down" to meet government targets. The GCSE results come a week after exam authorities said the pass rate in this year's A-levels had reached a record high, prompting similar accusations from critics that the tests were becoming

meaningless.

However ministers, teachers and pupils say the better results reflect the hard work of the students and those involved in the education system.

Last year former chief schools inspector Mike Tomlinson recommended GCSEs and A-levels be gradually replaced by a single diploma system, with fewer but harder exams. —MNA/Reuters



Burnt trees after a forest fire in Vale de Canas, near Coimbra, Portugal, on 25 August, 2005. — INTERNET

FM says Vietnam treasures economic diplomacy

HANOI, 25 Aug— Vietnam's diplomatic sector must beef up political relations to lay a foundation for economic integration and development, local newspaper *People* on Wednesday quoted the country's Foreign Minister Nguyen Dy Nien as saying.

The sector must put political ties into play to accelerate Vietnam's accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO), "especially to seek ways of persuading relevant countries to rapidly make political decisions on concluding negotiations on Vietnam's entry into the WTO", the minister stressed.

In the coming time, the diplomacy will both broaden and deepen ties with other countries, he said, noting that Vietnam must place focus on "big nations, neighbour countries, and political and economic hubs in the world like the European Union".

MNA/Xinhua

Cambodian King returns home from state visit to China

PHNOM PENH, 25 Aug — Cambodian King Norodom Sihamoni returned home on Tuesday from his state visit to China.

It was King Sihamoni's first state visit since he ascended the throne in October last year after the abdication of his 82-year-old father Norodom Sihanouk.

Meeting the King at the Phnom Penh International Airport were Prime Minister Hun Sen, other senior government officials and the royal family members, as well as Chinese Ambassador to Cambodia Hu Qianwen.

During his four-day visit to China, King Sihamoni held talks with Chinese President Hu

Jintao and met with other senior Chinese leaders and took a visit to Tianjin, the largest port city in north China and also the sister city of the Cambodian capital Phnom Penh.

Tianjin is the place where King Sihamoni studied ballet in the 1970s.

After ending his visit on 14 August, the King spent the days with his father and mother, former King Norodom Sihanouk and Queen Monineath, who are in Beijing for medical treatment.

MNA/Xinhua

Israel, Egypt agree on Gaza border force

JERUSALEM, 25 Aug — Israel and Egypt have finalized an agreement for Cairo to post police along the Gaza border, an Israeli official said on Wednesday.

"With the Egyptians a full agreement has been reached," Amos Gilad, who helped negotiate the deal, told Army Radio. Israel completed an evacuation of Jewish settlers from Gaza and four settlements in the northern West Bank on Tuesday as part of a plan to "disengage" from conflict with Palestinians.

Israel and Egypt had agreed in principle on August 1 that Cairo could deploy 750 special border police to replace Israeli troops trying to prevent arms smuggling to Palestinian militants.

But a final deal had been delayed amid differences over details on

what Egypt's responsibility would be towards Gaza, a territory Cairo had controlled before Israel captured it in the 1967 Middle East War.

Gilad said both sides had reached a "very detailed agreement down to the last pistol" for Egyptian forces to patrol a swathe of territory along the border with Gaza to prevent weapons smuggling. The deal would be signed only after the Israeli Government and Parliament approved it, he said.

Israeli media reports said Egypt would deploy the police after Israel withdrew all its troops from Gaza. — MNA/Reuters

Folic acid fortification boosts Vitamin B in US

NEW YORK, 25 Aug— Vitamin B levels have improved significantly in every segment of the US population since the Food and Drug Administration mandated folic acid fortification of enriched cereal-grain products in 1998.

"Folate fortification is an example of how easily the vitamin status of the entire population can be improved with a relatively simple and cost-effective measure," Dr Christine M Pfeiffer from the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, told *Reuters Health*.

Folic acid is a synthetic version of folate, a member of the Vitamin B complex. Food fortification was aimed largely at preventing birth defects that can occur when pregnant women are deficient in folate. Pfeiffer and her colleagues used data from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) to examine blood levels of folate, Vitamin B-12, homocysteine and

methylmalonic acid in the US population before and after folic acid fortification of cereal-grain products began in 1998.

Homocysteine and methylmalonic acid, which are indicators of generalized inflammation and possible cardiovascular risk factors, usually decline when folate levels increase. Between NHANES III (1988-1994) and NHANES 1999-2000, average folate levels more than doubled, the investigators found. Vitamin B-12 concentrations increased only slightly during the same interval.

These changes were evident in each sex and racial-ethnic subgroup, except for Vitamin B-12 in non-Hispanic Blacks, the researchers report in

the *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*.

The prevalence of folate deficiency declined from 16 per cent to 0.5 per cent over the study period, the report indicates, and decreased even more significantly (from 20 per cent to 0.8 per cent) among

women of childbearing age. Children and the elderly also benefited, the team reports. In the last survey, only 5 per cent of the US population had high homocysteine levels and 2 per cent had elevated methylmalonic acid levels.

MNA/Reuters

Estonian President visits Shanghai

SHANGHAI, 25 Aug— Estonia is ready to further promote economic cooperation with China and would like to become a transfer station and a logistic centre for Chinese companies to enter the European market, visiting Estonian President Arnold Ruutel said here on Wednesday.

Ruutel arrived in Shanghai on Wednesday morning for a five-day state visit to China, at the invitation of Chinese President Hu Jintao. Estonia would introduce advanced technology from China to explore its abundant oil shale reserves, he said in a keynote speech at the Estonia-China Forum on Economic Cooperation on Wednesday afternoon. —MNA/Xinhua

Impoverished people benefitted from subsidized loans in S China region

NANNING, 25 Aug— South China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region will have 250,000 impoverished people from more than 60,000 households, most of them from ethnic groups in mountainous areas, supported financially by subsidized government loans this year.

According to a regional government official, the subsidized credit extension will cover 20 counties in the region this year, much more than the three counties last year. It will involve 220 million yuan (27.1 million US dollars) in loans, up from the year-earlier level of 36 million yuan (4.4 million US dollars). And related subsidies will increase from 1.5

million yuan (184,957 US dollars) a year earlier to 11 million yuan (1.4 million US dollars). Lai Jianfa, officer in charge of fund operation at the region's poverty-relief work, said each of the 20 impoverished counties to be supported financially this year will obtain 550,000 yuan (67,817 US dollars) on average for its borrowing.

MNA/Xinhua

SPORTS

Greece, to sign contract with China on Olympic Security

ATHENS, 25 Aug — Greek Public Order Minister George Voulgarakis announced in Parliament on Wednesday Greece will sign a cooperation contract between the Security Studies Centre (KEMEA) and the Chinese Olympic Games Organizing Committee.

Speaking on the draft law for the setting up of the KEMEA, Voulgarakis said that the first contract for the transfer of technical know-how for the security of major athletic events, which Greece acquired at the 2004 Athens Olympic Games, will be signed in Beijing on September 25 during his scheduled visit to China.

He stressed that this contract "involves a very significant economic benefit for the Centre".

He added KEMEA would function according to the rules of the market.

The Greek Government, in late June, approved the draft bill on the post-Olympic use of security expertise gained during the Athens Olympic Games.

The minister had said that KEMEA was designated to cooperate with foreign governments and provide advice and know-how obtained during the Olympics to organize security for similar organizations and events. —MNA/Xinhua

Midfielder Berson joins Auxerre on loan from Aston Villa

AUXERRE (France), 25 Aug— Aston Villa's French midfielder Mathieu Berson has been loaned to AJ Auxerre for one season, a spokesman for the Ligue 1 club said on Wednesday.

"Auxerre proved themselves very convincing. I wanted to come back to France. They did everything they could to set up a deal with Aston Villa. I'm delighted," Berson said.

Auxerre have also signed young midfielder Kristian Vadocz from Hungarian first division side Honved. The transfer fee was not disclosed.

MNA/Reuters

Arsenal's Aliadiere joins West Ham on loan

LONDON, 26 Aug— French forward Jeremie Aliadiere has joined West Ham United on a season-long loan from Arsenal, the Premier League club confirmed on Thursday. The 22-year-old had been on loan at Celtic but has failed to start a competitive game. "The signing of Jeremie is another big coup for the club," West Ham manager Alan Pardew said on the club's website.

"He is an exciting young talent from Arsenal and along with David Bellion will bring some French flair to our squad."

Bellion also signed on loan from Manchester United earlier this month.

MNA/Reuters

Shepherd says time running out for Owen deal

NEWCASTLE (England), 26 Aug— Newcastle United chairman Freddie Shepherd said on Thursday time is running out for the club to sign Real Madrid striker Michael Owen.

Manager Graeme Souness is desperate to add to his attacking options after a poor start and Newcastle have agreed a club record transfer fee of more than 15 million pounds (27.03 million dollars) with Real.

"We have made our bid and there is not much more we can do," Shepherd said. "We are still waiting to hear from Owen and his adviser."

"But it has got to happen today or it is not going to happen at all, and we will be speaking to Michael's people."

"Real Madrid will not allow Owen to go out on loan but that is something between them and the player but I am sure that a compromise can be reached."

Owen, who has struggled to establish himself in the Real first team, is keen to rejoin former club Liverpool but said he had also agreed a season-long loan to Newcastle.

"He is contracted to Real Madrid and it won't be him that makes that decision. No player can make that decision," Souness told reporters. — MNA/Reuters

Neville set to miss England qualifiers

LONDON, 25 Aug — England are likely to be without defender Gary Neville for their World Cup qualifiers against Wales and Northern Ireland next month after injuring his groin playing for Manchester United on Wednesday.

Neville limped off after 13 minutes of United's Champions League third qualifying round second leg match in Debrecen, with initial reports suggesting he had torn a muscle.

If that diagnosis proves accurate the 30-year-old Neville faces being out of action for up to six weeks.

England, who trail European Group Six leaders Poland by two points with a game in hand, face Wales in Cardiff on September 3 and Northern Ireland in Belfast four days later.

MNA/Reuters

Returned World Cup tickets up for grabs

FRANKFURT, 25 Aug— Fans who missed out on World Cup tickets in the first sales draw will find out this week whether their luck has changed, after more than 40,000 unclaimed tickets were re-allocated in a new ballot.

A total of 40,065 returned tickets were put back up for grabs because of non-payment or failure to comply with sales regulations.

The new ballot took place on Tuesday night and fans will be informed by Friday this week if they have been lucky.

"The new draw only included applicants who received no tickets at all in the first two sales phases," said organizing committee vice-president Horst R. Schmidt.

"We're delighted that a few more people will now receive tickets for the World Cup."

A total of 812,000 match tickets for the 2006 World Cup were made available in the first two sales opportunities, including 147,000 team-specific tickets (TSTs) that give fans the chance to follow a specific team throughout the tournament.

The original ticket offer was more than 10-times oversubscribed, leaving many fans disappointed.

Returned TSTs will go back on sale at a later date.

A further 300,000 tickets go on sale in the third sales phase beginning in December.

The tournament begins on 9 June in Munich, with the final on 9 July in Berlin.

MNA/Reuters

Deportivo's Luque to join Newcastle for 14m euros

MADRID, 26 Aug — Deportivo Coruna have agreed to sell Spain striker Albert Luque to Newcastle United for 14 million euros (17.18 million dollars).

Primera Liga Deportivo said the transfer was finalized late on Thursday and that the player had been given permission to travel to Newcastle on Friday to undergo a medical.

Deportivo president Augusto Cesar Lendoiro said the deal had been closed "on (financial) conditions very different to those that had originally been offered".

The 27-year-old Luque will sign a five-year contract with his new club, according to Spanish media reports.

Newcastle's decision to sign Luque seems to signal an end to their bid to sign Michael Owen from Real Madrid.

The English Premier League club had agreed a club-record fee of 15 million pounds (27 million dollars) with Real to sign the England striker.

But Owen appeared reluctant to move on a permanent basis, preferring to hold out for a possible move to his former club Liverpool.

Newcastle's signing of Luque marks an end to their search for a strike

partner for Alan Shearer.

The Tyneside club, who are managed by former Liverpool and Scotland midfielder Graeme Souness, have only one point from their opening three league games and are yet to score this season.

Luque joined Deportivo from Real Mallorca in 2002 for 15 million euros.

He has always been a regular in Depor's first team and was the Galician side's top scorer with 11 goals last season.

MNA/Reuters

Liverpool to face Chelsea in Champions League

MONACO, 26 Aug — Holders Liverpool will play Premier League champions Chelsea in the group stage of the Champions League in an early repeat of last year's semifinal. Liverpool were de-

Holders Liverpool must play Premier League champions Chelsea in the opening Champions League group stage in a repeat of last year's semifinal, after the draw in Monaco on Thursday.

INTERNET

nied the usual "country protection" when UEFA gave them special dispensation to defend their title despite not qualifying automatically. Anderlecht and Real Betis complete the Group G lineup.

Thursday's draw also produced a repeat of the other 2005 semifinal when AC Milan beat PSV Eindhoven. The two will also play Schalke 04 and Fenerbahce.

Nine-times winners Real Madrid were grouped with Olympique Lyon,

Olympiakos Piraeus and Rosenborg Trondheim.

Bayern Munich and Juventus clash in Group A along with Club Bruges and Rapid Vienna.

Swiss outsiders Thun will face Arsenal, Ajax Amsterdam and Sparta Prague.

Manchester United, appearing in the group stage for a record 10th successive year, will play Villarreal, Lille and Benfica, who they beat in the 1968 European Cup final. — MNA/Reuters



All national people cooperate with the Government in undertaking regional development tasks



Lt-Gen Maung Bo puts fish into the farmland for paddy plus fish farming in Chaungtaung Village of Kawkaeik Township.— MNA

YANGON, 26 Aug — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence, together with Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing, Brig-Gen Maung Shein of Kawkaeik Station, Chair-

man of Kayin State Peace and Development Council Col Khin Kyu and officials, attended the ceremony to mark the conclusion of ploughing for cultivation of monsoon paddy in Kayin State for 2005-2006 and the ceremony to release fish into the farmland in Chaungtaung Village of Kawkaeik

Township on 23 August.

Kayin State PDC Chairman Col Khin Kyu reported on cultivation of 451,057 acres of monsoon paddy against the target of 550,000 acres in Kayin State in 2005-2006 and early monsoon paddy (See page 8)

Yangon Division Supervisory Committee for ensuring smooth and secure transport meets

YANGON, 26 Aug — The coordination meeting of Yangon Division Supervisory Committee for

ensuring smooth and secure transport took place at the meeting hall of Yangon Command this

evening with an address by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Com-

mander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe.

Chairman of

Yangon Division Supervisory Committee for ensuring smooth and secure transport Commander

Maj-Gen Myint Swe made a speech saying that the committee has been conducting smooth and secure transportation for the faculty members, the students of the Universities and the passengers. The officials have to supervise the sectors concerned for minimizing the traffic accidents, he said.

The officials reported matters related to the smooth and secure transportation in Yangon Division to the commander who fulfilled the (See page 10)



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe speaking at the meeting of Yangon Division Supervisory Committee for Ensuring Smooth and Secure Transport.— YANGON COMMAND

Amending draft National Plan of Action for children coordinated

YANGON, 26 Aug — The coordination meeting on amending the draft National Plan of Action-NPA for children in Myanmar was held at the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement in Mayangon Township this afternoon.

Chairman of the National Committee for Child Rights Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa delivered an address.

Secretary of the National Committee Director-General U Sit Myaing of Social Welfare Department reported on matters related to the draft National Plan of Action-NPA.

Those present took part in the discussions.

The meeting ended with the concluding remarks by the minister.

Also present at the meeting were Deputy Minister for SWRR Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint, members of

the Committee Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo, Deputy Minister for Education Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min, Deputy Attorney-General U Myint Naing and other members.— MNA

Minister Maj-Gen Sein Htwa delivers an address at coordination meeting on amending the draft National Plan of Action-NPA for children in Myanmar.— SWD



Noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded

(26-8-2005)

Putao	(5.35) inches
Maungdaw	(2.52) inches
Hpa-an	(1.73) inches
Panglong	(0.94) inch
Pyinmana	(0.91) inch
Nansam	(0.90) inch