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## Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein attends meeting No 4/2005 of NCCC Tasks to be carried out at coming National Convention discussed



NCCC Chairman Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein delivers a speech at the Meeting No 4/2005 of the National Convention Convening Commission. — MNA

YANGON, 27 Aug— Meeting No 4/2005 of the National Convention Convening Commission took place at the meeting room of NCCC on Kyaikkasan Grounds, here, this afternoon. Chairman of the National Convention Convening Commission Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein attended the meeting and made a speech.

Also present on the occasion were Vice-Chairmen

of NCCC Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut and Chief Justice U Aung Toe, Secretary of the commission Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and commission members.

Joint Secretary-2 of NCCC Director-General of Pyithuhluttaw Office U Myint Thein acted as Master of Ceremonies.

In his speech, Chairman of NCCC Secretary-1 Lt-

Gen Thein Sein said that coordination meetings on tasks to be carried out at the National Convention to be reconvened by the end of this year are being held and detailed basic principles for sharing of judicial powers to be included in the drafting of the State Constitution were laid down at the National Convention held from 1 February to 31 March this year. (See page 8)

## Systematic measures need to be taken for convenience of visitors to Kandawgyi natural gardens and zoo

YANGON, 27 Aug — A coordination meeting on all-round upgrading of Yangon City Kandawgyi natural gardens and zoo took place at the Agricultural Museum in Kandawgyi gardens this morning. It was attended by Secretary-1 of the State Peace

and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Chairman of the work committee for all-round upgrading of Yangon City Kandawgyi natural gardens and zoo Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers, the

Yangon mayor, deputy ministers, the director-general of the State Peace and Development Council office, departmental heads, members of the committee and guests. (See page 8)



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein addresses the meeting to coordinate all-round upgrading of Kandawgyi Gardens and Zoological Garden (Yangon). — MNA

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

**PERSPECTIVES**

Sunday, 28 August, 2005

**Exert concerted efforts for regional development**

The active participation of the entire national people in regional development tasks contributes much towards building a peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation.

Nowadays, thanks to integrated and well-coordinated efforts of local people, governmental departments and social organizations in nation-building endeavours under the leadership of the government remarkable progress has been made in various sectors.

For example, thanks to concerted efforts of departmental officials and local people under close supervision of the North-East Command unprecedented progress has been made in agriculture and regional development tasks in Hsenwi Township, Shan State (North).

Food sufficiency, the basic requirement, in Hsenwi Township has been accorded special priority. The food sufficiency of the township plays a greater role in ensuring the development of the region. The Hsenwi-Kunlong bypass in Nati Village, Hsenwi Township is being constructed. The project is being implemented in accord with the guidance of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe.

The Tatmadaw members and staff of Public Works are engaged in the construction of the 12 miles long facility with might and main. This highlights the concerted efforts of the State, the people and the Tatmadaw.

Departmental officials are not to discharge the national duties perfunctorily but to do their best in regional and national development tasks in unison. Moreover, they need to be in oneness with the people and serve the national interests in their utmost.

The agriculture sector including rubber cultivation in Kunlong District is making progress owing to concerted efforts of local people and departmental officials under the supervision of the command.

Rubber is an industrial raw material crop earning foreign exchange. Efforts are to be made to invite local private entrepreneurs to invest in reclaiming virgin and fallow lands for growing rubber. As Kunlong region has become peaceful and tranquil, concerted efforts are thus to be made in bringing about regional development.

Hence, the entire national people are urged to strive for regional development, while engaging in food sufficiency in the region in response to the State's goodwill.

**နိုင်ငံတော်အစိုးရဌာနပိုင်  
မော်တော်ယာဉ်မသုံးစွဲရနေ့**

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

၂၀၀၅ ခုနှစ်၊ ဩဂုတ်လအတွက်  
(၂၈-၈-၂၀၀၅) ရက်နေ့  
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(၁၁-၉-၂၀၀၅) ရက်နေ့  
နှင့်  
(၂၅-၉-၂၀၀၅) ရက်နေ့

**People's Desire**

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

**Prize-presenting of C-in-C (Air)'s shield boxing tourney held**

YANGON, 27 Aug — The 13th Final boxing tournament of Commander-in-Chief (Air)'s and prize presentation took place at the Hall of Mingaladon Air Force Base Headquarters yesterday evening, attended by Commander of Mingaladon Air Force Base HQ Brig-Gen Zin Yaw, senior officers of the Commander-in-Chief (Air)'s Office, officials of Myanmar Boxing Federation, members of judges, officers, Tatmadawmen and families, athletes and guests.



Commander Brig-Gen Zin Yaw presents championship shield to Mingaladon Air Force Base HQ.— MNA

After the final matches, the prize-presenting continued. On behalf of the Commander-in-Chief (Air), Brig-Gen Zin Yaw presented the shield to Mingaladon Air Force Base team.

Next, officials awarded the prizes to winners and the ceremony ended.

MNA

**First Aid Course (Coach) opened**



Dr Tun Sein gives a speech at the opening ceremony of First Aid Course (Coach). — MNA

YANGON, 27 Aug— As a gesture of hailing the World First Aid Day which will fall on 10th September, a ceremony to open First Aid Course (Coach) was held at Central Fire Services Training School here this morning attended by officials of Myanmar Red Cross Society, representatives of International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent, the director-general of Fire Services Department and trainees.

Dr Tun Sein of MRCS, Programme Coordinator Mr Patrik Vinberg of International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent and Deputy Head of Delegate of International Committee of the Red Cross Mr Samuel Bon delivered speeches.

Altogether 48 trainees are attending the course which will last up to 10 September.

MNA

**Project CD to be sent by 25 October**

YANGON, 27 Aug — For the convenience of competitors and with the aim of turning out proper applications, project CDs for Educational Project Competition for National Level 2005 jointly organized by Education Planning and Training Department, Basic Education Departments and Myanmar Computer Industrialists Association are to be sent not later than 25 October.

MNA

**Malaysian guests conclude visit**

YANGON, 27 Aug— Malaysian delegation led by Col Sheikh Mokhsin bin Sheikh Hassan of Malaysian Armed Forces Staff College left here this

afternoon after concluding their study visit here.

The guests were seen off at the airport by Vice-Chief of Armed Forces Training (Navy)

Captain Maung Maung Thit and senior military officers, Military Attache Col Hj Abbas Bin Hj Mat of Malaysian Embassy and officials. MNA



Col Sheikh Mokhsin bin Sheikh Hassan and party seen off at the airport.—MNA



## Hu articulates 4-point proposal to enhance Sino-Estonian ties

**BELING, 26 Aug —** Chinese President Hu Jintao put forward a four-point proposal to enhance the relations between China and Estonia during a meeting with his Estonian counterpart Arnold Ruutel here on Thursday.

The proposal includes maintaining high-level exchanges and dialogues to promote political trust; expanding bilateral economic and trade cooperation; enriching cultural, educational and tourism cooperation to promote friendship between the two peoples; and strengthening coordination and consultations in international affairs.

"China values Estonia's role in international

affairs and will exchange views with Estonia in major international and regional issues to safeguard world peace and stability," Hu said.

He added that year of 2006 marks the 15th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries and hoped the two sides will continue to push forward cooperation.

tion.

Hu noted that China is among the earliest countries to forge diplomatic ties with Estonia, and the two countries' efforts to maintain sound relations and cooperation in all fields have been fruitful.

China supports the efforts of Estonia in safeguarding sovereignty and territorial integrity, and appreciates Estonia's ad-

herence to the one-China policy, Hu said.

Ruutel said that Estonia and China have cooperated well in telecommunication, information and electricity, and he hoped the two sides will promote cooperation on biotechnology, environmental protection and resources exploration.

He also said Estonia would like to play a "Bridge" role in pushing cooperation between China and the European Union, and expects to enhance cooperation with China in international affairs such as UN reform.—MNA/Xinhua



A fire brigade rescuer (R) helps evacuate victims after a blaze raced through an apartment in Paris on 26 August, 2005.

INTERNET

## Matsushita takes on Sharp with 65-inch plasma TV

**TOKYO, 26 Aug —** Japan's Matsushita Electric Industrial Co said on Thursday it would begin selling a high-definition 65-inch plasma TV in **November at a price that undercuts a competing product from Sharp Corp.**

Matsushita, the world's largest consumer electronics maker, said it would be the world's first plasma TV that meets full high-definition specifications, able to produce images at the highest standard of 1,920 by 1,080 pixels of resolution.

Panasonic brand products maker Matsushita is the world's top seller of plasma TVs, ahead of Samsung SDI Co and LG Electronics Inc of South Korea and Japan's Pioneer Corp in the fast-growing market.

But some of Matsushita's toughest competition recently has come from Sharp, the world's top maker of liquid crystal display (LCD) TVs. Sharp has beefed up its line-up of LCD sets above 37 inches to encroach on a segment of the flat TV market domi-

nated by plasma technology. Sharp recently launched a 65-inch LCD TV that it billed as superior to Matsushita's current 65-inch plasma model, in large part because Matsushita's TV only met a basic high-definition standard of 1,366 by 768 pixels of

resolution.

Developing panels able to display a full high-definition picture has been a major technological hurdle for plasma makers because the light-emitting efficiency of plasma panels tends to decline when the size of the pixels is reduced.—MNA/Reuters

## Poll shows 90 percent support right to protest war

**WASHINGTON, 26 Aug —** An overwhelming number of people say critics of the Iraq war should be free to voice their objections — a rare example of widespread agreement about a conflict that has divided the nation along partisan lines.

Nearly three weeks after a grieving California mother named Cindy Sheehan started her anti-war protest near President Bush's Texas ranch, nine of 10 people surveyed in an AP-Ipsos poll say it's OK for war opponents to publicly share their concerns about the conflict.

"Part of the Constitution is the First Amendment," said Mike Malone, a salesman from Odessa, Fla. "We have the right to disagree with the government."—Internet

## Russia says Iran not in breach of nuclear treaty

**Moscow, 26 Aug —** Russia, Iran's nuclear partner, said on Thursday it **was no evidence Teheran was breaching the global nuclear non-proliferation regime.**

Iran angered the European Union and the United States by resuming uranium conversion work earlier this month, rejecting EU incentives offered in return for giving up its nuclear programme.

"There is no reason to think that the existence of this threat has been proved," Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov

was quoted by state news agencies as saying.

"If a threat to the non-proliferation regime appears, we will work seriously on that matter," he added.

Under the Non-Proliferation Treaty, (NPT), which Iran has signed, Teheran may process and enrich uranium for peaceful purposes.

The oil-rich state

insists its nuclear programme is aimed only at the peaceful generation of electricity, but the West fears Iran is seeking to make atomic weapons.

Russia, which has built a nuclear power station for Iran, said earlier this month it opposed using force to stop Iran's nuclear programme and warned that any such action would have grave and unpredictable consequences.

Russia has not directly taken part in the EU's talks with Iran but the West carefully monitors diplomatic moves by the permanent member of the UN Security Council, one of Iran's staunchest supporters.

If Iran continues to defy international pressure, Europe and the United States are likely to press the United Nations' nuclear watchdog to refer Iran's case to the UN Security Council for possible sanctions, analysts say.

US President George W Bush has said military force remains a last resort to press Teheran to abandon its nuclear ambitions.

MNA/Reuters

## Several killed in Iraq violence

**BAGHDAD, 26 Aug —** A five people have been killed in separate attacks across Iraq, including two truck drivers who lost their lives when their convoy hit a roadside bomb.

The two drivers were killed in the blast near al-Rashad, 155km north of Baghdad.

Their convoy was headed towards an Iraqi military camp.

A police officer and his friend were shot dead by armed men northeast of Baghdad, police said, while a civilian was killed in the northern town of Samarra during a clash between two groups.

A US military vehicle was damaged when it hit a roadside bomb in Fallujah west of Baghdad, a US marine told AFP. No casualties were immediately reported.

Elsewhere, two members of Denmark's 500-strong contingent in southern Iraq were lightly wounded when a roadside bomb exploded as they drove past, the Danish Army said on Friday.

The incident happened late on Thursday in a suburb of Basra, where the Danish troops are based. The soldiers were treated at the British military hospital in Basra, and later released.

Internet



A boy watches a US Marine during checks against guerrillas in Hit, western Iraq recently. — INTERNET



Four giant pandas drink water at a pool at the China Giant Panda Protection and Research Centre in Wolong, southwest China's Sichuan Province, on 26 August, 2005. —INTERNET

စက်မှုပစ္စည်းအား ခေတ်ကျော်ညွှား

China to build up world-class science parks

BEIJING, 26 Aug — Minister of Science and Technology Xu Guanhua said on Thursday that China is going to build up two or three world-class science parks and develop top technology companies in the country.

"China is going to start a new round of investment in science parks to increase the country's international competitiveness and innovative ability," said Xu at a national working conference on science parks. A total of 53 state-level science parks have been set up in China, covering only 0.01 per cent of China's territory and generating more than four per cent of the national GDP, the minister said. In the first half of the year, the output value of these science parks was 1.5 trillion yuan (about 186 billion US dollars), up 26.6 per cent year on year. By the end of 2010, the per capita budget for research fellows working for these science parks is expected to top 150,000 yuan (about 18,500 US dollars), compared with 120,000 yuan (about 14,800 US dollars) in 2004, while the number of these people will make up 20 per cent of the total staff, Xu said. — MNA/Xinhua

Asia-Pacific LDCs get less aid than other poor countries

KATHMANDU, 26 Aug — The International assistance per capita to the least developed countries (LDCs) of the Asia-Pacific Region is far less than what is given to poor countries in other regions of the world, UN agencies said here on Thursday.

"The LDCs of the region suffer disproportionately from poverty, but the assistance is given as such the imbalance is widening," said a report titled "Voices of the LDCs in Asia and the Pacific" released jointly by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Economic and Social

Commission for Asia and the Pacific. "The per capita income of 14 Asia-Pacific LDCs is only one-fourth of that in the region, and almost half their population lives below national poverty lines," the report noted, adding, "The aid is 19 US dollars per capita for poor Asia-Pacific LDCs as compared to 43 US dollars for other

regions." Nepal has a very low gross domestic product per capita, 233 US dollars, as compared to 513 US dollars of other Asia-Pacific LDCs and 310 US dollars of other LDCs, the report revealed. Nepal's progress toward attaining Millennium Development Goals (MDG) remains tardy with regard

to proportion of population below the minimum level of dietary energy consumption, net enrollment ratio in primary education, literacy rate of 15-to-24-year-olds, proportion of population with sustainable access to improved water sources and to improved sanitation, the report said. — MNA/Xinhua

US commander foresees worse Iraq bloodshed

WASHINGTON, 26 Aug — A senior US commander in Iraq predicted on Friday that guerilla violence will increase in the Sunni-dominated areas he commands north of Baghdad.

Army Maj Gen Joseph Taluto, commander of the 22,000-soldier Task Force Liberty, also said that while his election security plan does not require any additional US troops, he could use extra help if it were offered by Gen George Casey, the top overall commander in Iraq, who is assessing election security needs.

Earlier this week, the Pentagon announced that 1,500 soldiers from the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, NC, would be sent to Iraq for election security duty, but it did not say where in Iraq they would operate. — Internet

Western Baghdad bomb blast kills five

BAGHDAD, 26 Aug — Five people were killed and 30 others wounded in blasts and gunfire which erupted in Jamaa District in western Baghdad on Wednesday, police said.

"Iraqi security forces tried to enter the area in al-Rabie Street, but dozens of guerillas were still controlling the busy street, opening small arms fire and launching rocket-propelled grenades," an Interior Ministry source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

"Initial reports said there were five people killed, three of them policemen and 30 others wounded, including nine policemen. A guerilla was killed and another arrested after being wounded," the source said.

Several cars, including a police vehicle, were burnt in the attack, the source said.

Helicopters flew over the area as US and Iraqi security forces cordoned off the scene, the source said.

At about 3:00pm (1100 GMT), a powerful car bomb explosion and heavy

gunfire were heard in Baghdad's western area, as a plume of black smoke was seen rising. Police said dozens of guerillas apparently detonated three car bombs and attacked several police vehicles in the street. — MNA/Xinhua

New Peru Premier vows progress on poverty, security

LIMA (Peru), 26 Aug — Peru's new Prime Minister vowed on Thursday to speed up progress on fighting poverty and boosting citizens' security before elections in eight months.

"We have to step up the fight against poverty. A country in which half the population lives in poverty is not viable in the long-term," Pedro Pablo Kuczynski told Congress at the start of a

debate that will culminate in a confidence vote on Thursday. The vote is expected to be a formality.

Kuczynski was named earlier this month in a Cabinet reshuffle to end the worst ministerial crisis of President Alejandro Toledo's four years in power. All new premiers must win a con-

fidence test in Congress.

Kuczynski, a respected former banker and Economy Minister, highlighted the fights against poverty and corruption as some of his priorities.

Despite four years of solid economic growth, many Peruvians complain jobs and wages have not improved enough and petty crime is on the rise.

Peru has also seen a rise in violent protests against mining, the country's biggest industry.

Kuczynski said Peru's economy was worth 75 billion US dollars jobs were growing, wages had increased for teachers, judges, police and soldiers, and public finances were solid.

— MNA/Reuters

Hurricane "Katrina" drenches Florida floods feared

MIAMI, 26 Aug — Katrina strengthened into a hurricane from a tropical storm on Thursday and deluged Florida's densely populated southeast coast with rain, heightening fears of flooding.

The core of the storm was expected to hit the Fort Lauderdale area late on Thursday or early on Friday, dumping up to 10 inches of rain on southern Florida as it moved slowly across the state into the Gulf of Mexico, the US National Hurricane Centre said.

"The entire south part of the peninsula is at risk for flooding," said Ed Rappaport, the centre's deputy director.

Some areas could get up to 15 inches of rain, the hurricane centre said. Skies darkened and rain poured as the outer bands of the storm moved ashore. Some streets were already flooding and emergency managers urged people to stay inside. — MNA/Reuters



Chinese shopkeepers wait for customers at a clothing market in Beijing on 26 August, 2005. —INTERNET



## Report says Chinese web sites used to target US systems

WASHINGTON, 26 Aug— Web sites in China are being used as a staging ground for attacks on computer networks in the US Defence Department and other agencies, the *Washington Post* reported on Thursday.

The newspaper said no classified systems have been compromised but officials were concerned that data pulled together from different agencies could become useful intelligence to an adversary.

The newspaper cited four government officials who spoke separately about the intrusions, which were said to go back two or three years. It said the FBI had launched an investigation.

"It's not just the Defence Department but a

wide variety of networks that have been hit," including the departments of State, Energy, and Homeland Security as well as defence contractors, one official was quoted as saying.

"This is an ongoing, organized attempt to siphon off information from our unclassified systems," the official said.

All of the officials spoke on condition of anoto scan Defence Department systems come from China than any other

country, the *Post* said.

But a Pentagon official said that does not mean China is where the probes start.

Lieutenant Colonel Mike VanPutte, vice-director of operations for a new task force that manages the Pentagon's computer networks, told the newspaper that China is a convenient "stepping-stone" for hackers because of the large number of computers there that can be compromised.

MNA/Reuters



Hong Kong Ballet dancers, Faye Leung (above) and Liang Ying, perform during a rehearsal of "Turandot" at Madrid's Albeniz theatre on 24 August, 2005. The Hong Kong Ballet performs for the first time in Madrid: showcasing Puccini's "Turandot" from 25-28 August and "The Last Emperor", a signature original piece on the tragic story of Pu Yi, the last Manchu emperor, from 1-4 September.

INTERNET

## Microsoft builds new technology centre in Hefei

HEFEI, 26 Aug 26— World software giant Microsoft Corp. set up a new technology centre in Hefei of east China's Anhui Province on Thursday, to further consolidate its China operations.

The new institution, Hefei Microsoft Technology Centre, was jointly built by Hefei municipal government, Microsoft (China) Company Limited and the Anhui USTC (University of Science and Technology of China) iFlyTec Company Limited.

It will serve as a platform for market-oriented technological exchanges, training and consultation, and develop customized software products and solutions based on Microsoft and partner technologies, said Microsoft Corporate Vice-President Timothy Chen.

"We choose Hefei not only for its rich intellectual resources, but also for the local government's unique strategies and insights in developing information technology," said Chen, also CEO of Microsoft Greater China Region, at the centre's opening ceremony.

MNA/Xinhua

## Singapore draws three lessons from tsunami relief efforts

SINGAPORE, 26 Aug — Singapore has drawn three lessons from its relief efforts after the Boxing Day tsunami last year, Defence Minister Teo Chee Hean said at a national humanitarian conference on Thursday.

"The first lesson is that even a small country, like Singapore, with limited resources can make a useful contribution if the needs are well-identified and the effort is properly directed in a focused way," Teo noted, referring to the city state's concentration on Indonesia's Meulaboh, which was the worst-hit area in the disaster.

Stressing the importance of coordination for an effective response to such kind of complex situation, Teo said that the government and civic organizations like the Red Cross have worked together to ensure the effectiveness of Singapore's contributions.

The third lesson is about the significance of people-to-people networks, Teo continued, saying that the trust and understanding between Armed Forces of Singapore and Indonesia, which has been built up over a long term, facilitated the island state's relief operation in Meulaboh.

"The practical and action-oriented approach that was adopted by countries and organizations was crucial in ensuring the effectiveness of the international relief effort," which can be applied to other multinational challenges, according to Teo.

MNA/Xinhua

## Iraq's Sadr criticizes rival after Shiite fighting

NAJAF (Iraq), 26 Aug — Iraqi cleric Moqtada al-Sadr demanded on Thursday that a rival Islamist leader condemn his own followers over deadly Shiite Muslim infighting that rocked the Shiite holy city of Najaf.

Clashes broke out on Wednesday night between Sadr's armed followers and a crowd who burned down his offices in Najaf, killing eight people.

That sparked violence in Baghdad and Shiite towns across southern Iraq, as members of the pro-Sadr Mehdi Army militia attacked offices of the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution (SCIRI) and its 'Badr' militia. SCIRI is headed by Abdul Aziz al-Hakim, a powerful Shiite cleric in government.

"I demand that brother Abdul Aziz al-Hakim make an official announcement condemning the aggression by his representatives and some extremists," Sadr told a news conference in the city, where police and troops spread out to keep the peace.

"I call upon the Mehdi Army to be calm because anything else will not be in the Iraqi people's interests," he said, thanking Prime Minister Ibrahim Jaafari for condemning the attack.

MNA/Reuters

## Encephalitis kills 200 in north India

NEW DELHI, 26 Aug — Japanese encephalitis has taken more than 200 lives in north India's Uttar Pradesh since 29 July, *Indo-Asian News Service* reported.

Three patients, including an adult, succumbed to the disease at the King George's Medical University (KGMU) in the Pradesh capital Lucknow on Thursday while 17 deaths were reported from Gorakhpur and about half a dozen in east Uttar Pradesh.

Things have been left to God's mercy as the gov-

ernment expressed helplessness in stopping the spread of the epidemic.

"The virus grows largely between August and October, but vaccination, which is the only effective preventive method, cannot be undertaken after the outbreak of the disease," said Uttar Pradesh's director general of health OP Singh.

"Vaccines will not be of any use now. But I must say that we have now learnt a lesson and we would be better equipped to deal with the disease next year," he added.

"At this stage, anti-mosquito treatment through fogging is the only way to curb the rapid spread of the virus," Singh said.

The disease had taken a toll of 228 people in 2004, but health officials said it could be much higher this time.

The disease was only reported in east Uttar Pradesh last year but it has spread across to Lucknow in central Uttar Pradesh, said an official.

MNA/Xinhua

## Indonesian Govt plans trust fund for retired athletes

JAKARTA, 26 Aug — Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono promised here on Wednesday that a trust fund would be established soon to take care of the interests of retired athletes as well as artists, local media said on Thursday.

"We can't make any promises but we are currently thinking about concrete actions to help athletes, and also artists, who have contributed their achievements to the nation," the President said, while meeting with badminton star Taufik Hidayat.

For the trust fund, the government would ask

members of the public to make donations and it would be managed "carefully, transparently and in an accountable way" to support former athletes and artists, said Susilo.

He was touched by the stories of former athletes struggling to make a living, he added. "The commitment is not an empty promise, but it will

be implemented to enliven the sports and arts sectors," he said, insisting that the development of sports and the arts was among his priorities since he took office last October.

The President made the comments in response to Taufik's demand that the welfare of old athletes should deserve more attention as they sacrificed

their education for their sports career in their youth but found it hard to make a living once their playing days were over. "I want the government to think about the welfare of retired athletes," said the 24-year-old, who is the first badminton player in the world to hold the Olympic and world crowns concurrently.—MNA/Xinhua



Kenyan rangers move a tranquilised 22-year-old male elephant during a project to transport 400 of the beasts from Shimba Hills National Reserve to Tsavo East National Park recently.— INTERNET

## US to brief India on "PAC-3" missile defence

WASHINGTON, 26 Aug — The Pentagon's top arms salesman will brief India next month on advanced US weapons, including the combat-tested Patriot PAC-3 air missile defence system plus two multirole fighter aircraft, a spokesman said on Thursday.

The presentation of the Patriot Advanced Capability, or PAC-3, by Lieutenant-General Jeffrey Kohler, head of the Pentagon's Defence Security Cooperation Agency, is significant because India has sought to buy another sophisticated anti-missile system, the Arrow, from Israel.

Kohler will travel to New Delhi early next month to meet Indian Defence Ministry officials, said Jose Ibarra, a spokesman for the agency that handles US government-to-government weapons sales.

The presentation does not necessarily mean the United States is ready to

sell India the PAC-3, described by its manufacturers as the world's most capable system of its kind, Ibarra said.

"This is just a briefing on a weapons system," he said. Raytheon Corp is the system's integrator. Lockheed Martin Corp builds the high-velocity interceptor missile designed to knock out incoming targets by smashing into them.

A PAC-3 sale to India could be destabilizing if archrival Pakistan viewed it as detracting from its deterrent capability, said Wade Boese, research director of the private Arms Control Association in Washington.

MNA/Reuters



Afghan men and women relaxes next to Band-i-Amir lake, about 310 km (193 miles) northwest of Kabul, Afghanistan on 25 August, 2005. Band-i-Amir lake is one of the most popular tourist spots in Afghanistan.

INTERNET

## Antiques dealer demands US Govt return rare coins

PHILADELPHIA, 26 Aug — A Philadelphia antiques dealer plans to sue the US Mint to recover rare gold coins worth millions of dollars that the federal government has seized because it says they were illegally obtained.

Ten "Double Eagle" 20 US dollars coins minted in 1933 were discovered in September in a Philadelphia antiques and jewellery store and voluntarily handed by its owners, the Langbord family, to the Mint for authentication.

In June, the mint confirmed they were the coveted Double Eagles but informed the Langbords that the coins were being sent for safe-keeping to

the US Bullion Depository at Fort Knox, Kentucky, because the family had no right to them.

The coins have grail-like status for coin collectors. Only about 25 out of 445,500 are known to have survived destruction after the United States abandoned the gold standard in 1933 and ordered them melted down. Two of the coins were given to the Smithsonian Institution in Washington for

display.

A few more survived, and the 10 recently discovered were obtained in 1937 by Israel Switt, an antiques dealer and ancestor of the Langbord family, in whose store the coins were found. Switt died in the 1980s.

Mint officials believe Switt got at least 20 of the coins from a cashier at the Philadelphia Mint who was later convicted of a crime relating to his work

there.

One of Switt's coins is believed to have found its way to the former King Farouk of Egypt, and was auctioned to an anonymous buyer in 2002 for 7.59 million US dollars, the largest sum ever paid for a coin. In that case, the government retained title to the coin but agreed to split the proceeds because of a dispute over evidence, a Mint official said.

MNA/Reuters

## Sixteen killed in Paris apartment block fire

PARIS, 26 Aug — A fire tore through a seven-storey Paris apartment block on Friday, killing 17 people — some of them children — and injuring 30, French officials said.

A Fire Brigade spokesman said the cause of the night-time fire in a southern area of the French capital was not immediately known.

He said the blaze had been brought under control by some 200 firefighters.

French radio said many immigrants lived in the apartment block.

In April, a fire at a six-storey Paris hotel killed 22 people, half of them children.

The hotel blaze was one of the deadliest fires in the capital for years.

Some people tried to save themselves by jumping from windows and others tried to save their children by throwing them from upper floors after the fire broke out in the middle of the night. — MNA/Reuters

## Indonesia, Thailand hold joint military exercise

JAKARTA, 26 Aug — Navies of Indonesia and Thailand are holding a joint exercise codenamed "Sea Garuda 13-AB/05" in the East Java capital of Surabaya and the Central Java capital of Semarang.

The biennial event was officially opened by Chief of Indonesian Navy's Eastern Fleet Command, Rear Admiral Heru Didik Purnomo on Tuesday.

"The special purpose of the exercise is to build and strengthen the relationship between the two navies and increase their professionalism," Purnomo was quoted by the Antara news agency as saying.

The exercise, which is divided in

three stages, will run until 30 August. The first stage is to be held in Surabaya until 24 August, the second in the Java Sea on 25-27 August, while the last will be held on 28-30 August.

The Indonesian Navy's contingent consists of 293 personnel and two warships and one reconnaissance aircraft, while the Thai Navy is represented by 272 men and two warships.

MNA/Xinhua

## Cuba blames US for shipwreck that killed 31

HAVANA, 26 Aug — Cuba blamed the United States on Thursday for the death of 31 people lost when an overcrowded speedboat with failing engines capsized en route to Florida, an illegal migration Havana accuses Washington of fomenting.

A Cuban Government statement said 24 men and eight women were aboard a speedboat that had a capacity for only 10 passengers and capsized on the night of 16 August. Three survivors were picked up in the sea by a passing ship 30 miles off the Cuban coast on Monday and returned to Cuba. When the engines began to fail, the two smugglers manning the boat told the passengers to throw themselves overboard, the statement said, citing the accounts of the survivors. In the confusion, the boat overturned, it said.

"We hold the government of the United

States responsible for the death of 31 people who have all surely perished," said the statement read out on nightly television news. The US Coast Guard said its aircraft and vessels searched more than 10,000 square miles of ocean — an area about the size of Massachusetts — but found no other survivors or bodies. It gave up the search on Wednesday. The 31 deaths would make this the worst tragedy in years involving Cuban emigres who brave the crossing by the hundreds each year to leave Communist Cuba for the United States. — MNA/Reuters

## Zebari says Iraq watching US anti-war feeling closely

ROME, 26 Aug — Iraqi leaders are closely watching the growth of the anti-war movement in the United States and understand that Americans will become frustrated without more progress, Foreign Minister Hoshiyar Zebari said on Thursday.

Zebari, on a two-day trip to Italy, also said the next few months would "make or break" Iraq but that allies should stick together and not send what he called mixed or confused signals. He said he sympathized with anti-war protester Cindy Sheehan and others who have lost loved ones in Iraq but that it would be "disastrous" if the protests led to any cracks in the coalition or premature withdrawal.

"I fully understand the feelings of this lady and how she feels about the loss of her

son and we sympathize with her and our prayers go to her and to all those who have fallen," Zebari said of Sheehan, who has been camping out at President George W Bush's Texas ranch.

"But these times, these remaining months, are really the make or break of Iraq. These months are critical to the success or failure of this project of democratization, of regime change, whether for the United States, its allies or for us," he said. — MNA/Reuters



Rescue workers pump out water from inside the monastery of Weltenburg near Kelheim about 80 kilometers (49.7 miles) north of Munich on 25 August, 2005.

INTERNET



## CIS leaders to enhance border, anti-terror, military cooperation

**KAZAN (Russia), 27 Aug — Leaders of the member states of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) on Friday adopted documents on border, anti-terror and military cooperation at the summit opened in Kazan, capital of the Russian republic of Tatarstan.**

During the one-day summit, the leaders agreed to join hands in resolving border disputes, blocking illegal migration and fighting terrorism and extremism and enhancing military cooperation. Russian President Vladimir Putin told a Press conference at the end of the summit that security remains a key strategic point for the CIS cooperation.

It is in the interests of all member states, he stressed, adding the documents adopted at the summit have laid the legal foundations for the cooperation.

The summit also decided to reform in CIS to improve efficiency.

To that end, Putin said he has proposed to the summit that the CIS set up a high-level working group to promote integration "that would be in line with both shared interests and national foreign policy priorities of CIS states".

Such a working group should comprise "not only officials but also public figures who are well versed", according to the President.

The summit, among others, declared 2006 the year of CIS cooperation.

Putin said all member states are looking forward to better cooperation and more fruitful results. Despite differ-

ences, the CIS provides a platform where member states seek a solution acceptable to all through high-level consultations, he added.

The next CIS summit will be held in Minsk, the capital of Belarus. The new chairman of the Council of CIS Heads of State will be elected through consultations before the Minsk summit, according to Putin.

Attending the Kazan summit were leaders of Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Uzbekistan, Ukraine, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan.

MNA/Xinhua

## HK tightens controls on freshwater fish

**HONG KONG, 27 Aug — Hong Kong Secretary for Health, Welfare & Food York Chow said on Friday that the government is working to restore consumer confidence in freshwater fish and revitalize the market in the wake of the malachite green scare.**

However, there is no plan to compensate local fish traders, he said.

More than 100 tons of freshwater fish from Shenzhen, which have been proven safe, are ready for delivery to Hong Kong, according to a government Press release on Friday.

Chow told legislators on Friday that freshwater fish products are much safer now after the Chinese Mainland enhanced controls on fish exports.

He said malachite green levels detected in freshwater fish samples are unlikely to cause adverse health effects.

"With the level of malachite green detected, a person would only suffer from adverse health effects if he or she consumes more than 290 kilos of freshwater fish each day over a prolonged period," he said.

He added that in the short term, the government will require all aquatic product imports to be accompanied by certificates issued by the

authorities of origin.

In the medium term, it will implement the regulatory regime of registered fish farms and other control measures at the source.

"In the long run, we will require all importers and wholesalers to register the origin of all imports and the details of their sales, to enable rapid tracing of the origin of any problematic aquatic products and prompt follow-up actions." In a separate development, Hong Kong Director of Food & Environmental Hygiene Gregory Leung on Thursday reached an agreement with Shenzhen authorities on freshwater fish safety controls and will visit Guangdong to discuss the issue with the provincial government.

Chow hopes the registration of Chinese Mainland fish farms which are allowed to provide freshwater fish to Hong Kong can be completed as soon as possible so the Food Environmental Hygiene Department can monitor their operation. —MNA/Xinhua

## Chevron, SBM France sign \$ 130 m contract

**LAGOS, 27 Aug — Chevron Nigeria Limited (CNL) on Friday signed a 130-million-US-dollar contract for the Agbami Offloading System with SBM France/Stolt Offshore West Africa Consortium.**

Mike Illanne, general manager of Deepwater Assets of Chevron Nigeria, signed the contract on behalf of CNL, FAMFA, Statoil, Petrobra and the Nigerian National Petroleum Corp while Steve Judd and Nicolas Abela signed for the contractors — Stolt Offshore and SBM respectively.

Speaking at the ceremony, Illanne said the contract was for the engineering, procurement, installation and inauguration of the Agbami Offloading System.

"Under the contract," he said, "the consortium will engineer, procure, fabricate, transport, install, hook-up and inaugurate the system which will comprise a surface offloading buoy connected to the Agbami FPSO by 20-inch steel offloading lines." — MNA/Xinhua

## Plastic bags banned, blamed for west India floods

**MUMBAI, 27 Aug — The western Indian state of Maharashtra plans to ban most plastic bags, blaming them for choking drains and causing floods a month ago on Friday that left more than 1,000 people dead.**

Businesses caught using them would be fined 5,000 rupees (114 US dollars), while individuals would have to pay 1,000 rupees.

"Gutters choked with plastic bags caused the flooding which led to enormous losses for the state," the chief minister said in a statement. "The media and environmental and citizens' groups demanded that plastic bags be banned, so we are banning them."

Bangladesh also banned plastic bags after blaming them for clogged drains and floods there, while a handful of Indian states that rely on tourism have done so to prevent littered bags becoming eyesores. Ireland and Taiwan have slapped taxes on them. Rules on the types of bags to be

exempt by Maharashtra — possibly pouches for milk, oil and water — will be issued next week.

But a group representing more than 1,000 plastic — bag makers in the state, generating more than 20 million US dollars in annual turnover from 6,000-7,000 tons of plastic bags, expressed anger. "They've made plastic bags the scapegoat when it is the corporation's mismanagement that is to blame," said Harpal Singh of the All India Plastics Manufacturers Association, referring to the city body that runs Mumbai, once known as Bombay.

While some Indians recycle plastic bags, often as makeshift rain gear, they also end up snagged in trees, floating in ponds and even flut-

tering in remote Himalayan foothills.

Environmentalists say the bags can take up to 1,000 years to disintegrate and pose a threat to marine life, birds and other animals.

Some hope record-high crude oil prices might force manufacturers to seek alternatives to petroleum-based plastics.

"Paper bags are an option, or we can go back to the cloth bags we used as kids. But when plastic bags are so cheap, no one will be encouraged to use anything else," said Chandra Bhushan at the non-profit Centre for Science and Environment.

Australian scientists are considering bioplastics made of sucrose or grain, which can end up on compost heaps.

MNA/Reuters



A firefighter sits on a ladder and tries to release wood gathered in the river Aare in Berne, Switzerland, on 25 August, 2005. The water level of the river is going down and emergency services and residents began a clean up process in parts of Switzerland on Thursday after days of torrential rain caused rivers and lakes to burst their banks.—INTERNET

## Uganda, Rwanda, Congo agree on extradition treaty

**KAMPALA, 27 Aug — Uganda, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) have agreed on an extradition treaty for each other's terrorist suspects and other criminals in the three neighbouring countries, local Press reported on Friday.**

The agreement was reached by the tripartite joint commission which was composed of representatives from the three countries with facilitation by the United States, at a two-day meeting in Kigali, capital of Rwanda which ended on Thursday.

"During the meeting the commission agreed to negotiate bilateral extradition treaties concerning militia leaders, terrorists and other criminal elements," a Press statement from the US Embassy in Kampala was quoted as saying. The commission held discussions on wide ranging issues on security in the Great Lakes Region.

The issues include disarmament and prosecution of militia leaders, terrorists and other criminal threatening regional stability.

The commission also sounded a strong warning to the Democratic Liberation Forces of Rwanda based in eastern DRC. They are composed of Hutu extremists who fled to eastern Congo after carrying out the 1994 Rwanda genocide which claimed lives of over 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus.

Representatives from Burundi, the African Union, the European Union and the UN Mission in the DRC attended the two-day meeting. —MNA/Xinhua



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein inspects construction of a gymnasium at Dagon University of Yangon East District. — MNA

**With consolidated national...**

(from page 16)  
between the good and the bad. And a brighter future of the nation can be shaped only through the might of

national intellectuals and intelligentsia. In conclusion, he called on the teachers to be well convinced of the important role of the education sector and to carry out the tasks with a sense of duty for ensuring sustainable achievement in nation-building

tasks and in constructing basic infrastructures for national development. After the meeting, the Secretary-1 cordially greeted the teachers, and inspected the construction of a gymnasium and construction of buildings in the university campus. —MNA



Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein explains facts about Dagon University. MNA

**Systematic measures need...**

(from page 1)  
First the commander explained that upgrading tasks have been divided into four zones comprising the central forest zone, education zone, relaxation zone and recreation zone. Apart from the central forest zone, all three other zones have been opened. Measures will be taken to complete the remaining zone.

Next, Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung reported on progress in construction of tar roads in the central forest zone and Popa tower, growing of rare trees and 2,878 seasonal flowers (128 kinds), upgrading work being carried out and the increasing number of visitors to the gardens; Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein on progress in construction of a fresh water fish garden, display of 5500 fish (52 kinds) and investment; Yangon City Development Committee Chairman Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin on construction tasks being implementing in the relaxation zone, building of Popa tower, paving of tar roads in the

zones and other construction work; Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu on opening of hotels and restaurants in Kandawgyi natural gardens; Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay on assistance being rendered by the ministry; and Deputy Minister for Science and Technology U Kyaw Soe on matters related to control quality on construction tasks in the zones. Myanmar Hoteliers Association Chairman Dr Khin Shwe also reported on construction progress in the recreation zone and arrivals of visitors. Then those present took part in the discussions.

In response to the reports, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein said in implementing the upgrading tasks for Kandawgyi natural gardens, it is necessary to maintain the original natural resources.

Those responsible at various levels are to supervise the upgrading tasks in accord with the design plans. He said systematic measures need to be taken for convenience of visitors to the gardens. MNA

**Cash donation ceremony for the construction of Vipassana Ceti in Mumbai, India held**

YANGON, 27 Aug — A cash donation ceremony for the construction of Vipassana Ceti in Mumbai, India was held at Waizayamingala Hall on Thirimingala Hill at 9 am, here, today. Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung accepted the donations and presented certificates of honour to donors. The ceremony was attended by Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, Advisor U Aunt Maung, Director general U Myo Kyaw, official and well-wishers.

Altogether 57 wellwishers donated K 32,582,501, plus US \$ 6,010 and sapphire locket and one ear ring. The ceremony ended with sharing of merits gained.—MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung accepts cash donations for the funds to the Vipassana Ceti in Mumbai, India. — MNA

**Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein attends meeting No 4/2005...**

(from page 1)  
The Secretary-1 continued to say that submission of clarification on findings of the Work Committee concerning sharing of executive and legislative powers has been made and delegates to the National Convention has submitted their proposals.

In this meeting, commission members are to discuss

reports presented by the National Convention Convening Work Committee on matters relating to the tasks to be carried out at the coming National Convention, he said.

Next, commission members discussed presentation made by NCCWC.

In response to the discussion, the Secretary-1 gave necessary instructions. The meeting ended with concluding remarks by Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein. MNA

**Performing arts competitions open in Sangyoung Township**

YANGON, 27 Aug — The opening ceremony of 13th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions took place at the Basic Education High School No 2 in Sangyoung Township, Yangon North District this afternoon, attended by Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe.

Also present on the occasion were Chairman of Committee for Holding Performing Arts Competitions Commander of No 3 Military Command Col Tint Hsan, Secretary of Yangon Division PDC Lt-Col Myint Kyi and members, committee members, Yangon North District PDC Chairman

Lt-Col Kyaw Tint and departmental officials at the district level, Township PDC chairmen, social organizations, artistes, members of board of judges and guests.

First, Yangon North

District PDC Chairman Lt-Col Kyaw Tint formally opened the competitions and explained the purpose of holding the competitions. Next, the commander and guests were entertained by gold medal

winners with Myanmar traditional songs, dances and music.

Altogether 160 contestants from 13 townships in the district will take part in the competitions. MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe presents a basket of flowers to artistes. YANGON COMMAND



## Lt-Gen Kyaw Win inspects rubber plantations in Kunlon District

YANGON, 27 Aug— Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Kyaw Win of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Shan State (North) PDC Commander of North East Command Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing and Col Tun Nay Lin of Laukkai Station, met with officers, other ranks and their families of Laukkai Station on 24 August and urged them to participate in regional development undertakings hand in hand with locals.

After inspecting development of Laukkai and highland cultivation along Laukkai-Chinshwehaw road, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party arrived at Chinshwehaw.

In meeting with staff discharging their duties in Chinshwehaw and members of social organizations in Chinshwehaw, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win gave instructions to them on participation in regional development drives.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win



Lt-Gen Kyaw Win awards farmer U Aik Tun for his outstanding performance in growing paddy. — MNA

and party proceeded to Hopang and inspected development of the town, growing of poppy-substitute Hsinshweli strain paddy on plains of Hopang region and cultivation of industrial crops.

Altogether 4255 acres of land have been put under rubber including 1860 acres under industrial crops in Hopang Township.

Moreover, 21178 acres of land have been put under rubber in the whole Shan State



Lt-Gen Kyaw Win inspects the site for construction of Shweli Bridge (Namkham). — MNA

(North).

Next, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party arrived at local battalion and met with officers, other ranks and their families and gave instructions.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party inspected rubber plantations and other perennial crops grown by national entrepreneurs in Hopang Township.

In Kunlon District, 1442 acres of land have been put under rubber in Hopang Township and 2703 acres in Kunlon

Win reported to Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party on rice sufficiency in the district and cultivation of Hsinshweli strain paddy and Manager U Naing Win Kyin of Myanmar Agriculture Service on cultivation of paddy. Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing reported on future plans.

In his speech, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win said that it is heartening to see that progress has been made in regional development undertakings under the arrangement of Shan State (North) PDC with the ac-

**Shweli Bridge (Namkham) is built across Shweli river on Mandalay-Lashio-Namkham-Bhamo road in Namkham Township. On completion, the bridge will be 600 feet long with 24 feet wide mortarway. The bridge can withstand 60 tons of loads.**

efficiency in the respective regions, efforts have been made in Shan State (North) and thus the region's rice sufficiency has increased up to 103 per cent.

In conclusion Lt-Gen Kyaw Win urged those present to maintain the success already achieved. Next, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and the commander presented gifts to local farmers and departmental personnel.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party viewed pollination of Hsinshweli paddy on 10 acres of land.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party also inspected cultivation of Hsinshwelin hybrid paddy along Muse-Namkham road.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party attended the ceremony to broadcast fertilizer on 250 acres of paddy fields in Nankaung village in Muse Township.

Next, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and the commander presented awards to local farmers and staff for their outstanding performance in growing paddy.

In Muse District, 145,734 acres of land have been put under paddy in 2005-2006 cultivation period.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win

and party also attended the ceremony to broadcast fertilizer in Namkham Township.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party arrived at Shweli Bridge (Namkham) construction project implemented by Construction Group -16 on Namkham-Bhamo road.

After hearing reports presented by official on progress of work in building the bridge, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win gave necessary instructions.

Shweli Bridge (Namkham) is built across Shweli river on Mandalay-Lashio-Namkham-Bhamo road in Namkham Township.

On completion, the bridge will be 600 feet long with 24 feet wide mortarway. The bridge can withstand 60 tons of loads.

Next, they proceeded to Shweli Hydrel Power Project implemented near Mantat villiage, 17 miles to the south-west of Namkham. An official reported to Lt-Gen Kyaw Win on progress of work. Lt-Gen Kyaw Win gave instructions and fulfilled the requirements.

Under the Shweli Hydrel Power Project, a regulating dam will be built on Shweli river to generate 3022 kilowatt

hours of electricity yearly.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party next proceeded to Kutkai and spent the night there.

Yesterday morning, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win met officers, other ranks and their families at Thura Aye Cho Hall of Kutkai Station and clarified the developments of the State and urged them to conduct agricultural and livestock breeding tasks on a manageable scale.

At Loi Samhsit Cultivation Zone, Col San Tha Shwe of Kutkai Station reported to Lt-Gen Kyaw Win on arrangements being made to grow poppy-substitute crops in Kutkai, Tarmoeyne, Mongsi and Kaungka regions and the commander on efforts being made to eliminate poppy cultivation.

After giving instructions, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win inspected growing of crops.

In Kyaukme and Naungkio, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party met service personnel and members of social organizations and gave instructions on regional development tasks.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party arrived back here via Mandalay this morning. — MNA

### Minister Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min inspect Myokwin bridge

YANGON, 27 Aug — Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe and Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min, accompanied by Deputy Minister U Pe Than and officials, arrived at Myokwin Bridge maintenance worksite in Hinthada yesterday afternoon and heard reports on bridge maintenance measures being taken in cooperation with Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems.

Afterwards, Director of Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems U Hla Myint Thein reported on dredging tasks in Ngawon river and Deputy Director-General U Soe Myint gave supplementary report.

After hearing reports, ministers gave necessary instructions.

Next, ministers and party inspected the durability of Myokwin bridge.

On arrival at Bo Myat Tun Bridge, ministers inspected the progress of preventive measures against river bank erosion and left instructions there.

MNA



Ministers Maj-Gen Thein Swe and Maj-Gen Aung Min inspect durability of Myokwin Bridge. — TRANSPORT

### Culture Deputy Minister tours Mandalay

YANGON, 27 Aug — Deputy Minister for Culture Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung on 23 August arrived at Mandalay and inspected departmental works of Fine Arts Department Branch (Mandalay).

On 24 August, Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung visited Culture University (Mandalay) and heard reports presented by the rector of the university on administration and academic matters of the university and works of students.

Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung also visited U Pein Bridge in Amarapura Township. At the bridge U Thein Than of Diamond Palace Co reported to the deputy minister on repairing of the bridge. The deputy minister gave necessary instructions.

At the National Theatre (Mandalay), the deputy minister enjoyed skill demonstration presented by students of Culture University (Mandalay).

MNA

On 25 August, the deputy minister, accompanied by Deputy Director-General U Aung Kyaing of Fine Arts Department (Upper Myanmar) and officials, inspected renovation of wall of the palace and Mya n a n s a n k y a w Shwenandaw.

He also met staff and artistes of Fine Arts Department (Mandalay) and gave necessary instructions to them.

MNA

### Hotels in Shan State inspected

YANGON, 27 Aug — Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu together with officials called on Shan State Peace and Development Council Chairman Eastern Command Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint on 25 August and reported on tourism development tasks.

Next, the deputy minister inspected Taunggyi Hotel, and Amazing Hotel in Nyaung Shwe. Later, the deputy minister and party looked into Nampun restaurant opened for tourists. — MNA



OLD FOOTBALLERS HONOUR COACH: Old collegians and retired Myanmar selected footballers honoured and presented K 500,000 to 88-year-old Sayaygi U Nyein who was coach of Myanmar selected football team on 27-8-2005. On behalf of U Nyein, U Wai Lin spoke words of thanks. H

### USDA secretariat member Minister U Aung Thaung attends prizes presentation ceremonies

YANGON, 27 Aug — Member of Secretariat of Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung attended the third prize presentation ceremony held at NyaungU Township Basic Education High School in Mandalay Division yesterday morning and presented the prizes to the teachers and students who passed with flying colours in Matriculation Examination 2004-2005.

First, Minister U Aung Thaung made a speech.

Minister U Aung Thaung gave the prizes to the outstanding students and also bestowed the prizes of honour on the teachers.

The headmaster of NyaungU BEHS expressed thanks and the ceremony ended.

Similar ceremony was held at Kyaukpadaung Township in Mandalay Division.

Minister U Aung Thaung delivered a speech.

Next, the minister



Minister U Aung Thaung awards prize to Ma Nan Thiri Tun who passed 2004-05 matriculation exam with four distinctions. — INDUSTRY-1

presented prizes to the outstanding students who won distinctions in the matriculation examination in 2004-2005 and the prizes of honour to the teachers.

At cash donation ceremony, U Than Htay Maung and family donated 150-dozen books to the students and the ceremony ended.

Minister U Aung Thaung donated K 200,000 to Kyaukpadaung Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association.

He also inspected Win Thuza shop in

Kyaukpadaung Township and gave necessary instructions.

In the evening, the minister attended the prize distribution ceremony of Welaung BEHS.

The minister presented the prizes to outstanding students who passed with flying colours in matriculation examination in 2004-2005 and the prizes of honour to the teachers.

The similar ceremonies were held at Semikan BEHS and Talineyetywathit BEHS. — MNA

### Seminar on Building Better People held



Myanmar Nurses Association (Central) President Daw E Babro accepts K 200,000 donated by Dr Beauty Kyi of Mo Asia Co.Ltd. — MNA

YANGON, 27 Aug — Seminar on Building Better People organized by Myanmar Nurses' Association (Central) and Mo Asia Co.Ltd was held this morning at Lapyawun Plaza on Alanpyapaya Road here.

First, President of the association Daw E Babro made a speech. Next, Dr Beauty Kyi of Mo Asia Co.Ltd donated K 200,000 for the asso-

ciation through Daw E Babro and explained facts about Dumex.

Afterwards, Executive Daw Thein Thein of MNA gave talks on Healthy Child, Assistant Director

(Nurses) Daw Yi Htay of Health Department on Nutrition for under one year and Dr Phyu Thin Shwe of Mo Asia Co.Ltd on Shaping Healthy Mother and Baby. — MNA

### All this needs to be known

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



## India, US sign vision research agreement

WASHINGTON, 27 Aug — The US National Institutes of Health and India's Department of Biotechnology have signed a Statement of Intent for collaboration on expansion of vision research.

The agreement was signed on Wednesday by Maharaj K Bhan, Secretary of India's Department of Biotechnology, and Elias A Zerhouni, Director of the US National Institutes of Health (NIH), at the institute campus in Bethesda, Maryland, with both emphasizing an increased "commitment" to joint collaborations on eye disorders.

The agreement was developed jointly by the two countries with the support of the Fogarty International Centre.

Speaking at the signing, Zerhouni said "Our scientific collaborations with colleagues in India are strong. Through this agreement, they will become stronger. With the rising global burden of disability and suffering posed by eye disorders, partnerships such as the one we forged today are increasingly critical".

"We (Indian authorities) are very concerned about the toll of many vision disorders on our well-being. Through this collaboration, we are confident that India will gain important new knowledge for the protection of sight and for the prevention of vision loss," Bhan was quoted as saying in an NIH release.

The Letter of Intent recognized the strong "commitment" by the two countries to reduce the burden of vision disability and blindness along with successful research collaboration between Indian and American scientists and institutions in the prevention of blindness. The Letter of Intent also acknowledged the scientific accomplishments realized under

previous Indo-US collaborative agreements, including the Indo-US Science and Technology Subcommission and the Gandhi-Reagan Science and Technology Initiative and the high degree of research expertise in basic biology and clinical science in both countries, which could make collaboration on an equal footing possible.

Under the Statement of Intent, the two countries "mutually anticipate an expanded collaborative programme of vision research".

Steps for implementing this initiative would be developed through consultations. On the Indian side, the Department of Biotechnology would serve as the nodal agency, with the expectation of the involvement of other interested governmental and non-governmental organizations, it said.

Similarly, on the US side, the Health and Human Services/NIH National Eye Institute intended to serve as the nodal agency.

Both parties may also identify scientific co-chairs in the each other to implementation of research collaborations.

"With this Statement of Intent we recognize that Indo-US scientific cooperation can contribute significantly to the prevention of visual disability and blindness in India, the United States and the globe. In signing this Statement of Intent, we encourage scientists and health providers in both our countries to work towards this goal," the two sides said.

MNA/PTI

## Hurricane "Katrina" pummels south Florida

MIAMI, 27 Aug — Hurricane Katrina battered Florida's densely populated southeast coast with high winds and drenching rain on Thursday as it knocked down trees, left two million people without power and caused at least two deaths.

The core of what was supposed to be a minimal hurricane but which nevertheless delivered a furious punch hit just south of the Fort Lauderdale area about 7 pm (2300 GMT) and then cut southwest through some of the most crowded parts of Miami-Dade, the US National Hurricane Centre said.

The storm dumped up to 12 inches (30.5 centimetres) of rain as it began moving slowly across south Florida toward the Gulf of Mexico, and bands of fierce gale-force winds uprooted trees from soggy soil, howled through gaps under doors and brought down power lines.

A 25-year-old man was killed after a tree fell on his car in Fort Lauderdale, and another man died in plantation when a tree fell on him outside his home, said Broward County public information officer Dennis Myers. WFOR television said the first man died when the tree brought a power line down onto his car.

The authorities said heavy rainfall and flooding could well be the greatest threat from Katrina. "I don't want to minimize that wind either. We just had a gust to 86 miles (138 kilometres per hour) an hour at the hurricane centre a few minutes.

We've had two deaths from trees falling on people up in Broward County. This is not over even though the centre of the hurricane is moving (west) of here," hurricane centre director Max Mayfield told CNN.

"This is going to be a long night for Miami-Dade and Broward counties." Some areas could get up to 15 inches (38 centimetres) of rain, the hurricane centre said, and Miami-Dade authorities warned residents of possible flash floods.

Florida Power and Light Co the main electricity company in the area, said more than one million customers, representing more than two million people, were without power.

MNA/Reuters



A man crosses an empty street in South Beach under heavy rain as tropical storm Katrina hits Miami, Florida, on 25 August, 2005. Katrina strengthened into a hurricane from a tropical storm on Thursday and deluged Florida's densely populated southeast coast with rain, heightening fears of flooding.

INTERNET

## Chinese President to visit US, Canada and Mexico

WASHINGTON, 27 Aug — Chinese President Hu Jintao plans to visit the United States, Canada and Mexico from 5 to 17 September, the Chinese Foreign Ministry said on Friday.

The White House said this week President George W Bush would host Hu on 7 September, a visit that caps months of rising trade friction as well as growing cooperation on stopping North Korea's nuclear arms ambitions.

Hu will also attend the annual gathering of world leaders at the UN General Assembly in New York, which runs from 13-16 September, the ministry web site quoted Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing as saying. Li did not give specific dates for Hu's visit to the three countries.

MNA/Reuters

## Cholera kills 16 in Congo Army convoy

LUBUMBASHI (Congo), 27 Aug — A cholera outbreak in a convoy of soldiers travelling with their families in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has killed at least 16 people and infected hundreds, aid officials said on Friday. Humanitarian workers expressed concern that the convoy of about 3,000 people had dealt with the outbreak by dropping off hundreds of infected people in villages along the way, exposing local residents to the risk of infection.

"So far we are looking at 16 dead and over 300 infected," an aid worker said of the convoy, travelling from the town of Goma in North Kivu Province to Bunia Town in Ituri Region.

Another official, Patrick Lavand'Homme, head of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in North Kivu, said aid agencies in the town of Beni, where the convoy had temporarily halted, were trying to tackle the crisis.

"We are concerned about the cholera spreading. There are about 3,000 soldiers and their families in the convoy," said Lavand'Homme. "The conditions were terrible in the trucks and contamination happened very fast."

A UN official in Goma said local authorities in the town declared a cholera epidemic there about two weeks ago.

"It appears infected people were among the thousands of soldiers, women and children that joined the 60-truck convoy," the UN official said.

Nearly 4 million people died, mostly from hunger and disease, during two wars in the country in the past decade. Many of the deaths occurred in the lawless east, which remains a hotbed of regional tensions. — MNA/Reuters

## Latest in grim series of China mine blasts kills 15

BELING, 27 Aug — A gas explosion killed 15 miners in southwestern China, state media reported on Friday, the latest in an all-too-familiar series of accidents to strike the world's deadliest mining industry.

Twenty-one miners were working underground when the accident happened late on Thursday in a new mine Renhuai, Guizhou Province, Xinhua news agency said.

Two workers escaped and four were rescued, Xinhua said, adding that the owner of the mine had fled.

China relies on coal for more than two-thirds of its energy consumption and has the world's biggest and most dangerous mining industry, claiming 2,700 lives in the first half of 2005 alone.

The government has launched campaigns to clear up the industry and pledged to spend more than 50 billion

yuan (six billion US dollars) to improve safety, but they have had little effect.

On average, there are seven fatal coal mine accidents a day, the China Daily said.

"Almost every major accident was found to have been linked to corruption," the newspaper quoted Li Tieying, vice-chairman of the National People's Congress Standing Committee, as saying.

In early August, 123 miners were trapped by flood waters in southern Guangdong Province.

Only six bodies have so far been found.

MNA/Reuters

## Aceh urgently needs alternative economy

SINGAPORE, 26 Aug — Reconstruction and aid cash pouring into Indonesia's tsunami-hit Aceh Province could put livelihoods at risk once the money dries up unless the economy is strengthened, a World Bank official said on Thursday.

The December 26 quake and tsunami killed or left missing about 170,000 people, left half a million homeless and shaved 20 per cent off Aceh's economy, said Scott Guggenheim, lead social development specialist at the World Bank in Indonesia.

"The immediate need for short-term aid in the wake of the tsunami is quickly shifting to the need for help with reconstruction and long-term economic recovery," Guggenheim told reporters during a two-day seminar in Singapore called the Singapore Humanitarian Conference.

The province's unemployment rate is 27 per

cent and economic stagnation will likely push 600,000 people below the poverty line of daily earnings below one US dollar within the next six to 18 months.

"Foreign investment is also a very important part of the process. It will help to develop local capacities, engage the Acehnese and sustain the economy," he said.

The flow of international aid workers, along with supply and distribution constraints have sent food, housing and transportation prices soaring.

World Bank data showed Aceh's annual inflation rate to be running at a high of 17 per cent, compared with the aver-

age 7 per cent in other parts of Indonesia.

"Another downside risk to the economy is that it is facing the 'Dutch disease'," said Guggenheim.

"The Dutch disease means you get inflationary bubbles which suddenly collapse. That might happen in Aceh and create a huge shock for the local economy which will take a long time to recover from," he warned.

Huge amounts of aid streaming into Aceh through non-governmental organizations have created an artificial economy in the province, which until the recent signing of a peace agreement, had been saddled with a three-decade conflict. —MNA/Reuters

## British yeshiva student killed in old city of Jerusalem

JERUSALEM, 26 Aug — A young British yeshiva, or school of Jewish religion student was killed Wednesday night after a man stabbed him with a 30-centimetre kitchen knife in the Old City of Jerusalem, Israel Radio reported on Thursday.

Local police sources said the victim was identified as 21-year-old Shmuel Mat. His companion, a fellow student from the United States, was moderately wounded. The two had been studying at an ultra-Orthodox yeshiva in the Old City.

Police said they were pursuing the attacker who had fled the scene. Yoram Halevy, commander of the Old City's police station, said a Palestinian carried out the stabbings.

The attack came just one day after Israel completed its pullout from the Gaza Strip and four West Bank settlements.

The Jerusalem stabbing was the second in just over a month. Last month, a 30-year-old Israeli who was sitting with his girlfriend at a popular Jerusalem promenade was stabbed in the foot by an Arab assailant who remains at large.

MNA/Xinhua

## More Chinese people waiting rather than buying houses

BEIJING, 26 Aug — By the end of May 2005, the growth of loans lent by China's big four state commercial banks to individuals for house purchase decreased 50 billion yuan (6.2 billion US dollars) year on year, the *Economic Daily* reported on Thursday.

The figures are provided by a housing industry chamber of commerce affiliated to the All-China Federation of Industry and Commerce.

More consumers are waiting for the further drop of housing prices with money in their hands rather than buying houses, according to a report released by the Chamber of Commerce on China's real estate in the second quarter.

In the second quarter, China's housing sales price rose 8.0 per cent year on

year, 2.4 percentage points lower than the same period last year, the report said.

Compared with the first quarter, the housing sales price rose 1.5 per cent.

The growth rate of investment in commercial housing development, however, still reached 23.3 per cent in the first six months this year, the report said.

In May 2005, seven government departments issued a joint circular in an attempt to stabilize the rocketing housing prices in

## Trade volume increases within Andean Community in 6 months

LIMA, 26 Aug — Trade volume within Andean Community amounts to 3.879 billion US dollars in the first half of 2005, a 21.4-per-cent increase compared to the same period in 2004, said secretariat of the organization in its latest report.

Among the five member states of Andean Community, Colombia and Peru saw the highest rise which are respectively 42.2 per cent and 39.7 per cent, while Bolivia and Venezuela experienced trade volume drop of 10.9 per cent and 0.5 per cent.

The report said the strong momentum of economy in member countries attributes to the increase of total trade volume within the community. It is estimated that the average economic growth rate of the five Andean countries will

reach 4 per cent this year.

The total trade volume of the community was 7.77 billion dollars in 2004, 59 per cent higher than that of 2003. Venezuela saw the highest increase of 127 per cent, and Colombia, Peru and Bolivia followed with respective increase of 72 per cent,

49 per cent and 13 per cent.

The community headquartered in Lima is a regional economic organization composed of five Latin American countries: Peru, Colombia, Venezuela, Bolivia and Ecuador.

MNA/Xinhua

## US Ambassador calls for consensus on UN reforms

UNITED NATIONS, 26 Aug — US Ambassador to the United Nations John Bolton on Wednesday called on member states to reach consensus on UN reforms.

In a letter addressed to his 190 UN counterparts, Bolton said "in order to maximize our chances of success, I suggest we begin the negotiations immediately, this week if possible, starting with President Ping's draft, but open to alternative formats if they help us achieve consensus". Bolton commended General Assembly President Jean Ping for the draft outcome document he prepared, which, as the blueprint for UN reforms, includes a comprehensive range of proposals and is to be adopted at the September UN summit.

"Many of the proposals enjoy wide support, but there is much

to do if we are to reach consensus on the strongest possible measures to promote our common agenda," he said.

He called on member states to undertake the more difficult process of open and transparent negotiations to reach agreement on those most important issues defined in the draft outcome document.

With the UN summit less than three weeks away, UN member states remain deeply divided over the definition of terrorism, the creation of a human rights council and other key elements of a blueprint for reinventing the United Nations

MNA/Xinhua

## Indonesia may buy liquefied natural gas from Oman

JAKARTA, 26 Aug — Indonesia is seeking to buy liquefied natural gas (LNG) from Oman to meet its export commitments and the needs of fertilizer plants in Aceh, a local newspaper reported on Thursday.

If an agreement is reached, about 125,000 cubic metres in volume will be delivered at the end of the year while the other will come early next year, said *The Jakarta Post*.

President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono has assigned Coordinating Minister for People's Welfare Alwi Shihab to hold talks with Oman and Qatar to secure the LNG

cargo.

The delivery schedule and prices would be discussed with state oil and gas firm PT Pertamina and the Oil and Gas Upstream Regulatory Agency (BP Migas).

Alwi said Qatar had also "responded positively" to providing LNG cargoes in 2006. "They said they would be glad to provide (cargoes) as it was in Aceh's interest," he

said.

The amount of LNG to be sourced from Qatar had yet to be determined, he said.

The government wants to use the gas to supply to fertilizer plants in Aceh that face closing down after a natural gas contract with ExxonMobil, a major gas producer in the province, expired in early July.

MNA/Xinhua



Beachgoers run on a sidewalk as Hurricane Katrina strikes in Deerfield Beach, Florida, on 25 August, 2005. —INTERNET



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Zanzibar eyes sea waves electricity

DAR-ES-SALAAM, 26 Aug — An Israeli company has contracted to conduct a feasibility study about electricity generation through sea waves on the Indian Ocean island of Zanzibar.

Suleiman Ali Juma, manager of the Zanzibar State Fuel and Power Corporation, told the Press that the Israeli company of SDA Limited is expected to start the feasibility study next month.

Zanzibar relies on thermal power generators which have proven to be costly and environmen-

tally unfriendly.

Should the sea waves power generation technology proves viable, most Zanzibaris would benefit from cheap and reliable power supplies, said Suleiman Ali Juma.

Zanzibar, a part of the United Republic of Tanzania yet with its own president, cabinet and par-

liament, started its rural electrification programme in 1986.

Under Phase Four of this programme starting in January this year, 61 more villages will get electricity with priority placed on areas with water pumping facilities and tourist-concentrated areas.

MNA/Xinhua

Shanghai to hold Asian drama season

SHANGHAI, 26 August — The Shanghai Drama Art Centre will stage an Asian contemporary drama season this September, during which one third of the plays are planned to be shown with half ticket price.

The weeklong drama season, cosponsored by Shanghai Art and Literature Association, Shanghai Media Group and Shanghai Drama Art Centre, is scheduled to open on 6 September. Troupes from six countries will give 29 performances of 11 plays

and the ticket prices vary from 80 to 200 yuan (9.9 to 24.7 US dollars).

The centre sources said they will sell at half price the tickets of plays shown in the afternoon and the last performance of every play.

According to the rough estimation of the organizing committee,

about 8,000 people will come to watch the plays.

Many citizens say that they are willing to go to theatres if the ticket price is cut down by half.

The biennial drama season, with ten years' history, was firstly held in Osaka, Japan.

MNA/Xinhua

Turkish dry cargo ship on fire in Black Sea

ISTANBUL, 26 Aug — A Turkish dry cargo vessel caught fire in the Black Sea off the coast of Turkey on Thursday with some 50 people on board, the state-run Anatolian news agency reported.

It quoted Huseyin Yavuzdemir, the governor of the eastern Black Sea province Trabzon, as saying that the ship *Ufuk-1* was some 60 miles off the Turkish coast on the way from Trabzon to the Russian port of Sochi.

It was not clear how the blaze started or how large it was.

He said several Coast Guard vessels were heading to the area from Trabzon along with another ship in the area.

MNA/Reuters



A boat that ran aground on the coast of Key Biscayne, Florida, after Hurricane Katrina struck the Miami, on 26 August, 2005.

INTERNET

Hopes fade for Australian diver after shark attack

SYDNEY, 26 Aug — Rescuers held little hope of finding an Australian marine biologist alive on Thursday after he was attacked by a shark while diving off the country's rugged southern coast.

The 23-year-old man was looking for cuttlefish eggs with three University of Adelaide colleagues about 3 miles off Glenelg, near the South Australia state capital of Adelaide, when he was attacked on Wednesday.

"Horrific injuries would have been inflicted and there's little chance of finding the person alive," police superintendent Jim Jeffrey told reporters.

Two men were in the water when the shark struck. Colleagues hauled the second man into the boat but the shark used its snout to push the first diver back into the water.

The man's shocked colleagues tried to drag him back to the boat but were unable to save him. All they found was his oxygen tank and a buoyancy vest before the search

was suspended on Wednesday because of darkness.

"What they witnessed yesterday was horrific and there's no doubt they'll be fairly substantially traumatized," Jeffrey said.

The parents of an Australian marine biologist attacked and presumed killed by a shark said on Thursday they did not want the shark destroyed, while rescuers held little hope of finding the man alive.

"Jarrod was doing exactly what he wanted to do. He loved the sea, loved anything to do with water, boats, and helping out other people," Stehbens' distraught father David said.

"He was a marine biologist, he wouldn't want anything killed," he told reporters.—MNA/Reuters

Australian tourist dies in Uganda

KAMPALA, 26 Aug — The Ugandan police confirmed on Wednesday an Australian tourist had died after drowning in a river waterfall, popular with tourists in the dense Mabira forest in Mukono District.

Joseph Edopa, the head of the Criminal Investigation Department in Mukono district, told *Xinhua* by telephone that there is no chance that the 26-year-old James Coulter, who fell

into the fast-moving waters of the Musamya Fall on Monday, is still alive.

He said that Coulter, who was visiting the falls with a British friend, removed his shirt when they

reached the falls, some 45 kilometres east of Kampala, and he was swept by the waves.

Police have been searching for his body for the third day, he said.

MNA/Xinhua

China to open consulate general in Indonesia's Surabaya

SURABAYA (Indonesia), 26 Aug — China plans to open a new consulate general in the Indonesian town of Surabaya, the capital of East Java Province, in efforts to strengthen bilateral relationship, an envoy said Thursday.

China's Ambassador to Indonesia Lan Lijun unveiled the plan during his meeting with East Java Governor Imam Utomo in Surabaya.

"I came here today to get permission from the governor to establish our new consulate general," he told reporters. Lan said that new consulate will help strengthen relationship between the two

countries, primarily in the areas of education, trade, economics, culture and politics.

President Hu Jintao already discussed the establishment of the Surabaya consulate general when he met with his Indonesian counterpart Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono in Jakarta in April.

MNA/Xinhua

One in twenty homeowners burgled while on holiday

LONDON, 26 Aug — One in twenty homeowners return from holiday to find they have been burgled, a leading insurer said on Wednesday.

One in five homeowners owned gadgets such as security lights or burglar alarms, but many forgot to use them when they went away, home insurer Zurich said.

Worse still, as many as 10 per cent of homeowners left a window open or a door unlocked while on holiday.

Reformed burglar Bob Turney, who now works as a consultant to the Probation Service, said burglars looked for tell-

tale signs that properties were empty.

Newspapers or milk deliveries piling up on doorsteps were classic signs of a vacant property that burglars were well prepared to advantage of, he said.

People should not only remember to cancel any such deliveries, they should also get a trusted friend or neighbour to check on the property and make it look lived in. Turney also warned

against labelling luggage too enthusiastically.

"Don't write your home address on luggage labels attached to the outside of the (suit) case," he said in a statement released by Zurich.

"It's not unknown for burglars to work in teams — with one getting addresses from luggage labels at airports or train stations and relaying the information to others to carry out the burglary." The most recent Brit-

ish Crime Survey published by the Home Office in May 2005 showed there were 974,000 domestic burglaries in England and Wales over the last year.

Zurich said the average claim for a domestic burglary was 1,875 pounds, therefore companies could be looking at a combined insurance payout of 1.8 billion pounds, if everyone had been appropriately insured.

MNA/Reuters

## SPORTS



Yachts competing in the Premier Cruising section sail around Dent Island during day six of the Hamilton Island race week at Hamilton Island in Queensland on 26 August, 2005. The event will run until Sunday. —INTERNET

### Domenech warns against euphoria after Zidane return

MARSEILLE (France), 27 Aug— Coach Raymond Domenech has told fans to temper their euphoria about France's chances of qualifying for the 2006 World Cup following the return of Zinedine Zidane.

Playmaker Zidane came out of international retirement last week and scored a goal in the 3-0 friendly defeat of Ivory Coast. "Two months ago we were hardly good enough for the trash can," Domenech said on Friday. "And today everyone considers there is no doubt about our (2006) qualification.

"As far as I know we haven't taken any extra points in our campaign. My duty is to make sure that no one gets carried away. "We must be careful to avoid a dangerous and worthless euphoria."

France have struggled in their World Cup qualifying campaign and are fourth in Group Four ahead of matches against Faroe Islands and Ireland in early September.

The returns of Zidane, midfielder Claude Makelele and defender Lilian Thuram have brought back steel and balance to the squad.

The French looked much more at ease against Ivory Coast and sealed their most convincing victory since Domenech took over from Jacques Santini as coach in July 2004.

"I did everything I could to have them back in the squad," Domenech said "I refused to set up this farewell match everybody was asking for. Had I done that, they would have never come back." The coach said Zidane, Makelele and Thuram had needed time to get over the disappointment of France's elimination in the quarterfinals at Euro 2004. —MNA/Reuters

### Substitute Cisse leads Liverpool to Super Cup victory

MONACO, 27 Aug— Substitute Djibril Cisse scored twice after coming on late in the game to lead European champions Liverpool to a 3-1 extra-time win over CSKA Moscow in the European Super Cup on Friday.

UEFA Cup holders CSKA survived early pressure before taking the lead after 28 minutes through Brazilian Daniel Carvalho.

The tide turned Liverpool's way however when coach Rafael Benitez began making his substitutions which included Cisse replacing John-Arne Riise after 79 minutes.

Three minutes later Cisse benefitted from a lucky bounce to equalize with a shot into an empty net that forced the match into extra time.

He then put Liverpool ahead 13 minutes into extra time with a powerful shot after goalkeeper Igor Akinfeev had saved his first effort.

Luis Garcia scored the third with a free header six minutes later.

It was Liverpool's third win in the competition after previous victories in 1977 and 2001 and only the second time in eight matches since the event moved to Monaco in 1998 that the European champions had won the annual contest.

MNA/Reuters

### Babunski to coach Macedonia for two World Cup qualifiers

SKOPJE, 26 Aug— Former Macedonia international Boban Babunski was appointed as his country's coach for their two remaining World Cup qualifiers, the Macedonian Football Association (MFA) said on Thursday.

The 37-year-old will be in charge for the matches away to Finland on September 7 and the Netherlands on October 12 after Serb coach Slobodan Santrac resigned two days ago citing his wife's health problems.

A new coach will be named to lead the side in the European championship qualifiers, which begin after the World

Cup, the MFA said.

Under Santrac, who had been in charge since March, the Macedonian side had a disappointing spell of just one win and three defeats.

Macedonia are fifth in European zone Group One after 10 games and cannot qualify for next year's finals in Germany. — MNA/Reuters

### Maradona's TV commitments not interfering at Boca

BUENOS AIRES, 27 Aug— Former Argentine captain Diego Maradona's television commitments are not interfering with his role as director of football at Boca Juniors, club president Mauricio Macri said on Friday.

"I think he can do both jobs, more than anything because we have agreed that Diego will take it easily at first," said Macri in a radio interview.

"He will take on more responsibilities in the near future but not immediately.

"In the medium term, he will dedicate

himself more to football and leave the communication (television) role to one side."

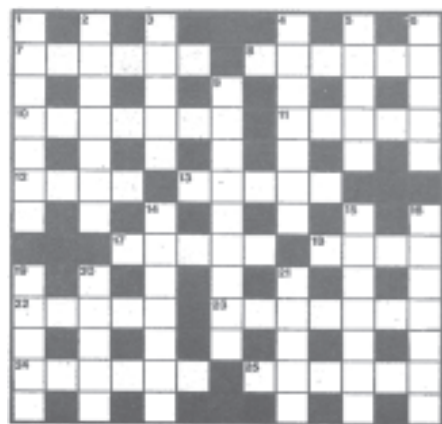
Maradona presents a two-hour television show called "The Night of the 10" every Monday.

The 44-year-old Maradona has made a good recovery after undergoing drug rehabilitation last year and a gastric bypass operation in March.

The most popular club in Argentina, Boca has always been close to Maradona's heart. He supported them as a boy and had two stints there as a player.

MNA/Reuters

### CROSSWORD PUZZLE



#### ACROSS

- 7 Middle
- 8 Insane
- 10 Kitchen cabinet
- 11 Wash out
- 12 Neck-hair
- 13 Fish with rod
- 17 Gripping pain
- 18 Thunder god
- 22 Higher than
- 23 Attire
- 24 Threefold
- 25 Turn over

#### DOWN

- 1 School
- 2 Aerial
- 3 Feel for weapons
- 4 Metal cap of stick
- 5 Be parsimonious
- 6 Snow and rain
- 9 Most important
- 14 Dark cherry
- 15 Cavalry horse
- 16 Bishop
- 19 Pie
- 20 Strength
- 21 Backbone

### Lyon complete signing of Chelsea midfielder Tiago

LYON (France), 27 Aug— French champions Olympique Lyon completed the signing of Chelsea's Tiago on Friday.

The Portuguese international is a straight replacement in midfield for Ghanaian Michael Essien, who moved in the opposite direction last week to join the English champions. "Lyon and the player (Tiago) have come to an agreement and a deal has been set between the two sides," a spokesman for the Ligue 1 team told Reuters while refusing to disclose the transfer fee.

According to French media reports, Lyon were ready to pay up to

10 million euros (12.32 million US dollars) for the 24-year-old Tiago, who joined Chelsea from Benfica in July 2004, played 34 games for the Londoners and scored four goals.

Essien cost Chelsea a club record fee, which was put at 38 million euros by Lyon. Unbeaten Lyon, who share the lead with Paris St. Germain after four matches in Ligue 1, visit Auxerre on Sunday.

MNA/Reuters

### Robinho faces disciplinary action in Brazil over slap

RIO DE JANEIRO, 27 Aug— Real Madrid's new striker Robinho could face disciplinary action in his native Brazil after television footage showed him slapping an opponent during his last game for Santos.

"I'm going to ask for the video to decide on a possible punishment," Luiz Zveiter, president of Brazilian soccer's disciplinary commission, told reporters on Friday.

Pictures showed Robinho slapping Paysandu midfielder Maraba in the face on Wednesday. Santos rallied from 2-0 down

to win the match 3-2.

Zveiter said any possible punishment would only take effect if Robinho returned to play in Brazilian club football. "The tribunal has to enforce the rules, independently of the player's situation," he said. "The punishment will not apply abroad." —MNA/Reuters



John Daly of the US hits from the rough at the fifth hole during the second round of the International Golf Open in Munich, on 26 August, 2005. —INTERNET



### Brazil says Amazon deforestation slows down

BRASILIA (Brazil), 27 Aug— Brazil said on Friday the deforestation of the Amazon rainforest was slowing, but environmental groups suggested much of the reduction was due to a slump in farming instead of government action.

Using data obtained by satellite, the government estimated that 3,515 square miles (9,106 square kilometres) were razed in the world's largest tropical forest between August 2004 and July 2005, down sharply from 7,229 square miles (18,724 square kilometres) in the same period a year earlier.

Officials attributed the drop to a government action plan launched last year aimed at curbing illegal logging in the Amazon, home to an estimated 30 per cent of the world's animal and plant species.

"We have absolute certainty that the good indicators will continue to depend on the implementation of the action plan," said Dilma Roussef, a senior Cabinet member coordinating the government's environmen-

tal task force.

The announcement came less than three months after the government of President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, who came to power in 2003 with the backing of environmentalists, released official data showing that the Amazon rainforest was destroyed at a near-record pace in 2003-2004.

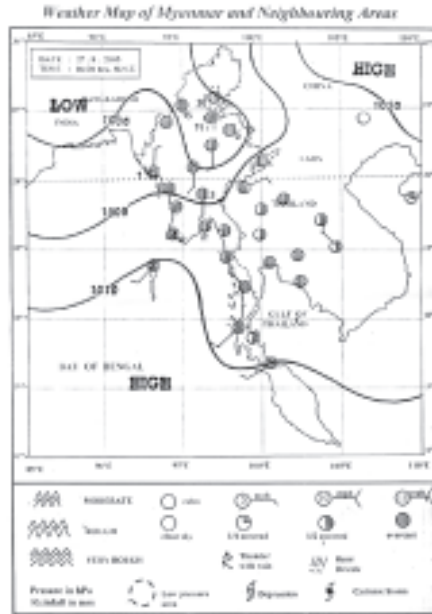
In that period, 10,088 square miles (26,130 square kilometres) — an area larger than the US state of New Jersey — were destroyed, compared with 9,496 square miles (24,597 square kilometres) a year earlier. The worst year on record was 1994-1995, when 11,216 square miles (29,050 square kilometres) were cleared. — MNA/Reuters

### Woman believed killed in Peru crash found alive

PUCALLPA (Peru), 27 Aug— A Peruvian woman believed killed when a plane plunged into a jungle swamp has been found in a hospital, reducing the number of victims to 39 and bringing that of survivors to 59, the airline said on Friday.

A 28-year-old woman, whose name was not released, was found by her husband in a hospital in Pucallpa, near where the Boeing 737-200 crashed in a freak hailstorm as it came in to land, said a spokesman for state-owned airline TANS who declined to give his

name. The woman has been transferred to Lima, where she was in serious condition and on a ventilator. Her son, who was travelling with her, was reported to have undergone surgery in the capital. — MNA/Reuters



### WEATHER

Saturday, 27 August, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Taninthayi Divisions and rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Kach and Shan States, scattered in Chin and Rakhine States, Mandalay, Magway, Bago and Yangon Divisions and isolated in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfalls in Mandalay Division. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Mogok (4.4) inches, Maungtau (2.68) inches, Loikaw (1.14) inches, Pyay (1.02) inches, Aunglan (0.63) inch and Myingyan (0.28) inch.

Maximum temperature on 26-8-2005 was 90°F. Minimum temperature on 27-8-2005 was 70°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 27-8-2005 was 85%. Total sunshine hours on 26-8-2005 was 2.5 hrs approx. Rainfalls on 27-8-2005 were 0.24 inch at Mingaladon, 0.08 inch at Kaba-Aye and 0.04 inch central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were 68.23 inches at Mingaladon, 70.63 inches at Kaba-Aye and 75.08 inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 4 mph from Southwest at (15:30) hours MST on 26-8-2005.

Bay inference: Monsoon is weak in the Bay of Bengal. Forecast valid until evening of 28-8-2005: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Kachin, Rakhine and Shan States, scattered in Chin State, Mandalay, upper Sagaing, Bago and Yangon Divisions and isolated in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is 80%.

State of the sea: Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Outlook for subsequent two days: Decrease of rain in the whole country. Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 28-8-2005: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 80%. Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 28-8-2005: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Flood Bulletin (Issued at (12:30) hrs MST on 27-8-2005) According to the (06:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Chindwin River at Hkamti is (1426) cm. It is falling slightly and may remain above the danger level (1360) cm during the next (72) hrs commencing noon today.



### Sunday, 28 August Tune in today:

- 8.30 am Brief news
8.35 am Music: -I count the minute
8.40 am Perspectives
8.45 am Music: -Thank you baby
8.50 am National news/Slogan
9.00 am Music: -Feel for your love
9.05 am International news
9.10 am Cultural images of Myanmar -Show dexterity in performing arts
9.20 am Music -Happy go lucky
1.30 pm News/Slogan
1.40 pm Children's delight -Story for children
9.00 pm Weekly news review
9.10 pm Article
9.20 pm Let's improve English through songs -Within you'll remain
9.45 pm News/Slogan
10.00 pm PEL



### Sunday, 28 August Tune in today:

- 7:00 am 1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Ottamathara
7:25 am 2. To be healthy exercise
7:30 am 3. Morning news
7:40 am 4. Nice and sweet song
7:55 am 5. ယဉ်ကျေးလိမ္မာ (၃၈) ဂြာ မင်္ဂလာ
8:00 am 6. အတူပြိုင်ပွဲ
8:15 am 7. အိမ်သွားတံတား
8:30 am 8. International news
8:45 am 9. Say it in English
11:00 am 1. Martial song
11:05 am 2. Round-up of The Week's TV Local News

- 11:15 am 3. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ဇောရပ်ဇောရပ် မိစ္ဆာဇွင်ခါး" (အပိုင်း-၃၃)
11:55 am 4. (၂၃)ကြိမ်မြောက် အရှေ့တောင်အာရှ အားကားပြိုင်ပွဲဝင်ပညာပြိုင်ပွဲအားကစားအဖွဲ့များ၏ ကြိုတင်ပြင်ဆင်မှုများ (ဇောရပ်ဇော)
12:10 pm 5. "ငါ့သုတမ်းပါး လောကဉာဏ် မိန့်ပေ" (ရှန်အောင်၊ လွင်မိုး၊ ကျော်အေး၊ မေသန်းနု၊ ထက်ထက်မိုး၊ စင်စော၊ ငြိမ်းကျော်) (ခါရိုက်တာ- ဝန်းချိုမိုး)
2:45 pm 14. International news
4:00 pm 1. Martial song
4:15 pm 2. Song to uphold national spirit
4:30 pm 3. English for everyday use
4:45 pm 4. အထူးသတင်းအချက်အလက်များနှင့် ပတ်သက်သည့် သတင်းစာ -တတိယနေ့(ဇောရပ်ဇောအထူးပြု) (ဇောရပ်ဇော)
5:00 pm 5. Dance of National Races
5:15 pm 6. ၂၀၀၅ ခုနှစ် တေးဂန္ထဝင်အကြိမ် (၁၃) ကြိမ်မြောက် ဇောရပ်ဇောအထူးပြု အဆို၊ အက၊ အရေး အတီးဖြင့် ပြင်ဆင်မှုများနှင့် ကြိုတင်ပြင်ဆင်မှုများ (ဇောရပ်ဇော) (ဝတ္ထုအောင်) (အမျိုးသမီး)
5:25 pm 7. Musical Programme
5:35 pm 8. Agricultural Source Country's Development
5:45 pm 9. Sing and enjoy
6:30 pm 10. Evening news
7:00 pm 11. Weather report
7:05 pm 12. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "မိမိလုံးလုံးမေတ္တာကန်သာသာ" (အပိုင်း-၂)
7:35 pm 13. "ထာဝရစံနုလှ ပြန်တော်မူ" (အတီးပညာ တာဝာရပ် ဆွေးနွေးခန်း) (အပိုင်း-၃)
8:00 pm 14. News
15. International news
16. Weather report
17. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ထာဝရစံနုလှ" (အပိုင်း-၃)
18. The next day's programme

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**Four political objectives**

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

**Four economic objectives**

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

**Four social objectives**

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

**With consolidated national solidarity, people have enjoyed fruitful results of peace and tranquillity prevailing the entire nation**

**Secretary-1 meets rector and faculty members of Dagon University**



dalay. Also present at the meeting with the teachers of Dagon University were Chairman of Yangon Division PDC Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers, the Yangon mayor, deputy ministers, the director-general of the SPDC Office, heads of department, and officials. Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein reported on the university; Rector U Kyaw Myint Oo, on background history of the university,

Tatmadaw Government has been making all-out efforts to ensure stability, peace and progress of the nation, and to raise the living standard of the people. It has been dis-

ards have risen, while the whole nation has seen infrastructures for development. With the betterment in the economic and social standards of the peo-

ations of the nation and the people. Necessary in the process are basic foundations for community peace and tranquillity, national progress, strong

**Since its assumption of State duties, the Tatmadaw Government has been making all-out efforts to ensure stability, peace and progress of the nation, and to raise the living standard of the people. It has been discharging nation-building duties through political, economic and social sectors with the aim of handing over State duties to the public when it has constructed basic foundations for national development to a reasonable extent.**



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein holds a meeting with the rector and faculty members of Dagon University in Yangon East District. — MNA

YANGON, 27 Aug— Chairman of the Myanmar Education Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein held a meeting with the rector and faculty members at Dagon University in Yangon East District this morning.

Prior to the meeting, through video conferencing system in Dagon University in Yangon, he held discussions on academic matters with rector, pro-rectors, professors, associate professors, and lectures of the universities of the Higher Education Department of Upper Myanmar in Man-

strength of the teachers and students, prescribed subjects, construction tasks and measures for greening of the university. The MEC chairman said the purpose of his inspection tour is to provide necessary assistance for academic matters, installation of teaching and learning aids, construction of buildings, greening of the campus, and better transport. He said he would like to brief the teachers on the important role of the education sector in national development and nation-building tasks. Since its assumption of State duties, the

charging nation-building duties through political, economic and social sectors with the aim of handing over State duties to the people when it has constructed basic foundations for national development to a reasonable extent. Now, with the success in national solidarity, the people have enjoyed fruitful results of peace and tranquillity that has thoroughly covered the entire nation including border areas. And the nation's economy is developing cumulatively and the people's education, health and social stand-

ple, it is speeding up implementation of State's seven-point Road Map so as to systematically hand over State power to the public. Systematic measures are being taken to flourish democracy that is in conformity to the history, culture, customs, traditions and prevailing situ-

national economy, higher education standard of the people, and constant production of intellectuals and intelligentsia. Only when the people have high education standard and intellectual power alongside a vast knowledge, will they be able to distinguish (See page 8)

**INSIDE**

*Thanks to concerted efforts of departmental officials and local people under close supervision of the North-East Command unprecedented progress has been made in agriculture and regional development tasks in Hsenwi Township, Shan State (North).*

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PERSPECTIVES

**Noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded**

(27-8-2005)

Mogok	(4.41) inches
Maungaw	(2.68) inches
Loikaw	(1.14) inches
Pyay	(1.02) inches
Aunglan	(0.63) inch
Myingyan	(0.28) inch