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

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YANGON, 1 Aug — Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence and wife Daw Khin Lay Thet attended the ceremony to mark the 78th anniversary of the founding of People’s Liberation Army of the People’s Republic of China, held at Traders Hotel this evening.

Also present on the occasion were member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence and wife, Chief of Military Affairs Security Maj-Gen Myint Swe and wife, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win and wife and senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, Chinese Ambassador Mr Li Jinjun, wife and embassy staff, military attache’ Senior Colonel, Ma Shoudong, wife and officials, ambassadors of foreign missions in Myanmar and others.

At the ceremony, the Guard of Honour and Military Band of the Tatnadaw entertained the guests with the songs and the guests also enjoyed a Chinese cultural movie.—MNA

General Thura Shwe Mann and Daw Khin Lay Thet being welcomed by Senior Colonel Ma Shoudong and wife. — MNA

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YANGON, 1 Aug — Prime Minister General Soe Win received Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Mr Le Cong Phaung and party at the Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyintha this evening.

Present on the occasion were Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Deputy Ministers U Kyaw Thu and U Maung Myint, Director-General of the Prime Minister’s Office U Soe Tint, Director-General of Protocol Department Thura U Aung Htet and officials.

The visiting Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of SRV was accompanied by Vietnamese Ambassador Mr Tran Van Tung.

They discussed matters relating to extension of on goodwill relations and cooperation between the two countries.—MNA

Prime Minister General Soe Win greets Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Mr Le Cong Phaung.

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Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Raise the momentum of safe drinking water projects

With the purpose of bringing equitable development to border areas, the hills and the plains as well as rural and urban areas, the government is translating into reality the development plan for border areas and national races, the 24-region special development plan and the rural development plan. In accordance with the guidance of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe, efforts are being made to ensure good and smooth transportation, sufficient water supply for drinking and agricultural purposes, better education, better health care services and economic development for rural areas.

In implementing the development plan for rural areas, home to the majority of the population, top priority has been given to sufficient supply of safe drinking water. Implementation of water supply projects is gaining momentum thanks to the funds provided by the State and development committees and donations and cooperation of wellwishers.

The 10th cash donation ceremony for supply of drinking water in rural areas was held at the meeting hall of Development Affairs Department under the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs on 26 July and it was attended by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

In his address on the occasion, the Secretary-1 said that drinking water supply projects have been successfully implemented in altogether 25 townships — seven each in Sagaing and Magway Divisions and eleven in Mandalay Division. The Secretary-1 urged all those responsible to make continued efforts to ensure sufficient water supply not only in the whole townships and districts but also in the entire divisions.

To ensure sufficient water supply for all villages in states and divisions, the government has been implementing a 10-year plan since the fiscal year 2000-2001. Due to the cooperation among the government, wellwishers and local and international NGOs, 7,157 out of 8,042 villages of three divisions in the dry zone now have water supply at the end of 2004-2005 fiscal year. Moreover, 7,152 villages out of 15,183 in other states and divisions are now enjoying a sufficient supply of safe drinking water.

We would like to call on those responsible to implement the water supply projects successfully in all rural areas by making the best use of the cooperation and donations of wellwishers and social organizations.

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 2 August, 2005

Golden bolt fixed at rail track on Punehaung-Kaungsai railroad section

YANGON, 1 Aug—Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min and Deputy Minister U Pe Than, on 29 July, arrived at the site for building Punehaung-Bankyaung-Kaungsai railroad section under Shwenaung-Namhsan Railroad Project.

The minister together with Brig-Gen Thaung Aye of Mongnaung Station and officials inspected building of railroad along Puchaung-Bankaung railway.

At mile post No 124/18, between Kaungsai and Hupyun, the minister and the deputy minister fixed golden bolt at the rail track.

In the afternoon, they arrived at Namhsan Station via Mongseik station.

Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min sprinkles scented water on the rail track.—MNA

We are now laying down the rails. The remaining Punehaung-Kaungsai section with the length of 27.5 miles has been completed and trains will run on the section in the open season. — MNA

SWRR Minister meets staff in Mandalay Division

Yangon, 1 Aug—Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa visited Central Fire Services Training School in PyinOoLwin Township, Mandalay Division, on 29 July.

At the meeting hall, the minister heard a report on salient points of the school presented by the principal. After visiting the classrooms, he presented pastries to children of Zeebingyi Pre-primary School.

Later, the minister inspected the storage of water for the blind where the meeting was held.

Yesterday morning, the minister visited the women’s care centre in Pathetnghi Township, Mandalay Division Immigration and National Registration Department presented K 50,000 for the school of the centre.

The minister and wellwishers presented clothes and provisions for the school.

In the afternoon, the minister met with personnel of Immigration and National Registration Department, Social Welfare Department, Relief and Resettlement Department, and Fire Services Department and members of auxiliary fire brigade in Mandalay.

After the meeting, he inspected a day care centre and presented candy for children. — MNA

MWEA President to attend ASEAN SME Convention

Yangon, 1 Aug—President of Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs Association Daw Khin Myint Myint this morning left here for Malaysia to attend the ASEAN SME Convention 2005 organized by Small and Medium Industries Development Corporation (SMIDEC) from 2 to 3 August in Kuala Lumpur.

The president was seen off at the airport by adviser to MWEA Daw Yi Yi Myint, Vice-President Daw Nu Nu Yi, Secretary Daw Hla Wady and officials. — H

President of Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs Association Daw Khin Myint Myint seen at the airport before departure for Malaysia.—H

Members of Myanmar Baseball team together with their coach will leave for Japan where they will undergo training for two months.

(News on page 11) — H
Uzbekistan evicts United States from air base

WASHINGTON, 31 July — Uzbekistan has told the United States to quit a military base that has served as a hub for missions to Afghanistan since shortly after the 11 September, 2001, attacks, a Pentagon spokesman said on Saturday.

A notice to leave Karshi-Khanabad air base, also known as K-2, was delivered on Friday by a courier from the Uzbek Foreign Ministry to the US Embassy in Tashkent, the Washington Post reported in its Saturday edition, citing an unnamed senior US official involved in Central Asia policy.

Asked about the report, Pentagon spokesman Glenn Flood said early on Saturday, "We are aware of the diplomatic note to the US Embassy on the issue of K2 airfield and we are working with the State Department, evaluating the note to see exactly what it means."

State Department officials could not be reached for comment. Uzbekistan will give the United States 180 days to move aircraft, personnel and equipment, the newspaper said. It said the United States expects Uzbekistan to follow through on the eviction notice.

The action would create logistical problems for US operations in Afghanistan, the newspaper said. Scores of flights have used the air field to transfer humanitarian goods that are then taken by road into northern Afghanistan, it said.

"The air field has been important to us and the US allies in operations over there," Flood said.

China educates farmers on pig-borne disease

BEIJING, 31 July — Sichuan Province in southwestern China has launched a campaign to educate poor, illiterate farmers not to slaughter sick pigs or eat their meat after an outbreak of swine flu hit about 100 villages and killed at least 32 people.

Sichuan, the country's top pork-producing province, has been forced to suspend all exports of chilled and frozen pork from Ziyang city and surrounding Neijiang prefecture to Chengdu itself and four other Sichuan cities. One case has been reported in the southern province of Guangdong near Hong Kong.—MNA/Reuters

Malaysia to jointly handle illegal immigrant issue with Thailand

KUALA LUMPUR, 31 July — Malaysia has agreed to handle the issue of illegal immigrants with its neighbour Thailand, local media reported on Friday.

Thailand, which was facing the influx of illegal immigrants, had expressed its interest in learning the mechanism adopted by Malaysia in tackling the issue, Malaysia's Human Resources Minister Fong Chan Onn told reporters after meeting his Thai counterpart Sora-At Klinpratoom here.

Malaysia was facing the same problem and agreed to cooperate with Thailand, he said.

Klinpratoom also complained that Thai workers in Malaysia were not provided with insurance coverage, saying that he would look into the issue as Malaysia had made it mandatory for all employers to insure their employees, including foreign workers, against accidents at work. — MNA/Xinhua

Visitor arrivals in Singapore grow 8.6% in June

SINGAPORE, 31 July — Visitor arrivals in Singapore, totalling 746,541 in June, grew 8.6 per cent over the same month of last year, according to the figures released by the Singapore Tourism Board (STB) on Friday.

Of the total, 61,000 visitors came from China, declining 3 per cent from a year ago, while Indonesia and India contributed 161,000 and 66,000 visitors respectively in June. — MNA/Xinhua

Saudi King Fahd dies, Crown Prince Abdullah named successor

RIYADH, 1 Aug— Saudi King Fahd died early Monday in a Riyadh hospital and his brother, Crown Prince Abdullah, has been appointed the country's new monarch, the Saudi royal court announced in a statement.

"With all sorrow and sadness, the royal court in the name of his highness Crown Prince Abdullah bin Abdel Aziz and all members of the family announces the death of the servant of the two shrines, King Fahd bin Abdel Aziz," according to a statement read out on state-run Saudi TV. Fahd died early Monday at the King Faisal Specialist Hospital in the Saudi capital of Riyadh. He was admitted to the hospital in May due to acute pneumonia. Abdullah has been the de facto ruler of the Kingdom since Fahd suffered a stroke in 1995.

Saudi Arabia is the world's biggest oil exporter. — Internet

1,794 US soldiers killed in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 31 July—As of Sunday, 31 July, 2005, at least 1,794 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,382 died as a result of hostile action. The figures include five military civilians.

The AP count is two higher than the Defence Department's tally, last updated at 10 am EDT on Friday.

The British military has reported 92 deaths: Italy, 25; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 17; Bulgaria, 13; Spain, 11; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary, Kazakhstan and Latvia one death each.

Since 1 May, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,655 US military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 1,273 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.—Internet

Chinese residents walk with their bicycles on a flooded street in Kaifeng, central China's Henan Province, on 31 July, 2005. —INTERNET

US troops prepare to remove the wreckage of a US Apache helicopter in Bagram north of Kabul, Afghanistan, on 30 July, 2005. —INTERNET
India calls for amendments in WTO TRIP agreements

NEW DELHI, 31 July — India has called for amendment to the WTO TRIP (Trade-related Intellectual Property Rights) Agreement in order to protect traditional knowledge and bio-diversity.

A government statement issued Friday said that Indian Commerce Minister Kamal Nath has recently shot off a missive to 31 trade ministers, emphasizing the need to develop a sharper and more aggressive strategy on the issue as it has a strong bearing on large sections of people who are holders of traditional knowledge and are poor or disadvantaged.

"The latter, Nath has also proposed the need to form a common position before Hong Kong for taking the process towards a logical outcome," the statement said. "While insisting on an amendment to the TRIP Agreement in line with our consistent policy, we could also think of a parallel line of action, similar to what we did on public health issues during the Doha Ministerial Meeting, namely, getting a Ministerial Declaration on TRIP and Biological Diversity (CBD) for the protection of traditional knowledge and folklore.

The issue was included in the negotiating mandate after several negotiating countries found that TRIP obligations were not supportive of the commitments they had undertaken under the CBD, which provided for the conservation and sustainable use of bio-diversity with a view to meeting the food, health and other needs of the growing world population.— MNA/Xinhua

China’s electrical capacity now 460 million kw

BEIJING, 31 July — China’s electrical capacity is 460 million kilowatts (kw) as of the end of June, said an official with the China Electricity Council (CEC) on Friday.

According to statistics with the CEC, the capacity newly put into operation in the first half of this year is 20.06 million kw, lower than the estimated figure of 25 to 30 million kw at the beginning of this year, said Wang Yonggan, Secretary-General of the CEC.

Hydropower capacity newly put into operation in the first half of this year is 2.59 million kw, the new coal-fired installed capacity is 17.4 million kw, and wind power capacity is 70,000 kw, he said. — MNA/Xinhua

Forest fire breaks out in N China

HENGSHI, 31 July — A fire is threatening a virgin forest in the northern Da Hinggan Mountains, according to the Inner Mongolian Autonomous Regional government.

The fire occurred at Aliya forestry farm in Uma, one of the Inner Mongolia’s three virgin forestry centres, but the exact time is unknown.

The fire has been wreaking havoc to about 80 hectares of trees, and the fire line extended about four kilometres.

The regional government, Da Hinggan Mountain Forestry Department and Da Hinggan Mountain Forestry Police have sent 500 people to fight the fire. The accident site, however, is hard to reach.

It is about 60 kilometres away from roads and the parachuted fire fighters have to walk eight kilometres before arriving at the site.— MNA/Xinhua

Delegations of six-party talks to discuss joint document

BEIJING, 31 July — The US top negotiator to the six-party talks said here on Saturday that the six nations will have discussions on a joint document and expect to reach agreement.

"We will have a lot of discussion about the text, and see if we can come to some agreement today," said Christopher Hill, head of the US delegation, on Saturday when he left his hotel.

"Even though the text will be brief, it will be rather important," said Hill. "It means a lot to the six parties concerned."

"But I want to let you know it will take a while and cannot be finished within a day," said Hill. "This is a very difficult negotiation."

The parties concerned are expected to work for drafting a joint document at the meeting of delegation heads, said Japanese delegation head Sasae Kenichiro on Saturday.

HK pork handlers urged to strictly follow working procedures

HONG KONG, 31 July — The Hong Kong Government on Saturday called on slaughtering staff and the food industry to take precautionary measures against Streptococcus suis, after the pig-borne disease in Sichuan Province claimed 32 lives.

Acting Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare & Food, Eddy Chan said on radio that the current measures on pork handling taken in Hong Kong in response to the Sichuan outbreak are appropriate.

He said the government will closely monitor the incident in Sichuan as the fatality rate there is much higher than expected.— MNA/Xinhua

London bombers plotted after seeing Iraq war video

LONDON, 31 July—A man arrested over the failed London bomb attacks has told police he watched videos of the Iraq war with fellow suspects.

Hussain Osman, accused of trying to detonate a bomb at Shepherds Bush, claimed he was shown foot-age of the conflict by Muktar Said Ibrahim, who was arrested in connection with the abortive attack on a Hackney bus.

The respected Italian newspaper Corriere della Sera said Osman, who was arrested in Rome on Friday night after a joint operation by British and Italian anti-guerilla officers, told police: "Ibrahim showed us films and videos of the war in Iraq."

The paper said Osman had indicated he and his friends were interested in politics rather than religion.

It said Osman told police he had met Ibrahim at a gym in the London suburb of Notting Hill, near the flats where Ibrahim was arrested on Friday.

Osman was tracked throughout his 1600km-journey from London to Rome via Paris and Milan, Brescia and Bologna, using mobile phone technology.

Osman vanished immediately after the bomb he is alleged to have been carrying failed to detonate on 21 July.

A few minutes later, he was captured on a TV camera boarding a bus to Wandsworth, in southwest London.

Where Osman went afterwards is unknown, but the next day police raided a south London flat where the mother of his Ethiopian girlfriend lives.— Internet

Australian couple Matthew Rookse and Anna Longmore compete during the 6th SGDF Singapore Open DanceSport Championships at Raffles City Convention Centre in Singapore on 31 July, 2005. — INTERNET
**Australia says ASEAN nations keen on new climate pact**

**MELBOURNE, 1 Aug — Southeast Asian countries have expressed interest in joining a new US-led partnership to cut greenhouse gas emissions by developing technology and economic incentives.**

The Asia Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate between Australia, the United States, China, Japan, South Korea and India was unveiled at an Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) forum in Laos last week.

The ASEAN governments were asking me whether it would be possible for them to join this partnership in time,” Downer said on Australian television on Sunday.

“And I made it clear that once we’ve worked out how we want it all to come together, we, in principle, would be very happy to see ASEAN countries become involved because their economies are growing and they’re significant emitters as well,” he said.

Unlike the Kyoto climate agreement, which requires cuts in greenhouse emissions by 5.2 per cent below 1990 levels by 2012, the Asia-Pacific partnership has no time frames or targets.

“We hope that we’ll start to get results under our partnership fairly quickly,” Downer said.

“That’s going to require collaborative research. It’s also going to mean we’ll have to investigate price signals coming from energy.”

Downer said the work would probably be paid for jointly by governments and the private sector.

The six founding partners of the new pact account for 45 per cent of the world’s population. 48 per cent of the world’s greenhouse gas emissions and 48 per cent of the world’s energy consumption.

The United States and Australia are the only developed nations outside Kyoto. Both say Kyoto, agreed to in 1997, is flawed because it omits developing states. **MNA/Reuters**

**Chinese cities on alert to block diseased pork**

**BEIJING, 31 July — Beijing and several other cities set up checkpoints on Friday to block diseased pork linked to the deaths of 31 people in China as authorities ordered a halt to the slaughter of infected pigs in Sichuan Province.**

A veterinary inspection official said screening was tightened on highways leading into the capital from surrounding Hebei Province to prevent a health threat to nearly 15 million people.

“The strict measures guarantee that meat from dead or diseased pigs cannot enter Beijing through normal channels,” Beijing Television said on its web site.

Authorities said victims in southwestern Sichuan were suffering from infections of Streptococcus suis bacteria, contracted from slaughtering, handling or eating infected pigs. Four deaths and 21 infections were reported in the previous 24 hours, the official Xinhua news agency said late on Thursday. Since reports of the outbreak surfaced last week, over 100 people have been taken ill, 27 of whom are in critical condition. The China Daily says the outbreak was discovered on 24 June. **MNA/Reuters**

**Death toll from north Iraq bomb climbs to 40**

**MOSSUL, 31 July — The death toll from a suicide bombing in northern Iraq on Friday climbed to 40, police said on Saturday.**

They said the number of wounded from the attack by a suicide bomber who blew himself up among a group of Iraqi Army recruits rose to 57. The attack occurred outside a municipal building in Rabia, a town 80 kilometres (50 miles) northwest of Mosul.

The US military said on Friday that 10 people were killed in the blast.

Foreign militaries and Saddam Hussein loyalists are waging a bloody campaign to topple the US-backed Iraqi Government. **MNA/Reuters**

**Chinese painting auctioned for US $9m**

**BEIJING, 31 July — A traditional Chinese landscape painting by late artist Chang Ta-chien sold at auction for 73 million yuan (9 million US dollars) in Beijing on Friday, an auctioneer said.**

The painting was sold through Beijing/Zhongbang International Auction Group, which declined to reveal the name of the buyer, now the proud owner of a 1-metre (39-in) high, 34.5-metre (113-ft) wide image of the Yangtze River.

The 1968 work, “Ten Thousand Mile Landscape”, went on the block with an opening price of 48 million yuan (5.9 million US dollars). It was insured for at least 50 million yuan (6.2 million US dollars), the official Xinhua news agency said.

Chang, world renowned for his traditional water colour paintings and use of a ‘splash of colour’ technique, was born in 1899 in Neijiang in the southwestern province of Sichuan, Hededin Taiwan in 1983 at the age of 84.

The Communists shut down all auction houses after sweeping to power in 1949 and ultra-leftist Red Guards burned or vandalized paintings and antiques during the 1966-76 Cultural Revolution. **MNA/Reuters**

**Singapore seizes half a ton of python skins**

**SINGAPORE, 31 July — A half-ton consignment of python skins hidden among audio speaker parts has been seized by Singapore Immigration officers on the border with Malaysia, authorities in the city-state said.**

Officers identified the skins after putting the lorry through a scanning system at Woodlands in northern Singapore on Wednesday, the Immigration and Checkpoints Authority said in a statement.

The 36-year-old Malaysian driver was arrested and faces a fine and up to one year in jail. Under Singapore’s Endangered Species Act, the export and import of python skins must be accompanied by permits.

The Singapore authority did not put a market value to the python skins seized but local newspaper The Straits Times said the skins were worth about 45,000 Singapore dollars (27,110 US dollars).

The paper said local authorities had in October intercepted a shipment of 40,000 python and monitor lizard skins worth 800,000 Singapore dollars from Indonesia. **MNA/Reuters**

**Romania heatwave death toll rises to 21**

**BUCHAREST, 31 July — At least nine people died on Friday due to high temperature in Romania, adding the total number of people killed to 21 in the three-day heatwave.**

The highest temperature in the shade of trees has recently been as high as 36 degrees Celsius, the highest in this summer.

Hospital officials said that in Bucharest, Romania’s capital, alone, 13 died of the heatwave.

At present, around 1,500 US troops are participating in a joint manoeuvre along with 500 Romanian troops, which started on 19 July and will last till 2 August.

Many soldiers had heat stroke during exercises and were sent to hospitals for treatment.

According to weather forecast, the heatwave will last till Sunday. **MNA/Xinhua**

**Australia boosts defences around biggest cities**

**MELBOURNE, 31 July — Australia will boost its defences against terror threats to its biggest cities by deploying a helicopter squadron near Sydney, Defence Minister Robert Hill said on Saturday.**

Twelve Black Hawk helicopters and about 200 staff would be moved from the northern city of Townsville to the end of next year to a barracks just outside Sydney to train and work with special forces and commandos.

“The tactical assault group’s primary role is to respond to terrorist threats against Australia,” Hill said. He said with the Black Hawks, special forces could be flown anywhere in the Sydney area within minutes.

“But it’s also about halfway between Brisbane and Melbourne and closer to Canberra, so in terms of covering the major cities on the east coast, we will be better equipped to do so,” he told reporters in Sydney. **MNA/Reuters**
The origin of poppy was Egypt. It spread from Egypt to Greece and then to Asia-minor where poppy cultivation flourished. Opium being trafficked by Arab merchants spread to some outlying areas of Asia. Although knowing the evil consequences of opium, those who permitted the use of narcotic drugs and poppy cultivation were the colonialists as they were eager to collect taxes from opium. In the Cold War era, the colonialists used opium as a weapon to eliminate a race in the fight against an ‘ism’. As they let the poppy cultivation, which is the enemy of human beings, flourish opium was transformed into various forms of narcotic drugs in the present time and it is threatening the entire mankind.

Nowadays, heroin produced from opium, psychotropic substances produced from chemical precursors and other kinds of drugs such as stimulants and ecstasy are being widely trafficked in the world and the drug is threatening the entire mankind.

The looming problem of stimulant tablets produced from chemical precursors is the serious concern of countries in the region. The problem of stimulants is totally different from that of drugs based on opium and poppy cultivation.

There is no source of chemical precursors in Myanmar. Chemicals that are used for producing narcotic drugs entered Myanmar from some neighbouring countries through illegal means. In the earlier period, Myanmar enlisting the technology and help of the UNODC was tackling those problems in cooperation with the People’s Republic of China, India and Thailand.

In cooperation with the People’s Republic of China, India and the UNODC, Myanmar organized a meeting in January 2003 on control of chemical precursors as host nation. The meeting discussed problems faced by Myanmar, exchange of information and technical cooperation.

With the sponsorship of the UNODC, officials from India and Myanmar held a meeting on control of precursors and chemicals in Moreh, India in March 2003. The meetings on border issues at basic and central levels between Myanmar and Thailand dealt with matters on exchange of information, cooperation and opening of liaison offices at the border.

A preliminary meeting for the Second ASEAN-China Conference on Control of Narcotic Drugs and a meeting on joint control of narcotic drugs of senior officials from the six signatories were held in Siem Reap, Cambodia on 19 May 2005. Myanmar delegation attended those meetings and discussed matters on control of narcotic drugs.

At the meeting, the six MoU signatories were formed as an organization in the sub-region, and those countries have been able to make concerted efforts for making the sub-region free from drugs. Moreover, the six countries held a coordination meeting on further cooperation between the six countries and the UNODC and donor nations.

A workshop on cooperation between chemicals entrepreneurs and government bodies for control of illicit drugs jointly sponsored by the Chemicals Supervisory Committee under the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control and the UNODC was successfully held in Yangon on 11 and 12 July 2005.

Myanmar is a member country of the 1988 UN Convention on Control of Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. Prior to this, the Ministry of Health of the Union of Myanmar announced 102 kinds of drugs as narcotic drugs on 20 February 1974.

The Ministry of Health announced 25 kinds of chemical precursors with the Notification No 1/2002. The ministry also announced rules on control of chemical precursors on 1 July 2004.

At the workshop, chemicals entrepreneurs agreed to cooperate with the government bodies on the control of the routes of chemical precursors which are the important substances in producing narcotic drugs such as heroin, stimulants, ATS, amphetamine, ecstasy etc.

Member of the CCDAC chairman of the Supervisory Committee for CCDAC work groups the deputy minister for Home Affairs delivered an address at the workshop, saying that precursor chemicals are used in producing consumer goods and at the same time they could be diverted to illicit channels, so the international bodies decided to restrict major precursor chemicals. Therefore collaborative efforts were to be exerted with duty consciousness to ensure that the chemicals, which entrepreneurs imported for production of goods, could not be diverted to clandestine refineries.

Departments concerned and the entrepreneurs were to seek better ways to cooperate in taking preventive measures to achieve the aim, he said.

The entrepreneurs engaged in chemical industry, pharmaceutical factories and trading chemicals, managers and officials of private industries, members of the supervisory committee and officials from relevant departments took part in the discussions at the workshop. Diverting restricted chemicals from legal trade to illicit channels is the global issue. In some East Asian nations, there were seizures of illegal laboratories used for producing stimulant tablets. Hence, a special attention is to be paid to the prevention against diverting restricted precursor chemicals used for production of amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) to illegal refineries.

As a time when the chemical industry and pharmaceuticals industry are acquiring the precursor chemicals, it should be taken into consideration that drugs producers and traffickers may use various ways to get these chemicals from the companies and entrepreneurs that do not have sufficient knowledge of methods on production of narcotic drugs and have not taken effectively preventive measures.

In this regard, cooperation is necessary between entrepreneurs and the government to realize the possibility of restricted chemicals being used for illegal purposes.

Now, UNODC, industrialists and respective departments and enterprises are seriously taking preventive measures to control and stop these chemicals from being diverted to illicit channels. They have conducted educative courses for production of video features with a view to disseminating knowledge of the important role of entrepreneurs in the drive for control and prevention against illegal production of drugs. That DVD would feature lively pictures, episodes with a narration, and special sound effects. UNODC provided necessary manuals for the course. The programme was aimed at enhancing knowledge on preventive measures among relevant departments, entrepreneurs, and chemical industrialists.

The workshop held on 11 and 12 July passed the following resolutions.

- Forming a national level cooperation committee for supervision of restricted chemicals and assigning duties.
- For entrepreneurs and companies to draw basic principles for laying down respective codes of conduct in the drive to stop restricted chemicals from being diverted to illegal channels.
- For company proprietors to conduct educative DVD courses through programmes to disseminate knowledge on the important role of industrialists, who are engaged in trading chemicals, in combating illegal production of drugs.

The Government has been putting into motion the 15-year drugs elimination plan (1999-2014) through three phases each lasting five years. In addition, it has implemented the New Destiny Project since April 2002. In tandem, it has been implementing projects for the development of border areas and national races.

The US report conducted in 2005 showed that there was a 34 per cent decline in poppy cultivation in 2004 if compared with that in 2003. And the nation’s poppy production fell to 292 tons from 2,560 tons, accounting for a drastic decline of 88 per cent in eight years.

As a matter of fact, the menace of narcotic drugs is the evil legacy left by the colonialists. Myanmar has been taking all possible measures in the fight against narcotic drugs through the correct leadership of the government, combined efforts of national forces including national races, and cooperation with neighbouring and regional countries. The danger of narcotic drugs is a global problem, so world nations have to further cooperate in addressing such an evil issue.

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YANGON, 1 August— As a gesture hailing of World Breastfeeding Week, a ceremony to present prizes to systematic breastfeeding hospitals and townships, organized by the Ministry of Health and UNICEF, was held on Bogyoke Aung San Street this morning, with an address by Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Minister Dr Mya Oo, President of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation Daw Than Than Nwe, President of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association Daw Khin Khin Win, directors-general and deputy directors-general of the departments under the ministry, rectors, directors, medical superintendents, resident representatives of WHO and UNICEF and UN organizations, officials of social organizations, heads of departments in states and divisions, midwives and delegates.

First, the minister delivered an address on the occasion. In his speech, he said movements of World Breastfeeding Week have been launched across the world since 1992 and so has in Myanmar every year as of 1992. The movements of 14th World Breastfeeding Week for 2005 are being held in Myanmar starting today. The objectives of the movements for 2005 is to successfully hold the 14th World Breastfeeding Week and to breastfeed a child for six months. A child must be breastfed for two years and above continuously. The better ways for cooking hygienic food for over six-month old children must be made known to the public. Families are to live in good health and in loving kindness. Breastfeeding Week starts 1 August and ends 7 August commencing 1992 every year. So, the movements of Breastfeeding Week are launched in the world including Myanmar. With the guidance of the National Health Committee, the Ministry of Health has been implementing a wide range of projects for uplift of health standard of the entire nation. The breastfeeding project has been implemented since January 1993. A total of 379 hospitals were acknowledged as Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative and 134 townships, Baby Friendly Home Delivery until 2005. The motto for 2005 is designated “Breastfeeding and Family Food: Loving & Healthy. Health staff are to organize and educate mothers and expectant mothers to breastfeed their children systematically. Arrangements are to be made for holding World Breastfeeding Week in Myanmar.

Forty hospitals and twenty townships are to honour prizes. MMCWA (Central) is to conduct breastfeeding courses to its members on 2 August. Professors and Associate Professors are to conduct Training of Local Assessors for BFHI/BFHD in Central Women’s Hospital (Yangon) on 3 August. Talks on breastfeeding will be held by Yangon Division Department of Health in four districts of Yangon on 4 August. Radio Myanmar, MRTV and Myawady TV will telecast salient points on breastfeeding and Myanmar Nurses Association will talk on breastfeeding. Arrangements are under way to hold breastfeeding quiz and to present prizes on 5 August. On 6 August, MMCWA will provide breastfeeding to its members. Myanmar Medical Association will hold a seminar on breastfeeding on 7 August. The breastfeeding movements are to be carried out through the year. By breastfeeding to the children, good sons and daughters will turn out in the future of the State. The minister urged those present to participate in breastfeeding movements. A total of 379 hospitals could be implemented during the period of over ten years.

Next, resident representative of UNICEF Ms Carroll C Long made a speech on the occasion.

Afterwards, Dr Kyaw Myint, Dr Mya Oo, President of MWAF Daw Than Than Nwe and President of MMCWA Daw Khin Khin Win presented prizes to five hospitals each.

After that, resident representatives of UNICEF Ms Carroll C Long and WHO Professor Adik Wibowo presented prizes to six hospitals each. Then, Director-General of Health Department Dr Tin Win Maung awarded prizes to remaining hospitals.

Next, Directors-General Dr Maung Maung Wint, Dr Kyi Soe, Dr Paing Soe and Dr Thein Swe presented prizes to officials of twenty townships.

Y. W. N. N. P. (e. a. Y.)

(1.8.2005) to (7.8.2005)

Breastfeeding and family food: Loving & Healthy
Buddha Ghaya Nuggaha Association

Cash donated to Buddha Ghaya Nuggaha Association

Yangon, 1 Aug — A ceremony to donate cash to Buddha Ghaya Nuggaha Association for religious purposes took place at the Maha Pasasana Cave on Kaba Aye Hill this morning.

It was attended by Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung and departmental heads and wellwishers.

The donations amounted to K 14,713,000, including K 3 million each by the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and Shwe Thanlwin family and K 1 million each by Dagon International Ltd, Diamond Star Co Ltd, Pyae Sone Win Naing Co and Shwe Nagamin Co.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo inspects regional development tasks in Myeik

Yangon, 1 Aug — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Commander of the Coastal Region Command Maj-Gen Ohn Myint, on 30 July inspected construction and extension of roads in Myeik and attended to the needs.

On 31 July, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and the commander also inspected the condition of Kyweku-Kyaukphyay Bridge and repair of road and maintenance of bridges on Myeik-Dawei Road.

When they arrived at monsoon paddy fields in To Village-tract in Palaw Township, Chairman of Palaw Township Peace and Development Council U Than Nyunt reported on efforts being made by farmers and departments to achieve the target per acre yield. Palaw Township set its target of 33,840 acres of monsoon paddy in 2005-2006 rainy season. Now, 26,750 acres have been cultivated.

Township Manager U Aye Naung of Myanmar Agriculture Service reported on use of urea and natural fertilizer in the monsoon paddy fields and the commander on tasks being carried out to cultivate monsoon and summer paddy for food sufficiency in the region.

After hearing reports, Lt-Gen Maung Bo urged officials concerned and farmers to make efforts for food sufficiency in the region and for successful implementation of the five rural development tasks.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party also inspected rubber farms along Myeik-Dawei Road.

Next, they went to Myeik-Myothit and inspected the preparation for construction of jetties.

MNA

Taungdwingyi-Myothit-Natmaunk Road, Ywamon-Zibyugon-Kyaukpaudaung Road inaugurated

Yangon, 1 Aug — The 28-mile tarred Taungdwingyi-Myothit-Natmaunk Road and 21-mile Ywamon-Zibyugon-Kyaukpaudaung Road were inaugurated at the archway No 1 of Taungdwingyi-Myothit-Natmaunk Road in Taungdwingyi yesterday.

Present were Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann, Chairman of Magnaw Division Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo, Senior Military Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw, Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, Brig-Gen Than Tun of Kyaukpaudaung Station, Chairman of Magway Division Peace and Development Council Col Phone Maw Shwe, senior military officers, departmental heads, officials of Public Works, social organizations, teachers, students and local people.

Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw said development of transport is the most basic requirement for regional development. With the development of transport production and economic enterprises will improve. New roads and bridges benefit regional development and promote goodwill among the national races.

The commander spoke at length on construction of roads and bridges in Magway Division. Next, U Hla Chun thanked the government for upgrading roads.

The commander and the minister cordially greeted local people.

The ceremony to open Ywamon-Zibyugon-Kyaukpaudaung Road was held at the mandat of Natmaunk-Ywamon junction.

Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun reported on upgrading of the roads.

He said under the guidance of the Head of State 37 roads are to be upgraded to tarred roads in five years. So far, the government has built 205 bridges nationwide, each of which are 180 feet long or above. The Ministry of Defence built 11 bridges with the strength of the Tatmadaw members, the Ministry of Rail Transportation 7, the Ministry of Electric Power and the Ministry of Construction 185. The minister called for maintenance of roads and bridges.

Next, Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw said development of transport is the most basic requirement for regional development. With the development of transport production and economic enterprises will improve. New roads and bridges benefit regional development and promote goodwill among the national races.

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The commander and the minister cordially greeted local people.
Neo-colonialists and a handful of people hungry for power attempting to undermine the State’s efforts

It is natural that those who do not want to see the development of the country blessed with natural resources will always speak ill of the country and commit destructive acts. However, what all the entire national people should do is guard against the dangers posed by destructionists through united strength of the people.

member of Loikaw townshio
USDA
Daw Myint Myint Khaing.
MNA

with the delegates from all walks of life after the government has laid down the seven-point Road Map of the State. And the convention has adopted detailed basic principles that will be included in the State constitution. That is why the National Convention has achieved significant progress, and the entire national people are supporting it, she said.

However, there are neo-colonialists and a handful of people hungry for power are attempting to undermine the State’s efforts. Among those persons are Sao Hkam Hpa and his cohorts. He formed a parallel government, appointing himself as president, and opposed the present government. This means he is trying to jeopardize the stability of the State.

So, all the national people totally opposed and condemned their acts. She said there are some internal perpetrators as well, who are committing destructive acts in accord with the wishes of colonialists. The ILO put lop-sided pressure on the country due to the instigation of groups such as FTUB, ABSDF, NCGUB. As a result, Myanmar had to close down about 160 garment factories on account of the sanctions imposed by some western countries. More than 80,000 workers lost their jobs and the economy of over 400,000 dependent families was affected.

In reality, the ILO should be an organization that is formed to serve the interests of workers. But, with the instigation of expatriates, it made a wrong decision to put pressure on the country. She said, it has been known to all that representatives to the Myanmar War Veterans Conference and the ceremonies of Myanmar Women’s Day voiced that it is time for Myanmar to resign from the ILO. As for the people of Kayah State, they will all agreed to the decision of the government whether or not the country should leave the organization, said Daw Myint Myint Khaing.

She said it is natural that those who do not want to see the development of the country blessed with natural resources will always speak ill of the country and commit destructive acts. However, what all the entire national people should do is guard against the dangers posed by destructionists through united strength of the people.

Representative of Loikaw Maternal and
Neo-colonialists and a handful of...

(from page 9)

The destructive elements and renegades who are jealous of the success of the government detonated time bombs in Mandalay and Yangon and destroyed the lives and properties of the people. Due to their inhuman acts youths who are the future of the nation, service personnel and innocent people were in trouble and misery and have to lead a miserable life. They did so with the aim of destabilizing the nation and undermining national unity.

Although the people have been subjected to the atrocities of destructionists the latter were not merciful to the people. Due to their inhuman acts and properties of the people including FTBU, ABSDF and NCGUB, the Tatmadaw and the people will crush all destructive elements with the united strength of the people. Therefore, the government, the Tatmadaw and people will always join hands with the Tatmadaw in warding off destructive acts and making efforts for regional and national development.

Daw Khin Saw Mu, Next Representative of Loikaw Township MCWA Daw Ohnma Soe presented a report on participation in national development and successful realization of the seven-point Road Map with Union Spirit. He said that in an effort to build a peaceful modern and developed nation the government has designated and is implementing the 24 special development zones. As a result, unprecedented progress has been made in different sectors of Kayah State. With peace and tranquility in the region more basic education schools were opened in the state with the emergence of Loikaw

lege and the Government Computer College.

In the health sector, Loikaw Hospital was upgraded into a 200-bed facility. The facility was installed with modern medical equipment, specialists, physicians and more health staff. Health staff including specialists made a field trip right down to villages and gave medical treatment to local people.

Toady is the time when efforts are being made for successful holding of the National Convention. At such a time like this, the nation will make progress ten times if there are no destructive acts and sanctions of some big nations and groups will always join hands with the Tatmadaw in warding off destructive acts and making efforts for regional and national development.

She said the whole country has been performing the duty—Our Three Main National Causes—as national duty. While serving the duty, we all are in favour of the national convention, laid down by the State for drafting the new constitution that plays an important role in successful implementation of seven-point Road Map.

We are to root out those who incite the secession from the Union and harm Our Three Main National Causes through united strength of the entire national people. All are to collaborate with the Government in nation-building tasks and successfully implementing the seven-point Road Map with Union Spirit and patriotism.

In his discussion, Loikaw Township WVO Chairman Maj Tin Win (Retd) said it is known to all, underground and aboveground destructionists and expatriates committed destructive acts. Therefore, the government, the Tatmadaw and people will crush all destructive elements with the united strength of the people.

While the State is marching towards the discipline flourishing democratic nation, national armed groups, after realizing the genuine goodwill of the government and the Tatmadaw, returned to the legal fold and has been participating in the nation-building tasks in cooperation with people.

However, Sai Yi of SSNA and destructionist Ywet Sit of SSA committed atrocity and undertook drug trafficking. Similarly, expatriate Sao Hkam Hpa who is under the influence of some western countries is trying to break up the union.

He said that the Tatmadaw and the people will ward off the destructionists if they betray the State and the people. Thanks to the efforts of the government, there are mutual understanding and friendship, and the Union has become more stable and peaceful.

Afterwards, U Tun Naing of Loikaw District USDA seconded the motion calling for participation in the nation-building tasks and successful realization of the seven-point Road Map with the Union Spirit, upholding Our Three Main National Causes tabled by Daw Ohn Mar Soe of Loikaw Township MCWA and Maj Tin Win (Retd) of Loikaw Township WVO.

The chairman sought the approval from the mass meeting and passed the two resolutions.

Later, the meeting ended with the chanting of slogans.

At a time when the government is making strenuous efforts for national development some big nations in collusion with internal and external destructive elements are committing inhuman acts to cause disintegration of the Union, applying a variety of wicked means.

She said it is time to stop those relying on alien nations and to stop them committing destructive acts. She pledged that the entire national people

PeACE AND tranquility is imperative for development of a nation. Thanks to integrated and well-coordinated efforts of the government, the Tatmadaw and the people remarkable progress has been made in various sectors of the nation. The people have been able to enjoy the fruitful results of peace and development.
Yangon, 1 Aug—Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win attended the 38th ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting and other related meetings held from 23 to 29 July in Vientiane, Lao People’s Democratic Republic. During his stay in Vientiane, the minister attended the ASEAN Foreign Ministers’ Informal Meeting on 26 July, the 38th ASEAN Foreign Ministers’ Meeting on 25 July; the ASEAN Foreign Ministers’ Working Dinner on 25 July; the ASEAN Foreign Ministers’ Dialogue Partners Meetings with China, Japan and the Republic of Korea on 27 July; the ASEAN Dialogue Partners’ Meetings with New Zealand, the Russian Federation and US and the ASEAN Plus Ten Informal Meeting on 28 July and the 12th ASEAN Regional Forum. During the Informal Meeting of the ASEAN Foreign Ministers held on 26 July, the minister briefed his ASEAN counterparts on the progress of the democratization process in Myanmar. He pointed out that it was at a crucial stage. In order to maintain the momentum of this process and taking into consideration the interest of both ASEAN and Myanmar, the Government of the Union of Myanmar had decided to voluntarily forgo its ASEAN Chairmanship in 2006. The minister’s briefing was well-received by the ASEAN Foreign Ministers.

The minister also attended Dialogue Partner Meetings of ASEAN with New Zealand, the Russian Federation and US, and discussed matters relating to the Vientiane Action Plan and the narrowing of development gap among ASEAN countries.

The minister together with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mr Somsavat Lengsavad on 29 July, attended the ceremony to mark the 50th Anniversary of establishment of Diplomatic Relations between Myanmar and Laos, held at Maiteechit Residence. He made a statement on the occasion.

Agreements on Establishment of ASEAN Development Fund and Disaster Management and Emergency Response were signed by the ASEAN Foreign Ministers during the AMM. The ASEAN Development Fund is created to fund the activities under the Vientiane Action Plan. The Joint Communiques on Cooperation in Combating Terrorism were signed between ASEAN and the Republic of Korea, New Zealand, and Pakistan. Accessions of Mongolia and New Zealand to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation were signed. Australia expressed its desire to join the Treaty.

The minister also had discussions with Lao, Chinese and Vietnamese Ambassadors regarding their respective country’s relationship with Myanmar, the Myanmar-ASEAN Friendship Fund and other issues.

The minister attended the ASEAN Foreign Ministers’ Meetings of ASEAN with Pakistan on 27 July and 28 July respectively and discussed matters on bilateral relations.

On 28 July, the minister together with his ASEAN counterparts, called on His Excellency Mr Khantmy Siphandone, President of the Lao PDR, at the Horkham President Palace.

Minister for Commerce receives Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of SRV

Yangon, 1 Aug—A contract on Yeywa Hydel Power Project was signed between Hydel Power Department under the Ministry of Electric Power and China Gezhouba Water & Power (Group) Co Ltd. The contract is for the supply of machinery to be used in construction of concrete dam worth US$ 46,325 million in the project.

Yeywa Hydel Power Project is being implemented on Myitnge River 31 miles South East of Mandalay. On completion, the 790 megawatt project will generate 3550 million unit of electricity a year.

Mr Yang Jixue spoke and President of CGGC Mr Yang Soe attended to their sector-wise dis- Missions to Myanmar Mr Tran Van Tung and officials.

Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein receives Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Mr Le Cong Phuong.

Yangon, 1 Aug—Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein met Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Mr Le Cong Phuong.

Bago Division (West) police force meets

YANGON, 1 Aug—Bago Division (West) police force held a meeting at police commander’s office on 29 August, with an address delivered by Chairman of Bago Division (West) Peace and Development Council Director-General U Win Kyaw and Mr Yang Jixue sign the documents. —MNA

Director-General U Win Kyaw and Mr Yang Jixue sign the documents. —MNA

Yangon, 1 Aug—Bago Division (West) Police Commander of Bago Division (West) police force Police Col Myint Soe explained the directives of the Minister for Home Affairs, the Deputy Minister and the Myanmar Police Force director-general and the future work programmes. Officials of district and township police forces presented sector-wise discusions. Police Col Myint Soe attended to their needs.

Baseball players honoured

Yangon, 1 Aug—The 10 Myanmar tentative baseball selections led by Coach Mr Iwasaki and assistant U Aung Naing Oo who will under go training in Japan were honoured at M 3 Food Centre here yesterday. President of Myanmar Baseball Federation U Aung Myat Oo of Ginvera and Vice-Presidents U Aung Hsu and Dr Naing Won spoke on the occasion.

Next, U Aung Myat Oo, Dr Naing Won and Vice-President U Myat Oo donated K 1 million, K 500,000 and K 300,000 respectively to MBF. After undergoing training in Japan for two months, Myanmar baseball team will take part in baseball tournament to be included for the first time in XXIII SEA Games to be held in Manila, the Philippines.
Second batch of Chinese policemen completes UN mission in Kosovo

BELGRADE (Serbia-Montenegro), 31 July— The second contingent of Chinese police personnel left Kosovo on Saturday afternoon after completing their 12-month mission as UN peacekeepers there, said reports from the Kosovo capital of Pristina. Before their departure, the seven Chinese policemen were received by senior officials of the UN mission in Kosovo, who expressed appreciation for their dedication to safeguarding world and regional peace.

Tour group ends Britain visit as “ambassadors for China”

EDINBURGH (Britain), 31 July— The first Chinese tourist group to visit Britain, hailed by many of their British hosts as “ambassadors for China”, ended their six-day visit around the island country on Friday.

The visit of the 80-member group, which came just days after the second wave of bomb attacks on London’s transportation system, has been a big star-up in the country.

VIPS, from Prince Andrew to mayor of Manchester, Mohamed Azal Khan, and Tom Wright, head of VisitBritain, who both urged the Chinese group to act as “ambassadors” for promotion of Britain and VisitScotland, held ceremonies wherever the group went, and reporters from major media, such as Reuters, BBC, Independent TV, Times and Daily Telegraph, covered their daily activities.

Prince Andrew, the Duke of York, said in his welcoming speech that he wished the first Chinese tourist group would act as “ambassadors for China” and bring more friends to Britain.

The Prince’s speech was echoed by Mayor of Manchester, Mohamed Azal Khan, and Tom Wright, head of VisitBritain which is an arm of the tourism administration of Britain, said that “as the first visitors authorized under the Approved Destination Status (ADS), you are here as ambassadors for your country to be advocated for Britain with some great tales and photographs” to usher in more friends to the country.

The first tourism group is composed of about 50 tourists from Beijing and Shanghai, 15 journalists from China’s mainstream media from the two biggest cities of Britain’s industry, and 15 managers from major travel agencies.

Bird flu harmful to humans found in Siberia

MOSCOW, 31 July — A strain of bird flu harmful to humans has been found in Siberia, where thousands of birds have died in an outbreak of the disease, a Russian newspaper said Saturday, quoting findings by official experts.

The newspaper Kommersant quoted the state veterinary service as saying laboratory experts had found the H5N1 strain in samples from the Novosibirsk Region, where an outbreak of bird flu was reported last week.

More than 50 people have died from the virulent H5N1 strain since late 2003, raising fears it could mutate and form the basis of a global pandemic.
Mexico volcano spews cloud of ash into sky south of Mexico City

**Mexico City, 31 July** — Mexico's Popocatepetl volcano spewed a cloud of ash into the sunny sky south of Mexico City on Saturday after a new eruption of the volcano, some 70 kilometres from the capital.

The latest eruption came a day after two strong eruptions on Friday, which have sent a cloud of hot ash 2.5 kilometres into the sky, covering automobiles and streets in southern Mexico City with a gray ash.

Mexico's National Disaster Prevention Centre said Saturday's eruption poses no danger to the nearby communities, but it warned local residents to avoid breathing in the ashes as they clean up.

The 5,450-metre high volcano, which had several strong eruptions in recent months, is considered one of Mexico's most active and potentially most destructive volcanoes.

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**Caribbean Summit agrees to boost integration, reduce poverty**

**Panama City, 31 July** — Leaders of 25 Caribbean nations on Friday wrapped up a regional summit, at which they discussed ways to combat poverty and boost integration.

Leaders at the fourth Summit of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) managed to sign a final document calling for greater integration and solidarity among Caribbean nations, papering over rifts between regional rivals represented by Mexico and an anti-US coalition led by Venezuela and Cuba, which tug the mainly island nation in a north-south divide.

In the buildup to the summit, controversy erupted over Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez's proposal to supply discounted Venezuelan oil to Caribbean nations and his vision of an “economy based on solidarity” instead of free trade.

Costa Rica and Trinidad and Tobago opposed a proposal to work on Venezuela's initiative in the summit's draft final statement, which was subsequently modified in light of the objection.

Despite the earlier controversy, the final document highlighted Venezuela's moves to cooperate with the Caribbean countries and also Trinidad and Tobago's efforts to set up a petroleum stabilization fund.

The final document included a clause on defence of sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-intervention and the right of nations to build their own political systems in peace and stability.

The position against intervention and in defence of national sovereignty had been put forth by the Cuban and Venezuelan delegations who condemned what they perceived as interventionist and hostile attitudes by the United States.

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**“Discovery’s” astronauts go spacewalking**

**Houston, 31 July** — Two astronauts stepped outside the shuttle Discovery on Saturday in the first US spacewalk since 2002 and set to work testing damage-repair techniques developed after the Columbia disaster.

“What a view,” Japan's Soichi Noguchi said as he drifted out into space while Discovery, docked to the International Space Station, sailed 224 miles (358 kilometres) above Southeast Asia. “Yeah, it’s been a long road,” said spacewalking partner Steve Robinson.

They left the shuttle a little more than an hour behind schedule and were to spend 6-1/2 hours outside in the first of three planned spacewalks.

In their first task, they used experimental tools to repair an orbiting shuttle dab on specially-developed materials NASA hopes can be used to repair damaged insulating tiles and wing materials that shield the shuttle from the heat of reentry.

They were to work only on test tiles stowed in the shuttle's cargo bay, not on the orbiter itself, which sustained minor damage at launch on Tuesday from flying debris. NASA engineers are to review the test upon Discovery's return.

Developing ways to repair an orbiting shuttle was one of the recommendations of investigators into the crash of Columbia, which broke apart while returning to Earth on 1 February, 2003 after flying debris struck its wing heat shield at launch 16 days before.

The seven astronauts on board said NASA said it does not think the nicks to Discovery pose a similar danger, but has kept open the possibility of using the still-unproven repair techniques for real if they decide there is a safety risk.

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**Italian Parliament approves anti-terrorism laws**

**Rome, 13 July** — The Italian Parliament gave final approval on Saturday to measures which would grant the state greater power to combat terrorism, three days after an attack on the country in which 17 people were killed.

The anti-terrorism package, endorsed by the Senate on Friday, was a much-anticipated effort by an Italian government which already has the power to intervene in anti-terrorism investigations.

The measures include extending from 12 to 24 hours the period police can hold and question a suspect, tougher border controls, acceleration of the process of deporting terrorist suspects and awarding residence permits to illegal immigrants who help uncover terrorist activities. The measures also would enable authorities to freeze assets and hold on to telephone data for two years and would make it a crime to train people to prepare or use explosives without government authorization.

The police would be allowed to take saliva samples for DNA tests from suspects under investigation. At present, DNA tests can only be taken after charges have been made.

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**Zambian police confirm arrest of London bombing suspect**

**Lusaka, 1 August** — Zambian police confirmed on Saturday the arrest of Haroon Aswat, an Indian-Briton who was suspected to be linked with the 7 July London bombings.

“Mr Aswat, born on 22nd September, 1974, was arrested by Zambian security authorities on 20th July, 2005 in Lusaka,” said a statement released by the Zambian police inspector-general Ephraim Mateyo, adding he was in the custody of Zambian security authorities.

Aswat confessed the attention of police when it was discovered that about 20 calls have been placed from his cell phone to some of the four suspected suicide bombers known to investigators.

“Aswat's arrest follows ongoing security investi-
Chelsea, AC Milan end US tour with 1-1 draw

EAST RUTHERFORD (NEW JERSEY), 1 Aug— Chelsea and AC Milan drew 1-1 in a friendly match on Sunday as they wrapped up their pre-season tour of the United States.

Striker Didier Drogba put the English Premier League champions ahead in the second half while playmaker Rui Costa equalized for the beaten Champions League finalists.

England international Frank Lampard missed a chance to clinch victory for the Londoners in the 87th minute when he flicked Drogba’s deft pass just over the bar.

In all, six and half first half before a crowd of 35,441 at Giants Stadium neither side came close to scoring. A Lampard free-kick over the bar and a shot from Milan’s Brazilian defender Ca for that were not among the highlights.

Chelsea coach Jose Mourinho made four halftime substitutions and in the 54th minute played for Glen Johnson on the second leg of their pre-season tour of Japan.

Milan made three halftime changes.

In the 64th minute, Ivory Coast forward Drogba, one of the substitutes, barrelled past two tackles on the left and forced his way into the area before firing past goalkeeper Oliver Kahn.

Andrea Pirlo free-kick. But Milan levelled the scores in the 80th minute when Rui Costa lifted the scores in the 80th minute when Rui Costa lifted the scores in the 80th minute when he flicked Drogba’s deft pass just over the bar.

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US reports show limited progress in Iraq rebuilding

WASHINGTON, 1 Aug — Despite pouring more than nine billion US dollars into rebuilding Iraq over the past two years, the United States has made only limited progress in key areas such as oil and power, according to new reports on US-funded projects there.

Rebuilding Iraq is seen by the Bush Administration as a major foreign policy priority but three US Government reports released this week — the latest on Sunday — indicate ambitious re-construction goals are falling short.

Soaring security costs are a major stumbling block in what is billed as the biggest US foreign aid operation since the post-World War II reconstruction of Europe.

Congress’ investigative arm, the Government Accountability Office, said in its latest report that as of May 2005, power generation in Iraq was at a lower level than before the US invasion of Iraq in March 2003.

Iraq’s oil output, which US officials initially said would help pay for rebuilding projects, has also dropped in the past two years, said the GAO’s report on Iraq re-construction.

In March 2003, Iraq produced 2.6 million barrels of oil per day and exported 2.1 million barrels daily. By May 2005, Iraq was producing just 2 million barrels of oil a day and exporting only 1.4 to 1.6 million barrels a day, said the GAO.

In a report to Congress released on Sunday, the US Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction said two key concerns were whether the US Government could accurately predict how much it would cost to complete projects and whether Iraq’s government could sustain US-funded work after it was handed over.

“A failure on either of these points puts at risk the important legacy of success that the US intends to leave,” said Stuart Bowen, the inspector general.

WEATHER

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in lower Sagaing Division, rain have been isolated in Kachin and Chin States and Magway Division, scattered in Shan, Rakhine and Kayah States, upper Sagaing, Mandalay and Bago Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with locally heavyfall in Tanninjthayi Division and isolated heavyfall in Yangon Division. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Dawei (5.67) inches, Myeik (4.41) inches, Coco Island (3.55) inches, Ye (2.99) inches, and Kyaukpyu (2.33) inches.

Maximum temperature on 31-7-2005 was 85°F. Minimum temperature on 1-8-2005 was 68°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 1-8-2005 was 96%. Total sunshine hours on 31-7-2005 was (1.66) hours approx. Rainfalls on 1-8-2005 were 0.43 inch at Mingaladon, 0.31 inch at Kobe-Aye, 0.71 inch at central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were 51.77 inches at Mingaladon, 52.20 inches at Kobe-Aye and 55.04 inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kobe-Aye) was 7 mph from Southwest at (03:35) hours MST on 1-8-2005.

Bay influence: Monsoon is strong in the Bay of Bengal.

Special features: According to the observations at (06:30) hrs MST today, Tropical Storm “WASHI” over the Gulf of Tonkin has moved West-Northwest wards and crossed the Vietnam Coast.

Forecast valid until evening of 2-8-2005: Rain will be isolated in Kachin and Chin States, lower Sagaing and Magway Divisions, scattered in Kayah State, upper Sagaing, Mandalay and Bago Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Mon State, Yangon and Tanninjthayi Divisions. Degree of certainty is 80%.

State of the sea: Temporary squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) to (40) mph.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Increase of rain are likely in Eastern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 2-8-2005: Some rain. Degree of certainty is 90%.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 2-8-2005: Likelihood of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is 80%.

Flood Bulletin

(Issued at 12:30 hours MST on 1-8-2005)

According to the (09:30) hrs M.S.T observation today, the water level of Sittoung River at Madauk is (1070) cm. The water level may remain above its danger level (1070) cm during the next (48) hrs commencing noon today.

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR, Tuesday, 2 August, 2005
Some people make false accusations against Myanmar which could create misunderstanding between Myanmar and UN. Despite false accusations, disturbances, people witnessing development in Myanmar.

All are to make efforts in unity to ensure perpetuation of the Union.

Among some western countries imposed sanctions and put pressure on Myanmar in favour of one party and one person in Myanmar, the government has built political, economic and social infrastructures which are necessary to build modern, developed nation. Moreover, it managed to build mutual understanding and trust among national brethren to make national reconsolidation strong.

The mass meeting focusing “Guard against the danger posed by destructionists through united strength of the people” in progress in City Hall in Loikaw. — MNA

Although some western countries imposed sanctions and put pressure on Myanmar in favour of one party and one person in Myanmar, the government has built political, economic and social infrastructures which are necessary to build modern, developed nation. Moreover, it managed to build mutual understanding and trust among national brethren to make national reconsolidation strong.

The mass meeting focusing “Guard against the danger posed by destructionists through united strength of the people” in progress in City Hall in Loikaw. — MNA

YANGON, 1 Aug —
The mass meeting focusing “Guard against the danger posed by destructionists through united strength of the people” was held at the City Hall in Loikaw, Kayah State, on 30 July.

Kayah State USDA U Tin Oo presided over the meeting with Secretary of Kayah State WVO Maj Myint Nyein (Retd), Joint Secretary of Loikaw District MCWA Daw Mya Kyin, Member of Kayah State WAO Daw Ni Ni Panel of Chairman and those present saluted the State Flag.

Chairman U Tin Oo delivered an address. He said since Myanmar became a member of the UN on 19 April, 1948, it has been cooperating with the UN agencies in implementing the tasks of the UN. However, some people made false accusations against Myanmar which could lead to misunderstanding between Myanmar and the UN, he added.

On behalf of the local people, he thanked FAO, UNICEF, UNDP and UNEP for their efforts for rural area development tasks in cooperation with ministries.

Through there were false accusations and disturbances, people witnessed the development in Myanmar.

Although some western countries imposed sanctions and put pressure on Myanmar in favour of one party and one person in Myanmar, the government has built political, economic and social infrastructures which are necessary to build modern, developed nation. Moreover, it managed to build mutual understanding and trust among national brethren to make national reconsolidation strong.

On 30 August, 2003, the government declared the seven-point Road Map. As part of implementing the road map step by step, National Convention has been reconvened.

All national people are to make efforts on the basis of patriotism and nationalism joining hands with the delegates of the National Convention to finish the convention successfully.

In conclusion, he urged all participants to make efforts in unity to ensure the eternal existence of the Union, to actively participate in respective sectors for successfully implementation of the seven-point Road Map with Union Spirit and to crush all destructive elements and to guard against the danger posed by destructionists through united strength of the people.

Daw Myint Myint Khaing, representative of Loikaw Township USDA, said now the National Convention is in progress (See page 9)