**Four political objectives**

- Stability of the State, community peace and tranquility, 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 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

**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

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**Myanmar is now totally free from small pox, leprosy and polio**

Pay serious attention to rural health care concerns so as to promote the health standard of rural people

YANGON, 2 Aug—The National Health Committee held its 43rd meeting at Zeyathan Beikman on Konmynthta here this afternoon, with a speech by Chairman of NHC Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

Also present on the occasion were NHC members the ministers, the deputy ministers, officials and departmental heads.

The NHC chairman in his address said that of the 12 objectives, the social objective — Up-

The National Health Committee was founded to significantly improve the health standard of the people and to lead the health activities for all to enjoy longevity and disease-free life. The NHC has been leading and supervising the national health policies of the State and is striving with greater momentum for the uplift of the national health standard in cooperation with the Health Ministry and other related ministries. Thus, it laid down the national health plan (2001-2006) covering 12 projects to effectively carry out its tasks. Health is the main sector for national progress. The government has been opening more hospitals and dispensaries, upgrading the existing hospitals, furnishing the hotels with advanced hospital equipment and health staff and increasing the health expenditure. At present the nation has 819 hospitals including specialist hospitals, teaching hospitals, 300-bed hospitals, station hospitals and sub-township hospitals, up 188 from 631 in 1988. Myanmar is now totally free from small pox, leprosy and polio. In the past there were only four universities of various branches of the medical profession. Now there are 14. The nation now has 43 nursing schools, midwifery schools and related schools, up from 26 in the past.

Ministry Dr Kyaw Myint presents a report on matters to host ASEAN meetings and to open more rural health care centres. MNA

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**Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation**

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

Wednesday, 3 August, 2005

Try to keep abreast of developing technologies

It hardly need be emphasized that the building of a modern and developed nation calls for economic development. The economy of our nation is based on agriculture. Therefore, the government is implementing the short-term and long-term plans for agriculture and its related sectors such as forestry and meat and fish.

Moreover, efforts are being made to establish an agro-based industrial nation and to enhance the living standard of the entire national people. Investment, technicians and scholars play a pivotal role in the establishment of an industrial nation. It is up to the education sector to turn out technicians and scholars. Therefore, as in the agriculture, the forestry and the meat and fish sectors, the 30-year long-term plan is being implemented in the education sector. The meeting 1/2005 of Myanmar Education Committee was held on 25 July and it was attended by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council, Brig-Gen Hla Min, also Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee. In his address at the meeting, the Secretary-1 said that it was necessary for the government to establish a constant learning society to be able to make constant use of information and communication technologies which are developing with the passage of time and that, since the academic year 2001-2002, the government had been making every endeavour for the emergence of an education system that could create a constant learning society capable of braving the challenges of the knowledge age.

In the 21st century, science and technologies, especially information and communication technologies, are experiencing rapid development. As a result, the world has become like a village and this has had great repercussions on health, education, social, economic, political and military affairs of the nations in the world. Only if we can fully use constantly developing technologies, our nation will be able to keep abreast of other nations. Therefore, the government is ensuing to be able to use changing technologies.

The education sector has two parts, basic education and higher education. The former is like the foundations and very important. Only if the foundations are deep and strong, the upper structure will be safe. In other words, students in basic education schools should be trained in such a way as to be able to pursue higher education well.

We would like to call on all those concerned to work in concert to be able to constantly use information and communication technologies for our nation to be able to keep pace with others.

Medical equipment donated

Yangon, 2 Aug — A ceremony to donate medical equipment to Paungtale Station hospital in Pyay by Bago Division (West) Peace and Development Council was held on 29 July attended by Chairman of Bago Division (West) Peace and Development Council Brig-Gen Hla Min, departmental officials, Acting Head of Bago Division (West) Health Department Medical Superintendent Dr Win Ko Ko and health staff, members of social organizations and locals.

Brig-Gen Hla Min presented Foot Suction, the secretary of Pyay Township PDC, Oxygen Cylinder to Dr Khin Soe Soe Kyi of the Station hospital.

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

Industry-1 Minister receives Chinese guests

Yangon, 2 Aug — Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung this noon received Secretary Mr Li Guolin of Commerce Working Committee of Communist Party of China Tianjin Municipal Committee and party at his office.

Also present were Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thein Tun and the directors-general and managing directors under the ministry.

Foreign Minister to attend ACEMECS Ministerial meeting in Siem Reap, Cambodia

Yangon, 2 Aug — At the invitation of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Cambodia Mr Hor Namhong, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win left here this afternoon to attend the Ayezawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACEMECS) Ministerial Meeting to be held in Siem Reap, Cambodia, from 3 to 5 August.

The minister was seen off at the airport by Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, Minister for Cooperatives Col Zaw Min, directors-general and officials of MOFA and Cambodian Ambassador and officials of the embassy.

Minister U Nyan Win was accompanied by Director-General U Thaung Tun of Political Department and officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation.

USDA CEC member inspects highland cultivation in Lashio

Yangon, 2 Aug — Central Executive Committee member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister at the Prime Minister’s Office Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, on 30 July, inspected 500-acre Highland Cultivation Project (Nalayn) in Shan State (North) implemented by USDA in Lashio.

The CEC member next proceeded to the construction site for building Namthaung dam which is aimed at supplying water to the 500-acre project and gave instructions to officials.

In meeting with officials, Managing Director U Thaung Sein Oo and project director of Bala Min Htin Co briefed the CEC member on appointment of staff at the 500-acre project and crops cultivation. The CEC member discussed matters on successful implementation of the project, creating job opportunities for locals, taking part in rural development drives and cultivation of perennial crops.

Minister Brig-Gen Pyi Sone inspects highland cultivation in Lashio. — MNA

Minister U Aung Thaung receives Secretary Mr Li Guolin and party. — INDUSTRY-1

Minister U Nyan Win being seen off at the airport on his departure for Cambodia. — MNA

Minister U Aung Thaung this noon received Secretary Mr Li Guolin of Commerce Working Committee of Communist Party of China Tianjin Municipal Committee and party at his office. — MNA
Chinese, Japanese dignitaries urge more exchanges to advance relations

KUNMING, 1 Aug—A group of Chinese and Japanese dignitaries are calling for more exchanges in extensive areas between the two countries in a bid to advance relations.

They made the appeal in Kunming, capital of south-west China's Yunnan Province during the weekend while attending the two-day meeting of the New 21st Century Committee for China-Japan Friendship.

The Chinese delegates were led by Zheng Bijian, chief China's representative of the committee and also former executive vice-president of the Party School of CPC (Communist Party of China) Central Committee. While the Japanese delegates were led by Yotaro Kobayashi, chief Japan's representative of the committee, chairman of the Japanese Association of Corporate Executives, and also chairman of the Board of Fuji Xerox Co. The dignitaries of the two countries stressed that the spirit of "taking history as a mirror and looking forward to the future" should be continued in an effort to properly handle the bilateral relations and maintain a state of peace, friendship and cooperation.

They proposed the governments strengthen cooperation in broad areas such as economy, energy and environment for the common interests. They believed the two countries are in a position to keep their increasingly complex relationship on an even keel as friction rises over a range of issues.

While Beijing and Washington cooperate in many areas, including the six-party talks to try to defuse the North Korean nuclear crisis now going on in the Chinese capital, ties have been strained in recent months over China's military buildup and a surge in its textile exports.

US Deputy Secretary of State Robert Zoellick met Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao on Sunday for more than 90 minutes of talks ahead of the two-day strategic dialogue in Beijing.

Zoellick met Chinese Vice-Foreign Minister Dai Bingguo on Monday morning at the Diaoyutai State Guest House, which is also hosting the fourth round of nuclear talks between the United States, North Korea, South Korea, Japan, China and Russia.

Speaking to reporters in Hong Kong on Saturday, Zoellick said he would try to focus during the dialogue on the bigger picture of the relationship.

"We'll try to step back from the individual items on the agenda and see how we can integrate the topics," according to a transcript of his comments on a State Department information web site, usinfo state.gov. While in Beijing, Zoellick will also meet members of China's National Development and Reform Commission, a super-ministry in charge of coordinating economic policy and guiding investment and energy policy. — MNA/Reuters

Tropical storm “Gorio” threatens Central Luzon, Philippines

MANILA, 2 Aug—Tropical storm Gorio has been intensified and continued to threaten provinces in Central Luzon, Philippine state weather bureau PAGASA reported on Tuesday.

As of 10:45 am local time, satellite and surface data tracked Gorio at 670 kilometres east of Central Luzon with strongest sustained winds of 100 kilometres per hour near the centre and gusts of up to 130 kilometres per hour.

It is moving northwest at 19 kilometres per hour in the direction of Taiwan and Southern Japan area. It is expected to reach 550 kilometres east northeast of Cagayan by Wednesday evening and 420 kilometres northeast of Batanes on Thursday night.

PAGASA said the weather disturbance will bring cloudy skies with occasional rains and thunderstorms over Luzon, Visayas and Western Mindanao. No public storm signals were raised yet. — MNA/Xinhua

China, US launch strategic dialogue in Beijing

BEIJING, 1 Aug—The United States and China launched bi-annual strategic talks on Monday to try to keep their increasingly complex relationship on an even keel as friction rises over a range of issues.

While Beijing and Washington cooperate in many areas, including the six-party talks to try to defuse the North Korean nuclear crisis now going on in the Chinese capital, ties have been strained in recent months over China's military buildup and a surge in its textile exports.

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Dog bombs ‘biggest danger’ to Iraq troops

BAGHDAD, 1 Aug—Coalition troops in Iraq have been warned not to run over or shoot stray dogs they see watching them from the roadside because they may be cut-out shapes hiding a bomb.

Explosives experts say guerillas have created bombs with the trigger mechanisms hidden behind these fake dogs. Stray dogs roam in endless numbers in Iraq. The terrorists have apparently used florescent tape to create eyes in their canine cut-outs to make them look more realistic in a vehicle’s headlights.

The device includes two metal plates that, when hit by a bullet or the wheel of a truck, are jammed together, closing an electric circuit and setting off the bomb. — MNA/Reuters

39 missing in Bay of Bengal

NEW DELHI, 2 Aug—At least 39 people, including 14 sailors, are missing in the high seas off West Bengal, police said on Sunday.

The Indo-Asian News Service said that the sailors were sent on Saturday from Sankarpur harbour, 200 kilometres from Kolkata, in West Midnapore District in West Bengal, to trace three trawlers carrying some 25 fishermen who went missing on Thursday following a storm in the Bay of Bengal.

The fishermen had gone in four trawlers. While one trawler returned, there is no trace of the other three.

Police in Midnapore said on Sunday that communication links with the rescue teams had snapped soon after it sailed. “There is no trace of the trawler,” a police officer said. — MNA/Xinhua

The wreckage of Iraqi police patrol vehicles covers the highway after being targeted by a car bomb, on 31 July, 2005, in the Haswa District of Baghdad, Iraq.—INTERNET

A piggy bank featuring Disney characters is on display at a Hong Kong shopping mall during the opening of a charity programme to raise fund for blind people on 31 July, 2005. —INTERNET
Iran demands EU make nuclear offer by 1 August

TEHERAN, 1 Aug — Iran demanded on Saturday that the European Union submit proposals in a dispute over its nuclear programme by 1 August rather than take a week longer.

The European Union — represented by Britain, France and Germany — is due to offer Iran a limited package of economic and political incentives to give up work that the United States suspects is a veil for efforts to build a nuclear bomb. In return, the EU wants Iran to agree to maintain indefinitely its suspension of uranium enrichment, nuclear fuel reprocessing and related activities.

Ali Aghamohammadi, a spokesman for the Supreme National Security Council, said the parties had originally agreed an August 1 deadline, and that ambassadors for the “EU Three” had asked for this to be extended by six days.

“We reject any delay. We are expecting their proposals to be submitted on 1 August and it should meet Iran’s minimum expectations,” he told Reuters. However, it was not clear whether Iran was using a tough stance over a matter of a few days to put pressure on the EU.

Diplomats in the EU Three capitals said they were not aware that the EU had committed itself firmly to 1 August.

They said there had been an agreement at talks with Iran in Geneva last May that it would submit a proposal by the end of July or “early August.”

Waiting until 7 August would allow the EU Three to present their offer after the inauguration of Iran’s new president, Mahmud Ahmadinejad, on 3 August — MNA/Reuters.

China to invest $1.8b to develop online games

BEIJING, 1 Aug — China plans to invest 15 billion yuan (about 1.8 billion US dollars) to develop 100 kinds of online games with independent property rights in the next five years, the Shanghai Youth reported.

Yu Yongzhan, deputy director with the Press and Publication Administration of China (PPAC), was quoted as saying that the PPAC will make joint efforts with other government departments to speed up the construction of game software development centers in Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou cities and Sichuan Province where 10 to 30 home-made online game companies are expected to be launched within the next three years.

“This will give impetus to the growth of game industry across the country,” Yu was cited as saying.

The number of Internet users in China, the world’s second-largest Internet market, grew by nine million in the first half of this year to reach 103 million.

The development represented an increase of 18.4 per cent over the same period last year in a market that still has a vast potential for further growth, the China Daily reported on 22 July.

The burgeoning online gaming market proved especially lucrative, with Internet gamers spending some four billion yuan (483 million dollars) on virtual equipment for their online alter-egos in the first six months. — MNA/Xinhua

Japan urged to handle issue of chemical weapons victims

TOKYO, 1 Aug — Chemical weapons victims suffering from exposure to chemical weapons left by Japanese troops during World War II on Saturday urged the Japanese Government to apologize and provide living and medical support for the victims.

A group of Chinese chemical weapons victims from Qiqihar and some Japanese victims suffering from chemical leak accident in Ibaraki Prefecture met here to criticize the chemical weapons incident and call on the Japanese government to properly handle the issue.

The Chinese victims, along with their lawyers, arrived in Tokyo on 29 July for an 11-day tour to carry out a series of negotiations with the Japanese Government for proper treatment on the issue. “If Japanese Government does not apologize and provide living and medical support for the victims, we will ask the government,” Su Xiangxiang, a lawyer of the Chinese victims said. — MNA/Xinhua

FICCI calls for enhancing trade with Africa

NEW DELHI, 1 Aug — Pharmaceuticals and health, information technology, water management, food processing and education are the engines of growth to fuel India trade with Africa, a study carried out by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) said.

The FICCI study on destination Africa — India’s vision, released Saturday, recommends the formulation of an action plan to cash in on the exporting opportunities offered by the top eight destinations in Africa — Nigeria, South Africa, Kenya, Mauritius, Ghana, Tanzania, Algeria and Sudan — in view of the expected 5.4-per-cent GDP growth in these countries in 2005 and beyond, primarily due to the improved political and economic stability, vast oil and gas reserves and the ongoing restructuring of the economies in Africa.

Emphasizing the need for concrete steps by the government to give a fillip to the India-Africa trade, the FICCI study suggested a slew of measures for the Indian Government to enhance trade with these countries. These measures include setting up banking networks, organizing high level political visits to newly emerging markets like Libya and other prominent markets in Africa accompanied by business delegations.

Other measures include organizing joint commissions, joint business councils and frequent exchange of business delegations and open up Indian missions in countries like Chad, Niger, Congo, Equatorial Guinea and other African countries where India does not have a diplomatic missions at present. — MNA/Xinhua

Earthquake hits Banda Sea of Indonesia

HONG KONG, 2 Aug — An earthquake measuring 5.9 on the Richter Scale hit Banda Sea of Indonesia at 4:46 pm (0846 GMT) on Tuesday, according to the Hong Kong Observatory.

The epicenter was initially determined to be 4.0 south latitude 128.8 east longitude about 30 kilometres east southeast of Ambon. — Internet

Forest fire put out in Inner Mongolia

HORINT, 1 Aug — Through all-out efforts by over 600 forest policemen and fire fighters, the forest fire raging four days in the West Hinggan Forest in north China’s Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region has been completely put out by Sunday morning.

At about 17:00 on 27 July, the regional meteorological bureau monitored and detected strong forest fire as a result of lightning strikes in a tree farm in the Wuma Primitive Forest in the northern part of the Da Hinggan Ling of Inner Mongolia.

The regional fire prevention headquarters immediately organized fire fighting efforts, with more than 600 forest policemen and fire fighters taking part in the battle. By 21:00 Saturday, various routes of fire fighting forces had encircled the fire which was finally put out by 6:00 am on Sunday. — MNA/Xinhua

US anticipates rise in Falluja fighting

BAGHDAD, 1 Aug — Attacks in the Iraqi city of Falluja are expected to rise over the next few months, a US commander says.

Speaking on Monday, Colonel Mark Gurganus, the commanding officer of US marines in Falluja, vowed that US forces will return the city to the control of its former stronghold.

“The US Marines and other forces are coming here. We are trying to control our former stronghold.”

Gurganus said the Sunni Arab town, 50km (30 miles) west of Baghdad, was recaptured by US forces following a massive military incursion in November.

Most of Falluja’s 300,000 inhabitants fled at the time and about half have since returned. With reconstruction of the city under way, more are now expected to return home. But the US military believes fighters are bound to come back with them. “Now more and more people are returning to their homes and want to continue their livelihood which is what makes the city again sensitive to guerrilla attacks,” Gurganus said — Internet

In the noon sun, elderly Iraqi women use donkeys to transport bags of grass home for their cattle, on 31 July, 2005, in Baghdad, Iraq. — Internet

A Chinese man stands beside trees which were destroyed by a tornado in a village in Lengxi County in east China’s Anhui Province on 31 July, 2005.— Reuters

**THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Wednesday, 3 August, 2005**
Sri Lanka to bring in new laws to flush out black money

COLOMBO, 31 July — The Sri Lankan Government will bring in new laws to combat money laundering in a sweeping move to ensure the country’s internal financial stability, the official Daily News reported on Saturday.

At the weekly Cabinet briefing on Friday, spokesman Nimal Siripala de Silva said the relevant memorandum submitted by Finance Minister Sarath Amunugama was given the green light by Cabinet this week.

“The new laws which will be brought before Parliament soon will fight and curb the free circulation of black money within financial institutes and their conversion to genuine currency,” the Cabinet spokesman said.

The Cabinet paper sought approval to prepare the necessary framework for legislation including two bills, Prevention of Money Laundering and Financial Transactions Reporting.

“With the introduction of new laws the financial institutions and banks will be bound to keep the state informed of their transactions and make declarations from time to time when required,” Constitutional Affairs Minister DEW Gunasekera briefly elaborated on the Cabinet paper.

The provisions to make money laundering an offense in Sri Lanka has been carefully considered after a decade long discussion, he added. — MNA/Xinhua

Three drug dealers arrested in Canada

OTTAWA, 31 July — Canadian police arrested three drug dealers on Friday in a coast-to-coast crackdown on the country notorious marijuana party.

At the request of the neighbouring United States, police raided a pot-seed store run by Canada’s leading marijuana dealers arrested in Canada and engaging in money laundering.

By selling marijuana seeds since 1994, Emery earned 3 million US dollars a year, assistant US attorney Jeff Sullivan said.

If convicted, Emery faces a sentence ranging from 10 years to life in prison. The extradition would take six months to a year, said Sullivan.

Emery, 46, was last released in October 2004 after three months in jail for drug-related operations in the central city of Saskatoon. He has been convicted 11 times for illegal drug dealings. — MNA/Xinhua

Improper breast-feeding leads to child deaths in Nepal

KATHMANDU, 31 July — One of the major reasons of the child mortality in Nepal is improper breast-feeding, an official at the Health and Population Ministry said here on Saturday.

At least 39 out of every 1,000 babies in Nepal die before they reach one month, 64 die before they reach one year and 91 die before they reach five years and one of the major reason of child mortality is lack of proper breast-feeding, Sharada Pandey, chief of the Nutrition Section of the ministry’s Child Health Division, told reporters.

“Breast-feeding could be an important measure to reduce the infant mortality in Nepal,” Pandey said.

Meanwhile, with the aim to draw attention to the importance of breast-feeding children, a week-long campaign is being organized in Nepal from 1 August to mark World Breast-feeding Week.

“There will be awareness programmes among pregnant and new born mothers as well as the whole family during the campaign,” she said, adding, “The government will also organize essay and debate competitions related to child health in schools.”

The Nepali Government is launching the programmes in all the 75 districts of the country by mobilizing local women volunteers, she added. — MNA/Xinhua

Second Canadian province to regulate Chinese medicine

OTTAWA, 31 July — The Canadian province of Ontario will introduce legislation by the end of the year to regulate Chinese medicine and acupuncture, Health Minister George Smithemier said on Friday.

Ontario will become the second province in Canada to set rules for practicing Chinese medicine, following the steps of British Columbia. Smithemier said the province had been consulting with practitioners of Chinese medicine since March. A government-appointed panel has drafted a report giving 10 recommendations on what forms of treatment to be regulated and what type of rules to be made.

Traditional Chinese medicine has five branches: herbs, acupuncture, tai chi, tuina, and qigong. Tuina is a pressure point massage and qigong is a series of breathing exercises meant to help focus the energy in the body. Tai chi is a form of gentle meditative exercise also used to focus energy in the body.

The province of British Columbia put regulation in place for acupuncturists in 1999 and for other types of traditional Chinese medicine in 2001. Tony Wong, a Liberal member of Ontario provincial parliament who helped write the report, said the government is advised to form a similar regulatory group in Ontario as in British Columbia.

The group, who works like the College of Physicians for doctors, will make sure its members are licensed and handle complaints if they arise.

The news was welcomed by all Chinese medicine practitioners that have been consulted. Dr. Mary Wu, president of the Toronto School of Traditional Chinese Medicine, said regulation would be good for her profession as it will make people less skeptical. — MNA/Xinhua

Death toll from collapse of Chinese building rises to three

JIANG, 31 July — Three construction workers were confirmed dead in the collapse of a construction project in east China’s Shandong Province after the body of the last victim was found on Saturday.

The tragedy occurred on Thursday morning when workers were busy pouring concrete on a theatre roof under construction in the city of Linqing. The 300-square-metre ceiling of the building suddenly caved in from the height of 20 metres, killing three people and injuring three others.

The rescue operation has finished and no more casualties are expected, local safety supervision officials said.

The local government said the families of the victims have received compensation but did not disclose the amount. The three injured, still hospitalized, are not in life-threatening conditions, doctors said.

The theatre project, launched in March, is scheduled to be completed by the end of October. The cause of the accident is still under investigation. — MNA/Xinhua

UK’s Straw says US-led troops in Iraq part of problem

LONDON, 2 Aug — The presence of British and US troops in Iraq is fuelling the Sunni-led attack which has killed hundreds of people, British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said in comments published on Tuesday.

In an interview with Britain’s Financial Times newspaper, Straw said it was crucial Iraq’s draft constitution was ready by a mid-August deadline to pave the way for a troop withdrawal.

“They more certainty you have on that (the constitution), the more you can have a programme for the draw-down of troops which is important for the Iraqis,” he said.

“Because -- unlike in Afghanistan -- although they are part of the security solution there, we are also part of the problem,” US General George Casey said last month he expected troop cuts after a referendum on a new constitution due in October and an election for a new leader in December.— Internet

An Indian taxi mechanic assistant repairs a damaged taxi engine outside his roadside repair shop in Mumbai on 31 July, 2005. — Internet

-rays of the body with the help of a telescope. — MNA/Xinhua

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Death toll from collapse of Chinese building rises to three
I read in the dailies and watched on TV the address delivered by Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan at the anniversary of Naung-Ngant Gonyi magazine held on 10 June 2005 and clarification at the press conference (9/2005) held on 12 June 2005.

One day, we the pensioners, were discussing the address and the press conference.

"In his address, the minister after assessing the literary world from the objective point of view noted that the participation of the literary profession’s private sector in refuting the attempts to harm the international interest was not much," said one of us.

"Yes, private owned periodicals are weak in responding to the perpetration of Sao Hkm Hpa and cohorts, disturbing and threatening the people to break up the nation, and the act of blowing up bombs in Yangon on 7 May, with the aim of targeting the innocent people," another agreed.

"Traditionally, men of letters are persons who have the love for the race and are equipped with nationalism. It is true that no one is in favour of or accepts terrorist acts. But the publishers seem to assume that just by featuring the articles on policies that have already appeared in the State-run dailies, they are dutiful. We think that some are over anxious to write and feature the political articles," explained the other.

Our discussions went on.

"Anyhow, whenever there arises an incident endangering the national interest, the persons of the literary world need not to wait for any one's urging, but should take part with might and main for the people and the nation".

"You are right. As the minister himself has already pointed out the matter, all the writers and journalists of the private sector show unity launching a counter-attack against the destructionists with the might of their pen."

"As the Information Ministry is discharging the duty of scrutinizing and registering periodicals and books, it should lend the literary world a helping hand according to its aim — to ensure harmony and unity among the members of the literary profession."

"Moreover, the Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association that is leading the literary world should lay down work programmes for the members of the profession."

"According to a participant at the ceremony, the MWJA chairman has accepted the minister's discussions as work guideline, and made a pledge to implement it in all levels of the association."

"As the might of pen is effective, the MWJA’s effort is an extra strength for the nation."

"We usually praise the strength of the literary profession with the saying which goes, “The pen is mightier than the sword”. The power of literature is great in enhancing the people’s knowledge, computation and ability for national development, and further vitalizing nationalism and patriotism to build and defend the nation and keep her free from foreign domination."

"All the members of the literary profession holding the effective weapon will become an extra strength of the nation if they protect the national interest. But if they remain indifferent, they will be pointed as persons who are not dutiful towards the nation."

Thus, members of the literary world should collectively play a role in educating the people not to fall into the deceit of foreign radio stations, to know the real intention behind the instigations and unitedly crush the conspiracies to destroy the nation.

Commander, Mayor look into sanitation, beautifying tasks

YANGON, 2 August — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin looked into tasks for the upgrading of Yangon City this morning.

They inspected tasks for proper drainage and weeding of wild plants on Upper Pansodan Street in Mingala Taungnyunt Township and on both sides of Kaba Aye Pagoda Road. They looked into gathering of garbage at the junction of Kaba Aye Pagoda Road and Parami Road.

Next, they inspected the dredging of the drains in Ward 8 in Mayangon Township and tasks of proper drainage near the junction of Kyaikwaing Pagoda Road and Insein Road.

During their inspection tour, the commander and the mayor gave instructions on the clearing of garbage, mud and silt and fulfilled the requirements. — MNA

Manuscripts invited for musical comedy, dramas

YANGON, 2 August — The Ministry of Culture has invited manuscripts for musical comedy and dramas.

The entries must be based on past lives of Buddha and Jataka stories, Myanmar background history, ways of present lifestyle.

The manuscripts must be created with the objectives to revitalize patriotism, to promote national characters, to preserve national literature and culture, to propagate dramas and musical comedy, to learn knowledge and aesthetic enjoyment and lessons.

The entries must be own creation. Handsome prizes will be presented to the winners. The manuscripts chosen for printing will be given separate cash prizes. The manuscripts must be sent to Director-General of the Fine Arts Department at No 131 on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road not later than 31 October 2005. — MAN

Discussion of pensioners — Hein Myint

Hein Myint

They should be aware of the fact that if they use the pen for destructive purposes, they will become part of the destructive machinery.

Foreign masters and their terrorist stooges are trying to attack the nation from underground, aboveground and abroad. In this situation, the members of the literary world should highlight the need of the entire people to collectively take part in the national defence and security duties."

"All the members should regard themselves as the persons who have the duty to correct the thoughts and visions of the entire nation."

"They will have to refute the rumours aired by terrorists to frighten the people."

"It is a common knowledge that because of the fabrications of the BBC and VOA, the nation faced grave danger and some students fled to border areas during the 1988 unrest. The Tafadmaw had to safeguard the nation and brought back the students to the embrace of their parents with goodwill."

The sham interviews of Christopher Gunnis added fuel to the destructive acts of the unrest. The people knew the truth only when student leader Ko Ko Latt and student Ma Aye Nyein, who took part in the sham interview, made a confession.

Thus, members of the literary world should collectively play a role in educating the people not to fall to the deceit of foreign radio stations, to know the real intention behind the instigations and unitedly crush the conspiracies to destroy the nation.

After our discussions, I have a firm belief in mind that we will be able to crush any enemy with the harmonious force of the government, the people and the Tatmadaw, and in the battle between the destructive element and the constructive and the good and the bad, the constructive forces and the good will always triumph in the end. (Translation: TMT)


Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin inspect tasks for proper drainage on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road. — YANGON COMMAND
**MMICWA holds ceremony to mark World Breast Feeding Week**

**Yangon, 2 Aug**—A ceremony to mark the 2005 World Breast Feeding Week sponsored by the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association took place at the meeting hall of the MMICWA building at the corner of Parami and Than Thuma Roads in South Okkapa Township here this morning with an address by Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo, members of the panel of patrons of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation, President Daw Than Than Nwe, President of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association Daw Khin Khin Win, Vice-President of Yagon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee, President Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint and CEC members, President of MMCWA Dr Daw Tin Lay Myint and CEC members, officials of the Ministry of Health, resident representatives of UN agencies, Resident Representative of UNICEF Mr Carroll C Long and officials and others.

Minister Dr Kyaw Myint made an opening speech. Next, Daw Khin Khin Win spoke on the occasion and the ceremony ended.

After the ceremony, the two-week course on breast feeding commenced at the building.

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**Industrial development study and cooperation group meets**

**Yangon, 2 Aug**—The meeting (1/2005) of the industrial development study and cooperation group of the Industrial Development Committee took place at the Ministry of Cooperatives on Bogyoke Aung San Street here this afternoon, with an address by Minister for Cooperatives Col Zaw Min. Group member deputy ministers and officials also attended the meeting.

In his address, the minister said the industrial development study and cooperation group was formed on 5 May 2005. And it is responsible for the study of the development of region-wise small and medium-scale industries, conducting workshops and seminars, dissemination of techniques and rendering other assistance.

According to data, there are 33,426 small-scale industries in the country accounting for 78.25 per cent of the whole industry; 6,250 medium-scale industries accounting for 14.48 percent; and 3,117 heavy industries accounting for 7.27 per cent.

Later, those present also took part in the discussions. — MNA

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**Japanese Fukuoka Asian Culture prize to be presented to Dr Thaw Kaung**

**Yangon, 2 Aug**—A ceremony to present the 16th Japanese Fukuoka Asian Culture prize for 2005 to Dr Thaw Kaung was held at International Business Centre on Pyay Road here this morning, attended by Minister for Education U Than Aung.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Ministers U Myo Nyunt and Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min, the Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar and embassy staff, the secretary-general of prize scrutinizing committee Mr Kusakabe Yoshimichi and members, members of Myanmar Historical Commission, heads of departments and guests.

First, Vice-Chairman-2 of MHC U Sai Aung Tun extended greetings.

Next, secretary-general of prize scrutinizing committee Mr Kusakabe Yoshimichi explained as to the facts of scrutinizing the prize and prize presentation ceremony to be held in Fukuoka city.

Next, Mr Kusakabe Yoshimichi presented an invitation letter to Dr Thaw Kaung to receive the prize.

Afterwards, Minister U Than Aung presented certificates of honour to Mr Kusakabe Yoshimichi and winner Dr Thaw Kaung.

After that, Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Nobutake Odano, member of MHC winner of Fukuoka for 2000 Dr Than Tun and part-time member of MHC U Thet Tun gave advice.

Dr Thaw Kaung expressed thanks.

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**Culture Deputy Minister leaves for Thailand**

**Yangon, 2 Aug**—Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister for Culture Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung this morning left for Thailand to attend the Second Meeting of the ASEAN and ASEAN+3 there. — MNA

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**All this needs to be known**

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

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Health Minister attends Workshop on Drug and Poison Information Services at National Poison Control Centre

It is required to translate into reality the guidance given by the Head of State on research to be done combining the research methods on producing traditional medicines to be able to find out effective therapies and medicines in curing the six most common diseases in the nation — malaria, TB, diarrhoea, dysentery, diabetes, and hypertension.

...and giving medical talks, and giving medical education, preventive measures, giving an awareness to the public that special emphasis is like an epidemic disease that can spread more than any other disease. Myanmar is taking preventive measures, giving health care concerns so as to promote the health standard in the nation — malaria, TB, diarrhoea, dysentery, diabetes, and hypertension.

He said there were cases of newly emerging infectious diseases such as bird flu in some neighbouring countries. Though there was no similar case in Myanmar, the disease can spread any time. Therefore, emphasis is to be placed on surveillance. It is necessary that special emphasis is to be placed on surveillance. It is necessary that special emphasis is to be placed on surveillance.

The meeting came to a close with the concluding remarks by the Secretary-1.

Director-General Dr Kyaw Myint gives introductory speech at the workshop. — MNA

YANGON, 2 Aug — Jointly-organized by Medical Research Department (Lower Myanmar) and WHO, a ceremony to open Workshop on Drug and Poison Information Services at the National Poison Control Centre was held at the department in Dagon Township this morning, with an address by Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint. Also present on the occasion were Deputy Minister Dr Mya Oo, directors-general and deputy directors-general, rectors, directors, medical super-intendants, officials of Directorate of Medical Services, resident representative of WHO Professor Adik Wibowo and officials, professors and heads of departments of the institutes under the ministry, social organizations, delegates of other related departments, researchers and literati.

First, the minister delivered an address on the occasion. In his speech he said communicable diseases and non-communicable diseases occur in Myanmar and developing countries. Poisoning includes in non-communicable disease. There are two varieties in poisoning — acute poisoning and chronic poisoning. Both are harmful to health of mankind and may even cause death. According to WHO’s data in 2000, there has been an increasing use of chemicals and pharmacy across the world. There are about 500,000 people who are poisoned due to use of agricultural and industrial chemicals and pharmacy. Myanmar is likely to face health problems which is subject to poisoning due to misuse of household medicines. Pesticides, chemical fertilizer and agricultural chemicals can cause poisoning as there has been increasing in industrial services. A current problem encountered as to poisoning treatment is that it is unaware of poisoning. After finding out type of poisoning, dissemination of knowledge plays a key role. With the guidance of the Ministry of Health, the National Poison Control Centre is taking steps for prevention, dissemination of knowledge on health, poison control and treatment to uplift the public health.

Minister Dr Kyaw Myint points more strength of poison control and treatment to the causes of deaths. Malaria, TB, diarrhoea, dysentery, diabetes, and hypertension.

Manga is now totally free from small pox, leprosy and polio...
It is improper to directly copy western democracy for Myanmar that is charting its own way towards democracy.

Meeting chairman Rakhine State USDA Executive U Tun Min delivers a speech at the mass meeting. — MNA

Daw Thandar Min. — MNA

Daw Moe Moe Hlaing. — MNA

Daw Myint Myint Kyaw. MNA

Daw Khin Win. MNA

Regional UN Agencies, neighbouring countries and those in the region and unbiased countries are well aware of the efforts of the government, departments and NGOs. Economic sanctions of some big nations affected most of the people including women. She said the government clarified that the one-sided accusation of ILO was wrong. However, ILO did not accept it and put pressures on some nations to impose economic sanctions on Myanmar.

So, the entire national people to sovereignty. She urged Myanmar women to participate in nation-building tasks for emergence of a peaceful modern developed nation.

The entire people are desirable of building the peaceful modern developed nation and it is the drive for establishment of a peaceful modern developed discipline-flourishing nation. She also urged NGOs to strive for successful implementation of the seven-point Road Map.

Next, Executive of Rakhine State USDA Daw Myint Myint Kyaw seconded the motion on guarding against the danger posed by destructionists through united strength of the people tasked by MraukU Town-ship USDA Executive Daw Moe Moe Hlaing and member of Rakhine State WAO Daw Thanda Min. (See page 10)

Aboveground and underground destructive elements are manufacturing exaggerated stories to hinder the drive for marching to democracy. People are to guard against the acts being committed by Sein Win-led NCGUB and ABSDF, and fugitives including Pyithit Nyunt Wai.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and democratic nation. Aboveground and underground destructive elements are manufacturing exaggerated stories to hinder the drive for marching to democracy. People are to guard against the acts being committed by Sein Win-led NCGUB and ABSDF, and fugitives including Pyithit Nyunt Wai.
It is improper to directly copy …

Next, member of Rakline State MCWA Daw Khin Win presented a report on active participation in successful realization of the seven-point Road Map and nation-building endeavours with Union Spirit, upholding Our Three Main National Causes in the fore.

She said that the government has laid down and is implementing the 24 special development zones and the five rural development tasks for development of rural regions and narrowing development gap among rural areas including Rakline State. It spent K 65,000 million on those projects. Rakline State was of difficult access in the past owing to poor transport. Therefore, the government constructed the An-Minh road, the Taung-gp-Pyay road and the Gwa-Ngathang Gyauang road for the state to have access to other states and divisions. These transport facilities were upgraded into the all-weather ones.

She said Head of State Senior General Than Shwe as saying on his tour of Rakline State on 18 April that efforts are to be made for timely completion of new roads and bridges and renovation of the old ones. Only when there is better transport in the state will there be easy access to other states and divisions and will socio-economic life of the local people improve.

At present, significant progress has been made in the transport sector of Rakline State and work is well under way for implementing Thahtay Creek hydel power project, An Creek hydel power project and Kyenintali hydel power project. Upon completion, they will be able to supply power to Thandwe, Taungup, Gwa Townships. Moreover, a 100-bed hospital and An airfield had been constructed for the development of An region. Necessary arrangements are now being made for development of Kyaukppa Township, which is a gateway of An Township.

Residents of Rakline State also will have to strive for development of socio-economic life of the entire national people. With better transport in the state, self-sufficiency in food in the region and extended cultivation of rubber, pepper, scientific breeding of prawns will be assured. Some big nations in collision with some NGOs are constantly at
Rakhine State enjoying development in marine industry

(From page 16)

up to the end of March 2004-2005 fiscal year and the export value was US$ 974245.65 plus Euro 539.150. And US$ 97424.56 plus Euro 539.150 were realized as tax.

Under Thandwe FOB, altogether 3219.56 tons of marine products were exported at US$ 244489.84 plus Euro 214837.49 by local fishing boats. And altogether US$ 244489.84 plus Euro 214837.49 were realized as tax.

Moreover, 4996.52 tons of marine products were exported by other private sectors and altogether US$ 758,475 was done on year-on-year basis.

Therefore, altogether 12228.548 tons of marine products were exported up to the end of March in 2004-2005 fiscal year and US$ 6,612,549.60 plus US$ 214837.49 by local fishing boats. And altogether US$ 6,612,549.60 plus US$ 214837.49 were realized as tax.

Soe Thu said, “Rakhine State enjoys benefits from the export value was US$ 2144837.49 by local fishing boats. And altogether US$ 214837.49 were realized as tax. As sea prawns are popular among foreign nations priority is being given to breeding of the aquatic creatures. Sea prawns are called as tiger prawns and they are in high demand in foreign markets. The current price of prawn is from K 6,000 to K 18,000 per viss according to its size.

Sea prawn breeding can be run all-year round. If sea water flows into sea prawn breeding ponds during the time of high tide that takes place twice a month, shrimp fries get into the ponds together with the flow. There is no need to feed these shrimp fries, and they eat species of seaweed that floats into the ponds together with the flow. The growth rate of these shrimp fries is higher than that of the ones bred scientifically. Being rich in natural resources, Rakhine State can produce prawn more than any other states and divisions in the nation. Fresh water prawn breeding can be undertaken for only four months a year.

Situated between the coast and Yoma mountain range in the westernmost of Myanmar, Rakhine State has an area of 14,200 square miles and a population of 3,045,000, and is home to diverse national races such as Chin, Myo, Thet, Khami, Daingnet and Kaman in addition to Rakhine and Bamar.

“Rakhine State has a long coast and many continental shelves and is rich in natural resources. So, sea prawn farming thrives very well in the region and it boosts prawn production and earns foreign exchange for the State,” said Soe Thu, Vice-President of the Fisheries Department. He explained that the export-quality sea prawn is known as Black Tiger whose length ranges from four to eight inches. The species Red Tiger is as long as 14 inches. Processed prawns of four inches and above in length are exported, and about 13 to 15 processed prawns weigh one kilogram.

Managing Director U Aung Naing Win of Annawa Win Fisheries Co. internal Revenue Department gains 10 per cent of the value of the marine products exported from Rakhine State. “Livestock breeding is more popular in Sittway District, and coastal and deep sea fisheries, in Thandwe District. The majority of exported crabs to China are from Rakhine State. Entrepreneurs export live crabs to PRC by land through Muse, and it takes about four or five days to reach the destination if they transport products from Sittway by land.

“The Rakhine State Peace and Development Council runs more than 100 acres of fresh water prawn ponds and is making progress now. Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Chairman Commander Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint has laid down the plan to run prawn breeding and paddy cultivation in tandem.”

In the past, Reakine State had poor transport with only 11 bridges of 180 feet and above, and local people had to rely mainly on waterways. In compliance with the guidance given by Head of State Senior General Than Shwe, Yangon-Sittway Road Project was launched in 1995. As a result, the drive has brought the number of the bridges 180 feet and above.

The processed sea prawns.

A live crab from Rakhine State

Packaging process seen in the cold storage factory.

The processed sea prawns.

Crabs of export quality.
Ice broken in long-frozen UN terror treaty talks

Russia’s Defence Ministry bans ABC network

Police quiz 11

Terror cell planning third wave attacks on London

A D V E R T I S E M E N T S

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**UN nominee derided by Democrats as “damaged goods”**

WASHINGTON, 1 Aug — Top Senate Democrats on Sunday derided President George W Bush’s embattled nominee for UN ambassador, John Bolton, as “damaged goods” and warned that his expected appointment without Senate confirmation cast doubt on US credibility.

Republican senators countered that Bolton, a favourite of Conservatives known for his blunt and sometimes abrasive style, was the right choice to lead the US mission.

They countered that Bolton’s “recess appointment” as US ambassador to the United Nations as early as Monday. Bolton would be able to serve until January 2007, when a new Congress is sworn in. “He’s damaged goods. This is a person who lacks credibility,” Senator Christopher Dodd of Connecticut, a top-ranking Democrat on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, told Fox News on Sunday. “This would be the first UN ambassador since 1948 we’ve ever sent there under a recess appointment. That’s not what you want to send up, a person that doesn’t have the confidence of the Congress,” Dodd added.

A vote on the nomination of the outspoken conservative has been held up for months over accusations he tried to manipulate intelligence and intimidated intelligence analysts to support his hawkish views in his post as the top US diplomat for arms control.

New questions about Bolton surfaced last week when the State Department reversed itself and acknowledged that Bolton had given Congress inaccurate information when he wrote that he had not been questioned or provided information to jury or government investigations in the past five years. At first, the State Department had insisted Bolton’s answer was truthful. But it later acknowledged that Bolton had failed to tell lawmakers that he had been interviewed as part of a State Department-CIA joint investigation on intelligence lapses that led to the Bush Administration’s claim that Iraq tried to buy uranium from Niger. — MNA/Reuters

**Smelly fungus sparks German police hunt for corpse**

BERLIN, 1 Aug — The odour given off by an unusually large fungus in Germany was so foul that it sparked off a police hunt for a corpse, authorities said on Sunday.

A spokesman for police in the eastern city of Dresden said that following reports from local citizens about the smell, five officers and a sniffer dog went to investigate in a forest close to the German-Czech border.

“Then they discovered this gigantic stinkhorn,” he said, referring to the foetid-smelling, oddly-shaped fungus with the Latin name Phallus impudicus. “Those things really do stink.”

Police called off the search and retreated from the malodorous fungus, which German media said was over 20 centimetres long, much bigger than stinkhorns usually grow.

**NASA extends shuttle “Discovery’s” space tour**

LOS ANGELES, 1 Aug— Shuttle Discovery was set to stay docked with the International Space Station for one more day, US space agency NASA said on Saturday.

Shortly after astronauts Soichi Noguchi and Steve Robinson completed their first spacewalk, NASA mission managers decided to keep the crew in the space for an extra day to deliver more supplies for the Space Station, while future shuttle launch date is still unknown.

NASA grounded future shuttle flights after finding Discovery’s fuel tanks foam loss during liftoff on July 26. Engineers worried the disaster of shuttle Columbia would recur unless they could thoroughly solve the foam insulation problem.

The spacewalk, not only the first of Discovery mission but also a first for Noguchi and Robinson, was performed over expectation, according to NASA. “I’m happy to welcome Steve and Soichi on Friday, the official says WHO commits to improving health in Africa

LUANDA, 1 Aug— The Director for Africa of the World Health Organization (WHO), Luis Gomes Sambo, has said in Angola that WHO is committed to improving health in Africa, by building a deeper technical, scientific and financial partnership with the countries.

According to Angolan official news agency Angop on Friday, the official was speaking at a meeting participated by delegations from the US Health and Social Affairs Department, WHO sub-directors and heads of technical programs of the Angolan Health Ministry.

Sambo pointed out as example the assistance that has been given by the Global Fund for Malaria, Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS to several African countries, and the initiative of 1.2 billion dollars donated by the US Government to fight malaria in sub-Saharan Africa, for the next five years.

He informed that WHO is also concerned about the appearance of four new cases of polio in the three provinces of Angola, after four years without a single case.

Speaking about the control of epidemics in Africa, Sambo expressed his wish to set up in Angola the second watch centre and control of transmissible diseases.

**Train collision in N-E China kills 6, injures 30**

BEIJING, 1 Aug— Two trains collided head-to-tail at around 8 pm on Sunday in northeast China, leaving five carriages and six passengers dead, according to the Ministry of Railways.

At 7:52 pm, the K127 passenger train from northwest Xi’an City to northeastern Changchun City collided into the tail of a cargo train from Changchun to northeastern coastal city of Dalian. Thirty passengers were injured and rushed to hospital, the ministry said.

An earlier report from the northeastern province of Liaoning, where the accident reportedly occurred, said at least one passenger was killed and attributed the derailment to a sudden power failure.

However, the Liaoning report did not mention any train collision, and said the number of the injured remained unclear. Ministry sources said a vice-minister of railways had rushed to the scene after the accident to help organize the rescue work and ensure the traffic on the Changchun-Dalian section can be restored as early as possible. — MNA/Xinhua

**Wall collapse kills 7, injures 22 in S China province**

KUNMING, 1 Aug— A collapse of a brick wall during the torch festival in Yunnan County of south China’s Yunnan province killed 7 people and injured 22 others Saturday night, said the local source.

The disaster occurred around 8:00pm on Saturday at the opening ceremony of the torch festival in Yunnan County of the Han-Yi Autonomous Prefecture, where a large wall, 50 metres long and 2 metres high, suddenly collapsed and crushed more than 30 locals and visitors. — MNA/Xinhua

**Former ECB chief found dead in swimming pool**

PARIS, 1 Aug— Wim Duisenberg, former president of the Dutch Central Bank and first president of the European Central Bank (ECB), was found dead at his villa in southern France, French police said on Sunday.

Duisenberg, 70, had presided the launch of the euro currency and served as ECB president from June 1998 until he stepped down in October 2003 in favour of Frenchman Jean-Claude Trichet.

“He (Duisenberg) was found dead in his swimming pool this morning,” said a spokesman for Marseille police quoted by French TF1 news channel.

An autopsy showed Duisenberg had drowned after an unspecified cardiac problem, a regional prosecutor said. — MNA/Xinhua

**Former ECB chief found dead in swimming pool**

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Wednesday, 3 August, 2005

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**Former ECB chief found dead in swimming pool**
SPOTLIGHT

Benitez says Mourinho is worried

LONDON, 2 Aug— Liverpool boss Rafael Benitez claimed on Monday that Jose Mourinho’s comments regarding Steven Gerrard prove the Chelsea manager is "worried".

Mourinho said Gerrard would have won more trophies had he moved to the Blues instead of opting to sign a new contract at Anfield.

But Liverpool manager Benitez said: "I like to hear Mourinho talking about us. Maybe they’re worried about us and think we’ll be dangerous next season.

"As for Steven winning trophies, he will win more for us… maybe soon."

He added: "I like to see people talking about us, it means they are worried and we are an important club.

"I am convinced that we are a better team now than before, and that is why people talk about us. We are stronger than before and we are a more important team than before."

Gerrard seemed to be on the brink of a move to Chelsea this summer -- only to sign a new Liverpool deal.

And Mourinho told The Times: "It will be a loss for him, for his career. He can say ‘I was European champion at Liverpool’ and that is correct.

"But I can say to him in the next 10 years we will compare trophies at Chelsea and Liverpool. And he’ll lose."

However, Mourinho admitted the capture of Gerrard would have been a great boost to his team.

Gerrard is a great player and we want an English core very much," he said.

"We normally play a midfield triangle and you can imagine that Gerrard and Frank Lampard, with Claude Makelele just behind them as protection, could be a very strong team but I think it is Gerrard’s loss more than Chelsea’s."

"Why? Because Chelsea have good solutions; a good team with the conditions to improve and a club that will be one of the best in the world in a short period of time."

MNA/Reuters

Argentina Samuves from Real to Inter

Roma, 2 Aug— Inter Milan have signed Argentina defender Walter Samuel from Real Madrid, the Italian club said on Monday. "Inter said in a statement on their official website the central defender had signed a four-year deal with the Serie A club.

Samuel, 27, has previously played in Italy for AS Roma where he won the Italian league in 2001.

Samuel leaves Real after completing just one season of a five-year deal signed when he joined the club for a fee of 25 million euros (30.25 million US dollars) from Roma last July.

At Inter, Samuel will be expected to partner tough Colombian Ivan Cordoba in the centre of defence and joins a large Argentine contingent working under coach Roberto Mancini.

As well as Solari, Inter captain and defender Javier Zanetti, midfielders Juan Sebastian Veron, Esteban Cambiasso and Kily Gonzalez and striker Julio Ricardo Cruz have all played for the Argentine national side.

MNA/Xinhua

Real Madrid's Brazilian football player Julio Cesar Baptista displays his shirt.—INTERNET

Madrid to contend for World Anti-Doping Conference 2007

MADRID, 2 Aug— The Spanish sports authorities confirmed on Monday the Madrid candidacy for the organization of the third World Anti-Doping Conference in 2007.

During the presentation of an anti-doping campaign, Spanish Secretary of State for Sports Jaime Lisasavetzky said the Superior Sports Council (CSD) will hand over the documents to the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), based in Montreal, Canada before 14 October.

For the World Anti-Doping Conference, WADA demands the hosting cities to count with the necessary infrastructure for both the delegates and journalists.

In addition to the financial commitment and the support of local authorities, the candidate countries will have to provide a conference center with a capacity for 2,000 people, translators to six languages, security measures, hotel infrastructure and an international airport.

Madrid hopes to gain advantage from hosting the Olympic Games, an opportunity it lost early in July with the selection of London as the venue for the 2012 Olympics.

The first edition of the World Anti-Doping Conference took place in Lausanne, Switzerland, in 1999, in the face of the increase of doping cases in sports. On that occasion it agreed with the International Olympic Committee to create WADA and four year later, the World Anti-Doping Case was approved in Copenhagen, Denmark.

MNA/Xinhua

Brazil calls Ronaldo back for Croatia friendly

RIO DE JANEIRO, 2 Aug— After missing the Confederations Cup, Ronaldo was recalled to the Brazilian national team on Monday for a soccer friendly later this month against Croatia.

Team manager Carlos Alberto Parreira included Ronaldo as part of the 22-man roster for the Aug 17 match in Split, Croatia. Roster:

Goalies: Dida (AC Milan) and Julio Cesar (Inter).

Defenders: Cafu (AC Milan), Cicinho (Sao Paulo), Roberto Carlos (Real Madrid), Gilberto (Hertha Berlin), Alex (PSV-Eindhoven), Juan (Bayer Leverkusen), Lucio (Bayer de Munique) and Luisao (Benifica).

Midfielders: Emerson (Juventus), Juninho Pernambucano (Lyon), Ze Roberto (Bayern Munich), Ricardo (Santos), Kaka (AC Milan), Renato (Sevilla), Gilberto Silva (Arsenal) and Julio Baptista (Real Madrid).

Forwards: Ronaldo (Real Madrid), Adriano (Inter Milan), Robinho (Santos) and Ricardo Oliveira (Real Betis).

MNA/Xinhua

Ljungberg double gives Arsenal victory in Amsterdam

AMSTERDAM, 1 Aug— Arsenal won the pre-season Amsterdam Tournament on Sunday after substitute Freddie Ljungberg scored twice to give them a 2-1 victory over Porto.

The result meant Arsenal finished top of the four-team table with nine points after beating hosts Ajax Amsterdam 1-0 on Friday. Teams receive three points for a win and an extra point for each goal scored. Porto were second with six points after opening the tournament with a 2-0 win over Boca Juniors.

The Argentines ended third following a 1-0 win against Ajax in the final match of the tournament on Sunday. Jose Calvo sealed their win with a first-half goal created by Daniel Bilos.

Porto pressed Arsenal Wenger's temerarily on but had to wait till the 75th minute before they took the lead.

Ljungberg scored again after he converted a cross by Brazilian Robinho.

The first edition of the World Anti-Doping Congress was held in Athens in 1999, four years after the Athens 2004 Olympic Games opened.

MNA/Xinhua
At least 5 killed in Mexican cockpit arena explosion

MEXICO CITY, 2 Aug — At least five killed, 35 injured when two grenades exploded in a cockpit arena in Mexican city of Tonala, local authorities said on Monday.

The explosion occurred in the early hours of Monday inside the cockpit arena where about 300 people gathered, according to preliminary reports.

Police agents found bullet shells, and two grenade safety pins, the reports said, adding that two of the victims died on the spot and three more died in hospitals.

Police found blood and an AK-47 assault rifle on two abandoned trucks outside the arena.

Police have arrested six suspects, according to local reports. — MNA/Xinhua

Cuba bristles at Bush “transition” plan

HAVANA, 2 Aug — Cuba’s Communist government is bristling over US President George W Bush’s efforts to hasten its downfall by appointing a “transition coordinator” to prepare for a post-Castro Cuba.

“Once again Bush is rudely meddling in Cuba’s internal affairs by appointing one of his men to publicly coordinate subversive actions against the island,” the ruling Communist Party newspaper Granma said on Monday.

The Bush Administration named Caleb McDonald on Thursday to the State Department post of Cuba transition coordinator, a position created last year as part of a strategy to prepare for what it hopes will be a move from communism to democracy.

The announcement added to tensions in Havana where economic hardship and prolonged power outages fueled rare street protests and graffiti against President Fidel Castro this summer.

US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, announcing the appointment, said the White House’s policy was to “accelerate the demise of Castro’s tyranny”.

She said McDonald, a staff member of the House International Relations Committee for the past eight years, will “direct our government’s actions in support of a free Cuba”.

“Viva Cuba libre,” McCarrick said in Spanish.

Cuban Foreign Minister Felipe Perez Roque confidently responded on Sunday that McCarrick would retire before ever setting foot in Cuba.

But Ricardo Alarcon, president of Cuba’s legislature, said McCarrick’s appointment was a bad sign for Cuba.

“This is proof that they are really following the plan…(McCarrick) will coordinate everything the United States does to over-throw the revolution,” said Alarcon on Saturday.

MNA/Reuters

WEATHER

Tuesday, 2 August, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in lower Sagaing Division and rain have been isolated in Magway Division, scattered in Kayah State and upper Sagaing Division and widespread in the remaining states and divisions with locally heavy falls in Rakhine State, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions and isolated heavy falls in Kayin and Mon States. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded were Taungus (6.69 inches), Pathein (5.32 inches), Mawlamyine (5.24 inches), Gwa and Dawei (4.72 inches each), Longlon (4.53 inches), Myaungmya (3.98 inches), Kawhlong (3.66 inches), Pyapon (3.27 inches), Thanlwin (3.19 inches) and Bhano (3.03 inches).

Maximum temperature on 1-8-2005 was 85°F. Minimum temperature on 2-8-2005 was 67°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 2-8-2005 was 96%. Total sunshine hours on 1-8-2005 was nil. Rainfalls on 2-8-2005 were 1.65 inches at Mandalay, 2.21 inches at Kaba-Aye, 1.57 inches at central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were 53.42 inches at Mandalay, 54.41 inches at Kaba-Aye and 56.61 inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 10 mph from southwest at (12:45) hours MST on 1-8-2005.

Bay inference: Monsoon is strong to vigorous in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 3-8-2005: Rain will be isolated in lower Sagaing and Magway Divisions, scattered in Kayah and Kayin States, upper Sagaing, Mandalay and Bago Divisions and widespread in the remaining states and divisions with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Rakhine and Mon States, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions. Degree of certainty is 80%.

State of the sea: Squalls with rough seas will likely occur along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) to (40) mph.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Strong monsoon.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 3-8-2005: Intermittent rain with heavy at times. Degree of certainty is 80%.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 3-8-2005: Likelihood of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is 60%.
Head of State Senior General Than Shwe has given guidance on three points, namely, further distribution of quality fries, making further efforts for development of prawn breeding and striving in all seriousness for development of livestock breeding in rural regions for the development of fish and meat sector.

As the five-year projects for development of fish and meat sector have been laid down in states and divisions the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries is now engaged in the tasks for development of fish and meat sector in the nation, for earning more foreign exchange through export of the surplus of fish and meat, for investing more in the fish and meat sector and for enhancing socio-economic life of those who are engaged in development of the fish and meat sector under the leadership of the government.

Rakhine State is at the top in terms of performance in prawn breeding followed by Ayeyawady Division and Yangon Division. In 2004-2005 fiscal year prawn was bred in 155,533 acres of prawn breeding ponds, earning a large amount of foreign exchange.

The Ayeyawady Division, which stands second in prawn breeding, raised prawn in 40,274 acres of prawn breeding ponds in 2004-2005 fiscal year and Yangon Division 9,820.46 acres.

According to Head of Rakhine State Fisheries Department U Soe Thu, altogether 16,126.177 tons of marine products were exported from Rakhine State