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

YANGON, 4 Aug—Prime Minister General Soe Win of the Union of Myanmar received Mr James T Morris, Executive Director of the World Food Programme (WFP) of the United Nations and party, at Zeyathiri Beikman, Konmyinttha, here, at 4.45 pm today.

Also present on the occasion were Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt, Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, Deputy Ministers for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu and U Maung Myint, and Director-General Thura U Aung Htet of the Protocol Department.

At the meeting, they cordially discussed matters on collaboration between the government of Myanmar and UN agencies. — MNA

INSIDE

As the Head of State knows the suffering of the people of the dry zone, he has initiated the water supply project. It is a ten-year project. But up to 89 per cent of the project have been completed at present. We are working harder to complete the project in less than ten years.

Prime Minister General Soe Win receives WFP Executive Director

Prime Minister General Soe Win meeting with Mr James T Morris, Executive Director of the WFP, and party at Zeyathiri Beikman. — MNA

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Upgrade transport facilities to cement relations among national brethren

The government has been building and upgrading roads and bridges large and small in respective regions after laying down projects for ensuring smooth transport the length and breadth of the nation. In compliance with the guidance given by Head of State Senior General Than Shwe, a five-year project is being implemented phase by phase in upgrading 37 roads across the nation from earth roads to gravel ones, and then to tar ones. The transport facilities built by the government are making significant contribution towards regional development, and smooth transport between one region and another and strengthening amicable relations and friendship among the national brethren.

Taungdwingyi-Myothit-Natmauk Road (28 miles) and Ywamon-Zeebyugon-Kyaumpadaung Road (21 miles and 2 furlongs) in Taungdwingyi Township were put into service on 31 July. The tar roads, upgraded from gravel ones, were part of the plan initiated by the Head of State.

The newly-inaugurated Ywamon-Zeebyugon-Kyaumpadaung Road was just a granite one when it was commissioned in 1997. To complete the 12-foot-wide road, many small bridges and culverts had to be constructed along the facility.

In the past, people had to use the 117-mile section of Yangon-Pyay-Mandalay Road to travel from Taungdwingyi to Kyaumpadaung.

Now, it is just 77 miles long, and so it saves 40 miles with the use of the new road section.

Similarly, people had to use 153-mile Pyawbwe-Meiktila-Kyaumpadaung-Yenang-young-Magway Road to travel from Pyawbwe to Magway. Now, they can save 55 miles and two furlongs by using 98-mile Pyawbwe-Ywamon-Natmauk road section.

The emergence of new transport facilities has brought social and economic development to local people, and they are therefore to maintain the facilities for their durability.

In Magway, Minbu and Thayet Districts in Magway Division, roads are being promoted to tar ones, and 180 feet and above long bridges built across the creeks in the region.

The projects for the upgrading of 37 roads implemented under the guidance of the Head of State for smooth transport have helped enhance friendship and relations among the national people and speed up regional development tasks.

PRIZES PRESENTED: Radio Myanmar held the ASEAN Radio Quiz for July 2005 at Myanmar Radio and Television on 2 August morning. The photo shows the winners in the Radio Quiz (from L) — first prize winner Ma Thet Thet Mar of Thingyangyi Township, Ma Nay Yi Win of Dawbon Township, third prize winner Maung Aung Khin Zaw of Thingyangyi Township and consolation prize winner Mi Za Zai Aung of Dagon Myothit (North) Township.

Tasks of greening Bago mountain range inspected

YANGON, 4 Aug — Mandalay Division Director U Kyaw Soe Khang of Arid Zones Greening Department toured Taikton Township and Yamethin Township from 16 to 19 July. On his tour, the director inspected progress of watershed plantations in Hlwabon Reserved Forest, Biyinkyei, Thadson and Indawlay Protected Public Forests, village firewood plantations and others for greening mountain range in 2005-06, and model villages.

The director oversaw functions of the township AFZGs and gave necessary instructions. — MNA

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 look into development tasks in Ayeyawady Division

Commander, Minister look into development tasks in Ayeyawady Division

Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung received Chairman Mr Zhang Sheng Can of Chengda Chemical Engineering Corporation of the People’s Republic of China Mr Zhang Sheng Can and party at the ministry yesterday evening.

They discussed matters related to the paper production and implementation of the project of Yeni pulp plant of the Myanmar Paper and Chemical Industries.

Also present at the call were Deputy Minister Brrg-Gen Thein Tun and managing directors and directors under the departments and industries of the ministry.

Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung receives Chairman Mr Zhang Sheng Can of Chengda Chemical Engineering Corporation of China.

PRIZES PRESENTED: Radio Myanmar held the ASEAN Radio Quiz for July 2005 at Myanmar Radio and Television on 2 August morning. The photo shows the winners in the Radio Quiz (from L) — first prize winner Ma Thet Thet Mar of Thingyangyi Township, Ma Nay Yi Win of Dawbon Township, third prize winner Maung Aung Khin Zaw of Thingyangyi Township and consolation prize winner Mi Za Zai Aung of Dagon Myothit (North) Township.

Commander Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung and Minister Col Thein Nyunt inspect maintenance of Strand Road in Pathein. — MNA

Commander Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung and Minister Col Thein Nyunt inspect maintenance of Strand Road in Pathein.

mider of South West Command Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung together with Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt inspected repair work of Strand Road being carried out by Pathein Township Development Affairs Committee yesterday morning and gave instructions on timely completion of the work.

Next, the commander and the minister inspected measures being taken for proper drainage on both sides of the road and the dredging of the drains with the use of heavy machinery and manpower and gave necessary instructions to officials.

While inspecting greening and beautifying tasks and landscaping being carried out by TDAC in Pathein, the Township Executive Officer and the Engineer In-charge reported relevant facts to the commander and party. The minister then gave instructions on planting of flowers and trees.

Afterwards, the minister visited Kyaukgon Township in the afternoon. The minister heard reports on measures being taken for development affairs tasks with the help of charts presented by Township Executive Officer U Aung Kyaw Moe and Engineer In-charge U Zaw Min Thaik. And the minister made arrangements to fulfill the requirements.

After that, the minister inspected maintenance of roads and greening and beautifying tasks in Kyaukgon Township and left instructions to officials. — MNA
Thailand, Japan reach free trade agreement in principle

BANGKOK, 3 Aug—Thailand and Japan have reached a free trade agreement (FTA) in principle, with controversy rising over its concession on automobile and steel tariffs.

“We have reached a conclusion on a pretty level,” the Bangkok Post on Tuesday quoted the Thai chief negotiator Pisan Manavapat as saying.

Thailand will cut down tariffs from 80 per cent to 60 per cent for Japanese cars with engines over 3,000cc by 2009, while tariffs for auto parts will be reduced to zero by 2011.

Under the FTA framework announced on Monday by both sides, Thailand also immediately waived tariffs for steel unavailable or in short storage on local market and planned to realize duty free for other steel products in eight to 10 years. In return, Japanese cut down tariffs over processed chicken by half to 3 per cent and immediately liberalized trade in processed shrimp, fresh vegetable and fruit, canned fruit and juice.

A formal agreement will be signed in April next year following the approval by the Japanese Parliament and related terms will take effect in next few weeks. So far, trade officials of both countries are still negotiating details of the free trade agreement, trying to include more items under the FTA framework, such as cars with small engine, Thai textile and shoes etc.

The Thai-Japanese FTA framework completed over years of negotiation is expected to boost bilateral trade, which totalled 36 billion US dollars in last year and some 20.5 billion dollars in the first half of this year.

US, China strategic dialogue “useful”

BEIJING, 3 Aug—The first strategic dialogue between the United States and China is “useful”, and the discussion is “open” and “transparent”, said US Deputy Secretary of State Robert Zoellick here on Tuesday.

Zoellick told the Press that the two sides exchanged views on US-China relations and international and regional issues of common concern.

The US side thinks that China enjoys rapid development and increasing international influence, he said, noting that the United States and China have broad common interest, and the two countries should reduce differences and strengthen cooperation.—MNA/Xinhua

ADB experts discuss new lending strategy for Asian cities

MANILA, 3 Aug—With some 250 billion US dollars per year needed to meet infrastructure investment to support urban growth in Asian cities over the next 25 years, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) needs to boost its infrastructure lending, a senior ADB official told a meeting here on Tuesday.

Bindu Lohani, Director General of ADB’s Regional and Sustainable Development Department, said: “Urbanization has the potential to bring substantial economic and social benefits to the Asia and Pacific Region.”

“This is a great potential, each city must establish a collective vision for its future, develop a carefully planned and fully resourced strategy to achieve it, and mobilize the political will and managerial capacity to implement it,” Lohani added.

Speaking to urban development experts from across Asia last week, Lohani said urban infrastructure needs far outstrip the levels of investment coming into Asia. From 2005 to 2010, ADB expects demands for investments in infrastructure to increase further, mainly in transport, energy, water supply and wastewater in its developing member countries (DMCs), Lohani said at Tuesday’s meeting.

ADB must also explore new lending avenues, given that decentralization has shifted major service responsibilities to local governments while the finances remain with central governments, Lohani said.—MNA/Xinhua

Hunan Province hit by droughts

CHANGSHA, 3 Aug—The continuous high temperature causes severe drought in Hunan, bringing about water shortage to the central China Province, said the Provincial Flood Control and Drought Relief Headquarters here on Tuesday.

As of Tuesday, 81 counties of 11 cities and prefectures in Hunan are greatly affected by the droughts. The famous tourism city of Zhangjiajie suffers the most serious water shortage in the province.

The continuous droughts have brought difficulties to the drinking water supply to 300,000 people and 50,000 livestock in the city.

About 70 small reservoirs in the city are on the verge of drying up and 137 rivers and streams had no water flow since June.—MNA/Xinhua

Two to three typhoons to slash China in August

BEIJING, 3 Aug—China would receive two to three typhoons in August, after typhoon Haitang had wrecked havoc at southeast China in mid-July, meteorologists said on Tuesday.

Five to six tropical cyclones or typhoons would be formed at the northwestern Pacific and South China Sea in August and two to five of them were expected to land at the coastal areas in southeast China, said Wang Yongguang, an engineer with China Meteorological Administration. The No 9 tropical cyclone Matas was formed Sunday at the ocean to the east of Philippines and was moving towards China’s southeastern coastal areas at a speed of 20 kilometers per hour. The first typhoon landing at China came about one month later this year than the previous years. The first typhoon Haitang landed at the island province of Taiwan on 18 July, in contrast with the normal typhoon season starting from mid-June and ending at mid-October.—MNA/Xinhua

Marines bearing brunt in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 3 Aug—The loss of 21 Marines over three days in Iraq is a stark reminder that the service has borne more than its proportional share of casualties there. Since the war began in 2003, Marines have accounted for less than 20 percent of the 138,000 US troops in Iraq. But about 30 percent of US troops killed and wounded have been Marines.

Fourteen Marines and a civilian translator died near Haditha on Wednesday when their amphibious assault vehicle was hit by an explosive device. That followed the deaths Monday of seven Marines including six snipers ambushed in the same area.

Veteran Marines were particularly chagrined by the latter incident, which they said constituted the worst single loss of snipers in memory and must have been the result of a perfect ambush.

“I can't remember reading or hearing of that many snipers being killed,” said retired Gunnery Sgt. Jack Coughlin, who published a book on his experiences in Iraq, Shooter: The Autobiography of the Top-Ranked Marine Sniper. “It seems like they were completely overwhelmed immediately and taken by surprise,” Mr Coughlin said. “My guess is they all must have been hit within the first 10 to 15 seconds of the battle.” Army Brig Gen Carter Ham, deputy director for regional operations on the Pentagon’s Joint Staff, told reporters that details were still being gathered on the incidents, including what kind of explosive device destroyed the amphibious assault vehicle. —Internet
Six parties continue discussing common document

BEIJING, 3 Aug—Negotiators to the six-party talks will continue exchanging views on the latest draft common document in their bilateral meetings on Wednesday morning to seek a possible agreement as the negotiation on the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue inch into the ninth day.

Hill said he was satisfied with China’s latest draft, saying though the other sides may look at it differently, “it is a good draft” and a “negotiated document.”

The delegation of North Korea, another major part in the talks, made its first open statement on the current talks Tuesday afternoon.

North Korean delegation head Kim Kyegwan said, his delegation had hours of consultations with the US delegation over past days. “Though there are disagreements between the two, we wish to be able to compromise the differences and achieve a result in the talks,” he said.

Kim, also Vice-Foreign Minister of North Korea, said, “It is well known that our stance is whether we are going to give up our nuclear weapons and nuclear arms programme depends on whether the United States will remove its nuclear threat against North Korea and build up mutual understanding between our two sides.”

MNA/Xinhua

Thai account to gain surplus in Q4

BANGKOK, 3 Aug—Thailand’s current account is likely to gain surplus in the fourth quarter as the trade balance and the tourism industry are expected to improve, the Bank of Thailand has said.

During the second half of the year, the current account will turn to surplus with the increase of export and the slowdown of import, said Atchana Waqiamande, assistant governor of the central bank.

Likewise, the service and transfer account are also expected to record a surplus since tourism will enter a high season at the end of the year and overseas dividend payment will decline, she was quoted on Tuesday by the Bangkok Post as saying.

India, South Korea deepen bilateral ties

NEW DELHI, 3 Aug—India and South Korea on Tuesday agreed to deepen their bilateral engagement and expand cooperation in various areas, including economic relations, defence, security and science and technology.

At a meeting between Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and South Korean Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Ban Ki-Moon here Tuesday, both sides discussed the entire range of bilateral issues, with focus on investment.

“I was a very friendly, warm and cordial meeting. Dynamic growth has been observed in all sectors, including economic relations, commercial relations, defence, security, science and technology and investment,” External Affairs Ministry spokesman Navtej Sarna said.

It was also clear that both the two countries are set to grow further with the two countries deciding to boost bilateral trade to 10 billion US dollars by 2008. The two countries signed an agreement on visa exemption for diplomatic and official passport holders after the fourth India-South Korea joint commission meeting concluded here Monday.

The flow of investment from South Korea has accelerated, resulting in more South Korean companies coming to invest in India. The two countries have agreed to step up efforts to promote foreign direct investment.

“The two sides agreed to hold the second meeting of India-South Korea Joint Committee on Investment Promotion in India later this year,” Sarna said.

Singapore officially launches competition commission

SINGAPORE, 3 Aug—The Competition Commission of Singapore (CCS) was officially launched on Tuesday to help form a fair business environment for all companies operating here.

“It’s mission is to administer and enforce the Competition Law so as to promote healthy competitive markets that will benefit the Singapore economy,” said Minister for Trade and Industry Lim Hng Kiang at the launching ceremony.

Nepali authorities let off mysterious Austrian plane

KATHMANDU, 3 Aug—Nepali authorities on Tuesday let off the mysterious Austrian plane that ventured into the Nepali airspace on Monday without prior permission and was forced to land at the Tribhuvan International Airport (TIA).

An 11-member probe involving officials from the Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal, Immigration, Customs, Royal Nepali Army and Nepal Police was formed to probe the incident, which is first of its kind in the history of Nepali aviation, a statement issued by the TIA Civil Aviation Office said here Tuesday.

After investigation, officials said they did not find any “sensitive item” in the aircraft from security point of view, the statement noted. The crew members of the private Austrian jet have said they flew over the Nepali air space as they wanted to “view Mt.Everest,” according to the statement. The aircraft was en route to the Indian capital of New Delhi from Lilabari of Indian state of Assam, the statement said. — MNA/Xinhua

Two Iraq veterans commit suicide near Fort Hood

FORT HOOD (Texas), 3 Aug—Two young Fort Hood soldiers who served in the Iraq war have killed themselves in separate incidents in Killeen since the weekend, post officials said on Wednesday.

Sgt Robert Decouteaux, 24, of Rosedale, NY, died on Saturday from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. He had been airlifted from his home to a Temple hospital for emergency surgery, but he died while doctors tried to save his life.

And on Monday morning, Spc Robert Hunt, 22, of Houston, was found dead in his apartment by Killeen police, who were alerted after members of his unit tried to contact him when he failed to report to work.

Carol Smith, a Killeen police spokeswoman, said on Wednesday that Hunt’s cause of death was listed as asphyxiation. Decouteaux, a soldier for five years, was an M-1 tank mechanic assigned to the 4th Infantry Division.

Fort Hood spokesman Dan Hassett said Decouteaux served in Iraq from April 2003 to March 2004, and that he was scheduled to redeploy when the division returns to the war zone beginning this fall.

Hunt, a radio operator-maintainer, joined the Army as a teenager in 2001 and had been assigned to Fort Hood since August 2003.

He deployed to Iraq for a year-long tour in March 2004 as part of the 1st Cavalry Division. — Internet

Xin Fuchun, a 63-year-old Chinese farmer, draws a Beijing Opera mask on a gourd shell at his home in Yangu County, east China's Shandong Province on 4 August, 2005. The works sell from ten RMB ($1.2) to 100 RMB ($12). — Internet
Parts of Mumbai still flooded, more rain expected

MUMBAI, 3 Aug—Transport in Mumbai resumed near-normal service on Tuesday as heavy monsoon rains finally let up around India's financial capital, but parts of the city remained under water.

Weather officials forecast more rains, but said they did not expect it to be on the scale that wrought death and destruction in the sprawling metropolis last week.

Officials said 942 people died in last week's floods in the western state of Maharashtra, including 429 in the capital Mumbai due to landslides, drowning and electrocution in floodwater. A further 109 people were injured in the state and 59 were missing.

More rain and floods on Monday closed key roads and delayed trains in Mumbai, a city of more than 15 million people.

“We expect a decline in the rainfall activity in Maharashtra on Tuesday, with only coastal areas of the state getting heavy rains,” said an official of the India Meteorological Department.

Indonesia’s fiscal policy in mining still unattractive

JAKARTA, 3 Aug—The Indonesian Government's fiscal policy in mining sector has yet to succeed in persuading foreign companies to invest in the country, the Indonesian Mining Association (IMA) said here on Monday.

“Since 1998, no new investor has entered the mining sector in Indonesia. There are only long standing investors who work in cooperation with local investors to optimize the exploitation of old mines,” said Jeffrey Mulyono, chairman of the association.

Citing an example, he said fiscal rules in coal mining stipulated that taxation policy would be imposed for working contract until the expiration of the contract. “But now, it seems that any changes in tax regulation would be followed by changes in the contract,” Jeffrey who was quoted by the Antara news agency as saying.

In such a long term investment in mining sector, he said, businessmen would calculate the cost of taxes over the next 25 years.

Another discouraging fiscal policy was a regulation which excluded coal and gold bars from the tax target. "In other countries, both products are subject to tax thus it become more attractive".

Jeffrey called on the government to approve the draft law on policy in energy in a bid to ensure continuity of investment.

Pentagon denies US Marine seized in Iraq

DUBAI, 4 Aug — An Iraqi guerilla group posted a video tape on Wednesday of what it said was an attack on US Marines, but appeared to show an earlier claim that it had captured one of them.

The Pentagon had swiftly denied the Internet claim by the Army of Ansar Al-Sunna that a Marine had been seized. “I don’t have anything to suggest that is accurate. I have no indication that there are any unaccounted-for personnel,” Defence Department spokesman Bryan Whitman told reporters.

The group had earlier said on its web site that it would issue pictures of a Marine it said had been captured in an ambush near the town of Haditha, northwest of Baghdad. But a video later posted by the group on the same web site only showed the body of what it said was a US Marine killed in the ambush.

The group said eight Marines were killed in the attack, but did not give the date of the ambush.

Suicide bomber kills at least six in Mosul

MOSSUL, Iraq, 3 Aug—A suicide bomber rammed his car into a police vehicle in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul, killing at least five policemen and one child, hospital and police sources said.

The attack at a police checkpoint on a road leading south from Mosul to Baghdad also wounded eight people, including two policemen, the sources said.

Suicide bombers, mostly Arab Muslim militants, have killed hundreds of Iraqi police and security forces in a bid to topple the US-backed government.

Iran says resumption of nuclear work irreversible

TEHERAN, 3 Aug—Iran said on Tuesday its decision to resume activities at a sensitive nuclear plant near the central city of Isfahan was irreversible.

Two years of hard bargaining over a nuclear programme that Teheran had kept secret for 18 years appeared to be heading towards a crisis that could see Iran's case sent to the United Nations Security Council for possible sanctions.

The so-called EU3 of Britain, France and Germany have been trying to mediate between the United States, which insists Iran is trying to produce nuclear weapons, and the Islamic Republic, which says it has a right to develop atomic technology for power generation.

"The political decision has been taken... The resumption is irreversible," Supreme National Security Council spokesman Ali Aghamohammadi told Reuters.

US Marines inspect the remains of a vehicle destroyed by a roadside bomb on Wednesday, killing 14 Marines and a civilian interpreter in Barwana, near Haditha, Iraq, on 4 Aug, 2005. This was the deadliest roadside bombing suffered by American forces in the Iraq war.—INTERNET

China to promote relations with Vietnam

BEIJING, 3 Aug — China is ready to make joint efforts with Vietnam to further promote bilateral ties, Jia Qinglin, head of China's top advisory body, said on Tuesday.

Jia, chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), made the remarks in a meeting with Do Duy Thuong, vice chairman of Presidium of Central Committee of the Vietnam Fatherland Front (VFF).

Jia said China and Vietnam, as two close neighbours, enjoy long-term friendship between the two peoples. China-Vietnam relations achieved quite a great progress in the past few decades and continue to move forward in the new century.

The two sides maintain frequent high-level visits, increasingly deepen the political mutual trust, and make fruitful cooperation in various fields, Jia said.

Vietnamese President Tran Duc Luong paid a state visit to China last month. During his stay in Beijing, Luong and Chinese President Hu Jintao reached important consensus on further cementing and promoting bilateral relations. The two sides issued the joint communiqué, pointing out right direction for the development of the China-Vietnam relations, said Jia.

"Further enhancing China-Vietnam friendship accords with fundamental interests of the two countries, and is conducive to peace and stability of the region and the world at large," he said, noting that China attaches importance to relations with Vietnam, and is willing to work with Vietnam to push forward the China-Vietnam relations.

Jia expressed his appreciation for Vietnam's adherence to the one-China policy and support to China's reunification.

Jia called for the CPPCC and the VPF to further expand exchanges, in a bid to play more active role in increasing understanding between the two peoples and promoting the bilateral ties.— MNA/Xinhua

INTERNET
Malaysian Government to establish industry-driven forum for SMEs

KUALA LUMPUR, 3 Aug—The Malaysian Government will establish an industry-driven forum as a venue for the exchange of information for small and medium scale enterprises (SMEs), Deputy Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak said on Tuesday.

The forum will involve entrepreneurs, researchers, financiers and relevant government agencies, who can take this opportunity to swap information on best business practices, new market and technology trends, challenges and opportunities on SMEs, Razak said at the opening ceremony of Asian SME Convention 2005 here.

The active involvement of industry associations, chambers of commerce, research institutes and financial institutions will help create a vibrant entrepreneurial community, which is very important for the healthy growth of SMEs, Razak said.

A newly established SME bank, which will begin operation soon, will further promote the development of SMEs in Malaysia, Razak said.

The bank is dedicated to the financial and non-financial services for the SMEs. To cite some of its services, it will be responsible for the creation of an entrepreneurial community, provide guarantees for loans granted by banking institutions and offer credit ratings as well as business analysis on SMEs.

Vietnam’s bicycle export falls in first 7 months

HANOI, 4 Aug—Vietnam exported 101 million US dollars’ worth of bicycles and their spare parts in the first 7 months of this year, down 29.5 per cent over the same period last year.

In July, the country shipped 10 million dollars’ worth of the products to 40 countries and regions, including the United Kingdom, Germany, Austria and Canada, according to the Vietnamese Trade Ministry on Wednesday.

The local bicycle industry is facing export difficulties, because the European Union, the biggest importer of Vietnamese bicycles and their spare parts, has recently imposed anti-dumping tariffs of 15.8-34.5 per cent on the local products.

Due to the tariffs, export revenues of Vietnamese bicycles are forecast to drop 30-50 per cent this year.

NBA star LeBron James of the Cleveland Cavaliers listens to emcee David Wu (R) during a Press conference in Beijing on 4 August, 2005. LeBron James kicked off the China leg of his 2005 Asia Tour which aims to create a cultural basketball exchange among Asian youth.—INTERNET

Foreign countries not allowed to send warships in Malacca Strait

JAKARTA, 3 Aug—Indonesian Defence Minister Juwono Sudarsono said here Tuesday that foreign countries, which do not include in coordinated patrol in the Malacca Strait, cannot send their warships or troops in the busiest lane.

The minister said that foreign countries could participate in the security of the strait by assisting a technical assistance but not directly involve in securing the line. "It should be prevented other countries present their warships and troops there," he said. "We want the assistance not to disturb the sovereignty of the three countries (Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore) in safeguarding the Strait," he said.

The minister also said that Indonesia asked to beef up coordination in handling the security on the strait, as the foreign ministers from Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore are discussing the security of the strait, and military commanders from the ASEAN countries are having a meeting to discuss the issue in Kuala Lumpur now.

The piracy and robbery have been escalated in the strait recently. Some 50,000 ships, carrying one third of world trade material, pass through the narrow 965 kilometres length strait a year, making it one of the world’s busiest waterways.—MNA/Xinhua

Hu Jintao mourns death of Saudi King

BEIJING, 3 Aug—Chinese President Hu Jintao on Monday mourned the passing of Saudi King Fahd Ibn Abdul-Aziz and welcomed the naming of Crown Prince Abdullah Ibn Abdul-Aziz as the new King, people.

In a message of congratulations to the newly-appointed King Abdullah, Hu expressed his deep condolences over the death of King Fahd, calling the late monarch a great leader of Saudi Arabia and an old esteemed friend of the Chinese people.

King Fahd “has made an important contribution to the construction of a modern Saudi Arabia, the development of the Saudi national economy, and peace and development in the region and the world as a whole”, Hu said, noting that his efforts have been widely praised around the world.

Hu also paid tribute to King Fahd’s efforts to promote the friendly relations with Saudi Arabia, which were highly praised by the Chinese leader.

The Chinese leader also highly praised the importance the new King has consistently attached to the development of the Sino-Saudi relations. MNA/Xinhua

Malaysia Strait nations plan air patrols in September

KUALA LUMPUR, 3 Aug—Three nations bordering the Malacca Strait plan to conduct air patrols over the strategic waterway starting next month to help fight piracy and any terrorist threat, officials said on Tuesday.

Defence Chiefs from the three littoral states of Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore told a news conference the “eyes in the sky” plan would increase security in one of the world’s busiest seaways. “We have to act now”, Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Najib Razak told reporters after a meeting of defence officials on security in the strait. “We have to prevent something more serious, more sinister from happening.”

Najib, who is also Defence Minister, said Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore will initially deploy their own maritime aircraft for surveillance. He said planes offered by other countries would have to be manned by military officials from the three nations.

Japan, the United States, and lately, China, have offered assistance, but Malaysia and Indonesia have opposed foreign military involvement in the Strait, citing concerns over territorial sovereignty. “We need more resources to ensure the level of security of the Strait of Malacca,” Najib said. “The only way we can do it is to engage the international community, but not at the expense of principles of national sovereignty and territorial integrity.”

Thailand, which also attended the meeting, said it needed more time to consider the proposal for an air surveillance over the strait, which carries a quarter of global trade and nearly all the oil imports of Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and China.—MNA/Reuters

China scraps export rebate policy for manganese

BEIJING, 3 Aug—China scrapped export rebate policy for manganese and related products starting Monday in a bid to help increase domestic supply and reduce prices, China Securities Journal reported.

Industry insiders believe that the move is part of the government’s efforts to restrain exports of manganese and related products in order to crack down on rampant exploration of manganese to better protect the country’s mineral resources, the paper said on Monday.

Manganese is an essential material in steelmaking, and 90 to 95 per cent of manganese produced by the country are used in the iron and steel industry.

China used to impose a 17-per-cent value-added tax on manganese products and exporters enjoyed a 13-per-cent export tax rebate policy. —MNA/Xinhua

NBA star LeBron James of the Cleveland Cavaliers listens to emcee David Wu (R) during a Press conference in Beijing on 4 August, 2005. LeBron James kicked off the China leg of his 2005 Asia Tour which aims to create a cultural basketball exchange among Asian youth. —INTERNET

Singapore police arrest Internet pirates

SINGAPORE, 4 Aug—Singapore police on Tuesday arrested four men and a woman who had sold pirated optical discs and other materials on the Internet, Channel NewsAsia reported.

The five pirates, aged between 23 and 41 years old, were caught at their homes, along with some 1,600 discs and other equipment. —MNA/Xinhua

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Industry insiders believe that the move is part of the government’s efforts to restrain exports of manganese and related products in order to crack down on rampant exploration of manganese to better protect the country’s mineral resources, the paper said on Monday.

Manganese is an essential material in steelmaking, and 90 to 95 per cent of manganese produced by the country are used in the iron and steel industry.

China used to impose a 17-per-cent value-added tax on manganese products and exporters enjoyed a 13-per-cent export tax rebate policy. —MNA/Xinhua
"See, the tube-well is producing water as usual again after the pipe has been cleaned. I can imagine the delight of the entire village as they were when they were drilling of the tube-well started. You are so good at your work."

Maung Pyone Cho of Kanbauksu village, Pakokku township, praised engineer U Aye Ko of Pakokku Township Development Affairs Committee, who cleaned the pipe of the tube-well. Maung Pyone Cho was a member of the village water supply committee.

"It’s only a common problem. As water was pumped again and again, sand in the underground spring came to block the pipe. Thus, water pumped from the tube-well became less and less. When sand in the sieve of the pipe was removed with the use of air-compressor, water output has become normal."

"If you do regular inspection and maintenance, its pumping capacity will not dwindle. We have already taught you all the basic requirements of pump maintenance. The course. You should always check the pipe and the pump to inform us of any default as soon as you notice it."

there comes Chairman Grandpa Phyo of the village water supply committee."

"Mr Engineer! Is everything going well. Villagers were worried as the tube-well was pro-
ducing less water. As the monsoon has not arrived yet, the whole village is relying on the well. Is the machine functioning properly now?"

"Yes, Grandpa. As I have already blown off the sand dust blocking the sieve of the pipe, the well is starting to produce water as usual. I have also explained Maung Pyone Cho about the problem. As he is always inspecting and repairing the pump, it has no default. You must change lubricant regularly and use clean engine oil for durability of the machine."

"Maung Pyone Cho is good at handling and maintaining the machine. He is doing his work according to the method you have taught him at the course. He has also imparted knowledge to other members of the tube-well maintenance team."

"How clever and worthy he is! Please do generous they are!"

"Thanks to the government’s assistance and encouragement and emergence of a large number of donors, many of the villages in the dry regions are now free from facing water shortages."

"I wish all donors again merits. By the way, how is the Development Affairs Department managing and using the do-
nated funds in drilling tube-wells in the rural ar-
eas."

"The funds we received from donors up to the ninth ceremony were used in erecting 1,793 water supply facilities in 1,600 villages — 1,313 villages in the three dry divisions and 287 vil-
lages in other states and divisions. The DAD also built 14,401 water supply facilities in 9,999 villages — 4,904 villages in dry regions and 5,095 villages in other states and divisions — with the State financial assistance and its own contributions."

"The local social organ-
zations and interna-
tional organizations have also implemented 10,044 mini-water supply projects in 7,152 villages of the dry zone and 10,430 mini-water supply projects in 7,157 villages of the dry zone and 10,044 mini-water supply projects in 7,157 villages of the dry zone and 10,430 mini-water supply projects in 7,157 villages of the dry zone."

"Be rest assured, Grandpa. I pledge that our section will do its best for durability of the water supply facilities some of them built with the generous donations of the wellwishers."

(Translation: TMT)  
Myanma Alinn, Kyemon 4-8-2005
Guarding against the danger posed by internal and external destructive elements through united strength of the people

In conclusion, he called for guarding against the danger posed by internal and external destructive elements through united strength of the people.

Afterwards, Lashio Township Union Solidarity and Development Association Executive U Sai Aung Nyunt seconded the motion on guarding against the danger posed by destructionists through the united strength of the people tabled by Shan State (North) Women’s Affairs Member Dr Daw Nan Soe Soe Aung and Lashio USA Member U Sai Hla Tun.

Next, Lashio Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association Secretary Dr Daw Ni Nang Soe Aung.

According to the guidance of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe, those who have the concept of Our Three Main National Causes — Non-disintegration of the Union, Non-disintegration of the National solidarity, Perpetuation of Sovereignty — can develop the nation and safeguard the Union.

However, following the instructions of offensive persons from abroad, a group led by expatriate Siao Hkm Hpa declared the secession of Shan State from the Union. In conclusion, Daw Nann Soe Soe Aung declared that all the national people in Shan State will never accept the secession from the Union.

Afterwards, Representative of Lashio Township USDA U Sai Hla Tun said that NLD (LA), SNLD, SURA, ABSDF, NCGUB, FTUB, KNPP, SSA led by Ywet Sit, SSNA led by Sai Yi and a group led expatriate Siao Hkm Hpa has attempted to disintegrate the Union. In an attempt to discredit the State, the exile groups and destructionists created fabricated news. Especially, Pyithit Nyunt Wai (a) Maung Maung has made false accusations against the government. In the pretext of democracy and human rights, NCGUB led by Expatriate Sein Win has invited the people to come out to stage strike.

“From smooth transportation in Shan State (North) (South) and (East), Takaw-at and Tapa bridges across Thanlwin River and Dokhtawady Bridge have been constructed in the region. Moreover, the government also constructed Aungban-Pinlaung-Loi kaw, Shwenyaung-Yaksaw, Shwenyaung-Taunggyi railroads and other railroad sections.

The national races in Shan State enjoy the peace and development. With global countries including neighbouring ones and never interfere in the internal affairs of other countries. Besides, Myanmar never commits the instigation that can damage the interests of others. In the same way, Myanmar people do not accept the interference of other countries endangering the perpetuation of sovereignty of the nation and they are determined to shape the fate of the nation and people. Myanmar people are making efforts for.”

(See page 9)
Objective of the 13th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions

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

development of the nation with the own strength of the citizens without asking for the assistance of others.

The infrastructures have been constructed in momentum for the good political, economic and social conditions with a view to building a developed nation.

She said that the government is implementing the project of the 24 special development zones to develop the border areas and national races, narrow the development gap and equally develop the length and breadth of the nation. In a decade, the infrastructures including dams, bridges, railroads, new runways, universities, colleges and basic education schools, could be built with the strength of the intellectuals and intelligentsia in the nation. Laying down the seven-point Road Map, the government is implementing it for the emergence of the democratic nation and it is not so far to reach the developed and discipline-flourishing country.

In conclusion, she said that it is sure to reach the goal of the State and people sooner if all national people including social organizations join in under the good leadership and, goodwill of the government.

It is sure to reach swiftly the goal of the State and people if all national people including social organizations, join in under the goodwill and good leadership of the government.

Myanmar people are making efforts for development of the nation with the own strength of the citizens without testing for the assistance of others.

Next, Shan State (North) War Veterans Organization Supervisory Committee Member Sergeant Aung Kyi (Retd) continued to present the report.

In spite of the mountainous region, food has been sufficient thanks to the goodwill of the officials of the State, encouragement of local authorities and efforts of the personnel and farmers.

We have complimented the local cultivators for growing of high-yield Hsin Shweli hybrid-paddy to produce over 200 baskets per acre with the use of modern technique and in addition, we have been striving for boosting production of other crops, he noted.

Rural health care services and Lashio People’s Hospital have been upgraded. In higher education sector, technical college and computer college have been opened to provide access to higher education for local students. Thanks to the goodwill of the State, nurses training school, handicraft training school and vocational training school had been opened as well, he said.

To sum up, we will have to strive for successful realization of seven-point Road Map and emergence of a new discipline-flourishing democratic nation in collaboration with the government.

Afterwards, Daw Nan San San Myat of Lashio Township USDA seconded the two motions, tabled by Dr Ni Ni Tun of Lashio Township MCWCA and Sgt Aung Kyi (Retd) of Shan State (North) WVO.

The meeting chairman then sought the approval of the mass meeting that passed the two resolutions and the meeting ended with chanting of slogans.— MNA
**Poll shows Americans anxious about US foreign policy**

**WASHINGTON, 4 Aug** — Americans are anxious about the direction of US foreign policy and how the country is perceived overseas and a majority believe the government has been too quick to go to war, a survey released on Tuesday said.

“Contrary to conventional wisdom that the American public doesn’t know and doesn’t care how it is seen abroad, strong majorities believe the US image overseas is suffering and ‘large majorities are worried about it,’” the survey concluded.

Some 63 per cent of Americans say the charge that the United States has been too quick to go to war is justified and three-quarters worry about losing trust abroad and about the growing hatred of the United States in Muslim countries, it said. “So far, public thinking is a disquieting mix of high anxiety, growing uncertainty about current policy and virtually no consensus about whether the country might do,” the survey concluded.

The national survey of 1,004 American adults between June 1 and June 13 was conducted by the Public Agenda, a non-profit organization dedicated to public policy research, in conjunction with Foreign Affairs magazine, which is published by the Council on Foreign Relations.

It was funded by the Ford Foundation and is intended to be the first in a series of surveys designed to produce a “foreign policy index” that measures long-term US thinking on foreign policy.

Dan Yankelovich, Public Agenda’s chairman, declined to describe the results as a reprimand of the Bush Administration but said “there is definitely dissatisfaction ... a feeling that we’re not on the right track.”

Although much of the concern focused on Iraq and US relations with Muslim countries, the survey found that the problems of illegal immigration and the outsourcing of American jobs overseas also resonated strongly with the public.—**MNA/Reuters**

**Malaysia to introduce smart schools to rural areas**

**KUALA LUMPUR, 4 Aug** — Malaysia will expand its smart school concept, which was introduced in 1996 to bring out students with critical and creative thinking, to the country’s rural areas, a senior Malaysian education official said here on Tuesday.

The definition of the smart schools for the rural areas, whose learning and teaching process as well as administration are designed to help students face the future, he told reporters after launching a new project aimed to help students face the future and modern challenges of the Information Age, would cover the teaching process as well as administration tasks in schools here.

Next, Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko together with Lt-Col Win Bo of Falam Station and Falam District PDC Lt-Col Huay Aung encouraged the members in cooperation with the local people carrying out cleaning tasks in canal of Ngasitbar hydel power plant which is distributing electricity to Falam Township.

With the supervision of Township PDC U Thein Zaw and Secretary U Tan Aung, 150 members and 150 local people totalling 300 collectively performed public welfare activities.

The canal of Ngasitba hydel power plant is 8,930 feet in length. Its width is four feet and its height is three feet. The dam holds 250,000 gallons of water and its height is nine feet.

The following day, Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko arrived at Kale, Kale District, Sagaing Division. Next, he together with Brig-Gen Kyaw Oo Lwin of Kale Station, Police Col Tin Maung Maung of Sagaing Division Police Force, Chairman of Kale District PDC Lt-Col Aung Moe Myint and officials went to Kale Township Mahasi Monastery and supplicated religious affairs to Member of Sagaing Division Sangha Nayaka Committee Presiding Sayadaw of Mahasi Monastery Bhuddanta Aggasara and members of Sangha.

**Breastfeeding for All Mothers**

- Human or breast milk
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- With protein, vitamins and minerals in it
- Plus protective factors and fatty acid
- Coming straight from mom’s breast
- For infants, easy to digest
- Enables them to fight many illnesses
- And raises their level of intelligence
- Breastfeeding mothers
- From childbirth and pregnancy, quickly recover
- Get lifelong health advantages
- With savings in time, labour and expenses
- Breastfeeding’s best part
- Holding baby close to mom's heart
- The time just starts
- To get a special love string knotted fast

**Staff families donate blood**

**YANGON, 4 Aug** — A 100-staff family members from the Auditor-General’s Office collected blood for 11th time at National Blood Unit this morning.

Director-General of Auditor-General’s Office U Myo Myint and officials, Medical Superintendent of Yangon General Hospital Dr Daw Nu Nu Tha, Dr Thida Aung of NBU and officials concerned encouraged the blood donors.

**Sarpay Beikman manuscript award winning books out**

**YANGON, 4 Aug** — Printing and Publishing Enterprise under the Ministry of Information is publishing the Sarpay Beikman manuscript award winning books.

The books may be bought at Sarpay Beikman Book shops in Yangon and Mandalay and sale agents in Yangon and others. — **MNA**
MOC Chairman’s Cup Special Tune-up Match held, Myanmar League for 2005-06 commences

YANGON, 4 Aug — Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint delivered an address at the ceremony to commence the MOC Chairman’s Cup Special Tune-up Match and Myanmar League for 2005-06 at Youth Training Centre (Thuwunna) this evening.

Also present on the occasion were officials of the Ministry of Sports, Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee, President of Myanmar Football Federation U Zaw Zaw (Max Myanmar) and executives, officials of sports federations and others.

Before the opening ceremony, vocalists Zaw Win Htut, Tu Tu, Hsaung Oo Hlaing, Ei Toe, May Khalar, Corny, Tin Zar Maw, Hson Thin Par, Yuzana, Shwe Htaik, Ar Mu, Nang Myat Thandar Ko and others presented stereo songs to the accompaniment of Emperor Band.

Next, all the football teams took the designated places. The minister delivered an address. Afterwards, Finance and Revenue team and Commerce team played the special tune-up match and the former beat the latter 3-0.

At the prize presentation ceremony, President of MFF U Zaw Zaw gave away the trophy and K 100,000 to man of the match award winner Yan Paing of Finance and Revenue; and MOC General Secretary Director-General of Sports and Physical Education Department U Thaung Htaik presented trophy and K 500,000 to Commerce team.

Later, Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint awarded trophy and K 1 million to Finance and Revenue team.

Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint addresses opening ceremony of Myanmar League for 2005-06 football season— MNA

Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint presents trophy to Finance and Revenue Team.— NLM

Myanmar swimming team leaves for Thailand

YANGON, 4 Aug — Under the programme of Asian Olympic Council to turn out Asian outstanding youth swimmers, the 4th Asian Youth Age-wise Swimming Championship will be held in Bangkok, Thailand. The Myanmar swimming team left here for Thailand to participate in the championship by air this evening. They were seen off at Yangon International Airport by Vice-President of Myanmar Swimming Federation U Han Tun Maung, Assistant Director of Sports and Physical Education Department U Kyaw Oo and officials and families.

Myanmar swimming squad comprises Joint-Secretary of MSF Manager-cum-Coach U Myint Lwin, swimmers Ye Myint Hein (SPEI) and Hnin Hnin Ei (Federation).— NLM

Myanmar swimming team seen at the airport before departure for Bangkok. — NLM
Ahmadinejad becomes Iran's President

TEHERAN, 3 Aug—Conservative Mahmoud Ahmadinejad became Iran's new president on Wednesday, taking power amid international turmoil over Teheran's nuclear ambitions and his own past.

The 48-year-old conservative former mayor of Teheran, deeply loyal to the values of Iran's 1979 Islamic revolution, won a landslide election victory in June and was appointed president by Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

"I therefore ... approve the vote of the nation and appoint Dr. Mahmoud Ahmadinejad as the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran," said a text by Khamenei read out at an official ceremony by outgoing reformist President Mohammad Khatami.

Ahmadinejad takes the reins a little closer to possible UN Security Council sanctions over its nuclear programme, which Washington is a smoke-screen for building atomic bombs. Teheran insists its ambitions are peaceful.

In order to break this impasse, US diplomats have been trying to get Iran to surrender its nuclear fuel work in return for economic incentives.

But Iran says such a compromise is unacceptable and that it will resume part of the nuclear fuel cycle, a move that threatens to end EU mediation.

MNA/Reuters

US weather agency warns more hurricanes this year

WASHINGTON, 3 Aug—This year will see much more tropical storms and hurricanes that could threaten US eastern and Gulf coasts, US weather agency warned here on Tuesday.

US Weather Service Director David L. Johnson said in a news briefing that based on the latest analysis, there will probably be as many as 21 tropical storms, including 11 hurricanes, in this year's Atlantic hurricane season, which lasts from 1 June to 30 November every year.

The figure matches the record number of 21 tropical storms in 1933.

There have already been 7 tropical storms this year, two of them hurricanes.

Johnson urged inhabitants living in the hurricane-prone areas in the eastern and Gulf coasts to be better prepared for enhanced threats.

However, he declined to predict how many tropical storms or hurricanes will hit the country this year and how big and how long they will be. But based on historical records, during an especially active season such as this one, usually there will be two to three hurricanes striking the United States.

One thing is clear that hurricanes have become increasingly destructive since 1995, with duration and speed rising by 50 per cent a phenomenon attributed by many experts to global warming.

In last early month, Hurricane Dennis hit the US Gulf coast at a speed of some 192 kilometres per hour, causing loss estimated at around 5 billion US dollars.

MNA/Xinhua

Peruvian police seize 450 kilos of cocaine

LIMA, 3 Aug—Peruvian police said on Tuesday its agents seized 450 kilos of cocaine in operations in the centre and south of the country.

In the operations conducted on 28-30 July, anti-narcotics agents also destroyed poppies, dismantled coca-leaf maceration wells and captured chemists used in the production of cocaine.

According to the National Peruvian Police, 378 kilos of cocaine was seized in Chucuito, in La Oroya in the central department of Junin, 280 kilometres east of Lima.

The drug, found in a hidden car, was hidden in 164 kilos packages and two metal cases underneath the platform.

MNA/Xinhua

Relief contingent of Argentine peacekeepers sent to Haiti

GUATEMALA, 3 Aug—Argentinean Tuesday day sent its third detachment of peacekeepers to Haiti as part of the UN Stabilization Mission there, known as MINUSTAH.

The contingent, named Argentine Joint Battalion “Haiti III”, consists of 102 members of the Army, 152 Navy personnel, and one member of the Air Force, all of them are under the command of Marine Captain Guillermo Uberti.

The Argentine battalion will be deployed in the Haitian city of Gonaives, 150 kilometres north of the country’s capital Port-au-Prince. Argentine have been deployed in Haiti as UN peacekeeping “blue-helmets” since August 2004, when MINUSTAH’s first group of military personnel was formed. Currently, there are 7,000 foreign soldiers in the Caribbean country.

MNA/Xinhua

Blair says investigation into killing of Brazilian continues

BRASILIA, 3 Aug—British Prime Minister Tony Blair said on Tuesday that an independent investigation committee is probing the mistaken killing of a Brazilian citizen in London, Britain’s capital.

During telephone talks with President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, Blair expressed his understanding of Britain’s current situation.

However, he emphasized that Britain must adopt effective measures to prevent such incidents and avoid the killing of innocent people. Besides, Lula also informed Blair of his conversation with Menezes’ family and the pain brought to the family by the killing.

Menezes, 27, was shot eight times by armed officers at the Stockwell Underground station in London on 22 July.

MNA/Xinhua

Peru, Ecuador to promote development in common border areas

QUITO, 3 Aug—Ecuadorian Foreign Minister Antonio Parra Gil and his Peruvian counterpart Manuel Rodriguez Cuadros signed on Tuesday a joint declaration aiming to promote development in common border areas.

The two ministers signed the agreement in the Ecuadorian coastal city of Guayaquil, where a meeting of South American Foreign Ministers is being held.

Rodriguez Cuadros said that the two countries “have overcome all the pending problems” and are going forward in the spirit of friendship.

Parra Gil said the only way to develop the common border region is through cooperation “with loyalty, sincerity and cordiality.” Then, he added reference to the recent increase in bilateral trade, which amounted to 310 million US dollars in 1999 but had risen to 873 million dollars by 2004.

The agreement includes projects to build sewage and potable-water infrastructure along the border area, for Peru to supply electricity to the Ecuadorian province of El Oro, and cooperation on fishing activities.

Peru and Ecuador ended a 100-year border dispute with the establishment of the last boundary mark on their common borders on 13 May, 1999.

Since then, the two sides have strengthened bilateral cooperation in border development, science and technology, free trade, Customs and in the fight against drugs.

MNA/Xinhua

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6 2. Parboiled Rice 10% Broken

(6 3. Parboiled Rice 10% Broken (low grade)

6 4. Broken Rice A1 & Extra (Yellow)

150 5. Broken Rice A1, 2 (Yellow)

280 6. Broken Rice B1, 2 (Yellow)

1300 7. Broken Rice B2, 3, 4 (Yellow)

3 8. Broken Rice (glutinous)

8 9. Rice Bran

510 10. Oil Extracted Rice Bran

670
Combined Chinese, Western medicine prolong AIDS patients’ lives

CHANGSHA, 3 Aug — Chinese herbalists say Chinese and Western therapies have proven complementary in the treatment of HIV/AIDS and integration of the two will prolong AIDS patients’ lives.

“Traditional herbal medicine can enhance human immunity and ease many symptoms of HIV/AIDS, while Western medicine has a stronger anti-virus effect,” said Wang Jian, an AIDS prevention and treatment specialist with China Academy of Traditional Chinese Medicine.

He said Chinese medicine is believed to be more effective in treating early stage HIV/AIDS, and combined Chinese-Western therapies can be tailored for different patients at different stages.

“Such combined treatment can slow down the progression of AIDS and generate the highest possible benefit for the patients,” Wang said.

The academy has worked out a new anti-AIDS formula, Zhongyan No. 2, which was approved by the State Food and Drug Administration in June to be used for clinical trial, said Liang Jusheng, vice director of the academy.

Liang said the academy has sold the formula to Shanghai Sanxiang Biotech Co. — the first pharmacy dedicated to the mass production of anti-AIDS drugs in central China’s Hunan Province, according to Liang. As the side-effects and high costs of Western medicine have discouraged many patients from seeking treatment, worldwide experts have come to realize the and combined Chinese- and traditional Chinese medicine.

So far though only one traditional medicine named Tangcangyao has won a State Food and Drug Administration license to be used in HIV/AIDS treatment, yet only a few aflero medical institutions have turned to the herbal therapy to 2,300 AIDS patients in the five provinces of Hebei, Anhui, Henan, Hubei and Guangdong in 2004.

Chinese ancient beverage re-created by US brewer

BEIJING, 3 Aug — Villagers in Jiahu, where world earliest wine making evidence was found, were surprised to hear the news that the beverage their ancestors made 9,000 years ago has been re-created by a brewer from the United States and registered a brand name.

According to the website of National Geographic, a Delaware brewer with a penchant for exotic drinks recently concocted a beer called Jiahu that took the form of a traditional Chinese rice wine.

A local official of Wuyang County said he was shocked by the news. “Jiahu” was regarded as a symbol of local culture, and it is the same site where archaeologists have found the earliest evidence of musical instruments.

According to Yu Hengzhao, curator of Wuyang County Museum, it was a joint research and the chemical analysis of the archaeological site was conducted by American experts.

China considering to ban medical treatment ads

BEIJING, 3 Aug — Fake, shoddy medicine and treatment advertisements, flooding on Chinese media, have caused serious problems, and the government is considering to ban all the medical treatment ads.

Chinese Minister of Health Gao Qiang recently said the ministry had submitted the plan of banning medical treatment ads to the State Council for approval. Medical treatment information should be released by the government free of charge in the future.

In China, ads of medicine and treatment can be found in any newspaper. The ads usually use exaggerated words and the opinions and experiences of false experts and patients.

Most of those ads are illegal according to Chinese related laws. However, they still appear in Chinese newspapers, magazines and even the authoritative TV stations.

A survey conducted by an advertisement supervision department of Beijing among 38 key media found that 100 per cent of the medical treatment ads on those media were illegal, stressing the wholeness of the human body and good coordination of the organs are vital in keeping people healthy.

Ministry of Health figures say there are 840,000 HIV carriers on the Chinese mainland, of whom 80,000 are suffering from AIDS.

Ministry of Health, in line with State Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine and Ministry of Finance, offered free herbal therapy to 2,300 AIDS patients in the five provinces of Hebei, Anhui, Henan, Hubei and Guangdong in 2004.

Malawi President threatens to expel foreign tobacco buyers

LUSAKA, 3 Aug—Malawi President Bingu wa Mutharika has threatened to throw out international tobacco buyers from his country next season if they continue exploiting small scale farmers by offering low prices, Malawian newspaper The Nation said in a report carried on its web site Tuesday.

“Any price means 1,000,000,000 Kwacha (more than 400,000 US dollars) and I am going to throw out that person. If you don’t like it you can die — you can sell to another country. If you don’t like it you will have to die,” Mutharika was quoted as saying in Lusaka.

His remarks came as tobacco sales at the Lilongwe and Mzuzu auctions registered a 45 per cent drop in revenue compared to the same period last year, according to the government.

Study shows new health risk found for teen smoking

WASHINGTON, 3 Aug—People trying to stop teens from smoking may have a new weapon — a study showing that even secondhand smoke raises the risk of metabolic syndrome, a condition marked by obesity, high blood pressure, unhealthy cholesterol levels and pre-diabetes.

“Secondhand smoke exposure has metabolic syndrome if you are exposed to secondhand smoke,” Dr. Michael Weitzman of the University of Rochester in New York, who led the study, said in a telephone interview.

“That means, equal, you are exposed to five times more likely to develop the metabolic syndrome if you are exposed to secondhand smoke,” Weitzman added.

“The active smoking increases the risk to at least six times that of a non-exposed individual.”

For the study, Weitzman’s team looked at interviews of 2,273 adolescents aged 12 to 19 done as part of the US Centre for Disease Control and Prevention’s National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey. Overall, 7 per cent of adolescents had metabolic syndrome, 1.2 per cent of those with no exposure to smoke, as defined by their own reports and by measuring levels of a chemical byproduct of nicotine called cotinine in their blood.

More than 5 per cent of those whose cotinine levels suggested smoke exposure were obese, had metabolic syndrome, and 7.8 per cent of those who actively smoked had metabolic syndrome.

And it was worse for overweight teens. The researchers found that 23.6 per cent of overweight teen smokers had metabolic syndrome.

MNA/Reuters
Steaua finally overcome Shelbourne, Cypriots oust Turks

LONDON, 4 Aug — Former European Cup winners Steaua Bucharest overcame a jittery start and two red cards to reach the Champions League third qualifying round on Wednesday.

Belgium’s Anderlecht also went through but Dynamo Kiev and Trabzonspor of Turkey joined 1967 European Cup winners Celtic on the scrapheap.

Steaua, the 1986 winners, beat Ireland’s Shelbourne 4-1 in the second leg of their second qualifying round tie to go through by the same score on aggregate after managing only a 0-0 draw in the away leg.

The Romanian team meet Rosenborg Trondheim of Norway for a place in the lucrative group stage of Europe’s elite club competition.

Holders Liverpool, who have had to play in the qualifying rounds because of their financial scandal, will turn to the Premiership.

India’s Sania thashes world number nine Petra

CARLSBAD (California), 4 Aug — India’s Sania Mirza provided the upset of the second round at the San Diego Classic on Wednesday with a 6-2, 6-1 victory over fourth seed Nadia Petrova.

Number 14 seed Daniela Hantuchova was the other seed to fall on Wednesday, losing 7-5, 4-6, 6-2 to doubles partner Ai Sugiyama of Japan, while fifth seed Patty Schnyder survived 6-4, 6-7, 6-1 match against Czech Kveta Peschke.

Playing with a right elbow strain, Petrova was unable to impose herself against Mirza, who dictated play during the match.

Mirza, who had to qualify for the main draw, went all out with her forehand returns and was never threatened by the 2005 French Open semifinalist.

Sania Mirza of India thumps herself against Mirza, who dictated play during the match.

Owen speaks to Premier League clubs over possible move

LONDON, 4 Aug — England striker Michael Owen has spoken to three or four Premier League clubs over the possibility of a transfer from Real Madrid, he said in a statement on Wednesday.

The 24-year-old future at the Spanish giants has been questioned after only one season at the Bernabeu following the purchase last week of Brazilian forwards Julio Baptista and Robinho.

Their arrival will move him further down the pecking order at Real where another Brazilian, Ronaldo, and Spanish Raúl are the first choices up front.

"During my four days off there have been two big signings confirmed by the club and I can understand why this has resulted in speculation about my future," Owen’s statement read.

"Real Madrid continue to negotiate with my advisers over the weekend and explained that they wanted me to stay but they would not stand in my way if the right opportunity arose for my return to the Premiership."

With the knowledge of Real Madrid, there have been brief negotiations with three or four Premier-ship clubs although no formal negotiations of any kind have taken place.

"I am off to Austria with the rest of the squad today to undertake an important 14-day pre-season fitness programme and I don’t envisage anything happening during this time."

Real Madrid's English player Michael Owen runs alone during a training session in Madrid on 3 Aug, 2005.—INTERNET

Zidane decides to resume playing for France

PARIS, 4 Aug — Zinedine Zidane has decided to play for France again, the midfielder announced on Wednesday.

The Real Madrid player had announced his retirement from international football after Euro 2004 a year ago.

"(France coach) Raymond Domenech came to see me two or three times in Madrid and he told me what he expected from me," Zidane said on his personal website.

Zidane will play for France in their next match, against Ivory Coast on August 21 in Montpellier.

The 33-year-old has won 93 caps, scoring 26 goals for France. He helped his country win the World Cup in 1998 and the European championship in 2000.

Indonesia’s Sania Mirza provided the upset of the second round at the San Diego Classic on Wednesday with a 6-2, 6-1 victory over fourth seed Nadia Petrova.

Real Madrid’s Luis Figo runs alone during a training session in Madrid on 3 Aug, 2005.—INTERNET

Figo to sign two-year deal with Inter

MADRID, 4 Aug — Real Madrid midfielder Luis Figo has agreed to sign a two-year deal with Inter Milan, Spanish media reported on Wednesday.

RadioMarca said the 32-year-old Portuguese international would travel to Milan on Thursday to have a medical and sign a contract with the Serie A club for a reported salary of 4.5 million euros ($5.54 million US dollars) a year.

The former World and European Player of the Year, who fell out with Real coach Vanderlei Luxemburgo after being consigned to the bench for the latter part of last season, had been given permission to negotiate with other clubs.

Figo joined Real in 2000 in one of the most controversial transfers in Spanish football history when newly elected club president Florentino Perez paid a then world record 56 million US dollars to buy him out of his contract with arch-rivals Barcelona.

The midfielder, viewed as Real’s first Galactico signing, helped them to the league title in his first season at the club and played an important part in their victories at the 2002 European Cup and the 2003 Spanish championship.

Figo, who had a year to run on his Real contract, agreed recently to come out of international retirement and has made it clear he wants to continue playing for Portugal until next year’s World Cup. He does sign for Inter, he would be the fourth Real Madrid player to join the Serie A side in the last 12 months.

Argentine midfielder Esteban Cambiasso joined Inter last year and compar- isons Santiago Solari and Walter Samuel have followed the same route in the close season.

"I believed I could do it, but I always knew that everyone is beatable," Ranked a career high 59, Mirza is almost sure to crack the top 50 in the next two weeks, achieving the goal she had set herself at the beginning of the year.

She has already won her first career title, at Hyderabad beating four seeds on the way, beat the then world number seven Svetlana Kuznetsova in Dubai and made two other quarterfinals.

"I have of Austria with the rest of the squad today to undertake an important 14-day pre-season fitness programme, I don’t envisage anything happening during this time."
Boat capsizes in Nigeria, more than 30 drown

LAGOS, 4 Aug—More than 30 people were drowned when a wooden boat capsized on the River Niger in southeastern Nigeria, police said on Thursday. State-run Radio Nigeria said the death toll could rise as high as 135 after the boat which was carrying 150 people and large quantities of farm produce, hit a submerged object.

The boat was travelling from the Ogidi district of Anambra state to a large market town located on the banks of the river.

Nigeria’s waterways and roads are some of the most dangerous in the world, a situation made worse by the lack of emergency services. Police routinely blame the large number of deaths on overloading, speeding and poor maintenance.

Last week, newspapers said at least 20 people drowned when their boat capsized near a remote village in southwestern Nigeria, although police said only five died. — Internet

Landslides in northern Turkey kill seven

ANKARA, 4 Aug—Seven people were killed by floods and landslides in Turkey’s Black Sea region, the Turkish Daily News reported on Thursday.

The floods and landslides were triggered by heavy rains that started on Tuesday in the mountainous provinces of Trabzon and Rize in northern Turkey, inundating houses, sweeping away bridges and blocking roads, said the report.

The bodies were found in a village in Trabzon.

Heavy downpours will continue on Thursday in northern Turkey, said the State Meteorological Directorate, warning citizens of possible floods and landslides. — Internet

Heavy rainstorm kills four in E China province

HEFEI, 4 Aug—A heavy rainstorm has ravaged the northern part of east China’s Anhui Province claiming four lives and affecting a population of 1.87 million, said the provincial civil affairs department on Thursday.

Heavy rainstorms struck 13 counties in four cities including Suzhou, Bengbu, Huaihe and Fuyang in the province since Tuesday morning, with rainfall reaching 200 mm in the worst-hit areas.

The disaster caused economic losses of 166,666 hectares of farmland and completely destroyed croplands of 24,666 hectares, the source said, adding that the direct economic loss caused by the accident was estimated at 500 million yuan (60.2 million, US dollars). — Internet

WEATHER

Thursday, 4 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, rain has been isolated in Shan State, scattered in Chin and Kayah States, Mandalay and Magway Divisions, widespread in the remaining areas with locally heavy rainfall in Rakhine State, isolated heavyfall in Taninthayi Division. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Kyauktaw (5.32) inches, Kyaukpyu (2.84) inches, Myek (2.80) inches, Hkamti (2.28) inches.

Maximum temperature on 3-8-2005 was 83°F. Minimum temperature on 4-8-2005 was 67°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 4-8-2005 was 92%. Total sunshine hours on 3-8-2005 was nil. Rainfalls on 4-8-2005 were 1.02 inches at Mingalardon, 0.27 inch at Kaba-Aye, 0.16 inch at central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were 56.34 inches at Mingalardon, 55.94 inches at Kaba-Aye and 57.52 inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 12 mph from Southwest at (11:59) hours MST on 3-8-2005.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 5-8-2005: Rain will be isolated in Kayah State and lower Sagaing Division, scattered in Shan and Chin States, Mandalay and Magway Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Rakhine State and Taninthayi Division. Degree of certainty is 80%.

State of the sea: Occasional squalls with 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: Decrease of rain in the eastern Myanmar.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 5-8-2005: One or two rain. Degree of certainty is 80%.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 5-8-2005: Likelihood of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is 60%.
All people wish remaining armed groups to unconditionally exchange arms for peace in Shan State (North) one after another.