Ward off every encroachment upon sovereignty through united strength of people

YANGON, 5 Aug— The mass meeting on guarding against the danger posed by internal and external destructionists through united strength of the people took place at City Hall on Bogyoke Street in Monywa, Sagaing Division, on 1 August morning. It was attended by executives and members of Sagaing Division, Kalay, Katha, Hkamti, Sagaing, Tamu, Monywa, Mawlaik and Shwebo districts and township Union Solidarity and Development Associations, National Convention delegates in Sagaing Division, members of Division, district and township Women’s Affairs Organizations, Maternal and Child Welfare Associations, War Veterans Organizations, auxiliary fire brigade, and Red Cross Society, faculty members and students of Monywa Education College and nurses training schools, townswelders and local people.

Sagaging Division USDA Joint-Secretary Dr Win Myint chaired the meeting together with leader of working group for education of Division WAO Principal of Monywa Education College Daw Khin Myat Myat, executive members of the panel of chairmen chanting slogans at the meeting. — MNA

In line with the motto the strength of the nation lies within, the dangers of internal and external destructive elements are to be crushed with national solidarity.

Senior General Than Shwe sends message of sympathy to India

YANGON, 5 Aug— Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar has sent a message of sympathy to His Excellency Dr APJ Abdul Kalam, President of the Republic of India on the loss of life and property caused by devastating monsoon floods in Maharashtra State on 26 July 2005. — MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye sends message of sympathy to India

YANGON, 5 Aug— Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar has sent a message of sympathy to His Excellency Mr Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, Vice-President of the Republic of India on the loss of life and property caused by devastating monsoon floods in Maharashtra State on 26 July 2005. — MNA

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Preserve natural environment by planting trees every year

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe, on one occasion, said that land, forests, water and climate are natural resources of a nation and, if forests are destroyed, it can have an adverse effect on land, water and climate. Therefore, it is up to all of us to preserve forests and carry out afforestation work all over the nation.

Forests can keep the natural environment balanced. Moreover, it can contribute to the social, economic and health sectors. This being the case, the Ministry of forestry, social organizations and local people, under the leadership of the government, are collectively implementing plans for greening their respective regions, carrying out afforestation work and increasing the production of the forest sector.

Due to the construction of dams, sluice gates and river water pumping stations, the cultivation of seasonal crops, in addition to planting of trees that can contribute to the economy, can be extended.

For example, as dams and sluice gates were constructed in Yangon Division, the plan for greening the area at 30-mile radius of the Yangon International Airport could be successfully implemented.

Moreover, Yangon Division Peace and Development Council, District and Township Peace and Development Councils in the division, Women’s Affairs Organizations, Maternal and Child Welfare Associations, members of USDA, Red Cross and Fire Brigades and local people have held tree planting ceremonies every year since 2002. It is necessary to grow not only trees that can contribute to the economy but also Tithisent (Belleric myrobalan), rubber, cashew and mango trees.

Planting trees every year is leaving valuable heritage for posterity. Therefore, we would like to call on the tree-loving national people to preserve forests and grow trees every year to keep our natural environment balanced.

Deputy Mines Minister arrives back from KL

YANGON, 5 Aug — Deputy Minister for Mines U Myint Thein arrived back here by air this evening from Palembang of Indonesia at 6.45 pm local time.

Myint Thein was welcomed back at the airport by Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, directors-general and managing directors of departments and enterprises under the ministry and families.

Myanmar beat Brunei 3-0 in AFF U-20 Championship

YANGON, 5 Aug — Myanmar youth team beat Brunei youth team 3-0 in the group (A) of the AFF U-20 Youth Championship 2005 in Palembang of Indonesia at 6.45 pm local time today.

Aung Moe scored an opening goal for Myanmar team in 26th minute of the first half. Aung Myint Aye seconded in 3rd minute of the second half, and Hla Aye Htwe shot a third in 40th minute of the second half.

On 9 August, Myanmar youth team will play against Thai youth team.

New Yangon-Bago-Yangon tour service launched

YANGON, 5 Aug — Myanmar Tourism Service has launched a new transport service for Yangon-Bago-Yangon tour (two-day trip).

Travellers can enjoy a game of golf at the Hinthada International Country Golf Club visit famous pagodas, enjoy bird-watching at Moeyungyi Lake and stay at Shwe Wah Tun Hotel for a night in Bago.

For further information, contact Myanmar Tourism Service of No 77-91, Sule Pagoda Road in Yangon (Tel: 252859 and 387002).

Coord meeting on fish breeding tasks held

Head of Information Department Daw Kyi Kyi Myint gave an opening address at the talks on fine tradition of ancient universities at Yangon West University.— MNA

YANGON, 5 Aug — The Information Department of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation and Yangon West University organized the talks on fine tradition of ancient universities at the lecture hall-1 of the university this morning.

Rector U Saw Kyaw Min extended greetings and Head of Information Department Daw Kyi Kyi Myint gave an opening speech.

Next, writer Dr Ma Tin Win, retired professor of Yangon Institute of Education, gave a lecture on fine tradition of ancient universities.

Chairperson of Htantabin Township Women’s Affairs Organization Daw Mya Tha handed over membership cards and brochures for the educational staff of the university to Pro-Rector U Thein Win.

Professor/Head of Department of Zoology Department Daw Thin Thin Naing presented gifts to writer Ma Tin Win. Later, the rector spoke words of thanks. — 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

Talks on fine tradition of ancient universities given at YWU

Head of Information Department Daw Kyi Kyi Myint gives an opening address at the talks on fine tradition of ancient universities at Yangon West University.— MNA

YANGON, 5 Aug — With a view to contributing toward the socio-economic development, the Fishery Department of the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) held a coordination meeting on extended fish breeding tasks on a manageable scale, at the meeting hall of the quality control section of the Fishery Department in Thakaya Township this morning.

Advisor U Hla Win to the ministry made an opening speech. Next, Mr Shingo Takahashi of JICA discussed matters related to the educative programmes with the aid of video slides.

Afterwards, officials of the departments from states, divisions, districts and townships took part in the discussions. — MNA

Thai delegation calls on D-G of Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department

YANGON, 5 Aug — A 10-member Thai delegation led by Mr Suwang Ungkuro of Department of Livestock Development-DLD of Thailand called on Director-General of the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department under the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries in Insein this morning.

During their meeting, they discussed matters related to the Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategies (ACMECS) Project covering Thailand’s technological help in the development of livestock breeding and control of animal diseases. While in Yangon, the Thai delegation will visit livestock breeding farms and markets. — MNA
Indian Ocean nations discuss tsunami warning system

Canberra, 4 Aug—Technical plans for an Indian Ocean tsunami warning system are being discussed at a conference in Perth, capital of Australia’s state of Western Australia.

Around 100 representatives of 27 Indian Ocean countries are participating in the three-day meeting starting on Wednesday to work on plans including coordinating data and communicating warnings.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has taken on the task of getting the tsunami warning system up and hopes to have it running by the middle of next year.

Patricio Bernal, executive secretary of UNESCO’s Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), said putting a monitoring system in place would be the easy part of the project while making it effective is more of a challenge.

“Wow, the system is a really complex one, not so much in terms of the instrumentation and the network, but the operation of a warning system requires at least three major components that are different,” Bernal told Australian Broadcasting Corporation radio.

“One is the detection... one is the assessment of the risk — and this has to be done by each of the nations of the region — and the third element is, of course, emergency preparedness,” he said.

“There is no use to have a very fine warning system if you don’t have plans to prepare and evacuate the populations and to communicate to them, alert the authorities and coordinate logistics to move people,” he said.

He said he is confident the system will be up and running in a short period of time because several major meetings have yielded positive responses from nations surrounding the Indian Ocean, and an interim tsunami warning information delivering system was established in March.

Four more US soldiers killed in Iraq

Baghdad, 4 Aug—The US military said on Thursday that four more American service members died in Iraq, including a Marine killed in the Euphrates River valley where 14 Marines lost their lives in the worst roadside bombing targeting American forces in the Iraq war. A car bomb also hit members of a radical Shiite militia in northern Iraq as attacks nationwide killed at least 11 people on Thursday.

Three US soldiers were killed on Wednesday night in a roadside bombing in Baghdad, the military said. The statement identified them only as members of the Army’s Task Force Baghdad, but Georgian officials said they were assigned to the 48th Brigade of the Georgia National Guard. The 48th has lost 11 soldiers since arriving in Iraq in May.

At least 1,825 members of the US military have died since the Iraq war started in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. Bombs in vehicles or planted alongside roads account for up to 80 percent of US deaths in Iraq, military spokesman Lt Col Steven Boylan said.

Simple roadside bombs defy US military in Iraq

Baghdad, 4 Aug—One militant held a remote control. Another chanted “God is greatest” as a US Humvee drove toward Iraq’s biggest death trap, a roadside bomb — a makeshift device that defies the world’s most powerful military.

Captured on an Islamic militant video, the image highlights how the US military, which lost 14 Marines to a roadside blast on Wednesday, is struggling against simple explosives in spite of its warplanes, tanks and high-tech weaponry.

The attack, which destroyed an armored amphibious assault vehicle in northwest Iraq, was the bloodiest roadside bombing since the start of the war that toppled Saddam Hussein in 2003.

Scientists discuss global climate changes in Beijing

Beijing, 4 Aug—The ninth Scientific Assembly of the International Association of Meteorology and Atmospheric Sciences (IAMAS) opened on Tuesday in Beijing.

About 1,300 scientists and experts from 82 countries will participate in the 10-day academic discussion.

The topics in the discussion will include global warming, sea level rise, sand storms, tsunamis, extreme climate incidents, air pollution and the climate scenarios in the coming hundred years.
Kelon to resume production in mid August

GUANGZHOU, 4 Aug — The scandal-stricken Kelon Electrical Holdings Co made an official announcement here on Tuesday, saying that this Guangdong-based fridge maker will resume production in mid August.

The public security bureau of Foshan detained five top leaders of Kelon including its board chairman Gu Chujun on Monday, accusing them of “economic crimes”.

The company news spokesman Liu Weixiang said on Tuesday that the staff members of Kelon are basically working in stable condition and the company are communicating with some financial institutions and material suppliers so that it can quickly resume production.

As a matter of fact, Kelon has never completely halted its production, said the spokesman.

The company keeps receiving international order forms from General Electrics and Whirlpool and has already finished the 300-million-US-dollar logical teams.

Liu said Kelon is a large-scale company with about 30,000 staff members and the government will not let it collapse.

Liu said Kelon is a large-scale company with about 30,000 staff members and the government will not let it collapse. — MNA/Xinhua

Monitoring teams from EU, ASEAN arrive in Indonesia

JAKARTA, 4 Aug — Twenty-eight members of monitoring teams for Aceh from the European Union and Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) arrived in Aceh on Wednesday, reported the Antara news agency.

The team will oversee the peace process between the government and the separatist Free Aceh Movement that will formally be signed on 15 August.

The team was divided in three flights using state-run Garuda airlines.

The first flight landed at Sultan Iskandar Muda Airport at 10:15 am, the second flight at 11:00 am while the last flight is scheduled to arrive at 6:00 pm.

Of the 28 members, 18 are from the European Union, six are from ASEAN while the remainder are from Indonesia. — MNA/Xinhua

China urges global community to honour MDG commitment

JAKARTA, 4 Aug — The attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) pledged by world leaders in 2000 will require all countries around the world to work together and to honour the commitments, a Chinese official said here on Wednesday.

“Countries around the world shoulder major responsibility for development,” said Liu Jian, head of China's State Council's Leading Office of Poverty Alleviation and Development, adding developing countries should take the initiatives to step up reforms and adopt effective social and economic policies to enhance their capacity for development.

Liu said at the regional ministerial meeting on MDGs that the international community, the developed countries in particular, should honour their commitments in real earnest by providing more support to developing countries in areas such as market access, official development assistance, technology transfer and debt relief so as to create a favourable external environment and help developing countries achieve social and economic progress.

In dealing with poverty in the Asia-Pacific Region, Liu recommended that countries in the region highlight the priorities and solve the pressing issues of poverty and trade.

Another crucial thing for the attainment of the MDGs is for countries in the region to give full play to competitive strength and deepen regional economic cooperation, he said.

“We shall enhance cooperation in trade and investment within the region, open up markets for each other, and promote trade and investment facilitation and liberalization, and strengthen regional economic integration,” Liu told delegates from 40 countries.

According to Liu, the Chinese Government has taken poverty alleviation as an important part of the national development strategy, which helps the country make major progress in poverty alleviation.

Briton arrested in Bangkok for possessing fake passports

BANGKOK, 4 Aug — Bangkok police have arrested a Briton possessing some 452 fake passports, Bangkok Post reported on Thursday.

The 35-year-old British national of Algerian descent was nabbed at the departure lounge of Bangkok International Airport on early Wednesday morning, Bangkok Post reported on Thursday quoted police Major-General Suwat Thamrongraksakul as saying.

The British named Mahieddine Daikh was about to get onboard of a flight to Amsterdam. A total of 452 passports for Spain, Belgium, Portugal and France were found in his luggage.

1826 US soldiers killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 5 Aug — As of Thursday, 4 Aug, 2005, at least 1,826 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraqi war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,406 died as a result of hostile action, according to the military’s numbers. The figures include five military civilians.

The AP count is eight higher than the Defence Department’s tally, last updated at 10 am EDT on Thursday. — Internet

Iraqi guerillas change techniques

LONDON, 5 Aug — As the toll of US marine lives has mounted in Iraq, the Americans have conceded that guerillas opposing them are using more sophisticated techniques.

Fourteen marines and a translator working with them were killed in a single roadside bombing close to the town of Haditha shortly after sunrise on Wednesday, adding significantly to US casualties as they battle guerillas along a corridor formed by the River Euphrates.

Beyond Haditha lies Iraq's border with Syria which, according to the Americans, is an infiltration route for guerillas.

There were graphic accounts of the Haditha blast. The marines were in an armoured amphibious assault vehicle. It was said to have flipped over after an thunderous explosion.

Eyewitnesses spoke of there being “shrapnel everywhere”. That blast is still being investigated. But the US military are now talking of the adaptability of the guerillas.

They suggest that the guerillas have developed new ways of penetrating the armour of military vehicles and now appear to have more sophisticated firing mechanisms.

It is a new challenge before the Americans — and indeed the Iraqi security forces working with them — as they seek to contain and defeat the guerilla.
India counts financial toll as floods recede

MUMBAI, 4 Aug — India will be hit by billions of dollars in losses because of last week’s heavy rains and floods in the west, and many already-impoverished people will be wiped out financially, insurers and aid workers said on Wednesday.

“Record rainfall eight days ago on Mumbai set off days of flooding that killed nearly 1,000 people across the western state of Maharashtra and brought India’s commercial capital to a standstill. It is too early to estimate the size of losses, we can only assess it when the floods waters recede,” Maharashtra Finance Minister Jayant Patil told Reuters. “But the damage will run into hundreds of billions of rupees (billions of dollars),” The Times of India, quoting government estimates, reported on Wednesday that Maharashtra’s losses could be 150 billion rupees (3.5 billion US dollars), including 100 billion rupees alone in Mumbai.

Insurers have received plenty of claims from businesses, but these wildly underestimate the overall costs because most people in India simply cannot afford insurance.

ICICI Lombard General Insurance has received about 1,000 claims, totaling nearly 850 million rupees, mostly from corporate houses.

“We believe the majority of claims have come in, and the final tally could be a bit higher,” said Kartik Jain, head of marketing, who estimates that overall general insurance claims will be in the region of 10 billion rupees (230 million US dollars). — MNA/Reuters

First China International Violin Competition to debut in E China

BEIJING, 4 Aug — The First China International Violin Competition will debut in Qingdao, a scenic port city of east China’s Shandong Province, from 17 to 29 September, sources with the Chinese Ministry of Culture (MoC) said here on Wednesday.

The competition will attract 50 contestants from 20 countries and regions to compete for a 20,000-US dollar top prize, said Pu Tong, a senior official of MoC and also vice-secretary-general of the organizing committee.

Pu said the jury committee is composed of well-known violinists worldwide, including David Corone from the United States, Mauricio Fuks from Canada, Andras Kiss from Hungary, Gerard Poulet from France, and Sheng Zhongguo from China. Professor Lin Yaoji of the China Central Conservatory of Music will chair the jury committee. Wu Zqiang, honorary president of the conservatory will be the artistic director.

Lin told Xinhua that in the first and semifinal round of the competition, contestants were requested to play masterpieces by Bach, Beethoven, Mozart and Paganini, which were all seen as high-level repertoires difficult to play. Most of the 50 candidates to the final round have won prizes in their national competitions.

Lin stressed the competition will set up six awards for best players, one prize for the best performance of Chinese works, and special prizes as well.

He expressed his hope that the competition could attract world’s top violin players, and showcase the achievements in the musical education of China to the outside world.

From now on, the competition will be held every three years. World-renowned violinist Lu Siqing, who was born in Qingdao, will be the publicity image of the competition. — MNA/Xinhua

London Mayor says ‘Withdraw from Iraq to protect Britain’

LONDON, 4 Aug — Britain must withdraw its troops from Iraq in order to prevent further terrorist attacks, London Mayor Ken Livingstone wrote in a British newspaper.

Britons need to support the police, treat Muslims with respect and pull out from Iraq to “make us all safer”: “All are inter-related,” Livingstone wrote in The Guardian daily published Thursday.

“Acceptance that the invasion of Iraq increased the likelihood of a terrorist attack on London now extends far beyond the usual suspects,” the anti-war left-winger wrote. London was hit by two waves of terrorist attacks last month. On 7 July, 56 people were killed, four suicide bombs included, in blasts on three underground trains and a bus. A repeat attack on 21 July failed when the bombs did not detonate fully.

“If the invasion of Iraq had been justified, it would be possible to argue that we must bear the sacrifices necessary to achieve an outcome,” wrote Livingstone, who staunchly opposed the March 2003 US-led invasion.

Livingstone said Britons should also treat all members of the community equally to “shrink the pool of the alienated that bombers draw upon.”

Iraqi group says captures US marine after clash

DUABI, 4 Aug — An Iraqi guerrilla group said on Wednesday it has captured a US Marine who was wounded in a clash in western Iraq in which eight other Marines were killed.

The Army of Ansar al-Sunna said on its web site that it would soon issue pictures of the Marine, who it said it captured after ambushing US forces near the town of Haditha, northwest of Baghdad.

It did not say when it carried out the attack. The statement could not be verified immediately.

The US military said on Tuesday six Marines were killed on Monday in the same area. The body of one Marine was initially unaccounted for but was recovered later, the statement said.

The guerrillas’ statement, dated Wednesday, said: “The Lions of unity take an American Marine hostage and kill eight of the crusaders in a successful ambush north of Haditha.”

It said the Marine was wounded in the clash, but it did not give details.

On Wednesday, a roadside bomb explosion tore through a US assault vehicle near Haditha, killing 14 American Marines and a civilian interpreter in the deadliest attack of its kind against US forces since the war began.

MNA/Reuters

HK steps up inspections of pig farms

HONG KONG, 4 Aug — Hong Kong Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has stepped up farm inspections to minimize the risk of any Streptococcus suis outbreaks on local pig farms.

Following recent inspections of the 266 local pig farms, which cover the monitoring of the health status of pigs and pig counts, the department is satisfied that there has been no unusual deaths. A department spokesman said on Wednesday that the enforcement of license conditions had been strengthened to ensure that pig carcasses and pig waste were handled appropriately.

“A new licence condition has been added to the farm licence under the Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Licensing of Livestock Keeping) Regulation requiring farmers to disinfect and wrap dead pigs before disposal at animal carcass collection points,” he said.

“We have stepped up monitoring of these collection points. Failure to comply with the new licence condition may lead to revocation of a farm license,” he said.

Pig farmers have been reminded not to dispose of live pigs at carcass collection points, the spokesman said, adding that the government hotline 1823 had been updated so that any public inquiries about live pigs would immediately be referred to AFCD for prompt action. The department has issued letters asking farmers to observe personal hygiene and to cover any cut wounds with bandages.

“If they feel unwell, they should stop working immediately, report to the AFCD and consult a doctor,” the spokesman said. Information leaflets on Streptococcus suis are being distributed to pig farmers and staff involved in handling live or dead pigs. — MNA

59 percent of Poles want all Polish troops out of Iraq

WARSAW, 4 Aug — Fifty-nine percent of Poles want a total withdrawal of Polish troops from Iraq, a survey said.

Thirty percent wanted a partial pull-out from Iraq, where Poland has been a staunch ally of the United States since 2003, six percent said they wanted Poland to keep all of its soldiers in Iraq, and five percent had no opinion, the poll, conducted last month among a sample of 500 people, showed.

The number in favour of a total withdrawal marks a fall of 11 percentage points from a poll published in March by the CBOS institute, which showed 70 percent of Poles in favour of ending Polish troops’ mission in Iraq “as soon as possible.”

But, the two polls were not directly comparable, having been carried out at different points and using different methodologies, said Michal Kotnarowski of PBS. — Internet
China’s demand for gold and jewellery ornaments blooming

BEIJING, 4 Aug.—A latest Ministry of Commerce report predicts that China’s gold and jewellery consumption will maintain a fast growth trend this year.

With the country’s rapid economic growth and improving living standards, gold and jewellery ornaments have become another hot consumption item for the Chinese, like houses and cars.

A survey on market supply and demand development trends in the latter half of 2005 sponsored by the ministry, and an analysis of 600 kinds of main consumer goods by concerned experts found that China has a large number of consumers for gold and jewellery, especially as the generation born between 1960s and 1980s enters the period of consumption.

The survey also indicated that the depreciation of the US dollar in recent years has stimulated investment in gold and diamonds.

In the first half of this year, the retail sales volume of 1.000 of China’s major gold, silver and jewellery companies increased by 13.9 per cent.

China’s diamond imports reached 900 million dollars in the period, up 17.5 per cent.

Twenty-five per cent of the respondents believed that gold ornaments prices will rise in the latter half of this year. 19 per cent said that the price of platinum ornaments will also rise.

Also, 65 per cent of the informants believed that the demand and supply for gold and jewellery ornaments will keep balance in the second half of this year.

China’s platinum consumption exceeded that of the world’s total output in 2004 and both China’s gold output and sales volume rank fourth in the world.

In 2003 and 2004, China’s retail sales of gold and jewellery ornaments increased by 11.7 per cent and 27.5 per cent respectively.

—MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam’s fruit, vegetable export to China soars

HO CHI MINH CITY, 4 Aug.—Vietnam’s fruit and vegetable export to China surged 16.7 per cent in the first 5 months of this year, according to the Vietnamese Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development on Wednesday.

Vietnam is developing local fruit traders in border provinces into big exporters.

It has set up several wholesale markets along its border to facilitate shipments of large and stable amounts of products to China, which consumes 50 to 60 per cent of Vietnam’s total fruit and vegetable exports. Local producers and exporters strive to participate in fruit trade fairs in China more actively, the ministry said. They are trying to raise the quality of such fruits as coconut, longan, litchi, dragon fruit, watermelon, pineapple, banana and mango in order to compete with similar products from Thailand and some Southeast Asian countries on the Chinese market.

Vietnam is intensifying investment in cultivation of certain fruits and vegetables, new technology application, construction of trademarks and trade promotion abroad in a move to earn 600 million dollars from supplying its fruits and vegetables in 2010.

Vietnam, which had 1.3 million hectares under fruits, vegetables and flowers with the output totalling 13.9 million tons last year, is expected to gain over 200 million dollars from shipping products to over 50 countries and regions this year, up 19.8 per cent.

—MNA/Xinhua

NZ language schools cut fees, earn less

WELLINGTON, 4 Aug.—New Zealand’s English schools earned 26 per cent less revenue from international students in the past year as competition drove schools to cut fees and students took shorter courses, said the Statistics New Zealand on Thursday.

Its survey shows English-language schools’ revenue from tuition and related fees was $156.3 million NZ dollars (109 million US dollars) for the year to March, nearly 57 million NZ dollars (40 million US dollars) less than the previous year.

The number of students enrolled this year stood at 41,546, lower than the previous year.

—INTERNET

India provides $71m to upgrade check posts on Nepal-India border

KATHMANDU, 4 Aug.—India has agreed to provide over 5 billion Nepali rupees (71 million US dollars) for upgradation of four major checkposts along Nepal-India border, a statement issued by the Indian Embassy in Kathmandu said on Wednesday.

A memorandum of understanding was signed Wednesday by Shiv Shankar Mukherjee, Am- bassador of India and Bhanu Prasad Acharya, Nepali secretary at the Ministry of Finance, the statement noted.

The infrastructures at Raxaul-Birgunj, Sunauli-Bhairahawa, Joghani-Biratnagar and Nepalgunj Road-Nepalgunj checkposts will be uplifted within next three years, according to the statement.

The project is expected to bring comfort and convenience to more than 4,000 vehicles per day and the innumerable number of people crossing the borders everyday for economic and social interaction, the statement said.

The project will not only obviate problems related to traffic blockage, delay in Customs checking, inconvenience to passen- gers, but also enhance greater interaction and encourage increased connectivity between the two friendly neighbours,” the statement added.

—MNA/Xinhua

New airline set up in Hong Kong

HONG KONG, 4 Aug.—Hong Kong Express Airways announced its formal establishment on Wednesday evening.

Hong Kong Chief Executive Donald Tsang attended a reception marking the founding of the new Hong Kong-based airline.

He said it is a great pleasure to celebrate the launch of Hong Kong Express — a new Hong Kong-based airline that will provide multiple daily services between Hong Kong and various cities in the Chinese Mainland.

He said “we all know that running an airline is a very capital-intensive undertaking. So, the launch of this new airline is a great vote of confidence in the future of our economy, and in the status of Hong Kong as a regional and international aviation hub.”

Tsang added that Hong Kong’s aviation policy encourages the entry of new players. “Our highly regarded Hong Kong International Air- port provides ‘best in the world’ support for the effi- cient operation of airlines,” he said.

“…The strategy to focus on Mainland destinations will further strengthen Hong Kong’s ability to provide seamless connec- tions to our comprehen- sive international net- work. This in turn will strengthen our position as one of the most efficient gateways to the Main- land,” he said.

He said, with strong economic growth and in- creasing travel demand, the Chinese Mainland is widely recognized as the dominant source of glo- bal air traffic growth over the next decade.

Tsang said he believed that the launching of Hong Kong Express will bring new jobs to Hong Kong. Newly created jobs range from positions in management, flight crew, mainte- nance staff to cabin at- tendants and cleaners. These jobs will broaden employment opportuni- ties for Hong Kong peo- ple, and help to consoli- date the recovery of Hong Kong’s job market.

—MNA/Xinhua

A couple pose in the MTR (Mass Transit Railway) Disneyland Resort station in Hong Kong on 4 August, 2005. More than 10,000 people visited the MTR Disneyland Resort Line when it opened on 1 August, 2005. —INTERNET

A man builds houses out of bamboo at Hajari Bagh, near the capital Dhaka, Bangladesh on 5 August, 2005. —INTERNET

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—MNA/Xinhua

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—MNA/Xinhua
Disseminate tourism knowledge to boost national economy

Dr Shwe Pyi Soe

A variety of herbal plants and tubers and bulbs thrive well at Mt Popa. Blessed with excellent geographical features, Myanmar is like a garden where diverse species of flowers are in bloom.

Since the Stone Age, man has gained various experiences, while searching a greener pasture for their existence, and activities of travelling have begun since then. With the civilization and the development of transport and communication technologies, the travel industry was making gradual progress. Myanmar's travel industry has come into being since the Bagan period.

Ecotourism is travel to regions of unique natural or ecological beauties and study the lifestyles of local people. Myanmar's climate and topography attract tourists from around the world.

Myanmar is a temperate region with three seasons – summer, rainy season and cold season. Shan, Rakhine and Bago, Yoma mountain ranges, wildlife, rare species of birds, natural lakes such as Twintaung Lake of Bago, for study of the nation's history and culture; and pagodas and temples built in AD 11th Century and 12th Century in Bagan archaeological region, for study of religious edifices.

In the past, Myanmar tourism industry was run by the Trade Corporation, and in the time of the Tatmadaw Government, the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism was established to carry out tourism services. Now, the tourism industry is in full swing in the nation, and that is one of fruitful results of nation-building tasks being undertaken by the Tatmadaw Government.

The development of the tourism industry is the fundamental factor for all-round development of the nation, and secure and smooth transport plays a vital role in promoting the tourism industry. That is why the government has been stepping up measures day in, day out for ensuring secure and smooth transport in both urban and rural areas.

In May 2005, it was attended by Deputy Minis- ter for Education U Myo Nyunt, Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu, Director-General of Higher Education Depart- ment (Lower Myanmar) U Saw Lwin, Rector of Yangon University U Soe Yin and professors, course in charge Professor Daw Khin Swe Myint for bird-watching; ancient cities of Pyu era such as Srekestra, Beihtanoe and Hanlin, Shwebo Yadana Palace of King Alaung Mintraygi in Shwebo, Mandalay Mya Nan San Kyaw Palace, and Kanbawzathadi Palace of King Bayintnaung in Bago, for study of the nation's history and culture; and pagodas and temples built in AD 11th Century and 12th Century in Bagan archaeological region, for study of religious edifices.

Now, the tourism industry is in full swing in the nation, and that is one of fruitful results of the development of the tourism industry.

Tourism industry is expected to expand the tourism industry.

Indeed, tourism is a smokeless industry through which a nation can earn foreign exchange most and that creates many jobs and other opportunities. Hence, it is incumbent upon all responsible persons to make collaborative efforts sector-wise to ensure further improvement of Myanmar's tourism industry.
Objectives of the 13th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions

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

The mass meeting is totally against attempts to secede Shan State from the Union

USDA member Daw Thi Thi Win acted as MC together with USDA member Daw Marlar Tun.

The meeting chairman in his speech said that the government has been stepping up the nation-building tasks in all spheres for enabling the nation to keep abreast of global nations. Now, harmonious efforts the Tatmadaw, the people and the government have been making with lofty aims have yielded fruitful results of unprecedented development. The people are convinced well of the fact that the government’s all efforts focus on the building of basic foundations for a transition to discipline-flourishing democracy in the nation. After realizing the State’s national policy and work programmes based on national solidarity, national race armed groups have returned to the legal fold and have been lending themselves to the regional development tasks hand in hand with the government, thereby bringing about progress and prospects of border areas.

The people are now asking the government for the declaration of FTUB, NCGUB and ABSDF unlawful associations.

In line with the motto the strength of the nation lies within, the dangers of internal and external destructive elements are to be crushed with national solidarity. And it needs to protect and safeguard the mother country for its perpetual existence through the unity of various social organizations, national forces. All are to adhere to Our Three Main National Causes and to crush all destructive acts in conformity with the four-point people’s desire.

Now, self-reliant nation-building tasks are in the teeth of pressure, but are gaining momentum due to national unity and peace restored well through nationalistic fervour and Union Spirit.

Secretary of Budalin Township USDA U Sein Win Hlaing said that some nations of the world fell apart and the peoples were suffering from bloodbaths. Perpetuation of sovereignty depends on unity. In the international relations, Myanmar is strictly adhering to the five principles of peaceful co-existence. A group led by Sao Hkam Hpa under the foreign influence announced the formation of independent Shan State from across. It is a plot of colonialist minions to break up the Union.

The government on 19 April 2005 declared Sao Hkam Hpa’s group and other related bodies unlawful. Sao Hkam Hpa’s acts have connections with the plot of SSA led by Ywet Sit, SNLD and Shan State Intellectuals Advisory Council to set up a state in name only and to break away from the Union of Myanmar.

The mass meeting is totally against attempts to secede Shan State from the Union. Some big nations are using the ILO as a political podium to install a puppet government in Myanmar. Because of the sanctions, over 160 garment factories had to close down and another 40 reduced the number of workers. Over 80,000 workers were laid off. ABSDF, FTUB, NCGUB and NLD (LA) are committing inhuman terrorist attacks against innocent people to destroy peace and stability of the State.

(See page 9)
NCGUB and FTUB always have a hand in all the terrorists acts committed in Myanmar

The people will never forget the terrorist acts of the groups. They will crush the groups with the united strength. Sagaing Division is a place where King Alaungpaya started his venture to establish the Third Myanmar Empire and where a number of Myanmar heroes, patriots and intellectuals emerged. Secretary of Sagaing Division OWA Daw Nu Nu Win said that it is a sad thing to see lackeys of colonialists colluding with external destructive elements to destroy peace and stability of the State when the government and the people are in the process of developing the entire nation.

The entire people want peace and progress. But the destructionists from inside and outside the nation are turning to all-round destruction with negative attitude to gain power.

NCGUB and FTUB always have a hand in all the terrorists acts committed in Myanmar. The two groups are committing terrorist acts in collusion with some of the citizens of western nations. The groups under the guise of democracy activists are begging money from global nations and bodies. While deceiving the world just for self-interest, the NCGUB has been perpetrating terrorist acts against the entire people of Myanmar. All should ward off and crush the terrorists according to the four-point People’s Desire.

Next, U Win Myint, townelder of Budalin Township seconded the two motions, tabled by U Sein Win Hlaing of Budalin Township USDA and Daw Nu Nu Win of Sagaing Division WAO.

Secretary Daw Aye Aye Than of Monywa Township MCWA then joined in the discussion.

She said, there are three perils of which the State and the people must be aware when the nation is in jeopardy. Those are disintegration of the Union, disintegration of national reconsolidation and loss to sovereignty of the State.

For the emergence of a new discipline-flourishing democratic nation, the government has laid down seven-point Road Map and the national convention is well under way.

In translating the nation into a democratic one, it should be the system that suits the traditions and culture of the nation. This being so, the government and the people have been mounting the disturbance of internal and external destructive elements. Some big nations and a handful of persons constantly put pressure on the government on the pretext of working for democracy and human rights.

It is obvious that ABSDF, FTUB and NCGUB, the terror groups are committing the acts of terrorism to put the State and the people into trouble. ILO has been making decisions on Myanmar one after another, based on the fabricated news, invited by FTUB. As known to all, we submitted the proposals that ABSDF, FTUB and NCGUB are unlawful associations to the State. The mass meeting will support whatever decision made by the government.

The document HIV and National Security; Where are the Links recently stated that HIV virus breaking out in Asia originated in Myanmar. It is the one-sided statement. At present, the government has been widely implementing national level six strategies and ten tasks on HIV in cooperation with WHO on a wide range of health activities, resident representatives of UNITO UNDP in Myanmar as well as UNODC in Geneva always stand by the endeavours of Myanmar, she said.

In conclusion, she said all are to actively participate in successful realization of seven-point Road Map and nation-building tasks with Union Spirit, upholding Our Three Main National Causes. Major Ko Ko Myint (Retd) of Sagaing District War Veterans Supervisory Committee made a speech. He said that the MWVO is an organization making relentless efforts together with the people for national defence and security under the leadership of the Tatmadaw.

Moreover, social organizations are to do their bit for the success of nation-building endeavours and national development tasks with Union Spirit, regardless of regions and time.

Safeguarding the nation and endeavouring for national development are the inborn-duty of each and every citizen. In safeguarding the nation the national people are to do their bit in upholding Our Three Main National Causes and in surviving for national development they are to play their respective roles in implementing the 12 national objectives.

Here, every citizen is to be well aware that the will to implement the 12 national objectives and keep in the fore Our Three Main National Causes are Union Spirit and nationalistic spirit.

In the drive to implement the seven-point Road Map the government has been able to hold the National Convention, the first step of Road Map, which was adjourned for various reasons.

At present, marked progress has been made in various sectors owing to combined and concerted efforts of the Tatmadaw, the people and social organizations under the leadership of the government and the national brethren are now enjoying the fruitful results of the national development.

At such a time, regrettably, there emerged instigation and attempts made by internal and external destructive elements to undermine national unity.

On 17 April 2005, a group led by renegade Sao Khan Hpa from a foreign nation announced the Shan State provisional government there by establishing the independent Shan State. They did so to the liking of some big nations, turning a blind eye to the wishes of Shan people.

Their sinister schemes are directly connected with the acts of the SSA led by Ywet Sit, the SNLD and Shan State Intellectuals Advisory Council, which are making attempts to establish a nominal Union in order to secede from the Union one day.

Therefore, he reiterated that the entire national people will not accept at all any plots to secede from the Union and oppose any acts detrimental to Our Three Main National Causes.

The national forces or constructive forces are to ward off all the attempts and attacks made by destructive elements with Union Spirit and nationalistic spirit in accordance with the four-point people’s desires.

Meeting chairman
Secretary of Budalin Township
USDA U Sein Win Hlaing
holds discussions at the mass meeting.

Secretary of Sagaing Division
Women’s Affairs Organization
Daw Nu Nu Win
deals with matters on guarding against dangers of destructionists.

Secretary of Sagaing Division
OWA Daw Nu Nu Win
holds discussions at the mass meeting.

Secretary of Monywa Township
Maternal and Child Welfare Association
Daw Aye Aye Than
speaks at the mass meeting.

It is a sad thing to see lackeys of colonialists colluding with external destructive elements to destroy peace and stability of the State when the government and the people are in the process of developing the entire nation. The entire people want peace and progress. But the destructionists inside and outside the nation are turning to all-round destruction with negative attitude to gain power.
FM sends message of sympathy to India

YANGON, 5 Aug — U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar has sent a message of sympathy to His Excellency Mr K Natwar Singh, External Affairs Minister of the Republic of India on the loss of life and property caused by devastating monsoon floods in Maharashtra State on 26 July 2005. — MNA

Mines Minister receives Malaysian guests

YANGON, 5 Aug — Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint received Managing Director Mr Parameswaran of Addgrowth Industries (M) SDN Company of Malaysia and party at the ministry this afternoon.

It was also attended by the officials of the ministry. — MNA

Cooperatives Minister inspects cooperative shop, furniture factories

YANGON, 5 Aug — Minister for Cooperatives Col Zaw Min together with officials, arrived at the model shop of Yamonna General Economic Cooperatives Association opened at No 495 on Yamonna Road in Dawbon Township this morning.

The minister and party viewed the shop and gave necessary instructions. The foodstuff, household goods, cosmetics and medicines are available at the shop. So far, altogether 18 shops have been opened.

Afterwards, the minister and party proceeded to rubber wood furniture factory of Shwe Yangon Lwin Pyin Agriculture Production Cooperatives Association on Pyin Road in Dagon Myothit (East) Township and left instructions.

Next, the minister inspected the rubber wood furniture factory in Yankin Township.

After viewing the products and designs of the factory, the minister gave necessary instructions.

MNA

YANGON, 5 Aug — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence arrived at Wanbawdal Bridge situated between Yangon and Bago Division by car yesterday afternoon. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than was welcomed there by Bago Division PDC Chairman Southern Command Commander Maj-Gen Ko Ko, Brig-Gen Win Myint of the local battalion, senior military officers and departmental officials.

Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and the commander and party went to Indagaw research and plant propagation farm of Myanmar Perennial Crops Enterprise under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation. Farm Manager U Hla Moe Aung reported on area and location of the farm, land use, strength of staff and cultivation tasks and Managing Director U Yu Tin of MPCE on cultivation of rubber nurseries to mark the friendship between Myanmar and China.

MNA

Li-Gen Khin Maung Than inspects agricultural services in Bago Division

Li-Gen Khin Maung Than inspects rubber plantations in Indagaw Research and Plant Propagation Farm.

YANGON Division MCWSC organizes World Breastfeeding Week

YANGON, 5 Aug — The ceremony to mark the World Breastfeeding Week for Yangon Division, co-organized by Yangon Division Health Department and Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee, was held at BEHS No 2 in Sangyoung Township this morning.

Chairperson of Yangon Division MCWSC Daw Khin Thet Htay, representative of Sagaing Division USDA, seconded the motions tabled by Monywa Town-ship MCWSC Secretary Daw Aye Aye Than and Major Ko Ko Myint (Retd) of Sagaing District WVO Supervisory Committee.

The meeting chairman sought the approvals from the mass meeting which passed the two resolutions.

Later, the meeting ended with the chanting of the slogans.

MNA

Minister for Cooperatives Col Zaw Min inspects the shop of Yamonna General Economic Cooperative Ltd in Dawbon Township. — COOPERATIVE

NCGUB and FTUB always …

( from page 9 )

Putting in the fore Our Three Main National Causes, he pledged that the entire national people are to take part in nation-building endeavours and the successful realization of the seven-point Road Map by doing their bit.

Lecturer U Kyaw Tun of History Department of Monywa University, representative of Sagaing Division USDA, seconded the motions tabled by Monywa Town-ship MCWSC Secretary Daw Aye Aye Than and Major Ko Ko Myint (Retd) of Sagaing District WVO Supervisory Committee.

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MNA

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Chairperson of Yangon Division MCWSC Daw Khin Thet Htay gave an opening speech, and presented prizes to the winners in essay to commemorate the World Breastfeeding Week and others.

Head of Yangon Division Health Department Dr U Hla Myint accepted permanent membershıp applications for MCWA from Yangon West District MCWSC Chairperson Daw Ni Ni Sein.

Next, specialists gave lectures on breastfeeding and health of children and expectant mothers.

A similar ceremony was held at Kanaung Hall of Shwepyitha Industrial Zone this morning, attended by Chairperson of Yangon Division MCWSC Daw Khin Thet Htay. — MNA
Bago Division stands second

(from page 16) acres of monsoon paddy and 3.44 million acres of summer paddy. Therefore, all are to strive for meeting the target. In 2001-2002, 13 million acres of land were put under monsoon and 2 million acres under summer paddy, yielding 1,050 million baskets of paddy. In 2004-2005, 14.39 million acres of monsoon paddy and 2.55 million acres of summer paddy were grown to yield 1,184 million baskets of paddy. However, the paddy production has not met the target of the State yet.

Bago Division stands second position in paddy cultivation with 21 per cent of sown acreage of the nation. The division grew 2.4 million acres of monsoon paddy in 2003-04 and 2.6 million acres in 2004-05. Out of 2.8 million acres of monsoon paddy in 2005-06, districts and townships in Bago Division (East Sector) have put 1.4 million acres under monsoon paddy to date. Officials are to make efforts for exceeding the target. In addition, preparations are to be made for growing 100,000 acres of summer paddy in the division for 2005-06.

He urged those present to grow rubber and Thitseint (Belleric myrobalan), tea, coffee and pepper in the division and to raise poultry farm as well. For meeting the target of growing monsoon and summer paddy, the Government has built 36 irrigation facilities in the division, and another four dams are under construction.

In conclusion, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than urged them to strive for achieving success in implementing the target in the agriculture sector and officials are to make field trips to the grassroots level.

Next, the commander gave a speech.

Chairmen of Toungoo and Bago District PDCs handed over reports related to the completion of ploughing in their respective districts to the commander. Afterwards, township teams participated in the direct seeding skills contest. Brig-Gen Win Myint of local LID presented third prize to Thanatpin Township team; Commander Maj-Gen Ko Ko second prize to Oktwin Township team; and Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than first prize to Nyanglebin Township team.

Second Triathlon Contest held

YANGON, 5 Aug — Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint opened the Second Triathlon Contest at Kandawgyi Lake, here, this morning. A total of 28 athletes participated in the 1,500-m swimming event, 40-km cycling event and 10-km race.

Chit Oo of Ayeyawady Division stood first with 2 hours, 19 minutes and 36.8 seconds. Min Zaw of Manda-onds, Maung Maung Nay and Zaw Min of Toungoo and Bago Division (East Sector) placed second position in the division, and 9.1 seconds.

Min Zaw of Manda-onds, Min Zaw of Manda-onds, Min Zaw of Manda-onds, Min Zaw of Manda-

MOC Chairman Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint awards first prize to Chit Oo. — NLM

Foundry Plant inspected in Ayethayar Industrial Zone

Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi inspects foundry plant in Ayethayar Industrial Zone, Taunggyi. — ENERGY

In the afternoon, the minister oversaw Filling Station No 0701 in Shwenyaung and gave necessary instructions to officials. — MNA

Minister Lun Thi inspects foundry plant in Ayethayar Industrial Zone, Taunggyi. — ENERGY

Foundry Plant inspected in Ayethayar Industrial Zone

Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi met with members of the board of directors of Foundry Plant and entrepreneurs at Ayethayar Industrial Zone in Taunggyi this morning.

The minister heard reports on functions of BODs, financial matters, completion of building the plant and its operation. The minister said that the government invested capital of foreign currency together with shares of local entrepreneurs for ensuring development of the industrial sector. It is necessary to collect raw materials for the plant. He stressed the need to manufacture quality products to be sold at reasonable price. He urged officials to seek markets at home and abroad.

Next, all the participants took part in the discussions. And, the minister attended to the needs.

Afterwards, the minister inspected running of the Foundry Plant. Plant Manager U Than Hsin Myint conducted the minister round the plant.

The plant started its operation on 1 August and manufactures flywheels and brake drums, and accepted orders of the local entrepreneurs.

I&P Minister receives UNFPA Resident Representative

YANGON, 5 Aug — Minister for Immigration and Population Maj-Gen Sein Hwa received UNFPA Resident Representative Mr Daniel B. Baker and party at the ministry this morning. Also present on the occasion were Deputy Minister U Maung Aung, Director-General of Immigration and National Registration Department Col Maung Maung Than, Director-General of Population Department U Tin Yi, Deputy Director-General Daw Khin May Aung and officials. — MNA
London’s Piccadilly Line to resume normal service

MOSCOW, 4 Aug—All stations on the London Underground will be opened for service on Thursday for the first time since 19 commuters died in attacks exactly four weeks ago, transport officials said on Wednesday.

“Normal service will return to the Piccadilly Line, the site of the deadliest attack where 27 people died. That leaves the Circle line as the only service still suspended.”

All stations on this line are served by other trains however.

“The return of the Piccadilly line is a major step as the Underground and London gets back to normal,” London underground managing director Tim O’Toole said in a statement.

“We are now serving all stations and are determined to get on with the job of transforming the Tube.”

O’Toole thanked his staff who had worked to restore a normal service.

“Not only did they perform magnificently on 7 and 21 July, but they have enabled the Tube and London to get back to normal within four weeks.”

MENA/Reuters

Belarus accuses EU of meddling in its internal affairs

 Diplomats. Poland refused to accept the request and accused the EU of meddling in Belarusian internal affairs.

The statement rejected the EU’s accusations that the Belarusian Government oppresses non-governmental organizations, describing the charges as yet another reflection of double standards by Brussels and Washington. The move has once again proved the EU’s real aim is to undermine the Belarussian State’s independence and sovereignty. The European Union has been accused of attempting to impose political pressure on Minsk, the statement said.

In March, the Association of Poles, an organization grouping ethnic Poles in Belarus and the EU’s OSCE, opened for service on the Minsk metro on Wednesday.

Moscow, 4 Aug—Belarus on Wednesday accused the European Union (EU) and US accusations that the Belarusian Government oppress non-governmental organizations, describing the charges as yet another reflection of double standards by Brussels and Washington. The move has once again proved the EU’s real aim is to undermine the Belarussian State’s independence and sovereignty. The European Union has been accused of attempting to impose political pressure on Minsk, the statement said.

The EU threatened to impose sanctions against Belarus if it did not free human rights activists and political prisoners. The EU’s move was seen as part of its effort to pressure the Belarusian authorities to make concessions.

Belarusian officials have repeatedly denied the EU’s accusations of human rights abuses and political repression. They have accused the EU of干涉Belarusian internal affairs.

The EU’s move was seen as part of its effort to pressure the Belarusian authorities to make concessions.

Belarus has been under pressure from the EU and US to make concessions on human rights and political freedoms. The EU has imposed sanctions against Belarus in response to its alleged human rights abuses.

MENA/Reuters

Britain seeks extradition of bomb suspect from Italy

LONDON, 4 Aug—An Italian court has received a formal extradition request from Britain for a man suspected of involvement in the 21 July attacks.

The court said the trial date would continue to be fixed in March 2006, as the suspect, Hamid Issac, would be handed over within 90 days.

Issac, also known as Osman Hussein, was seized in Rome last week.

Moscow, 4 Aug—Belarus on Wednesday accused the European Union (EU) and US accusations that the Belarusian Government oppress non-governmental organizations, describing the charges as yet another reflection of double standards by Brussels and Washington.

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MENA/Reuters

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MENA/Reuters

Russia to scrap more strategic missile launches in 2005

Russia has decided to scrap four more road-based missile launches and 18 Topol missile launches by the end of 2005, the commander of the Russian Strategic Missile Troops said on Wednesday.

“Five rail-based missile launches have been scrapped in Bryansk this year and four others are to be scrapped before the end of this year,” the Interfax news agency quoted Nikolai Solovtsov as saying.

“Nine Topol missile launching systems have been destroyed in Pobershaur and 18 others will have been destroyed by year end,” he added.

According to the commander, the Strategic Missile Troops’ arsenals, including missiles and missile launchers, are included in the Soviet-US Treaty on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Weapons (START).

The European Union on 31 July failed bomb attacks on London’s transport network has been charged under British terrorism laws, the police said on Wednesday.

He is the first person to be charged as part of the July bomb attacks investigation. He is not one of the four men suspected of being a would-be bomber.

Ismael Abudrahman, from Kennington in south London, has been charged with hindering the police investigation by protecting a possible suspect, said a police spokesman.

He will appear in a London court on Thursday. British police believe all four men they were hunting over the failed 21 July bomb attacks into the attacks, but is not one of the four men suspected of being a would-be bomber.

MENA/Reuters

At least 11 killed in South Korea floods

Seoul, 4 Aug—Heavy rains and flooding across South Korea have killed at least 11 people, left five missing and damaged hundreds of homes, officials said on Wednesday.

Almost all the fatalities were in the southwestern provinces of Jeolla and South Cholla, where 10 people had been confirmed dead, police said. Some 200 millimetres (8 inches) of rain has fallen over the past day in areas in the provinces, flooding 12,225 hectares (30,000 acres) of rice fields and damaging 552 houses, police and meteorological officials said.

MENA/Reuters

Man charged over failed London bomb attacks

LONDON, 4 Aug—A 23-year-old man arrested in connection with the 21 July failed bomb attacks on London’s transport network has been charged under British terrorism laws, the police said on Wednesday.

He is the first person to be charged as part of the July bomb attacks investigation. He is not one of the four men suspected of being a would-be bomber.

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MENA/Reuters
US study drug cuts overnight shift fatigue

BOSTON, 4 Aug — A drug that treats the uncontrollable sleepiness of narcolepsy can also help the 300,000 to 600,000 Americans who face chronic fatigue and sleep problems from working overnight shifts, according to a study released on Wednesday.

Cephalon Inc’s modafinil, sold under the brand Provigil, produced fewer lapses in attention and 25 per cent fewer reports of accidents or near-accidents on the job after midnight, according to the study published in the New England Journal of Medicine.

Cephalon paid for the testing, conducted at 28 US medical centres.

Modafinil “gets patients about one-third of the way toward normalcy”, said the study’s chief author, Charles Czeisler of Brigham and Women’s Hospital.

“The cautionary note is that they are still quite sleepy. It doesn’t immediately eliminate the symptoms of (shift-work sleep) disorder, but it is a clinically significant improvement.” Shift-work sleep disorder is caused by a misalignment of the body’s natural sleep rhythms.

It becomes severe in 5 per cent to 10 per cent of workers who are on the job after midnight, making it difficult for them to sleep during the day and stay awake during work.

The disorder increases the risk of accidents and people with the disorder are more likely to suffer from depression, heart disease and ulcers.

While healthy, well-rested people take 10 to 20 minutes to fall asleep, people who doze off in five minutes or less are considered pathologically sleepy.

Metal airway stents can cause problems

WASHINGTON, 4 Aug — Metal stents used to prop open the airway can cause infections, throat constriction, and obstruct tissue if used to treat certain benign disorders, US regulators said in a letter to doctors released on Wednesday.

The US Food and Drug Administration said it alerted physicians after receiving at least 60 reported problems with the transport of cargo to forming the spindles and waste working with makers of the device to change product labels to make sure they “adequately convey the risks”.

Boston Scientific and CR Bard Inc both manufacture the device, according to the FDA. Privately-held forms including Cook, WL Gore, and Alveolus, also produce it.

Boston Scientific spokesman Paul Donovan said the company’s label was adequate. “Our existing label language is in agreement with FDA’s recommendation,” he said.

A CR Bard spokesman did not return a call seeking comment. Stents are short mesh-like tubes made of plastic or metal that work like scaffolding to open up passages in the body.

Agency officials said using them to treat patients with disorders from accidents, surgery or other noncancerous causes could lead to complications preventing them from getting other treatments.

The FDA said it came to the conclusion after reviewing reports it received on the device, professional journals and information from doctors.

Agency spokeswoman Julie Zawisza said the FDA was still reviewing its own reports but had received about 60 reports, though some included more than one patient “so the real number is actually higher”.

About 40 to 50 incidents were reported in the medical literature, she added.

Panda cub born at San Diego Zoo from natural mating

LOS ANGELES, 4 Aug— San Diego Zoo on Wednesday welcomed a new giant panda cub — the second to be born in the United States this year and one of the few of the endangered species in captivity to be born naturally.

Zoo officials said the four-ounce (113.5-grammes) cub, whose name and gender have yet to be determined, was born late on Tuesday. Thirteen-year-old mother Bai Yun, on loan from China, was originally carrying twins but one of the fetuses died in the womb.

In Washington, Mei Xiang gave birth to a male panda cub at the National Zoo last month after artificial insemination.

Giant pandas are notoriously difficult to breed because they are normally solitary creatures and the female is fertile only three-five days a year.

Smart bio-nanotubes for drug delivery developed

LOS ANGELES, 4 Aug— A novel bio-nanotube that can open or close ends under deferent electrical charges have been developed, scientists reported on Tuesday.

The nanotubes are “smart” so that in the future they could be designed to encapsulate and then open up to deliver a drug or gene in a particular location in the body, according to the researchers at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

The scientists found that by manipulating the electrical charges of lipid bilayer membranes and microtubules from cells, they could create open or closed bio-nanotubes, or nanoscale capsules. This finding will be published in the 9 August issue of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

NY authorities battle intruding snakehead fish

NEW YORK, 4 Aug — The snakehead fish, a voracious predator from Asia, has taken up residence in a lake in New York, and experts are mulling options, including salt and poison, to evict it.

Snakeheads, which can grow to about three feet long, have the capacity to ravage the local fish population.

This is the first time these fish have surfaced in New York State and environmentalists are racing against the clock to prevent them multiplying in lakes and rivers, as has occurred in some other US states.

Experts are unsure whether the fish are breeding but want to stop them before they do. The snakehead was found at Meadow Lake in the New York borough of Queens. — MNA/Reuters

Shuttle “Discovery” may need another space repair

LOS ANGELES, 4 Aug — Although astronaut Steven Robinson removed two gap fillers from Discovery’s underside, a ruffled thermal blanket below the shuttle commander’s window worried mission managers at NASA.

Engineers informed the shuttle crew on Wednesday there was a chance that a fourth swatch could be needed Friday to deal with the torn thermal blanket.

They said the blanket does not pose a danger to overheating. However, engineers are performing tests overnight to determine the likelihood of the blanket coming off during the shuttle’s descent and becoming a source of debris.

The 50-centimetre section of the blanket could rip away during re-entry, whip backward and slam into the shuttle, perhaps causing grave damage, NASA said. Engineers expect to know by Thursday evening whether the danger is real and whether any blanket trimming is required.

In a Wednesday afternoon briefing, NASA’s deputy shuttle programme manager Wayne Hale said a team of aerodynamic engineers are working around the clock to perform several tests with three sample blankets.

The team will try to replicate the damage and simulate the shuttle’s descent in a wind tunnel to learn how the insulation material might react. The aerodynamics team is seeking to understand when, if at all, the blanket could tear away and what size piece or pieces could come off.

Meanwhile, the mission control team is developing a plan for a potential additional spacewalk repair for the thermal blanket, Hale said.

NASA hailed shuttle crew’s third spacewalk as “an excursion in the history books”. The spacewalk featured the first-ever on-orbit repair of a shuttle’s heat shield and attachment of a new platform onto the International Space Station.

The heat shield repair efforts occurred quickly and just as planned on the shuttle Discovery’s underbelly. Robinson removed gap fillers that were protruding from two areas between heat-shield tiles on Discovery. He gently wedged the gap fillers until they came out.

After he removed the stowage platform onto the thermal blanket, Hale said.

The first-ever on-orbit repair of a shuttle’s heat shield and attachment of a new platform onto the International Space Station.

The scientists used microtubules purified from the brain tissue of a cow for their experiments. Microtubules are nanometre-scale hollow cylinders derived from the cell cytoskeleton.

In an organism, microtubules and their assembled structures are critical components in a broad range of cell functions, from providing tracks for the transport of cargo to forming the spindles and structure in cell division. Their functions include the transport of neurotransmitter precursors in neurons.

Metallic tracheal stents are used to help prop open the airway.

Agency officials said using them to treat patients with disorders from accidents, surgery or other noncancerous causes could lead to complications preventing them from getting other treatments.

The FDA said it came to the conclusion after reviewing reports it received on the device, professional journals and information from doctors.

Agency spokeswoman Julie Zawisza said the FDA was still reviewing its own reports but had received about 60 reports, though some included more than one patient “so the real number is actually higher”.

About 40 to 50 incidents were reported in the medical literature, she added.

Shuttle “Discovery” may need another space repair

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**SPORTS**

**Figo leaves Real training camp to sign for Inter**

**Madrid, 5 Aug —** Real Madrid midfielder Luis Figo left the club's pre-season training camp in Austria on Thursday to sign for Inter Milan.

Real said the 32-year-old Portuguese international would undergo a medical with Inter and be presented to the Italian media on Saturday.

Spanish media reported that Figo would sign a two-year deal with the Serie A club for a reported salary of around 4.5 million euros (5.55 million US dollars) a year.

The former World and European Player of the Year, who fell out with Real coach Vanderlei Luxemburgo after coming through the trainee ranks in midfield, has spent his entire 10-year career in Spain.

**Tuesday.**

Luxemburgo's squad could, however, soon be shorn of two big names in Portuguese winger Luis Figo and England striker Michael Owen although the Brazilian is working on the assumption that they will remain with the club.

Figo, who lost his place in the starting line-up in the closing stages of last season, made a flying visit to Italy to negotiate with Inter Milan on Tuesday, but has yet to agree terms with the Serie A side.

Owen, whose future has been cast into doubt after the club's decision to sign Brazilian forwards Julio Baptista and Robinho, released a statement saying he had spoken to some Premier League clubs about the possibility of leaving Real.

"Figo is still a Real Madrid player," said Luxemburgo. "He has been in talks, but until something is decided he will remain with us just like any other player.

"Owen also has a contract with Real and I am counting on all the players that are at my disposal. Anything else is nothing to do with me."

**Two Koreas draw 0-0 in first match for 12 years**

**Chonju (South Korea), 5 Aug —** North and South Korea, divided for more than half a century, battled to a diplomatically goalless draw in the East Asia Football Championship on Thursday, their first encounter in 12 years.

Both sides had one solid chance each during a closely fought match played in near-tropical heat and humidity in a stadium used during the 2002 World Cup hosted by South Korea and Japan.

Those two sides have qualified for next year's finals in Germany but the North failed again to make the grade.

Yet on Thursday, North Korean substitute Choe Ung-chon caught the South's defence off guard in the 58th minute, forcing keeper Lee Woon-jae to punch the ball clear.

In the 70th minute, popular South Korean striker Lee Dong-gook's header skipped just over the bar.

South Korea's "Red Devils" fans kept up a steady drumbeat and chants. At the other end of the stadium, fans unfurled a huge white flag showing the Korean Peninsula united and in blue.

Others chanted "Uri-nun hana" ("We are one") which is also the title of a popular song about Korea's divided people.

National teams from China, Japan, North Korea and South Korea are playing in men's and women's events at three venues in South Korea from July 31 to August 7. Each team has three matches and whichever tops the table is the winner.

Regional tensions have been unlikely to get down to the back yard.

"I was frustrated last season, he knew that," said Kuznetsova. "I spoke to Alex Ferguson and it was his decision saying he had spo-

"I'd lost my energy and my motiva-

"Owen also has a contract with Real and I am counting on all the players that are at my disposi-

**Everton complete Phil Neville signing**

**London, 5 Aug —** Everton have completed the signing of Manchester United's England defender Phil Neville for an undisclosed fee, the Merseyside club said on Thursday.

The 28-year-old full back, who has 52 international caps, signed a five-year contract after passing a medical.

He completed the transfer in time to be available for Everton's Champions League third qualifying round tie with Spanish side Villarreal, the first leg of which takes place at Goodison Park on Tuesday.

Neville, who can also play in midfield, has spent his entire 10-year playing career at Manchester United after coming through the trainee ranks alongside brother Gary.

He won six Premier League titles, three FA Cups and the Champions League.

However, he struggled to command a regular starting position last season and eventually was dropped from the World Cup squad.

"I spoke to Alex Ferguson and it was made clear that I wasn't going to get enough football next season," Neville told the Everton website.

"I was frustrated last season, he knew that, and we came to an agreement that it would be best if he gave me permission to talk to other clubs."

Real president Florentino Perez paid a reported £10 million (14 million US dollars) a year.

The 25-year-old centre-back is in the final stages of recovery from a serious thigh injury that has prevented him from playing a game since signing for Real to cost close to 20 million euros (24.6 million US dollars) last Au-

**Sugiyama stuns Kuznetsova on day of upsets**

**Carlsbad (California), 5 Aug —** Japan's Ai Sugiyama stunned second seed Svetlana Kuznetsova 2-6, 6-4, 6-3 in one of several upsets in the third round of the San Diego Classic on Thursday.

Russian 18-year-old Anna Chakvetadze upseteded ninth seed Elena Likhovtseva 6-3, 6-1 and China's Shuai Peng took down number 16 see Dinara Safina 7-6, 6-0.

Japan's Akiko Morigami, meanwhile, ended Indian qualifier Sania Mirza's run with a 6-2, 4-6, 6-4 victory.

The 30-year-old Sugiyama counterpunched brilliantly against US Open champion Kuznetsova, who was rusty after a month's break since Wim-

Kuznetsova got off to a fast start but in the second set, the Japanese veteran began to wear her down with sharply angled shots.

In the third set, Kuznetsova committed a series of unforced errors to be broken to 4-2 and lost the contest when she flailed at an easy backhand.

"She concentrated during the whole match and I didn't," said Kuznetsova. "I had too many ups and downs. That month was the longest break I've ever had from tennis and I need some more matches before I get my form back."

After winning her first Grand Slam title at the 2004 US Open and taking the world number one title in Bali the following week, Kuznetsova has lost her stride.

She has yet to agree terms with the Serie A side.

"If you compare it to last year, maybe it's 50 per cent as good, but I can't ask that of myself all of the time. Hopefully with more matches, my confidence will come back before the US Open."

A-one-time member of the world top 10, Sugiyama's level has also dropped. At the end of last year when her standard began to fall, she thought about retiring.

Wladimir Kuznetsova has lost her stride. She has yet to agree terms with the Serie A side.

"I'm not very satisfied with my year," Kuznetsova said. "If you compare it to last year, maybe it's 50 per cent as good, but I can't ask that of myself all of the time. Hopefully with more matches, my confidence will come back before the US Open."

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Sugiyama will face 15-year-old Seren
Japan plans full-fledged revision of disarmament resolution

Tokyo, 5 August — Japan is set to completely revise its nuclear disarmament draft resolution it submitted annually to the UN General Assembly, by simplifying the document and underscoring priority to restore confidence in the Non-Proliferation Treaty, Kyodo News reported on Thursday.

As this year marks the 60th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Japan’s Hiroshima and Nagasaki by the United States in World War II, the revised draft resolution will declare determination to completely eliminate nuclear weapons and call on all nuclear powers to reduce their nuclear arms, including tactical nuclear weapons, in an irreversible manner. Japan has submitted the draft resolutions on nuclear disarmament, titled “A Path to the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons”, to the UN General Assembly annually since 1994. According to Kyodo, while partial amendments were made yearly a comprehensive revision will be made for the first time in five years in response to the significant changes in the international security environment since the 11 September terrorist attacks in the United States in 2001. The government plans to ask European and other countries to co-sponsor the draft and will submit it to the first committee of the Assembly in early October, Kyodo said.

The draft will urge other countries to ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) to facilitate its early entry into force, even though the United States is refusing to ratify it. The draft will also call for the continuation of discussions on nuclear tests and for immediate negotiations on a proposed Fissile Material Cutoff Treaty. Last year’s resolution was adopted at the UN General Assembly in December with the support of 165 countries, the largest number so far. But with opposition expected from Washington, which is opposed to CTBT ratification, it remains unclear how much impact this year’s resolution will actually have on facilitating disarmament diplomacy.—MNA/Indha
**General Soe Win sends message of sympathy to India**

**YANGON, 5 Aug**— General Soe Win, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar has sent a message of sympathy to His Excellency Dr Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of the Republic of India on the loss of life and property caused by devastating monsoon floods in Maharashtra State on 26 July 2005.— **MNA**

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**Bago Division stands second position in paddy cultivation with 21% sown acreage of the nation**

**YANGON, 5 Aug**— The ceremony to mark completion of ploughing fields for early monsoon paddy cultivation for 2005-2006 was held at the quality seed strain farm in Bago this morning, attended by member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence.

Also present on the occasion were Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Southern Command Maj-Gen Ko Ko, local authorities, departmental personnel, social organization members and local people.

Speaking on the occasion, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than said that the Government is carrying out development tasks in all regions of the nation for narrowing the gap between rural and urban regions. The State economy depends on the agricultural sector. Similarly, economic growth of rural people also depends on the agricultural development.

Targets of growing 10 main crops, three new items and three perennial crops were set for States and Divisions annually for ensuring local food sufficiency. Out of them, the government set the target to yield 1,200 million baskets of paddy from 15.04 million

(See page 11)

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**Forestry Minister attends tree planting ceremony**

**YANGON, 5 Aug**—A tree planting ceremony for ensuring greening of Bago Mountain Range took place at the Taunghlaing Reserve Forest in Taikkyi Township this morning, attended by Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung, directors-general and managing directors of departments and enterprises under the Ministry of Forestry, officials from Yangon East and Yangon North District Forest Departments, local authorities, departmental officials and local people.

Those present on the occasion planted 3,600 teak saplings in the reserve forest.

Next, the minister viewed round thriving of

(See page 11)