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

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

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

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**State Peace and Development Council Chairman Senior General Than Shwe accepts credentials of Ambassador of Spain**

**YANGON, 9 Aug**—Mr Juan Manuel Lopez Nadal, newly accredited Ambassador of Spain to the Union of Myanmar, presented his credentials to Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, at Zeyathiri Beikman, Konmyinttha, at 10 am today.

Also present on the occasion were Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Deputy Ministers for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu and U Maung Myint and Director-General Thura U Aung Htet of the Protocol Department.

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**Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.**
Boost production of high-quality industrial items

The government of the Union of Myanmar is striving for the nation’s industrial development by encouraging the private industrial sector in order that the nation can catch up with other developed countries in the world. In striving for the industrial development, the government is doing so in accordance with one of the four economic objectives — the initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples.

In enhancing the industrial sector in accordance with the market economic system, first priority is being given to meeting the domestic necessity by producing import-substitute items. Therefore, national entrepreneurs are being encouraged to engage in industries.

For the development of industries, the government mobilized and established industrial zones. As a result of the government rendering all the necessary assistance, there have been altogether 19 industrial zones up to now. Under the supervision of the Central Committee for Industrial Development, the government and national entrepreneurs run heavy and medium-sized industries and Cottage Industry Department supervises light industries.

It is necessary for industrialists to constantly innovate new ideas and methods. Only then will their factories and mills become advanced and modernized.

To contribute to the industrial development, the government, on its part, helped build foundries in Mandalay, Monywa and Taunggyi Ayethaya Industrial Zones. Now, flywheels and brake drums are being produced by these industrial zones.

Both the government and local industrialists made investments in the establishment of foundries and machinery plants.

Now that these plants are operational, necessary industrial items can be produced locally. The industrial zones should produce items of required standard first and then high-tech items. Moreover, local products should be of good quality and their prices reasonable.

We would like to urge national entrepreneurs to strive for the industrial development of the nation by making better use of the assistance rendered by the government and by innovating new ideas and methods.

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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

Beautifying tasks in city inspected

YANGON, 9 Aug—Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thien Lin inspected upgrading of roads in the city today.

The commander and the mayor inspected dredging of drains and laying of concrete marbles in Botthiown Township, Kyauktada Township, Bahan Township, Mayangon Township and South Okkalapa Township. The commander urged officials to organize people to participate in sanitation tasks which contribute much to dengue haemorrhagic fever prevention activities being carried out by Yangon Division PDC, the Ministry of Health and YCDC in the city. — MNA

Deputy Health Minister leaves for Thailand

YANGON, 9 Aug—To attend the 6th Ministerial Meeting on uplift of international health standard to be held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 10 to 11 August, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo left here for Thailand this morning.

The deputy minister was seen off at the airport by Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, directors-general of departments under the ministry, Resident Representative Professor Adik Wibowo of WHO, and officials.

Deputy Minister Dr Mya Oo was accompanied by Director Dr Tin Min of Health Department.

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Forestry Minister on inspection tour of Ayeyawady Division

YANGON, 9 Aug—Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung yesterday arrived at No126 sawmill (Thida Hilly Camp) in No126 sawmill in Yekyi and No2 sawmill in Ingapu, No106 sawmill in Yekyi and No105 sawmill in Kyangin and inspected functions of the mill. The minister also inspected teak plantations in Kyangin, Myanmar, Ingapu and Laymyethna Townships. Officials reported to the minister on work being carried out at the plantations.

The minister proceeded to Kaingtha Timber Yard in Myanmar Township of Hinthada Timber Extraction Region. Officials reported to the minister on work plan for 2005-2006. The minister gave necessary instructions. Afterwards, the minister inspected No31 sawmill in Ingapu, No 106 sawmill in Yekyi and No126 sawmill (Thida Hilly Camp). At Thida Hilly Camp in Pathein (West), officials reported on timber extraction to the minister who gave necessary instructions. — MNA

Minister Brig-Gen Thein Aung inspects model teak plantation in Ingapu Township. — MNA
Younger ASEAN citizens urged to enhance mutual understanding

SINGAPORE, 8 Aug—Singapore’s Foreign Minister George Yeo on Sunday stressed the need for younger citizens of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) to deepen mutual understanding.

George Yeo made the appeal ahead of the ASEAN Day which falls on the 8th of August. Channel NewsAsia reported. It was important that the younger generation of ASEAN citizens be enthused to know one another and feel comfortable in each others’ countries, the minister said.

Saying that ASEAN’s leaders want the 10-member family to be friends with everyone and have no enemies, the minister stressed that this can be achieved through good diplomacy, greater integration and by engaging the big neighbours.

Chinese experts find evidence that garlic may prevent cancer

BEIJING, 9 Aug—Chinese experts have recently found new evidence that garlic may help prevent cancer through study on stomach cancer samples.

According to a report of the Science and Technology Daily, Chinese experts found that garlic may restrain the multiplication of stomach cancer cells and cause the cancer cells to die.

The research was jointly conducted by experts from Beijing Genome Research Institute of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, the Clinical Tumor Institute of Beijing University, and the Beijing Tumor Prevention and Treatment Research Institute.

The researchers also found that stomach cancer is caused by many factors including the framework of cell, energy metabolism, control of cell multiplication. Cancers have topped the causes of all deaths in China.

Dengue fever kills 143 so far this year in Philippines

MANILA, 8 Aug—The Philippine Department of Health (DoH) said on Saturday that mosquito-borne dengue fever has killed 143 people since January. The DoH also said 10,977 dengue cases were reported from January to July this year, 9 per cent more than the same period last year.

Health Secretary Francisco Duque said the DoH is coordinating with local government officials in intensifying information drive on how to prevent the outbreak of dengue.

"The DoH is intensifying its information drive on the importance of draining stagnant waters which mosquitoes need to breed, keeping surroundings clean and detecting the early signs of dengue," he said.

Filipino women duped as drug couriers by int’l drug traffickers

MANILA, 8 Aug—Philippine Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo said on Sunday that some Filipino women are being duped by international drug traffickers to act as drug couriers between Southeast Asia and South America.

Romulo also reiterated his directives to all Philippine foreign service posts to closely monitor the “modus operandi” of drug trafficking syndicates duping Filipino women to act, in many cases unwittingly, as drug couriers, according to officials of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA). The DFA said it has issued an advisory for Filipino women to steer clear of international syndicates taking advantage of their need to seek overseas jobs. The warnings came in the wake of two more arrests in June of Filipino women by airport authorities in Bolivia for possessing cocaine.

Romulo said the incidents indicate Filipino women “are being victimized by criminal drug syndicates targeting the vulnerability of the Filipino women” — MNA/Xinhua

Chemical storehouse fire injures nine in S China city

SHANTOU (Guangdong), 8 Aug—Nine people, including six fire fighters, were injured in a chemical storehouse fire in Shantou City, Guangdong Province on Sunday morning, according to local government.

One severely-injured fire fighter was in a critical condition, according to local hospital.

The fire broke out around 9 am Sunday at a chemical storehouse, which is on the ground floor of a seven-storey building, trapping a young man and two boys, said witness.

US crude oil climbs to new high in opening trade

SINGAPORE, 8 Aug—US crude oil futures climbed to a new all-time high in opening trade on Monday, buoyed by a string of refinery snags in the United States and nagging geopolitical worries in the Middle East.

September crude on the New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX) climbed as much as 36 cents to a new high 62.67 US dollars a barrel.

Boys play in the rubble of a house which residents said was destroyed by a US military air strike in the western Iraq town of Haditha, 200 km (124 miles) west of Baghdad, on 7 August, 2005. — Internet

1,834 US soldiers killed in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 8 Aug—As of Monday, 8 Aug, 2005, at least 1,834 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,417 died as a result of hostile action, according to the military’s numbers. The figures include five military civilians.

The AP count is five higher than the Defence Department’s tally, last updated at 10 am EDT Monday. The British military has reported 93 deaths; at least 1,417 died as a result of hostile action, according to the military’s numbers.— AP

The new Boeing 787 jet. Four Chinese airlines signed contracts worth 5.04 billion dollars to buy 42 of Boeing’s new-generation 787 planes, the first firm orders for the jet from China with more on the way, officials said.

Dhaka to start master plan for water supplies

DHAKA, 8 Aug — As a high level of ground water consumption is rapidly depleting Dhaka’s water resources, the government will start formulating a master plan for Dhaka water supplies from November.

According to The Daily Star Saturday, Dhaka is facing a water shortage of about 500 million litres per day (mld), over 25 per cent of the existing demand. This shortage will hit 1,500 mld in 2015 if no action is initiated now.

From November, the government will begin a year long 1.25 million US dollars “fact finding technical mission” with the assistance of the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Reuters
China vows to veto enlarged UNSC plan

BEIJING, 8 Aug— China will veto a plan to enlarge the United Nations Security Council if the reform measure goes to a vote, the Foreign Ministry said on Sunday.

The so-called Group of Four — India, Germany, Japan and Brazil — have called for adding 10 new seats to the present 15-member body, which is comprised of five permanent members with veto power and 10 chosen by region who rotate for two-year terms.

“To uphold the interests of most developing nations, and to preserve the long-term interests of the United Nations, China will resolutely vote no if the G-4 proposal is put up for a vote,” the Foreign Ministry said in an official statement.

The proposal calls for adding six permanent seats without veto powers — four for the G-4 nations themselves and two for Africa — and four seats on rotating two-year terms.

“The G-4 resolution fails to consider the interests of the majority of nations, including African countries, and has been opposed and questioned by many nations and cannot gain support,” the ministry said.

On Thursday, China’s UN Ambassador Wang Guangya said his country and the United States had agreed to work together to defeat plans to expand the prestigious Security Council.

The African Union, at a meeting in Addis Ababa the same day, voted to reject the G-4 proposal and ratify its own plan for enlarging the Council.

China’s Foreign Ministry suggested the G-4 nations withdraw their resolution for further consultation among countries and warned against attempts to push through a vote. MNA/Reuters

Bank of Thailand says high-priced oil slows investment

BANGKOK, 8 Aug— Businessmen are slowing their investment in production and real estate development amid rising oil prices, a slowing economy and rising interest rates, the Thai News Agency quoted a report of the Bank of Thailand as saying Sunday.

In its monthly inflation assessment for July, the BOT reported its ongoing dialogue with the business sector. Business leaders told the central bank their view that the Thai economy is slowing both in consumption and investment due to the constant rise in energy prices worldwide, denting consumer confidence and purchasing power.

The businessmen said apart from implementing investment in capacity and production machinery replacements already planned, they are refraining from new investment pending otherwise improved economic conditions and oil prices. At the same time, property sector investment has definitely started slowing, with the trend moving from high-end to mid-price and low end segments. MNA/Xinhua

China holds forum on population, development of N-W region

XI’AN (Qinghai Province), 8 Aug— More than 180 officials and experts on population-related issues attended an ongoing forum here since Saturday to discuss population and social development in China’s northwest region, the biggest one of all six geographical regions around the country.

The three-day Northwest China Forum on Population and Development, the first of its kind ever held in the northwest region, will confer on such topics as regional population growth trends, population and socio-economic development, population and environment and corresponding measures.

China is divided into six geographical regions, including north China, northeast China, east China, central China, southwest China and northeast China. The northwestern region is the largest in territory of 5.09 million square metres and the smallest in population of 90 million.

But with population growing at the country’s fastest rate since the family planning policy was initiated in the early 1970s, and low GDP growth for relying heavily on agriculture and animal husbandry, the region has been troubled by how to attain a balanced and sustainable development between population development, environmental protection and socio-economic development.

Studying population situations and issues in the region to formulate a scientific population development strategy is very important for facilitating the development process of west China and narrow the gap with the developed east region, said Su Ning, director of the Qinghai Provincial Population and Family Planning Commission. MNA/Xinhua

More Singaporeans using mobile phones illegally while driving

SINGAPORE, 8 Aug— More and more people were using mobile phones illegally while driving in Singapore in the past three years.

According to Channel NewsAsia reports on Sunday, in 2002, Singapore police issued 606 summonses to drivers for using their phones illegally while driving, and the number jumped to nearly 1,300 in 2003 and more than 1,800 in 2004.

In the first half of this year, nearly 1,300 drivers were reported for using mobile phones illegally while driving, and such number is likely to rise for the rest of the year. MNA/Xinhua

American freelance journalist shot dead in Iraq

BASRA, 8 Aug— An American freelance journalist, who accused Basra’s police of being infiltrated by Shiite militiamen in a recent New York Times column and his Internet blog, was found shot to death in the southern city after being abducted by armed men driving a police car.

Steven Vincent, whose work also has appeared in The Wall Street Journal, and his female Iraqi translator were abducted at gunpoint by five men Tuesday evening as they left a currency exchange shop, police Lt Col Karim al-Zaidi said Wednesday.

Vincent’s body was discovered Tuesday night on the side of the highway south of Basra. He had been shot in the head and body, al-Zaidi said.

The translator, Nour Widi, was viciously wounded. “The US Embassy is working with British military and local Iraq officials in Basra to determine who is responsible for the death of this journalist,” embassy spokesman Pete Mitchell said Wednesday. MNA/Xinhua

China supports AU to safeguard interests on UNSC reform

BEIJING, 8 Aug— China supports the African Union (AU) to safeguard solidarity and common interests on reforms of the UN Security Council, said Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao here Saturday.

At the extraordinary summit of the African heads of state in Ethiopia, African leaders announced on Thursday evening to reject a proposal from Brazil, Germany, Japan and India, which is known as the Group of Four (G-4), on the expansion of the United Nations Security Council. MNA/Xinhua
I had been to several regions of Kachin State, but to Bhamo region. Recently, I made a trip to Bhamo by speedboat “Shwe Yi Oo” along the Ayeyawady River from Myitkyina. Having a chance to sit by U Thein Zaw Naing, the helmsman of the speedboat, I enjoyed scenic natural beauties along the 150-mile Myitkyina-Bhamo trip.

He shared with me the historic events that happened in the regions along the river. I learnt that in the past, people had to take risks in travelling from Bhamo to Myitkyina in Kachin State. By contrast, after the Tatmadaw had taken up the State’s responsibilities and made peace with national race armed groups, peace and stability had been restored well and local people could travel from one place to another at will. Along the river are a variety of ships and motorboats plying from one region to another. Previously, people had to spend one day to travel from Myitkyina to Bhamo. But thanks to the emergence of passenger speedboats, people can take that trip in daytime, and the villages along the banks of the river are enjoying the fruits of development.

The boat arrived at Hsinbo Jetty, 84 miles from Myitkyina, at 11.30 am. Hsinbo is a village but has developed dramatically into the status of a town with fine transport facilities, modern buildings, markets, shops, 16 departmental offices including the General Administration Department, hospital, health care centres, a basic education high school, a TV retransmission station, and an auto exchange.

Hsinbo is just two and a half miles far away from the entrance to the defile of the river. The first defile is 36 miles long between Myitkyina and Myazedi Village in Bhamo Township, and the narrowest site is about only 50 yards wide. The second and third defiles are downstream Bhamo. Bhamo is located upstream the Ayeyawady River, but it firmly stood as a front line stream Bhamo. Bhamo is located upstream the Ayeyawady River and occupied Mandalay on 29 November 1885. The intruders came under fierce attacks along the over 270-mile route upstream the Ayeyawady River to Bhamo and at the entrance to Bhamo by Kachin, Shan and Myanmar nationals with unyielding spirit. Some famous patriots at that time were Kachin national race leader Phonkan Duwah, Moeline Sawbwa U Kham Hlaing, and Saw Yan Pang.

Commanding officer Bala Min Htin controlled and commanded the troops at Kaungton fortress in launching defensive attacks against the alien invaders in Konbaung period. He was one of the 68 horsemen heroes of King Alaung Mintayagyi and also known as Ye Kyaw Thura, Bala Naw Rahta, and Kaungtonwun. He had a good reputation as Kaungton Administrator Bala Min Htin.

Commanding officers such as Inwa Hsinbyushin and Bala Min Htin were well-versed in the art of warfare and so the intruders had to retreat in disarray from Bhamo and Kaungton.

In honour of patriot hero Bala Min Htin, the first bridge built across Ayeyawady River near Myitkyina in the time of the Tatmadaw Government, was named Bala Min Htin Bridge. The bridge project was launched on 20 July 1995, and the facility was built at a cost of K 1,077.38 million plus US$ 5.90 million. On 14 November 1998, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe opened the bridge that contributes towards all-round development of the entire Kachin State and national races living in respective border areas, and restoration of peace, stability and security of the region.

Bhamo District has a population of more than 300,000 and Bhamo Township, more than 80,000. In the time of the SPDC, Bhamo has been enjoying improvement in various sectors with Bhamo Degree College, Government Computer Town, Government Technological College, Nurses Training School, and Vocational Training Centre for Women.

With a view to ensuring development of Bhamo, one of the regions designated to become developed region, the government heavily invested in the road projects — Bhamo-Myitkyina Road (115 miles), Bhamo-Lwejwe Road (56.5 miles), Bhamo-Namshkan Road (168 miles), Bhamo-Si-U Road (56.5 miles) and Bhamo-Shwegu-Mandalay Road (275 miles).

During my trip to Bhamo, I dropped in Laingza. Kachin Special Region (2), Bhamo District, which is over five miles from the road via Layga Yan in Momauk Township. Laingza shares border with the People’s Republic of China, and as a result of regional peace and stability, both sides have enjoyed development with modern buildings, hotels, stores, and supermarkets. On the way from Laingza, I visited Dawphoneyan in Momauk Township, Bhamo District, which is enjoying fruitful results of the five rural development tasks.

During my study tour of Bhamo, I witnessed the fruits of development in Kachin State.

Translation: MS
Yangon, 9 Aug — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence and Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung met with departmental officials, members of social organizations and townsenders in Pantanaw Township, Ayeyawady Division, and urged them to make efforts for agricultural development in the region. At the meeting held at Pantanaw Township Peace and Development Council Office yesterday, the acting chairman of Pantanaw Township Peace and Development Council and officials reported on cultivation of monsoon paddy for 2005-2006, cultivation of 10 major crops, digging of fish ponds, regional food sufficiency, transportation, education and health sectors. At the meeting, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than said Ayeyawady Division is the rice bowl of Myanmar and the division set its target of over 3.6 million acres of paddy this year.

Pantanaw Township exceeds its target by 600 acres of monsoon paddy and the number of monsoon paddy acres reaches 83211 acres. It is the pride of the town. In Ayeyawady division, there are 96,000 acres of fish ponds and efforts are to be made to reach its target of 10000 acres of fish ponds, he urged.

After the meeting, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party went to 400-acre model paddy field in Pantanaw Township. At the briefing hall, an official reported on cultivation of monsoon paddy and arrangements for high yield.

Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, Commander Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung and officials released fingerlings into the fields. A total of 40,000 fingerlings were released into the paddy fields.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party met with the local farmers and discussed cultivation and production of paddy. During his tour of Pathein, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party went to local battalion in Pathein and also met with officers and others ranks and their families. At the meeting, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than urged them to carry out farming on a manageable scale.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than went to rubber cultivation of local battalions and inspected the rubber saplings.

At the briefing hall, an official of Myanmar Peripheral Crops Enterprise reported on land allotments to grow rubber. It is targeted that a total of 100,000 acres of rubber will be cultivated in the division. Now, a total of 2,855,000 rubber strains have been gathered.

Later, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party proceeded to Pathein, Ngwesaung Road construction project of Asia World Co Ltd and gave instructions. The road connecting Pathein and Ngwesaung is 30 mile long. Out of 30 miles, nine-miles long road section has been concrete and the rest has been tarred.

MNA

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Yangon, 9 Aug — A ceremony to open CNG filling station No (014) of Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise under the Ministry of Energy was held at the station in Shwepyitha Township this morning.

Present on the occasion were Minister for Solidarity and Development Association, members of social organizations and guests. Energy, members of Union Energy, Brig-Gen Lun Thaung Aung, Energy Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min, deputy ministers, heads of departments, officials concerned of the Ministry of Energy and guests were present.

CNG filling station opened in Shwepyitha

First, General Manager of MOGE U Thein Htay explained salient points as to CNG filling station.

Next, Deputy Min-

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Yangon, 9 Aug — The first cash donation ceremony organized by the fund raising and prize-presenting sub-committee for the 13th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions took place at the meeting hall-4 of the city hall of Yangon City Development Committee this afternoon. Chairman of the leading committee for organizing the performing arts competitions Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, CDC Chairman Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, departmental officials, wellwishers and guests were present.

First, the mayor presented K 3 million donated by the YCDC to the commander. Next, the commander, the mayor and officials accepted K 1,005,000 donated by ministries, social organizations and wellwishers. Then the commander made a speech and expressed thanks to the wellwishers.

Ministers and deputy ministers have a cordial conversation with a driver.

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Yangon, 9 Aug — A gust of wind destroyed some houses in Mon State yesterday, but there were no human and animal casualties. The strong wind destroyed a dhammayon and five houses in Myoikale Ywathit village in Chaungzon Township, 37 houses in Aungthukha ward in Kyaikkhami, Thambuyazayat Township, and four houses in Debourne village in Thaton Township.

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**Fingerlings released into Phaungkada dam under construction**

YANGON, 9 Aug—Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo held a meeting with members of Sagoing Division agricultural coordination committee at the Irrigation Department in ChaungU, Sagoing Division, on 6 August. The minister in his speech instructed the departments and enterprises under the Ministry to put into reality one of the four economic objectives — development of the agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well. The minister has to be research, disseminating methods, prevention of pests, and effective use of machinery for ensuring food surplus, meeting per acre yield of crops and boosting agricultural production. Being blessed with good foundations in the agricultural sector, Sagoing Division needs to become the granary of Upper Myanmar. The committee members reported on cultivation of crops including paddy and use of machinery. The minister gave instructions on measures to be taken for achievement. Chairman of Sagoing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Htay Oo, Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo and Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe attended the ceremony to release various species of fingerlings into the Phaungkada dam under construction in Salingyi Township.

The commander and the ministers, officials, social organizations and local people released more than 30,000 fingerlings. The commander and ministers met those present and dealt with regional development tasks.

Ofﬁcials presented a work progress report. The commander and ministers dealt with crop cultivation in the irrigated areas and water supply.

The commander gave instructions on cultivation of long staple cotton and paddy in the irrigated systems. Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo stressed the importance of suitable crop pattern, calling for boosting agricultural production by constructing irrigation facilities where necessary.

Upon completion, the facility will be able to beneﬁt around 1,500 acres and generate electricity.

The minister gave instructions to those in charge on efﬁcient use of water for agricultural purpose.

**PBA NRDA conducts courses**

YANGON, 9 Aug — Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt attended Advanced Landscaping Course No.2, Management Course No.24(25) and Clerical Course No.37 at Central Training Centre of Education and Training Department this morning. Also present on the occasion were Deputy Ministers Brig-Gen Than Tun and Col Tin Ngwe, directors-general, deputy directors-general, directors, trainers and guests. First, the minister delivered an address on the occasion. Next, he explained the purpose of the course, arrangements to be made for speedy development of the urban and rural areas, work to be done in accord with acts and rules and regulations of finance and tasks to be carried out sufﬁciently. A total of 138 trainees are attending the respective courses. After the opening ceremony, the minister inspected hostels, mess and preparation for agriculture and greening and left necessary instructions.

**19th sales of gems, jade for 2005 kick off**

YANGON, 9 Aug — Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings Limited held its 19th sales of gems and jade for 2005 at Myanmar Gems Mart on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road here this morning.

Managing Director Col Win Than of UMEHL visited and viewed the sales of gems and jade. First, Col Win Than inspected jade lots and gems lots displayed at the mart. Col Win Than was conducted by ofﬁcials around the mart. He cordially met with gem merchants.

Some 406 gem lots and 747 jade lots were sold through tender and competitive systems. Gem merchants will visit and view gems and jade lots up to 11 August from 9 am to 5 pm daily. Gem and jade lots will be sold through auction and bargaining systems. Altogether 676 local merchants and 247 foreign ones have already arrived at the mart and viewed gem and jade lots.

**Mass activities for control of dengue hemorrhagic fever launched**

YANGON, 9 Aug—The Department of Health under the Ministry of Health, and the Health Department under the Yangon City Development Committee organized mass activities for control of dengue hemorrhagic fever in nine townships of Yangon municipal area this morning.

Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Maj-Gen Aung Thein Lin and Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa inspected mass activities on control of dengue hemorrhagic fever in Dagon Myothit (North) Township, Yangon East District, and held discussions on the drive.

YCDC Health Department Head Dr Tin Maung Win, Township Health Department Head Dr Daw Than Hla and Division Health Department Head Dr Hla Myint reported on supply of water, outbreak of the disease, infection of the disease age-wise, and disease control activities carried out in 25 wards in the township, outbreak of the disease, control activities and health educative talks held at schools in the four districts of Yangon Division. Officials reported on infection of disease in Yangon East District, control activities carried out in wards and schools, causes of the disease, outbreak of the disease in neighbouring nations, and preventive measures against the disease in Yangon Division.

The commander, the minister, the mayor and the vice-mayor gave instructions on precautionary measures for drastic decline of the outbreak of the disease, collecting correct data and effective treatments, health educative talks to be held through cooperation of local authorities, departments, and social organizations. They also inspected preventive measures in Ward 34 in Dagon Myothit (North) Township, and health education talks held at No 14 basic education primary school.

**Myanmar beat Thailand 1-0 in group-A**

YANGON, 9 Aug—AFF U-20 Championship 2005 was held in Jakabairng, Indonesia at 4 pm local time today.

Myanmar beat Thailand 1-0 in group-A.

Both teams struggled hard to win the goal. But the players failed to take advantage of the chances and the match ended with goalless draw in the first half.

After the half-time, Myanmar dominated the area of its rivals and penetrated the defence of Thai-land. Myanmar Sithu Than scored the winning goal at 85th minute.

Myanmar gained six points after winning two matches in the group. Myanmar will face Malaysia on 11 August at 6.45 pm (local time).

**Sithu Than’s late goal gives Myanmar win over Thailand**

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Preparations discussed for reconvening of National Convention before end of 2005

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein said the aim of the meeting was to discuss matters related to the National Convention. He added that he had said before the National Convention was adjourned on 31 March this year, the NC would not stop its work. So, the Commission, the Work Committee and the Management Committee are to seek ways and means to complete preparations for the reconvening of the National Convention before the end of 2005.

At the previous session of the NC, members of the panels of chairmen collected and compiled the discussions of delegates for power sharing of executive and judicial sectors that will be included in the State constitution. He said matters relating to these sectors such as adopting basic detailed principles and the remaining chapters will be discussed at the session of the NC to be reconvened.

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Preparations discussed for ...

Hsan reported on tasks being carried out by the commission after the adjournment of the National Convention on 31 March 2005 and keeping records of the NC. NCCMC Chairman U Aung Toe and NCCC Vice-Chairman Minister Maj-Gen Tin Htut also reported on respective tasks being carried out by the committees. Then those present took part in the discussions. Later, the Secretary-1 gave concluding remarks.

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Next, Joint Secretary of Kachin State USDA U Tin Maung Win made a speech. He said that Kachin State USDA with a membership strength of 391,106 has been in a position to take part in nation-building endeavours by doing their bit. The association was formed with people from all walks of life including students.

In the course of Myanmar history, some border areas lagged behind in development due to a lack of peace and stability, and internal insurgency which emerged along with the independence. In the time of the Tatmadaw government priority is being given to development of border areas and bringing about equitable development in all parts of the nation.

The Tatmadaw government has been able to make peace, which could not be made by the previous governments, with national race armed groups. Remarkable progress has now been made in border areas thanks to combined and concerted efforts of the government, the Tatmadaw and the people. Education, health and transport sectors are making progress in border regions with the emergence of major towns and cities such as Mongla and Panhsan in Shan State and Panwa and Laiza in Kachin State.

The discussions and statements of the War Veterans Organization’s Conference held last and the ceremony to mark the Myanmar Women’s Day held on 3 July 2005 called for exposing and guarding against the sinister acts of internal and external destructive elements with Union Spirit.

At present, some alien nations in collusion with a handful of people are meddling in the internal affairs of Myanmar to encroach upon Our Three Main National Causes.

(See page 10)
After that, Secretary of Myitkyina Township USDA U Nyunt Win made a speech. He said that it is known to all that the Tatmadaw had unavoidably assumed the State responsibility when anarchy reigned in 1988 due to disturbances in the nation.

After the Tatmadaw government had taken up the State duties, there was unprecedented progress in political, economic and social sectors of the country.

The entire people now have witnessed national developments and enjoy fruitful results. They also join the USDA to participate in the nation-building tasks hand in hand with the Tatmadaw upholding Our Three Main National Causes. There are altogether over 21 million members. Members of the USDA hand in hand with the Tatmadaw will have to fight against the danger of external and internal elements.

In her discussions, representative of Kachin State Women’s Affairs Organization Daw Malar Htut said that the people have never accepted the perpetration and will crush the perpetrators with the united force. As the expression goes, “The strength of the nation lies within”, the government, the Tatmadaw and the people in unison are to ward off the danger posed by external and internal elements. The destructive elements are to be removed through united strength of the people.

He urged the national people to implement the seven-point Road Map with greater momentum under the correct leadership of the government. Next, Bhamo Township USDA Executive U Bo Bo Kyaw seconded the two motions tabled by U Nyunt Win and Daw Malar Htut.

Afterwards, Daw Khin Aye Myint, representative of the Kachin State Maternal and Child Welfare Association, tabled a motion for participation in implementing the nation-building tasks and the seven-point Road Map.

She said that the agriculture sector in Kachin State, the state’s cultivation area has increased from 443160 acres in 1993 to 583888 acres in 2005. Now, regional food production exceeded sufficiency.

Concerning the transportation sector, she said 42 bridges 180 feet and above long and 289 bridges less than 180 feet have been constructed in Kachin State.

Union Highway connecting Myitkyina and Mandalay has been constructed. It is 417 miles long and passes through Bhamo, Shwegu, Taunggyi and Thabyitkyin. Moreover, 350-mile-long Myitkyina-Shwebo-Mandalay Road, 115-mile-long Myitkyina-Bhamo Road and 302-mile-long Bhamo-Mandalay Road have also been inaugurated in the region. Pataon-Machanbaw-Nagmon Road Section and Myitkyina-Namti-Tanai-Shinbyweyan-Panhsaung-Ledo Road are under construction.

In the education sector, the number of schools reaches 137 in the state. One university, two degree colleges and five colleges have also been established in Kachin State.

In Kachin State, there were only 35 hospitals in the past. At present, all hospitals have been upgraded and new more hospitals, one traditional medicine hospital and five clinics have been inaugurated.

Thanks to the stability in the region, Kachin State has developed and regional people have enjoyed peace and tranquillity.

We all desire to preserve peace and stability and to carry out development tasks. In conclusion, she pledged to crush those who disturb peace and stability.

Maj La Mongan (Retired) of Kachin State WVO said that the people have never accepted the perpetration to destroy national peace, stability and security and endanger Our Three Main National causes. The people always oppose the perpetration and will crush the perpetrators with the united force. As the nation has sound economic and social foundations and abundant array of qualified human resources, it is now implementing the seven-point Road Map. The National Convention, the first step of the...
YANGON, 9 Aug—A ceremony to mark completion of ploughing fields for cultivation of monsoon paddy in Ayeyawady Division for 2005-2006 was held in conjunction with transplanting skill contest at Kwinya Ashay Village in Kangyidauk Township this morning.

Present on the occasion were Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Ayeyawady Division PDC Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, senior military officers, members of Division Agricultural Supervisory Committee, chairmen of District and Township PDCs, departmental officials and members of social organizations.

In his address, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than said that now the government is making strenuous efforts for the emergence of a peaceful modern developed nation. In doing so, three basic factors are important—prevalence of peace and tranquility and law and order, economic progress and human resources development. For realization of the objectives, the government is undertaking the three major projects.

In Myanmar, the ten major crops, three new items and three perennial crops are fixed for export and cultivation in states and divisions. Arrangements have been made for cultivation of 3.6 million acres of monsoon paddy in Ayeyawady Division. He urged the farmers to play an active part in the transformation of manual farming into mechanized farming.

Next, Commander Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung delivered a speech. Deputy Director U Aung Tin Myint of Division Settlement and Land Records Department reported on cultivation of monsoon paddy and he presented the report on completion of monsoon paddy to the commander.

Afterwards, the transplanting skill contest was held and Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party visited the contestants. They also inspected model farm and pilot farm. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than presented 100,000 fingerlings to farmers. He observed the sales of Leya-16 power tillers. Afterwards, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and officials presented prizes to the winners of the contest.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than delivers a speech at the ceremony to mark completion of ploughing fields for cultivation of monsoon paddy for 2005-2006. — MNA

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than presents first prize to Pathein District. — MNA

Implement the seven-point Road Map ...

(from page 10) Road Map, has been held. The government, the people and the Tatmadaw should harmoniously strive for the success of the Road Map. The government is striving with added momentum for all round progress of the nation.

On the other hand, the destructive elements are trying to erode the nation’s democracy transition. It is the historic duty of all to ward off the destructive acts.

All should play their respective roles for the successful implementation of the Road Map, while placing in the fore Our Three Main National Causes.

Daw Ohnmar Pyone of Myitkyina Township USDA seconded the motions tabled by Daw Khin Aye Myint and Maj La Mongan (Retired).

The meeting chairman then sought the approval of the mass meeting that passed the two resolutions and the meeting ended with chanting of slogans.

Myitkyina Township USDA Member Daw Ohnmar Pyone. — MNA

Representative of Kachin State War Veterans Organization Maj La Mongan (Retd). — MNA

Those present chanting slogans at the mass meeting. — MNA
Rescue mission for Russia's submarine ends

MOSCOW, 8 Aug.—The Pacific Fleet rescue service has received an order from the headquarters of the Russian Navy to wind up the rescue operation over the stranded mini-submarine and return from the Bering Sea Bay off the Kamchatka coast, the ITAR-TASS news agency reported on Sunday.

“We received an order to wind up all operations participating in the (rescue) operation,” Deputy Chief of the main headquarters of the Russian Navy Vladimir Petyelavaev said.

Meanwhile, the British and American rescuers who participated in lifting the Russian mini-submarine are leaving Russia later on Sunday, the Interfax quoted a Russian Navy spokesman as saying.

After the successful rescue, Russian Defence Minister Sergei Ivanov and Commander of the Russian Pacific Fleet Admiral Viktor Fedorov both expressed gratitude to Britain, the United States and Japan, that have participated in rescuing the stranded Russian sailors.

The Russian’s mini-submarine had been entangled in 190 metres of water off the Pacific Coast for three days with seven crew members onboard, before a British Scorpion submersible robot cut the vessel free of cables and helped it to surface at around 4:26 p.m. local time (0126 GMT) on Sunday.

All seven crew members are in satisfactory condition and can walk unaided on board the rescue ship Alagor, and would be brought to the coast in around four hours.

MNA/Xinhua

Six men charged over 21 July London attacks

LONDON, 8 Aug.—Three people, including two of the men named as bombing suspects, have been charged with conspiracy to murder people on the London transport system, the British Broadcast Corporation (BBC) reported Sunday evening.

Muktar Said Ibrahim, 27, and Ramzi Mohamed, 23, were charged with attempted murder, and possession of an explosive substance with the intent “to endanger life or cause serious injury to property”, Scotland Yard said.

Earlier on Sunday, another 21 July suspect was charged with four offences, including attempted murder.

Yassin Omar, 24, from north London is the first of four suspects arrested after the attacks to be charged.

He was also charged with conspiracy to murder and making or possessing an explosive substance.

The charges are in relation to the failed London bomb attacks on 21 July.

MNA/Xinhua

India, Pakistan reach agreement over missile tests

NEW DELHI, 8 Aug.—Nuclear-armed India and Pakistan agreed on Saturday to inform each other formally about any missile tests, pushing forward a sluggish peace process that seeks to resolve their most contentious dispute over Kashmir.

The two also agreed to start a direct phone link between top bureaucrats in their foreign ministries by next month.

The result of the talks is the agreement on the pre-notification of the ballistic missile tests.” Meera Shankar, a senior Foreign Ministry official who led India at the talks, told reporters after the meeting.

“The two-day talks were part of a tentative peace process that began in January 2004 and led to improved ties between the South Asian rivals, who have fought three wars.

“The latest nuclear talks come after India was suspended in May by the United States as a responsible nuclear power, a decision that resulted in better relations between the arch-rivals.

“India is the only remaining nuclear weapons power that the US sanctions which have been mostly lifted.

Analysts said the agreement was a small but encouraging sign that the two countries would continue talks covering their respective security concerns and nuclear doctrines.

MNA/Reuters

Former investor for-food head resigns before expose report

UNITED NATIONS, 8 Aug.—The former head of the scandal-tainted oil-for-food programme that was signed from the United Nations on Sunday, hours before he was expected to be accused of getting kickbacks from the $67 billion US dollars operation.

Benon Sevan, the former executive director of the programme, is said to be accused of getting cash for steering Iraqi oil contracts to an Egyptian trader and of refusing to cooperate with the Volcker panel, his attorney Eric Lewis said.

Sevan has denied the allegations.

On Sunday, Lewis distributed a letter from Sevan, 67, to UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan resigning from his current post, which he had been given after he retired.

The one-US-dollar-a-year post carries immunity and was meant to en- courage cooperation with the probe.

Sevan blamed the Secretary-General and his staff for not defending the programme and making him a scapegoat.

“I fully understand the pressure that you are under, and that there are those who are trying to destroy your reputation as well as my own, but sacrificing me for political expediency will only appease our critics or help you or the organization,” Sevan wrote.

He said that the programme for oil-for-food and other goods to 27 million Iraqis, was often caught between conflicting mandates given by the UN Security Council, which supervised it, and national interests of those trying to do business with Iraq.

MNA/Reuters

Mass murder suspect arrested in Ukraine

Kyiv, 8 Aug.—Police have arrested a Russian man suspected of killing about 30 young girls who disappeared over more than two decades, a senior official was quoted saying.

Deputy Interior Minister Hennday Moskal, addressing journalists on Saturday, said the suspect had been detained in the Zaporizha region in eastern Ukraine.

Moskal, quoted by Ukrainian media, said the man moved from Siberia to Ukraine in 1982, settling in the Dnipro-petrovsk region, also in the east of what was then the second most populous republic in the Soviet Union.

Criminal records showed a series of disappearances of young girls in the region dating from 1981 and 2012 and a senior’s official was quoted saying.

The accident occurred on the Bisk-Barnaui Highway near the village of Pleskovo, at 9:20 a.m. Moscow Time (0120 GMT).

Mikhail Yevdokimov was driving with his wife and a bodyguard to the village of Polvokinovka to attend events marking the 70th birthday of the world’s second cosmonaut Gherman Titov.

In an attempt to avoid collision with a car coming from the opposite direction, the governor’s car ran off the road and bumped into a tree at a high speed.

The governor, his bodyguard and the driver were killed instantly, while the governor’s wife had her legs broken. She was taken by a helicopter to a hospital, the ministry said.

Officials with the territory’s prosecution department said a thorough investigation will be carried out over the governor’s death. It was possible the accident will be investigated as a criminal case, they said.

MNA/Reuters

Forest fires continue to rage in Russia’s Far East

MOSCOW, 8 Aug.—About 116,000 hectares of forest have already been destroyed as 33 forest fires are raging in Russia’s Far East region, said the Russian Ministry of Emergency Situations.

A Murmansk and Khabarovsk, where five fires are within 10 kilometres to people’s living areas, have been the worst hit by the fires.

In addition, the blazes have also charred 77,000 hectares of non-forest land in the region. Up till now, the area of woodland ravaged by fires in the Far East region is five times larger than in the correspond- ing period of last year.

More than 300 fire-fighters as well as 14 planes and helicopters have so far been mobilized to tackle the fires, said officials of Russia’s Ministry of Emergency Situations.

MNA/Xinhua
Discovery returns safely to Earth

HOUSTON, 9 Aug—The shuttle Discovery has touched down successfully in California after the first mission since 2003's Columbia disaster.

Discovery landed at Edwards Air Force Base at around 1312 BST (0512 PST; 1212 GMT) after bad weather forced a change to the intended Florida landing site.

Columbia broke up on re-entry because of damage it sustained when foam debris fell off the fuel tank during lift-off.

On leaving Discovery, the crew went to inspect the vehicle on the tarmac.

"It's been four years' training for the STS-114 [shuttle] mission and this is a wonderful moment for all of us to experience," said Discovery's commander Eileen Collins standing next to the shuttle on the runway.

"We met the test objectives of the space shuttle programme and brought Discovery back in great shape."

NASA officials cheered and clapped as Commander Collins made a perfect landing on runway 22 at Edwards Air Force Base about 54 minutes before dawn. The shuttle touched down at around 322km/h (200mph), deploying its parachute to slow its speed after making a 196-degree turn to align itself with the runway. Its steep trajectory took it over the Pacific Ocean and just north of Los Angeles.

"Everywhere you look was nothing but outstanding success, and the external［fuel］tank engineers now have some real data to go with all the analysis," NASA's administrator Mike Griffin told reporters at a post-launch news briefing in Kennedy Space Center, Florida. The mission did not always go as smoothly as had been hoped; as with Columbia, foam debris broke free from Discovery's external tank during launch — one of which was only slightly smaller than the one that doomed Columbia. NASA grounded its shuttle fleet until the problem is fixed.

Astronaut Steve Robinson also had to conduct an audacious spacewalk to remove two cloth gas gaps which were sticking out from beneath the vehicle.

Grounded fleet

 Officials wouldn't be drawn on when the next shuttle mission — still officially slated for September — would launch. "Until we get some data back, we can't make that decision. We will fly it when it's ready to go," said the shuttle programme manager Bill Parsons. At 1206 BST (0706 EST; 1106 GMT) on Tuesday, the orbiting shuttle began its return to Earth by firing its two orbital Maneuvering System engines for about two minutes 42 seconds at an altitude of around 329km (205 miles).

Discovery was due to land on Monday in Florida but had visibility due to a deck of low-lying cloud forced a delay for 24 hours. — Internet

19 treated for smoke inhalation in Paris Metro train fire

PARIS, 8 Aug—Nineteen people were treated for minor smoke inhalation after a metro train fire in north Paris, officials said on Sunday.

According to the Paris transit authority, RATP, 17 transport workers, a caretaker and one passenger were treated at nearby hospitals after the fire that broke out in a Paris Metro train on Saturday. TF1 news channel reported.

The fire broke out in a train inside a site and spread to a second oncoming train, causing large amounts of smoke that billowed through the underground tunnel to other stations. — MNA/Xinhua

Tanker explosion kills nine in southeastern Turkey

ANKARA, 8 Aug—Nine people were killed and 12 others injured when a tanker carrying liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) exploded near the southeastern province of Gaziantep on Sunday, the semi-official Anadolu news agency reported.

The tanker exploded after hitting barriers on the D-400 highway between Gaziantep and the eastern province of Mersin. The Turkish General Staff sent helicopters to the region to take the injured to the Guflane Military Medical Academy (GATA) in Ankara. Most of the injured suffered from severe burns. — MNA/Xinhua

1st solar system assembly plant to be built in Uganda

KAMPALA, 8 Aug—Solar Energy for Africa, a US-based organization, will build a solar system assembly plant in Entebbe, Uganda, the first of its kind in East Africa, local Press reported on Saturday.

Solar power is cheaper and cleaner than diesel generators because it is from the dependable sun. Managing director of Solar Energy for Africa Richard Kanyika said the plant would assemble solar panels, charge controllers, inverters, solar lights and lanterns and heater kits. “We want to fight poverty by providing villages with affordable power. It will cost 3.4 million dollars to run the assembly lines in about two years,” he said. — MNA/Xinhua

First Chinese newspaper officially issued in Nigeria

LAGOS, 8 Aug—West African United Business Weekly, the first newspaper in Chinese, was officially launched on Sunday in Lagos, the commercial capital of Nigeria.

With the title written by Wan Guoquan, president of the China Council for the Promotion of Peaceful Reunification, the newspaper was issued and distributed by newly-established West African United Multimedia Co, Ltd.

In an interview with Xinhua, Qian Guoqin, president of the newspaper, said the publication of the newspaper "is to meet the requirements of the Chinese economy which has developed rapidly in the economies of Nigeria and other West African nations".

Qian said proudly that the weekly was the first newspaper in Chinese issued in the West African region, adding that the publication of the newspaper signalled that the Chinese people in West Africa “have made great strides forward in creating and improving their lives and expanding their businesses".

— MNA/Xinhua

Egypt uncovers remains of ancient church beneath monastery

CAIRO, 8 Aug—The remains of an ancient church dating to the early days of Christianity have been discovered beneath a Coptic Christian monastery, the Egyptian Gazette daily reported Sunday.

Egyptian Culture Minister Farouq Hosni announced Saturday that archaeologists have found the remains of the church, built of bricks. It included a number of underground rooms which monks used for celebrating the liturgy. — MNA/Xinhua

Venezuela decides to suspend its cooperation with DEA

CARACAS, 8 Aug—Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez on Sunday suspended its cooperation with the US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), accusing the agency of using its agents for espionage.

Chavez said at a press conference, "we have been detecting intelligence work against Venezuelan Government carried out by the DEA".

"Under these circumstances, we decided to shut down these agreements. ... The US DEA is not essential to the fight in Venezuela against drug-trafficking. We will keep working with international organizations against drugs," he said.

Venezuela is a major hub of smuggling routes for cocaine and heroin from Colombia to Europe and the United States. The US and Venezuela had agreed until recently to work together in the fight against the drug smuggling industry.

However, foreign security officials say the two countries' relationship has been strained by mistrust and corruption. Political relations with the US Government have become more and more tense since President Chavez came to power in 1999. He ended joint military operations and exchanges with the United States and ordered US military instructors out of the country last April.

The DEA suspension adds further tension to Venezuela’s already temuous relations with the United States. — MNA/Xinhua

Two injured, 25 missing in boat mishap in central Nepal

KATHMANDU, 8 Aug—At least two persons were injured and 25 others missing in a boat mishap Sunday at a river in central Nepal, local police office said here.

"At least two persons were injured and 25 others missing when a boat they were travelling in capsized at Lalbukaya River in Gaur City of Rautahat District, some 150 kilometres south of Kathmandu," district police said in a Press statement.

At least 47 people, including children and women, were onboard the ill-fated boat, the statement noted, adding the mishap took place due to fresh flood in the area. Most of the people travelling in the boat were from Tikhwa Town of the district, who were returning home after working in their farmland, the statement said. A search operation was underway and further details are still awaited, the statement added. More than 30 people were in another boat capsized in Barga River in Kapilvastu District, some 300 kilometres west of Kathmandu, about a month ago. — MNA/Xinhua
Pierce cruises past Sugiyama for San Diego Classic win

CARLSBAD (California), 9 Aug.—Sixth seed Mary Pierce combined a powerful serve with punishing returns to pick up a first US hardcourt title, easing past Japan’s Ai Sugiyama 6-0, 6-3 in the final of the San Diego Classic on Sunday.

"It feels great," said the Frenchwoman, who did not drop a set throughout the tournament and lost only 24 games in her five matches.

After playing a singles semifinal and doubles final on Saturday evening, the unseeded Sugiyama was unable to muster the energy necessary to push Pierce in the 75-minute contest. The top-ranked Japanese player, who took a medical timeout after the third game of the second set, only managed to hold serve once in the contest and was broken four times to love.

With Pierce on the verge of victory, Sugiyama staged a late revival when she fought off five match points before breaking her opponent to put back to 5-2. Sugiyama then held her own serve and battled gamely in the last game, with the two times grand slam champion needing three more match points to seal the contest.

Pierce erred on a forehand on the first of them and missed a simple overhead on the second that had both players doubling over with laughter.

It was the first final between two 30-year-olds on the WTA Tour this year and the Japanese player was magnificent in defeat. "She just played so great, so aggressively every point and it was tough because she was all over every ball," Sugiyama said.

With the victory, French Open finalist Pierce will rise to number 11 when the WTA rankings are released on Monday. Pierce has not been ranked in the top-10 since April 2001.

"When you are younger, winning titles is really exciting but now it means more because I know how much work I’ve had to put into it," said Pierce, who has suffered numerous serious injuries over her 16-year career.

After playing in Los Angeles next week, Pierce will take a two-week break before heading to the US Open, where she has never advanced past the quarter-finals.—MNA/Reuters

Canas hit with two year ban for doping

LONDON, 9 Aug.—Argentine world number 10 Guillermo Canas has been banned for two years for doping, men’s tennis organizers the ATP said on Monday.

The baseliner was hit with the suspension from competition after he tested positive for the prohibited diuretic hydrochlorothiazide (HCT) at the ATP tournament in Acapulco, Mexico in February.

Canas must repay 276,070 US dollars in prize money and forfeit 225 singles and 95 doubles ranking points as part of the sanction. He will be eligible to return to competition on 11 June 2007.

The 27-year-old becomes the fourth Argentine to fall foul of doping tests in recent years after Juan Ignacio Chela, Guillermo Coria, who reached the final of Roland Garros in 2004, and this year’s French Open finalist Mariano Puerta.

Chela was suspended for three months in 2004 after testing positive for the steroid methyltestosterone. Later that year Coria was banned for seven months and fined 98,500 US dollars after testing positive for nandrolone.

Puerta was suspended for nine months in 2004 after he was found to have the banned substance clenbuterol in his system during a doping test at a tournament in Chile in 2003.

Tennis has now signed up to the World Anti-Doping Agency’s protocol which demands an automatic two-year ban for doping offences such as Canas’s.

Canas, winner of six singles titles and two doubles titles in his career, has not played since reaching the semi-finals of the Halle grasscourt tournament in the first week of June because of the investigation.

In June he protested his innocence. "I’ve kept quiet for a long time because the ATP didn’t allow me to speak," Canas said in respected newspaper La Nacion.

"I don’t know how the rumours started and I’m not interested. Now, I’ve got chance to speak and I want people to know from my own mouth."

Roma win appeal over FIFA transfer ban

MILAN, 9 Aug.—AS Roma have won an appeal against a FIFA ban that stopped them from registering new players, the Serie A club said on Monday.

The Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) accepted Roma’s appeal against the FIFA decision which was imposed following a dispute over the signing of French defender Philippe Mexes from Auxerre last year, the club said.

Roma said in a statement that with the ban now suspended they would ask Italian soccer authorities to swiftly complete the registration of their recent signings.

Ghana defender Samuel Kuffour, Brazilian midfielder Rodrigo Taddei and Democratic Republic of Congo forward Shabani Nonda have all been waiting for the end of the ban in order to be registered ahead of the new Serie A season which starts on August 28.

In July FIFA imposed a one-year ban on Roma stopping them registering any new players bought from domestic or international clubs after Auxerre demanded compensation for the loss of Mexes.

FIFA had ruled Mexes should pay eight million euros (9.91 million US dollars) to the French club to compensate them for breach of contract.

Auxerre claimed they had not given Mexes permission to leave and complained that Roma had encouraged the player to break his contract.—MNA/Reuters

Ferdinand signs four-year deal with Man United

LONDON, 9 Aug.—England central defender Rio Ferdinand has signed a new four-year contract with Manchester United that will keep him at the Premier League club until 2009.

The deal ends months of speculation over the 26-year-old’s future. Ferdinand had been under contract at Old Trafford for another two years.

“It’s great news that Rio has agreed a contract,” said manager Alex Ferguson who had expressed his frustration last month at the slow speed of the contract talks.

“The reality of negotiations today is that they take time. But these have always been conducted in a good spirit and we are very pleased with the outcome.”

The 27-year-old central defender when he moved to United from Leeds in 2002 for 30 million pounds (53.61 million US dollars).

Media reports said the former Leeds United and West Ham United player had asked for 120,000 pounds a week under his new deal, almost certainly making him England’s highest-paid player.

“I said all along that I wanted to stay at the club and this has now put that issue to bed,” said Ferdinand. “I’m looking forward to the start of what I expect will be a great season.” —MNA/Reuters

Goalkeeper Hana Qassem of Amman Club saves the ball from Jordan’s Youth Club’s Rasha Obeidat during the final match of the Kingdom Women’s Soccer League Cup in Amman on 8 August, 2005. Jordan’s Youth Club beat Amman Club 4-0 in Jordan’s first women’s soccer league cup.—INTERNET

Genoa appeal against demotion rejected

MILAN, 9 Aug.—Italian club Genoa’s appeal against their relegation to the third division, imposed for match-fixing, was rejected on Monday.

The Italian Football Federation’s appeal commission said it rejected all the appeals relating to the case and confirmed that all sanctions imposed against the club and officials would stand.

The nine-times Italian champions won promotion to Serie A in 1996 and had to put into it," said Ferdinand, "all the spirit and we are very pleased with the outcome.”

The deal ends months of speculation over the 26-year-old’s future. Ferdinand had been under contract at Old Trafford for another two years.

“It’s great news that Rio has agreed a contract,” said manager Alex Ferguson who had expressed his frustration last month at the slow speed of the contract talks.

“The reality of negotiations today is that they take time. But these have always been conducted in a good spirit and we are very pleased with the outcome.”

The 27-year-old central defender when he moved to United from Leeds in 2002 for 30 million pounds (53.61 million US dollars).

Media reports said the former Leeds United and West Ham United player had asked for 120,000 pounds a week under his new deal, almost certainly making him England’s highest-paid player.

“I said all along that I wanted to stay at the club and this has now put that issue to bed,” said Ferdinand. “I’m looking forward to the start of what I expect will be a great season.” —MNA/Reuters
US guards at Afghan prison trained to torture detainees

WASHINGTON, 9 Aug—US soldiers guarding the prison at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan, were specially instructed to deliver deadly blows to detainees, a US private accused of prisoner abuse told investigators recently.

Willie Brand, a former military policeman at Bagram, said in his court statements that tortures were commonly used when prisoners resisted being hooded or shackled, according to Monday’s The New York Times.

Last week, he pleaded guilty in the case about the brutal deaths in 2002 of two Afghan prisoners at the detention facility. Brand admitted that in December 2002, he repeatedly struck two shackled detainees above the knee with blows intended to incapacitate the leg by hitting the common peroneal nerve.

He struck the first detainee, named Mullah Habibullah, about four times so he could force a hood over his head. The second detainee, a young taxi driver known as Dilawar, was beaten at least 37 times after showing recalcitrance.

Secretary of Administrative Board of Hninzon Home for the Aged Maj Aung Than (Htet) accepts K 100,000 donated by Dr Hla Wai-Dau No Nu Myint and family of No 189 (A), U Maung Maung Soe Street, Mayangon, for construction of three-storey hospital for the aged—n.

WEATHER

Tuesday, 9 August, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather have been partly cloudy in lower Sagaing Division, rain have been isolated in Shan and Kayah States, Magway Division, scattered in Mandalay, Bago and Yangon Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with locally heavyfalls in Rakhine State and isolated heavyfalls in Kayin and Mon States. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Thaton (5.67) inches, Gwa (5.63) inches, Hpa-an (4.13) inches, Thandwe (3.94) inches, Kyaukpyu (3.82) inches and Maungtaw (3.50) inches.

Maximum temperature on 8-8-2005 was 87°F. Minimum temperature on 9-8-2005 was 68°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 9-8-2005 was 96%. Total sunshine hours on 8-8-2005 was (0.2) hour approx. Rainfalls on 9-8-2005 were 1.69 inches at Mingaladon, 2.37 inches at Kaba-Aye, 1.61 inches at central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were 59.84 inches at Mingaladon, 60.20 inches at Kaba-Aye and 61.06 inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 18 mph from Southwest at (15:25) hours MST on 8-8-2005.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 10-8-2005: Rain will be isolated in Kayah State, lower Sagaing and Magway Divisions, scattered in Shan State and Mandalay Division and widespread in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfalls in Rakhine, Mon and Kayin States. 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 northern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 10-8-2005: Some rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 10-8-2005: Likelihood of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is 60%.
Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein discusses preparations for reconvening of National Convention before end of 2005

Yangon, 9 Aug — National Convention Convening Commission, Work Committee and Management Committee held a work coordination meeting No (7/2005) at the meeting hall of NCCC in Nyaunghnpyin Camp in Hmawby township here at 3 pm today. Chairman of National Convention Convening Commission Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein addressed the meeting.

Entire national people are to ward off any acts that are harmful to Our Three Main National Causes with united strength of people

Yangon, 9 Aug — The mass meeting focusing “Guard against the danger posed by destructivists through united strength of the people” was held at the City Hall of Myitkyina in Kachin State on 1 August morning.

It was attended by members of Kachin State Union Solidarity and Development Association, Kachin State Women’s Affairs Organization, Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Myanmar War Veterans Organization, Red Cross Society and Auxiliary Fire Brigade, representatives from Kachin Special Region-1 and Kachin Special Region-2, guests and local people numbering over 1,600.

Joint Secretary of Kachin State USDA U Tin Maung Win presided over the meeting together with Chairperson of Kachin State WAO Daw Tin Tin Htay, Chairperson of Myitkyina District MCWA Daw Nan Sein Aye, member of Kachin State War Veterans Supervisory Committee Major Jan Malah (Retd), Head of Kachin State Red Cross Society U Ge Nwss, Deputy Commanding Officer of Kachin State Auxiliary Fire Brigade U Hsang Naw and Representative of Townselders U Sai Yi Kyan as members of the panel of chairmen.

Member of Myitkyina Township USDA Daw Mon Jar acted as master of ceremonies and Daw Hu Maing acted as Co-chairman of ceremonies and those present on the occasion saluted the State flag.

The mass meeting on guarding against dangers of destructive elements through the united strength of the people in progress. — MNA

Commanding officers such as Inwa Hsinbyushin and Bala Min Htin were well-versed in the art of warfare and so the intruders had to retreat in disarray from Bhamo and Kaungton.