YANGON, 15 Aug — Prime Minister General Soe Win, accompanied by Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye, the ministers and deputy ministers, Chairman of Magway Division Peace and Development Council Col Phone Maw Shwe and officials, on 13 August morning inspected Myakantha Garden in Pakokku and instructed the officials to upgrade the garden.

The garden has 25.20 acres and it is being upgraded. The shady trees, crops and herbal plants are planted in the garden.

Director-General of the Development Affairs Department of the Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs U Myo Myint reported on upgrading tasks and PBANRDA Minister Col Thein Nyunt gave a supplementary report.

Afterwards, the prime minister and party went to Pakokku University and inspected construction of the main building of the university. Rector U Soe Myint reported on brief history of the university, the area, construction of buildings in the university, the number of students and staff strength.

After the meeting, Prime Minister General Soe Win and party inspected the wards, laboratory, medical store and X-ray room together with Medical Superintendent Dr Than Than Aye and officials. The prime minister greeted doctors and fulfilled the requirements.

187 villages out of the 273 in Pauk Township have been supplied with safe drinking water. There are 14 villages that have not been supplied with drinking water.

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Work in concert for the sake of departmental and regional interests

The government is fulfilling the requirements of each and every sector by building infrastructures for the equitable development of all regions in the Union and for raising the living standard of the people. And due to the active and enthusiastic efforts of regional authorities, departmental personnel, members of social organizations and people, development endeavours have now begun to bear fruits.

Prime Minister General Soe Win, accompanied by responsible personnel, visited Pakokku, Yangon, Myaing Townships in Magway Division and inspected construction projects, manufacturing industries and development work there on 12 August.

During the trip, the Prime Minister met with departmental personnel, members of social organizations and townelders. At the meeting, the Prime Minister said that, as the government was fulfilling all the requirements for the implementation of development plans with goodwill, it was necessary for department personnel at different levels and members of ward and village-tract peace and development councils to carry out their duties with patience and diligence in the interests of their respective departments and regions.

There are vast areas of arable land in Magway Division and therefore dams and river water pumping stations are being built to supply water for agricultural purpose.

The already-completed river water pumping stations in Pakokku, Yangon and Pauk Townships will supply water to about 20,000 acres of farmland. The Kyee Bwe river water pumping station under construction in Pauk Township will be capable of irrigating 5,000 acres of farmland and the Minyu river river water pumping station in Yangon Township, on its completion, will be able to supply water to 3,000 acres of farmland all the year round.

In Pakokku District, Irrigation Department and local authorities are building 71 small dams and lakes for cultivation of crops and for greening of the region and some are already completed.

The government is spending a lot on water supply projects, big and small, in Magway Division and local authorities and people are lending themselves to these projects.

Therefore, we would like to call on department personnel at different levels and ward and village-tract peace and development councils to carry out their work efficiently for the sake of departmental and regional interests.

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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

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**Industry-1 Minister receives Chinese guests**

**Yangon, 15 Aug**— Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung received Chairman of China CAMC Engineering Co Ltd (CAMCE) Ms Luo Yan and party this afternoon at the ministry.

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

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**Sermons to be delivered**

**Yangon, 15 Aug**— Bahujanahitadhara Shwemann U Thuriya Sayadaw and Secretary of Ayeyawady Division Sangha Nayaka Committee Presiding Sayadaw of Nyaungwaing Dhammadipa Kyaingthaik of Maubin, Ayeyawady Division, will deliver sermons at Budhahu Dhammayon of Shwedagon Pagoda at 1 pm on 19 August 2005 (Fullmoon Day of Wagaung 1367 ME).

MNA

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**Foreign Minister signs Book of Condolences for late Sri Lankan Foreign Minister**

**Yangon, 15 Aug**— Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win signed the Book of Condolences opened for the late Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka Hon Lakshman Kadirgamar, at the Embassy of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka at No 34 Tawwin Road, Dagon Township, today.

MNA

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**Vice-Mayor inspects tax-free markets**

**Yangon, 15 Aug**— Vice-Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa and officials this morning inspected tax-free markets run by YCDC and maintenance of roads in the city.

Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa and party inspected tax-free markets in Tarmway Township, Yankin Township and Kamayut Township and urged officials to supervise the shops in the markets for the convenience of customers.

Col Maung Pa also inspected maintenance of Hanthawady road in Kamayut Township, Baho Road in Sanyang Township, Strand Road in Kamayut Township and Maha Bandola Road in Larnmadaw Township and gave instructions to officials. — MNA

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**Sales promotion prizes**

**Yangon, 15 Aug**— A ceremony to present sales promotion prizes of Beauty World Trading Co Ltd which produces and sells different kinds of ball-point pens took place at Excel Treasure Hotel on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road here at 7 pm yesterday.

Managing Director of Beauty World Trading Co Ltd U Khin Maung Oo extended greetings on the occasion and Marketing Manager U Naing Aung Tun briefed on matters related to boosting quality of the stationery. Afterwards, prizes were presented to owners of stationery shops that sold ball-point pens most and those who purchased the stationery most. — MNA

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**Dokyeywa Journal in circulation**

**Yangon, 15 Aug**— To inculcate rural people including farmers with a wide range of knowledge on farming undertakings, No 16, Vol 2 of Dokyeywa Journal has been put in circulation.

Included in the journal are informative and educative works of doyen writers including the ending of MoelIky Story, cartoons, poems, humorous and pieces of news.

Contact is to be made to No 30-32, 10th Street, Lamadaw Township (Tel 371342 or 252452 or 379768) for manuscripts and advertisements. — MNA

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**Sales promotion prize distribution of Beauty World Trading Co in progress at the Excel Treasure Hotel.** — MNA
**Gunfire after US patrol attack kills 15**

**Ramadi (Iraq)**, 14 Aug—An attack on a US military patrol followed by heavy US gunfire left 15 Iraqis dead and 17 wounded in a town west of Baghdad, residents said on Saturday.

Residents of Nasaf, a town just outside Ramadi, west of Baghdad, said a roadside bomb exploded next to a US armoured patrol as it passed near the Ibn al-Jawzi mosque shortly after prayers on Friday.

Following the explosion, US troops opened fire, the residents said, shooting towards those emerging from the mosque.

Munem Aftan, the director of Ramadi General Hospital, said 15 people were killed, including eight children, and 17 wounded.

The US military denied troops had opened fire indiscriminately. “Indiscriminate US fire on civilians? No, nothing even resembling this occurred,” Captain Jeffrey Pool, a Marines spokesman in Ramadi, said in an e-mailed reply to questions.

He did not say whether an attack on a US patrol had occurred or whether any US troops were wounded.

The death toll was initially reported as two dead, but doctors said it had risen sharply overnight, with several of the severely wounded succumbing to their injuries.

Iraqi civilians frequently complain that US troops open fire indiscriminately after they are attacked. The US military says it does everything possible to avoid civilian casualties and is careful to respond to attacks in a measured fashion.—MNA/Reuters

**At least 125 dead from disease after Mumbai floods**

**Mumbai**, 14 Aug—The death toll from water-borne diseases following floods in Mumbai and surrounding areas two weeks ago had risen to at least 125 by Saturday, officials said.

Manu Srivastav, additional commissioner of the Mumbai Municpality, told a news conference that more than 1,000 people had been admitted to city hospitals in the last day, taking the total number hospitalized to 4,301. Hospitals shown in television and newspaper pictures appeared to be overflowing, with patients seen lying on mattresses on floors of wards and corridors.

Of 89 dead in Mumbai, India’s largest city, 19 were suspected to have succumbed to leptospirosis, a bacterial disease which spreads through exposure to water contaminated with the urine of infected animals, Mnrustav said. Three were cases of malaria and one person died of gastroenteritis.

In 66 cases the symptoms very closely mimic those of leptospirosis, but since the test reports are not available we are not in a position to say with certainty that these are leptospirosis cases,” he told Reuters. He said about 2 per cent of those admitted to hospital had died. Doctors say people who waded through dirty water during the floods could have contracted leptospirosis, which takes at least 10-12 days to manifest. Health officials said the incubation period for the disease is nearly over, and that hospital admissions for it could start to fall in one or two days.—MNA/Reuters

**1,853 US troops killed since beginning of Iraq war**

**Washington**, 14 Aug—As of Sunday, 14 August, 2005, at least 1,853 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 1,431 died as a result of hostile action, according to the military’s numbers. The figures include five military civilians.

The AP count is seven higher than the Defence Department’s tally, last updated at 10 am EDT on Friday. The British military has reported 93 deaths; Italy, 26; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 17; Bulgaria, 13; Spain, 11; Slovakia, three; El Salvador, Estonia, Thailand, the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, Hungary, Kazakhstan and Latvia one death each.

Since 1 May, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,714 US military members have died, according to AP’s count. That includes at least 1,322 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military’s numbers.—Internet

**Vietnamese party leader urges Press to promote nat’l strength**

**Hanoi**, 14 Aug—The Press must promote the strength of the entire nation by positively and effectively influencing the formation of Vietnamese character in spirit, intellect, mind and sense of uprightness as well as healthy public opinion in the new stage, a Vietnamese party leader said.

Nong Duc Manh, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam, made the call while delivering a speech at the eighth congress of the Vietnam Journalists Association in Hanoi, the capital, on Saturday, Vietnam News Agency reported.

Manh urged local journalists to focus on raising the Press quality and effectiveness to society, ensuring the development of the Press in quantity, content quality, technology and genres so as to better satisfy the people’s demand and enthusiastically serve the execution of the guidelines and internal and external policies of the party and state. He stressed that journalists must resolutely stamp out information that negatively affects the country’s economic, political and cultural life in order to make the Press rise as a broad forum for the people of all walks of life.

The party leader urged journalists to increase the quality of expression in the Press so that they can help the public fully understand the nature of big events inside and outside the country, while enhancing the Press combative spirit against reactionary tongues and sabotage plots of hostile forces. According to the association, there are now more than 550 Press organizations issuing over 700 publications nationwide. The number of newspapers, magazines, and radio and television programmes in Vietnamese and ethnic languages for ethnic minority groups living in remote and isolated areas has continuously increased.—MNA/Xinhua

**Flood traps 10,000 tourists in S-W China**

**Lijiang** (Yunnan), 14 Aug—An estimated 10,000 domestic and foreign tourists have been trapped since Thursday after rain-triggered flood cut off traffic in a scenic spot in southwest China.

Continuous downpours triggered floods in the Jinsha River, which began submerging the nearby key road linking Shangri-La, a mythical and enchanting wonderland in Yunnan Province, to the city of Lijiang, a renowned local cultural heritage for sight-seeing, as of Thursday noon.—MNA/Xinhua

**Car bomb hits US patrol in western Baghdad**

**Baghdad**, 15 Aug — A car bomb struck a US military patrol on a main road in western Baghdad on Sunday, killing at least a civilian, police said.

“A car bomb parked on the side of the road in Khadraa District detonated as a US military patrol was passing by, killing a civilian and wounding few others, according to initial reports,” an Interior Ministry source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

The blast also damaged at least two US Humvees and three civilian cars, the source said.—MNA/Xinhua

**Workers stitch garments at a factory in Ningbo. China’s industrial output rose 16.1 percent from a year earlier to 581.1 billion yuan (71.6 billion US) in July, slowing fractionally from the previous month, official data showed.—INTERNET**

**A wounded woman lies in a hospital bed in Baghdad after being injured in a mortar attack recently. —INTERNET**
Imperial Ancestral Temple in Beijing better protected

BEIJING, 14 Aug — The 600-year-old Imperial Ancestral Temple, the only existing temple of its kind in China, is being armed with modern equipment to guard against fire, floods and lightning.

The project will root out 21 safety hazards such as outdated fire alarms and aging electrical wiring at the ancient wooden compound, located to the east of the Forbidden City in the heart of Beijing, according to the Beijing Municipal Bureau of Cultural Heritage.

The three-million-yuan (370,000 US dollars) project, scheduled to be finished in November, will equip the temple with advanced fire alarm system, fire hydrants and hoses, and lightning conductors, Yu Ping, deputy director of the bureau, was quoted as saying by the English-language newspaper China Daily on Saturday.

Yu said nine other ancient buildings in Beijing would receive similar safety renovations this year, including the Jietai Temple, the Bell and Drum Towers, and the Altar of the God of Agriculture—all of which are jewels in the city’s crown of 3,500 heritage sites.

Six US soldiers killed in Iraq bombings

BAGHDAD, 14 Aug — Six US soldiers died in roadside bombings and a shooting, the military said on Sunday, as lawmakers rushed to persuade Sunni Arabs to accept federalism provisions in the draft constitution that is due in one day.

With intense negotiations continuing just hours before parliament was to ratify the charter, one Shiite legislator, Jawad al-Maliki, told The Associated Press that the deadline might have to be extended.

"If we don't reach an agreement today, we might amend the interim constitution and extend the deadline by a minimum of two weeks," he said.

Elsewhere, the US military said three soldiers were killed and one other wounded in a roadside bombing late Saturday near Tuz Khormato, 95 miles north of Baghdad.

One soldier on a patrol was killed Sunday and three others wounded in a blast east of Rutbah, 250 miles west of Baghdad, the military said. Another roadside bombing, one soldier was killed Saturday and another wounded in western Baghdad.

The military said in a brief statement from Baghdad that one soldier was found dead on Friday of a gunshot wound. The military said an investigation was underway and did not say where the soldier was found or if an attack was suspected.

Crude oil prices rise to another record

NEW YORK, 14 Aug — Crude oil futures rose to a record for a fifth straight session on Friday, hitting 67 dollars a barrel on speculation that increased fuel demand might outpace production.

Crude oil prices soared because there had been a widespread concern over supply disruptions. At least 14 disruptions at US refineries were reported since 20 July.

While US refineries were operating at 95 per cent of capacity last week, traders still worried fuel supplies would not be sufficient to meet surging demand during the summer peak time. Many analysts said there were profound supply-demand imbalances in the world and there was no sign of the imbalances being corrected anytime soon.

Central Bank manager kidnapped in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 14 Aug — Gunmen Saturday kidnapped the general manager of the Central Bank of Iraq in front of his home in eastern Baghdad, state-owned television said.

Iraq Television quoted an interior ministry official as saying that "armed terrorists" abducted Haseeb Kazem Jaweed shortly after he left his home in al-Mustansariya in the capital and took him to an unknown destination.

No one claimed responsibility for the kidnapping of the bank official, but neighbors expected that a ransom will be demanded for his release.

An Iraqi policeman picks up the license plate from a vehicle used as a suicide car bomb in Baghdad on 14 August, 2005.
Philippines keeps typhoon warning in northernmost islands

MANILA, 14 Aug.—The Philippine authorities on Saturday put the highest typhoon warning. Storm Signal No.1, in effect over the province of Batanes and its neighbouring islands in the northernmost part of the country, while typhoon "Huaning" intensified and headed toward Hong Kong of China.

The state weather bureau PAGASA said packing maximum sustained winds of 95 kilometres per hour and gusts up to 120 kilometres per hour, Huaping’s centre was at 410 kilometres north and northwest of Laag City in northern Philippines at 04:00 am local time (20:00 GMT Friday) Saturday.

The typhoon was moving northwest at 19 kilometres per hour and is expected to be 240 kilometres north and northeast of Hong Kong by Sunday morning.

The weather bureau said the rain will fall over Luzon and the Visayas, particularly the western sections, with Huaping inducing the southwestern monsoon. The surge of strong winds associated with the southwest monsoon would affect the western seaboard of Luzon part of the Visayas, it added. Sea areas west of Luzon and Western Visayas will have occasional rains with winds of 30 to 50 kilometres per hour. PAGASA advised fishing boats and other small seacrafts not to venture out into the sea over the western areas of Luzon and the Visayas, which will have moderate to high waves.

Malaysia lifts haze emergency in two areas

KUALA LUMPUR, 14 Aug.—The Malaysian Government lifted the haze emergency in two areas of the Selangor State on Saturday after the Air Pollution Index (API) readings dropped below 200.

The withdrawal of the emergency status in Kuala Selangor and Port Klang was declared under the in- struction of Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, the National Security Council (NSC) said.

"However, government agencies, the private sector and the public involved in dealing with the haze problem should continue to intensify efforts to ensure that the air quality remains at a satisfactory level," NSC said in a statement released here.

NSC, however, did not provide the current API readings in the two areas.

According to local re- ports, the API in Kuala Selangor recorded at 5 pm local time (0900 GMT) on Friday fell to 228 while the index for Port Klang dropped to 182.

On Thursday, Badawi declared the haze emer- gency in the two areas when the API readings surged above 500, a level that is classified as “hazardous” to health.

API levels above 300 are considered “hazard- ous”, between 201 and 300 as “very unhealthy”, be- tween 101 and 200 as “unhealthy”, between 51 and 100 as “moderate” and below 50 as “good”.

Police save six fishermen trapped by tropical storm “Sanvu” in S China

SHANTOU (Guangdong), 14 Aug.—Six fishermen were saved by police on Saturday after being trapped by tropical storm Sanvu for about 12 hours at the sea water off the southern coastal Province of Guangdong.

The six fishermen from the province’s Hailong County tried to sail into the Xiaoao Port to avoid Sanvu around 6 pm Friday, but got stranded at the sea.

Quake jolts Sumbawa Island, Indonesia

JAKARTA, 14 Aug.—An earthquake measuring 5.6 on the Richter Scale shook parts of Indonesia’s Sumbawa Island on Saturday, but there were no reports of damage or injuries, an official said.

The quake, which struck at 11:10 am local time, was also felt in the neighbouring islands of Bali and Sumbawa, Antara news agency quoted Katut Bagus, an official of the meteorological and geophysics agency in the Balinese capital Denpasar as saying.

The quake’s epicenter was 40 kilometres northwest of Sumbawa Besar’s capital of Sumbawa Island and 240 kilometres below sea level.

Indonesia is prone to seismic shocks attacks on the so-called Pacific Rim of Fire, where the meeting of continental plates causes high volcanic and seismic activity.

Tropical storm “Sanvu” lands in S China coast

GUANGZHOU, 14 Aug.—Severe tropical storm Sanvu landed in the coastal areas of south China’s Guangdong Province on Saturday noon, bringing rainstorms, local observatory said.

Sanvu, the 10th tropi- cal storm that visited China this year, slapped the Chenghai area in the city of Shantou at 12:45 pm with powerful gusts, the maximum power of which reached the 12th degree.

The storm will move northwestward at an esti- mated speed of 20 kilo- metres per hour and will bring rainstorms to the eastern part of the provincial prov- ince, said the observatory.

Guangdong and its neighbouring Province of Fujian, which may also be affected by Sanvu, the Chinese name for coral, have taken emergency precautionary measures against the tropical storm.

Local residents were told to be on full alert for the storm and all vessels in the open sea have been called back to the ports.

Sanvu came on the heels of typhoon Matsa, which swept through China’s eastern coastal areas last week, dumping torrential rains and caus- ing enormous economic losses in the afflicted re- gions.

Irish daily says US worried about Iran-Iraq close relations

TEHERAN, 14 Aug.—IRNA—A morning paper said Sunday that establishment of close relations be- tween Iran and Iraq has worried the US as it can no longer blame Teheran for creating tension in Iraq.

The English-language paper ‘Iran Daily’ referred in its editorial to the recent claims made by the US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld who said weapons confiscated in Iraq were “clearly, unambiguously from Iran” and admonished Teheran for allowing the explosives to cross the border.

The paper added that Rumsfeld made the claim while commander of British-led forces in southeastern Iraq, Major General Jim Dutton, officially said “there exists no evidence about Iran smuggling weapons in the region.”

Referring to the US Secretary of Defence as one of the American statesmen “known for making irrespon- sible remarks,” the paper added that even American journalists “have had problems reflecting his com- ments that are more opinionated than factual.”

The paper further noted that Rumsfeld’s remarks showed once again “to what low levels Americans are willing to stoop for scoring points against rivals, in- cluding the use of lies, deception and slander.”

"Today Iraqi officials and people have fully grasped that Iran is a reliable neighbour which can play an important role in promoting political stability, reconstruc- tion and economic recovery," Iran Daily said.

Noting that Teheran and Baghdad “can establish meaningful bonds” by putting the dark era of Saddam Hussein’s anti-Iran policies behind them, the paper said in conclusion “Rumsfeld is worried that stable, constructive ties between Iraq and Iran will prevent him from blaming Iran for the deteriorating Iraqi situation.”

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Tuesday, 16 August, 2005
China’s economy to grow steadily despite problems

BEIJING, 15 Aug—Despite low consumer price index and industrial profit drop, China’s economy is believed to grow steadily for the second half of 2005.

Instead of slowing down as expected, China’s economy engine maintained a strong momentum, with a 9.5-per-cent growth in the second quarter, even a little higher than the first quarter.

Along with the fast growth rate, China’s economy suffers low consumer price index (CPI), slumping industrial profit and overgrowing foreign exchange reserve, which might affect the stability of the economy. Overall, the economy is moving for the better, said Xie Fuzhan, deputy director with the Development Research Centre of the State Council.

In the first half, the industrial profit rose by 16 per cent, much lower than 40-per cent increase last year. “But there is no signal for any danger as China aimed to cool down its overheated industries,” said Xie. — MNA/Xinhua

Rockets attacks, bomb blasts rock S-W Pakistan on Independence Day

ISLAMABAD, 15 Aug—Rockets attacks and bomb blasts rocked parts in Pakistan’s southwestern Baluchistan Province on early Sunday while the nation was celebrating its 58th anniversary of independence from British rule, but there was no casualties.

Some 10 rockets were fired by unidentified assailants near a paramilitary post in Kohlu, 180 kilometres east of Quetta, capital of Baluchistan. The frontier constabulary and paramilitary soldiers returned mortar fire and the assailants fled, witnesses said.

A rocket was fired on a school in Mand area, in district Turbat, 700 kilometres from Quetta, partly damaging one of its walls and smashing some window glasses, principal of the school Rahima Jalal said.

A Special Education Begum Zubaide Jalal. The minister’s home is located near the school and she was at her home when the rocket was fired.

Rahima Jalal said that a post of paramilitary forces is located close to the school and that they might be the target.

A bomb exploded in a government-run school two hours before a function in the same school to celebrate the independence day. Local government officials and general public were scheduled to attend the function.

Another homemade bomb exploded near the office of Municipal Committee in Quetta one hour before the national day function. There was no casualty but the blast caused damage to windows on the building.

No one has claimed responsibility but the authorities blamed local anti-government tribesmen for such attacks. Rocket attacks on paramilitary posts and government buildings often take place in Baluchistan.

Nationalist Baloch tribesmen demand royalty for natural resources in the province and they also oppose government plans to build new military cantonments there. — MNA/Xinhua

India rejects Nepal complaint over assault rifle

KOLKATA (India), 14 Aug—A state-run Indian arms manufacturer on Saturday rejected a complaint by Nepal that it supplied the kingdom faulty assault rifles which led to heavy losses in a gunbattle with Maoist rebels this month.

An official of the Rifle Factory Ichapur said the guns may have failed because of poor maintenance by the Nepali Army which lost 42 soldiers in the fighting in the west of the country last weekend. Another 75 soldiers remain missing.

“The rifles are war-tested and widely used by our forces in counter-insurgency operations,” said PK Agarwal, additional general manager of the factory in the eastern Indian State of West Bengal.

The Nepali Army, quoting soldiers who took part in the 10-hour battle with the guerrillas, said the INSAS rifle frequently became too hot during the fighting and soldiers had to wait for it to cool before they could use it again.

The Army casualties were the biggest since Maoist violence escalated after King Gyanendra seized direct power in February by sacking the multiparty government. — MNA/Reuters

Angelina Jolie gets Cambodian citizenship

PHNOM PENH, 14 Aug—US Hollywood star Angelina Jolie was granted a Cambodian citizenship recently by King Norodom Sihamoni, an NGO official said on Friday.

King Sihamoni signed a royal decree approving Jolie’s citizenship on 31 July, said Suwanna Gamble, country director of WildAid. The reward is for Jolie’s grand environmental work and assistance done to Cambodia, Suwanna Gamble said, adding that the movie star has provided 1.5 million US dollars to assist Cambodia’s reserves in Cambodia’s remote northeastern provinces.

She also adopted a Cambodian boy in 2002. During Jolie’s stay here last July, Prime Minister Hun Sen mentioned to offer her citizenship. After meeting with Hun Sen, Jolie said that she was very proud and honoured that Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen would give her a Cambodian citizenship. — MNA/Xinhua

Beijing to have seawater pool next year

BEIJING, 15 Aug—Beijing citizens, who are willing to pay more will be able to enjoy swimming in real seawater without actually going to the seaside from next June, a report said here on Saturday.

The seawater will be purchased and transported from Dalian, an acostal city in northeastern China’s Liaoning Province to Beijing every week.

The first seawater swimming pool in the capital is under construction in the Shijingshan Sports Centre. Before the pool welcomes its first batch of swimmers, it needs 2,400 cubic metres of seawater to fill it, which will take two months to transport. After that, 500 cubic metres of seawater will be transported to Beijing each week.

The pool will be 5,000 square metres with an investment of 14.6 million US dollars, and will use around 30 tons of seawater daily.

With a capacity of 2,000 swimmers, the pool is 50-metre long and 25 metres wide.

“Because the investment and transportation is so high, so this swimming pool’s ticket will be expensive. The fine details are not yet decided, the report said.

This is the second inland seawater swimming pool in China, with the first in Changezhou, capital of Jilin Province in northeast China. — MNA/PTI

No terror mastermind behind London bombers

LONDON, 14 Aug—Groups behind the July London bomb attack that killed 52 people and a failed attempt to strike again soon after appear to have been acting independently of an al-Qaeda mastermind abroad, a newspaper reported on Saturday.

The Independent, quoting police and intelligence officials, said it was also likely that four 7 July suicide bombers were probably not linked to another group of four who failed to blow up explosives on buses and underground trains two weeks later.

But some of the report’s conclusions were questioned by a terror analyst, who said it would be difficult for Islamic militants in Britain to prepare and set off explosive devices without some training in Pakistan, Afghanistan or elsewhere.

The newspaper said police and intelligence sources felt the fact there was no leader from abroad showed how other “self-sufficient” units could be hiding in Britain.

“All the talk about ‘Mr Bigs’ and al-Qaeda masterminds looks like something from a film script at the moment,” the newspaper quoted a police source as saying.

“Of course, things could change if new intelligence comes through, but it looks increasingly as if these people were largely working on their own. It is not something we expected.”

Four young British Muslims blew themselves up on three London underground trains and a bus on 7 July, killing 52 people. An parent bid to repeat the parent bid to repeat the attacks on 21 July failed and police have arrested four people they say were behind it. — MNA/Reuters

India rejects Nepal complaint over assault rifle

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No terror mastermind behind London bombers

LONDON, 14 Aug—Groups behind the July London bomb attack that killed 52 people and a failed attempt to strike again soon after appear to have been acting independently of an al-Qaeda mastermind abroad, a newspaper reported on Saturday.

The Independent, quoting police and intelligence officials, said it was also likely that four 7 July suicide bombers were probably not linked to another group of four who failed to blow up explosives on buses and underground trains two weeks later.

But some of the report’s conclusions were questioned by a terror analyst, who said it would be difficult for Islamic militants in Britain to prepare and set off explosive devices without some training in Pakistan, Afghanistan or elsewhere.

The newspaper said police and intelligence sources felt the fact there was no leader from abroad showed how other “self-sufficient” units could be hiding in Britain.

“All the talk about ‘Mr Bigs’ and al-Qaeda masterminds looks like something from a film script at the moment,” the newspaper quoted a police source as saying.

“Of course, things could change if new intelligence comes through, but it looks increasingly as if these people were largely working on their own. It is not something we expected.”

Four young British Muslims blew themselves up on three London underground trains and a bus on 7 July, killing 52 people. An parent bid to repeat the attacks on 21 July failed and police have arrested four people they say were behind it. — MNA/Reuters
Construction
Minister inspects…
(from page 16)

 morning, Senior Engineer Daw Si Than reported on matters related to its construction and future tasks to the minister who also oversaw the tasks being undertaken on either side of the river and fulfilled the requirements.

The main bridge is 540 feet long and it is a suspension one, and the approaching bridges on both sides of the river are 360 feet long each.

Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun inspects construction of Panmawady Bridge (Myintkaseik) in Ayeyawady Division. — CONSTRUCTION

The rest of its construction continues.

MNA

Workshop on Myanmar ICT Development Master Plan Project continues.

YANGON, 15 Aug — The workshop on The Myanmar ICT Development Master Plan Project took place at MICT Park in Hline Township this afternoon.

Present on the occasion were Vice-Chairman of e-National Task Force, member of Civil Service Selection and Training Board U Aung Myint and members, the Resident Representative of Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), the Myanmar experts and those from Korea Information Strategy Development Institute (KISDI).

The project has been implemented by e-National Task Force in cooperation with KOICA since 2004. It includes a wide range of ICT sectors. The workshop continues tomorrow.

MNA

Meeting on pilgrimage to India, Nepal held.

YANGON, 15 Aug — A coordination meeting on organizing pilgrimage to India and Nepal took place at the Ministry of Religious Affairs this afternoon, with an opening address by Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung.

It was attended by Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko and directors-general and officials of the departments under the ministry and guests. At the meeting the deputy minister explained the pilgrimage and Director General Dr Myo Myint of the Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana reported on arrangements being made for organizing the pilgrimage to India and Nepal. Those present took part in the discussions and the meeting ended with concluding remarks by the minister. — MNA

Deputy Minister inspects Shwe Pyi Tha Oil Field.

YANGON, 15 Aug — Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay on 13 August arrived Shwe Pyi Tha Oil Field in Myanmar Bago Division (West), and inspected pumping of oil from well No 56 and preparation for drilling of well No 57.

At the meeting with the deputy minister at the briefing hall of the oil field, general manager and engineers of the oil field reported on exploration and production of natural gas and arrangements for drilling of new oil wells. The deputy minister urged the staff personnel to strive for meeting with more success in oil and natural gas exploration. He also briefed on arrangements for supply of machinery and spare parts to be used in the exploration. On 13 August, Central Executive of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Brig-Gen Than Htay, accompanied by Chairman of Bago Division (West) Peace and Development Council Brig-Gen Hla Min, attended a ceremony to donate exercise books and pencils to nine monastic education schools held at Hmoke Shay Village-tract in Pyay and handed over exercise books and pencils. The ceremony was organized by Bago Division (West) USDA.

Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Than Htay also donated exercise books and pencils to schools and libraries in villages in Myanmar Township and Parahita school in Kyangin Township on 13 and 14 August. — MNA

Finance and Revenue Team plays against Tagon Team in Myanmar premier league soccer tournament Monday. The match ended with 1-1 draw. — NLM
The majority of people living in the rural regions are facing hardship because of the lack of progress. In addition to transport and livelihood difficulties, the people need to ensure the equal development of all the regions of the country, the government is implementing the border region development project, 24 special development regions project and five rural development tasks. As Pauk township has the scarcity of irrigation water and drinking water, priority has been given to the supply of water. The State has built irrigation facilities to benefit a great number of acres of farmland in other regions. However, on Pakokku plains including this region, only small-scale dams could be built due to their geographical conditions for the supply of water. The Prime Minister said all possible measures will be taken for the greening of Pauk region and for socio-economic development of local people. In addition, the people and the Tatmadaw are to cooperate in building a peaceful and modern developed nation. Then the Prime Minister greeted those present.

The Prime Minister and party visited Pauk basic education high school, Deputy Minister for Education Brig-Gen Aung Aung Myo Min, the headmaster and teachers reported on condition of school buildings and construction of a new school building. Next, the Prime Minister viewed the students’ learning at the multi-media classrooms. Afterwards, the Prime Minister and party greeted local people. At noon, the Prime Minister and party helicoptored to Imbat Dam being constructed by Magway Division Irrigation Department in Imbat Village in Pakokku township. At the briefing hall, Minister Maj-Gen Hay Oo reported on matters pertaining to the dam.

Chairman of Division Peace and Development Councils from five townships and members, officials, members of social organizations, entrepreneurs, industrialists, members of Ward and Village Peace and Development Councils and town elders at Pyithaya Hall in Pakokku.

Chairman of Pakokku District Peace and Development Council Li-Col Htay Oo reported on areas, population, land resources, rainfall, cultivation of paddy, rice sufficient, GDP and per capita income in the region, water supply and drinking water supply project, matters on education, health and transport and opening of rural libraries.

Next, Chairman of Magway Division Peace and Development Councils to build finished wood factory in Pakokku.

Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung reported on benefits and good climate due to growing trees, arrangements for growing of trees in catchment area of dams and reservoirs and plans to build finished wood factory in Pakokku.

Prime Minister General Soe Win inspected Pauk Township’s 16-bed hospital.

To ensure the equal development of all the regions of the country, the government is implementing the border region development project, 24 special development regions project and five rural development tasks. As Pauk township has the scarcity of irrigation water and drinking water, priority has been given to the supply of water. The State has built irrigation facilities to benefit a great number of acres of farmland in other regions.
were facing shortage of water for drinking and irrigation purposes.

Since its assumption of the State duties, the Tatmadaw government has been building necessary infrastructures to make Pakokku the largest town on the west bank of Ayeyawady River, to develop the whole Pakokku region, to supply adequate amount of water for various purposes, and to develop the areas in southern Chin State. It has been building new railroads, motor roads, bridges across rivers and creeks, and airports. It also designated the Pakokku region as a development zone, setting up necessary institutions of higher learning for progress of health, education and human resources. Moreover, it has been tapping all the available water resources in the region for irrigation. Thus, new dams and water pumping stations do emerge in the region. As the geographical situation demands setting up of small scale dams to the most possible degree, priority has been given to building these facilities in cooperation with the locals.

Only when land and marine resources in the region are effectively utilized will the local people be able to engage in double cropping and their income increase. The harder we work the higher the living standard will be, he said.

As the government has been creating necessary infrastructures for national development the local people are to participate in the task, realizing the goodwill of the government.

It is incumbent upon the local people to deal with food security in the region, conservation of forest, greening of the region, extended cultivation of cash crops, breeding that is suitable to the region. Only then, will the living standard of the people improve and will poverty alleviate.

At present, unprecedented progress has been made in Pakokku and plans for availability of potable water in the region has already been carried out to a certain extent. Work is well under way for the whole Pakokku District to have potable water.

At the same time, the private industrial zone has been set up in the region and Pakokku jeep and trucks are popular among customers. This contributes to boosting the income of the people.

With the active participation of local people in the region, Pakokku region will see more development in the very near future.

With the active participation of local people in the region, the government is to make continued efforts for national development.

In particular, the participation of social organizations in nation-building tasks is encouraging and the prospects for the participation of the people in building a future nation can be easily assessed.

Integrated and well-coordinated efforts of the State, the people and the Tatmadaw are indispensable for the building of a modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation.

The Prime Minister and party met members of Pakokku District and Township Agricultural Supervisory Committee and farmers from river water pumping areas. The Prime Minister gave instructions on implementation of water pumping projects. He cordially greeted the farmers. The Prime Minister and party inspected Government Technical College and Government Computer College. They also greeted faculty members and principals.

Deputy Minister for Education Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min inspected Pakokku Education College on 13 August. The deputy minister met Division Education Officer, the vice-principal, teachers and students. Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo inspected 200-bed hospital and nursing and midwifery training school.

All possible measures will be taken for greening of Pauk region and for socio-economic development of local people.
Gems course for Women opened

YANGON, 15 Aug — The opening ceremony of Gems course, co-sponsored by Working Group for promotion of women’s life and Genuine Gems Associates-GGA Co Ltd took place at the office of Yangon Division, Ministry of Industry, and Development Council on Bank Road in Kyauktada Township this afternoon with an address by Patron of Yangon Division Women’s Affairs Organization Daw Khin Aung Ko who explained matters related to the course. The 50 women trainees are attending the three-week course. MNA

Medical and educational equipment presented

YANGON, 15 Aug — A ceremony to donate medical and educational equipment, provided by Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association to Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee took place at the Yangon Division Health Department this afternoon. Present on the occasion were Vice-President of MMCWA Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint and executives, Chairperson of YMCWSC Daw Khin Thet Htay and members, Head of Department of YHID Dr Hla Myint and officials.

Int’l experts start investigation work in Uganda on air mishap

KAMPALA, 15 Aug — The international team of technical experts investigating the Ugandan presidential Mi-172 helicopter crash on 30 July that killed Sudan’s first vice-president John Garang and 12 other people has started work in Uganda, local Press reported on Saturday.

Ugandan Government announced an investigation into the cause of the crash, an official from the Ministry of Internal Affairs and himself.

Three men who were in custody received between 15 and 42 years in jail, a Cairo court ruling said. One of the three was an official from the state’s Supreme Council of Antiquities.

Four other men, frequently found in absinthe, were sentenced between 15 to 55 years in prison, the ruling said. They included a Swiss citizen and a German of Egyptian origin.

Three of the original 10 defendants were acquitted, it said.

Tens of thousands of pieces, including human and animal mummies and wooden sarcophagi, were smuggled over the years, judicial sources previously said. Some of the men financed illegal excavations at some of Egypt’s best known archaeological sites — Saqqara, Tell el-Amarna, Dahshour and Tell Basta, the sources had said.

Saqqara is the necropolis for the ancient city of Memphis and Tell el-Amarna was the shortlived capital under heterodox pharaoh Akhenaten.

Smugglers of Egyptian antiquities sentenced

CAIRO, 14 Aug — A gang who smuggled ancient Egyptian artefacts worth about 55 million US dollars out of Egypt were sentenced on Saturday to between 15 and 55 years in prison.

Some of the artefacts were seized at Cairo Airport, but many of the more than 57,000 articles were smuggled out. Some had been returned, including artefacts sent back in July from Australia, where they were found for sale on the Internet.

Three men who were sentenced were found guilty of smuggling.

Twelve others, agents who assisted in the smuggling, were sentenced between 15 to 55 years, the court said.

Thirteen killed, eight injured in Kenya bus crash

NAIVASHA (Kenya), 15 Aug — At least 13 people, including two children, died and eight were seriously injured on Saturday when a bus and a cement truck collided on Kenya’s busy Nairobi-Nakuru Highway, witnesses said.

The accident occurred near the town of Naivasha and police said the force of the collision was so great that most of the dead were cut into pieces.

“Seems the lorry had no brakes, it ripped through the bus and then landed under a bridge. It is a terrible thing,” Naivasha police boss Simon Kiragu told Reuters.

Police said six men, five women and two children travelling in the bus died and five people were admitted to a nearby hospital in critical condition. MNA/Reuters

US professor shot dead in Brazil’s Amazon

BRASILIA, 15 Aug — A US anthropology professor on a research trip to Brazil was shot and killed on Saturday in an Amazon rainforest town, a US Embassy spokesman said on Sunday.

James Petersen, 51, of the University of Vermont, was shot while he was being robbed in a restaurant in the town of Iranduba, about 14 miles (22 kilometres) west of Manaus, the spokesman, John Wilcock, said.

Three suspects were taken into custody on Sunday morning in connection with Petersen’s murder, Brazil’s CBN radio reported. Wilcock could not confirm the information. Federal police in Manaus were not immediately available for comment.

Petersen, chairman of the Department of Anthropology at the University of Vermont, was on a research field trip with colleagues in the Manaus area, located around 1,200 miles (1,900 kilometres) northwest of the capital Brasilia. He was staying with the University of Sao Paulo, Brazil, on a joint research study known as the Central Amazon Project. Petersen was with a Brazilian anthropologist from the University of Sao Paulo when he was robbed and shot on Saturday night while eating dinner at a roadside restaurant, CBN reported. Petersen died shortly afterward, Wilcock said.

MRTV-4 covers live football matches of EPL

YANGON, 15 Aug — The channels of MRTV-4 — 5-Movies and 5-Cartoons will air the football series of English Premier League and the FA cup.

The matches can be watched through Family Digital Receiver in the area of Yangon City. — MNA
Let’s grow special high yield Hsinshweli paddy

Ahtet Minhla Nyunt Aung

The State Peace and Development Council is giving priority to development of an agro-based economy that suits geographical and weather conditions of the nation.

At the same time, it has been taking systematic steps for food security of the growing population and for export of the surplus.

To ensure development of the agricultural sector it is necessary to extend the sown acreage, boost the per acre yield, apply double and mixed cropping, and use quality strains and modern techniques.

The majority of the nation’s population are rural people who are mainly engaged in agriculture. Agricultural infrastructures such as dams and reservoirs are being built for development of socio-economic life of rural people.

Only when the agricultural sector develops will the national economy make progress. Hence, the government provides all necessary assistance to farmers to engage in double and mixed cropping. The government is doing so with the aim of bringing about equitable development across the nation and enhancing the socio-economic life of rural dwellers.

A project being implemented for marching towards an agro-based industrialized nation is one of the developmental projects being carried out in various parts of the nation. In this connection, emphasis is being placed on mechanized agriculture.

In the meantime, constant efforts are being made to enable farmers to use quality strain paddy and apply advanced agricultural techniques. Only then will per capita income of farmers increase and economy in the region develop.

Of the ten major crops, three new crops and three perennial crops, those that are suitable to the region concerned are to be grown extensively. The government is building more irrigation facilities for development of agriculture, while making efforts for acquisition of quality strain crops and new crops for boosting the per acre yield. At the same time, extended cultivation of coffee, tea, pepper and salient points of Hsinshweli paddy, our news crew of the Ministry of Information left for Lashio on 12 June 2005. In the evening, our news crew met Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing.

In an interview, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing said that Head of State Senior General said the harvesting ceremony of special high yield Hsinshweli paddy in Phaingkyang Village, Muse Township. At the ceremony, Township Manager of Myanmar Agriculture Service U Myint Aung explained the completion of harvesting in model plots of summer paddy yielding over 200 baskets per acre and plans for cultivation of monsoon paddy for 2005-2006.

The per acre yield success with the result of about 203 baskets to 217.4 baskets per acre yield. Then, 80 per cent of local farmers are now engaged in growing the high-yield strain, a species of meadow rice group, on a commercial scale. The manager of the township Myanmar Agriculture Service explained effective agricultural methods, systematic use of natural and chemical fertilizers, pesticides, and water for cultivation of Hsinshweli strain paddy in Muse Township. The per acre yield has reached 267 baskets.

Assistant Secretary of Muse District PDC Col Tin Yu explains matters on cultivation of special high yield Hsinshweli paddy.

Of the five sample plots of Hsinshweli strain paddy was 241.37 baskets. Officials presented model farmer prize for 2004-2005 to the winner, and gifts to those who contributed to the regions services to the project.

We interviewed the officials. Muse District PDC Secretary Maj Tin Yu said that on average per acre yield of Hsinshweli strain paddy was 160 to 250 baskets. Under the instructions of the commander, 25 acres were put under Hsinshweli strain paddy in Namhkam Township in 2003-2004. The pilot project showed

The motto of local farmers is “Grow Hsinshweli high-yield strain paddy across Shan State to double the standard of living of farmers”. By using Hsinshweli high-yield strain paddy, local farmers in Shan State (North) have enjoyed fruitful results of development with higher living standard.

According to the survey
Ugandan President meets Congo’s Vice-President

KAMPALA, 15 Aug—Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni has held talks with Vice-President Azarias Rüberwa of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) on situation in the DRC’s eastern war-torn region of Ituri, according to a report from The New Vision newspaper on Saturday.

The state-owned newspaper reported that the two leaders discussed regional issues with particular emphasis on the Ituri region in the DRC and the promotion of trade between the two countries.

Museveni said it was important for stakeholders in the region to cooperate for the sake of peace. He said it was chiefly the countries in the region that could effectively solve the issue of insecurity.

Vice-President Rüberwa, who arrived here on Thursday, briefed President Museveni on the political development in the DRC, saying that in March next year, there would hold elections that would be a strong foundation for peace.

Meanwhile, reports available here said that at the meeting Uganda agreed to clamp down on Congolese rebels using its territory in their campaign against the peace and disarmament process in the vast Central African country.

The DRC, formerly Zaire, has seen some of the worst violence in Africa during a civil war that began in 1998. An estimated 4 million people have died, most from disease and hunger. Despite a peace deal, armed bands still wreak havoc in the east, killing civilians, looting and calling elections into question.

China, US cooperate to fight AIDS

NANNING, 15 Aug—China and the United States have jointly launched here an HIV/AIDS prevention programme to fight the deadly disease in central and southwest China’s provinces.

The international programme in its initial phase will input a total of 7 million US dollars to help non-governmental organizations prevent AIDS in 10 provinces and regions in central and local health officials said.

Yunnan Province, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region in southwest China, and Henan Province in central China and other provinces will benefit from this programme, which is organized by the US Agency for International Development in cooperation with China’s Ministry of Health.

The programme will in the next five years offer 15 million US dollars and other assistance such as training and technical support to help improve the capability of AIDS control in the provinces, said Li Huaqiu, director of the Disease Control Section with the Guangxi Regional Health Department.

In Guangxi, the programme will target the border city of Pingxiang and Ningming County, located at the border of China and Vietnam, with the view of improving the personal hygiene of HIV carriers, AIDS patients and their family members and meanwhile providing supportive clinic services and advice.

Aside from the China-US programme, China in July received a total of 98 million US dollars for the AIDS prevention programme sponsored by the Global Fund, which were allocated to help control HIV/AIDS in seven western Chinese provinces, including Guangxi, Li said.

So far, more than 20 international programmes for AIDS prevention have been carried out in China. China has estimated 840,000 people infected with the AIDS virus. The UNAIDS agency has warned that China could have as many as 10 million people infected by 2010 if it does not take urgent action.

DHAKA to ensure foolproof security for 13th SAARC Summit

DHAKA, 15 Aug—The Home Ministry of Bangladesh directed the law-enforcing agencies to ensure foolproof security in the capital for hosting the 13th Summit of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) scheduled for 12-13 November.

State Minister for Home Affairs Luqman Hakim said the directive was given the day after the eighth meeting of the SAARC Security Committee, formed for the 13th SAARC Summit, at the Home Ministry, reported the United News of Bangladesh, a private news agency in the country.

A foolproof security reportedly will be ensured for the SAARC leaders, with special attention to Indian and Pakistani prime ministers.
Google pauses on book search after copyright flap

SAN FRANCISCO, 14 Aug — Google Inc, responding to an outcry by publishers, has temporarily sealed back plans to make the full text of copyrighted books in five of the world's great libraries searchable via the Internet.

Google, the world’s most popular way of searching the Internet, will allow copyright holders who contact the company to withhold books from the project, said Adam Smith, program manager of the Google Print programme.

For three months, Google will stop scanning copyrighted books to allow owners to inform the company of objections.

"Any and all copyright holders...can tell us which books they'd prefer that we not scan if we find them in a library," Adam Smith, the project manager of Google Print, said in a statement on Google’s corporate web site.

Nonetheless, Google is moving ahead with its ambitious project to work with publishers and librarians to scan books in the public domain that are no longer covered by copyright, he said. Libraries participating in the programme include Oxford University, Harvard University, the New York Public Library, Stanford University and the University of Michigan.

The Google spokesman declined to comment on how many book titles are now searchable on the Google Print site, which works by typing the name of an author, a book title or a word or phrase into a web search box at google.com/. Google is working with publishers large and small to encourage them to make their books searchable. In exchange, Google can create distinct pages for each book with advertising and links to retailers. As a further inducement, publishers can create a direct sales link to consumers for their titles.

"We are really excited about the scope of this programme and the good it will do for the world," Smith said in a telephone interview. Google said that virtually all major US and British publishers are participating, at least in part, in Google Print. Critics of the programme said that Google’s plan to allow copyright holders to indicate whether they wish to opt out of the Google Print project switches the burden of upholding copyright rights from infringers to the copyright holders. — MNA/Reuters

French FM explains Paris’ Africa policy

PARIS, 14 Aug — French Foreign Minister Philippe Douste-Blazy on Friday explained France’s Africa policy, stressing the importance of African affairs to the international community.

In an interview with Le Parisien daily, Douste-Blazy said France’s African policy “relies first on a major conviction: security and development are inseparable”.

"In the 21st Century, nothing goes without the African continent. There will not be security nor growth for the West and in particular for the European continent without Africa’s development," said Douste-Blazy.

He called for the international community to help develop the African continent as it boasts a large potential market as well as rich natural resources, and help solve the problems haunting Africa, such as terrorism, illegal immigration, sanitary and environmental problems. — MNA/Xinhua

Polar bear makes huge 74-kilometre one-day Arctic swim

OSLO, 14 Aug — Scientists have tracked a tagged polar bear swimming at least 74 kilometres in just one day — and maybe up to 100 kilometres — providing the first conclusive proof the bears can cover such giant distances in the water.

Bears often roam thousands of kilometres in a year in search of prey such as seals and there has often been anecdotal evidence of prodigious urines swins, with bears turning up on remote islands or across wide bays. However, previously there had been doubts about whether the bears had walked over ice part of the way or hitched a ride on an iceberg.

"What’s new this time is that we have data showing how long the bear was in the water," Jon Aars, a researcher at the Norwegian Polar Institute, said on Friday. "This is the first time that such a long swim has been documented by satellite telemetry for polar bears," the institute added.

The female bear, equipped with a satellite tracking device, entered the water on the east of the Norwegian Arctic island of Spitsbergen early on 20 July, swim northeast and re-emerged on the island of Edgeoya a day later. A sensor on the bear’s collar sent different signals when it was in salty sea water compared to on land or ice.

"This is an astonishing swim," Aars said, saying it showed that polar bears could in many ways be classified as marine mammals — a group including whales and dolphins. Aars said the bear, dubbed “Skadi” after a Norse goddess of snow, had probably swum closer to 100 kilometres (62 miles) since the bear almost certainly did not swim the 74 kilometres (46 miles) between the two points in an exact straight line.

The bear covered the gap in about 24 hours, giving an average speed of 3-4 kilometres per hour — about as fast as a person walking. The swim probably meant that two cubs, with Skadi when the bear was marked in the spring, had died earlier in the summer. Mortality rates among polar bear cubs are high. — MNA/Reuters

Bangladesh inquiry blames Canada firm for gas fire

DHAKA, 14 Aug — A Bangladesh inquiry has blamed Canadian firm Niko Resources Ltd for a major gas field and the company will be asked to pay compensation, a government official said on Saturday.

The fire, started by a blowout in late June, is still raging at the north-eastern Tengratila gas field. The blaze forced hundreds of families to flee their homes and sparked protests demanding that the government scrap a contract with Niko.

The inquiry committee, formed immediately after the well caught fire in June, has submitted the final report today, government energy adviser Mahmud Rahman told reporters.

"The report said Niko was solely responsible for the gas field fire, because they did not have sufficient equipment and preparation for drilling," Rahman said.

"The drilling design was also faulty," he added.

Company officials could not be reached for comment. Niko is the joint operator of the gas field with Bangladesh’s state-owned BAPEX, the exploration wing of the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources. Rahman said Niko would be asked to compensate for the losses caused by the fire when a separate assessment committee submits its report by the end of the month.

Experts fear the entire 115 billion cubic feet (BCF) of gas reserves in the field will be lost unless the fire is stopped and leaks are plugged. — MNA/Reuters

Chavez completes MERCOSUR tour with agreements concluded

CARACAS, 14 Aug — Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez on Friday concluded his working visits to three countries of the Common Market of the South (MERCOSUR) aiming at enhancing bilateral relations and promoting Latin American integration.

During the three-day visit to Uruguay, Argentina and Brazil, Chavez signed with his counterparts a series of bilateral political and economic agreements.

Under the agreements signed with his Uruguayan counterpart, Tabare Vazquez, Venezuela is to provide low-price crude oil for refining at Uruguay’s refineries for 25 years. The processed oil will be used to meet Uruguay’s energy needs with surplus to be sold to South American countries.

Joint exploitation will take place in one of the reserve blocks Venezuela has in the eastern petroleum strip, where there are proven reserves of 300 billion barrels of crude. In return, Uruguay will export a large amount of agricultural, telecommunications and service products to Venezuela. Other joint efforts in the programme include plans for an alcohol distillation project with Uruguay near its northeastern border with Brazil and a cement plant which will export from Uruguay to Venezuela.

10 million US dollars’ worth of cement annually.

During his visit on 11 August to Argentina, the second leg of the tour, Chavez signed with his colleague Nestor Kirchner a series of agreements worth over 500 million dollars. — MNA/Xinhua

UNICEF warns of risk to children in Gaza pullout

GENEVA, 14 Aug — The United Nations agency for children on Friday warned that arms and explosives left behind after Israel’s planned withdrawal from the Gaza Strip posed an acute danger to the young and urged caution.

UNICEF urged that children be kept out of harm’s way to prevent more deaths. In the nearly five years since a Palestinian uprising broke out, 829 children under 18 have died, 713 of those Palestinians, it said.

"There will be weapons, there might be explosives, in this area," said UNICEF spokesman Marc Vergara at a media briefing. “They might find unexploded ordnance. That’s the danger.” Israel intends to evacuate all of its 21 enclaves in Gaza and four of 120 in the West Bank starting next Wednesday, the first removal of settlements from land Palestinians want for a state.

If Israel’s “disengagement plan” does not proceed peacefully, children could be in danger, the agency said. — MNA/Reuters

Chinese visitors at the Beijing Jundong Carts Services show room where the latest Ferrari sports car, the F430, is on display in Beijing, on 14 August, 2005. China’s appetite for luxury car is expected to boom due to its large population base and the growing number of wealthy benefiting from a robust economy.

—Inernet
Champions Rangers lose five-goal thriller at Aberdeen

GLASGOW, 15 Aug.—Jami Smith scored a spectacular late winner to give Aberdeen a 3-2 victory over Scottish champions Rangers on Sunday.

Smith's 25-metre drive two minutes from time settled a thrilling encounter in which Rangers battled back from 2-0 down before having Fernando Ricksen sent off. The result left Rangers' city rivals Celtic top of the Premier League table after three matches on seven points, one point clear of Rangers.

Celtic had a 3-1 home win over Falkirk on Saturday. Hearts, also on six points, will go top if they get at least a draw at Dundee United later on Sunday.

In an incident-packed game at Pittodrie referee John Underhill booked four players in the first half-hour. The last, Bob Malcolm of Rangers, conceded a free kick that led to Aberdeen's opener from skipper Russell Anderson. He headed home after Rangers failed to clear Gary Dempsey's free kick on the left after 30 minutes.

Aberdeen went 2-0 up with a fantastic goal from Steve Lovell seven minutes later. Lovell gathered a ball from Barry Nicholson and cut inside Malcolm to drill a low shot into the bottom right hand corner from the edge of the box.

Within 90 seconds Rangers pulled a goal back when Dado Prso hammered home a header high into the middle of the net following a corner by Ricksen.

Then TV pictures showed Ricksen and teammate Nacho Novo squaring up as they returned to the centre circle and they had to be separated by the referee and Rangers captain Barry Ferguson.

Four minutes into the second period an overhead kick by Peter Lovenkrands hauled Rangers level from substitute Steve Thompson's cross on the left. Rangers had Ricksen sent off for a second booking after 55 minutes for blocking Aberdeen's Kevin McNaughton. — MNA/Reuters

Crespo saves Chelsea

LONDON, 15 Aug.—Argentine substitute Hernan Crespo scored a stoppage-time winner as champions Chelsea snatched a dramatic 1-0 victory over Wigan Athletic at the JJB Stadium on Sunday.

The promoted underdogs, playing their first game in the top-flight, looked destined for a sensational draw until Crespo — back after a loan spell at AC Milan — hammered home a superb shot in the 93rd minute.

Arsenal leave it late to beat 10-man Newcastle

LONDON, 15 Aug.—Arsenal needed captain Thierry Henry to score a late penalty and substitute Robin van Persie to seal the points in a laboured 2-0 win over 10-man Newcastle United on Sunday.

Newcastle were spirited throughout but finally paid the price for a 32nd-minute red card shown to England midfielder Jermaine Jenas for a lunging tackle on Gilberto at Highbury.

Goalkeeper Soumey's ramped side held out untroubled while Fredrik Ljungberg went down under a challenge by substitute Charles N'Zogbia and Henry steered the spot-kick just beyond Shay Given in the 81st minute.

Van Persie put the result beyond doubt six minutes later, side-footing past Given from the narrowest of angles after being picked out by Ljungberg at the near post.

Then the scoreboard flattened Arsenal. They struggled to break down opponents who made light work of being a man down in their first game of the season.

The result was also a tactical blow as Newcast- le's 4-4-1 formation with Alan Shearer up front had done a good job of muzz- ling Arsenal's four-man midfield. Chelsea, whose homeowner Roman Abramovich has spent 330 million pounds (£99.2 million US dollars) on the club, deployed all their attacking force on a promoted side who suffered the cruellest of fates. — MNA/Reuters

Bruges held to draw, Westerlo win again

BRUSSELS, 15 Aug.—Champions Club Bruges were held to a surprising 1-1 draw by FC Brussels in the Belgian First Division on Saturday.

Westerlo made it two wins out of two to sit at the top of the table with six points after a 1-0 victory against cup holders Germinal Beerschot.

A last minute strike from Bjorn De Wilde sealed the points for Westerlo.

Bruges looked set to bounce back from their midweek Champions League defeat against an injury-hit Bruxelles side after Mammaseh Ishiahu put them ahead after 24 minutes.

However, on-loan Genk striker Igor De Camargo equalized for the home team four minutes later.

Two second half goals from Gunther van Handenborn and Arnar Vidarsson gave Lokeren a 2-0 win at Excelsior Mouscron to add to their draw on the opening day.

On Friday, L'Avese and Gent drew 1-1. — MNA/Reuters

Lagos, 15 Aug.—The Federal Republic of Nigeria and the Republic of Liberia have announced that they have signed a three-year agreement for the joint hosting of the 2008 African Nations Cup.

The agreement was signed by the representatives of the two countries, with the aim of promoting the development of football in both countries.

The agreement also provides for the allocation of resources to support the development of football in both countries, including the provision of facilities and equipment, as well as the organization of football tournaments.

The two countries have a long history of football rivalry, with Nigeria having won the African Nations Cup seven times, while Liberia has never qualified for the tournament.

The agreement is expected to bring about a significant increase in the level of football development in both countries, and is seen as a major step forward in the development of football in Africa.
Egypt arrests three Red Sea suspects

CAIRO, 15 Aug — Egyptian security forces have arrested three suspected members of cells involved in the July bombings in the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh that killed at least 64 people, the Al-Ahram daily said on Sunday.

The semi-official newspaper said security forces were searching for others who assisted or helped plan the three attacks on 23 July. “Police raided some of the hideouts and they found, in a farm in el Arish (north Sinai), about a ton of high explosives and are comparing it to the substances used in the three attacks,” the newspaper reported without giving a source.

Authorities suspect the Sharm el-Sheikh attacks and bombings last October in and around Taba, another Sinai resort town, were all the work of a group of Bedouin based in northern Sinai. Hundreds of people were detained for questioning in the el Arish area after the Taba attack. Al-Ahram said one of three arrested was working as a guard in a farm owned by a Palestinian living in el Arish. His arrest led to the other two being detained.

Security officials traced what the newspaper described as the “terrorist cell” by following tracks of two vehicles carrying explosives from central Sinai to Sharm el-Sheikh, the daily said.

MNA/Reuters

WEATHER

Monday, 15 August, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kachin State. Rain has been isolated in Kachin State, lower Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions, scattered in Shan State and Magway Division and widespread in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfalls in Rakhine State and Bago Division.

The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Thandwe (3.23) inches, Zaungtu (3.15) inches, Mawlamyine (2.76) inches and Thaton (2.60) inches.

Maximum temperature on 14-8-2005 was 83°F. Minimum temperature on 15-8-2005 was 68°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 15-8-2005 was 96%.

Total sunshine hours on 14-8-2005 was nil.

Rainfalls on 15-8-2005 were 1.26 inches at Mingaladon, 1.22 inches at Kaba-Aye, 1.18 inches at central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were 63.70 inches at Mingaladon, 64.92 inches at Kaba-Aye and 67.56 inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 15 mph from Southwest at (13:43) hours MST on 14-8-2005.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 16-8-2005: Rain will be isolated in Kayah State, lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Divisions, scattered in Kachin, Shan, Chin States, upper Sagaing and Bago Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is 80%.

State of the sea: Temporary 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 are likely in the southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 16-8-2005: One or two rain. Degree of certainty is 85%. Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 16-8-2005: Possibility of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is 60%.

Flood Warning

(Issued at 12:30 hrs MST on 15-8-2005)

According to the (06:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Sittoung River at Taungoo is (589) cm. It may reach the danger level (600) cm during the next (24) hours commencing noon today.

Flood Bulletin

(Issued at 12:30 hrs MST on 15-8-2005)

According to the (06:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Thanlwin River at Hpa-an is (826) cm. It is rising slightly and may remain above the danger level (750) cm during the next (4) days commencing noon today.
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
- 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

YANGON, 15 Aug — Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut urged the officials of the Yeywa hydel power project to make efforts for early completion of the project to meet the demand for power supply.

Afterwards, the minister met departmental staff, social organizations and townsenders at the township PDC office.

The township chairman reported on area and location of Pauk Township, cultivation acreage, annual rainfalls, thriving plantations of paddy and other crops and sufficiency of rice. He also reported that in the township 187 villages out of

Prime Minister General Soe Win views sinking of a tube-well in Pauk. — MNA

Prime Minister General Soe Win views sinking of a tube-well in Pauk. — MNA

Only when land and marine resources in the region are effectively utilized will the local people be able to engage in double cropping and their income increase

Minister calls for early completion of Yeywa hydel power project

YANGON, 15 Aug — Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut urged the officials of the Yeywa hydel power project to make efforts for early completion of the project to meet the demand for power supply.

In his remarks at the work coordination meeting held at the briefing hall of the project on 13 August, the minister also emphasized the early completion of the project meeting the set standard.

After hearing reports presented by Deputy Minister for Electric Power U Myo Myint and director-general of the Hydro-electric Power Department, the minister gave necessary instructions.

After the meeting, he inspected the construction of intake structure, the main dam and power station. The minister and party also inspected construction site. — MNA

Construction Minister inspects roads and bridges in Ayeyawaddy Division

YANGON, 15 Aug — Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun together with officials of Public Works inspected the maintenance of Yangon-Pathein motor road section and gave necessary instructions to the officials yesterday.

The minister and party proceeded to the construction site of the Panmawady Bridge (Myinkaseik) over Panmawady river this (See page 7)

In the meantime, constant efforts are being made to enable farmers to use quality strain paddy and apply advanced agricultural techniques. Only then will per capita income of farmers increase and economy in the region develop.

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AHTET MINLA NYUNT AUNG