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

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

Prime Minister urges industrialists to produce high quality parts, endeavour for installation of automatic machines

Prime Minister General Soe Win inspects foundry in Monywa Industrial Zone.

Yangon, 17 Aug — Chairman of Industrial Development Committee Prime Minister General Soe Win together with member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, the commanders, the ministers, the deputy ministers and officials inspected foundry shop and machine tools factory in Monywa Industrial Zone on 15 August and modern foundry shop in Mandalay Industrial Zone on 16 August.

The Prime Minister and party arrived at the foundry shop and parts manufactured. They also inspected sample machine tools ordered by the Ministry of Industry-2, Ministry of Rail Transportation, factories under Agricultural Mechanization Department and private enterprises. The Prime Minister and party inspected tools to be tested at the quality control room and their uses and foundry process at No 2 foundry shop and it can manufacture 18HP pulleys.

The Prime Minister and party inspected production of farm equipment at the forging shop and storage of materials at the warehouse. They went to machine shop where officials reported on installation of machines and parts ordered by private enterprises. The Prime Minister and party were conducted round the shop.

The Prime Minister met departmental officials, members of Monywa Industrial Zone Supervisory Committee and industrialists at Chindwin Yadana Hall of the shop.

Chairman of Monywa Industrial Zone Supervisory Committee Secretary of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Myo Myint reported on construction of factories and progress of

(See page 8)

Out of the industrial zones, there are good prospects in Monywa, Mandalay and Ayethaya (Taunggyi) Industrial Zones. The government has given encouragement to the establishment of foundry and machine shops, forging, press and heat treatment shops. These shops are now in operation.
Pakokku-Gangaw-Kale railroad: a main artery

The government of the Union of Myanmar is building all the necessary infrastructures for harmonious development of education, health, transport, communications, economic and social sectors. At the same time, it is implementing development plans according to the requirements of various regions across the nation.

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe, on one occasion, said that transport plays a pivotal role in our endeavours for national development, that only with smooth transport will social and economic development be feasible and that roads and bridges are being built to pave the way for closer friendship among national peoples living in different parts of the nation and to bridge the development gap between regions.

In accordance with the guidance of the Head of State, new roads and bridges are being built and the existing ones upgraded to ensure better transport the length and breadth of the nation.

Prime Minister General Soe Win, accompanied by responsible personnel, inspected the railroad tunnel on the Pakokku-Gangaw-Kale railway line and the extension of the Pale-Gangaw motor road during his tour of Magway Division on 14 August. In his meeting with responsible personnel at the Ponnaytaung railroad tunnel construction project site, the Prime Minister said that the tunnel was constructed through self-reliant efforts and that it was necessary to do all the work systematically for the tunnel’s durability would last long.

The Chaung U-Pakokku-Gangaw-Kale railway line is part of the development plan for the regions situated on the western banks of the Ayeyawady and the Chindwin. The 142.54-mile-long Chaung U-Kyay railroad section and the 105.35-mile-long Yemyatni-Gangaw-Kale railroad section are completed and so there are now regular rail services. The tunnel on the Kyaw-Yemyatni railroad section has also been successfully bored and 121 bridges have also been built.

When the construction of the tunnel and the laying of the rails are completed, there will appear a through railroad from Pakokku to Kale. We believe that the Pakokku-Gangaw-Kale railroad will become a main artery on the western banks of the Ayeyawady and the Chindwin and contribute a lot to social and economic development of the local people there.

New domestic tours launched

YANGON, 17 Aug — Myanmar Tourism Services is making arrangements for people wishing to travel around Myanmar at a reasonable price. Among them, the tours of Yangon-Bago, Yangon-Kyauktiyo-Mwalamyine, Yangon-Danbuha-Zalan-Yangon, Yangon-Pathen-Yangon, Yangon-Myikyina-Yangon, Yangon-Kawthoung-Yangon, Yangon-Tachilek-Yangon and Yangon-Lashio-Muse, are being put into service.

The arrangements are also being made for the travellers to be able to stay at Inya Lake, Thamada, Mya Yeik Nyo hotels at reasonable price for tourists visiting Yangon.

The detailed information can be inquired through No 77-91, Sule Fugoda Road, Tel: 252859, 387002. MNA

People’s Desire

Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
Oppose those trying to jeopardize the 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

Myanmar delegation leads talks for China

YANGON, 17 Aug — Myanmar delegation led by Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung left here by air yesterday evening to attend the 1st China-ASEAN Emir Persons Group (EPG Meeting) which will be held in Qingdao, the People’s Republic of China today. Myanmar delegation will also meet company heads who are cooperating in the interests of the two countries and study the factories in Beijing, the People’s Republic of China.

The delegation was seen off at the airport by Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Deputy Minister for Industry-1 Brig-Gen Thein Tun, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Lu Jinjun and members, the director-general and managing directors of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Industry-1 minister was accompanied by Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu, Adviser of the Ministry of Industry-1 U Kyaw Myint, Deputy General Manager of Myanmar Paper and Chemical Industries U Ko Ko Lwin, Assistant Director of Marketing Co Ltd and donate 50 CD-ROMs of ‘Shu-myin-san-gyan Myan-pyi-takhwin’ to Ministry of Religious Affairs, was held at MICT Park in Hlione Township today, attended by Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung.

Also present on the occasion were Member of Civil Service Selection and Training Board Deputy Minister U Aung Myint, Director-General of the Religious Affairs Department U Myo Kyaw, Director-General of Department for Promotion and Propagation of Susana Dr Myo Myint, departmental heads, President of Myanmar Computer Federation U Thein Oo, Vice-President Daw Nwe Nwe Win and Myanmar Computer Entrepreneurs Association Chairman U Aung Zaw Myint.

Company Managing Director U Thein Tun Pe donated CD-ROMs to the Ministry of Religious Affairs through the minister.

Next, the minister expressed thanks and the ceremony ended.

CD-ROMS donated to Ministry of Religious Affairs

YANGON, 17 Aug — A ceremony to demonstrate Myanmar @ A Glance CD-ROM of Computer-Marketing Co Ltd and donate 50 CD-ROMs of ‘Shu-myin-san-gyan Myan-pyi-takhwin’ to Ministry of Religious Affairs, was held at MICT Park in Hlione Township today, attended by Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung.

Also present on the occasion were Member of Civil Service Selection and Training Board Deputy Minister U Aung Myint, Director-General of the Religious Affairs Department U Myo Kyaw, Director-General of Department for Promotion and Propagation of Susana Dr Myo Myint, departmental heads, President of Myanmar Computer Federation U Thein Oo, Vice-President Daw Nwe Nwe Win and Myanmar Computer Entrepreneurs Association Chairman U Aung Zaw Myint.

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Rules for Armed Forces Day commemorative poem contest announced

YANGON, 17 Aug — Hailing the 61st Armed Forces Day which falls on 27 March 2006, the Poem Contest Organizing Sub-committee under the Poem and Arts Competition Organizing Work Committee, chaired by Deputy Minister for Culture Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung, has announced that the Poem Contest will be held to mark the 61th Armed Forces Day.

The contestants can portray objectives of the 61st Armed Forces Day, matters related to objectives of the 61st Armed Forces Day, 12 fine traditions of the Tatmadaw, 10 Strengths of the Tatmadaw, historic anecdotes of ancient Myanmar Tatmadaw, Burma Independent Army, Burma Defence Army and Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) in safeguarding the State, and nation-building endeavours of the State Peace and Development Council after 1988 for Non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of National Solidarity and Petition of Sovereignty. The poem contest will be divided into two. There will be two events at the level-1 — the long poem and the short poem.

Those who have won first, second or third prizes in the Poem Contest to mark the Armed Forces Day and the National Motto Contest, Sarpay Beikeman Manuscript Award Contest and the poem contest of the Pakokku U Ohn Pe Literary Award Contest and National Literary Award winners may participate in level-1 and those who did not win the prize may take part in the level-2.

One contestant may take part in one level only. The short poem must be between 100 and 300 stanzas and the long one between 1,000 and 2,000 stanzas. The entries must be in line with the rules. The poem must be written on one side of paper and the three copies of the entry must be submitted.

And, the entry must be attached with the name of the contestant, pen-name, names of parents, education, occupation and address together with three 2” x 2.5” size colour photos. The entry must be own creation and has not featured in any publication yet.

The entries are to be sent to Lt-Col Ohn Maung (Retd) (Myinmu Maung Naing Moe), Chief Editor, Nainganang Gonyi Literary House, Sarpay Beikman, 529/530, Merchant Street, Tel: 374512, not later than 31-1-2006. — MNA
India willing to deepen relations with neighbours

NEW DELHI, 16 Aug—Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said on Monday that India is willing and ready to deepen its trade and cultural relations with China for the benefit of the two nations.

Speaking on the 50th anniversary of India’s Independence Day, the Prime Minister said India has had centuries-old links with China, its largest neighbour, and it is a relationship from which both countries have learnt a lot and imbued a lot.

“We are today willing and ready to deepen our trade and cultural relations with China for the benefit of the two nations. The agreement arrived at between our two countries in April has paved the way for a closer relationship,” he said.

Speaking about India’s relationship with other neighbouring countries, such as Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives and Myanmar, he assured them that India is willing to work together with them for promoting development, prosperity and peace in the region.

Terming his recent visit to the United States as a major step in promoting friendship with that country, he said by deepening its economic and technological relations, “we will be accelerating our own growth.”

India, he said, will deepen its friendly relations with Russia, an old friend which has helped it in difficult times.

US anti-war group won’t pay Iraq sanctions fine

CHICAGO, 16 Aug—US peace activists faced with a $20,000 fine for violating US sanctions against Iraq seven years ago for delivering medical supplies said on Tuesday they will go to jail before paying the fine.

“For 15 years our government has waged economic and military warfare against the people of Iraq,” Jeff Leys, a coordinator for the group, Voices in the Wilderness, told a press conference here. “We will not comply, we will not collaborate.”

On Friday, a federal judge ordered the organization, one of the largest American anti-embargo groups in the 1990s, to pay a $20,000 fine imposed by the US Department of the Treasury in 2002. The fine was issued by the government after group members carried medicines and medical supplies to Iraq in 1998 without asking for a license to export humanitarian supplies.

The Chicago-based group was one of many US and European organizations that in the 1990s defied trade sanctions to deliver medicines to Iraqi hospitals.

Police say US troops hold children hostages in northern Iraq

BAGHDAD, 16 Aug—US troops held five children as hostages to demand handover of guerrillas near a northern Iraqi town on Tuesday, police said.

“The US forces surrounded the village of Mazraa near Baiji and detained five children under 10 years old, calling on the residents by loudspeakers to hand over several other children showed on TV channels celebrating the killing of US soldiers after roadside blast last week,” a police source from Baiji told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

The US troops threatened to sweep the village by Wednesday morning to detain the other children and suspected guerrillas, he said.

The US military, however, said they had no information about the incident.

Last week, four US soldiers were killed and six others wounded in a roadside bomb blast that hit their patrol near the northern oil refinery city of Baiji, some 200 km north of Baghdad.

Indonesia, S’pore resume talks on extradition treaty

JAKARTA, 16 Aug—Indonesia and Singapore resumed on Monday in Singapore a two-day technical meeting to discuss the draft of an extradition pact.

The meeting is taking place at the delegation had formulated. Singapore’s Attorney General Office, a Singaporean diplomat here said.

Held on 15-16 August, the on-going meeting is the third one after the previous two meetings held last 17-18 January in Singapore and last 12-13 April in Yogyakarta Province, Indonesia. Sources who was quoted by the Antara news wire said delegates at the third meeting will exchange drafts which each

Singapore offers to help contain haze in Indonesia

SINGAPORE, 17 Aug—Singapore has offered to dispatch a C-130 military transport aircraft to do cloud seeding in Indonesia by the end of this week so as to help contain the haze situation there.

According to Channel NewsAsia report on Tuesday, Singapore has also provided the Indonesian authorities with satellite pictures on areas affected by the haze which is caused by fires on Indonesia’s Sumatra Island.

Minister for Environment and Water Resources Yaacob Ibrahim was quoted as saying that the offer, which has been accepted by the Indonesian Government, is expected to help douse off the flames as quickly as possible.

Three car bomb attacks kill 43 in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, Iraq, 17 Aug — Three car bomb attacks near a bus station and hospital in Baghdad Wednesday killed at least 43 people and wounded 89, in the deadliest attacks in the capital in weeks. Survivors searched charred buses and cars for signs of relatives.

The violence came as Iraq’s leaders resumed negotiations on a draft of a new constitution, a charter they hope will bring stability and help end the insurgency. The document was to be finished Monday, but the deadline was extended one week.

A suicide car bomber targeting policemen detonated his vehicle outside the Nahda bus station in central Baghdad, one of the city’s major transit points, the US military said.

A second car exploded in the open-air station’s parking lot near buses that carry passengers to Amarah and Basra, Shiite-dominated cities in southern Iraq, police Capt Nabil Abdul-Qader said.

A second suicide bomber exploded his vehicle near the Kindi Hospital about 30 minutes later as many of the wounded were arriving for treatment, police said.

It was unclear if the hospital was targeted in the blast.

It was the deadliest series of single-day suicide bombings in Baghdad in weeks, although suicide attacks with far fewer death tolls occur here regularly.
Canada unfairly treated by US in trade disputes

OTTAWA, 16 Aug—Canada has been treated unfairly by the United States in trade disputes over such goods as wheat, beef and softwood lumber in recent years, federal Finance Minister Ralph Goodale said on Monday.

Dealing with the US on trade disputes has been "a very painful experience" for Canada, said Goodale while attending a conference in Toronto, the Canadian Press reported.

The minister said he was "very disturbed" by the American response to a recent panel ruling on the softwood lumber dispute by the North American Free Trade Agreement.

Earlier this month, the panel dismissed Washington's claims that Canadian softwood exports are subsidized and damage the US lumber industry.

The ruling is viewed by Canada as a binding decision that clearly eliminates the basis for US-imposed duties on Canadian softwood lumber. A total of five billion Canadian dollars (four billion US dollars) in countervailing and anti-dumping duties has been collected from Canadian companies since 2002.

However, the US refused to accept the deal, dismissing it as largely irrelevant while demanding for more negotiations.

Canadian softwood producers sell about 10 billion US dollars worth of spruce, pine and fir lumber a year to the US home-construction and renovation sectors.

Goodale said International Trade Minister Jim Peterson is considering Canada's options—which could include litigation or trade sanctions.

"He will no doubt be coming to Cabinet very shortly to outline what the options might be and seek support for that," Goodale said, adding "We want to send a very clear signal that Canada takes this very, very seriously."

Experts say US pressure on Iraq could backfire

WASHINGTON, 16 Aug—The United States is pushing Iraqi leaders hard to reach agreement on a draft constitution as US experts on Iraq warned on Monday that too much pressure could backfire and undermine the leadership's credibility.

Iraq's Parliament agreed on Monday to allow an extra week for negotiations on the Constitution after politicians asked for more time to reach a deal and postponed a Monday deadline.

The delay is seen as a blow to efforts by US diplomats who have been shuttling between the sides in the hope that a deal could help weaken the insurgency among the Sunni minority in Iraq.

The Bush Administration is under intense pressure at home to get the Constitution signed and for Iraq to be seen as moving ahead after the US invaded it in March 2003 and toppled president Saddam Hussein.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice downplayed the news of the deadline being extended and said it showed "democracy at work" in Iraq. While the United States was involved "every step of the way", the Iraqis were firmly in charge, she said.

"I think you saw today that Iraqis are in control of this process," she told a news conference.

But some US-based Iraq analysts disagreed and criticized the United States for piling too much pressure on all sides to reach agreement and said it had made Iraqi politicians' jobs more difficult.

"Clearly the deadline is not working as there are still such big issues outstanding and putting pressure on them to meet the timetable is probably causing more division among the Iraqis than consensus," said Iraq expert David Phillips of the Council on Foreign Relations.

Suicide bomber hits restaurant in Baghdad, wounding 11

BAGHDAD, 16 Aug — A suicide bomber on a motorcycle struck a restaurant frequented by policemen in central Baghdad on Monday, wounding 11 people, police said.

"A suicide bomber rammed an explosive-packed motorcycle into a restaurant at lunchtime in Baghdad's district of Karada," an Interior Ministry source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

Initial reports said that eleven people including policemen were wounded in the attack, he said. Guerillas have often attacked the Iraqi security forces in an attempt to cripple the Shiite-dominated government formed in late April. — MNA/Xinhua

New Iraq abuse allegations hit British troops

LONDON, 16 Aug—British troops were today facing fresh allegations of abusing Iraqi prisoners.

Two brothers have claimed they were beaten with sticks and denied water and sleep. One says a soldier urinated on his head and another man claims he was held for 31 days without sleep.

Brothers Marhab and As'ad Zaaj-al-Saghir claim they were taken to a British base where they were denied water and sleep and were then taken to an internment camp where they were abused.

Marhab said his brother was tied up, and they claimed troops stole their family car and cash.

They say they were taken to a British base where they were denied water and sleep and were then taken to an internment camp where they were abused.

Marhab said: "While I was tied up, [they] threw me on the floor and hit me with a stick. I lost consciousness. I thought they would throw water over us but he urinated on my head."

The brothers have not made any official complaint and their accounts are confused. The only corroboration is that they say are forms issued a month later by the US military and their accounts are confused. The only corroboration is that they say are forms issued a month later by the US military.

10 killed, 35 missing in N-E China province floods

SHENYANG, 16 Aug—Torrential rainstorms and ensuing floods in northeast China's Liaoning Province since Friday killed ten people, injured 46 and left 35 others missing, according to sources with the provincial department of civil affairs on Monday.

The floods hit 20 counties of seven cities in Liaoning, affecting 1.44 million people.

The precipitation in the city of Fushun amounted to 150 millimetres and it reached 174 millimetres in Tieling City.

The floods hit 20 counties of seven cities in Liaoning, affecting 1.44 million people.

The department of civil affairs relocated about 6,531 homes were destroyed and 118,000 hectares of farmland were lost fruitfully.

The provincial government has allocated 4.5 million yuan (about 544,000 US dollars) for emergency disaster relief.

The department of civil affairs relocated about 6,531 homes were destroyed and 118,000 hectares of farmland were lost fruitfully.

Vietnam to build largest urban area in Hanoi

HANOI, 16 Aug—Vietnam will shortly embark on a 30-billion-US-dollar project to build the largest urban area in the capital city of Hanoi, local newspaper Vietnam Economic Times reported Monday.

The municipal authorities will call for both local and foreign companies to invest in building the 11,562-hectare area in the rural district of Dong Anh, including key infrastructure structures in the 2005-2010 period, and other facilities around the Noi Bai International Airport from 2010 to 2015, in order to accommodate 764,000-769,000 people by 2020.

The authorities are determined to turn the future urban area into a modern industrial, trading and service centre, the report said. Total investment for the project is estimated at 30 billion dollars, part of which will come from official development assistance. — MNA/Xinhua

Indonesian residents put out fires in Rokan Hilir, Riau, on 14 August, 2005. Malaysia and Singapore have called for a coordinated South East Asian response to the annual haze problem, as the smoke and dust which smothered Malaysia last week shifted north to Thailand. — INTERNET

Internet
East Asia Summit could create free trade

Canberra, 16 Aug — The creation of the East Asia Summit could be the first step to establishing free trade throughout the region within the next 20 years, Foreign Minister Alexander Downer said on Monday.

Australia fought hard to be included in the East Asia Summit, which will meet for the first time on 14 December in Malaysia, and July in Canberra gave in to pressure to sign a Southeast Asia peace pact in return for admission.

“(The summit’s) task will be to try to chart a course for the evolution of an East Asia community,” Downer said in a “World Power Shifts: The Changing Balance in Asia” address to an industry forum.

“I think it is conceivable that in the next 20 years we could see a completely free trade area... which goes from the north of China down to Stewart Island in the south of New Zealand and across to Mumbai... I think that’s a reasonable aspiration.”

Australia is negotiating free trade deals with China and the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), and it is studying the possibility of negotiating a deal with Japan. It already has free trade deals in Asia with Thailand and Singapore.

Although keen to cement its place in Asia, Australia had long shied away from signing the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation because it feared the pact, which it described as unnecessary and outdated, would affect its key alliance with the United States.

But Canberra changed its mind after being assured by ASEAN, which consists of Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Laos, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam, the pact would not affect existing bilateral and multilateral commitments.

“We’ve argued Australia should be in the East Asia Summit and a part of the emerging East Asia community because Australia in itself is a significant country and economy,” Downer said.

FAW, US firm strike $61.7m contract on wheel exports

Changchun, 16 Aug — First Automotive Works (FAW), China’s leading automaker, will sell five million sets of self-developed wheels in four series and 13 varieties to the United States, under a five-year contract.

The 500-million-yuan (61.7-million-US dollar) contract was inked between the Wheel Branch of FAW Sihuan Co and an American company which preferred to remain anonymous, during the fourth Changchun International Auto Expo.

According to FAW sources, FAW Sihuan Co is now the exclusive purveyor to Beijing Hyundai, a Sino-South Korea car joint venture, and major wheel supplier for domestic coach giant Yutong Company.

Liu Bin, the marketing manager of the Wheel Branch, said, “We have received orders from companies in Australia and the United States. We will also supply wheels to some world-famous automakers such as General Motors (GM) and Volvo.”

Liu said, in the first half of the year, the company has increased its export sales by 67 per cent year on year.

In 2004, China exported 5.63 billion yuan (695 million US dollars) of auto spare parts, up 73.2 per cent over the previous year, compared to the imports of 7.93 billion yuan (979 million US dollars), which represented a year-on-year drop of 4.5 per cent, said Deputy secretary Shen Ningwu with the China Automotive Industry Association.

Shen said, the Ministry of Commerce and the association have made it an objective to expand exports of spare parts to four billion US dollars by 2010.

The fourth International Auto Expo was held between 5 and 14 August in Changchun, capital of northeast China’s Jilin Province. About 600 motor vehicles from 27 countries and regions participated in the expo.—MNA/Xinhua

People’s petition for a way out of Iraq

Washington, 16 Aug — A campaign is being launched this week by a host of groups including Progressive Democrats of America, Peace Action and others to demand an exit strategy from Iraq. A central part of these efforts is a new petition which lays out a way to get out of Iraq and will be presented to Congress in mid-September.

This comes at what could be a tipping point moment. The country is waking up to the truth that Bush’s decisions have led to the unnecessary deaths of more than 1,800 Americans, and tens of thousands of Iraqis, while making the US, the world and Iraq less secure. A majority of Americans now understand that we were deliberately misled into war; a majority recognize that the US made a mistake in sending troops to Iraq; and a majority believe that no matter how long US troops remain there, they will not be able to establish a stable, democratic government.

Cindy Sheehan’s dignified and defiant stance in Crawford has highlighted the callousness of a President who lacks the compassion to grieve or mourn for those he sent into battle. As EL Doctorow wrote last year, “I fault this president for not knowing what death is...He does not feel a personal responsibility for the thousand dead young men and women who wanted to be what they could be,” President Bush should meet with Sheehan. But, even more important, he should listen to the grieving mother, and to the growing number of military families and citizens who are demanding an end to the disastrous occupation of Iraq. Bush should also listen to those who will testify at informal Congressional hearings—now expected on the eve of the 24 September to 26 September antiwar demonstrations—designed to explore possible exit strategies. It is anticipated that leading US academics, opposition politicians, civil society activists and Iraqi parliamentarians seeking an end to US occupation will testify.—Internet

Vietnam accelerates export promotion

Hanoi, 16 Aug — Vietnam is focusing on solving export difficulties, enhancing trade promotion and offering more support to enterprises to boost export in the remaining months of this year.

The government has just asked relevant agencies to clarify reasons for the country’s not-as-expected export performance in the first seven months of this year, and provide new incentives and measures to counter the backward trend, according to local newspaper Vietnam News on Monday.

It asked the Trade Ministry to submit a master plan on trade promotion, and revise policies on awards for outstanding exporters.

The ministries of trade, finance, and planning and investment were urged to quickly issue a list of export items to enjoy short-term credits from the Development Assistance Fund in the 2005-2006 period.

An import-export bank designated for improving financial support for businesses will be established in the near future.

Vietnam earned nearly 17.4 billion US dollars from export in the seven-month period, posting a year-on-year surge of 11.8 per cent. It faced difficulties in shipping abroad some key items including textiles and garments, sea-food and footwear, of which export turnovers respectively rose 0.2 per cent, 6.2 per cent and 7.6 per cent to over 2.5 billion US dollars, 1.3 billion US dollars and 1.7 billion US dollars.

MNA/Xinhua

Floods claim 13 lives in Vietnam

Hanoi, 16 Aug — Floods caused by torrential rain in Vietnam’s central Nghe An Province killed 13 people, including six, aged 8-16, and injured four others, according to local newspaper Vietnam News on Tuesday.

The floods, lasting from last Friday to Sunday, also destroyed over 1,000 houses and submerged nearly 9,000 hectares of agricultural land, causing an estimated loss of nearly 12.7 million US dollars.

Local authorities have offered 40 tons of rice and three tons of kerosene to people in the flood-hit areas.—MNA/Xinhua

Female peasant farmers from the remote countryside of Shaanxi Province perform at a concert in Beijing in June. 2005. Many women in rural China are torn between traditional family responsibilities and their role as guardians of the 1,000-year-old music heritage.—INTERNET

Two Singapore Airlines Air stewardesses pose in front of a model of the Airbus 380 plane which is capable of carrying up to 555 passengers, on 16 August, 2005 at the Changi International Airport in Singapore. —INTERNET

The fourth International Auto Expo was held between 5 and 14 August in Changchun, capital of northeast China’s Jilin Province. About 600 motor vehicles from 27 countries and regions participated in the expo.—MNA/Xinhua

The creation of the East Asia Summit could be the first step to establishing free trade throughout the region within the next 20 years, Foreign Minister Alexander Downer said on Monday.
Nepal to launch anti-tetanus vaccination programme

KATHMANDU, 16 Aug — The Nepali Ministry of Health and Population will launch an anti-tetanus vaccination pilot project in seven districts of the country from November this year.

According to Monday’s statement from the ministry, it will administer three doses of anti-tetanus vaccine to women of child-bearing age in the districts of Morang, Chitwan, Nawalparasi, Palpa, Dhading, Surkhet and Kanchanpur.

The project also aims to administer four vaccines to children. The first dose of anti-tetanus vaccine will be administered to a child when he/she is below the age of one year, the second dose when enrolled in the first grade, and the third and the fourth doses in the following two years.

The programme will be extended across the country to curb the tetanus death rate to less than one per 1,000 live births, chief Expanded Programme on Immunization Unit, Department of Health Services, Shyam Upreti said.

“Neo-natal tetanus vaccination programme has been introduced after a programme that began in 2002 to vaccinate women of child-bearing age was a success,” he said.

Last year, 36 cases of tetanus were detected. The number has dropped to 10 this year, according to Upreti.

Nepal Health Sector Programme Implementation Plan 2004-2006 is set to increase the anti-meatases and anti-tetanus vaccine coverage rate from 71 per cent in 2001 to 78 per cent by 2006, and to increase the total immunization to 85 per cent by then, he added.

Police MRT unit begins patrols in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 16 Aug — A new police unit specially trained to deal with security incidents on Singapore's Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) system began patrols on Monday, Channel NewsAsia reported.

The Indonesian Government and rebels from Aceh signed a truce on Monday aimed at ending nearly three decades of fighting in the province devastated by last December's tsunami.

The deal, signed in Helsinki by Indonesian Justice Minister Hamid Awaluddin and Malik Mahmud of the Free Aceh Movement (GAM), provides for an amnesty and rebels from Aceh signed a truce on Monday aimed at ending nearly three decades of fighting in the province devastated by last December's tsunami.

Indonesia, GAM sign Aceh peace deal

HELSELSI, 16 Aug — The Indonesian Government and rebels from Aceh signed a truce on Monday aimed at ending nearly three decades of fighting in the province devastated by last December’s tsunami.

The deal, signed in Helsinki by Indonesian Justice Minister Hamid Awaluddin and Malik Mahmud of the Free Aceh Movement (GAM), provides for an amnesty and rebels from Aceh signed a truce on Monday aimed at ending nearly three decades of fighting in the province devastated by last December’s tsunami.

Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono called it a “very happy, special and historic day” and expressed gratitude to his “brothers” in GAM for working to “reunite with the big Indonesian family to build a better future in Aceh”.

EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana said he hoped the truce would help the rebuilding of Aceh after the tsunami. Successful implementation of the truce in one of Asia’s longest-running conflicts could smooth the way for a five-billion-US-dollar internationally backed reconstruction programme in Aceh.

Vietnam purchases more Chinese locomotives

HANOI, 16 Aug — The Vietnam Railway Corporation has just signed a contract with China’s Ziyang Diesel Locomotive Works to buy five diesel-powered locomotives, the state-owned corporation told Xinhua on Monday.

In the next eight months, the Sichuan-based Chinese factory is due to supply the Vietnamese side with the 2,000-horsepower locomotives which will be used for 1.4-kilometre-wide railways linking Hanoi, the capital, with the northern provinces of Lang Son, Thai Nguyen, Quang Ninh and Bac Giang.

Over the past four years, the Vietnamese corporation has inked four contracts on buying 1 million passengers and 5.2 million tons of cargoes in the first seven months of this year, posting respective year-on-year growth rates of 7.4 per cent and 4 per cent, it said.

As birth figures kept declining since 1990 and fell below the 40,000 mark in 2002, the Singapore Government has taken several measures to encourage more couples to have babies.

A pro-family Parental Package of 300 million Singapore dollars (about 184 million US dollars) was launched in August last year, and practices like the five-day week for the civil service and the extended maternity leave were also adopted.

Singapore’s citizen births up 3% in first six months

SINGAPORE, 16 Aug — The number of Singapore citizens born in the first half of this year rose by about 3 per cent as compared with the corresponding period of last year, according to Channel NewsAsia report on Monday.

Minister for Community Development, Youth and Sports Vivian Balakrishnan was quoted as saying in Parliament that first-time visits for outpatient pregnancy consultations at public hospitals also increased by some 4 per cent during the same period.

In 2004, Singapore saw a historic low record of 36,900 births while 50,000 new-born babies are needed for its population replacement.

Bangladesh records $4.0b in trade deficit


The speedy trade liberalization by successive governments in the country has made negative impact on the country’s trade balance, officials said.

Consumer goods such as rice, wheat, baby foods and cereals, fruits and fruit juice and processed foods worth 78.39 billion taka (1.3 billion dollars) were imported in the past fiscal.
Sayadaw to administer Nine Precepts on TV

YANGON, 17 Aug — Sayadaw of Nyaungdon Pali Tekkatho in Bahan Ovadacariya Sayadaw of Shwedagon Pagoda State Ovadacariya Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maharatagatru Bhaddanta Sobhana will administer the Nine Precepts on TV after the MRTV morning programmes on 19 August. MNA

Commander attends annual…

(from page 16)

Supervisory Committee Daw Khin Thet Htay gave away prizes to outstanding members and Chairperson of Yangon Command MCWA Daw Swe Swe Oo presented gifts to those who actively participated in activities of the association.

Afterwards, Secretary of Yangon Command MCWA Daw San San Aye presented membership applications to Secretary of Yangon Division SCMCWA Dr Hla Myint.

The commander and party viewed the documentary photos on activities of Yangon Command MCWA.

Next, the chairperson of Yangon Division MCWA Supervisory Committee explained the future tasks followed by presentation of annual report of the association and future plan and the balance sheet. — MNA

Minister inspects Pyapon bridge construction task

YANGON, 17 Aug — Accompanied by officials of Public Works, Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun inspected maintenance of roads along Myaungmya-Eine road, Pantanaw-Einme road, Yangon-Pathein road and Hsamaluak-Maubin-Kyaukllat-Pyapon road yesterday.

The minister also inspected laying of concrete on the main frame of Pyapon bridge and installation of plate girder.

After hearing reports presented by an official on the work done and future plan the minister gave instructions and fulfilled the requirements. The bridge has reinforced concrete type and its main bridge is of steel frame. With the total length of 3932 feet and six to eight inches the bridge has 28 feet wide motorway and 6 feet wide pedestrian lanes on both sides. It can withstand 60 tons of loads. — MNA

Construction Ministry holds “soon” offering ceremony

YANGON, 17 Aug — Family members of the Ministry of Construction offered soon to 450 members of the Sangha of State Pariyati Sasana University (Yangon) at a ceremony held at Thiri Mingalar Kaba Aye Hill at 10:30 am today.

Present on the occasion were Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, Deputy Minister U Tin Swe, managing director and directors-general under the ministry and family members.

The congregation received the Five Precepts from Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Pandita Bhavamsa.

Next, the minister and party offered prayers to the Sayadaw.

The minister also presented K 295250 for a day meal to Deputy Director-General U Tun Mya Aung of Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana. The Sayadaw delivered a sermon followed by sharing of merits gained.

Afterwards, the minister and party offered soon to members of the Sangha. — MNA

Energy Minister inspects oil refinery in Thalinyin

YANGON, 17 Aug — Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, accompanied by Deputy minister Brig-Gen Than Htay and officials, arrived No-1 oil refinery in Thalinyin Township this morning.

The minister met with staff at the factory and heard reports by the officials on production and distribution of oil, arrival of asphalt and distribution. Later, the minister gave necessary instructions.

Later, the minister and deputy minister inspected the test running of the factory. Afterwards, they arrived the port terminal and inspected the arrival of asphalt from MV Salamat-3. They also inspected the Q-65 oil refinery of the factory. — MNA

Water supply systems in Pakokku District to be upgraded

YANGON, 17 Aug — Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt called for upgrading the water supply systems in Yezagyo, Myang, Pauk and Seikphyu townships in Pakokku District and completion of rural water supply tasks.

At a meeting with departmental officials and township level officials of Development Affairs Department held at the office of Pakokku Township DAD on 14 August, the minister also urged the officials to carry out greening and beautifying tasks in the district systematically.

Director-General of the Development Affairs Department U Myo Myint and Deputy Director-General (Engineer) U Kyaw reported on tasks being carried out for drinking water supply tasks and beautifying tasks in Pakokku District and future plans. Those present also reported on requirements to be fulfilled. Afterwards, the minister attended to the needs. Later the minister went to the National Races Youth Training School in Pakokku and fulfilled the requirements. — MNA

Ministry holds “soon” offering ceremony

Construction Ministry holds “soon” offering ceremony

Constitution Ministry holds “soon” offering ceremony

Energy Minister inspects oil refinery in Thalinyin

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Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun inspects installation of steel beams at Pyapon Bridge construction site.

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work, water and power supply, finance, storage of materials, appointment of skilled workers and production. An industrialist reported on requirements.

Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye also reported on raising funds, recruiting skilled workers, supply of machines, marketing and management.

Prime Minister General Soe Win said the government established industrial zones with industrial foundations for development of private industries. Out of the industrial zones, there are good prospects in Monywa, Mandalay and Ayethaya (Taunggyi). The government has given encouragement to the establishment of foundry and machine shops, forging, press and heat treatment shops. These shops are now in operation.

With the development of technology, related industries will develop. Now government departments and private entrepreneurs have begun to order necessary parts. He spoke of the need to install modern machines and to produce parts of high standard and quality, he said.

Only when private industries improve, will industries of the State develop with greater momentum and will the nation lead to a modern developed one.

He urged private entrepreneurs to make efforts for progress of their industries on the correct path with high aims.

He also called for cooperation with the State and private sectors for progress of industrial sector.

Next, the Prime Minister cordially greeted the industrialists. After the meeting, the Prime Minister and party inspected three-wheeled motor-cycles, light and heavy trucks, farm equipment and textile.

On 16 August, the Prime Minister and party arrived at modern foundry shop in Mandalay Industrial Zone and inspected production of fly wheel and installation of machines. They also inspected fly wheel, brake shoes, counter weight, brake drums, pulley, nozzle, water pump and dynamo house and parts.

The Prime Minister and party inspected installation of machines at No 2 workshop and process of the forging shop. The Prime Minister met departmental officials, members of Mandalay Industrial Zone Supervisory Committee and industrialists.

Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw reported on progress of the zone, construction of modern foundry shop and conditions of Mekitila and Myingyan industrial zones.

Chairman of Mandalay Tawwin Industrial Co U Aung Win Khai reported on construction of modern foundry shop and production of parts.

Next, Chairman of Mandalay Industrial Zone Supervisory Committee Chairman of Mandalay District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Maung Maung and industrialists reported on measures undertaken by the zone, assembling of buses and trucks. Li-Gen Ye Myint took part in the discussions.

The Prime Minister said the government would provide assistance to the development foundry and Mandalay Industrial Zone.

He urged the industrialists to produce high quality parts and to make endeavours for installation of automatic machines later in the zone.

He then cordially greeted the industrialists.
The rector reported on the courses conducted in the university, the number of graduates the university has nurtured since 1964, students of minor ethnic groups, supply of assistance for outstanding students, construction tasks, agricultural and livestock work, and welfare services. The Prime Minister instructed the officials to produce educated national race youths, to nurture youths to become faculty members with good morale who are capable of taking a leading role in organizational and construction matters. He said he took pride in the university that can take close measures effectively for flourishing friendly relations and Union Spirit among the national races.

The Prime Minister met the officials and viewed the booths on facts about the university. In meeting with faculty members and students at the convocation hall, the Prime Minister said that they have toured Pakokku Region on west bank of Ayeyawady River to fulfill requirements for greening of the region, supply of water, agricultural improvement, raising regional economy and living standard of local people. They dropped into the university in Sagaing Division. He said it is heartening to see that the university is gaining development momentum thanks to the assistance of the State and local authorities, and all-out efforts of successive officials in charge of the facility, and the mature characteristics and eagerness of the students to pursue studies.

Myanmar is home to diverse national races that have been living in it in unity and amity for very long. The names of the national races are various but it has been a fine tradition that they have lived closely sharing weal and woe in the Union. It indicates that mutual understanding, attachment and amity based on Union Spirit have flourished among the national races that have lived keeping eggs and nest intact in line with the fine tradition of the nation. The flourishing of Union Spirit among the national brethren is the most crucial factor according to the situation in the nation.

It is needed to nurture the students to flourish Union Spirit among them. The faculty members are to inculcate the students with a strong conception of development of national races and Union Spirit. The faculty members are to inculcate the students with a strong conception of development of national races and Union Spirit with which all the national brethren will continue to live in amity keeping eggs and nest intact in addition to teaching respective subjects.

He said Head of State Senior General Than Shwe has given guidance many times on paying a serious attention to such a fine conception. At a time when the government has been implementing the projects for the development of border areas and rural areas, the faculty members on their part are to be capable of contributing towards regional and national development tasks in collaboration with local people and social organizations.
Faculty members are to...

(from page 9)

Therefore, the faculty members are to be teachers as well as organizers armed with a strong conception to carry out tasks for ensuring national solidarity, and enhancing knowledge and intellectual power of national races, and their development.

At a time when the government has been implementing the projects for the development of border areas and rural areas, the faculty members on their part are to be capable of contributing to towards regional and national development tasks in collaboration with local people and social organizations.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister and party observed the library and museum of the university.

They also inspected plantations of vegetables and fruits and pepper in the garden.

On arrival at Sagaing, they were welcomed by Mandalay Division PDC Chairman Central Command Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw, Mandalay Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han and officials. They inspected the Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) Project. The project’s Deputy Superintending Engineers U Hsan Win and U Htya Myint, on the construction of approach roads and bridges, installation of steel beams in the main bridge, and work progress; and Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min, on the construction of the railroad on Mandalay bank.

In response, Prime Minister General Soe Win and Lt-Gen Ye Myint provided necessary assistance for the project.

Next, the Prime Minister and party looked into the building of the approach road on Sagaing bank. They also inspected progress in erecting pillars, and installation of iron beams in the main bridge.

They viewed progress in constructing the approach road on Mandalay bank.

On completion, the bridge will be 5,614 feet long with a 49-foot-wide four-lane motorway on it.

They saw over measures taken for upgrading of six-lane Strand Road in Mandalay, Kandawgyi Lake, Strand Road in Mandalay Division Health Department. On the occasion, he dealt with matters on maternal and child welfare, public health care concerns such as preventive measures against malaria, TB and HIV.
Israel tells Gaza settlers time is nearly up

Neve Dekalim (Gaza Strip), 17 Aug — Israel gave thousands of Jews still in the Gaza Strip a last chance on Tuesday to leave or face forcible removal in the first uprooting of Jewish settlements on land Palestinians want for a state.

“The only way is out,” Eivai Giladi, strategic coordinator in Prime Minister Ariel Sharon’s Office, told reporters after Israeli Army officers with 48-hour eviction notices confronted and condoled shouting and tear gas settlers on Monday.

All of “Gush Katif is in mourning,” settler Gilad Meimon told Israeli Radio on Tuesday as he waited in a vehicle packed with family belongings to leave Gaza’s largest Jewish settlement bloc forever.

In a televised address Sharon, on the settlers’ champion, told Gaza’s 8,500 Jewish settlers they shared their pain but also understood the plight of 1.4 million Palestinians living there and double their number in the Gaza Strip.

Most of the residents had already left before the eviction order.

“In this plan will be good for Israel in any future scenario. We are reducing daily friction and its victims on both sides. The Israeli Army will redeploy along defensive lines behind the security fence,” Sharon said.

Sharon, whose plan is shown to have majority support in Israeli opinion polls, said Israel was prepared to make peace but he threatened Palestinians with Israel’s harshest response ever should they attack once the settlers had been evacuated.

In the West Bank, two settlements — Ganim and Kadim — had become the first to be vacated, an Army spokeswoman said. Most of the residents had already left before the eviction order.

The Army has yet to say in what order it will evacuate the remaining settlements starting early on Wednesday.—MNA/Reuters

IMF says violence curbing Iraq reconstruction effort

Washington, 17 Aug — The International Monetary Fund on Tuesday, in its first economic review of Iraq in 25 years, said guerilla violence had dammed the country’s growth prospects and tied up funds meant for reconstruction.

The IMF gave Iraq a 436-million-US-dollar emergency loan last year to help rebuild the economy, a US-led war and an insurgency spurred widespread unemployment and decay.

In its Article IV review, a step toward a new lending programme for Iraq, the IMF said security problems had stalled efforts to rebuild the fragile Iraqi economy.

“Violence has deterred trade and investment flows,” the global lender said in the consultative review, its first look at the Iraqi economy since February 1980.

“The lack of a secure environment has also impeded the effectiveness of reconstruction spending, with contractors and donors reporting security and insurance outlays in the range of 30-50 per cent of total costs,” it said.

Iraq’s growth prospects are closely tied to its oil sector, which accounts for three quarters of the economy, according to IMF estimates.

The global lender said an oil production rebound spurred a 46.5-percent increase in Iraq’s gross domestic product in 2004. This year, however, it forecast the economy would grow just 3.7 per cent as production has leveled off.

“We have had to revise down the projection for growth in 2005,” said Adam Bennett, assistant director of the IMF’s Middle East and Central Asia Department.

“It has been harder to proceed with reconstruction, including in the oil sector, than we had anticipated.”

Still, the IMF said it expected growth rates to regain speed in 2006 and 2007 as oil production rates rebound.

“Iraq’s medium term outlook appears satisfactory as long as expansion in oil production proceeds without undue interruption and world oil prices remain at favourable levels,” the IMF said in a staff report accompanying the review.—MNA/Reuters

British pension deficit headache worse than in US

London, 17 Aug — British company-run pensions plan four times as likely to have insufficient funds to cover future payouts than their US counterparts, according to a survey by Aon Consulting on Tuesday.

While deficits in final-salary, or defined benefit pensions are a business and political issue on both sides of the Atlantic, shortfalls in British retirement plans are relatively more acute than is the case with US schemes, Aon said.

Only 5 per cent of British pension schemes were fully funded to meet future obligations at the end of 2004, compared with 20 per cent of US funds in a similar position.

“Contributions to British pension plans have doubled over recent years. However, this increase in contributions has been insufficient to compensate for a combination of falling bond yields, increasing life expectancy and poor performance,” Andrew Claringbold, of Aon Consulting, said.

The size of British pension deficits is aggravated by the fact that British occupational benefits must increase in line with retail prices, making British pensions more susceptible to changes in long-term interest rates, Aon said.

“More generally, British companies have not increased their level of cash contributions to the same extent as their counterparts in the US,” Claringbold said.

The average pension plan deficit of a British firm accounted for seven months of a British firm’s pre-tax profits, compared with about two months for a US business.—MNA/Reuters

Indochina floods kill dozens, hit crops, tourism

Bangkok, 17 Aug — Flash floods have killed dozens of people and left tens of thousands camped out on higher ground in Vietnam, Cambodia and Thailand, where tourism and farming have suffered millions of dollars in lost revenues and ruined crops.

In Vietnam, floods in the north and the Central Highlands have killed at least 12 in the past week, while unusually early floods were expected to reach danger levels in the southern Mekong Delta on Thursday.

A storm dumped heavy rains on mountainous province of Yen Bai, 110 away by flash floods in the northern Mekong Delta on Thursday.

Two farmers working in rice fields were killed by floods in the central highland province of Kon Tum, 340 miles north of Ho Chi Minh City.

Three children in the eastern Cambodian province of Kompong Cham drowned when strong winds overturned their boat as they evacuated to higher ground. The father of one of the children was also swept away as he tried to rescue them.

Disaster officials in Phnom Penh said flood warnings had been posted in three provinces along the Mekong, as workers rushed to build sandbag defences and move people and animals out of low-lying areas.

Residents of northern Thailand are still totting up the damage from flooding described as the worst in decades.

At least six people have been killed and nine are still missing after flash flooding affected 90,000 people and damaged roads and bridges across six northern provinces, including the northern city of Chiang Mai, a popular tourist destination.

A Cambodian boy washes his cows in the Mekong River near Phnom Penh on 16 August, 2005. Flash floods have killed dozens of people and left tens of thousands camped out on higher ground in Vietnam, Cambodia and Thailand, where tourism and farming have suffered millions of dollars in lost revenues and ruined crops.—INTERNET

Police arrest two in Thailand bomb plot

Bangkok, 17 Aug — Two Thai police officers have been arrested in the southern province of Surat Thani on suspicion of planning a bomb attack.

Police arrested the two men in the southern town of Maha Sarakham on Saturday in an ongoing investigation into a series of bomb plots.

The two men were arrested and charged with possession of means of causing a public danger. They were arrested in possession of 67 grams of high-grade explosive.

The police say they believe they have made a breakthrough in the investigation, which has taken them to 17 people so far.

A Thai police officer was killed and two others injured in a bomb attack in the southern province of Yala in May this year.

A police commander in Yala said that nine men, arrested and questioned as possible members of the radical seperatist group, had been released from custody on bail.

The group’s leader, who is in Jordan on a religious pilgrimage, has been charged with masterminding a bomb attack in Yala in July last year.

The group has carried out a series of bomb attacks in the southern provinces, which it claims are a protest against the Thai government’s policies in the region.

Police say they have seized a total of 175 kilograms of high-grade explosive since May.—MNA/Reuters

Girl dies in British beach accident

London, 17 Aug — A three-year-old girl died after getting trapped in a hole dug in sand on a beach in Cornwall, police said on Monday.

Abigail Livingstone-Nurse, who was on holiday with her family from Goring-By-Sea in Sussex, had made the 5-feet (1.52-metre) deep pit with her brother as they played on the beach near St Ives on Sunday afternoon.

The pit collapsed trapping her, although her brother was unharmed.

Emergency services along with the Coast Guard, an air ambulance and a Royal Navy helicopter were sent to the scene.

The girl was freed and rushed to hospital in Truro but was pronounced dead. A lot of sand collapsed back into the hole, then the emergency services arrived and between us we dug for about half an hour and managed to get her out,” Penwith area Beach Manager Phil Drew told the BBC.—MNA/Reuters

Iraq to receive US$436 million economic loan

Washington, 17 Aug — Iraq will receive a US$436 million economic loan this fiscal year to help rebuild the war-damaged country. President George W. Bush had announced the loan last year.

The loan is one of three offered by the International Monetary Fund to Iraq in the last two years, along with a US$2.3 billion budget-support loan and an emergency loan of US$493 million.

The IMF will provide the loan once Iraq meets conditions for the disbursement, which includes the transfer of power to an elected government, setting up the new governmental structure and reaching a budget agreement with the IMF.

The loan will also be conditional on Iraq’s commitment to pursue economic reforms, including privatization and the adoption of sound financial policies.

Iraq needs US$38 billion to rebuild the war-damaged economy. The IMF will provide a total of US$1.8 billion in the next two years to finance reconstruction.

Iraq has also received US$2.3 billion in budget-support from the IMF, which will finance the government’s day-to-day operations for this fiscal year and the next.

The IMF has granted Iraq two emergency loans totaling US$493 million, the first of which was intended to finance the country’s imports, and the second was to finance its budget and the war costs. Both loans were provided in March last year.

The IMF recently completed the second of two reviews of Iraq’s economic performance since the 2003 invasion.

The IMF praised Iraq’s efforts to implement economic reforms and its commitment to the reconstruction process, but noted that progress has been slow.

The IMF said Iraq still needs to make significant progress in the areas of privatization, fiscal consolidation, and strengthening its legal and regulatory framework. The IMF urged Iraq to make progress in these areas in order to make the most of the resources provided by the donor community.—MNA/Reuters
Nepal, India to hold petroleum pipeline talks

KATHMANDU, 16 Aug— Nepal and India will hold a meeting in October to prepare a detailed project report (DPR) for the construction of a petroleum pipeline from Raxaul, Nepal’s southern border with India, to Amalekhgunj of Bara District of central Nepal, an official of Nepal Oil Corporation (NOC) said here on Monday.

“The construction process of the pipeline and gas plants has been delayed due to the absence of the DPR of NOC and Indian Oil Corporation signed an agreement last year to lay the pipeline and establish two liquefied petroleum gas stations,” Gobinda Dev Pandey, executive chairman of NOC, a government-owned monopoly petroleum products supplier of Nepal, told reporters.

British prison watchdog criticizes holding centres

LONDON, 16 Aug— Britain’s prison watchdog on Tuesday criticized four short-term immigration holding centres on Tuesday saying some detainees had to sleep on tables because of inadequate accommodation. Anne Owers, the chief inspector of prisons, said holding facilities at Gatwick Airport’s two terminals, London City Air

Nepal takes precautions to check bird flu threat

KATHMANDU, 16 Aug — The Nepali Government has set up a committee and directed the regional health directorate to take precautions to control any outbreak of bird flu, the director of Epidemiology and Disease Control

Helios Airways grounds flights after Cyprus crash

NICOSIA, 16 Aug— Helios Airways, which owned the Cypriot airliner that crashed on Sunday killing all 121 people aboard, has grounded all its planes, a Cyprus Transport-Ministry spokesman said on Monday.

“The company did this of its own volition after the strength of public opinion,” the spokesman told Reuters. — MNA/Reuters

Trade mark caution

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World Carnival sees its profit increasing in Beijing

BEIJING, 16 Aug— The World Carnival tour to Beijing this year has witnessed a year-on-year profit increase since its opening ten days ago, the Beijing News reported on Monday.

During the first ten days, the World Carnival in Beijing, featuring rides, games, stage performances and specialty snacks from around the world, earned a total of 23.14 million yuan (2.9 million US dollars), 1.78 million yuan more than its first-day ten business income last year, the Beijing News quoted figures from the local tax department as saying.

The carnival, organized through a joint venture between British Funfairs Ltd and Hong Kong-based World Carnival Ltd, came to Beijing for the first time last summer but did not earn a satisfying income largely due to frequent rainstorms.

But the weather this year has been much better and the number of visitors to the carnival has almost doubled from last year, Zhang Shuhua, president of the China office of the carnival, was quoted by the newspaper as saying.

According to figures released by the local tax department in the Shijingshan District, where the carnival is staged, the carnival in the first ten days this year has paid 1.54 million yuan (189,800 US dollars) in taxes, a year-on-year increase of 8.5 per cent.

The local tax department expected the World Carnival this year to receive two million visitors, bringing an income of 250 million yuan (30.8 million dollars) during its 73-day stay in Beijing. Last year, the carnival ran for 52 days and generated income of less than 140 million yuan.

Int’t expo for manufacturing industry opens in N-E China

HARBIN, 16 Aug— An international exhibition of the manufacturing industry opened Monday in northeast China, the old industrial base of the country.

The fifth China Harbin International Expo for the Manufacturing Industry, held in Harbin, capital of Heilongjiang Province, attracted 338 domestic companies and 28 foreign companies from 10 countries and regions, according to the organizing committee.

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Oil price falls from record high, Iran in focus

NEW YORK, 16 Aug— Oil from a 67-US dollar barrel on Monday in the United States' refusal to rule out using force against Iran, OPEC's second biggest producer, limited losses.

DoUBTS that the oil industry can pump and refine enough crude have cut prices more than a 20 per cent higher this year.

US light crude on the New York-Mercantile Exchange settled at 66.27 US dollars per barrel, down 59 cents, having surged more than one US dollars on Friday to touch a record high of 67.10 US dollars. London Brent crude fell 87 cents at 65.58 US dollars, after hitting a record high of 66.85 US dollars on Friday, the International Petroleum Exchange.

The losses came as the top econcomist at the Inter- national Energy Agency warned that red hot oil prices would crimp world economic growth this year.

But tensions in Iran helped keep prices bub-

Nepal takes precautions to check bird flu threat

KATHMANDU, 16 Aug — The Nepali Government has set up a committee and directed the regional health directorate to take precautions to control any outbreak of bird flu, the director of Epidemiology and Disease Control

Even the government-level agreement might be essential to carry out works to construct the pipeline as it should be placed in both private and government lands as well as in forest, Pandey noted. Nepal is constructing the pipeline from Barauni of Bihar State of India to Raxaul.

The construction of the pipeline and gas plants is expected to reduce transport cost, leakage and adulteration, Pandey noted.

MNA/Khushu

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MNA/Khushu
China plans unmanned moon mission by 2007
BEIJING, 16 Aug—China plans to launch its first unmanned lunar flight by 2007 in a three-phase mission that aims to bring back rock samples, state media said on Tuesday.

In the second stage, a lunar vehicle would land on the moon by 2012 and by 2017 the rock samples could be collected, the report said quoting aerospace officials. “Science needs to get to know the moon’s environment and analyse the composition of lunar rocks,” the China Daily quoted Luan Enjie, chief commander of China’s lunar exploration programme, as saying.

China has developed an ambitious space programme since its first Long March rocket blasted off in 1970. It became the third country to successfully send a man into space in October 2003 and regularly sends up research satellites.

China’s lunar orbiter weighed more than two tons and was expected to fly for a year, collecting information for a mapping of the moon’s surface and studying its mineral content, Luan said.

S Africa sees shortages of Nestle baby AIDS formula
JOHANNESBURG, 16 Aug—Swiss food maker Nestle on Monday warned South Africa of possible shortages of a special infant formula which the government has selected to help fight mother-to-child transmission of the AIDS virus.

Nestle is South Africa’s sole provider of the “Pelargon” formula, which it says can help reduce the risk of passing the virus to infants when used in place of breast milk from HIV-positive mothers. South Africa’s Government has estimated that about 260 babies contract HIV each day, while 28 per cent of pregnant women are HIV-positive.

Across the country, more than five million of 45 million population are infected with the virus.

The government has over the past year rolled out public AIDS treatment, including life-prolonging anti-retroviral drugs. Pelargon is given free to patients. But supply problems are slowing implementation, spurring fears the pandemic will continue to outpace efforts to fight it. The Department of Health said on Monday that Nestle had warned of expected supply problems and that some health facilities were already running short. “There was a first indication in June that they had some internal problems but then the understanding was that there might be some way of working around it,” said Health Department spokesman Sibani Mngadi. “We need to establish the extent of the challenges.”

Mngadi said some facilities, mainly around Johannesburg, had already experienced shortages of the formula but that these were being covered through back-up stock from other regions.

Iraq buys 1.2m tons of wheat from US, Australia
AMMAN, 16 Aug—Iraq has bought 1.2 million tons of American and Australian wheat in one of the biggest deals since the 2003 US-led invasion, market sources close to the agreements told Reuters on Monday.

“Almost all the deals have been worked out after months of negotiations. The Iraqis are improving their tendering procedures and bringing them closer to international standards,” one major player said. But delivering the cargo will be a logistical challenge, traders said, adding that a trucking dispute that closed Iraq’s main port of Umm Qasr for five days last month has resumed, disrupting unloading of food vessels.

Under the agreements, Cargill and ADM will supply 600,000 tons of wheat at 216 US dollars a ton for delivery into Umm Qasr and the Syrian port of Tartous, the traders said.

The Australian Wheat Board will supply 600,000 tons at 226 US dollars a ton. The disruptions at Umm Qasr, which have been contributing to a wheat shortage in the country, have forced Iraq to buy flour. — MNA/Reuters

Italy arrests 141 in terror swoop
Rome, 16 Aug—Italy has arrested 141 people in a security swoop following the bombings in London and Egypt last month and remains at high risk from an attack by Islamic militants, the Interior Ministry said on Monday.

Italy, the subject of several Internet threats from purported Islamic militant groups, said it had begun expulsion procedures against 701 people.

“The latest evaluations ... confirm an ongoing high risk of a terrorist attack on our country,” the ministry said in a statement after a parliamentary meeting on the findings from a series of nationwide raids in recent days.

MNA/Reuters

Left-handedness dominant in wild chimpanzees
LOS ANGELES, 16 Aug—More wild chimpanzees prefer using their left hands when they fish termites with sticks or other tools, US scientists reported on Monday after observing a chimpanzee community for years.

These findings demonstrate that population-level handedness (where the same hand is preferred by the majority of a certain group) is evident in wild chimpanzees, and this trait can be passed on to offspring, said Elizabeth Lonsdorf and William Hopkins of Emory University. Their paper was published online in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Earlier studies noted that chimpanzees in captivity show a right-handed preference for some tasks, but researchers have wondered if this is an effect of being reared in a human, predominantly right-handed, environment.

The lateralization of function associated with hand-use was present at least five million years ago when the Pan-Homo, the common ancestor of human and chimpanzee, split into different species, the researchers indicated. From 1998 to 2001, Lonsdorf observed 17 wild chimpanzees in Gombe National Park in Tanzania. Tracking the chimpanzees’ activities continuously, she and Hopkins then looked specifically at which hand mothers and offspring used when termite-fishing—delicately prodding dirt mounds for termites with a small stick.

The chimpanzees showed clear preferences for one hand or the other, with 12 being left-handed, four right-handed and one ambiguously-handed, the researchers found. Furthermore, the handedness trait can in families, with both right- and left-handed females tending to produce offspring with the same hand preference. But it remains unclear whether this is due to genetics or learned behaviour, noted the researchers.

“Their handedness runs in families of wild chimpanzees, with offspring hand-use resembling the hand preferences of their mother,” the paper said. — MNA/Xinhua

Floods render Darfuris homeless again
KHARTOUM, 16 Aug—About 13,000 refugees have been made homeless by floods in Sudan’s troubled Darfur region, in the worst rains for half a century, a government official said on Monday.

El-Fadil Abdel Aziz, the government’s manager of Abou Shouk camp in North Darfur, told Reuters the heaviest rains seen in decades had damaged a dam built to prevent flooding in the camp next to the state’s main town, el-Fasher. “This dam... was damaged because of the heavy rain at night, and after that half of the camp was flooded,” he told Reuters from Darfur. “The government intervened and gave every family blankets and corn.”

He added non-governmental organizations working in the camp were to meet to decide whether to transfer the 13,000 displaced to another camp. Abou Shouk, just outside el-Fasher, houses about 50,000 Darfuris. About 2 million Darfuris fled to makeshift camps in the remote region during more than 2-1/2 years of rebellion by non-Arab rebels against the Islamist central government. Tens of thousands have been killed in the violence, and the International Criminal Court is investigating alleged war crimes committed during the uprising. — MNA/Reuters

Abbas says Israel must give up more than Gaza
Gaza, 16 Aug—Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas said on Monday, as Israel launched its pullout from the Gaza Strip, that the move was insufficient and that some territories too.

“The Israeli withdrawal that has begun today is an important and historic step that shouldn’t only happen in Gaza but also the West Bank and the rest of the land reaching to the 1949 borders,” he told the Palestinian Government-controlled Wafa news agency.

Palestinians want an end on all of Gaza, the West Bank and Arab East Jerusalem, territories captured by Israel in the 1967 Middle East War. They fear Israel will use the Gaza pullout as a ruse to strengthen its hold on West Bank settlements.

MNA/Reuters

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Thursday, 18 August, 2005 13
Ascoli, Treviso handed Serie A promotion

MILAN, 17 Aug— Ascoli and Treviso will play in Italy's Serie A next season as the Italian Football Federation ruled on Tuesday ending weeks of wrangling and legal disputes.

The two clubs have been handed places in the top division after Torino and Genoa, who had won promotion from Serie B, were both denied their places.

Torino, who won the Serie B promotion playoff, were denied a return to the top flight due to their poor finances and have been ordered to compete in the second tier again next season.

Genoa, who were Serie B's champions, start next term in the third division after authorities uncovered evidence of match-fixing in their final game of the season against Venezia.

Of the three clubs originally promoted at the end of last season only runners-up Empoli will actually take their place alongside the big name clubs like champions Juventus and beaten Champions League finalists AC Milan.

Nadal snatched the first set 7-4 (7-4) 7-5.—

The Spanish teenager, 19, outplayed Ferrer who had never been in the top flight and finished fifth in Serie B and Ascoli, who were last in Serie A in 1992, have been 'hand ed' promotion by the Federation.

The Federation's ruling should put an end to weeks of wrangling over which clubs deserved to be given a Serie A place and is a blow to relegated Bologna who had hoped for a reprieve.

Ruggeri, who finished in fourth place in Serie B, have been demoted to Serie C1 due to their financial problems.

The Serie A season starts on Saturday August 27 with the fixture list due to be published later on Tuesday.

The situation in Serie B is even more farcical with Perugia and Genoa being demoted along with Salernitana.

The Federation ruled that relegated Catanzaro, Pescara and Vicenza would be re-promoted and allowed to stay in the second division.

Napoli, themselves demoted last year due to bankruptcy, had been hoping to be handed a promotion by the Federation and could now take legal action against the decision.

Under a recent Italian regulation cities whose clubs' fail to gain a professional licence owing to poor finances, or who go bankrupt, are allowed to have a reformed club take their place in the division below the one they last competed in.— MNA/Reuters

Berdych springs a shock on Nadal

MASSACHUSETTS (Ohio), 17 Aug— Rafael Nadal suffered a shock exit from the Cincinnati Masters at the hands of 19-year-old Czech Tomas Berdych.

Rafa, who were eleventh seed and successfully defending his Cincinnati Masters title, lost to the 19-year-old Czech 7-6 (7-4) 7-5.

Berdych looked poised for victory when he broke to lead 5-4 in the third set. But Nadal broke back and held three points, only for Berdych to save them all and force a tiebreaker.

A double-fault from Nadal gave Berdych three match points, and he clinched victory on the first.

Nadal won his first match since Wimbledon in 1999, beating Jan Hernych 7-6 (7-3) 6-2 in the second round of the Cincinnati Masters.

The Russian had been struggling with a knee injury after losing to Feliciano Lopez at SW19. Lleyton Hewitt, who retired in his opening match at last week's Montreal Masters with a stomach upset, beat Igor Andreev 6-3 6-4.

Elsewhere, Robby Ginepri surprised 10th seeded Mariano Puerta 7-6 (7-2) 6-1. Dominik Hrbaty beat Thomas Johansson seeded 13, 6-1 7-5, and Paul-Henri Mathieu edged Tommy Haas 6-3 2-6 6-1.

Sixth seed Nikolay Davydenko saw off Sebastien Grosjean 7-6 (7-4) 7-5.— Internet

Flamengo sack third coach of this year

RIO DE JANEIRO, 17 Aug—Celso Roth has been fired by Flamengo, making him the third coach this year to be dismissed by Brazil's most popular club.

Flamengo football vice-president Gerson Biscotto confirmed the decision in a television interview on Tuesday morning after it had been announced by the media the previous evening.

The decision came after Sunday's 2-0 defeat at Giaus sent Flamengo back into the relegation zone of the Brazilian championship.

Flamengo are 19th in the 22-team table with 20 points from 20 games. The bottom four go down.

No pressure on Owen for Eriksson

COPENHAGEN, 17 Aug—England manager Sven-Goran Eriksson assured striker Michael Owen on Tuesday he does not need to play more regularly for Real Madrid to keep his place in the team.

Owen endured a frustrating first season at Real Madrid, trailing Ronaldo and Raul in the pecking order at the Bernabeu, and the Spanish club have since signed Robinho and Julio Baptista up front.

"If he plays as many games as he played last year for Real Madrid, I'm happy," Eriksson told a news conference as he prepared for Wednesday's friendly against Denmark.

"I think he's happy. I think he wants to play more but he was extremely fresh every time he came to England last season." Owen's starting place in the England team will go to Jermain Defoe on Wednesday and next month's World Cup qualifier in Wales — for which the Real Madrid forward is suspended.

Defending his club record last season, Owen said earlier this month: "I still managed to start 26 games and score 16 goals."

He also said that "brief negotiations" had taken place with three of four Premier League clubs.

England captain David Beckham fended off questions on Tuesday as to whether Owen should return to the Premier League to be sure of regular football in a World Cup year.

"He needs to be happy, he needs to be playing football and that will be his decision," Beckham said. "I hope he stays at Real Madrid because he scores goals, his record speaks for itself."

"It's very hard when you want to play football and you are not in the team. But when you're at Real Madrid it's tough to get in any team of theirs."— MNA/Reuters

Mew Choo upsets seeded player to lead women campaign

ANAHEIM, California, 17 Aug—Malaysia's Wong Mew Choo pulled off a pleasant upset in the World Badminton Championships by defeating 15th seeded Xing Aying of Singapore 11-8, 11-8 in straight sets at the Arrowhead Pond Arena near here on Tuesday.

The unseeded 22-year-old, who came under heavy criticism after losing in the qualifying round of the Malaysian Open last month, said the win will be a big boost to her campaign in the championships.

"We were meeting for the first time and it was a pretty even match. But I'm glad to have started off with a win. I had difficulties adapting to the conditions inside the stadium as the draft was very strong," she said.

Mew Choo added that it was very difficult to judge the shuttle due to the draft and those who could adjust quickly and make less mistakes would have a better chance of winning.

The petite lass who made it to the last 16 of the past World Championshipships in Birmingham, two years ago hopes to accomplish a similar feat, if not better this year.

"I believe players with a lot of experience in over-}

coming such situations can eventually win the title," she said.

With Mew Choo's win, Malaysia will have two singles players in the second round as M. Sutheeswarai had already qualified yesterday.

Sutheeswarai will face Singaporean Li Li tomorrow while Mew Choo takes on Taiwan's Cheng Shao-chieh.

Mew Choo's win was also a form of inspiration for other women players in the competition. Malaysia will have two singles players in the second round of the IBF World Badminton Championships in Anaheim, California, on 16 August, 2005.— Internet
Russia says bird flu may spread to Europe

MOSCOW, 17 Aug—Russia, which is scrambling to contain a bird flu outbreak in Siberia, warned the world on Monday that migrating birds may export the deadly virus to Europe and the Middle East in coming months.

The outbreak, previously confined to five remote areas of Siberia, appeared to be moving westward on Monday after the virus hit a major industrial region—Cheyabinsk in the Ural Mountains which sever Asia from Europe.

And officials said the virus, which can kill humans, was likely to spread further.

"Apart from Russia's south, migrating birds may spread the virus to nearby countries (Azerbaijan, Iran, Iraq, Georgia, Ukraine, Mediterranean countries) because bird migration routes from Siberia also go through those regions in autumn," said Russia's top state epidemiologist, Gennady Onishchenko.

Northeast China floods kill 10, more rain to come

BEIJING, 17 Aug — Floods caused by heavy rains in the northeastern Chinese province of Liaoning have killed at least 10 people and left 35 missing, the Ministry of Civil Affairs said on Tuesday.

And more rain is forecast across the country this week, prompting the National Meteorological Centre to issue new flood warnings.

More than 2.3 million people were affected by the flooding that caused more than 30 thousand houses to collapse, resulting in direct economic damage of 2.31 billion yuan (285 million US dollars), the ministry said.

"We have evacuated 3.4 million people to a higher place. If the storm continues, we will transfer more. But now the rain has stopped, so it seems there is no need," an official named Zhao from the disaster relief bureau at the ministry told Reuters.

The floods were sparked by the heaviest rain this year that caused the highest flood peak in Liaoning since 1995.

Flood waters cut off roads and bridges, but by Tuesday some had been repaired, the Ministry of

WEATHER

Summarized observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in lower Sagaing Division, rain has been scattered in Shan, Kayah and Kayin States, upper Sagaing, Mandalay and Bago Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with locally heavy falls in Rakhine State and isolated heavy falls in Mon State. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Taunggo (7.72) inches, Mawlamyine (4.73) inches, Kyaukpyu (4.21) inches, Kyauktaw (3.11) inches, Gwama (2.76) inches, Hkamti (2.60) inches, Thandwe (2.56) inches, Homalin (1.85) inches and Mogok (1.73) inches.

Maximum temperature on 16-8-2005 was 88°F. Minimum temperature on 17-8-2005 was 70°F. Relative humidity at 9.30 hrs MST on 17-8-2005 was 93%.

Total sunshine hours on 18-8-2005 was 2.8 hours approx. Rainfalls on 16-8-2005 were 0.23 inch at Mingaladon, 0.31 inch at Bata-Aye, 0.28 inch at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2005 were 65.31 inches at Mingaladon, 62.22 inches at Bata-Aye and 62.87 inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Bata-Aye) was 14 mph from Southwest at 13:30 hours MST on 16-8-2005.

Bay inference: Monsoon is moderate in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 18-8-2005: Rain will be widespread in Rakhine and Mon States, Taninthayi Division, scattered in Kachin, Shan, Chin and Kayin States, upper Sagaing, Bago, Yangon and Canning Divisions and isolated in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is 80%.

State of the sea: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: General decrease of rain in the whole country.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 18-8-2005: One or two rain. Degree of certainty is 80%.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 18-8-2005: Likelihood of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is 60%.
Flourishing of Union Spirit among national brethren most crucial factor according to situations in the nation
Prime Minister inspects University for Development of National Races, Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) Project

YANGON, 17 Aug — Prime Minister General Soe Win inspected Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) Project on Mandalay bank. — MNA

Prime Minister General Soe Win attends annual meeting of Yangon Command MCWA
YANGON, 17 Aug — The third annual meeting (2004) of Maternal and Child Welfare Association of Yangon Command was held at the command this morning attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe. The commander presented gifts to students who passed the matriculation examination.

Next, Central Executive Committee member of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association Daw Htwe Htwe Nyunt, Joint Secretary Dr Daw May Marlar and Chairperson of Yangon Division MCWA reported on facts about the project, progress of construction of buildings, courses, and academic matters. Deputy Minister for Science and Technology U Kyaw Soe gave a supplementary report. Managing Director U Maung Maung of Shwe Than Lwin Highway Co Ltd reported on construction of the building and work progress.

In response, the Prime Minister gave instructions on the project and inspected the construction site.

Next, the Prime Minister and party visited Maha Bodhi Tahtaung Monastery and offered alms to Sayadaw Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Narada.

They helicoptered to the University for Development of National Races in Ywathitkyi, Sagaing Township, where they were welcomed by Civil Service Selection and Training Board Chairman Dr Than Nyun, Member U Aung Myint, Director-General of the Civil Service Selection and Training Department U Hla Kyi, Professor U Zaw Min Thein, pro-rectors, heads of department, principals of departments and faculty.

Myanmar U-20 moves to final on penalty shoot-out
YANGON, 17 Aug — Myanmar U-20 beat Vietnam with 6-5 on penalty shoot-out in the first semifinal match of AFF U-20 Youth Championship 2005 held in Jakabaking Stadium of Indonesia at 4 pm local time today. Vietnam took the lead scoring the opening goal in the 42nd minute and the match ended 1-0 in the first half.

In the second half, Myanmar Soe Thiha Aung took the equalizer from a free kick to its rivals in the 10th minute. The scores were tied at 1-1 in full time. Both teams failed to score winning goal in an extra time.

Myanmar defeated Vietnam with 6-5 on penalty shoot-out and reached the final. Myanmar will take on the winner of the second semifinal match between Laos and Malaysia on 19 August.

MNA