Preparations well under way for reconvening of National Convention

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein addresses NCCC meeting

YANGON, 20 Aug — The National Convention Convening Commission held meeting 3/2005 at its meeting hall at Kyaiikasan Grounds, here, at 1 pm today, with an address by Chairman of NCCC Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

Also present on the occasion were Vice-Chairmen of NCCC Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut and Chief Justice U Aung Toe, Secretary Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and commission members.

Joint-Secretary-2 of the Commission Director-General U Myint

Thein of Pyithu Hluttaw Office acted as master of ceremonies.

First, Chairman of NCCC Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein delivered an address. He said that the meeting of the NCCC was held to make preparations for reconvening the National Convention towards the end of 2005. Hence, the National Convention Convening Work Committee was to submit tasks to be carried out at the National Convention to the meeting.

He said that members of the Commission were to give suggestions and take part in the discussions on matters submitted by the National Convention Convening Work Committee. Furthermore, members of the NCCC were to perform their respective tasks in time and to present reports to the Commission’s meeting, he added.

Chairman of the NCCC Work Committee Chief Justice U Aung Toe reported to the meeting on the preparations of the Work Committee prepared for the National Convention.

Next, members of the NCCC participated in the discussions for laying down detailed basic principles of the State Constitution at the National Convention. The meeting ended with concluding remarks of Lt-Gen Thein Sein. — MNA

The Government of the Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Labour
Notification No. 1/2005
Yangon, the 1st Waning Day of Waso, 1367 M.E.
(21st July 2005)


1. In the definition of the expression “workman” under clause (n) (i) of subsection (1) of Section 2, any person employed otherwise than by way of manual labour whose wages exceed kyats 40,000 per month shall not be included.

2. The provisions contained in the Workmen’s Compensation Act, 1923 shall be as follows:

(See page 8)

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Brighter prospects in Ayeyawady Division

A large number of rivers and creeks including Ayeyawady, Chindwin, Sittaung and Thanlwin in Myanmar were a major hindrance to transport in the past.

To overcome the obstacle, the Tatmadaw government, since its assumption of the State responsibilities, has been building a network of roads and bridges. Nowadays, with the emergence of bridges large and small, one can easily travel from one place to another.

As there are numerous rivers and creeks in Ayeyawady Division, the state has built the largest number of roads and bridges in the division. As a result, different parts of the division can now be easily accessible by road.

Up to date, 422 miles and 3 furlongs of tarred roads, 635 miles and 6 furlongs of gravel roads and 220 miles and one furlong of earth roads totaling 1281 miles and 3 furlongs have been constructed in Ayeyawady Division.

The emergence of 59 major river-crossing bridges in the division has brought about better transport in the region, in which the people had to rely only on waterways in the past.

At present, Mayangunu Bridge with a length of 240 feet on Labutta-Mayangynu-Kyaungon Road in Einme Township was constructed and the facility was opened on 16 August 2005, thereby bringing about better transport in the region.

With better transport and prevalence of peace and tranquility, Ayeyawady Division will be able to make progress in a short time.

Efforts are being made to put 3.6 million acres under monsoon paddy and over 1.6 million acres under summer paddy in the division in 2005-2006.

Ayeyawady Division, which is termed as the granary or rice bowl of the State in the past, has now turned out also to be the curry bowl of the State in the recent past.

The government has been building a network of roads and bridges the length and breadth of the nation in order to enhance the living standard of the entire national people. Hence, efforts are to be made for national and regional development by making better use of those facilities already in place.

Therefore, we would like to call upon the entire national people to do their bit in nation-building endeavours in response to the goodwill of the government that is striving for the emergence of a modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation.

UMFCCI Vice-President meets Pakistani Minister

YANGON, 20 Aug — Excise & Taxation Minister Dr Muhammad Shafique Chaudhry of Punjab of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, accompanied by Pakistani Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Muhammad Nawaz Chaudhry, called on Vice-President of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Aung Lwin, General Secretary U Sein Win Hlaung and CEC Member U Tun Aung at the federation yesterday. They discussed matters related to boosting bilateral trade, creating opportunities for investment in production of medicines, cement, sugar, pesticides, fertilizer and paper, participation in the trade fairs to be held in Pakistan, and exchange of delegations. — MNA

Special Envoy of UN Secretary-General concludes visit

YANGON, 20 Aug — Mr Ali Alatas, Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General on the United Nations reform for the Asia and the Pacific, leaves Yangon. — MNA

Development affairs tasks supervised in Bago

YANGON, 20 Aug — Director-General U Myo Myint of the Development Affairs Department under the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs inspected development affairs tasks in Bago Town yesterday.

At the Bago Development Affairs Committee office, officials reported on construction of roads and bridges, and tasks for water supply, development affairs, proper drainage, and sprucing up the region carried out by the committee in 2005-2006 fiscal year. The director-general provided assistance for the project. He inspected the digging of drains, progress in tarring Shwemawdaw Pagoda Road, and construction of traffic islands along the road.

He also inspected the park of the committee, and the sluice gate for letting out waste water into Bago River. — MNA

Waso robes offering ceremony to be held

YANGON, 20 Aug — Under the aegis of the Sananta Dhamma-palaka Organization, Hindu families will offer “soon” and Waso robes to the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Sayadaws and 472 members of the Sangha of State Pariyatti Sasana University at 9 am on 28 August at Mogok Refectory on Kaba Aye Hill here.

Hindu families are invited to attend the ceremony and for further information dial phone Nos: 525165, 242751 and 256717. — MNA
Chinese PM raises 5-point proposal to enhance Sino-Bangladeshi ties

BEIJING, 19 Aug — Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao set forth a five-point proposal here on Thursday to enhance the relationship with Bangladesh during talks with visiting Bangladeshi Prime Minister Khaleda Zia.

The proposal includes using the 30th anniversary of Sino-Bangladeshi relations to realize common ground reached by the two countries in all fields; exploring new areas for cooperation; strengthening exchanges on high-tech and agriculture; expanding cultural and personnel exchanges; maintaining close cooperation on the reform of the United Nations, south-south cooperation and other major international and regional issues.

Wen visited Bangladeshi this April. He said China and Bangladesh declared to establish a comprehensive and cooperative partnership of long-term friendship, equality and mutual benefits this April. This further pushed forward the traditional friendship, he added.

He went on to say that China and Bangladesh are developing countries facing the same challenges of development and sharing a common interest in international affairs. “Developing a comprehensive and cooperative partnership with Bangladesh is an important component part of China’s good-neighbourly policy,” he said.

Wen also expressed gratitude for the support of Bangladesh to China on the issues of Taiwan and Tibet. On the situation in South Asia, Wen said, currently the countries in the region are comparatively stable, and the economy has developed. As the largest member of the South Asian Association Regional Cooperation, China will continue to work for peace and stability in the region, he said.

Zia said it is significant to achieve an exchange of visits between the two prime ministers in the year marking the 30th anniversary of Bangladesh-China relations.

She expressed gratitude for China’s long-term assistance to Bangladesh, saying that Bangladesh attaches importance to its relations with China, and would like to promote cooperation in the political, security and cultural fields, and strengthen consultations on regional and international issues.

Badawi urges Malaysians to preserve agreement among races

KUALA LUMPUR, 19 Aug — Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi urged all races in the country to preserve the cooperative agreement forged between them as a national legacy, local media reported on Thursday.

“It is a formula benefitted to us, which we must treasure and protect, so that it will continue to bring us success,” Badawi said on Wednesday night when launching the National Independence Month Celebration in Johor Bahru, the capital city of the southern state of Johor.

Badawi said he was convinced that the racial unity, which was the result of the agreement and supported by the patriotic younger generations, would help the Malaysians to achieve the national aspiration of becoming a developed nation by the year 2020.

For 48 years, we had proven to the world that this country — although multi racial — has harmony and unity ... This unity among Malaysians has prevented our country from being taken over by other powers,” Badawi was quoted as saying by local media.

An estimated crowd of 300,000 people took part in the grand celebration, which lasted until early Thursday morning. As shown by local TV reports, the Danga Bay area, with about 100 decorated boats and fishing boats sailing on the water, was in indeed a sea of joy and flying national flags. At the stroke of midnight, the celebration reached climax when a brilliant fireworks display lightened up the sky.

Indonesia to grant amnesty to GAM members later this month

JAKARTA, 19 Aug — Indonesian Minister of Justice and Human Rights Hamid Awaluddin said on Thursday the amnesties pledged by the government to members of the separatist Free Movement (GAM) would be granted by the end of this month.

"Hopefully all the amnesties will have been granted by 31 August at the latest," the minister who was quoted by the Antara news agency during a visit to the Sukamiskin penitentiary in Bandung, West Java.

Hamid, who was the chief negotiator for the Indonesian Government at the informal talks with GAM to end the armed conflict in the oil-rich province, was visiting Sukamiskin Prison to oversee the preparations for a ceremony marking the release of GAM members after the granting of amnesty.

During his visit, Hamid talked to 18 GAM members detained in Sukamiskin penitentiary. "I have come here to discuss how to return them to Aceh after the granting of amnesties," he said.

Iran blames US for Iraq bombings

TEHERAN, 19 Aug — Iran’s supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on Friday denied US allegations that the Islamic republic was linked to bombings in Iraq, and instead pointed the finger at US occupying forces.

"We support the government of Iraq. We are very disturbed by the lack of security in Iraq, especially the daily killings of the Iraqi people," Khamenei said in a sermon at Tehran University.

"American machine-guns are criminal, but those elements who plant bombs are also criminals," he added.

US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said on Tuesday that US forces had found Iranian weapons inside Iraq on more than one occasion over the past couple of months, accusing Tehran of seeking to replicate its own Islamic regime in Iraq by backing insurgents.

"But Khamenei said the US was behind the regular bombings, arguing that Washington needed a ‘pretext’ to stay in Iraq.

"For us, the prime suspect in these incidents is America, because terrorism in Iraq functions under the eyes of the US. Thousands of American forces are spread across Iraq and if they wanted to eradicate insecurity they could have," he said.

"There are some signs which point to the spy services of the US and Zionist regime," he said.
Mainstream news media suffer collateral damage from Iraq war

WASHINGTON, 19 Aug — As the battle for Iraq’s future plays out half a world away, the American news media are caught in the crossfire at home.

War supporters accuse journalists of undercutting the troops by highlighting problems and ignoring progress in Iraq. War opponents also are unhappy. They say the media failed to question the need for war and sanitize the conflict by refusing to show gruesome scenes of carnage.

Military mom Cindy Sheehan, who got extensive media coverage for her anti-war protest outside President Bush’s Texas ranch this month, voiced the view from the left in a conference call with supporters on 10 Aug.

"Thank God for the Internet or we wouldn’t know anything and we would already be a fascist state," she said. "The mainstream media is a propaganda tool for the government."

That’s not the view from the right.

"If you believe the liberal media’s reporting on the American military effort in Iraq, you’re almost forced to be ashamed of America," the Media Research Center, a conservative media watchdog group, said in a recent message to potential donors.

In return for a donation, the organization will send a specially inscribed military-style dog tag to a soldier in Iraq. "Don’t believe the liberal media!" the dog tag says. "I’m just one of millions of Americans who realize that powerful elements in the media are undermining the war effort."
**East China accounts for third of India-China bilateral trade**

SHANGHAI, 20 Aug — Over 60 Indian businesses have set up operations in Shanghai, part of the trade.

The dynamic region of East China plays a vital role in China’s economic development. It also enjoys the pride of place in India’s growing economic engagement with China, accounting for a third of bilateral trade,” Consul-General of India in Shanghai, Sujan Chuyen said.

Inaugurating an India-China Buyer-Seller meet organized by the Federation of Indian Export Organizations (FIEO) here in the eastern metropolis, Chuyen said that more and more Indian entrepreneurs were setting up operations in and around Shanghai in the East China region, contributing to the growing bilateral trade.

India-China trade in 2004 touched a record $13.6 billion US dollars. According to latest Chinese Customs statistics, during the first six months of 2005, the bilateral trade volume has touched $9.3 billion US dollars.

While bilateral trade has witnessed a remarkable increase in recent years, there has emerged a very welcome spurt in investments and technical collaboration as well, he said. — MNA/Xinhua

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**Cave dwellers in Muslim region to have new homes**

YINCHEAN, 19 Aug — Cave dwellers in the Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, a Muslim inhabited community in northwest China, are soon to move out of their ramshackle caves into new houses, the regional government said on Thursday.

A spokesman with the regional civil affairs department said the first 7,000 rural families in the mountainousLong and Jingyuan counties in the southern part of the region will move into new homes in May 2006. In three years, all cave dwellers in the region will bid farewell to their primitive dwellings,” he said.

About 40,000 families are living in ramshackle cave dwellings in nine mountainous counties in southern Ningxia and 3,000 of these caves are located in areas prone to geological disasters.

The regional government has invested 30 million yuan ($6.2 million US dollars) to relocate all these cave dwellers by the end of 2007, the spokesman said.

According to the government’s blueprint, each family will be subsidized at least $5,000 yuan ($165.5 US dollars) for them to build new houses with bricks and to move out of their dangerous old dwellings in time.

Cave dwelling has remained prevalent for several thousand years among farmers in mountainous northwest China.

Caves are comfortable to live in because they are cool in summer and warm in winter. Yet they are also vulnerable to natural disasters. A latest survey has found between 2,000 and 4,000 cave dwellings collapse each year in rain- and wind-induced floods and various geological disasters in Ningxia.

— MNA/Xinhua

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**US vigils support anti-war mother**

CRAWFORD (Texas), 19 Aug — Anti-war protesters held candles, sang, and chanted in vigils across the country on Wednesday in support of Cindy Sheehan, who has camped out near President George W. Bush’s ranch to urge him to bring US troops home from Iraq, where her son was killed a year ago.

Sheehan has become a magnet for anti-war protesters who have crowded around her since her vigil began on 6 August in Crawford, a community of 705 people, where Bush is on a month-long vacation.

More than 1,800 Americans have been killed in Iraq and thousands more have been wounded. "Each one was a valuable human life," Sheehan said at an evening vigil at her campsite. "Each one was an indispensable member of his or her family, not playthings for the people who lust for greed and power."

Liberal groups MoveOn.org, True Major- ity, and Democracy for America organized 1,627 candlelight "Vigils for Cindy Sheehan" in all 50 states with at least 60,000 people planning to attend, Tom Matzzie, Washington director for MoveOn.org, said.

In Crawford, a couple of hundred supporters held white candles and flowers and walked single file around a triangular patch of grass as the sun went down and a full moon emerged.

— MNA/Reuters

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**India offers Bangladesh “any kind of assistance”**

NEW DELHI, 19 Aug— Conveying its serious concern over the serial blasts in Bangladesh, India on Thursday offered to it “any kind of assistance” while asking Dhaka to identify the perpetrators of the terror acts.

"A stable, prosperous, secular and democratic Bangladesh is not just in the interests of the people of Bangladesh, but also of India and the region as a whole," External Affairs Ministry spokesman Navtej Sarna told reporters here.

"We urged the Government of Bangladesh to iden- tify the perpetrators of these terrorist acts and offered any kind of assistance," he said.

Sarna said reports relating to an unprecedented 459 blasts in 63 of the 64 districts in Bangladesh in a short space of 30 minutes continued to come in.

— MNA/PTI

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**Two helicopters crash in Russia, killing four**

MOSCOW, 19 Aug— Two Mi-8 helicopters crashed in Russia on Thursday, killing four people and injuring five others, the Interfax news agency reported.

A military Mi-8 helicopter crashed near the eastern city of Khabarovsk after its tail propeller malfunctioned, injuring three pilots. Hours later, another Mi-8 helicopter used for civilian purposes crashed near the Siberian oil cen- tre of Nepestyansk, killing four of the six crew members. The other two were injured, one in criti- cal condition.

— MNA/Xinhua

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**Iran condemns “inhumane” car bombings in Baghdad**

TEHERAN, 19 Aug — Iran strongly condemned the fatal explosions in the Iraqi capital of Baghdad on Wednesday, terming them as the "inhumane moves against the Islamic and humane values and principles".

Foreign Ministry spokesman Hamid-Reza Asefi voiced outrage at the terrorist acts and condoled with the Iraqi Government and people, the official IRNA news agency reported.

— MNA/Xinhua

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**Gunmen kill city council member in northern Iraq**

BAGHDAD, 19 Aug— Gunmen shot dead a city council member of a town near the northern oil city of Kirkuk on Friday, police said.

Unknown armed men opened fire at Aswad Unnar Naye, a city council member of Kirkuk, some 60 km west of Kirkuk, as he was driving his car to Kirkuk.

Kirkuk, some 250 km north of Baghdad, is a multi-ethnic city which has frequently been the scene of assassinations bearing ethnic overtones and at- tacks against US and Iraqi forces. — Internet

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Singapore FM outlines three challenges affecting Chinese overseas

SINGAPORE, 19 Aug — Singapore’s Foreign Minister George Yeo on Thursday outlined three challenges affecting the world affairs and the Chinese overseas profoundly.

Speaking at a three-day conference of institutes and libraries for Chinese Overseas Studies here, George Yeo said that the three challenges are good Sino-US relations, pan-Asian cooperation and harmony between Muslims and non-Muslims in Asia.

The success or failure of these challenges will lead either to a better world or to another tragedy, he said, adding that success will help the Chinese overseas to flourish and make contributions wherever they live.

As for Sino-US relations, the minister said that it is unlikely the rivalry between the two sides will lead to war. It is more likely they will cooperate and compete at the same time, he added.

On the second challenge, which is the construction of a new architecture of cooperation in Asia itself, bringing together East, Southeast and South Asia, he stressed that good relations between China and India are the foundation of such an architecture.

“If we succeed, the centre of the world economy will move to Asia, which, by opening to North America, Europe and the rest of the world, will sustain and advance the multilateral trading system,” he said.

The third challenge, the minister said, is the establishment of better relations between Muslims and non-Muslims in Asia.

He also noted that the conference commemorates the 600th anniversary of the first of Zheng He’s voyages and that the Chinese are proud. The concept of the set of special stamps came from a middle school student who put forward the idea for Hong Kong Post who solicited themes for stamp designing two years ago.

Chiang said “China has a glorious ancient civilization. Our numerous discoveries and inventions have shaped the development of science and impacted on human civilizations around the world.”

He said print and papermaking facilitated wide spreading of knowledge and universal access to education.

China’s first regional socioeconomic development strategy launched

BEIJING, 19 Aug — A research report on the socioeconomic development strategy of China’s Hebei Province, drawn out by Chinese and foreign experts with aid from the Asian Development Bank (ADB), was launched here on Wednesday, becoming the first of its kind in China.

The research report is the product of a technical assistance (TA) project approved by the Bank in November 2002, and financed with a 600,000-US-dollar grant from its Asian Development Fund, according to the ADB.

This is the first time the Bank has assisted a Chinese province in preparing its development strategy.

Hebei Province in north China, despite its coastal location and proximity to Beijing and Tianjin, has lagged behind other coastal provinces over the last two decades in terms of output growth, employment growth, economic diversification, productivity improvements, and social development.

The ADB TA project is expected to help the provincial government formulate a socioeconomic development strategy that takes advantage of Hebei’s access to Beijing, Tianjin, and global markets.

In about 11 months, Chinese and foreign experts working for the TA project produced a five-volume report which comprises strategic considerations for Hebei Province’s development; strategic considerations from an international perspective; and sector studies including poverty alleviation, the environment, industrial restructuring, urbanization, Bohai coastal development, hi-tech development, tourism, investment financing, and fiscal reform; and 17 international case studies in seven sectors.

According to Guo Gengmao, deputy governor of Hebei Province, the experts from Shanghai, Canada and the United States were invited through international biddings.

Bleaching rather than tsunami threatens Andaman Sea coral reefs

BANGKOK, 19 Aug — Last year’s tsunami had limited impact on coral reefs in the Andaman Sea, which is now more threatened by bleaching phenomenon, said Thai marine officials.

“Marine scientists are no longer worried about the impact of the tsunami on coral reefs, which have recovered rapidly over the past six months,” Bangkok Post on Thursday quoted marine official Ukkrit Satapoon as saying.

The overall extent of coral reef damage caused by the tsunami was far less than had been expected, said Ukkrit from Phuket Marine Biological Centre under the Thai Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment.

Only 5 per cent of the seagrass bed in the Andaman Sea was affected by the tsunami, according to a study, jointly conducted by the Phuket Marine Biological Centre and marine biologists from nine Thai universities. From a total of 174 sites representing the principal area of coral reef in the region, up to 60 per cent were either untouched, or had suffered very little damage. Only 23 sites were severely damaged, which meant that more than 50 per cent of the coral had been damaged.

Massive clean-up and coral recovery operations carried out after the tsunami proved to be effective for the restoration of coral reefs in the Andaman Sea. The Andaman Sea, lying along Thailand’s western coast is home to several coral reef sites, such as Phi Phi Island, Similan Islands and Surin Islands. All are famous diving sites for tourists. However, coral reefs at these sites are threatened by coral bleaching phenomenon.

Indonesian Energy Minister predicts drop in world oil price

JAKARTA, 19 Aug — Indonesian Energy and Mineral Resource Minister Purnomo Yusgiantoro predicted Thursday that the average world crude oil price will drop by 10 US dollars in 2006, citing better supply.

Purnomo said improvements in world oil supply could be expected to spur a decline in the international price in 2006. Non-member countries of the Organization of Petroleum-Exporting Countries (OPEC) could fulfill the increased demand of oil to 1.5 million barrels per day.

“Thus, there will be an excess supply of oil from OPEC production of 4.5 million barrel per day,” Purnomo was quoted by the Antara news agency as saying.

In addition, 12 oil refiners in the United States that suffered from overhaul and other disturbances, would begin operation in 2006. “Additional supply will also come from new refiners that will begin operation next year,” the minister said.

Japanese Crown Prince Naruhito shakes hands with a humanoid robot HRP-2 Promet as he visits a laboratory of the Tokyo University’s graduate school on 19 August 2005. —INTERNET

A visitor watches a sand tiger shark swim overhead during a media preview of Aquaria KLCC in Kuala Lumpur recently. —INTERNET

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

19 August 2005.
Minister tours regions on west bank of Chindwin River

YANGON, 20 Aug—
Secretariat Member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan held a meeting with about 1,500 people from Kokkozu Village and nearby villages in Pale Township on 15 August morning.

Officials reported on measures for development of their villages. The secretariat member assessed the reports and presented K 100,000 each for the development tasks to Kokkozu and Monkyaing villages. He also presented soap cakes, clothes, blankets, household utensils, textbooks and exercise books to Kokkozu and Monkyaing village-tracts, publications to self-reliant libraries, and raincoats, plastic containers, meat and bean tins to the villagers.

Sagaing Division and Monywa District Information and Public Relations Departments and USDAs also donated publications to the libraries.

The secretariat member provided assistance for the development of Poppa, Pahtotha, Ywathit and Gabaryat villages.

In the afternoon, he attended the opening of Pyinnya Waipona Library. Together with Sayadaw U Vepulla, the secretariat member formally opened the facility and inspected it. He visited Ywanaung Ywale Monastery and offered alms to Sayadaw U Vannita.

He met with over 1,400 folks from Ywanaung, Monthwin, Poppa, Pahgitha, Pekhinma, Gabaryat, Padauk, Chinpit and Kangyi villages at the BEPS in Ywanaung Village.

After hearing reports on tasks for development of respective villages, the secretariat member dealt with regional development tasks, and presented K 100,000 for development tasks to Ywanaung Village, and K 50,000 each for renovation of Poppa Village BEPS and Pahtotha Village BEPS.

He presented soap cakes, clothes, blankets, household utensils, textbooks and exercise books to Ywanaung, Poppa and Pahtotha village-tracts, publications to self-reliant libraries, and raincoats, plastic containers, meat and bean tins to the villagers, and K 30,000 awarded by Pyinnya Waipona Library and education promotion team to Maung Shine Min Hset who passed the 2004-05 matriculation examination with three distinctions.

Sagaing Division and Monywa District Information and Public Relations Departments and USDAs also donated publications to the libraries.

In his speech, the secretariat member said that the government has given priority to public welfare services and rural development for the benefit of the nation and the people.

In the process, too much reliance should not be placed on agricultural methods, he said, calling for extended cultivation of all suitable seasonal crops, perennial crops, mixed cropping and multiple cropping, and breeding of livestock for the benefit.

At a time when the government is paving way for higher education standard of rural folks, the people on their part are to ensure enrollment of all school-age children and their completion of education. —MNA

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presents gifts for people of Ywanaung, Poppa and Pahtotha village-tracts to an official.—MNA

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and Sayadaw Bhaddanta Vepulla formally open Pyinnya Waipona Library.—MNA
# The Government of the Union of Myanmar
## Ministry of Labour
### Notification No. 1/2005...

(from page 1)

(a) the amount of compensation where death results from the injury under the proviso of clause A (i) and clause A (ii) of sub-section (1) of Section 4, shall be from a minimum of kyats 150,000 to a maximum of kyats 450,000.

(b) the amount of compensation where permanent total disablement results from the injury under the proviso of clause B (i) and clause B (ii) of sub-section (1) of Section 4, shall be from a minimum of kyats 200,000 to a maximum of kyats 600,000.

(c) in the case of a deceased workman, the advances on account of compensation not exceeding an aggregate of kyats 100,000 may be made by an employer to any dependant under the proviso of sub-section (1) of Section 8.

(d) any other sum amounting to not less than kyats 50,000 may be deposited with the Township Workmen’s Compensation Committee by the employer under sub-section (2) of Section 8.

(e) an amount not exceeding kyats 20,000 shall be deducted for the cost of the workman’s funeral expenses under sub-section (4) from the deposit of money under sub-section (1) of Section 8, and shall pay the same to the person by whom such expenses were incurred.

(f) the amount in dispute in the appeal under the proviso of sub-section (1) of Section 30 shall not be less than kyats 30,000.

3. The monetary rates and compensation as prescribed by this notification shall come into force commencing from 11th May, 2005.

(Sd.)

U Thaung

Minister

Ministry of Labour

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**Kandawgyi swimming pool opened**

YANGON, 20 Aug — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin attended the opening of Kandawgyi swimming pool in Education Zone in Yangon City Kandawgyi Natural Gardens this morning.

Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu, members of YCDC officials of Myanma Agriculture Service, YDPDC Secretary Lt-Col Myint Kyi, local authorities, Managing Director U Win Aung of Wood Land Co, officials and guests.

Managing Director U Win Aung explained facts about the swimming pool. Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, MAS Manager U Hla Myo and U Win Aung formally opened the swimming pool, and the commander of rubber plantations.

The swimming pool is 105 feet in length, 50 feet in width and 3-9 feet in depth. In the compound of the swimming pool are ticketing house, changing room, children’s swimming pool, water purifiers and club house. — MNA

**Transport Minister inspects jetties of Myanmar Port Authority**

YANGON, 20 Aug — Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Myint Swe, accompanied by officials, arrived at Myanmar Port Authority in Kyimyindaing and heard reports on port beautifying tasks and inland freight handling this afternoon. Next, the minister attended to the needs.

The minister and party proceeded to Wadan jetty of Myanmar Port Authority and gave necessary instructions.

On arrival at Lanthit jetty, the minister and party inspected the passenger lounge of the Inland Water Transport and jetty beautifying tasks.

Aftewards, they inspected Taitan jetty No-1, Phonegyi jetty No-1, Lamnadaw jetty No-1 and Smt Ohdan jetty.

After hearing reports of the officials, the minister left instructions on jetty beautifying tasks, jetty security, freight handling without delay and workplace safety. — MNA
YANGON, 20 Aug — Merit sharing ceremony of three-storey Myittavihari Dhammayon of Hpa-auk Tawya Buddha Sasana Yeiktha (Main) Monastery in Mawlamyine Township, Mon State was held at the Dhammayon yesterday morning, attended by Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence.

Present on the occasion were Presiding Sayadaw of the monastery Agga Maha Kammathanaçariya Bhaddanta Arçinna and members of the Sangha, Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of South East Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing and wife Daw Tin Tin Lat, senior military officers, officials of the office of the State Peace and Development Council and others.

Sayadaw Agga Maha Kammathanaçariya Bhaddanda Arçinna administered the Eight Precepts to the congregation.

Next, Lt-Gen Maung Bo, Commander and officials donated provisions to the Sayadaw and members of the Sangha.

The Dhammayon was funded by the donors at home and those from abroad, and it was built at a cost of K 439 million.— MNA

Rules on 61st Anniversary Armed Forces Day Commemorative Painting and Sculpture Contests announced

YANGON, 20 Aug — As a gesture of hailing the 61st Anniversary Armed Forces Day which falls on 27 March 2006, the Painting and Sculpture Contests and Exhibition Organizing Sub-committee, under the Poem and Arts Competitions Organizing Work Committee chaired by Deputy Minister for Culture Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung, announced rules on the Painting and Sculpture Contests.

Six Categories

The Painting Contest will be divided into six categories — the pre-primary level (school children from Pre-Primary School), the primary (junior) level (KG, first and second standards), the primary (senior) level (third and fourth standards), the middle school level (fifth to seventh standards), the high school level (ninth and tenth standards and technical and agricultural schools), and the open level (university, college and institute, State Schools of Fine Arts and Drama), and amateur and professional level contests.

The Sculpture Contest is open to all. But, contestants may take part in the two events — the open class (plaster) and the open class (wood). All the contestants including amateurs, professionals and students may take part in both contests.

In the pre-primary and all basic education levels of the Painting Contest, the size of the entry must be 20" by 15" created by any colour and system. The entry must be endorsed by respective principals with the name of contestants, standard, school, township, date of birth, father’s name, full address and two passport size photos.

The entries of the open division painting and sculpture contests must be sent to the Secretary of Myanmar Traditional Artists and Artsisans Asiyon (Central), 187, East Wing of Bogyoke Market, or the secretary of the organizing sub-committee, Tatmadaw Convention Hall, U Wisara Road, Yangon, not later than 1 March 2006.

Apart from the other entries, other paintings and sculptures may be sent to be displayed at the 61st Anniversary Armed Forces Day Exhibition. They must also reflect the 12 Objectives of the State, objectives of the Tatmadaw.

In addition, the works may reflect the ancient Myanmar Tatmadaw, historic events of the Tatmadaw which occurred during the periods of Pre-Independence and State Peace and Development Council, and its endeavours in safeguarding the State. The other paintings and sculptures are to be sent directly to Tatmadaw Convention Hall on U Wisara Road from 1 to 5 March 2006.— MNA
MOGE, HEPD win ASEAN Engineering outstanding awards (2004), Mt Popa Resort ASEAN Energy Award (2005)

YANGON, 20 Aug —
Myanmar Engineering Society held a ceremony in honour of the Ministry of Electric Power and the Ministry of Energy that won ASEAN Engineering outstanding awards (2004) and the Ministry of Forestry that won ASEAN Energy Award (2005) at Sedona Hotel this afternoon.

Present were Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung, Deputy Minister for Industry-2 Lt-Col Khin Maung Kyaw, Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay, Ambassadors of ASEAN nations and diplomats, heads of departments, President of MES, executives, engineers and wellwishers.

Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi delivered an opening address. He said the MES was proud of Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise and Hydro Electric Power Department and Woodland Group for winning awards on engineering and energy saving.

He said MOGE is exploring oil and gas inland and offshore regions for energy requirements. A large amount of natural gas has been found in Yadana and Yedagun natural gas fields and Rakhine coastal region.

ASEAN Engineering Federation presented award for the measures of MOGE, he said. He said hydroelectric power projects being implemented by Hydro Electric Power Department and Woodland Group for winning awards on engineering and energy saving.

ASEAN Centre for Energy presented ASEAN Energy Efficient Building Award 2005 for Mount Popa Resort designed by Woodland Co, he added.

Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung also delivered an address. He said the government was very proud of the department’s efforts and Mount Popa Resort which won the ASEAN Energy Award 2005 for the first time.

Mount Popa Resort is in Kyaukpadaung Township, Myingyan District in central Myanmar. On 24 August, 1989, the Ministry of Forestry launched Mt Popa Garden project for greening and conservation of environment near Mt Popa under the guidance of the Head of State. That was why Popa became an oasis. Construction of Popa Mountain Resort started in 1995 and completed in 1999. Achieve-ment at international level promotes both efficiency of individual and department and technology development, he said.

President of MES U Than Myint presented the awards to Director-General U Win Kyaw of HEPD, Managing Director U Sann Lwin of MOGE and Director-General U Soe Win Hlaing of Forestry Department. Eighteen entrepreneurs donated K 30 million and 2,500 FECs for construction of MES building.

YANGON, 20 Aug —
Constitution of PhaungdawU standing Buddha image in Insein was held at the prayer hall of the Image in Insein this morning.

Present on the occasion were member of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee PhaungdawU Standing Buddha Image Ovdacarinya Sayadaw Insein Ywama Panlattii Monastery Administrator Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Tilokabhivamsa and members of the Sangha, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, local authorities, departmental officials and local people.

Nikaya Monastery Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw Tipitakadhara Dhammaabhivanyagiri Bhaddanta Silak-khandhabhivamsa of Dagon Myothit (South) Township administered the Five Precepts.

Chairman of the Pagoda Board of Trustees Secretary of Insein Township PDC U Myat Thu supplicated on all-round renovation of the Image.

Next, Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung and officials donated alms to the Sayadaws. Afterwards, the minister and officials accepted K 22,603,700 for the image donated by wellwishers and presented certificates of honour to them.

The congregation took the Ovadakatha from Sayadaw Bhaddanta Tilokabhivamsa. Later, member of the State Central Working Committee of the Sangha Ovadacariya of the Image Insein Mahamyawing Pariyati Monastery Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw Bhaddanta Suryi delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits.

Cash donated to the funds for all-round renovation of PhaungdawU standing Buddha Image in Insein

MNA

YANGON Division opens...

(from page 8) The competitions continue till 22 August at Latha township BEHS No 1, Botataung township BEHS No 2, Dagon township BEHS No 2 and Lannmadaw township BEHS No 1.

In Yangon Divi-

sion, 64 students from BEHSs are participating in song contest, 27 in dancing contest and 5 in song composing contest and 80 in music contest. The competitions con-
Japan project aims to create 3D television by 2020

Tokyo, 20 Aug — Imagine watching a football match on a TV that not only shows the players in three dimensions but also lets you experience the smells of the stadium and maybe even pat a goalscorer on the back.

Japan plans to make this futuristic television a commercial reality by 2020 as part of a broad national project that will bring together researchers from the government, technology companies and academia.

The targeted “virtual reality” television would allow people to view high-definition images in 3D from any angle, in addition to being able to touch and smell the objects being projected upwards from a screen parallel to the floor.

“Can you imagine hovering over your TV to watch Japan versus Brazil in the finals of the World Cup as if you are really there?” asked Yoshinori Takeuchi, director of research and development at Japan’s Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications.

While companies, universities and research institutes around the world have made some progress reproducing 3D images suitable for TV, developing the technologies to create the sensations of touch and smell could prove the most challenging.

Takeuchi said in an interview with Reuters.

Researchers are looking into ultrasound, electric stimulation and wind pressure as potential technologies for touch. Such a TV would have a wide range of potential uses.

It could be used in home-shopping programmes, allowing viewers to “feel” a handbag before placing their order, or in the medical industry, enabling doctors to view or even perform simulated surgery on 3D images of someone’s heart.

The future TV is part of a larger national project under which Japan aims to promote “universal communication”, a concept whereby information is shared smoothly and intelligently regardless of location or language.

Takeuchi said an open forum covering a broad range of technologies related to universal communication, such as language translation and advanced web search technologies, could be established by the end of this year.

MNA/Reuters

Rocket narrowly misses US ship in Jordan port

Amman, 20 Aug — Attackers fired a rocket near a US military ship in Jordan’s Aqaba Port on Friday, but the missile missed the vessel and hit a nearby warehouse instead, US military officials said.

“I can confirm that a rocket flew over the bow of USS Ashland and the rocket impacted in the roof of a warehouse. No sailors or Marines were injured,” said Commander Jeff Breslaw of the US Fifth Fleet.

Jordanian Interior Minister Awad Yarfas said the rocket caused little damage to the warehouse and no casualties. “Security forces are investigating the source of the explosion. It was a very weak incident and there was no damage whatsoever,” he told Reuters.

A shipping source confirmed to Reuters there had been no casualties. “There was an explosion at warehouse number five in the main container terminal, which is used for general cargo vessels,” the source said.

The terminal is used for general cargo and visiting vessels, including two US military ships docked there.

Jordan’s Red Sea Resort, once a sleepy port, has seen a surge in tourism and investment in recent years in part because it is seen as safe haven. It is also logistics hub for Iraq used by the US military and for moving commodities.

Yarfas said the blast did not disrupt activities in Aqaba. “Life is normal in Aqaba and there is no panic. Investigations are taking place quietly,” he said. — MNA/Reuters

China holds US citizen accused of spying for Taiwan

Beijing, 20 Aug — China has detained a US citizen on suspicion of spying for ideological foe Taiwan, keeping him under house arrest without charge for nearly three months, the US Embassy in Beijing said on Friday.

Chinese-born Xie Chunren was arrested in the southwestern province of Sichuan on 31 May after he had travelled there from the United States, the embassy spokeswoman said.

“He is currently under residential surveillance under suspicion of espionage for Taiwan,” she said.

China claims the self-ruled island of Taiwan as its own and both sides have been spying on each other since their split at the end of the Chinese civil war in 1949.

The charges have come to light just weeks before Chinese President Hu Jintao makes his first trip to Washington as leader, adding new strains over issues from Taiwan to nuclear weapons.

The United States recognizes the Mainland as China’s sole legitimate government — the “one China” policy — but in a deliberately ambiguous piece of foreign policy is also obliged by law to help Taiwan defend itself.

Xie, who lives in New Jersey, is the latest in a string of Chinese-born American citizens to fall foul of Chinese authorities.

David Ii, the co-founder and chairman of US electronics distributor Apex Digital Inc, was arrested in late 2004 for cheque fraud in a dispute with Changhong Electric Appliance Co Ltd. He was released from custody earlier this week.

Last August, Beijing accused David Dong, a Chinese-American, of spying for Taiwan. Dong has been held since his first trip to the southern city of Guangzhou on a business trip.

Chinese media have said he was recruited by Taiwan military intelligence and received a monthly salary to steal state secrets.

It was not immediately clear if Xie’s detention was related to Dong’s case.

The US Embassy spokeswoman said officials from the consulate in the Sichuan capital Chengdu had visited Xie three times since his detention and had frequent contact with his son in the United States.

MNA/Reuters

Workers for a physical fitness company exercise out in the open street wearing military fatigues during the traditional mid-day lunch break in the Chinese capital of Beijing on 19 August, 2005.

INTERNET

Magnetic stimulation may improve stroke recovery

New York, 20 Aug — The results of a small preliminary trial suggest that a type of magnetic stimulation of the brain — repetitive transcranial magnetic stimulation (rTMS) — may produce short-term improvements after stroke.

With rTMS, the head is placed close to intermittent magnetic fields. No anesthesia is required and the procedure is performed on an outpatient basis. Patients may complain of headache during rTMS, depending on the strength of the field used.

Previous trials of rTMS used to treat depression and movement disorders have yielded mixed results, the study investigators note.

In their current study, reported in the medical journal Neurology, Dr Eman M Khedr, from Assiut University Hospital in Egypt, and colleagues recruited 52 patients within 5 to 10 days of stroke onset. In addition to standard physical and medical therapies, patients were randomly assigned to 10 daily sessions of rTMS or a fake “sham” treatment.

Stimulation was applied intermittently for 10 minutes over the area of the brain in which the stroke occurred.

When evaluated 10 days after the last rTMS session, 35 per cent of those in the rTMS group and 8 per cent in the sham group had a good-to-excellent functional outcome. On the same day, 50 per cent of the treatment patients and 19 per cent of the sham patients exhibited only mild disability.

However, the six patients in the rTMS group and five in the sham group who had massive strokes had no improvement associated with treatment.

Conclusions that can be drawn from this study are limited because of the small number of subjects and short duration of follow-up, Dr Paolo Maria Rossini, at University Campus Biomedico in Rome, and Dr Claiborne S Johnston, from the University of California San Francisco, comment in an accompanying editorial.

While lauding this “new avenue of research,” the editorialists suggest that more studies should be conducted with animals before proceeding to human trials. — MNA/Reuters

HK Customs seize unmanifested electronic products

Hong Kong, 20 Aug — Hong Kong Customs of Lok Ma Chau Control Point seized unmanifested electronic products worth about $2.88 million, and arrested a man (about 370,000 US dollars) in an anti-smuggling operation early Thursday morning, the Customs said in a Press release.

The Customs said in a suspicious car they found 300 computer hard discs bearing suspected forged trade mark and trade description. 3,207 mobile phones of assorted brands, and 2,800 pieces of RAM, worth about $2.88 million Hong Kong dollars in total. — MNA/Xinhua

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Yarfas said the blast did not disrupt activities in Aqaba. “Life is normal in Aqaba and there is no panic. Investigations are taking place quietly,” he said. — MNA/Reuters
Foam problems force NASA to delay shuttle launch

WASHINGTON, 19 Aug—NASA has been forced to delay the next launch of a space shuttle until March 2006 because more time is needed to fix a problem with foam flying off the external fuel tank, space agency officials said on Thursday.

"From an overall standpoint we think really 14 March is the time frame we are looking at," Bill Gerstenmaier, NASA's associate administrator for Space Operations, told a news conference.

The announcement came just a day after some members of an oversight panel accused the agency of compromising safety in the rush to return to flight. NASA is still trying to determine why a large piece of foam broke off the shuttle Discovery's fuel tank during launch last month, Gerstenmaier said.

"The shuttle Columbia was torn apart when it re-entered Earth’s atmosphere on 1 February, 2003, after a piece of foam insulation fell off its tank during launch and damaged its wing. All seven of Columbia's crewmembers were killed."

"The Discovery returned to earth successfully after 14 days in orbit but NASA is working to make repairs to ensure that the problem does not happen again."

"Last week we identified the major areas where foam came off the plane. We are starting to make sense of the data... what the mechanism for the foam loss was," Gerstenmaier said.

Atlantis was scheduled to be the next vehicle to take supplies to the International Space Station and will not now have to do back-to-back missions to carry a heavy truss to the station, said Gerstenmaier, newly appointed to direct NASA's return to human space flight. —MNA/Reuters

Italian jet fighter scrambles to intercept Egyptian plane

ROUX, 19 Aug—Italy's Air Force scrambled an F-16 jet fighter on Wednesday to intercept an Egyptian passenger plane that entered Italian airspace without following appropriate procedures, Italian aviation authorities said.

The Egyptian plane, which was on a flight from Paris to Egypt when it entered Italy's airspace about noon (1000 GMT) without communicating with Italian aviation authorities as required, said Captain Salvatore Demaio of the Air Force's Press office.

The Egyptian plane, which was going to refuel in Brindisi, southern Italy, eventually identified itself to the F-16 jet.

Italy's air safety agency ENAV later said the Egypt plane’s radio system could have broken down.

The Egyptian aircraft was allowed to refuel in Brindisi and it took off for Egypt about three hours later, Demaio said. —MNA/Reuters

Lithuanian President, PM meet Chinese FM

RGA, 19 Aug—Lithuanian President Valdas Adamkus and Prime Minister Algirdas Brazauskas on Thursday met with visiting Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing separately on bilateral ties, according to reports from Vilnius, capital of Lithuania.

Adamkus hailed the relations between Lithuania and China, saying that good momentum has been maintained for the development of the ties in recent years.

He noted that there are no disputes between the two countries and the two sides have had good cooperation in international affairs.

According to reports in the Lithuanian media, the Lithuanian government has been working to improve bilateral relations with China, which is an important trading partner for Lithuania.

The meeting took place against the backdrop of the visit to Lithuania by Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing, who is scheduled to meet with Lithuanian President Valdas Adamkus and Prime Minister Algirdas Brazauskas.

Li said since China and Lithuania established diplomatic ties, the relationship has made steady development.

With bilateral trade exchanges increasing, Lithuania has become the biggest trading partner of China in the Baltic region, the top Chinese diplomat said. —MNA/Reuters

24th China-Japan Student Conference opens

BEIJING, 19 Aug—More than 40 Chinese and Japanese university students gathered in Beijing on Wednesday to discuss such topics as employment, Sino-Japanese friendship and causes for the deterioration of mutual understanding between the people of the two countries.

Altogether, 23 Japanese students and 21 Chinese students joined the 24th China-Japan Student Conference, which opened Wednesday.

During the eight-day meeting, students of both countries are divided in four groups to confer on the topics of China-Japan economy, friendship, life, culture and careers.

The reasons for the deterioration of the two peoples' mutual impressions poses a focus of the meeting. Students will discuss the topic by an exchange of views and through responding to questionnaire, and make a report on the topic at the end of the meeting.

Li Hao, one of the participants, said he holds that the exchanges between the university students of both countries are necessary, for face-to-face exchanges are "more true" than acquiring information from media.

China-Japan Student Conference, set up in 1986, is aimed at promoting exchanges and understanding between the students of the two countries. To date, 14 sessions have been held in China and nine held in Japan. —MNA/Reuters

Turkish plane makes emergency landing in Budapest

BUDAPEST, 19 Aug—A Turkish passenger jet with more than 300 people on board made an emergency landing in Budape- est early on Thursday after reporting that one of its two engines failed, a spokeswoman for Bu- dapest Airport said.

The Fly Air Airbus A300, which was carrying 292 passengers and 11 crew en route from Istanbul to Brussels, landed safely and no injuries were reported.

"The pilot reported that one of its engines failed and the plane made an approach with just one engine," Dolya Farka, a spokeswoman for Buda- pest Airport, the operator of Hungary's largest international airport, told Reuters.

There were no imme- diate indications as to what caused the engine failure. —MNA/Reuters
Kids learn eating and exercise habits from parents

NEW YORK, 19 Aug — Kids whose parents do little to discourage bad eating habits and sedentary activities, such as television and video games, are significantly more likely to grow into overweight or obese young adults, according to new study findings.

And kids do not appear to need to do much to stave off obesity in adulthood, for even those who replaced TV and video games with non-athletic activities such as jobs, marching bands and school clubs were less likely to carry excess weight into adulthood.

“When children are doing anything but sitting on the couch or watching TV... they’re much less likely to become obese,” study author Ashley Fenzl Crossman of Arizona State University in Tempe told Reuters Health.

Crossman presented the findings this weekend at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association in Philadelphia.

As part of the study, Crossman reviewed information collected from 6,400 children between the ages of 12 and 19, who were recontacted six years later. She found that parents who did not monitor their children’s diets and did not make sure their children ate breakfast were more likely to have children who grew up to become overweight or obese.

In an interview, Crossman explained that eating breakfast is important because it appears to boost metabolism, and may prevent children from binge eating later in the day when they get very hungry.

Interestingly, children who were very close with their parents tended to be more likely to become overweight in adulthood. This suggests that these children may get very upset when they move away from their parents, causing them to overeat. Alternatively, children close with their parents may model themselves after parents who do not eat well themselves, Crossman noted.

Children with high self-esteem were less likely to become obese, as were those whose parents had a relatively high level of education. Household income had no effect on children’s later risk of weight gain.

For parents, the overall message of the study is very simple, Crossman noted: “Get (children) off the couch.”

“ISS” crew begins spacewalk

CAPE CANAVERAL (Florida), 19 Aug — The two men serving aboard the International Space Station donned Russian spacesuits and floated outside the orbital complex to begin a six-hour spacewalk on Thursday.

Commander Sergei Krikalev, who turns 47 next week, and flight engineer John Phillips, 54, opened the hatch in the Pirs docking compartment just after 3 pm EDT (1900 GMT) to begin their first spacewalk since arriving at the station four months ago.

Krikalev, a Russian cosmonaut who is making his eighth spacewalk, immediately tackled the first task on the to-do list and retrieved a Russian medical experiment. Phillips, a US astronaut making his first spacewalk, remained in the airlock to prepare equipment and adapt to the new environment.

“I feel great,” Phillips radioed in Russian to ground control teams outside of Moscow.

The men are scheduled to retrieve and replace several other experiments stashed on the outside of the complex, photograph a materials science experiment and retrieve radiation sensors.

They also plan to install a television camera that will be needed when Europe’s new cargo vessel makes its debut flight to the station next year.

The final task of the spacewalk will be to relocate a grapple fixture for a crane from outside the Zarya navigation and communications module and reposition it on the Unity connecting node.

Moving the gear will clear space for the next shuttle crew to deliver additional shields which are to be installed on the Zvezda module by a future station crew. Zvezda houses the living quarters.

Children who eat fries raise breast cancer risk

WASHINGTON, 19 Aug — Very young children who eat French fries frequently have a much higher risk of breast cancer as adults, US researchers reported on Wednesday.

A study of American nurses found that one additional serving of fries per week at ages three to five increased breast cancer risk by 27 per cent.

“Researchers are finding more evidence that diet early in life could play a role in the development of diseases in women later in life,” said Dr. Karin Michels, of Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston and Harvard Medical School, who led the study.

“This study provides additional evidence that breast cancer may originate during the early phases of a woman’s life and that eating habits during that phase may be particularly important to reduce future risk of breast cancer.”

For their study, Michels and colleagues used an ongoing survey of female registered nurses. They studied 582 women with breast cancer and 1,569 women free of breast cancer in 1993.

Writing in the International Journal of Cancer, the researchers said they looked at the women’s diets and at questionnaires filled out by the mothers of the participants.

One risk factor for breast cancer stood out: women whose mothers who said their daughters ate French fries had a higher risk of breast cancer. This increased 27 per cent for each weekly serving reportedly eaten.

HK successfully utilize ultrasonic scissors for tongue tumour resection

HONG KONG, 19 Aug — The University of Hong Kong announced on Thursday a study result that ultrasonic scissors can achieve better surgical outcome than traditional tongue tumour treatments.

The Faculty of Medicine of the university has successfully performed glossectomy, the surgical removal of tongue, with the use of the ultrasonic scissors in 14 patients since January 2004.

Satisfactory results were obtained while the patients had nearly zero blood loss and none of them developed post-operative complication. The observation results were recently published in an international medical journal Head and Neck in August 2005.

According to information given by the university, conventional surgical methods for the removal of tongue tumour utilize knife, scissors, diathermy or laser. Those methods can cause severe burn to the wound, resulting in more post-operative pain, inflammation, speech, swelling and potential wound healing problems.

Statistics from the Hong Kong Hospital Authority showed that there are about 130 new tongue cancer patients every year.

Carcinoma of tongue is more common in men than in women and is associated with chronic consumption of tobacco and alcohol, betel nut chewing and irradiation. Early symptoms include persistently painful tongue ulcer, white or red discoloration.
Olympic champion Hidayat reaches world semis

ANAHEIM (California), 20 Aug—Reigning Olympic champion Taufik Hidayat staged a stirring comeback to defeat second-seed Kenneth Johansson in a men's singles quarterfinal at the world badminton championships on Friday.

Roddy Ginepri

Top seed Federer let slip an early lead in the first set when his Argentine opponent Jose Acasuso recovered from 3-0 down to 3-3. But once the Swiss, in his first event since he won a third consecutive Wimbledon doubles title, had taken the first set it was plain sailing as he clinched a 6-4, 6-3 victory. He will meet Ginepri in the last four after Safin, who had impressed in his victory over Dominik Hrbaty in the previous round, was dumped out by American wildcard Robby Ginepri.

Federer rolls into semis, Ginepri upsets Safin

CINCINNATI, 20 Aug—World number one Roger Federer rolled into the semifinals of the Cincinnati Masters on Friday when fourth seed Marat Safin was dumped out by American wildcard Robby Ginepri.

Roger Federer, see here, has lined up a semifinal with the hottest of the current American hopes, crushing Jose Acasuso 6-4, 6-3 to storm into title contention at the 2.45-million-dollar ATP Cincinnati Masters. —INTERNET

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Bulgarians discover 5,000-year-old hoard of gold

SOFIA, 20 Aug — Bulgarian archaeologists have unearthed thousands of intricate gold artefacts from the 3rd millennium BC, remnants of a so far unknown but highly advanced civilization.

Discovered by a farmer, the trove showed that a mysterious Bronze Age civilization in the heart of modern Bulgaria produced and traded elaborate gold jewellery, said Bozhidar Dimitrov, head of Bulgaria’s National History Museum.

“We can conclude that around 5,000 years ago, the centre of an until now unknown civilization was here and it exported processed gold in Central Europe, the Balkan Peninsula and Anatolia on a massive scale,” he told Reuters on Thursday.

Similar gold pieces had been found in other countries and they were assumed to have come from ancient Troy, but it now appeared the production centre was in Bulgaria, he added.

So far, his team has recovered more than 15,000 gold items, mainly tiny beads and spirals of fine workmanship, from three mounds near Dabane in central Bulgaria, about 130 kilometres (80 miles) west of Sofia.

“I think by the end of the year, we will have found around 100,000 items,” he said.

The hoard is the most recent in a series of important finds in the Black Sea country, which has seen a revival in the study of its ancient history since the end of Communist rule in 1989. Since last year, archaeologists have unearthed a solid gold mask the size of a dinner plate, a golden wreath, and many other items from tombs dating to the 5th Century BC which have been hailed as significant finds in classical antiquity.

They are attributed to the Thracians, people with no written history who lived in what is now Bulgaria, Romania, Macedonia, Turkey and Greece from as early as 4,000 BC until the Romans absorbed them at about the time of Christ.

The latest discovery was the work of a people preceding the Thracians, said Dimitrov, who stumbled on the find by chance.

One day last year, two of Dimitrov’s young archaeologists were buying cigarettes in a small shop when they saw a woman with a finely-wrought gold necklace.

The woman said her husband, a farmer, had found it in a field where he ploughed with his tractor.

Seven Cypriots die in Egyptian minibus accident

CAIRO, 20 Aug — Seven Cypriots died and six more were injured when a burst tyre sent their tourist minibus tumbling down a mountain road in Egypt on Friday, officials said.

Medical and police officials on the Sinai Peninsula said the Egyptian driver was also injured when the bus turned over several times on the mountainous road from St Katherine’s monastery towards the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh.

“There are seven dead. The minibus had a head-on collision with another vehicle,” said Dimitrov, who stum- bled on the find by chance.

One day last year, two of Dimitrov’s young archaeologists were buying cigarettes in a small shop when they saw a woman with a finely-wrought gold necklace.

The woman said her husband, a farmer, had found it in a field where he ploughed with his tractor.

WEATHER

Saturday, 20 August, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain has been scattered in Kachin, Kayah, Shan States, lower Sagain and Mandalay Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with locally heavy falls in Rakhine State and isolated heavyfall in Mon State. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Kyauktaw (3.98) inches, Thanlwe (3.78) inches, Thatan (3.54) inches, Toungoo (1.57) inches, Magway (0.59) inch, Minbu (0.55) inch.

Maximum temperature on 19-8-2005 was 84°F. Minimum temperature on 20-8-2005 was 67°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 20-8-2005 was 93%. Total sunshine hours on 19-8-2005 was nil.

Rainfalls on 20-8-2005 were 0.71 inch at Mingaladon, 0.47 inch at Kaba-Aye, 1.89 inches at central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were 67.56 inches at Mingaladon, 69.33 inches at Kaba-Aye and 73.70 inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 12 mph from Southwest at (14:30) hours MST on 19-8-2005.

Bay inference: Monsoon is strong in the North and Central Bay and moderate elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 21-8-2005: Rain will be isolated in Mandalay and lower Sagain Divisions, scattered in Kayah and Shan States, Magway Division and widespread in the remaining areas with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Rakhine State. Degree of certainty is 80%.

State of the sea: Temporary squalls with rough seas are likely off and along Rakhine Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) to (40) mph. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Moderate monsoon.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 21-8-2005: Some rain. Degree of certainty is 80%. Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 21-8-2005: Likelihood of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is 60%.
ייענין מועטים של מייער מים

*Kyaunktaw* (3.98) אינץ
*Thandwe* (3.78) אינץ
*Thaton* (3.54) אינץ
*Toungoo* (1.57) אינץ
*Magway* (0.59) אינץ
*Minbu* (0.55) אינץ

לגיון מונגبو נבדל ב 그렇 קושבуж

*ishops Village of Mudon Township, near Mawlamyine-Mudon-Thanbyuzayat Road, yesterday morning. At the briefing hall, he heard reports on extension of rubber plantations in Mon State and land reclamation for new rubber plantations. Officials briefed him on data collection for extended cultivation of rubber plantations and arrangements for meeting (See page 8)

**Yangon Division opens 13th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts competitions**

Yangon, 20 Aug — The 13th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts competitions (Basic education level) of Yangon Division commenced at the BEHS No. 6, Botahtatang township, here this morning.

The opening ceremony was attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and wife, Chairman of the committee for organizing the competitions No. 4 Military Region Commander Col Hla Aye, departmental heads of the Ministry of Education, local authorities, school heads, teachers and judges of the competitions.

Patron of the committee Director General of the Basic Education Department (Yangon City) U Aye Kyu formally opened the contests.

Speaking on the occasion, the commander said it is very important to nurture the students of basic education level for their mental development. That is why they are to be trained to preserve Myanmar’s genuine culture. Measures are to be taken for the implementation of the seven objectives of the competitions, he said. In cooperation with maestros and officials of the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Culture, the Yangon Division PDC conducted courses in last April and May for the Yangon Division to keep up its status of victory. He praised the maestros for their systematic teaching of performing arts skills to new generation students. That will be very beneficial to the State and the people, he added.

Next, Director (Education) of the No. 3 BED U Aung Chein explained the purpose of the competition (See page 10)

**Victorious Myanmar soccer team arrives today**

Yangon, 20 Aug — The Myanmar selected youth team that emerged champion in the ASEAN U-20 Youth Championship 2005 will arrive here tomorrow afternoon by air.

The victorious Myanmar selected youth team will be welcomed from Yangon International Airport to Youth Training Centre (Thuwunna) along Pyay Road until Thuwunna Sports Ground through 8th mile junction, Hledan junction, Hanthawady Roundabout and Tamway Roundabout.

Myanmar U-17 team which will participate in the ASEAN U-17 Youth Championship to be held in Thailand will play a friendly match against the victorious team at the Thuwunna Sports Ground and the ceremony to honour the Myanmar selected youth team will be held.

MNA