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

Four political objectives
- Political stability and continuity of the leadership of the State
- Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
- 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 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

Secretary-1 Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein attends donation ceremonies for monasteries, nunnery in South Okkalapa, Hline Townships

Yangon, 21 Aug — Families of Defence Services (Army, Navy and Air) and wellwishers donated rice, edible oil, salt, medicines, gram and cash to 17 monasteries in South Okkalapa Township and 15 monasteries and one nunnery in Hline Township this afternoon, attended by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

At Maha Muni Dhammayon of Okkalapa Pagoda in South Okkalapa Township, the donation ceremony was held at 1 pm. Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein offered alms to Chairman of South Okkalapa Township Sangha Nayaka Committee Sayadaw Bhaddanta Nandamala.

Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Maung, Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa and senior military officers donated provisions to the Sayadaws.

Next, Vice-Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Hla Shwe, Chief of Staff (Navy) Commodore Nyan Tun and Colonel General Staff (Air) Col Nay Win presented offerings donated by Tatmadaw families to members of the Sangha. Similarly, wellwishers offered cash and kind to the Sayadaws.

Afterwards, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Ministers Maj-Gen Sein Htwa and Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa and senior military officers accepted donations for the monasteries from wellwishers.

Colonel General Staff (Air) Col Nay Win supplicated on the purpose of the donations.

Sayadwa Bhaddanta Dhammadinna of Ngwekyaryen Pariyatti Monastery delivered a sermon, and the Secretary-1 and party shared merits gained.

Today’s donations for monasteries in South Okkalapa Township were 402 bags of rice, 1,595 viss of edible oil, 1,595 viss of iodized salt, 319 tubes of tooth paste, 287 viss of gram, 12,482 bottles of traditional medicines, 4,194 bars of soap, 75 litres of fish sauce, 848 viss of dry fish, 600 packets of vermicelli, 480 boxes of mosquito coils, 100 pictures of

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

**Monday, 22 August, 2005**

**Maintain momentum of already-achieved success**

Development of human resources plays a pivotal role in building a peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation. In the same way, advancement of technology is indispensable for development of human resources.

Therefore, the government has laid down education promotion programmes and is implementing them to develop human resources—intellectuals and technocrats. With the active participation of intellectuals and technocrats produced from the education sector remarkable progress has been made in such sectors as agricultural, fish and meat, forest and energy. The Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, under the Ministry of Energy, the Hydroelectric Power Department under the Ministry of Electric Power and the Woodland Group under the Ministry of Forestry won ASEAN Engineering Outstanding Awards for 2004 and ASEAN Energy Award for 2005. For the State and the people these achievements are something to be proud of.

Exploring oil and gas inland and offshore regions for meeting the energy requirements, the MOGE struck a large amount of natural gas in Yadana and Yedagun natural gas fields and Rakhine coastal region. The ASEAN Engineering Federation presented the award for the success of MOGE.

Likewise, the successful implementation of hydel power projects in various parts of the nation by the HPD will contribute much to industrial development and will serve the interest of the national people. In this regard, the ASEAN Engineering Federation presented the award to MOGE.

The achievements of Myanmar in the international competitions would enhance both efficiency of individuals and the department concerned as well as the momentum of technological development. Moreover, more engineers, architects and environmentalists will emerge.

Therefore, we would like to call upon intellectuals and technocrats who are engaged in development of human resources and industrial development to do their bit in building a modern and developed nation, while maintaining the momentum of the already-achieved success.

---

**People’s Desire**

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

**Bonus presented to employees under Yangon Division All Bus Lines Control Committee**

**YANGON, 21 Aug** — A ceremony to present prizes to conscientious and honest workers of bus lines under the All Bus Lines Control Committee (Yangon Division) for 2004-2005 financial year, took place at the committee’s office on Laydaun Kkhan Road in Tamway Township this morning, attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Supervisory Committee for Ensuring Smooth and Secure Transport Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe.

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe delivered an address. In his speech, he said that there are over 2,100 buses under the supervision of the committee. Among them, over 1,800 buses carry over 2,4 branches. Next, Yangon Station Command Brig-Gen Myint Myint and officials presented prizes to 383 bus owners, 383 drivers and 383 conductors from 107 bus lines.

Afterwards, the commander presented bonus for the bus owners, workers and staff of the bus lines branches. Next, Yangon Station Commander Brig-Gen Myint Myint and officials presented prizes to 383 bus owners, 383 drivers and 383 conductors from 107 bus lines.

Later, officials awarded K 795,000 to 120 honest workers from the bus lines and the meeting ended.

---

**MWEA’s annual general meeting held**

**YANGON, 21 Aug** — The 10th Annual General Meeting of the Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs Association - MWEA took place at Sedona Hotel here today.

Chairperson of the Association Thiri Thu-dhamma Theini winner of Award for Excellent Performance in Social Field (First Class) Daw Khin Myint Myint and adviser Professor Daw Yi Yi Myint delivered addresses. At the meeting, Secretary of the Association Daw Hla Wady read out the annual report of the association.

The Vice-Chairperson, the joint secretary and three members of the association also presented papers on the association’s achievements in a decade.

The Vice-Chairperson winner of Award for Excellent Performance for Social Field (Second Class) Daw Thet Yi expressed gratitude.

The meeting came to an end in the afternoon, and the association’s annual dinner was held in the evening at Sedona Hotel. A total of 400 members of the association and guests attended the meeting.

---

**Myanmar divers bag one gold, three silver, two bronze**

**YANGON, 21 Aug** — Myanmar youth divers have swept one gold, three silver and two bronze in the Fourth Asian Age-wise Swimming and Diving Championship held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 19 August to date.

Naw El Sai Hti secured one gold in the women’s 3-m spring board diving event and Khin Lay Nu one silver. Soe Sandra Nyunt won a silver in the women’s 1-m spring board diving event and Naw El Sai Hti one bronze.

A total of 50 men and 34 women swimmers from Myanmar, Macao, Kuwait, China (Taipei), Qatar, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Kirgizstan, India, Hong Kong, Iran, Malaysia and Vietnam took part in the championship. Now, the events of the championship continue. — **ALM**

---

**All this needs to be known**

- Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
- Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
- Do not be softened whenever approached

---

**MMA to hold medical talks**

**YANGON, 21, Aug —** Organized by General Practitioners Society of Myanmar Medical Association, the talks on Toward Better Care For Diabetics from theories to practice will be held at MMA at 9 am on 27 August in Mingala Taungnyunt Township.

Prof Than Than Aye and Dr Tint Swe Latt will attend it.

---

**Myanmar youth divers**

Two silver medalist Khin Lay Nu. — **NMA**

---

**MMA** to hold medical talks

**YANGON, 21, Aug —** Organized by General Practitioners Society of Myanmar Medical Association, the talks on Toward Better Care For Diabetics from theories to practice will be held at MMA at 9 am on 27 August in Mingala Taungnyunt Township.

Prof Than Than Aye and Dr Tint Swe Latt will attend it, and anyone interested in the talks may attend it.

---

**Myanmar divers bag one gold, three silver, two bronze**

**YANGON, 21 Aug** — Myanmar youth divers have swept one gold, three silver and two bronze in the Fourth Asian Age-wise Swimming and Diving Championship held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 19 August to date.

Naw El Sai Hti secured one gold in the women’s 3-m spring board diving event and Khin Lay Nu one silver. Soe Sandra Nyunt won a silver in the women’s 1-m spring board diving event and Naw El Sai Hti one bronze.

A total of 50 men and 34 women swimmers from Myanmar, Macao, Kuwait, China (Taipei), Qatar, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Kirgizstan, India, Hong Kong, Iran, Malaysia and Vietnam took part in the championship. Now, the events of the championship continue. — **ALM**

---
Khamenei says Iran not interested in nuclear arms

TEHERAN, 20 Aug — Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on Friday reiterated that the Islamic state had no interest in atomic arms but would never halt its nuclear programme.

Addressing worshippers at Friday prayers at Teheran University, Khamenei accused Western officials of misleading public opinion by suggesting that Iran was secretly building nuclear weapons.

"They talk as if Iran seeks nuclear weapons and that they oppose it," he said in a sermon broadcast live on state radio. "That is lie and they know it. They use it to deceive their own public opinion.

"There's no talk about nuclear weapons in Iran. We don't want nuclear weapons," he said. "They make a propaganda lies about a global consensus against Iran," he added. "There is no global consensus against Iran and even if there was, our nation wouldn't abandon its rights."

Iran, which says its nuclear facilities will only be used to generate electricity, upped the ante in its nuclear standoff with the West earlier this month, resuming uranium conversion — a preliminary step in the process to make fuel for nuclear reactors or bomb-grade nuclear explosive.

The board of the UN's atomic watchdog has called on Iran to halt uranium conversion. Iran says it will not and insists it will soon resume the most sensitive part of the process — uranium enrichment.

Displaying a grasp of technical issues, Khamenei said Iran wanted to enrich uranium to a grade useable in atomic reactors but not to the higher grade needed to make atomic bombs.

"We want to produce the fuel for our power plants by ourselves, and they say don't. "They say buy the fuel from us. What does that mean? It means we should stay dependent. They want the Iranian nation to stay dependent on the powers which produce nuclear power," he said.

The European Union has called on Iran to resume the suspension of nuclear fuel activities to build trust, a suggestion Khamenei rejected.

Central nations support Japan's UNSC bid

TOKYO, 20 Aug — Japan won seven critical votes for its campaign to win a permanent seat on the Security Council on Thursday when a group of Central American nations agreed to support its bid to modify the UN Charter.

Leaders of Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Panama and Dominican Republic agreed to back Japan's plan which is co-sponsored by Germany, Brazil and India, the so-called G-4 countries.

"Japan's request to join the Security Council is absolutely legitimate," Nicaraguan Vice-President Jose Rizo Castellon told journalists in Tokyo.

In exchange Japan has committed itself to invest heavily in Central American infrastructure projects and help train its security forces as the region struggles to strengthen its young democracies, Central American diplomatic sources said.

Earlier this month momentum for change on the Security Council was crippled after the 53-member African Union refused to join forces with the G-4. That decision prompted UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan to move a target date for expansion from September to December.

The Council currently has 10 non-permanent seats, rotating for two-year terms, and five permanent members with veto power — United States, Russia, Britain, China and France.

To begin the Council expansion, the 191-member General Assembly must approve any change by a two-thirds vote, each member casting one vote.

Central American diplomats said support for Japan's UN ambitions was a small price to pay at time in which they are desperately seeking greater international recognition.

For much of its history Central America has been ravaged by civil war, regional rivalries and corrupt governments which combined to make it one of the poorest regions of Latin America.

Speaking at a meeting with Japanese business leaders Costa Rican President Abel Pacheco de la Espriella sought to assuage Japanese concern over corruption and security threats in the region. — MNA/Reuters

Two more arrested in Red Sea explosions case

CAIRO, 20 Aug — Egyptian police have arrested two more men suspected of being members of the group behind three explosions which killed at least 64 people in the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh last month, security sources said on Friday.

The sources, who asked not to be named, said the two men, named as Hassan el-Arayshi and Abdel Hadi Mahmoud Hamida, were arrested in the Sinai Peninsula. They did not give the circumstances of the arrests.

The arrests bring to at least five the total number of people arrested on suspicion of carrying out the 23 July attacks, the most deadly in Egypt for more than 20 years. The state newspaper al-Ahram said on Sunday that police had arrested three suspected members of the group and had found about a ton of high explosives at a farm near the north Sinai town of el Arish.

A group suspected of attacking three tourist targets in Sinai last October

At least one woman hurt in San Francisco explosion

SAN FRANCISCO, 20 Aug — An explosion in San Francisco's central financial district on Friday injured at least one woman, and police closed several city blocks while they searched cause of the blast.

A police spokesman said it may have been an underground explosion. An electrical transformer could have been the cause of the explosions, one official said. Witnesses reported a large bang shortly before 10 am near Post and Kearny streets in front of a Ralph Lauren store in the central business district. — MNA/Reuters

1,865 US troops killed in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 20 Aug — As of Saturday, 20 Aug, 2005, at least 1,865 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,447 died as a result of hostile action, according to the military's numbers. The figures include five military civilians.

Since 1 May, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,726 US military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 1,338 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.
Danish firm admits paying Iraq oil-for-food kickbacks

COPENHAGEN, 20 Aug — A Danish maker of industrial pumps, Grundfos, on Friday admitted paying kickbacks to authorities in Saddam Hussein's Iraq under the UN oil-for-food programme.

“We deeply regret that two employees have taken part in bribery in connection with Grundfos’ sales of pumps under the oil-for-food programme,” Grundfos Chief Executive Jens Joergen Madsen said in a statement.

The company said an internal investigation in May 2004 had revealed that the employees had paid bribes to Iraqi authorities in 2001-2002 to win two orders. It fired them and notified the Danish Foreign Ministry and the United Nations about the matter.

The company, which sold products worth up to 100 million Danish crowns (16 million US dollars) under the oil-for-food plan during 1996-2003, declined to comment on the size of the bribes.

Earlier this month BenoSevan, former head of the 67-billion-US-dollar oil-for-food humanitarian plan for Iraq, was accused of receiving nearly 150,000 US dollars in kickbacks, and UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan last week ordered a broad independent review of the world body’s procurement practices.

Grundfos has been contacted by the UN in the investigation of the oil-for-food programme being conducted by former chairman of the US Federal Reserve Paul Volcker.

“We have done everything to openly cooperate with the United Nations in New York to end the case in a satisfactory way,” Grunmadsen said.

Lucent CEO says prospects bright for Sino-US economic, trade ties

WASHINGTON, 20 Aug — Patricia Russo, Chairman and CEO of Lucent Technologies, one of the major telecommunications firms in the United States, has said that the prospects of the economic and trade relations between China and the United States are bright.

She also said that the economy between the two nations complement each other in important ways and the bilateral trade will increase over time.

“Without a doubt, the prospects of China-US economic and trade relations are bright,” Russo said in a written interview with Xinhua.

Lucent Technologies opened its business in China in 1985 and has since witnessed great changes taking place in China over the past two decades.

“We have seen China’s economy growing at 8-9% over the past few years and in particular within the telecom industry there has been rapid developments in technology and innovation enhancements,” Russo said.

Pointing to the fact that China today is a country with about 700 million subscribers, with about 100 million new users being added annually, Russo said that her company “can help the continued growth of China’s telecom industry” by partnering with the Chinese Government and service operators, leveraging Bell Labs innovation technology and local resources.

Russo, who would make her trip to China next month, said that Lucent’s goal is to build on the success of the past and deepen the trust and confidence it has enjoyed with customers and suppliers in China.

As economic and trade relations between China and the United States have increased, trade disputes have also grown over the past years. Russo regards these disputes as “products of success” in bilateral trade.

“I think it is very important to recognize that these disputes are the product of success in the economic relationship, not failure,” she said.

“Trade disputes are the normal product of growth in trade. If China had not taken the courageous steps to reform its economy, open itself to foreign participation, and join the global trade system, we wouldn’t have disputes,” she added.

Speaking of the trade imbalance between China and the United States, she said that this is “in part because so many US and foreign invested firms are making products (in China) for sale to the US. The US Experience teaches us that this imbalance can and should be rectified over time.”

She also expressed her confidence in the Chinese Government’s intentions of setting the implementation of WTO obligations as its high priorities.

SSA Global Technologies to invest $4m in India

HYDERABAD, 20 Aug — Enterprise solutions and services provider SSA Global Technologies Inc will invest four million US dollars in India over the next 12 months.

“The investment in India will expand our headcount and space in Hyderabad development centre to make it account for 50 per cent of our global design activity,” SSA Global president and CEO Michael E Greenough told reporters here on Thursday.

The company has major plans for organic and inorganic growth.

“We have closed a deal to acquire city-based software firm, Boniva Software Inc, last week,” Michael said.

Boniva’s product in human capital management would now become a part of SSA and the founder would continue to be with SSA, he added.

He, however, declined to announce the deal. SSA would continue to be with SSA, he added.

He, however, declined to announce the deal.

Both the companies would be investing four million dollars over the next 12 months.

“Experience teaches us that trade relationship is like manufacturing where one’s cost is another’s revenue,” she added.

She also expressed her confidence in the Chinese Government’s intentions of setting the implementation of WTO obligations as its high priorities.

MNA/Xinhua

Intel, NIIT join hands to train 50,000 IT pros in three years

NEW DELHI, 20 Aug — Taking their partnership forward, Indian computer education major NIIT and Intel on Thursday joined hands to train 50,000 IT professionals over the next three years by introducing specialized training programme on Intel technologies for software developers and architects.

Initially, the training programme will focus on multi-core processing in 10 select centres of NIIT and in the long run the programme will be extended to around 50,000 students which is 10 per cent of India’s current IT workforce over the next three years, said NIIT’s Chairman Rajendra S Pawar.

The upper-end of the courseware meant for CEOs and CIOs of IT companies is fee-free while for developers and architects it would be fee based. Pawar did not reveal the cost for these courses.

The programme which would do away with “Hour Glass” by performing multi task at the same time would also be taken to other Asia Pacific countries including China at a later stage.

Intel India’s President Ketan Sampat said Intel was in discussion with operating systems vendors like Microsoft, OEMs, engineers and packaged software companies to offer the courses in a holistic manner.

Intel has a 10-per cent stake in NIIT through Intel Capital and is also a partner in the school education project. — MNA/PTI

20 injured in grenade attack in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 23 Aug — The US military says attackers threw two grenades into a crowd in the Iraqi city of Fallujah, injuring 20 people.

US officials said on Saturday, they had received no reports of Iraqi military casualties in the attack. But hospital sources said three Iraqi soldiers were injured.

Meanwhile, an American soldier was killed when his vehicle struck an explosive device in Baghdad.

And gunmen injured the head of Iraq’s border guard, Major General Ali Hamadi, who was driving in the Iraqi capital.

Indian children refresh themselves in a fountain in Baghdad, on 20 August, 2005. Temperatures in Iraq are reaching over 45˚C (114˚ F). — INTERNET

Firefighters from Singapore spray water to douse remaining fires on a peat land in Rokan Hilir, Riau Province, Sumatra island, Indonesia, on 20 August, 2005. — INTERNET
Kenya to host World Lakes Conf in October

Nairobi, 20 Aug — Kenya will host an international conference on the conservation and management of lakes in October this year, officials disclosed here on Thursday.

The 11th World Lakes Conference (WLC) to be held from 31 October to 4 November will bring together over 1,500 delegates from around the globe, said Kenyan Minister for Water and Irrigation Martha Karua.

Addressing a news conference in Nairobi, Karua said the conference will review progress on the ongoing lake basin initiatives as well as set future goals for lake basin management in general and Africa in particular.

Karua said the meeting will bring together diverse groups of people and organizations dealing with lakes to provide a rich forum for exchange of knowledge and experiences on the management of lakes in the world.

“The conference will raise an alarm on the need to conserve this rich natural endowment of Kenyan lakes thereby raising local and international awareness,” the minister said.

She said the meeting whose theme is “Management of Lake Basins for their Sustainable Use: Global Experiences and African Issues” is organized by the Kenya Government in collaboration with the International Lakes and Environment Committee (ILEC).

Karua said the conference will place Kenyan lakes and their rich biodiversity on an international platform thereby attracting sustainable exploitation for economic returns.

The conference which is held every two years will attract representatives from governments, scientists, research institutions, lake management organizations stakeholders and young water professionals.

This will be the first time that the conference will take place on the African continent.

Previous conferences have been held in Japan, the United States, Hungary, China, Italy, Argentina and Denmark.

Water experts say African lakes contribute significantly to socio-economic development of the African region. However, the lakes are subject to high levels of rapid population growth, urbanization, industrialization, mining development, growth of irrigated agriculture, and impacts of climate change.

“These pressures have altered ecosystem processes and resulted in several threats on the lakes including: loss of biodiversity, over-fishing, eutrophication, proliferation of invasive weeds, siltation, toxic contamination and over-abstraction of water,” said an expert.

— MNA/Xinhua

Top Army General says current US troop levels may be needed in Iraq through 2009

WASHINGTON, 20 Aug—The US Army’s top general says the Army is planning for the possibility of keeping the current number of troops in Iraq — well over 100,000 — for four more years.

General Peter Schoomaker told the Associated Press on Saturday he was confident the Army could continue on its July agriculture minister said output of hard winter wheat, used among the worst hit European countries suffering from drought, tapas have run dry in 43 towns and the quality of drinking water in scattered areas is worsening, according to the government’s Water Institute.

In a sign of the drought’s impact, the National Statistics Institute said output of hard winter wheat, used in bread, had fallen 95 per cent from last year’s harvest, to 9,000 tons. Overall grain output was down 60 per cent, “confirming the current grains season as the worst in recent decades”, the agency said in its July agriculture forecast.

Joao Machado, head of the Farmers’ Confederation of Portugal, called for greater government assistance for the agricultural sector. “This drought is so severe that it’s going to affect all national production this year. We’re going to see how it is already affecting next year’s output through shortage of water,” he told private TTSF radio.

The southern coast’s Algarve Region, a playground for millions of tourists, has already cut water use by a fifth by shutting pools and fountains go dry.

But Macario Correia, head of the regional metropolitan board, warned that the area would face a water shortage next year if winter rains failed again.

“For next summer, the solution is to save water and obviously to hope that it rains. But hoping is not enough,” he told TTSF.

He added that the area might have to turn to desalination plants and to piping water from distant reservoirs in coming years.

All of the Iberian nation of 10 million people is in severe or extreme drought, the Water Institute said in a routine report.

About 54,000 people are getting water from tanker trucks as local sources go dry, it said.

Forest fires have averaged more than 100 a day this year and burned about 114,000 hectares (285,000 acres) of woodland through Sunday, more than all of 2004, according to Agriculture Ministry numbers.

Ottawa police begin issuing high-tech tickets

OTTAWA, 20 Aug — Ottawa police become the first in Canada to patrol with e-ticketing systems on Thursday, using a handheld electronic ticketing system instead of a pen and a piece of paper.

The small machine with a “ticket citation” software helps make issuing traffic tickets faster and more accurate.

All an officer has to do is swipe a driver’s licence and the information, such as licence number, expiry date and date of violation, will begin filling in the ticketing template.

“The violations are all preformatted. And one of the features here is that we’ve got the approved wording from the ministry,” Ottawa police Chief Vince Bevan explained to TV viewers early on Thursday.

The system ensures that a typographic or poor penmanship helps prevent some drivers escape their penalty.

In studies that have been done elsewhere, up to 20 per cent of tickets are thrown out because they turn out to be illegible or there are small mistakes that are made on the tickets.

What is more, data that used to go on paper back to headquarters now is beamend from the handheld device or from an in-car laptop to the station.

Along with Portugal’s worst drought on record has wiped out the wheat crop and is threatening the country’s richest tourism region, authorities said on Thursday.

With Portugal among the worst hit European countries suffering from drought, taps have run dry in 43 towns and the quality of drinking water in scattered areas is worsening, according to the government’s Water Institute.

In a sign of the drought’s impact, the National Statistics Institute said output of hard winter wheat, used in bread, had fallen 95 per cent from last year’s harvest, to 9,000 tons. Overall grain output was down 60 per cent, “confirming the current grains season as the worst in recent decades”, the agency said in its July agriculture forecast.

Joao Machado, head of the Farmers’ Confederation of Portugal, called for greater government assistance for the agricultural sector. “This drought is so severe that it’s going to affect all national production this year. We’re going to see how it is already affecting next year’s output through shortage of water,” he told private TTSF radio.

The southern coast’s Algarve Region, a playground for millions of tourists, has already cut water use by a fifth by shutting pools and fountains go dry.

But Macario Correia, head of the regional metropolitan board, warned that the area would face a water shortage next year if winter rains failed again.

“For next summer, the solution is to save water and obviously to hope that it rains. But hoping is not enough,” he told TTSF.

He added that the area might have to turn to desalination plants and to piping water from distant reservoirs in coming years.

All of the Iberian nation of 10 million people is in severe or extreme drought, the Water Institute said in a routine report.

About 54,000 people are getting water from tanker trucks as local sources go dry, it said.

Forest fires have averaged more than 100 a day this year and burned about 114,000 hectares (285,000 acres) of woodland through Sunday, more than all of 2004, according to Agriculture Ministry numbers.

— MNA/Reuters

Drought wipes out Portugal wheat, tourist area at risk

LISBON, 20 Aug — Portugal’s worst drought on record has wiped out the wheat crop and is threatening the country’s richest tourism region, authorities said on Thursday.

Portugal’s worst drought on record has wiped out the wheat crop and is threatening the country’s richest tourism region, authorities said on Thursday.

With Portugal among the worst hit European countries suffering from drought, taps have run dry in 43 towns and the quality of drinking water in scattered areas is worsening, according to the government’s Water Institute.

In a sign of the drought’s impact, the National Statistics Institute said output of hard winter wheat, used in bread, had fallen 95 per cent from last year’s harvest, to 9,000 tons. Overall grain output was down 60 per cent, “confirming the current grains season as the worst in recent decades”, the agency said in its July agriculture forecast.

Joao Machado, head of the Farmers’ Confederation of Portugal, called for greater government assistance for the agricultural sector. “This drought is so severe that it’s going to affect all national production this year. We’re going to see how it is already affecting next year’s output through shortage of water,” he told private TTSF radio.

The southern coast’s Algarve Region, a playground for millions of tourists, has already cut water use by a fifth by shutting pools and fountains go dry.

But Macario Correia, head of the regional metropolitan board, warned that the area would face a water shortage next year if winter rains failed again.

“For next summer, the solution is to save water and obviously to hope that it rains. But hoping is not enough,” he told TTSF.

He added that the area might have to turn to desalination plants and to piping water from distant reservoirs in coming years.

All of the Iberian nation of 10 million people is in severe or extreme drought, the Water Institute said in a routine report.

About 54,000 people are getting water from tanker trucks as local sources go dry, it said.

Forest fires have averaged more than 100 a day this year and burned about 114,000 hectares (285,000 acres) of woodland through Sunday, more than all of 2004, according to Agriculture Ministry numbers.

— MNA/Reuters

UN says Bulgarian floods cause $633m in damage

UNITED NATIONS, 20 Aug — More than a quarter of Bulgaria’s 7.4 million people have been touched by flooding that has killed 20 and caused some $633 million US dollars in damage, the United Nations said on Thursday.

Following more heavy rainfall last weekend, a state of emergency remained in force in 15 cities and unfavourable weather conditions were expected to continue in some parts of the country, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs said.

The office has been helping coordinate the international response to the emergency.

Nearly all arable land has been destroyed in five regions including around the capital Sofia, it said.

Bulgaria and neighbouring countries have been swept for weeks by torrential rains. Bulgaria’s response has been hampered by the absence of a government following inconclusive elections in June. But a new centre-left Cabinet started work on Wednesday, ending the political stalemate. — MNA/Reuters
Microsoft to set up more centres in Indonesia

JAKARTA, 21 Aug— PT Microsoft Indonesia plans to set up seven more community-based Technology and Learning Centres (CLTCs) in West Java and Kalimantan in September as part of its commitment to boost domestic computer market penetration.

Microsoft Indonesia has joined hands with the Bogor Institute of Agriculture (IPB) to set up centres in the two provinces’ rural areas to provide farmers a chance to get acquainted with computers, The Jakarta Post newspaper reported on Saturday.

"Microsoft Indonesia has made a major commitment to promote skill development that will enable people from a different way of life to use software in productive ways," company President Director Tony Chen was quoted as saying.

Chen said currently there were 21 CLTCs across Sumatra, Java, Bali, Lombok, Kalimantan and Sulawesi.

He also said that establishing more CLTCs would narrow the country’s digital divide as well as boost computer market penetration.

Executive Director of the ASEAN Foundation Apichai Sunchindah said such collaboration could be expanded to other neighbouring countries that also experienced a huge gap in information technology, such as Cambodia and Laos.

"Why is Indonesia the first? Because there is a great need here. If we can succeed here, we can expand to other member countries," he said.

He added that without narrowing the digital gap among ASEAN countries — Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam — it would be impossible for them to emerge as one economic community.
Human beings have been keen on traveling since early times. They have travelled in search of better places. They set sail for trading. They waged war to colonize other countries. In this way, they moved from one place to another. The development of industries has brought about a rise in travels. With the advent of computer age, different parts of the world can be easily accessible in a short time to spare. This situation saves working hours and provides more time to spare. The spare time is used for rest, relaxation and the search of geographical knowledge. Here, traveling has turned out to be a business. Traveling is acknowledged to be a good relaxation that can refresh man. So, tourism has been making progress with added momentum since the 1980s.

Regarding traveling, research has been conducted. Before setting out a trip, anxiety and fear arises in those who are to travel by air, by sea or by land. That is why tour operators often inform their customers of the circumstances that may happen. The local tour operators are to take the above-mentioned facts into consideration.

Recently, we were on a trip to Upper Myanmar. There are more hotels owned by the national entrepreneurs than those established with foreign investment in Hsipaw, Kyaukme and Lashio. Although there emerged hotels and motels with foreign investment in line with the market-oriented economic system in the nation the majority are those owned by the nationals. The nationals have gained ample experience in this business as they established it in the 1990s. They are able to equip their hotels and motels with advanced facilities and offer good services to attract tourists.

On our return from Lashio, we proceeded to Kalaw, Pindaya, Nyaungshwe and Taunggyi via Mandalay. In Kalaw, there are 19 hotels, motels and inns that are complete with modern amenities. The tourist attraction in Pindaya is a cave. In the past, there was only a hotel owned by the government. Pindaya has become a transit for local travelers with the emergence of the Aungban-Ywangan-Myogyi-Mandalay road. The number of hotels and motels has increased in Pindaya as many travelers on the trip stay for the night there. The Conqueror and Inlay Inn are popular among local and foreign tourists to Pindaya.

There are some 40 hotels and motels in Inlay region. Most of them are situated along the edges of the lake in order to prevent environmental pollution. To match with scenic background of the mountain those lodgings are of medium height decorated with various kinds of flowers. Most of hotel staff wear Shan national costumes. The sounds of Shan traditional ozis or long open-ended drums and the gong are pleasant to the ear. Shan traditional dance is one of the main attractions in the region. There is a steady rise in the number of tourist arrivals in Inlay region year after year. To be qualified in hotel services and fully imbued with hospitality these hotel staff were sent to Yangon to undergo theoretical and practical training.

Managers from European countries have been appointed in some advanced hotels. This was done to inculcate local managers and hotel staff with the knowledge and experience from those foreigners. Some European managers are just the front men for European tourists. All the services are usually provided by local managers. Hotel business needs to be artistic in addition to good service. Design and decoration is indispensable. Most tourists love and value local designs and utensils. Myanmar businessmen, local managers, architects and engineers are much familiar with such decorations.

There have been artistic works of architects and engineers at local hotels in Yangon, Mandalay, Bagan, Inlay and Ngapali. In Inlay, Shwekyunnaw, Khaungdaing, Inlay Alpayphay, Inlay Minthamee and Kanthara are popular among tourists. In Bagan, Bagan Hotel, Ayeya Hotel, Thazin Garden, Htun U Taw and Tharapa are well known. In Mandalay, Mandalay Myodaw, Mandalay View Inn, Mya Sein Yaung Inn and Mya Mantala are noted. In Yangon, Mya Yeik Nyo Royal, Panda, Asia Plaza, Central, Yuzana, Yuzana Garden, Excel Treasure and Panorama are better known among local and foreign tourists.

In answer to inquiry, hotels and motels often use pamphlets, books, Internet, e-mail and telephone. If necessary, a customer is given a warm welcome at the airport and provided with transport services. A traveler will breathe a sigh of relief when he sees a placard describing the name of the hotel or motel he is going to put up, at the airport.

The hotel should provide him with a transport service of a comfortable automobile with a tour guide in it on the way to the destination. Such hospitable services mean sale of services by a hotel to a customer, and that can tarnish the reputation of the hotel and tourist industry as taxes.

As soon as receptionists and staff have taken the customer to the room and showed him the facilities around it, and presented the room key to him, he may try to check if the key is easy or safe to use. When he is left alone, he may be curious about the facilities in the room. At that time, the customer’s satisfaction depends much on the services provided by the house-keeping staff.

After he has observed the facilities, he may test the telephone and telephone record. He may give out at least a call to the operation room or the reception counter to know if the telephone works well. Some hotels provide a telephone installed with alarm. After that, the customer may view the surroundings through the windows of his room, take a seat on the verandah, observe paintings, try fruits served, and browse pamphlets or directories. Most of hotels install directives, system of local and oversea calls, programmes of hotel services, publications, directories, and stationery. Some hotels provide their customers with umbrella, religious books, local traditional and foreign medicines.

Some guests would do nothing but watch TV in the room. They should have an access to at least a receiver with access to satellite channels, and Myawaddy and Myanma Radio and Television programmes.

When the guest has found out that he is provided with above-mentioned services, he will be fully satisfied with what is provided, and he will feel as if he were at home. If he finds something unsatisfactory, it can harm his reliability on the hotel, and that may lead to his complaints. Unsatisfactory services of a hotel can attract criticisms from the guests, and that can tarnish the reputation of the hotel. Therefore, those responsible are to constantly supervise the services to be offered by the employees so as to enhance the role of respective hotels, motels and inns.

As a matter of fact, hotel and tourism services mean sale of services by a hotel to a customer, a stranger, through information about what the hotel will provide him, or his purchase of services for a trip to a place to which he has not been with expectations. If a hotel wins the satisfaction of a guest through its good services, the latter will spread the good reputation of the hotel. A group of words that can effectively promote the services of a hotel is “Home away from home” that is very popular in the world of hotels.

According to the market-oriented economic system, the government has granted permission to local and foreign businessmen for 15 years to run hotel and tourism services in conformity to the laws in order to raise the standard of the nation’s hotel and tourism industry. Now, national entrepreneurs have well understood how to provide hotel and tourism services for their customers. The number of staff in the hotel and tourism industry is on the increase year by year. The people enjoy benefits from the hotel and tourism industry indirectly. With a view to enhancing the interests of national businessmen, the government has recently granted permission to them, and so they can engage in trade in accord with laws after paying prescribed per cent of their income (foreign exchange) realized from the hotel and tourism industry as taxes.

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Monday, 22 August, 2005

With a view to enhancing the interests of national businessmen, the government has recently granted permission to them, and so they can engage in trade in accord with laws after paying prescribed per cent of their income (foreign exchange) realized from the hotel and tourism industry as taxes.

Translation: TS + MS

(Myanma Alin+Kyemon:21-8-2005)
Secretary-1 Adjutant-General …

The commander, the ministers, the deputy minister, the vice-mayor, senior military officers and wellwishers donated alms to the Sayadaws.

On behalf of Tatmadaw families, Maj-Gen Hla Shwe, Commodore Nyan Tun and Colonel General Staff (Mechanical) (Air) Col Chan Maung offered donations to the Sayadaws and a nun. Ministries, departments, social organizations and wellwishers donated rice, edible oil, salt, medicines, gram and alms to members of the Sangha.

Victorious sports teams of Yangon Command honoured

YANGON, 21 Aug — The sports teams that won championship shields in Karatedo, Judo, gymnastics, women’s badminton and women’s table tennis events of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services’ Shield Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) sports tournaments were honoured at the hall of Yangon Command Headquarters yesterday evening.

First, victorious karatedo, Judo, gymnastics, women’s badminton and women’s table tennis teams handed over their championship shields to Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe.

Next, the commander awarded cash prizes to them.

Afterwards, the commander delivered an address.

Later, the commander and wife hosted a dinner to the athletes.

Yangon Division secured championship shields of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services in the gymnastics event for 16 years consecutively, Judo event for six years, women’s badminton three years.

So far, Yangon Command has swept three championship shields and two championship trophies in women’s event in the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services’ Shield tournaments in 2005.

Ministries, departments, social organizations and wellwishers donated rice, edible oil, salt, medicines, gram and alms to members of the Sangha.

President of (SEAMEO Council) visits Shwedagon Pagoda

YANGON, 21 Aug — A delegation led by President of Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO Council) Minister of Education and Training of Vietnam Prof Dr Nguyen Minh Hein visited the Shwedagon Pagoda at 2 pm today.

First, the visiting minister and party offered flowers and light to the pagoda and signed in the visitors’ book.

Next, member of the Pagoda Board of Trustees U Thant Zin and officials presented the salient points of the pagoda to the visitors.

After making cash donations, the minister and party viewed round the jade Buddha image, the royal bell of King Thayawady and the old royal umbrella.

Afterwards, the visitors proceeded to the National Museum on Pyay Road where they were conducted round by Deputy Director U Than Win and Assistant Curator Daw Hay Hay Swe.

MNA
One million acres of paddy, 400,000...

(from page 16)

The government built Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine) that plays an important role in transportation. Locals term it a “Dream Bridge”. In a bid to exceed the food sufficiency in the region, it is needed to set a target of 1 million acres of monsoon paddy in coming rainy season and 400,000 acres of rubber, he instructed.

Afterwards, state level departmental officials reported on implementation of the projects in agriculture, forestry, mining, industry, electric, construction, transportation and communication sectors by June.

Head of the Planning Department of Mon State U Tun Myat and Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing reported on GDP, services and construction on the GDP, services and construction of the main building of Government Computer College (Hpa-an). At the briefing hall, Chief Engineer of Shwe Thanlwin Construction U Thet Naing reported on construction tasks. Then Lt-Gen Maung Bo gave necessary instructions and inspected the construction of main building.

On arrival at the Thanlwin Bridge (Hpa-an), Lt-Gen Maung Bo inspected the flow of the river and durability of the bridge. He next gave instructions to officials on measures to be taken for the maintenance of the bridge.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party visited the site for construction of the main building of Government Computer College (Hpa-an). At the briefing hall, Chief Engineer of Shwe Thanlwin Construction U Thet Naing reported on construction tasks. Then Lt-Gen Maung Bo gave necessary instructions and inspected the construction of main building.

Mon State has achieved 4 % in agriculture sector, 18.5 % in fisheries sector, 33.4 % in forestry sector, 34.8 % in mining sector, 39.3 % in industry sector, 21.1 % in power sector and 50.1 % in construction sector by the end of July of 2005-2006 fiscal year. Therefore, 22.1 per cent of the target have been realized.

Efforts are being made to extend paddy cultivation in coming rainy season. Mon State sets its target of 1 million acres in paddy and 150,000 acres in double cropping in coming rainy season, the commander added. In education sector, Mon State ranked second in the country for its higher passing rate in matric exam.

After the flood caused by torrential rain in the region, evacuations were carried out timely, and assistance is being provided to farmers, the commander said.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Maung Bo urged the officials to make efforts to meet the state’s target of 1 million acres of monsoon paddy and 400,000 acres of rubber in coming year. He also called for systematic cultivation, use of wind power generators and smooth running of State-owned factories in Mon State.

After the meeting, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party attended the ceremony to give assistance to the households of flood-hit region in Kyaukmaraw township held at the township PDC office. In meeting with the flood victims, Lt-Gen Maung Bo said the State is giving aid to those who were evacuated due to the natural disaster. The local people are urged to strive for the recultivation of crops and improvement of socio-economy when the disaster relieves and all the conditions come to normalcy.

Next, Lt-Gen Maung Bo presented cash assistance for the victims to the chairman of township PDC.

Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing and Director-General of the Relief and Resettlement Department also presented relief gifts and exercise books to them. A local resident spoke words of thanks. After the ceremony, Lt-Gen Maung Bo cordially greeted those present.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party visited the temporary emergency unit opened at the No 1 BEPS in Kyaukmaraw township and encouraged victim families who are undergoing treatment.

They then went to Khayon agricultural camp where they inspected recultivation of paddy and put fingerlings in the rice fields.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party next attended the ceremony to give relief aid to the local people from the flood-stricken region in Hpa-an at the Shweyin Myaw Pyidawwe Pagoda.

It was also attended by Kayin State PDC Chairman Col Khin Kyu, local authorities and members of social organizations. Lt-Gen Maung Bo gave words of encouragement to the flood victims. Director-General U Than Oo, Col Khin Kyu and the commander presented relief aid and cash assistance to the victims. A local people expressed thanks to the State for the donations.

After the meeting, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party visited the site for construction of the main building of Government Computer College (Hpa-an). At the briefing hall, Chief Engineer of Shwe Thanlwin Construction U Thet Naing reported on construction tasks. Then Lt-Gen Maung Bo gave necessary instructions and inspected the construction of main building.

On arrival at the Thanlwin Bridge (Hpa-an), Lt-Gen Maung Bo inspected the flow of the river and durability of the bridge. He next gave instructions to officials on measures to be taken for the maintenance of the bridge. Later, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party went to Hpa-an.

Championship trophy of Myanmar U-20 Football team. — NLM

Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint and Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin seen together with victorious Myanmar U-20 football team at the airport. (News on page 16)— NLM

Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint holding up championship trophy of AFF U-20 Championship. (News on page 16)— NLM

Lt-Gen Maung Bo free fingerlings into the farmland in Khayon Village of Kyaukmaraw Township. — NLM

Lt-Gen Maung Bo presents assistance for flood victims to Kyaukmaraw Township PDC Chairman U Khun Soe Lwin. — MNA

Lt-Gen Maung Bo presents assistance for flood victims to Kyaukmaraw Township PDC Chairman U Khun Soe Lwin. — MNA

Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint and Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin seen together with victorious Myanmar U-20 football team at the airport. (News on page 16)— NLM

Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint holding up championship trophy of AFF U-20 Championship. (News on page 16)— NLM
YMANGON, 21 Aug — Member of the Secretariat of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan attended the opening of Alinthit Library in Bikethayet Village in Salingyi Township on 16 August.

Member of the Secretariat of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and Monywa District Information and Public Relations Department donated books to the library and visited it. The minister presented offerings to a Sayadaw of Bikethayet Village and inspected construction of new building of self-reliance primary school in the village.

The minister went to the compound of Basic Education Primary School in Mataunkta (South) Village tract and met local people of Mataunkta (South) and (North), Shweha Minwa, Thanya Daw, Ywathit-Go, Aung-chantha Villages, members of Village Peace and Development Councils, village elders, officials of social association totaling over 2,500.

Officials reported on measures undertaken for regional development. In his discussions, Member of the Secretariat of the USDA Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan said he made field trips to most of the villages in the region. He was glad to hear that most of the villages paid serious attention to education. Promotion of education is important for rural and national development.

Promotion of education, the human resource, is one of the objectives of the State.

He said the government is publishing newspapers without any profits and it is also publishing Dohkyeywa Journal at a loss with the aim of gaining knowledge on agriculture, health and livestock breeding.

He also spoke on cultivation of seasonal and perennial crops and export crops.

Next, he presented K 200,000 for regional development and personal goods, clothing and utensils, textbooks and exercise books, publications and canned food donated by Myanmar Red Cross Society to officials.

He said the government is publishing newspapers without any profits and it is also publishing Dohkyeywa Journal at a loss with the aim of gaining knowledge on agriculture, health and livestock breeding.

He also spoke on cultivation of seasonal and perennial crops and export crops.

Next, he presented K 200,000 for regional development and personal goods, clothing and utensils, textbooks and exercise books, publications and canned food donated by Myanmar Red Cross Society to officials.

He said the government is publishing newspapers without any profits and it is also publishing Dohkyeywa Journal at a loss with the aim of gaining knowledge on agriculture, health and livestock breeding.

He also spoke on cultivation of seasonal and perennial crops and export crops.

Next, he presented K 200,000 for regional development and personal goods, clothing and utensils, textbooks and exercise books, publications and canned food donated by Myanmar Red Cross Society to officials.

He said the government is publishing newspapers without any profits and it is also publishing Dohkyeywa Journal at a loss with the aim of gaining knowledge on agriculture, health and livestock breeding.

He also spoke on cultivation of seasonal and perennial crops and export crops.

Next, he presented K 200,000 for regional development and personal goods, clothing and utensils, textbooks and exercise books, publications and canned food donated by Myanmar Red Cross Society to officials.
Spanish police free Italian kidnapped by drug gang

MADEIR, 21 Aug — Spanish police have freed an Italian man kidnapped by South American drug traffickers and held for three days, the Interior Ministry said on Saturday.

The victim made daily calls to his wife.

Police arrested two kidnappers outside the apartment in the city of Valencia, then stormed the building and seized two more, the ministry said.

They later arrested three Colombian men suspected of forging documents and trafficking drugs for the group.

Spain is a major entry point for South American drugs coming into Europe and in the past year Spanish police have arrested dozens of suspected drug traffickers and seized several tons of cocaine.

— MNA/Reuters

No 1 Tyre and Rubber Factory in Thaton, rubber plantations in Hpa-an inspected

YANGON, 21 Aug — Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin, accompanied by Managing Director U Oo Zun of Myanmar Tyre and Rubber Industries and officials, arrived at No 1 Tyre and Rubber Factory (Thaton) in Thaton, Mon State, on 19 August afternoon.

The minister heard reports on the plan to meet the targeted production for 2004-05 and monthly products till July, manufacturing of various sizes of tyres, and supply of raw materials presented by the managing director and officials. After hearing the reports, the minister instructed them to make efforts for meeting the target, manufacture tyres for trucks, operate the machines at full capacity, export rubber products and extend new rubber plantations.

He inspected production process of tyres for vehicles, and gave instructions on production of tyres meeting the set standard, stockpiling of raw materials and systematic use of power and fuel.

On 20 August, the minister proceeded to Hpa-an Rubber and Cashew Farm in Hpa-an Township. Farm manager U Hla Naing briefed the minister on growing of rubber plantations and the rubber nursery. Next, the minister went to Myainggale Rubber and Cashew Farm.

The minister inspected rubber nurseries and gave necessary instructions. — MNA

Myanmar delegation leaves for Indonesia

CEC member of Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs Association seen at the airport before departure for Indonesia. — MWEA

YANGON, 21 Aug — A Myanmar delegation led by Director U Aye Win of Social Welfare Department left here by air this morning to attend the 12th ASEAN Youth Day Meeting and the ceremony to present ASEAN Youth Award in Semarang of Indonesia, from 23 to 25 August.

The delegation members CEC member of Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs’ Association Daw Theingi Win and observers association members Daw Chaw Su Myat and Daw Thiri Myint also left on the morning flight.

Pakistani, Russian scientists maintain al-Qaeda’s N-Arsenal

WASHINGTON, 21 Aug — Terror outfit al-Qaeda is paying nuclear scientists from Russia and Pakistan to maintain its existing nuclear arsenal and assemble additional weapons, claims a forthcoming book by former FBI consultant.

Quoting documents purportedly seized in Afghanistan, the author Paul Williams said the terror group also plans to assemble its own nuclear weapons with fissile material it purchased on the black market over a period of ten years.

In the book The al-Qaeda Connection: International Terrorism, Organized Crime and the Coming Apocalypse, he contends that al-Qaeda has already planted in the US nuclear weapons it obtained from the Soviet Union.

“It has obtained 40 of them from the Soviet Union and these include suitcase nukes, nuclear mines, artillery shells and even some missile warheads,” he said.

In addition to capability to detonate its own nuclear weapons also smuggled through criminal gangs across the Mexican border and already planted in the US, Williams’ book said there was evidence to suggest that al-Qaeda was paying former Russian special forces Spetsnaz to assist them in locating nuclear weapons formerly concealed inside the US by the Soviet Union during the Cold War. At least half of the nuclear weapons in the al-Qaeda arsenal were obtained for cash from the Chechen terrorist allies, said a summary of the book published on the Internet by WorldNetDaily.

There is virtually no doubt among intelligence analysts that al-Qaeda has obtained fully assembled nuclear weapons, Williams said. The only question is how many.

Estimates range between a dozen and 70. An undetermined number of these weapons, including nuclear suitcase bombs, mines and crude tactical nuclear weapons, have already been smuggled into the US — at least some across the US-Mexico border.

The future plan, according to captured al-Qaeda agents and documents suggests the attacks will take place simultaneously in major cities throughout the country, including New York, Boston, Washington, Los Angeles, Miami, Chicago and Los Angeles, it claimed.

The book says Osama bin Laden’s goal is to kill at least four million Americans, including two million children.

— MNA/PTI

Romanian floods death toll rises to 14

BUCHAREST, 21 Aug — The death toll from extensive floods across Romania over the past four days has risen to 14, with more than 1,200 people evacuated from their collapsing houses, the Interior Ministry said on Saturday.

A 25-year-old man and two shepherds from northern Romania were killed by lightning and two other men drowned in a swollen river in central Romania in the last 24 hours.

A Lightning killed four and three other people have drowned in southern Romania in the last four days.

A 9-year-old girl drowned in the northern region of Botosani and an elderly villager was crushed under the building and seized two more, the ministry said.

They later arrested three Colombian men suspected of forging documents and trafficking drugs for the group.

Spain is a major entry point for South American drugs coming into Europe and in the past year Spanish police have arrested dozens of suspected drug traffickers and seized several tons of cocaine.

— MNA/Reuters
ADVERTISEMENTS

UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION
MYANMAR RAILWAYS

INVITATION TO SEALED TENDER

1. Sealed Tenders are invited by Myanma Railways, for supply of the following Stores which will be purchased in Myanmar Kyats, US Dollars (or) Euro-

Sr. No. | Tender No. | Description | Quantity | Closing Date |
--- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
1. | 14/T1/MRS&T | Point Machine | 17-Nov | 2005-2006 |
2. | 12/T1/1/MR(ML) | Spare Parts for Locomotives | 1-Lot | 2005-2006 |

Closing Date: -22.9.2005 (Thursday) (12:00) Hours.

Tender documents are available at the office of the Deputy General Manager (Supply), Myanma Railways, Corner of 51st Street and Merchant Street, Botataung, Yangon starting from 22.8.2005 during the office hours.

For further details please call 291982, 291985, 201555 (Ext-602,605,612)

Deputy General Manager
Supply Department, Myanma Railways, Botataung, Yangon

Test of Proficiency In Korean (TOPIK)
Host Institutions : Yangon University of Foreign Languages (YUFL), Embassy of Korea Institute of Curriculum and Evaluation (KICE)
Date : September 25th, 2005 (Sunday)
Place : Yangon University of Foreign Languages (YUFL)
Mandaly University of Foreign Languages (MUF)
Application Period :from August 12 (Friday) 2005 to August 26 (Friday) 2005
The TEST has six different levels; the examinee can choose the level that best matches his or her ability and training.
Each TEST is made up of four sections:
- Vocabulary & Grammar
- Writing
- Listening
- Reading
Further informations and TEST GUIDE are available at Host Institutions as follows.
YUFL Tel : 514371 (Ext-123)
MUF Tel : 02-32330

KAMPALA, 20 Aug—Both black boxes from the wreckage of the helicopter crash that killed Sudan’s Vice-President John Garang will be sent to Russia for analysis, investigators said on Friday.

Garang’s death in Uganda’s presidential helicopter stunned Africa, triggered riots and fed fears the peace deal he crafted with Sudan’s Islamist government might unravel. Sudanese investigator Ahmed Ali said the Russian-built aircraft’s flight data recorder and cockpit voice recorder would be sent to the Russian aviation authority in Moscow, possibly as soon as Saturday.

“There they will ascertain the contents of the recorders and will bring back the results,” Ali, a former Sudanese vice-president, told a news conference in the Ugandan capital.

We are trying to get all the available information.”

Dennis Jones, a US National Transportation Safety Board chief investigator and the lead technical adviser in the probe, said it would take about five days to study the black boxes and estimated the crash investigation could take about six months.

The investigators were addressing reporters after seven Sudanese officials arrived in Kampala to join the probe, a multinational effort involving officials from Sudan, Uganda, Kenya and the United States.

Heading Uganda’s team, Minister of Works, Housing and Communications John Nasasira rejected a United Nations report that 17 bodies were found in the wreckage.

He said forensics experts from the United States, Kenya, Uganda and Sudan had verified there were 13 bodies: seven Ugandans, Garang, and five other Sudanese.

“We have been trying to get a clarification from the UN on that, and we hope it will come soon,” Nasasira said.

On 10 August, a UN spokesman in the Sudanese capital Khartoum said the remains of 17 people had been recovered.

Ugandan Internal Affairs Minister Ruhakana Rugunda was one of the first people to visit the remote crash site in the mountainous border area between the two East African countries. He denied local media reports that the bodies of Garang and the other passengers were found riddled with bullets.

“We did not find any evidence of bullet wounds when we jointly examined the bodies of the victims,” Rugunda said.

Black boxes from Garang’s crash to be sent to Moscow

LUNDIA, 20 Aug—Angola has appealed to the international community for funds to fight a new polio outbreak, fearing the disease could spread beyond its borders after the number of confirmed cases rose to seven.

In a statement, the Minis-

try of Health and its polio eradication partners, including the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF, appealed for $1.8 million US dollars for an additional round of immunization coverage.

“If the transmission is not halted in the next four months, Angola would have re-established wild polio virus transmission,” the ministry said in a statement released late on Thursday.

“Failure to halt transmission could also lead to the spread of the virus to neighbouring countries such as Republic of Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Namibia and Zambia even beyond the conflict sub-region or region,” it added.

The first polio cases were detected in June and are the first in Angola in four years. Coupled with an outbreak in Indonesia, they have dealt a major blow to WHO’s campaign to stop the global spread of polio by the end of the year.

Polio, which mainly affects children under five and can cause total paralysis in a matter of hours, is the country is only just getting to grips with an outbreak of the rare Ebola-like virus which has claimed more than 300 lives.

Cases have been de-
tected in the capital Luanda, the coastal province of Benguela and in the eastern border provinces of Moçoxo and Lunda Sul.

Angola carried out one round of immunisation at the end of July, targeting 5 million under fives, and a similar three-day campaign is planned for the end of August. Several doses of the vaccine are needed to fully protect a child from polio.

To ensure a “rapid in-
terruption” of the virus, the third round, scheduled in September, would use a vaccine targeted against the strain of the disease which is believed to have been imported from In-
dia, the ministry said.

Until now, Angola’s national routine immuni-

sation coverage was just 45 percent, with treatment in remote areas particularly patchy as the health network struggled to re-
build following the end of 27 years of civil war.

Road accident claims 20 lives in Afghanistan

KABUL, 21 Aug—Twenty people were killed and 27 others got wounded as two passenger buses collided in southern Kandahar Province Saturday, Afghanistan’s Interior Ministry spokesman said.

“The incident oc-
curred in Shar-e-Safa district at 1:30 pm when a Kabul-bound bus hit another bus coming from opposite direction killing 20 on the spot and wounded 27 others,” Lutfullah Mashal confirmed to media.

All the wounded passengers have been taken to Kandahar Hospital while the dead bodies are in Shar-e-

safety to determine their identifications, he added.

Around a dozen others were killed in another road accident in southern Afghanistan last week.

Mainly bad driv-
ing, poor condition of roads and unprofes-
sional traffic police are blamed for deadly road accidents in the war-bat-
tered Afghanistan.

Lundia launches polio appeal as more cases emerge

In a statement, the Ministry of Health and its polio eradication partners, including the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF, appealed for 1.8 million US dollars for an additional round of immunization coverage.

“If the transmission is not halted in the next four months, Angola would have re-established wild polio virus transmission,” the ministry said in a statement released late on Thursday.

“Failure to halt transmission could also lead to the spread of the virus to neighbouring countries such as the Republic of Congo, Namibia and Zambia even beyond the conflict sub-region or region,” it added.

The first polio cases were detected in June and are the first in Angola in four years. Coupled with an outbreak in Indonesia, they have dealt a major blow to WHO’s campaign to stop the global spread of polio by the end of the year.

Polio, which mainly affects children under five and can cause total paralysis in a matter of hours, is the country is only just getting to grips with an outbreak of the rare Ebola-like virus which has claimed more than 300 lives.

Cases have been detected in the capital Luanda, the coastal province of Benguela and in the eastern border provinces of Moçoxo and Lunda Sul.

Angola carried out one round of immunisation at the end of July, targeting 5 million under fives, and a similar three-day campaign is planned for the end of August. Several doses of the vaccine are needed to fully protect a child from polio.

To ensure a “rapid interruption” of the virus, the third round, scheduled in September, would use a vaccine targeted against the strain of the disease which is believed to have been imported from India, the ministry said.

Until now, Angola’s national routine immunisation coverage was just 45 percent, with treatment in remote areas particularly patchy as the health network struggled to rebuild following the end of 27 years of civil war.

MNA/Reuters

MNA/Reuters

MNA/Reuters

MNA/Reuters
Texas jury in first Vioxx trial awards $253m

A NGELTON (Texas), 20 Aug — A Texas jury on Friday found drug maker Merck & Co Inc negligent in the death of a man who took its popular painkiller Vioxx and awarded his widow 253 million US dollars in the first of thousands of Vioxx lawsuits to go to trial.

The stunning verdict was certain to be greatly reduced under Texas law, but Merck’s stock fell sharply as investors feared it could set a precedent for more than 4,200 lawsuits charging that the company hid the drug’s health risks.

Merck pulled Vioxx off the market in September 2004, saying its long-term usage could double users’ risks of heart attack or stroke.

Merck shares fell 2.35 US cents, or 7.73 per cent, to 28.06 US dollars and lost a demur on the Dow, which ended up just 4.3 points to 10559.23. The case filed by widow Carol Ernst charged that Vioxx had caused her husband, Robert Ernst, a 59-year-old marathooner who took the drug for eight months, to die of a heart attack in 2001.

Merck disputed the accusation, saying an irregular heartbeat and clotted arteries killed Ernst, not Vioxx.

But the 12-member jury in Texas state court voted 10-2 that Merck should pay 24 million US dollars to Carol Ernst for mental anguish and loss of companionship and 229 million US dollars in punitive damages.

Merck attorney Jonathan Skidmore said the company would appeal the decision, but estimated that even if it is upheld the punitive damages would be trimmed to less than 2 million US dollars.

Texas law limits punitive awards to two times economic damage — in this case 450,000 US dollars — plus up to another 750,000 US dollars. There is no financial limit for loss of companionship and mental anguish.

At the reading of the verdict in the six-week-long trial, the courtroom erupted in an uproar and Ernst broke into tears.

Her lawyer, Mark Lanier, leaped up and shouted “Amen.”

“They knew and could see what the truth was,” she told reporters. “He (Robert Ernst) wouldn’t have taken that pill every day if he knew the risks.”

Lanier urged Merck to settle the pending Vioxx lawsuits, not fight them. He vowed to file more lawsuits against Merck and “pound them again.”

“Merck, you need to address this, you need to be responsible, you need to be accountable. You can’t just use your money and your resources and run. At some point, the running stops,” he said.

Merck general counsel Kenneth Frazier said the company would fight on, not settle. — MNA/Reuters

100 suspects arrested after Bangladesh bombings

DHAKA, 20 Aug — About 100 people have been arrested for suspected links to the never-heard-of coordinated bombings across Bangladesh which left two people dead and 140 injured, police said on Friday.

Nine of them, including two who admitted their involvement in Wednesday’s bombings, were being questioned by detectives in the capital Dhaka, they said.

Sixty-three enquiry committees which had been set up were working round-the-clock to find clues to the near simultaneous explosions of over 400 crude bombs in 63 of the 64 districts of the country.

Police sources said that at this stage of probe everything was being looked at and nothing, including involvement of the Jamaat-ul-Mujahedin Bangladesh, was being ruled out.

The Jamaat-ul-Mujahedin wants establishment of Islamic rule and has been warned of serious action if its demand is not met.

The activities of Jamaat-ul-Mujahedin came to light in 2002 when its “commander” and eight others were arrested from Dinajpur distributing leaflets quoting Oama bin Laden’s call for “Jihad” as well as cassettes containing speeches of the al-Qaeda leader.

MNA/PTI

Plea to stop squabbles ends Greenland climate talks

COPENHAGEN, 20 Aug — Representatives of 23 nations deeply split about how to combat global warming ended talks in Greenland on Friday with a plea from the host to stop years of squabbling and take urgent action.

“The blaming game has to stop,” Denmark’s Environment Minister Connie Hedegaard, said in a statement after the four-day meeting she chaired in Ilulissat, north of the Arctic Circle. “Instead of blaming other countries for the lack of action, all governments should present credible visions on how they could make their own fair contribution to combating global climate change.”

Representatives at the talks toured a fast-receding glacier. Areas of summer melt in Greenland have expanded sharply in recent years. Many scientists say that a build-up of greenhouse gases from fossil fuels burnt in cars, factories and power plants is contributing to what could become catastrophic global warming. Representatives of nations including the United States, Japan, China, India, Mexico and the European Union were at the informal talks hoping to smooth policy splits after Washington pulled out of the United Nations’ Kyoto protocol in 2001. — MNA/Reuters

Station crew finish spacewalk

CAPE CANAVERAL (Florida), 20 Aug — The two men serving aboard the International Space Station donned Russian spacesuits and floated outside the orbital complex for a five-hour spacewalk on Thursday.

The outing was the first for the crew since they arrived at the station four months ago and was cut short by an hour when they ran out of time for their final task. That work will be rescheduled for a future spacewalk.

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 work. Krikalev, a Russian cosmonaut who was making his eighth spacewalk, immediately tackled the first task on the to-do list and retrieved a Russian medical experiment.

Phillips, a US astronaut who made his first spacewalk, lingered in the airlock for a few minutes to prepare equipment and adapt to the new environment before joining Krikalev outside the space station. “I feel great,” Phillips radioed in Russian to ground control teams outside of Moscow.

The men retrieved and replaced several other space science experiments stuck on the outside of the complex and photographed a materials science experiment.

Among the gear brought back inside the station was a dummy embedded with radiation sensors that is part of an international effort to understand how radiation affects the human body.

Krikalev and Phillips also installed 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 was to relocate a grapple fixture for a crane from outside the Pirs docking compartment and reposition it on the Unity connecting node.

MNA/Reuters

In an image from NASA television, a silhouette of one of the astronauts conducting a space walk is seen outside the International Space Station, on 18 August, 2005 in space.
Liverpool confirm bids for Baros, deny Owen offer

Liverpool, 21 Aug—Liverpool manager Rafael Benitez confirmed on Friday that Liverpool are weighing up bids from Aston Villa and Olympique Lyon for striker Milan Baros.

“We have a good offer from Olympique Lyon and another one from Aston Villa and we must analyse both and while we analyse we will be playing with us,” Benitez told a Press conference. Benitez also denied reports in the Spanish Press that Liverpool had made an offer to Real Madrid for their former striker Michael Owen.

He insisted he was happy to carry on with his current group of forwards and said his top target was a central defender.

“I have seen the Spanish Press and I can say we have not made an offer for Owen,” he added. “We have not made an offer. We are looking for a centre back.

“Michael is a good player but we have six strikers now and we are trying to find solutions at the back, not up front.

“When you think that we sometimes play with one striker, even if we lose one forward, we will still have four strikers on the bench.”

When asked whether he would sign Owen if the English player was offered to him on loan, Benitez said: “I would prefer to work with the players I have at the moment and it’s difficult to talk about hypotheses.” — MNA/Reuters

Premier League match reports

London, 21 Aug — Brief reports of Premier League matches played on Saturday:

Birmingham City 1 Manchester City 2

Two former England players combined for Manchester City’s winner two minutes after the interval when striker Andy Cole netted winger Trevor Sinclair’s right-wing cross at the far post. Birmingham took an early lead when Uruguayan striker Walter Pandiani headed down a Julian Gray cross and ex-Manchester United midfielder Nicky Butt shot home. Joey Barton equalised for the visitors in a counter-attack midway through the first half.

Blackburn Rovers 2 Fulham 1

Striker Morten Gamst Pedersen put Fulham ahead in the 15th minute from Shefki Kuqi’s cross from the right wing.

US striker Brian McBride equalized four minutes into the second half from Nicolas Jensen’s left cross but Tigay re-established Fulham’s lead when he volleyed Pedersen’s corner home.

Charlton Athletic 1 Wigan Athletic 0

Charlton went joint top on six points with Tottenham Hotspur and Manchester United, though second on goal difference.

New signing Darren Bent scored his third goal in two games three minutes before halftime, heading home Danny Murphy’s right-cross to give Charlton their second successive victory.

Liverpool 1 Sunderland 0

Midfielder Xabi Alonso struck the winner after 24 minutes, steering a 25-metre free kick inside the top right corner after a foul on Boudewijn Zenden.

Sunderland were reduced to 10 men a quarter of an hour from time when Andy Welsh was sent off for violent conduct.

Newcastle United 0 West Ham United 0

Alan Shearer’s Newcastle have yet to get off the mark after two games.

West Ham were down to 10 men for the last 36 minutes after a dismissal that surprised most observers when Paul Konchesky was sent off for a tackle on midfielder Jermaine Jenas in which he appeared to win the ball cleanly.

Tottenham Hotspur 2 Middlesbrough 0

Spurs went top with their second consecutive 2-0 win for a perfect record of six points and no goals conceded.

England’s Jermain Defoe struck shortly after the second half with a rasping shot into the roof of the net from 25 metres. Mido increased Spurs’ lead in 75th minute after keeper Mark Schwarzer failed to prevent his weak shot going in under his body from Defoe’s pass.

West Bromwich Albion 2 Portsmouth 1

Geoff Horsfield scored twice to give West Brom victory, opening his account after only two minutes with a header from Jonathan Greening’s left cross and adding his second just before the hour. Former Newcastle United winger Laurent Robert pulled one back in the 63rd with a trade-mark left-footed free kick that found the top corner of the net. — MNA/Reuters

Van Nistelrooy gives Man Utd 1-0 win over Villa

London, 21 Aug—Manchester United made it two wins out of two in the fledgling Premier League season when Ruud van Nistelrooy scored the only goal in a 1-0 home success against a toothless Aston Villa yesterday.

Tottenham Hotspur goal scorer back in the unstoppable.

While United fans routinely expect a winning start, Tottenham supporters merely hope. This season, however, Martin Jol’s attractive-looking side has made an encouraging start.

Internet

Veron earns Inter Supercup win over Juve

Tures (Italy), 21 Aug—Inter Milan won the Italian Supercup on Saturday with a 1-0 extra-time win over league champions Juventus at a rain-drenched Delle Alpi Stadium.

Argentine Juan Sebastian Veron struck in the sixth minute of added time with a first-time drive after being set up by Brazilian Adriano. The Supercup, the curtain raiser to the Serie A season, pits last season’s Serie A champions against the Italian Cup winners.

There were few clear-cut chances in normal time but Juventus had an effort from French forward David Trezeguet harshly ruled out for offside on the stroke of half-time.

Alessandro del Piero missed a great opportunity for Juve in the 72nd minute, firing wide from close range after Pavel Nedved had taken advantage of an error from Inter’s Argentine defender Walter Samuel.

There was little to choose between the two teams in a competitive game that lacked real spark in attack.

Inter opted not to feature their biggest new arrival of the close season, former Real Madrid winger Luis Figo, but Juve did play their major purchase, French midfielder Patrick Vieira from Arsenal, who has recovered from a thigh injury.

Inter finished third in Serie A last season but this win will boost their hopes that they could get their hands on the “scudetto” this term for the first time since 1989.

Answers to yesterday’s Crossword Puzzle

COMMON TARRY
HAV SOH PILLION
REM RULD GLENN
ENUTER CED
AGAR ROOK
FRICK LODGERS
OHEAIRS LEADEVNA
IFALENS CREAM STATUS

Manchester United’s Wayne Rooney, right, controls the ball from Aston Villa’s Olof Mellberg during their English Premier League soccer match at Old Trafford Stadium, Manchester, England, on 20 August, 2005. Manchester United won the match 1-0. — INTERNET
Massage improves weight gain in preterm infants

NEW YORK, 21 Aug — Moderate-pressure massage therapy increases weight gain in preterm infants by improving stomach motion, investigators at the University of Miami School of Medicine report.

To determine the reason behind massage’s beneficial effects, Diego’s group randomly selected 48 preterm infants to receive moderate-pressure massage therapy, nontherapeutic light massage or no massage. The electrical activity of the heart and the stomach was monitored before and after the treatment sessions.

Moderate massage therapy was applied with the infant positioned on his or her stomach, with pressure sufficient to produce a slight skin colour change from pink to white in a white infant or slight indentations in the skin. The light massage was identical to the therapeutic massage, except that the massage produced no skin colour change or skin indentation.

The investigators noted that infants in the true massage group gained 27 percent more weight than those in the other groups, but food intake was not affected. Further analysis showed that this weight gain was related to improvements in stomach motion.

Japanese Encephalitis claims 20 lives in far-western Nepal

KATHMANDU, 21 Aug

At least 20 people have died of Japanese Encephalitis in far-western Kailali District in two weeks, Radio Nepal reported on Saturday.

About ten each Japanese Encephalitis deaths have occurred in Tikapur and Dhangadi in Kailali District until Friday while over 80 patients have been undergoing treatment in various local hospitals, the state-run radio said, adding, “All deaths occurred in Seti Zonal Hospital and Tikapur Hospital.”

WEATHER

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain has been isolated in Chin and Kayah states. Lower Sagaing and Ayeawady Divisions, scattered in Shan State, Magway and Yangon Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amounts of rainfield recorded were Kyauktaw (2.52) inches, Yamethin (1.26) inches, Meiktila (0.75) inch, Mogok (0.71) inch and Mandalay (0.51) inch.

Maximum temperature on 20-8-2005 was 84°F. Minimum temperature on 21-8-2005 was 70°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 21-8-2005 was 93%. Total sunshine hours on 20-8-2005 was 0.1 hrs approx. Rainfalls on 21-8-2005 were 0.08 inch at Mingaladon, 0.20 inch at Kaba-Aye, 0.55 inch at central Yangon. Total rains since 1-1-2005 were 67.64 inches at Mingaladon, 69.53 inches at Kaba-Aye and 74.25 inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 10 mph from Southwest at (15:05) hours MST on 20-8-2005.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 22-8-2005: Rain will be isolated in Chin, Kayah and Shan States, Mandalay, lower Sagaing and Magway Divisions. Scattered in Kachin State, upper Sagaing, Bago and Ayeawady Divisions and widespread 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: Moderate monsoon.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 22-8-2005: One or two rain. Degree of certainty is 80%.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 22-8-2005: Likelihood of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is 60%.
It was attended by Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing, Deputy Commander Col Zaw Min, senior military officers and departmental officials.

In his address made at the meeting, Lt-Gen Maung Bo said community peace and tranquillity, and prevalence of law and order play a key role in implementing the regional development tasks. Now, law and order are prevailing in the nation including Mon State, and therefore, development tasks have been implemented in Mon State. As Mon State is endowed with favourable conditions for development, the government has rendered assistance to establish factories and to cultivate cash crops in the state.

(See page 9)

Minister for Sports welcomes back AFF U-20 Champion Myanmar Youth Football Team

Yangon, 21 Aug — Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint welcomed back the victorious Myanmar youth football team led by Deputy Director-General U Thein Aung of Sports and Physical Education Department that won first prize trophy in the 2005 AFF U-20 Championship (2005) held in Jakarta, Indonesia, from 5 to 19 August 2005, at Yangon International Airport at 5.15 pm today.

Also present at the airport to welcome back the team were Chairman of Committee for Ensuring Success of Myanmar Sports Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, officials of the Ministry of Sports, Chairperson of Central Committee for Myanmar Women’s Sports Federation Daw Aye Aye and members, President of Myanmar Football Federation U Zaw Zaw and executives, film actors, sports athletes and students.

They presented flower baskets and garlands to the Myanmar youth footballers at the airport.

The victorious footballers were welcomed back by USDA members, students and people from Yangon International Airport along Pyay Road to Youth Training Centre (Thuwunna) through 8th mile junction, Hledan junction, Hanthawady Roundabout, U Wisara Roundabout, U Htaung Bo Roundabout and Tamway Roundabout. At Youth Training Centre (Thuwunna), the ceremony to hand over the first prize trophy to the minister was held.

Leader of the team Deputy Director-General U Thein Aung handed over the first prize trophy for the AFF U-20 Youth Championship 2005 to President U Zaw Zaw.

Next, the players of the victorious youth team were introduced individually to the fans who are enjoying the warm-up match of Myanmar U-17 team.

Afterwards, MFF President U Zaw Zaw handed over the first prize trophy to Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint again. The minister cordially greeted the footballers.

Later, artistes presented songs in honour of the victorious youth footballers.

Yangon, 21 Aug — Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint welcomed back the victorious Myanmar youth football team led by Deputy Director-General U Thein Aung of Sports and Physical Education Department that won first prize trophy in the 2005 AFF U-20 Championship (2005) held in Jakarta, Indonesia, from 5 to 19 August 2005, at Yangon International Airport at 5.15 pm today.

Also present at the airport to welcome back the team were Chairman of Committee for Ensuring Success of Myanmar Sports Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, officials of the Ministry of Sports, Chairperson of Central Committee for Myanmar Women’s Sports Federation Daw Aye Aye and members, President of Myanmar Football Federation U Zaw Zaw and executives, film actors, sports athletes and students.

They presented flower baskets and garlands to the Myanmar youth footballers at the airport.

The victorious footballers were welcomed back by USDA members, students and people from Yangon International Airport along Pyay Road to Youth Training Centre (Thuwunna) through 8th mile junction, Hledan junction, Hanthawady Roundabout, U Wisara Roundabout, U Htaung Bo Roundabout and Tamway Roundabout. At Youth Training Centre (Thuwunna), the ceremony to hand over the first prize trophy to the minister was held.

Leader of the team Deputy Director-General U Thein Aung handed over the first prize trophy for the AFF U-20 Youth Championship 2005 to President U Zaw Zaw.

Next, the players of the victorious youth team were introduced individually to the fans who are enjoying the warm-up match of Myanmar U-17 team.

Afterwards, MFF President U Zaw Zaw handed over the first prize trophy to Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint again. The minister cordially greeted the footballers.

Later, artistes presented songs in honour of the victorious youth footballers.