Established 1914

Volume XIII, Number 133                                             8th Waning of Wagaung 1367 ME           Saturday, 27 August, 2005

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

- Participation of entire national people in regional development tasks will contribute towards emergence of peaceful, developed nation

YANGON, 26 Aug — Accompanied by Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing and officials, Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Kyaw Win of the Ministry of Defence inspected thriving 50 acres of opium-substitute Hsinshweli sugarcane plantations near Mannmaw Village on Hsenwi-Lashio Road in Lashio on 23 August morning. Plans are under way to grow opium-substitute Hsinshweli sugarcane plantations against the target of 100 acres. Next, they oversaw thriving 250 acres of maize plantations at the project site of opium-substitute maize, sunflower, pigeon pea, sugarcane cultivation and bee-keeping project of North-East Command. They also looked into bee keeping in 500 honeycombs. Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing and in-charge of the farm Lt-Col Nay Lin Aung and officials reported on agriculture and livestock breeding tasks. Lt-Gen Kyaw Win attended to their needs and urged officials to fulfil requirements of national race groups and local farmers. (See page 8)

It is necessary to invite entrepreneurs for growing rubber on vacant and virgin lands to be able to earn foreign exchange.

INSIDE

Many tourists, especially Thai visitors, usually buy the Yangon-Bago one-day round trip ticket as they find the ancient Hanthawady interesting as a royal seat of ancient Bamar and Mon kings.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win meeting with representatives of national race groups of Shan State (North) Special Region-1 Kokang Region. — MNA

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win of the Ministry of Defence inspects Hsenwi-Kunglong bypass construction project. — MNA

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

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

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

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win meeting with representatives of national race groups of Shan State (North) Special Region-1 Kokang Region. — MNA
Mass media for enhancing national political awareness of the people

The Union Solidarity and Development Association is a national force that is doing its bit in building a peaceful, modern and developed nation. It is doing so with the aim of realizing the national goal.

Second Inter-Department Badminton Tournament 2005 of Ministry of Finance and Revenue ends

Yangon, 26 Aug — The prize presentation ceremony of the Second Inter-Department Badminton Tournament 2005 of the Ministry of Finance and Revenue was held at the National Badminton Gymnasium on Kyonyi Street, here, this afternoon, attended by Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun.

Among the spectators were Daw Khin Thar Win, wife of the minister, Chairman of the Central Sports Committee of the Ministry Deputy Minister Col Hla Thein Swe and wife, Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar U Kyaw Kyaw Maung and departmental heads, President of Myanmar Badminton Federation U Maung Maung Swe (Great Wall Traditional Medicine Industry and Construction) and executives.

After the final matches, CBM Governor U Kyaw Kyaw Maung and officials presented prizes to the winners.

Next, Deputy Minister Col Hla Thein Swe gave away prizes to the winners in the men’s doubles event. Later, Minister Maj-Gen Hla Tun presented prizes to the winners in the singles events and championships trophy to Myanmar Investment and Commercial Bank team in the team event — MNA

Raft jetties inspected in Ahlon, Pazundaung

Yangon, 26 Aug — Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung inspected sorting of log lots to be sold through tender system at Kan-3 raft jetty of Foreign Trade and SawMill Division of Myanmar Timber Enterprise in Ahlon Township and Setsan raft jetty in Pazundaung Township this morning.

Officials briefed the minister on sorting of the log lots. The minister gave necessary instructions to officials. — MNA

Dr Kyaw Hsan of University of Veterinary Science wins Asian Veterinary Science Prize, Hill’s Award

Yangon, 26 Aug — The annual meeting and the paper-reading session of the Asian Association of Veterinary Schools was held at Maruay Garden Hotel in Bangkok, Thailand, on 24 August. Professor Dr Kyaw Hsan (Head of Pathology and Microbiology Department) of University of Veterinary Science presented a paper.

Professor Dr Kyaw Hsan’s paper was selected as one of the four best papers. Therefore, Association of Veterinary Schools awarded Asian Veterinary Science Prize, Hill’s Award for 2005 and ¥ 100,000 to Dr Kyaw Hsan.

In 2004, Dr Myint Thein of University of Veterinary Medicine won the similar prize awarded by the Asian Association of Veterinary Schools. Dr Kyaw Hsan got PhD from Hannover School of Veterinary Medicine in Germany in 2003. — MNA

Centennial Mawgun of YMBA published

Yangon, 26 Aug — The centennial ceremony of Young Men’s Buddhist Association (YMBA) will be held on a grand scale in 2006. Now, the Centennial Mawgun booklet was published.

The booklet carries the photos of Bagyi Ba Pe (BA), Sir Maung Gyi (MA) Dr Ba Yin who founded the association in 1906 and the picture of the building of the association, the important role of the association in struggling for the independence of the nation, performance of the association for the national cause, religion and education of the nation during the period from regaining the Independence to date...

Furthermore, matters related to the sharing of the funds of Merchant U Maung Gyi is included in the booklet. Those wishing to purchase the booklets may contact YMBA Building at 77, Yegyaw Road, Pazundaung Township, Tel: 290409. — MNA
Chinese Premier sets out major eco, social, institutional reforms

BEIJING, 25 Aug — Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao said on Wednesday China will focus its efforts to push forward economic, social and institutional reforms for sustainable economic development and the improved well-being of the general public.

Addressing the executive meeting of the State Council, the Premier said China will continue to restructure its economy and further transform its mode of economic growth to improve efficiency. China has recently been striving to improve its irrational and inefficient economic structure by curbing the excessive investment in sectors and fields that are energy-intensive, resource-intensive, highly polluting and inefficient.

The Premier said structural reform is needed to solve the problems and implement the scientific concept of development.

Wen said China will continue its efforts to promote the transformation of governmental functions so that the government will not intervene in matters that should be dealt with by enterprises, intermediate organizations and the market.

The related department of the State Council will pay more attention to macroeconomic management so that enterprises will play a key role in investment, while the central government will exercise necessary guidance, control and supervision of investment in general to prevent "blind" investment and duplicated construction, the Premier said.

Wen said China will continue to carry out major economic reforms to safeguard the fundamental interests of the general public, involving employment, social security, education, medical services, poverty reduction, environmental protection, and workshop safety.

He said China will also continue its reform to open its door wider to the outside world by improving its foreign economic management system and properly handling various affairs in the post-transitional period of China's entry into the World Trade Organization.

China will properly deal with trade disputes, improve its foreign trade structure and its investment environment, and upgrade its utilization of overseas capital.

Participants at the meeting held that the economic and social situation in China is generally good and the economy is moving in the direction envisaged by the central government in regulating the economy.

China has made breakthroughs in some key areas, including rural tax reform, financial investment and logistic reforms, said the participants.

The Romanian contingent will remain in Iraq this year and begin to pull out gradually in 2006, the Foreign Ministry said.

Adevarul (Truth) newspaper quoted Atanaxiu as saying the Romanian troops would only pull out after the Iraqi government makes a request and reaches agreement with other members of the coalition countries who have contributed troops to the Middle East country. At present, Romania has 860 troops in Iraq. They are responsible for maintaining security and training Iraqi troops. Up to mid-August, the Romanian troops have provided training for 420 Iraqi soldiers.

Hungarian Culture Week to debut in Beijing

BEIJING, 26 Aug — Hungarian Culture Week will debut in Beijing at Tianqiao Theatre from September 8, featuring performances of the work of Franz Liszt and patriotic poet Petri Sandor.

The China-Hungary convention performances, “Romano Drom” has established fame for its strong gypsy flavour, and the members of the “Five-Person Brass Band” all graduated from the world’s renowned Liszt musical conservatory.

Apart from these performances, a painting exhibition of contemporary Hungarian artists like Gabor Rosko, Agnes Eperjesi, and Imre Bukta will be held in China’s Centennial Altar.

From September 9, five Hungarian films that have won top international prizes will be displayed in a local theatre at the city centre.


Russia pledges to work for continued stability in Afghanistan

MOSCOW, 25 Aug — Russia is concerned about the security situation in Afghanistan and will work for continued stability there and in the whole region, the Foreign Ministry said on Wednesday.

As a member state of the Collective Security Treaty Organization, Russia remains committed to "ensuring reliable security in Afghanistan under UN auspices," the Foreign Ministry said in a statement, issued in response to a presidential statement of the UN Security Council on the situation in Afghanistan a day earlier.

Russia "is concerned about the aggravation of the situation in Afghanistan as far as security is concerned," for which the Taleban, al-Qaeda and other radical forces are responsible, the Foreign Ministry said.

The UN Security Council statement expressed grave concern about the increased terrorist attacks in Afghanistan over the past few months and encouraged all Afghan participants, especially the candidates and their supporters to work to ensure peacefully electoral campaigns and successful elections.

The statement is an important document that accurately reflects the situation in Afghanistan and its development tasks, the Foreign Ministry said.

Gunmen kill four people in western Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 25 Aug — A senior Iraqi official of the Justice Ministry escaped a second bid for his life when gunmen opened fire on his convoy in western Baghdad on Wednesday, killing four of his bodyguards and wounding five others, police said.

"Unknown gunmen attacked the convoy of Busho Ibrahim, the Kurdish undersecretary of the Justice Ministry on the highway near Adil District as he was heading to work, killing four bodyguards and wounding five others," an Interior Ministry source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

Defence Minister says Romania expected to withdraw troops in Iraq from 2006

ROMANIA, 26 Aug—Romania will begin to withdraw its troops in Iraq from next year, Defence Minister Teodor Atanase said in remarks published on Thursday.

The Romanian contingent will remain in Iraq this year and begin to pull out gradually in 2006, the Adevarul (Truth) newspaper quoted Atanase as saying. "We hope Iraqi troops would take over the mission from us next year so that we could scale down our troops," said Atanase.

He didn’t give the exact date of the start of the withdrawal. Atanase’s remarks appeared to be conflicting with those by Romanian President Traian Basescu who said last month that it was "unrealistic" for the allied peacekeeping troops to withdraw from Iraq before the end of 2006.

Basescu said Romanian troops would only pull out after the Iraqi government makes a request and reaches agreement with other members of the coalition countries who have contributed troops to the Middle East country. At present, Romania has 860 troops in Iraq. They are responsible for maintaining security and training Iraqi troops. Up to mid-August, the Romanian troops have provided training for 420 Iraqi soldiers.
Iranian President says to offer nuclear-initiative

TEHRAN, 25 Aug — Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said on Wednesday that Iran will offer an initiative on the current nuclear standoff with Europe.

“The Supreme National Security Council will offer an initiative on the (nuclear) fuel cycle standoff and will make it known to the public,” Ahmadinejad was quoted by the official IRNA news agency as telling a Parliament session.

Ahmadinejad reiterated that Iranian nuclear programme is transparent and has been designed within the framework of international conventions.

“Iran seeks its rights stipulated by the Non-Proliferation Treaty,” Ahmadinejad said.

The President’s announcement echoed what he told UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan on 9 August. “We are ready to proceed with (the nuclear) talks. Of course, I will put forward initiatives in this respect after forming my Cabinet,” he said in a telephone conversation in reaction to Annan’s appeal that Iran return to the negotiating table with Europe.

However, the President has not revealed anything on the so-called “new initiative” to resolve the nuclear dispute.

Iran resumed uranium conversion activities on 8 August, a move escalating the nuclear standoff and drawing stern warnings from the European Union (EU).

The EU and the International Atomic Energy Agency have both urged Iran to stop the resumed activities.

Top Iranian officials have insisted that Tehran is ready to continue nuclear negotiations with the EU but will never suspend the uranium conversion work again, saying the future talks should be focused on the restarting of more advanced nuclear activities.— MNA/IRNA

More room for enhancing Asia-Latam relations

SINGAPORE, 25 Aug — As economies in Asia and Latin America are expected to sustain healthy growth, there exists great potential for enhancing relationship between the two regions, said Singapore Deputy Prime Minister S Jayakumar on Tuesday.

S Jayakumar was speaking at the opening of the inaugural Young Parliamentarians Forum (YPF) under the framework of the Forum for East Asia-Latin American Cooperation (FEALAC).

“Fast growing demand for commodities has led to a significant increase in Latin America-Asia trade,” Jayakumar said, adding that the increasing bilateral Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) between the two regions will help strengthen such economic ties. He urged countries in the two regions to better market themselves to each other's regions so as to enhance mutual understanding and promote business presence.

“We can also do more by increasing air links between our two regions. Bilateral air services agreements between the two regions are useful starting points,” Jayakumar suggested.

He noted in particular the rise of China and India, whose “economic resurgence is reshaping the global political and economic landscape”, saying that their re-emergence has helped revive old linkages and forge new ones between the two regions. Southeast Asian countries may serve as the springboard for Latin American companies' access to China, India and the rest of Asia, according to Jayakumar.

MNA/IRNA

No plans to allow US military base in Azerbaijan

MOGOW, 25 Aug — Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev said on Wednesday that his government has no plans to allow the United States to establish military bases in his country.

Reported that foreign military bases will be set up on Azerbaijani territory are groundless, Aliyev told the media.

Azerbaijan and the United States have not held any talks on the establishment of a US military presence in the Caucasus country, Interfax news agency quoted Aliyev as saying.

No countries will be allowed to set up military bases in Azerbaijan, as the presence of foreign military bases will do no good for the stability of the country,” Aliyev said.

Aliyev also said his government's top priority now is to resolve the territorial dispute with neighbouring Armenia.

MNA/IRNA

Nepali FM says China trip fruitful

KATHMANDU, 25 Aug — Nepali Foreign Minister Ramesh Nath Pandey has said that his visit to China was crucial in further bolstering the diplomatic ties between the two countries and exploring possibilities of investment and trade, Radio Nepal reported on Wednesday.

“The visit has been important in terms of strengthening the economic cooperation and boosting investment in several cultural sectors,” Pandey, who returned to Kathmandu from an 11-day tour to China on Tuesday, was quoted by the state-run radio as saying.

“A Chinese team is arriving in Kathmandu very soon to study the possibilities of investment in Nepal,” Pandey added.

During Pandey's visit, five agreements, including the 870 million Nepali rupees (12.42 million US dollars) Chinese budgetary support for the current Nepali fiscal year (16 July, 2005-15 July, 2006) and import of goods via Tibetan route, were signed. — MNA/IRNA

Filipino worker killed in Iraq attack two more hurt

BAGHDAD, 25 Aug—Guerrillas ambushed a convoy carrying workers of the US electronics firm Lucent Technologies in Iraq's volatile northern city of Kirkuk, killing a Filipino and wounding two of his compatriots, the Department of Foreign Affairs said yesterday.

The fatality was identified as Federico Samson, said DFA spokesperson Gilberto Asuque.

Samson died along with two Iraqis in the attack early Wednesday on the convoy transporting the Filipinos from the oil-rich city to the Iraqi capital of Baghdad. He was the third Filipino to die this year in the war in Iraq.

The wounded Filipinos were Pedro Galila and Roderrick Tayo, according to Asuque. They have been declared out of danger after being flown to Baghdad for treatment, he said. The casualties were among at least 10 Filipinos in the Lucent convoy. There were no other details on the rest of the Filipinos in the convoy.

The Philippines' charge d'affaires in Iraq, Ricardo Endaya, who is temporarily based in Jordan, has been instructed to immediately coordinate with employers of the victim and bring his remains back home, the department said.

“Endaya informed me this morning about this sad development and I have instructed him to arrange with authorities for a flight to Baghdad from Jordan to speak with the concerned officials,” Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo said.—Internet

A Chinese team is arriving in Kathmandu very soon to study the possibilities of investment in Nepal, said the Nepali Foreign Minister.
Chinese Defence Minister meets Russian counterpart

QINGDAO, 25 Aug—Chinese and Russian defence ministers met here on Wednesday on the sidelines of the China-Russian joint military exercises, for an exchange of views on the eight-day war game. "The China-Russia joint military exercises are a key strategic decision made by the state and military leaders of the two countries, " Chinese Defence Minister Cao Gangchuan told his Russian counterpart Sergei Ivanov. Cao said the decision was made in view of the international changes and was intended to deepen the bilateral strategic cooperative partnership.

"It's a significant event in the history of China-Russia military relations," acknowledged Cao, also vice-chairman of the Chinese Central Military Commission and State Councillor.

Cao said the military drills have demonstrated the new development of the China-Russia strategic cooperative partnership and the might of China-Russia military cooperation. He said the war game helps deepen the two countries' mutual trust in military and security affairs, enhance bilateral cooperation in military training and improve the two armies' capability of responding to crises and conducting immediate joint operations.

"The joint military exercises have an important realistic significance and profound historic impact on the safeguarding of regional and world peace and security," Cao said.

Ivanov said it is particularly significant to hold China-Russia military drill at the 60th anniversary of the victory of the international anti-fascist war. "The joint military exercises are a new development of the China-Russia strategic cooperation and an important way to consolidate the China-Russian strategic partnership.

A gold mooncake is displayed at a jewellery store in Hefei, East China's Anhui Province, on 11 August, 2005. The cake sells at a price of some 3,000 yuan. China will be celebrating the traditional Mooncake Festival on 18 September. —INTERNET

Bangladesh police detain more bombing suspects

DHAKA, 25 Aug—Police picked up 15 more suspected activists of the Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen, the Islamic militant group blamed for last week's serial bombings that killed two people and injured about 100 across the country, police said on Wednesday. "We are looking for the mastermind, his associates and some 500 activists who are believed to have been involved in the coordinated bombings," a police officer in Dhaka said. Hundreds of homemade bombs went off nearly simultaneously across Bangladesh last Wednesday, hours after Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia had left for a visit to China. She came back cutting short the trip, and ordered an immediate crackdown on the suspected militants.

Moulna Fariddudin Mashud, a former director of government-run Islamic Foundation who was arrested at Dhaka Airport while leaving for London on Monday, was being interrogated by a joint interrogation cell.

Malaysian manufacturing sales up 14.9% in June

KUALA LUMPUR, 25 Aug—The sales value of Malaysia's manufacturing sector rose by 14.9 per cent to 39.3 billion ringgit (10.34 billion US dollars) in June on a year-on-year basis, the Department of Statistics said on Tuesday.

The growth was generated by the increases in sales value for 47 industries out of 73 industries covered by the survey, the department said in a statement released here.

Five major industries experiencing significant increases in their sales value are manufacture of office, computing and accounting machinery; primary iron and steel industries; crude oil refineries; manufacture of plastic products as well as manufacturing sector of semi-conductors and other electronic components and communication equipment and appliances.

Compared with May, the sales value for June grew by 5.6 per cent. The number of employees engaged in the manufacturing sector rose by 0.7 per cent to 1.02,295 on a year-on-year basis and down by 0.2 per cent on a month-on-month basis.

The monthly manufacturing survey covers 73 out of a total of 137 manufacturing industries in Malaysia, the department said.

MNA/Xinhua

Chevron to set up new unit for Indonesia

JAKARTA, 25 Aug—Following the recent merger of US energy giants Unocal and Chevron, the company plans to establish a new business unit to take charge of its subsidiaries working in the upstream and geothermal sectors in Indonesia and the Philippines.

The new unit will be called Chevron IndoAsia, said Wahyudi Yudiana Ardwinata, the President Director of PT Caltex Pacific Indonesia (CPI)—a Chevron subsidiary after the merger with Caltex.

"We have started the preparations and expect the business unit will be established this year," he was quoted Wednesday by The Jakarta Post as saying.

The downstream businesses, such as Caltex Oil Indonesia, which sells lubricants, would not be included in IndoAsia.

Unocal, the ninth-largest US oil company, accepted an improved takeover bid worth 17.1 billion US dollars by Chevron on 20 July.

Yudiana said there were no plans to merge Chevron and Unocal's subsidiaries in Indonesia.

"The companies' core businesses are different, with CPI concentrating on upstream onshore activities and Unocal operating offshore and in the LNG (liquefied natural gas) business," he said.

The subsidiaries would be able to share services with one another under the IndoAsia umbrella, he added.

CPI is the largest oil producer in Indonesia, producing 478,000 barrels per day at present, roughly half of the country's total oil output, from its wells across Riau Province.

MNA/Xinhua

Arroyo to visit Saudi Arabia, for more oil supply

MANILA, 25 Aug—Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is set to begin her oil supply-generated trip to Saudi Arabia and the United States next month, a local newspaper reported on Thursday.

President Arroyo, according to Manila Bulletin, will appeal oil-producing countries to increase oil supply at affordable prices to the Philippines, which is facing the looming oil crisis, when she attends the summit of world leaders in New York City next month.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita told the newspaper that Arroyo will arrange dialogue with leaders of petroleum-producing countries since they are also scheduled to attend the world summit.

Prior to the New York summit, Arroyo will make a state visit to Saudi Arabia, the country which is among the biggest petroleum-producing countries and homeing a million overseas Filipino workers (OFWs), the report said.

According to the energy department, as a net oil importer, the Philippines' oil import recorded a surge of 27.2 per cent increase in the first five months of this year to 2,308 billion US dollars from 1.815 billion US dollars in the same period last year.

MNA/Xinhua

Hurricane kills six in Uruguay

MONTevideo, 25 Aug—A hurricane of 175 kilometres per hour killed six people and caused serious damage in south and east Uruguay, according to official sources on Wednesday.

The wind tore trees and brought down trees and posts along the Uruguayan coasts on Tuesday night and early Wednesday, causing casualties and water-supply interruption and blackouts.

In the country's capital, Montevideo, the fall of a radio-broadcasting antenna in the poor neighbourhood of Cerro killed two people.

In Canelones Department, neighbouring the capital, a 53-year-old man was killed when he was removing a fallen tree and a falling tree killed a 50-year-old woman while she was looking for her dog.

In the tourist department of Maldonado, 120 kilometre east of Montevideo, a tree fell on a precarious house, killing its occupants.

Montevideo and the affected departments showed the effects of the hurricane, with hundreds of fallen trees and posts and houses without roofs.

The municipal authorities said it will take at least 48 hours to restore services and electricity supply and clear the roads. — MNA/Xinhua

People on a flooded sidewalk on the banks of the Hanjiang River in Wuhan, the capital of Central China's Hubei Province, on 24 August, 2005. —INTERNET

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Saturday, 27 August, 2005 5
Sri Lanka to host S-E Asia Health Ministers Meeting

COLOMBO, 25 Aug—Sri Lanka will host the South East Asia Health Ministers Meeting in Colombo beginning from 4 September to 10 September, the Daily News reported on Wednesday.

Healthcare and Nutrition Minister Nimal Siripala de Silva said that the meeting will provide a forum to discuss important health issues pertaining to the region and will also focus attention to forge bilateral arrangements.

Health Ministers attending the meeting will take up such topics as health action in emergencies, including responses to earthquakes and tsunamis like the 26 December, 2004 one.

The meeting will also focus on strengthening of public health infrastructure with emphasis on education and practice and access to medicines and vaccines-implications of the intellectual property protection and trade agreements.

The Regional Health Ministers meeting is held annually in one of the countries in the region and the 1995 Regional Meeting was held in Sri Lanka, the minister said.

Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Indonesia, South Korea, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Timor are expected to participate in the meeting. — MNA/Xinhua

Prince Charles probes alternative healthcare

LONDON, 25 Aug—Britain’s heir-to-the-throne Prince Charles has commissioned a report into how the government could save money by using alternative medicine in the public healthcare system, the Times newspaper said on Wednesday.

Charles, a long-time advocate of complementary medicines, asked a former chief economics adviser to Barclays Bank to see where savings could be made by avoiding traditional drug treatments for certain conditions, the report said.

A spokeswoman for the Prince declined to comment on the report.

“As you know, the report has not been completed yet, so it would be inappropriate to comment on it,” she told Reuters.

According to leaked draft conclusions of the report in the Times, the report will argue that the state-owned National Health Service could save millions of pounds by using alternative treatments.

It will say up to 480 million pounds (863.4 million US dollars) could be saved if one in 10 family doctors offered homeopathy as an alternative to standard drugs, the Times said.

Savings of up to 3.5 billion pounds could be achieved by offering spinal manipulation rather than drugs to people with back pain.

Charles has a reputation in Britain as an environmental crusader, but he has been mocked in the media ever since he admitted talking to plants in his garden.

He has championed organic food at his Highgrove Estate in western England and has warned of the “disastrous consequences” of genetically modified crops. — MNA/Reuters

PetroChina interim earnings set new record

HONG KONG, 25 Aug—The PetroChina Company Limited announced here on Wednesday that it recorded a net profit of 61.6 billion renminbi (about 7.59 billion US dollars) for the first six months which ended in 30 June, 2005, an increase of 36.1 per cent from the same period of last year.

Earnings per share reached 0.35 renminbi, which was approximately 0.09 renminbi higher than that for the same period of 2004. The Board of Directors of the Company proposed to allocate 45 per cent of the half year net profits for paying interim dividend for 2005, equivalent to approximately 0.157719 renminbi per share.

By leveraging the continued high crude oil prices and the steadily rapid growth of the domestic economy, the company achieved improved operational results and a notable increase in earnings during the first half of 2005.

“We have seen sound performance in our major business segments during the first half of 2005. Our oil and gas exploration achieved significant breakthroughs in both the eastern and western China regions thanks to the great efforts we have made, while oil and gas production also saw increases,” said PetroChina president Jiang Hexin.

He added, “Our refinery segment improved key technical indicators, the chemical segment increased both the output and sales of major products, and our pipeline construction progressed rapidly. All these achievements have contributed to laying a solid ground for us to reach our full year performance target.” — MNA/Xinhua

NATO exercises joint air operations

BRUSSELS, 25 Aug—Twenty two NATO and partner countries started an exercise of joint air operations codenamed “Cooperative Key 2005” in Bulgaria, the headquarters of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) announced here on Wednesday.—MNA/Xinhua

Iran says Iranian freed from Guantanamo mistreated

TEHRAN, 25 Aug—An Iranian man freed from Guantanamo Bay prison developed mental disorders as a result of his treatment there, Iran’s Foreign Ministry said on Tuesday.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Hamid Reza Asefi said the released man Mohammad Anuarkord required medical care to recover from the ordeal.

“Assessments show he has developed mental disorders and psychological problems in Guantanamo due to the inhumane attitude and harassment of his jailors,” the semi-official ISNA news agency quoted Asefi as saying.

The Pentagon said on Monday that three men were released from Guantanamo and sent home to Iran, Yemen and Tajikistan. It said the Iranian detainee was recommended for release by an annual administrative review board. — MNA/Reuters

Iran says Iraqi freed from Guantanamo mistreated

TEHRAN, 25 Aug—An Iranian man freed from Guantanamo Bay prison developed mental disorders as a result of his treatment there, Iran’s Foreign Ministry said on Tuesday.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Hamid Reza Asefi said the released man Mohammad Anuarkord required medical care to recover from the ordeal.

“Assessments show he has developed mental disorders and psychological problems in Guantanamo due to the inhumane attitude and harassment of his jailors,” the semi-official ISNA news agency quoted Asefi as saying.

The Pentagon said on Monday that three men were released from Guantanamo and sent home to Iran, Yemen and Tajikistan. It said the Iranian detainee was recommended for release by an annual administrative review board. — MNA/Reuters

Seven killed in landslides in India’s Assam Pradesh

NEW DELHI, 25 Aug—At least seven people were killed and a dozen were injured on Wednesday in mudslides triggered by heavy rains in northeast India’s Assam Pradesh, Indo-Asian News Service reported.

The local police said several houses were demolished when small hillocks caved in, trapping scores of people, in Guwahati, a major city in Assam.

“There were at least three major incidents when mountains of earth trapped people living near hillocks in and around the city,” Guwahati District Magistrate Samir Sinha said.

Police and rescue workers recovered at least seven bodies, including two children.

The city with a population of 1.5 million was flooded on Wednesday after three hours of heavy rain. — MNA/Xinhua

Suicide bomb at US, Iraqi mily centre kills five

BAQUBA (Iraq), 25 Aug — A suicide bomber killed a US soldier, an American contractor and four Iraqi security guards at a joint coordination centre in a town north of Baghdad on Tuesday, the US military said in a statement.

The attack in Baquba also wounded nine US soldiers, four Iraqi police officers and six Iraqi civilians, the statement said.

Such attacks have raised fears that guerrillas seeking to topple the government are infiltrating the Iraqi military and security forces. — MNA/Reuters

In Austria, floods have caused chaos in the west of the country, leaving three people dead and one missing recently. — Internet

A polar bear cub gets a swimming lesson from first-time mum Barle at a zoo in Royal Oak, Michigan. — Internet
The interesting Yangon-Bago tour programme

Tin Than Yu (Myanmar Travels and Tours)

Myanmar is a tourist destination having a myriad of places that can capture the hearts of visitors. And the Myanmar Travels and Tours is arranging and conducting tour programmes for foreign visitors as well as local vacationers.

In addition to Bago, Thalainy and Twantay, other tourist destinations such as Chaungtha and Ngwesaung beach resorts are not far from Yangon. Thanks to the better transport, tourists can now visit destinations within a short period for leisure, regional knowledge and studying the archaeological sites.

Of the destinations, Bago is only 47 miles from Yangon by train and 50 miles by car. Bago was famous in history as Hanthawady, the royal seat of the nation during the Hanthawady period. The legend has it that a small plot rose from the sea at the place now called Bago, and on it were a female hintha bird (Brahminy duck) resting on the back of the male hintha bird; and that seeing the two birds, the Buddha prophesied the emergence of a state called Hanthawady in the future. The statues of a female hintha resting on the male was erected on a hilltop called Hmhatong as the symbol of Bago. Thus, it is no wonder that Bago is famous for its many ancient edifices.

Along the Yangon-Bago road are the picturesque villages and large stretches of paddy and other crops, a scene that will refresh the mind of a traveller.

Located at Thaakkyant, a place 21 miles north of the city centre on Yangon-Bago road, is the War Cemetery where 27,000 souls of the Allied soldiers lay rest in peace.

The Kyaiyone Laymyethna Pagoda with four large sitting Buddha statues facing the four different directions welcomes tourists at a place three miles south of Bago. The height of each statue is about 50 feet. Tourists will feel amazed to see large images of Buddha at a place surrounded by hills and forests. The pagoda was built by King Thamudazeda in AD 1476. Tourists can also visit the nearby old monastery.

In the eastern sector of Bago lies the Shwemawdaw Pagoda, believed to be one of the most important monuments of Myanmar history. According to our ancestors, two Mon merchants enshrined two hair relics of Buddha in the pagoda. Various kings raised the height of the pagoda till reaching 297 feet in AD 1796. Strong earthquakes in 1912, 1913 and 1930 destroyed many parts of the pagoda. The pagoda was rebuilt in 1954 to become a 375 feet high religious edifice. It has 121 encircling ceits.

Another interesting statue is the Shwethalyaung Reclining Buddha Image, said to be the finest of its kind in Myanmar. Due to a lack of care for years, the image was left hidden in the trees, bushes and creepers for a long time. But after a foreigner accidentally found the image, it was renovated and a building was erected in 1906 to shelter it. The image is 180 feet long and 52 feet at the highest part.

Located in the old palace the Hanthawady Museum displays cultural objects of foreign nations extending trade and other relations with the Hanthawady in addition to ancient Buddha images, bronze ware, ironware, weapons of various types, teak pillars of the palace, the painting and replica of the palace. Now a one-night stay trip to Bago is being conducted for package tours, individuals and families. The tour programme includes golfing, a visit to nearby Moeyungyi Lake Bird Sanctuary and a night stay at Showzathan Hotel.

(Translation: TMT)


Participation of entire people in regional development tasks will contribute towards building a peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation. Township level departmental personnel are to discharge their duties with goodwill.

All national people... (from page 16)
332,156 acres, and arrangements being made for growing of paddy in the flooded plots as soon as water level falls. In his address, Lt-Gen Maung Bo said that the business of 70 per cent population in the nation is agriculture. Thus, the agricultural sector serves the interest of the people. At present, peace and stability has been restored in Kayin State.

The Government is placing emphasis on fulfilling requirements of the local people who long for regional development. Hence, all the national people are to cooperate with the Government in undertaking regional development tasks. Further more, he invited national race groups from some remote areas to join hands with the Government and national people for carrying out development tasks. Authorities of three districts handed over documents on data and accounts for completion of growing early monsoon paddy cultivation at Chaungtaung Village in Hsin-shweli paddy plantation, and progress and gave necessary instructions. Next, they viewed round the agricultural booths of Myanmar Agriculture Service.

Kayin State PDC Chairman Col Khin Kyi presents relief items for flood victims in Kyondeo through an official. — MNA

After the ceremony, Lt-Gen Maung Bo cordially greeted flood victims and members of social organizations.

On arrival at Shwe Phyu Soe Rubber Nursery in Bingyi Village of Hpa-an Township, Lt-Gen Maung Bo heard reports on production of rubber saplings presented by departmental officials and inspected the nursery. At the local battalion in Kyakko, the rubber sapling production farm in-charge Major Maung Maung Oo reported on seeding and nurturing of 220,500 rubber saplings on 100 acres, and handed over the need for production of from 500,000 to 1 million rubber saplings, saving the cost and water supply tasks.

Afterwards, they left there and arrived back here in the evening. — MNA

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Saturday, 27 August, 2005

Participation of entire people in regional development tasks will contribute towards building a peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation. Township level departmental personnel are to discharge their duties with goodwill.

All national people...

332,156 acres, and arrangements being made for growing of paddy in the flooded plots as soon as water level falls. In his address, Lt-Gen Maung Bo said that the business of 70 per cent population in the nation is agriculture. Thus, the agricultural sector serves the interest of the people. At present, peace and stability has been restored in Kayin State.

The Government is placing emphasis on fulfilling requirements of the local people who long for regional development. Hence, all the national people are to cooperate with the Government in undertaking regional development tasks. Furthermore, he invited national race groups from some remote areas to join hands with the Government and national people for carrying out development tasks. Authorities of three districts handed over documents on data and accounts for completion of growing early monsoon paddy cultivation at Chaungtaung Village in Hsin-shweli paddy plantation, and progress and gave necessary instructions. Next, they viewed round the agricultural booths of Myanmar Agriculture Service.

Kayin State PDC Chairman Col Khin Kyi presents relief items for flood victims in Kyondeo through an official. — MNA

After the ceremony, Lt-Gen Maung Bo cordially greeted flood victims and members of social organizations.

On arrival at Shwe Phyu Soe Rubber Nursery in Bingyi Village of Hpa-an Township, Lt-Gen Maung Bo heard reports on production of rubber saplings presented by departmental officials and inspected the nursery. At the local battalion in Kyakko, the rubber sapling production farm in-charge Major Maung Maung Oo reported on seeding and nurturing of 220,500 rubber saplings on 100 acres, and handed over the need for production of from 500,000 to 1 million rubber saplings, saving the cost and water supply tasks.

Afterwards, they left there and arrived back here in the evening. — MNA

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Saturday, 27 August, 2005

Participation of entire people in regional development tasks will contribute towards building a peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation. Township level departmental personnel are to discharge their duties with goodwill.

All national people...

332,156 acres, and arrangements being made for growing of paddy in the flooded plots as soon as water level falls. In his address, Lt-Gen Maung Bo said that the business of 70 per cent population in the nation is agriculture. Thus, the agricultural sector serves the interest of the people. At present, peace and stability has been restored in Kayin State.

The Government is placing emphasis on fulfilling requirements of the local people who long for regional development. Hence, all the national people are to cooperate with the Government in undertaking regional development tasks. Furthermore, he invited national race groups from some remote areas to join hands with the Government and national people for carrying out development tasks. Authorities of three districts handed over documents on data and accounts for completion of growing early monsoon paddy cultivation at Chaungtaung Village in Hsin-shweli paddy plantation, and progress and gave necessary instructions. Next, they viewed round the agricultural booths of Myanmar Agriculture Service.

Kayin State PDC Chairman Col Khin Kyi presents relief items for flood victims in Kyondeo through an official. — MNA

After the ceremony, Lt-Gen Maung Bo cordially greeted flood victims and members of social organizations.

On arrival at Shwe Phyu Soe Rubber Nursery in Bingyi Village of Hpa-an Township, Lt-Gen Maung Bo heard reports on production of rubber saplings presented by departmental officials and inspected the nursery. At the local battalion in Kyakko, the rubber sapling production farm in-charge Major Maung Maung Oo reported on seeding and nurturing of 220,500 rubber saplings on 100 acres, and handed over the need for production of from 500,000 to 1 million rubber saplings, saving the cost and water supply tasks.

Afterwards, they left there and arrived back here in the evening. — MNA
YANGON, 26 Aug — Myanmar delegation led by President of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation Daw Than Than Nwe left here today for the People’s Republic of China to attend the 10th anniversary conference of the 4th World Women’s Conference.

The anniversary conference will be held from 29 August to 1 September in Beijing.

Daw Than Than Nwe was accompanied by General-Secretary of MWAf Prof Dr Daw Khin Mar Tun.

The delegation was seen off at Yangon International Airport by Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlements Maj-Gen Sein Htwa, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint, patrons of MWAf, president, vice president and executives of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, officials of MWAf and Ambassador of PRC to Myanmar Mr Li Jinjun and officials.

— MNA

Rubber plantations in Sagaing Division, Chin State inspected

YANGON, 26 Aug — The Managing Director of Myanmar Perennial Crops Enterprise inspected rubber plantations of entrepreneurs and local battalions in Kalay Township on 18 August.

On 19 August, the managing director oversaw private rubber farms and the rubber plantations of the merchant association in Tamu.

On 20 and 21 August, he inspected Htayzan rubber plantation in Tiddim Township and Yanhtalo rubber plantation in Falam Township and gave instructions on feeding of fertilizers, weeding tasks and fire preventive measures to officials.

On 22 August, he met with rubber growers in Kalay Township and attended to the needs.

— MNA

Fair Sun Mould and Die Industry introduces moulds and dies

Minister for Cooperatives Col Zaw Min speaking at the introduction of moulds and dies assembled by Fair Sun Mould and Die Industry in Shwepyitha Industrial Zone. — COOPERATIVE

YANGON, 26 Aug — Chairman of the Industrial Development Study and Cooperation Committee Minister for Cooperatives Col Zaw Min attended the introduction of moulds and dies assembled by Fair Sun Mould and Die Industry in Shwepyitha Industrial Zone this afternoon.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation Thura U Thaung Lwin, Deputy Minister for Industry-2 Lt-Col Khin Maung Kyaw, officials and technicians of Cottage Industries, Myanma Dockyard, Myanma Electric Power Enterprise, Myanma Railways, Myanma Textile Industries and Myanma Engineers Association and industrialists.

First, Col Zaw Min made a speech. Next, Deputy Minister Thura U Thaung Lwin explained measures being taken for use of technical assistance in the development of industrial equipment and parts, fulfilling the domestic requirements, production of import-substitute items and iron and steel industry.

Managing Director Dr Pe Khin of Fair Sun Mould & Die Industry explained the machinery installed at the industry, manufacture of eight kinds of industrial parts such as water pump housing, oil pump bracket, shock absorber, oil pump housing, radiant support, nozzle holder, prechamber and idle gear shaft and production of six kinds of foundry machine such as sand dryer machine, sand washing machine, shot blaster machine, sand cooler machine, shake out machine and conveyor and various kinds of plastic injection mould. He also reported on nine kinds of machine parts to be manufactured — band saw machine, ban saw tip bracing machine, hand jointer machine, router machine, rice huller machine, plate machine and one ton battery forklift.

After that, those present viewed coordinate measuring machine, vertical CNC machine centre, and other machine parts.

At the hall of the industry, Fair Sun Co Director U Thein Ngwe reported on production of import-substitute items and rubber moulds. Managing Director of Excellence Mineral Manufacturing Col Ltd U Tun Hlaing reported on production of machine parts assembled by their company, and Deputy Minister Lt-Col Khin Maung Kyaw gave a supplementary report. Myanma Engineers Association Chairman Col Nyan Tun Oo explained manufacturing of vacuum moulding machines with the use of programming system. Later, the minister gave concluding remarks.

— MNA

PRC hands over weather instruments to Meteorology and Hydrology Department

YANGON, 26 Aug — Under World Meteorological Organization/ Voluntary Cooperation Programme, the People’s Republic of China handed over PCVSAT and AWOS worth US$ 41120 to Department of Meteorology and Hydrology-DMH this afternoon.

At a hand-over ceremony held at the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology here, Dr San Hla Thaw, Director-General of the DMH and Ms Xu Qingyuan, First Secretary of the Economic and Commercial Counsellor’s Office of the Embassy of PRC, inked the documents.

Also present were Deputy Director General, directors and responsible staff from the DMH, responsible personnel from the Chinese Embassy and four communication engineers from China Meteorological Administration.

— MNA

Thailand seeks ways to assist business, to cooperate in research in Myanmar

YANGON, 26 Aug — An 11-member Thai delegation yesterday met with officials of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry-UMFCCI and discussed matters on opening of training courses in Myanmar for human resource development.

The delegation was led by Vice-Chairman of the National Research Council Dr Chaiwat Konjing.

— MNA

President Daw Than Than Nwe and party being seen off at the airport before departure for China. — MNA

Myanmar women delegation leaves for China

YANGON, 26 Aug — Myanmar delegation led by President of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation Daw Than Than Nwe left here today for the People’s Republic of China to attend the 10th anniversary conference of the 4th World Women’s Conference.

The anniversary conference will be held from 29 August to 1 September in Beijing.

Daw Than Than Nwe was accompanied by General-Secretary of MWAf Prof Dr Daw Khin Mar Tun.

The delegation was seen off at Yangon International Airport by Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlements Maj-Gen Sein Htwa, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint, patrons of MWAf, president, vice president and executives of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, officials of MWAf and Ambassador of PRC to Myanmar Mr Li Jinjun and officials.

— MNA
MOGE holds coordination meeting

YANGON, 26 Aug — Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise held the coordination meeting at the Ministry of Energy on Pyay Road this morning. Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi gave an opening speech. Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thi, Deputy Director-General U Soe Myint of Energy Planning Department, Managing Director U San Lwin of MOGE and officials took part in the discussions.

Next, the minister gave instructions on drilling and test of new oil and natural gas fields for local fuel sufficiency, preparations to be made for drilling new wells after reviewing seismic data, use of funds in accord with financial regulations, nurturing technicians, efficient use of fuel and power and minimizing loss and wastage.

The meeting ended in the evening.

MNA

Religious Affairs Ministry holds tree planting ceremony

YANGON, 26 Aug — Tree planting ceremony 2005 of Ministry of Religious Affairs was held this afternoon at Thirimingalar Kaba Aye Hill.

Minister for Religious Affairs Thura U Myint Maung, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, departmental heads and officials and staff planted 2,000 toddy palm trees.

MNA

Waso robes, umbrellas donated

YANGON, 26 Aug — The Waso robes offering ceremony for 315 members of the Sangha and nuns from Singu and its surrounding villages was held at the Paton Dagon Pagoda Grounds this morning.

Patron of Buddha Pujaniya 9,900 Lights Organization U Soe Win, Chairman U Bo Kyi (Dr Bo Thantoon-Taunggyi) and officials accepted 140 sets of robes and six umbrellas donated by well-wishers.

Those wishing to donate robes, umbrellas, slippers and medicines may contact the organization at the combined office (Insein, Tel: 640487 and 640489).

MNA

Objectives of the 13th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions

— To vitalize patriotism and nationalism;
— To preserve and safeguard Myanmar cultural heritage;
— To perpetuate genuine Myanmar music, dance and traditional fine arts;
— To preserve Myanmar national character;
— To nurture spiritual development of the youths;
— To prevent influence of alien culture; and
— To strengthen national unity and Union Spirit.

MNA

Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun speaking at the concluding ceremony of Proficiency Course No 25 for Heads of Township Internal Revenue Department. — MNA

Proficiency course for heads of Township Internal Revenue Department concludes

YANGON, 26 Aug — The Proficiency course No 25 for Heads of Township Internal Revenue Department of the Ministry of Finance and Revenue, concluded at the meeting hall of the department on Pansodan Street this morning, attended by Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun. Also present on the occasion were Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Col Hla Thein Swe, Chairman of Central Bank of Myanmar U Kyaw Kyaw Maung, Director-General of Internal Revenue Department U Hsan Tun, directors-general, managing directors, directors, deputy directors and officials of the department and enterprises under the ministry.

Minister Maj-Gen Hla Tun delivered an address. Afterwards, the minister awarded the prizes to the outstanding students. On behalf of trainees, the completion certificates were presented to a trainee. — MNA

30th Inter-State/Division Chess Tournament commences

YANGON, 26 Aug — Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint delivered an address at the opening ceremony of the 30th Inter-State/Division Chess Tournament at Aung San Gymnasium, here, this morning.

Previous year’s champion Mandalay Division team and Yangon Division team handed over their championship trophies to the minister.

Next, the minister opened the tournament. Also present were Chairperson of Central Committee for Myanmar Women’s Sports Federation Daw Aye Aye, the President of Myanmar Chess Federation and officials.

 Altogether 11 teams of states and divisions are taking part in the International Chess event, seven teams of states and divisions in the International Chess U-20 event and seven teams from States and Divisions in the Myanmar Traditional Chess event. — MNA

Traditional medicine law clarified

YANGON, 26 Aug — In accord with the directive of supervisory committee for central traditional medicine under the Ministry of Health, Yangon Division supervisory committee for traditional medicine clarified traditional medicine law at the Yangon Division Traditional Medicine Department this morning.

Present on the occasion were Director of Traditional Medicine Department U Khin Maung Win, officials of office of the commander of Yangon Division Police Force and Division Heath Department and others.

The officials made a wide range of discussions and replied to the questions raised by the traditional medicine dealers. — MNA
Indonesia, S Africa plan energy cooperation

JAKARTA, 26 Aug — Developing alternative sources of energy will be one of the key areas of cooperation between South Africa and Indonesia following the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the two governments earlier this week.

Visiting South African Minister of Science and Technology Mosibudi Mangena, who was in Jakarta to sign the MoU on science and technology cooperation, said that research in this area was urgent because of economic and environmental issues.

“Price of oil is going up all the time, causing lots of hardship to all nations,” he was quoted on Thursday by The Jakarta Post as saying. “Fossil fuels also cause pollution and contribute to global warming.”

“The days of using oil and other fossil fuels to power the economies are numbered,” he said.

The MoU also proposes scientific collaboration in biotechnology, the aerospace industry and in nuclear power development. The agreement will also facilitate an exchange of scientists between the two countries.

Indonesia’s State Minister for Research and Technology Kusmayanto Kadiman agreed that finding renewable sources of energy would be a focus of the cooperation between the two countries.

“Wind energy, sea wave energy, solar energy or hydrogen energy could be considered in a joint strategy in developing alternative energy,” Kadiman said.

He said Indonesia could provide technological assistance to South Africa in the development of biofuels, such as biodiesel or bioethanol.

The minister has identified research in alternative and renewable energy as one of its six priority areas for scientific research and development expenditure, which accounted for roughly 0.05 per cent of Indonesia’s GDP in 2001.

Mangena, who is trying to push up South Africa’s research and development expenditure from 0.81 per cent of GDP to 1 per cent by 2008, said that his country was focusing on developing hydrogen-powered fuel cell technologies as alternatives to fossil fuels.

He said that hydrogen would provide a clean source of energy as its byproducts consisted of only heat and water, as opposed to the harmful carbon-fluoride emissions from fossil fuels.

MNA/Reuters

Typhoon “Mawar” bears down on Tokyo

TOKYO, 26 Aug — A powerful typhoon was bearing a path towards Tokyo on Thursday and was forecast to make landfall near the Japanese capital in the evening, bringing with it strong winds and heavy rainfall that was snarling transportation and disrupting oil shipments.

Typhoon Mawar, named for a type of flower in the Malay language, was 170 kilometres (105 miles) southwest of the Shizuoka Prefecture coast at 1.45 pm (0445 GMT), the Meteorological Agency said.

It was moving north at 20 kilometres an hour, and winds were gusting up to 144 kilometres an hour at the centre of the typhoon.

Mawar is expected to hit the Tokyo region or areas slightly to the west at around 6 pm (0900 GMT), and then move north across the country. The capital and its surrounding prefectures are home to around 27 million people.

The agency issued flood warnings for the Tokyo region, and some flights and express trains out of Tokyo were cancelled. Television footage showed high waves hitting the coastline of Shizuoka Prefecture. Officials said waves up to 11 metres high were observed in some areas.

Oil refiners said they were forced to suspend waterborne operations in eastern and central Japan.

Top Japanese refiner Nippon Oil Co halted shipments and unloading of crude oil from tankers at the country’s largest refinery. — MNA/Reuters

Nepal tries minimize earthquake damage

KATHMANDU, 26 Aug — The Nepali Government is committed to reducing possible earthquake damage in the country, state-run Radio Nepal reported on Thursday.

Speaking at the end of the three-day “Earthquake Safety Friendship Gathering — 2005” between Nepali and Japanese students on Wednesday, Minister for Education and Sports Radha Krishna Mainali said Nepali people have started to be aware of the possible hazards of natural calamities and adopt necessary safety measures to reduce damage.

In order to prevent possible earthquake damage, the Department of Building Construction and all the five municipalities of Kathmandu Valley need to take effective steps on constructing quake-resistant buildings and developing necessary infrastructures, the minister said.

The government is committed to providing assistance for the purpose, Mainali added. Mainali stressed that the role of different non-governmental organizations can be of paramount importance in promoting awareness against possible earthquake damage.

Kathmandu Valley is mentioned as one of the most hazardous area for earthquake, the minister said, adding that the active participation of students becomes essential in promoting awareness for the reduction of earthquake damage.

The gathering was organized in memory of the earthquake that had caused huge damage in eastern Nepal in 1988. — MNA/Kinhu

Vietnam to accelerate industrialization, modernization

HANOI, 26 Aug — In the next five years, Vietnam will accelerate its industrialization and modernization and develop its economy in a sustainable way, according to the Vietnamese Minister of Culture and Information.

The country will “implement the doi moi (renovation) process in a stronger, more comprehensive and more uniform manner, accelerate industrialization and modernization, and integrate into the international economy more proactively”, Minister Pham Quang Nghi said.

Pham Quang Nghi made the statement when addressing a Press conference on Thursday to introduce activities for celebrating the 60th anniversary of the August Revolution (on 19 August) and the National Day (on 2 September).

Keeping on carrying out the process, putting resources of the whole society, and rapidly developing its economy in a sustainable way will help “bring Vietnam out of underdevelopment, and improve its people’s living standard, thus creating the foundation for the country to become industrialized by 2020”, the minister stated.


Experimental vaccine can help immune system fight lymphoma

NEW YORK, 26 Aug — Researchers have found that an experimental vaccine could prime the immune system to help fight an aggressive form of lymphoma — cancer of lymph node — even though prior therapy had eliminated virtually all of the B cells thought necessary to mount such a defence.

The finding demonstrated that few, if any, B cells were needed to trigger an effective T-cell immune response, a finding which overturned the commonly accepted notion that both were needed to prime the human immune system, they said.

The results of the study by researchers at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Centre and the National Cancer Institute would be published in the September issue of Nature Medicine.

Their research also tested the use of personalized vaccines to help lymphoma patients fend off a recurrence of their cancer after treatment. Several such cancer vaccines were in the human testing stage.

In the study, conducted at the Centre for Cancer Research, National Cancer Institute (NCI), treatment with a B-cell depleting treatment regimen followed by an experimental vaccine resulted in an impressive 89 per cent survival rate at 46 months for 26 patients with mantle cell lymphoma, which was difficult to control.

“This is the first human cancer vaccine study to see T-cell responses in the absence of B cells, and this paves the way to use vaccines in a number of hematological cancers that are treated by eliminating diseased B cells,” said the study’s first author, Sattva Neelapu, an assistant professor in the Department of Lymphoma at MD Anderson.

Those cancers include forms of lymphoma and leukemia in which the cancer evolved in B-cell lymphocytes, white blood cells which produce antibodies that activate a response by the immune system.

New treatments, such as rituximab, were designed to completely wipe out diseased as well as healthy B cells and could prolong patient survival.

However, because researchers were concerned that B-cell depletion from rituximab may impede immune responses to cancer vaccines, and animal studies were contradictory, rituximab had been omitted from lymphoma vaccine studies, Wyndham Wilson, the study’s principal investigator and Chief, Lymphoid Malignancies Therapeutic Section, NCI, said.—MNA/PTI

Malaysian Kudah Mershel, daughter of bonsai cultivator, holds the smallest of her miniature bonsai at her residence in Kuala Lumpur on 24 August, 2005.—INTERNET
Small bomb blast in Indonesia’s Ambon, wounds 4

AMBO (Indonesia), 26 Aug — A bomb exploded not in a marketplace on Thursday in Indonesia’s eastern city of Ambon, wounding four people, officials said. The Moluccas city of Ambon is about 2,300 kilometres (1,440 miles) northeast of Jakarta. “Five persons, a man in connection with the blast, butofficials said they were investigating the motive,” a Reuters photographer on the scene said. The explosion did not cause any serious damage and the situation quickly returned to normal.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

CARPETS OUT AS IRAN PRESIDENT PURSUES

The son of a blacksmith, Ahmadinejad’s election to office was the result of a landslide victory over the incumbent, Mohammad Khatami, in the June 2005 presidential elections.

Meanwhile, Iran’s new President has continued to pursue his moderate policies, with a focus on economic development and international diplomacy.

India sees financial constraints due to welfare schemes

NEW DELHI, 25 Aug — India’s social sector is facing financial constraints due to various macro-economic environment in areas like inflation and growth is reassuring, an official reported on Wednesday. “Major fiscal challenges lie ahead in management of subsidies, finding resources for funding the food for work and employment guarantee programmes,” India’s Minister of State for Finance S. S. Palanimanikan said in the Parliament on Wednesday while presenting the report in the Lower House.

“The government is trying to stimulate the fiscal situation in the months to come,” said the quarterly review of the trends in receipts and expenditure in relation to the national budget at the end of the first quarter of the 2005-06. But the review noted that the government’s efforts at fiscal consolidation by improved tax administration and expenditure control, as well as waiting the decline in receipts due to higher devolution to the states were continuing.

“He therefore urged the government to take appropriate macroeconomic policy actions in the first quarter of this fiscal, this review said the real economic growth was estimated at 6.9 per cent and monsoon was favourable in 81 per cent of the meteorological subdivisions,” MNA/Reuters

UN, British help promote girls’ education in Nigeria

Lagos, 25 Aug — The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and the British Department for International Development (DFID) have jointly launched a project to help promote girls’ education in northern Nigeria, the official News Agency of Nigeria reported on Wednesday.

According to the report, the two bodies have so far selected six local government areas in Nigeria’s northern state of Bauchi as pioneers for the project, part of the Girl Education Project (GEP) in the west African country.

The GEP aimed at ensuring 100 per cent enrollment of school-age girls into schools by September 2007 is also being implemented in five other states — Borno, Jigawa, Sokoto, Katsina and Niger — in the north.

Apart from sensitizing parents and other stakeholders to allow girls to acquire education, said Muhammad Bello, chairman of the Bauchi State Special Mobilization Committee of the GEP, the GEP would also make the schools girls-friendly.

To make this possible, he added, more female teachers would be recruited for the schools, in addition to the rehabilitation of dilapidated primary schools and the provision of utilities such as water and health facilities.

Bello said the project would also “push for new legislative policies and reform, not only to promote high enrollment, but also to prevent the withdrawal of girls from schools.” He said UNICEF and DFID had acquired instruc-utional materials for schools in the six selected local government areas and planned to offer training to teachers in the areas.

He said the social mobilization committee had already embarked on sensitization tour of communities in the affected local government areas to garner support for the success of the project.

He therefore urged the people to support the initiative to facilitate a brighter future for their children. In Nigeria, about 7.3 million children do not go to school, of whom 62 per cent are girls.

In northern Nigeria, the number of children out of school is particularly high and the proportion of girls to boys in school ranges from 1 girl to 2 boys and even 1 to 3 in some northern states.

700,000 new rural houses to have electricity in Bangladesh

DHAKA, 25 Aug — Bangladesh’s Rural Electrification Board (REB) has undertaken a programme to provide electricity to 700,000 new rural houses and construct 10,000-kilometre lines in the next three years.

The programme will be implemented with the financial assistance of World Bank’s (WB) “Rural Electrification and Renovation and Energy Development” (RERED) project. Local daily The New Nation reported on Wednesday.

The project, which started in 2003, has a total fund allocation of 12 billion taka (about 185 million US dollars).

The daily quoted REB sources as saying that under the project, the board has so far electrified 233,000 houses with the electricity grid and about 8,250 kilometres of lines have been constructed during the last two and a half years.

At present, 500 new connections are being given by Rural Electricity Committee of REB every year.

Sources in the World Bank was quoted as saying that with the current pace of connections, Bangladesh would need nearly 30 years to achieve universal electricity access. REB has targeted to attain the goals of universal power connections by the year 2020.

China marks its first Customs’ 60th founding anniversary

BEIJING, 25 Aug — China celebrated the 60th founding anniversary of Yantai Customs in east China’s Shandong province on Wednesday, the first of its kind established by the Chinese Communist Party to re-trieve its Customs control from Westerners.

The Customs were taken over by the revolu-tionary forces led by the Party in Jiaodong Liber-
Education row looming as students await GCSE results

LONDON, 25 Aug.—Another row over the quality of school exams is likely to brew on Thursday when over half a million pupils learn how they fared in their GCSE exams.

Record results are expected after 594,650 students took GCSE exams this year. Like A-level exams, the tests are being condemned by critics who say they are becoming easier and fail to provide a challenge to bright pupils.

Last year students scored more top grades than ever before although the overall pass rate remained the same at 97.6 per cent. Earlier this week, the exams watchdog attacked the standard of marking after one board, Edexcel, said it had used administrative staff to mark religious studies GCSE scripts.

Newspapers also reported that some independent schools were now considering ditching the exams completely arguing they had been “dumbed down” to meet government targets. The GCSE results come a week after exam authorities said the pass rate in this year’s A-levels had reached a record high, prompting similar accusations from critics that the tests were becoming meaningless.

However, ministers, teachers and schools say better results reflect the hard work of the students and those involved in the education system.

Last year first chief schools inspector Mike Tomlinson recommended GCSEs and A-levels be gradually replaced by a single diploma system, with fewer and harder exams. —MNA/Reuters

Cambodian King returns home from state visit to China

PHNOM PENH, 25 Aug.—Cambodian King Norodom Sihamoni returned home on Tuesday from his state visit to China.

It was King Sihamoni’s first state visit since he ascended the throne in October last year after the abdication of his 82-year-old father Norodom Sihanouk. Meeting the King at the Phnom Penh International Airport were Prime Minister Hun Sen, other senior government officials and the royal family members, as well as Chinese Ambassador to Cambodia Hu Qingwen.

During his four-day visit to China, King Sihamoni held talks with Chinese President Hu Jintao and met with other senior Chinese leaders and took a visit to Tianjin, the largest port city in north China and also the sister city of the Cambodian capital Phnom Penh.

Tianjin is the place where King Sihamoni studied ballet in the 1970s.

After ending his visit on 14 August, the King spent the days with his father and mother, former King Norodom Sihanouk and Queen Monineath, who are in Beijing for medical treatment. —MNA/Reuters

Folic acid fortification boosts Vitamin B in US

NEW YORK, 25 Aug.—Vitamin B levels have improved significantly in every segment of the US population since the Food and Drug Administration mandated folic acid fortification of enriched cereal-grain products in 1998.

Folic acid fortification is an example of how easily the vitamin status of the entire population can be improved with a relatively simple and cost-effective measure,” Dr Christine M Pfeiffer from the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, told Reuters Health.

Folic acid is a synthetic version of folate, a member of the Vitamin B complex. Food fortification was aimed largely at preventing birth defects that can occur when pregnant women are deficient in folate.

Pfeiffer and her colleagues used data from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) to examine blood levels of folate, Vitamin B-12, homocysteine and methylmalonic acid in the US population before and after folic acid fortification of cereal-grain products began in 1998.

Homocysteine and methylmalonic acid are both indicators of generalized inflammation and possible cardiovascular risk factors, usually decline when folate levels increase. Between NHANES III (1988-1994) and NHANES 1999-2000, average folate levels more than doubled, the investigators found. Vitamin B-12 concentrations increased in only slightly during the same interval.

These changes were evident in each racial-ethnic subgroup, except for Vitamin B-12 in non-Hispanic Blacks, the researchers report in the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition.

The prevalence of folate deficiency declined from 16 per cent to 0.5 per cent over the study period, the report said, and decreased even more significantly (from 20 per cent to 0.8 per cent) among women of childbearing age. Children and the elderly also benefitted, the team reports. In the last survey, only 5 per cent of the US population had high homocysteine levels and 2 per cent had elevated methylmalonic acid levels. —MNA/Reuters

Estonian President visits Shanghai

SHANGHAI, 25 Aug.—Estonia is ready to further promote economic cooperation with China and would like to become a transfer station and a logistic centre for Chinese companies to enter the European market, visiting Estonian President Arnold Ruutel said here on Wednesday.

Ruutel arrived in Shanghai on Wednesday morning for a five-day visit to China, at the invitation of Chinese President Hu Jintao. Estonia would introduce advanced technology from China to explore its abundant oil shale reserves, he said in a keynote speech at the Estonia-China Forum on Economic Cooperation on Wednesday afternoon. —MNA/Reuters

Israel, Egypt agree on Gaza border force

JERUSALEM, 25 Aug.—Israel and Egypt have finalized an agreement for Cairo to post police along a Gaza border, an Israeli official said on Wednesday.

“With the Egyptians a full agreement has been reached,” Amos Gilad, who helped negotiate the deal, told Army Radio. Israel completed an evacuation of Jewish settlers from Gaza and four settlements in the northern West Bank on Tuesday as part of a plan to “disengage” from conflict with Palestinians.

Israel and Egypt had agreed in principle on August 1 that Cairo could deploy 750 special border police to replace Israeli troops trying to prevent arms smuggling to Palestinian militants.

But a final deal had been delayed amid differences over details on what Egypt’s responsibility would be towards Gaza, territory Cairo had controlled before Israel captured it in the 1967 Middle East War.

Gilad said both sides had reached a “very detailed agreement down to the last pistol” for Egyptian forces to patrol a swathe of territory along the border with Gaza to prevent weapons smuggling. The deal would be signed only after the Israeli Government and Parliament approved it, he said.

Israeli media reports said Egypt would deploy the police after Israel withdrew all its troops from Gaza. —MNA/Reuters

Impoverished people benefitted from subsidized loans in S China region

NANNING, 25 Aug.—South China’s Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region will have 250,000 impoverished people from more than 60,000 households, most of them from ethnic groups in mountainous areas, supported financially by subsidized government loans this year.

According to a regional government official, the subsidized credit extension will cover 20 counties in the region this year, much more than the three counties last year. It will involve 220 million yuan (27.1 million US dollars) in loans, up from the year-earlier level of 36 million yuan (4.4 million US dollars). Related subsidies will increase from 1.5 million yuan (184,957 US dollars) a year earlier to 11.4 million yuan (1.4 million US dollars). Lau Jianfa, officer in charge of fund operation at the region’s poverty-relief work, said each of the 20 impoverished counties to be supported financially this year will obtain 550,000 yuan (67,817 US dollars) on average for its borrowing. —MNA/Reuters

Bombed trees after a forest fire in Vale de Canas, near Coimbra, Portugal, on 25 August, 2005. —INTERNET
Greece, to sign contract with China on Olympic Security

ATHENS, 25 Aug — Greek Public Order Minister George Voulgarakis announced in Parliament on Wednesday Greece will sign a cooperation contract between the Security Studies Centre (KEMEA) and the Chinese Olympic Games Organizing Committee.

Speaking on the draft law for the setting up of the KEMEA, Voulgarakis said that the first contract for the transfer of technical know-how for the security of major athletic events, which Greece acquired at the 2004 Athens Olympic Games, will be signed in Beijing on September 25 during his scheduled visit to China.

He stressed that this contract “involves a very significant economic benefit for the Centre”.

Midfielder Berson joins Auxerre on loan from Aston Villa

Auxerre (France), 25 Aug—Aston Villa’s French midfielder Mathieu Berson has been loaned to AJ Auxerre for one season, a spokesman for the Ligue 1 club said on Wednesday.

“Auxerre proved themselves very convincing. I wanted to come back to France. They did everything they could to set up a deal with Aston Villa. I’m delighted,” Berson said.

Auxerre have also signed young midfielder Kristian Vadocz from Hungarian first division side Honved. The transfer fee was not disclosed.

Arsenal’s Aliadiere joins West Ham on loan

LONDON, 26 Aug—French forward Jeremie Aliadiere has joined West Ham United on a season-long loan from Arsenal, the Premier League club confirmed on Thursday.

The 22-year-old had been on loan at Celtic but has failed to start a competitive game. “The signing of Jeremie is another big coup for the club,” West Ham manager Alan Pardew said on the club’s website.

“She is an exciting young talent from Arsenal and along with David Bellion will bring some French flair to our squad.”

Bellion has also signed on loan from Manchester United earlier this month.

Shepherd says time running out for Owen deal

NEWCASTLE (England), 26 Aug—Aston Villa’s French midfielder Mathieu Berson has been loaned to AJ Auxerre for one season, a spokesman for the Ligue 1 club said on Wednesday.

Manager Graeme Souness is desperate to add to his attacking options after a poor start and Newcastle have agreed a club record transfer fee of more than 15 million pounds (27 million dollars) with Real.

“We have made our bid and there is not much more we can do,” Shepherd said. “We are still waiting to hear from Owen and his adviser. But it has got to happen today or it is not going to happen at all, and we will be speaking to Michael’s people.”

Newcastle United chairman Freddy Shepherd said on Thursday time is running out for the club to sign Real Madrid striker Michael Owen.

“Real Madrid will not allow Owen to go out on loan but that is something between them and the player but I am sure that a compromise can be reached,” Owen, who has struggled to establish himself in the Real first team, is keen to rejoin former club Liverpool but said he had also agreed a season-long loan to Newcastle.

“He is contracted to Real Madrid and it won’t be him that makes that decision. No player can make that decision,” Souness told reporters. — MNA/Reuters

Shepherd says time running out for Owen deal

“Real Madrid will not allow Owen to go out on loan but that is something between them and the player but I am sure that a compromise can be reached,” Owen, who has struggled to establish himself in the Real first team, is keen to rejoin former club Liverpool but said he had also agreed a season-long loan to Newcastle.

“He is contracted to Real Madrid and it won’t be him that makes that decision. No player can make that decision,” Souness told reporters. — MNA/Reuters

Arsenal’s Aliadiere joins West Ham on loan

LONDON, 26 Aug—French forward Jeremie Aliadiere has joined West Ham United on a season-long loan from Arsenal, the Premier League club confirmed on Thursday.

The 22-year-old had been on loan at Celtic but has failed to start a competitive game. “The signing of Jeremie is another big coup for the club,” West Ham manager Alan Pardew said on the club’s website.

“He is an exciting young talent from Arsenal and along with David Bellion will bring some French flair to our squad.”

Bellion also joined on loan from Manchester United earlier this month.

Arsenal’s Aliadiere joins West Ham on loan

LONDON, 26 Aug—French forward Jeremie Aliadiere has joined West Ham United on a season-long loan from Arsenal, the Premier League club confirmed on Thursday.

The 22-year-old had been on loan at Celtic but has failed to start a competitive game. “The signing of Jeremie is another big coup for the club,” West Ham manager Alan Pardew said on the club’s website.

“He is an exciting young talent from Arsenal and along with David Bellion will bring some French flair to our squad.”

Bellion also joined on loan from Manchester United earlier this month.

Deportivo’s Luque to join Newcastle for 14m euros

MADRID, 26 Aug — Deportivo Coruna have agreed to sell Spain striker Albert Luque to Newcastle United for 14 million euros (17.18 million dollars).

“Deportivo’s decision to sign Luque seems to signal an end to their bid to sign Michael Owen from Real Madrid.”

The English Premier League club had agreed a club-record fee of 15 million pounds (27 million dollars) with Real to sign the England striker.

But Owen appeared reluctant to move on a permanent basis, preferring to hold out for a possible move to his former club Liverpool.

Newcastle’s signing of Luque marks an end to their search for a strike partner for Alan Shearer.

The Tyneside club, who are managed by former Liverpool and Scotland midfielder Graeme Souness, have only one point from their opening three league games and are yet to score this season.

Luque joined Deportivo from Real Mallorca in 2002 for 15 million euros. He has always been a regular in Deport’s first team and was the Galician side’s top scorer with 11 goals last season.

S P O R T S

Liverpool to face Chelsea in Champions League

MONACO, 26 Aug — holders Liverpool will play Premier League champions Chelsea in the group stage of the Champions League in an early repeat of last year’s semi-final. Liverpool were de...

Internet

 Returned World Cup tickets up for grabs

FRANKFURT, 25 Aug— Fans who missed out on World Cup tickets in the first sales draw will find out this week whether their luck has changed, after more than 40,000 unclaimed tickets were re-allocated in a new ballot.

A total of 40,065 returned tickets were put back up for grabs because of non-payment or failure to comply with sales regulations.

The new ballot took place on Tuesday night and fans will be informed by Friday this week if they have been successful.

“The new draw only included applicants who received no tickets at all in the first two sales phases,” said organizing committee vice-president Horst R. Schmidt.

“We’re delighted that a few more people will now receive tickets for the World Cup.

A total of 812,000 match tickets for the 2006 World Cup were made available in the first two sales opportunities, including 147,000 team-specific tickets (TSTs) that give fans the chance to follow a specific team throughout the tournament.

The original ticket offer involved more than 10-times oversubscribed, leaving many fans disappointed.

Returned TSTs will go back on sale at a later date.

A further 300,000 tickets go on sale in the third sales phase beginning in December.

The tournament begins on 9 June in Munich, with the final on 9 July in Berlin.

MNA/Reuters

Liverpool to face Chelsea in Champions League

MONACO, 26 Aug — Holders Liverpool will play Premier League champions Chelsea in the group stage of the Champions League in an early repeat of last year’s semi-final. Liverpool were de...

Internet

Holders Liverpool must play Premier League champions Chelsea in the opening Champions League group stage in a repeat of last year’s semi-final, after the draw in Monaco on Thursday.

Olympiacos Piraeus and Borussia Dortmund, Bayern Munich and Juventus clash in Group A along with Club Bruges and Rapid Vienna.

Swiss and Greek outsiders. Thun will face Arsenal, Ajax Amsterdam and Sparta Prague.

Manchester United, appearing in the group stage for a record 10th successive year, will play Villarreal, Lille and Benfica, who they beat in the 1968 European Cup final. — MNA/Reuters

Liverpool to face Chelsea in Champions League

MONACO, 26 Aug — Holders Liverpool will play Premier League champions Chelsea in the group stage of the Champions League in an early repeat of last year’s semi-final. Liverpool were de...

Internet

Holders Liverpool must play Premier League champions Chelsea in the opening Champions League group stage in a repeat of last year’s semi-final, after the draw in Monaco on Thursday.

Olympiacos Piraeus and Borussia Dortmund, Bayern Munich and Juventus clash in Group A along with Club Bruges and Rapid Vienna.

Swiss and Greek outsiders. Thun will face Arsenal, Ajax Amsterdam and Sparta Prague.

Manchester United, appearing in the group stage for a record 10th successive year, will play Villarreal, Lille and Benfica, who they beat in the 1968 European Cup final. — MNA/Reuters

Liverpool to face Chelsea in Champions League

MONACO, 26 Aug — Holders Liverpool will play Premier League champions Chelsea in the group stage of the Champions League in an early repeat of last year’s semi-final. Liverpool were de...

Internet

Holders Liverpool must play Premier League champions Chelsea in the opening Champions League group stage in a repeat of last year’s semi-final, after the draw in Monaco on Thursday.

Olympiacos Piraeus and Borussia Dortmund, Bayern Munich and Juventus clash in Group A along with Club Bruges and Rapid Vienna.

Swiss and Greek outsiders. Thun will face Arsenal, Ajax Amsterdam and Sparta Prague.

Manchester United, appearing in the group stage for a record 10th successive year, will play Villarreal, Lille and Benfica, who they beat in the 1968 European Cup final. — MNA/Reuters

Liverpool to face Chelsea in Champions League

MONACO, 26 Aug — Holders Liverpool will play Premier League champions Chelsea in the group stage of the Champions League in an early repeat of last year’s semi-final. Liverpool were de...

Internet

Holders Liverpool must play Premier League champions Chelsea in the opening Champions League group stage in a repeat of last year’s semi-final, after the draw in Monaco on Thursday.

Olympiacos Piraeus and Borussia Dortmund, Bayern Munich and Juventus clash in Group A along with Club Bruges and Rapid Vienna.

Swiss and Greek outsiders. Thun will face Arsenal, Ajax Amsterdam and Sparta Prague.

Manchester United, appearing in the group stage for a record 10th successive year, will play Villarreal, Lille and Benfica, who they beat in the 1968 European Cup final. — MNA/Reuters

Returned World Cup tickets up for grabs

FRANKFURT, 25 Aug— Fans who missed out on World Cup tickets in the first sales draw will find out this week whether their luck has changed, after more than 40,000 unclaimed tickets were re-allocated in a new ballot.

A total of 40,065 returned tickets were put back up for grabs because of non-payment or failure to comply with sales regulations.

The new ballot took place on Tuesday night and fans will be informed by Friday this week if they have been successful.

“The new draw only included applicants who received no tickets at all in the first two sales phases,” said organizing committee vice-president Horst R. Schmidt.

“We’re delighted that a few more people will now receive tickets for the World Cup.

A total of 812,000 match tickets for the 2006 World Cup were made available in the first two sales opportunities, including 147,000 team-specific tickets (TSTs) that give fans the chance to follow a specific team throughout the tournament.

The original ticket offer involved more than 10-times oversubscribed, leaving many fans disappointed.

Returned TSTs will go back on sale at a later date.

A further 300,000 tickets go on sale in the third sales phase beginning in December.

The tournament begins on 9 June in Munich, with the final on 9 July in Berlin.

MNA/Reuters
Flood kills 2 in Austria

VIENNA, 26 Aug — Heavy rains, which have delayed central and southern Europe this days, killed two people and inflicting property damages in Austria.

The mountainous western and southern regions of Austria were the hardest hit, where many roads and homes were destroyed. About 40,000 volunteers and professionals in Austria have been mobilized to combat the flood.

Austrian Chancellor Wolfgang Schuessel called an emergency Cabinet meeting on Wednesday afternoon to discuss relief efforts.

He told reporters following the meeting that the government would provide a huge emergency aid for the flood-stricken areas, and would work out two new laws concerning relief efforts and reconstruction for these regions before next Tuesday.

Thanks to Vienna’s efficient flood control equipment, transportation on the surging Danube is still going on and people’s daily life has not been seriously disturbed by the flood. — MNA/Xinhua

New case of mad cow disease found in Austria

VIENNA, 26 Aug — A new case of mad cow disease was found in the southwestern Austrian city of Graz, bringing to three the total reported cases of mad cow disease in the country, the Health and Food Security Bureau said on Wednesday.

The 60-month-old infected cow was imported from Slovenia and sent to a slaughter house in Graz, the Austrian News Agency quoted the bureau as saying.

Local sanitary authorities discovered and confirmed the infection during a routine inspection, it said.

The infected cow had not entered the food chain and thus would not pose a threat to public health, the Ministry for Health and Women’s Issues said in a statement.

Austria’s first mad cow disease case was discovered four years ago and a second case was reported in June this year.

MNA/Xinhua

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas

WEATHER

Friday, 26 August, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kayah State and lower Sagaing and Ayeyawady Divisions and rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Mandalay, Magway, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions, scattered in Shan and Mon States, upper Sagaing and Bago Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfalls in Rakhine State. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Putao (5.35) inches, Maungdaw (2.52) inches, Hpa-an (1.73) inches, Pnilong (0.94) inches, Pyinmuna (0.91) inch and Namsan (0.90) inch.

Maximum temperature on 25-8-2005 was 90°F. Minimum temperature on 26-8-2005 was 72°F. Relative humidity at 9.30 hrs MST on 26-8-2005 was 85%. Total sunshine hours on 25-8-2005 was 5.2 hours approx.

Rainfalls on 26-8-2005 were nil at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were 67.99 inches at Mingaladon, 70.55 inches at Kaba-Aye and 75.04 inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 9 mph from West (at 17:30) hours MST on 25-8-2005.

Bay influence: Monsoon is weak in the Bay of Bengal

Forecast valid until evening of 27-8-2005: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Kayah State, lower Sagaing and Magway Divisions, widespread in Kachin and Rakhine States and scattered in the remaining states and divisions. Degree of certainty is 80%.

State of the sea: Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanamar waters.

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

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 27-8-2005: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 80%.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 27-8-2005: During the coming weekend, rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Yangon Division and isolated in Mandalay Division.

Flood Bulletin (Issued at (12:30) hrs MST on 26-8-2005)

According to the (06:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Sittang River at Madanik (2906) cm. It may continue to rise and remain above the danger level (2900) cm during the next (72) hrs commencing noon today.

According to the (06:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Sittang River at Madanik is (1121) cm. Although it is falling slightly, it may remain above the danger level (1070) cm during the next (72) hrs commencing noon today.
Yangon, 26 Aug — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence, together with Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing, Brig-Gen Maung Shem of Kawkareik Station, Chairman of Yangon Division Supervisory Committee for ensuring smooth and secure transport meets with colleagues.

Chairman of the National Committee for Child Rights Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa delivered an address at the coordination meeting of Yangon Division Supervisory Committee for ensuring smooth and secure transport yesterday in Yangon Command this evening.

Chairman of Yangon Division Supervisory Committee for ensuring smooth and secure transport Commander of Kayin State Peace and Development Council Col Khin Kyu and officials, attended the ceremony to mark the conclusion of ploughing for cultivation of monsoon paddy in Kayin State for 2005-2006 and the ceremony to release fish into the farmland in Chaungtaung Village of Kawkareik Township on 23 August.

Kayin State PDC Chairman Col Khin Kyu reported on cultivation of 451,057 acres of monsoon paddy against the target of 550,000 acres in Kayin State in 2005-2006 and early monsoon paddy

(See page 8)