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

Senior General Than Shwe sends felicitations to Vietnam

YANGON, 2 Sept — On the occasion of the 60th Anniversary of the National Day of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam which falls on 2 September 2005, Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Tran Duc Luong, President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. — MNA

State Peace and Development Council
Chairman
Senior General Than Shwe receives Thai Foreign Minister

YANGON, 1 Sept — Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Than Shwe received visiting Thai Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Kantathi Suphamongkhon at the Credentials Hall of the Pyithu Hluttaw Building on Pyay Road, here, at 10 am today.

Also present at the call were Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann, Prime Minister General Soe Win, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Director-General Col Kyaw Kyaw Win of the State Peace and Development Council Office and Director-General Thura U Aung Het of the Protocol Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The visiting Thai Minister for Foreign Affairs was accompanied by Thai Ambassador Mr Suphot Dhirakaosal and officials. — MNA

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
**People’s Desire**

- Oppose those relying on external elements, acting from sources, spreading negative views.
- Oppose those trying to jeopardize the State and progress of the nation.
- Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State.
- Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy.

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**NPED Deputy Minister leaves for Philippines**

**YANGON, 1 Sept — Deputy Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Col Thurein Zaw left here by air this morning to attend the 8th Task Force Meeting of ASEAN Economic Integration to be held in Manila, the Philippines, on 2 and 3 September.**

The deputy minister was seen off at Yangon International Airport by Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, departmental officials and families. — MNA

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**Fifth Cultural Performing Arts competitions continue**

**YANGON, 1 Sept — Directorate of Public Relations and Psychological Warfare under the Ministry of Defence held its fifth Myanmar traditional cultural performing arts competitions for the fourth day at the theatre hall of No 3 Mobile Public Relations Unit in Mandalay Division.**

Present on the occasion were Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint of the Ministry of Defence, writers U Chit San Win and Chit Oo Nyo, principals and senior military officers, judges from University of Culture (Mandalay) and Fine Arts Department (Mandalay) and audience. — MNA

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**Wife of visiting Thai FM and party visit Myanmar Gems Mart**

**YANGON, 1 Sept — Mrs Sopavan Suphamongkhon, wife of the visiting Thai Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Kantathi Suphamongkhon, and party visited Myanmar Gems Mart on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road, here, at 10 am today. Adviser U Ohn Myint of the Myanmar Gems Mart of Myanmar Gems Enterprise explained facts about the mart. — MNA**

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**Thai FM donates 2 million baht to UDNR**

**YANGON, 1 Sept — Visiting Thai Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Kantathi Suphamongkhon made a cash donation to University for Development of Civil Service Training and Management Project on completion of the project has been completed, and on completion, 95 per cent of the patients and the nurturing of new generation youths. So far, the construction of Building (C) of the teaching hospital has completed 78 per cent.**

The Government has been rendering assistance in various areas for regional progress and production of human resources, respective physicians and specialists are urged to be fully equipped with compassion and goodwill in giving treatments to help the people of Upper Myanmar lead a healthy life, and to teach and nurture the youths for constant production of new generation medical experts.

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**FM U Nyan Win sends felicitations to Vietnamese counterpart**

**YANGON, 1 Sept — On the occasion of the 60th Anniversary of the National Day of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam which falls on 2 September 2005, U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Nguyen Dy Nien, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. — MNA**

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**Myanmar U-23 advances to semi-final**

**YANGON, 1 Sept — Myanmar U-23 advanced to the semifinal defeating Timor Leste by a wide margin of 7-0 in AFF U-23 Championship for 2005 held in Bangkok at 5.45 pm local time.**

Myanmar U-23 grabbed six points after two matches on the standing table of group-A to reach a spot in the semi-final. The match ended with a goalless draw in the first half. After the break, Myanmar striker Yan Paing, midfielders Soe Muyt Min and Aung Kyaw Moe scored two goals each. Striker Kyaw Thuya added next to its opponents who were underdogs. Myanmar will take on a last match of group-A against Malaysia at 8 pm local time on 3rd September. — MNA

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**CEC member gives talks on national policy, progress of the State**

**YANGON, 1 Sept — USDA CEC member Deputy Minister for Information Lt-Gen Thin Oo gave lecture on the national policy and sector-wise development of the State to 70 trainees from the basic organizational course No 27 organized by Mingladon Township USDA in Thingangyunyi Village-tract today. — MNA**
Nepal to stop pollution at Lumbini

KATHMANDU, 31 Aug—The Nepali Government will soon introduce necessary laws in order to stop pollution in Lumbini, the birthplace of Lord Gautama Buddha, government-run Radio Nepal reported on Tuesday.

“The government will stop pollution by restricting the opening of new industries and adopting pollution control measures in existing industries in the area,” the radio quoted Buddha Raj Bajracharya, Minister for Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation of Nepal, as saying.

Bajracharya made this remark at a discussion programme organized in connection with the celebration of the “Visit Lumbini Year-2006” by the Lumbini Development Fund, a semi-governmental organization.

The tourist route from Bhairahawa City, the nearest city of Lumbini, to Lumbini is being heavily polluted due to the cement, leather and liquor factories operating along the route and necessary laws has been presented before the Council of Ministers, or the Cabinet, for its formulation, Bajracharya noted.

The government has allocated 80 million Nepali rupees (1.14 million US dollars) for development of Lumbini area in the current Nepali fiscal year (16 July, 2005-15 July, 2006) to carry out 12 different development works, according to Bajracharya.

“Various physical infrastructures, including pond, security wall, tube-well boring, afforestation, archaeological excavation and museum, will be constructed,” Bajracharya added. —MNA/Xinhua

Fishing vessel explodes at East China Sea

HANGZHOU, 31 Aug—A Chinese fishing vessel exploded and sank at the East China Sea on Monday morning and all the 14 fishermen aboard were rescued, but leaving one seriously injured, local police said on Monday.

The accident happened at 8 a.m. on the sea approximately 60 sea miles in the east of the Taizhou Bay in east China's Zhejiang Province.

The 14 fishermen, including one seriously burned, jumped into the sea after sending report to their company. Some 10 minutes later, a fishing vessel from Taiwan that passed through the area by chance found the 14 victims and rescued them.

The local sea police got in touch with the Taiwan vessel five minutes later and sailed immediately for the vessel for rescue operation.

At 10:20, the two sides met and the fishermen were transferred to the police boat. After two hours' full-speed navigation, the police boat reached to the dock and the injured fisherman was sent to the hospital immediately.

The fishermen on the sunk vessel, all from South China's Guangdong Province, said the explosion was triggered by gas leak.

The burned fisherman, Yi Fulai by name, is still under treatment. —MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam’s industrial product export up in first eight months

HANOI, 31 Aug—Vietnam's key industrial products for export, including crude oil, coal, footwear and rubber, saw remarkable growths in export earnings in the first eight months of this year, mainly due to higher world prices.

January and August, over 11.5 million tons of crude oil, down 11.3 per cent; 10.5 million tons of coal, up 39.6 per cent; and 291,000 tons of rubber, up 5.6 per cent.

It plans to exploit nearly 47.6 million tons of coal in 2010, and over 64.4 million tons of the mineral in 2020, to meet the increasing local and foreign demand. With no oil refineries, Vietnam now has to export crude oil and import petroleum products. It imported 7.9 million tons of the products worth nearly 3.3 billion dollars in the first eight months, posting respective year-on-year increases of 6 and 43.9 per cent.—MNA/Xinhua

HK confirms new Legionnaires’ disease case

HONG KONG, 31 Aug—The Centre for Health Protection of Hong Kong Monday confirmed a case of Legionnaires’ disease involving a 49-year-old Tin Shui Wai man, bringing the year's total to five.

The man who came down with a fever, cough and chills, admitted to Tuen Mun Hospital on 21 August. His condition is stable and his family members have no symptoms.

Among the five cases reported, two have been classified local while three, including Monday’s case, are migrant and classified local while three, including Monday’s case, are migrant. That includes at least 1,351 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

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The picture shows the general view of the celebration meeting held in front of the Potala Palace in Lhasa, capital of southwest China’s Tibet Autonomous Region, on 1 September, 2005.—INTERNET

1,883 US soldiers killed in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 31 Aug—As of Wednesday, 31 August, 2005, at least 1,883 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,460 died as a result of hostile action, according to the military's numbers. The figures include five military civilians.

Since 1 May, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,744 US military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 1,351 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

MNA/Reuters

MUMBAI, 31 Aug—Tremors were felt in India's financial capital, Mumbai, on Tuesday, the meteorological office said, but had no immediate details of their intensity.

"There were tremors. We need some time to analyze charts and locate the epicentre," said a senior official at the India Meteorological Department's Mumbai office.

A moderate earthquake with a magnitude of 5.1 shook the town of Koyna in western India in March and was also felt in Mumbai, formerly Bombay.

MNA/Reuters

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Malaysian military personnel perform during a rehearsal for the country’s National Day celebrations in Putrajaya outside Kuala Lumpur on 29 August. 2005. Malaysia will celebrate the 45th anniversary of its independence on Wednesday. — INTERNET

Indonesia begins massive anti-polio vaccination

JAKARTA, 31 Aug— Indonesia launches a two-round massive anti-polio vaccination throughout the country on Tuesday, targeting 24.3 million youngsters under the age of five in an effort to prevent re-emergence of the crippling disease.

Singers, movie actors and soap opera stars joined forces with health authorities, calling for the people to halt the spread of polio outbreak in Indonesia.

Tuesday’s round of vaccinations will be followed by another on 27 September, with at least two doses required to be safe from the disease.

At a post in Central Jakarta, First Lady Kristiani Herawati attended the vaccination and urged local authorities to continuously monitor those who did not want to bring their children to vaccination post.

"Please keep close to the people, and if they did not want to bring their children to the post, please monitor them and give an explanation to them," she said amid the vaccination of 350 children in the post.

The First Lady was optimistic that the 24.3 million target could be achieved, as the country has already experienced in conducting vaccination twice in three provinces, Jakarta, West Java and Banten provinces, in May and June.

"Insya Allah (God willing) the target can be achieved," report said that nearly one million children have already been vaccinated in Jakarta. This means that people are more aware that their children must be free from diseases, especially polio, she said.

Most of the polio cases were found in the provinces of West Java, Banten and Jakarta, and earlier the government already vaccinated 6.4 million children in the provinces. The outbreak has spread to Sumatra Island in the last several weeks as the authorities have found one new case in the province of Lampung.

The outbreak of the disease re-emerged in May in Indonesia that had been free from the disease since 1995.

The first case was in West Java province’s regency of Sukabumi, about 100 kilometres from Jakarta. — MNA/Xinhua

Vietnamese exporters urged to expand market in China

HANOI, 31 Aug — Vietnam’s Trade Ministry has urged exporters to strategically prepare for a stronger foothold in the Chinese market as most Vietnamese exports to China will enjoy zero tariff next year under the Early Harvest Programme signed by China and the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Many of Vietnam’s enterprises are already aiming to increase their exports, especially rubber, footwear and seafood, to China, local newspaper Vietnam News reported on Tuesday.

Chinese consumers’ demand, taste and technical requirements for goods are similar to those of Vietnamese people, so it would be easier for Vietnam’s exports to penetrate the market, said Tran Thi Kim Loan, deputy manager of the Vietnamese footwear maker Biti’s.

Biti’s exports low-cost, durable products to China, she said, noting that besides the long-established market of Yunnan Province, her company is expanding export to Chinese cities, including Beijing.

The Seafood Export and Trade Company in Vietnam’s southern Ho Chi Minh City is also expanding activities in the Chinese market. "Low transport freight costs and a large market will create more opportunities for Vietnamese enterprises to push up exports in the future," said the company’s director Nguyen Thanh Son.

However, lack of advertising, regulations, and policies for exports in China is complicating the expansion. The two countries’ legal frameworks regarding transaction and payment process are not compatible, the report said.

China and the ASEAN, which groups Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia and the Philippines, have seen remarkable improvements in trade and investment in recent years. In 2004, the two-way trade was over 100 billion dollars, more than doubling the figure in 2000.

The two-way trade of China and Vietnam stood at more than 6.7 billion dollars last year. They are expected to realize their trade target of 10 billion dollars set for 2010 a couple of years ahead of schedule. — MNA/Xinhua

11 passengers burnt to death in Pakistan’s bus fire

ISLAMABAD, 31 Aug — Eleven passengers were burnt to death and six others injured on Tuesday when a 11,000 volt live wire broke and fell on a bus near Sadiqabad in Pakistan’s Punjab Province, according to the official Associated Press of Pakistan.

The bus was heading for Rahim Yar Khan, about 30 kilometres north-east of Sadiqabad, when a live wire broke from a nearby roadside electric pole and fell on the bus, police said.

The report did not mention how the wire broke suddenly.

The wire touched the handle of a cycle loaded on the roof which caused sparking.

Some passengers perched on the roof jumped off immediately as the vehicle caught fire. The passengers inside, mostly unaware of what had happened, could not escape in time.

As a result, seven men, two women and two children were burnt to death in the inferno, while six persons received severe burn injuries.

They were rushed to a hospital in Rahim Yar Khan, where the condition of one was stated to be critical.

The bus driver managed to escape from the scene. — MNA/Xinhua

Wesley Clark calls Iraq a strategic blunder

MASON CITY, 31 Aug—Retired General Wesley Clark says the war in Iraq was a strategic blunder.

But Clark told a group of Democrats in Mason City today that a quick US pullout would only aggravate America’s problems in the Middle East. He says it would lead to a perception that terrorists and insurgents could defeat the United States.

In his view, the US has to stay in Iraq until the country has a government and military that can survive on their own.

Clark is spending two days in Iowa, a trip aimed to help Democratic candidates in the 2006 election. He says he hasn’t made any decision about running for president in 2008.

Clark sought the Democratic presidential nomination in 2004. He skipped the Iowa caucuses and his campaign quickly faded. — Internet

World’s oldest person dies at aged 115

AMSTERDAM, 31 Aug — A Dutchwoman, the world’s oldest person on record who swore by a daily helping of herring for a healthy life, died on Tuesday aged 115, the ANP news agency reported.

Hendrikje van Andel-Schipper, a former needlework teacher born on 29 June, 1890, died in her sleep at a nursing home in the northern Dutch town of Hoogeveen.

"Mrs Van Andel-Schipper passed away peacefully," ANP quoted the director of the nursing home as saying. "She told me that she thought it was great to have been the world's oldest person and that she looked back on a very fine life."

Also known as Hennie, the passionate soccer fan married a tax inspector in 1924. She said her secret to a long life was eating herring for a healthy life, died on Tuesday. — MNA/Reuters

A woman walks through a street in the deserted French Quarter of New Orleans on 28 August, 2005. — INTERNET
Cambodia to strengthen nuclear transport law

Phnom Penh, 31 Aug — With the ratification of three draft laws, Cambodia will become a signatory to several international conventions, local media reported on Tuesday.

Cambodia’s National Assembly on Monday ratified the three draft laws, including one which will bring Cambodia in line with international standards on the transportation of nuclear materials.

Another draft law will make Cambodia part of an international convention against illegal activities on sea borders, according to The Cambodia Daily.

National Assembly President Prince Norodom Ranariddh told the Assembly that sea border issues, which are complicated by the matters of oil exploration, are more tangled than those on land.

US deaths in Iraq in August most since January

Washington, 31 Aug — US military deaths in the Iraq war rose in August to the highest monthly total since January, and American officials predict that the rate of deaths will continue, according to a count of deaths announced by the Pentagon said on Wednesday, with another 14,265 troops wounded.

The August toll, which followed two months of declining US military deaths, comes at a time when opinion polls show a slight majority of Americans believe the war was not worth fighting.

Last week, President George W Bush, who faced anti-war protests near his Texas ranch while on vacation, said he was considering ways to bring Cambodia in line with most of the world’s nations in a global campaign aimed at preventing nuclear proliferation.

The third draft law passed by the National Assembly is on the international convention against illegal activities at sea. Defence Minister Tea Bauth on Monday pledged that the government will pay attention to the nuclear issues and will form a committee to cooperate with international partners to prevent the nation from ever being used as a transit route for such material. But he also raised concerns about the country’s ability to deal with nuclear problems, stating Cambodia does not have specialized laboratories to identify nuclear substances and local nuclear experts still have limited competence.

US troops died.

The US death toll would reach 2,000 in late October. US military deaths still remain far below those on land.

The death toll for US troops has been 2.1 per day. If that pace continues, the US death toll would reach 2,000 in late October. US military deaths still remain far below those on land.

103 new JE cases, death toll up to 324 in Uttar Pradesh

Gorakhpur, 31 Aug — More than 100 patients were admitted to hospital with Japanese encephalitis on Tuesday as the death toll rose to 324 and the health department of northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh requisitioned 7.2 million vials of vaccine to deal with the epidemic.

The National Zoo’s seven-week-old male giant panda cub undergoes its fourth health exam in Washington 30 August, 2005. — INTERNET

20 killed in two road mishaps in Pakistan

Islamabad, 31 Aug — At least 20 persons have been killed and several others injured in two road accidents in Pakistan’s North West Frontier Pro-

vice (NWFP) and the southern port city of Karachi, local reports said on Tuesday.

An overcrowded coach fell into a dry canal Monday evening after breaking the safety iron rails of a bridge at Nagam Village, some 15 kilome-
tres northeast of Peshawar, capital of NWFP, killing 12 people and injuring five others. The driver was among those who died in the accident.

Witnesses said the accident took place due to over-speeding and reckless driving.

The accident was so severe that 12 passengers died on the spot while the condition of three out of five injured was stated to be critical at a hospital in Peshawar.

In another accident, a dumper and a truck col-
lided head-on on the Na-
tional Highway in Karachi early Tuesday, killing eight persons and injuring 12 others. All those who died and were injured were la-
boulers and were travelling in the truck for work.

Union Minister of State for Home Shri Prakash Jaiswal met UP Principal Secretary (Health) Dipti Vilas and other officials to chalk out a strategy to deal with the situation after visiting the BRD Medical College hospital here on Tuesday morning.

He said the department had made a demand for 7.2 million vials of anti-encephalitis vaccine which would be made available “very soon” even if it had to be imported.

Jaiswal, however, ticked off the state government for not formally informing the centre about the severity of the epidemic.

“A total of 103 fresh cases of JE were today admitted to BRD-MC,” Additional Director (Health) DP Mishra said on Tuesday adding that the official death toll since the outbreak of the disease had gone up to 324.

Since the outbreak in July, 1,240 people have been admitted to various hospitals with over 300 patients cur-
rently undergoing treat-
ment in five JE wards at BRD-MC and 25 ad-
mittied to the district hos-
pital, Gorakhpur.

At least 50 patients each, mostly children be-
low 14 years of age, were admitted in district hos-
pitals in Maharajganj, Basti, Siddharthnagar and Kushinagar in eastern Uttar Pradesh and the disease had now cut a swath into neighbouring Bihar and Nepal.

British police seek two men after baby arson deaths

London, 31 Aug — Police said on Tuesday they were seeking two men who bound a woman’s hands and left her and her baby to die after setting her house on fire.

The men entered the house on a Newcastle estate on Sunday evening, knocked out 21-year-old Danielle Wails, tied her up in her lounge where her baby was crying and set the room ablaze.

Wails, bound with telephone wire around her wrists, was rescued by the fire brigade after she managed to dial 999 with her tongue but her 4-month-old son Alexander Gallon was pronounced dead on arrival at hospital.

“This is a horrific incident which has left a baby dead and a young mum injured,” Detective Superin-
tendent Barbara Franklin told reporters.

“It would appear that those who assaulted Danielle tied her up, set fire to her home, leaving her locked inside. “We could very easily now be investigating two deaths”.

Wails, who suffered minor injuries from the attack but was not burned, lived alone with her son in the house, owned by a charity for young single mothers.

Police said she was now being looked after by relatives and the 21-year-old father of the dead child.

Police said they as yet had no motive for the attack or even who was the intended victim.

But they said the two men would have been aware there was a baby in the room when they started the blaze.

Wails said she was attacked from behind in her kitchen after the men entered through the front door of the house which had been left open.

— MNA/Reuters
Wen Jiabao encourages university students to help farmers
BEIJING, 31 Aug — Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao has expressed his appreciation of a group of students from the China Agricultural University (CAU) for compiling a series of agricultural popular science for rural residents.

In a letter to these students who wrote to the Premier to show their service to repay the Premier to show their service to repay the kindness of the Motherland, the Premier said he was very glad to learn that the students have tried to help farmers with what they learned in school.

“You are the hope of the contemporary students,” said Wen in the letter. He congratulated the students on the 100th founding anniversary of the CAU.

MNA/Xinhua

Estonian President concludes China visit
Tallinn, 31 Aug — Estonian President Arnold Ruutel arrived in China on Tuesday, after winding up his state visit to China.

Invited by Chinese President Hu Jintao, Ruutel arrived in China’s business hub of Shanghai last Wednesday, kicking off his first China visit as Estonian President. Accompanying him on the visit included 66 senior officials and business leaders.

MNA/Xinhua

“Reuters” cameraman still detained after Iraq shooting
BAGHDAD, 31 Aug — A Reuters cameraman remained in US military custody in Baghdad on Tuesday, two days after surviving an incident in which his soundman was shot dead, apparently by US troops.

US officers said they were continuing to question Haidar Kadhem, 24, about “inconsistencies” in his statements after he was taken from the car in which soundman Waleed Khaled was killed by multiple shots while on a news assignment. Iraqi police said US troops fired on the Reuters team, both Iraqis. Reuters has demanded the immediate release of the cameraman, who arrived in Baghdad from his home in the southern city of Samawa only last week. The international news agency has said it sees no reason to detain a victim and witness in the shooting.

Kadhem was treated for minor wounds from flying fragments, a US military spokesman said.

He added that a US investigation into the circumstances of the killing was continuing. Security experts who examined the scene said all the shots appeared to have been fired from the same spot, corresponding to the roof of a building overlooking the highway bridge where the car was hit. Kadhem told colleagues who spoke to him briefly after the shooting that he saw a US soldier on that rooftop. Two Reuters cameramen have been killed by US troops in Iraq since the American invasion in 2003. A third was shot dead by a sniper in Ramadi last November in circumstances for which Reuters is still seeking an explanation from US forces.

MNA/Reuters

S Korea starts mass-production of “T-50” supersonic trainer jets
SEOUL, 31 Aug — South Korean state-run Korea Aerospace Industries (KAI) started mass-production of supersonic trainer jets, T-50s, on Tuesday at its headquarters in an air base in Sacheon, some 430 kilometres southeast of Seoul, reported the South Korean Yonhap news agency.

KAI is scheduled to build and deliver 94 T-50s to the Air Force by 2011. The mass-production of T-50 jets is part of a 6.4-trillion-won ($6.2 billion-US-Dollar) project outlined by the South Korean Defence Ministry aimed at promoting its military aviation industry.

“The production of T-50s will be an epoch-making event in our aerospace industry,” South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun was quoted by Yonhap as saying at the ceremony marking the mass-production of the jets in Sacheon.

“The defence industry is the basis of our self-defence posture and a new dynamic force,” Roh said. “Among them, an aerospace industry is a high value-added industry which has a far-reaching effect on other sectors and creates lots of jobs, so the prospects for its future market are very bright.”

MNA/Xinhua

Singapore’s Tiger Airways to offer one-dollar tickets to Hat Yai
SINGAPORE, 31 Aug — Singapore’s low cost carrier Tiger Airways announced on Tuesday that it will offer tickets between the island state and the resort city of Hat Yai in Thailand at only one Singapore dollar (about 0.6 US dollars) on Wednesday.

As the one-day promotion marks the start of the airlines’ celebration of its first anniversary of ticket sales due on 1 September, it said that tickets at promotional prices will be available every Wednesday from now on to the end of September.

Currently flying to six countries and regions including Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, the Philippines, Indonesia and Macao, the budget carrier welcomed its 500,000th passenger on Monday.

It will launch a daily flight between Macao and Manila on 30 October this year.

In the increasing competition among the three budget carriers in Singapore, the other two, Jetstar Asia and Valuair, agreed to merge in July this year.

MNA/Xinhua

Iranian boy sues Australian Government
CANBERRA, 31 Aug — A 10-year-old Iranian boy has sued the Australian Government for psychological damages during his detention in two Australian immigration detention centres.

The case against Australia’s Department of Immigration started Monday in the Supreme Court in Sydney, capital of the state of New South Wales, Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) radio reported.

Shayan Badraie and his family were detained at Woomera and Villawood detention centres after their arrival in Australia in March 2000 before they were granted refugee status in August 2002.

The boy’s counsel is seeking to hold the Australian Government and the detention centres responsible for the harm caused to the boy by his detention and the traumatic events he witnessed.

It was reported that in 2001, the boy was hospitalized eight times, and had stopped eating, drinking and speaking after 17 months in detention.

MNA/Xinhua

Sino-Brazilian jets enter China’s aviation market in batches
HARBIN, 31 Aug — Jets co-produced by China and Brazil have been put on China’s domestic feeder airlines in batches, said sources with a Sino-Brazilian aircraft manufacturer on Monday.

The Harbin Embrer Aircraft Industry Co. Ltd. (HEAI) has delivered its 7th ERJ145 regional plane to Jiangsu Subsidiary of China Eastern Airlines, which, as the second end user of the joint venture, has ordered five planes. Another four will be delivered by April 2006. China Southern Airlines previously purchased six ERJ145 jets, which are in use in several domestic airlines centred around Guangzhou, capital of south China’s Guangdong Province.

Su Guoxin, president of the Jiangsu Subsidiary of Eastern Airlines, said the first ERJ145 will fly from Nanjing to Chongqing, Shijiazhuang, Zhengzhou and other cities. The joint venture, Embraer, based in Harbin, capital of northeast China’s Heilongjiang Province, was set up in January 2003. Its first plane took a successful maiden flight in December of the same year.

The ERJ145 is a new generation of feeder jet plane launched in 1996 by the Embrera Company, headquartered in Sao Jose dos Campos, Brazil. So far, more than 900 aircraft of this sort have been put into use. Insiders say China’s short-haul airlines account for only 12 per cent of its total, much lower than the average 35 per cent in the world’s aviation market.

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MNA/Xinhua
Counter media with media

Yadanasy Sayadow (Loilem)

First I gave the title of my article “Attacking media with media”.
But as I thought that the heading would be too acrimonious or aggressive, I changed it to “Counter media with media.”

It was at 8 pm on 28 August 2005. The newscaster appeared on the TV as usual to read the daily evening news. The TV showed the viewers the Information Ministry building, and then the meeting hall, in which officials, guests and local and foreign journalists took their respective seats.

The first part of the news conference was the clarification made by Director-General of Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen Khin Yi, followed by the briefing of Home Affairs Minister Maj-Gen Maung Oo in the second part. In the third part, Information Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsian gave a supplementary report on the clarifications made by Brig-Gen Khin Yi and Maj-Gen Maung Oo, the government’s counter-measures against the destructionists inside and outside the nation and the nation’s media policy.

The final part of the press conference was question and answer session, and the audience found it so interesting.

“Nowadays, the government has to take a great care of all the measures that are necessary for harmony with prevailing situations in order not to harm the interests of the nation and the people. It is common knowledge that internal and external destructive elements in collusion with certain foreign broadcasting stations are constantly broadcasting fabricated, exaggerated, instigative and slanderous news with the aims of encroaching on the State stability and national solidarity, inciting public panics and misleading the people, and creating unrest for utter devastation.”

The above-mentioned remark was made by Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsian at the press meet, after the minister after recounting the media attacks launched by some foreign radio stations including the BBC on Myanmar during the 1988 unrest, saying, “It is known to all that at 8.15 pm on 23 August 2005, BBC broadcast a fabricated news on State leaders and the nation together with supplementary comments. Indeed, such news poses a grave danger to the nation. Under the press ethics, a broadcasting station should find out whether such a story is very important for a nation is correct or not, and whether it is substantive or not, as it is more important than normal news items.

The media of every nation has its own ethics. If the media fails to follow its ethics, it will become ethicless. The media will be deprived of prestige if it fails to observe the ethics. And openly to say, the media will be like an x-rated identity if it lacks ethics.

The minister then reviewed the BBC announcement broadcast at 8.15 pm on 23 August 2005 as follows.

“The media should air such important news only after ascertaining the authenticity and accuracy. However, without doing so, the BBC broadcast fabricated news of internal and external destructive elements. Being a world famous news station, the BBC should not have done so. That BBC news report can be found with links with the aboveground, underground and expatriate three-pronged attack.”

At the conference, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsian expressed his belief that as they are experienced persons, the journalists and the politicians of Myanmar would clearly understand and see the evil schemes of the BBC, facing the severe deterioration of its prestige since the 1988 unrest.

Concerning the matter, he said, “As you journalists are experienced ones, you can see the BBC’s real motive. Our local politicians have passed various periods. They have experienced during the 1988 incidents how BBC and other media fuelled unrest for spreading anarchy throughout the country by broadcasting instigative, slanderous and fabricated news. I believe that our journalists know how BBC’s recent broadcasts were made timely with terrorist destructive elements’ plan for creating unrest.”

But as he found some quarters going against his belief, the minister said, “However, some so-called politicians in interviews with RFA, DVB, VOA and other broadcasting stations tried to aggravate the issue. It is regrettable for the country and the people.”

The minister also recounted the clarifications made by Maj-Gen Aye and members of the State Peace and Development Council. Those policies are being materialized by the Government and ministries concerned. As members of the State Peace and Development Council have been conducting field trips and making integrated and well-coordinated efforts, remarkable progress has been made in various sectors.”

Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsian said, “Today, the leadership of the State is as mentioned above. Head of State Senior General Than Shwe is discharging the State responsibilities for the good health.”

Soon after hearing the authentic news, which the entire people were desirous to know, the faces of the participants at the press meet, became bright with joy in their hearts, and all the people watching the TV or listening to the radio were free from all anxieties, they were happy and content.

Now I will present the questions raised by journalists at Press Conference 6/2005—(Translation: TMT)
YANGON, 1 Sept — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence together with Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of the Central Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw yesterday arrived at Kyauktalon (extension) river water pumping project in Ngazun Township and inspected the irrigation through distributories of the project and thriving monsoon paddy cultivation.

At a meeting with responsible officials of the project, Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave instructions on the generating of electricity of the project and supply of irrigation water to monsoon paddy fields.

Ngazun Township sets its target of 2,000 acres of monsoon paddy. and 997 acres have been cultivated.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party went to Ywathit river water pumping project in Ngazun Township and inspected supply of irrigation water through distributories 1 and 2 of the project. Chairman of Myingyan District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Tun Win and officials reported on monsoon paddy cultivation in the region and irrigation of the Ywathit river water pumping project.

After hearing the reports, Lt-Gen Ye Myint urged officials to make efforts for meeting the target acres of the district.

Later, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party went to Ngannya river water pumping project in Ngazun Township and inspected supply of irrigation water through distributories 1 and 2 of the project. Chairman of Myingyan District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Tun Win and officials reported on monsoon paddy cultivation in the region and irrigation of the Ywathit river water pumping project.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Ye Myint met with local farmers and viewed thriving monsoon paddy fields. Lt-Gen Ye Myint proceeded to Hsimihkon-2 extended river water pumping project at Kaing Village in Myingyan Township and attended to the needs for cultivation in the region.

In the evening, Lt-Gen Ye Myint arrived at Seiknyan river water pumping project near Seiknyan Village in Myingyan Township. At the briefing hall, an official of the project reported on progress of the construction work and remaining tasks.

The main canals of the project have been constructed and generators and pumps have been equipped. Upon completion, the project will irrigate 10,000 acres of farm land.

When they arrived at Kyawzi river water pumping project in Taungtha Township, Myingyan District, Magway Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Col Phone Maw Shwe welcomed them.

At a meeting with officials of the project, Lt-Gen Ye Myint said Kyawzi river water pumping project will irrigate 700 acres and will also supply water to 300 acres in the catchment area of Son Lake. Only then, will Mandalay Division meet its target of 1 million acres of paddy.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint also inspected thriving monsoon paddy fields irrigated by Ngathayauk river water pumping project. Out of its target of 1,534 acres of monsoon paddy, NyaungU District has grown monsoon paddy on 528 acres.

At Ngathayauk river water pumping project, Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspected flow of water into main canal of the project and irrigation of the project.
Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than on inspection tour of Thayawady, Paungde

YANGON, 1 Sept —
Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by departmental officials, arrived at Meenin Creek in Thayawady Township on 30 August to inspect development of Bago Division (West).

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party were welcomed by Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Southern Command Maj-Gen Ko Ko, Chairman of Bago Division (West) Peace and Development Council Brig-Gen Hla Min, Brig-Gen Khin Zaw Oo of Inma Station and officials.

At the rubber nursery in Thayawady, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than heard reports on nurturing of 100,000 quality rubber saplings at the nursery and future tasks. Commander Maj-Gen Ko Ko and Brig-Gen Hla Min gave supplementary reports. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than viewed round the nursery. The rubber nursery was established in Thayawady to grow 10,000 acres of rubber plantation in Bago Division (West) under the plan of extending 60,000 acres of rubber plantations in Bago Division from 2005 to 2008. At the nursery, 100,000 saplings are being nurtured and 400,000 quality rubber seeds stored.

Next, they attended the ceremony to put fish into the paddy fields in Magyigwin Village of Letpadan Township. A total of 150,000 fingerlings have been put into 317 acres of paddy fields in Thayawady District.

In Paungde, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than met with departmental officials, members of social organizations and local people at the hall of Township PDC. After hearing the reports, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than said that peace and stability and prevalence of law and order, economic growth and development of human resources are essential in building a modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation. The Government has laid down and is implementing the 24 special development regions plan, the border areas development plan and five rural development tasks for cent per cent equitable development of all parts of the nation.

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The target has been set to grow 2.8 million acres of monsoon paddy and 400,000 acres of summer paddy in 2005-06 in Bago Division. All are to make efforts for meeting the targets of cultivation.

He stressed the need to extend breeding of poultry and fish in the division for increasing per capita income and contributing to the township economy. Service personnel are to strive for development of the township and carry out beautifying and sanitation tasks of Paungde.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party inspected units of Paungde Hospital, Acting Medical Superintendent Dr Daw Nwe Oo conducted them round the hospital.

Thai Foreign Minister concludes visits

YANGON, 1 Sept —
At the invitation of U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, visiting Thai delegation led by Dr Kantathi Suphamongkhon, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand and Madame left here for home by special aircraft this evening. The delegation was seen off at Yangon International Airport by Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win and wife, officials concerned of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Thai Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Suphot Dhirakaosal and embassy staff.

Returning home together with the Thai Foreign Minister on the same flight were Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr Prapas Limpabandhu and high ranking officials of the government of the Kingdom of Thailand.

Thai Foreign Minister calls on Myanmar counterpart

YANGON, 1 Sept —
Visiting Thai delegation led by Dr Kantathi Suphamongkhon, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand called on his counterpart Foreign Minister U Nyan Win at the latter’s office this morning.

The Thai delegation visited Drugs Elimination Museum and National Races Village. They were conducted by officials concerned round there.

Minister U Nyan Win and wife hosted a dinner in honour of Thai Foreign Minister and party at Kandawgyi Palace Hotel yesterday evening. After the dinner, the Thai delegation paid a pilgrimage visit to Shwedagon Pagoda.

Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win meets with Thai counterpart Dr Kantathi Suphamongkhon and party. — MNA

Thai Foreign Affairs Minister Dr Kantathi Suphamongkhon and party seen off at the airport. — MNA

Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win with Thai counterpart.
Nutrition week activities (2005) launched

Minister Dr Kyaw Myint and guests observe photos of nutrition week activities after the opening ceremony. — MNA

YANGON, 1 Sept — The Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Mines, UNICEF and WHO launched Nutrition Week activities at a ceremony held at the International Business Centre on Pyay Road here this morning. Present on the occasion were Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, Deputy Minister Dr Mya Oo, President of the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association Daw Khin Khin Win, Vice-President Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint, Vice-President of the Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation Daw Khin Lay Myint, officials, resident representatives of UN agencies, internal and international NGOs, health staff, and guests. The minister in his speech said that the Ministry of Health is implementing its two objectives — enabling the entire people to enjoy longevity and to be free from diseases. The ministry is carrying out tasks to eliminate malnutrition, to flourish hygienic practices, and to prevent and control obesity, diabetes, hypertension, and heart disease.

At the same time, it is making all necessary arrangements in order that iodine deficiency cannot raise its ugly head again, and iodine deficiency will be no more at the end of 2005 in Myanmar, he added. He said the ministry has acknowledged the active participation of relevant ministries and social organizations in a fight against iodine deficiency and malnutrition. Thanks to the active role of related ministries, social organizations and the people, the nutrition week activities achieved remarkable successes in 2003 and 2004. In conclusion, he expressed his belief that nutrition week activities for 2005 will also achieve success.

Today, Deputy Resident Representative of UNICEF Ms Elke Wisch and Acting Resident Representative of WHO Dr Stephen P. Jost delivered speeches. After the ceremony, the minister and guests observed the pavilions staged to educate the public to respect nutrition. Next, the minister and guests gave Vitamin A pills to under-five children and ferrous sulphate tablets to mothers.

Siittaung bridge (Mokpalin) under construction

YANGON, 1 Sept — Accompanied by officials concerned, Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun arrived at Siittaung bridge (Mokpalin) construction project yesterday morning following the inspection of the maintenance of Htaukkyant-Bago six-lane road section during the rainy season. At the briefing hall, Senior Engineer U Kyaw Lin reported to the minister on progress in building the bridge, arrangements to be made for future tasks as targeted, map of two approach roads. In connection with the reports, the minister instructed officials concerned to retain detailed records on the rise in the flow at the river during the rainy season, to focus on timely completion of pile driving, to draw design for approach roads to withstand 60-ton of loads and then made arrangements to fulfill the requirements. Total length of Siittaung bridge (Mokpalin) is 2392.7 feet. Its main bridge is 1365 feet in length. Its approach road (Waw side) is 784.1 feet in length and that of (Kyaiuko side), 243.6 feet. Its motorway is 28 feet in width. Its walkway is 6 feet in width. It is so reinforced concrete type. It can withstand 60-ton loads.

Now, pile driving tasks of the approach road (Kyaiuko side) and construction of approach structures have been completed and concrete pillars are under construction. Pile driving tasks are being carried out at the approach road on Waw side. — MNA

Medical books, journals donated to MMCWA

YANGON, 1 Sept — Wellwishers from Australia donated medical books and journals to Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association to be used at medical colleges in Myanmar at the hall of Medical Science Department this afternoon.

Present on the occasion were Vice-President of MMCWA Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint and four executives, Director-General of MSD Dr Maung Maung Wint, rectors of respective medical colleges in Yangon, directors of MSD and officials.

First, Vice-President of MMCWA Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint explained the purpose of the donations. Dr Maung Maung Wint accepted 163 medical books and journals and expressed his gratitude. — MNA

Ingyinthabo Dam to benefit 900 acres in Dabayin Township

YANGON, 1 Sept — Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Huay Oo on 27 August went to Ingyinthabo Dam project being constructed by Sagaing Division Irrigation Department in Dabayin Township, Shwebo District, Sagaing Division, to assess the construction work.

According to an official of Sagaing Division Irrigation Department, it is expected that the dam will benefit 900 acres of land. At a meeting with local people and members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association, Minister Maj-Gen Huay Oo said as part of an effort to develop social and economic sector in the region, the dam project is being implemented. Moreover, the construction of the dam aimed at boosting the crop production so that local farmers can earn much money, he added. Before he went to Ingyinthabo Dam, Minister Maj-Gen Huay Oo inspected mixed cropping in Dabayin Township. During his tour, the minister also inspected the irrigation canals of Thaphanseik Dam and Kindat Diversion Dam, and Okpo Dam in Budalin Township, Monywa District.

OFFICIALS LEAVE: Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry CEC members U Nyin Aung and U Nyin left here by air for the Lao People’s Democratic Republic to attend workshop on ASEAN Free Trade Zone for private sector to be held on 2 and 3 September there. Photo shows the two officials prior to their departure at the airport. — NLM
Chavez says “cowboy” Bush failed in “Katrina” evacuation

CARACAS (Venezuela), 1 Sept — Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, a vocal critic of the US Government, on Wednesday called US President George W Bush a “cowboy” who had failed to manage the Hurricane “Katrina” disaster and evacuate victims.

“That government had no evacuation plan, it is incredible, the first power in the world that is so involved in Iraq ... and left its own population adrift,” Chavez said in a Cabinet meeting broadcast live on television.

His remarks came as US authorities evacuated thousands of people from New Orleans and after Bush said it would take years to recover from flooding caused by Hurricane Katrina.

The death toll on Wednesday reached at least 200 in what Bush called the nation’s worst natural disaster.

“That man, the king of vacations ... the king of vacations in his ranch said nothing but, you have to flee, and didn’t say how ... that cowboy, the cowboy mentality,” said Chavez, chuckling in a reference to Bush without naming him directly.

Zimbabwe bans hunting to protect elephants

HARARE, 1 Sept — Zimbabwe, home to thousands of elephants, has banned safari hunting in the western districts of Dete and Hwange to protect a “presidential” herd, the official Herald newspaper said on Wednesday.

“We have banned hunting activities in those areas where we find the presidential herd of elephants for sanity and order to prevail,” the paper quoted Tourism and Environment Minister Francis Nhema as saying.

The paper did not explain what it meant by “presidential” or whether the herd was owned by President Robert Mugabe. Nhema and Tourism Ministry officials were not immediately available for comment on Wednesday.

US soldier injured in Kabul

KABUL, 1 Sept — An American soldier was injured as their patrol team came under attack in the west of Afghan capital city, an independent Kabul-based newspaper reported on Wednesday.

“Two rockets were fired on a six-vehicle convoy of US Army in Mullah Mohammad Village of Khak-e-Jabar District, Kabul, wounding one soldier,” daily Cheragh reported in its front page.

It did not mention the date of the incident. However, the newspaper quoted the spokesman of NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) as saying that the attackers made their good escape from the scene.

No Afghan or US official was immediately available to make any comment on the report.

It is the first time the US military came under attack in the Afghan capital since its deployment nearly four years ago.

Three US soldiers were also injured when Chavez, an outspoken populist who calls Bush’s Fidel Castro an ally, often lambastes what he calls Washington’s failed imperialist policies. He says the Bush Administration is trying to assassinate him and calls the US President “Mr Danger”.

The two governments frequently clash though the United States is the top oil client of Venezuela, the world’s No 5 crude exporter. Washington portrays Chavez as a menace who uses his nation’s oil wealth to fund anti-democratic groups.

The Venezuelan President, applauded by supporters for his self-proclaimed socialist revolution to fight poverty, has offered to send cheap fuel, humanitarian aid and relief workers to the disaster area.

Venezuelan state oil firm PDVSA has offered 1 million US dollars from its US-based refinery unit Citgo for relief efforts. — MNA/Reuters

Uganda sends Army officers to Kenya for counter-terrorism exercise

KAMPALA, 1 Sept — The Ugandan Army has sent 30 specialized officers to attend a counter-terrorism exercise in Nairobi, Kenya, scheduled to start on Thursday.

The Ugandan Army spokesman, Lieutenant-Colonel Shaban Bantariza, told Xinhua by telephone on Wednesday that the officers would join their colleagues from Tanzania and Kenya in the exercise.

“We expect the exercise to start on 1 Sept and end on 1 Sept,” said Bantariza.

He noted that the officers will be briefed on preventive measures to cope with terror operations.

The joint exercise, dubbed Operation Trend Maker, will draw participants from the three countries’ police, immigration, Customs and military departments.

The exercise is expected to strengthen East Africa’s ability to combat extremist violence.

This exercise is one of the many exercises mounted by the three East African countries to beef up their cooperation in defence affairs. Early this year, the three countries held a joint military exercise in Arusha, Tanzania.

Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania in 1998 signed a memorandum of understanding on the cooperation in defence matters. The memo was revised in 2000 and is now being upgraded into a protocol.

Oil hits record near $71 per barrel after “Katrina”

NEW YORK, 1 Sept — Oil struck a high near 71 US dollars on Tuesday as oil companies raced to check their abandoned oil platforms and refineries for damage after Hurricane Katrina’s rampage through the Gulf of Mexico.

US crude hit a record 70.85 US dollars a barrel before settling at 69.81 US dollars, up 2.61 US dollars a barrel, amid reports of drifting oil rigs and flooded refineries.

The storm, which killed at least 50 people, shut nearly all of the Gulf of Mexico’s oil production — about a quarter of the nation’s oil output — and closed down nine refineries along the coast, according to government figures.

Energy analysts said oil prices could soar as high as 80 US dollars a barrel and drivers in the US could soon be paying three US dollars a gallon for gasoline if damage reports from oil companies bear bad news. “This in many ways is the worst-case scenario that the oil industry has been fearing,” said Geoff Sundstrom, spokesman for the AAA motorist group. “Production, distribution and refining has slowed to a crawl through the whole area.”

It is not out of the question that 80 US dollars could be the next barrier if there’s long-term damage.”

said Gerard Burg, minerals and energy economist at National Australia Bank.

The last time oil prices, adjusted for inflation, averaged 80 US dollars a barrel was 1980, after the Iranian revolution.

Heating oil and gasoline futures also reached peaks on the New York Mercantile Exchange, spelling more misery for consumers leading into the Northern Hemisphere winter.

Gasoline trading on the NYMEX was halted briefly after the contract gained the maximum allowed. — MNA/Reuters
A D V E R T I S E M E N T S

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P.O. Box. 109
Ph:248108/723043
(For: Domnern Somgjat & Boonma Attorneys at
law, Thailand)
Dated: 2 September 2005

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V. HK DEQIN-202 VOY: NO (507)

Consignee of cargo carried on M.V. HK, DEQIN-202 VOY: NO (507) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5-9-2005 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of D.P.W where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR HONG KONG DEQIN MARITIME DEVELOPMENT CO LTD. CHINA

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

Death toll rises in Paris immigrant building fire

Paris, 31 Aug—A fire killed seven people and injured 14 in a rundown building in central Paris housing immigrants, three days after 17 people died in a blaze in a crowded apartment block used by African immigrants.

Monday night’s fire raised new questions about the conservative government’s fire safety record and housing policies, which have been under attack since a fire in April killed 24 people at a Paris hotel used by immigrants. A fire探究orman said six people were killed on the scene and a hospital spokeswoman said a child had died after being taken to hospital. Five fire-fighters were among the injured and two people were seriously hurt. President Jacques Chirac expressed his condolences to the families, and ordered a prompt investigation into “another dreadful fire”.

Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin’s office said an inquiry was underway.

MNA/Reuters

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Win Mu Tin, M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L for DAIKIN KOGYO CO.LTD. P.O. Box 60, Yangon. Dated: 2 September 2005

US study finds ozone layer has stopped shrinking

WASHINGTON, 31 Aug—The ozone layer has stopped shrinking but it will take decades to start recovering, US scientists reported on Tuesday.

They said an international agreement to limit production of ozone-depleting chemicals has apparently worked, but the damage to ozone has not been halted completely.

An analysis of satellite readings and surface monitoring instruments shows the ozone layer has grown a bit thicker in some parts of the world, but is still well below normal levels, the scientists report in Wednesday’s issue of the Journal of Geophysical Research.

Elsewhere, the decline in ozone levels has stabilized, said Betsy Weatherhead, a researcher at the University of Colorado at Boulder and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. “The observed changes may be evidence of ozone improvement in the atmosphere,” she said in a statement.

The experts credited at least in part, the 1987 Montreal Protocol which was ratified by more than 180 nations and set legally binding controls for the production and consumption of ozone-depleting gases containing chlorine and bromine.

The prime suspects in ozone destruction are chlorofluorocarbons, or CFCs, once commonly used in refrigeration, air conditioning and industrial applications.

German official blasts US climate policy

BERLIN, 31 Aug—A German official on Tuesday criticized the US Government for doing little in the face of an environmental threat, said NOAA administrator Conrad Lautenbach.

Weatherhead noted that methane levels, water vapour and air temperatures will continue to affect future ozone levels. “Even after all chlorofluorocarbons are out of the system, it is unlikely that ozone levels will stabilize at the same levels,” she said.

“Chemicals pumped into Earth’s atmosphere decades ago still are affecting ozone levels today,” said Sherwood Roland of the University of California Irvine.

MNA/Xinhua

Over 2 tons of cocaine seized in Caribbean Sea

BOGOTA, 1 Sept—Colombia has captured over 2 tons of cocaine in the Caribbean Sea, with help from other nations, police reported on Tuesday.

In a joint operation conducted by Colombia, Britain and the Netherlands, anti-narcotics agents seized two tons of cocaine — with a street value of about 50 million US dollars, the police said in a statement.

The drugs had been carried by a fast boat off the northern coast of La Guajira, before being transferred to a larger vessel, the MV Atlantic Star. Tipped off by Colombia and Britain, a Dutch Navy ship sailed on a helicopter on board intercepted the MV Atlantic Star.

Police also arrested eight suspects, said the statement, without disclosing their nationalities.

On Thursday, the Colombian Navy reported the capture of 480 kilos of cocaine in a separate swoop on a fishing boat in the Caribbean Sea.

The boat, flying a Colombian flag, and its four crew members were seized with the support of the US Coast Guard.

The Colombian Navy has seized a haul of 75 tons of cocaine this year with the collaboration of other nations.

MNA/Xinhua

GERMAN OFFICIAL BLASTS US CLIMATE POLICY

MNA/Xinhua

explained through global warming which is caused by people”, Trittin told German public TV channel ZDF.

The per capita production of greenhouse gas in the United States is “about two and a half times as much” as that in Europe, said Trittin.

Some 80 people were reported dead in Mississippi on Monday when Hurricane Katrina hit the area. The death toll continued to rise.

MNA/Xinhua

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MNA/Xinhua
Demand for Nepali workers rises in Saudi Arabia

KATHMANDU, 31 Aug — Private employers affiliated to different sectors in Saudi Arabia have put up additional demand for Nepali workers, Nepal Association of Foreign Employment Agencies (NAFEA) said here on Tuesday.

"Nepalis are known for their hard work and honesty because of which a growing number of private employers in Saudi Arabia have been demanding for additional workers," NAFEA said in a Press statement.

Nepali workers in Saudi Arabia has been growing over the past two months since those already working there have left a strong impression, the statement noted. Currently, more than 50 Nepalese workers are going to Saudi Arabia everyday, which nearly double the earlier trend.

Around 25,000 Nepalis have already received prior approvals from the Labour Department of Nepal to go to work in Saudi Arabia, the statement revealed.

The number of Nepali workers working in different countries abroad has hit the one million mark, the statement noted. Around 300 Nepalis are still going abroad for job everyday. — MNA/Xinhua

127 cases reported in 11 days as dengue hits Dhaka

DHAKA, 31 Aug — At least 127 persons have been affected by dengue in the past 11 days, giving a warning about the spread of the mosquito-borne disease.

"The season of dengue starts in June and continues till October, and August is the peak season of dengue," Dr. Touhid Uddin Ahmed, an entomologist, was quoted by New Age as saying on Monday.

New Age quoted sources from the health directorate control room as saying that at least 127 patients were admitted to city hospitals and clinics from August 17 to 25. A survey conducted by the health directorate between August 4 and August 10 on 1,400 residences of 35 areas (40 houses in each area) finds 11 of the areas very risky as the density of Aedes mosquito is relatively more here. — MNA/Xinhua

US poverty rate rises, ranks of poor whites expand

WASHINGTON, 31 Aug — The US poverty rate rose in 2004 for the fourth year in a row, driven by an increase in poor whites while the median income for Americans as a whole remained roughly flat, the government said on Tuesday.

The percentage of the US population living in poverty rose to 12.7 per cent from 12.5 per cent in 2003, as 1.1 million more people slipped into poverty last year, the Census Bureau said in its annual poverty report.

The ranks of the poor rose to 37.0 million from 35.9 million the previous year, the report said. The Bush Administration called the 2004 increase "modest" and said the rise was not altogether surprising.

Poverty rates typically lag improvements in employment and the economy in general, said Elizabeth "ER" Anderson, associate undersecretary for communications and chief of staff in the Commerce Department's Economics and Statistics Administration.

The Census said the poverty rate rose through 1993 despite the early 1990s recession hitting a trough in March 1991. "What's happening... is kind of similar to what happened in the early 1990s where you have a recession officially over and then several more years after that a rise in poverty," said Charles Nelson, assistant division chief in the Census' Housing and Household Economic Statistics Division.

"We're seeing the same thing today," he said. But some economists said the data was still worse than expected.

"The economy looks pretty snappy from 30,000 feet, but when you get down and look at how actual working families are doing, they're falling behind year after year," said Jared Bernstein, senior economist at Economic Policy Institute.

"The main reason for that appears to be the fact that the job market has yet to generate the kind of increases in living standards you'd expect at this point," he said.

The average poverty threshold in the United States for a family of four was an income of 19,307 US dollars, the Census Bureau said. It was 15,067 US dollars for a family of three, 12,334 US dollars for a family of two and 9,645 US dollars for individuals.

The data showed three groups driving changes in poverty in the United States — Whites, Midwesterners and people aged 18 to 64.

Non-Hispanic Whites were the only group that saw its poverty rate rise to hit 8.6 per cent for 2004 compared with 8.2 per cent in 2003. The poverty rate declined for Asians and remained unchanged for Blacks and Hispanics, the report showed.

The Midwest was the only region where income declined, down 2.8 per cent to 44,657 US dollars, the report said.

Nationwide, real median household income in 2004 totalled 44,389 US dollars, roughly flat from 2003, the Census said. Real median household income has crept lower each year since 1999, the data showed.

Black households had the lowest median income among race groups, at 30,134 US dollars, while Asian households had the highest, at 57,518 US dollars. The median-income for non-Hispanic White households was 48,977 US dollars and was 34,241 US dollars for Hispanic households.

Among age groups, the poverty rate increased for people 18 to 64. It declined for those age 65 and older and held unchanged at 17.8 per cent for children under 18, the data showed.

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Dry, hot weather ignites big Alaska wildfire season

ANCHORAGE, 31 Aug — Successive hot summers, vast swathes of insect-weakened trees and lightning strikes have combined to torch about 4 million acres (1.6 million hectares) of forest in Alaska this summer, nearly tying the state’s third-largest fire season record, Rogers said.

This summer's large wildfires come a year after more than 6.5 million acres (2.6 million hectares) burned last year, the most since wildfire records have been kept in the past 56 years.

The two consecutive large fire seasons are unprecedented, according to wildfire managers and foresters.

"It does not happen, unprecedentely, that we have two large back-to-back fire seasons," said Maggie Rogers, spokeswoman for the Alaska Interagency Coordination Centre, the consortium of federal and state agencies that manage wildfires in Alaska.

Within a week, this year’s total is expected to surpass the 1969 total of 4.017 million acres (1.63 million hectares), the third-largest on wildfire season record, Rogers said.

The large reach of this year's fires may be one sign of a major climate-driven change underway in Alaska's boreal forest, said Glenn Juday, a professor of forest ecology at the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

— MNA/Reuters

Cambodia bans heavy vehicles from Angkor temples

PHNOM PENH, 31 Aug — Cambodia issued a new directive that would restrict heavy vehicles entering the Angkor temples in order to preserve the world famous legacy, local newspaper reported on Tuesday.

As of 1 November, trucks weighing more than 20 tons will not be allowed to travel through or park inside the park, The Cambodia Daily quoted the directive signed by the Apsara Authority, the government agency managing Angkor, as saying.

"An excessive number of vehicles is unacceptable for ancient infrastructures," the directive cited as a reason for the ban, adding that "emission and vibration" caused by vehicles could damage the temples.

— MNA/Xinhua

Three people wounded in explosion in southeastern Turkey

ANKARA, 1 Sept — Three people were wounded in an explosion in Semdini Township of Hakkari Province in southeastern Turkey, the semi-official Anatolia news agency reported on Thursday.

The explosion occurred near “Peace Tent” pitched up by the People’s Democracy Party (DEHAP) in the second session of 1 Sept International Day of Peace, and the explosion was caused probably by a sound bomb. One of the security measures were taken at the scene and an investigation was launched.

— MNA/Xinhua

Don’t Smoke
Seeded women sail further at US Open tennis

NEW YORK, 1 Sept — Women's top seed Maria Sharapova, fourth seed Kim Clijsters and the Williams sisters Venus and Serena all swept into Round Three without the loss of a single set at the US Open Tennis Championships here on Wednesday.

And in the men's singles, third seed Lleyton Hewitt booked his second round berth with a 6-1, 6-2, 6-1 easy victory over former French Open champion Albert Costa. The 18-year-old Russian Sharapova thrashed Madagascar Daily Randrianarivelo 6-1, 6-0 despite gusts of winds across the court. Australian Hewitt served superbly in his first match at the Open to outplay Spaniard Ferrer from start to finish, and wrapped up victory over the world number 104 in 80 minutes.

Following the withdrawal of Marat Safin and the exit of British 12th seed Tim Henman on Tuesday, Slovakian 15th seed Dominik Hrbaty becomes the highest seeded left in Hewitt's quarter of the draw. And the 2001 champion could face hometown Federer in the semifinals.

Belgian Clijsters initially found Colombian opponent Fabiola Zuluaga more difficult to cope with before earning a 7-5, 6-0 second-round win.

Clujnster, who has six titles to her name this year but is still seeking her maiden Grand Slam title, threw away a 4-1 lead to trail 5-4 in the first set. But she recovered her rhythm to break to love at 5-5 and romped through the second set.

Wimbledon champion Venus Williams beat Russian Maria Kirilenko 6-1, 6-3 to move a step closer to a possible fourth round showdown with younger sister Serena, also two-time former champion at Flushing Meadows.

Romanian gymnastics Olympic women's team disbanded

BUCAREST, 1 Sept — Romanian gymnastics was in disarray on Tuesday when the women's national team, winners of four Olympic golds in Athens, were disbanded after two of their leading members went nightclubbing without permission.

The Romanian Gymnastics Federation (FRG) said it broke up the team after state television station showed triple Olympic champion Catalina Ponor and Floarea Leontia returning from a Bucharest nightclub to their hotel early on Sunday morning.

"At an FRG emergency meeting, we decided to dismantle the female Olympic team following a string of unacceptable events," FRG sport director Anca Grigoras told Reuters. "Ponor and Leontia spent a night in a nightclub without the permission of their coaches and this behaviour is unacceptable for top-level sports performance."

Romania's national coaches Octavian Belu and Mariana Bittang, with no team at their disposal, have asked the FRG if they can resign. "Coaches Belu and Bittang have no athletes to train so they have no purpose in their job," said Grigoras. "They will receive an answer to their request within the next few days.

"The team has been disbanded and the athletes will now train at their own clubs, if they want."

Earlier this month, double Olympic champion Monica Rosu and Alexandra Eremia quit the team after gaining weight and losing interest in their national training programme.

A fifth member of Romania's Olympic team, Daniela Sofronie, has since followed suit.

"We cannot continue in such conditions," Belu told Reuters. "The medals Romanian have won so far were the result of a clear training system under an 'academisation'... giving this up means we have no chance for further medals."

"We can speak about a new Romanian Olympic team next year, when new generation of gymnasts comes through," said Belu. "This year's world championships are compromised for Romania."

The 38th world championships will take place in Melbourne, Australia, from 21 to 27 November.

ODESUR rejects La Paz as host for 2006 South American Games

RIO DE JANEIRO, 1 Sept —- Sport representatives of Bolivia on Wednesday left the session of the South American Sports Organization (ODESUR), gathered here to appoint the new host for the 2006 South American Games, as the petition to keep La Paz as the original venue for next year was turned down.

La Paz originally obtained the right to organize the 7th South American Games in 2003, but lost its nomination last June, as a consequence of the political instability of mid-2005 which led to the resignation of Bolivian President Carlos Mesa.

"We wanted to receive Wednesday a solidarity similar to that received by London after the July 7 terrorist attacks, but unfortunately it was not possible to reopen the discussion on the situation currently affecting the country," said the Bolivian delegation.

On the other hand, Brazilian Carlos Arthur Nuzman, Chairman of the Executive Committee of ODESUR, said "there is no discussion on the withdrawal of the nomination, and also said it is not possible to allow having a political discourse in a sports environment."

Under these circumstances, the Bolivian delegation left the session prior to the presentation of the candidacies of Buenos Aires, Lima and Cuenca (Ecuador) for the hosting of the South American Games, next year.

Buenos Aires proclaimed new venue for 7th South American Games

RIO DE JANEIRO, 1 Sept — The Executive Committee of the South American Sports Organization (ODESUR) Wednesday proclaimed the Argentine capital, Buenos Aires, as the venue for the 7th South American Games in 2006.

Buenos Aires obtained 10 out of 14 votes of the representatives of the South American countries on Wednesday during a special session.

Two other rivals of Cuenca (Ecuador) and Lima (Peru) received three and one, respectively.

The 15th ODESUR member, Bolivia, did not participate in the voting because the members of its delegations abandoned the session a few minutes before the voting to maintain La Paz as the venue of the games was rejected by the Committee.
Floods from non-stop rain kill 28 in central China

BEIJING, 1 Sept—Floods caused by weeks of heavy rain have killed 28 people and left four missing in central China, the Beijing News reported on Wednesday, the latest casualties in the annual flood season.

Raintstorms had lashed Shiyian City in Hubei Province every day since 14 August, sparking massive floods that cut off power, roads and communications and inundated crops, mayor Chen Tianhui was cited as saying.

Flooding across China this summer had killed at least 1,024 people and left 293 missing while causing almost $103 billion yuan (12.7 billion US dollars) in direct losses, Xinhua news agency said, based on figures released by the State Flood Control and Drought Relief Headquarters and the Ministry of Civil Affairs on Tuesday.

Nearly 900,000 houses and 10 million hectares (24.7 million acres) of farmland had been destroyed nationwide so far this year, it said.

Summer flooding is common throughout China and kills thousands every year. The problem is compounded by deforestation as rains trigger rock slides and mud flows off bare mountainsides.

The weeks of rain in Shiyian had caused several mudslides, and potential mountain torrents threatened nearly 800 mountainside households, the Beijing News said, based on a Xinhua report.

State Flood and Drought Relief Headquarters official Zhang Zhihong said China’s flood season was nearing its end, but told southeastern provinces to brace for approaching Typhoon Talim.

Taiwan issued a land warning on Wednesday as Talim headed towards the island, packing torrential rains and wind gusts of up to 141 miles per hour.

MNA/Reuters

WEATHER

Thursday, 1 September, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in upper Sagaing Division, scattered in Kachin, Shan, Rakhine and Kayah States, lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Yangon and Tanintharyi Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Bago (2.05) inches, Hpa-an and Mawlamyine (1.77) inches each, Kambulu and Shweyin (1.18) inches each, Thatoon (1.10) inches, Minbu, Myeik and Kawhtong (0.94) inch each.

Maximum temperature on 31-8-2005 was 92°F. Minimum temperature on 1-9-2005 was 71°F. Relative humidity at 9.30 hrs MST on 1-9-2005 was 85%. Total sunshine hours on 31-8-2005 was 5.5 hrs approx. Rainfalls on 1-9-2005 were (0.12) inch at Mingladon, (0.16) inch at Kaba-Aye and nil at central Yangon.

Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were 70.08 inches at Mingladon, 73.23 inches at Kaba-Aye and 78.74 inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 4 mph from West at (15:20) hrs MST on 31-8-2005.

Bay influence: Monsoon is weak to moderate in the Bay of Bengal.

Special feature: According to the observations at (06:30) hrs MST today, yesterday’s low pressure area over Vietnam had moved westward and become unimportant.

Forecast valid until evening of 2-9-2005: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Shan, Kayah, Kayin and Mon States, Yangon and Tanintharyi Divisions and scattered in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is 80%.

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Moderate monsoon.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 2-9-2005: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 80%.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 2-9-2005: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 80%.

Myanma Port Authority

Warning of Hightide

The Public are hereby informed that exceptionally high tide of from 20.14 feet to 20.34 feet high above the datum are expected to occur in Yangon River during the period 4th September to 8th September, 2005.
I will now conclude my article, with the message “All the media persons of Myanmar are to launch media counter-offensive against the media attacks of internal and external destructive elements”, while documenting the ever-flourishing mutual trust and love between the government and the people.