Achievements of ASEAN not only due to individual and collective efforts of member countries but also for its ways of achieving things, such as consensus building, positive thinking, avoiding interference in other countries internal affairs.

We must abide by own principles, be steadfast in making own efforts.

NAY PYI TAW, 8 Aug — The following is the full text of the message from Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar on the occasion of the 39th Anniversary of founding of ASEAN (ASEAN Day) on 8 August, 2006. It gives me great pleasure to extend my warmest congratulations to the Association of South-east Asian Nations (ASEAN) for its achievements on the occasion of the 39th anniversary of its founding. ASEAN countries after nearly four decades have become more vibrant, progressive and dynamic economies. ASEAN plays a central role in forming the regional architectures. ASEAN contributes greatly to regional peace, security and stability. ASEAN sets an example as a successful regional organization to other major countries in the region.

The achievements of ASEAN is not only due to the individual and collective efforts of the member countries but also for its ways of achieving things, such as consensus building, positive thinking, avoiding interference in other countries internal affairs etc. We must abide by our own principles and be steadfast in making our own efforts.

We are now in the process of intense integration towards establishing the ASEAN Community by the year 2020. We are making all out efforts to realize this by building three important pillars, ASEAN Security Community, ASEAN Economic Community and ASEAN Socio-cultural Community. In building these communities, we must set the ASEAN Vision 2020 as our guide and the Vientiane Action Programme as our strategy.

However, our ambitions to achieve these aims still rest on many challenges. We are facing the... (See page 2)

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe receives Thai Supreme Commander

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Aug — Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe received Supreme Commander of Royal Thai Armed Forces of the Kingdom of Thailand General Ruengroj Mahasaranond at Bayintnaung Yeiktha of the Ministry of Defence here today.

Also present at the call were Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) (See page 8)

Senior General Than Shwe receives General Ruengroj Mahasaranond at Bayintnaung Yeiktha of the Ministry of Defence in Nay Pyi Taw. — MNA

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

**Tuesday, 8 August, 2006**

**Work in unison for national interest**

Peace and stability are the sine qua non for development of a region and, if national races live in unity and amity, peace and stability will always prevail all over the nation.

As the government is taking all the necessary measures for parallel development of various regions, the social and economic status of national people has become higher. For example, transport infrastructures are being built in Kayin State where Bamar, Mon, PaO, Shan, Rakhine and other national races live. Therefore, people in Kayin State can easily travel to Kayah State, Taninthayi Division, Bago Division and Mon State.

For education development of Kayin State, Hpa-an University, Government Technological College, Government Computer College and Education College have been opened. As a result, youths can now pursue higher education in their own region. Also in the Myainggyingu Special Region in Hlinikpe Township, DKBA, which has returned to the legal fold, is working together with the government for development in the transport, economic, education, health, and agricultural sectors of the region.

In Kayin State, paddy, rubber, corn, sugarcane and beans and pulses are grown. Cultivation of other crops that enable farmers to earn their living in the long run will have to be extended.

Respective ministries are fulfilling all the requirements for continued development of Kayin State. Local people, on their part, will have to work in unison for the sake of national interest and their own and for eternal peace and stability.

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**Achievements of ASEAN not only due to individual...**

*(from page 1)*

challenge of ASEAN being a credible organization. We have to work hard towards maintaining ASEAN’s centrality in relations with dialogue partners. Development gap within ASEAN such as poverty and social disparities are also issues that required our serious attention. We must work together for the success of the work plan of the Initiative of ASEAN Integration (IAI) so that newer members of ASEAN could fully be integrated into the mainstream of ASEAN. In building the ASEAN Community, the most significant step is working towards the establishment of the ASEAN Charter. The ASEAN Charter will give ASEAN a legal personality and a framework that will guide our organization into the 21st century. I also commend the work of the Eminent Persons Group that deliberated on the elements of ASEAN Charter and looking forward to successful adoption of the ASEAN Charter as soon as possible.

Growing trends of international terrorism, transnational crimes and frequent incidents of natural disasters are also threats that need our greater attention to address these issues. And we must effectively cooperate with our dialogue partners in particular and the international community in general to overcome such challenges and threats.

As ASEAN has to integrate into a Community, the active participation of people of ASEAN countries becomes essential. We must promote people to people contacts and we must try to better understand each other. We have to learn to live and share a variety of faith, religion, culture and languages that exist in ASEAN countries. I urge people of Myanmar to appreciate and participate in all ASEAN activities.

The continued prosperity of ASEAN countries and coping with the challenges and threats that we are facing at present or in future rest on the ability of our young and energetic people. They must have a vision of building the ASEAN Community; they must possess the calibre to fulfil the dream of our ancestors to be One Community of Ten Nations. Therefore, it is fitting that we have chosen the theme for this year “ASEAN and Young People”.

We must promote awareness of ASEAN among young people. We must be proactive in nurturing our young generation to cope with existing and new challenges in building peaceful and prosperous community. We should all join hands in realizing our goal of establishing the ASEAN Community.

*MNA*

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**Tianshi Group Chairman meets company sale agents**

Chairman of Tianshi Group Mr Li Jinyuan met with company sale agents at the Traders Hotel today.

First, Chairman of Tianshi Group Mr Li Jinyuan and Manager of Tianshi Myanmar Branch Mr Li Tie Gang made speeches on the occasion.

Next, Chairman of Tianshi Group Mr Li Jinyuan greeted mediamen and hosted a dinner. Tianshi company has established a number of branches in 108 countries and also owned over 3000 branches in China. This company is distributing 20 different kinds of items such as healthy food and tea, personal goods, cosmetics and others in Myanmar. — MNA

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**Know and note thus**

* Myanmar letters for Myanmars
  In set pattern, pronunciation and style
  Must all be correct.
* Myanmar letters for Myanmars
  Must be learned thoroughly
  Prevent negation, strive for development.
  That’s what must be done.
* Letters of foreign lands
  Are to be learned
  And utilized.
* Remember clearly
  They’re not to be worshipped.
* Foreign pronunciation and style
  If mimicked
  Myanmar pronunciation, style
  And pattern will be spoilt.
* Myanmar pattern, if allowed to be spoilt.
  It will lead to negation of
  Patriotism, love of country.
* Only if patriotism, love of country
  Is at heart at all times
  Will Myanmar be bright in the world.
* That’s why learning everything
  Remember to safeguard Myanmar
  pattern and style
  And must push back
  Whatever runs counter.

*Nwai Cho (Trs)*

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**Tianshi Group Chairman Mr Li Jinyuan makes a speech at the meeting with sale agents.** — MNA

**Yangon, 7 Aug.** — Chairman of Tianshi Group Mr Li Jinyuan met with company sale agents at the Traders Hotel today.

First, Chairman of Tianshi Group Mr Li Jinyuan and Manager of Tianshi Myanmar Branch Mr Li Tie Gang made speeches on the occasion.

Next, Chairman of Tianshi Group Mr Li Jinyuan greeted mediamen and hosted a dinner. Tianshi company has established a number of branches in 108 countries and also owned over 3000 branches in China. This company is distributing 20 different kinds of items such as healthy food and tea, personal goods, cosmetics and others in Myanmar. — MNA

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**Daw Sein Sein and family of No 15 on Aungthapyay Street in Sangyoung Township recently donated K 100,000 to Hininzigon Home for the Aged through Chairman of the Administrative Board Li-Col Kyaw Shein(Rtd).** — N
Bird flu kills one Thai

BANGKOK, 6 Aug—A 27-year-old Thai man has died of bird flu, the country’s second death this year and its 16th victim since the H5N1 virus swept across parts of Asia in late 2003, a senior health official said on Saturday.

The man died on Thursday in the province of Uthai Thani, 220 kilometres (135 miles) north of Bangkok, after having contact with sick chickens, Prat Boonyawongvirot, permanent secretary in the Ministry of Public Health, told Reuters.

“It is confirmed that this man has died of H5N1,” Prat said.

Thailand has stepped up surveillance after a 17-year-old Thai male died in late July amid fresh outbreaks of the disease following an eight-month lull.—MNA/Reuters

Chikangunya fever infects 50,000 in central India

NEW DELHI, 6 Aug—Chikangunya, a relatively rare form of mosquito-transmitted viral fever, has infected 50,000 people and possibly claimed 25 lives in central India’s Madhya Pradesh, the Indo-Asian News Service reported Friday.

Ajay Vishnoi, Health Minister of the state government, said on Friday three districts in the state were affected with the fever. About 35,000 people are suffering from the disease in Betul District, where 12 people have died. And 13 more have died in another district hit by the epidemic.

The Chikangunya virus, first found in west Indian state Maharashtra in 1965, is transmitted by the Edis Egypti mosquito and its typical symptoms are high fever up to 40 degrees Celsius with a sudden onset of flu-like symptoms, including severe headaches, chills, nausea, vomit and joint pain. MNA/Xinhua

US public split on Bush’s handling of Middle East crisis

WASHINGTON, 6 Aug—As of Friday, 4 August, 2006, at least 2,586 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. The figure includes seven military civilians. At least 2,050 died as a result of hostile action, according to the military’s numbers.

The AP count is one higher than the Defence Department’s tally, last updated Friday at 10 am EDT.

The British military has reported 115 deaths; Italy, 32; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 17; Bulgaria, 13; Spain, 11; Denmark, El Salvador, four each; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Netherlands, Thailand, two each; and Australia, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Romania, one death each.

WASHINGTON, 6 Aug—The American public were nearly evenly split on President George W Bush’s handling of the current crisis in the Middle East, a poll released on Friday showed. Forty-six percent of those surveyed said they disapproved of Bush’s handling of the crisis, while 43 percent said they approved, according to the poll, which was conducted by Opinion Research Corporation for CNN and was released on the TV network’s website.

Ten per cent of the 1,047 respondents had no opinion on the question.

The poll found a slow climb in Bush’s job approval rating, but the majority of Americans — 59 per cent — said they disapproved of how he was handling his job as President.

Forty per cent said they approved. In April, only 32 per cent said they approved of the way Bush was handling his job, and 60 per cent disapproved.

Sixty-two per cent of respondents said they disapproved of Bush’s handling of the situation in Iraq, and 59 per cent said they disapproved of Bush’s handling of the economy.

Moscow, 6 Aug—Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Saturday he favoured an immediate cessation of hostilities in the Middle East and called for international efforts to avert a humanitarian disaster in Lebanon.

In a telephone conversation with UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, Putin “stressed that he is favour of an immediate cessation of the armed conflict and of finding a political settlement to the conflict with the participation of all sides,” the Kremlin said in a statement. The phone call was initiated by the UN chief, the Kremlin added.

Both Putin and Annan stressed the UN Security Council must act in accordance with its full responsibilities, the statement said.

Putin called for mobilizing the whole international community to prevent a humanitarian catastrophe in the region. — MNA/Xinhua

Put the eggs in the basket.
Cuba dismisses US call for democracy

HAVANA, 6 Aug—Cuba quickly dismissed another US call for Cuban democracy as Fidel Castro’s government began to break the silence that followed his surgery and provisional hand-over of power to brother Raul.

Neither Castro brother has been seen in public since Fidel’s operation on Monday for internal bleeding, but two members of the Cabinet gave assurances that all was well with the Communist island and its 79-year-old leader.

In Miami, Cuban exile leaders who earlier in the week declared the beginning of the end of the Castro era began to come to grips with the idea that their nearly half-century wait for Fidel’s demise may not be over.

US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, in a message beamed to Cuba on Friday night, told the island’s residents that “much is changing there” and now was the time to push for democracy.

“We will stand with you to secure your rights to speak as you choose, to think as you please, to worship as you wish, and to choose your leaders, freely and fairly, in democratic elections,” she said in a broadcast on the US-funded Radio Marti network.

But Cuba’s Minister of Culture, Abel Prieto, told reporters at a Havana event that Rice’s message, which followed a similar statement by President George W Bush on Thursday, would fall on deaf ears.

“No one in Cuba is going to listen to a message that comes from a functionary of a foreign government. That has no value for Cubans,” he said in some of the first government comments since Castro’s surgery.

“I think all these messages are pure rhetoric for Miami,” he said.

Prieto also said the Cuban Government was functioning well with Fidel Castro recovering and his 75-year-old brother at the helm, despite suggestions from the United States that things were in flux.

Cuba has led Cuba for 47 years, has been seen in these days,” he said.

“I don’t feel any uncertainty. The people love Fidel a lot and that has been seen in these days,” he said.— MNA/Reuters

French reporter murdered in Kazakhstan

ALMA ATA, 6 Aug—A French reporter was found dead on Wednesday in his lodgings located in central Alma Ata with several stab wounds on his body, Kazakh police said on Friday.

The 25-year-old French had worked in the Central Asian country for months for both ML Strategic Media, Ltd and the US journal Foreign Affairs, and had covered a series of major events that took place in Alma Ata and the Kazakh capital of Astana, said the police.

MNA/Xinhua

Several ice bags are used to cool off a pet dog suffering heatstroke at a pet hospital in Wuxi, east China’s Jiangsu Province, on 5 Aug, 2006. Internet

Passive smoke ‘bone risk boost’

LONDON, 6 Aug—Second-hand smoke increases the risk of the bone disease osteoporosis, researchers have found.

The US/Chinese study showed exposure to passive smoking boosted pre-menopausal women’s osteoporosis risk threefold.

An International Osteoporosis Foundation meeting in Toronto, also heard men, as well as women, increase osteoporosis risk by smoking.

Experts said the studies added to understanding of the link between smoking and the bone disease. Osteoporosis, which affects one in three women and one in 12 men, is responsible for 200,000 broken bones per year in the UK, and 40 deaths a day. It is often known as a silent illness because many people do not know they have it until it is too late. Although it is thought of as a disease of old age, its roots are thought to lie in adolescence.

Harvard School of Public Health researchers looked at over 14,000 men and pre and post-menopausal women in rural China. The scientists measured hip bone mineral density, and recorded non-spine fractures and smoking history.

Second-hand smoking was defined as living with one or more people who smoked each day. Pre-menopausal non-smoking women who lived with one smoker had more than double the risk of osteoporosis compared to those who lived with none.

And those who lived with two or more smokers exposed to second-hand smoke were found to have a threefold greater risk of the condition. Internet

Study shows more families hit by British inheritance tax

LONDON, 6 Aug—The number of people in Britain paying inheritance tax has risen sharply in the last five years, fuelled by soaring house prices.

Britain’s biggest mortgage lender said on Saturday, HBOS Plc’s Halifax said the number of estates paying the tax rose by 72 per cent to 30,451 in the five years to 2003-2004.

“This trend is set to continue unless the government raises the threshold in line with house price inflation,” Halifax Group Economist Tim Crawford said in a statement.

He urged the government to raise the level at which people start paying the tax from 285,000 pounds (539,200 US dollars) to 430,000 pounds.

The tax is charged at 40 per cent on all assets, including houses, above the threshold. Halifax said the Treasury collected 3.3 billion pounds from the last inheritance tax in the financial year. Revenue has grown by 49 per cent in the past five years.

“Significantly, families with lower valued estates are paying an increased share of the total inheritance tax,” Crawford said. “The super-rich are paying a smaller share.”

House prices have risen by 179 per cent in the past 10 years, compared with an 85 per cent increase in the inheritance tax threshold, he added.

MNA/Reuters

Pakistan gas pipelines damaged in explosion

ISLAMABAD, 6 Aug — Two gas pipelines were damaged in explosions in southwestern Pakistan’s Baluchistan early Saturday, making gas supply to several cities in eastern province Punjab suspended, the private GEO Television reported.

The explosion occurred near Doli check post in Sui, some 285 kilometres southwest of Quetta, the provincial capital of Baluchistan, at about 4:00 am, GEO reported.

MNA/Xinhua

Japan’s Nagano Prefectural Institute of Technology team’s solar car Fizzer 18 competes in the four-hour endurance race of the Federation Internationale de l’Automobile (FIA) Alternative Energies Cup and Dream Cup solar car race Suzuka 2006 at Suzuka Circuit international racing course in Suzuka, central Japan, on 6 Aug, 2006. Fizzer 18 won the race in 43 laps. —INTERNET

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MNA/Reuters

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Thousands recall Hiroshima A-bomb, pray for peace

HIROSHIMA, 6 Aug—Tens of thousands of people from around the world gathered in Hiroshima on Sunday to pray for peace and urge the world to abandon nuclear weapons on the 61st anniversary of the first atomic bombing.

In an annual ritual to mourn the more than 220,000 people who ultimately died from the blast, a crowd including survivors, children and dignitaries gathered at the Peace Memorial Park, near ground zero where the bomb was dropped.

“Radiation, heat, blast and their synergetic effects created a hell on Earth,” said Hiroshima Mayor Tadatoshi Akiba.

Lamenting a global trend towards nuclear proliferation, Akiba called for a campaign to free the world of atomic weapons.

“Sixty-one years later, the number of nations enamoured of evil and enslaved by nuclear weapons is increasing,” Akiba told the crowd gathered under a blazing summer sun.

India ‘needs huge services boost’

LONDON, 6 Aug—India needs to invest $331bn (£173bn) on infrastructure over the next five years if it wants to maintain its rapid economic growth, a study suggests.

Research for the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) found India needed to spend 8% of its gross domestic product on new infrastructure.

The CII said India was spending much less on services like roads and ports than China and other Asian countries.

India’s economy is currently growing an annual rate of just over 8% a year.

But experts have warned that this growth will slow if the country cannot build enough new roads, ports, airports and power stations.

The CII said that India was expected to spend about $47bn on infrastructure in the fiscal year to March 2007, a figure which needs to be doubled to $84bn a year by 2012.

The industry body added that an investment strategy needed to be drawn up between the government, regional states and the private sector.

Indonesia’s Merapi volcano spews out glowing lava

JAKARTA, 6 Aug—Indonesia’s Mount Merapi spewed out glowing lavas stretching over a maximum distance of 1.5 kilometres toward Gendol River, on the volcano’s southern slope, on Friday.

The coughing volcano has produced tons of glowing lavas and quake trails lately, Antara news agency quoted Panut, an officer at the Kaliurang observation post, Sleman District, Yogyakarta Province, as saying on Friday.

In the first six hours of Friday, Mount Merapi produced a total of 32 glowing lavas, mostly sliding toward Gendol River.

During the wee hours of Thursday, the volcano spewed out 47 times glowing lava, according to Panut.

Under the current “alert” status, the 2,965-metre-high volcano is off-limits to hikers, farmers and sand miners within a radius of six kilometres from the top, and 300 metres from the banks of the Krasak, Boyong, Sat and Gendol rivers.

Whales wash up near Mexico’s Baja coast

MEXICO CITY, 6 Aug—Eleven beaked whales were washed up on beaches near Mexico’s sparsely populated Baja California Peninsula and all of them died, the country’s environmental protection agency said on Friday. The whales were found earlier this week mostly on islands in the Sea of Cortez, also known as the Gulf of California, and had been dead for several days, an official at the Profepa agency said.

He said the cause of the whales’ deaths was being investigated. A group of squid, which the whales feed on, was also found dead nearby.

Banner-towing plane crashes in New Jersey

NEW YORK, 6 Aug—The pilot and the only occupant of a banner-towing airplane survived when their plane crashed in Egg Harbour Township, New Jersey Friday afternoon.

According to a spokeswoman with the Federal Aviation Administration, the single-engine plane went down near the field where the pilot dropped off and picked up banners.

The pilot was treated for some injuries. No name was released.

The plane is registered to a Delaware company.
Second Beijing-Tokyo Forum expresses commitment to improve ties

TOKYO, 6 Aug — Chinese and Japanese prominent figures attending the second Beijing-Tokyo Forum expressed misgivings on Friday about the current Sino-Japanese relations, and said they would make efforts to pull the bilateral ties out of the impasse and try to promote them into new win-win models of mutual benefit.

The two-day forum was closed later in the day with a joint statement, which acknowledges that the Sino-Japanese relations are in a historic low ebb ever since their normalization, and said participants of the forum were deeply concerned about the existence of political barriers between the two countries.

Participants from the two sides have decided not to take a wait-and-see attitude toward the worrisome trend, and have agreed to set up a Beijing-Tokyo Forum website of two editions in Chinese and Japanese respectively, thus providing a platform for more exchanges of people from related fields of the two countries and promote the improvement of the Sino-Japanese ties.

The second Beijing-Tokyo Forum, with the theme of “the future of Asia and the new type of Sino-Japanese relations”, was curtailed up here on Thursday. It attracted some 60 prominent figures from political, economic, academic and media circles of the two countries to talk about how to improve the awkward bilateral relations. — MNA/Xinhua

Indonesia to produce bird flu vaccine

JAKARTA, 6 Aug — Research is underway in Indonesia to formulate a typical bird flu vaccine suitable for the local people and the results are expected to come in November, the Health Minister said Friday.

Minister Siti Fadilah Supari said the Indonesian version of H5N1 vaccine will be fully produced at home once the research is completed.

“Hopefully, there will be no further impediments because formulating the vaccine is really a daunting task,” she told reporters here.

It will take another three to six months to test the vaccine before mass reproduction begins, she said.

Supari said earlier that Indonesia needs to formulate its own vaccine to over 100 million users in Europe, the Middle East GMT, and once in operation, it could provide service to the world’s leading satellite operators, the reports said.

The satellite is scheduled to reach orbit at 0659 GMT, and once in operation, it could provide service to over 100 million users in Europe, the Middle East and North Africa. — MNA/Xinhua

Russia launches European telecommunications satellite

MOSCOW, 6 Aug — Russia launched a telecommunications satellite early Saturday from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan, Russian news agencies reported.

The HotBird-8 broadcasting satellite, carried by a Proton-M rocket, is designed for television and radio broadcasting and is owned by Eutelsat, one of the world’s leading satellite operators, the reports said.

The satellite is scheduled to reach orbit at 0659 GMT, and once in operation, it could provide service to over 100 million users in Europe, the Middle East and North Africa. — MNA/Xinhua

Death toll by Typhoon “Prapiroon” rises to 55 in China

NANNING, 6 Aug — Typhoon Prapiroon has so far killed at least 55 people and left 17 others missing in South China’s Guangdong Province and neighbouring Guangxi Autonomous Region.

The latest increase in the fatalities was from Guangxi, where typhoon Prapiroon has weakened into a tropical storm but kept its influence, with another seven deaths in typhoon-triggered disasters, according to the Guangxi regional department of civil affairs.

In a flash flood and landslide induced by the typhoon in Laijin and Hengxian, both in Guangxi, killed ten. A flash flood occurred at a private forest farm in Fenghuang Township of Laijin City at 3:20 am on Sunday, sweeping away 13 migrant workers who were working on the farm.

Prapiroon brought along torrential rains and strong winds after it began to influence the city from Friday noon, the department said.

The three killed were all female. And the injured is the only man in the family. — MNA/Xinhua

Zimbabwean film wins UNICEF award

Harare, 6 Aug — Peretema Munetsi (Spell My Name), a Zimbabwean film directed by local conductor Tawanda Gunda-Mupengo, won the UNICEF Children’s and Human Rights Award at the recently ended Zanzibar International Film Festival, reported The Herald newspaper Friday.

Elsworth Berihura, the Women Filmmakers of Zimbabwe (WFOZ) programme assistant, said the film was a result of the women’s narrative workshops which began in 2003 to give women the voice and the skills to tell their stories in a story form.

Death toll by Typhoon “Prapiroon” rises to 55 in China

The transient workers, who were all from Hunan Province, built a temporary shelter in the nearby valley for the nights. So when the flash flood occurred, they became victims. The rescuers saved only six of them and found six corpses. One more migrant worker is still missing.

Three more people were killed and one more injured in a landslide happening in Luming Village of Hengzhou Township, Hengxian County at 7 am on Saturday as one side of a civilian house fell, burying a family of four, said information from the flood control and drought relief headquarters of Hengxian County.

The three killed were all female. And the injured is the only man in the family. — MNA/Xinhua

Triangulum Galaxy. The universe could be 15 per cent bigger and 15 per cent older than any previous calculations suggested, media reported on 5 Aug, 2006. — INTERNET

Expert says closer study of emerging H5N1 strains needed

HONG KONG, 6 Aug — A leading virologist has urged countries battling new H5N1 bird flu outbreaks in animals to analyse the genetic makeup of the virus to trace its origins and better arm themselves to combat the disease.

Malik Peiris of the University of Hong Kong, who has studied the virus for nearly 10 years, said genetic sequencing of H5N1 strains found in animals would help scientists get their hands on vital information, and governments could turn do more to control the spread of the disease in birds.

Although the H5N1 virus has killed 134 people since re-emerging in Asia in late 2003, it remains largely a bird disease. But experts fear it will mutate and gain the ability to spread efficiently among people, sparking a pandemic that could kill millions.

However, some hope that such a disaster might be averted if the disease can be effectively controlled in birds. Peiris said it was paramount now for China to sequence the H5N1 virus that has recently re-emerged in the country’s north and northeast after a nine-month hiatus.

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However, some hope that such a disaster might be averted if the disease can be effectively controlled in birds. Peiris said it was paramount now for China to sequence the H5N1 virus that has recently re-emerged in the country’s north and northeast after a nine-month hiatus.
Buddhist learning. 

Bihar, an ancient centre of religious affairs department. A group of specialists from the State Administration of Religious Affairs in Beijing on Tuesday examined the statue and approved its export.

The 3.5-metre high statue was made by artisans of Shendiao Group Company in Zhejiang provincial religious affairs department.

Listed as one of the many activities for the Sino-Indian Year of Culture 2006, the memorial will be opened to worshipers in November.

Xuanzang received a classical Confucian education before converting to Buddhism. 

Troubled by discrepancies in the sacred texts, he left for India in 629 to study the religion at its source. He travelled by foot across Central Asia and reached India in 633.

The 3.5-metre high statue was made by artisans of Shendiao Group Company in Zhejiang provincial religious affairs department. A group of specialists from the State Administration of Religious Affairs in Beijing on Tuesday examined the statue and approved its export.

The statue was placed in a memorial named after Xuanzang inside Nalanda Temple in Bihar, an ancient centre of Buddhist learning.

The files are part of an archive of about 9,000 pages assembled by a Pentagon task force in the early 1970s, which the Times said confirmed that atrocities by US forces had gone far beyond what public records had shown. 

Among the events substantiated by the records were seven massacres in Vietnam from 1967 through 1971 in which at least 137 civilians died. Those do not include the notorious 1968 massacre of about 500 civilians at My Lai Village.

There were 78 other attacks on non-combatants in which at least 57 people were killed, 56 wounded and 15 sexually assaulted. In total, 320 incidents of abuse by US soldiers are substantiated, it said.

200 more chickens die in Thai north

BANGKOK, 7 Aug — Some 200 chickens at a farm in Thailand’s northeastern province of Uthai Thani died Sunday, three days after the country’s second H5N1 victim in 10 days died from exposure to the deadly virus in the same province, said an official Sunday.

Agriculture and Cooperatives Minister Sudarat Keyuraphan said some 200 chickens out of 20,000 raised on farms in Uthai Thani’s provincial capital district died Sunday, and government workers will cull the rest of the poultry without waiting for laboratory tests as the situation could worsen. — MNA/Xinhua

3 Chinese UN peacekeepers injured in southern Lebanon

BEIJING, 7 Aug — Three Chinese UN peacekeepers were lightly injured by a rocket that landed at their post in southern Lebanon on Sunday, a Chinese UN peacekeeper confirmed.

Luo Fuqiang, head of the Chinese contingent with the UN Interim Forces in Lebanon (UNIFIL), told Xinhua that at 11:40 am local time (0840 GMT), an Israeli Army unit passed by a village some 500 metres away from the Chinese contingent headquarters in Henniyeh Village, south of port of Tyre. — MNA/Xinhua

Golden dagger from 3,000 BC found in Thracian tomb

SOFIA, 7 Aug — A golden dagger dating to 3,000 BC, plus 500 golden ornaments, have been found in a Thracian tomb in central Bulgaria, an archaeologist said on Sunday.

“It’s a really sensational discovery,” Bozhidar Dimitrov, head of the Bulgarian national museum, told Reuters.

The dagger, which we believe is made of gold and platinum, most probably belonged to a Thracian ruler or to a priest.”

“No item of this type was found even in the legendary city of Troy,” Dimitrov added, referring to ruins in Turkey widely regarded as the site of one of the leading cities of antiquity.

He said the 16-cm (6.3-inch) dagger had been dated to 3,000 BC, was in perfect condition and is extremely sharp.

“Abuses were not confined to a few rogue units,” the Times reported. “They were uncovered in every Army division that operated in Vietnam,” the Times reported.

The Vietnam report comes as the military investigates alleged abuse of Iraqi civilians by US soldiers, including the killing of 24 people in Haditha and a quadruple murder and rape in Mahumudiya.

One quarter of the 203 soldiers accused of harming Vietnamese civilians or prisoners were court-martialed, but only 23 were convicted, according to the newspaper’s review.

The report is based on records of the Vietnam War Crimes Working Group at the National Archives in College Park, Maryland. The records were first released in 1994 — 20 years after the group closed its probe — and moved to the archive, where they were largely unnoticed, the Times said.

The collection includes 241-case summaries that chronicle more than 300 substantiated atrocities by US forces and 500 unconfirmed allegations, according to the Times.

The newspaper said it examined most of the files and obtained copies of 3,000 pages, or one third of the total, before government officials removed them from public shelves, saying they were exempt from federal information disclosure laws.

The story, and supporting documents, can be found at http://latimes.com/vietnam/. — MNA/Reuters
Welcomed by Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party. Next, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and General Ruengroj Mahasaranond proceeded to the dais of the airport where they took the salute of the Guard of Honour. After that, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and General Ruengroj Mahasaranond inspected the Guard of Honour. Next, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye greeted the delegation.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye welcomes Thai Supreme Commander General Ruengroj Mahasaranond and party.

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe and General Ruengroj Mahasaranond pose for a documentary photo at Bayinnaung Yeiktha of the Ministry of Defence in Nay Pyi Taw.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and General Ruengroj Mahasaranond inspect the Guard of Honour.
**Shan State PDC holds 9th prize presentation ceremony of matriculation examination for 2006**

**NAV Pyi Taw, 7 Aug** — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Kyaw Win of the Ministry of Defence together with Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command Brig-Gen Thaung Aye attended the 9th prize presentation ceremony which was held in honour of students for their outstanding performance in the matriculation examination at the city hall of Taunggyi on 6 August. The ceremony was organized by Shan State PDC. Also present on the occasion were senior military officers of the eastern command, members of Shan State PDC, departmental heads at state, district and township levels, township education officers, members of social organizations, teachers and outstanding students and guests. First, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win spoke of the performance of education promotion programme of the State while Shan State Education Officer U Aung Swe reported on result of the matriculation examination for 2005-2006 academic year.

Next, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win presented prizes to eight six-distinction winners who secured success in 2005-2006 academic year. Afterwards, Commander Brig-Gen Thaung Aye awarded prizes to 12 five-distinction winners, wife Daw Thin Myo Myo Aung to 12 five-distinction winners and responsible personnel to eight five-distinction winners, 86 three-distinction winners, three best pass rate schools and three townships and five winners in poster and essay contests to mark World Population Day.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win later cordially greeted those present. — MNA

**1,036 residents in Lewe receive free medical treatment**

**NAV Pyi Taw, 7 Aug** — Over 1000 residents in Lewe received free medical treatment yesterday at People’s Hospital in Lewe, Pyinmana District.

Doctors and specialists of 300-bed specialist hospital in Nay Pyi Taw and 100-bed hospital in Pyinmana performed for the free medical care programme organized by Ministry of Health and Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation. Out of 1,036 patients including 71 children, 391 received free medication for eyes; 88 for teeth and 65 for sugeries and 131 were taken to the 300-bed Hospital in Nay Pyi Taw. Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint and Deputy Minister Dr Mya Oo visited the hospital where Lewe residents were undergoing treatment and assisted in providing free medical care. Members of Lewe District and Township Women’s Affairs Organizations, Union Solidarity and Development Association and Myanmar Red Cross Society also provided help during the free medical care.

A responsible person of MWAF presents K 800,000 for Lewe People’s Hospital. — MNA

A patient receives medical care from a specialist at the hospital in Lewe. — MNA

**World Breastfeeding Week marked in Yangon Command**

**Yangon, 7 Aug** — A ceremony to mark the activities of World Breastfeeding Week of the Yangon Command Maternal and Child Welfare Association took place at the hall of the Yangon Command this afternoon.

It was attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win and wife Chairperson of Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Daw Mar Min Myint. Also present on the occasion were station commanders, the Secretary of Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee and members, the Secretary of Yangon Command Maternal and Child Welfare Association and members, the chairpersons of Battalion/Regiment Maternal and Child Welfare Associations and members and guests.


After that, member of Yangon Command Maternal and Child Welfare Association Daw Nan Hla Si presented gifts to Dr Daw Nwe Ni Ohn. After the ceremony, the chairperson of Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee and members presented gifts to expectant mothers who were present on the occasion.

**Minister receives Charge d’ Affaires of US Embassy**

**Yangon, 8 Aug** — President of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Win Myint yesterday received First Secretary Mr Nikolay A Barabanov of the Russian Embassy at UMFCCCI office on Min Ye Kyawswa Road in Lanmadaw Township. They discussed matters on promotion of trade and investment between the two countries, exchanging business delegations, banking services and enhancing cooperation between the two chambers. Also present on the occasion were Vice-President U Zaw Min Win and General Secretary U Sein Win Hlaing. — MNA

President of UMFCCCI U Win Myint meets First Secretary Mr Nikolay A Barabanov of Russian Embassy. — UMFCCCI

**Myanmar businessmen seek ways to promote trade with Russia**

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Bangladesh vaccinates 24 mln children against polio

DHAKA, 7 Aug — Bangladesh on Sunday began to vaccinate 24 million children below five years against polio, as the virus resurfaced in the country after five years, with the detection of new cases.

Bangladesh Government used 700,000 volunteers to vaccinate the children across the country, Health Ministry spokesman Golam Kibria told Xinhua Sunday.

Bangladesh was unofficially declared polio-free in 2000, but two cases of polio were detected this year.

The number of polio cases is increasing since March this year and the government was worried about the resurface of the virus. — MNA/Xinhua

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan addresses at the 2/2006 meeting of the Text Book Publication Committee. — MNA

Beware of and ward off saboteurs

YANGON, 7 Aug — The entire nation is witnessing peace and stability and sound development foundations thanks to the cooperative endeavours of the government, the people and the Tatmadaw for emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed discipline-flourishing democratic state, the wish of all the people of the Union of Myanmar. The nation now is in the process of implementing the seven-point Road Map to realize the people’s wish based on the sound foundations.

On the other hand, saboteurs from inside and outside the nation who are against the national peace and stability and progress are working according to the plots of the powers controlling them, sending terrorists into the nation to commit destructive acts and blow up bombs and making attempts to stir up unrest in the nation in collusion with their foreign perpetrators. As information about the destructive schemes was received, the government has cautioned the people, and the people who have never accepted terrorism in any form have been able to ward off terrorist acts in cooperation with public forces.

The authorities have received information that those who took part in 1988 unrest and members of a local political party under foreign influence are planning to organize a public gathering under the pretext of a religious ceremony on 8 August, to hold a memorial service at Shwedagon Pagoda and to distribute agitative leaflets.

The public have been alerted to clearly distinguish between the nation builders and destructionists and to ward off the danger of destructionists to safeguard already achieved national peace and stability and progress against possible unrest caused by internal and external spoilers to grab power through short cut and the nation from disintegration.

US Senator opposes sending more troops to Baghdad

WASHINGTON, 7 Aug — Nebraska Senator Chuck Hagel, a frequent Republican critic of President George W. Bush’s Iraq policy, said on Sunday it was irresponsible and wrong to send more US troops into Baghdad. Speaking on the CBS show “Face the Nation”, Hagel said putting more US troops into Baghdad would not reverse the rising tide of sectarian killing there.

“When we go from here... is a cold, hard assessment that Iraq is not going to turn out the way we were promised it would, and that’s a fact, not because I say it — that’s the way it’s going,” he said.

Hagel said there were no longer any good options in Iraq for the United States. — MNA/Reuters

Wider distribution of used text books helps reduce publication cost

NAV PYI TAW, 7 Aug — Text Book Publication Committee held its meeting 2/2006 at Ministry of Information, here this afternoon.

Speaking at the meeting, Chairman of the committee Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan said that the presses in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, and Mandalay in Nay Pyi Taw, and Mandalay presses in Nay Pyi Taw, Kyaw Hsan said that the Information Brig-Gen committee Minister for meeting, Chairman of the Ministry of Information, meeting 2/2006 at Committee held its — Text Book Publication.

The number of polio cases is increasing since March this year and the government was worried about the resurface of the virus. — MNA/Xinhua

Objectives of the 14th 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.

Industry-2 Ministry puts fingerlings, plants trees

NAV PYI TAW, 7 Aug — A ceremony to release various kinds of fish held in conjunction with tree planting ceremony of the Ministry of Industry-2 took place at the ministry on 4 August morning in Nay Pyi Taw.

Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin, Deputy Minister Li-Col Khin Maung Kyaw, departmental heads and service personnel put fingerlings into No(7) dam of the ministry.

Next, the minister and deputy minister also participated in the plant growing ceremony. — MNA

Education Planning and Training Department meets

NAV PYI TAW, 6 Aug — The Education Planning and Training Department and the education colleges held the work coordination meeting at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Education here yesterday morning with an address by Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein.

In his address, Minister Dr Chan Nyein called for the education colleges to strive for the basic education teachers to be highly qualified, to enhance the curricula and syllabus up to the international level, to extensively use the teaching and learning aids and multimedia and to train and nurture the youths imbued with morale and discipline.

Next, Deputy Minister for Education Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min spoke on the occasion.

Also present on the occasion were the director-general of DPTD and officials, the principal of the Education College and responsible personnel. — MNA
Cash's Wang Jie (L) and Tian Jia (R) celebrate after winning the final match at the FIVB beach volleyball grand slam in Klagenfurt, on 5 Aug, 2006. China won against Brazil's Juliana Felisberta and Larrissa Franca 2-1. —INTERNET

Coal mine gas leak kills 18 miners in Shanxi Province

TAIYUAN, 7 Aug — Eighteen miners were killed in a coal mine gas leak in Ningwu County, North China's Shanxi Province.

A collapse happened in the ground within the mining area of Dahuiyao Coal Mine in Ningwu County around Friday noon, which opened a previously closed area beneath the coal mine shaft and caused a fire, producing large amount of harmful gas, said sources from Shanxi Provincial Bureau of Work Safety.

Altogether 34 miners were working in the shaft when the accident happened. Three of them escaped the site of the accident. Rescuers later lifted 14 more miners out of the shaft, of whom, one died in hospital. By 10 am, the rescuers found the remains of the 17 other miners trapped in the mishap.

With vast coal reserves, Shanxi Province is the biggest coal producer in China. However, a large number of fatal accidents in the mining industry occur in the province each year.

INTERNET

Photo taken on 5 Aug, 2006 shows some harmful gas emitting from Dahuiyao Coal Mine in Ningwu County of north China's Shanxi Province. Eighteen miners were killed when a collapse happened in the ground within the mining area of the coal mine. Altogether 34 miners were working beneath the shaft when the accident happened.

INTERNET

Siberian tiger population exceeds 700 at N-E China's breeding base

HARBIN, 7 Aug — The Siberian tiger population has exceeded 700 with more than 80 baby tigers born this year at the Siberian Tiger Park in northeast China. The Siberian Tiger Park, the world’s biggest artificial breeding base of this kind, in Harbin, capital of Heilongjiang Province, expects other more than 20 baby tigers to be born in the rest months of this year, said Liu Dan, an official with the park. The park housed more than 620 Siberian tigers at the end of last year.

It has more than 200 tigresses at baby-bearing ages, among which at least 50 are expected to give births this year. Siberian tigresses give births after a 105-day gestation period, and those living in the wild will not mate before their cubs are two years old. However, a captive Siberian tigress gives two births in a year in the care of human beings. The park was established in 1986 with only eight Siberian tigers and the population at the park is nearly half of the total in China.
Eight injured in road accident in eastern Nepal
KATHMANDU, 6 Aug— At least eight people have been seriously injured in a road accident in eastern Nepal, local police confirmed Friday.

“The least eight passengers were seriously injured when the bus they were travelling in overturned at Pakali Chowk area of Sunsari District, some 400 kilometres east of Kathmandu,” on Thursday, Sunsari District Police Office said in a statement.

All of the seriously injured passengers were rushed to the B.P. Koirala Health and Science Academy of the district, said the statement.

Some others who sustained minor injuries were given first aid at the local clinics, it added.

The bus, heading towards Raghuraj Town of neighbouring Saptari District from Biratnagar Town of another neighbouring Morang District, overturned after the driver lost control over the bus due to high speed.

MNA/Xinhua

Earthquake jolts northeastern India
NEW DELHI, 6 Aug— An earthquake, measuring 5.0 on the Richter Scale, hit northwest India’s Uttarakhand Saturday noon, NDTV reported.

Slight tremors were felt in Indian capital New Delhi.— MNA/Xinhua

TRADE MARK CAUTION
YOKOGAWA ELECTRIC CORPORATION, a company duly organized under the laws of Japan, of 9-32, Naka-cho, 2-chome, Musashino-shi, Tokyo 180-8750, Japan, is the owner of the following Trade Mark—

YOKOGAWA
Reg. No. 1077/1987 in respect of “Scientific, nautical, surveying, electric, photographic, cinematographic, optical, weighing, measuring, signalling, checking (suspension); life-saving and teaching apparatus and instruments; apparatus for recording, transmission or reproduction of sound or images; magnetic data carriers, recording discs; automatic vending machines and mechanisms for colour-separated apparatus; cash registers, calculating machines and data processing equipment.”

Fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use of the said Trade Mark will be dealt with according to law.

Win Mu Tin M.A., H.G.P.D.B. for YOKOGAWA ELECTRIC CORPORATION P.O. Box 60, Yangon
Dated: 8 August, 2006

MNA/Xinhua

US July jobs growth weaker than expected
WASHINGTON, 6 Aug— US employers added a smaller-than-expected 113,000 new jobs in July and the unemployment rate jumped unexpectedly to 4.8 per cent, Labour Department data showed on Friday.

The report implied softening job markets that may make it easier for Federal Reserve policymakers to decide to halt their two-year-long campaign of interest-rate easing, the department revised June’s new-job total up modestly to 124,000 from a previously reported 121,000 and said that in May 100,000 jobs were created rather than 92,000.

Still, average hourly earnings increased 7 cents for a second straight month to 16.76 US dollars in July, a 0.4 per-cent increase, the same as in June. In the year through July, hourly earnings rose 3.8 per cent, down slightly from the 3.9 per-cent year-over-year gain posted in June.

During July, the number of people looking for work and employed rose more than 200,000, one reason that the unemployment rate was up. Manufacturing shed 15,000 jobs last month after adding 22,000 in June and goods-producing businesses overall cut 2,000 jobs after adding 23,000 in June.— MNA/Reuters

Portugal raises fire alert as temperatures rise
LISBON, 6 Aug— Portugal raised its national fire alert to the second highest level on Friday, as rising temperatures and falling humidity threatened to mar a summer fire season that has so far been mild.

The authorities said they expect temperatures to rise in the coming days, while humidity drops to below 20 per cent.

“The number of casualties could be higher as inspection and survey has not been completed, he added.

Similar downpour left 15 dead in Ghazni and the neighbouring Khost and Paktika provinces early in the week.

MNA/Xinhua

Donate blood

Flood kills four in S Afghanistan
KABUL, 6 Aug— Heavy rains and floods have killed four persons in Afghanistan’s southern Ghazni Province, provincial police Chief Tafsir Khan Khogyani said Saturday.

“The likelihood of more deaths is very high,” Khogyani added.

Similar downpour left 15 dead in Ghazni and the neighbouring Khost and Paktika provinces early in the week.

MNA/Xinhua

Landslides creating wave of Pakistan quake refugees
ISLAMABAD, 6 Aug— Landslides and floods triggered by monsoon rains are creating thousands of new refugees in parts of Pakistan that were devastated by last October’s earthquake, local newspaper The News quoted the UN refugee agency as saying on Friday.

More than 6,000 quake survivors have fled dangerous areas and nearly 20,000 more are set to seek refuge in camps, said Kilian Kleinschmidt, the agency’s emergency coordinator for the South Asia earthquake.

“The likelihood of larger displacement due to the ongoing monsoon is very grave,” Kleinschmidt said. “It is very big and we have already seen more than 6,000 newcomers into camps over the last three weeks in the Pakistan-controlled Kashmir towns of Bagh, Garhi Habibullah and Muzaffarabad,” he said.

“Currently there are 32,000 people in organized camps and we estimate up to 50,000 by the end of the monsoon,” he said.

Donors and aid agencies are meeting to prepare for the feared second wave of refugees, Kleinschmidt said.

The officials confirmed that 6,615 quake survivors had been moved from 23 villages in areas threatened by landslides.

The UN official’s warning as 15 earthquake survivors including eight children were killed by landslides and floods on Thursday. Another 12 died last week.

MNA/Xinhua

Two contestants cram noodles and slices of fish in mouths during a first round eating champion in Hong Kong on 6 Aug, 2006. Four-time world woman eating champion Sonya ‘Black Widow’ Thomas, not in photo, will attend the champion in the final round on 12 Aug.—INTERNET

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LISBON, 6 Aug— Portugal raised its national fire alert to the second highest level on Friday, as rising temperatures and falling humidity threatened to mar a summer fire season that has so far been mild.

The authorities said they expect temperatures to rise in the coming days, while humidity drops to below 20 per cent.

“Because of this, between August 4 and 7, we have raised the fire alert level to orange,” the National Fire and Forest Institute said on its website, referring to the second-highest of four levels. The alert was previously at the third level. Up to now, Portuguese fires have been smaller in number and less intense than recent years — 2003 saw the worst on record, and last year was the second worst.

MNA/Xinhua

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MNA/Xinhua

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MNA/Xinhua

Donate blood
Russian art thefts worth $130m, dealers say

MOSCOW, 6 Aug—Art dealers estimate the 220 items stolen from Russia’s famous Hermitage Museum could be worth over $A130 million.

The missing items include scores of icons mounted in gold or silver frames, silver vases, watches and jewellery.

Initially the Hermitage Museum said the objects were worth $A6.5 million but art dealers say their value on the open market is around 20 times that figure.

The disappearances were uncovered during a routine check of sealed vaults after the sudden death of a curator.

The museum’s director believes employees are behind the thefts that were committed over several years.

The task force, which has been cancelled after investigators discovered it was a “high quality” counterfeit, the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences says.

Heirs sell off Nazi-acquired art

BERLIN, 7 Aug—A painting seized by the Nazis, which was later returned to the descendants of its Jewish owners, is expected to raise up to $25 million ($15m) at auction.

Ernst Ludwig Kirchner’s Strassenszene, Berlin, shows a city street scene, and was one of 11 paintings of his portraying everyday life. It is “the most significant German Expressionist picture ever to come to auction”, Christie’s Germany said. Nearly 600 of Kirchner’s works were destroyed by Nazis in the 1930s. It is not clear exactly how Strassenszene, Berlin, was taken from its owners, Jewish collectors Alfred and Thelka Hess.

“It is believed this was a forced sale which was not planned with the knowledge of the widow Thelka Hess,” Andreas Rumbler of Christie’s told the Reuters news agency. “Money was paid by the collector in 1937, but we have to assume the widow never saw the money. We have to assume it was taken by the Nazis,” he said.

Kirchner was considered a “degenerate” artist by the Nazis, he added, but they may have seen the commercial value in selling on his work.

Chinese TV stations facing steep loss of revenue after ads banned

BEIJING, 6 Aug — After ads for some products were banned, Chinese television stations are staring at a possible 60 per cent decline in advertising revenue.

The ban on television and radio advertisements for weight loss, breast enlargement and other beauty products and treatments, was announced in July and became effective on 1 August.

It was introduced by the State Administration of Radio, Film and Television (SARFT) and the State Administration of Industry and Commerce (SAIC) because of fears that such ads violate consumers’ rights and endanger their health.

Task force formed in California for heat wave response

LOS ANGELES, 6 Aug — Officials in California said Friday they are setting up a task force to help the state’s response to heat waves like the recent one that have probably caused over 140 deaths.

“California has a nationally recognized emergency response system developed after years of earthquakes, fires and floods,” said Henry Renteria, director of the state’s Office of Emergency Services.

He said that the newly formed task force would use such experiences in responding to extreme heat, which have been so far largely shunned by the emergency response system in the state.

The task force, which includes representatives of state and local emergency organizations and non-profit groups, will look at ways to track people vulnerable to heat climate and to provide necessary help.

The heat wave that hit last month is believed as the state’s deadliest act of nature in years and has prompted calls for the government to overhaul the way it deals with the elderly during periods of extreme temperatures.

The suspected death toll from the heat wave exceeded 160 as of late this week, far surpassing the number of deaths caused by major earthquakes in California in recent two decades.

Most of the victims were elderly people who lived alone and in isolated areas.

Most of the deaths occurred in the Central Valley and desert regions, where temperatures often jumped to over 45 degrees Celsius during the heat wave period.

A tourist watches ponies on a one kilometers Jaguar trail at the Night Safari in Thailand’s northern Chiang Mai Province recently. — Internet

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**SPORTS**

Nine-man Santos hit back to beat Internacional

**RIO DE JANEIRO, 7 Aug** — Santos scored twice in the last five minutes as they came from behind to beat Internacional 2-1 in the Brazilian championship on Sunday despite being reduced to nine men.

Santos, trailing 1-0 to a first-half goal from Larley, had striker Reinaldo sent off in the 74th minute for petulantly kicking Perdigao in front of the referee.

Six minutes later, they lost Chile midfielder Claudio Maldonado through injury when they had already made three substitutions.

But two late strikes from midfielder Wendel gave Vanderlei Luxemburgo's team an unlikely win.

He scored directly from a free kick and then converted a controversial injury-time penalty after Rubens Cardoso tripped Denis, with the visitors claiming the foul was outside the area.

Santos climbed to third place with 27 points from 15 games, three behind leaders Sao Paulo.

Internacional, who rested several regular players because they face Sao Paulo in the first leg of the Libertadores Cup final on Wednesday, dropped to fourth after they beat Russian number four Elena Dementieva 6-4, 6-3.

Vaidisova of Czech Republic after she beat Russian number four Elena Dementieva 6-4, 6-3, setting up a last four match with defending champion Maria Sharapova, of Russia, for the WBO interim featherweight championship boxing bout in Stateline, Nev, on 5 Aug, 2006. Marquez won the fight. —INTERNET

**CLIJSTERS BEATS HINGIS, SHARAPOVA THROUGH IN SAN DIEGO**

**SAN DIEGO, 6 Aug** — Top seed Kim Clijsters overpowered Martina Hingis 7-5, 6-2 to reach the Acura Classic semifinals on Friday in San Diego.

Second seed Maria Sharapova crushed defending champion Mary Pierce 6-2, 6-3, setting up a last four clash with Patty Schnyder of Switzerland, who beat number four Elena Dementieva 6-4, 6-3.

Belgian Clijsters will face seventh seed Nicole Vaidisova of Czech Republic after she beat Russian Anna Chakvetadze 6-2, 6-1.

Hingis came back from a 2-4 deficit in the first set to take a 5-4 lead, but Clijsters served brilliantly and came back to win the set 7-5.

A dejected Hingis looked sloppy in the second set and Clijsters pounded out the win. “Mentally she puts so much pressure on you,” Hingis said. “She doesn’t really give you a free point. She doesn’t really have a weakness.” —MNA/Reuters

Woods stays on course for 50th title

**GRAND BLANC (Michigan), 6 Aug** — Tiger Woods birdied two of his final three holes to grab a two-shot lead in the Buick Open third round and move within sight of his 50th career title on Saturday.

The world number one, fresh from his British Open triumph, got his round off to a dubious start with a bogey at the second but was flawless the rest of the way, hitting seven birdies to post a six-under 66 for the third consecutive day and leading total of 18-under 198.

Lurking just two shot back were Americans Lucas Glover and Scott Verplank and Australia’s Robert Allenby, who all returned 66s under ideal scoring conditions at the Warwick Hills Golf and Country Club to get to 16-under 200.

Two-times defending champion Vijay Singh moved into contention for an unprecedented third consecutive and fourth Buick title with four-under 68 to headline a group of five players sitting just three off the lead.

Joining the Fijian at 15-under 201 were Canadians Mike Weir (68) and Stephen Ames (66) and Americans Joe Durant (67) and Vaughn Taylor, who shot a best-of-the-day 63 to rocket up the leaderboard. —MNA/Reuters

**VERON MAKES EMOTIONAL RETURN AS ESTUDIANTE WIN BUENOS AIRES, 7 Aug** — Estudiantes gave former Argentina midfielder Juan Sebastian Veron a winning return on Sunday as they won 1-0 at Quilmes in the Apertura championship.

It was an emotional afternoon for the former Manchester United, Inter Milan and Lazio midfielder, who was playing his first game for 11 years at the club where he was raised.

Veron played a part in the only goal as his long cross was misjudged by goalkeeper Fabian Ramirez, hit the crossbar and was tucked away by Mariano Pavone in the 33rd minute.

“I was very moved by the reception I got from the supporters, I’ve missed the Argentine public,” said Veron, who has spent the last ten years of his career in Europe.

It was also Estudiantes’ first game under former Argentina captain Diego Simeone.

Striker Martin Palermo scored twice as defending champions Boca Juniors kicked off with a 3-0 win over Banfield.

Palermo scored the first in the 58th minute after Sebastian Battaglia found him unmarked in the area and the last in the 76th minute at the second attempt after his first shot was blocked.

Battaglia scored the other goal in between as he took advantage of poor marking by Banfield.

River Plate, Independiente, Racing Club and San Lorenzo, the other major Buenos Aires teams, also kicked off with wins.

River won 2-0 at Lanus thanks to a Maximiliano Vasquez own goal early in the second half followed immediately by a strike from teenager Gonzalo Higuain.

Former Argentina international Ariel Ortega came on in the second half as, like Veron, he returned to the club where he began his career. Independiente gave 1986 World Cup winner Jorge Burruchaga a winning start as their new coach by trouncing Colon 4-1 away.

Sergio Orteman, German Denis, Rodrigo Diaz and Daniel Montenegro shared the goals in the second half after Colon had led at halftime through an Esteban Fuertes penalty. —MNA/Reuters

**Bednar hits late winner as Hearts beat Celtic**

**GLASGOW, 7 Aug** — Czech Republic forward Roman Bednar struck a late winner to earn Hearts a 2-1 win over champions Celtic at Tynecastle on Sunday.

Bednar had opened the scoring on 50 minutes with an angled shot from the left which beat keeper Artur Boruc and clipped the inside of the right post.

Celtic levelled after a sweeping move from defence was completed by Bulgarian Stilian Petrov lashing a left foot shot into the top left hand corner from 18 metres after 65 minutes.

Hearts snatched the points three minutes from time when Celtic substitute Neil Lennon’s poor backpass from just inside his own half was pounced on by Bednar who beat Boruc to the ball and slotted home.

Celtic manager Gordon Strachan and Hearts’ assistant John McGlynn were both ordered to the stand just minutes after referee Stuart Dougal following a touchline bust-up shortly before halftime.

They clashed over referee Dougal halting play when Hearts’ Julien Brellier went down under a challenge from Celtic’s Aiden McGeady.

Strachan told BBC Radio Scotland: “I was saying to our players about why they had stopped, I didn’t realize the referee stopped play, because previously Hearts had played on 10 minutes earlier (when one of their players needed treatment).

“There was a bit of verbal from both technical areas, but I stayed out of the way.”

Strachan added on Setanta TV: “There was a bit of abuse thrown at each other from the technical area, but I never left my technical area. I am just upset that I let my team down by not restraining myself.”

Of the game he said: “It’s fast and furious when you come here. Their two goals were caused by errors on our own behalf. We gave them a couple of chances and they took them.” Hearts’ St Mirren and Falkirk have maximum six points from two games. —MNA/Reuters

**South Korean FC Seoul’s Ricardo Nunes Queiros (R) tackles Japanese FC Tokyo’s Lucas during the first half of a friendly soccer match at the Seoul World Cup stadium on 5 Aug, 2006.** —INTERNET
Heat wave claims at least 20 lives in New York

NEW YORK, 7 Aug — The death toll from the searing heat that scorched the city earlier in the week exceeded 20, the city medical examiner’s office said on Saturday.

The office confirmed 10 heat-related deaths on Saturday after autopsies on the dead. It already reported 10 heat-related deaths on Friday.

The new autopsy results were those of two Brooklyn residents and eight Queens residents.

The new victims include six women and four men who ranged in age from 52 to 99, said Ellen Borakove, spokeswoman for the medical examiner’s office. The death toll could rise further as the medical examiner’s office continues to conduct autopsies.

The city’s Office of Emergency Management said it would review its emergency planning once all of the investigations into the deaths are completed.

Before the three-day heat wave broke Thursday night, the temperatures at times hit triple digits (high-30s Celsius), causing power outages throughout the city.

On Friday, Borakove confirmed 10 deaths, four in Manhattan and six in Brooklyn, as being heat-related. All those victims had died Thursday.

But none of the deaths confirmed so far occurred in parts of the city that suffered power outages due to the persistent heat wave, Borakove said. — MNA/Xinhua

Strong earthquake jolts Argentina

BUENOS AIRES, 7 Aug — A strong earthquake hit Argentina early Saturday, causing damage to buildings but no casualties, the country’s seismological bureau said.

The focus of the quake, measuring 5.7 on the Richter Scale, hit at 11:03 local time (1403 GMT) and is located 27 kilometres south-south-east of Mendoza, Argentina, and 190 kilometres east-northeast of Santiago, Chile, the bureau said.

The quake shattered some windows and left cracks on buildings, causing panic among local residents. Some people were evacuated to shelters offered by the government, the bureau said.

A quake measuring six on the Richter Scale rattled the same area in August 1985, causing some 12,500 houses to collapse and killing six people. — MNA/Xinhua

Three Magellanic penguins enjoy the warm light in Niteroi zoo in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on 5 Aug, 2006. Dozens of Magellanic penguins, strayed from their community during migration, were washed to the beach near Rio de Janeiro by ocean currents in recent days. Local people sent the exhausted penguins to the zoo. They will be sent back to the icy waters of Antarctica when they recover. Brazilian Air Force has sent 24 recovered penguins home by a special plane on 3 August. — INTERNET

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas

WEATHER

Monday, 7 August, 2006
Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in lower Sagaing, Magway and Yangon Divisions, rain has been isolated in Shan and Chin States and upper Sagaing, Mandalay and Ayeyawady Divisions, scattered in Kachin State and Bago Division, fairly widespread in Rakhine State and widespread in the remaining areas with isolated heavy falls in Tanintharyi Division. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Dawei (4.61) inches, Machanbaw (1.61) inches, Thaton (1.14) inches, Maungtaw (1.06) inches and Pyinmana (0.12) inch.

Maximum temperature on 6-8-2006 was 91°F. Minimum temperature on 7-8-2006 was 71°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 7-8-2006 was 79%. Total sunshine hours on 6-8-2006 was (6) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 7-8-2006 were (Nil) at Mingaladon, (Nil) at Kaba-Aye and (Nil) at Central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2006 were (59.72) inches at Mingaladon, (72.40) inches at Kaba-Aye and (77.09) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (12) mph from West at (15:00) hours MST on 6-8-2006.

Bay influence: Monsoon is strong in the Andaman Sea and weak in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 8-8-2006: Weather will be partly cloudy in lower Sagaing and Magway Divisions, rain will be isolated in Chin State, upper Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions, scattered in Shan and Kayah States, Bago, Ayeyawady and Yangon Divisions, fairly widespread in Rakhine and Kachin States and widespread in the remaining areas with isolated heavy falls are likely in Tanintharyi Division. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Squalls with moderate to rough sea are likely attimes off and along Mon-Taninthyai Coast. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 35 to 40 mph. Seas will be slight to moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Increase of rain in eastern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 8-8-2006: Possibility of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (40%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 8-8-2006: Likelihood of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 8-8-2006: Possibility of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

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

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

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye welcomes Thai Supreme Commander General Ruengroj Mahasaranond and party

_NA_Y _PYI_ _TAW_, 7 Aug
— At the invitation of Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, a goodwill delegation led by Supreme Commander General Ruengroj Mahasaranond of Royal Thai Armed Forces and wife arrived here by special flight this morning to pay a goodwill visit to the Union of Myanmar.

The visiting Thai general and party were welcomed at the Nay Pyi Taw Airport by Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San, member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thara Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence and wife Daw Khin Lay Thet, Commander-in-Chief(Navy) Vice-Admi-

_Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and General Ruengroj Mahasaranond take the salute of the Guard of Honour at Nay Pyi Taw Airport._ — MNA

INSIDE

In the Myainggyingu Special Region in Hlinebwe Township, DKBA, which has returned to the legal fold, is working together with the government for development in the transport, economy, education, health, and agriculture sectors of the region.

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