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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

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**Thai Supreme Commander and wife conclude visit**

_YANGON, 9 Aug — The visiting Thai goodwill delegation led by Supreme Commander General Ruengroj Mahasaranond of Royal Thai Armed Forces and wife left here by air at 9.15 am today._

_The Supreme Commander of Royal Thai Armed Forces and wife and party were seen off at Yangon International Airport by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win and wife Daw Mar Mar Wai, Maj-Gen Than Htay of the Ministry of Defence, Commander of Ayeyawady Naval Region Command Captain Aye Pe, Commander of Mingaladon Air Base Brig-Gen Zin Yaw, senior military officers and their wives, Thai Ambassador Mr Suphot Dhirakaosal and wife, Thai Military Attaché Colonel Prissapa Suvanatat and wife._

_Before their departure, Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win presented a VCD on the goodwill visit to the Supreme Commander of Royal Thai Armed Forces at the lounge of the airport._ — MNA

**Thai Supreme Commander General Ruengroj Mahasaranond (L) being seen at Yangon International Airport together with Yangon Command Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win (R) before leaving Yangon. — MNA**

**Yangon Command Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win (R) bids farewell to Thai Supreme Commander General Ruengroj Mahasaranond (L) at Yangon International Airport**

_MNA_

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**INSIDE**

_The State Peace and Development Council has been constructing roads, railroads, and river and creek-crossing bridges across the nation especially in hilly regions that were difficult of access previously with the aim of narrowing the development gap between rural areas and urban areas and forging the relations and contacts among national races._

_ARTICLE BY KAYAN SOE MYINT & PHOTOS BY MOE MYINT HALANG_
**PERSPECTIVES**

**Thursday, 10 August, 2006**

**Raise the momentum of industrial development**

The government has been building infrastructures for water supply for agriculture, transport and greening of Pakokku region on the west bank of the Ayeyawady and therefore it is developing remarkably.

As seven river water pumping stations have been built in Pakokku Township, paddy can now be grown on 7,200 acres of farmland. Another six river water pumping stations are also under construction. So, on their completion, more paddy, cotton, groundnut, sesame and beans and pulses will be able to be cultivated on over 70,000 acres.

Magway Division produces most of the country’s cotton, edible oil crops and beans and pulses. Therefore, industries based on agricultural produce and industries that can contribute to the agriculture sector are being established and at the same time efforts are being made for the development of the State-owned industrial sector.

Myan Textile Industries under the Ministry of Industry-1 opened the Garment Factory (Pakokku) in Pakokku Township in Magway Division on 28 July. The factory has more than 700 sewing machines and is capable of producing 1.2 million units of dresses per year. Similarly, Pakokku Textile Plant was opened in October, 2005, to meet the domestic need for various kinds of textile.

The modern textile plant and the garment factory in Pakkokku District have created job opportunities for the people in Pakokku, Seikpyu, Pauk, Myaing and Yezagyo Townships. Moreover, the number of skilled workers who can handle modern machines has also increased.

Nowadays, for the development of the industrial sector, industrial zones are being established and new factories and plants built. The increase in the number of textile and garment factories will surely contribute to regional development and meet the needs of the people.

**People’s Desire**

* Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
* Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of 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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**SWRRR Minister receives UNICEF Resident Representative**

**NAV PSI TAW, 9 Aug** — Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe received UNICEF Resident Representative Mr Ramesh Shrestha, together with Deputy Representative Ms Elke Wisch and Chief of Child Protection Section Ms Anne, Claire Dufay Demoulin, at the ministry, here, at 10 am today.

Also present at the call were Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint, Deputy Minister for Immigration and Population Maj-Gen Aung Kyi, Director-General of the Social Welfare Department U Sit Myaing, Director-General U Than Oo of the Relief and Resettlement Department and officials.

**Myanmar delegation leaves for Pakistan**

**NAV PSI TAW, 9 Aug** — A Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Chief Justice U Thein Soe left here by air for Islamic Republic of Pakistan this afternoon to attend the Golden Jubilee of the Supreme Court of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the International Judicial Conference to be held from 11 to 14 August in Islamabad, Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

The delegation was seen off at Nay Pyi Taw Airport by Chief Justice U Aung Toe and officials of the Supreme Court. Director-General U Soe Nyunt of the Supreme Court also left for Pakistan on the same flight. — MNA

**UMFCCI General Secretary receives foreign guests**

**YANGON, 9 Aug** — Directors of W Schlaufhorst AG & Co of Germany Mr Andreas Engelhardt and Mr Henri Wiggers called on General Secretary U Sein Win Hlaing of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry at the UMFCCI office on Min Ye Kyaw Swa Street in Larnmadaw Township on 3 August afternoon. Also present at the call were CEC member U Myint Soe and owners of garment factories.

They discussed doing businesses for textile and garment factories, investment opportunities, introduction of machinery manufactured by Saucer in Germany for production of textile.

Similarly, Deputy Chief of Mission of the Thai Embassy Mr Prasas Prasavsinchi and party called on the general secretary.

They discussed promotion of trade between the two countries, import and export procedures, matters on expo, healthcare services and contract firming.

Also present at the call were CEC members U Tun Aung and U Myint Soe.

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**Mya Ayeya market ship on departure for Mandalay 15 Aug**

**YANGON, 9 Aug** — The Yangon-Mandalay market ship Mya Ayeya of Commodities Division of Inland Water Transport of the Ministry of Transport will leave No 6 Jetty of Botahtaung for Mandalay on 15 August on second voyage.

Interested cargo owners in Yangon may contact Commodities Division of IWT on Botattaung Market Street, Tel: 292199 and 292319.

Cargo owners from districts are to contact the Township Manager Office of IWT in Maubin, Danubyu, Hinthada, Myaing, Kyangin, Pyay, Thayet, Aunglan and Magway. — MNA
**Israel hits heart of Beirut hard**

**BEIRUT, 8 Aug—**As US President George W Bush rejected Lebanon’s demand that the United Nations Security Council order Israeli forces to immediately quit southern Lebanon, the Israel-Hezbollah conflict took another ominous turn at sunset last night when Israel hit closer to the heart of Beirut than ever, killing at least 18 and wounding 60.

Yesterday’s air raid took place as Israel issued a stark threat to everyone in Lebanon living within 30 kilometres of the Israeli border to remain inside after 10 pm or risk being regarded as the enemy. It also placed a curfew on the movement of all vehicles in the area.

Hours earlier, Prime Minister Ehud Olmert told reservists in northern Israel that no limits had been placed on current military operations in Lebanon.

“There are no restraints on the army,” Mr Olmert said.

“We are not stopping. The Katyusha (rocket) fires must be stopped. A situation in which a million Israelis are confined to shelters is unacceptable.”

Mr Olmert’s words were backed up by heavy bombing raids on more than 150 targets across Lebanon. Among the places hit was the last road link between the besieged southern port city of Tyre and the rest of Lebanon, effectively cutting off all humanitarian aid to the south. Warplanes also once again struck Baalbek in the northern Bekaa Valley, but they concentrated most of their fire in border areas. At least 33 Lebanese died in these attacks, including a family of seven in a seaside village north of Tyre.

In Beirut, the southern suburbs were rocked by a series of early morning explosions, but the loudest attack came as residents were sitting down to dinner.

**Indonesia seeks investment for biofuel**

**JAKARTA, 8 Aug—**Indonesia is seeking foreign and domestic investment to finance its bio-fuel industry valued at 20 billion US dollars in a bid to ease the country’s reliance on oil, a senior Indonesian official said Monday.

Mines and Energy Minister Purnomo Yustiantoro said the funds would be used for funding the onfarm and outfarm sectors. “(The 20 billion US dollars) is the total capital expenditure. Onfarm comprises land of six million hectares, outfarm includes factory, marketing and others,” he told Xinhua.

When asked the source of the funds, he said “from international and domestic investors”.

Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono said on Monday that the country will develop biofuel industry in a large scale in the near future. He has asked ministers to develop plans to significantly increase the use of biofuels, derived from plants such as coconuts, sugarcane and castor oil, by 2010.

Last month, Purnomo announced plans to set up 11 biodiesel plants to produce 26,000 tons of the fuel per year to decrease the reliance on gasoline. Indonesia, the Southeast Asia’s only member of the Organization of Petroleum-Exporting Countries, is now a net oil importer.

**Apple debuts Mac Pro desktop computer**

**SAN FRANCISCO, 8 Aug—**Apple Computer Inc on Monday introduced its new professional desktop computer line called the Mac Pro, which will use the Intel Corp Xeon chipset, as Chief Executive Steve Jobs took the stage at the iPod and Mac maker’s annual conference for software developers.

The new Mac Pro line, which will cost about 2,500 US dollars, replaces the Power Mac line and will use dual Xeon chips in each computer.

The new Mac is twice as fast than the one it replaces, Philip Schiller, head of Apple worldwide product marketing, told conference attendees.

**Chemical plant blast kills at least three in Tianjin**

**TIANJIN, 8 Aug—**A chemical plant blast killed at least three people and injured six others in north China’s port city of Tianjin Monday afternoon, rescuers said.

In addition, two people were reported missing in the blast, rescuers said.

The blast took place at about 3:00 pm at the workshop of the Yikun (Tianjin) Refined Chemical Industry Science and Technology Co Ltd, which is located at the Xinda Industrial Park of Jinnan District in southern Tianjin.

The blast caused the rupture of an ammonia pipeline, which is now being repaired. However, there is no leak of ammonia in large amount, according to the fire-fighters at the scene.

Ammonia is a colourless and pungent gas, which is widely used in the production of fertilizer and a variety of nitrogen-containing organic and inorganic chemicals.

**Parents beware of shopping carts, escalators**

**CHICAGO, 8 Aug—**Shopping carts, escalators and lawn mowers injure 35,000 American children every year and should be redesigned, researchers said on Monday.

Last year in the United States, 24,000 children were hurt badly enough to go to the hospital after falling out of shopping carts or tripping over while they rode, a statement from the American Academy of Pediatrics said.

Three-quarters of the injuries were to the head or neck. Some children got injured when they were trapped in carts, or fell off while riding on the outside or while standing up inside the basket, the report published in the academy’s journal, Pediatrics, said.

The group urged doctors to support changes in cart design. Meanwhile, parents ought to consider using strollers or wagons, shopping online from home or encouraging children to walk when they are old enough to do so.

Escalators and lawn mowers also cause thousands of injuries to US children each year, reports in Pediatrics said. Many of the 2,000 annual injuries on escalators occur when a shoe, clothing or a stroller becomes trapped in the space between the moving stairs and the side wall.

Reducing that gap would help, as would vày caregivers remove children from strollers before taking an escalator, the report said. Regulations making lawn mowers safer could deter the more than 9,000 injuries sustained each year. Boys suffer nearly four out of five mower injuries, including burns, fractures, and fingers and toes that are lacerated by spinning blades.

**Quake of 6.7 magnitude jolts near Vanuatu**

**SAN FRANCISCO, 8 Aug—**A strong earthquake of 6.7 magnitude hit 50 miles (75 kilometres) from the largest island of Vanuatu at 9:18 am local time on 8 August (2218 GMT 7 August), the US Geological Survey reported on Monday.

The Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre said that there was no Pacific-wide tsunami threat, even with their higher initial reading of a 7.0 magnitude.

**Workers labour on the construction site for China’s National Stadium, the venue for the opening and closing ceremonies for the 2008 Olympic Games, in Beijing on 8 Aug, 2006. Beijing Olympics organizers on Tuesday marked the two year countdown to the games with a mass exercise event in which a million people exercised in parks and residential districts of the city.**

**Smoke rises after an Israeli air strike on the city of Tyre, south of Beirut, on 8 Aug, 2006.**
Cambodia, Vietnam to promote cross-border trade

PHNOM PENH, 8 Aug—Business and government officials from Cambodia and Vietnam agreed to enhance trading alliances among the two countries’ businesses in a bid to boost bilateral trade, local media reported on Monday.

Trade between the two countries could be worth about 900 million US dollars in 2006, Business Press quoted the official figure as saying. Vietnam’s Deputy Minister of Trade said last week at a forum that he was optimistic that the ways could be found to increase both countries’ trade to one billion dollars in 2007.

Kith Meng, president of the Phnom Penh Chamber of Commerce, said that Cambodia earned approximately 46 million dollars from exporting products to Vietnam in 2005, but spent 180 million dollars on Vietnamese imports during that year.

Vietnamese authorities recently allowed Cambodians duty free access to 40 types of agricultural products, Kith Meng said, adding that the commercial plan will be implemented in the near future.

According to a local media, the two governments have arranged to create seven special economic zones along the border and about 20 border crossings in order to facilitate trade between Cambodia and Vietnam.

Floods cost South Africa $145m

Johannesburg, 8 Aug—The devastating floods which hit the Eastern and Southern Cape regions would probably cost South Africa about one billion rand (145 million US dollars), the newspaper Sunday Times reported on Sunday.

The report said that the government, the insurance industry, homeowners and those left destitute were starting to add up the cost of this week’s floods. Lumkile Mondi, chief economist at the Industrial Development Corporation, said insurance companies would be hit hard by the floods.

The economists was quoted as saying, “It’s a difficult estimate to make, but the total cost will probably be around one billion rand if not more.”

The infrastructure costs of the government alone would run up to hundreds of millions of rand, he said.

Protesters ‘boarded’ US plane

LONDON, 8 Aug—British authorities arrested seven anti-war protesters Monday after demonstrators said they boarded a plane at a Scottish airport to search for evidence of US weapons being transported to Israel.

Local police said two men and a woman were arrested after getting on the plane at Prestwick Airport, near Glasgow. Four other people were arrested at the airport at around 3:30 am (0230 GMT).

Anti-nuclear campaign group Trident Ploughshares said its activists had cut through a perimeter fence and boarded a US plane to search for evidence of arms shipments to Israel.

Spokesman David Mackenzie said the group had not found any weapons aboard the cargo plane, whose destination was unknown.

The seven arrests follow those of four other members of the group, who ran onto a runway at the airport on Sunday.

Last month, a stopover at Prestwick of US flights carrying missiles to Israel sparked intense criticism in Britain.

Blair has denied Britain has acted inappropriately and dismissed critics who have called for a ban on US military aircraft landing on British airfields.

About 70 protesters, including members of Scotland’s Lebanese community, chanted anti-war slogans outside the airport’s entrance last week to coincide with the expected arrival of two more weapons flights to Israel.—INTERNET

Pakistan floods kill 120, one mln homeless in India

ISLAMABAD, 8 Aug—Flash floods triggered by torrential rains have killed at least 120 people in Pakistan’s North West Frontier Province, and forced hundreds of thousands out of their homes in neighbouring India, officials said on Monday.

The floods played havoc in five districts of Pakistan’s NWFP, including two which were badly hit by a devastating earthquake last year, submerging hundreds of villages and causing extensive property damage. “The situation is worse than last year, as the rains triggered more flash floods this time in our five districts,” NWFP Information Mini-ster Asif Iqbal Khan told Reuters.

“The floods have swept away mud houses and people.” By Monday rescuers had recovered 43 bodies in Mardan, the second biggest city in the province, after a bridge overflowing with people collapsed on Saturday.

Iqbal Khan said some 100 people were still missing in the incident. He said incessant rains and floods could lead to the spread of diseases like diarrhea and other respiratory infections, especially among children.

“We are trying our best to provide food and medicines to every affected person but still there is a threat of an epidemic.”—INTERNET

Smoke rises over the explosion site in central Baghdad, capital of Iraq, on 8 Aug, 2006. Two successive roadside bombings rocked Baghdad’s busy commercial area on Tuesday, killing at least 10 people and wounding 70 others. —INTERNET

Environmentalists and fishermen in northern Norway are warning of crustaceans which are threatening to ruin the local sea fauna. Photo taken on 9 August 2006 shows a diver catching red king crabs.—INTERNET

The first dominoes festival for young people from Chinese mainland and China (Taipei) opens in Xiamen, southeastern China’s Fujian Province, on 7 August, 2006. Thousands of young people across the Straits took part in the event.—INTERNET

Smoke rises over the explosion site in central Baghdad, capital of Iraq, on 8 Aug, 2006. Two successive roadside bombings rocked Baghdad’s busy commercial area on Tuesday, killing at least 10 people and wounding 70 others. —INTERNET
People walk across the partly submerged bridge over a river in Akola, in the western Indian state of Maharashtra, on 6 Aug. 2006. On Sunday, it continued to rain heavily across southern and western India, disrupting the region’s road transport network and forcing authorities to evacuate tens of thousands of residents in flood-hit areas. — INTERNET

Indonesia’s forests need 120 years to recover

Jakarta, 8 Aug—Indonesian deforestation has been so severe it would take 120 years to regain the 60 million hectares of lost forests, Forestry Minister MS Kaban said.

Pristine forests of 60 million hectares had been lost over the past 20 years due to over-exploitation, land conversion, natural disasters and forest fires, the Jakarta Post daily on Monday quoted Kaban as saying in Padang, West Sumatra. The government’s reforestation efforts could only recover about 600,000 hectares per year.

The orphaned snow leopard cub nicknamed Leo is pictured recently in the Naltar Valley of northern Pakistan, where it was found in July 2005. The US State Department found some rare good news to announce: a successful joint operation with Pakistan to save the orphaned snow leopard cub, one of the world’s most endangered animals. — INTERNET

Nearly 200 dead, 300 missing in Ethiopia floods

Dire Dawa (Ethiopia), 8 Aug—Nearly 200 people are dead and hundreds more missing after floods swept through an eastern Ethiopian town over the weekend, police said on Monday.

The Dechatter River burst its banks and flooded the town of Dire Dawa on Saturday night, drowning and trapping people in the sandy debris as they slept. The death toll has been mounting alongside a police recovery operation using bulldozers.

“One hundred and ninety-one people are dead, and we have 300 others unaccounted for, based on reports from relatives and our officers,” police inspector Benyam Fikru told Reuters.

Operations were suspended overnight in the town located in Ethiopia’s eastern lowlands, 525 kilometres (326 miles) east of capital Addis Ababa, but were expected to resume on Monday.

Heavy rains in Ethiopia’s highlands during the June-August season usually cause rivers in lowland areas to overflow. Thousands have been displaced by this year’s rains and this latest surge in Dire Dawa has destroyed at least 220 homes. — MNA/Reuters

Local tests show Indonesian teenager died of bird flu

Jakarta, 8 Aug—A 16-year-old Indonesian boy has died of bird flu according to results from local tests, a Health Ministry official said on Tuesday.

If confirmed by a World Health Organization-referred laboratory, he will be Indonesia’s 43rd human bird flu death, the highest in the world.

“According to information I received from the hospital, he died last night,” an official at the Health Ministry’s bird flu crisis centre, Runizar Ruesin, told Reuters. The teenager, from Bekasi on the outskirts of Jakarta, had been treated at the designated bird flu centre in Jakarta, Sulianti Saroso Hospital.

He had been in contact with sick chicken, the usual mode of transmission of the disease that is endemic in poultry in nearly all the country’s provinces.

The teenager, from Bekasi on the outskirts of Jakarta, Sulianti Saroso Hospital.

The teenager, from Bekasi on the outskirts of Jakarta, Sulianti Saroso Hospital.

Oil prices soar as BP shuts US field

United States, 8 Aug—Oil prices surged towards record levels yesterday after the discovery of a corroded pipeline caused BP to close the biggest production field in the United States, triggering fears of another spike in the cost of fuel.

The Prudhoe Bay oil field in Alaska will be shut down until repairs are made, cutting output by about 400,000 barrels a day — some 8 per cent of the total US oil production. It is not known how long the repairs will take.

Coupled with heightened tension in the Middle East, the drop in supply has raised fears motorists could be paying even more for their petrol. Yesterday’s announcement sent the cost of a barrel of oil up to about $76, almost reaching last month’s all-time high of $78.

BP shares fell 2 per cent as investors came to terms with the latest in a series of problems to hit the company’s north American operation - its Alaskan arm is already facing a criminal investigation over an oil spill in March in which 270,000 gallons of crude leaked into Prudhoe Bay, and an explosion at its Texas City refinery killed 15 workers in March last year.

The firm began shutting down oil production over the weekend after the discovery of severe corrosion and a spill of four to five barrels from a pipeline. BP, which owns a quarter of the field, is in the process of inspecting pipelines. — INTERNET
Iran mulls cheap oil exports to poor nations

TEHERAN, 8 Aug — Iran’s Oil Ministry said Monday it was studying a presidential proposal to sell cheap crude to poor countries — a plan redolent of Venezuela’s attempts to counter US influence through cut-rate energy exports.

President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad in April proposed strengthening the OPEC fund to lighten the burden of surging oil prices on poorer countries while ensuring that rich nations paid the full price. Iranian Oil Minister Kazem Vaziri-Hamaneh said the world’s fourth biggest oil exporter was weighing up this idea.

“The President’s proposal of selling cheap oil to poor countries is being studied and analysed,” Vaziri-Hamaneh was quoted as saying by the official IRNA news agency.

“The President has appointed the oil and economy minister to oversee his proposal,” he added.

However, Vaziri-Hamaneh cautioned the proposal would take a long time as parliamentary approval would be needed for any cuts in the price of crude exports.

Energy accounts for 80 per cent of Iran’s export earnings. Ahmadinejad has formed a strong alliance with fellow anti-US President Hugo Chavez of Venezuela, the world’s fifth biggest oil exporter. Chavez has been sewing up cheap oil export deals around poor countries in the Caribbean and Central America in a bid to outflank the United States, whose Free Trade Area of the Americas he vehemently opposes.

Four killed, 20 wounded in Burundi grenade attack

BUBUMBURA, 8 Aug — Four people were killed and 20 others seriously wounded in a third hand grenade attack in a week in bars in the Burundian capital, authorities said on Monday. A local official said two people died on the spot and two others died in the hospital after the attacks were carried out by unknown assailants on Sunday night in the northern Bujumbura suburb of Ngagara.

“Those criminals threw five grenades and shot at customers who were drinking beer,” local government official Aime Desire Ndibanje told Reuters.

Burundi’s Government estimates there are about 300,000 illegal guns in the hands of civilians and armed groups, left over from more than a decade of ethnic civil war.

No one had been arrested and police had no immediate suspects.

Security issue returns US-bound airliner to London

LONDON, 8 Aug — A Boston-bound American Airlines jet with 240 passengers and 13 crew aboard returned to London’s Heathrow Airport on Monday over a security issue, but there was no threat to the aircraft, the company said.

An airline spokeswoman did not give details, but a US Department of Homeland Security official said a male passenger on the flight had matched a name on a US “no-fly” list.

“Flight AA109 ... is returning to Heathrow Airport due to a potential security issue that needs to be resolved in London,” the airline said in a statement.

“There is no threat to the aircraft,” an American Airlines spokeswoman later told Reuters in London that the incident was now closed.

“After we have taken the decision to cancel the flight and we are rebooking passengers, an alternative flight to Boston for tomorrow morning,” she said.— MNA/Reuters

China, NZ make headway in free trade area talks

BEIJING, 8 Aug — China and New Zealand held the eighth round of talks aimed at establishing a free trade area last week and positive progress was made, said China’s Ministry of Commerce here on Monday.

If talks succeed it will be China’s first free trade area with a developed country. During the five-day meeting, delegates from China and New Zealand discussed trade in goods and services, investment and intellectual property rights. They also discussed rules for determining the origin of goods as well as inspection and quarantine of animals and plants, said the ministry.

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao visited New Zealand in April.

The two countries’ leaders exchanged ideas on free trade and decided to achieve an agreement within the next two years.

Also on the agenda during the eighth round of talks were measures to implement the results of the leaders’ meeting and strengthening common understanding between the two parties, the ministry said.

MNA/Xinhua

Floods kill 13 in Orissa in eastern India

NEW DELHI, 8 Aug — Floods in Orissa in eastern India triggered by torrential rains over the last week have killed at least 13 people, according to a local official on Monday.

“While seven people died in the southern district of Malkangiri, five others were killed in Koraput and one in Jajpur,” official of the state JN Sahu said.

The floods, which have affected 350,000 people across the state, have begun to abate in some places. But the situation continues to be critical in Malkangiri where several roads and many homes have been washed away. According to preliminary estimates, about 30,000 people have been affected by the floods.

MNA/Xinhua

Mayon Volcano spews ash during its eruption in Legazpi City, Albay province, south of Manila, on 7 Aug, 2006.—INTERNET

Anti-war activist Cindy Sheehan speaks to the Press under a tree on her new property dubbed “Camp Casey III” in Crawford, Texas on 6 Aug, 2006. Sheehan, whose military son Casey was killed in Iraq in 2004, began her summer peace vigil Sunday near President Bush’s ranch, at a third location near the ranch since her first protest a year ago.—INTERNET

Pop star Madonna arrives on stage in a disco ball during her concert in Rome on 6 Aug, 2006.—INTERNET

Dancers from the Tokyo Asami Ballet perform the show ‘Pink Floyd Ballet’ during the Cap Roig Festival in Palafurgell, near Girona, 8 August, 2006. INTERNET

Desire Ndibanje told Reuters: “Those criminals threw five grenades and shot at customers who were drinking beer,” local government official Aime Desire Ndibanje told Reuters.

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MNA/Reuters

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MNA/Reuters

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MNA/Xinhua
Hilly region national races enjoy travelling by train in comfort

The transport sector is the fundamental factor for the development of a nation. In particular, smooth transport is crucial for Myanmar, home to diverse national races.

In an endeavour to make investments in the projects for the development of infrastructures, the government has not given priority to commercial gains, but to the progress of the entire nation in various sectors.

Looking back to the history of the Myanmar Railways, the first-ever rail transportation service was launched on 1 May 1877 by running the train between Yangon and Pyay. However, Shwenyaung-Namhsan Railroad could be built in 1993, more than 116 years after the launch of the first one. And the train ran only between Shwenyaung and Hsaikkhaung, and between Mongnai and Namhsan. The State Peace and Development Council has been constructing roads, railroads, and river and creek-crossing bridges across the nation especially in hilly regions that were difficult of access perviously with the aim of narrowing the development gap between rural areas and urban areas and forging the relations and contacts among national races. One of those transport facilities is the 103-mile Hsaikkhaung-Namhsan Railroad in Shan State (South).

To complete the facility, the Myanmar Railways under the Ministry of Rail Transportation had to invest a huge sum of funds alongside machinery and manpower. Recently, our media group paid a visit to villages in hilly regions of the railroad section. The Hsaikkhaung-Namhsan Railroad passes through Lweput, Kaungte, Kaungwahhtaung, Pyintha, Htiri, Htihtetoe, Htookyant, Htanhsai, Punchaung, Bankauk, Taungkaing, Htipin, Nammaheik, Aunghsai, Naungbo, Mongseik and Malankham No 9 villages.

Upon arrival at Hsaikkhaung, we met Shan and PaO nationals from Namhsan who were taking Taunggyi-Shwenyaung train. When asked about the railroad, a national race woman traveller Ma Nang Khe holding a three-year old son and carrying on her back a baby girl told us that she was from Hsiakkhaung Village and was going to Kyaiktalon via Hanhs to meet her husband. She added that the emergence of the railroad provided convenience and comfort for her in making a trip, and travelling by train cost less. She expressed thanks to those who initiated the railroad project.

PaO sisters Mu Yun and Mu Pun also from Hsaikkhaung Village said that they would go to Taunggyi to sell mushrooms and vegetables there. And there, they would buy things they needed. They also expressed their thanks for the transport facility.

It was learnt that in the past, peace and stability and the infrastructures the government has constructed, the development of the hilly regions is now on a par with that of urban areas. And highlanders have the opportunity to travel by train in the region, and the better transport is making commodity flow swift and helping cement the friendship among the national races.

Translation: MS Kyemon: 3-8-2006

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The train enters Hsaikkhaung Station providing convenience and comfort for local people in hilly regions.

The Hsaikkhaung-Namhsan Railroad passes through Lweput, Kaungte, Kaungwahhtaung, Pyintha, Htiri, Htihtetoe, Htookyant, Htanhsai, Puchauang, Bankauk, Taungkaing, Htipin, Nammaheik, Aunghsai, Naungbo, Mongseik and Malankham No 9 villages.
Li-Gen Khin Maung Than of Ministry of Defence unveils signboard of the building of Ayeyawady Division Women’s Affairs Organization. — MNA

Commander Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung unveils signboard of the building of Ayeyawady Division MCW Supervisory Committee. — MNA


desks, stationery donated to BEPSs in Hlinethaya Township

YANGON, 9 Aug — Yangon Division Union Solidarity Development Association donated desks and stationery to Basic Education Primary Schools in Hlinethaya Township this morning. The donation ceremony was held at No (11) BEPS in Padan village with an address by USDA CEC member Yangon Division In-Charge Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Yangon Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin.

At the ceremony, the mayor handed over 100 school desks for BEPSs in the township to respective headmasters and headmistresses.

He also presented 20 dozens of exercise books for No (11) BEPS to the headmistress.

CEC member Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin accepted 511 USDA membershship applications of the villages in the township.

Later, the mayor accompanied by YCDC Joint-Secretary U Aung Than Win and officials inspected the rice shops run by Myanmar Rice Millers’ Association under the supervision of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

The shops sell four pyis of rice to a person for 400 kyats per pyi.

MNA

Course on Forest Research Skills opens

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Aug — Over 22 employees from Ministry of Forestry and Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation have received skills in compiling research papers at Forestry Research Department here on 7 August.

Organized by United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization and Ministry of Forestry, the course on research skills was opened here with an opening addresses by Dr S Appanah of FAO and Director-General of the Planning and Statistic Department under Ministry of Forestry U Than Swe and Director of Forestry Research Department U Ohn Win. — MNA

Public Health in Emergency Core Disseminator Training opens

YANGON, 9 Aug — Under the aegis of Myanmar Red Cross Society, an opening ceremony of Public Health in Emergency Core Disseminator Training took place at Grand Plaza Parkroyal Hotel, here, this morning with an address by President Dr Hla Myint of MRCS.

Delegation leader of International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies for Myanmar Ms Bridget Gardner also addressed the ceremony.

Also present were executives of MRCS, officials of the Health Department and Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department and responsible persons of State/Division RCs.

The training course will be held up to 12 August. The respective departments will give lectures to trainees how to prevent, contact and make public awareness if bird flu breaks out.

MNA

ASEAN Energy Award for 2006: Chairman U Soe Tint Aung (R) of Myanmar Inventors’ Cooperative Society accepts 2nd Runner’s up prize of ASEAN Energy Awards-2006 in Vientiane, Lao PDR, on 27 July 2006. The cooperative society won the prize for its invention of paddy husk-powered generators to supply electricity in rural areas. — COOPERATIVES

Li-Gen Khin Maung Than of Ministry of Defence unveils signboard of the building of Ayeyawady Division Women’s Affairs Organization. — MNA

Commander Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung unveils signboard of the building of Ayeyawady Division MCW Supervisory Committee. — MNA

MNA
Thai guests visit Shwedagon Pagoda, Abhaya Labha Muni Buddha Image

**YANGON, 9 Aug —** Visiting Supreme Commander General Ruengroj Mahasaranond of Royal Thai Armed Forces and wife and goodwill delegation members, accompanied by Maj-Gen Than Hay of the Ministry of Defence and wife, Thai Ambassador Mr Suphot Dhirakaosal and wife, the Thai General signed the visitors’ book and made cash donations to the fund of the pagoda.

Next, the goodwill delegation members paid homage to Jade Buddha Image at the south-west corner of the platform and Shwedagon Pagoda. They went round the pagoda and viewed religious buildings. Members of the pagoda board of trustees conducted them round the pagoda.

Afterwards, the Thai Supreme Commander and party proceeded to Lawkananda River Water Pumping Project in NyaungU Township, Mandalay Division on 5 August.

Director-General U Win Shwe and Project in-charge U Maung Maung Lwin of Water Resources Utilization Department reported on water supply to 5,293 acres of farmland through canals.

Chairman of NyaungU District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Teza also reported on cultivation of monsoon paddy and use of natural fertilizers.

The Thai General presented the picture of the Buddha image as Dhamma gift to the General.

The delegation members visited the Buddha image. Next, they viewed white elephants at the shed.

Director U Myint Nyein of Forest Department explained matters related to white elephants.

The Thai General presented cash to the fund of the white elephants to the Director of Forest Department.

Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation inspects dams, water pumping stations

**NAV PYI TAW, 9 Aug —** Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Huay Oo, accompanied by Resident Representative of FAO in Myanmar Mr Tang Zhengping and directors-general of enterprises and departments under the ministry, arrived at Shwedagon Pagoda yesterday morning and they were welcomed by members of the pagoda board of trustees.

The Thai General and party offered flowers, water, lights and joss sticks to the pagoda.

They inspected inflow of water into Myakan Dam The embankment of the dam is 3,600 feet long and 32 feet high. The dam is situated on Taungponwa Creek near Nyaungto Village, NyaungU Township.

The minister and party also inspected Ngathayauk Creek near Nyaungto Village, NyaungU Township. They were welcomed by the chairman of the pagoda board of trustees and officials.

The Thai delegation members offered flowers and water to the Buddha image and paid homage to it.

The chairman of the pagoda board of trustees explained the history of the Buddha image.

The Thai General presented cash donations to members of the pagoda board of trustees. Next, the members of the pagoda board of trustees presented cash for Shwedagon Pagoda to members of the Pagoda Board of Trustees during his visit to the pagoda.

The Thai General explained the history of the pagoda board of trustees and the Buddha image and paid homage to it.

Buddha image. Next, they viewed white elephants at the shed.

The delegation members visited the Buddha image. Next, they viewed white elephants at the shed.

Energy Planning Department, Petronas sign MoI

**NAV PYI TAW, 9 Aug —** A ceremony to ink a Memorandum of Intent (MoI) between the Energy Planning Department of the Ministry of Energy of the Union of Myanmar and Petronas was held at the meeting hall of the ministry here yesterday afternoon.

Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi gave an opening speech. On behalf of Petronas, Managing Director and CEO Mr Ahmad Nizam Bin Salleh of MLNG Group of Companies expressed gratitude.

On behalf of the Director-General of the Energy Planning Department, Director U Soe Aung and Mr Ahmad Nizam Bin Salleh signed and exchanged notes.

According to the MoI, technicians of the Ministry of Energy and Petronas will cooperate in conducting feasibility survey on commercial and technological matters to sell natural gas through pipelines to neighbouring countries and manufacture (Liquified Natural Gas-LNG) based on existing natural gas deposits and potential natural gas resources in Myanmar.
Prizes presented to outstanding townships for increased family income

YANGON, 9 Aug — Yangon West District Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee organized the ceremony to present prizes to outstanding persons for tasks to increase family income at No 2 Basic Education High School in Latha Township today.

Chairperson of Yangon Division MCWSC Daw Mar Mar Wai explained matters related to the increase of family income.

Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win presented prize to a responsible person of award-winning township. — MNA

Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin donates benches to a headmistress of a school in Hlinethaya Township. — YCDC

China busts illicit black market currency trading

BEIJING, 9 Aug — China’s police have busted five major black markets dealing in illegal money transfers and unauthorized foreign currency conversion. The sums involved are a staggering 10.4 billion yuan (1.3 billion US dollars).

By the end of July, police had arrested 27 suspects and seized funds worth more than 34 million yuan (4.25 million US dollars), the police authority announced on Tuesday.

‘Illegal forex trading is a major component of these black market businesses,’ said Wu Heping, spokesman for the Ministry of Public Security, calling for public awareness of the crackdown.

“It is very risky to trade in black markets because we confiscate all the funds we find,” Wu said, warning the public that involvement in illegal forex trading will lead to severe penalties.

China has intensified its fight against illegal forex trading in recent years with joint efforts by the police, the central bank, and the foreign currency exchange administration. — MNA/Xinhua

S Korean President names new Justice Minister

SEOUL, 9 Aug — South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun on Tuesday appointed Kim Sung-ho as the new justice minister.

Kim Sung-ho now works as deputy head of the presidential Korea Independent Commission Against Corruption. He will replace Chun Jung-bae, who resigned late last month, if the National Assembly council passes his nomination later this month.

“I think I am assuming an important job at a very difficult time. I want to contribute to building a country that complies with principles,” Kim said after hearing the appointment.

Kim was born in the southern port city of Busan in 1950 and graduated from the Korea University.

During Kim’s 24-year-long career as an investigator, he has handled high-profile corruption scandals such as assets illegally amassed by former presidents Chun Doo-hwan and Roh Tae-woo while they were in office in the 1980s and early 1990s. The investigation into the two ex-presidents led Chun and Roh to prison in 1995 when Kim worked as the chief of the special investigative department of the Seoul Central District Prosecutors’ Office. — MNA/Xinhua

Minister to attend BIMSTEC meeting

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Aug — Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win left for India yesterday to participate in the 9th Ministerial Meeting of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) to be held in New Delhi, Republic of India.

The minister will attend the meeting today along with U Win Zeyar Tun, Assistant Director of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Director-General U Win Mra of the Economic Department of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Director-General U Soe Myint of Energy Planning Department of the Ministry of Energy, U Myint Swe, Deputy General Manager of Myanmar Agriculture Service of Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, U Kyaw Soe Thein, Head of Branch-1, Economic Division of the International Organizations and Economic Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs are attending the 11th Senior Officials’ Meeting of BIMSTEC that commenced on 8 August. — MNA

All this needs to be known

* Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
* Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
* Do not be softened whenever appeased

Ambassador of Singapore to the Union of Myanmar Mr Robert Chua welcomes Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint at the reception to mark the 41st Anniversary of the National Day of Singapore. — MNA

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 youth
— To prevent influence of alien culture, and
— To strengthen national unity and Union Spirit.
Germany says UN seems agreed on Mideast resolution
BERLIN, 9 August — German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier said on Tuesday the UN Security Council appeared to have reached agreement on a resolution designed to end the war between Israel and Hizbollah guerrillas.

“An agreement between the members of the Security Council appears now to have been reached,” Steinmeier told reporters before leaving for a Middle East trip.

He added that such a resolution would present a real chance to bring about a ceasefire in the region, where hundreds have been killed in the conflict over the past month.

However, for it to succeed, Steinmeier said both Lebanon and Israel would have to agree to a peacekeeping force being installed in the border area in the south of Lebanon.

Steinmeier said he aimed to secure support for the UN resolution during his trip to the region.

The Lebanese Government on Monday decided to send 15,000 of its troops to the south as Israeli forces pull out of the territory. Beirut hoped the move would pave the way for changes to a draft UN Security Council resolution to end the fighting.

Lebanon has said it was unhappy with the US-French draft resolution, demanding that it include a call for the immediate withdrawal of Israel’s 10,000 troops from southern Lebanon.

Though Israel has not formally commented on the draft, a senior government official said the Jewish state viewed it favourably, partly because it allowed soldiers to remain in south Lebanon until an international force arrived to take over.

Arab League foreign ministers who met in Beirut sent a delegation to the United Nations to push through the amendments to the resolution that Lebanon wants.

The south of the country has been under the virtual control of Hizbollah guerrillas. They say they will cease fire only once all Israeli soldiers leave Lebanese land.

Argentine business circle eyes China for chunk of market shares
BUENOS AIRES, 9 August — China represents a big market for Argentine goods, “and once you know how, you can sell almost anything there,” an expert of the country’s business circle said on Monday.

Ernesto Fernandez Taboada of the Chinese-Argentine Trade, Industry and Production Chamber said that the food and textile industries are in a particularly good position to do so.

Fernandez expressed the view on the sidelines of a business gathering at Mar del Plata, 400 kilometres southeast of Argentine capital Buenos Aires. The meeting was attracting officials and businessmen from the Asia Pacific Group, the Chinese city of Tianjin and the Chinese Embassy in Argentina.

“The Asia Pacific Region has half the world’s population and China is 23 per cent of this total. It is ever more important,” Fernandez told local media.

Because China is a major importer of finished products, not only a maker of cheap goods, business people should not just think of selling raw materials or commodities, he said.

“Argentina adds value mainly in creativity and design,” the expert added, holding confidence in tapping China’s huge market potential.

In his opinion, urban population in China must be taken into consideration for Argentine exports. “We have to think about China’s urban population which is around 40 per cent of the total, or 520 million people,” he said.

China’s city dwellers are not necessarily rich, but they are entering the consumer goods markets. They are no longer thinking only of the basics of food, clothing and living, but of boosting their living standards, according to the expert.

“China has a great market — the Chinese middle class, and this is the market that exporters have to target,” he said.

Fernandez also believed there was an interesting market in China for his country’s slightly-higher-value products such as tinned or preserved goods, in addition to Argentine fruits if producers can meet China’s food hygiene standards.

Official says US bigger troop cut in South Korea
WASHINGTON, 9 August — The United States will lower troop levels in South Korea beyond a previously agreed reduction to 25,000, but the cut will not be “substantial”, a senior defence official said on Monday.

“At the adjustments (in capabilities) take place, there will be a reduction in the number of US forces located in South Korea beyond the level of 25,000 that we’ve currently agreed to,” the official said. “Will it be a substantial reduction? I do not believe so.”

The United States has planned to reduce troop levels in South Korea, now standing at about 30,000, by 2008.

The official said the cut was possible due to South Korea’s improved capabilities, and noted that judgments about the threat posed by North Korea were driving changes in the US-South Korean military relationship.

US and South Korean officials are hashing out details of a broader plan to change the countries’ military relationship, giving South Korea the lead in operations during wartime. Under the plan, which may be finalized by October, the United States would assume a supporting role in combat operations, the defense official said.

US ITC favours anti-dumping charges against China’s polyester fibre

The ITC determined that there is a reasonable indication that a US industry was materially injured or threatened with material injury by reason of imports of certain polyester staple fibre from China that are allegedly sold in the US at less than fair value, said a statement issued by the organization.

All three commissioners voted in the affirmative, it added.

The US producers complained that the weight of imports of the specified Chinese polyester fibre surged 161 per cent between 2003 and 2005. Chinese shipments accounted for 39 per cent of all imports in the latest 12-month period, according to the US Department of Commerce.

As a result of the commission’s affirmative determination, the US Department of Commerce will continue to conduct its anti-dumping investigation of imports of certain polyester staple fibre from China, with its preliminary determination due on or about November 30, 2006. — MNA/Xinhua
**Vietnamese agricultural firms post slow growth**

HANOI, 8 Aug—Vietnamese agricultural enterprises growth slowly partly because of the shortage of clear development strategy, outdated business practice, and sluggish restructure, local newspaper Vietnam Investment Review reported Monday. More than 5,000 out of 16,000 agricultural enterprises in Vietnam are incurring losses, the paper quoted sources from the country’s Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

The agricultural growth annually stood at 5.4 per cent between 2001 and 2005, while the economic growth averaged 7.5 per cent each year. State-owned farms use a quarter of Vietnam's sable land, but bring in just 1 per cent of the country’s gross domestic product.

Vietnam poured a total of 130 trillion Vietnamese dong (nearly 8.2 billion US dollars) into the agriculture, forestry and fishery sector in the 2001-2005 period, doubling the investment in the previous five years, according to the country’s General Statistics Office.

**Gold industry profit in China surges 53% in first half**

BEIJING, 8 Aug—China’s gold companies registered profits of 2.47 billion yuan (308 million US dollars) in the first half of this year, up a whacking 53 per cent over the same period last year, according to the latest statistics from the China Gold Association.

The association said the total industrial output for China’s gold enterprises was 22.15 billion yuan at the current price level, up 22 per cent year on year.

China produced 106.028 tons of gold, an increase of 6.314 tons or 6.33 per cent over the same period last year, Shanghai Securities News reported Monday.

**Vietnam’s foreign debt still under control**

HANOI, 8 Aug—Vietnam’s external debt rate is estimated at 37.5 per cent of its gross domestic product (GDP) in 2006, while the safety threshold, according to the international practice, is 50 per cent of GDP, local newspaper New Hanoi reported Monday.

Vietnam’s foreign debt accounted for 39 per cent of GDP in 2000, 37.4 per cent in 2001, 34 per cent in 2002 and 2003, 35.8 per cent in 2004 and 36.6 per cent in 2005.

The country’s total foreign debts currently stand at 13-14 billion US dollars, most of them are preferential loans, the newspaper said.

Foreign donors have pledged to give Vietnam 3.7 billion dollars of official development assistance (ODA) in 2006, up from 3.4 billion dollars in 2005.

**State Councillor says China-Chad relations on new footing**

BEIJING, 8 Aug—Chinese State Councillor Tang Jiaxuan said here Monday that the Chinese Government is keen to develop Sino-Chadian relations.

Tang made the remarks at a meeting with Chadian Minister of Foreign Affairs and African Integration Ahmad Allam-mi who signed a joint communication with Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxiong here on Sunday night resuming diplomatic ties between the two countries.

Tang said although Sino-Chadian relations had witnessed twists and turns, the Chinese people have always cherished friendly sentiments toward the Chadian people.

The resumption of bilateral diplomatic ties has opened a new chapter in bilateral relations, which is in the common interests of the two countries and their peoples, noted Tang.

He said he hoped that the two sides will make concerted efforts to develop bilateral cooperation in various fields as early as possible, actively expand bilateral exchanges, strengthen political mutual trust, cooperate on trade in a mutually beneficial manner, and promote the development of the two countries.

Allam-mi said the resumption of bilateral diplomatic ties reflects the aspirations of the two peoples and world trends.

He said Chad abides by the one-China policy and respects China’s territorial integrity, and the Chadian side will make positive efforts to develop bilateral friendship and cooperation.

Chad is the 169th country to establish diplomatic ties with China.

The two countries established formal diplomatic links in 1972 but China severed diplomatic relations with Chad in 1997 when the country “resumed” diplomatic ties with Taiwan.

**Donate blood**

Balloons take off from Queens Square during the 2006 Bristol International Balloon Fiesta in southwest England on 8 August, 2006. The four day annual event includes mass balloon launches and concerts.—INTERNET
S’pore, aims to attract more int’l water companies

SINGAPORE, 8 Aug — Singapore aims to attract more international companies in the environment and water industry to set up manufacturing facilities and conduct research and development (R&D) activities here, Channel NewsAsia reported on Monday.

The Public Utilities Board (PUB) of Singapore has earmarked a seed-money fund of five million Singapore dollars (about three million US dollars) while the Environment and Water Industry Development Council (EWI) has planned to provide water companies with a fund of 330 million Singapore dollars (about 210 million US dollars) over the next five years. The EWI hopes that the value-add industry will grow from 500 million Singapore dollars (about 318 million US dollars) in 2003 to 1.7 billion Singapore dollars (about 1.1 billion US dollars) by 2015. It is estimated that the global environment and water market is worth some one trillion Singapore dollars (about 635 billion US dollars) annually, according to the report.

Last week, Singapore-based water R&D company GrahamTek announced a 16-inch membrane technology to convert waste water or sea water into drinking water, which is expected to reduce the city state’s annual water treatment costs by up to 15 per cent.—MNA/Xinhua

Malaysian NGO to send medical team to Lebanon

KUALA LUMPUR, 8 Aug — Malaysia for Peace, a non-governmental organization, will send its medical team to Lebanon next week to assist people there, its official said Monday.

The medical team, comprising seven to 12 members, will include orthopedic and trauma experts, medical assistants and a logistic officer, said its coordinator Mukhriz Mahathir.

They will enter the war-torn region via Syria before moving to the Lebanese border, Mukhriz Mahathir told reporters after paying a courtesy call on Lebanon’s Ambassador to Malaysia Khalid Al-Kilani here.

Malaysia for Peace was informed that more than one million people in Lebanon were suffering and had to be evacuated from southern Lebanon as their settlements were demolished by Israeli bombings, said Mukhriz.

“It looks like we have to move fast even though there are plans for a ceasefire but the need for medical assistance is pressing as many of the injured civilians are children,” he said.

UNSG says Israel’s qana raid may fit pattern of violations

UNITED NATIONS, 8 Aug — Israel’s shelling of the Lebanese village of Qana appears to fit a pattern of violations of international law marking warfare between Israel and Hizbollah guerrillas, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said on Monday.

In a report to the UN Security Council, Annan said a comprehensive investigation was needed to gather evidence of possible violations of international humanitarian and human rights laws affecting both Lebanese and Israeli civilians during the conflict.

The 15-nation council asked Annan to look into the deadly July 29 Israeli bombing of a residential building in Qana to determine the facts of the raid, which triggered outrage around the world.

Early Lebanese reports on the attack branded it a massacre, putting the death toll at more than 54 people and at one point more than 60 people.

Annan said a week was inadequate to determine the facts.

“The attack should be seen in the broader context of what could be, based on preliminary information available to the United Nations, including eyewitness accounts, a pattern of violations of international law... committed during the course of the current hostilities,” he said.

The crew of the space shuttle Atlantis arrives at the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida, August 7, 2006. They are (L to R) mission specialist Daniel Burbank, Canadian Space Agency Steven MacLean, mission specialist Joe Tanner, Heidemarie Stefanyshyn-Piper, commander Brent Jett and pilot Christopher Ferguson. A launch is planned for Atlantis and the crew of six on August 7.—INTERNET

Swiss charge 8 at Skyguide in deadly mid-air crash

ZURICH, 8 Aug — Swiss prosecutors have filed charges against eight employees of the air traffic control company Skyguide in connection with a 2002 mid-air collision in which 71 people died. The prosecutor in the canton of Winterthur has charged the employees with manslaughter and is seeking prison sentences of six-15 months, saying there were “significant organizational deficiencies” at Skyguide that contributed to the accident.

“In the opinion of the prosecutor, the errors of omission were in breach of duty and led to the collision and crash of both aircraft,” the prosecutor said in a statement on Monday.

Man defending home is Spain’s 3rd forest fire victim

MADRID, 8 Aug — A man trying to put out a blaze threatening his home became the third person to die in the dozens of forest fires raging in northwestern Spain, many started intentionally, a government official said on Monday.

The man’s scorched body was found late on Sunday in the Campo Lameiro area of the region of Galicia, the official at the Spanish national government’s Galician office said.

The head of Galicia’s regional government, Emilio Perez, has referred to arsonists taking advantage of scorching summer temperatures which have dried out woodland as “fire terrorists”. He asked the Spanish Army to help evacuate people in danger from the fires, which have struck as Galicia is full of tourists enjoying what is usually some of Spain’s greenest scenery.

Swiss promoters plan to set up ЗУАБ— to be named “Himalaya”— in 2007, their company Himalaya Group said on Monday. The promoters, who are planning to set up a holding company to buy shares in hotels on the Zugersee in Switzerland, have bought the name of the hotel in the canton of Zug, the company said.

Gaby’s a Wedge-tailed eagle sits on keeper Mathew Kittle’s arms as she prepares to practice her take offs and landings with Taronga Zoo staff at a park overlooking Sydney Harbor, on 9 Aug, 2006. Australia’s largest bird of prey is in training to star in the zoo’s daily bird show where she will be able to demonstrate her unique natural behaviors and physical features.—INTERNET
**S P O R T S**

**Brazil to face Wales in friendly, chance Argentina date**

**RIO DE JANEIRO, 9 Aug—** Brazil are to play Wales in a friendly in London and have changed the date of their game against Argentina in the same city.

The Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF) said on Tuesday that the match against arch-rivals Argentina would be on September 3 at Arsenal's stadium and not September 2 as previously announced.

Brazil will then face Wales at Totttenham's White Hart Lane ground on September 5, the CBF said on its official website.

Brazil's first game under new coach Dunga, who replaced Carlos Alberto Parreira after the World Cup, will be against Norway in Oslo on August 16.

The match against Argentina will be the first for their opponents under new coach Alfonso Basile, who has replaced Jose Pekerman.—MNA/Reuters

**ANCHELOTTI SAYS MILAN CRITICISM WAS OUT OF PLACE**

**MILAN, 9 Aug—** UEFA's harsh criticism of AC Milan over a match-rigging scandal was out of place, club coach Carlo Ancelotti said on Tuesday.

Speaking ahead of Wednesday's Champions League qualifying tie against Red Star Belgrade, Ancelotti was quoted by Italy's ANSA agency as saying: "I think it was a comment that was out of place and out of the blue, like a (Zinedine) Zidane headbutt."

The European governing body gave Milan a reluctance go-ahead last week to compete in the Champions League but said the club would be under scrutiny.

"From the statement of AC Milan, the (Emergency) Panel concluded that 'the club has obviously not yet properly perceived the troubles it is in and the damage it already caused to European football,'" the statement said.

"UEFA and the club's opponents will observe with the utmost attention the future attitude of AC Milan around UEFA club competition fixtures.

"UEFA will not hesitate to intervene severely, should AC Milan be involved in any activities aiming to arrange improbably the outcome of a match."

**OFK Belgrade edge Auxerre 1-0 in UEFA Cup**

**BELGRADE, 9 Aug—** A superb header by captain Mihos Bajzaci gave Serbian side OFK Belgrade a 1-0 win over Auxerre in their UEFA Cup second qualifying round first leg on Tuesday.

The centre back powered the ball home after 31 minutes from left back Aleksandar Kolarov's floated free kick.

OFK had a penalty appeal waved away by Bulgarian referee Tsvetan Georgiev just a minute later when Ivan Stenavonic appeared to have been hauled down by an Auxerre defender.—MNA/Reuters

**ARSENAL SET COURSE FOR CHAMPIONS LEAGUE**

**LONDON, 9 Aug—** Arsenal look set for a place in the Champions League group stage after Spain midfielder Cesc Fabregas scored twice in a 3-0 qualifying win at Dinamo Zagreb on Tuesday.

Dutchman Robin van Persie grabbed the other goal as last season's finalists made it through following a goalless first half in their third qualifying round, first leg game. Arsenal, beaten by Barcelona in the May final in Paris, were rewarded for their patience after Dinamo had packed their half in a bid to frustrate Arsen Wenger's side.

Former European champions Benfica had to settle for a 1-1 draw at Austria Vienna in the night's other qualifying game. Nuno Gomes gave the Portuguese an early lead but Jocelyn Blanchard struck the equalizer just before halftime to keep the Austrians in the tie before the second leg in two weeks' time.

Fabregas opened the scoring in the 63rd minute with a fine angled shot after a neat lay-off by Van Persie and the Dutchman made it 2-0 in the 64th minute, racing through to pounce on a long ball from Alexandr Hleb. Arsenal all but wrapped up the tie in the 78th minute, when Fabregas went on a solo run, accelerating past two Dinamo players and tucking his angled shot inside the far post.—MNA/Reuters

**LAMPARD SEALS CHELSEA’S WARM-UP WIN OVER FEYENOORD**

**ROTTERDAM (Netherlands), 9 Aug—** Frank Lampard put his England woes behind him to score Chelsea's winner in a 1-0 pre-season victory over Feyenoord on Tuesday.

The midfielder, who suffered poor form at the World Cup, scored the only goal of the afternoon from a moment of brilliance from Andry Shevchenko after 52 minutes to clinch victory for the English champions.

Chelsea coach Joe Mourinho started with virtually a full-strength side, barring goalkeeper Petr Cech who was not in the squad and defender John Terry who was a substitute.

Michael Ballack, Shevchenko and Didier Drogba all missed good chances for Chelsea, who play the Community Shield against Cup winners Liverpool on Sunday in Cardiff.

Lampard made no mistakes, however, flicking the ball into the net after a great pass from Shevchenko.

"It was a very good training session for us and for them," Mourinho told reporters. "It was a very special match and I am happy with it. We are now training for 10 days and there is a revolution going on in my team."

**BENFICA SETTLE FOR DRAW IN AUSTRIA**

**VIENNA, 9 Aug—** Former European champions Benfica had to settle for a 1-1 draw at Austria Vienna in their Champions League third qualifying round, first leg game on Tuesday.

Nuno Gomes gave the Portuguese side a 16th minute lead but Jocelyn Blanchard grabbed an equalizer towards the end of the first half to keep the Austrians in the tie.

The side made a bright start, testing Portuguese goalkeeper Quim with two early chances—a 30-metre shot by Bosnian defender Sasa Papac and a close-in header by striker Johannes Aigner.

But Benfica took their first scoring chance when Gomes backheeled the ball in after a textbook series of passes between Rui Costa, Konstantinos Katsouranis, Paulo Jorge and Manu.

The technically superior Portuguese team took charge of the match until Blanchard fired home from 22 metres after defender Ferdinand Troyansky had knocked down a free kick by Andreas Lasnik.—MNA/Reuters

**WASHINGTON MYSTICS NIKKI TEASLEY (42) DRIVES THE BALL PAST SAN ANTONIO SILVER STARS SHANNA ZOLMAN, LEFT, DURING BASKETBALL GAME PLAY ON 8 AUGUST, 2006 AT THE VERIZON CENTER IN WASHINGTON. THE MYSTICS WENT ON TO WIN 91-79.**—INTERNET

**CAMBELL SIGNS FOR PORTSMOUTH**

**LONDON, 9 Aug—** Former Arsenal defender Sol Campbell signed a two-year contract with Premier League rivals Portsmouth on Tuesday, the south coast club said.

Campbell, who joins as a free agent after ending his five-year spell with Arsenal last month, underwent a medical on Monday and trained with Portsmouth's squad on Tuesday before signing the deal.

The arrival of the England central defender, who will be 32 next month, represents a coup by Pompey manager Arsen Wenger's side, testing Portu-

Campbell, a former Tottenham defender, won two league titles and three FA Cups with Arsenal. He scored in their Champions League final defeat by Barcelona in May.—MNA/Reuters

**CAMPBELL SIGNS FOR PORTSMOUTH**

**LONDON, 9 Aug—** Former Arsenal defender Sol Campbell signed a two-year contract with Premier League rivals Portsmouth on Tuesday, the south coast club said.

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**STEFANOVIC APPEAL WAVED AWAY**

**BELGRADE, 9 Aug—** A superb header by captain Mihos Bajzaci gave Serbian side OFK Belgrade a 1-0 win over Auxerre in their UEFA Cup second qualifying round first leg on Tuesday.

The centre back powered the ball home after 31 minutes from left back Aleksandar Kolarov's floated free kick.

OFK had a penalty appeal waved away by Bulgarian referee Tsvetan Georgiev just a minute later when Ivan Stenavonic appeared to have been hauled down by an Auxerre defender.—MNA/Reuters

**CHINA’S DALIAN SHIDE DEFENDER ZHANG YAO KUN (L) AND MIDDLEFIELD ZHAO MING JIAN CLEAR THE BALL DURING THEIR MATCH AGAINST ULSAN HYUNDAI OF SOUTH KOREA AT THE NATIONAL STADIUM IN TOKYO ON 8 AUGUST, 2006.**—INTERNET

**WASHINGTON MYSTICS NIKKI TEASLEY (42) DRIVES THE BALL PAST SAN ANTONIO SILVER STARS SHANNA ZOLMAN, LEFT, DURING BASKETBALL GAME PLAY ON 8 AUGUST, 2006 AT THE VERIZON CENTER IN WASHINGTON. THE MYSTICS WENT ON TO WIN 91-79.**—INTERNET

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**Chinese Airline recruits 40 Brazilian pilots**

BEIJING, 9 Aug — Shenzhen Airlines, a leading private airline in China, has recruited 40 pilots from Brazil, and most of them previously worked for Varig, Brazil’s bankrupt national airline, *Beijing Daily* said on Tuesday.

This is the largest number of foreign pilots ever recruited by a Chinese airline at one go.

Eighteen of the pilots have already arrived in China, and the others will come soon, sources with the Shenzhen Airlines said.

After two decades of dynamic growth, China has become one of the largest aviation markets in the world. And it is still growing.

According to forecasts, the country will have 1,250 passenger aircraft by 2030. It will need 6,500 new pilots, far beyond the capacity of the country’s pilot training system.

Faced with an acute shortage of pilots, many Chinese airlines are looking for pilots overseas. Shenzhen Airlines alone has recruited nearly 60 pilots from Brazil, Russia, the United States and other countries.

The report said Shenzhen Airlines officials went to Brazil two months ago to recruit pilots there. Most of the 40 pilots they recruited are experienced.

The 18 pilots who are already in China have received their licenses from Chinese authorities and are currently taking Chinese language courses, the report said.

Shenzhen Airlines was founded in 1992. It has a fleet of 32 Boeing and three Airbus planes. According to its website, it employs 5,100 people and flies 80 domestic and international routes.

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**Foreign investors see Shanghai employees as shrewd, competitive**

SHANGHAI, 9 Aug — Most foreign employers in China’s economic hub of Shanghai regard their local employees as shrewd and capable, according to a latest survey.

By the end of last year, 1.55 million people had worked in foreign-invested companies in Shanghai.

About 40 per cent of the respondents said the employees’ mindset of daring to compete impressed them most, which was followed by diligence, honesty and awareness of teamwork.

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**Weather Report**

**Wednesday, 9 August, 2006**

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain have been scattered in upper Sagaing, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions and fairly widespread in the remaining areas with locally heavyfalls in lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Taninthayi Divisions and isolated heavyfalls in Mon and Rakhine States. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Ye (6.85) inches, Sagaing (6.73) inches, Launglon (5.16) inches, Dawei (4.72) inches, Mandalay (4.33) inches, Myrky (4.06) inches, Gwa (3.94) inches, Kyaukse (3.82) inches, Myinmu (3.23) inches and Nay Pyi Taw (3.15) inches.

Maximum temperature on 8-8-2006 was 90°F. Minimum temperature on 9-8-2006 was 71°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 9-8-2006 was (92%). Total sunshine hours on 8-8-2006 was (4.4) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 9-8-2006 were (0.28) inch at Miegeladan, (nil) at Kaba-Aye and (nil) at Central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2006 were (60.00) inches at Miegeladan, (72.40) inches at Kaba-Aye and (77.09) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (15) mph from north west at (1400) hours MST on 8-8-2006.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 10-8-2006: Rain will be scattered in Kayah State, lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Divisions, fairly widespread in Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Chin, Rakhine, Mon and Kayin States and Taninthayi Division. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Occasional squalls with rough seas are likely off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) to (40) mph.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Strong monsoon.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 10-8-2006: One or two rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 10-8-2006: Some rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 10-8-2006: One or two rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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**New Rainfall Record**

(Issued at 10:30 hrs MST on 9-8-2006)

The amount of rainfall (171) mm (6.73) inches observed at (09:30) hours MST on 9th August 2006 in Sagaing is the (24) hours new maximum rainfall record at the station for the month of August during last (41) years. The former record was 108 mm (4.25) inches on 6th August 1992.
Government striving for advancement of education and health sectors to develop human resources

**Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than attends donation ceremony to hospitals, Parahita Houses, monastic education schools in Ayeyawady Division**

**Kandawgyi National Gardens extension needs SPDC approval**

**The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded**

- Nay Pyi Taw (3.15) inches
- Mandalay (4.33) inches
- Ye (6.85) inches
- Sagaing (6.73) inches
- Dawei (4.72) inches