### Four political objectives

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

### Four economic objectives

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

### Four social objectives

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

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**Agricultural sector plays important role in development of the State economy**

**Bago Division stands in second position in the entire nation by growing 3 million acres of monsoon paddy**

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**NAY PYI TAW, 12 Aug**

— A ceremony to conclude the ploughing of monsoon paddy cultivation for 2006-07 of Bago Division was held in conjunction with the paddy transplanting contest and direct seeding method contest at Gwaydaukkhin Village near Yangon-Mandalay Highway in Ottwin Township this morning, with an address by Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence.

In his address, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than said today is time to build a peaceful, modern and developed nation. Prevalence of law and order, economic growth and human resources development are three basic factors for development of the nation. Therefore, the Government is implementing the border areas and national races development plan, 24 special development regions plan and five rural development tasks. The Government is striving for narrowing development gap between rural and urban regions. At present, the agricultural sector plays an important role in development of the State economy. Therefore, the Government assigns duties to States and Divisions yearly for cultivation of 10 major crops, three new items crop and three perennial crops. Bago Division stands in the second position in the entire nation by growing 3 million acres of monsoon paddy while Ayeyawady Division is clinching the first position with cultivation of 3.7 million acres. Bago Division put 2.6 million acres of monsoon paddy in 2004-05 and 2.8 million acres in 2005-06. Efforts are being made to extend two million more acres in the target, totalling 3 million acres in 2006-07.

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**Formation of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.**
For successful cultivation of physic nut

The nations of the world have begun to explore bio-diesel obtained from trees in order to substitute diesel. Bio-diesel will not run out as long as the trees are conserved. Although Myanmar produces petroleum, she imports it because the production is short of local consumption. Diesel consumption has gradually increased as the nation-building tasks are being carried out the length and breadth of the country. The price of diesel goes up all over the world and as such Myanmar is working hard to produce bio-diesel.

Now bio-diesel can successfully produced from physic nut. This is why priority is being given to cultivation of physic nut in the country for agricultural and rural development. Double cropping will be undertaken fully with the use of bio-diesel soon. At the same time it is necessary to explore and utilize water and land resources for economic development.

Nowadays efforts are being made for cultivation of physic nut in states and divisions as the national task.

The entire people in cooperation with the government, departments concerned and local authorities are to make strenuous efforts for production of bio-diesel and successful cultivation of physic nut for national development through the development of agriculture and industrial sectors.

All this needs to be known

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

Fingerlings put into dam, trees planted

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Aug — A ceremony to release fingerlings and to plant trees was held at the Ministry of Finance and Revenue here on 11 August. At the ceremony, Deputy Minister Col Hla Thein Swe released fingerlings into a small dam in Nay Pyi Taw. Departmental heads and personnel of the ministry also released fingerlings into the dam.

Afterwards, the deputy minister planted various kinds of tree such as physic nut and mango near the dam. The deputy minister viewed the growing of trees by staff.

Dry day inspection teams check departmental, Tatmadaw vehicles

YANGON, 13 Aug — Vice-Chairman of Dry Day Supervisory Committee Col Win Naung together with members of the Supervisory Committee and departmental heads, supervised functions of dry day inspection teams at the main points of Yangon today. From 7 am to 5 pm today, dry day inspection teams checked Tatmadaw and departmental vehicles for dry day pass, driving licence, wheel tax bills, wearing of departmental and Tatmadaw uniforms and breaking of traffic rules.

Myanmar businessmen to participate in ASEAN-BAC meeting, ASEAN-CCI conference

YANGON, 13 Aug — To attend the ASEAN-BAC meeting and ASEAN-CCI conference to be held in Singapore on 12 and 13 August, a Myanmar delegation comprising Vice-Presidents of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Zaw Min Win, U Thaung Tin and U Aung Lwin left for Singapore on 11 August. They were seen off by General Secretary of UMFCCCI U Sein Win Haing and officials at the airport.

Paper on Seven Myanmar Literary Works read

U Thaung-Daw Nyunt Shwe and family of Thingangyun Township recently donated K 100,000 to Hninzigon Home for the Aged through Treasurer U Aung Than of Administrative Board. — MNA

Resource Person Dr Htilar Sitthu reads out compilation of Seven Myanmar Literary Works. — MNA

The paper-reading session on compilation of Seven Myanmar Literary Works (1916 AD-1993 AD) was held at the hall of Myanmar Academy of Arts and Science at Yangon University on 9 August.

Present were President of Myanmar Academy of Arts and Science U Than Oo and members, departmental heads, Vice-Chairman U Sai Aung Tun of Myanmar History Commission, vice-presidents of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association, CEC members, writers, journalists, the Professor of Myanmar Department, officials and enthusiasts.

President U Than Oo, who presided over the paper-reading session, introduced the resource person and his paper to the enthusiasts.

Next, Resource Person Dr Htilar Sitthu submitted the paper on compilation of Seven Myanmar Literary Works (1916 AD-1993 AD) and replied to the questions raised by those present. — MNA
Israel, Lebanon agree to ceasefire on Monday

BEIRUT, 13 Aug — UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said Israeli and Lebanese leaders had agreed to a ceasefire at 0500 GMT on Monday to end a month-long war between Israel and Hizbollah guerillas.

Israeli forces pushed deeper into Lebanon and up to 17 soldiers were reported killed on Saturday in what would be Israel’s worst single day for deaths, as the United Nations prepared to send up to 15,000 troops to help enforce the truce.

The Israeli YNET News Internet site quoted an official in Prime Minister Ehud Olmert’s office as saying Israeli troops would start withdrawing from south Lebanon within a week or two when the UN force and the Lebanese Army arrived in the area.

Olmert has backed a UN Security Council resolution passed on Friday that called for a Ceasefire and set out proposals to implement it. He was expected to ask his cabinet on Sunday to formally approve the resolution.

A US border police officer nab Mexican cheese smuggler

PHOENIX (Arizona), 12 Aug — Puzzled US border police arrested a Mexican smuggler with 88 pounds (40-kilos) of cheese hidden in a special compartment in his truck.

The 25-year-old Mexican salesman was nabbed after US Border Patrol agents searched his truck on the Arizona-Mexico border Wednesday.

The truck was filled with a load of cheese and Border Patrol agents were expecting to find either narcotics or illegal immigrants in the special compartment.

However, as they were looking through the comartment, even using an x-ray machine, they found 16 bulky packages containing 88 pounds of cheese.

The driver was returned to Mexico, and the US Border Patrol officer referred a case to the US Attorney’s office.

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Rural India in big HIV-AIDS push

LONDON, 12 Aug—India has launched a major offensive against HIV-AIDS involving hundreds of village leaders.

The focus on the rural areas comes as nearly 60% of HIV positive people live in the country’s villages.

India now has some 5.7 million people infected with the HIV virus. Only South Africa has a comparable problem.

Officials say poverty, migration and limited access to health care are the main reasons which make rural India more vulnerable to the disease.

The new initiative was launched in the Indian capital Delhi by the government in partnership with UNAIDS.

The event, which was attended by some 500 village council leaders, aims to enlist their support in containing the spread of the disease.

“AIDS is a disease of intimacy and has a lot to do with things that are personal, such as sex and death,” UNAIDS executive director Denis Broun told the convention.

“The local-level bodies are the closest to the people, hence their cooperation is very important,” he said.

Mr Broun said the experiment of using mayors and leaders of local bodies for spreading HIV awareness has worked well in Africa and North America.

The head of the National AIDS Control Organization, Sujatha Rao, said migrant workers and truck drivers have been identified as groups which take the infection to rural areas.

Medical personnel attend their graduation at the Anti-Imperialist stage opposite the US diplomatic mission in Havana on 11 Aug, 2006. —INTERNET

Italy arrests 40 in security swoop after Britain plot

ROME, 12 Aug — Italian police have arrested 40 people linked to Islamic groups after increased security checks following a foiled plot in Britain to blow up transatlantic airliners, the Interior Ministry said on Friday.

The ministry said in a statement that 28 people were detained because their residency papers were not in order and 12 for other minor offences. A ministry source said none had been detained on terrorism-related charges.

The arrests were carried out in several Italian cities on Thursday and Friday. Authorities also expelled 114 immigrants as part of the same operation.

Italy has stepped up security after news of the plot foiled in Britain on Thursday, even though no special measures have been taken.—MNA/Reuters

A visitor views a "bug", which is made of auto parts, during the Fifth Auto Culture Festival of Shandong held in Jinan, on 11 Aug, 2006. —INTERNET

Workers design a giant flower carpet to form a floral decoration of 1,800 square metres (5,906 square ft) inspired by the Middle Ages at Brussels’ Grand Place on 11 Aug, 2006. —INTERNET

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China tightens airport security in wake of Britain plot

BEIJING, 12 Aug — China tightened airport security on Friday in the aftermath of a plot uncovered by the British police to bomb flights bound for the United States.

China’s General Administration of Civil Aviation on 11 August issued bans on liquids or gels being taken onto planes bound for the United States, shortly after the British police said they had thwarted the alleged terrorist plot.

The administration said after looking at details of the foiled plot, which involved liquid explosives carried in hand luggage, it has taken steps to tighten security at airports in China.

Passengers bound for the United States are banned from taking liquids or gels in carry-on luggage, including drinks, shampoo, facial cream, sunblock cream, toothpaste, hair gel, and other substances with similar characteristics.

Passengers will have to leave these items in their check-in luggage or dispose of them at security checks. Items of this kind bought at duty-free shops inside the airport are also banned, according to the airport restriction.

Penicillin and prescription medicine can still be taken onto the plane provided the prescription is in the ticket holder’s name. Baby food is also allowed when the baby or the child is present.

A Beijing Capital Airport official said passengers must also take off their shoes for examination at security checks.

China’s General Administration of Civil Aviation said flights to Britain have not been cancelled.

Cambodia reports bird flu outbreak

PHNOM PENH, 12 Aug— Cambodia’s Agriculture Ministry has confirmed a new outbreak of bird flu in poultry in the country’s southeast, a ministry official said Saturday.

Kao Phal, director of the ministry’s animal health department, said the outbreak was the virulent H5N1 type of the virus.

It was detected Friday in Prey Veng province, which borders Vietnam, he said.

The H5N1 virus, which re-emerged in Asia in late 2003, has killed at least 138 people worldwide, including six in Cambodia.

The announcement came after the government ordered health officials to be on alert for possible human cases of bird flu.

The alert followed recent outbreaks of the virus in poultry in neighbouring countries and two recent human deaths from the disease in Thailand, a bird flu bulletin compiled by United Nations agencies said.

Italian woman kidnapped in Haiti freed

ROME, 12 Aug — A 65-year-old Italian woman, who was kidnapped earlier this week by a group of armed men in Haiti, had been freed, the Italian Foreign Ministry said Friday.

Gigliola Martino, whose husband had been shot dead by the gunmen, was released on Thursday night and was in a “moderate health condition”, the ministry said.

But the ministry did not say how she was freed.

Typhoon kills over 100 in China, 41 in one house

CANGMAM (China), 12 Aug— The strongest typhoon to hit China in half a century killed more than 100 people, dozens of whom had taken shelter in a house that collapsed, Xinhua news agency said on Friday, and the toll appeared likely to rise.

Typhoon Saomai tore into Cangnan County in the eastern province of Zhejiang on Thursday after authorities had moved hundreds of thousands in the densely populated commercial province to safety.

By Friday evening, 104 people were confirmed dead and 190 were missing in Zhejiang and neighbouring Fujian Province, Xinhua said.

Some 54,000 houses were destroyed.

State television put the direct economic loss at 11.3 billion yuan (1.42 billion US dollars). At least 41 villagers, including eight children, were killed when a house collapsed in the town of Jinxiang, just an hour’s drive from where the typhoon made landfall.

A man attempts to salvage his belongings from a house destroyed by Typhoon Saomai in eastern Province of Zhejiang on 12 August, 2006. Xinhua and a local official said.

Actor Lou Diamond Phillips arrested in LA

LOS ANGELES, 12 Aug — Actor Lou Diamond Phillips, who starred in the 1987 film “La Bamba”, was jailed early on Friday on suspicion of domestic abuse against his live-in girlfriend, Los Angeles police said.

Officers responding to a domestic violence call in the Los Angeles suburb of Northridge took Phillips, 44, into custody, police spokeswoman Martha Garcia said.

The performer was being held on 50,000-US-dollar bail.

“He was involved in a verbal argument with his live-in girlfriend which escalated to physical abuse,” Garcia said. “He was arrested on suspicion of co-habitant abuse.”

A publicist for Phillips, best known for his role as teenage rock’n’roll pioneer Ritchie Valens in “La Bamba,” could not immediately be reached for comment on his arrest.

About 120 Hizbollah rockets hit Israel on Friday

JERUSALEM, 12 Aug — Hizbollah guerrillas fired about 120 rockets onto northern Israel on Friday, wounding 11 Israelis, rescuers said.

Israel’s rescue service Magen David Adom said among the injured, a woman sustained moderate wounds and 10 people were lightly wounded, adding that 34 were also treated for shock.

Meanwhile, the Israeli Army said that an Israeli soldier was moderately injured in clashes with Hizbollah in the southern Lebanese village of Rajmimn on Friday.

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Defence Minister Amir Peretz ordered the Army on Friday to expand ground operations in south Lebanon.

Currently, about 10,000 Israeli troops are operating in south Lebanon and have been engaged in fierce confrontations with Hizbollah guerrillas.

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— MNA/Xinhua
Vietnam finds more bird flu-infected fowl in south

HANOI, 12 Aug — Vietnam, worried about a recurrence of the H5N1 bird flu which has already killed 42 of its people, has found more ducks and geese infected with a strain of avian influenza, state media reported on Friday.

The Saigon Giai Phong (Liberation Saigon) newspaper quoted Dong Manh Hoa, head of the Ho Chi Minh City Regional Veterinary Centre, as saying tests of the waterfowl in Tien Giang, Long An and Ben Tre provinces revealed the H5 subtype virus.

A Ben Tre official told Reuters on Thursday more than 50 healthy waterfowl had been killed in the province after tests showed they had the H5 subtype, but there had been no outbreaks.

The H5N1 virus swept across much of Asia in late 2003 and, although it has shown no signs of doing so yet, experts fear it could mutate into a form that can pass easily between people, triggering a pandemic which might kill millions. — MNA/Reuters

First Indian bank in China opens for business

SHANGHAI, 12 Aug — State Bank of India (SBI), India’s largest commercial bank, announced that its new branch in Shanghai opened for business on Thursday.

SBI Shanghai Branch is currently the only Indian bank operating on the Chinese Mainland.

At the moment, the new branch can only cater to Indian companies and individuals in China, says OM Prakash Bhatt, SBI Chairman.

Bhatt, who made a special trip to Shanghai for the occasion, promised to open more commercial branches in China in the future and hoped that the Shanghai branch would be allowed to expand and to do business with Chinese companies and individuals. — MNA/Xinhua

Seventeen die of encephalitis in north China city

TAIYUAN, 12 Aug — A total of 17 people have died from Encephalitis B after being bitten by mosquitoes in Yuncheng, a city in north China’s Shanxi Province in the last two weeks, local health authorities said Friday.

Encephalitis is an inflammation of the brain that can occur at any age and is usually the result of a viral infection. It may begin with a flu-like illness or a headache. — MNA/Xinhua

Russia may shoot down hijacked plane if it poses threat

MOSCOW, 12 Aug — If a passenger plane was hijacked by terrorists and posed a real threat to strategic facilities, the military would shoot it down, Russia’s Air Force chief said Friday.

“If a plane on a regular flight approaching important facilities fails to obey our orders and the crew is replaced by terrorists, naturally, measures will be taken to shoot down such an airliner,” Air Force Commander-in-Chief General Vladimir Mikhailov said, quoted by the Interfax news agency.

“Each case is particular and decisions should be made depending on the actual state of affairs but as fast as possible,” Mikhailov said.

Earlier this year, President Vladimir Putin signed into law an anti-terrorism bill that allows the shooting down of hijacked planes under certain circumstances. — MNA/Xinhua

Woman firefighter becomes Portugal’s 7th forest fire victim

LISBON, 12 Aug — A woman firefighter was found dead in a truck on Friday, the seventh victim of forest fires raging across central and northern Portugal since July, a spokesman for the national fire service said. “We confirm that a woman firefighter was found dead in a truck on Friday,” the spokesman said. The 30-year-old woman was found inside the back of a truck used to communicate with firefighters on the ground in a forest about 100 kilometres (62 miles) north of the capital Lisbon.

She was believed to have been resting in the truck when she died from inhaling smoke, the Lusa news agency said.

About 600 firefighters are battling nine fires in central and northern Portugal. On Thursday 564 separate fires raged in the country — the highest number of fires in a single day since 2003 — according to the national fire service.

Five Chileans and one Portuguese died in July from a forest fire that burned out of control in the Iberian country. — MNA/Reuters

Shanghai MagLev catches fire, no casualties reported

SHANGHAI, 12 Aug — The MagLev in China’s business hub of Shanghai caught fire about 3 pm Friday, according to local sources.

Smoke was found in the second carriage when the train heading for the Pudong International Airport just left the Longyang Road Station.

Firefighters hurried to the spot and passengers were soon evacuated. Casualties are being counted.

The MagLev went into operation on 31 December, 2002, when former German chancellor Gerhard Schroeder and former Chinese premier Zhu Rongji took the maiden ride. The MagLev line runs around 30 kilometres. — MNA/Xinhua

Firemen try to put out the fire on a magnetic levitation (MagLev) train in Shanghai, east China, on 11 Aug, 2006. The train suddenly caught fire on Friday afternoon. All passengers have been evacuated. — Internet

Singer Carrie Underwood performs during ABC’s “Good Morning America” summer concert series in New York, on 11 Aug, 2006. — Internet
62 countries, organizations to attend 2010 Shanghai World Expo

SHANGHAI, 12 Aug — Sixty-two countries and international organizations have confirmed their participation in the 2010 Shanghai World Expo, announced the Bureau of Shanghai World Expo Coordination (BSWEC) on Friday.

“Our ultimate goal is to attract more than 200 countries and international organizations, outnumbering the 155 that were at the 2000 World Expo in Hanover, Germany” said Zhou Hammin, deputy director of the BSWEC.

Zhou said the confirmed participants include 22 countries from Africa, 11 from Europe, 15 from Asia and four from Oceania.

International organizations including the United Nations and the World Bank have also officially confirmed they will participate in the Expo.

Franklin Lavin, US Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade who paid a recent visit to China, said that the United States will support and likely participate in 2010 Shanghai World Expo.

The official added that the construction of the World Expo park will kick off this month.

HK International Airport tightens security

HONG KONG, 12 Aug — Hong Kong Airport Authority said on Friday that it has tightened security measures at the Hong Kong International Airport after British police in London have thwarted a major terrorist plot to blow up airplanes flying from Britain to the United States.

A spokeswoman said in a telephone interview with Xinhua that special police have enhanced the safety at the airport and strengthened security checkup, specially over passengers to Britain and the United States.

She said, at present, all passengers to London are required to take only passports and purse with them while boarding a flight at the requirement of the British Airways.

She added that at the requirements of airways from the United States, all passengers to the United States and customers of the US airlines to all parts of the world are asked to arrive at the Hong Kong International Airport three hours prior to scheduled departure time, for going through security check-ups.

Oil rebounds after sharp drop on bomb plot

NEW YORK, 12 Aug — Oil prices rose back above 74 US dollars on Friday, recovering a little from a 3 per cent dive the previous day when an attempted trans-Atlantic aircraft bomb plot raised fears of a fall in oil demand.

But bullish sentiment was limited by hope that a deal could soon be reached to end the Middle East war, the return to normal production of a major Nigerian oil field and expectations that Alaska’s Prudhoe Bay oil field will not be completely shut down as was feared earlier this week.

US light, sweet crude oil settled up 35 cents at 74.35 US dollars a barrel, rebounding slightly from the 2.35 US dollars slump on Thursday. London Brent crude rose 35 cents to 75.63 US dollars.

Crude and gasoline prices plummeted on Thursday on fears that travellers would shun airlines after Britain said it stopped the plot just days before its execution.

Volunteers to be deployed in Bangkok to monitor bird flu

BANGKOK, 12 Aug — Thailand’s caretaker Public Health Minister Sudarat Keyuraphan said on Friday the government would mobilize some 7,500 volunteers this month to search for sick chickens and humans across Bangkok in an effort to prevent the spread of bird flu.

Sudarat said live-stock officials have been recruiting volunteers from Bangkok farmers and will train them to look for bird flu in assigned communities, Thai News Agency reported.

She said the authorities expected to train some 7,500 volunteers within this month and would deploy one of them in every area at risk in Bangkok to carry out a close monitoring for bird flu.

The minister, after visiting some poultry farms in Bangkok, expressed her concern regarding the conventional way of raising chickens that could pose a threat to human health.

“I am worried as chickens live in close contact with farmers and villagers who keep hens, fighting cocks or pet chickens,” she said.

Sudarat said the government planned to close cockfighting rings in the Thai capital, but would allow services that carry out blood tests for bird flu virus in poultry every month to continue.

Indonesian mily forms fast reaction unit for disaster

JAKARTA, 12 Aug — The Indonesian Defence Forces (TNI) formed a fast reaction unit to handle disaster (PRCPB) following a series of calamities that hit the country in the past two years, Commander Marshal Djoko Suyanto said here Friday.

“The unit will not only be deployed to handle hot mud disaster in Sidoarjo District, East Java but also to help victims of calamities which have already occurred or will happen,” he said.

Forming PRCPB reflected TNI’s attention on giving assistance to people who fell victim to disasters which hit Indonesia including tsunami in Aceh in December 2004 and recent tsunami in the southern part of Java island, Antara news agency quoted Suyanto as saying. PRCPB comprises 3,426 personnel including 2,216 Army members, 545 Marines, 390 Air Force members, 10 psychologists, and 15 data makers.

HK International Airport tightens security

HONG KONG, 12 Aug — Hong Kong Airport Authority said on Friday that it has tightened security measures at the Hong Kong International Airport after British police in London have thwarted a major terrorist plot to blow up airplanes flying from Britain to the United States.

A spokeswoman said in a telephone interview with Xinhua that special police have enhanced the safety at the airport and strengthened security checkup, specially over passengers to Britain and the United States.

She said, at present, all passengers to London are required to take only passports and purse with them while boarding a flight at the requirement of the British Airways.

She added that at the requirements of airways from the United States, all passengers to the United States and customers of the US airlines to all parts of the world are asked to arrive at the Hong Kong International Airport three hours prior to scheduled departure time, for going through security check-ups.

Oil rebounds after sharp drop on bomb plot

NEW YORK, 12 Aug — Oil prices rose back above 74 US dollars on Friday, recovering a little from a 3 per cent dive the previous day when an attempted trans-Atlantic aircraft bomb plot raised fears of a fall in oil demand.

But bullish sentiment was limited by hope that a deal could soon be reached to end the Middle East war, the return to normal production of a major Nigerian oil field and expectations that Alaska’s Prudhoe Bay oil field will not be completely shut down as was feared earlier this week.

US light, sweet crude oil settled up 35 cents at 74.35 US dollars a barrel, rebounding slightly from the 2.35 US dollars slump on Thursday. London Brent crude rose 35 cents to 75.63 US dollars.

Crude and gasoline prices plummeted on Thursday on fears that travellers would shun airlines after Britain said it stopped the plot just days before its execution.

Volunteers to be deployed in Bangkok to monitor bird flu

BANGKOK, 12 Aug — Thailand’s caretaker Public Health Minister Sudarat Keyuraphan said on Friday the government would mobilize some 7,500 volunteers this month to search for sick chickens and humans across Bangkok in an effort to prevent the spread of bird flu.

Sudarat said live-stock officials have been recruiting volunteers from Bangkok farmers and will train them to look for bird flu in assigned communities, Thai News Agency reported.

She said the authorities expected to train some 7,500 volunteers within this month and would deploy one of them in every area at risk in Bangkok to carry out a close monitoring for bird flu.

The minister, after visiting some poultry farms in Bangkok, expressed her concern regarding the conventional way of raising chickens that could pose a threat to human health.

“I am worried as chickens live in close contact with farmers and villagers who keep hens, fighting cocks or pet chickens,” she said.

Sudarat said the government planned to close cockfighting rings in the Thai capital, but would allow services that carry out blood tests for bird flu virus in poultry every month to continue.

Indonesian mily forms fast reaction unit for disaster

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Thais celebrate National Mother’s Day

BANGKOK, 13 Aug — Thai people from all walks of life nationwide celebrated the “National Mother’s Day” on Saturday the birthday of the Queen Sirikit, who is affectionately deemed the “Mother of all Thais”.

In the capital, Bangkok Governor Apirak Kosayodhin early Saturday morning led members of the general public, Bangkok municipal officials and students to offer alms to 575 Buddhist monks at Sanam Luang ceremonial ground to pay tribute to the Queen.

Other activities organized by various public and private agencies, as well as religious events will also be held at Sanam Luang (The Royal Square) until Saturday evening when Thais nationwide will join a candle-lighting ceremony in honour of the Queen and to wish the beloved Queen a happy birthday.

Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra will also preside at the evening event.

Similar religious events and activities are also organized in all other provinces throughout the kingdom.

Dr Khin Maung Swe (Mandalay)

“Doctor, I am familiar with the word ‘mana’, but I have not known its meaning yet. Would you explain it to me?”

One day, a friend of mine, Maung Soe Paing of Yan Myo Lon Ward of Mandalay, put me a question.

“The Myanmar-to-Myanmar dictionary does not have the word mana. It is derived from an English acronym MANA which is formed from the first letters of four words—Myanmar Anti-Narcotics Association”.

“What sort of association is it, then?”

“Well, I would like to explain it thoroughly to you, my boy. Generally, there are three kinds of associations or organizations in the world—United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations and government organizations. So, MANA is a non-governmental organization that is designed to carry out just social tasks and formed regardless of politics, race, creed, colour, ideology and racism. In other words, it is free from discrimination on the grounds of colour and race as well as bias. Members of the association do not charge for their services nor do they seek any commercial gains and they serve just for the sake of humanity. Members of the association are united just social tasks and formed regardless of politics, race, creed, colour, ideology and racism. In other words, it is free from discrimination on the grounds of colour and race as well as bias. Members of the association do not charge for their services nor been able to take measures for the improvement of its services. But, it needs funds to continue to exist. It receives cash assistance from international and international organizations such as CCDAC, NAP, YCDC, Kan Baw Za Bank, TUN Foundation Bank, Shine Hope Co Ltd, UNDP, UNODC, WHO, UNICEF, UNAIDS, UNFPA, UNOPS, CARE Myanmar and Burnet Institute and so on and so forth”.

“What kinds of services does it provide?”

“I will tell you its five objectives first. They are:

1. to curb drug abuse
2. to take preventive measures against HIV/AIDS related to drug abuse
3. to do research in villages, wards and townships regarding anti-narcotics tasks
4. to occasionally hold workshops, meetings and conferences for members regarding the tasks to give educative talks on narcotic drugs
5. to carry out tasks to reduce drugs demand in cooperation with international NGOs and congenial organizations.

“As to its services, holding the motto ‘Say No to Drugs’, it will continue to fight the dangers of narcotic drugs. In this regard, what is the most important is “prevention” and it has three parts—primary prevention, secondary prevention and tertiary prevention. Giving educative talks is necessary for the three parts. Giving educative talks, holding discussions and conducting courses are targeted on risk groups of youths and vulnerable women and MANA branch members. So, not only venerable persons but the members can benefit from its programmes.

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“Thanks, Doctor”.

“Thanks, Doctor”. Translation: MS

Indian soldiers practice during the full dress rehearsal for the country’s Independence Day celebrations at the historic Red Fort in New Delhi, on 13 Aug, 2006. —INTERNET
Tatmadaw families, wellwishers offer…

(from page 16)

Lt-Gen Myint Swe, the commander, the vice-mayor and party accepted cash donations from wellwishers and presented certificates of honour to them.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence also attended the ceremony to donate provisions of Tatmadaw families and wellwishers to 14 monasteries and nunneries in Hline Township.

The ceremony took place at Panditayama Monastery in Ward 13 of Hline Township this afternoon.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe donated robes and offertories to members of the Sangha.

The commander, the vice-mayor and senior military officers presented alms to the offered provisions donated by Tatmadaw families to the Sayadaw.

Departmental officials and wellwishers also presented donations to the Sayadaw.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence and party accepted cash donations from well-wishers and gave certificates of honour to them.

Lt-Col Myo Naing of Yangon Command Headquarters supplicated on the purpose of the donations.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe of Ministry of Defence accepts cash from a wellwisher at the rice and cash donation to 19 monasteries in South Okkalapa Township. — MNA

Vice Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Hla Shwe and wellwishers receive Five Precepts from a Sayadaw at the donation ceremony of rice and cash to Paukmyaing Pariyatti Monastery in Lewe and Yadanabon Tawya Pariyatti Monastery in Ela. — MNA

Cash and kind donated to…

(from page 16)

Today’s donations to monasteries in South Okkalapa Township totalled 428 bags of rice, 180 viss of edible oil, 1,699 viss of iodized salt, 1,085 bottles of traditional medicine, 340 viss of gram, 1,699 bars of soap, 340 tubes of toothpaste and K 27,958,000.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe of Yangon Command and Cmdr Nay Win of Ayeyawady Naval Region Command and Lt-Col Maung Maung Kyaw of Mingaladon Air Base presented alms to the Sayadaw.

Vice Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Hla Shwe accepts cash donation from a wellwisher. — MNA

Vice Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Hla Shwe, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko offer provisions to a Sayadaw. — MNA

Lt-Gen Myo Naing of Yangon Command Cmndr Nay Win of Ayeyawady Naval Region Command and Lt-Col Maung Maung Kyaw of Mingaladon Air Base present provisions to Nuns. — MNA

Lt-Col Min Lwin of Yangon Command Headquarters supplicated on the purpose of the donations.

Lt-Col Min Lwin

Today’s donations to monasteries in South Okkalapa Township totalled 155 bags of rice, 119 viss of edible oil, 38 tubes of toothpaste, 566 bars of soap, 94 viss of dry fish, 3,464 bottles of traditional medicine and K 5,967,000.

Lt-Col Min Lwin

Lt-Col Min Lwin of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win donates alms to a Sayadaw. — MNA

Commander of Yangon Command

Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win donates

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Vice Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Hla Shwe, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko offer provisions to a Sayadaw. — MNA
Clean and safe environment and mosquito, garbage and tobacco free schools designated in Mayangon Township

YANGON, 13 Aug — A ceremony to designate basic education schools in Mayangon Township as clean and safe environment and mosquito, garbage and tobacco free schools was held at Mayangon BEHS No 5 this morning, attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Hayt Win and wife Chairperson of Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Daw Mar Mar Wai.

The commander unveiled the signboard of mosquito, garbage and tobacco free. Next, they reviewed sanitation tasks in the compound of the school. At the hall of Yangon Station, Chairperson Daw Mar Mar Wai explained tasks to create clean and safe environment for the students. Next, she accepted membership applications from Mayangon Township MCWA Chairperson Daw Aye Aye Aye Mar and Teacher Daw Khin May Thaung of Mayangon BEHS No 5. Township MCWA Chairperson Daw Aye Aye Mar and Township Education Officer U Shein Lein Aung reported on school sanitation tasks. The commander accepted cash donations from wellwishers. The commander and wife of the commander-general of No 3 Basic Education Department handed over sanitation equipment to responsible persons.

Head of Division Health Department Dr Hla Myint presented posters to Headmaster U Chit Tun. MNA

A responsible person accepts uniforms, journals, magazines and mosquito nets presented by MWAF. MNA

Educative talks on trafficking in persons held in Pyinmana

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Aug — Organized by Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation, the educative talks were held at Dhamma Beikman of Mahasi Sasana Yekitha at Pyankapyay Model Village in Pyinmana Township this morning.

It was attended by heads of department, leaders of working committee, wife of the Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, members of Village Women’s Affairs Organization, members of Maternal and Child Welfare Association, members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association, totaling 300.

At the talks, Head of Organizing Department of MWAF Dr Daw Nyunt Nyunt Oo made a speech and explained salient points of the federation. Next, Deputy Director (Malaria) of Health Department Dr Than Win gave talks on malaria. IP Huy Hay Tun of Transnational Crime Department of the Ministry of Home Affairs gave a talk on trafficking in persons.

Heads of department and leaders of working committee participated in the discussions. Responsible persons of MWAF handed over uniforms, 435 copies of journals and magazines, and insecticide-treated mosquito nets.

Daw Mu Mu Aung, Secretary of Township WAO, presented membership applications to Head of Department Dr Daw Nyunt Nyunt Oo. MNA

Agricultural sector plays important role

(from page 1)

Target acres of monsoon paddies cultivation with concerted efforts.

He stressed the need to make preparations for cultivation of 400,000 acres of summer paddy for 2006-07. Furthermore, oil palm, rubber, coffee and pepper are to be cultivated on suitable areas of the division. In addition, all are to grow physic nut plants meeting the target in the division as a national duty. In conclusion, Lt- Gen Khin Maung Than called on all the farmers to emphasize on changing from the manual farming to the mechanized farming.

Afterwards, he said, Chairman of Bago Division PDC Commander of Southern Command Maj-Gen Ko Ko delivered an address. He said that the Head of State had given guidance to grow 10 major crops including paddy with four cultivation methods for meeting the production target. Therefore, all are to harmoniously take part in the cultivation of monsoon paddy not only for meeting the target but also for boosting per-acre yield. In conclusion, the commander praised local authorities and local farmers for the completion of the ploughing tasks.

Next, local authorities presented reports on completion of ploughing to the commander.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than presented the first prize to Nyoanglebin Township team in the paddy transplanting contest and Kyaukdaga Township team in the direct seeding contest.

Later, the commander and officials also gave away prizes to the other winners. MNA

Multiplier Course No 1/2006 concludes

YANGON, 13 Aug — Organized by Yangon Command’s Maternal and Child Welfare Association, a multiplier course No 1/2006 concluded at the pre-primary school of the command headquarters this morning.

Chairperson of Yangon Division MCW Supervisory Committee Daw Mar Mar Wai made a concluding speech on the occasion and viewed a family library of the command. MNA
Minister inspects Artemisia plantation, pharmaceutical factory (Pyin-Oo-Lwin)

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Aug — Accompanied by responsible personnel, Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung went on an inspection tour of Artemisia herbal plantation in Pyin-Oo-Lwin in Mandalay Division yesterday morning.

At the briefing hall, the plantation in-charge reported on growing of Artemisia herbal plants as well as pulses and beans on 300 acres and factory manager U Aung Myo Min gave supplementary report.

In connection with the reports, the minister gave instructions on growing of Artemisia herbal plants scientifically and reap them in time.

Upon arrival at the office of Pyin-Oo-Lwin District Union Solidarity and Development Association, Secretary of Pyin-Oo-Lwin District USDA U Aung Myint Thein reported to Secretariat Member of USDA Minister U Aung Thaung on donation of desks, growing of physic nut plants, efforts for public welfare, implementation of five rural development tasks and future tasks.

The minister during his visit to Myanmar Pharmaceuticals Industries (Pyin-Oo-Lwin), Managing Director of MPI U Than Shwe reported to the minister on extended building of the factory. — MVA

Lathe factory of Automobile and Spare Parts Cooperative Syndicate inspected

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Aug — Minister for Cooperatives Maj-Gen Tin Htut on 11 August met with executives and members of Automobile and Spare Parts Cooperative Syndicate in Meiktila Township, Mandalay Division and gave necessary instructions.

At the meeting, the Chairman of the Syndicate reported on the background history of the syndicate and its functions to the minister and the Director of Mandalay Division Cooperatives Department reported on other salient points related to the syndicate.

The minister spoke of the need for officials concerned to strive for further success of the syndicate in accord with the State’s policy and meeting the set standard in producing of import substitute spare parts.

Next, the minister looked into functions of lathe factory and brake drums and pistons. — MVA

Motorcycle thief caught within hours

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Aug — A motorcycle was stolen at 8:45 pm in Yanaung-2 Ward in Pyinmana on 5 August.

The incident took place when U Myo Myint Aung of Myanma Timber Enterprise left his motorcycle locked in front of his house.

He informed the police station of the motorcycle theft.

Later, at the gate to Lewe at 10 pm, Ko Latt, 25, son of U Aung Din of Ywakaik Ward in Pyinmana Township, was caught red-handed with the stolen motorcycle by Sub-inspector Myint Aung and members of Myanmar Police Force of Lewe Township in cooperation with Inspector Thet Win of Pyinmana Police Station and MPF members of Lewe, Yezin and Tatkon police stations.

The arrest was made within hours of the theft with the cooperation of local people and MPF members. — MNA

Meeting on organizing International Literacy Day and ceremony to mark UN Literacy Decade held

YANGON, 13 Aug — The Leading Committee for International Literacy Day 2006 and the ceremony to mark the UN Literacy Decade held the first coordination meeting at the meeting hall of the Department of Myanmar Education Research Bureau on Pyay Road, here, yesterday afternoon.

Deputy Minister for Education Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min discussed preparations to be made for holding the International Literacy Day 2006 and the ceremony to mark the UN Literacy Decade in Nay Pyi Taw.

Director-General U Ohn Myint of Department of Myanmar Education Research Bureau reported on the plan to organize the ceremony.

Director-General U Bo Win of Education Planning and Training Department reported on essay, poster and article contests and display of the exhibition at the ceremony.

Director-General U Ohn Myint presented reports on matters related to invitation and information tasks. Those present took part in the discussions.

Later, the deputy minister gave necessary instructions. — MNA

Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung visits Artemisia herbal plantations in Pyin Oo Lwin. — INDUSTRY-1

Philippines Foreign Secretary winds up visit

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Aug — Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Philippines Alberto G Romulo and delegation members, who arrived here on a goodwill visit, left here by air yesterday evening.

They were seen off at Yangon International airport by Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint and wife, officials of the ministry, the Philippine Ambassador to Myanmar Madam Phoebe A Gomez and responsible persons of the Philippine Embassy.

While in Myanmar, the Philippine Secretary of Foreign Affairs and party visited historical sites and places of interest in Mandalay and Bagan from 11 to 12 August.

— MNA

Energy Minister inspects Nyangong Oil and Gas field

YANGON, 13 Aug — Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi stressed the need for officials to continue drilling new oil wells in Nyangong region as well as in Maubin region which is geographically contiguous with Nyangong region when he inspected Nyangong Oil and Gas field in Nyangong Region, Ayeawady Division yesterday.

At the briefing hall, the minister heard a report presented by Oil Field General Manager U Aye Myint on drilling of Nyangong Oil Field, successful drilling of No 34 New Oil Well and current production of oil and gas, and gave necessary instructions.

Next, officials reported on geological facts of Nyangong and Maubin to the minister who attended to the needs and gave instructions on increased producing of oil and gas and choosing of potential new oil wells.

 Afterwards, the minister presented cash award to staff members who are engaged in drilling of new oil wells and inspected progress in drilling of No 34 New Oil Well. The new oil well produces 3.757 million cubic feet of gas and 19 barrels of condensate per day.

At present, Nyangong Oil and Gas field produces over 85 million cubic feet of gas and 660 barrels of condensate daily. — 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 youths
— To prevent influence of alien culture, and
— To strengthen national unity and Union Spirit.

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Later, the deputy minister gave necessary instructions. — MNA
UN soldiers wait on a top of their armoured vehicle at the Rosh Hanikra border gate to enter north Israel near Nahariya on 11 August, 2006.—INTERNET

Top Iranian mily officers slam US Greater Middle East Initiative

TEHRAN, 13 Aug — Senior Iranian military officers on Saturday hit out at Washington’s Greater Middle East Initiative aiming at promoting changes in the region, describing it as an “evil plan” that had failed, the Iranian Fars news agency reported. The United States drew up the initiative “in a bid to find a full dominance over the region”, Iranian Defence Minister Brigadier-General Mostafa Mohammad Najjar was quoted as saying.

“If the United States succeeds in implementing its evil plan, not only regional states but Europe will also become new colony of the United States,” he told a gathering of Defence Ministry personnel.

The Iranian defence chief said the United States and Israel failed to achieve their strategic goals due to the Lebanese resistance and the vigilance of the countries in the region. The policy of “iron fist” would not be effective any more, he said, adding that “Today, there are a lack of confidence in and disgust against the US anti-human policies in the Middle East”.

Najjar underlined that establishing a fair and lasting peace and avoiding unilateralism and discrimination would be the only solution to the current crises in the region. The commander of Iran’s ground forces Brigadier General Hossein Dadras also lashed out at the Greater Middle East Initiative, which the United States claimed would boost peace and stability through democracy in the region.

“The United States and Israel failed to achieve their strategic goals due to the Lebanese resistance and the vigilance of the countries in the region. The policy of “iron fist” would not be effective any more,” he told a gathering of Defence Ministry personnel. “Today, there are a lack of confidence in and disgust against the US anti-human policies in the Middle East.”

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MNA/Xinhua

Olive oil secret to Loren beauty

ONLINE, 13 Aug—Italian actress Sophia Loren has beaten much younger contenders to be voted the world’s most naturally beautiful person at the age of 71 in an online poll.

The Oscar-winning star says her secret is down to love of life and spaghetti. But another key to maintaining her youthful looks is one known to the ancient Romans - Loren takes “the odd bath in virgin olive oil”.

The actress recently became the oldest woman to pose for the celebrated Pirelli calendar.

Even the Archbishop of Genoa once said that although the Vatican opposed human cloning, “an exception might be made in the case of Sophia Loren”.

The online poll for the Dare to Be Bare Awards asked 1,578 people to rate the world’s most naturally beautiful celebrities who do not conform to stereotypes.

Second place went to film star George Clooney, followed by Welsh opera-turned-pop singer Charlotte Church.

The rest in the top 10 are: Catherine Zeta Jones, Johnny Depp, Kate Winslet, Gwyneth Paltrow, Jack Black, Cameron Diaz and Gail Porter.

Sophia Loren: Beauty icon for decades.—INTERNET

Clash leaves 3 US-led coalition soldiers dead in Afghanistan

KABUL, 13 Aug—Three soldiers of the US-led coalition soldiers were killed and two others got wounded as they came in contact with Taliban-linked militants in the northeastern Nooristan Province, a press release of the US military said Saturday.

“Three coalition soldiers were killed and two wounded on 11 August during a battle with extremist in northeastern Afghanistan,” the Press release said.

The incident, the Press release said, occurred in the mountainous Waygal District of Nooristan.

MNA/Xinhua

Preli calendar.

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The incident, the Press release said, occurred in the mountainous Waygal District of Nooristan.

However, it did not identify the name and nationality of the soldiers pending notification of the next of kin.

A soldier of NATO was also killed when a suicide bomber targeted the Western military alliance in Afghanistan’s southern region on Friday.

The US-led coalition forces handed over the command of war on insurgents in south Afghanistan to NATO on 31 July but keep on hunting militants in the east, northeast and southeast region of the post-Taleban nation.

MNA/Xinhua
Food running out in south Lebanon, aid blocked

TYRE (Lebanon), 12 Aug—Humanitarian agencies sought ways to get aid to an estimated 100,000 people trapped in southern Lebanon on Friday and the mayor of Tyre said the port city could run out of food in two days.

United Nations and other convoys have been unable to deliver supplies to the region since an Israeli airstrike destroyed the last bridge across the Litani River on Monday.

“We have not received any aid since the last route was cut off. We have enough food supplies for no more than two days,” Tyre’s mayor, Abdel-Mohsen al Hosseini, told a news conference.

“We contacted the International Committee of the Red Cross to try to set up a humanitarian crossing over the Litani River but we have yet to receive an answer,” he said.

The ICRC said it had not been able to reach villages where it had hoped to take several hundred people, including wounded, to safety in the north. “Obviously we will continue to try to reach and supply these villages and evacuate the wounded and sick,” said spokeswoman Antonella Notari.

British flights return to normal, still delays

LONDON, 12 Aug—Airlines said flights were returning to normal on Friday but warned of more cancellations and further delays at British airports after a foiled bomb plot sparked a security alert and stranded thousands of passengers.

British Airways said about 70 per cent of its short-haul flights from Heathrow were expected to operate on Friday, a day after can-celling all short-haul flights to and from the airport.

Thousands flee Christian towns in south Lebanon

MARIJAYOUN (Lebanon), 12 Aug—Thousands of civilians and about 350 Lebanese soldiers and policemen left two Israeli-occupied Christian border towns in south Lebanon on Friday and headed north away from the battlefield.

Witnesses said some 3,000 people in hundreds of civilian cars drove behind trucks and jeeps carrying Lebanese forces heading out of the towns of Marjayoun and Qlaia, both seized by the Israeli Army on Thursday.

Shortly after they left the towns, eight Israeli artillery rounds landed less than 100 metres away from the convoy, causing some panic but no casualties, witnesses said.

The Lebanese security forces had been evacuated from their Marjayoun barracks by UN peacekeepers after high-level contacts between Lebanese authorities and world powers to pressure Israel to let them leave, officials said.

The convoy was delayed because all roads in the area had been destroyed or blocked, UN spokesman Milos Strugar said.

Preparations to evacuate the Lebanese forces stationed in the area after Israeli troops occupied Marjayoun and Qlaia alarmed civilians and prompted them to leave, residents said.

Most long-haul flights from Heathrow were operating as normal, except for six services to the United States, the airline said, but warned of delays at Heathrow and Gatwick airports.

“While the airline is hoping to operate a near-normal schedule, it is advising customers that they still could face delays at the airport and that the security restrictions introduced yesterday on all British airports remain in place,” BA said in a statement.—MNA/Reuters

Pakistani court releases boy mistakenly arrested as robber

KARACHI, 12 Aug—A Pakistani court has come to the rescue of a six-year-old boy arrested after police mistook him for a robber and absconder, a police official said on Friday.

The case of mistaken identity occurred because the boy’s name, Majeed Chandio, matched that of the real criminal and noted that the boy’s father was the father of the real criminal and noted down his address,” Jiskani said.

The police raided the boy’s house and detained him.—MNA/Reuters

Lebanese boys are seen in a school that is used as a shelter for evacuees in the village of Rachaya, north of Beirut on 12 August, 2006.—INTERNET

US National Guard troops deployed at LA Airport

LOS ANGELES, 12 Aug—US National Guard troops were deployed at Los Angeles International Airport Friday as part of heightened security in wake of a foiled terror plot to blow up airliners flying from Britain to the United States.

About 200 guard members reported to the airport early in the morning and they were assisting the Transportation Security Administration in performing secondary screenings at boarding gates, according to airport spokeswoman Nancy Castles. The troops, both men and women, were unarm and performed their duties under the control of the airport’s federal security director, said Castles.

California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger earlier ordered that National Guard troops, bomb-sniffing dogs and California Highway Patrol resources be deployed at airports and other “high priority locations” in the state to respond to the terror threat.

Mexican drug traffickers active in S America

LIMA, 12 Aug—Mexican drug traffickers are actively looking for cocaine in South America so as to smuggle it into the United States, Francisco Dicz Canseco, president of Peru’s Peace Council told media on Thursday.

“Mexicans are coming to Peru to open their smuggling route via the sea,” he said, noting that increasing cocaine seizures in ships leaving Peru were an evidence of this.

“Seaborne trafficking in our country has been extraordinarily active,” he added, citing large seizures in Peru’s northwestern ports of Pata, Chimbote, Salaverry and Huacho.

He said that Peru had only got two operational seaplanes and would have to reactivating five more units, and would spend 55 million US dollars on new radars to spot any light aircraft which might carry drugs. Dicz estimated that there were around 130 smuggling rings in Mexico, of which 100 were close to the US-Mexico border.

Mexico’s smuggling ring, Gulf Cartel, was the most active, although it was best known for controlling the trade in Guadalajara, Guanajuato, Juarez, and Tijuana, cities in the north of Mexico.

Mexican smugglers supplied 90 per cent of the cocaine consumed in the United States, Dicz added.
Zimbabwe to exploit nuclear science, technology

BUCHAREST, 12 Aug — Zimbabwe will work with development partners and regional organizations to exploit nuclear science and technology in its bid to promote sustainable national development, an official said on Thursday.

The country has developed a national programmes framework following the recognition of the importance of the essential role nuclear science and technology could play in the socio-economic development of the country, said acting Energy and Power Development Permanent Secretary Pedzisai Mhlano at a one-day nuclear science and technology seminar hosted by African Regional Cooperative Agreement (AFRA) in Harare.

The government would take every opportunity to maximize benefits from participating in AFRA initiatives, he said, as the organization had lined up various projects, from which the country could benefit. Zimbabwe is participating in ongoing AFRA projects under five themes, including increasing crop and meat productivity, radiation technology for socio-economic development, promoting national and regional sustainability and self reliance, improving human health and radiation safety and nuclear security. — MNA/Xinhua

Survey shows Macao students lack sleep

MACAO, 12 Aug — Macao’s university students suffer from a lack of sleep, a survey conducted by the General Association of Chinese Students of Macao revealed Thursday.

The respondents, enrolled in five local educational institutions, sleep 6.87 hours per day, 1.5 hours less than the normal standard. Meanwhile, the survey showed that the local students engaged in part-time employment work an average of three to four hours per day, “far more than the Taiwanese students do”. The survey also revealed that 27.9 per cent of the respondents would choose to reduce their sleeping time for other activities.

Vietnam urges EU to abort plans on shoes

HANOI, 12 Aug — Vietnam on Thursday called on the European Union not to impose anti-dumping measures, including duties on its leather shoes, saying the trade barrier has affected its growing economy.

The call followed a rejection by EU governments of a proposal by the European Commission for anti-dumping duties of 10 per cent on leather shoes from Vietnam and 16.5 per cent on those from China after a previous plan was thrown out by EU states.

“We wish that the EC will come to the final decision not to impose anti-dumping duties or to devise any anti-dumping measures for Vietnam,” Vietnam Foreign Ministry spokesman Le Dung said told reporters in Hanoi.

Preliminary duties were introduced in April after Brussels said it found evidence of state intervention in China and Vietnam that helped shoe exporters unfairly. The governments of China and Vietnam denied any anti-dumping.— MNA/Reuters

Outbreak of swine fever in 19 Romanian counties

BUCHAREST, 12 Aug — Nineteen counties in Romania have witnessed an outbreak of swine fever since early August, the Romanian Truth newspaper reported on Friday.

Marian Avram, president of the National Health Veterinary and Food Safety Agency, said that among the 278 pig farms across the country, only two were not infected with the disease.

In 2003, Romania halted the export of pork as thousands of pigs were infected with swine fever. The Romanian Health authorities implemented a range of measures and limited the spread of the disease. Currently, there are altogether 4,500,000 pigs in Romania, 2,500,000 of which are owned by individuals. The Romanian Health authorities have required all pig farms to take strict measures to counter the disease. From 1 September, the authorities will vaccinate the pigs owned by the individual raisers to prevent the disease from spreading. Romania has halted the export of pork in the wake of the outbreak.— MNA/Xinhua

BA expects most of its short-haul flights to operate

LONDON, 12 Aug — British Airways said on Friday most of its short-haul services to and from London Heathrow are expected to operate, a day after it cancelled all short-haul flights to and from the airport due to heightened security after a bomb threat.

“Some 70 per cent of short-haul and domestic services to and from London Heathrow are expected to operate,” BA, Europe’s third-largest airline, said.

But it warned that customers could face delays at the airport and the security restrictions introduced on Thursday at all British airports remained in place.

On Thursday, airlines banned hand luggage on flights out of Britain, and warned of severe delays at London airports after British police said they had foiled a plot to blow up aircraft mid-flight between Britain and the United States. — MNA/Reuters
**SPORTS**

**Bulgarian veteran win European women’s high jump silver**

SOFIA, 13 Aug— Venelina Veneva of Bulgaria cleared 2.03 metres to win the women’s high jump silver at the European championships in Gothenburg, Sweden, reported Sofia News Agency on Saturday.

The Bulgarian veteran was edged out from the gold by Tia Hellebaut of Belgium, who also cleared 2.03 metres but had the better card at this height on Friday evening. Hellebaut won after both Jumpers failed to clear 2.01m.

Reigning world champion Kajsa Bergqvist lost her European high jump title having to settle for bronze at 2.01m. Blanka Vlasic of Croatia also cleared 2.01m but finished fourth for more of the attempts.

With the gold of sprinter Vania Stambolova a day earlier, Bulgaria ranked among the top fifteen in the medal tally, where Russia occupied the first place.

**Federer stops Gonzalez to set up Gasquet final**

TORONTO, 13 Aug— World number one Roger Federer battled his way to a 6-1, 5-7, 6-3 win over Fernando Gonzalez at the Toronto Masters on Saturday to reach his 17th straight tournament final.

Back in action for the first time since claiming his fourth consecutive Wimbledon crown, Federer was severely tested by the 15th seeded Chilean but the Swiss stood firm to stretch his winning run on North American hard courts to 53 matches.

Standing between Federer and a 40th career North American hard court final will be 14th seeded Frenchman Richard Gasquet, who earlier reached his second career Masters Series final with a 6-2, 7-5 victory over 19-year-old Briton Andy Murray.

"I struggled in the second and third... it was a tough match but I’m happy to be through to the final," said Federer, who can match Ivan Lendl’s record of 18 consecutive finals set in 1981-82 next week in Cincinnati.

"One month break, no tournaments, to come back and be in the final is all I could ask," he added.

While Gasquet has lost all three of his meetings this season with Federer this season, including a first round thrashing at Wimbledon, the Frenchman can take heart in being a member of an exclusive club of four players to have beaten the Swiss in the last two seasons. — MNA/Reuters

**Sweden keeper Isaksson joins Manchester City**

GOTHENBURG (Sweden), 13 Aug— Sweden goalkeeper Andreas Isaksson has signed a three-year contract with English Premier League club Manchester City, Swedish public television SVT reported on Saturday. "I grew up with the Premier League. It feels like a dream to be part of it," said the 20-year-old keeper Andreas Isaksson, who started his career at local club Stade Rennes. Manchester City are paying 27 million pounds for Isaksson, Swedish public television SVT reported on Saturday. "I grew up with the Premier League. It feels like a dream to be part of it," said the 20-year-old keeper Andreas Isaksson, who started his career at local club Stade Rennes. Manchester City are paying 27 million pounds for Isaksson.

**Mourinho requires patience from Gallas at Chelsea**

LONDON, 13 Aug— Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho said Saturday he is willing to give French international defender William Gallas a fresh start with the Premiership champions.

The 28-year-old failed to link up with the rest of the squad for the recent pre-season trip to the United States following the World Cup.

"Gallas has been reported as wanting to quit Stamford Bridge for Arsenal. Although now back in training, Mourinho will not include the player for this weekend’s Community Shield against Liverpool at the Millennium Stadium.

"However, Mourinho insists Gallas can have a future with his side. "The only difference between the situation with (Ashley) Cole and Gallas is that Arsenal have an offer to buy Cole and Chelsea do not have any offers to buy Gallas. That is the real difference," said Mourinho.

"At the moment he is not an option for the Liverpool game, but that might change for the Manchester City match." — MNA/Reuters

**Maskaev turned the tables on Rahman in the final round.**

LAS VEGAS, 13 Aug— Kazakhstan-born Oleg Maskaev stopped Hasim Rahman with a 10-round shutout victory on Saturday at the Thomas & Mack Center.

Maskaev, a former Russian Army officer, entered the fight on a 10 bout winning streak, at mostly against unimpressive competition.

But the father of four earned a mandatory title shot with a persistence that promoters compare him to 1930s champion, James J Braddock, the famed "Cinderella Man".

Maskaev knocked Rahman, 33, into the ring of a television commentator when the two last met in 1999 and the rematch was nearly as dramatic.

Rahman came out of the blocks the quickest and landed big right hands in the first, second and fourth rounds.

Maskaev took the fifth, sixth and seventh rounds with a superior workrate before Rahman surged back in the eighth. However, Maskaev ended the fight in the ninth and caught his opponent with a stunning left hook at the end of the penultimate round.

Maskaev led 106-103 on judge Jerry Roth’s scorecard entering the 12th, while Anek Hongtongkam favoured Rahman 106-103.

The third official, Carlos Padilla had Maskaev ahead 105-104, leaving Rahman in need of a 12th round victory to force a draw.

Sensing victory, Maskaev sent Rahman down with a big right in the opening stages of the final round.

Rahman struggled to his feet but was unable to even keep his guard up as Maskaev continued his vicious assault, prompting referee Jay Nady to wave the contest off.

**Maskaev is WBC heavyweight champ**

Kazakhstan-born Oleg Maskaev won the WBC heavyweight title in Las Vegas with a 10-round shutout victory on Saturday.

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**Bundesliga match reports**

**Berliner** Bayer Leverkusen 3 Alemannia Aachen 0

Aachen were routed in their first match in the Bundesliga 36 years after they were relegated. They were down to 10 men from the 22nd minute after losing goalkeeper Kristian Nicht to a red card for handball outside the penalty box. Captain Carsten Ramirez scored 10 minutes later. Goncalo Castro doubled the lead just before the interval and Simon Rolfes finished the rout on the hour. It was the sixth time in seven seasons that Leverkusen have started with a win.

**Borussia Moenchengladbach 2 Energie Cottbus 0**

Jupp Heynckes celebrated his homecoming to the Bundesliga with a comfortable victory over promoted Cottbus, who were down to 10 men from the 54th minute when Ghana’s Lawrence Aduo was sent off for a second yellow card offence. Defender Bo Svensson’s header in the 51st minute was followed nine minutes later by defender Bo Svensson’s header in the 51st minute was followed nine minutes later by goalkeeper Kristian Nicht to a red card for handball outside the penalty box. Captain Carsten Ramirez scored 10 minutes later. Goncalo Castro doubled the lead just before the interval and Simon Rolfes finished the rout on the hour. It was the sixth time in seven seasons that Leverkusen have started with a win.

**Mainz 0 2 VfB, Bochum 1**

Bochum’s return to top flight after one year in the Second Division was ruined by Mainz, likely rivals in the battle to avoid relegation this season.

Mainz, distracted by the messy departure of Michael Preetz from Frankfurt last week, were clearly the better side. They led 2-0 after Tobias Damm’s 29th minute goal and Mimoun Azouaou’s penalty (71) before Tomasz Zdebel pulled one back with a deflected free kick four minutes from time.

**Hamburg SV 1 Arminia Bielefeld 1**

Doubts about Hamburg’s title ambitions surfaced after the draw at home against Arminia Bielefeld recalled their late collapse last season that cost them second place, when they were pipped by Werder Bremen for an automatic Champions League spot.

Christian Eigler, the top scorer in the Second Division last season, gave Bielefeld a deserved lead. Ivory Coast’s BoubaCaro Sanogo got the equalizer in the 76th minute but that was not enough for HSV fans, who jeered their team at the final whistle. — MNA/Reuters

**Answers to yesterday’s Crossword Puzzle**


1. **AMERICAN**
2. **CODE**
3. **EAGLE**
4. **EMILY**
5. **FOOL**
6. **GROWTH**
7. **HEART**
8. **INVENT**
9. **J Health**
10. **Kite**
11. **MAYFAIR**
12. **NIGHT**
13. **OAK**
14. **PEN**
15. **SAME**
16. **TAPE**
17. **TEDDY**
18. **USED**
19. **WIND**
20. **YEAR**
21. **Zeal**

**Notes**

- The Chelsea boss insisted that there is still a place for the defender.
- The Frenchmen can take heart in being a member of an exclusive club of four players to have beaten the Swiss in the last two seasons.
- The only difference between the situation with (Ashley) Cole and Gallas is that Arsenal have an offer to buy Cole and Chelsea do not have any offers to buy Gallas.
- The real difference," said Mourinho.
- At the moment he is not an option for the Liverpool game, but that might change for the Manchester City match."
Chelsea 1-2 Liverpool

LONDON, 13 Aug — Liverpool lifted the Community Shield, thanks to Peter Crouch’s 80th-minute winner at the Millennium Stadium.

A tepid second half looked to be drifting towards penalties when Crouch rose to head in Craig Bellamy’s cross.

Liverpool, with Steven Gerrard on the bench, went ahead when John Arne Riise ran 60 yards before beating Carlo Cudicini with a dipping pass. But £30.8m striker Andriy Shevchenko equalised before half-time.

Victory will be particularly sweet for Rafael Benitez, who began the match with skipper Gerrard, 65m signing Bellamy and Xabi Alonso on the bench. By contrast, Chelsea counterpart Jose Mourinho packed summer arrivals Shevchenko and Michael Ballack into his side alongside established first-timers Frank Lampard, Didier Drogba and Arjen Robben.

But while Liverpool may have been the star power of their opponents, they were the more cohesive unit in the first half.

Chelsea fans had only just been revelling in the Shevchenko had pressurised the Liverpool defence into conceding a corner when they saw their team go behind.

Steve Finnan headed clear and Riise ran almost the length of the pitch unchallenged before unleashing a 25-yard shot which Cudicini perhaps should have saved. Mourinho looked on in disgust, arms folded.

His mood worsened when first Lampard was booked for a petulant kick on Bolo Zenden and then Ballack, yellow-carded after seven minutes, hobbled off with an apparent hip injury midway through the first half.

Liverpool could have made it 2-1 when the lively Mark Gonzalez slid a dangerous pass across goal and the ball came off Luis Garcia. But Cudicini redeemed himself by tipping over under pressure from Crouch.

But while his team-mates struggled, Shevchenko shone and the Ukrainian drew Chelsea level after 45 minutes. Lampard provided the pass, which Shevchenko controlled beautifully before coolly slotting past Reina.

The Shevchenko show continued in the second half, the former AC Milan star forcing Reina to tip a header round the post.

But as Chelsea began to take charge of proceedings, Benitez first brought on Gerrard and Alonso, then moments later introduced Lampard. It was the Wales striker, making his club debut at Cardiff’s Millennium Stadium, who made the difference in the end.

Liverpool’s Peter Crouch (L) scores the winner as Chelsea’s John Terry looks on during their Community Shield Match at the Millennium Stadium, in Cardiff. Liverpool beat Chelsea 2-1 in the FA Community Shield at the Millennium Stadium. —INTERNET

WEATHER

Sunday, 13 August, 2006

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hrs MST: During the past 24 hours, rain have been scattered in Kachin and Chin States, Sagaing, Mandalay Divisions, fairly widespread in Shan State and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions with locally heavyfall in Rakhine State, isolated heavyfalls in Mon State, Mandalay and Ayeyawady Divisions. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Kyaukpyu (48.49 inches), Thaton (22.99 inches), Pathein (13.38 inches), Mogok (3.07 inches), Maungtaw (2.88 inches), Myeik (2.63 inches), Yee (2.25 inches), Dawe (2.48) inches and Magway (0.66) inch.

Maximum temperature on 12-8-2006 was 87°F. Minimum temperature on 13-8-2006 was 74°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 13-8-2006 was (100%). Total sunshine hours on 12-8-2006 was 2.5 hours approx.

Rainfalls on 13-8-2006 were (0.87) inch at Mingaladon, (1.50) inches at Kabu-Aye and (1.81) inches at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2006 were (64.61) inches at Mingaladon, (77.05) inches at Kabu-Aye and (80.94) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (30) mph from Southwest at (13-15) hours MST on 12-8-2006.

Bay inference: Yesterday’s low pressure area over North Bay and adjoining Central Bay has further intensified into depression and moved to Northwest Bay last night. According to the observations at (06:30) hours MST today, it has crossed the Orissa Coast, India. Monsoon is strong in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 14-8-2006: Rain will be isolated in Kayah State and lower Sagain Divisions, scattered in Chin and Shan States, upper Sagain, Mandalay and Magway Divisions, fairly widespread in Kachin State and widespread in the remaining areas with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Rakhine and Mon States, Ayeyawady, Yangon and Tanintharyi Divisions. 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 2 days: Strong monsoon.

Forecast for Myanmar: Likely of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 14-8-2006: Some rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 14-8-2006: Likely of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Flood Bulletin

(Issued at 12:30 hrs MST on 13-8-2006)

According to the (06:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Sittoung River at Madakh (1070) cm. It may remain above its level (1070) cm during the next (48) hrs commencing noon today.

Storm News

(Issued at 09:00 hrs MST on 13-8-2006)

According to the observation at (06:30) hrs MST today, the depression over Northwest Bay of Bengal has crossed the Orissa Coast, India.
Tatmadaw families, wellwishers offer provisions to monasteries, nunneries in South Okkalapa, Hline Townships

YANGON, 13 Aug — A ceremony to donate provisions of families of Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) and wellwishers to 19 monasteries in South Okkalapa Township was held at Maha Muni Dhammayon of Okkalapa Pagoda in South Okkalapa Township this afternoon.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win, Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa, senior military officers and departmental heads together with wellwishers paid homage to members of the Sangha. Lt-Gen Myint Swe offered robes and alms to Bhaddanta Dhammadinna of Ngwe Kyar Yan Pariyatti Monastery. The commander, the vice-mayor and senior military officers donated offerings to members of the Sangha.

On behalf of Tatmadaw families, Lt-Col Myo Naing of Yangon Command, Cmdr Nay Win of Ayeyawady Naval Region Command and Lt-Col Min Lwin of Mingaladon Air Base presented rice, edible oil, salt, medicines and grain to the Sayadaw. Likewise, wellwishers donated provisions to the Sayadaw.

(See page 8)

19 resign from Hinthada and Dedaye Township NLDs to serve interests of State and people


In their letters sent to Hinthada and Dedaye Townships Multiparty Democracy General Election Sub-Commissions, they said that they had lost trust in the NLD and party leaders. That was why they resigned from the NLD of their own accord, wishing to do own business and join hands with the responsible personnel for serving the interests of the State and the people. — MNA

(See page 8)

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(See page 8)

Cash and kind donated to monasteries of Lewe and Ela

Vice Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Hla Shwe, Captain Myint Tun (Navy) and Col Chan Maung (Air) donate provisions to a Sayadaw.

Vice Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Hla Shwe, Captain Myint Tun (Navy) and Col Chan Maung (Air) donated provisions of Tatmadaw families to the Sayadaw. Likewise, departmental personnel and wellwishers presented donations to the Sayadaw. Vice Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Hla Shwe, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko offered robes and alms to members of the Sangha. Vice Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Hla Shwe, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, Maj-Gen Tin Soe, Maj-Gen Aung Thein, Maj-Gen Than Aung, Maj-Gen Saw Hla and Captain Myint Tun (Navy) of the Ministry of Defence, and Director-General U Myo Kyaw of the Religious Affairs Department accepted cash donations from wellwishers. Col Chan Maung (Air) supplicated on the purpose of donations.

(See page 8)

English proficiency is a must for capacity building. It is required to update information about drugs and HIV/AIDS preventive measures to enhance technical knowledge. Such important measures have been taken under the supervision of the MANA (Central) in many regions across the nation including Mandalay.

PAGE 7 DR KHIN MAUNG SWE (MANDALAY)