Lt-Gen Myint Swe attends cash and kind donation ceremonies of Tatmadaw families and wellwishers to monasteries in Ahlon, Tamway, Mingala Taungnyunt

YANGON, 20 Aug — Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence and congregation of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win and senior military officers presented oathorties to members of the Sangha. Lt-Col Myo Naing of Yangon Command Headquarters, Cmdr Nay Win of Ayeyawady Naval Region Command and Lt-Col Swe Lin of Mingaladon Air Base donated provisions of Tatmadaw families and wellwishers to the Sayadaw. Likewise, wellwishers donated cash and kind to the monasteries. Next, Lt-Gen Myint Swe, the commander and senior military officers accepted cash donations from wellwishers and presented certificates of honour to them. (See page 8)

Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence and congregation receive Five Precepts from a Sayadaw at the donation ceremony of rice and cash to six monasteries in Ahlon Township. — MNA

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
For perpetuation of traditional culture

The Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions have been held since 1993 and now the competitions have entered the 14th time and they will be held on a grand scale in Nay Pyi Taw.

The performing arts competitions are being held for preservation of cultural heritage and national prestige and integrity in accord with the social objectives calling for uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character and uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit.

As information technology of today is advancing rapidly, there are advantages and disadvantages in various fields of the nations of the world.

Cultural products of the west are targeted on youths under 20, two-fifths of the world population. In musical world, electronic music may affect traditional music which has been preserved for thousands of years.

The electronic music can influence people especially new generation youths.

Western culture has influenced about 75 per cent of the world population through the television and this is a challenge to the culture, patriotism and traditional customs of the nations.

Preservation and safeguarding of Myanmar traditional culture is part of the government efforts to defend the State. All the people of the nation are urged to make concerted efforts for perpetuation of Myanmar traditional culture.

Minister inspects power lines, sub-power stations

YANGON, 20 Aug — Minister for Electric Power No (2) Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint and officials attended the opening ceremony of 33-KV new power line in North Okkalapa Township on 15 August.

Chairman of Yangon East District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Maung Maung Shein expressed thanks, and said that the new power lines will improve the production of business in the industrial zones.

Col Khin Maung Soe, Chairman of Yangon City Electric Power Supply Board urged the officials and the people to expose illegal power consumption. In addition, System Improvement tasks were being carried out so that the people will have regular access to the electricity, he added.

The minister gave necessary instructions.

Construction of Kyangin-Okshitpin section of Kyangin-Pakokku Railroad Project commences

YANGON, 19 Aug — Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min, Deputy Minister U Pe Than and officials yesterday inspected Kyangin-Okshitpin section of Kyangin-Pakokku Railroad Construction Project.

Project Director U Myo Win of Myanmar Railways reported on the axis chosen for Kyangin-Pakokku Railroad, heavy machinery and work undertaken. Deputy Minister U Pe Than gave a supplementary report.

The minister said under the guidance of the Head of State Pathein-Monywa Highway was built for development of the west bank of Ayeyawady River. The Head of State also gave guidance on construction of Kyangin-Pakokku Railroad that will lead to Pakokku-Gangaw-Kalay Railroad to be opened soon. The minister told service personnel of MR to participate in the project that ensures smooth transport for local people and smooth flow of commodity.

The minister and party inspected earth work near Sharbo Village and Kyatpyin Village. The Kyangin-Pakokku Railroad includes five sections—Kyangin-Okshitpin, Okshitpin-Thayet, Thayet-Minbu, Minbu-Salin and Salin-Pakokku.

Construction of Kyangin-Okshitpin railroad section is being undertaken. The minister and party also inspected construction of Phatashin Bridge on Pathein-Kyangin Railroad. — MNA

Rail Transportation Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min inspects Kyangin-Okshitpin section of Kyangin-Pakokku Railroad Construction Project. — RAILWAYS
India offers dramatic tariff concessions for ASEAN products

KUALA LUMPUR, 19 Aug — India offered dramatic tariff concessions for products from the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) here on Friday in a bid to conclude a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) early with the grouping.

India provided preferential market access for more than 94 per cent of ASEAN's exports to India, Indian senior officials said after consultations with their ASEAN counterparts during the preparatory meeting here for the upcoming 38th ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM) meeting.

The preferential market access included 95 per cent to 100 per cent for seven ASEAN members and 85 per cent or more for the other three members, they said in a Press paper.

During the consultation meeting, India tabled a detailed tariff elimination for over 4,000 tariff lines, or 77 per cent of the total tariff lines and phased tariff reduction for more than 600 ones, or 12 per cent of the total.

India also offered to substantially reduce its import duties on some highly sensitive products of ASEAN, including palm oil, black tea and pepper.

Indian officials said that India had offered an extensive list and hoped ASEAN members would reciprocate accordingly in order to facilitate the conclusion of a FTA between the two parties soon.

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said last year that his country hoped the two parties soon.

That India-ASEAN FTA negotiations could be completed by 2007 to help push bilateral trade to 30 billion US dollars.

Indian officials said that India had offered an extensive list and hoped ASEAN members would reciprocate accordingly in order to facilitate the conclusion of a FTA between the two parties soon.

Chavez pokes fun at new US spy chief for Venezuela

CARACAS (Venezuela), 20 Aug — Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez poked fun on Friday at the freshly appointed chief of US spy operations on Venezuela and Cuba, Jack Patrick Maher, calling him "Jack the Ripper".

During a speech to hundreds of screaming supporters in his home province of Barinas, Chavez, who is running for reelection in December, was handed a CNN report saying Maher had been appointed to head US efforts to collect intelligence on the two Latin American countries.

Chavez, a constant critic of Washington who says socialism can unite South America against US "imperialist" influence, said the appointment of Maher was a sign that "the empire is organizing a plan for December or before December".

Chavez often accuses the United States of plotting to overthrow him.

"Whatever that plan might be, we are going to defeat it!" Chavez said.

When Chavez first read Maher's name from the CNN report, he called him "Jack the Ripper", to laughter from his audience, and said US intelligence services are "stupid".

Four US troops killed in Afghanistan

KABUL (Afghanistan), 18 Aug— Four US servicemen and at least one Afghan soldier have been killed in two separate incidents in Afghanistan.

Three US soldiers died in crashes in the volatile eastern Kunar region, a spokesman said.

Another US soldier and an Afghan soldier were killed in a gun battle with Taliban fighters in southern Uruzgan province, an official said.

The country is seeing its bloodiest period since the fall of the Taliban in 2001, says the BBC Kabul correspondent. Militants have recently stepped up their insurgent against government and foreign forces in the south and east.

NATO's International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) said the US soldiers were embedded with the Afghan army as trainers and "operating in support of the Isaf mission."

A coalition patrol was first struck by a homemade bomb and then came under attack from small arms and artillery fire in Kunar province, on the border with Pakistan, the US-led coalition said in a statement.

In Uruzgan, up to 150 Taliban fighters attacked a joint NATO-Afghan army convoy.

Three American soldiers were also wounded in the gun battle which lasted for four hours.

A composite photo of twenty AIDS pins, representing some of the hundreds of unique pins, many hand made, worn by delegates at the 16th International AIDS conference in Toronto on 18 August, 2006. —INTERNET
**Scientists say Ozone layer recovery will take longer**

**GENEVA, 20 Aug.**—The atmosphere will take up to 15 years longer than previously expected to recover from pollution and repair its ozone layer over the southern hemisphere, the United Nations’ weather organization said Friday.

Thinning in the ozone layer — due to chemical compounds leaked from refrigerators, air conditioners and other devices — exposes the Earth to harmful solar rays. Too much ultraviolet radiation can cause skin cancer and destroy tiny plants at the beginning of the food chain. Scientists said Friday it would take until 2065, instead of 2050 as previously expected, for the ozone layer to recover and the hole over the Antarctic to close.

“The Antarctic ozone hole has not become more severe since the late 1990s, but large ozone holes are expected to occur for decades to come,” ozone specialist Geir Braathen told reporters in summarizing a new report by the World Meteorological Organization and the UN Environment Program. The report will be released next year. The ozone hole, a thinner-than-normal area in the upper stratosphere’s radiation-absorbing gases, has formed each year since the mid-1980s at the end of the Antarctic winter in August, and generally is at its biggest in late September. Experts said they extended the projected recovery because chlorofluorocarbons, or CFCs, would continue to leak into the atmosphere from air conditioners, aerosol spray cans and other equipment for years to come.

But there was cause for celebration, they said, noting a decline in CFCs in the first two atmospheric layers above Earth.


Less of these chemicals are used every year, he said, after 180 countries in 1997 committed to reducing CFCs under the Montreal Protocol. “This shows that the Montreal Protocol is effective and is working,” he said.—Internet

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**Vietnam evacuates thousands, flood toll rises to 27**

**HANOI, 19 Aug.**—Vietnam ordered the evacuation on Friday of thousands of people in its central and northern regions to avoid flash floods and landslides triggered by prolonged torrential rains that have killed at least 27.

Flooding hit the key coffee-growing region of the Central Highlands and four central coastal provinces, killing at least eight in Binh Thuan Province and four in Nghe An Province, a government report said.

State-run Vietnam Television said eight people, including two children, had died when landslides buried their homes in the mountainous northern province of Cao Bang on Friday morning.

The channel showed footage of rescuers pulling the body of a baby girl from the mud.

Six drowned in four other provinces and one in the Mekong Delta province of Dong Thap. The floods also displaced thousands of people, inundated 5,000 houses, submerged nearly 40,000 hectares (100,000 acres) of mainly rice and corn crops and blocked traffic.—MNA/Reuters

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**Five die in N-E India heat wave**

**NEW DELHI, 19 Aug.**—At least five people have died of sunstroke in the past week in northeast Indian state Assam which recorded the highest temperature in August in the past 16 years, Indo-Asian News Service reported.

The temperature last week was at least four degrees Celsius higher than normal and the rainfall this summer was 41 per cent less than usual, said Dulal Chakraborty, deputy director general of the Regional Meteorological Centre in Guwahati. Guwahati, the major city in the state, recorded 38 degrees Celsius last week, the highest temperature in August in the last 16 years, the weather authority said.

The unusually hot weather was caused by the dry continental winds from southern China, Chakraborty said. —MNA/Xinhua

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**US soldier killed on patrol in Baghdad**

**BAGHDAD, 19 Aug.**—An American soldier was killed on Thursday night when a roadside bomb went off near a foot patrol south of Baghdad, the US military said. It is reported that in a bid to win the trust of Iraqis, US soldiers are patrolling the streets in some Baghdad neighbourhoods on foot, instead of riding armoured vehicles. The deaths bring the number of American soldiers that died this month in Iraq to 26.

At least 2,403 US military personnel have been killed in Iraq since the US-led war in March 2003, most of them died as a result of hostile action, according to media count. — MNA/Xinhua

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**German Chancellor Angela Merkel addresses a news conference after a meeting in Berlin on 17 August, 2006.**—Germany would not provide ground troops to a United Nations peacekeeping force in southern Lebanon and that her country may provide naval security as part of its effort to keep peace in the region.—INTERNET

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**French soldiers from an engineering unit arrive to join the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) on the border with Israel at the Lebanese port of Naqura, near the southern city of Tyre (Soure), on 19 August, 2006.**—INTERNET
Acting leader says Cuba prepared for US aggression

HAVANA, 19 Aug— Cuba’s acting leader, Raul Castro, said that the country had adopted measures to prepare for any military aggression by the United States, according to Friday’s Granma newspaper.

At 3.00 am on 1 August, I decided to raise our combat readiness and capacity significantly, by mobilizing tens of thousands of reservists and militiamen,” Castro said in his first public statement since he took power, on a temporary basis, last month. Cuba’s leader since 1959, 80-year-old Fidel Castro, temporarily handed over power to 75-year-old Defence Minister Raul Castro, on July 31 before undergoing an operation for intestinal bleeding.

Raul Castro said that he did not intend to exaggerate the danger, but cited statements by senior US officials to the effect that, should Fidel die, they were ready to “make sure there will be no succession to Castro’s regime”.

The Commission for Assistance to a Free Cuba created by US President George W Bush in 2004 delivered a report on Cuba’s restive town of Poso on Friday.

Bomb explodes in Indonesia’s Poso

JAKARTA, 20 Aug— A homemade bomb went off near a cafe in Indonesia’s restive town of Poso late Friday, injuring no one, the national Antara news agency reported Saturday.

The blast occurred at 11:47 pm (1600 GMT) and was heard in a distance of one kilometre, said the report. There were no immediate reports of casualties but the blast damaged a nearby garden. MNA/Reuters

British flight lands in Southern Italy for bomb scare

ROME, 19 Aug— A flight for British low-cost airline Excel Friday was forced to land in the southern Italian city of Brindisi because of a bomb scare, Italian news agency ANSA reported.

An Italian Air Force fighter jet escorted the plane to Brindisi Airport after the pilot warned of a possible bomb threat and asked for permission to land, the news agency quoted Italian anti-terrorist police as saying. Italian police and firemen immediately evacuated the passengers, boarding the plane to carry out a thorough search.

The flight was in the route to Egypt from Gatwick Airport, ANSA said, and the pilot launched his alarm as the plane was flying over Brindisi. MNA/Xinhua

Mass break-out hits Belgium jail

BELGIUM, 19 Aug— Twenty-eight inmates escaped from a Belgian prison early on Saturday after overpowering guards.

Six were swiftly recaptured, but police have launched an extensive search operation for the others.

Two prisoners managed to force their cell door open and took several guards hostage, demanding their keys, local officials said.

The two then freed 26 other inmates at Ternodens jail, north-west of Brussels. No-one was hurt in the jailbreak.

The escaped prisoners managed to get into the prison courtyard and succeeded in scaling the prison walls.

The authorities were unable to say how the cell door had been forced or whether any dangerous criminals had managed to escape. Internet

Pakistan arrests suspects in US consulate attack

ISLAMABAD, 19 Aug— Pakistani authorities have arrested six militants behind a suicide car-bomb attack outside a US consulate that killed four people, including a US diplomat, officials said on Friday.

The March 2 blast near the gates of the US consulate in the city of Karachi killed US diplomat David Foy, the bomber and three other people on the eve of a visit to Pakistan by US President George W Bush.

“The recent suicide attack on the US consulate in Karachi has been resolved and the culprits arrested,” the Interior Ministry said in a statement, quoting Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf as telling a security meeting.

Musharraf did not say how many suspects had been arrested or identify them. MNA/Reuters
India urged to offer more for FTA with ASEAN
KUALA LUMPUR, 19 Aug — The FTA talks between India and ASEAN could not move ahead as India was unwilling to include those sensitive products that ASEAN is interested in, a Malaysian official said here on Friday.

Malaysian International Trade and Industry Minister Rafidah Aziz made the remarks during her inspection over facilities at a hotel, the venue for the 38th ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM) meeting.

India’s offer of hundreds of sensitive products for tariff elimination or phased reduction was not enough, Rafidah said when she was asked to comment on the so-called current standstill on FTA talks between India and the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

India should minimize the sensitive list to move the talks ahead, she added.

India offered dramatic tariff concessions for ASEAN products earlier Friday in a bid to conclude a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) early with the regional grouping.

Senior officials from India, who were attending a consultation meeting here with their ASEAN counterparts, tabled a list of over 4,000 tariff lines for tariff elimination, or 77 per cent of the total tariff lines.

They also presented a list of more than 600 tariff lines for phased tariff reduction, or 12 per cent of the total, but they only offered moderate tariff reductions on such commodities as palm oil, black tea and pepper.

Emergency landing for Alaska Airlines in Seattle
SAN FRANCISCO, 19 Aug — An Alaska Airlines flight made an emergency landing at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport on Friday morning after losing pressure in flight, an airport spokeswoman said.

Alaska Airlines Flight 690, from Vancouver, British Columbia, to San Francisco, was diverted to Seattle-Tacoma International Airport after reporting a rapid decompression.

The plane landed at about 8:10 am, with 10 passengers and four crew members requesting medical assistance for ear and sinus pain, said Terri Ann Betancourt, a spokeswoman for the airport. All 14 were treated and released, Betancourt said. Alaska Airlines, operated by Alaska Air Group Inc, was not immediately available for comment.

Heavy rains kill five in central India
NEW DELHI, 19 Aug — Downpour lashed several parts of central India’s Madhya Pradesh Friday claiming at least five people’s lives, Indo-Asian News Service reported.

Three people, including a woman and a child, died when a multi-storey building collapsed in Ratlam District in the state early Friday in the downpour.

Two other children were killed when a wall collapse in Hoshangabad, the report said.

Death toll relevant to rains in the state has reached 80 since last week. About 38,595 people have been homeless and taken shelter in relief camps, according to the report.

The water level of the Narmada River at Hoshangabad has risen with 400,000 cubic water being released from Tawa dam in the higher reach, the report said, adding that traffic movement at many places along the river has come to a standstill.

Eighteen of the 48 districts have been hit by the rains. Hoshangabad recorded the maximum rainfall of 183 millimetres, said a flood control room official.

More rain will fall in the next 48 hours, the weather authority said.

One - fifth of Vietnam War veterans suffer psychological disorder
LOS ANGELES, 19 Aug — Nearly one-fifth of Vietnam War veterans in the United States have a lifetime war-related psychological disorder, according to a study released recently.

The disorder, called post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), is an anxiety that can develop after exposure to a terrifying event or ordeal. It may also appear in the US soldiers that are taking part in the Iraq War, warned the researchers from the Columbia University.

The study was published in the August 17 issue of the journal Science.

In the late 1980s, two major US Government-funded studies reached very different conclusions about the rate of PTSD in Vietnam veterans. One study of 1,200 veterans estimated that 30.9 per cent had developed PTSD during their lifetime, and that 15.2 per cent were currently suffering from it.

This result, though widely quoted, was controversial. Another study conducted by US Centre for Disease Control reported rates of 14.7 per cent lifetime PTSD and 2.2 per cent current PTSD 11 to 12 years after the Vietnam War ended.

Their results revealed a lifetime PTSD rate of 18.7 per cent among veterans, and 9.1 per cent were currently suffering from PTSD 11 to 12 years after the war. Current PTSD was typically associated with moderate impairment, the researchers found.

Cholera spreads to all Angolan provinces, killing over 2,000
LUANDA, 20 Aug — The World Health Organization (WHO) has announced that a six-month cholera epidemic in Angola has claimed 2,167 lives from the 52,700 cases registered and has now reached all of the country’s 18 provinces.

In its latest update on the outbreak, the WHO said Friday three cholera deaths had occurred in the past 24 hours from 41 new cases recorded.

The highest death toll since cholera first erupted in February in the Luanda slums has been in the coastal province of Benguela with 523 fatalities, followed by Luanda (305), Kwanza Sul (259), Lunda Norte (245) and Malange (235).

This year’s outbreak of the water-borne disease in Angola has been acknowledged by international relief organizations to be the country’s worst since independence over three decades ago.
The purpose of the establishment of rural self-reliant libraries is to enhance the horizons of the people to be able to be aware of instigation, deception, enticement and threats. Therefore, the people are exhorted to maintain the already-established libraries for their durability.

Zimbabwe to relaunch literary organization

HARARE, 20 Aug — The Zimbabwean chapter of the International PEN Association that died a few years ago will be reestablished before the end of the year, the official The Herald reported on Saturday.

The association, which brings together writers from across the globe with the aim of promoting literature, has worked out a draft Constitution having been adopted by at least 25 writers. A board of trustees and an executive committee will be elected.

The executive committee will work with International PEN and represent the chapter when it is reintroduced at the International PEN Congress in Dakar, Senegal in July 2007. — MNA/Xinhua
Lt-Gen Myint Swe of Ministry of Defence offers alms to a Sayadaw at donation ceremony of rice and cash to six monasteries in Ahlon Township. — MNA

Lt-Gen Myint Swe of Ministry of Defence accepts cash from a wellwisher at donation ceremony of rice and cash to eleven monasteries in Tamway Township and nine monasteries in Mingala Taungnyunt Township. — MNA

Lt-Gen Myint Swe of Ministry of Defence offers alms to a Sayadaw at donation ceremony of rice and cash to six monasteries in Ahlon Township. — MNA

Lt-Gen Myint Swe attends cash and kind donation…

Buddhist Missionary Monastery in Natchaung Ward of Tamway Township, a similar ceremony to donate provisions to 11 monasteries in Tamway Township and nine monasteries in Mingala Taungnyunt Township was held at 3 pm, attended by Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe presented robes and alms to members of the presiding patrons of Mingala Thukha Pali Tekkatho of Tamway Township Sayadaw Bhaddanta Nandavamsa. The commander and senior military officers donated offerings to members of the Sangha.

On behalf of families of Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air), Lt-Col Myo Naing of Yangon Command, Cmndr Nay Win of Ayeyawady Naval Region Command and Lt-Col Zaw Min of Mingaladon Air Base supplicated on the purpose of the donation.

Today’s donations to Tamway and Mingala Taungnyunt Townships totalled 416 bags of rice, 179 viss of edible oil, 359 viss of gram, 1,796 viss of iodized salt, 1,989 bottles of traditional medicine, 360 tubes of toothpaste and K 29,463,550.

Lt-Col Myo Naing of Yangon Command, Cmndr Nay Win of Ayeyawady Naval Region Command and Lt-Col Swe Lin of Mingaladon Air Base donate provisions to a Sayadaw. — MNA

Hindu families offer Waso robes, ‘soon’ to members of the Sangha

Hindu families offer Waso robes to a Sayadaw

Hindu families offer Waso robes, ‘soon’ to members of the Sangha

YANGON, 20 Aug — Thanantana Dhamma Palaka (Hindu) Organization this morning held a ceremony at Mogok refectory on Kaba Aye Hill to offer Waso robes to 15 Sayadaws of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee and 69 Sayadaws of State Pariyatti Sasana University (Yangon) and ‘soon’ to 450 members of the Sangha.

At the ceremony, Vice-Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Sayadaw Agya Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Ariya Bhivamsa invested the congregation with the Five Precepts. — MNA

Tailoring course concludes in Myeik

YANGON, 20 Aug — The conclusion ceremony of advanced tailoring course No-13 and basic tailoring course No-42 were held at Vocational Training School of Education and Training Department of the Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs in Myeik on 18 August with an address by Chairman of Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Coastal Region Command Brig-Gen Khin Zaw Oo.

The Patron of Taninthayi Division Women’s Affairs Organization wife of commander presented awards to outstanding trainees of the two courses. The 43 trainees attended the two courses. Similarly, the two tailoring courses were held at Vocational Training Schools of Mudon in Mon State, Lashio and Muse in Shan State(North) and Kengtung, Monghsat and Tachilek in Shan State (East), Myawady in Kayin State and Maungtaw in Rakhine State. — MNA
Stake driven to install lifts at Shwedagon Pagoda

Lt-Gen Myint Swe of Ministry of Defence and congregation accept Five Precepts from a Sayadaw at the ceremony to install lifts in Shwedagon Pagoda. — MNA

Yangon, 20 Aug

A stake was driven to install lifts at the western stairway of the Shwedagon Pagoda this morning, attended by Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence.

Also present on the occasion were members of the Sangha led by Ovadacariya of ShwedagonPagodaBoard of Trustees Vice-Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Aungmye Bonsan Kyaung Sayadaw of Bahan Township Aungmye Bonsan Kyaung Sayadaw.

Chairman of Work Committee for All-round Renovation of the Shwedagon Pagoda Deputy Commander of Yangon Command Col Kyaw Kyaw Tun, departmental officials, members of religious associations and Wut associations and guests.

The congregation received the Five Precepts from the Aungmye Bonsan Kyaung Sayadaw. And, members of the Sangha recited Parittas.

Next, Lt-Gen Myint Swe presented offertories to the Aungmye Bonsan Kyaung Sayadaw. After that, the commander, the minister and the deputy commander presented offertories to members of the Sangha.

Later, Vice-Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Aungmye Bonsan Kyaung Sayadaw Bhaddanta Paññinda-abhivamsa delivered a sermon and merits gained were shared.

After that, the ceremony to drive the stake was held at the western archway. At the auspicious time, Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party drove the stake and sprinkled it with scented water.

The ceremony ended with the recitation of Buddha Sasana Ciram Tithathu three times.

With the arrangement of the Leading Committee for All-round Renovation of Shwedagon Pagoda, Fortune International Ltd will install the lifts. The installation of 143 feet facility will last six months.

Cash donated for building historic Vipassana Pagoda in Mumbai, India

Yangon, 20 Aug

The fourth ceremony to donate cash to historic Vipassana Pagoda being built in Mumbai, India was held at the Dhamma Hall of Dhammajoti Meditation Centre on Ngahtatgyi Pagoda Road in Bahan Township here this morning, attended by Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung.

It was also attended by Director-General of Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana Dr Myo Myint, yogis of the Meditation Centre, members of the Meditation Centre, Board of Trustees and wellwishers.

Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung made a speech on the occasion.

This was followed by the cash donation ceremony which included K 30 million by Daw Win Kyi Myint and family of Tamway Township, K 12 million by U Than-Daw Saw Yin of Champion family, K 7 million and a bunch of gold worth K 400,000 by Thirthudhamma Theingi Daw Nyo Nyo, K 2.5 million by U San Win-Daw Tin Tin Yi and family of Pyinmana, golden works worth over K 1.9 million by Daw Ahma and son U San Lin-Daw Khin Than Win and family of Lamnadaw Township, US$ 1000 by Daw Tin Hla and family of New University Avenue, K 1.2 million by Daw Hla Than, U Aung Kyi, U Thawdaw Tun, Daw Tin Yon and family of Mayangon Township, K 1.13 million by U Myint Htay-Thanda Kyaw and family, K 1.1 million by Thirthudhamma Manjotadura U Khin Hla-Daw Khin Mya Mya Aung and others.

Donate blood

CEC members attend ceremonies to present prizes to outstanding students

Yangon, 20 Aug

Member of Central Executive Committee of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Deputy Minister for Transport Col Nyan Tun Aung and wife attended the ceremony to present prizes to outstanding students of Pyinsi Village Basic Education High School and Kanna Village Affiliated BEHS at Pyinsi Village BEHS in Natogyi Township on 16 August morning.

The CEC member presented prizes to outstanding students for 2005-06 academic year and teachers.

At Natogyi BEHS, the deputy minister and wife also attended the prize distribution ceremony for outstanding students of Natogyi BEHS and Myoma BEHS (Branch). They awarded prizes to 32 outstanding students in the 2005-06 matriculation examination and outstanding teachers.

On behalf of the outstanding students, Ma Thawda Kyemon Win who had passed the exam with five distinctions expressed gratitude.

MNA
Ministry of Industry-1 honours outstanding children of its employees

Ministry of Industry-1 held the ninth ceremony to present prizes to the children of service personnel of the ministry, who passed the matriculation examination in 2005-2006 academic year, at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the ceremony, after giving a speech, Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung awarded three six-distinction winners; Adviser U Kyaw Myint, 10 five-distinction winners; Adviser U Myint Oo, 12 four-distinction winners; Director-General U Thein Aung of Directorate of Industries, 10 three-distinction winners; and directors-general and managing directors, 40 one-distinction winners. Prizes were also awarded to outstanding participans in the 13th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Arts Competitions. — MNA

Communication stations inspected

YANGON, 20 Aug—Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Then Zaw and officials inspected international express mail service this morning.

Officials concerned reported on the mailing service and fulfilled the requirements.

The minister and party went to Hanthawady auto exchange. The minister told service personnel to maintain equipment and enhance their work efficiency.

They proceeded to GSM and CDMA mobile communication station and gave instructions on completion of the mobile phone system project.

The minister also inspected overseas communication station in Mayangon. — MNA

Several dead as immigrant boat sinks near Sicily

ROME, 20 Aug — At least seven people were killed and others feared dead when a boat believed to have been carrying some 100 illegal immigrants sank off the coast of Sicily early on Saturday morning, the Coast Guard said.

A Coast Guard official at the rescue coordination centre in Rome told Reuters that as of about four hours after the accident, 79 immigrants had been rescued alive and that the bodies of seven victims had been plucked from the sea.

The official said survivors recounted that there were between 100 and 120 immigrants on board. But he cautioned that such counts were often inexact, so it was difficult to say how many were still missing and feared dead.

The boat, about 10 metres long, sank some 10 miles off the island of Lampedusa. One Navy ship was already following the immigrant boat and was able to start the rescue quickly. — MNA/Reuters

Development tasks of Htigyaing, Katha under supervision

Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye unveils signboard of a new building of District Information and Public Relations Department in Katha. — MNA

YANGON, 20 Aug — Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye viewed participation of social organization members in cultivation of physic nut plants near Mottahtauung Pagoda in Tidaw Village-tract, Htigyaing Township, on 12 August.

The commander attended the ceremony to commission Inywa Model Village. After the opening ceremony, he inspected Inywa Station Hospital and Inywa Market. While in Inywa, the commander inspected development of the village.

Officials accepted cash, sports gear, school uniforms and stationery from wellwishers at the opening ceremony of Inywa Model Village.

In the afternoon, the commander attended the opening ceremony of Katha District Information and Public Relations Department Office in Katha. Chairman of Katha District PDC Lt-Col Aung Aung and Staff Officer of IPRD U Nyunt Shwe formally opened the new building.

At the hall, the commander heard reports on tasks of the department by Staff Officer U Nyunt Shwe. While in Katha, the commander inspected physic nut plantations. He viewed thriving physic nut plants along Indaw-Katha Road. At Katha District PDC Office, the commander instructed officials to make efforts for meeting the production target of agricultural products. — MNA

Under-3 cm eels released into water

YANGON, 20 Aug — As part of environmental conservation, the ceremony to release eels under three centimetres, jointly organized by Fisheries Department and Myanmar Eel Entrepreneurs Association, was held at the wetland of Nyaungdon on 18 August, attended by Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein.

Directors U Win Myint Maung and U Khin Maung Win explained conservation of natural resources to those present.

Chairman of Myanmar Eel Entrepreneurs Association U Aung Kyaw Htoo explained prevention against depletion of eel species.

Next, Myanmar Eel Entrepreneurs Association donated cash to the funds of Mezali BEMS and social organizations. Later, they released 75,000 eels into the water. — MNA

Man Utd trounce Fulham 5-1

LONDON, 20 Aug—Louis Saha headed United in front on seven minutes before his cross forced Ian Pance to divert into his own net.

Rooney tapped in before crossing for Ronaldo to make it four in 19 minutes.

United went ahead when a superb cross from Ryan Giggs fell between Pearce and Liam Rosenior, allowing Saha to head home his third goal against his former club.

Pearce then got in front of Rooney to try to cut out Saha’s low cross from the left but could only steer the ball into his own net on 14 minutes.

With Fulham in complete disarray, Rooney sidefooted a third after Antti Niemi had parried Saha’s volley before turning provider for Ronaldo to half-volley home a fourth with just 19 minutes gone.

Fulham’s first-half display did not merit a goal, but they found the net when Helguson’s shot hit Ferdinand and looped over the stranded Edwin van der Sar six minutes before the break. Michael Brown was fortunate to escape with only a yellow card for a horrible two-footed lunge on Giggs after the interval.

United extended their lead again with a devastating attack on 63 minutes. Ronaldo picked up the ball from Scholes and fed the overlapping Wes Brown, who pulled it back for Rooney to shoot low into the corner.

United took their foot off the pedal as the clock ran down, but Fulham were too shell-shocked to take advantage. — Internet

Minister Brig-Gen Then Zaw visits GSM and CDMA communication station. — COMMUNICATIONS

Five dead, three survivors at Lampedusa

ROME, 20 Aug — At least five persons were killed on 10 miles off the Italian island of Lampedusa and three were rescued, a coast guard official said.

The survivors were reportedly migrants from Senegal, the official said.

The migrant boat sank off Lampedusa when its engines failed and the wind increased. — Reuters

The official said survivors recounted that there were between 100 and 120 immigrants on board. But he cautioned that such counts were often inexact, so it was difficult to say how many were still missing and feared dead.

The boat, about 10 metres long, sank some 10 miles off the island of Lampedusa. One Navy ship was already following the immigrant boat and was able to start the rescue quickly. — MNA/Reuters
In this undated photo released on 18 Aug, 2006 by the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center, in Albuquerque, NM, a decorated needles are seen. Researchers at the University of New Mexico’s Health Sciences Center believe they have found a way to make patients less fearful of needles, decorate them with butterflies, flowers and smiley faces. — INTERNET

Scientist decodes air pollution in mountain glaciers

GUIYANG, 20 Aug — Air pollution caused by human activities has left its mark in the glaciers of the Tianshan Mountains in Xinjiang, at least 105 kilometres away from the hustle and bustle of Xinjiang’s regional capital, Urumqi.

Chinese scientists say they have found evidence of air pollution in the Tianshan Mountains in a 14-metre-long ice core formed between 1955 and 1998.

The peak of the Tianshan Mountains is 5,445 metres above sea level and a geological label of the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, which covers one sixth of Chinese territories. The Tianshan Mountains are also famous among tourists and climbers.

The ice core is located on the Heyuan-1 Glacier east of Urumqi in an area surrounded by deserts and previously believed to be free from human influence.

“We have analyzed its organic acid content, which we think is a result of air pollution and acid rain,” said Li Xinqing, a geochemist based in Guiyang, southwest China’s Guizhou Province.

The analysis of the acid content suggests that the air over Tianshan Mountain has been contaminated by pollutants from forest fires, vehicle emissions and industrial waste in Urumqi and its surrounding regions. — MNA/Xinhua

Zambian talent girl records first album in US

LUSAKA, 20 Aug — A 15-year-old Zambian girl recorded her first album recently in Atlanta, in the United States, Times of Zambia reported Saturday.

Unlike most upcoming young artistes who do covers by miming and lip-syncing to existing songs, Mwice Kavindele has the rare gift of writing, singing and producing her own music, according to the newspaper.

Her musical talent encompasses different music genres ranging from jazz, Hip-Hop, Rap, R&B, Neo Seoul to Acoustic and classical music.

She also plays a combination of musical instruments including the violin, piano, clarinet and the guitar. The multi-talented Mwice, who has spent part of her summer holiday in Atlanta, has trained in ballet, tap, and modern dance, and choreographs her own dance moves and that of her crew, the Laydee Mafia.

Although Mwice was born in England and has always lived there, she is very proud of her Zambian background and she lets the world know this fact in her Rap Intro, said the newspaper.

MNA/Xinhua

Landslide kills 8 in northern Vietnam

HANOI, 20 Aug — A landslide on Friday morning killed at least eight local people and injured seven others in Vietnam’s northern Cao Bang Province, Vietnam News Agency reported.

As of Friday afternoon, local rescuers found eight bodies, including three men. Most of the victims were freelancers and migrant workers.

Rescue work by relevant agencies are still actively on. The provincial People’s Committee has decided to offer 1.5 million Vietnamese dong (94.3 US dollars) to the family of each victim. — MNA/Xinhua

ADB to give $1b for Pakistan’s trade corridor

ISLAMABAD, 20 Aug — The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has agreed to provide one billion US dollars for Pakistan’s National Trade Corridor (NTC) project that would link Karachi to Gwadar and Khunjrab in Northern Areas, local newspaper Dawn reported on Saturday.

The World Bank and other lenders have already agreed to provide 1.8 billion dollars for the Karach-Gwadar-Khunjrab section, which is estimated to cost 2.8 billion dollars.

The overall cost of the NTC programme is estimated at six billion dollars. The programme envisages improving all sectors of communications, including ports, shipping, aviation, etc.

ADB’s team leader for NTC investment programme Sean O’Sullivan discussed the project with adviser to Prime Minister on finance Salman Shah and authorities of the National Highway Authority.

Shah said the highway would be made commercially viable by encouraging commercial and industrial activities and the revenue generated by these activities would contribute to the cost of the NTC project.

MNA/Xinhua
Chocolate bars with hallucinogenic effects found at Dutch airport

BRUSSELS, 19 Aug— Customs officers at Amsterdam’s Schiphol Airport have warned the public about bars of chocolate with hallucinogenic effects that are regularly found at the international airport, Dutch news agency ANP reported Thursday.

The police came across the chocolate on Thursday when a homeless person reported finding and eating a bar of it before becoming ill and suffering anxiety and hallucinations.

The Dutch Forensics Institute tested a similar bar to the one eaten and found it contained the hallucinogen psilocybin, an active ingredient in “magic mushrooms” Customs officials warned that the bars are found regularly at the airport. “We suspect that travellers have bought the bars elsewhere and then been too afraid to take them onboard their flight because there are drugs in them,” a Customs spokesman was quoted as saying.

The chocolate bars are about 10 centimetres long with a black/brown/gold wrapper with the words “NOIR de NOIR” and “72 per cent cacao” written in gold letters.

Estonia approves anti-terrorist programme

RIGA, 19 Aug— The Estonian Government approved on Thursday an anti-terrorist programme in a bid to tighten national security and protect its people, news reaching here from the Estonian capital Tallinn reported.

Estonian Interior Minister Kalle Laanet told reporters after the approval of the programme that anti-terrorism is not only a focal issue in the Estonian society, but also an important topic being discussed in international and domestic political relations. He said the main goal of the programme was to effectively prevent possible terrorist attacks in the future. So far, the Estonian Government has not found any signs of terrorist activities in the country, he added.

Libya deports over 2,200 illegal immigrants

TUNIS, 19 Aug— The Libyan security authorities announced on Thursday that they had captured and deported 2,258 illegal immigrants attempting to enter Europe through the North African country in the past 12 days, said reports reaching here from Tripoli.

Among the illegal immigrants, 1,101 were captured between August 1 and 11 August, and the other 1,157 were detained earlier. Libya has recently announced the establishment of a new border security service to stem the flow of illegal immigrants to Europe.

On 25 April, the International Organization for Migration set up a liaison office in Libya.

“NYT” reports probe suggests US Marines hid Haditha evidence

WASHINGTON, 19 Aug— A Pentagon investigation into the deaths of two dozen Iraqi civilians in Haditha has found possible concealment or destruction of evidence by US Marines involved in the case, The New York Times reported on Friday.

Two Defence Department officials briefed on the investigation said the unit’s logbook had been tampered with and an incriminating video taken by an aerial drone was not given to investigators until a top-ranking commander in Iraq intervened, the newspaper reported.

The findings, based on an investigation by Army Major-General Eldon Bargewell, draws no conclusions about who may have tampered with the log and does not directly accuse Marines of attempting a cover-up, The New York Times said.

It said the report, concluded last month but not made public, is the first time details about possible concealment or destruction of evidence have been disclosed.

The Pentagon had no immediate comment. US Marines have been accused of killing 24 unarmed Iraqis in Haditha in November 2005, one of a series of incidents in which US troops are suspected of killing Iraqi civilians.

Two investigations were initiated into the Haditha case — a murder inquiry and a probe into the Marines’ procedures following the killings. The Bargewell report was sent to the Naval Criminal Investigative Service, the Times report said. According to the newspaper, the report faults officers in the Second Marine Division for not aggressively investigating the Haditha killings.— MNA/Reuters

German police detain suspect in July bomb plot

BERLIN, 20 Aug — German police have taken into custody a suspect linked to last month’s failed plot to explode bombs on German trains, the federal prosecutor’s office said on Saturday.

“The person appears to be one of the two suspects that have been sought since yesterday with the help of video footage that was made public,” the office said in a statement.

Police seized the suspect at the main train station in the northern city of Kiel. Earlier, police had shut the station for five hours. They said the move was linked to the investigation into two bombs that were discovered in abandoned suitcases on trains in Dortmund and Koblenz last month.

Police said on Friday they were looking for two male suspects who were caught on video boarding the trains with the suitcases in Cologne. The footage of the two men was put on the Internet to help the manhunt.

Police have said the bombs may have been part of a plot designed to show anger over the Middle East crisis. The bombs were fitted with timers set to go off 10 minutes before the trains arrived in the two cities. The explosives had been ignited but failed to detonate.— MNA/Reuters

Armed policemen spray water to extinguish invisible fire in a virgin forest near the county seat of Bomi in Nyingchi Prefecture, southwest China’s Tibet Autonomous Region, on 19 August, 2006.—INTERNET

Lava cascades down the slope of Mount Mayon Volcano near Legazpi City, south of Manila, on 19 August, 2006.—INTERNET
China to allow foreign investment in vocational training

BEIJING, 19 Aug — China’s employment authorities have opened up the country’s vocational training to foreign investment so as to meet a growing demand for skilled workers.

A regulation, issued by the Ministry of Labour and Social Security, effective from 1 October, allows foreign education institutions to cooperate with Chinese counterparts.

“The Chinese institutions and programmes must not profit from the training activities,” said Wang Yadong, deputy director of the ministry’s Employment Training Department.

There are 330,000 job vacancies for skilled workers, such as millers and welders, each year in Beijing, but there was a dearth of qualified people, and the situation is the same all over the country, Wang said.

Chinese institutions with foreign cooperation must be able to train at least 200 people at one time, and the fixed assets and registered capital of the institutions must exceed 500,000 yuan (62,500 US dollars), according to the regulation.

While university graduates have been scrambling for jobs in recent years, the employment rate of secondary vocational school graduates remains high, statistics from the Ministry of Education show.

From 2001 to 2005, the employment rate was 95 per cent on average, and the average salary of graduates of secondary vocational schools was higher than college graduates this year in the cities of Harbin, Hangzhou and Chengdu.

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Holiday web scam snares thousands with fake sites

LONDON, 19 Aug — British travel agents warned holidaymakers on Friday to be careful about booking trips online after an Internet scam was uncovered that has left nearly 3,000 people out of pocket.

A number of fake holiday websites, thought to be operated by the same individuals, have been set up and then quickly closed once people have been conned into paying for non-existent holidays, the Association of British Travel Agents (ABTA) said.

“We understand there are six or seven website names that have been defrauding people,” said ABTA’s Dee Byrne. She said about 3,000 people have been hit by the con used by the websites which include — holidayforunder200pounds.com, sunmedresorts.com and holidays.com.

“Unfortunately many will have lost their money unless they paid by credit card, in which case they should be able to recover their losses,” she added.

The Metropolitan Police, the Fraud Squad and the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) are all investigating the scam which is thought to have netted hundreds of thousands of pounds.

Byrne said ABTA’s advice is to check its own website or that of other affiliated organizations like ATOL — (Air Travel Organizers’ Licensing) to make sure their holiday firm is bona fide.

“We are saying ‘just be careful about booking holidays over the Internet’. Obviously there are a lot of good companies that are perfectly OK, but people need to check,” she said.

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China to cut tariffs on imports from five Asian countries

BEIJING, 19 Aug — China will cut tariffs on more than 1,700 kinds of imported products from India and four other Asian nations beginning from 1 September as part of the tariff concession arrangement reached under the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement, the Chinese Ministry of Finance said on Thursday.

Chinese exports to the five nations, namely, India, South Korea, Laos, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, will also enjoy tariff concessions, the ministry said.

Products affected by the new arrangement include agricultural products, medicines, chemicals, textiles, metal products, mechanical and electrical products, motor vehicles and spare parts.

The new arrangement, reached during the third round of tariff concession negotiations among the six members of the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement, will help boost trade ties and regional cooperation, the ministry said.

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Sheffield Utd hold Liverpool to 1-1 draw

London, 20 Aug—Sheffield United marked their first top-flight appearance for 12 years by holding Liverpool to a 1-1 draw at Bramall Lane in the first match of the Premier League season on Saturday.

United stunned the 2005 European champions a minute into the second half with a Rob Hulse header and though Liverpool levelled with a controversial 70th minute Robbie Fowler penalty, the favourites failed to dominate.

United’s outspoken manager Neil Warnock wasted little time in unleashing the club’sicio

The season’s first match was delayed as United’s outspoken manager Neil Warnock was waiting to add to that record 18th title.

The official news agency Xinhua reported that produced 22 goals and three red cards, with champions Chelsea and Manchester United both still to play on Sunday.

Arsenal’s new era at the Emirates Stadium started with a 1-1 draw against Aston Villa, where Jack Wilshere finally made his debut and created the Londoners’ late equalizer.

Portsmouth thrashed Blackburn Rovers with nine men with 0-3 while Newcastle United beat Wigan Athletic 2-1.

Football fans had spent the summer itching to see their club, formed in 1871, playing at the top level for the first time but it appeared to be all going wrong after Stewart Downing and Ayegbeni Yakubu had Middlesbrough 2-up after 21 minutes.

Asafa Powell of Jamaica wins the men’s 100m race at the Zurich Golden League meeting in Switzerland on 18 August, 2006. —INTERNET

Chinese finish one-two in World Junior race walk

Beijing, 20 Aug—Hosts China’s Bo Xiangdong and Huang Zhengyu accomplished a one-two finish at the men’s 10,000-metre race walk of the IAAF World Junior Championships here on Saturday.

The Chinese duo, both making their debuts on the high level international competitions, clocked 42 minutes and 30.26 seconds, a disappointing result of distant 4:03.86 outside the world junior mark, and 43:13.29 to clinch the gold and silver medals respectively.

Suzuki Yusuke of Japan was beaten to the bronze medal finish with 43:45.62. —MNA/Xinhua

Answers to yesterday’s Crossword Puzzle

Asafa Powell of Jamaica celebrates winning the men’s 100m race at the Zurich Golden League meeting in Switzerland on 18 August, 2006. —INTERNET

Diego inspires second win for Werder Bremen

Berlin, 20 Aug—Brazilian midfielder Diego supplied the inspiration as Werder Bremen won 2-1 at home to Bayer Leverkusen in an enthralling Bundesliga clash on Saturday.

Leverkusen went ahead with a Paul Freier penalty before Diego took over, setting up Miroslav Klose for the equalizer in the 28th minute and then outpacing the defence and crossing to hand Hugo Almeida a simple winner 13 minutes from time. It was a second victory from two games for Werder, after Diego had struck one goal and set up another in their 4-2 victory over Hannover 96 on the opening weekend.

Bayern, double winners for the past two seasons, will seek to join them on maximum points from two matches when they play away at Bochum on Sunday.

Nuremberg, who won 1-0 at home to Borussia Moenchengladbach on Friday, are the only other team currently with two wins out of two. They lead the table on goal difference.

Werder and Leverkusen were two of the Bundesliga’s best sides over the second half of last season and they had both enjoyed excellent wins on the opening weekend of this campaign. Werder in particular have been tipped to push Bayern hard but it was the visitors who looked the more dangerous side for much of this game.

Their goal came after Werder’s Finnish defender Petri Pasanen had hopelessly mistimed a tackle on Stefan Kießling on a run into the area.

Kießling was a handful for the Werder defence throughout the game but he was guilty of several bad misses after bursting through into space.

The equalizer came from what seems set to be a regular source this season, as Diego set up Klose.

The Brazilian, signed from Porto for just six million euros (7.70 million US dollars) in the close season, swung over a free kick to the far post and Klose timed his jump to beat the defence and send a header past Joerg Butt. —MNA/Reuters

Holyfield makes winning comeback

Washington, 20 Aug—Former heavyweight world champion Evander Holyfield made a successful comeback with a second-round technical knockout of Jeremy Bates in Dallas on Friday.

Holyfield, 43, had been absent from the ring since a loss to Larry Donald in November 2004 that led to his licence being revoked by the State of New York on medical grounds.

Late in the second round, an overhand right Bates and a flurry by Holyfield pinned his opponent against the ropes. The fight was stopped at 2:56 of the round with Bates unable to withstand the barrage. —MNA/Xinhua

Reading kick off with 3-2 comeback win

London, 20 Aug—Reading enjoyed a memorable first taste of the top flight on Saturday as they came from 2-0 down at home to beat Middlesbrough 3-2 on the first day of the Premier League season.

That match was one of seven, and WestHam United beat Charlton Athletic by the same score.

Reading fans had spent the summer waiting to see their club, formed in 1871, playing at the top level for the first time but it appeared to be all going wrong after Stewart Downing and Ayegbeni Yakubu had Middlesbrough 2-up after 21 minutes.

However, two goals in two minutes by Dave Kitson and Steve Sidwell made it 2-2 at halftime and Leroy Lita, a halftime replacement for Kitson, won it for the new boys in the 55th minute. —MNA/Reuters

Juventus start season with Italian Cup win

Rome, 20 Aug—Underfire Juventus began the season with a 3-0 win over Third Division Martina Franca in the first round of the Italian Cup on Saturday.

Goals by Pavel Nedved and new signings Marco Marchionni and Valeri Bojinov gave the Turin giants a victory in their first competitive outing since they were relegated to the Second Division following a match-fixing trial.

In a twist of fate, the scene of their latest triumph was Bari’s San Nicola Stadium, the ground where they beat Reggina 2-0 in the final match of last season to win their 29th triumph was Bari’s San Nicola Stadium, the ground where they beat Reggina 2-0 in the final match of last season to win their 29th
Bluetongue disease found in Belgian farms

BRUSSELS, 20 Aug — The first cases of bluetongue disease have been discovered in Belgian farms bordering the Netherlands.

Several cases of the disease have been found in sheep and cattle in Limburg and Lierge provinces, both bordering the Netherlands, where the disease has already been found.

A transport ban is now in force for all sheep and cattle within a 20-kilometre radius around the affected farms, said VRT news.

“All farms within 150-kilometres of the affected farms are under heightened supervision, meaning that their animals are only allowed to be transported within this 150-kilometre radius.

Bluetongue is an insect-borne viral disease to which all species of ruminants are susceptible, although sheep are most severely affected.

However, cattle are the main mammalian reservoir of the virus and are very important in the epidemiology of the disease. It is characterized by changes to the mucous linings of the mouth and nose and the coronary band of the foot.

Humans cannot become infected by the bluetongue virus even if they eat meat from an infected animal.

The disease is mainly found in southern Europe.
Progress of Yeywa Hydel Power Project inspected

YANGON, 20 Aug — Twenty-eight members of Labutta Township National League for Democracy of Ayeyawady Division including U Khin Lin, Daw Hla Kyi, Daw Myint Sein, U Tun Lwin, U Tin Hlaing, U Ye Naung, Daw Khin Ohn Htay, U Myo Htoo, U Nyunt Wai, U Than Win and U Myat Thu resigned from the NLD of their own volition on 26 July, sending their resignation letters to NLD Headquarters and authorities concerned.

In the letters sent to Labutta Township Multi-party Democracy General Election Subcommission, they said they quit the NLD of their own accord as they lost interest and faith in the party and its leaders.

MNA

On completion, Yeywa Hydel Power Plant will generate 790 megawatts.

The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded (20-8-2006)

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MNA