Entrepreneurs are to do their gems business not only for their own interests but for posterity’s

Secretary-1 addresses meeting of leading committee for development of Myanmar gem industry

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Aug — A meeting of the leading committee for development of Myanmar gem industry took place at the Ministry of Mines here this evening with an address by Chairman of the leading committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

The meeting was also attended by leading committee member ministers, the chief justice, the attorney-general and officials of the SPDC office.

In his speech, the Secretary-1 said today’s meeting was the third in 2006. For systematic exploration of jade, gems and pearl, the State has issued laws and bylaws. The leading committee is responsible for supervising the trading of jade, gems and jewellery and pearl in accord with the prescribed laws. All can witness development of Myanmar gem industry and the increased foreign demand.

As a result, the State as well as private gem entrepreneurs have benefited a lot from it. The exploration of jade and gems requires not only a great deal of investment but also hard work. So, the leading committee, taking into account this factor, is granting permission to explore gem blocks, he said. At the same time, in accord with the guidance of Head of State, the Ministry of Mines and local authorities are to take measures to protect and conserve natural environment when exploring jade and gems. Those gems entrepreneurs are also urged to display and sell their gems and jewellery at the emporiums based on their production capacity so that they can make profits and cover investments. The Secretary-1 added as precious stones are the State’s resources, the entrepreneurs are to do their gems business not in view of their own interest but in view of their posterity’s interest. Later, he urged those present to take systematic measures for development of gem industry.

Afterwards, Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint reported on incomes generated from the gems industry in State and private sectors, annual sales of gems and jade at the emporiums, growing market of Myanmar jade and gems, joint venture tasks and exploration of jade and gem blocks.

Next, those present discussed the development of Myanmar gem industry.

Later, the Secretary-1 gave a concluding remark and gave necessary instructions.

Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint reports on Myanmar gem industry. — MNA

All can witness the development of Myanmar gem industry and the increased foreign demand. As a result, the State as well as private gem entrepreneurs have benefited a lot from it.
Work in concert for peace and stability

Peace and stability are the sine qua non for carrying out the national development endeavours. Therefore, the government of the Union of Myanmar has worked for national reconsolidation since its assumption of the State responsibilities. The more peaceful and stable the regions, the more developed they will become. And peace and stability will prevail for ever so long as the national brethren live in unity and amity.

As the government has been working for parallel development of all the regions across the Union, the social and economic status of the national people has become higher. For example, in Kayin State, more and more transport infrastructures are being constructed. As a result, people in this region can now easily travel to other regions such as Shan, Kayah and Mon States and Taninthayi and Bago Divisions.

For education development of the region, Hpa-an University, Government Technological College, Government Computer College and Education College have been opened and, at the same time, new basic education schools are being built. Thus, the youths in the region are now able to pursue higher education.

In Myainggyingu Special Region in Hlaingbwe Township, DKBA that has been grown in that region. If the cultivation of crops is extended, it will be able to always meet the food, clothing and shelter needs of the people.

For continued development of Kayin State, respective ministries are fulfilling all the requirements. Therefore, local people, on their part, are required to take an active and enthusiastic part in development work for their region. Only then will they be able to enjoy the fruits of peace and development.

60-day-long meditation camps begin on 6 Sept

YANGON, 21 Aug—Sandakumyaing Meditation Centre in Hmawby will organize the 6th 60-day Meditation Camp on 6 September at the centre. Moreover, 60-day long meditation camps will be organized at Sandakumyaing Meditation Centre’s branches — Myayzin Meditation Camp in Sagaing Division, Yankinayaeyin Meditation Camp in Patheingyi and Sandakumyaing Meditation Camps in Hmawby and Dawei. Those wishing to do meditation may contact Ph 511311. — MNA

U Wunna Maung Lwin appointed ambassador to Belgium

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Aug—The Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Wunna Maung Lwin as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to the Kingdom of Belgium. MNA

Commander inspects regional development tasks in Kyauktan, Thanlyin Townships

YANGON, 20 Aug—Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win inspected regional development work in Kyauktan and Thanlyin Townships yesterday morning. Next, the commander and wife attended a ceremony to submit permanent membership applications of Maternal and Child Welfare Association in Padagyi Village. Yangon Division MCW Supervisory Committee Chairperson Daw Mar Mar Wai presented 20 uniforms and accepted 732 applications.

The commander and wife, after attending the physical plant-growing ceremony, visited the rural health care centre in the village and donated medicines to pregnant women. They also visited the Padagyi primary school and Kyauktan home for the aged. On arrival at Shwepyithaya Village, the commander inspected the poultry farm and ginger plantations. At the office of Kyauktan Township MCWA, Daw Mar Mar Wai accepted 2,050 membership applications and held a cordial discussion with the local women.

Later, the commander and party attended the paddy harvesting ceremony in the plot of farmer U Soe Nyunt near Sitpinwinkin village in Thanlyin Township and presented fertilizers to farmers. He then left necessary instructions there. The township has cultivated 156,473 acres of paddy against the target of 156,306 acres.

UMFCCI’s executive leaves to attend ASEAN Trade Mission in India

YANGON, 21 Aug — Executive of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Zaw Zaw Naing, Joint-Secretary-1 of UMFCCI Dr Pwint Hsan, Director of Directorate of Myanmar Industrial Planning Daw Khin Thin Kyi of the Ministry of Industry-2, Manager of Myanmar Textile Industries Daw Ni Ni Win of the Ministry of Industry-1 for India by air this morning. The Myanmar delegation is to attend ASEAN Trade Mission for Business Linkages and Partnerships between ASEAN and India SMEs to be held in New Delhi, India from 22 to 25 August. — MNA

Myohaung-Pyinmana Road Section’s double railroad construction project inspected

YANGON, 21 Aug — Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation U Pe Than on 13 August inspected laying of sleepers and rails between mile post Nos 351/18 and 351/20 of Myohaung-Pyinmana Road Section. During his inspection tour, Deputy Minister U Pe Than also inspected construction of bridges on Myohaung-Pyinmana Railroad and called for stepping up efforts and timely completion of the work.

After meeting with officials concerned of the double railroad project of Myohaung-Pyinmana Railroad Section at Thazi Station the next day, U Pe Than inspected Yemethin, Tatkon and Hsinbyugyun stations.

Before his inspection tour, Deputy Minister U Pe Than met with officials and employees of the ministry and gave necessary instructions.

Members of Myanmar trade delegation seen at the airport prior to departure for India. — UMFCCI

Dr Than Win and Daw Aye Thida Win of No 59, Kanbawza Road, Golden Valley-1, Bahan Township donated K 200,000 to Hninzigon Administrative Board of the Home for the Aged recently. Chairman of Administrative Board of the Home for the Aged Lt-Col Kyaw Shein (Retd) accepts the donation. — MNA

* Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
* Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation
* Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
* Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy

UMFCCI
ASEAN senior officials wind up preparation for 38th AEM meeting

KUALA LUMPUR, 20 Aug—The senior economic officials preparatory meeting for the 38th ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM) gathering ended here on Saturday.

The preparatory meeting discussed proposals from member countries of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) on strengthening the economic integration of the grouping, said Ooi Say Chuan, deputy secretary-general of the Malaysian International and Trade Ministry.

ASEAN officials also have discussions on economic cooperation with the grouping’s dialogue partners, Chuan, who is the chair of the final day meeting, told reporters.

However, some sources said that hiccups did exist in the discussions during the preparatory meeting, especially in ASEAN’s talks on Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with its dialogue partners including New Zealand, Australia and India.

Australia insisted on including controversial issues like the government procurement, which ASEAN countries disagreed, into the proposed FTA with ASEAN.

Malaysia has openly said it disfavored the inclusion of the government procurement into the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand FTA as it accounts for a significant part of the country’s economy.

New Zealand also hoped to include the issues like labour protection into the pact. But both countries hoped to have such a pact on goods and services with ASEAN by March next year.

India Friday offered dramatic tariff concessions for more than 4,000 ASEAN products in a bid to break the ice on the so-called deadlock on its FTA negotiations with ASEAN.—MNA/Xinhua

FM says Germany seeks strong offshore role in Lebanon

BERLIN, 20 Aug—German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier said here Friday that Germany aimed to seek a “strong” offshore role in maintaining a ceasefire in Lebanon.

The country will send a hospital ship to the Middle East to treat injured Lebanese, while waiting for legal approval from the United Nations to dispatch ships to patrol sea lanes for arms smuggling, he told reporters.

“We foresee above all a contribution with a strong maritime component” to fulfil Germany’s plan to provide immediate humanitarian aid and military support when approved by the UN, the minister said after briefing lawmakers.

Chancellor Angela Merkel has rejected sending combat ground troops, insisting that soldiers and police serve only in advisory or logistic roles.

Germany has dropped earlier proposals to send federal police to help guard Lebanese border with Syria as police federation groups said their officers had neither the training nor the equipment for a military role.

A poll published Friday by ZDF Television indicated that 58 per cent of Germans oppose sending troops to Lebanon.—MNA/Xinhua

Russia bans poultry from Michigan

MOSCOW, 20 Aug—Russia has banned poultry and bird imports from the US state of Michigan where a bird flu virus was found in swans. Interfax news agency quoted Agriculture Minister Alexei Gordeyev as saying on Saturday.

The US Department of Agriculture said earlier this week that tests conducted in the state had found a strain of the bird flu virus in two wild swans.

But the birds had not contracted the deadly H5N1 strain that killed more than 135 people in Asia, Africa and Europe.

“We must make sure that this dangerous infection will not be brought into Russia along with poultry meat imports,” the agency quoted Gordeyev as saying.

Russia is a top consumer of US poultry, and Moscow and Washington signed a four-year deal last year under which the United States was allowed to ship 811,900 tons of poultry meat to Russia in 2005 out of a total quota of 1.09 million tons at a discount tariff.

The US poultry imports were to rise to 931,500 tons in 2009 under the deal.

MNA/Reuters

New Delhi to deploy anti-terror security force in subway

NEW DELHI, 20 Aug—The subway of Indian capital New Delhi will have a security force of over 1,600 men and women to prevent terrorist attacks, Indo-Asian News Service reported Saturday.

The Indian Home Ministry approved the proposal made by the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) earlier this month to found an exclusive security force in the subway after serial blasts rocked the commuting trains in Indian economic hub Mumbai on 11 July.

The new force will consist of 1,633 men and women who are trained to protect the rapidly expanding metro network from any possible terrorist attacks, the CISF source said. The CISF have started recruitment this month but the recruitment and training process will take at least a year and a half, the source said.

MNA/Xinhua

Dancers perform during the opening of the International Youth Dance Festival Celebrating the Joy of Nature held at Asia World-Expo of Hong Kong, south China, on 19 Aug, 2006.—INTERNET

Jockeys take part in a race along the beach during low tide in the southern Spanish town of San Lucar de Barrameda on 19 Aug, 2006 as part of a local tradition that has been taking place for over 100 years.—INTERNET

Soldiers of the Tibetan Border Police Corps take part in the climbing exercise during a military drill in southwest China’s Tibet Autonomous Region, on 20 Aug, 2006.

INTERNET

Russian Troops take part in operations near the border with Azerbaijan, 20 Aug, 2006

INTERNET

The US poultry imports were to rise to 931,500 tons in 2009 under the deal.

MNA/Reuters
**Malaysian economy expected to grow at 6.3% during 2006-2020**

**KUALA LUMPUR, 20 Aug** — The Malaysian economy is projected to grow at 6.3% during the 2006-2020 period, local authorities said Friday.

The projection is based on the anticipation that the world economy will grow at 6.3 per cent during the period (1996-2005), said the report released through the Ministry of International Trade and Industry here.

The private sector and government-linked companies are expected to take a lead role in generating new investment while the public sector will enhance the delivery system.

For the period 2006-2010, the economy is expected to grow at 6.0 per cent after registering moderate expansion at an average annual rate of 4.6 per cent during the Second Industrial Master Plan period (1996-2005), said the report.

“Subsequently, during the period of 2011-2020, the economy is targeted to register an average annual growth of 6.5 per cent,” it said.

MNA/Xinhua

---

**Vietnam flood toll rises to 42, one missing**

**HANOI, 21 Aug** — Floodings, landslides and lightning have killed 15 people and left one missing since Friday night in Vietnam, bringing the country’s toll in a week of torrential rain to 42, reports said on Sunday.

Thousands have been evacuated to higher ground as water levels in the northern province of Yen Bai on Saturday.

Lightning killed two people in Nghe An Province and two more on the outskirts of capital Hanoi while five were swept away in flash flooding.

MNA/Reuters

---

**Two more bird flu outbreaks hit ducks in Cambodia**

**PHNOM PENH, 20 Aug** — Bird flu outbreaks have hit two districts in eastern Cambodia, killing thousands of ducks, after a man smuggled infected birds to the region bordering Vietnam, officials said here.

Two people were admitted to local hospital suspected of having contracted the virus, Ku Chanthan, a veterinary official in the province told Reuters. He said the results of tests on the two would be released in coming days.

Last week the H5N1 virus was confirmed in more than 1,300 ducks that died in Prey Veng Province, 70 kilometres (45 miles) southeast of the capital Phnom Penh.

The owner of the ducks smuggled surviving poultry to the eastern province of Kampong Cham where a bird flu outbreak killed nearly 2,000 ducks this week, Ku Chanthan said.

MNA/Reuters

---

**President says nuclear power is Iran’s right and “no one will stop us” developing the country**

**LONDON, 20 Aug** — President Ahmadinejad insists that nuclear power is Iran’s right and “no one will stop us” developing the country.

In an interview with Britain’s Guardian newspaper, he said a United Nations resolution insisting on the suspension of its nuclear activities was US-inspired and would fail.

“They are trying to deny our right to develop nuclear power. But no one can impose anything on the Iranian people. They will not succeed,” he said while on a campaign tour of the north of his country.

“Our main task is to develop and build the Iranian nation. No one will stop us.” — MNA/Reuters

---

**Japan to dispose wartime chemical weapons in China’s Jilin**

**TOKYO, 20 Aug** — The Japanese Cabinet said Friday it will begin collecting and disposing of abandoned wartime chemical weapons in China, in accordance with the Chemical Weapons Convention in 1997. Two years later, they signed a memorandum, in which Japan admitted that it had abandoned a large amount of chemical weapons in China at the end of World War II.

Chinese official statistics show that Japan abandoned at least two million tons of chemical weapons at about 40 sites in 15 Chinese provinces at the end of World War II, most of them in the three northeast provinces of Heilongjiang, Jilin and Liaoning.

In the past nine years, China and Japan have worked together to investigate, excavate, retrieve and pack the dumped weapons. So far, 37,499 chemical weapons and 200 tons of contaminated items have been collected, but none have been destroyed.

More than 2,000 Chinese have fallen victim to Japan’s abandoned chemical weapons, killed by leading toxic gas while working at construction sites or on other occasions, according to China’s Foreign Ministry.

China and Japan joined the United Nations Chemical Weapons Convention in 1997. Two years later, they signed a memorandum, in which Japan admitted that it had abandoned a large amount of chemical weapons in China at the end of World War II.

MNA/Xinhua

---

**The Orange Baron team takes flight at Flugtag in Vancouver, British Columbia on 19 Aug, 2006. The first Flugtag which in German means “flying day” took place in Austria in 1991. The flying machines must be human-powered with no stored or external energy sources. The machines must also be constructed completely by human muscle power and be no more than 30 feet wide and 450 pounds in weight, including the pilot. — INTERNET**
NASA starts delicate job changing bolts on Atlantis

CAPE CANAVERAL (Florida), 20 Aug — NASA workers carried out a space shuttle repair job on Saturday to replace faulty bolts on the US space shuttle Atlantis a week before its scheduled launch.

Technicians set up work platforms to reach into the forward portion of the shuttle’s 60-foot-long (18-metre-long) payload bay as Atlantis stood upright on its launchpad. Atlantis is due to blast into orbit on August 27 on the first shuttle mission aimed at resuming construction of the 100-billion-US-dollar International Space Station since the 2003 Columbia disaster. Two-shuttle missions carried out since the Columbia accident have tested safety upgrades.

NASA decided to swap two of the four bolts holding Atlantis’ main communications antenna in place because they were found to be dangerously short, and liable to pop out during liftoff with potentially catastrophic results.

The mistake was made 25 years ago when Atlantis was built and the spacecraft has safely flown 26 times.

The repair itself is tricky. A sole technician, lying on his or her side on a narrow gangplank attached to a work platform, will replace the suspect bolts. Access is difficult because of the shuttle’s vertical position. — MNA/Reuters

Canadian gallery returns painting looted by Nazis

TORONTO, 20 Aug — A 20th-Century French oil painting by Edouard Vuillard, looted by the Nazis during World War II, will be returned to the family of its original owner, the National Gallery of Canada said on Friday.

This is the first time a work stolen by the Nazis has been identified and returned to its rightful owners by the Ottawa gallery.

“We are proud of the fact that we brought it up first and that the right result has been achieved,” said Chief Curator David Franklin.

The National Gallery first tried to return the painting in 1997 to the family of Alfred Lindon, a French businessman of Jewish descent who died in 1948, after a curator discovered it had been stolen by the Nazis in France.

At the time, the family had no record of having owned the 1904 oil painting and refused its return. In 2003, the gallery received definitive proof of its ownership and Denis Lindon, another family member, began proceedings to reclaim the work on behalf of a group of heirs. The 1904 post-impressionist painting, reworked by the artist in 1934, depicts a domestic interior. — MNA/Reuters

World Bank to launch largest bond issue in Romania

BUCHAREST, 20 Aug — The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, a World Bank division, will launch a bond issue worth 3250 billion lei (190.9 million US dollars).

The bonds are the first supranational foreign currency issue with a maximum “AAA” rating in Romania placed in conformity with the local legislation and settling systems, according to a Friday Press release of ABN Amro Bank, which is to arrange the issue together with broker company Intercapital Invest.

The bonds have a three-year maturity and carry an interest rate of 6.5 per cent, payable every 6 months. The World Bank holds the top rating “AAA” from Standard & Poor’s and “Aaa” from Moody’s Investors Service.

Director of the ABN Amro Bank Romania Financial Markets Depart- ment Martin Bakehah said the issue will be “a rare opportunity for local investors to make a safe long-term placement”, taking into account especially the interest rates offered by bond issues with a maturity on the markets in the region and the short-term outlooks of interest rates.

“This public offer is the largest on the Romanian market so far. The issue is a positive signal the WB sends the Romanian financial environment, the government and the capital market in particular,” Intercapital Invest President Razvan Pasol said. — MNA/Xinhua

US soldier died in combat in Iraq’s Anbar

BAGHDAD, 21 Aug — A US soldier died “due to enemy action” on Saturday in Iraq’s western province of Anbar, the US military said in a statement. The soldier “died from wounds sustained due to enemy action” while operating in Anbar Province, the statement said, adding the soldier came from the 1st Brigade, 1st Armoured Division.

The death brings the number of American soldiers that died this month in Iraq to 28, most were killed in Anbar, which is believed to be a stronghold of the Sunni Arab insurgency.

At least 2,605 US military personnel have been killed in Iraq since the start of the US-led war in March 2003, according to media count. — MNA/Xinhua

British police make arrests over holiday Internet scams

LONDON, 20 Aug — British police arrested a man and woman in London on Saturday as part of a wide-ranging investigation into holiday website fraud that has left nearly 3,000 people out of pocket.

The woman in her thirties, and the man in his 60s, were detained at separate addresses in London and are being questioned by fraud squad officers, the Metropolitan Police said.

The fake websites, sunnedresorts.com, unbeatableholidays.com, holidaydaysforunder200-pounds.com, holidaydeals.com and holidaydeyz.com were all used in the con.

The fraud worked by enticing people to buy non-existent holidays and then disappearing with the cash. — MNA/Reuters

Eastern Malaysia reports 50 new HFMD cases

KUALA LUMPUR, 20 Aug — Sarawak state in eastern Malaysia has detected 50 new cases of the Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease (HFMD) in the last 24 hours, an official said Friday.

Among the new cases reported until 10 am local time (0200 GMT) Friday, 14 children have been hospitalized. State Deputy Chief Minister George Chan said in Kuching, the state capital.

And 19 new cases were detected in Kuching, 14 in Miri, nine in Sibu, four in Bintulu and the rest in other places of the state, Chan said at a Press conference.

The latest figure brought the total number of children infected since the disease broke out early this year to 13,740, said Chan, who is also chairman of the state’s Disaster Relief Management Committee. Throughout the state, Sibu recorded the highest number with 3,016 cases, followed by Miri (2,852), Kuching (2,105), Bintulu (1,756) and Sarakei (945). — MNA/Xinhua

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Tuesday, 22 August, 2006 5
France urges clear mandate for UN force in Lebanon

PARIS, 20 Aug—French President Jacques Chirac on Saturday stressed the need for a clearer mandate for an enlarged United Nations peacekeeping force in Lebanon in talks with leaders from several countries, his office said.

His diplomatic offensive, partly to explain Paris' decision to send only 200 additional troops to bolster the existing UN force, came the same day around 50 French peacekeepers arrived in south Lebanon. More were due to leave France on Sunday.

Chirac spoke by telephone with Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi, Prime Minister Matti Vanhanen of Finland, which holds the rotating presidency of the European Union, and Turkey's Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan.

The President “insisted on the vital need for balance in the composition of the force, which should reflect the commitment of the whole international community and, in particular, of European countries”, Chirac's office said in a statement.

In a conversation later on Saturday with UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, the two men agreed on the importance of deploying without delay the first elements of this force, as France has started doing”, his office added.

Chirac told Annan the support for the deployment of the Lebanese Armed Forces was essential for the success of the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1701. The resolution called for a truce and a peacekeeping force to help the Lebanese Army supervise the pullout of Israeli troops from southern Lebanon.

NNA/Reuters

Brazil arrests six in crackdown on tax evasion scam

RIO DE JANEIRO, 20 Aug—Brazil's Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and Federal Police launched an operation on Friday in the northern state of Roraima to crack down on a gang allegedly evading taxes up to 190 million reais (88.8 million US dollars).

Federal agents arrested six suspects, including Evandro Moreira, president of Roraima's water and sewage company, who is also the brother-in-law of Roraima State Governor Ottomar Pinto.

They also seized computers, documents, cars and an airplane, following 16 apprehension orders from local courts.

Thirty IRS inspectors and 90 federal agents were involved in the raid on the gang which is also charged with money laundering and other financial crimes.

The IRS found out that members of the gang had bank accounts in the United States assuming the names of foreign companies. They allegedly used the accounts to hold illegal transactions and prevented any connection between them and the financial amounts in the US banks.

IRS auctioneer Roney Freire also suspected a possible linkage between this scheme and two others uncovered in Roraima in 2003 and 2004.

MNA/Xinhua

Airline employee accuses Bollywood star of abuse

MUMBAI, 20 Aug—An employee of state-run Air-India has complained to police that a Bollywood actress attracted the money laundering and other financial crimes.

A police complaint has been lodged by the employee.

Patel’s friend was later upgraded to first class even though she was not entitled to it and the two boarded the flight, the Times of India daily said.

Patel could not be reached for comment.

She told the Times of India that she was shocked to hear about the complaint and that it had been done by the airline staff to save themselves.

“In fact, we were planning to file a complaint against them for rude behaviour,” she was quoted as saying.

MNA/Reuters

Nepali Govt to table labour bill to regulate foreign employment

KATHMANDU, 20 Aug—The Nepali Government will introduce a labour bill in current session of the Parliament to regulate the sector of foreign employment.

The Himalayan Times reported on Saturday.

The newspaper quoted Nepali Minister of State for Labour and Transport Ramesh Lekhak as saying that under the bill, the present structure of the department of labour will be changed and a foreign employment board will be constituted to deal with issues relating to foreign employment.

Number of Nepali people going abroad for employment has increased by about 29 per cent, averaging 487 people leaving Nepal each day in search for greener pastures in the foreign land, the report said.

Fresh statistics released here by the Department of Labour and Employment Promotion on Thursday said a total of 177,576 workers left Nepal to various labour importing countries across the world during the fiscal year 2005-06, which ended on 15 July.

MNA/Xinhua

Taliban frees 15 kidnapped health workers in S Afghanistan

KABUL, 20 Aug—Taliban militants have set free 15 health workers shortly after abducting them at gunpoint in the southern Kandahar Province of Afghanistan, local newspaper Outlook reported Saturday.

The militants snatched the Coastier vehicle on Thursday, which was carrying the 15 medical staff, but released the hostages on the same day just after their identity was made clear, the newspaper quoted Abdul Hayee Razmal, deputy director of the provincial Health Bureau, as saying.

One freed health worker, Ali Ahmad, had told details to journalists in Kandahar.

The vehicle was on its way to a clinic in Ziai District when it was intercepted by some armed Taliban militants, Ahmad said.

“They later freed us after realizing all of us are health workers.”

MNA/Xinhua

Spanish bullfighter Enrique Ponce performs a pass during a bullfight in the southern Spanish town of Malaga on 19 Aug, 2006.—INTERNET
**Indonesia eyes more bio-fuel sale in 2007**

Jakarta, 21 Aug — Indonesia’s state-owned oil/gas company Pertamina has projected the volume of bio-fuel sale in the country at 6.6 million kiloliters next year.

State electricity company PLN is expected to become the biggest consumer of bio-fuel by absorbing 2.1 million kiloliters of this alternative energy source next year, Antara news agency on Sunday quoted Achmad Faizal, marketing director of the company, as saying.

The industrial sector, believed to be the second biggest bio-fuel consumer in Indonesia, is expected to use 1.65 million kiloliters of bio-diesel and 850,000 kiloliters of bio-premium.

The Indonesian Government has begun implementing a bio-fuel development programme in 2006, and in this connection, Pertamina introduced its bio-diesel under a brand name of “Biosolar” on the market on 20 May, 2006, and bio-ethanol under a brand name of “Biopremium” on 12 August.

Pertamina has projected the sale of bio-fuel at 1.1 million kiloliters up to the end of 2006, comprising 400,000 kiloliters of industrial bio-diesel, 350,000 kiloliters of bio-diesel for power generators, 330,000 kiloliters of automotive bio-diesel and 20,000 kiloliters of automotive bio-ethanol.

— MNA/Xinhua

**Belgian electricity giant sells power site to German company**

Brussels, 21 Aug — Belgium’s electricity giant Electrabel has sold a site of proposed power station to the German company EON Kraftwerke,VRT news reported Saturday.

The sold site is in Beringen, Limburg Province in northeastern Belgium.

Electrabel was ordered last year by the federal government to sell any land that could be used to build new power stations to other companies interested in supplying power to homes and businesses in Belgium.

The idea was to break the near-monopoly that Electrabel enjoys on the Belgian electricity production market.

Electrabel currently supplies some 90 per cent of all the electricity produced in Belgium.

The company will have to sell enough land to enable its competitors to build power stations capable of producing 1,500 mega-watts of electricity.

The government has threatened to fine Electrabel, if it fails to comply.

— MNA/Xinhua

**Afghanistan destroys over 100,000 acres of poppy fields**

Kabul, 21 Aug — Afghan Government has destroyed more than 100,000 acres of poppy-cultivated lands over the past five months, Interior Minister Zarar Ahmad Muqbal said Sunday.

“The government has smashed 101,614 acres of poppy fields since the beginning of Afghanistan’s new year, the year of 1385, over the past five months,” Muqbal told a seminar, which opened on Sunday, of the country’s provincial governors and police chiefs here.

In the two-day conference, strengthening security, good governance and war on illegal drug would be discussed.

Afghan Administration, he also added, had destroyed nearly 70 tons of narcotics since the start of 1385 falling on 21 March. Two hundred and ninety three drug smugglers have also been arrested during the period, he added.

The post-Taleban Afghanistan, with an output of 4,100 tons of opium poppy in 2005, became the single largest supplier of the raw material used in manufacturing heroin in the world.

— MNA/Xinhua

**China has more large industrial enterprises**

Beijing, 21 Aug — The number of large industrial enterprises in China increased by 233 last year to 2,387, reported the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) on Saturday.

Although they made up only 0.9 per cent of the country’s total number of companies, the large industrial enterprises made up more than 40 per cent of all the sales revenues and profits in 2005.

Still more than half of the large industrial enterprises are state-owned or of collective ownership but the proportion is decreasing. The number of companies owned by overseas investors reached 627.

X The number of large industrial enterprises are located in east China. Tibet is the only region without any, said the NBS.

— MNA/Xinhua

**A farmer shows Amazonian snails in a village near the Guilin City, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region on 20 August, 2006. —INTERNET**

**PK Police crushes telephone deception cases**

Hong Kong, 21 Aug — Hong Kong police crushed a series of telephone deception cases and arrested three suspects this week, said the police on Saturday.

The police said they arrested two men and a woman aged 43—49, suspected to be involved in telephone deception cases preying on elderly people in the city.

A number of mobile phones, prepaid SIM cards and bank deposit slips were seized during the operation.

The suspects first rejoled the elderly into believing that their family members were in financial troubles by using untraceable mobile phone numbers. The victims are then persuaded to deposit large sums of money into the bank accounts owned by members of crime syndicate.

After successfully identified and arrested a 43-year-old man who is believed to have master-minded the deception syndicate on 17 August, the police arrested two other suspects on Friday and Saturday.

It is believed that the syndicate has been involved in a number of deception cases since May this year and the losses by the victims exceed 1 million HK dollars (130,000 US dollars).

— MNA/Xinhua

**Panama cargo ship rescued in China Sea**

Shanghai, 21 Aug — Chinese salvagers rescued a Panama flag cargo vessel that was on the verge of capsizing on Friday night in seawaters off the mouth of the Yangtze River, saving all seven sailors on board.

The ship, carrying 500 tons of stainless steel, was en route from Taccang Port in east China’s Jiangsu Province to Pohanghang Port in the Republic of Korea when it lurched and water began to pour into the cabin at 9:00 pm.

The East China Sea Salvage Bureau of the Chinese Ministry of Communications sent four rescue ships to the site after receiving an SOS call.

By 1:55 am on Saturday, all seven sailors had been rescued and taken on board a patrol ship from the Shanghai Maritime Bureau. The bureau said it was windy at sea as tropical storm Wukong, which has been downgraded from a typhoon, is approaching.

The central meteorological station said Wukong was located at Kyushu, the southernmost island of the major islands of Japan, at 8:00 am on Saturday, packing winds at 18 metres per second.

— MNA/Xinhua
Mandalay Division to put one million acres under …

(con’t from page 16)

contribute towards boosting production of crops and greening of the region. In 1988-89 there were only 2.89 million irrigated acres and now there are over 7.3 million acres.

He said the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation is undertaking the tasks for earning more income of farmers and uplifting their socio-economic life. Paddy production for 2005-2006 is over 1,300 million baskets of paddy.

A local thanked the government for implementation of the dam projects. The commander and the minister greeted those present at the inauguration ceremony.

Altogether 188 dams and sluice gates benefited 2.6 million acres of farmlands and 297 river water pumping stations contribute towards boosting production of crops and greening of the region. In 1988-89 there were only 2.89 million irrigated acres and now there are over 7.3 million acres.

Maldivian health delegation arrives

YANGON, 24 Aug—A ceremony to welcome the Maldivian health delegation that will attend the school health upgrading course jointly organized by Ministry of Health and World Health Organization was took place at Health Department on Thimbhu Road here this morning.

It was attended by Deputy Director-General Dr San Shwe Win of Health Department, Director (Management) Dr Than Oo and others.

The Deputy Director-General extended greetings. The study group later observed the booth on health aid equipment displayed. The relevant experts explained the school health upgrading tasks in Myanmar. The study group will also visit No 1 BEHS in Dagon, No 8 BEPS in Thanganyin, No 3 BEPS and No 6 BEPS in Taikkyi, No 1 BEHS and No 2 BEMS in Bago and observe the school health upgrading tasks of the schools.—MNA

At the auspicious time, the commander formally unveiled the stone plaque of the dam and the minister and officials sprinkled scented water on it.

The commander and the minister formally opened the dam and they inspected the main dam, conduit pipe and spillways. Director U Myo Tun of Construction-7 of Irrigation Department reported on the project and inflow of water.

The commander and the minister met departmental officials.

The catchment area of the Ngathayauk earth dam is 54 square miles and annual inflow of water is 11,880 acre feet. The dam is 7,550 feet long and 64 feet high and water storage capacity is 7,000 acre feet and it can irrigate 2,000 acres of farmlands.

Also present were Chairman of Magway Division Peace and Development Council Col Phone Maw Shwe, local authorities, departmental personnel, social organizations and local people.—MNA

Over 49,100 students receive free medical care

YANGON, 21 Aug—A medical team comprising doctors and dentists provided free medical care for students of 54 schools in Hinethaya Township from 11 July to yesterday. Over 49,100 students received free medical care. The medical team comprised 25 doctors of Myanmar Medical Association, two dentists and volunteers.

Hlinethaya Township’s health department, MMA and World Vision, a social organization, organized the school health programme.—MNA
Performing Arts competitions launched in Yangon

Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win delivers an address at opening of Yangon Division’s 14th basic education level performing arts competitions. — MNA

YANGON, 20 Aug — Yangon Division’s 14th Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions (Basic Education Level) took place at No-6 Basic Education High School in Botataung Township yesterday.

Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win delivered an opening address and artistees entertained the audience with songs and dances.

Patron of Organizing Committee for the Competitions Director U Ye Lwin Aung of No-3 Basic Education Department formally opened the 14th Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions.

Next, the Commander and wife Daw Mar Mar Wai presented flower baskets to artistees. MNA

USDA CEC member inspects regional development in Ingapu Township

YANGON, 21 Aug— Central Executive Committee Member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association (USDA) Mr Maj-Gen Thein Swe is inspecting the regional development of Ingapu Township, Myanmar.

On 20 August, the USDA CEC member presented a token of US$300 to the President of Laygyi village for their efforts in supporting religious rituals.

Next, he met with local people at Laygyi Village and expressed satisfaction over their knowledge and religious beliefs.

Then, he inspected a cargo ship and left necessary instructions.

On arrival at Ingapu Township, he inspected the construction of a new building for the hospital.

On 20 August, the USDA CEC member attended the 14th Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions, where the CEC member presented K 1 million for three schools that were the best in the pass rate, K 10 million for the trust fund of the hospital and K 10 million for trust fund of the Township USDA.

MNA

Transport Minister Maj-Gen Thein Swe inspects a cargo ship.

FORESTRY

Forestry Minister Brig-Gen Thein Aung delivers an address at opening of Basic Education High School (Branch) in Ingapu Township. — FORESTRY

Arthur Assistant General Manager U Nyunt reports on running of vessels and earning of income in 2006-07 financial year presented by Assistant General Manager U Shein Yaw at Commodities Transport Division of Inland Water Transport, here, yesterday afternoon.

After giving necessary instructions, the minister inspected allotment of shops onboard Mya Ayeya market ship berthed at Botataung Jetty.

At the head office of IWT, Managing Director U Soe Tint and heads of divisions reported on functions of IWT, repair of vessels and building of new vessels and barges.

MNA

Objectives of the 14th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions

— To vitalise 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 spiritual character of the youths

Functions of IWT, running of cargo vessels inspected

YANGON, 20 Aug — Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe heard reports on running of vessels, transportation of cargo barges, monthly use of fuel and earning of income in 2006-07 financial year presented by Assistant General Manager U Nyunt Aung.

Later, the minister inspected Waipulla and Widura cargo ships and left necessary instructions. MNA
Desks, clothing, cash assistance donated to BEPSs in Hlinethaya

**Yangon, 21 Aug** — With the purpose of enhancing development of education, Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation donated desks, clothing and cash assistance towards Basic Education Primary Schools in Hlinethaya Township, Yangon North District this morning.

First, Head of Administrative Department Dr Daw Khin Hsan Nwe briefed on participation in the tasks of education. Next, Vice-President of MWAF Daw Khin Thet Htay presented 15 sets of desks to No 3 BEPS, 50 sets of desks to No 29 BEPS and 35 set of desks to No 41 BEPS through schoolheads concerned. At the same time, Yangon Division WAO’s Patron Daw Mar Wai donated K 100,000 each to the schools.

Afterwards, Head of Administrative Department Dr Daw Khin Hsan Nwe, U Shein Win of Tettan Construction, head of working group of disciplinary concerns Daw Mya Theingi, head of working group of finance Daw Aye Aye, leader of working group of social and cultural Daw Daw Sanda Aung and member of the federation Daw Khin Mi Mi donated clothing to students.

Next, Joint-Secretary of Yangon City Development Committee U Aung Than Win donated sanitary equipment to the townships education officer and Myatlayyon family to ten dozens of exercise books and ten dozens of pencils each to No 3, No 29 and No 41 BEPS through respective schoolheads.

After the ceremony, Vice-President Daw Khin Thet Htay and party viewed the students learning their lessons and gave encouragement to them. Sanitation tasks were carried out in the No 3, No 29 and No 41 BEPSs and their environs.

**MNA**

MWAF holds educative talks At Hlinethaya BEHS-1

**Yangon, 21 Aug** — Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation organized educative talks at No-1 Basic Education High School in Hlinethaya Township, Yangon North District today. It was attended by Vice-President of MWAF Daw Khin That Htay, heads of working groups, patron of Yangon Division Women’s Affairs Organization Daw Mar Wai, chairpersons of division, district and township WAOs, executives and members of WAO, headmasters and headmistresses, teachers and responsible persons.

MWAF Vice-President Daw Khin That Htay explained the objectives and activities of the Federation. Next, Head of Administrative Department Dr Daw Khin Hsan Nwe gave talks on school sanitation and Associated Director of Supreme Court Daw Thein Thein Nyunt discussed human trafficking.

After the talks, Vice-President of MWAF Daw Khin That Htay accepted 1,544 membership applications from headmistresses of No-1BEHS, No-2BEHS, No-3BEHS in Hlinethaya Township. — **MNA**

IAI Training Course opens

**Yangon, 21 Aug** — Under Initiative for ASEAN Integration - IAI Work Plan Project, IAI Training Course: Competitive Strategies for ASEAN Countries Attraction Foreign Direct Investment was opened at Traders Hotel, here, this morning.

Director-General U Hla Kyi of Civil Service Selection and Training Department made an opening speech on the occasion.

Deputy Director-General U Wai Myint, Ms Chandrara Edhiytas Sjamsudin, Technical Officer (Project) of IAI Unit, officials of International Trade Institute of Singapore (ITIS), instructors and trainees were present.

The course will run until 23 August. And arrangements are being made to open the next six courses this year.

**MNA**
Northeast India to produce electricity from bamboo

NEW DELHI, 21 Aug — A bamboo-fuelled eco-friendly power station is to come up in Mizoram to help meet the energy needs of India’s northeast, according to Indo-Asian New Service Sunday.

The power station will be set up in a village at an estimated cost of $28.5 million rupees ($0.62 million US dollars).

“This cost-effective project has been conceived by the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, along with the Anukar Scientific Energy Technologies, a private enterprise,” said Benjamin L. Thumte, project coordinator of the Zoram Energy Development Agency (ZEDA).

Bamboo would be first harvested and then dried before it is processed for feedstock to produce gas, which would be used to generate electricity.

An estimated 9,000 square-kilometre area is under bamboo cultivation in Mizoram. The area produces annually 3.2 million tons of bamboo, which has never been tapped to generate electricity.

India, the world’s largest producer of bamboo after China, grows about 80 million tons each year, more than half of it in the northeast.

China’s 220 state-owned manufacturing Cos among top 500

BEIJING, 21 Aug — Two hundred and twenty of the top 500 manufacturing companies in China are state-owned, said the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) on Saturday.

More than 75 percent of the top 500 are located in east China, with the highest number in Jiangsu Province.

Five of the top ten manufacturing companies are in the steel sector and two in the automobile sector. Legend Holdings Ltd. and Haier Group Corporation are two electronic companies in the top ten list and their annual sales revenues last year both topped 100 billion yuan.

The other three companies with sales revenues of over 100 billion yuan last year are Baosteel, China First Automobile Group and Dongfeng Motor Co., Ltd.

The 500 companies are selected according to their sales revenues in 2005, NBS said. (1 US dollar=7.97 yuan).

China sets up Govt think tank for environmental policies

BEIJING, 21 Aug — China has set up two advisory committees to assist the central government in creating effective policies on environmental protection issues.

Eighty-six environmental protection experts were selected as members of the think tank named the State Environmental Protection Administration (SEPA), said Zhou Shengxian, head of the SEPA, in an interview with Xinhua.

“China is facing a great deal of environment challenges and this is a time when democracy in policy making is vital,” said Zhou. “And the era of SEPA monopolizing the decision making process is set to end.”

Among the advisors are 30 academicians with the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the Chinese Academy of Engineering, and some retired SEPA officials.

“SEPA will listen to the committees for all major decisions in the future,” said Zhou. “No policies should be made without research, expert assessment and debates.”

100 kilos of narcotics seized in New Delhi

NEW DELHI, 21 Aug — In one of the biggest narcotics hauls in India’s capital, New Delhi Police on Sunday recovered 100 kilos of narcotics worth 1 billion rupees (21.5 million US dollars) and arrested four people, including a non-resident Indian from Canada, Indo-Asian News Service reported Sunday.

Police said the men were arrested near the Indira Gandhi International Airport after a raid. Three of the men belonged to Punjab, a state of India.

In the past 19 months, over 180 foreign nationals have been arrested in the capital on charges of possession and peddling in narcotics.

Venezuela opens LatAm’s biggest child cardiology hospital

CARACAS, 21 Aug — Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez on Sunday opened Latin America’s largest child heart hospital, with a ceremony that was broadcast during his Sunday radio and television show.

The Gilberto Rodriguez Ochoa Child Cardiology Hospital is named after the Chavez Administration’s first health minister, a dermatologist who died in a road accident on 10 March, 2002.

Chavez said he was pleased that Venezuela would now have facilities to treat heart diseases and cardiopathy — a birth defect that could be corrected with an operation. Congenital heart problems affect two out of every 1,000 live births in Venezuela.

He also said that the centre would be able to perform some 80,000 out-patient consultations a year and plan to take care of patients from across Latin America in the future.

The 50,000-square-metre medical centre has four operating theatres, 142 ordinary beds, 33 intensive care beds, a unit for intensive neo-natal care, a pharmacy and a laboratory. It will be able to perform around 1,500 operations annually.

Building the heart centre cost $231 billion bolivars ($107 million US dollars) and equipping it cost $50 billion bolivars ($23.2 million dollars).

Four local women enjoy their leisure time in Khiam in southern Lebanon on 18 August, 2006. — INTERNET

China opens LatAm’s biggest child cardiology hospital

CARACAS, 21 Aug — Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez on Sunday opened Latin America’s largest child heart hospital, with a ceremony that was broadcast during his Sunday radio and television show.

The Gilberto Rodriguez Ochoa Child Cardiology Hospital is named after the Chavez Administration’s first health minister, a dermatologist who died in a road accident on 10 March, 2002.

Chavez said he was pleased that Venezuela would now have facilities to treat heart diseases and cardiopathy — a birth defect that could be corrected with an operation. Congenital heart problems affect two out of every 1,000 live births in Venezuela.

He also said that the centre would be able to perform some 80,000 out-patient consultations a year and plan to take care of patients from across Latin America in the future.

The 50,000-square-metre medical centre has four operating theatres, 142 ordinary beds, 33 intensive care beds, a unit for intensive neo-natal care, a pharmacy and a laboratory. It will be able to perform around 1,500 operations annually.

Building the heart centre cost $231 billion bolivars ($107 million US dollars) and equipping it cost $50 billion bolivars ($23.2 million dollars). — INTERNET

Nomadic Somali children sit beside a cart loaded with their family belongings in Middle Shabelle Region on 20 August, 2006, as people fled areas close to the swelling Shabelle river, northeast of Mogadishu, fearing floods which have already affected neighbouring Ethiopia. — INTERNET
Annan says painful choices needed on Mideast prisoners

UNITED NATIONS, 20 Aug—UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan urged Israel and Lebanon to make “painful compromises” to secure the release of abducted Israeli soldiers and settle the issue of Lebanese prisoners in Israel.

The issue that set off the war between Israel and Hizbollah guerillas needed to be rectified, Annan said in a status report to the UN Security Council late on Friday.

Central Africa rebel leader goes on trial

BANGUI, 20 Aug—A court in Central African Republic jailed a rebel leader for life on Friday for a series of attacks he said were aimed at destabilizing the government of President Francois Bozize.

Jean-Jacques Larmassoum said when his trial opened on Wednesday that he had directed attacks on military targets, not civilians.

Uganda-LRA talks resume in south Sudan

JUBA (Sudan), 20 Aug—Talks between Ugandan officials and rebel Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) resumed in south Sudan on Friday, after several delays postponed negotiations to the end of Africa’s longest war.

South Sudan’s regional government is trying to broker an end to the war, which has claimed tens of thousands and displaced nearly two million people.

The delegations greeted each other before meeting behind closed doors in a hotel in south Sudan’s capital, Juba, a Reuters witness said.

“Today has marked the end of mourning of our slain commander killed by the Ugandan forces in coldblood,” LRA spokesman Omony Olwony told Reuters.

“We have come back for negotiations and we are also ready for face-to-face interaction with the Ugandan Government,” Olwony added.

French peacekeepers patrol the Houla village in south Lebanon on 19 August, 2006.—INTERNET

Pakistan says peace talks with India should continue

ISLAMABAD, 20 Aug—Stressing the Pakistan-India peace process should remain on track, a Pakistani minister on Friday reiterated Pakistan’s commitment to normalization of bilateral relations through negotiated settlement of all outstanding issues, the state-run APP news agency reported.

The peace process between Pakistan and India should remain on track as it is vital for the region and the interests of both countries, Pakistani Information and Broadcasting Minister Mohammad Ali Durrani told newsmen in Rawalpindi, the twin city of Pakistani capital Islamabad.

“We loudly say and it is our announced agenda that we want peace with India,” he said, adding that Pakistan had taken steps to demonstrate its “sincerity,” quoted by APP.

India and the international community should persuade New Delhi to continue the peace process with sincerity and vigour, according to the report.

After the July 11 Mumbai train blasts which killed about 180, India put off the foreign secretaries’ meeting originally scheduled for July 20, and the ongoing peace process between the two countries, initiated in 2004, came to a standstill.

French peacekeepers patrol the Houla village in south Lebanon on 19 August, 2006.—INTERNET

Strong earthquake jolts South Pole

Tokyo, 21 Aug—An earthquake measuring 7.2 on the Richter scale shook the South Pole on Sunday noon, the Japan Meteorological Agency said. The quake occurred at around 12:41 am Tokyo Time (0341 GMT). Its epicenter is at 61.0 degrees Southern Latitude and 34.5 degrees Western Longitude, according to the agency—MNA/Xinhua

50 French troops arrive in Lebanon to beef up peacekeeping mission

BEIRUT, 20 Aug—About 50 French soldiers arrived in Lebanon on Saturday as the first reinforcement for an enlarged UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) tasked with overseeing the ceasefire in the Israel-Hizbollah conflict.

France is the first country to deploy additional troops in the region, with 200 more troops expected to arrive next week, said Bertrand Bonneau, a spokesman for the French contingent.

An amphibious assault ship carrying 150 additional French troops and some 100 vehicles were scheduled to reach Beirut or Naqoura on Thursday to join the UN peacekeeping force, according to Colonel Christophe Isac, head of the 13th engineering corps. On Friday, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan urged member states to send troops without delay to reinforce the UNIFIL. The UN wants 3,500 troops on the ground by August 28.

So far, Italy, Turkey and Finland have declared readiness to send soldiers while asking for more details on the precise mandate of the force.

Under a UN-brokered ceasefire which took effect on Monday, 15,000 UN troops are expected to help the same number of Lebanese troops deployed in south Lebanon take control of the area.

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua
**Thunderstorm kills 60 cattle in N Nigeria**

LAGOS, 21 Aug— A thunderstorm at Gidan-waya in Jema’a Local Government Area in Nigeria’s northern state of Kaduna killed 60 head of cattle, the official News Agency of Nigeria reported on Saturday.

Bello Ahmadu, a nomad who owns the 59 cows and one ram, was quoted as saying that the incident occurred on Thursday following a downpour which left the herdsmen with only three surviving cows.

The nomad appealed for assistance from the government and other spirited individuals.

Commenting on the incident after visiting the scene on Friday, Chairman of the Jema’a Local Government Abraham Jatau described it as unfortunate.

Jatau, who was accompanied by his counterparts from some other local government areas, promised to render assistance to the victim to cushion the effect of the disaster.

He also assured that a comprehensive report with Xinhua that an increase in value of 3 to 4 per cent per year is appropriate.

US manufacturers argue the yuan is undervalued by as much as 40 per cent, making Chinese goods cheaper in the United States and American products more expensive in China and hurting the US job market.

In July last year, the government revalued the yuan by 2 per cent against the US dollar and abandoned its peg to the dollar in favour of a restricted float against a group of foreign currencies.

The yuan has since risen by 3.7 per cent against the US dollar.

**China archaeologists find animals buried alive alongside man**

WUHAN, 21 Aug— Chinese archaeologists have unearthed skeletons of six animals from a tomb that dates back 1,700 years, which they believe shows that animals used to be buried alive to keep human beings company in the grave.

A cat, a dog, a pig, a sheep, a buffalo and a deer were excavated from a tomb in the Three Gorges Reservoir area of central China’s Hubei Province.

“We can tell from the skeleton that the cat was a domestic one,” said Wu Xianzhu, an archaeologist with Yibin Museum.

“It was an adult cat and its skeleton remains intact.”

He said further research is going on to identify the owner of the tomb and to find out whether the other five animals were his pets or of the incident would be made to the State Emergency Management Agency and encouraged the victim to take fresh heart.

**Two dead, many injured in Hungary storm**

BUDAPEST, 21 Aug — A fierce storm hit the Hungarian capital, Budapest, on Sunday, killing two people and injuring many others as crowds celebrated Hungary’s national day, emergency services said.

A sudden rainstorm and lightning struck the city as hundreds of thousands gathered to watch a fireworks display to mark St Stephen’s Day, forcing many to flee bridges over the Danube River and the riverside, witnesses said.

One person was missing and several people had to be rescued from the river after two river boats collided on the Danube, news agency MTI reported, quoting emergency officials.

“Two people died between Margaret Bridge and the Chain Bridge as a tree fell on them,” an emergency services spokesman said. The two bridges are in the centre of Budapest.

There were also reports of many injuries, but the spokesman was unable to provide any exact figures.

MTI also reported that some people were injured in Buda Castle where the roof of the presidential Sandor Palace was damaged.

**Three more boatloads of migrants reach Canaries**

MADRID, 21 Aug — Three more boatloads of illegal African migrants landed on Spain’s Canary Islands on Sunday, taking the total in three days to more than 1,000, the islands’ emergency services said.

Reception centres have been swamped and the government has to fly the migrants to mainland Spain while it tries to negotiate their repatriation.

Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero said his interior minister would travel on Monday to Senegal. Many of the migrants now come via Senegal, as stricter border controls in Mauritania and Morocco have pushed the traffickers further south.

The deputy prime minister is likely to visit Finland in the next few days to appeal to the current EU presidency for help, Zapatero said at a rally in the Canaries late on Saturday.
**SPORTS**

**Hingis reaches final in rainy Montreal**

**MONTREAL, 21 AUG.—** Former world number one Martina Hingis reached the final of the injury-hit Montreal Cup when Russian Anna Chakvetadze was forced to retire in the second set on Saturday.

Hingis won the first set 6-3 and was leading 3-1 in the second when the unseeded Chakvetadze pulled out with an arm injury.

The seventh-seeded Swiss next faces ninth-seeded Russian Dinara Safina or number 13 Ana Ivanovic of Serbia & Montenegro, whose semifinal was suspended by rain.

Ivanovic was leading 6-1, 3-4 when the rain started. The players briefly returned to the court when it stopped, but just before play was to resume the rain started falling again. The match will be completed on Sunday morning before the final.

"You don't want to win a match like this," Hingis told reporters. "I just hope she gets better before the US Open (which starts on August 28)."

Chakvetadze was the seventh player to withdraw or fail to complete a match in the tournament.

Boosing was heard in the crowd at Uniprix Stadium after the 19-year-old told the umpire she could not continue.—MNA/Reuters

---

**Chelsea beat Manchester City 3-0 in Premiership**

**LONDON, 21 AUG.—** Chelsea kicked off their campaign to win a third successive Premiership title with an easy 3-0 win over 10-man Manchester City at home on Sunday.

The visitors were chasing the game from the 11th minute after John Terry headed in Arjen Robben's free-kick, and Chelsea doubled their lead on 26 minutes when Nicky Weaver was powerless to stop Frank Lampard's deflected shot.

City's miserable day was compounded just past the hour when Bernado Corradi was sent off and Didier Drogba added a third goal with a superb diving header.

Corradi's second booking was for a wild lunge at Michael Essien and the Italian was not the only City player to display a lack of discipline.

Chelsea had a host of players missing, including new signing Michael Ballack, but manager Jose Mourinho was still able to name 10 internationals in his team.

One of those internationals was Andry Shevchenko, who — on his league debut for Chelsea — showed some deft touches.

But Shevchenko was unable to find the net and it was left to Drogba to show the Ukraine forward how to put the ball in the net when he flung himself at Wayne Bridge's cross to head past Weaver.

Chelsea's almost total control of the game stemmed from a couple of first-half goals, provided by two of their England internationals. — MNA/Xinhua

---

**Chinese women lead in World Military Pentathlon C’ship**

**VIENNA NEW CITY, 21 AUG.—** China's Tian Linna and Tain Jing on Saturday respectively captured the first place in the events of women's obstacle running and shooting in the 53rd World Championship Military Pentathlon in Vienna New City.

Tian Linna, the world record holder of women's 500 metres obstacle running, clocked a fastest time of 2 minutes and 16.7 seconds, while Tian Jing, who is making her World Championship debut, finished second in women's shooting with 195 points.

After the first two days' action, Tian Linna retains the overall individual lead with a total of 2,247.1 points, and the Chinese women top the team event with 6,556.3 points, followed by Russia and Norway.

Their male counterparts were in fifth place in the men's category after the shooting event.

---

**Bayern edge out Bochum for second win**

**BERLIN, 21 Aug.—** Roy Makaay and Philipp Lahm earned below-par Bayern Munich a 2-1 win at promoted Bochum on Sunday, giving the Bundesliga champions a share of the early lead with a maximum six points from two matches.

Makaay put the champions ahead two minutes before the break but Bochum equalized in the 52nd minute when Brazilian Fabio Junior slipped the ball past Oliver Kahn from 10 metres.

The goal swung Bayern into their best football of the game and Lahm drilled in the winner from the left side of the area with 25 minutes to go.

The result saw Bayern join Nuremberg and Werder Bremen as the only sides with six points from two games.

Nuremberg beat Borussia Moenchengladbach 1-0 on Friday and lead the league on goal difference. Werder Bremen, runners-up behind Bayern last season, won 2-1 at home to Bayer Leverkusen on Saturday.

In Sunday's other game, VfB Stuttgart won 3-2 at Arminia Bielefeld despite finishing the game with nine men.

Cucat got the winner with a right-foot screamer in the 82nd minute, his second goal of a frantic game.

Bayern coach Felix Magath left Owen Hargreaves out of his starting lineup at the end of a week in which the club told him in no uncertain terms he would not be allowed to join Manchester United.

Bayern's play suffered as a result of the in-form midfielder's absence and they only threatened occasion­ally in the first half.

They took the lead with their one attack of real quality, when Hasan Salihhamidzic made himself space and slid a perfectly judged pass through the defence for Makaay to slot in. — MNA/Reuters

---

**Classy Barca crush Espanyol to win Super Cup**

**BARCELONA, 21 AUG.—** Spanish and European champions Barcelona claimed their first silverware of the season with a high-class 3-0 win over city rivals Espanyol in the second leg of the Super Cup on Sunday. A neat header from Xavi and a spectacular double from Portuguese international Deco gave Frank Rijkaard's side a 4-0 aggregate victory over the King's Cup winners.

Barca, who also won the Super Cup last season, have now won the trophy seven times, the same total as arch-rivals Real Madrid. They will have the chance to add another trophy to their collection when they play UEFA Cup winners Sevilla in the final of the European Super Cup in Monaco on Friday.

"It was the perfect way to start the season," Deco told reporters after the game. "It was great to score four goals and win without having to suffer too much."

The first leg was marred by controversy over the participation of Barca duo Carles Puyol and Xavi just three days after they had withdrawn from Spain's friendly with Iceland because of injury, with Espanyol claiming their inclusion had breached FIFA rules.

But there was little Espanyol could do to stop Barca on the pitch and with Ronaldinho and Xavi pulling the strings in midfield the home side were in scintillating form in the opening 20 minutes.

They opened the scoring after three minutes when Xavi sent a glancing header spinning into the top corner after Ronaldinho had dinked the ball across the area after bamboozling Espanyol fullback Sergio Sanchez with a mesmerizing step-over. — MNA/Reuters

---

**BEIJING, 21 Aug.—** China's Liu Hong survived a yellow-card warning to claim the women's 10,000m race walk title at the IAAF World Junior Championships here on Saturday.

The 19-year-old clocked a personal best time of 45 minutes and 12.84 seconds under scorching conditions, and despite, compatriot Chai Xue finished sixth in 48.09.51. — MNA/Xinhua

---

**BEIJING, 21 Aug.—** China's Tian Linna reaches final

---

**MNA/Reuters**

---

**Sunday morning before the final.**

---

**MNA/Xinhua**

---

**MNA/Reuters**

---

**MNA/Xinhua**
Ten immigrants die, many missing in Sicily sinking

ROME, 21 Aug — At least 10 people died and as many as 40 were feared missing when a small boat packed with illegal immigrants sank off Sicily on Saturday, prompting Italy to call for greater cooperation to fight human trafficking.

What happened today is not only a tragedy but nothing less than a crime,” Amato said in a statement. Interior Minister Giuliano Amato, said. Lampedusa Island is the southern island of Lampedusa.

Coast Guard officials said 70 people had been rescued and 10 bodies, including four women, had been recovered.

Survivors reported there had been up to 120 immigrants on board. Such estimates could be incorrect so it was difficult to estimate how many were missing, officials said. Lampedusa between Sicily and Libya has become a gateway for illegal immigrants and refugees who leave North Africa in an attempt to enter the European Union.

Police later identified five men among the survivors they suspected were part of a gang that organized the voyage. Icons were believed to be Libyan, police said.

MNA/Reuters

Dr Vum Ko Hau
(Ambassador retired)

It’s exactly one month that you left us.

My deepest sympathies go to your wife Daw Tina and your children. We miss you very much and we think of you every day. We have happy memories of our times together.

Rest in peace!

Ko Myat Min
22 August, 2006

(IVY Gallery)

22 August, 2006          (IVY Gallery)
NAY PYI TAW, 21 Aug — Ngathayauk Dam was put into service in Bagan-NyaungU Township, NyaungU District, Mandalay Division, yesterday morning.

Speaking on the occasion, Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw said that Ngathayauk Dam was built in accord with the Head of State’s guidance to solve the water scarcity problem of Bagan-NyaungU region where people were not able to cultivate crops effectively and faced water shortages in summer despite the region’s location on the Ayeyawady River bank. It is the 188th dam of the nation and 48th of Mandalay Division. The 48 dams irrigate 723,188 acres of land to grow crops at any season in the division.

Ngathayauk Dam in NyaungU Township. — MNA

Ngathayauk Dam was built in accord with the Head of State’s guidance to solve the water scarcity problem of Bagan-NyaungU region where people were not able to cultivate crops effectively and faced water shortages in summer despite the region’s location on the Ayeyawady River bank. It is the 188th dam of the nation and 48th of Mandalay Division. The 48 dams irrigate 723,188 acres of land to grow crops at any season in the division.

Mandalay Division to put one million acres under monsoon paddy

Ngathayauk Dam commissioned into service in Bagan-NyaungU

The 48 dams irrigate 723,188 acres of land to grow crops at any season in the division.

In accord with the objective — Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other economic sectors as well — the division has planned to extend monsoon paddy sown acreage to reach one million acres within three years beginning 2004-2005. It grew over 840,000 acres of the monsoon crops in 2005-2006. Arrangements are underway to meet the target in 2006-2007. Up to now the division has put 723,238 acres under monsoon paddy for this year. Thanks to the dam, the target will be surely realized. The facility is also a pride for the division. Dams are helping fulfil the social needs of the people and generate power.

Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo said that the dam and river water pumping stations will help green Bagan-NyaungU region and supply water. Projects on availability of water for agricultural purposes are being implemented under the guidance of Senior General Than Shwe. Local people can enjoy benefits of irrigated farmlands. Altogether 188 dams and sluice gates benefited 2.6 million acres of farmlands and 297 river pumping stations (See page 8)

Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo delivers an address at opening ceremony of Ngathayauk Dam. — MNA

In Myainggyingu Special Region in Hlaingbwe Township, DKBA that has returned to the legal fold is now working together with the government for regional development. Rubber, corn, sugar cane and beans and pulses in addition to paddy are being grown in that region. If the cultivation of crops is extended, it will be able to always meet the food, clothing and shelter needs of the people.