Although Tatmadaw allows for recruiting members according to their own wishes, they can enter Tatmadaw only when they follow prescribed rules and regulations.

Secretary-1 addresses fifth meeting of Committee for Prevention Against Recruitment of Minors for Military Service.

Arrangements have been made for enabling those UN agencies to frequently meet newly recruited members at the units. It has been known to all that although the Tatmadaw allows for recruiting members according to their own wishes, they can enter the Tatmadaw only when they follow the prescribed rules and regulations.

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

Wednesday, 23 August, 2006

Build more dams for agriculture and greening of environment

The government has built dams and river water pumping stations in the Bagan-NyaungU region in central Myanmar. Therefore, cultivated acreage has increased and there has been sufficient supply of drinking water in the region.

There are now 188 dams and sluice gates and 293 river water pumping stations all over the nation and the last dam built in NyaungU Township in Mandalay Division was inaugurated on 20 August.

Measures for sufficient supply of water contribute a lot to cultivation of crops and greening of the dry zones. There were more than two million acres of irrigated farmland all over the nation in 1988 and the number has now stood at seven million.

Before the opening of the Ngathayauk dam, only 1,000 acres were put under monsoon groundnut at the beginning of the rainy season and again under sesamum in the middle of the rainy season. Now green gram can be grown as the first crop on 2,000 acres of farmland and then monsoon paddy on 50 acres and groundnut on 1,950 acres as the second crop.

If the dam can supply more water, the cultivated acreage and the income of farmers will increase, thus raising their social, economic and health standards.

As the government has built a large number of dams and sluice gates across the nation, acreage of irrigated farmland has increased and outbreaks of floods can be prevented in some areas. If the local farmers extend the cultivation of paddy and other crops suitable to the climatic and soil conditions, it is certain that the target yield for each crop will be fully met.

Coord meeting of Myanmar Fruits and Vegetables Producers Association held

YANGON, 21 Aug—A coordination meeting of Myanmar Fruits and Vegetables Producers Association was held in conjunction with the first meeting of Central Executive Committee at Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry today with an address by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win.

Next, President of UMFCCI U Win Myint and Chairman of MFVPA U Win Aung reported on objectives of the association and its functions, sales of export and import. Afterwards, Joint-Secretary of MFVPA Tin Maung Than reported on global fruits and vegetables production and market while those present gave supplementary reports. Next, the commander made a concluding remark and the ceremony came to a close and the meeting continued at 3.30 pm today.—MNA

USDA membership applications submitted

YANGON, 22 Aug—CEC Member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association In-Charge of Yangon Division USDA Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin delivered an address at the ceremony to submit USDA membership applications held at the University of Dental Medicine (Yangon) in Thingangyun Township, Yangon East District, this afternoon.

The CEC member presented two sets of computer and documents on water pipelines linking Gyobyu water pipe for the university to Rector Professor Dr Ba Myint.

He accepted 540 membership applications of the faculty members and students.

After the ceremony, the mayor viewed the medical treatment given to out-patients.

Natogyi Township USDA holds Annual General Meeting 2006

YANGON, 22 Aug—Natogyi Township’s Union Solidarity and Development Association organized its Annual General Meeting 2006 at the city hall of the Township, on 18 August.

USDA CEC member Deputy Minister for Transport Col Nyan Tun Aung presided over the meeting that was participated by Secretary U Aung Zan of Myingyan District USDA, members of the township peace and development council, departmental officials, secretary and executives of the township USDA and others.

The meeting passed four resolutions, made two approvals and put two matters on record.

The deputy minister awarded outstanding members of the association who passed the matriculation examination for 2005-2006 Academic Year with distinctions.

Next, Deputy Minister Col Nyan Tun Aung donated K 500,000 each to Natogyi Township USDA and Women’s Affairs Organization and Maternal and Child Welfare Association.

After the meeting, the deputy minister went to Natogyi People’s Hospital and met the Medical Superintendent and staff. The deputy minister viewed round the hospital and comforted the patients. The deputy minister also donated K 150,000 for medical funds to the hospital.
ASEAN looks for 2015 single market

KUALA LUMPUR, 21 Aug — Southeast Asian ministers hope to fast-track plans to create a European-style single market by 2015 in talks in Malaysia this week, as the region struggles to strengthen its economic muscle to counter competition from rising giants China and India.

During a five-day meeting starting Monday, ministers from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, or ASEAN, also plan to sign a pact to facilitate trade and investment with the United States — a step short of a free trade agreement but a move toward liberalization.

The ASEAN ministers will meet counterparts from China, Japan, South Korea, India, Australia and New Zealand to narrow differences in free trade negotiations, and seek especially to revive stalled talks with India.

The 39-year-old bloc has begun liberalizing trade in goods since 1993. It aims to fuse into a single market and production base by 2020 to allow free flow of goods as well as services and investment across the region.

However, some members want the ASEAN Economic Community, or AEC, to be realized by 2015 to ensure the region stays competitive. The AEC does not include a single currency system.

“There is a political will to create the AEC by 2015, instead of 2020,” ASEAN Secretary-General Ong Keng Yong told The Associated Press.

“Competition is fierce now. More and more attractive investment locations are coming up, not only in China and India but elsewhere in the world,” he said. “If we want to be in the marathon race, we cannot stop too long and say time out, we need a massage on our feeble legs. We’ve got to keep on pushing.”

Barriers in ASEAN to the flow of goods and services and restrictive business practices still hinder growth in the region, which has a market of more than 530 million people, but accounts for only 6 percent of world exports, officials said.

The bloc groups Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, the Philippines, Indonesia, Brunei, Vietnam, Myanmar, Laos and Cambodia.

Japanese army killed by Palestinian gunman in West Bank

JERUSALEM, 21 Aug — An Israeli soldier was shot dead by a Palestinian gunman in the West Bank on Saturday, the Israeli Army said.

The soldier, who has not been named, was killed in the volatile Helmand Province at about noon local time on Saturday, the Israeli Army said.
SE Asian health ministers meet in Dhaka on regional cooperation

DHAKA , 21 Aug — Health ministers of 11 Southeast Asian countries began a two-day meeting here Sunday over ways to enhance cooperation to develop health care services in the region.

Bangladeshi Prime Minister Khaleda Zia inaugurated the meeting of the health ministers with a call for stronger and more enduring cooperation in the region to make healthcare available to all without delay.

“We must find ways to make more efficient use of whatever resources we have for our health sector. Development partners and technical support agencies have a vital role to play in this regard,” Zia told the health ministers.

The ministers will discuss several issues of common interest including revised strategy for malaria control in the region, global fund to fight AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria pandemic, influenza preparedness and response, recovery activities in countries affected by the earthquake and tsunami and regional commitment on strengthening public health workforce in the countries.

They will work out a Dhaka Declaration containing present health concerns of Southeast Asian Region.

The health ministers’ meeting will be followed by the 56th session of the regional committee for the region from 22-25 August.

World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Director Dr Samlee Plianbangchang will present a report on the work of WHO in the Southeast Asian Region in the last year.

Cargo-handling volume at Malaysian ports forecast to jump threefold

KUALA LUMPUR, 21 Aug — Cargo-handling volume at local ports which totalled about 205 million tonnes in 2005, is forecast to increase by threefold in line with the expansion of the international trade and the Malaysian economy.

According to the Third Industrial Master Plan (IMPS: 2006-2020), ports in the country can expect to handle about 751 million tonnes as exports and 354 million tonnes as imports at the end of the plan period.

The IMPS, developed by the Ministry of International Trade and Industry, expects the volume of containers handled by ports to expand from 12 million TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent units) in 2005 to 36 million TEUs at the end of the plan period.

A large component of the increase is expected to be contributed by the increased handling of transshipment containers that is expected to rise from 7.1 million TEUs in 2005 to 21 million TEUs in 2020.

The IMPS noted that on account that more than 90 per cent of the country’s trade is seaborne, ports have an important role to play in enhancing the competitiveness of the economy and fostering vital links to the global markets.

Closer to home, in a move aimed at enhancing the international logistics links to Sabah and Sarawak, the IMPS proposed that the federal port of Bintulu, Sarawak, be designated as a regional load centre.

Fire triggers blasts at Ukraine arms depot, four hurt

KIEV, 21 Aug — A large fire broke out at an arms depot in southern Ukraine for the second time in three years on Saturday, triggering explosions, injuring four people and prompting the evacuation of nearby residents, officials said.

The Emergency Ministry said the blaze started in the mid-afternoon in an area storing shells due to be taken out of commission.

Explosions in rapid succession continued hours later into the night, hurling shells up to 300 metres (yards) through the air.

A Defence Ministry spokesman said four people, including two servicemen, were injured. Medical brigades were being dispatched to the site in Zaporizhya region.

“Explosions are occurring now at the rate of two to three per minute,” Deputy Prime Minister Andrei Klyuev told Interfax Ukraine news agency.

MNA/Reuters

Photo taken on 20 August, 2006 shows the full sight of Potala Palace in Lhasa, capital of southwest China’s Tibet Autonomous Region. The maintenance project of the Potala Palace, started from June in 2002 at a cost of 180 million yuan (US$22.5 million), is expected to be fully completed in 2007.— XINHUA

Cargo-handling volume at Malaysian ports forecast to jump threefold

KUALA LUMPUR, 21 Aug — Cargo-handling volume at local ports which totalled about 205 million tonnes in 2005, is forecast to increase by threefold in line with the expansion of the international trade and the Malaysian economy.

According to the Third Industrial Master Plan (IMPS: 2006-2020), ports in the country can expect to handle about 751 million tonnes as exports and 354 million tonnes as imports at the end of the plan period.

The IMPS, developed by the Ministry of International Trade and Industry, expects the volume of containers handled by ports to expand from 12 million TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent units) in 2005 to 36 million TEUs at the end of the plan period.

A large component of the increase is expected to be contributed by the increased handling of transshipment containers that is expected to rise from 7.1 million TEUs in 2005 to 21 million TEUs in 2020.

The IMPS noted that on account that more than 90 per cent of the country’s trade is seaborne, ports have an important role to play in enhancing the competitiveness of the economy and fostering vital links to the global markets.

Closer to home, in a move aimed at enhancing the international logistics links to Sabah and Sarawak, the IMPS proposed that the federal port of Bintulu, Sarawak, be designated as a regional load centre.

Fire triggers blasts at Ukraine arms depot, four hurt

KIEV, 21 Aug — A large fire broke out at an arms depot in southern Ukraine for the second time in three years on Saturday, triggering explosions, injuring four people and prompting the evacuation of nearby residents, officials said.

The Emergency Ministry said the blaze started in the mid-afternoon in an area storing shells due to be taken out of commission.

Explosions in rapid succession continued hours later into the night, hurling shells up to 300 metres (yards) through the air.

A Defence Ministry spokesman said four people, including two servicemen, were injured. Medical brigades were being dispatched to the site in Zaporizhya region.

“Explosions are occurring now at the rate of two to three per minute,” Deputy Prime Minister Andrei Klyuev told Interfax Ukraine news agency.

MNA/Reuters

Photo taken on 20 August, 2006 shows the full sight of Potala Palace in Lhasa, capital of southwest China’s Tibet Autonomous Region. The maintenance project of the Potala Palace, started from June in 2002 at a cost of 180 million yuan (US$22.5 million), is expected to be fully completed in 2007.— XINHUA

Cargo-handling volume at Malaysian ports forecast to jump threefold

KUALA LUMPUR, 21 Aug — Cargo-handling volume at local ports which totalled about 205 million tonnes in 2005, is forecast to increase by threefold in line with the expansion of the international trade and the Malaysian economy.

According to the Third Industrial Master Plan (IMPS: 2006-2020), ports in the country can expect to handle about 751 million tonnes as exports and 354 million tonnes as imports at the end of the plan period.

The IMPS, developed by the Ministry of International Trade and Industry, expects the volume of containers handled by ports to expand from 12 million TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent units) in 2005 to 36 million TEUs at the end of the plan period.

A large component of the increase is expected to be contributed by the increased handling of transshipment containers that is expected to rise from 7.1 million TEUs in 2005 to 21 million TEUs in 2020.

The IMPS noted that on account that more than 90 per cent of the country’s trade is seaborne, ports have an important role to play in enhancing the competitiveness of the economy and fostering vital links to the global markets.

Closer to home, in a move aimed at enhancing the international logistics links to Sabah and Sarawak, the IMPS proposed that the federal port of Bintulu, Sarawak, be designated as a regional load centre.

Fire triggers blasts at Ukraine arms depot, four hurt

KIEV, 21 Aug — A large fire broke out at an arms depot in southern Ukraine for the second time in three years on Saturday, triggering explosions, injuring four people and prompting the evacuation of nearby residents, officials said.

The Emergency Ministry said the blaze started in the mid-afternoon in an area storing shells due to be taken out of commission.

Explosions in rapid succession continued hours later into the night, hurling shells up to 300 metres (yards) through the air.

A Defence Ministry spokesman said four people, including two servicemen, were injured. Medical brigades were being dispatched to the site in Zaporizhya region.

“Explosions are occurring now at the rate of two to three per minute,” Deputy Prime Minister Andrei Klyuev told Interfax Ukraine news agency.

MNA/Reuters

Photo taken on 20 August, 2006 shows the full sight of Potala Palace in Lhasa, capital of southwest China’s Tibet Autonomous Region. The maintenance project of the Potala Palace, started from June in 2002 at a cost of 180 million yuan (US$22.5 million), is expected to be fully completed in 2007.— XINHUA

Cargo-handling volume at Malaysian ports forecast to jump threefold

KUALA LUMPUR, 21 Aug — Cargo-handling volume at local ports which totalled about 205 million tonnes in 2005, is forecast to increase by threefold in line with the expansion of the international trade and the Malaysian economy.

According to the Third Industrial Master Plan (IMPS: 2006-2020), ports in the country can expect to handle about 751 million tonnes as exports and 354 million tonnes as imports at the end of the plan period.

The IMPS, developed by the Ministry of International Trade and Industry, expects the volume of containers handled by ports to expand from 12 million TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent units) in 2005 to 36 million TEUs at the end of the plan period.

A large component of the increase is expected to be contributed by the increased handling of transshipment containers that is expected to rise from 7.1 million TEUs in 2005 to 21 million TEUs in 2020.

The IMPS noted that on account that more than 90 per cent of the country’s trade is seaborne, ports have an important role to play in enhancing the competitiveness of the economy and fostering vital links to the global markets.

Closer to home, in a move aimed at enhancing the international logistics links to Sabah and Sarawak, the IMPS proposed that the federal port of Bintulu, Sarawak, be designated as a regional load centre.

Fire triggers blasts at Ukraine arms depot, four hurt

KIEV, 21 Aug — A large fire broke out at an arms depot in southern Ukraine for the second time in three years on Saturday, triggering explosions, injuring four people and prompting the evacuation of nearby residents, officials said.

The Emergency Ministry said the blaze started in the mid-afternoon in an area storing shells due to be taken out of commission.

Explosions in rapid succession continued hours later into the night, hurling shells up to 300 metres (yards) through the air.

A Defence Ministry spokesman said four people, including two servicemen, were injured. Medical brigades were being dispatched to the site in Zaporizhya region.

“Explosions are occurring now at the rate of two to three per minute,” Deputy Prime Minister Andrei Klyuev told Interfax Ukraine news agency.

MNA/Reuters

Photo taken on 20 August, 2006 shows the full sight of Potala Palace in Lhasa, capital of southwest China’s Tibet Autonomous Region. The maintenance project of the Potala Palace, started from June in 2002 at a cost of 180 million yuan (US$22.5 million), is expected to be fully completed in 2007.— XINHUA
**US facing wave of murders, gun violence**

ROXBURY (Massachusetts), 21 Aug — Ana Alicia Perry was kneeling to light a candle at a makeshift shrine to her brother when she was shot in the face and killed — four years to the day after her brother was gunned down on the same spot.

The slaying of the 20-year-old mother — on a narrow street behind a police station in Boston’s poor Roxbury District last month — is one of the shocking examples of a rise in the murder rate across the United States that is raising questions about whether police are fighting terrorism at the expense of crime.

In a shift from trends of the past decade, violent crime is on the rise, fuelling criticism of Bush Administration policies as a wave of murders and shootings hits smaller cities and states with little experience with serious urban violence.

From Kansas City, Missouri, to Indiana’s Lampung Province, residents in Indonesia have suffered attacks by wild elephants. Some 51 wild elephants have reportedly been injured in the attacks by wild animals which ran amok.

**Marooned Ethiopian herdsmen refuse to leave cattle**

OMERATE (Ethiopia), 21 Aug — Hundreds of Ethiopians marooned on small outcrops above flooded plains refused to abandon livestock despite rescuers’ pleas on Sunday.

Special forces, sliding down ropes from helicopters and air-roping aid, tried to rescue people trapped by flash floods that have killed nearly 900 people and displaced almost 50,000 across the Horn of Africa nation this month.

Stranded on hillocks by the floodwaters, herdsmen in the south-western town of Omerate leaned on sticks and stared across the virtual sea separating them from their cows and goats.

A special forces commander said they would die unless they agreed to be rescued. “Survival without cattle is meaningless,” he said. “I would prefer to die, than lose my cattle. “No milk, no life. No cattle, no life.”

A drought earlier this year killed thousands of livestock in the region, and many herdsmen in Omerate said they would not abandon what cattle they had left.

**Wild elephants run amok, kill five residents in Indonesia**

JAKARTA, 21 Aug — A number of elephants ran amok and killed at least five residents recently in Tangganan and East Lampung Districts, said a Lampung newspaper. The village is near a protected forest which is designed to persuade it to comply with the suspension demand.

**Egypt warns against any military strike on Iran**

CAIRO, 21 Aug — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak warned against any military strike on Iran in an interview published on Saturday.

The United Nations Security Council has demanded Iran suspend uranium enrichment by the end of the month after Teheran failed to persuade the international community of its atomic scientists were working on power stations, not bombs.

Washington has declined to rule out military strikes as a solution to the nuclear dispute. “The conflict between the United States and Iran must be resolved through diplomatic channels and direct dialogue, because any strike on Iran means the end of stability in the region and the world,” Mubarak said in an interview published on Saturday in Egypt’s Akhbar al-Youm newspaper.

Iran has set itself an 22 August deadline to respond to an offer of economic incentives designed to persuade it to comply with the suspension demand.

**Rescue workers work on the scene after a train travelling between Spain and France with 426 passengers crashed near Villada station in the northwest Spanish region of Palencia on 21 August, 2006.** —INTERNET

**Hamburg train station reopened after bomb threat**

BERLIN, 21 Aug — The main train station in the northern German city of Hamburg was reopened on Saturday after being shut for several hours because of a bomb threat, a spokeswoman for rail operator Deutsche Bahn said.

Earlier, police said someone had called city authorities and told them: “I have hidden a bomb in the main train station.” The station was evacuated and train traffic was halted while some 160 police searched the station.
Annan appeals to Iran for positive response to N-package

UNITED NATIONS, 21 Aug—UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan appealed to Iran on Sunday for a positive response to a package of incentives offered by major powers.

“I am pleased that the Islamic Republic of Iran has indicated it will respond to the proposal of the EU3 plus 3 for a comprehensive solution to the nuclear issue on Tuesday, 22 August 2006,” said Annan in a statement.

“I appeal to the Government of Iran to seize this historic opportunity. Iran’s reply will, I trust, be positive and that this will be the foundation for a final, negotiated settlement,” he said.

Annan said that progress on the Iranian nuclear issue was essential for regional and global stability.

“In a time of acute crisis in the Middle East, I believe that progress on the nuclear issue is essential for the stability not only of the region, but the international system itself,” he said.

“It is time to take steps in the right direction. I am convinced that a way is now open for setting a milestone for international nonproliferation efforts,” he said.

Iran has said it will formally respond by Tuesday to an incentive package offered by the United States, Russia, China, France, Britain and Germany to persuade Teheran to halt its nuclear fuel processing activities.

A UN Security Council resolution passed last month gives Teheran until August 31 to freeze uranium enrichment or face possible sanctions.

Venezuela urges UN to enforce mideast ceasefire

CARACAS (Venezuela), 21 Aug—Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez on Sunday called on the United Nations to assure the enforcement of a delicate Middle East ceasefire, a day after the world body condemned an Israeli raid on Hizbollah troops in Lebanon.

Chavez, a persistent critic of the US Government, supported Lebanon during the Israeli bombing campaign and accused the United States and an Israeli “elite” for the recent Middle East flare-up.

“Lebanon has been destroyed, now Israel has violated the truce,” Chavez said in weekly television and radio broadcast. “I hope the United Nations will assure the enforcement of the ceasefire... respect Lebanon.”

Tibet forest fire put out

BOMI (Tibet), 22 Aug—A fire that burned for 75 hours in a virgin forest in southwest China’s Tibet Autonomous Region was finally put out on Saturday.

More than 1,500 people joined the fire-fighting operations on Saturday, including firemen, policemen, forestry policemen and local residents in Bomı County of Nyingchi Prefecture, said Cering, vice chairman of Tibet’s regional government.

Light rainfall that started on Friday night also mitigated the fire, said a local resident who joined in the fire-fighting.

It started to drizzle in Bomı county on Friday evening, just as the fire began to escalate in the eastern side of the virgin forest in Bomı County.

“The rain came just in time to quell the blaze”: said Cering. The Nyingchi meteorological bureau made artificial rain on Wednesday and Friday to help fight the fire.

The fire broke out at about 2:50 pm on Wednesday in a forested hill close to Zhamag Town, Bomı’s county seat.

Weak monsoon hits Nepal’s paddy plantation

KATHMANDU, 21 Aug—Weak monsoon this season has affected paddy plantations in the Terai plain in southern Nepal, dashing farmers’ hope for a good harvest this year.

Agricultural experts have said that if the country fails to receive enough rainfall within the next few weeks, it will leave barren thousands of hectares of land.

“With the low atmospheric system in the Indian states of Gujarat and Maharashtra, there has been little rainfall in Nepal during this monsoon,” senior meteorologist at Meteorological Division at Tribhuvan International Airport Mani Ratna Shyakha told reporter on Sunday.

Monsoon in Nepal starts around the first week of June and lasts till the third week of September. July is the wettest month in Nepal.

According to the Department of Hydrology and Meteorology, Biratnagar in eastern Terai witnessed only 1.49 millimetres rainfall in June as against the average of 321mm. Similarly, it was 354mm in July as against 528mm of average last year.

On average, 4.2 million tons of rice are produced every year from 1,575,000 hectares of land in Nepal.

Rice contributes 56 per cent to the total food production in the country.

Some 3,000 astronomers are now debating in Prague, the Czech Republic, and expected to vote on 25 Aug, 2006 a newly proposed definition of “planet.”

Centre to hear complaints from Chinese importers, exporters

BEIJING, 21 Aug—China’s Ministry of Commerce has set up a special centre to hear complaints from and protect the legal interests of domestic importers and exporters.

The centre, headed by Vice-Minister Gao Hucheng, will provide policy guidance and advice services to Chinese companies involved in trade disputes or encountering disc-riminatory treatment by foreign governments or intermediaries, the Ministry said.

The new centre will respond to complaints within ten working days.

Communities in Niger delta pledge to fight kidnappers

PORT HARCOURT (Nigeria), 21 Aug—Twenty-nine communities in Rivers and Bayelsa states in the oil-rich Niger Delta here on Saturday pledged to fight the menace of youths taking foreign workers hostages in the region.

The communities led by their representatives from Soku Elem Sangana and Olutasi in the Akuku Toru and Nembe Local Government Area made the pledge after signing a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Shell Petroleum Development Company Limited (SPDC). Speaking shortly after signing the MoU on the Phase-2 of the SPDC Eastern Gas Gathering System (EGGS-2) project, the representatives said the hostage issue had become worrisome to the communities.

As oil bearing communities with heavy multinational installations in their areas, they said, the hostage menace may rob them of the economic and social transformation expected as fallout of oil exploitation if the foreign experts were discouraged from their sites.

A visitor enjoys the thangkas at a shop in Lhasa, capital of southwest China’s Tibet Autonomous Region, on 20 Aug, 2006.—XINHUA

US pilot Mike Mangold performs during the sixth stage of the ‘Red Bull Air Race World Series,’ in front of the Parliament in the city centre of Budapest on 20 Aug, 2006.—INTERNET
Rubbish, aedes and tobacco free schools acknowledged in Yankin Township

YANGON, 22 Aug — With the sponsorship of Yankin Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association, a ceremony to acknowledge the healthy environment and rubbish, aedes and tobacco free school was held in conjunction with the offering of cash assistance and nutritious foods to older persons and children at No-4 Basic Education High School in Yankin Township yesterday morning.

Chairperson of Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Daw Mar Mar Wai, Chairperson of the District MCWSC Daw Nan Shwe Yin and Township Education Officer Daw Ohin Than formally opened the ceremony.

Next, Chairman of Yangon Division PDC Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win unveiled the signboards of rubbish, aedes and tobacco free school.

After that, the commander and wife and guests inspected documentary photos on activities and tobacco free schools.

This was followed by the cash donation ceremony. And the commander accepted the donations which included K 500,000 each by U Win Thein-Daw Tin Tin Hla and Thirthudhamma Manijothadhaja U Nay Win Tun-Daw Nan Aye Aye Myint, K 203,000 by (U Thein Maung)-Daw Par Par and K 140,000 each by Yankin Township Edible Oil Entrepreneurs Association and Aggamaha Thirthudhamma Manijothadhara U K Kaw Min.

Later, Chairperson of Yankin Township MCWA Daw Mi Mi Khin presented permanent membership applications to the chairperson of Yangon Division MCWSC.

Afterwards, Head of Yangon Division Health Department Dr Hla Myint and officials presented wall posters on prevention of Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever and the ceremony came to an end.

Ma Mya Thaung Wai secures 1st ladies award

YANGON, 22 Aug — Ma Mya Thaung Wai of Myanmar left behind all her rivals to lift the first ladies award in the Asian Cross Country Rally held from 6 to 12 August in Bangkok, Thailand.

In the rally organized by Ortev International, the contestants had to drive 2,513.3 kilometers passing through Thailand and Laos for seven consecutive days to reach the destination.

With the help of Myanmar navigator Ma Thi Tagu Hsan, she competed with her rivals for the trophy, using Mitsubishi Strada car. All the female competitors who reached the destination were awarded. So, she got two prizes.

Ma Mya Thaung Wai, 34, is now serving as Managing Director of PM Co. She is also an executive of the Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs Association.

Grand Royal World Cup Winner Event held

YANGON, 22 Aug — The International Beverages Trading Co Ltd held the Grand Royal World Cup Winner Event at the Traders Hotel here yesterday.

Manager U Moe Than Chit presented the prize of K 10 million to lucky draw winner Ko Aung Myo Min of 310, Yuzana Ward, Myitkyina.

Ma Mya Thaung Wai with the award at the event.

Although Tatmadaw allows for recruiting...

(YANGON, 22 Aug) — has been working according to laws, rules and regulations with media as a tool saying that the Myanmar Tatmadaw has child soldiers and that it is using them in forward areas. In addition they are also attacking Myanmar with false accusation of forced labour and sexual violence against national race girls.

Anyhow, the Tatmadaw will continue to supervise the personnel concerned to ensure that they do not accept minors and are working according to the law, rules and regulations and directives.

The Secretary-1 looked into the requirements.

Myanmar Symposium on Tectonics, Earthquake Engineering and Earthquake Related Hazards on 26 August

YANGON, 22 Aug — With the aim of developing the research work on Tectonics, Earthquake Engineering and Earthquake Related Hazards, the Myanmar Earthquake Committee, the Myanmar Geological Association and the Meteorology and Hydrology Department will hold Myanmar Symposium on Tectonics, Earthquake Engineering and Earthquake Related Hazards at the Myanmar Engineering Association on 26 August.

Those interested are to contact the MEA in Hline University Campus not later than 25 August.

DONATE BLOOD

MNA
There is an old saying in Myanmar which goes “Cherish and be loyal to the native land that should not be forgotten.” In fact, there are points, namely the native place; the land of victory, and the occasions of coronation, novitiation or wedding. In other words, they may be described as the native land; the nation where the king (the government), the Tatmadaw and the people hand in hand have driven all out all the intruders, insurgents and internal and external enemies trying to harm the country, and the places where ceremonies are held to mark the kings’ ascension to throne, the novitiation of boys into noviciahood and the weddings.

“Our land, our country”, a song composed by musicians during the independence struggle honours the native land as a true inheritance the people should love and cherish and the home to all Myanmars who should take pride in it.

There is a Myanmar saying, which goes, “Man will not be successful without finding new places or new areas of interest within his own native land.” On the other hand, another proverb, which goes, “A tiger that migrates to new forest shall meet its end there” warns the people the dangers they face. There are instances in which people living as minions in a foreign country end up in misery. Traitors who left the country for abroad from where they hatch plots to destroy the motherland’s sovereignty are called axe-handle expatriates. Besides, law-breakers who run away from the country are called fugitives. Those law-breakers who hatch destructive plots from abroad to destroy the nation after running away from it are called fugitive expatriates. Persons who wish to destroy independence and sovereignty of the nation, are called national traitors. Criminals who ran away from the nation and are living abroad as minions in a foreign country are called national traitors bowing to the colonialists to give trouble to the nation, not relying on aliens or taking any foreign assistance nor yielding to outside interferences. If a person invites or is relying on foreign assistance it means that he or she is totally lacking public support. Patriotic youths drove out the colonialists with national conviction to regain independence.

Entering of political pluralism in early post-independence period had created divisions even within the people of same ism, ideology and group, igniting the multi-coloured insurgency in the end. In some cases, the insurgency made the nation nearly lost her independence, and was threatening again and again to break up the Union. Many people were killed and many more were wounded in the life-and-death situations they had suffered from the internal strife. The public property lost during the time was inmeasurable. Ideallogical disputes grew into struggles for power and regional influence.

At first, insurgent groups were roaming within the nation’s territory. But when the Tatmadaw blew them out, they holed up in the deep jungle valleys far from towns, resorting to means such as torching villages, murdering people, extorting money, forcibly recruiting juveniles and planting mines. The insurgents could not find even a piece of land to hide and a single source to rely on because of the method of dismissing, expelling and killing one another they were using after unity broke up within their groups. In the end, they were opposed and punished by the people. As their situation worsened, they tried to find a country that would shelter them illegally.

In this way, insurgents had to rely on aliens as they could not exist within the nation’s borders. All the leftist and rightist insurgents that took refuge in other nations never recovered from constant deterioration that led them to their end gradually. As both the rightist (expatriates) and leftist (Burma Communist Party, Thirty) became fugitive expatriates, they joined hands with each other accepting a situation in which they will have to live as a stooge of a certain Western power. The BCP that was once condemning colonialists has become the informer of the capitalists and a faithful servant of the West’s schemes to destroy Myanmar. All the expatriates in reality are national traitors committing acts of terror and unrest. They are not even worthy enough to say the word “politics”. Insurgents cannot win public support without standing by the people. Moreover, no person or ism can exist long without public support.

Some expatriates compared themselves to the Thirty Comrades who went abroad for military training with political objective of driving out the colonialists during the height of independence struggle. The Thirty Comrades went abroad just to receive military training badly needed in driving the intruders out of the nation. They returned to the nation after completion of their training session. The Thirty Comrades and the national traitors bowing to the colonialists to give trouble to the nation are at opposite poles.

The story of fugitive expatriates taking refuge in certain foreign countries will still be in the memory of many people. Persons and groups with extreme passion for power and self-interest ended up as expatriates abroad after having high regard for insurgents taking refuge in foreign countries. Today, there are the second or third generation of expatriates. The first generation expatriates started their scheme to betray the nation in the 1970s. I will start with the parliamentary democracy party of U Nu and U Law Yon, the co-founders of the first generation expatriates.

Former prime minister U Nu was a member of 33-member advisory body for national unity formed by the Revolutionary Council. Other members presented their opinions for the nation’s future from their own point of view. But U Nu presented his suggestion through Bohmu Aung on 31 May 1969. He had gone to India for pilgrimage and to receive medical treatment since 11 April 1969. His suggestion in reality was a demand for prime minister post.

U Law Yon of the Nation attended the national liberation army course run by Bo Yan Naing and Zarli Maw at Wankha in the border in 1965. He was trying to acquire contacts for channelling foreign aids to insurgents taking refuge in foreign countries. But his scheme needed a man player who was influential and famous to a certain degree. U Nu, a power craze, attracted his interest.

During the World War II, U Law Yon was with the British army. He served as a major at US Office of the Strategic Studies (OSS), an intelligence unit in 1944. OSS was the forerunner of the CIA.

A Western agent, he became the chief editor of “The Nation” English language daily on 15 July 1948. During the time, he was spying for the West and writing articles to deter the signing of Sino-Myanmar border agreement. He was once detained for writing articles critical of the Revolutionary Council government. U Law Yon went to England for good after he was released from prison in 1968. Later he went to America where he was naturalized. U Law Yon met with U Nu in India and took him to Bangkok. In Bangkok, the two joined forces with Bo Yan Naing, Bo Set Kya, former air chief T Cliff and Maha Devi Sao Hein Hkam, the fourth wife of Sao Shwe Thaik. At the press meet U Nu and U Law Yon held in London on 22 August 1969, they announced their decision to depose the Myanmar government and set up the parliamentary democracy party. The announcement stated that U Nu was the chairman and U Law Yon the general secretary and that the headquarters was at Soi 18, No 32 in Bangkok. They visited New York, the US, on 5 September and asked for financial and arms assistance, and demanded the stop of all US government aids to Myanmar. U Nu was able to collect over US $1.46 million during his US visit. But U Nu wanted four million.

After arriving back in Bangkok, U Nu asked financial help from foreign entrepreneurs with guarantees of economic privileges and opportunities. Hence, U Nu was branded as the person selling the nation off. Executives of the Parliamentary Democracy party were Bo Letya, Bo Yan Naing and U Thwin. The late veteran writer-cum-journalist politician U Thein Pe Myint in his book “U Nu, a person of no return” noted, “U Nu once was good. But today he is bad. U Nu once was progressive. But now he is a reactionary. U Nu once was anti-colonialist. But now he is a colonialist follower.” (See page 9)
Cracks appeared within the expatriates resulting from the struggles for power, position and influence. There was inequality in distributing foreign-funded aids. Disunity broke out as subordinates were facing hardships at the border while the leaders were enjoying a luxurious life in Bangkok. There occurred factional splits between the three — Bo Yan Naung, U Thwin and Yangon Ba Swe. They started to practise the policy of dismissing, expelling and killing the opponent subordinates. Tin including Then Lwin, Tun Shem and Nyo Min were subject to this scheme in 1970 alone. U Law Yon under the directive of the US-led SEATO made plans together with Bo Letya and Zarli Maw to attack Myanmar. But the plan was in total failure. The Naungyo war mission of Yangon Ba Swe failed before it was launched in Mon State. The expatriates never got any chance to enter Myanmar territory because of the Tatmadaw’s Padama military operation.

The schemes of the expatriates to seize the delta and cut off the region from the government were crushed by the Htaw Paing military operation of the Tatmadaw. The only nasty thing expatriates could do then was to send bombers into the nation. But the authorities managed to arrest those terrorists together with the bombs thanks to the public information. The number of persons and factions leaving the expatriate insurgent group was increasing. Even U Nu and U Law Yon disagreed with other expatriates concerning the Pyithu Pyichit Party which was a new name of the Parliamentary Democracy party. U Nu went to India and U Law Yon to the US. Many expatriates took refuge in Western and some Asian countries.

Second generation expatriates came out in the early 1987. They were junior expatriates of the first generation. They founded the Committee for Restoration of Democracy in Burma (CRDB), with Dr Kyaw Win, son of U Ohn Khin, as chairman, Tin Maung Win, son of the later prime minister U Win who died of exhaustion in the jungle while trying to flee the nation, and Bala Rashid (son of ex-minister from abroad, exploiting the refugees, issuing announcements opposing and slandering Myanmar government to appease the donor countries, and asking Western nations to impose tighter sanctions on Myanmar. CRDB moved its office from Washington to Chiangmai where Tin Maung Win and Ye Kyaw Thu met their end without getting much public attention. All efforts of U Sein Mya and Thannmai Bo Khin Maung to reactivate CRDB were in vain.

The third generation expatriates were just inexperienced youths who were pushed to insurgent camps at the borders by the so-called leftist and rightist leaders through flattery and intimidation when their attempts to grab power during the 1988 unrest failed. Many youths faced tortures, hunger and a lot of hardships and some even fell into misery at the so-called refugee camps at the borders. Youths who realized the true stance of the government came back to the embrace of their parents through reception centres in Tak district under the goodwill arrangements of the two countries. The West media, clandestine organizations and CIA subordinate groups under the name of NGOs tried hard to deter youths numbering in hundreds from returning to the country. Of the remaining expatriates, those organizations sent the ones they thought would be useful for them to Western countries. As those youths have come of age at present, they are giving trouble to their own country as the last resort. If they don’t, they will surely meet their tragic end.

Tin Maung Win, Ye Kyaw Thu, Thaung Htaik, and Maung Aung of CRDB tried to control the third generation expatriates who are being visited frequently by MPs and diplomats of the West, CIA agents under the guise of NGOs and White terrorist course instructors. As there is no way out for them the third generation also followed the route of their predecessors did. As efforts to form a parallel government failed, Sein Win, ex-chairman of National League for Democracy and a younger cousin of Daw Suu Kyi, together with the so-called NLD members of the parliament founded the expatriate parallel government. Sein Win acting as prime minister of the parallel government.

As expatriates ignore the public strength, betray the national cause, accept alien influence, try to drag the nation back into enslavement and disturb and destroy the social lives and safety of the people, they have become the persons of public sneer and abhorrence. The entire people are against the conspiracies of remnant BCP underground elements and neo-colonialists for the eruption of an unrest, which they called “Demo 2006” civil commotion with the aim of destroying independence and peace and prosperity. They were unsuccessful in trying to impose a blockade against Myanmar. Their slanders to deceive the international community and the UN to have wrong view on Myanmar do not produce any effective results. As long as they are traitors their acts will be destructive. No destructive act will yield success, because people have already known the difference between the constructive work and the destructive perpetration.

U Rashid (Law)
Diplomats and staff of British, US embassies frequent NLD HQ, puppet of west bloc

YANGON, 22 Aug — It is learnt that Mr Mark Canning, who has recently presented his credentials as Ambassador of the United Kingdom to the Union of Myanmar, arrived at National League for Democracy Headquarters in his car with licence plate No Than (2/1) and met NLD Chairman U Aung Shwe, Secretary U Lwin and CEC members for about an hour yesterday afternoon.

Diplomats and staff of British Embassy frequented the NLD HQ and sent letters and instructions to it for about 30 times from January to July 2006.

Likewise, diplomats and staff of American Embassy have visited the NLD HQ almost every day, sending letters and holding discussions for more than 130 times from January to July 2006. In doing so, Daw Shwe Sin Nyunt, a staff member of the information department of the US Embassy, always accompanies those diplomats. She also visits the NLD HQ alone many times to send the embassy’s instructions and take whatever feedback the NLD gives.

Thirty-seven year-old Daw Shwe Sin Nyunt, the daughter of U Nyunt Pe and Daw Khin May Chaw, is married and served in the culture department of French Embassy after she had left the University of Economics as a second year student in 1989. Since 23-12-2005, she has been working for the information department of the US Embassy. She now lives at No 4, 2nd Street, Shwegondine Ward, (West), Bahan Township.

Reflecting the wishes and attitudes of duty-conscious people including journalists, magazines and journals are carrying news reports with photos to expose those diplomats and staff as well as the NLD for their violation of diplomatic code of conduct and inappropriate acts, it is learnt.

NLD is also being criticized for its being a puppet of the west bloc and seeking its own interest in order to grab power via shortcut.

Embassador of Britain to Myanmar Mr Mark Canning and a diplomat of British Embassy seen at Headquarters of National League for Democracy on 21 August 2006. — SNA

Eighth conference of NCUB held in order to commit destructive acts

YANGON, 22 Aug — The eighth conference of the National Council of the Union of Burma, an anti-government organization holding terrorism and armed struggle line, was held at a resort in Maesot in the other country from 14 to 19 August.

The conference was attended by our 100 persons including 66 delegates from Democratic Alliance of Burma (DAB), National Democratic Front (NDF), NLD(LA) and Members of Parliament Union (MPU).

Members of Panel of Chairmen were elected at the conference.

(1) DAB Chairman Tarmalaball Chairman
(2) NDF Chairman Phado Ba Thin Vice-Chairman-1
(3) NLD(LA) Chairman Tin Aung Vice-Chairman-2
(4) Khunmar Ko Ban of MPU Vice-Chairman-3
(5) Kyaw Hla of DAB Member of Panel of Chairmen
(6) Khaing Soe Naing Aung of NDF Member of Panel of Chairmen
(7) Than Htut of NLD (LA) Member of Panel of Chairmen
(8) Sein Win of NCGUB Member of Panel of Chairmen

Some members of central executive committee of NCUB including Sein Win of NCGUB and Maung Maung of FTUB are fugitives, expatriates and terrorists. Organizations such as NCGUB, FTUB and ABSDF in NCUB are unlawful organizations.

Members of NCUB terrorist groups are in contact with a political party in the country, party members and new and old generation so-called politicians. They are providing cash and other supplies to them for causing disturbances and destruction in the country.

Some central executive committee members of NCUB are members of terrorist organizations. NCUB may continue to commit terrorist acts.

New central executive committee of NCUB is formed not to serve the interest of the State and the people in a constructive way but to cause instability in the country and commit more destructive acts hand in glove with the masters of foreign nations under their control.

Britain investigating military kit found by Israel

LONDON, 22 Aug — Britain said on Monday it was investigating reports that British military equipment was being used by Hezbollah guerrillas in the Middle East.

A Foreign Office spokesman said the government was seeking more information on whether night-vision equipment, which media reports said was found by Israeli troops in Hezbollah bunkers in southern Lebanon, could have come from or been made in Britain.

“We are seeking more information about the equipment to ascertain whether indeed it is British and if so whether it is subject to export controls,” the spokesman said.

He said Israel had made no formal complaint, but British and Israeli officials had been in contact over the issue.

The Times newspaper said on Monday that the night-vision equipment found was marked “made in Britain”.

Britain, which accuses Iran of arming Hezbollah, sold 250 night-vision sets to Teheran under a special export licence in 2003. The Foreign Office spokesman said there was nothing to suggest equipment found in Lebanon was part of that shipment.

A week-long truce between Israel and Hezbollah guerrillas was holding on Monday as Italy emerged as potential leader of a planned UN force to help keep the peace in southern Lebanon.

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago.

The second best time is now.

MNA/Reuters

MNA

MNA
Arizona man stung to death by “killer” bees

PHOENIX, 22 Aug — A swarm of “killer” bees attacked a man and his father as they repaired a roof in a small town in southeast Arizona, killing one man and hospitalizing the other, police said on Monday.

Cochise County Sheriff’s Department said the Africanized honey bees stung Charlie Pasley, 39, more than 300 times as he carried out repairs to a home in Huachuca City, 160 miles (250 kilometres) southeast of Phoenix on Sunday. He died at the scene.

SPOKESWOMAN Carol Capas said the swarm also attacked Pasley’s father, Chuck, 62, who was reported to be in a stable condition in hospital late on Sunday.

The insects, commonly known as “killer” bees for their highly aggressive behaviour, are descended from a ferocious strain that was first introduced to the Americas from Africa in the 1980s, in the hope that they would protect the highly defensible behaviour and ferocious work rate to deal with voracious predators and short growing seasons in drought-prone areas of Africa.

Egyptian train collision kills 80, injures 163

GAZIYEH (Egypt), 22 Aug — A collision between two trains killed 80 people and injured 131 on Monday in a Nile Delta town north of Cairo, a security source said, in Egypt’s worst rail disaster since 2002.

About 25 ambulances rushed to the site, along with hundreds of bystanders and relatives anxious for news of passengers who might have been killed or injured, a witness said, adding that damage to the trains was extensive.

The accident took place at about 7:30 am (0430 GMT) near the town of Qalyoub, north of Cairo, official sources told the state news agency MENA. They said one of the drivers had apparently ignored railway traffic signals.

That accident was the worst in 150 years of Egyptian railway history, and led to the resignation of the transport minister and the head of the state railway system.

Fourth tropical depression forms in Atlantic

MIAMI, 22 Aug — The fourth tropical depression of the 2006 Atlantic hurricane season formed on Monday in the far eastern Atlantic and was expected to become Tropical Storm Debby as it approached the southernmost Cape Verde Islands.

By 5 pm (2100 GMT), the depression was about 250 miles (405 kilometres) southeast of the islands, and moving toward the west-northwest at 12 miles (19 kilometres) per hour, the Miami-based US National Hurricane Center said.

It was too early to predict whether the weather system would eventually reach the Gulf of Mexico or the US East Coast, both battered last year by a record hurricane season that produced 28 storms, including Hurricane Katrina.

Oil traders, wary of storms since hurricanes ripped through oil and gas platforms in the Gulf in 2004 and 2005, said they were keeping an eye on the depression.

Rescue personnel remove a man from the site of a train collision in Qalyoub, north of Cairo, on 21 August, 2006. —INTERNET
KABUL, 21 Aug—At least 74 Taliban militants, 4 US soldiers, and 10 Afghan policemen were killed in the fresh weekend violence in war-weary Afghanistan.

In the deadliest conflict starting from late Saturday, 70 Taliban insurgents were killed in Panjwai District of the southern Kandahar Province, district chief Niaz Mohammad Sarhadi told Xinhua on Sunday.

The clash, which lasted till early hours of Sunday, also killed four policemen and one Afghan soldier, said a local police officer who refused to be named.

Three policemen and three Afghan soldiers were injured in the conflict, he added.

In a latest statement, the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) said Afghan forces and ISAF had inflicted heavy casualties against Taliban fighters in Panjwai District.—MNA/Xinhua

SHANGHAI, 21 Aug—The Canadian Navy frigate Regina left the Shanghai’s Yangtze River Port on Sunday, concluding a 6-day friendly visit.

The vessel with 233 people on board is commanded by Commodore Bruce Donaldson, Commander of the Canadian Pacific Fleet.

Senior Colonel Shen Changkang, the Chinese Navy’s Shanghai base vice-chief of staff, held a ceremony at the port to send off the Regina.

During the visit, Commodore Donaldson and other Canadian naval officers met with Major-General Wang Deding of the Chinese Navy’s Shanghai base and Vice-Mayor of Shanghai Feng Guoqin.

The Canadian officials visited the guided missile frigate designed and produced by China during their stay. Chinese and Canadian military personnel also staged a friendly football match and a tug-of-war.

The Regina entered service on September 30, 1994. This is the fifth time the Canadian warship visited Shanghai.

MNA/Xinhua
PM says needs more babies and immigrants

SINGAPORE, 21 Aug— Singapore’s Prime Minister on Sunday urged Singaporeans to have more babies and said his government would try to attract more immigrants to avoid a critical population shortage and ensure economic survival.

“To sustain our growth and prosperity, we need to have enough people living and working in Singapore. This means we must encourage families to have more children, and also attract more new immigrants here,” Lee Hsien Loong said in a televised National Day rally speech.

The government has introduced tax rebates, baby bonuses and longer maternity leave in the past two years to encourage women to have more children, but with no sign of reversing the trend towards smaller families among its 4.4 million people.

The number of babies born each year is well below the 2.1 per woman needed to replenish its population. Last year, the rate fell to 1.24, compared with six the late 1950s.

Lee, son of the city-state’s founding prime minister Lee Kuan Yew, also addressed a range of economic and social issues in his third national day address.

He said the economic outlook remained good, with growth in the next few years set to beat the government’s long-term sustainable estimate of between 3 and 5 per cent.

The government earlier this month forecast growth of between 6.5 and 7.5 per cent for 2006.

Nigeria arrests over 2,000 militants after kidnapping wave

LAGOS, 21 Aug — More than 2,000 suspected militants were rounded up by the Nigerian Government troops at the weekend in the oil-rich, violent oil city of Port Harcourt, the capital of Nigeria’s southern state of Rivers, local newspaper This Day reported on Sunday.

The Joint Task Force, made up of Police, Army, Navy and Air Force, raided suspected hideouts of militants in a joint operation that started on Friday night and ended in the early hours of Saturday, recovering items, including guns, ammunition and explosives.

Major Sagir Musa, the Army Public Relations Officer of the Ambiguous Brigade in Port Harcourt, confirmed the raid, saying they found out that those who have been committing crimes had their hideouts in the raided areas of Iloobuchi, Diobu and the notorious Njemazee streets.

“Following security reports that those behind most of the militant activities, robbery and other such criminal activities are residing in Diobu, a Joint Task Force decided to do what we call ‘Cordon and Search’,” he said.

Lee, son of the city-state’s founding prime minister Lee Kuan Yew, also addressed a range of economic and social issues in his third national day address.

He said the economic outlook remained good, with growth in the next few years set to beat the government’s long-term sustainable estimate of between 3 and 5 per cent.

The government earlier this month forecast growth of between 6.5 and 7.5 per cent for 2006.

He said the economic outlook remained good, with growth in the next few years set to beat the government’s long-term sustainable estimate of between 3 and 5 per cent.

The government earlier this month forecast growth of between 6.5 and 7.5 per cent for 2006.

Measures are being drawn up to attract investors to China’s 2 trillion yuan ($US250 billion) railway expansion. —INTERNET

France wants EU meeting to discuss Lebanon force

PARIS, 21 Aug — France called on Sunday for a European Union meeting next week to co-ordinate what member countries plan to do about a UN force for Lebanon.

“We ask that European solidarity is expressed as soon as possible about Lebanon,” Foreign Minister Philippe Douste-Blazy told France Info radio, adding he had asked EU president Finland to call a meeting in Brussels early next week.

France wanted “to know what our different European partners count on doing as quickly as possible about Lebanon”, he said.

France has pledged to send only 20 extra troops to Lebanon, disappointing Washington and the United Nations, which had hoped it would form the backbone of an expanded UN force.

On Saturday, President Jacques Chirac spoke to leaders from several countries, including Italy’s Romano Prodi and Finnish Prime Minister Matti Vanhanen, to stress the need for a clearer mandate for the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

In Rome, Prodi’s office said he discussed the force in separate telephone conversations with Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Lebanese Prime Minister Fouad Siniora.

Both men told Prodi they appreciated that Italy was ready “to assume a role of primary importance” in the mission.

Italy’s chances of leading the force have increased following France’s apparent reluctance to commit more troops.

Iran says it will not halt atomic work, deadline looms

TEHERAN, 21 Aug — Iran said on Sunday it would not suspend uranium enrichment, ruling out the main demand in a nuclear package backed by six world powers that aims to allay Western fears that Teheran is seeking to build atomic bombs.

Iran says it will formally respond by Tuesday to proposals made by the United States, Russia, China, France, Britain and Germany. The six have offered incentives for Iran to suspend enrichment, a process that has both military and civilian uses. Teheran, which insists its nuclear aims are purely civilian, shows no sign of accepting the package. “We are not going to suspend (enrichment). The issue was that everything should come out of negotiations, but suspension of uranium enrichment is not on our agenda,” Foreign Ministry spokesman Hamid Reza Asefi told a weekly news conference.

Western diplomats say Iran must halt the atomic work before talks can start. Any response that falls short of that is likely to be considered a rejection of the offer in Western capitals. — MNA/Reuters
**S P O R T S**

Tiger Woods won his 12th major tournament title at the US Open at the Medinah Country Club on 20 August, 2006.—INTERNET

**CSKA Sofia protest over ticket price for UEFA Cup match**

**SOFIA, 22 Aug**—CSKA Sofia have protested to UEFA following Hajduk Kula’s controversial decision to make only expensive tickets available to their supporters for Thursday’s UEFA Cup match in Belgrade, the Bulgarian club said on Monday.

CSKA will travel to the Serbian capital knowing their fans have to pay at least 60 euros (77.36 US dollars) to enter the stadium for the second leg of the second qualifying round tie.

“We’ve sent a letter to UEFA adding all the recent correspondence between the two clubs,” CSKA spokesman Atanas Karaivanov said. “We made a complaint of Hajduk’s violation of UEFA’s fair play rules. We have the Bulgarian Football Union’s full support and now we’re expecting UEFA’s reaction to this cynical decision. I can categorically say that no CSKA supporter will pay 60 euros for a match ticket.”—MNA/Reuters

**Roddick powers over Ferrero to take masters title**

**CINCINNATI, 22 Aug**—American Andy Roddick overpowered Spaniard Juan Carlos Ferrero 6-3, 6-4 on Sunday to win his first title of the year at the Cincinnati Masters.

In a battle of two former world number ones, the ninth seed hammered Ferrero with a key break in the seventh game and closed out the match in 58 minutes when Hingis dropped her serve again in the final game.

Ivanovic upset Hingis to capture Montreal crown

**MONTREAL, 22 Aug**—Serbia’s Ana Ivanovic trounced former world number one Martina Hingis 6-2, 6-3 in the rain-delayed Montreal Cup final on Monday to capture her first Tier 1 title.

The 13th-seeded Ivanovic set the tone by breaking Hingis’s serve in the first game and never looked back. She also broke the Swiss in the fifth game before wrapping up the set.

“I’m just happy to do it right now and I’m really, really happy and excited.”

In the second set, Ivanovic recorded a key break in the seventh game and closed out the match in 58 minutes when Hingis dropped her serve again in the final game.

Juve court move threatens delays for Serie A

**MILAN, 22 Aug**—Italian football faces the prospect of a legal battle further delaying the start of the season after Juventus, demoted following a match-fixing scandal, announced on Monday they would be turning to a civil court.

Juventus said in a statement that they would turn immediately to the Lazio court while “evaluating, within the time consented, an appeal to CONI’s court of arbitration”.

Three other clubs implicated in the scandal — AC Milan, Lazio and Fiorentina — all maintained their Serie A status but were handed points penalties for the upcoming season.

**Ronaldinho defends Eto’o for walking out on Cup victory**

**MADRID, 22 Aug**—Ronaldinho has defended his Barcelona teammate Samuel Eto after the Cameroonian walked off the pitch following an angry confrontation with Cristiano Ronaldo.

“I think the biggest thing this week was his return and the way I was playing the points. Once I got into them, I didn’t feel rushed. A sports tribunal like that is just to give a winner.

“I was breaking serve a lot this week, which is nice for me.”

Roddick kissed the court, did a lap of the arena and exchanged high fives with fans after wrapping up his fourth Masters Series title.—MNA/Reuters

Barcelona’s Carles Puyol holds up the Spanish Super Cup trophy at Nou Camp Stadium in Barcelona on 20 August, 2006.—INTERNET

**Soccer hooligans attack home of Swedish coach**

**STOCKHOLM, 22 Aug**—Soccer hooligans nailed a banner saying “Resign Lars” to the house of Sweden coach Lars Lagerback early Monday, police said.

A group of young men, wearing hoods and scarves to cover their faces, entered the yard of Lagerback’s house in a Stockholm suburb and nailed the banner to an outside wall.

The men left before police arrived at 3:45 am (0145 GMT), police spokesman Lars Akerlund said. He did not know how many people were involved in the incident.

Lagerback said he and his family slept through the incident, and rejected media reports that the hooligans had broken a window by throwing flower pots and rocks at the house.—MNA/Reuters

**Laporta set to continue as Barca chief without election**

**MADRID, 22 Aug**—Joan Laporta is expected to be declared president of Barcelona for the next four years after his rivals for the post were unable to raise the support of the required 1,804 club members in order to stand in the election.

Laporta, elected to the post in 2003, was ordered to hold a new poll in July following a ruling by a Spanish judge, who upheld a complaint by three club members that he had exceeded his four-year term in office.

The judge ruled that according to the club’s statutes the year ran from July to June, and that as Laporta had taken power on June 22, 2003, the eight days before the end of the month constituted his first year in office.

Laporta’s four-year term therefore expired on June 30 this year and the electoral process was initiated last month.

MNA/Reuters

**Munich’s goalkeeper Oliver Kahn shouts during the German Bundesliga soccer match against Bochum in Bochum on 20 Aug, 2006. —INTERNET**
Disaster warning system set for 57 provinces in Thailand

Bangkok, 22 Aug—Thailand will install an early warning system in 144 locations considered vulnerable to natural disaster in 57 provinces nationwide, according to government spokesman Surapong Suebwonglee.

The two-year project, from 2005 to 2007, was assigned to the Committee for the Development of an Early Warning System and the National Disaster Warning Centre of Thailand, the spokesman said.

Surapong said the plans being implemented in three phases. Phase 1 of the warning system has already been installed in 76 locations in six Andaman Sea provinces—Phuket, Phang-nga, Krabi, Trang Satun, and Ranong provinces, which have been attacked by the tsunami at the end of 2004.

In Phase 2, installation is currently being carried out in 48 locations, with all expected to be complete by the end of September. And in Phase 3, Surapong said, the remaining warning alarms will be installed in 20 locations, completing the targeted 144 locations in 57 provinces nationwide.

Funds are not yet available for the last stage, the spokesman said, but implementation of Phase 3 will take place after budget approval.

Flood kills 233 in Pakistan

Islamabad, 22 Aug—The death toll in the monsoon flash floods has risen to 233 in Pakistan’s North West Frontier Province (NWFP), media reports said Tuesday.

The flood warning centre in NWFP said that the flooding situation in the province would continue at least till 30 Sept, according to Geo Television.

Relief authorities said that rains-related deaths in NWFP have shot up to 233, while 175 others were injured, said the report.

Mardan, some 100 km northwest of Pakistani capital Islamabad, is the worst-hit district in NWFP, with 52 dead, while in Mansehra district rains killed 39 and in Swat 20, GEO television reported.

The period of July to September is the rainy season in Pakistan. Since the end of June, Pakistan have witnessed many floods and landslides caused by torrential rains. — MNA/Xinhua

Weather

WEATHER

Tuesday, 22 August, 2006

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Magway Division, rain have been scattered in Shan and Kayah States, Mandalay Division, fairly widespread in Kachin State, Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions, widespread in the remaining States and Divisions with isolated heavyfalls in Rakhine State. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Nay Pyi Taw (0.35) inch, Kyauktaw (3.00) inches, Patao (2.32) inches, Maungtaung (2.29) inches, Thaton (2.21) inches, Hpa-an and Kalay (1.73) inches each and Hmawby (1.69) inches.

Maximum temperature on 21-8-2006 was 84°F. Minimum temperature on 22-8-2006 was 77°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 22-8-2006 was (96%). Total sunshine hours on 21-8-2006 was nil.

Rainfalls on 22-8-2006 were (1.14) inches at Mingaladon, (0.79) inch at Kaba-Aye and (0.71) inch at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2006 were (73.55) inches at Mingaladon, (83.90) inches at Kaba-Aye and (91.50) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (9) mph from Southwest at (17:15) hours MST on 21-8-2006.

Bay inference: According to the observations at (06:30) hours MST today, low pressure area over North Bay has moved into Northwest Bay and still persists. Monsoon is weak in the Andaman Sea and moderate to strong elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 23-8-2006: Rain will be isolated in Kayah State, lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Divisions, scattered in Chin and Shan States, fairly widespread in Kachin and Kayin States, upper Sagaing and Bago Divisions, widespread in the remaining States and Divisions with isolated heavyfalls in Rakhine State. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Squalls with rough seas are likely at times Deltaic off and along Rakhine Coast. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35-40) mph. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of decrease of rain in Coastal areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 23-8-2006: Likelihood of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 23-8-2006: One or two rain. Degree of certainty is (40%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 23-8-2006: Likelihood of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (60%).

R 489 Published by the News and Periodicals Enterprise, Ministry of Information, Union of Myanmar. Edited and printed at The New Light of Myanmar Press, No 22/30 Strand Road at 43rd Street, Yangon. Cable Newslight, PO Box No. 43, Telephones: Editors 296115, Manager 392226, Circulation 297093, Advertisement 392223, Accounts 392224, Administration 392225, Production/Press 297028

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Wednesday, 23 August, 2006
YANGON, 22 Aug—Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence this morning inspected markets in Yangon.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe arrived at Dagon Myothit (North) tax-free market at Ward 38 in Dagon Myothit (North) Township, Yangon East District, where he was welcomed by Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Yangon Command Commander Brig-Gen Hla Huy Win, Yangon City Development Committee Chairman Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and officials.

He inspected the sales at the shops of ministries, YCDC, regiments and units under Yangon Command, district and township PDCs, Yangon Division special agricultural and livestock breeding zone, social organizations, and cooperative societies and private shops at the tax-free markets in Dagon Myothit (North), Dagon Myothit (South), Thakayta, Tanway and Yankin Townships.

Officials concerned conducted them round the markets.

(See page 11)

Namti Bridge (Kanhla) in Mogaung, Kachin State, inaugurated

Commodity flow will be swift and smooth in the region

Yangon, 22 Aug—The inauguration of Namti Bridge (Kanhla) on Shwebo-Myitkyina Road in Mogaung Township, Kachin State, took place at the pavilion at the top of the facility this morning.

Kachin State Peace and Development Council Chairman Northern Command Commander Maj-Gen Ohn Myint delivered an address, saying that the opening of the bridge means contribution towards one of the five rural development tasks—to improve the transport sector.

The emergence of the facility has secured smooth transport in the area stretching from Mandalay to the People’s Republic of China via Myitkyina and Bhamo, and from Myitkyina to the border with India via Namti and Nanyun. And commodity flow will be swift and smooth in the region.

The government has been taking all possible measures for equitable development of all parts of the nation including border areas, after designating the 24 special development zones. In its drive for bridging the development gap among states and divisions, the government has placed emphasis on the progress of the regions that have lagged behind in development, with the aim of cementing amicable relations and friendship among national brethren.

In the past, Kachin State lagged behind in progress due to lack of peace and stability. After the return of the armed groups in the region to the legal fold, the government expedited the construction of transport facilities in the region. As a result of peace and stability, Kachin State is enjoying remarkable development year after year.

The government is constructing roads and bridges one after another in Kachin State in compliance with the guidance of the Head of State.

He said Mogaung-Phakant Road is being upgraded to all-weather road and bridges under 50 feet on Bhamo-Myitkyina Road are also being upgraded to concrete ones. He spoke at length on construction of bridges and roads, transport of goods by road.

In the country there are over 5,000 miles of roads including 1,800 miles of tarred roads after 1988.

(See page 11)