True patriotism

* It is very important for everyone of the nation regardless of the place he lives to have strong Union Spirit.
* Only Union Spirit is the true patriotism all the nationalities will have to safeguard.

Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

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

Senior General Than Shwe felicitates Ukrainian President

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Aug—Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Viktor Yushchenko, President of the Republic of Ukraine, on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of Ukraine which falls on 24 August, 2006.—MNA

Myanmar Tatmadaw Track and Field Team leaves for Singapore

YANGON, 23 Aug — Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence this afternoon met with the Track and Field Team of Myanmar Tatmadaw that will take part in the Singapore Army Half Marathon-2006 to be held in Singapore, at the lounge of Yangon International Airport.

Also present on the occasion were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Huy Win, senior military officers and members of the Track and Field Team led by Lt-Col Kyaw Win.

In his address, Lt-Gen Myint Swe said that the Track and Field Team of Myanmar Tatmadaw representing the State and the Tatmadaw are to make all-out efforts with perseverance and sporting spirit for winning medals in the respective sport events. The athletes are to continue their training prior to the competitions. Later, Lt-Gen Myint Swe stressed the need for the athletes to try their best to become victorious sportsmen to uplift prestige of the State and the Tatmadaw.

The Track and Field Team comprising 14 athletes led by Lt-Col Kyaw Win left here by air in the afternoon. They were seen off at the airport by Lt-Gen Myint Swe, Commander Brig-Gen Hla Huy Win and senior military officers.

MNA

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* Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation

The resettlement of government departments in Nay Pyi Taw is in accord with the good vision of the Head of State, and the government institutions will have to move to the new capital of the nation.

Government institutions that can offer staff quarters in Yangon are not many. Most of the government employees in Yangon are tenants. I came to remember a middle level staff of Yangon submitting a request to the department to transfer him to the district. In Nay Pyi Taw, middle level staff can live in high standard three-storey duplex buildings.

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Higher socio-economic status, results of peace and stability

Kachin State is the northernmost region in Myanmar and rich in natural resources. In the past, due to lack of peace and stability, it was far behind the other regions in the transport, education, health, economic and social sectors. Now, the armed groups of national races in the region have returned to the legal fold and are working together with the government for regional development. As the region has become more peaceful and stable and more transport infrastructures are being built, it has remarkably developed.

In the past, air travel was the only means of transport between Myitkyina and Putao. Now, goods can be transported from Myitkyina to Putao by truck. As Bala Min Htin bridge built across the Ayeyawady and Nammyitka, Maliyan, Nanhsanyan, Moele, Tarpein and Dabatchaung bridges have been opened, the Myitkyina-Putao road is now negotiable in all weathers.

Namti bridge (Kanha) built across the Namti creek was opened on 22 August. The bridge is situated in Mogaung Township along the Shwebo-Myitkyina road. It is a 280-foot-long reinforced concrete bridge with a 24-foot-wide motorway. Out of the bridges that are 180 feet and above long and built by the Ministry of Construction, Namti bridge is the 198th in the nation and the 14th in Kachin State.

The government has been building new roads and bridges across the nation with the use of manpower, financial resources and technological power. Namti bridge (Kanha) is one of the 218 bridges 180 feet and above long. It goes without saying that the fruits of peace and stability are flourishing all over the nation and the national people are enjoying the higher social and economic status.
Russian solves historic math problem, shuns prize

MADRID, 22 Aug—A reclusive Russian won an academic prize Tuesday for work solving one of history’s toughest math problems, but he refused to accept the award—a stunning renunciation of accolades from his field’s top minds.

Grigory Perelman, a 40-year-old native of St Petersburg, was praised for work in the field known as topology, which studies shapes, and for a breakthrough that might help scientists figure out nothing less than the shape of the universe.

But besides shunning the medal, academic colleagues say he also seems uninterested in a separate, $1 million prize he might be awarded for his feat. It had proved a theorem about the nature of multidimensional space that has stumped people for 100 years.

The Fields Medal was announced at the International Congress of Mathematicians, an event held every four years, this time in Madrid.

Three other mathematicians—another Russian, a Frenchman and an Australian—also won Fields honors this year. They received their awards from King Juan Carlos to loud applause from delegates to the conference. But Perelman was not present.

“I regret that Dr Perelman has declined to accept the medal,” said John Ball, president of the International Mathematical Union, which is holding the convention.

Perelman’s work is still under review, but no one has found any serious flaw in it, the union said in a statement.

Ball later told The Associated Press he did not interpret Perelman’s decision to shun the medal as an insult to the world’s top mathematicians. “I am sure he did not mean it that way,” he said.

ASEAN trade reached $1.226t in 2005


For the year 2005, total exports of member countries of the South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) expanded by 13.5 per cent compared with the previous year, said the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) Council. Total imports registered an increase of 15.4 per cent, amounting to 579.7 billion in 2005.

The council said in a statement released after concluding its 20th meeting in Kuala Lumpur.

As for trade within member countries of the association, intra-ASEAN exports stood at 163.7 billion US dollars, up 15.9 per cent, while intra-ASEAN imports reached 142.8 billion US dollars, up 19.3 per cent, both on a year-on-year basis.

The percentage of intra-ASEAN trade in ASEAN total trade remained “relatively constant,” which moved slightly from 24.3 per cent in 2004 to 25 per cent in 2005.

Japan, the United States, the European Union, China and South Korea continued to be ASEAN’s largest trading partners, said the statement. Economic and trade ministers, deputy ministers and other representatives of the 10 ASEAN member countries attended the half-day council meeting. Malaysian International Trade and Industry Minister Rafidah Aziz chaired the meeting, with the attendance of ASEAN Secretary-General Ong Keng Yong.

Volcano eruption affects one mln Ecuadorians

QUITO, 22 Aug—More than a million Ecuadorians have been affected by the eruption of the Tungurahua Volcano last Thursday, the government reported on Monday.

The government declared a state of emergency in the provinces of Bolivar, Chimborazo and Tungurahua, after the 5,029-metre volcano, 180 kilometres from Ecuador’s capital Quito, threw ash and burning rock into the atmosphere, affecting over one million people, almost 454,000 in Tungurahua and 403,632 in Chimborazo.

The rescue agency said at least five people died and three more went missing. The latter were also presumed dead. The lava injured 65 people, of whom five suffered serious burns, it added. The bodies of four people have been found. A fifth person died in hospital, the agency said.

The eruption has destroyed more than 40,000 hectares of crops in Chimborazo alone. In addition, 50,000 poultry were also killed in the disaster.

Hugo Yepez, director of Ecuador’s Geophysics Institute, told the media on Monday that the volcanic activity was calming. But he warned that an increasing wrap on the north face of the mountain showed that it was continuing to accumulate lava. It could lead to an even larger explosion than Thursday’s eruption, he said.

Tungurahua has not erupted or shown signs of seismic activity since Thursday, and the crater was showing signs of deflation.
ASEAN Economic Ministers meet on eco coop, integration

KUALA LUMPUR, 22 Aug—ASEAN Economic ministers (AEM) kicked off their 38th meeting here on Tuesday for more explorations on the grouping’s economic cooperation and integration.

The 38th AEM meeting, which is chaired by Malaysian International Trade and Industry Minister Rafidah Aziz, is expected to assess the progress on ASEAN’s economic integration, especially the implementation of its tariff reduction scheme.

The meeting also will review the non-tariff barriers which hinder the grouping’s pace towards economic integration and might pop up programmes and modalities for overcoming them, including a consumer protection mechanism in the region.

Other measures, which needed to be put in place to push the realization of the ASEAN Economic Community will be explored at the gathering, might include those for further integration of the eleven priority sectors and the addition of the logistics sector into the integration.

The meeting will finalize several agreements and protocols for signing or approval at the 12th ASEAN Summit scheduled to take place in the Philippines in December this year.

Besides their own internal matters, AEMs also will held extensive consultations with their counterparts from the grouping’s dialogue partners to explore stronger economic cooperation, including South Korea, Japan, New Zealand, Australia and India.

The negotiations on the Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with these partners are expected to be the main scenario during the consultations.

Economic cooperation activities also will be discussed during the consultations.

MNA/Xinhua

Labour outlines ‘ambitious’ water recycling plan

MELBOURNE, 23 Aug—The Federal Opposition wants one third of Australia’s waste water to be recycled for industrial and agricultural use by 2015.

Labour’s water spokesman Anthony Albanese says the party also wants national guidelines for recycling developed to build public confidence and increase water security in urban areas.

He says about 10 per cent of waste water is currently reused, and he believes increasing that to 30 per cent is ambitious but attainable.

“We believe that if you establish water markets, support recycling and encourage investment in water infrastructure from both the public and the private sector then you can achieve that target,” he said.

Mr Albanese says the Opposition would also develop comprehensive, national guidelines for recycling to build public confidence and increase water security in urban areas.

Mr Albanese says adding recycled water to drinking supplies is not part of Labour’s plans at the urban areas.

Mr Albanese says the Opposition would also develop economic and agricultural use by 2015.

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“A Medibank patient with diabetes is reading a book while sitting in a chair in a clinic in Melbourne, Australia, Aug 22, 2006. — Internet

A Bulgarian boy “draws” a flower by twirling fire-chains as he practices Poi in a park in downtown Sofia, capital of Bulgaria on 21 Aug, 2006. —Xinhua

Ethiopia relocates 16,000 marooned by floods

ADDIS ABABA, 22 Aug — Ethiopia has rescued thousands marooned by flash floods that have killed nearly 900 people this month, but tens of thousands remain homeless as more rivers spilled over across the nation.

The floods have hit large areas throughout the Horn of Africa nation, displacing some 48,000 people, according to UN estimates.

Ethiopia has warned that more rivers are overflowing, and its major dams are near to rupturing.

MNA/Reuters

Construction frameworks are seen at the Tian’annmen Gate tower in central Beijing, capital of China, on 22 Aug, 2006.

A Bulgarian boy “draws” a flower by twirling fire-chains as he practices Poi in a park in downtown Sofia, capital of Bulgaria on 21 Aug, 2006. —Xinhua

Floods affect 200,000 in Indian state, kills 14

NEW DELHI, 22 Aug—Heavy rains in Orissa in eastern India over the last week have claimed at least 14 lives and affected more than 200,000 people with more than six million hectares of agricultural land being inundated.

Local officials said Monday that 11 of the state’s 30 districts have been hit by the floods, the third round since July.

The worst-hit are Balasore and Bhadrak districts in coastal Orissa.

Road communications have been severely affected in many parts while thousands of people are marooned.

As more rains are expected in the next couple of days, there is little hope of the situation improving.

The depression formed over the Bay of Bengal last week has crossed the state, but now there is an open air cyclonic circulation, said Bhubaneswar meteorological department official G Sahu.

“Under its influence, the state is likely to witness isolated and heavy rainfall in the next 24 hours.

We have warned fishermen not to venture into the sea,” Indo-Asian News Service quoted Sahu as saying.

MNA/Xinhua

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**Kidnapped Italian tourists found in Niger**

ROMA, 23 Aug—Twenty-one Italian tourists believed to have been kidnapped on the border between Niger and Chad were found on Tuesday, the Italian Foreign Ministry said.

“They have been found,” said a ministry official, without giving any more details. The ministry had earlier said that one German who was among the group of tourists — comprised of 21 Italians, one German and one Brazilian woman — managed to escape and report the abduction to German authorities. The ministry said the group was attacked by bandits on Monday afternoon in the desert area of south-east Niger, near the border with Chad.

The lawless border area is notorious for banditry and smuggling. Until a peace deal last year, northern Chad was involved in an uprising which spilled over into Niger.

**Russian plane crashes in thunderstorm**

BEIJING, 23 Aug—A Russian airliner Tu-154 carrying 170 holidaymakers crashed and burst into flames in eastern Ukraine on Tuesday after sending an SOS message during a severe thunderstorm, the Russian Emer- gency Situations Ministry said, adding there were no survivors.

Emergency officials ruled out terrorism as the cause of the Tu-154’s crash, saying preliminary information showed the weather was to blame. Ukrainian officials said a storm, accompanied by heavy winds, driving rain and flashes of lightning, was raging through the region at the time. —INTERNET

**China-Australia flight returns after bomb scare**

SYDNEY, 23 Aug—A bomb scare forced a passenger flight on its way to Australia to return to China, Australia’s Channel 9 reported on Tuesday.

A note warning that a bomb would explode on a China Southern Airlines flight from Guangzhou to Sydney was found one hour into the journey, the Nine Network reported.

The pilot took emergency action and returned to Guangzhou, it said. —MENA/Reuters

**Lebanese national airline resumes Cairo-Beirut flights via Amman**

CAIRO, 22 Aug—Lebanon’s national Middle East Airlines (MEA) resumed on Sunday flights between Cairo and Beirut via the Jordanian capital Amman after 40 days of suspension, Egypt’s official MENA news agency reported.

An MEA plane, carrying 149 passengers, most of whom were Lebanese, left Cairo’s International Airport for Beirut via Amman on Sunday, according to the report. There is no direct flight between Cairo and Beirut at the moment because of an air blockade imposed by Israel on Lebanon. Earlier, MEA’s regional director in Cairo Mohamed el-Sharqawi was quoted by MENA as saying that the airline had also won the authorization for flights to take the same line back to Cairo. The Cairo-Beirut direct flights had been suspended since the eruption of the Hezbollah-Israel conflict in Lebanon on 12 July. —INTERNET

**Bus collision kills nine, injures 52 in N China city**

SUZHOU, 22 Aug—Nine people died and 52 were injured when two buses collided head-on in the city of Huanghua, north China’s Hebei Province, on Monday.

A city government source said the accident occurred at about 7:40 am at an intersection in Tengzhuangzi Township.

Two people died at the scene and seven others died later in hospital.

The injured are being treated in hospital and nine are said to be in a critical condition.

An investigation into the cause of the collision is underway. —MENA/Xinhua
ASEAN says foreign investors’ confidence rebounds

KUALA LUMPUR, 22 Aug—Foreign investors’ confidence in ASEAN now has returned to the level before the Asian financial crisis in 1997, the ASEAN Investment Area (AIA) Council said here on Monday.

Foreign direct investment (FDI) in ASEAN totalled 38 billion US dollars, up 48 per cent year-on-year and already superseding 34.1 billion US dollars in 1997, according to the statistics from the secretariat of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

This shows that ASEAN’s attractiveness as an investment destination is being reinforced and the grouping is back on its growth trend before the year 1997 when it was struck by the so-called Financial Storm, the Council said in a statement after its ninth meeting.

The approved FDI in the manufacturing sector recorded 27.8 billion US dollars anti 2005, up 33 per cent from the previous year.

The top five sectors with substantial FDI interest were refined petroleum products, radio, television and communication equipment, motor vehicles, food products and electrical machinery.

Being optimistic that the growth in FDI flows into ASEAN will remain in the future, the council urged ASEAN investment officials to organize more inbound investment promotion missions or events in this regard.

Budapest starts clean-up after storm, toll rises

BUDAPEST, 22 Aug — Three people died and 38 were seriously hurt when a storm hit Budapest as hundreds of thousands of people watched a fireworks display to mark Hungary’s National Day, an ambulance spokeswoman said on Monday.

Sunday’s sudden storm, which prompted panic and made several river boats collide and one sink, caused 104 injuries, 38 of them serious as heavy trees fell on some spectators, she said.

One of the dead was a 12-year-old girl and there were still two more people missing from the sunken boat, state news agency MTI reported.

The wreckage and trees lying on the roads caused serious disruptions to traffic on Monday and fire brigades were working to clean up the city.

Unconfirmed reports put the total number of injured at around 240, and MTI quoted a disaster management spokesman saying the high number of people who got to hospitals on foot or in their cars would add to the ambulance service’s casualty numbers.

The damage was mostly confined to the capital and to Pest County which surrounds it, an emergency service spokesman told Reuters.

Vietnam’s key industrial exports to surge in 2007

HANOI, 22 Aug — Vietnam’s Industry Ministry has forecast that export revenues of local industrial products, including crude oil, garment and footwear will rise 17 per cent to 33.8 billion US dollars in 2007, accounting for up to 76.6 per cent of the country’s total export turnover in the year.

The Ministry also predicted that the goods, which will continue to register high growths in 2007, include footwear, electronics and computer component, handicraft, woodwork and plastics, Vietnam News Agency reported on Monday.

Vietnam gained over 4.9 billion dollars from exporting more than 9.6 million tons of crude oil, roughly 3.4 billion dollars from garment and textile, nearly 2.1 billion dollars from footwear, nearly 1.1 billion dollars from woodwork, and 900 million dollars from electronics and computer components in the first seven months of this year, according to the General Statistics Office.

Spain, Senegal agree patrols to stem migrant flood

DAKAR, 22 Aug — Spain and Senegal agreed on Monday to start joint Navy patrols this week to halt illegal migration, which has seen more than 1,000 Africans come ashore in the Canary Islands in three days.

After an emergency meeting with his Senegalese counterpart in Dakar, Spanish Interior Minister Alfredo Perez Rubalcaba said two Spanish Civil Guard vessels would begin patrols off Senegal by the end of this week.

“Illegal immigration is not just Spain’s problem; neither is it just Senegal’s nor the European Union’s; it is a shared problem, it is everyone’s problem,” Rubalcaba told reporters after the meeting, before leaving for neighbouring Mauritania.

More than 1,600 illegal migrants have flooded into Spain’s Canary Islands since Friday, according to the regional government, swamping reception centres and leaving Madrid struggling to organize their repatriation to West Africa.

Venezuela to reconsider anti-drug accord with US

CARACAS (Venezuela), 23 Aug — Venezuela has doubts about signing a stalled anti-drug accord with the United States after Washington last week opened a special intelligence bureau for Venezuela and Cuba, a Venezuelan minister said on Monday. Interior and Justice Minister Jesse Chacon said the drug accord and other agreements with Washington should be reviewed in light of a move last week by the United States’ director of intelligence to create a new “mission manager” for Cuba and Venezuela.

The decision effectively gives a similar US intelligence priority to the two Latin American nations as to Iran and North Korea.

“Following the most recent statements by the United States, we have to analyze whether or not it makes sense for us to sign that (anti-drug) accord,” Chacon told reporters. “I think we have to re-evaluate all the accords that we could sign with the US.”

President Hugo Chavez, a persistent critic of Washington, last year halted cooperation with the US Drug Enforcement Administration and accused it of spying on him.

The DEA is one of the agencies that reports to the US national intelligence director. Earlier this year, Chavez also declared the US naval attaché persona non grata on similar spying accusations.

American socialite, TV star and singer Paris Hilton poses with a Japanese fan who is dressed in a dress dedicated to her during a Press conference in Tokyo on 22 Aug, 2006. — INTERNET
Two years ago I wrote an article “In the service of the State” to mark the anniversary of my government service. As I saw significant improvement in the status of service personnel, a thought came into my mind to write another article by the same title. But I can write it only now.

The two significant developments of the service personnel are the assignments of duties in Nay Pyi Taw and the marked increase in the monthly salaries.

It has been a few months since the government institutions were moved to Nay Pyi Taw stage by stage, and thanks to the systematic arrangements, they are now in a proper situation.

Besides, service personnel are able to work in grand buildings of the same design built under the government’s arrangements, and have been accommodated at apartments meant for the families in rank and position.

They should thank the State for their prestigious life created by the government.

The resettlement of government departments in Nay Pyi Taw is in accord with the good vision of the Head of State, and the government institutions will have to move to the new capital of the nation.

Most of the ministries were housed at the Secretariat built by the colonialists many years ago. New buildings constructed for some ministries are 50 years or so old. Hence they were old office buildings exposed to natural elements for a long time, and facing frequent septic pipe problems and rain water leakage.

A long row of new departmental buildings, with each office bearing its own number at Thabyegon in Nay Pyi Taw has become a majestic scene for anyone visiting the place. Another marvellous view is the plants, trees and flowers the staff of the respective ministries have grown for beautifying their own compounds.

Multi-coloured one-, two-, three- or four-storey staff quarters are ready to accommodate families as well as singles in accord with their ranks. As for singles, hostels are built gender-wise. It will not be wrong to say that service personnel have entered a new age.

Government institutions that can offer staff quarters in Yangon are not many. Most of the government employees in Yangon are tenants. I came to remember a middle level staff of Yangon submitting a request to the department to transfer him to the district. In Nay Pyi Taw, middle level staff can live in high standard three-storey duplex buildings.

I do not want to go into detail as most of the government employees have already known the pleasant environment of housing estates and office buildings in the new capital. Thanks to the people-to-people messages, staff are eager to move to Nay Pyi Taw complete with hospitals, schools and markets. All slanders are silent because of the objective conditions of the capital they cannot overlook.

State service personnel have witnessed the government’s goodwill towards them.

The Tatmadaw government has increased the monthly salaries of the State service personnel for four times, as it has been caring them as far as it can.

As the government has opened wider opportunities for the public sector, private enterprises are flourishing and their employees enjoy better salaries than their counterparts of the State-run institutions.

Now the monthly salaries of the State service personnel have increased and they are not less than their counterparts of the private sector. In other words, government employees are enjoying the fruits of the rising income of the State. Like the lotus whose level elevates together with the rising water level, service personnel are enjoying higher living standard according to the rise in the State’s revenues.

The nation and the people will enjoy the benefits depending on the increase in the nation’s income from exports and taxes. In addition, more revenues mean more nation-building endeavours. The service personnel are achieving benefits of the development in all sectors together with the entire nation.

The twin developments service personnel are enjoying are concrete evidences of the national progress. The government has been placing in the fore the public interest. In this regard, service personnel should dutifully make optimum efforts for the smooth and swift running of the State administrative machinery. Only then will they be the persons dutiful and grateful to the State.

Every government employee has to realize and follow the rules and regulations enumerated in the book “Code of conduct for service personnel”, featuring 15 rules and regulations by which service personnel have to abide. With respect to duties, it is stated that service personnel are responsible for carrying out their duties all-day round if necessary; responsible for carrying out extra duties assigned by the government when needed in addition to primary duties; and responsible for abiding by law, rules, regulations, procedures, orders and directives. In relation to code of conduct, it is stated that service personnel are to be loyal to the State, to abide by the existing laws, to serve the interests of the people, and to discharge duties and responsibilities dutifully and honestly. Disciplines prescribed for service personnel include disciplines on work site, office hours, tasks and behaviours. Disciplines stipulated in detail include to wear costumes appropriate for their positions in the office hours, to take charge of their responsibilities with a sense of duty, to see that no work is left undone, not to seek self-interests by abusing entrusted authority and position, and to strictly follow disciplines on security. So, each and every employee has to abide by the prescribed rules and regulations.

Service personnel taking charge of duties for ensuring smooth operation of State’s administrative machinery have reciprocal relations among themselves as well as with the public. Government service personnel who have to deal with the people are to strictly follow the disciplines on behaviours stated in the book “Code of conduct for service personnel”. And they are to be well convinced that a disciplinary rule is promulgated that they must not seek self-interest misusing their position.

Government staff who have to deal with the people are also to be careful about their words and deeds. According to the Myanmar-to-Myanmar dictionary, the word “morality” means uprightness in physical, verbal and mental actions. It should be aware that a government employee’s physical, verbal and mental actions have an effect on his department and the government. The lectures about civics prescribed for basic education schools and Central Institute of Civil Service play an important role in the Myanmar society. Niti (ethics) means social instructions by which all human beings have to abide. So, the government employees who have to deal with the people are to follow the ethics more than the people.

Government employees have got opportunities for greater progress created by the government. So, in response to the goodwill of the government and the people, service personnel should try their best to become good employees capable of shoulderering duties in accordance with the code of conduct and strictly following the rules and regulations to be in greater service of the State and the people.

Translation: TMT + MS

Myanma Alin & Kyemon: 23-8-2006

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Performing Arts Competitions of Directorate of PRPW opens

YANGON, 23 Aug — The Sixth Performing Arts Competitions, organized by the Directorate of Public Relations and Psychological Warfare of the Ministry of Defence, opened at the theatre of the No 3 Mobile Public Relations Unit in Mandalay on 20 August morning.

Present on the occasion were senior military officers of Mandalay Station, commandants of the units and training schools under the Directorate of PRPW, members of the panel of judges of the University of Culture and the Fine Arts Department and contestants.

Lt-Col Maung Maung Oo of the Directorate of Public Relations and Psychological Warfare gave an opening address and opened the competitions.

In the first-day competitions, the contestants took part in the classical song (men’s and women’s) contest, the modern song (men’s) contest and the Anyeint contest.

Establishment of Special Economic Zone in Myawady discussed

YANGON, 23 Aug — Under the arrangement of the Work Committee for Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS), the Special Economic Zone will be established in Myawady at Myanmar-Thai border area in accord with the bilateral economic cooperation, and authorities of both sides will carry out agricultural tasks through the contract farming system in Myawady and Tachileik.

Vice-Governor Mr Cherdsk Chusri and officials together with entrepreneurs of Thailand met Managing Director U Kyi Win and party of Myanma Perennial Crops Enterprise at the hall of MPCE on Thiri Mingala Street in Kaba Aye, here, yesterday morning.

The managing director explained progress of the agricultural sector in Myanmar, climatic conditions, land utilization, cultivation of crops, per-acre yield and production, foreign investment law and investment opportunities, and tasks of the Agricultural and Industrial Cooperation Work Committee under the Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS).

Mr Cherdsk Chusri and party took part in the discussions.

Officials of both sides held a discussion to carry out agricultural tasks in Myawady and Tachileik through the contract farming system. An appropriate plan will be drawn in line with the rules and regulations.

At present, the tasks will be undertaken as the pilot project.

Yangon Division’s outstanding students honoured

YANGON, 23 Aug — Yangon Division’s outstanding students who passed the matriculation examination for 2006 with six distinctions were honoured today at No 2 Basic Education High School, Sangyaung Township.

Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation and Yangon Division Women’s Affairs Organization organized the ceremony to honour the outstanding students.

The ceremony was opened with an address by Vice-President of MWAF Daw Khin Thet Hay. Next, Daw Khin Thet Hay, Patron of Yangon Division WAO Daw Mar Mar Wai, Head of Administration Department of MWAF Dr Daw Khin Hsan Nwe, Leader of Social and Cultural Working Group Dr Daw Sandar Aung, Head of Discipline Enforcement Department Daw Mya Theingi, Head of Financial Department Daw Aye Aye and Member of the Central Executive Committee Daw Khin Mi Mi presented prizes and cash rewards to 283 students from 58 schools in Yangon Division.

Vice-President of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation Daw Khin Thet Htay delivers an address at ceremony to honour Yangon Division’s outstanding students. — MNA
Functions of Auto-exchanges in Bago Division inspected

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Aug — Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw heard reports on functions of Pyundaza Auto-exchange and tasks for ensuring better communications presented by the Bago Division Manager of Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications at Pyundaza Auto-exchange on 21 August.

At Kyaukdaga Auto-exchange, the minister inspected tasks of the exchange, postal and telegraphic works. He also inspected construction of Penweon Auto-exchange building.

In Kanyutkwin, the minister looked into Kanyutkwin Auto-exchange building and installation of telephone lines. On 22 August, the minister viewed inflow of water into the No 14 dam of the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw, breeding of fish and duck and cultivation of perennial crops.

At the meeting hall, Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw together with the Deputy Minister for National Planning and Economic Development, the Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue and the Deputy Minister for Commerce viewed presentations on functions of Conferencing and Collaboration System and Certification Authority System and attended to the needs. — MNA

Commander, Energy Minister meet service personnel under ministry

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Aug — Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye and Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi attended a meeting of service personnel under the Ministry of Energy at the office of Sagaing Division PDC, Monywa held on 19 August.

First, the minister made a speech on the occasion, saying that emphasis had to be placed on efficient use of fuel as the fuel price in the world was going up. Staff of the Ministry of Energy had to follow the directives of the ministry. If not, actions would be taken against those who failed to do their assignments according to the directives. Staff were to avoid corruption and make all-out efforts while carrying out their functions. Staff were to follow rules and regulations of the ministry. In response to the reports of the staff, the minister attended to the needs.

Upon arrival at a filling station No 0640, the minister inspected filling of fuel, distribution of fuel and list of fuel sale and gave instructions on emphasis placed on preventive measures against fire and filling of fuel.

The following day, the minister and responsible personnel visited a physic nut plantation of MPPE in Myaung, Sagaing Division.

Next, the minister looked into a fuel port and gave instructions on upgrading of measuring system of fuel, security affairs and fire preventive measures.

MNA

Communications, Posts and Telecommunications

Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw inspects breeding of fish and ducks at the ministry’s dam in Nay Pyi Taw.

Minister for Mines receives Chairman of China Yunnan Corporation

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Aug — Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint received Chairman Mr Guo Xiao Yong and party of China Yunnan Corporation (CYC) at the hall of the Ministry of Mines, here, on 21 August. Also present at the call were departmental officials of the Ministry of Mines. — MNA

Wellwisher donates K 10 m to Nay Pyi Taw’s General Hospital

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Aug — Eden Company donated K 10 million to Nay Pyi Taw’s 300-bed General Hospital yesterday.

Director-General Dr Tin Win Maung of Health Department under the Ministry of Health, Deputy Director-General Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint of Health Planning Department and officials also attended the cash donation ceremony.

Managing Director of Eden Company U Chit Khine, Managing Director of Eden Co, explained the purpose the donation and presented K 10 million to Medical Superintendent of the Hospital Dr Kyi Win.

MNA

Carpets and tarpaulin sales centre opens in Pyinmana

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Aug — A ceremony to open the sales centre of Aung Thabye Co Ltd was held at 6/9, Bogyoke Road, Mingala Ward, Pyinmana, on 26 July morning, attended by Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Mayor of Nay Pyi Taw Col Thein Nyunt and party. Managing Director U Aung Tun of Aung Thabye Co Ltd and Commercial Attaché Mr Oh Jae Ho of the Embassy of the Republic of Korea cut the ribbon to open the sales centre. Linoleum, various kinds of carpets, tarpaulin and ground sheets are available at the sales centre at fair prices. Arrangements are being made to open the branch at Myoma market in Nay Pyi Taw. — MNA

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

The second best time is now.
Healthy environment and aedes, rubberish, tobacco free schools designated in Hline

YANGON, 23 Aug — A ceremony to designate schools in Hline Township as healthy environment and aedes, rubberish and tobacco free ones, organized by Yangon Division West District Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee was held at No 4 BEHS in Hline Township.

First, Chairperson of Yangon Division MCWSC Daw Mar Mar Wai, Director-General of No 3 Basic Education Department U Aye Kyi and Joint-Secretary of Yangon City Development Committee U Aung Than Win formally opened the ceremony.

Next, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win formally unveiled signboards of tobacco free, aedes free and rubberish free school.

The ceremony continued at the hall of the school. First, Chairperson of Yangon Division for MCWSC Daw Mar Mar Wai made clarification on tasks to be carried out for ensuring healthy environment and aedes, rubberish and tobacco free schools. Next, the chairperson accepted 1,000 membership applications of Hline Township MCWA, 750 of No 10 Ward and membership applications of all students of No 4 BEHS.

Afterwards, the commander accepted cash K 1.22 million donated by nine wellwishers for the tasks of healthy school.

Afterwards, Chairperson Daw Mar Mar Wai and responsible persons presented sanitary equipment to the chairpersons of ward MCWAs in the township.

Next, Head of Division Department of Health Dr Hla Myint presented dengue fever educative posters to the chairperson of the township.

Ministry of Health holds coord meeting

NAV PUN TAW, 23 Aug — The Ministry of Health held its coordination meeting on control measures to be taken against flu epidemic at the meeting hall of National Health Committee of the ministry on 21 August.

Present on the occasion were Chairman of Work Committee for Prevention, Treatment and Combating Bird Flu Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo, responsible personnel of the ministry, members of social organizations and representatives of WHO and UNICEF. First, the deputy minister made a speech on the occasion. Next, Director-General of Department of Health Dr Tin Win Maung briefed those present on preparatory tasks of International Coordination and Logistics and Supply Subcommittee and Deputy Director-General Dr Kyaw Nyunt Sein on sector-wise functions.

Next, those present from the ministries concerned reported on functions of the departments concerned and future tasks. — MNA

Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo delivers an address at coordination meeting on prevention of flu epidemic. — MNA

Discussions on Indonesia Trade Fair and Economic Seminar held

YANGON, 23 Aug — Minister Counsellor Mr Johennes Suripto of Indonesian Embassy to the Union of Myanmar called on Vice-President of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Win Aung. General Secretary U Sein Win Hlaing and executives at UMFCCI Office Tower this morning and made discussions to hold Indonesian Trade Fair and Economic Seminar on 27 and 28 August at UMFCCI Office Tower on Min Ye Kyaw Swa Street in Lanmadaw Township.

Regarding the holding of the trade fair, Indonesian embassy staff and members of Indonesian delegation held discussion with General Secretary U Sein Win Hlaing to hold the trade fair on 27 and 28 August.

The economic seminar will be held on 27 August. A face-to-face discussion with Myanmar entrepreneurs will be held on 27 and 28 August.

Those wishing to attend the discussion may contact UMFCCI (Tel No between 214344 and 214349).

Insane killer caught within 36 hrs

YANGON, 23 Aug — A 41-year old insane person who killed two octogenarians and a nun in Bago was caught within 36 hours after committing the crime on 17 August.

Myint Kyi (a) Khant Thu, who has gone insane due to malaria infection, killed U Chit Hlaing, 86, U Tha Khin, 85, and nun Daw Aye Theng (a) Daw Arm, with a hoe at a meditation centre in the town where the three went on Buddhist retreat.

According to Myint Kyi, it was in April this year that he started to commit the crime and go hiding at Indakaw.

MNA

MRA

MURDER EXPOSED IN COUPLE OF WEEKS

YANGON, 23 Aug — A man was struck with a sword to death by an assailant on Shwehintha Street, in Hline Township, at 9 pm on 2 August.

During the incident, the victim U Aung Zaw, 35, son of U Hla Maung, of Myayadana Street, Ward 11, Hline Township, here, was on his way home on a motorcycle, and the assailant managed to escape in a car. U Aung Zaw succumbed to the injuries at Yangon General Hospital.

Hline Police Station filed a lawsuit and made an investigation into the case.

The investigation led to the arrest of Ma Myint Myint Aye (a) Ma Byar Gyi, 40, engaged in pig slaughter, daughter of U Ko Maung, of Ward 5, Kamayut, on 16 August. According to her confession, Po Aw (a) Aung Myat Soe, 32, son of U Thaung, of 64, Yawmakaung Street, Ward 12, Hline Township, in April this year hired her to cut off the arm of the victim. Ma Myint Myint Aye then hired pig slaughterer Myint Sein, 40, of U Tin Ngwe, of Bo Aung Kyaw Street, Ward 1/13, Hlinethaya Township, to do so. Myint Sein killed Aung Zaw on 2 August and managed to escape.

Due to the combined efforts of the policemen, murderer Myint Sein was arrested in Hlinethaya Township on 16 August, and mastermind Po Aw (a) Aung Myat Soe, at Kyauktan Ward in Phayalay Village, Bago Township, on 18 August night.

The culprits could be put behind bars in a fortnight, and action is being taken against the two. — MNA
Australia warned of fresh terrorist threats in Pakistan

Canberra, 23 Aug — Australians have been warned of fresh threats of terrorist attacks in Pakistan, and being urged to reconsider the need to travel to the Asian nation.

Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) on Tuesday reissued its travel advisory for Pakistan.

"We advise you to reconsider your need to travel to Pakistan at this time due to the very high threat of terrorist attack and the unpredictable security situation," it said.

"If you do decide to travel to Pakistan, you should exercise extreme caution. We continue to receive reports that terrorists are planning attacks against a range of targets, including places frequented by foreigners," it said.

Recent reports suggest that terrorists are planning attacks against Western, including Australian, individuals and interests in Peshawar, said DFAT, adding "we emphasize that attacks could occur at any time, anywhere in Pakistan."

The suicide bombing in Karachi on 2 March, 2006, which killed four people including a US diplomat, demonstrates that terrorist continue to target Western interests, it said.

"We strongly advise you not to travel to the federally-administered tribal areas and areas adjacent to Pakistan’s borders with Afghanistan and India due to security concerns," it said.

China urges peaceful resolution of Iran standoff

BEIJING, 23 Aug — China again called for a peaceful resolution to Iran’s nuclear standoff with the West on Tuesday and said threats of force and sanctions were unhelpful.

"We hope the Iran nuclear issue can be peacefully resolved," Sun said. "Creating tension is detrimental not only to the region but to ourselves."

"Iran’s refusal to suspend the enrichment would be tantamount to rejecting the package, but would not yet trigger action by the UN Security Council, which passed a resolution last month giving Iran until 31 August to halt the enrichment programme or face possible sanctions."

The United States also says it wants a diplomatic solution to the standoff but has refused to rule out military action.

Singapore, Malaysia promote youth travel

SINGAPORE, 23 Aug — The Singapore Tourism Board and Tourism Malaysia jointly announced in a statement Tuesday that they have launched a promotion to encourage greater youth travel and exchange between the two countries.

With the promotion, Singaporean and Malaysian youths aged 21 years and below will be granted complimentary admission to selected attractions when they visit each other’s country.

The selected attractions include, among others, Singapore Zoo, Jurong Bird Park and Sentosa Island in Singapore, and Sunway Lagoon, Zoo Melaka and Night Zoo, as well as Putrajaya boat ride in Malaysia.

"The organizers believe that the initiative will help promote youth travel and exchange between the two countries."

To last until 17 September this year, the promotion is part of the ongoing joint marketing efforts under the auspices of the Malaysia-Singapore Tourism Council.
Pakistan releases 18.2m rupees for flood affectees

ISLAMABAD, 22 Aug—Some 18.2 million Pakistani rupees (about 303,333 US dollars) has been released for financial assistance and rehabilitation of flood and rain-affected areas in Pakistan’s Punjab Province, the state-run APP news agency reported on Sunday.

An amount of 25,000 rupees (about 416.66 dollars) in cash will be given to an affected house, some 10,000 rupees for partly damaged house and 20,000 rupees for the loss of more than 50 per cent of crops which have been damaged in the rains. According to a decision according to a decision made by a meeting held in Lahore on Saturday, APP reported. Areas where more than 50 per cent of the crops have been damaged in the rains will be declared calamity-hit and the government dues would be waived off, said the report. —MNA/Xinhua

Heat, drought continue in S-W China despite showers

CHONGQING, 22 Aug—Sizzling temperatures and the worst drought in 50 years will continue to ravage southwest China’s Sichuan Province and Chongqing Municipality despite showers that started on Sunday and are forecast to hit most areas of western China in the next three days.

Parts of Chongqing’s City proper bathed in light showers on Sunday evening and the temperature fell by at least five degrees Celsius, but local meteorologists said the rain did little to ease the drought across the municipality and the Sichuan Basin.

One killed, 17 injured in India’s factory blast

NEW DELHI, 22 Aug—At least one person was killed and 17 workers injured in a factory explosion in Punjab on Sunday when a homemade bomb ripped through a Moscow market Monday morning, Russia news agencies reported.

Eight people, including two children, were killed when the explosion hit the Eurasian section of Cherkizovsky market in Sirenevy Bulvar District, northeast Moscow at 10:40 am local time (0640 GMT), and the other two died at hospital.

According to preliminary information, five Chinese and one Vietnamese citizen were killed.

The nationalities of the others who were killed have not yet been established,” Svetalana Petrenko, the Press secretary of the Moscow government’s office, told Interfax.

Two men, suspected of staging the explosion which also wounded 55 others, were arrested, city Prosecutor Yuri Syomin was quoted by the Interfax news agency as saying.

“I am preparing to sign the appropriate documents,” Syomin added.

Death of Moscow market explosion rises to 10

Moscow, 22 Aug—Ten people were killed including five Chinese and one Vietnamese citizen and 55 others wounded when a homemade bomb ripped through a Moscow market Monday morning, Russia news agencies reported.

In all, eight people, including two children, were killed when the explosion hit the Eurasian section of Cherkizovsky market in Sirenevy Bulvar District, northeast Moscow at 10:40 am local time (0640 GMT), and the other two died at hospital.

“According to preliminary information, five Chinese and one Vietnamese citizen were killed.

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“I am preparing to sign the appropriate documents,” Syomin added.

DMB mobile TV service to start in China on trial basis in mid-2007

BEIJING, 22 Aug—The State Administration for Radio, Film and Television (SARFT) has announced plans to try DMB (digital multimedia broadcasting) mobile TV services in mid-2007 a year ahead of the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games.

Transmission of TV signals to mobiles will be tested in mid-2007 and the satellite system activated in the first half of 2008 so that the Olympic Games can be projected to millions of mobile users across the country.

China’s two biggest mobile telecom operators, China Mobile and China Unicom, are expected to sign agreements at the end of the month with mobile phone makers to buy TV handsets.

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Scientists trial non-toxic gold extraction

Melbourne, 22 Aug — Tasmanian scientists are testing a new process for extracting gold from ore. At present, 98 percent of Australian mining use the highly toxic chemical compound sodium cyanide to refine the precious metal, which can lead to environmental damage.

But University of Tasmania researcher Elijah Marshall is trialling a non-toxic chemical.

“What thiosulfate does is it works in a similar way to sodium cyanide in removing gold from rock, but it’s a lot cheaper, non-toxic and a lot better for the environment,” he said.

A replica of the Cenozoic Era skeleton of a Carodnia vieirai, similar to a large anteater, is presented during a new conference by researchers from the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro on 22 Aug. 2006. — Internet

East Asian plant protection network founded in SW China

 Kunming, 22 Aug — A regional plant protection organization, the East Asia Botanic Gardens Network, was established Sunday in southwest China’s Yunnan Province, aiming to promote exchanges and cooperation in botanic protection and study in the region.

The network met for the first time on Saturday and Sunday in Kunming, the provincial capital, attracting more than 30 delegates from Mongolia, North Korea, South Korea, Japan and China.

“The network wants to promote the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, which was adopted in 2002 by the parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity,” said Huang Hongwen, coordinator-general of the organization. Many botanic gardens are members of the network. The network will strengthen cooperation in scientific research and plant conservation among them, said Huang, who is director of the Wuhan Botanic Garden in central China’s Hubei Province.

All botanic garden organizations from member countries will automatically become members of the network, according to Huang. Each member country will have a coordinator to represent the country. — MNA/Reuter

Six killed in Spanish train crash

Villada, (Spain), 22 Aug — Six people were killed, and 36 injured when a train ploughed off the tracks in northwest Spain on Monday while travelling to France, officials said. Some of the train’s 426 passengers were foreign pilgrims returning home after visiting the tomb of Saint James in the city of Santiago de Compostela, Spanish media reported.

Rail authorities said it was too early to say what caused the crash, but saw no sign of terrorism in Spain’s second deadly rail crash in as many months.

The train was travelling to the French border when it derailed on a bend at the station of Villada, about 30 kilometres (19 miles) northwest of regional capital Palencia. The first carriage smashed into the pillar of a bridge, ripping off its side. Other carriages careened off the rails and passengers were showered with glass and debris. — MNA/Reuters

“Good bacteria” chewing gum prevents tooth decay

Beijing, 22 Aug — A chewing gum, which uses “good bacteria” to help prevent tooth decay, could be in the shops as early as next year, announced its producer Monday.

S. Mutans or S Mutans, is a bacterium that causes tooth decay. S. Mutans sticks to the surface of teeth, producing an aggressive acid that breaks down the enamel.

The new gum contains a strain of the bacteria Lactobacillus found in live yoghurt, which attach to the decay-causing bacteria, preventing them from adhering to teeth.

The German company BASF, which produced the gum in collaboration with OrganoBalance, claims its product can reduce the amount of harmful bacteria in the mouth 50-fold.

“This bacterium is well established and safe,” said Marcinowski.

BASF is also working on other bacteria products, including toothpaste, mouthwashes and deodorant. The company is keeping its detailed plans a secret and will only confirm that a lactobacillus product is due to be launched in 2007.

Many chewing gums already contain an artificial sweetener xylitol that prevents bacteria from sticking to teeth.
French riders (L-R) Philippe Benoît, Virginie Atger, Pascale Deitsch and Florian Legrand show their great performance during the World Equestrian Team Championship at the World Equestrian Games in Aachen on 22 August, 2006.—INTERNET

**S P O R T S**

**BELGRADE, 23 Aug—** AC Milan marched confidently into the Champions League group stage with a 3-1 aggregate win over Red Star Belgrade in the third qualifying round on Tuesday.

Goals from Italy World Cup winner Filippo Inzaghi and Dutchman Clarence Seedorf gave the six-times European champions a 2-1 second leg win. Inzaghi fired Milan ahead with a close-range header in the 29th minute and Seedorf doubled the lead in the 78th when he rifled home a crisp low shot from 13 metres. Striker Dusan Djokic salvaged some pride for the Serbian champions two minutes later when he volleyed home Nikola Zigic’s deflected cross.

Milan took control from the kick off and Kaka almost caught Red Star keeper Ivan Randjelovic off guard with a stinging low shot from 15 metres in the 20th minute. Randjelovic was forced into action again in the 26th minute when he kept out Andrea Pirlo’s swirling free kick but could only watch helplessly three minutes later when Inzaghi effectively killed off the tie.

AC Milan’s Alberto Gilardino (L) challenges Milan Rovic of Red Star during their Champions League third qualifying round second leg soccer match in Belgrade on 22 August, 2006. Milan won 2-1.—INTERNET

The passionate 55,000 home crowd constantly got behind their team and also showed glaring contempt for UEFA's decision to let Milan enter Europe's premier club competition.

The die-hard section of Red Star fans in the north tier formed the word UEFA in gigantic proportions with their bodies and at the same time held a banner that said "Malistos." An Italian sports tribunal punished Milan during the close season for involvement in a Serie A match-fixing scandal but UEFA reluctantly allowed them to play in Europe after declaring it had no legal grounds to expel them. Ancelotti praised the Serbians for a spirited performance and his own team for dealing with a hostile reception.

MNA/Reuters

**Hamburg fight back to earn away-goals win at Osasuna**

**PAMPLONA (Spain), 23 Aug—** Hamburg SV fought back from a goal down to claim a 1-1 draw at Osasuna on Tuesday that earned them an away-goals victory and a place in the group stage of the Champions League.

Modest Primera Liga side Osasuna, who held Hamburg 0-0 in the first leg, looked on the verge of going through after Carlos Cuellar put them in front six minutes into the second leg of the third qualifying round tie.

The defender squeezed a header past keeper Sascha Kirschstein at the far post after meeting an outswinging corner from David Lopez.—MNA/Reuters

China’s Wang Zhizhi (L) shoots during the first round match against Puerto Rico at the World Basketball championships in Sapporo, Japan, on 22 Aug, 2006.INTERNET

**River Plate president shrugs off death threats**

**BUENOS AIRES, 23 Aug—** River Plate president Jose Maria Aguilar confirmed on Tuesday that he had received death threats but shrugged them off, saying he was used to living with them.

"Sadly, when you're involved in this type of activity, the threats become a habitual companion," said Aguilar, whose club is one of Argentina's big two alongside their arch-rivals Boca Juniors.

"The threats are always the same. I've been receiving them by e-mail for a long time and telephone threats are another classic," he told reporters.

Aguilar, speaking outside his Buenos Aires home, said he had told the police and said he would not contemplate hiring bodyguards.

"I've lived in this place for 43 years, I've never had a bodyguard, nor am I going to have one," he said.

River have hit a troubled patch.——MNA/Reuters

**Liverpool survive scare to advance in Champions League**

**KIEV, 23 Aug—** Liverpool progressed to the group stage of the Champions League with a 3-2 aggregate victory over Maccabi Haifa but had a nervy last 25 minutes on Tuesday as they were held to a 1-1 second leg draw in neutral Kiev.

Leading 2-1 from the Anfield leg, the 2005 European champions failed to take their chances after dominating the first half of a match played in Ukraine but never looked like losing second half but Tottenham opened with a 1-1 draw in 12 years and who had raced past the Salzburg back four.

The pace eased in the second half but Tottenham dominated the first half of a match played in Ukraine when he kept out Andrea Pirlo’s swerving free kick but could only watch helplessly three minutes later when Inzaghi effectively killed off the tie.

The former Liverpool goalkeeper, who is one of Argentina's big two alongside their arch-rivals Boca Juniors. Whose club is one of Argentina's big two alongside their arch-rivals Boca Juniors.

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River have hit a troubled patch.——MNA/Reuters

**Berbatov on target as Spurs win 2-0**

**LONDON, 23 Aug—** Dimitar Berbatov scored his first goal for Tottenham Hotspur when the Londoners beat Sheffield United 2-0 in the Premier League on Tuesday.

The Bulgarian striker, a 10.9 million pound (20.6 million US dollars) summer signing from Bayer Leverkusen, looked off the pace in Saturday’s opening defeat at Bolton Wanderers but impressed in front of his new home fans.

Berbatov opened the scoring after seven minutes with a straightforward shot from an Aaron Lennon cross and then knocked down a Robbie Keane pass into the path of Jermaine Jenas for the second 10 minutes later.

Keane was in inspirational form as Tottenham took control against a United side back in the top flight for the first time in 12 years and who opened with a 1-1 draw against Liverpool on Saturday.

The pace eased in the second half but Tottenham never looked like losing their lead. MNA/Reuters

**Valencia beat Salzburg 3-0 to book place in group stage**

**VALENCIA, (Spain), 23 Aug—** First-half goals from Fernando Morientes and David Villa and an injury-time strike from David Silva gave Valencia a 3-0 win over Salzburg that put them into the Champions League group stage 3-1 on aggregate. Valencia, losing finalists in the competition in 2000 and 2001, wiped out their 4-0 deficit from the first leg of the third qualifying round tie when Morientes put them ahead in the 13th minute.

The former Liverpool and Real Madrid striker steered into the empty net when keeper Timo Ochs turned a Villa shot into his path after the Spanish striker had raced past the Salzburg back four.

The Primera Liga side took the aggregate lead 20 minutes later after Ezequiel Carboni had conceded a penalty for handling in the area when he came under pressure from Villa. Ochs managed to turn Villa’s spot kick on to the post, but the striker was on hand to smash the ball high into the net as it spun back into his path.

MNA/Reuters

**India’s Vijender, left, evades a punch from Pakistan’s Allah Baksh on his way to win a gold medal in the 75 kilograms middle weight category final of the South Asian 2006 Games in Colombo, Sri Lanka, on 22 Aug, 2006.—INTERNET**

**Boston Red Sox right fielder Gabe Kapler, left, runs into second baseman Mark Loretta failing a catch a 15 metres in the second minute. David Silva gave Valencia a 3-0 win over Salzburg back four.**

MNA/Reuters
Arab League chief says double standards on N-issue dangerous

CAIRO, 23 Aug — Arab League Secretary General Amr Moussa said Tuesday that the international double-standard stance towards the nuclear programme was dangerous, referring to US nuclear policy, Egypt’s MENA news agency reported.

Speaking at a joint Press conference with visiting Portuguese Foreign Minister Luís Amado, Moussa said that “taking the hard way with one party while choosing to neglect the other was dangerous”.

Many Arabs believed that Israel was the only country to have nuclear weapons in the Middle East but Israel has never admitted or denied it. Such a stance didn’t fall in line with the issue of freeing the Middle East of nuclear weapons, said Moussa, adding that only peaceful nuclear technology would serve the region.

Moussa also said that the Arab states would send the Arab-Israeli issue back to the UN and the Arab group at the UN would seek to hold a special session by the Security Council at the level of foreign ministers on 9 September.

The UN Security Council was the only body entitled to tackle the Middle East conflict, he said, adding that the intransigent Israeli policies posed a serious danger to the stability and security of the region.

Asked about the disarmament of Hizbollah, Moussa said that the Lebanese track is linked to the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolutions 1701, which ended the 34-day-long conflict between Israel and Hizbollah.

For his part, Amado stressed the importance of the role played by the European Union (EU) in the Middle East in terms of politics and economy.

Amado said that Germany and Portugal would work together — during their presidency of the EU next year — to launch an effective European policy in the Arab and Muslim worlds with the aim to solve the Middle East problem.

Amado arrived here earlier in the day for a one-day visit as part of his three-nation tour, which has already taken him to Jordan and will further take him to Libya — MNA/Xinhua.

WEATHER

Wednesday, 23 August, 2006

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain have been isolated in Kayah State and lower Sagaing Division, scattered in Shan State, upper Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions, fairly widespread in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Nay Pyi Taw (0.12) inch, Putao (2.91) inches, HKambi (2.48) inches, Mawlamyine (2.44) inches, Thandwe (2.96) inches, Myeik (1.77) inches and Chauk (0.51) inch.

Maximum temperature on 22-8-2006 was 86°F. Minimum temperature on 23-8-2006 was 77°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 23-8-2006 was (93%). Total sunshine hours on 22-8-2006 was nil.

Rainfalls on 23-8-2006 were (0.48) inch at Mingaladon, (0.51) inch at Kaba-Aye and (0.23) inch at Central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2006 were (74.06) inches at Mingaladon, (84.41) inches at Kaba-Aye and (91.73) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (7) mph from Southwest at (13:20) hours MST on 22-8-2006.

Bay inference: According to the observations at (09:30) hours MST today, the low pressure area over Northwest Bay has become unimportant. Monsoon is weak to moderate in the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 24-8-2006: Rain will be isolated in Chin and Kayah States, lower Sagaing Division, scattered in Shan State, upper Sagaing, Mandalay and Mawgyaw Divisions and fairly widespread to widespread in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (80%). State of the sea: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters.

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

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 24-8-2006: Likelihood of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 24-8-2006: One or two rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 24-8-2006: Likelihood of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (60%).

*"Flood Bulletin"*

(issued at 12:30 hrs MST on 23-8-2006)

According to the (06:30) hrs MST observations today, the water levels of Sittang River at Toungoo and Madauk are (640) and (1115) cms. They may remain above their danger levels (600) and (1070) cms respectively, during the next (48) hours commencing noon today.
Prime Minister sends felicitations to Ukraine

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Aug—General Soe Win, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Viktor Yanukovych, Prime Minister of the Republic of Ukraine, on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of Ukraine which falls on 24 August, 2006. — MNA

Objectives of the 14th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions

— To vitalize patriotism and nationalism
— To preserve and safeguard Myanmar cultural heritage
— To perpetuate genuine Myanmar music, dance and traditional fine arts
— To preserve Myanmar national character
— To nurture spiritual development of the youths
— To prevent influence of alien culture, and
— To strengthen national unity and Union Spirit.

A&I Minister inspects research farm in Kyaukse

Ensuring year-round water supply in region around Sipin Village in PyinOoLwin District stressed

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Aug—Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo met with local authorities and departmental personnel at a research farm in Kyaukse, Mandalay Division, on 18 August.

Accompanied by officials, the minister visited the farm where researchers presented reports on life span of paddy, cultivation methods and fertilizer requirement for certain paddy species, experimental plots and results of research work.

At Sipin Village in PyinOoLwin District, the minister heard reports on Sitha Support Dam including arrangements to build the main dam, conduit, spillway and earthworks. The minister stressed the need to ensure year-round water supply in the region, and viewed geological test to construct the facility.

The dam will be built on Sitha Creek that will supply 1,500 acre feet of water per year to the reservoir. It will supply water to Yadanaabon new town.

During inspection of a silk factory at Doekwin, he heard the report on production and local and foreign demand of the products. He then visited the different sections of the factory.

In PyinOoLwin, he visited the hatching and cocoon farm, urging officials to use hybridization methods for distributing quality strains. Officials also explained mulberry cultivation, sericulture, silk production and production of dried silkworms. — MNA

Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo inspects Sitha Support Dam Project in PyinOoLwin District. — MNA

Myanmar draws 2-2 with Thailand

YANGON, 23 Aug—The 38th Merdeka Tournament 2006 commenced at Shah Alam Stadium in Malaysia at 6.30 pm local time today.

In the opening match, Myanmar National Football Team and Thai Team played a 2-2 draw. Sithu Win of the Myanmar Team scored both goals.

On 25 August, Myanmar will meet with Indonesia in its second match. — MNA

28 more members quit Labutta Township NLD losing trust in NLD and party leaders


They sent letters of resignation to the NLD Headquarters and local authorities.

In their letters sent to Labutta Township Multiparty Democracy General Election Sub-Commission they said that the NLD commits acts which are harmful to the nation and the people, but it does not carry out party politics only. Therefore, they had lost faith and trust in the NLD and party leaders, and that was why they resigned from the NLD of their own accord. — MNA

The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded (23-8-2006)

Nay Pyi Taw (0.12) inch,
Putao (2.91) inches,
Hkamti (2.48) inches,
Mawlamyine (2.44) inches,
Thandwe (2.28) inches,
Myeik (1.77) inches, and
Chauk (0.51) inch.