Prime Minister General Soe Win receives Thai Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Justice

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Aug — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Soe Win received visiting Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Justice of Thailand Police General Chidchai Vanasatidya and party at the Prime Minister’s Office, here, at 5 pm today.

Also present at the call were Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo, Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt, Director-General Col Thant Shin of the Prime Minister’s Office and Director-General U Kyaw Kyaw of the Protocol Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Thai Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Justice and party was accompanied by Ambassador of Thailand to the Union of Myanmar Mr Suphot Dhirakaosal.

The government on its part has been implementing the social objectives covering the task of raising the national prestige and integrity and preserving and safeguarding the cultural heritage and national character and fostering the dynamism of patriotic spirit.

Prime Minister General Soe Win welcomes Thai Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Justice Police General Chidchai Vanasatidya. — MNA

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Enhance rural health care services

The population of Myanmar is over 55 million and seventy per cent of it live in rural areas. For development of rural areas, the government has been implementing the five rural development tasks aimed at improving rural transport, supplying water for drinking and agricultural purposes, raising the education standard of rural people, widening health care services for them and developing rural economy.

To improve rural transport that is pivotal to rural development, village-to-village, village-to-town and district-to-district roads and bridges are being built in all regions at present. Moreover, as township hospitals and station hospitals have been built, rural people are enjoying the fruits of wider health care services.

To enhance health care services for rural people, a station hospital was inaugurated in Nyaungbintha, Pyu Township, Bago Division, on 12 August. The new hospital is a 16-bed facility with a surgical ward. The government provided 15.5 million kyats and well-wishers donated 25 million kyats for the construction of the hospital.

Now, in Pyu Township, there is a township hospital and three station hospitals — each in Zeyawady, Kanyutkwin and Nyaungbintha. Therefore, local people will have full access to health care services. We believe that, with the leadership of the government and active participation of regional organizations, local people and well-wishers in rural health care services, the health standard of rural people will become higher.

U Tin Oo Lwin presents Credentials to President of Maldives

**NAVY PTWAN, 25 AUG —** U Tin Oo Lwin, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of Maldives, presented his Credentials to His Excellency Mr Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, President of the Republic of Maldives on 7 August, 2006 in Male. — MNA

Minister goes on inspection tour of coffee plantations in PyinOolwin

**NAVY PTWAN, 24 Aug —** Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen U Kyaw Oo and responsible personnel went on an inspection tour of coffee plantations in PyinOolwin, Mandalay Division on 18 August. During arrival at entrepreneur U Kyaw Sein's coffee plantation, the minister and party made an observation of thriving 225 acres of coffee plantation and extended cultivation of 80 acres of coffee plantation. Meanwhile, U Kyaw Sein briefed on 225 acres of coffee cultivated in 1997. Now he is enjoying the profit from his investment.

Similarly, the minister and party went to Shwepazun coffee plantation in Pwetaung village. During the visit of the minister, U Win Aung of Pwint Kaung and Khan Nye Yi Company briefed on 100 acres of coffee grown in 2000. Now they are enjoying earnings from their investment, 50 acres of coffee produce 60 tons of coffee seeds.

Next, the minister viewed thriving coffee plants, sample of coffee seeds and packet of coffee powder in the plantation. Afterwards, the minister said that there had been an increase of coffee plantations in PyinOoLwin. The ministry was offering land permits to coffee growers and rendering assistance to them. After inspecting Doekwin and Pwetaung coffee plantations, the minister viewed coffee seeds and powder produced from the states and divisions and tested their taste and quality in Pwetaung coffee plantation.

Next, the minister viewed tea plantation and eucalyptus saplings and looked into raising of worms in breeding ponds. — MNA

Respects to be paid to teachers of Penwegon BEHS

**YANGON, 24 Aug —** The State Peace and Development Council has confirmed the following persons as heads of service organizations shown against each on expiry of the one-year probationary period.

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>(a) Col Kyaw Kyaw Win</td>
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<td>(b) Col Thant Shin</td>
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<td>(c) Dr U Khin Hla</td>
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<td>(d) U Khin Maung Lay</td>
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<td>(e) U San Pyae</td>
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The State Peace and Development Council has appointed Col Hla Myint Thein of the Ministry of Defence as Managing Director of Myanma Automobile and Diesel Engine Industries under the Ministry of Industry-2 on probation from the date he assumes charge of his duties. — MNA

MFPTMA office at 29, Min Ye Kyaw Swa Street, Lanmadaw Township

**YANGON, 24 Aug —** Myanmar Forest Products and Timber Merchants Association has been opened at the UMFCCI Office Tower at No-29, Min Ye Kyaw Swa Street, 9 Ward in Lanmadaw Township. Those who wish to make contact with the association may dial phone numbers 214839 and 214840 or through e-mail. mfptma@nptmail.net.mm. — MNA
ASEAN-Japan trade up 7.9% in 2005

KUALA LUMPUR, 24 Aug — Trade between ASEAN and Japan posted 154.6 billion US dollars in 2005, up 7.9 per cent from the previous year, a report said here on Wednesday.

Japan’s direct investment in the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) also rose from 3.12 billion US dollars in 2004 to 3.16 billion US dollars in 2005, according to a joint statement released after a consultation meeting between ASEAN and Japan.

Japan remained as the third largest source of foreign direct investment for ASEAN, the statement said.

ASEAN economic ministers and Japanese Economy, Trade and Industry Minister Toshihiko Nikai held a consultation meeting here on Wednesday immediately after the 38th ASEAN Economic Ministers meeting ended.

Japan proposed to conduct a track-two study on a Comprehensive Economic Partnership in East Asia (CEPEA) covering ASEAN, Australia, China, India, Japan, South Korea and New Zealand, according to the joint statement. But ASEAN reiterated that it is necessary to expediently conclude the ASEAN-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership (AJCEP) before the matter is considered.

Japan also proposed to establish an Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia. ASEAN ministers welcomed the proposal but requested Japan to discuss it further with the ASEAN Secretariat.

Over 280-year-old mummy discovered in downtown Beijing

BEIJING, 23 Aug — Local archaeologists claim to have unearthed a well-preserved mummy dating back more than 280 years in Shijingshan District of the national capital Beijing.

The mummy, identified as a male, is 1.73 metres long and flesh-coloured. The man has six toes on the left foot.

Archaeologists with the Shijingshan cultural relics department said the tomb was built during the period when Emperor Kangxi (1662-1722) of the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911), judging from the relics unearthed from the tomb.

The man wore court dress with the design of Kylin, an auspicious legendary animal with a horn and scales all over, which indicates that he should be a top-rank military official of the Qing Dynasty. However, the characters carved on the coffin indicate that he was a civilian official of the fourth rank. — MNA/Xinhua

Models pose with Canon’s new ‘EOS Kiss Digital’ SLR camera, at the Canon headquarters in Tokyo on 24 Aug, 2006. The new camera that features a 10.1-megapixel CMOS sensor, will be released next month, priced at about 90,000 yen ($773). — INTERNET

UN envoy says Israel may be interested in prisoner exchange

JERUSALEM, 23 Aug — A senior UN envoy said Tuesday efforts are continuing to secure the release of two Israeli soldiers captured by Hezbollah and Israel may be warming to the idea of a prisoner exchange, citing the extreme sensitivity of the issue.

Military officials last week said Israel is holding 13 Hezbollah prisoners and the bodies of dozens of guerrillas that it could swap for the two soldiers but would not include any Palestinian prisoners in such a deal.

A man throws debris from a house destroyed by Hurricane Katrina onto a pile in the Lower Ninth Ward of New Orleans, Louisiana on 23 Aug, 2006. — INTERNET

Thieves pull off major diamond heist in Sydney

SYDNEY, 23 Aug — Thieves have pulled off a spectacular diamond heist in Sydney, stealing more than 500 diamonds worth more than 1.5 million Australian dollars (1.1 million US dollars) from an international jewellery exhibition held under hi-tech security.

Despite X-ray machines, metal detectors, security cameras and a log book of everyone entering the exhibition, a security bag containing 500 uncut diamonds was stolen, organizers said.

Police believe the bag was stolen either en route to or at the Australian Jewellery Fair which ran from Sunday to Tuesday at a convention centre in Sydney’s Darling Harbour.

Jihadists who have laid siege to the Egyptian town of Al-Arish are considering a prisoner exchange, ainosaur said Wednesday he was mystified how the thieves pulled off the daring robbery, given the tight security.

Police said the security procedures at the fair are recognized around the world as one of the strictest and the best,” he told radio.

Over 280-year-old mummy discovered in downtown Beijing

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Flood death toll rises to 233 in N-W Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 23 Aug — The death toll in the monsoon rain-caused flash floods has risen to 233 in Pakistan’s North-West Frontier Province (NWFP) while flooding situation is persisting in the province, local media reported on Tuesday.

The flood warning centre in NWFP said that the flooding situation in the province would be ending after 30 September, according to the 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 kilometres northwest of Pakistan’s capital Islamabad, is the worst-hit district in NWFP, with 52 dead, while in Mansehra District rains killed 39 and in Swat 20. GEO said 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 which claimed lives and generated losses of property across the country. — MNA/Xinhua
Putin, Greek PM to discuss energy projects

ATHENS, 23 Aug—Russian President Vladimir Putin will meet Greek Prime Minister Costas Karamanlis in Athens on 4 September to discuss joint energy projects, government officials said on Tuesday. Bulgarian Prime Minister Sergei Stanishev could also join the talks, expected to focus on a major oil pipeline project that has yet to come to fruition after many years.

“The initiative for this meeting belongs to the Russian President,” Greek Government spokesman Theodore Roussopoulos told reporters.

The three countries are involved in the long-delayed construction of a 700 million euro (900 million US dollars) pipeline carrying Russian oil from the Bulgarian Black Sea town of Burgas to Greece’s coastal town of Alexandroupolis. The pipeline has yet to be built after more than a decade of horse-trading between the partners.

Another government official said a Greek-Turkish natural gas pipeline under construction would also be on the agenda.

“There seems to be an interest from Russia to provide gas for this pipeline. This will also be on the agenda of the talks,” he said on condition of anonymity.

The 300-million-US-dollar—285-kilometre (180-mile) pipeline is part of an ambitious plan to carry Caspian Sea gas to Europe and is expected to start carrying gas next year.—MNA/Reuters

China finds 260-mln-ton oil reserve around Daqing Oilfield

BEIJING, 23 Aug—The China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) has reported the discovery in the first half year of oil reserves of about 260 million tons in four oil-rich blocks in northern China.

The four blocks are located northeast China’s Heilongjiang Province and Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, near the Daqing Oilfield, one of the country’s major oilfields in Heilongjiang. Two blocks, one holding about 73 million tons and the other 60 million tons, were found in the Mongolian Autonomous Region of Dorbod in Heilongjiang, 96 million tons in a block at Zhaozhuang County in Heilongjiang, and 30 million tons in the Haiguer Basin in Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region. Oil reserves discovered in China from 2000 to 2005 reached 2.42 billion tons. CNPC has invested 59.6 billion yuan (7.36 billion US dollars) in verifying 1.48 billion tons of oil reserve over that period.

Minister says West Australian Govt supporting biofuel future

MELBOURNE, 23 Aug—The West Australian Government has hit back at a barrage of criticism from the Nationals on its attitude towards the biofuel industry.

The Nationals say the Government has failed to support the biofuels industry by not offering generous industry incentives like it has for LPG.

But the Energy Minister, Fran Logan, says the Nationals are part of a task force working on developing the biofuel industry in Western Australia.

He says the task force is covering all biofuel issues.

“The future of ethanol blends whether it should be 5 per cent, whether it should be 10 per cent, whatever, all of that will be commented on by the task force and they’re part of it so I don’t really understand where they’re coming from,” he said.

Mr Logan also says it is unlikely to become law for petrol companies to have a percentage of an ethanol blend in its fuel.

He says there is no need for legislation, because major industry players are already looking to introduce an ethanol blend.

Chinese students win prize for waste water treatment

STOCKHOLM, 23 Aug—Three Chinese high school students were awarded the Stockholm Junior Water Prize on Tuesday for their achievement in devising a cost effective ecological management programme to reduce river pollution.

Swedish Crown Princess Victoria presented the prize, worth 5,000 US dollars, to Wang Hao, Xiao Yi and Weng Ju, from the Shanghai Nanyang Model High School.

The teenagers started their research on waste water treatment in 2004 and began follow-up studies on several waterways in Shanghai that were managed with leading water treatment technology.

Last year, they succeeded in reducing pollution of a river near their school, transforming the black and stinking river into a clean and clear one.

After receiving the top awards, the winners told Xinhua that they will continue to improve their programme and make new contributions in waste water management.

Japanese encephalitis epidemic kills 22 in S Nepal

KATHMANDU, 23 Aug—Due to the Japanese encephalitis epidemic in 11 districts of Terai plain in southern Nepal, as many as 22 persons have been killed since April, Nepali national news agency RSS reported on Monday.

Over 200 people, who were suffering from the epidemic, have been treated, the RSS reported.

According to BP Koirala Institute of Health and Sciences (BPKIHS), 17 persons, out of 160 admitted in the hospital, died in course of treatment.

The BPKIHS stated that eight of those admitted in the hospital are still undergoing treatment.

Meanwhile, according to Koshi Zonal Hospital at Biratnagar, some 400 kilometres east of Kathmandu, five patients of Japanese encephalitis died, while 51 persons were admitted in the hospital.—MNA/Xinhua

In this undated handout photo released by BHP Billiton Ltd, shows their iron ore depot in Port Headland, Australia. BHP Billiton, the world’s biggest mining company by market capitalization, said on 23 Aug, 2006 its annual net profit surged 63 percent to a record US$ 10.45 billion (Euro 8.16 billion).—INTERNET
SEAR Ministers call for collaboration to improve people’s health

DHAKA, 23 Aug—Ministers of Health from countries of the World Health Organization (WHO)’s South-East Asia Region (SEAR) have called for strengthened intercountry collaboration to improve people’s health in the region.

The 24th meeting of health ministers concluded here Monday with a firm resolve to strengthen public health workforce in their countries with adoption of the Dhaka Declaration on strengthening health workforce in the countries of the South-East Asia Region.

According to a Press release of the meeting, the health ministers recognized the crucial importance of human resources for the effective functioning of the health system, and noted the unacceptable shortage, unbalanced skill mix as well as the lack of human resources management.

They also recognized the adverse impact of rapid globalization and trade on human resources.

The Dhaka Declaration adopted in the health ministers meeting covers seven-point commitment to develop national policies and regulations to enhance the availability of adequate numbers of health care workers, systematically develop and implement medium and long-term national HRH (human resources for health) strategic plan, help to systematically mobilize resources to invest on the development of HRH, actively be involved with existing global and regional health workforce networks and take actions in line with the World Health Assembly resolution on international migration of health personnel.

Foreigners arrested in Zambia over fake dollars

LUANSA, 23 Aug—The Drug Enforcement Commission (DEC) of Zambia has arrested two Tanzanian nationals and three Congolese nationals for unlawful possession of counterfeit United States dollars and drug trafficking, DEC said here on Tuesday.

The commission also arrested nine Zambians for drug trafficking.

DEC spokesperson Rosten Chulu said two Tanzanians were arrested for possession of fake US dollars in different denominations amounting to 164,276 dollars.

Chulu said the commission also arrested another Congolese national for trafficking in 2,000 of diazepam weighing 231 grammes.

Meanwhile, the commission in Nakonde, bordering Tanzania has arrested two Tanzanians for trafficking 18 bundles of Mirra weighing 15.9 kilos.

Earthquake warning system to be set up at Three Gorges Reservoir

CHONGQING, 23 Aug—A network of 21 digital earthquake monitoring stations is to be set up in the Chongqing section of the Three Gorges Reservoir area by the end of next year, a local earthquake official said on Tuesday. Costing 29.6 million yuan (3.7 million US dollars), the stations would monitor seismological activity around the clock and provide an earthquake warning system for the local government, said Zhang Rong, head of the Earthquake Prevention Office of the Chongqing Municipal Seismological Bureau.

Construction of the Three Gorges Project, the world’s biggest hydroelectric project, began on the Yangtze River in 1993 and is expected to be completed in 2008, a year ahead of schedule. The huge reservoir began to fill in June 2003, with more than 220 counties inundated in Chongqing and Hubei Province on the river’s upper and middle reaches.

Geological disasters like landslides and mudrock flows were common before the construction of the Three Gorges Project, sparking fears of possible calamities after water storage began. The government has invested more than 4 billion yuan (482 million US dollars) in the prevention and control of geological disasters in the Three Gorges area.

The stations would provide technical support for security of the Three Gorges Reservoir and prevent damage caused by earthquakes and other disasters, Zhang said.

China reports foot-and-mouth outbreak

BEIJING, 23 Aug—China has reported a new outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in cattle in the western province of Qinghai, but it has already been contained, a state newspaper said on Tuesday. The outbreak in Huangzhong county, which was confirmed last week, resulted in the slaughter of 50 cattle, the Beijing News said, citing an Agriculture Ministry notice.

There have been at least three other outbreaks in Qinghai since July.

Foot-and-mouth disease does not affect humans and outbreaks are relatively easy to control, but the contagious disease can have a serious impact on the livestock industry by reducing meat and milk production.
Study says contact lens contamination cause corneal infection

BEIJING, 23 Aug — A recent US outbreak of corneal infections associated with a contact lens solution may have been related to external contamination, researchers said in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) Wednesday. The Bausch & Lomb solution Renu with MoistureLoc was recalled from the worldwide market in May after the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention received multiple reports of a corneal infection called Fusarium keratitis.

Fusarium is a fungus usually found in soil and plant material, but it can also be found in fish products (by 38 per cent), fishes and electrical and electronic products (by 24 per cent).

According to JAMA, the annual incidence of microbial keratitis is four to 21 per 10,000 soft contact lens wearers. Dr Douglas C Chang of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention began a study on 1 June, 2005, reviewing the outbreak’s association with contact lens hygiene practices, products and activities. By 30 June 2006, researchers had identified 164 confirmed cases of Fusarium keratitis in the US.

Our findings suggest that exposure to Fusarium was likely the result of extrinsic contamination of contact lens solution bottles or lens cases occurring outside of the manufacturing or storage processes, perhaps in patients’ homes,” the researchers wrote in their study published in the 23-30 August issue of JAMA.—INTERNET

Vietnam to slash WTO-related tariffs by 30%

HANOI, 23 Aug — Vietnam is, under all commitments made with trade partners requiring bilateral negotiations about its accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO), supposed to reduce import taxes on 10,600 items by an average of 30 per cent, a local agency said on Tuesday.

Some 10,600 tariff lines are subject to reduction, mainly within five years after Vietnam’s entry to the WTO, said the International Cooperation Department under the Finance Ministry.

Local items which will undergo remarkable tariff reduction include garment and textile (by 63 per cent), fishes and fish products (by 38 per cent), wood for paper production (by 33 per cent), and electrical and electronic equipment (by 24 per cent).

Upon WTO accession, Vietnam will remove agriculture subsidies, and will not interfere in operation of state-owned enterprises, the department said.

Singapore publishes healthcare affordability data

SINGAPORE, 23 Aug — Singapore’s Ministry of Health (MOH) on Tuesday published for the first time key healthcare affordability data including bill size for hospital stays.

The average bill size for a typical three-to-five-day stay in a Class A ward in public hospitals was $3,473 Singapore dollars (about 2,209 US dollars) last year and that for a Class C ward stay was $858 Singapore dollars (about 546 US dollars).

The data also showed that the average amount of savings in Singaporeans’ Medisave accounts was $13,000 Singapore dollars (about 8,269 US dollars) while 90 per cent of the country’s working population, who are aged between 21 and 60, had subscribed to the MediShield as of the end of 2005.

Singapore has put in place a 3Ms framework, namely, Medisave, MediShield and Medifund, to help its people cope with medical bills.

“The 2005 data show that public hospitals are affordable,” the MOH said in a statement, adding that Singaporeans, including many pensioners and those not working, have significant savings in their Medisave accounts to cover their healthcare expenses.

The MediShield can help patients cover about 60 per cent of large medical bills above $5,000 Singapore dollars (about 3,180 US dollars) and patients can also apply to the Medifund for special financial assistance, according to the MOH.

The data will be updated once every six months, the MOH said.

Vietnamese Govt urges bird flu prevention

HANOI, 23 Aug—The Vietnamese Government on Tuesday asked relevant agencies and localities to intensify bird flu prevention among humans and fowls, Vietnam News Agency reported.

Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung urged chairpersons of cities and provinces nationwide to direct and mobilize border guards, and veterinary and health forces, to intensify inspection of border gates and ensure the enforcement of a temporary ban on import of fowls and related products from bird-flu-hit countries.

He also tasked veterinary and health agencies, and committees on combating bird flu among humans and fowls to take synchronous measures to prevent the disease.

Bolivia sends five tons of aid to volcano hit Ecuador

LIMA, 23 Aug—Bolivia on Tuesday delivered 5 tons of humanitarian aid to Ecuador for those affected by the eruption of the Tungurahua Volcano last week, reports reaching here said.

Defence Minister Walker San Miguel told reporters that a Bolivian Air Force aircraft carrying rice, flour, sugar, noodles, 300 mats, 500 blankets and medicine had been flying to Ecuador.

“I believe that this is a special moment of solidarity from the Bolivian Government... we are sharing what little we have,” the minister said. —MNA/Xinhua
Myanmar is a country that has a fine history of high national prestige, noble lineage and fine traditions and culture, and her people, one of the most civilized races in Southeast Asia has lived under their own monarchs, witnessing for centuries the flourishing of their own language and literature they cherish and value so much.

It is the prestige that has the greater degree of value in Myanmar society.

Besides, loving kindness Myanmar people are embracing is the force behind civilization mankind and promoting the sense of having sympathy and kindness for others.

Throughout history and till today, Myanmar people have been living with grace and dignity, while their hearts are ever vitalized with patriotism.

They have the soul of courage, endurance, patience, tolerance and forgiveness. Antagonism and vengeance are what they never have in mind. What the Myanmar people have in mind is the fine tradition of protecting and cherishing their own race and preserving their social values.

In the entire Union of Myanmar are the seasonal and regional festivals the people have been holding at their respective localities on a grand scale, with the essence of promoting and propagating the Buddha Dhamma and preserving the fine traditions and culture and customs for many generations.

The task of implementing the four objectives involves the sponsoring of traditional festivals, competitions and courses region-wise, while the organizing of the annually-held Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions is to uplift the morals and morality of youths to reach the level high enough to ward of all alien cultural infiltration.

Every year during the days on the last week of September and the first week of October appear in dailies news reports and articles complete with photos in commemoration of the International Day of the Elder Persons.

The media works reflect the Myanmar social lifestyles and culture of showing respects to the elders, equality to persons of the same age and sympathy to younger ones.

On every Myanmar New Year Day are the ceremonies in which the people, especially the young pay respects to the aged persons, present gifts and cash assistance to them and offer services such as shampooing and manucuring.

Myanmars usually pay respects to the parents, elders and mentors with gifts on days of religious significance like the Fullmoon Day of Thadingyut as a means of repaying the gratitude they owe to them, a tradition that has been passed down from one generation to another from time immemorial. In addition, the work of catering for the aged is the main duty of the Social Welfare Department that is also providing technical, food and financial assistance to the homes for the aged and monthly salaries to the staff.

Myanmar society has specific social duties and responsibilities for parents and children, teachers and pupils, husbands and wives, and between friends. What’s more, the 38 holy principles we Myanmars are following have glorified our lifestyle as they bring true peace and happiness to mankind.

The government on its part has been implementing the social objectives covering the task of raising the national prestige and integrity and preserving and safeguarding the cultural heritage and national character and fostering the dynamism of patriotic spirit. Hence, it is the duty for all of us to love, cherish, value, protect and preserve our fine traditions and culture and customs by handing them down to the future generations.

(Translation: TMT)

Myanmar society has specific social duties and responsibilities for parents and children, teachers and pupils, husbands and wives, and between friends. What’s more, the 38 holy principles we Myanmars are following have glorified our lifestyle as they bring true peace and happiness to mankind.

17 suspected bird flu cases found in Indonesia’s Garut

JAKARTA, 24 Aug — Indonesian authorities have found 17 suspected bird flu cases in the West Javanean Town of Garut, raising fears that a cluster case has occurred, an evening newspaper reported Tuesday.

Three sufferers have been tested positive of bird flu by local laboratory and two of them died last week as the government began to cull all chickens within the radius of one kilometre from case found in Garut, some 200 kilometres southeast of Jakarta.

Health officials have been deployed to the area to distribute bird flu medicine and take blood samples from the villagers, reported Sinar Harapan newspaper.

Nyoman Kandun, a senior official with the Ministry of Health, said cases of chickens which died allegedly from bird flu had been found in all villages in Garut over the last three months, prompting authorities to order mass cull in the area.

At least 2,505 chickens were culled during the government operations.

Int’l research team discovers channel to cure “SARS”

SHANGHAI, 24 Aug— Chinese scientists announced on Tuesday that an international research team had made a breakthrough in the search for a SARS cure by identifying the “channel” through which the virus enters the human body.

The team, including scientists from the Chinese Mainland, Hong Kong and Germany, had isolated the 3a protein that helped the entry and release of the severe acute respiratory syndrome-associated coronavirus (SARS-CoV).

The protein functioned as an ion channel, which explained the highly pathogenic nature of the SARS virus, said team leader Sun Bing, a researcher with the Institute Pasteur of Shanghai, which is a Sino-French cooperative project under the Chinese Academy of Sciences. — MNA/Xinhua

Australian detained for bomb threat on Chinese airliner

GUANGZHOU, 24 Aug — An Australian man of Hong Kong origin has been detained by Chinese police under suspicion of making a bomb threat on Monday which forced a passenger airliner from China to Australia to return to Guangzhou and make an emergency landing.

No bomb was detected and the flight eventually landed in Sydney, a local government official said on Wednesday.

The suspect, whose Chinese name is Wong Chung-wah, is a cosmetics businessman in his thirties. A passenger reported the discovery of a note warning a bomb would explode on the China Southern Airlines flight from Guangzhou to

The red carpet is rolled out in preparation for the 58th annual Primetime Emmy awards at the Shrine auditorium in Los Angeles on 23 August 2006. The Emmy awards will be given out 27 August. Internet
Thai Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Justice arrives at Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Aug — Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Justice of Thailand Police General Chidchai Vanasatidya and party arrived at Nay Pyi Taw by special flight at 10.40 am today to pay a goodwill visit to the Union of Myanmar.

The Thai Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Justice and party was welcomed at the airport by Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo, Thai Ambassador Mr Suphot Dhirakaosal, departmental heads of the Ministry of Home Affairs and officials.

PBAHARA Minister receives Thai Deputy PM and Minister of Justice

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Aug — Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt received Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Justice of Thailand Police General Chidchai Vanasatidya and party at the ministry, here, at 3.30 pm today. Also present at the call were Director-General U Than Swe of Progress of Border Areas and National Races Department, Director-General U Myint Myint of Development Affairs Department, Deputy-Director-General U Than Shein of Education and Training Department and officials. The Thai Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Justice and party were accompanied by Ambassador of Thailand Mr Suphot Dhirakaosal.

Vocational training courses conclude

YANGON, 24 Aug — Vocational courses including basic and advanced tailoring courses and weaving courses of vocational training schools in Kayin, Kayah, Chin and Kachin States of Education and Training Department were concluded on 18 August. A total of 47 women completed the tailoring courses and 27 in cultural course of Hpa-an Vocational Training School while 99 completed the courses of Loikaw Vocational Training School. A total of 90 trainees successfully completed Haka Vocational Training School’s vocational training.

Similarly, basic and advanced vocational training courses were also completed at the training schools in Putao, Bhamo, Dunban and Dobonyan in Kachin State and in Falam, Mindai, Matupi and Kanpetlet in Chin State on 18 August. Vocational training schools of Education and Training Department under the Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races Development Affairs organized the courses to provide vocational education to local women.
**Healthy environment and aedes, rubbish, tobacco-free schools designated in South Okkalapa**

**Yangon, 24 Aug** — A ceremony to designate schools in South Okkalapa Township as healthy environment and aedes, rubbish and tobacco-free ones, organized by South Okkalapa Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association in Yangon East District was held in conjunction with cash assistance provided to aged persons and nutrition fed to babies at No 5 BEHS this morning.

First, Chairperson of South Okkalapa Township MCWA Daw Than than briefed on the purpose of the designation of schools as aedes, rubbish and tobacco-free ones.

Next, Chairperson of Yangon Division MCWASC Daw Mar Mar Wai, Director-General of No 3 Basic Education Department and Joint Secretary of Yangon City Development Committee and Fisheries Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win formally opened the ceremony.

Afterwards, Chairperson of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win formally opened the signboards of aedes, rubbish and tobacco-free schools. Next, the commander and wife viewed health care for aged persons and presented cash and kind to them.

They also gave encouragement to those who were feeding nutrition to the babies from 6-month old to 3-year old.

After the commander had accepted cash donated by wellwishers, he and his wife presented sanitation equipment to chairpersons of respective wards.

MCWAs, Next, Head of Division Health Department Dr Hla Myint and the township chairperson presented DHF educative postes to responsible personnel.

**Commander, Minister inspect road construction work**

**Yangon, 24 Aug** — Chairman of Kachin State Peace and Development Council Commander of Northern Command Maj-Gen Ohn Myint and Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, accompanied by officials of Public Works inspected road and bridges construction work along Myitkyina-Sumprabum-Putao motor road yesterday.

On arrival at (31st mile) Whashi camp, U Nan Sein Phan Wa, the engineer of Jade Land Company reported on road construction work at the road section of Myitkyina-Sumprabum motor road undertaken by the company to the commander and the minister.

The chairman of the company explained work being done and future tasks undertaken by the company and Public Works. The commander later urged the responsible persons to redouble their efforts to complete the work in time.

The minister also called upon them to do their bits with great efforts and to build the road as a serviceable one in all weathers.

**YANGON Division, District, Township WVSC holds coordination meeting**

**Yangon, 24 Aug** — Yangon Division, District and Township War Veterans Supervisory Committee (Municipal Area) held its work coordination meeting at Yangon City Hall with an address by Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa.

Chairman of the committee, Secretary of Yangon City Development Committee U Tin Soe and officials, chairmen of District and Township WVSCs were present.

Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa called for active participation in successful implementation of five future tasks laid down at the conference of WVO (2005) and seven-step Road Map.

U Tin Soe, Secretary of YCDC, explained work being done by district and township WVSCs. Later, Col Maung Pa presented 50 longyis for the four districts and made concluding remarks.

Myanmar health delegation arrives back from Canada

**Yangon, 24 Aug** — Myanmar health delegation led by Deputy Minister for Health Dr Paing Soe arrived back yesterday after attending the 16th International AIDS Conference on 18 August in Toronto, Canada.

They were welcomed back at Nay Pyi Taw Airport by Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo and officials.

Health ministers, deputy ministers, researchers, donors and HIV-positive persons gathered at the opening ceremony of the conference.

Myanmar delegation also participated in the target setting For Towards Universal Access Meeting of National AIDS Council Commission/Programme organized by UNAIDS.

On 18 August, Dr Paing Soe also met with Dr Kevin de Cock of World Health Organization and discussed matters on fighting AIDS in Myanmar.

Members of the delegation Assistant Director of STD Control Project of Dr Win Ma, Leader of Pakokku District’s AIDS combating group Dr Tin Maung Htwe and Leader of Meiktila District’s AIDS combating group Dr Aung Kyaw Htwe also arrived arrived back on the same flight.

**All this needs to be known**

- Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
- Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
- Do not be softened whenever appeased

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**Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa presents longyis to an official of War Veteran Supervisory Committee. — YCDC**

**FAO Resident Representative calls on Minister for Livestock and Fisheries**

**Nay Pyi Taw, 24 Aug** — Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein met FAO Resident Representative Mr Tang Zhengping at his office, here, at 1 pm on 22 August and held discussions on bird flu control project and development of the livestock breeding sector.

Next, Director-General U Maung Maung Nyunt of the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department and Resident Representative Mr Tang Zhengping of FAO signed the OSRO/MYA/601/AUL, the agreement on implementation of controlling bird flu project in Myanmar with the assistance of Australia under the supervision of the FAO.

With 440,000 US$ assistance of Australia, the FAO will join hands with the LBVD to carry out the tasks to control the bird flu in Myanmar, to conduct surveillance of bird flu disease and advanced laboratory tasks, and to re-establish poultry farms.

- MNA

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**Myanmar health delegation led by Deputy Minister for Health Dr Paing Soe participates in 16th International AIDS Conference. — HEALTH**
British ambassador meeting unlawful organizations resorting to improper means, with excuses for cooperation in health sector

YANGON, 24 Aug — Mr Mark Canning who had recently presented his credentials as ambassador of Britain to Myanmar met with Chairman of National League for Democracy U Aung Shwe, Secretary U Lwin and central executive committee members at the NLD headquarters here on 21 August. And in the evening, he met with U Aye Tha Aung, U Naing Tun Thein, U Kyin Shin Han and U Htang Hko Htan of CRPP, an unlawful organization formed with the so-called representatives of the people’s parliament, at the British Club next to his residence.

It is learnt that discussions at the meetings focused on arrangements being made to render assistance in tuberculosis, malaria and AIDS control and treatment, programmes Global Fund had carried out in the past. The British ambassador is going to meet with Min Ko Naing and Hai Kywe in the coming days, it is learnt.

The Ministry of Health is mainly responsible for health sector of Myanmar, and it is spending a large amount of State funds annually in extending hospitals and dispensaries, increasing the number of health staff, providing medicines and medical equipment, launching disease control and prevention programmes and conducting health care activities in the whole nation with the objective of raising the public health standard.

If Britain really wishes to take part in the task of controlling the said diseases with true goodwill for Myanmar people, it should make coordination and cooperation with the Health Ministry for the matter, instead of holding secret meetings with unlawful organizations and political agents that never represent the nation and the people as such acts are not the correct ways and lacking goodwill.

Myanmar already has the previous experience of witnessing diplomats of some Western powers interfering in her affairs, with various excuses, against the diplomatic ethics. There were instances in which diplomats’ meddling had caused instability and unrest in the nation. It is assumed among the public that such meddling of the diplomats may have the same sinister intention of creating disturbances and instability.

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NCUB trying to obtain international cash assistance to continue its terrorist acts

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Aug—The 23rd August issues of the newspapers carried a story that the eighth conference of the National Council of the Union of Burma, an anti-government organization holding terrorism and armed struggle line, took place at a resort in Maesot in the other country from 14 to 18 August; that the conference elected eight members of the panel of chairmen and 11 members of the board of secretaries; and that the NCUB may accelerate its terrorist acts.

It is reported that those present at the conference included renegades such as Nwe Aung from Germany, Dr Win Naing from England, Than Tun from Poland, Dr Min Nyo from Japan and Dr Zaw Win Aung and Dr Tint Swe from India; and that those fugitives at the conference reached an agreement to gain cash assistance from the NGOs in the nations where they are living and foreign countries so as to continue to provide assistance for NCUB members, who are inciting mass demonstrations and committing terrorist acts in Myanmar.

It has been exposed that NCUB central executive committee members NCGUB Sein Win, FTUB Maung Maung and accomplices mastered and supported cash and materials in the bomb blasts that occurred in the three busy places in Yangon on 7 May 2005; and that they have been constantly masterminding the terrorist acts and providing the terrorists with cash and materials to commit destructive and terrorist acts across Myanmar.

So, it is assumed that the NCUB may continue to instigate mass protests and committing terrorist acts in Myanmar using the cash assistance from the external sources.

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32 Bangladesh fishermen drowned in Bay of Bengal

DHAKA, 24 Aug — At least 32 fishermen drowned in the Bay of Bengal Tuesday on their return to Bangladesh’s southern Cox’s Bazar.

A police official said Wednesday, The official Enayetullah who received a phone Wednesday said the boats sank in the Bay of Bengal near St Martin Island of the Bay, and four of the boatmen who returned to shore from the rough sea, were alerted to the seizure by a police about the sinking.

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AIDS ဒေါ်လာပစ်မည် လှည့်နားလည်ပို့ (၃)

AIDS ဒေါ်လာပစ်မည် HIV ဒေါ်လာပစ်မည် လှည့်နားလည်ပို့ (၃)

HIV ဒေါ်လာပစ်မည် လှည့်နားလည်ပို့ (၃)

(၁) ဒေါ်လာပစ်မည် လှည့်နားလည်ပို့ (၃)

(၂) ဒေါ်လာပစ်မည် လှည့်နားလည်ပို့ (၃)

(၃) ဒေါ်လာပစ်မည် လှည့်နားလည်ပို့ (၃)

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Armed men seize Russian tanker off W Africa

MOSCOW, 24 Aug — Armed men have seized a Russian tanker chartered by Swiss-based oil firm Addax Petroleum Corp and sailed it to Guinea, Russia’s Transport Ministry said in a statement on Tuesday.

The ministry said it was alerted to the seizure on Monday when the Luchegorsk, owned by Primorye Sea Shipping Co (PRISCO), was 55 miles from Freetown and 40 miles from Conakry in Guinea.

“Armed men dressed in black came on board and made claims about the ship entering territorial waters,” the statement said.

“After some discussion, the crew was deprived of any means of communications and the ship began to head towards the port of Conakry.” The 3,000-ton ship, which had been providing bunker fuel to other vessels, was now in Conakry, it said.

The ministry said it had asked Russia’s Foreign Ministry to request information from authorities in Guinea and to demand the ship’s release.—MNA/Reuters
Ancient biblical waterworks found in Israel

RAMAT RACHEL (Israel), 24 Aug — Archaeologists in Israel have unearthed an ancient water system which was modified by the conquering Persians to turn the desert into a paradise.

The network of reservoirs, drain pipes and underground tunnels served one of the grandest palaces in the biblical kingdom of Judea.

Archaeologists first discovered the palace in 1954, a structure built on a six-acre (2.4 hectare) site where the communal Ramat Rachel farm now stands.

Recent excavations unearthed nearly 70 square metres (700 square foot) of a unique water system.

“...They found a huge palace even nicer than the palaces in Jerusalem (dating) from the late Iron Age to the end of the biblical period in the 7th century,” Oded Lipschits, a Tel Aviv University archaeologist, said.

The infrastructure of the palace was remodelled throughout the centuries to fit the needs of the Babylonians, Persians, Romans and Hasmonaean kings who ruled the Holy Land, Lipschits said, who heads the dig with an academic from Germany’s University of Heidelberg.

But it was the Persians who took control of the region around 539 BC from the Babylonians, who renovated the water system and turned it into a paradise. "Imagine this landplants and waterrushing and streaming here."

Lipschits said: “This was important to someone who finds aesthetics important, important to someone who wanted to feel as though they are not just in some remote corner in the desert.”

Yuval Gadot, a bibli-archaeology expert from Tel Aviv University who is taking part in the excavation, said it was unclear exactly how the water system worked.

More Shanghai residents use “green” energy

SHANGHAI, 24 Aug — About 5,000 households in Shanghai have chosen to use relatively expensive “green electricity” — power generated from wind or solar energy — over the past four months as part of their efforts to protect the city’s environment.

A total of 5,524 households and 22 companies have so far purchased 15.6 million-kilowatt-hour of “green electricity”, said Zhu Rong, marketing manager with the Shanghai Municipal Electricity Company.

Since the end of last year, the Shanghai municipal government has been encouraging residents and companies to voluntarily buy “green electricity” to support environmental protection in the city.

Because of high production costs, “green electricity” is priced at 1.14 yuan (0.14 US dollar) per-kilowatt-hour, nearly twice as much as standard coal-generated electricity.

UNDP says war wipes out 15 years of Lebanese recovery

GENEVA, 24 Aug — The recent Israeli-Hizbollah conflict has wiped out Lebanon’s 15 years of economic and social recovery, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) said on Tuesday.

The destruction had been so devastating that it had effectively wiped out the past 15 years of rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts, UNDP spokesman Jean Fabre told reporters.

He added that all the progress Lebanon had made toward achieving the Millennium Development Goals had been wiped out and the country now had to start from zero again.

According to the spokesman, the overall economic losses of Lebanon in the past month were in the neighbourhood of $15 billion US dollars, an amount that was impossible now for Lebanon to repay its debt, which was already very big before last month’s conflict.

Without waiting for donors, responding to questions, Fabre said that the situation in Lebanon was very grave, as there had been much destruction.

He added that it was impossible now for Lebanon to repay its debt, which was already very big before last month’s conflict.
CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV GENIUS STAR VOY NO (18)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV GENIUS STAR VOY NO (18) are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived on 28.8.2006 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expense subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: EASTERN CAR LINER
SINGAPORE PTE LTD

Phone No: 256924/256914

S Koreans seek business opportunities in Zimbabwe

HARARE, 23 Aug—A 40-member trade and investment delegation from South Korea is expected to hold meetings with government ministers, private and public companies on Tuesday, seeking investment opportunities in various economic sectors.

Speaking at the reception, Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe Deputy Governor Nick Ncube said Zimbabwe had various natural resources that the South Korean investors could invest in different sectors. “We are so humbled by your decision to come here and see for yourselves what this country has to offer and I hope the investment opportunities that lie in the various sectors of our economy will interest you and will be able to tie a number of deals,” he said.

MNA/Xinhua

China’s NDRC deals with medicine, medical service price hikes

BEIJING, 23 Aug—China launched a nationwide inspection recently, aiming at dealing with illegal price increases of medicines and medical services, amid a flurry of public complaints about soaring costs and limited access to drugs and healthcare.

An official from China’s National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) said Monday the price of medicines would be the focus of the inspection. The inspection, launched on Sunday, was directed at a wide range of sectors including pharmacies, hospitals, blood stations and other institutions, according to the official.

Some medicine manufacturers ratchet up prices after altering product names and packaging and some hospitals and clinics raise the costs of medical services, turning a blind eye to standards set by the government.

Illegal activities such as these, which are highly detrimental to patients, will be the main targets of the inspection, said the official.

To make things easier for patients, 17 waves of price reduction have been approved by the Chinese government for medicines that are widely used in clinical treatment. But medicine and medical services are still too costly for some rural areas.

MNA/Xinhua

China to reward for spreading popular science among farmers

BEIJING, 23 Aug—A programme launched here on Monday sets aside 50 million yuan (6.25 million US dollars) from the central budget to reward individuals for their outstanding performance in popularizing science in the countryside this year.

The programme, jointly launched by the China Association for Science and Technology and the Ministry of Finance, will offer financial support to 100 technological associations, 100 popular science bases, 100 popular science advocates and 10 science popularizing work teams for ethnic minorities in rural areas.

MNA/Xinhua

Anxi oolong tea most popular

Chinese farm brand with foreigners

BEIJING, 23 Aug—A survey by the China Brand Research Institute shows that Tieguanyin, a famous variety of oolong tea, has become the most popular Chinese farm brand with foreigners.

Over 2,600 foreign businessmen from more than 40 countries, such as France, Britain and the United States took part in the survey to name the top ten Chinese brands.

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Oil spill from destroyed Lebanese plant poses environmental danger

BEIRUT, 23 Aug — Greenpeace and The Professional Divers Syndicate in Lebanon said on Tuesday that oil spill from a Lebanese power plant damaged by Israeli bombardments last month posed a grave danger to the marine environment.

An oil spill spot has been found at the bottom of the sea next to the al-Jiyeh power plant and oil leaking from the plant has spread for at least 100 metres west from the plant has spread for at least 100 metres west from the power plant and oil leaking into the sea next to the al-Jiyeh power plant, said Mohamad al-Sarji, head of the Professional Divers Syndicate in Lebanon. “This results in the pollution of 22 sites in an area of 150 kilometres of the Lebanese coast north of al-Jiyeh,” Sarji added.

In addition, he said that the oil spill had reached Syria and might threat all the beaches in Cyprus and Greece.

New shrimp farm rules aim to save Asian mangroves

KUALA LUMPUR, 23 Aug— Environmental regulation of shrimp farming operations across Asia takes a major step forward next month, when the UN food agency considers adoption of a set of tougher industry guidelines published on Tuesday.

The key victims of Asia’s shrimp farms are its mangrove forests, the stilt-like luxuriant root systems of which form a natural protective barrier against destructive waves, prompting many countries to plant them after the 2004 tsunami.

Environmental devastation wreaked by shrimp farms across the region has driven policymakers to hammer out a strategy which aims to save natural resources and protect livelihoods, experts meeting in the Malaysian capital said.

Asia generates about 75 per cent of total world production of farmed shrimp, which stood at 1.6 million tons in 2003 and was worth nearly 9 billion US dollars, the UN’s Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) estimates.

As demand for shrimp grows worldwide, concern over the sustainability of fish stocks has risen, forcing consumers and retailers to demand that the food meets environmental guidelines.

“It is ridiculous to think that a multi-billion-dollar industry can be stopped,” said environmentalist Ben Brown, who works for the Mangrove Action Project in Indonesia.

Astronomers find first direct evidence of dark matter

LOS ANGELES, 23 Aug — A US university’s research team has found first direct evidence for the existence of dark matter with NASA’s Chandra X-ray Observatory and other telescopes.

Astronomers have known since the 1930s that most of the universe must be made up of something other than normal matter, which makes stars, planets, all things and creatures. It has been theorized that the universe must contain about five times more dark matter than normal matter, given the way that galaxies move through space and scientists’ understanding of gravity.

But for the past 70 years, no one had any direct persuasive evidence that dark matter even exists, until a research team at the University of Arizona observed a galaxy cluster named 1E0657-56 with the Chandra telescope. — MNA/Xinhua

Colombia rejects criticism of anti-drug plan by “NYT”


The American newspaper said Plan Colombia, which was jointly launched by Colombia and the United States in 2000 with the goal to eradicate Colombia’s cocaine fields in five years, had spent 4.7 billion US dollars, but had failed to achieve its objective.

It also highlighted the fact that Colombia sprays glyphosphate herbicide on coca plantations, especially those close to the border with Ecuador.

“If we had not (fumigated)... the United States and Europe would be flooded with cocaine,” responded Sabas Pretelt De La Vega, Colombian Interior Minister.

Pretelt said the country had cleared a total of 170,000 hectares of coca crops, with 132,000 hectares fumigated and 38,000 hectares manually eradicated.

The government seize between 200 and 220 tons of cocaine each year in efforts to stop the drug trade, he added. — MNA/Xinhua

China to launch three satellites for disaster-monitoring next year

BEIJING, 23 Aug — China will launch three small disaster-monitoring satellites in 2007, which is to form an all-around disaster-forecasting network with another five satellites to be shot in 2010, said an ministerial official Monday.

“Based on the network, China will construct a ground-to-air satellite constellation system for disaster-forecasting and monitoring in 2010 when another five satellites is to be shot into the air.”

Wang Zhenyao, director of the disaster relief department of the Ministry of Civil Affairs, made the above statement at a training session on disaster management jointly sponsored by China’s Ministry of Civil Affairs and the International Civil Defence Organization. “Since 2001, especially after 2003, China’s disaster-relief system has developed fast, with many technological elements injected,” said Wang. During the 1990s, a proposal on the building of a satellite constellation system monitoring and forecasting disasters was put forward by the State Environmental Protection Administration of China, the National Commission for Disaster Reduction and the China Aerospace Corporation Organization. The satellite constellation system is listed as a key in civil satellite development in “China Space Development White Paper” published in 2001.

— MNA/Xinhua
Arsenal beat Zagreb 2-1 to reach Champions League group stage

The visitors went ahead when Eduardo reduced Dinamo's deficit to 3-1 when he fired in in the 12th minute after Kolo Toure's attempted clearance fell into his path.

Robin van Persie almost ended Dinamo's fain hopes only to see a shot steered on to the woodwork and to safety. But Freddie Ljungberg's late header and Mathieu Flamini's tap-in saw Arsenal to victory and a place in Thursday's draw.

There was an air of coordinated adventure about Dinamo's play early on as they looked to engineer an unlikely comeback in the second leg of the third round qualifier.

Eduardo thrust in from the left and played the ball wide to Etto before continuing his run into the Arsenal box. Etto slipped the ball back to his fellow Brazilian and, after Toure could only steer his clearance into the run of Eduardo, the Dinamo striker pounced to slot in an angled shot.

Arsenal heeded the warning and exerted some pressure to go along with their superior possession and they were only denied by the frame of the goal.

Dinamo keeper Ivan Turina missed a Cesc Fabregas cross and Dutch forward van Persie seemed set to score. But his shot was blocked by the outstretched leg of Mario Cvitanovic before the ball cannoned off the underside of the bar and to safety.

The influential van Persie then produced a sublime piece of skill and had an acute-angled strike saved. Ljungberg had an excellent chance after Adebayor's knockdown but placed his effort too close to the legs of grateful keeper Turina.

But Dinamo remained a threat and Luca Modric went close with a shot across goal and a deflected Etto strike just before half-time. — MNA/Xinhua

China wins 4 gold medals in military pentathlon worlds

VIENNA, 24 Aug — China won four gold medals, both the men's and women's team and individual titles, in the 53rd World Championship Military Pentathlon in Vienna New City, succeeding in capturing 11th men's team title and sixth women's team title in a row.

According to the final results, the Chinese men team placed atop with 21,845.8 points, followed by Germany and Belarus. Yang Shiwéi, a team member, claimed the individual title with 5,538.1 points.

The Chinese women team captured the top honour with predomination by 16,126.3 points. Tian Linna, Liu Kun and Xu Lei respectively had a clean sweep of all three medals of the individual.

It is laudable that the Chinese men team, which played not well in last days, exerted themselves on Tuesday and succeeded in defeating Belarus, the primary opponents for China to capture the first place in the men's 8-km cross-country race.

With the victory in the cross-country race, the Chinese men's team rose from the third to the first for the team title.

"Proper organization and control, and athletes' strong fighting-will were the main drive for China to win the title again in the world military pentathlon," Chen Meilin, head of the Chinese delegation, told Xinhua.

The 53rd World Championship Military Pentathlon opened last Thursday in Vienna New City, 40 kilometres south of Vienna. — MNA/Xinhua

Mauresmo reaches quarterfinals of New Haven tennis

NEW HAVEN (Connecticut), 24 Aug — World number one Amélie Mauresmo made a winning return after a six-week break by beating Russian qualifier Galina Voskoboeva 6-4, 6-1, 6-2 to reach the quarterfinals of the New Haven event.

In her first match since winning Wimbledon, the top seed shrugged off a slow start to set up a clash with either former world number one Lindsay Davenport or Italian Francesca Schiavone.

The Frenchwoman was lethargic in the early stages and Voskoboeva, the world number 93, took advantage in the first set.

Any thoughts of an upset were soon dashed though as Mauresmo cruised through the second and third sets.

Fourth seed Marion Bartoli was upset 4-6, 6-4, 7-6 by Marion Bartoli of France.

Later on Wednesday, second seed Justine Henin-Hardenne and number three Elena Dementieva were in second-round action.

In the men's event, second seed Nikolay Davydenko took his place in the last eight thanks to a 6-4, 6-1 win over Paradorn Srichaphan of Thailand.

Belgian Olivier Rochus ousted Frenchman Gael Monfils 6-4, 6-3 while Juan Ignacio Chela beat fellow Argentine Jose Acasuso 7-6-6-2.

Lucky loser Jurgen Melzer advanced to the last eight when Spaniard Fernando Verdasco retired injured with the Austrian leading 6-4, 4-1. — MNA/Reuters


Slovenia's Uros Slokar (R) reacts after missing a shoot against China as China's Yi Jianlian looks during the first round of the world basketball championships in Sapporo, northern Japan on 24 August, 2006. —INTERNET

Arsenal's Mathieu Flamini (R) challenges for the ball with Dinamo Zagreb's Ognjen Vukojevic during their second-leg third round qualifying stage Champions League match at the Emirates Stadium in London, on 23 August, 2006. —INTERNET

DC United's Bryan Namoff, top centre, and Brian Carroll, right, fight for the ball against New York Red Bulls' Amado Guevara during the second half of a quarterfinal of the US Open Cup soccer tournament, on 23 Aug, 2006, in Washington. United won 3-1. —INTERNET

Chelsea upset at Middlesbrough, Manchester United beat Charlton

LONDON, 24 Aug — Mark Viduka scored a dramatic late goal to give Middlesbrough a 2-1 win over champions Chelsea on Wednesday while Manchester United made it two wins out of two and Martin O'Neill secured his first win as Aston Villa manager with victory over Reading in the English Premier League matches.

Chelsea slumped to their first defeat of the season, as Middlesbrough came from a goal down to beat Jose Mourinho's men at the Riverside.

Andrei Shevchenko fired Chelsea in front with his first goal in the Premiership on 16 minutes.

Emanuel Pogatetz drew Boro level on 80 minutes as Viduka won the game for Gareth Southgate's men in the final minute to stun Chelsea and give Southgate his first success as manager.

Manchester United proved too strong for Charlton Athletic at the Valley, running out 3-0 winners to maintain their 100-per-cent record.

Darren Fletcher sent United on their way with the opener on 49 minutes and Louis Saha doubled the lead six minutes from time.

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer wrapped up the win with the third in the final minute with his first goal in three years.

Aston Villa recorded their first win under O'Neill, as they came from behind to beat ten-man Reading at Villa Park.

Kevin Doyle gave Reading a dream start with the opening goal after just four minutes. — MNA/Xinhua

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Lucky loser Jurgen Melzer advanced to the last eight when Spaniard Fernando Verdasco retired injured with the Austrian leading 6-4, 4-1. — MNA/Reuters
US Marine Corps to start involuntary troop recalls

WASHINGTON, 24 Aug—The US Marine Corps will start ordering what could be thousands of inactive service members to return to duty in the coming months to counter a steady decline in the number of such troops who volunteer, the service said on Tuesday.

Colonel Guy Stratton, head of the Marine Corps’ manpower mobilization plans, said the service is short some 1,200 volunteers over the next 18 months to fill roles in the war on terrorism. The total shortfall fluctuates regularly, he said.

Stratton said President George W Bush authorized the Marine Corps’ first involuntary recall since the invasion of Iraq in 2003.

The authorization limits the number of Marines who can be activated involuntarily to no more than 2,500 at any one time, out of a pool of about 35,000, Stratton said. The length of each activated servicemember’s duty is capped at 24 months but will likely last 12 to 18 months.

Under a general contract, a Marine serves four years on active duty and four in reserve. While on reserve, Marines may volunteer to return to active duty to fill needed roles. But the number of Marines volunteering outside their active duty service requirement has been steadily declining for two years, according to Stratton, who said could not offer an explanation.

The Marine Corps’ authority to involuntarily recall Marines for jobs in the “Global War on Terror” — a war whose parameters remain largely undefined — has no expiration date.

“The authority is until GWOT is over with,” Stratton said “Until we’re told to do otherwise, we’ll use it.”

The Marine Corps’ move comes almost five years after the 11 September attacks that led the United States to declare a war on global terrorism and more than three years after the Iraq war began.

“In some ways this is worse than a back-door draft because it penalizes the handful of people who had the inclination and the courage to volunteer in the first place,” he said.

Stratton, however, said the Marines’ involuntary recall was not a back-door draft and that Marines on nonactive status should always expect that they may be called when needed.

MNA/Reuters

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas

WEATHER

Thursday, 24 August, 2006
Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kayah State and lower Sagaing Division, rain have been isolated in Chin State, scattered in Shan State, upper Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Divisions and fairly widespread to widespread in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Nay Pyi Taw (0.31) inch, Kyauktaw (2.44) inches, Mawlamyine (2.37) inches, Thaton and Central Yangon (2.21) inches each and Aunglan (0.47) inch.

Maximum temperature on 23-8-2006 was 88°F. Minimum temperature on 24-8-2006 was 76°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 24-8-2006 was (85%). Total sunshine hours on 23-8-2006 was (2.8) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 24-8-2006 were (0.70) inch at Mingaladon, (0.43) inch at Kaba-Aye and (2.21) inches at Central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2006 were (74.76) inches at Mingaladon, (84.84) inches at Kaba-Aye and (93.94) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (7) mph from Southwest at (12:55) hours MST on 23-8-2006.

Bay inference: Monsoon is generally weak in the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 25-8-2006: Rain will be isolated in Chin and Kayah States, lower Sagaing Division, scattered in Magway, Mandalay and upper Sagaing Divisions, fairly widespread in Shan State, Ayeyawady and Tanintharyi Divisions and widespread in the remaining states and divisions. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: General decrease of rain in the upper Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 25-8-2006: Likelihood of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 25-8-2006: One or two rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 25-8-2006: Likelihood of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Model Melissa Langley applies her makeup before posing with her hair design by hairdresser Aldo Raymond and incorporating flowers from florists ‘Flower Flower,’ as Melbourne prepares itself for the upcoming Spring Racing Carnival on 23 Aug, 2006. — Internet

Friday, 25 August
Tune in today
8:30 am Brief news
8:35 am Music: -Daddy Cool
8:40 am Perspectives
8:45 am Music: -It’s your life
8:50 am National news & Slogan
9:00 am Music: -Quando, Quando, Quando
9:10 am Music: -Cross my heart -Stay young -I started a joke
9:00pm WOT
10:00 pm News & Slogan

Radio Myanmar

Friday, 25 August, 2006
View on today
8:15 am
1. National news & Slogan
2. To be healthy exercise
7:30 am
3. Morning news
7:40 am
4. Nice and sweet song
7:50 am
5. The mirror images of the musical oldies
8:05 am
6. The mirror images of the musical oldies
5:40 pm
8. Song of yesteryears
5:50 pm
9. Myanmar classical music:
6:00 pm
10. Evening news
6:30 pm
11. Weather report
6:35 pm
12. Sports news
7:10 pm
13. Myanmar music:

MNA/Reuters

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Friday, 25 August, 2006

Rainfall spread in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded were Nay Pyi Taw (0.31) inch, Kyauktaw (2.44) inches, Mawlamyine (2.37) inches, Thaton and Central Yangon (2.21) inches each and Aunglan (0.47) inch.

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**Agriculture and livestock farms inspected in Lashio**

**NAY PYI TAW, 24 Aug**—Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint inspected the research and vaccines division of the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department in PyinOoLwin, Mandalay Division, on 19 August morning.

Next, the minister inspected the poultry farm under the Livestock, Feedstuff and Dairy Products Enterprise at CheinYpin Village in Nawnghko Township.

In the afternoon, Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Chairman North-East Command Commander Brig-Gen Aung Than Htut and the minister visited the pig farm under the Livestock, Feedstuff and Dairy Products Enterprise at Narpha Village in Lashio Township.

The commander and the minister proceeded to the 4,000-acre plot to be put under rubber of Bala Min Htin Co Ltd and Hsin Shweli sunflower and physic nut plantations and apiculture farm of North-East Command and fulfilled the requirements.

On 20 August, they inspected the agriculture and livestock farm of the command and attended to the needs.

At the ceremony to release fingerlings into the Humon Dam in Lashio Township, Shan State (North), the commander and minister and guests freed about 100,000 fingerlings into the dam.

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**Weather Forecast for (25-8-2006)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas</th>
<th>Yangon and neighbouring areas</th>
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**Minister inspects power stations in Bago Division (West), calls for more income from power supply**

**NAY PYI TAW, 24 Aug**—Minister for Electric Power No (2) Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint met the officials and staff of the ministry at Division Electrical Engineer’s Office in Bago Division (West) in Pyay on 20 August.

At the meeting, the minister said the ministry is not only carrying out power supply tasks but striving for earning more income as well. All are also to make concerted efforts for earning more income.

On arrival at 66/11 KV sub-power station in Pyay, Assistant Engineer U Thein Myint and officials conducted the sub-power station.

The minister later inspected the construction project of 230/66/11 KV, 100 MVA sub-power station in Padaung.

The minister and party also looked into Gas Turbine (Shwedaung) and met with the officials. He called for the maintenance of the machine for long-term use.

Thereafter, the minister inspected Control Room and Switch Yard of the turbine. He urged the officials to exert their utmost efforts to fully supply power to No 3 Fertilizer Plant (Kyaw Swa).

Minister Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint also went to Thayawady District and Okkan Electric Power Offices, and called for elimination of illegal consumption of electricity supplied by the ministry.

At the meeting with officials of Electric Power Office in Taikkyi Township, officials reported to the minister on supply of electricity to the township and collection of electricity tax.

After hearing the reports, the minister called on employees to carry out power supply tasks joining hands with the people.

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**The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded (24-8-2006)**

- **Nay Pyi Taw**: 0.31 inches
- **Kyauktaw**: 2.44 inches
- **Mawlamyine**: 2.37 inches
- **Thatton**: 2.21 inches
- **Yangon**: 2.21 inches
- **Aunglan**: 0.47 inch