Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Work harder for rural development

Transport is very important for rural development and therefore the government has been building village-to-village and village-to-town roads and bridges across rivers and creeks. Now most of the people in rural areas can travel from one place to another easily, thus enabling them to do business well.

There are model villages in some regions and it indicates that rural areas are developing. In these model villages, tarred roads, affiliated high schools, rural health care centres, biogas-fired power stations and self-reliant rural libraries have been built. As a result, the education, health and transport sectors of rural areas are developing.

A paddy husk-fired power station was opened in Khatcho village, Waingmaw Township, Kachin State, on 4 August. Electricity can be supplied to the village due to the concerted efforts of regional organizations, departmental personnel and local people.

In Konetown village, Thazi Township, Mandalay Division, a dam was renovated to be able to supply water for agriculture and Sinthweltaw paddy strain was introduced. In the past, farmers had to rely on rain for cultivation of paddy and could produce only 30 to 60 baskets of paddy per acre. Now they can produce over 100 baskets per acre.

Nowadays, efforts are being made all over the nation to improve transport, education and health and to supply sufficient water for drinking and agricultural purposes in rural areas.

Education, health, economic and social status of rural people will become higher and higher through concerted efforts of regional organizations, departmental personnel and local people under the leadership of the government.

Commander attends physic nut plantation, medical fund donation ceremonies in Dala Township

YANGON, 27 Aug — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win attended physic nut plants planting ceremony held in conjunction with medical fund donation ceremony, organized by Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation at Dala Township People’s Hospital this morning.

Next, they collectively planted physic nut plants in front of the Sangha ward of the hospital.

At the meeting hall, Head of Administrative Department Dr. Daw Khin Hsan Nwe of MWAF explained the purpose of holding the ceremony and facts about MWAF. Later, cash donation ceremony followed.

Chairperson of Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee and members inspected delivery room of Dala Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association and presented cash assistance, iodized salt and medicines to expectant mothers.

Next, the chairperson and party met with members of Dala Township MCWA and accepted 1,000 membership applications from Thiri Zeya Anawratha hall in the township.

Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win proceeded to Dalla Shipyard and inspected computerized numerical control system machine installed at the shipyard and maintenance of ships.

Paukkaung Township

USDA holds Annual General Meeting


USDA CEC member Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Huy delivered an address at the meeting. During the meeting, the deputy minister presented awards to members of the Association who passed the matriculation examination 2005-06 academic year. The deputy minister accepted 935 membership applications from a responsible person of the Association and donated cash for regional development.

After the meeting, the deputy minister went to Taungle Village Basic Education High School in Paukkaung where he met responsible persons of the village. He also donated books and booklets to the village library through the headmistress of the school.

Next, the deputy minister went to Pyay University and accepted 531 membership applications presented by Rector U Mya Win. The deputy minister donated cash for school development activities.

KOICA donates Taekwando equipment to Ministry of Sports

YANGON, 28 Aug— Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint addressed the opening of Wushu techniques, coach and referee course No 1/2006 held at Olympic Hotel in Thawwunna here yesterday.

The minister also attended the donation of Taekwando Sports gear worth US$ 6,000 for the ministry held at Aung San stadium.

Mr Cho Sang Woo of KOICA explained the purpose of the donation. The minister spoke words of thanks and accepted the donation.

Next, the minister met with players of U-17 who will take part in AFC U-17 Championship at the hotel. President of Myanmar Football Federation and responsible persons explained preparations for the journey. The minister gave instructions and fulfilled the requirements.
Kuala Lumpur, 27 Aug—The 8th Ministerial Meeting of the ASEAN-Mekong Basin Development Cooperation (AMBDBC) was held here Saturday with discussions focusing on the work progress of the trans-Asia railway.

Ministers reviewed the progress of the activities under the Working Group on the Singapore-Kunming Rail Link (SKRL), which will connect Singapore up to Kunming, China, via Peninsular Malaysia, Thailand, and other Mekong Basin countries.

For the project, some 5.4 million US dollars has been secured as grants and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has provided another 40 million US dollars in the form of soft loans for Cambodia in 2006, said a joint media statement issued after the meeting.

They agreed that the AMBDBC Ministerial Meeting should be placed under the ASEAN Economic Ministers Meeting process and the membership of the core group should be opened to other interested parties and international organizations.

“The decision to place AMBDBC under the ASEAN Economic Minister process is to synchronize the economic integration activities, and to maximize on the limited resources available,” said the joint media statement.

All the 10 member countries of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) sent delegates for the half-day meeting, which was chaired by Myanmar Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha.

Mexicans come home after months lost in Pacific

SAN BLAS (Mexico), 27 Aug—Three Mexican men who spent months lost and drifting across the Pacific Ocean in a flimsy fishing boat arrived home on Friday to a heroes’ welcome. The bewildered-looking trio faced a barrage of questions from more than 100 nosy journalists, including over unproven allegations of drug smuggling, after they touched down in Mexico City on a commercial flight from Honolulu.

The men’s 25-foot (8-metre) fibreglass boat ran into trouble off Mexico’s Pacific coast last November and drifted more than 5,000 miles (8,000 kilometres) before being picked up two weeks ago by a Taiwanese tuna trawler near the remote Marshall Islands in the South Pacific.

The three survived by eating raw fish and sea birds and drinking rain water in one of the longest recorded cases of survival at sea. “It made us appreciate our friends and food,” survivor Lucio Rendon told a news conference.

Lightning kills two during Dutch funeral

AMSTERDAM, 27 Aug—Lightning killed two musicians and injured three more standing under a tree during a funeral in the eastern Dutch town of Vorden on Friday, police said.

One of the victims died instantly, while the other was resuscitated in the churchyard but died shortly afterwards.

The musicians were part of a group performing at the funeral of an elderly man, which drew around 100 mourners, when the storm suddenly struck, police said.

Air crash occurs in Kentucky, US, 49 killed

WASHINGTON, 27 Aug—A Comair flight carrying 50 people crashed near Lexington’s airport, Kentucky on 27 Aug, morning, killing almost all on board, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) said.

A Comair flight carrying 50 people crashed near Lexington’s airport, Kentucky, Sunday morning, killing 49 on board, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) said.

Comair President Don Bornhorst told a Press conference that there is only one survivor among the 50 people on board Comair Flight 5191, a CRJ-1000 regional jet which crashed shortly after taking off.

He would not confirm news reports that the survivor is a pilot of the plane.

Don said the company has been conducting routine maintenance for the plane and the latest test was Monday. The CNN television earlier said at least one survivor was being treated in the University of Kentucky Hospital, and in critical conditions.

Red Cross staffs and local police officers have arrived in the scene. Investigators from the FAA and the National Transportation Safety Board are going there, too.

A temporary morgue is being set up at the scene and the bodies will be brought to Kentucky state medical examiner’s office.

Local coroners said the deaths were caused either by the impactor fire on board. The plane was leaving Blue Grass Airport in Lexington and was heading for Atlanta, when it went down in woods about 1.6 kilometres from the airport at about 6:07 am local time (1007 GMT). It was raining lightly at the time.

Lightning killed two during Dutch funeral

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Death toll in Moscow market blast rises to 11

MOSCOW, 27 Aug—A 20-year-old Tajik man injured in the explosion in a Moscow market died in hospital on Friday, bringing the death toll from the blast to 11, Russian news agencies reported.

The explosion ripped through the Cherkizovsky Market on Monday, killing 10 people including two children, and wounding 55 others.

More than 30 injured remain in hospital at present.

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad gestures during the inauguration of the Arak heavy-water reactor project on Saturday, despite Western fears it is aimed at producing a bomb.

Third suspect charged over train bomb plot in Germany

BERLIN, 27 Aug—A probing judge at Germany’s Federal Supreme Court charged Saturday a third suspect over a failed train bomb plot.

The man, who was identified as Fadi A. S. was accused of membership in a terrorist organization, several counts of attempted murder and trying to cause bomb attacks with explosive devices, the German Federal Attorney’s Office said.

Police arrested him on Friday in Germany’s southern city of Constance as he was allegedly involved in a failed plot to blow up German passenger trains last month.

The suspect was a friend of the two suspects who had been arrested earlier on charges of planting bombs on two trains.

A protestor wears a hat calling for the end of the Iraq war near the home of former US President George W. Bush, where his son President George W. Bush is staying for the weekend, in Kennebunkport, Maine, on 26 Aug, 2006.
**Chavez eyes Syria visit to strengthen ties**

CARACAS (Venezuela), 27 Aug — Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez said on Friday he planned a visit to Syria to bolster ties in a move likely to rattle Washington, which charges the Arab nation with sponsoring terrorism.

Chavez, a harsh critic of US foreign and trade policies, has strengthened political and energy ties with nations at odds with the Bush Administration, such as Cuba and Iran, as he seeks to counter Washington’s influence.

The Bush Administration and British Prime Minister Tony Blair accuse Syria of backing militant groups in the Palestinian territories and Lebanon and stoking recent violence in the Middle East.

**Dengue fever on the rise in Cambodia**

PHNOM PENH, 27 Aug — Dengue fever still poses a significant public health threat in Cambodia, according to officials from the Ministry of Health and World Health Organization (WHO), local media reported on Friday.

Between January and August this year, there were 8,945 cases of dengue infection in Cambodia with 65 fatalities, The Cambodian Press Review quoted Duong Socheat, director of the National Malaria Centre, as saying at a workshop on strengthening intersectoral and inter-ministerial collaboration for the control of dengue fever.

**Expert says bachelor trend to boost “single economy” in China**

BEIJING, 27 Aug — The new middle-class, white-collar workers trend among China’s population will trigger a “single economy” phenomenon in China, according to a sociology and demography expert.

Zuo Xiaossi, a researcher from the Sociology and Demography Institute of Guangdong Academy of Social Sciences in South China, said white-collar workers and middle-class people who prefer to remain single have high spending power, which may create a consumption structure different from the family-oriented one.

“Small-sized houses and cars will be more sellable than ever,” Zuo said, adding that household appliances, insurance, entertainment and tourism may also benefit.

A media survey revealed that 30.35 per cent of single Chinese women make housing their priority, while 30.02 per cent spend most money on buying clothes and cosmetics.

However, the baby products industry is likely to suffer. The country now has 107 million babies with estimated annual market sales of 500 billion yuan (62.5 billion US dollars). It is estimated that if 30 per cent of parents-to-be remain single, total sales will drop by at least 150 billion yuan (18.75 billion dollars).

Yuan Xin, a professor from the Population and Development Institute of the Nankai University in China, said the single trend will have a long-term effect on the country’s consumption structure, and will boost consumption as a whole.

The term “single economy” was first coined by Western economist F.T. McCarthy.

**Computer, Communication Fair opens in Hong Kong**

HONG KONG, 27 Aug — The Hong Kong Computer and Communication Festival (HKCCF) for 2006 opened here Friday, attracting more than 190 leading IT companies worldwide.

During the four-day annual event, a wide array of IT products will be exhibited, including computer software and hardware, HD TV, digital cameras and telecommunication equipment.

Being an ideal market channel, the festival for this year will continue to follow the global IT trend with special focus on digital life, digital home and digital entertainment, according to the organiser.

With the launch of the HDTV broad-casting era, the fair heralds the next generation of the most popular consumer electronic devices used at home, said the organiser.

**29 Taleban militants, two French soldiers killed in Afghanistan**

KABUL, 27 Aug — At least 29 Taleban militants including a known commander in the southern Uruzgan province, the coalition forces killed in clashes in the past two days in Afghanistan, during which two French soldiers also lost their lives, officials and coalition forces said on Saturday.

The US-led coalition forces killed 16 Taleban militants including a known commander in the central Khod valley of the southern Uruzgan Province, the coalition force said in a statement.

The commander and his associates were involved in conducting attacks against Afghan, ISAF and coalition troops, it added. However, the statement did not announce his name and identity. There were no coalition casualties in the operation, it said.

Also on Friday, air forces of the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) attacked a Taleban convoy in the southern Helmand Province, killing a number of militants and destroying 10 vehicles, provincial police chief Mohammad Nabi Malikzai said on Saturday.

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**Tourists visit Angkor Wat temple in Siem Reap Province. A French firm will open a new international terminal at Siem Reap airport, the gateway to the Angkor Wat temples, which Cambodia hopes will attract more tourists.**

INTERNET

**A model presents a jewellery at the International Luxury Goods Exhibition held at Beijing Hotel in Beijing, capital of China, on 25 Aug, 2006. Top brands from around the world, covering jewellery, limousines and classic furniture, were displayed in the exhibition.**

—XINHUA
Chinese top legislator speaks highly of Sino-Venezuelan relations

BEIJING, 28 Aug—Wu Bangguo, China’s top legislator, spoke highly of the development of Sino-Venezuelan relations when meeting with visiting Venezuelan President Chavez here Friday.

He said the Chinese side appreciates the Venezuelan side’s support for China on such issues as Taiwan, Tibet and human rights.

China will make concerted efforts with Venezuela to turn bilateral relations into a model for equality, reciprocity and sincere cooperation among developing countries, noted Wu, chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress (NPC).

He said he hoped the two Parliaments will maintain high-level contacts, expand exchanges and cooperation between different departments, learn from each other in building democracy and legal systems and governing, and strengthen coordination and cooperation in international and regional inter-parliament organizational exchanges and cooperation between the two governments and parliaments, and continuously push forward bilateral reciprocal cooperation in such fields as economy, trade, energy, telecommunications, tourism and agriculture.

The Venezuelan side will continue to abide by the one-China policy.

MNA/Xinhua

Songhua River tributary pollution will not hurt Russia

BEIJING, 27 Aug—The pollution of a Songhua River tributary will not hurt Russia, said an environmental protection bureau official in northeast China’s Heilongjiang Province here Friday.

Guo Yuan, deputy director of the bureau, said they had started rigorously monitoring water quality in the Songhua River as soon as they learnt of the pollution on its tributary Mangniu River.

“They will not do any damage to Russia,” Guo said. The Mangniu River, which runs through the city of Jilin, in neighboring Jilin Province, was reported polluted with chemicals on Monday.

Experts arriving at the river were greeted with the sight of a five-kilometre-long pollution slick of bubbly, red water.

The pollutants were cleared before the pollution belt arrived at the Songhua River.

“They will not do any damage to Russia,” Guo said. The Mangniu River, which runs through the city of Jilin, in neighboring Jilin Province, was reported polluted with chemicals on Monday.

Experts arriving at the river were greeted with the sight of a five-kilometre-long pollution slick of bubbly, red water.

WHO calls for increased helmet use to reduce road injuries

GENEVA, 27 Aug—Helmet use is the single most effective way of reducing head injuries and fatalities resulting from motorcycle and bicycle crashes on roads, the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Friday.

In many low-income and middle-income countries, users of two-wheelers — particularly motorcyclists — make up more than 50 per cent of all injured or killed on roads, the WHO said in a press release.

Wearing a helmet has been shown to decrease the risk and severity of injuries among motorcyclists by about 70 per cent, the likelihood of death by almost 40 per cent, and to substantially reduce the costs of health care associated with such crashes, it added.

WHO is intensifying efforts to support governments, particularly those in low-income and middle-income countries, to increase helmet use through a new publication. The importance of increasing helmet use follows dramatic growth in motorization around the world, largely from increasing use of motorized two-wheelers, particularly in Asian countries, the WHO said.

In China, for example, motorcycle ownership over the last 10 years has increased rapidly. In 2004 it was estimated that more than 67 million motorcycles were registered in the country, and approximately 25 per cent of all road traffic deaths were among motorcyclists and their passengers.

MNA/Xinhua

Kidnapped female lawmaker released in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 27 Aug—A female lawmaker kidnapped nearly two months ago was released on Saturday, which is hailed by the Iraqi Prime Minister as a “gift” for his national reconciliation plan.

Taiseer Najah al-Mashhadani, a member of the Sunni Consensus Front, was abducted with her five bodyguards on 1 July when gunmen ambushed her convoy in a Shiite neighbourhood in north-eastern Baghdad.

Shortly after being freed, al-Mashhadani met with Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki. Following the meeting, she told reporters the captors treated her well and she kept encouraging them to join the national reconciliation process.

As to her bodyguards, al-Mashhadani said three of her bodyguards were released shortly afterward and another two were still being held by the kidnappers, who said they would be released soon.

MNA/Xinhua


Australian James Mitchell (R) and Richard Webb of the US video film themselves as they jump before parachuting down from Kuala Lumpur Tower in Malaysia’s capital Kuala Lumpur on 26 Aug, 2006. Mitchell and Webb are among 80 BASE (Building, Antenna, Span and Earth) jumpers for the 49th anniversary of the country’s independence on 31 August. —INTERNET

Note: The text contains some images, which are not described in the natural text representation.
China, Kazakhstan kick off 2nd phase of joint anti-terror drill

Urumqi, 27 Aug — China wrapped up the second phase of its joint anti-terror drill with its western neighbour Kazakhstan at Saturday noon in Yining, western China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. The Yining game consists of five parts, simulating a battle in which Chinese guards gradually forced the terrorists into a narrow valley and cliff caves. It lasted two hours and ten minutes, with groups of the mock terrorists being eliminated by the police forces consisting of artillery, police dogs, cavalry, special services and other troops.

Chinese troops of the “Tianshan-I (2006)” exercise in Xinjiang were mainly composed of border police and anti-terror special force in Xinjiang. Some 700 police force were deployed on the game equipped with advanced weapons including armed helicopters and armoured anti-riot vehicles, the police authority said.

Around 100 observers from member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) which includes China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, were in Yining to evaluate the drill. They were satisfied and applauded to the participating troops, the police said.

The drill is the first ever joint anti-terrorism exercise between the two countries' law enforcement bodies and special forces within SCO framework.

China and Kazakhstan on Thursday finished the first phase of the drill in Kazakhstan’s eastern Almaty region. Kazakhstan’s border-guard force also mobilized armed helicopters, armoured anti-riot vehicle and other military equipment.

Six Bangladeshi peacekeepers killed in road accident in Abidjan

Dhaka, 27 Aug — Six Bangladeshi peace-keepers were killed and 12 others wounded in a road accident in Abidjan, the capital of Ivory Coast, late on Friday, Bangladesh Army Press Department announced on Saturday.

The department said a contingent of Bangladeshi peacekeepers flew to Abidjan on Friday from Bangladesh capital Dhaka. Upon their arrival, they were heading to Abidjan from the airport while the military truck carrying them slipped off the road, killing five of them on the spot and wounding 13 others.

Another peacekeeper died at a local hospital where those wounded are now being treated. Bangladesh now has about 12,000 peacekeepers working in different trouble spots across the world, spokesman of the department Nazrul Islam said.

Malaria remains leading cause of maternal death in Zambia

Lusaka, 27 Aug — Zambian health officials have said that malaria remained the leading cause of maternal death in the African country.

Speaking in a meeting dubbed Malaria in Pregnancy Dissemination, Health Ministry Permanent Secretary Simon Miti said malaria accounted for 20 per cent of maternal deaths in Zambia.

There was a need to intensify the fight against malaria in the country, particularly among pregnant women, Miti said.

He added that the combat against the disease has been a part of the National Strategic Framework.

It was learned from the meeting that fear, perceived lack of efficacy and high cost led to rural women not to take antenatal drugs which was blamed for the high rate of maternal deaths.

Malaria is No 1 disease in Zambia, accounting for 37 per cent of all outpatient hospital visits and 500,000 deaths a year.

The country with a population of 11 million records four million malaria cases each year.

Germany to send 1,200 troops to Lebanon

Berlin, 27 Aug— Germany is willing to send over 1,200 military personnel to join the UN peacekeeping mission in southern Lebanon, German media reported Saturday.

The German naval was preparing frigates and speedboats to safeguard the Lebanese coast, the news magazine Der Spiegel reported in its edition to be published on Monday.

It said that the Air Force was expected to send Tornado reconnaissance jets to prevent weapons smuggling by Lebanon’s Hizbollah militants.

The German Government is awaiting a formal request from the Lebanese Government to put the troops in place, the magazine said.

German Defence Minister Franz Josef Jung described the German military participation as battle duty as he said, “German soldiers have to be prepared against the will of ships’ captains to board ships suspected of smuggling weapons.”

He said the German troops could play a dominant role in the Lebanese coast.

Germany decided not to send ground troops to the region considering its historical sensitiveness with Israel.

Nigeria destroys $4.7m worth drugs

Lagos, 27 Aug — Nigeria’s National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) on Friday destroyed hard drugs worth more than 600 million naira (about 4.7 million US dollars), the official News Agency of Nigeria reported.

Ahmadu Giade, national chairman of the NDLEA, was quoted as saying that the drugs were destroyed in Osogbo, a leading city in Osun State, southwest Nigeria.

“The destroyed drugs were cocaine, heroin and Indian hemp,” he said. Giade also recalled the destruction of the largest single drugs seizure ever made on the African continent with a street value of 50 billion naira (about 390 million dollars) at the Tin Can Island Ports in the nation’s commercial capital Lagos.

According to him, 9.8 tons of hard drugs were also destroyed by the Ondo State command recently.

He acknowledged the contributions of the Osun State Government to the anti-drug activities of the agency, saying that the destruction of drugs in Osun State marked a turning point in the history of the agency’s anti-narcotic efforts.

According to NDLEA’s Osun State Commander Segun Oke, drug problem in the state should be understood comprehensively. He said the agency secured the conviction of 46 drug peddlers and seized four tons of drugs in the state in the past.
I have the habit of keeping paper boxes and packing papers of soap, mosquito coils and tooth paste as they have their own values at least to kindle a fire.

In this world today, garbage recycling is helping protect and conserve the environment. Once, I found in a journal a piece of news about a man selling robots he created from items collected from garbage. Because of his creativity even garbage has become valuable.

Every material has its own usefulness and value. The human society is formed with spiritual values, which are, goodwill, loving-kindness and morals and they also have their own degree of merit. Loving-kindness and goodwill of parents, teachers and true friends are invaluable. Persons who appreciate loving kindness and goodwill of parents, elders and teachers usually get prospered. Youth should value loving-kindness and goodwill and should understand its value, otherwise they will be repentant in the future. A person will lose a true friend if he fails to appreciate the value of a good friend. Assistance and support of a good friend is vital for one’s prosperity. In some families, elder brothers and sisters take the place of parents in caring and protecting their younger siblings. Loving-kindness and goodwill of those persons is great, while the younger siblings need to know the gratitude they owe to their elder brothers and sisters.

Myanmar society always appreciates the value of gratitude as it adheres to the 38 blessings. Every person should understand the gratitude they owe to their country that is providing her citizens with all the requirements including food, clothing and shelter. We all need to know and repay the gratitude we owe to the persons from the ones who founded the Union of Myanmar to the ones who are endeavouring to develop the motherland in all aspects. Everyone who longs for foreign countries over his or her own motherland is an ungrateful person.

Efforts of the persons who have tried to promote and propagate Myanmar literature are great. As I am a Myanmar teacher, I always pay respects to the literati who have promoted literature starting from Pali to Sanskrit and Myanmar. I always teach my pupils to have respect for literature and their lessons. Having respect for literature is a good habit as literature benefits mankind. I have heard from my elders that a man who got rich and well-known as Tiger balm manufacturer after starting life as a sampan boat rower kept in his house the gilded oar. He became rich as he valued his work.

Illness makes people realize the true value of health. Health is a blessing. Man should value himself and control his mind to enjoy a healthy life. The present world sees the occurrence of unusual diseases in many places. AIDS has already killed about 42 million people on this planet. People fall victim to AIDS because of their dissipation and indulgence in sensual pleasures and failure to adhere to the morals. Smoking kills five million people every year around the globe. Human beings will be able to enjoy a healthy life and longevity and serve mankind’s interest only if they take care of their own health.

Foreigners trapped in Sri Lanka’s north evacuated

COLOMBO, 28 Aug — Over 100 foreign nationals trapped in the northern Jaffna Peninsula since 11 August, when battles erupted between the Tamil Tigers and the government troops were evacuated under the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) escort, according to officials Sunday.

Seruwila II, the civilian ferry under the ICRC flag arrived in the eastern port of Trincomalee in the early hours of Sunday, and the 161 foreign nationals on board were to be transferred to capital Colombo later in the day, ICRC officials said.

Most of them are expatriate Tamils who hold foreign passports, also among them are 10-15 European expatriates serving in Jaffna in various international non-governmental organizations.

Fighting which broke out in Jaffna was the worst since the February 2002 ceasefire and the military said they had fully consolidated positions in the district by successfully wading off challenge from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) rebels.

There have not been serious clashes in the Jaffna Peninsula for a week since last Sunday, defence officials said, adding that however the clashes shifted to the eastern province back again on Saturday.

Over 1,700 people have been killed since December last year in the escalation of violence and more than 100,000 people have been displaced by clashes since the beginning of August.
Lt-Gen Ye Myint visits rubber...

(from page 16)

field trips to nearby construction projects and growing perennial trees. The three-storey main building of the Government Technological College (Myitkyina) is 120 feet by 80 feet and has one assembly hall, 40 lecture halls and two computer rooms. Construction started in March 2004.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected the 1000-acre rubber plantation owned by Northern Command. In charge Lt-Col Aung Myaing reported on the growing of 21,700 rubber plants on a 100-acre plantation. Lt-Gen Ye Myint instructed officials to strive for the state to be a region of rubber. On arrival at the teak plantation of Thin Agricultural Co Lt-Gen Ye Myint heard a report of the manager on growing teak. Pyangadou, physical nut and seasonal crops, cultivation of 10 acres of paddy and breeding of fish. Lt-Gen Ye Myint spoke of the need to extend cultivation of teak and physical nut, viewed teak saplings and planted teak trees. The company has grown 172,914 teak plants, 2,753 Pyangadou trees and 120,000 physical nut plants. Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party visited the rubber plantation of the Northern Command and the division rubber plantation.

accompanied by Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraph Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party visited Win Thaza Shop of the Ministry of Industry-1 which sells clothing, medicines, cosmetics and consumer products and inspected development of Myitkyina by care. Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party proceeded to the briefing hall of the project for growing perennial trees being undertaken by Jade Land Myanmar Co. The company chairman reported on growing of rubber, teak and other crops. Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspected the plantations. He also visited the rubber plantation of U Karang La Hsan in Gawalan village, Naung Nan village-tract in Myitkyina township. Lt-Gen Ye Myint left necessary instructions.

At Naung Nang Research and Pedigree Farm of the Myanmar Perennial Crops Enterprise near Naung Nang Village on Myitkyina-Putao Road, Farm Manager U Naing Win and officials reported to Lt-Gen Ye Myint on growing of rubber and distribution of rubber plants and seeds. Lt-Gen Ye Myint viewed rubber trees that were first grown in 1961. The farm has 498 acres and the number of pedigree seeds distributed was 500,000 in 2003, one million in 2004, 490,000 in 2005 and about one million in 2006. In the evening Lt-Gen Ye Myint and Command Maj-Gen Ohn Myint met with members of the agricultural coordination committee at Malikha Yeiktha of Northern Command and made a speech. Officials reported on cultivation of summer and monsoon paddy in 2006, growing of teak and rubber and other respective sectors. The commander gave a supplementary report. Later, Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave necessary instructions. — MNA

Minister inspects irrigation facilities in Mandalay

Yangon, 27 Aug — Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo and departmental heads went on an inspection tour of Shamange dam project near Aung Tha village, Meiktila in Mandalay Division on 20 August.

At the briefing hall, Director of Irrigation Department Construction-7 U Myo Tun briefed the minister on progress of work of Shamange dam. In connection with the reports, the minister gave instructions on water supply to the irrigated areas of the dam and inspected earth work of the construction of the dam.

Next, the minister and party looked into availability of water and water supply of Nyaungyan lake and Minhla lake. Irrigation Department officials briefed the minister on water supply to 20,000 acres of farmland in 20 village-tracts and maintenance of the dam.

Afterwards, the minister met with responsible personnel and farmers from the districts and towns and gave instructions on the per acre yield, promotion of the farmers’ economy, boosting cultivation and production of crops in suitable regions, providing strains, cultivation methods and technology. The minister oversaw maintenance of Nyaungyan lake and Minhla lake. The following day, the minister and party and chairman of Meiktila District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Lu Tin arrived at Thabyeyoe dam near Mayoe village, Wundwin Township. Director of Irrigation Department U Aye Thein briefed on construction tasks of Thabyeyoe dam and water supply to over 8,000 acres of farmland.

Next, Director-General of Irrigation Department U Kyaw San Win gave supplementary reports. Regarding the reports, the minister gave instructions on maintenance of already-built dams and inspected Thabyeyoe, Toungpulu and Inyin dams. Afterwards, the minister held a meeting with local farmers and gave instructions on efficient use of dam water, increasing the cultivation and production, boosting of per acre yield and strains and technologies provided to the local farmers by the department. — MNA

Secretariat Member attends ceremonies to set up education funds for schools in Meiktila, Taungtha

Nay Pyi Taw, 27 Aug — Secretariat member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung handed over envelopes donated by USDA to basic education schools.

Next, the Secretariat Member accepted K 2 million for the educational funds of affiliated schools donated by Daw Khin Oo of Myebyugon Village, and presented certificates of honour to her. — MNA

Families of Supreme Court put fingerlings into farms

Nay Pyi Taw, 27 Aug — Staff families of Supreme Court put fingerlings into the farms at Shopeik dam, Nay Pyi Taw this morning.

Chief Justice U Aung Toe, Deputy Chief Justice U Khin Maung Latt and U Thein Soe, Judges of the Supreme Court Dr Tin Aung Aye and U Myint Thein put fingerlings into the farms. — MNA

Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung gives award to an outstanding student. Industry-1

Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo meets with farmers at Inyin Dam. — & I

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INDUSTRY-1

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Next, heads of department and staff put fingerlings into the farms. A total of 20,000 fingerlings were put into the farms.

Chief Justice U Aung Toe and party release fingerlings into a small dam in Nay Pyi Taw. — MNA
Training course on trainers for the increasing awareness of RH through IEC and BCC interventions held

YANGON, 28 Aug — The training course 1/2006 on trainers for the increasing awareness of RH through IEC and BCC interventions sponsored by Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association was opened at the multi-purpose hall of MMCWA at the corner of Parami Road and Thanthuma Road in South Okkalapa Township this morning.

Present were President of MMCWA Daw Khin Khin Win, Vice-Presidents Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint and Daw Aye Aye, members of CEC, Chairperson of Yangon Division MCWA Supervisory Committee Daw Mar Mar Wai, Resident Representative of UNFPA Mr Daniel B Baker and officials of the Ministry of Health.

President of MMCWA Daw Khin Khin Win spoke on the occasion. Resident Representative of UNFPA Mr Daniel B Baker reported on the project. Daw Khin Khin Win presented K 9.1 million for six townships — two in Yangon Division and four in Bago Division for conducting township level and multiplier courses.

Chairperson of Yangon Division MCWA Supervisory Committee Daw Mar Mar Wai, Secretary of Bago Division (East) MCWSC Dr Htay Aung and Chairperson of Bago Division (West) MCWSC Daw Thein Paing also accepted the donations.

The five-day course is being attended by 30 trainees from six townships. — MNA

MWAF holds talks in Kyaukse

YANGON, 28 Aug — Organized by Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation, an educative talk took place at Pyipan model village in Kyaukse on 22 August.

Present on the occasion were Head of Organizing Department of MWAF Dr Daw Nyunt Nyunt Oo, the chairperson of Mandalay Division WAO and members, the chairpersons of Kyaukse District and Township WAOs and members, members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association, members of WAOs and Maternal and Child Welfare Association totalling 750.

First, Head of Organizing Department of MWAF Dr Daw Nyunt Nyunt Oo made an opening speech and explained salient points of the federation on the occasion. Next, Daw Mi Mi Lay of Working Group of Prevention and Rehabilitation for Women of Mandalay Division WAO gave talks on prevention against human trafficking while Dr Daw Moe Thu Win of Obstetric and Gynecology Specialist of Kyaukse District Hospital clarified facts about HIV/AIDS.

Next, the head of organizing department and leaders of working groups replied to the queries raised by those present. After the talks, Head of Organizing Department of MWAF Dr Daw Nyunt Nyunt Oo presented uniforms of Women’s Affairs through the chairperson of township WAO and varieties of books for Pyipan model village library, leaflets of HIV/AIDS and iodized salt to the chairperson of the village WAO.

Afterwards, chair-person of Mandalay Division WAO Daw Kye Hmon Oo presented 5,200 membership applications to Head of Organizing Department of MWAF Dr Daw Nyunt Nyunt Oo. — MNA
Minister inspects sub-power stations, offices of township GADs

YANGON, 28 Aug — Minister for Electric Power No-2 Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint inspects a sub-power station at general administration office in Dagon Myothit (South). — MNA

YANGON, 28 Aug — Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha received UN Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director of UNICEF Mr Kul Chandra Gautam and Resident Representative Mr Ramesh Shrestha of UNICEF based in Yangon, at the hall of the ministry here, at 3 pm today.

Also present on the occasion were heads of department under the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development.

Minister receives guests

Religious Affairs Ministry holds meeting to organize pilgrimage to India, Nepal

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Aug — Ministry of Religious Affairs held a work coordination meeting today on pilgrimage to India and Nepal at the ministry here. At the meeting, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko and officials of the ministry discussed arrangements for pilgrimage to four religious places in India and Nepal.

Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung stressed the need for coordination between departments to help pilgrims visit Bodh Gaya and other religious places.

The meeting ended with concluding remarks by the minister. — MNA

Sitt Thwe magazine in circulation

YANGON, 28 Aug — Sitt Thwe magazine for September 2006 edited by Lwin Thaung Wai has come into circulation from Myayadan Sarpay on Thanthuma street, 14/2 ward, South Okkalapa Township.

It carries many interesting topics and stories: ‘Interview with actor Nay Toe’, ‘I am not a man of words, but of action’ by Thaung Wai, ‘Secret of Ponnya Aung’ by Zarni (Korean Wave), poems and cartoons and others. — MNA

MMPA requests to donate old film journals, magazines on Myanmar film

YANGON, 28 Aug — The committee for compilation of the history of Myanmar film was formed during Diamond Jubilee of Myanmar Film held in 1995. The history of Myanmar film (1920-1995) has been written. Now the history of Myanmar film from 1946 to 1970 and from 1996 to date (draft) is being compiled by Myanmar film museum.

The history of Myanmar film (1920-1945) was published. Old film journals, magazines and other documents relating to Myanmar film can be sent to Myanmar Motion Picture Asiayon, No 16, Wingaba Road, Bahan Township. — MNA

NPED Minister attends ASEAN Economic Ministers Meeting

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Aug — Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha arrived back here today after attending the 38th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting and other related meetings held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from 21 to 26 August.

The delegation was welcomed back at the airport by Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Then Swe, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi and officials. On 21 August, the minister and delegation attended the Ninth AIA Council and the 20th AFTA Council meeting.

The next day, the ASEAN economic ministers and the ASEAN secretary-general met with Prime Minister of Malaysia Dato Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi. The Myanmar delegation led by Minister U Soe Tha attended the opening ceremony on the 38th ASEAN Economic Ministers Meeting held at 9 am the same day. The meeting continued on 23 August. In the afternoon, they took part in the 13th AEM-METI Consultation in which ASEAN economic ministers and their Japanese counterpart were participants. Economic ministers of Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam also met with Japanese METI.

On 24 August, ASEAN economic ministers held talks with their counterpart from the Republic of Korea. Afterwards, the Ninth AEM+3, a meeting between ASEAN economic ministers and their counterparts from China, Japan and ROK, was held. The Fifth AEM-India Consultations were also held.

The following day saw the holding of Eight A E M - U S T R Consultations at which ASEAN-US Trade and Investment Arrangement-TIFA was signed between the ASEAN ministers and the US trade delegation to boost American investment in the ASEAN area.

Myanmar delegation also attended the 11th AEM-CER Consultations in which economic ministers from Australia and New Zealand were also participants.

Minister U Soe Tha chaired the Eight AMBDC Ministerial Meeting on 26 August.

The delegation members were Adviser to the NPED Ministry U Maung Maung Yi, Director-General of Foreign Economic Relations Department Daw Myo Nwe, Deputy Director-General of Planning Department Daw Le Le Thein and Assistant Director of Directorate of Investment and Companies Daw Cho Cho Win. — MNA

Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha receives UN Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director of UNICEF Mr Kul Chandra Gautam. — MNA

of competition of Ma Mya Thaung Wai who won 1st Ladies Award at Asian Cross Country Rally 2006, ‘Of Bay Yaung Jun by Zarni (Korean Wave), poems and cartoons and others. — MNA

Sitt Thwe magazine of September issue. — MNA
Thailand, Laos to open more border points

BANGKOK, 28 Aug — Thailand and the neighbouring Laos have agreed to step up security collaboration along their common border and open two temporary border points in a bid to boost bilateral trade and tourism, Thai media reported Saturday.

The agreement was made at a two-day meeting in Laos, which ended on Friday, between Thailand’s caretaker Interior Minister Kongsak Wardhana and his Lao counterpart, Minister of Public Security Thonghbanh Sengaphone.

Under the agreement, both sides will upgrade the temporary border crossing in Baan Kok District of Thailand’s northeastern province Uttaradit to permanent status, according to the Thai News Agency.

Two more border crossing points in the northeastern provinces of Nakhon Phanom and Amnat Charoen will also be opened, a move that the two ministers said they believe could boost bilateral trade and tourism.

The sixth meeting of provincial governors of the two countries, held simultaneously, agreed to tighten security along the common border and to increase their cooperation in jointly fighting drug trafficking by launching more patrols along the Mekong River and to establish eight additional narcotics control coordination centres.

Thailand and Laos also agreed to survey a new border demarcation, especially along the Mekong River, the report said.

The two countries were engaged in a battle after a dispute on three border villages during 1980s.

One third of Chinese landmass bathed in acid rain

BEIJING, 28 Aug — With Chinese factories discharging more and more sulfur dioxide, one third of China’s territory was bathed in acid rain last year, according to a parliamentary report.

More than half of the 696 Chinese cities and counties monitored had experienced acid rain. In some regions, every rainy day was an acid rain day, according to the pollution control inspection report released by the country’s top legislature on Saturday.

The report was based on lawmakers’ recent inspection of environmental protection efforts in 15 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities, and was submitted to the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress (NPC) for review on Saturday.

With 25.49 million tons of sulfur dioxide discharged in 2005 — 27 per cent more than in 2000 — China has become the world’s biggest sulfur dioxide polluter. “Increased sulfur dioxide emissions meant that one third of China’s territory was affected by acid rain, posing a major threat to soil and food safety,” said Sheng Huaren, vice-chairman of the NPC Standing Committee, when briefing lawmakers on the report.

He said the sulfur dioxide emissions doubled the acceptable environmental limit. Coal-burning power stations and coking plants were the main culprits.

According to the report’s findings, nearly 650 out of 680 coking plants in Shaxi, the country’s major coal mining province, discharged excessive sulfur dioxide.

Nepal to set up kidney transplantation centre

KATHMANDU, 28 Aug — Nepal will set up a medical centre focusing on kidney transplantation within a year, the state run National News Agency (NNA) reported on Sunday.

“The Nepal Liver Care Centre (NLCC) has planned to establish Multi-Transplant Centre in Nepal so that people will not have to go abroad for organ transplantation by spending a lot of money,” NNA quoted Arun Kumar Singh, chairman of NLCC, an non-governmental health institution, as saying.

Singh said that the Nepali Government’s obscure policies regarding the kidney transplantation have forced hundreds of Nepali patients to spend more than a million rupees (22,857 US dollars) in India for the purpose.

“It takes just (200,000-300,000) Nepali rupees (2,857-4,286 dollars) if transplantation is carried out in Nepal,” said Singh, who is also the member of the Transplantation Society of Canada.

Some 500 Nepali kidney patients go for foreign countries every year for transplantation.

India to import 2 mln tons of duty-free wheat

NEW DELHI, 28 Aug — The Indian Government has allowed to import of an additional 2 million tons of wheat at zero Customs duty as part of measures to meet the shortfall in procurement of the commodity for Public Distribution System (PDS), Press Trust of India reported Saturday.

The imports will be made by state-run Food Corporation of India (FCI) by 28 February, 2007. The imports will be allowed only through Chennai, Tuticorin, Cochin and Vishakhapatnam ports, the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) said in a notice.

DGFT said the public notice is being issued in accordance with the special order issued by Indian Finance Ministry on 14 Aug for exemption of Customs duty on import of wheat.

These 2 million tons of wheat is in addition to the 3.83 million tons of the commodity that public sector company, State Trading Corporation, is importing at zero-duty. State-owned firms MMTC Ltd and PEDA Ltd are also importing 40,000 tons of wheat each for private traders at 5-per-cent Customs duty.

Villagers evacuated following landslide in N Thailand

BANGKOK, 28 Aug — Over 550 villagers were evacuated by helicopters after a landslide caused by heavy rains in a village of Thai northern Nan Province on Saturday.

About 360 villagers were evacuated from Nam Phi Village of Thung Chang District after landslide destroyed several houses. Later, helicopters flew in again to evacuate 192 more villagers from Ban Nam Phao Village, local media reported.

The villagers were evacuated to two schools and would stay there for a few days until the rain stops.

Nan provincial administration sought help from the 32nd Paramilitary Troopers Division to send helicopters to evacuate villagers and to deploy the troopers to protect houses and belongings of the villagers.

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the issue in Nepal.

Comptroller General at the Office of Financial awarded,” said a top official someone’s contract was not including right to know why disclosure provisions ment procurement as the transparency in the government is expected to maintain Cabinet member as saying. “The act,” the radio quoted a Parliament’s approval for Representatives (HoR) or awaiting the House of reported. “The Cabinet is privately run local radio confirmed the endorsement of Ministers or Cabinet at making the government’s Procurement Act that aims has endorsed the Public Nepali Government endorses Public Procurement Act

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV KOTA TABAH VOY NO (077)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TABAH VOY NO (077) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29.8.2006 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A W P T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon. Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel. No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES (PTE) LTD Phone No: 256989/37816/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV LEVANTE VOY NO (06.001)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV LEVANTE VOY NO (06.001) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29.8.2006 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A W P T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon. Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel. No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: M/ S GIOLEAD CORPORATION, KOREA, MENA AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES (PTE) LTD Phone No: 256924/256914

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV PARAGON PESCADORES VOY NO (10)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV PARAGON PESCADORES VOY NO (10) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.8.2006 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon. Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel. No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: TOKO KAIUN KAISHA LTD JAPAN Phone No: 256924/256914

Mubarak dismisses accusations about government’s performance

CAIRO, 27 Aug—Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak has dismissed criticism of the government, saying that the government under Prime Minister Mubarak, who was doing its best, the official MENA news agency reported Saturday. Mubarak made the remark in an interview with evening newspaper al-Masr. The excerpt of the interview was carried by MENA.

The government was doing its best in face of tremendous burdens caused by overpopulation and unchanging, if not dwindling, resources, Mubarak said. “When I took over as President the population was 44 million, now it is 76 million. Those additional 32 million people need food, water, health care, education, services and jobs. How can we offer them all of that while our resources are not increasing at all,” he said.

Besides, the government was facing burdens owing to subsidies on basic commodities and services that cost some 100 billion Egyptian pounds (about 17.4 billion US dollars) and a drop in oil export from 9 million tons to 3 million tons because of increased domestic consumption, said Mubarak. Mubarak, who has assumed office since 1981, instead praised Nazeef as a dedicated leader.

MNA/Xinhua

US transfers 5 Guantanamo Bay prisoners to Afghanistan

WASHINGTON, 27 Aug—The Pentagon said on Saturday that it transferred five prisoners from Guantanamo Bay in Cuba to Afghanistan, about 445 detainees at the controversial site.

The Pentagon said in a statement posted on its website that “these detainees were all recommended for transfer due to multiple review processes conducted at Guantanamo Bay”. However, it did not give names of the prisoners being transferred to Afghanistan.

About 120 of the remaining 445 detainees may be eligible for transfer or release pending a series of reviews, the statement said. —MNA/Xinhua

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MNA/Xinhua
Annan committed to support peace process in Nepal

KATHMANDU, 27 Aug — United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan has expressed his firm commitment to support peace process in Nepal, local media reported here Saturday.

“The Indonesian Broadcasting Commission (KPI) is weighing whether to allow X-rated programs on cable TV, a newspaper reported Friday. The rule would be included in one of four draft regulations on broadcasting the commission is currently drawing up. The commission, which would meet later in the day to formulate the content of the proposed regulations. The drafts would include rules on the content of cable TV programs and children’s programs, requirements for television commercials, as well as revisions to the existing guidelines for broadcasting behaviour and programme standards, reported The Jakarta Post.

Miss Ukraine Olena (C), winner of the “Miss Bikini of the Universe”, poses for a photo with Miss Paraguay Leryn Dahiana (R), first runner-up, and Miss South Africa Victoria Megan, second runner-up during the final contest of “Miss Bikini of the Universe” in Beihai, a famous summer resort in southwest China’s Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, on 26 Aug, 2006.

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Taleban militants assault two district centres in S Afghanistan

KABUL, 27 Aug — At least 400 Taleban insurgents launched attacks on two district centres in southern Afghanistan, during which six insurgents, one local official were killed, officials told Xinhua Saturday. “Some 400 Taleban rebels raided the centre of Arghandab District in Zabul Province on Friday night,” district chief Ali Muradi said. The police repulsed the attack after a fierce conflict, during which six rebels were killed and 12 others wounded, he added.

The police suffered no casualties, the official said. Meanwhile, a large number of Taleban militants stormed the centre of Mogor District in Ghazni Province also on Friday night, spokesman of the provincial government Abdul Ali Fakori said. He did not give the exact number of the attackers. “One low-ranking official was killed in the assault and two policemen wounded, while three vehicles were set on fire,” Fakori told Xinhua.

However, the Taleban’s purported spokesman Qari Yusuf Ahmad claimed that militants had killed 15 policemen and set ablaze on both district centres in the assaults.

Southern Afghanistan has been a stronghold of Taleban guerrillas, who attack government and foreign targets frequently.

4.5 million Nepali children to get polio drops

KATHMANDU, 27 Aug — Polio drops will be administered to 4.5 million children under the age of five in Nepal under the National Polio Campaign this year, The Himalayan Times newspaper reported on Saturday.

According to the newspaper, the first phase of vaccination will be launched on 2-3 September, second phase on 14-15 October and third phase on 18-19 November. Presenting a working paper, Yashobardhan Pradhan, director of vaccination branch of Child Health Division of Department of Health Services, said the campaign was necessary because of polio epidemic was still seen in the country. A new polio case had been found in the country in April, Pradhan said, adding that the campaign against polio was launched in all the districts of the Terai plain in southern Nepal after two new polio patients were found in Sarlahi and Rautahat districts last year.

American college students learn to write Chinese characters with brush pens at Lanting of Shaoxing City, east China’s Zhejiang Province, on 25 Aug, 2006. Twelve college students from the United States started their study of Chinese calligraphy at Lanting on Friday.

NASA officials give a Press conference at the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida on 26 Aug, 2006. NASA has decided on Saturday afternoon to postpone the scheduled launch for Atlantis for at least 24 hours, according to NASA official website. — Xinhua

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MV CARNATION VOY NO (112)

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SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: MS PREMIER SPECTRUM SDN BHD Phone No: 256908/378316/376797
**Brazil win sixth World Volleyball League title**

**Boston, 28 Aug**— Brazil's national volleyball team on Sunday won its fourth consecutive and sixth overall world league title, beating France 3-2 in the emotional final in Moscow, according to reports reaching here.

Just over 7,200 spectators watched the two-hour-eight-minute game.

**Kenya's Stephen Loruo wins Brussels Marathon**


Loruo was the favourite from the start and did not disappoint finishing 4 minutes ahead of his companion Vincent Kiptoo, who finished second.

Kik Ceulemans was the first Belgian to cross the finishing line earning him third position with 2:16:39.

The route of the marathon includes much of that of the 20 kilometres of Brussels run extended by a loop to Tervuren.

Runners started from the Jubel Park finishing on the historic Market Square.

**Ajax beat NAC, PSV upset by Twente**

**Brussels, 28 Aug**— Wesley Sneijder scored twice on Sunday to give Ajax Amsterdam a 2-1 win over NAC Breda in the Dutch First Division.

Ajax needed a good result to overcome their shock elimination by FC Copenhagen in the Champions League preliminary round on Wednesday.

NAC opened the score after 63 minutes. Edwin de Graaf put the hosts in the lead, although Ajax had been the stronger side until then.

In the 73rd minute, that dominance did pay off as a Wesley Sneijder strike hit the net for 1-1.

Seven minutes before the match ended, it was again Wesley Sneijder to strike past the goalkeeper, 1-2.

Defending champions PSV Eindhoven had the better chances throughout the match against FC Twente, but failed to reach their opponents' penalty area.

The deadlock was broken when Obafemi Martins went off injured to reduce them to 10 men.

**Paper reports Bayern close to have van Bommel**

**Berlin, 28 Aug**— German champions Bayern Munich have agreed terms with Dutch midfielder Mark van Bommel, according to a report by the Bild am Sonntag newspaper on Sunday.

The report said Bayern and van Bommel's club, Barcelona, were in negotiations. Barcelona wish to sell the player, but Bayern are more interested in a loan deal, it said.

**Ecuador, Panama win S America’s U-17 swimming World Cup**

**RIO DE JANEIRO, 28 Aug**— Ecuadorian swimmer Marco Camargo and Panama’s Edgar Crespo became the only two South Americans to win medals at the Under-17 swimming World Cup, which ended on Sunday in Brazilian city of Rio de Janeiro.

Camargo won Ecuador's only medal on the last day of the Cup a bronze of the 200-metre medley. His time was two minutes four seconds and 41 hundredths. Austria's Disko Jukic won gold, with 2:01.64 and Malaysia's Daniel William Bego won silver with 2:02.13.
Carter says Iraq invasion subverts fight against terrorism

LONDON, 28 Aug — Former US president Jimmy Carter said the Iraq invasion had subverted the fight against terrorism and instead strengthened al-Qaeda and the recruitment of terrorists, according to a British paper report on Sunday.

In an exclusive interview with The Sunday Telegraph newspaper, Carter said that if he had still been president, he would never have considered invading Iraq in 2003. “However, I wouldn’t have excluded going into Afghanistan, because I think we had to strike at al-Qaeda and its leadership,” he said. “But then, to a major degree, we abandoned the anti-terrorism effort and went almost unilaterally with the Great Britain into Iraq,” he said.

“My own personal opinion is that the Iraq people are not better off as a result of the invasion and people in America and the Great Britain are not safer,” he added.

“Still been president, he was the 39th US president, from 1977 to 1981. “We now have a situation where America is so unpopular overseas that even in countries like Egypt and Jordan, our approval ratings are less than per cent,” he said, “It is a shameful and pitiful state of affairs.”

State of emergency declared in Florida

WASHINGTON, 28 Aug — A state of emergency was declared in the southeastern US state of Florida on Sunday, in anticipation of Tropical Storm Ernesto that could threaten much of the state, media reports said.

Ernesto had strengthened into a hurricane for about 10 hours before it was downgraded to a tropical storm Sunday afternoon, but the National Hurricane Centre still issued a hurricane watch for the entire Florida Keys, according to the Miami, Florida-based hurricane watch.

Visitors in the Florida Keys were ordered to leave, and officials told those planning to visit the chain of small islands to postpone their plans.

With the declaration of a state of emergency, Florida Governor Jeb Bush directed local authorities to activate emergency management offices and the National Guard.

Ernesto was the first hurricane of the Atlantic season this year. It swept Haiti and the Dominican Republican Sunday with heavy rain, and was expected to move over Cuba and could hit southern Florida by early Tuesday, according to the Miami-Florida-based hurricane centre.

WEATHER

Monday, 28 August, 2006

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kayah State, rain have been isolated in lower Sagaing and Magway Divisions, fairly widespread in Rakhine State and widespread in the remaining areas with isolated heavy falls in Mon State. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Ye (3.23) inches, Pyapon (2.99) inches, Dawei (2.83) inches, Hkamti (2.76) inches, Gwa (2.32) inches and Kyaukse (0.11) inches.

Maximum temperature on 27-8-2006 was 85°F. Minimum temperature on 28-8-2006 was 75°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 28-8-2006 was 96%.

Total sunshine hours on 27-8-2006 was (0.4) hour approx.

Rainfalls on 28-8-2006 were (0.86) inch at Mingaladon, (0.87) inch at Kaba-Aye and (0.55) inch at Central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2006 were (76.69) inches at Mingaladon, (89.49) inches at Kaba-Aye and (94.88) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (13) mph from Southwest at (15:20) hours MST on 27-8-2006.

Bay inference: According the observations at (06:30) hours MST on today, a low pressure area has formed over North Bay and Monsoon is strong in the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 29-8-2006: Rain will be isolated in Kayah State, lower Sagaing and Magway Divisions, scattered in Mandalay Division, fairly widespread in Shan State and widespread in the remaining areas with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Rakhine and Mon States and Tannaythi Division. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Occasional squalls with rough seas will be experienced off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) to (40) mph.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Strong monsoon.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 29-8-2006: Likelihood of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 29-8-2006: Some rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 29-8-2006: Likelihood of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (60%).

“Flood Bulletin”

(issued at 13:00 hr MST on 28-8-2006)

According to the (06:30) hr MST observations today, the water levels of Sittoung River at Toungeo and Madin are (648) cm and (1148) cm respectively. They may remain above their respective danger levels (600) cm and (1070) cm during the next (72) hours commencing noon today.

The opening ceremony for the International Softball Federation (ISF) women’s Softball World Championship is held in Beijing’s Fengtai Softball Field, China, on 27 Aug, 2006. — Xinhua
Lt-Gen Ye Myint visits rubber, teak, perennial crops plantations in Myitkyina

Lt-Gen Ye Myint of Ministry of Defence inspects teak nursery of Thiri Multi-agriculture Co, Ltd. — MNA

21st gem and jade sales for 2006 launched

YANGON, 28 Aug—The Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings Ltd launched the 21st gems and jade sales for the year 2006 at the Myanmar Convention Centre on Mindhamma Road here this morning.

Managing Director of UMEHL, Brig-Gen Win Than and members of the board of directors and officials visited the gems and jade sales. Altogether 512 lots of gems and 1,029 lots of jade will be sold through bargain and auction systems. Gems lots and jade lots will be put on display from 9 am to 5 pm up to 30 August for gem merchants to observe and inspect, and they will be on sale on 31 August.

A total of 557 local gems merchants and 335 foreign gems merchants are attending the gems and jade sales. — MNA

25 quit NLD in Mawlamyinegyun

YANGON, 28 Aug—Altogether 25 members of Mawlamyinegyun Township National League for Democracy in Ayeawady Division including U Myint Swe, U Myint Thein, U Hla Maung and U Myint Swe, U Myint Swe, U Myint Thein, U Win Maung and U Tin Hlaing of Aung Hline village, U Hla Maung and U Tin Hlaing of Aung Hline village, U Hla Thein of Wahkayine village, U Hla Thein of Wahkayine village, U Hla Thein of Wahkayine village.

That is why teachers on their part are to try to become qualified ones and students are also urged to try their utmost in pursuing their education. Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint stressed the need for conducting reports. In response to the reports, Lt-Gen Ye Myint said in order to produce human resources that will ensure regional development, educational infrastructures are being built across the country. Government technological colleges have been opened in Myitkyina, Bhamo and Mohaung.

The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded (28-8-2006)

Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas

Likelihood of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Yaung and neighbouring areas

Likelihood of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Mandalay and neighbouring areas

Likelihood of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Ye (2.23) inches, Pyapon (2.99) inches, Dawei (2.83) inches, Hkamti (2.76) inches, Gwa (2.32) inches and Kyaukse (0.11) inch.