Metta Akhadaw Day commemorated in Yangon

YANGON, 19 Aug— Today is Fullmoon Day of Wagaung (Metta Akhadaw Day). Devotees and pilgrims paid homage to pagodas and practiced meditation at religious buildings.

At 6:30 am today, members of the pagoda board of trustees and wut association members paid homage to Shwedagon Pagoda and offered flowers to Buddha images in commemoration of the Metta Akhadaw Day.

Similarly, ceremonies to mark the Metta Akhadaw Day were observed at Botataung Pagoda, Kaba Aye Pagoda, Maha Wizaya Pagoda, Shweephonepint Pagoda, Meilamu Pagoda, Mogau Pagoda, Kyaukkasan Pagoda, Kyaukwang Pagoda, Ngadatgyi, Chakhtgyi and Koedatgyi Pagodas.

Courses on vocational training conclude in border areas

YANGON, 19 Aug— The concluding of No 11 tailoring course (advanced) and No 39 tailoring course (basic) took place at the training hall of the centre in Kengtung this morning. The courses were conducted by Kengtung Vocational Training Centre for the Women of the Education and Training Department under the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs.

It was attended by Chairman of Shan State Social and Child Welfare Department Council Commander of Triangle Region Command Brig-Gen Min Aung Hlaing, local authorities, officials, members of women’s affairs organizations, Maternal and Child Welfare Associations, social organizations, guests and 45 trainees.

Similarly, Myeik Vocational Training Centre for the Women held the conclusion ceremony of No 10 tailoring course (advanced) and No 39 tailoring course (basic) at the centre this morning, with an address by Chairman of Taninthayi Division PDC Commander of Coastal Region Command Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe. Likewise, the concluding ceremonies of 14-week vocational training courses were held at the vocational training centres for the women in Lashio, Muse, Monghsat, Haka, Falun, Mindat, Matupi, Tawng, Kanpetlet, Patan, Bhamo, and Mudon. —MNA

Plenary Meeting of Myanmar Academy of Medical Science held

YANGON, 19 Aug— The Myanmare Academy of Medical Science held its Plenary Meeting for 2005 at the Institute of Nursing (Yangon) on Bogyoke Aung San Street here this morning with an address by Deputy Minister for Health Dr Myawady. The meeting was followed by the plenary meeting. The occasion was directed by the General Secretary of the Medical Science Department Professor Dr Maung Maung Wint made a speech.

Next, Vice-Chairman-1 Dr Ko Lay and Vice-Chairman-2 Dr Tha Hla Shwe presented the CEC report, followed by a general round of discussions. —MNA

SANYO-brand electronic items introduced

YANGON, 19 Aug— The demonstration of SANYO-brand electronic items by OK Myanmar Co took place at the Grand Ballroom of the Summit Parkview Hotel at 7 pm today.

Present on the occasion were departmental officials, businessmen, the SANYO sale agents, Chairman of Sanyo (Commercial) of Japan Mr Katsushisa Kawashima and officials.

Managing Director of OK Myanmar Co U Kyaw Kyaw Hlaing extended greetings while Mr Katsushisa Kawashima expressed thanks.

Next, General Manager of SANYO (Commercial) Mr Tetsuju Tokunaga explained the quality of SANYO-brand electronic goods and market conditions in Myanmar. Later, the electronic items were demonstrated with the use of charts and the ceremony ended. Ok Myanmar Co imported and distributed a wide range of the electronic goods and is making arrangements for extended distribution of the goods to meet local demand.

The showroom of the company is at No 163, Bo Aung Kyaw Street (Middle Block) (Tel: 01-377627), and its head office is on the ground floor of Dagon Tower near Shwegondine Traffic Light (Tel: 01-544463 or 544464 or 544465 or 552510).—MNA

61st Armed Forces Day commemorative competitions to be held

YANGON, 19 Aug— The work committee for organizing 61st Armed Forces Day (2006) commemorative literary and photo competitions today announced that it will hold novel, short story and article contests.

Entries for novel and short story contests are to reflect the 12 noble traditions of the Tatmadaw. It is free to entitle the entries. Word account for novel story must be between 50,000 and 70,000 words, short story, between 4,000 and 10,000, and article, between 3,000 and 5,000. The title designated for article contest is “Only when Tatmadaw is strong, will the nation be strong”.

Every contestant is to attach a testimony that the work is own creation and is not prize-winning one, a brief biography, and two colour photos (2” x and 2.5”). Contestants may send one entry for each competition. Handsome prizes including consolation prize will be presented to winners. Entries are to be sent to U Ko Ko Htwe, Secretary of the work committee in Myanmar TV and Radio and Television on Pyay Road here by 15 January 2006. — MNA
**Climate conference begins in Greenland**

STOCKHOLM, 19 Aug — An informal climate summit began in Greenland on Wednesday, as ministers from the world’s major countries gathered in Ilulissat in the Disco Bay to discuss climate changes, Ritzau news bureau reported.

The unconventional setting in the picturesque fjord of Isfjord, recently added to UNESCO’s World Heritage List, is intended to improve the international dialogue on future climate cooperation, as contention among major players complicated issues such as CO2 quotas and energy conservation.

“Climate change is a ‘hot’ issue in Greenland,” said Hans Enoksen, leader of the Greenlandic Home Rule government in his welcome message at the conference.

“We see many changes in our environment, and it affects our traditional way of life. Glaciers are melting and retreating, permafrost is thawing, the ice is thinning, it arrives late and thaws early,” he said.

**Asians targeted in stop and search operations in Britain**

LONDON, 19 Aug — Asians are targeted the most in the “stop and search operations” conducted by the British police, which they increased by over 15 times in the wake of the 7 July bombings here, a study said on Wednesday.

According to figures compiled by British Transport police, people of Asian appearance were five times more likely to be stopped and searched than White people though none of the stops has resulted in a terrorism charge.

Transport police stopped and searched 6,747 people, mostly in London, between 7 July and 10 August and out of this 2,390 were Asians, about 35 per cent, figures revealed.

Police stopped 2,168 Whites, about 32 per cent, during the same period.

Interestingly, Asian people comprise just 12 per cent of the population of London, while White people constitute 63 per cent.

In June, the force stopped 408 people nationwide, with less focus on Asians. Of that month’s stops, 51 per cent were White, 8.6 per cent African-Caribbean, and 16.2 per cent Asian.

The stop and search operations in July led to 25 arrests, mainly for drugs and weapons offences.

Transport police believe intelligence-led stop and searches have got to be the way after the London attacks.

“We should not waste time searching old White ladies. It is going to be disproportionate. It is going to be young men, not exclusively, but may be disproportionate when it comes to ethnic groups,” Transport police sources said.

Meanwhile, Hazel Blears, a Home Office Minister, said the operations “will not discriminate against Muslims”.

**France sees trade deficit of 11b euros in first half year**

PARIS, 19 Aug — French trade deficit for June reached 1.194 billion euros after 1.148 billion euros in May, according to figures released by the French Customs service on Wednesday.

The French trade deficit for the first half of the year stood at a record of 11.193 billion euros, compared with a deficit of 581 million euros in the same period of 2004, the Customs service said.

Exports in June totaled 29.768 billion euros compared with 30.610 billion euros last month, while imports fell to 30.962 billion euros in May.

The energy balance in the month gave a deficit of 2.520 billion euros compared with a deficit of 2.868 billion euros in May.

The industrial balance showed a deficit of 127 million euros, while food products showed a June surplus of 640 million euros against a 573-million surplus in May.

**Oil price pushes British inflation to 8-year high**

LONDON, 19 Aug — A sharp rise in petrol prices has pushed the target measure of inflation to its highest level in eight years.

The annual rate of inflation, measured by the consumer prices index, surprised analysts by rising to 2.3 per cent in July from 2 per cent in June, according to Financial Times on Wednesday.

The monetary policy committee of the Bank of England, Britain’s central bank, is concerned about rising fuel prices as well as other factors pushing up inflation.

Core inflation, which excludes energy and seasonal foods, rose from 1.5 per cent in June to 1.8 per cent in July.

It was driven higher by fewer bargains appearing in the shops in the July sales, rising costs of banking services and insurance, and higher health charges.

With the prospect of possible further petrol-induced price rises next month, inflation in the third quarter is set to exceed the forecast made by the central bank last month.
India rules out Israeli Greenpine radar for its “Prithvi” missile

NEW DELHI, 18 Aug — Indian Defence Minister Pranab Mukherjee on Wednesday ruled out any move to convert the short range surface-to-surface Prithvi into an anti-missile or a nuclear shield.

There are no plans to integrate Prithvi missile with Israeli Greenpine radar as a defence cover in respect of nuclear threat, Mukherjee said at the Indian Parliament on Wednesday.

The minister’s statement assumes significance amidst reports that India’s Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) has been working on a project to develop an anti-missile shield.

However, experts feel that Prithvi with its liquid base propellant does not fill the bill.

While working on development of an indigenous system, India is also looking to acquire such a system from abroad with the US administration now offering it advanced Patriot PAC-3 anti-missile system.

Indicating this, the minister said during recent bilateral discussions, Washington had conveyed its readiness to enter into defence supply, co-production and research and development relationship in areas of advanced defence technologies with India.

On whether the country has proposed to increase the range of Prithvi missile to 150 kilometres to 350 kilometres, Mukherjee said the missile already had a range exceeding 150 kilometres. — MNA/Xinhua

China selects 3,000-year-old pattern as cultural heritage logo

BEIJING, 18 Aug — A gold adornment featuring sunbirds made by the ancient Chinese some 3,000 years ago has been selected as the logo of “China’s Culture Heritage”.

The logo will be introduced in China’s cultural heritage protection sites, but commercial use of the logo will be restricted, the State Administration of Cultural Heritage (SACH) announced on Tuesday.

The gold sunbirds adornment was unearthed in 2001 in Jimsa, one of China’s most important archaeological discoveries at the start of the 21st Century, in Chengdu, capital of southwest China’s Sichuan Province.

The pattern features four birds flying around the sun, and features a complex aesthetic and exquisite technology.

SACH director Shan Jixiang said choosing the pattern as the “China Cultural Heritage” logo shows the Chinese people’s respect for their country’s long historical and cultural legacy.

The logo will help enhance people’s awareness of cultural heritage protection, and will also help standardize cultural heritage protection work in China, said Shan. — MNA/Xinhua

Mass bird deaths reported in European Russia region

MOSCOW, 18 Aug — Russian health workers have found mass bird deaths in a region on the western side of the Ural mountains in what could become the first case of the deadly bird flu virus spreading to Europe, officials said on Wednesday.

The state health watchdog, in a statement posted on its web site, said the bird deaths occurred on a farm in the Cheboksary region of Kalmykya — 1,200 miles from the region where Russia’s first flu outbreak was reported.

“That case is being investigated,” the Federal Consumers’ Rights and Welfare Watchdog said, adding no cases among humans had been confirmed in Russia. — MNA/Reuters

Manchester police arrest four under terrorism laws

LONDON, 18 Aug — Police have arrested four people under terrorism legislation at Manchester Airport, the northern English city said on Tuesday.

The four — two men aged 48 and 23 and two women aged 48 and 27 — were held overnight after Monday under Section 15 of the Terrorism Act 2000, a Greater Manchester Police spokeswoman said.

That section relates to providing money or other property suspected of being used for the purpose of terrorism.

“They are still being questioned at a police station in Greater Manchester,” she said, adding that police had searched a property in the west Midlands as part of their investigation. — MNA/Reuters

Test of Proficiency In Korean (TOPIK)

Host Institutions : Yangon University of Foreign Languages (YUFL), Embassy of Korea Institute of Curriculum and Evaluation (KICE)

Date : September 25th, 2005 (Sunday)

Place : Yangon University of Foreign Languages (YUFL)

Mandalay University of Foreign Languages (MULF)

Application Period : from August 12 (Friday) 2005 to August 26 (Friday) 2005

The TEST has six different levels; the examinee can choose the level that best matches his or her ability and training.

Each TEST is made up of four sections:

- Vocabulary & Grammar
- Writing
- Listening
- Reading

Further informations and TEST GUIDE are available at Host Institutions as follows.

YUFL Tel : 514371 (Ext-123)
MULF Tel : 02-23330

366 MT

Grinding Media

- 24 Grinding Media
- 30 SMOKE
- 50 ADVENDS
- 50 TRADE MARK CAUTION
- 100 SMOKE