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Over 3,000-year-old bronze wares unearthed in Henan Province

ZHENGZHOU, 18 Aug—Chinese archaeologists have unearthed a batch of 40 bronze ritual artifacts in a well-preserved noble tomb dating back to more than 3,000 years.

The tomb, belonging to a noble family of China's late Shang (also called Yin) Dynasty (1600-1100 BC), was excavated in the famous Yin Ruins in Anyang city of central China's Henan Province.

The excavations include seven bronze cooking vessels in different shapes, as well as plates, cups and various types of other ancient food vessels, all of which were used as ritual materials in funerals. Bronze weapons and ceramics were also discovered in the tomb.

One of the most important discoveries of the Yin Ruins is the inscribed animal bones and tortoise shells, known as oracle bones, which carry the earliest known examples of Chinese characters.

MNA/Xinhua

Encephalitis kills 46 in northern India

LUCKNOW (India), 18 Aug—Forty-six people, mostly children, have died of encephalitis sweeping parts of India's northern Uttar Pradesh State, health officials said on Wednesday.

Another 180 people are in hospital, many of them in a critical condition, following the outbreak during the monsoon season.

The water-borne disease, an acute form of brain fever dubbed Japanese Encephalitis, is caused by a virus spread by mosquitoes.

"Ninety per cent of the victims are children," OP Singh, director-general of the state's health department, told Reuters.

"Though it is not unusual for the killer virus to proliferate during every rainy season, the damage is likely to be worse this time."—MNA/Reuters



A child rides on a pony at the amusement park set in the city of Qingdao, Shandong Province, China, on 18 Aug, 2005. —INTERNET

Russia cosmonaut sets record for most days in space

Moscow, 18 Aug—Russian cosmonaut Sergei Krikalev on Tuesday set a record for the most days spent in space, clocking almost 748 days over a 20-year career.

Krikalev, scheduled to remain aboard the International Space Station (ISS) until October, beat the previous record of 747 days 14 hours 14 minutes and 11 seconds held by fellow Russian Sergei

Avdeyev, mission control said.

Krikalev's space travels have included stints on the MIR space station—the crown jewel of the Soviet space programme which was destroyed in

2001—as well as the ISS, and he has travelled on US shuttles and Russian Soyuz spaceships.

The 46-year-old made his first long-duration mission to MIR in 1988.

MNA/Reuters

Off-hours hospital visit delays heart treatment

NEW YORK, 18 Aug—Patients who have suffered a heart attack and visit the hospital during off-hours do not receive angioplasty, a common blood-vessel opening procedure, as quickly as those who show up during regular hours, new research shows. This is particularly concerning since most patients do come during off-hours.

The findings, which appear in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, are based on a study of 68,439 patients treated with clot-busting drugs and 33,647 treated with angioplasty between 1999 and 2002. Regular hours were defined as 7 am to 5 pm on weekdays, while all other times were considered off-hours.

Nearly 68 per cent of clot-busting patients and 54 per cent of angioplasty patients were treated during off-hours, Dr Harlan M Krumholz, from Yale University School of Medicine in New Haven, Connecticut, and colleagues note.

The time until clot-busting drugs were given during off-hours was 34.3 minutes, while the time during regular hours was 33.2 minutes, a slight but statistically significant dif-

ference. By contrast, with angioplasty, the difference was more pronounced: 116.1 minutes during off-hours compared with 94.8 minutes during regular hours.

The authors also found that angioplasty patients treated during off-hours were less likely to be treated within the time period recommended in treatment guidelines than those treated during regular hours.

Further analysis of the time interval revealed that most of the off-hours delay occurred between obtaining the ECG and patient arrival at the treatment laboratory. Lastly, showing up during off-hours was associated with a slight but significant increase in hospital death rates, the report indicates.

MNA/Reuters

S Africans charged over illegal kidney transplants

JOHANNESBURG, 18 Aug—Nine South Africans, among them several prominent doctors, have been charged with assault and fraud in connection with an illegal organ transplant scheme in which wealthy patients bought kidneys from poor Brazilians.

All nine appeared in court in the coast city of Durban on Tuesday and were released on bail, police superintendent Phindile Radebe said. Four were arrested in early 2004 and five earlier on Tuesday, she said.

"They are facing 110 charges of assault, 110 of fraud and 110 under the Human Tissue Act," Radebe said, adding that the case had been remanded until 16 September.

South Africa's Human Tissue Act bars trade in human organs, but officials say such cases are often difficult to prove despite a growing trade in organs stemming from an acute shortage of donor kidneys in rich countries.

State prosecutors allege that the doctors worked for a syndicate which

brought poor Brazilians to South Africa's well-equipped hospitals to sell a kidney to foreigners, mainly Israelis.

Police say the Brazilians were paid about 10,000 US dollars per kidney.

The doctors in court on Tuesday have been linked with 110 suspect kidney transplants carried out at one hospital, and police said the investigation could extend to more hospitals as further evidence emerges.

"At this stage we still believe we have just the tip of the iceberg," Durban police spokesman Bala Naidoo said.

Lawyers representing several of the doctors denied in court on Tuesday that their clients had a case to answer.

MNA/Reuters

Britain debates whether parents can choose babies' sex

LONDON, 18 Aug—The right of British parents to use fertility treatment to choose the sex of their children is to be debated by medical experts under a three-month consultation launched by the government on Tuesday.

"We are asking a specific question—should sex selection play a role in terms of family balancing," said Public Health Minister Caroline Flint.

Current legislation allows sex selection only to avoid gender-linked medical conditions such as haemophilia, a position supported by a public consultation held in 2002 and 2003.

But a parliamentary committee earlier this year reviewed the issue and could find no adequate justification for banning sex selection in cases of family balancing—for example a family with four sons wishing to have a daughter.

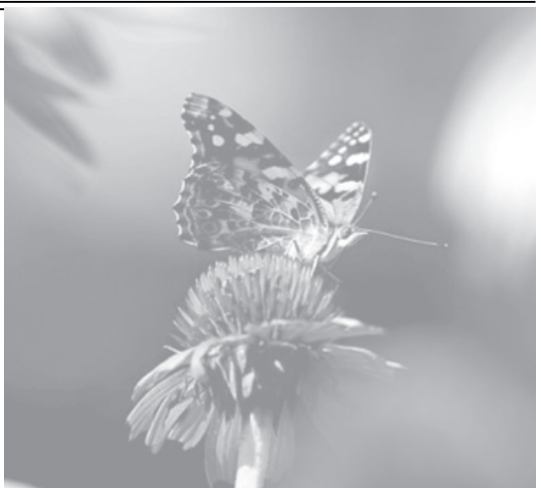
The issue is one of a number to be considered under a review of Britain's 1990 Human Fertil-

ization and Embryology Act, designed to bring it up to date with recent medical developments.

Private clinics which provide sperm for single women and lesbian couples will also be considered under the consultation, with web sites offering donor sperm facing tighter regulation or possible prohibition.

MNA/Reuters

A monarch butterfly rests on a purple cone flower in Arrowsic, Maine, on 18 Aug, 2005. INTERNET



S P O R T S

Latvia hold Russia in World Cup qualifier

RIGA, 19 Aug— Russia remained third in the Group Three table after being held to a 1-1 draw by Latvia in a World Cup qualifier on Wednesday.

Captain Vitalijs Astafjevs opened the scoring for Latvia after six minutes before Andrei Arshavin equalized 18 minutes later.

The visitors were without six first-choice players through injury and suspension including striker Dmitry Sychev, playmaker Dmitry Loskov and skipper Alexei Smertin.

Russia now have 15 points from eight matches, two behind Slovakia and five adrift of leaders Portugal.

Slovakia visit Liechtenstein later on Wednesday. Latvia are fourth in the table on 14 points.

Yuri Syomin, who guided his team to

a 2-0 triumph over Latvia in St. Petersburg on his debut as coach in June, said Russia's World Cup hopes were still intact.

"My forwards played well. This is not to be regarded as a defeat," Syomin told reporters.

"The qualifying rounds are not over yet...Russia still has a chance."

Astafjevs told Latvian television: "We went out intending to win. After the first goal we decided to change tactics and rebuild our game."

Among the crowd in Riga was Latvian President Vaira Vike-Freiberga.

MNA/Reuters

Heinze heads winner in Argentina's 2-1 win over Hungary

BUDAPEST, 19 Aug— Defender Gabriel Heinze headed home a corner just past the hour to give Argentina a 2-1 win over Hungary in a friendly international on Wednesday.

Teenager Lionel Messi had an unhappy debut when he was sent off for elbowing an opponent soon after coming on as a substitute after Heinze had netted Andres D'Alessandro's corner from the middle of the box. Midfielder Maxi Rodriguez put Argentina ahead and Sandor Torghelle equalized just before the half hour.

MNA/Reuters

Zidane celebrates France comeback with goal in 3-0 rout

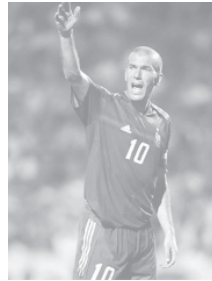
MONTPELLIER(France), 19 Aug — Zinedine Zidane marked his international comeback by scoring in France's 3-0 win over Ivory Coast in a friendly on Wednesday.

The Real Madrid playmaker, returning to the France team with Juventus defender Lilian

Thuram and Chelsea midfielder Claude Makelele, treated the fans to some tricks but failed to make a real impact until his goal shortly after the hour.

Before and after, defender William Gallas and striker Thierry Henry celebrated their 28th birthdays with goals, scoring in the 28th and 67th minutes respectively.

Zidane received a deafening welcome from the crowd at Montpellier's Mosson Stadium, with both France and Ivory Coast fans chanting his name, 11 years to the day after he won his first cap in a 2-2 draw with the Czech Republic in Bordeaux. — MNA/Reuters



France's Zinedine Zidane is pictured during the friendly soccer match between France and Ivory Coast, on 17 August, 2005 at the Mosson Stadium in Montpellier, France.

INTERNET

Berbatov spurs Bulgaria to friendly win over Turkey

SOFIA, 19 Aug — Bayer Leverkusen striker Dimitar Berbatov scored twice to earn Bulgaria a 3-1 friendly victory over Turkey on Wednesday.

Striker Fatih Tekke headed in a 21st-minute corner from Hasan Sas to put Turkey in front but Berbatov nodded the equalizer from close range three minutes later.

Atletico Madrid's new signing Martin Petrov gave Bulgaria a 2-1 lead when he hammered a left-foot shot beyond goalkeeper Rustu Recber in the 38th minute.

The 24-year-old Berbatov, set up by midfielder Blagoi Georgiev, added the third goal with a low angled shot from seven metres two minutes before the break.

Sas went close to a second goal for Turkey with a first-half header while Serhat Akin also hit the post in the second period.

But Petrov almost made it 4-1 for Bulgaria in the dying seconds.

"We had many injured players and many were physically not ready," Turkey coach Fatih Terim told Bulgarian television.

Terim took charge of Turkey again in June following a nine-year gap.

"We started the match very well, we did not give away possession of the ball and we scored but after that everything went wrong...we made a lot of mistakes," he added. "It is my first game so we need time to improve."

Turkey are second in World Cup Group Two while Bulgaria, fourth in Group Eight, have little chance of qualifying for the finals in Germany next year. — MNA/Reuters



China's Bao Chunlai (top) celebrates match point against Wong Choong Hann of Malaysia (bottom) during third round play at the IBF World Badminton Championships in Anaheim, California, on 18 August, 2005. Bao advanced with a 15-6, 15-12 win.—INTERNET

Henry dedicates goal to crash victims

MONTPELLIER (France), August 19 — France striker Thierry Henry dedicated his goal in the 3-0 victory over the Ivory Coast to the victims of Tuesday's air crash that killed 160 people on a flight to Martinique.

A minute's silence was observed before Wednesday's friendly international at Montpellier's Stade de la Mosson in memory of those who died when the West Caribbean Airways holiday charter jet came down in western Venezuela after taking off in Panama. "I'm from the Antilles. Tonight, I've thought of them. I dedicate my goal to them," said Henry.

Most passengers on the plane were local government officials in French-speaking Martinique who had been on holiday with their families. One baby and four children were among the dead.

MNA/Reuters

Norwich agree fee for striker Morrison

LONDON, 19 Aug — Irish international striker Clinton Morrison is set to move from Premier League Birmingham City to Second Division Norwich City after the clubs agreed a fee on Thursday.

Morrison, 26, moved to Birmingham for a club record 4.25 million pounds (7.67 million US dollars) from Crystal Palace three years ago. He eventually struck up a good partnership with Emile Heskey but the arrival of Uruguay international Walter Pandiani in

January saw his appearances drop off.

Morrison, who won his 28th Irish cap in Wednesday's 2-1 home defeat by Italy, has only a year left on his contract and travelled to Norwich on Thursday to discuss personal terms. "I am aware that we are losing our fourth striker but we are facing the prospect of losing someone on a Bosman free transfer or accepting a deal worth a couple of million quid," coach Steve Bruce told the Birmingham website.

MNA/Reuters

Mutu double helps Romania beat Andorra 2-0

CONSTANTA (Romania), 19 Aug — Juventus striker Adrian Mutu scored twice for Romania as they beat Andorra 2-0 in a World Cup Group One qualifier on Wednesday.



Romania's striker Adrian Mutu (R) heads the ball in front of Andorra's Fernando Silva (L) to score Romania's first goal during their World Cup European Zone Group One qualifying soccer match at Gheorghe Hagi stadium in Constanta, 260km (161 miles) east of Bucharest on 17 August, 2005.—INTERNET

Romania, who began the match in third place three points behind group leaders the Netherlands, needed 29 minutes to break the deadlock when Mutu headed home Cosmin Contra's cross.

Mutu added his second with a fine 20-metre shot 10 minutes later but Romania failed to breach the Andorran defence again despite dominating a poor second half.

The bottom-placed Andorrans failed to create a single chance throughout the match.

MNA/Reuters

Villarreal defender Armando Sa set to move to Espanyol

MADRID, 19 Aug — Villarreal defender Armando Sa is set to join Espanyol on a two-year deal, the two Primera Liga sides said on Wednesday.

The 29-year-old Mozambique international joined Villarreal from Benfica at the start of last season and played 20 league games for the Mediterranean side.

However, coach Manuel Pellegrini made it clear that he was surplus to requirements following the recent signing of Dutch international fullback Jan Kromkamp.

MNA/Reuters

Tunisia edge closer to World Cup finals

TUNIS, 19 Aug — A second minute goal from Haykel Guemamdia was enough to earn Tunisia a 1-0 home win over Kenya at Rades on Wednesday and edge them closer to a place at next year's World Cup finals in Germany.

The win puts Tunisia at the top of the African qualifying zone Group Five standings for the first time, one point ahead of arch rivals Morocco. Tunisia now need only to win their penultimate match against Kenya in Nairobi on September 3 and then draw at home against Morocco in October to qualify for a third successive World Cup finals.

MNA/Reuters



Senior General Than Shwe poses for documentary photo together with Mr Ali Alatas, Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General at Credentials Hall of Pyithu Hluttaw Building. (News on page 1)— MNA

Noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded

(19-8-2005)

Kalewa	(1.03) inches	Hpa-an	(2.72) inches
Sittway	(1.45) inches	Mawlamyine	(1.49) inches
Bago	(1.41) inches	Dawei	(1.49) inches
Yangon (Kaba-Aye)	(1.54) inches		



Prime Minister General Soe Win sends felicitations to Hungarian counterpart

YANGON, 20 Aug — General Soe Win, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitation to His Excellency Mr Ferenc Gyurcsany, Prime Minister of the Republic of Hungary, on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of Hungary which falls on 20 August 2005. — MNA

Collective efforts required to apply mechanized farming

YANGON, 19 Aug — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence attended the ceremony to mark the completion of ploughing for 2005-2006 in Mon State. The ceremony was held at Letpya village in Kyaikhto Township in the state yesterday.

Speaking at the ceremony, Lt-Gen Maung Bo said that the government has been striving for well rounded development of the entire nation. Despite the sound foundations and the government's endeavours, some regions do not achieve progress to a satisfactory level.



Lt-Gen Maung Bo views paddy transplanting in Latpya Village of Kyaikhto Township.— MNA

The government has been making efforts in all sectors for development of agriculture to produce surplus amount of food for the growing

population.

Mechinized farming, correct cultivation methods, quality strains, fertilizers must be used for boosting agricultural production in Mon State which has favourable conditions. Collective efforts should be made for introducing the mechanized farming.

As the nation is now manufacturing farm machinery, the farmers

are in the golden age to improve their socio-economic life.

The government is rendering all-round assistance to farmers. The farmers on their part should fully apply the techniques disseminated to them, while collectively striving to introduce mechanized farming for the development of the nation and their own.

(See page 8)

Myanmar wins ASEAN U-20 Youth Championship

YANGON, 19 Aug — The final match of the ASEAN U-20 Youth Championship was held at Palenbang of Indonesia, at 7 pm local time today.

Myanmar selected youth team beat Malaysian youth team 1-0. In the 2nd minute of the first half, Hla Aye Htwe (9) scored the winning and only goal for Myanmar team. In the second half, both teams tried hard to score more goals but the goal score remained unchanged till the final whistle. Myanmar selected youth team emerged champion.

The victorious Myanmar selected youth team will arrive back here by air at 4.50 pm on Sunday, 21 August.—MNA

INSIDE

In Mandalay Division, more than 539,000 acres of farmland can be irrigated during the year 2005-2006 and efforts are being made to be able to irrigate up to 555,000 acres in the year 2006-2007.