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 ago.

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.

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

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 set 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 Krumsoltz, 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 difference. 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 delays 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 declined to comment in court on Tuesday that their clients had a case to answer.

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 not find 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 Fertilisation 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.

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

MNA/Reuters

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

MNA/Reuters
**Sports**

**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 Vitaly Astafjevs opened the scoring for Latvia after six minutes before Andris Arsovian equalized 18 minutes later.

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

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

**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 Recher in the 38th minute.

The 24-year-old Berbatov, set up by midfielder Blagoe 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 scored and then did not give away possession of the ball,” he added. “It is my first game so we need time to improve.”

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.

Teofilo Cubillas’s first-half equalizer for Argentina was his second international goal but he was off form when he was sent off for elbowing an opponent soon after coming on as a substitute after Heinze had netted.

Andres D’Alessandro’s header from the corner of the middle of the box, Midfielder Maxi Rodriguez put Argentina ahead and Sandor Torgelhe equalized just before the half hour.

MNA/Reuters

**Henry dedicates goal to crash victims**

MONTPELLIER (France), 19 Aug — 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.

Henry had been on holiday with his wife and kids in Martinique and said he was determined to pay tribute to those who had died.

“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 scored and then did not give away possession of the ball,” he added. “It is my first game so we need time to improve.”

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 for 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

**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.

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, who began the match in third place, moved into second place behind leader Netherlands the Netherlands, needed 29 minutes to break the deadlock when Mutu headed home Cosmin Contra’s cross.

Mutu added his second with a 20-metre shot 10 minutes later but Romania failed to break 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
US policy on “axis of evil” suffers spate of setbacks

WASHINGTON, 19 Aug — US President George W Bush’s campaign against what he once termed the “axis of evil” has suffered reverses on all three fronts in recent days, The Washington Post said on Wednesday.

The reverses also underscored the profound challenges confronting him three and half years after he vowed to take action against the three countries, said the newspaper. First, the newspaper said in an analysis, multilateral talks orchestrated by the United States to pressure North Korea to give up nuclear weapons adjourned last week as the six parties came to a halt without agreement after 13 days of bargaining.

Then Iran restarted its programme to convert uranium, in defiance of the United States and Europe. Finally, negotiators in Iraq failed to draft a new Constitution by Monday’s deadline amid an unrelenting guerrilla war against US forces, the newspapers said. None of these developments may be fatal to Bush’s policy goals, but the quick succession of setbacks has left his national security team privately discouraged and searching for answers, the analysis said.

Whereas Bush in his first term vowed to reinvent foreign policy with a new doctrine of military preemption to deal with rogue states, he has largely dropped such talks since the invasion of Iraq in 2003.

CASH DONATED: U Min Lwin-Daw Khin Hay Hti and family of No 45, Thakha Street, Hline Township, donated K 100,000 to Hninzigon Home for the Aged recently. Joint-Treasurer of the Home U Maung Maung Gyi accepts the cash donation.—in

Flood Bulletin

Issued at 12:30 hrs MST on 19-8-2005

According to the (06:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Thantwin River at Hpakan is (820) cm. It may remain above the danger level (750) cm during the next (72) hours commencing noon today.

According to the (06:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Sittoung River at Madaw is (1163) cm. It may remain above the danger level (1070) cm during the next (72) hours commencing noon today.

WEATHER

Friday, 19 August, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain have been isolated in lower Sagaing Division, scattered in Mandalay Division and widespread in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfall in Mon State. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Thaton (5.47) inches, Hpa-an (2.72) inches, Hmaub (2.52) inches, Shwegyin (2.24) inches, Ye (2.05) inches and Munglan (0.67) inch.

Maximum temperature on 18-8-2005 was 82°F. Minimum temperature on 19-8-2005 was 68°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 19-8-2005 was 92%. Total sunshine hours on 18-8-2005 was ml. Rainfalls on 19-8-2005 were 1.22 inches at Mingaladon, 1.54 inches at Kaba-Aye, 2.32 inches at central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-8-2005 were 66.85 inches at Mingaladon, 68.86 inches at Kaba-Aye and 71.81 inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 6 mph from Southwest at (11:05) hours MST on 18-8-2005.

Bay influence: Monsoon is generally strong in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 20-8-2005: Rain will be isolated in lower Sagaing and Magway Divisions, scattered in Chin and Kayah States, Upper Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Mon State and Taninthayi Division. Degree of certainty is 80%.

State of the sea: Temporary squalls with rough seas are likely in Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) to (40) mph. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Generally strong monsoon.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 20-8-2005: Some rain. Degree of certainty is 95%.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 20-8-2005: Likelihood of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is 60%.

Weather outlook for fourth weekend of 2005: Rain will be widespread in Yangon Division and isolated in Mandalay Division.

Earthquake report

(issued at 15:00 hrs MST on Today)

An earthquake of slight intensity (4.3) Richter Scale with its epicenter inside Myanmar about (130) miles Northwest of Mandalay seismological observatory was recorded at (13) hr (43) min (59) see MST on 19th August 2005.
Noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded

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<th>Location</th>
<th>Amount (inches)</th>
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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 felicitations 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 Kyaikto 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.

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