True patriotism

* It is very important for everyone of the nation regardless of the place he lives to have strong Union Spirit.
* Only Union Spirit is the true patriotism all the nationalities will have to safeguard.

Minister inspects construction of Township Electrical Engineer's Offices

YANGON, 4 Aug — Minister for Electric Power No (2) Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, accompanied by Secretary U Maung Maung Latt of Yangon City Power Supply Board, Chief Engineer U Aung Khaung, Director U Tin Myint and district electrical engineers inspected progress in construction of Dawbon Township Electrical Engineer’s Office and the sub-power station on 1 August. At the briefing hall, Executive Engineer U Aung Than of Yangon Division (Civil) Department reported on construction work. The minister gave necessary instructions.

Next, the minister and party visited Dagon Myothit (East) Township Electrical Engineer’s Office where Executive Engineer U Aung Than reported on progress in construction of the office, formation of office rooms and construction of staff quarters. After giving necessary instructions, the minister viewed staff quarters and attended to the needs. — MNA

Later, the minister and party went to Mingaladon Township Electrical Engineer’s Office.

Executive Engineer U Aung Than and engineer Daw Cho Cho Tun reported on matters relating to construction of the office, formation of office rooms and construction of staff quarters. After giving necessary instructions, the minister viewed staff quarters and attended to the needs. — MNA

Clarifications of NCCWC Chairman on detailed basic principles for “General Provisions” to be published

YANGON, 4 Aug — Clarifications of the National Convention Convening Work Committee on laying down detailed basic principles for the chapter “General Provisions” to be included in the State Constitution will be published in this paper. — MNA

Weather Forecast for (5-8-2007)

Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas
Isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Yangon and neighbouring areas
One or two rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Mandalay and neighbouring areas
Isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Blood Bulletin (Issued at 12:30 hr MST on 4-8-2007)

According to the (06:30) hr MST observations today, the water levels of Ayeyawady River at Mandalay (1309) cm, Sagaing (1200) cm and NyaungU (2214) cm are exceeded (49) cm at Mandalay (50) cm at Sagaing and (94) cm at NyaungU above their respective danger levels. The water levels may remain above the danger levels of Mandalay (1260) cm, Sagaing (1150) cm and NyaungU (2120) cm during the next (72) hrs commencing noon today.

According to the (06:30) hr MST observation today, the water levels of Chindwin River at Homalin (2953) cm is exceeded (53) cm above its danger levels. It may fall below its danger levels (2900) cm during the next (48) hrs commencing noon today.

According to the (06:30) hr MST observation today, the water level of Dokehtawady River at Myitnge (918) cm is exceeded (48) cm above its danger levels. It may remain above its danger levels (870) cm during the next (72) hrs commencing noon today.

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
**PERSPECTIVES**

Sunday, 5 August, 2007

**Exert relentless efforts for boosting paddy production**

The government has built over 200 dams and sluice gates the length and breadth of the nation for the agricultural purpose. And it is taking all the necessary measures for farmers to use quality strain paddy and modern agricultural techniques for growing more paddy and boosting the per acre yield.

Now is the paddy cultivation season, and the respective towns of the states and divisions are thus engaged in collectively cultivating paddy. In that regard, paddy transplanting contests are being held along with the ceremonies to conclude the cultivation of monsoon paddy.

Ceremonies to conclude the cultivation of monsoon paddy in Ayeyawady and Bago Divisions for 2007-2008 were held on 1 and 2 August. At present, efforts are being exerted for continued cultivation of summer paddy and extended cultivation of edible oil crops and other cash crops.

Myanmar produced over 1,300 million baskets of paddy out of over 18 million acres of monsoon and summer paddy cultivated in 2005-2006. In this year’s paddy cultivation season, steps are being taken for meeting the target of producing 1,500 million baskets of paddy.

As quality rice is in high demand in international markets priority is to be given for farmers to use quality strain paddy and modern agricultural techniques for growing more paddy and boosting the per acre yield.

At present, paddy production in Myanmar is in surplus. Farmers and entrepreneurs are to fully use quality strain paddy and modern agricultural techniques, and only then, will they be able to produce quality paddy all the more.

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**Myanmar sailing team leaves for the Netherlands**

**YANGON, 4 Aug** — The Myanmar Sailing Team left here by air on 2 August for taking part in the International 420 Junior European Championships 2007 to be held in England from 18 to 24 August.

The team was comprised of Leader U Min Zaw (Myanmar Sailing Federation), Coach Mr Collum MacDonald (England), athletes Maung Nay Kyaw, Maung Min Min, Ma Su Sanda Wai and Ma Khin Nyo Lin.

**Chairman Sayadaw’s birthday on schedule**

**YANGON, 4 Aug** — A ceremony to mark the 64th birthday and the 84th reordination of Chairman of Bago Division (West) Sangha Nayaka Committee Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw Agga Maha Suddhamma Jotikadha Bhaddanta Vepulla of Vepullayama Monastery of Pyay will be held at the monastery on 28 August (Fullmoon Day of Wagoun 1369 ME).

At the ceremony, ‘soon’ will be offered to 108 members of the Sangha. At 7.30 am, the reordination ceremony will be held at the ordination hall. The disciples of the Sayadaws may attend the birthday and reordination ceremony.

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**Commander inspects development tasks in Kalay District**

**NAY PYI TAW, 4 Aug** — Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye attended the collective ploughing and monsoon paddy cultivation ceremony in Pinlon Ward of Kalay on 25 July. The commander also attended the ceremony to share merits gained for the building where Maha Thaka Patima Yayhsan Kyunmyat Buddha Image is being kept on Rajagiri Hill. Chairman of Township Sangha Nayaka Committee (Thudhammad) Sayadaw Bhaddanda Nananda of Kyaungkyi Monastery administered the Nine Precepts and recited Parittas together with members of the Sangha.

The commander and wife together with wellwishers donated K 1.5 million to the funds for the construction and Zwe Myint Myat Co Ltd K 500,000.

At Kyikon Station, the commander viewed thriving pineapple plants physic nut plantations of the station. The commander participated in the physic nut growing ceremony in Nyanbaho Village.

The commander inspected the rubber farm of Kyikon Station and left necessary instructions. — MNA
Yassin said. and Agro-based Industry Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin facing a shortage of experts in that field, Agriculture establish more veterinary medicine faculties as it is of Malaysia meeting here Friday.—

Difficulties are the product of the empire’s actions,” said Chavez. He accused the US of campaigning to discredit Venezuela, saying, “US lawyers buy people. They pay well. They have newspapers and television stations. They try to confuse people, blackmail them and spread fear,” Chavez said.

However, he said that the four existing full MERCOSUR members—Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay and Paraguay—were aware of US actions and were working to smooth Venezuela’s entry to the body. MNA/Xinhua

**INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

**Venezuela’s MERCOSUR entry**

Carlos, 3 Aug — Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez accused the United States in a Wednesday speech of undermining his country’s entry into the Common Market of the South (MERCOSUR).

Venezuela signed an agreement to join MERCOSUR over a year ago, but its entry has not been ratified by Brazil and Paraguay.

“I’m sure these difficulties are the product of the mistrust and how difficult it would be for these guys to come together on legislation which, let’s face it, is not just some sort of secondary kind of thing,” Gates said.

“The kinds of legislation they’re talking about establish the framework of Iraq for the future, so it’s almost like our constitutional convention,” he told reporters aboard his plane as he flew back to the United States. MNA/Reuters

**Foot and mouth returns to UK**

**FOOT AND MOUTH OUTBREAK**

Britain imposed a nationwide ban on the movement of livestock Friday after officials confirmed an outbreak of the highly infectious foot and mouth disease on a farm near London. —INTERNET

**INTERNET**

**Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez.—INTERNET**

In this file photo, tourists dash away as a sudden tide hit the bank of Qiantang River in Hangzhou, east China’s Zhejiang Province. —INTERNET

**Malaysia facing shortage of veterinary experts**

KUALA LUMPUR, 3 Aug — Malaysia needs to establish more veterinary medicine faculties as it is facing a shortage of experts in that field, Agriculture and Agro-based Industry Minister Tan Sri Muhiddin Yassin said.

“The shortage was keenly felt in the public service which only has 250 veterinary officers nationwide. “Universiti Putra Malaysia is the only institution offering the course and only two to three people are qualified to fill up vacant posts each year,” he told reporters after opening the 19th Veterinary Association of Malaysia meeting here Friday. —INTERNET

**US, S Korea agree no force to free hostages**

Manila, 3 Aug— South Korea and the United States have agreed not to use force to free Korean nationals held hostage in Afghanistan, a South Korean diplomat said after talks between the two countries in the Philippines.

“They agreed that both countries will not use any kind of force,” said the diplomat after a meeting between South Korean Foreign Minister Song Min-soon and US Deputy Secretary of State John Negroponte. They were in Manila for a regional security forum.— MNA/Reuters

**ABU DHABI, 3 Aug—** Defence Secretary Robert Gates said on Thursday the United States had probably underestimated how hard it would be for Iraqi political leaders to agree reconciliation measures.

Gates, speaking at the end of a Middle East tour, also said he had urged countries in the region to redouble efforts to pressure Iran over its nuclear programme, declaring “there’s not really room for by-standers”. He said he was more optimistic now than several months ago that increased US troop levels could improve security in Iraq, but political progress had proved harder than anticipated.

The main Sunni Muslim bloc quit Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki’s Shiite-led government on Wednesday, underscoring how difficult relations are between political groups.

“We probably all underestimated the depth of our constitutional con-vention,” he told reporters aboard his plane as he flew back to the United States. MNA/Reuters

**Gates says US underestimated Iraq political problems**

**INTERNET**

**Foot and mouth outbreak continues**

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) said a 3km “protection zone” and a 10km “surveillance zone” had been imposed around the farm. A spokesman refused to give its exact location, but a graphic on the Defra website showed the centre of the zones to be between Guildford and Aldershot.

This is the second outbreak of the disease in Britain within six years. The last outbreak, which started in 2001, lasted almost a year and cost the economy more than £8bn. At least 7 million animals were slaughtered and it took the British meat industry several years to recover. Tourism was also badly hit as access to the countryside was restricted. Last night vets and government inspectors began to inspect animals on neighbouring farms. In a departure from 2001, the government said vaccination teams had been put on standby. —INTERNET

**OUTBREAK COUNTS**

Two outbreaks were confirmed today in south-west London. Britain’s total number of confirmed outbreaks stood at 43 today. In total, 43 outbreaks of foot and mouth disease have been confirmed in Britain since the summer of 2001. —INTERNET

**ENVIRONMENT**

The environment minister has come under fire for not doing enough to deal with the outbreak. —INTERNET

**INTERNET**

**LONDON, 4 Aug—** An immediate national ban on the movement of all cattle, pigs, sheep and goats was imposed last night after foot and mouth disease was confirmed in cattle at a farm near Guildford, Surrey. Gordon Brown cut short his holiday on hearing the news and was involved in a conference call with Cobra, the government’s civil emergencies committee.

A cordon was thrown round the farm and vets moved in to slaughter the affected animals. All farmers were urged by the chief vet to check their animals immediately. —INTERNET

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**INTERNET**
Almost half of Japanese voters want Abe to resign

Tokyo, 2 Aug — Almost half of Japanese voters want Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to resign, a survey showed on Tuesday, as calls to do so came not just from the opposition but from within his own party in the wake of its election bashing.

Abe’s approval rate also slid below 30 per cent level, seen as critical for a Cabinet to stay in power, according to the poll conducted by Kyodo News agency on Monday and Tuesday.

The hawkish Abe has vowed to stay on despite the loss of his coalition’s majority in the Upper House in Sunday’s vote — his first big electoral test since taking office last September.

The Kyodo survey showed that 49.5 per cent of respondents said Abe should step down, while 43.7 per cent said they wanted him to stay. Support for his Cabinet slipped to 29 per cent, down 6.8 point from a survey in early June.

Abe’s bloc was not automatically ousted from government by the Upper House defeat since it has a huge majority in the more powerful lower chamber, and a lack of suitable successors in the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) may help him survive.

“I will humbly accept the harsh criticism ... and do my utmost to show results,” Abe told reporters.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yasuhisa Shiozaki, Abe’s right-hand man, acknowledged that a couple of party executives at a meeting on Tuesday had questioned Abe’s intention to stay on.

The Kyodo poll showed LDP support falling short of the opposition Democratic Party for the first time since 2004. Democratic Party leader Ichiro Ozawa urged Abe to step down.

MNA/Reuters

Earthquake jolts Hokkaido

Tokyo, 3 Aug — An earthquake measuring 5.9 on the Richter Scale shook northern Japan’s Hokkaido on Thursday afternoon, following a major quake which struck near Sakhalin Island in Russia’s Far East.

Ake Ichiro Mori performs "kata", various patterns of movements of karate, during a competition at the Karate-Do Championships in Tokyo on 28 July, 2007. — Internet

MNA/Reuters

UK researchers develop way of purifying biodiesel

London, 3 Aug — British chemists have developed a way of purifying biodiesel made from vegetable oils, which is cheap, simple and low in toxicity.

Using ionic liquids made in part by vitamin B4 (choline chloride), a group of chemists from the University of Leicester, UK, is able to remove glycerol, the main by-product of vegetable oil-based biodiesel, which if left in biodiesel would damage engines, according to a Press release on Thursday by the university.

The ionic liquid developed by Andrew Abbott who led the group uses a complex of choline chloride with glycerol to extract more glycerol out of the biodiesel. This technique simply washes glycerol out of the fuel, effectively providing a sustainable methodology for the purification of biodiesel without the production of significant waste.

Abbott hopes that further research will optimize the ionic liquid recycling and recovery of the glycerol, and hopes to collaborate with a biodiesel producer to test this technology further. — MNA/Xinhua

In this photo provided by Disney, girls dressed as fairies anticipate a reading by author Gail Carson Levine from her Disney book, ‘Fairy Haven and the Quest for the Wand,’ at World of Disney store, on 1 Aug, 2007, in New York. — Internet

MNA/Xinhua
Sony recalls 350,000 digital cameras

Tokyo, 3 Aug—Japanese electronics giant Sony Corp said on Thursday it would recall 350,000 Cyber-Shot digital cameras worldwide because the metal coating could peel off and scratch the user’s hand.

The affected model, the Cyber-Shot DSC-T5, was released in September 2005 and is no longer manufactured, the company said. “The coating did not have enough adhesive strength, so it may peel off and curl up, hurting a user’s hand,” said Sony spokeswoman Ryoko Takagi.

“We have received over 30 reports in Japan and several similar cases overseas that users had paper-cut-like scratches,” including one person who complained a piece of coating got stuck under a fingernail, she said.

Some 66,000 of the cameras covered by the recall are circulating in Japan and the rest overseas.

Manufactured between August and October 2005, the cameras have serial numbers from 3010001 to 3081200, the company said. In November last year, Sony announced a voluntary recall of eight types of Cyber-Shot digital cameras due to a possible glitch with the image sensor. Last year, the electronics giant was also hit by recalls of millions of its laptop computer batteries for fear they might catch fire.

High oil prices push up the cost of energy and petrol.—Internet

Unilever unveils 20,000 job cuts

London, 3 Aug—Consumer goods giant Unilever is to cut 20,000 jobs—11% of its workforce — over the next four years.

The cuts will focus on European operations, but the firm said it was too early to give more details.

Unilever, whose brands include Hellmann’s Mayonnaise, Surf and Lipton, employs about 179,000 people, including 8,000 in the UK.

Since 2004, it has already trimmed its staff from 223,000 by selling off brands and altering business methods.

The company plans to close or streamline about 50 of its 300 factories and to reduce its regional centres from about 100 to 25, as part of a bid to save 1.5bn euros a year by 2010.

“The majority of restructuring falls in Europe, where structural costs are highest and where regional supply chain management offers the greatest opportunity,” said chairman Patrick Cescau.

Unilever’s UK presence includes manufacturing sites at Port Sunlight and Leeds.—Internet

India, Pakistan begin trade talks

NEW DELHI, 2 Aug — India and Pakistan began two-day trade talks between their commerce secretaries on Tuesday to intensify their bilateral trade cooperation.

Addressing the fourth meeting on Economic and Commercial Cooperation between India and Pakistan under the Framework of Composite Dialogue, Indian Secretary of Commerce G.K. Pillai said, “There is a need to recognize the sectoral overlap in product baskets and that is why proper diversification and development of exclusive and niche products on a sectoral value chain can help us achieve greater cooperation.”

Meanwhile, Pillai hoped that the bilateral trade between India and Pakistan would touch 10 billion US dollars by 2010.

Pillai also said that their objective should be made South Asia a region of free movement of people and goods.

Pillai and his Pakistani counterpart Syed Asif Ali Shah would discuss a range of issues like easing of trade restrictions, export of cement by Pakistan to India and opening of more trade and transit points, according to the Press release of Indian Ministry of Commerce.

Malaysian, Indonesian glove makers to counter US firm

KUALA LUMPUR, 2 Aug — Malaysian and Indonesian glove makers are joining hands to counter a US company’s patent infringement claim.

Local reports said here on Wednesday.

At least seven Malaysian glove producers and one Indonesian glove company have teamed up so far to contest US-based Tillotson Corp’s claim that their exports of nitrite gloves to the United States had a patent infringement problem.

The Malaysian national news services Bernama said.

The Malaysian companies, including Top Glove Corp, is making the move through the Malaysian Rubber Glove Manufacturers Association.

According to Bernama, Tillotson Corp lodged a compliant with the US International Trade Commission (ITC) on 30 May this year, requesting investigation into possible intellectual property infringement among 30 nitrite glove manufacturers, dealers and importers around the world, including more than 10 Malaysian companies.

The US company is asking a royalty of two US dollars for every 1,000 nitrite gloves imported into the US.

Bernama said that Top Glove is the world’s largest rubber glove maker and the company believed that with a big number in the newly-formed coalition, it can succeed in the contest against the US company’s claims.

ECONOMIC NEWS

Oil price ‘threatens US economy’

LONDON, 3 Aug—Sustained oil prices close to $80 a barrel could hit US economic growth, Energy Secretary Sam Bodman has said.

The US economy has never faced such high prices for “an extended period,” Mr Bodman warned. There is concern about whether oil supplies can meet global demand and Mr Bodman urged oil producing nations to increase output to avoid shortages.

Oil prices have fallen back slightly after hitting a record intraday high of $78.77 a barrel on Wednesday.

Analysts say that a price rise above $80 is inevitable, raising con-cerns about the effect of energy costs on inflation.

Higher oil prices drive up the costs for businesses who pass those increases on to customers. And with the price of petrol at the pump close to $3 a gallon, it is feared that higher fuel bills will begin to dent consumer spending.

Mr Bodman said that the high oil prices had in-flicted only a “modest” impact on the economy but he was unsure that this was sustainable.

Internet

India, Pakistan begin trade talks

Malaysian, Indonesian glove makers to counter US firm

Unilever unveils 20,000 job cuts

Air hostesses explain the facilities available to First Class travellers in Air India’s Boeing 777-200 LR aircraft during a function held to commemorate its commencement of operations, at the Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport in Mumbai, India, on 30 July, 2007 file photo. State-owned Air India will launch its first non-stop commercial flight between Mumbai and New York by using the brand new Boeing 777-200 LR beginning on 1 Aug. — INTERNET

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Sunday, 5 August, 2007 5

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British troops face mental problems

LONDON, 4 Aug — Overstretched British troops face escalating mental problems the longer they stay on frontline duty in Iraq and Afghanistan, a study showed on Friday.

Those deployed for 13 months or more in a three-year period were more likely to have symptoms of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, The King’s College London research revealed.

They also suffer greater psychological distress, marital problems and alcoholism once they come home, it said after studying the responses of more than 5,500 combat forces.

“The principal conclusion was that if you go above a certain amount of deployments in a three-year period you are at greater risk of having mental health problems,” said psychiatrist professor Matthew Hotopf.

“There’s a definite increase in things like post traumatic stress distress, anxiety and depression and alcohol problems,” Hotopf told BBC Radio on Friday after the findings were published in the British Medical Journal.

The report concluded “Overtreatment in the UK Armed Forces may have consequences on problems at home and deterioration of psychological health may be more apparent in those directly exposed to combat.”

The Ministry of Defence, which has “harmony guidelines” for the amount of time service personnel spend away from their families, welcomed the survey but said that the overall rate of mental illness in the Armed Forces remained low. The number of new cases of mental disorders, of all types and regardless of cause, in the first quarter of this year was 0.58 per cent of the Armed Forces’ strength, it said.

Members of Parliament have also warned that Britain does not have enough troops to cope with current deployments.

US House of Representatives voted to give troops more time at home before returning to Iraq.

WASHINGTON, 4 Aug — Defying a veto threat, the US House of Representatives on Thursday voted to give troops more time at home before returning to Iraq. The measure, passed by the House on a 229-194 vote, requires active-duty troops returning from Iraq to have at least as much time at home as they stayed in Iraq. For reserve troops, they can stay at home three times the period spent in Iraq.

Currently, active US troops usually stay for 15 months in Iraq with a year at home in between.

The Democrat-sponsored bill will restrict the government’s war power, and President George W. Bush has threatened to veto it.

MNA/Reuters

Four Indian children test negative for bird flu

NEW DELHI, 4 Aug — India has completed health checks on thousands of people after an outbreak of bird flu in the remote northeast, and cleared four boys who had been suffering from fever after handling dead or sick poultry.

Throat swab and tissue samples of the four boys had been sent for testing but no sign of bird flu was found.

“They are negative,” Vineet Chawdhry, a joint secretary in India’s Health Ministry, told Reuters on Friday.

Thousands of people in Manipur state in India’s northeast were also checked by health officials after the outbreak of the H5N1 strain of bird flu in chickens on a small poultry farm.

Globally, the H5N1 virus has killed at least 192 people out of 319 who have been affected since late 2003, with health experts fearing it could one day mutate into a form that could pass easily between humans, triggering a pandemic.

MNA/Reuters

US couple has 17th child, not done yet

BHUBANESWAR, 3 Aug — Jennifer Dannielle Duggar became the 17th child and seventh girl in her family when she was born at 10:01 am on Thursday at a hospital in Rogers, Arkansas.

Her father and mother, Jim Bob and Michelle Duggar, say they aren’t finished, that they want more children.

“We’d love to have more,” Michelle said, referring to baby girls. “We love the ruffles and lace.”

Jennifer joins the fast-growing Duggar brood, who live in a 7,000-square-foot (650-square-meter) home in Tontitown. All the children — whose names start with the letter J — are taught at home. The oldest is 19 and the youngest, before Jennifer, is almost 2 years old.

“We are just so grateful to God for another gift from him,” said Jim Bob Duggar, a former state representative. “We are just so thankful to him that everything went just very well.”

MNA/Reuters

S Asia floods rampage on 10 mn homeless, marooned

DHAKA, 4 Aug — More than 200 people have died in monsoon flooding in South Asia in the last 10 days while more than 10 million remain marooned in their villages or homeless on Friday, with many having no access to health care.

The threat of waterborne diseases is rising, with many villages cut off for days. Some people have been bitten by snakes flooded out of their pits, others crushed under the rubble of their houses, and many drowned by rising flood waters.

The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) said the floods were causing “havoc” and “chaos” in the region, with around 20 million affected and could be the worst in living memory in some areas.

MNA/Reuters

Russian girls welcome the Chinese People’s Liberation Army (PLA) soldiers’ arrival at a railway station in Chelyabinsk of Russia on 3 Aug , 2007. The Chinese railage army to take part in the joint anti-terrorism drill, “Peace Mission 2007”, all arrived in Russia on Friday. A total of 1,600 soldiers from China’s army and air force — including airborne and logistic units — will take part in the joint anti-terrorism drill sponsored by the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) from 9 to 17 Aug. — XINHUA

Japan’s Ryio Mori (L), Miss Universe 2007 and Agni Pratistha, Miss Indonesia 2006, wave to journalists before a news conference in Jakarta on 3 Aug, 2007. Mori in Indonesia for a tour visit and will attend the finals of the Miss Indonesia pageant. — INTERNET

Jim Bob and Michelle Duggar are seen with their children in this undate file photo. Jennifer Dannielle Duggar became the 17th child and seventh girl in her family when she was born at 10:01 am on Thursday at a hospital in Rogers, Arkansas. — XINHUA

More than 10 million people have been affected by monsoon flooding in South Asia, with thousands of people having no access to health care.
Detailed basic principles that should be adopted for...

(from page 16)

Mingaladon Township Constituency-1 and U Tin Tun Maung of Mingaladon Township Constituency-2 gave suggestions on paras (2) and (5) from of the three points explained by the Work Committee Chairman.

Paragraph No 2 says “The State Peace and Development Council shall, continuing to exercise State sovereignty, carry out during the interval between the coming into force of this Constitution and the day the first session of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is convened, all the functions of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw under the Constitution.”

This point states that the SPDC will have to exercise the sovereign power just till the first session of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is held. In such time, I do not think it is convenient to hand over the sovereign power to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw will have to elect and access the President, who is the executive head. Then, the State President will have to form this governing body and appoint the Chief Justice. Only such a time will be convenient for the bodies that have to take over the State’s sovereign powers ready to assume discharge of their duties. So, the para (2) should be:

“The State Peace and Development Council shall, continuing to exercise State sovereignty, carry out during the interval between the coming into force of this Constitution and the day the first session of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is convened, all the functions of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw under the Constitution.”

And para (5) says “Existing laws shall remain in force in so far as they are not contrary to this Constitution until and unless they are repealed or amended by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.” From the time the State Constitution comes into force to the time of the emergence of the Constitutional Tribunal, there will not be yet an organization that has power to decide whether a law is contrary to the State Constitution. So, in the para, the expressions “Existing laws shall remain in force in so far as they are not contrary to this Constitution until and unless they are repealed or amended by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw” should be “Existing laws shall remain in force until and unless they are repealed or amended by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw”.

The Work Committee’s assumption is that if the point of the suggestion concerning the amendment of the para 5 is added to the said detailed basic principle, the transfer of the three organs of State power by the State Peace and Development Council to the governmental bodies will be more convenient without any loopholes.

However, there will be the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw carrying out the task in connection with the legislation and the para 7 states that all courts existing on the date of the coming into operation of this Constitution shall continue to exercise their jurisdiction until new courts are established by law in accord with this Constitution. Hence, the suggestion concerns only the administrative affairs. The institution that is mainly responsible for the administrative affairs is the government. To be more inclusive, the para 2 should be changed as the para 2 (a) and the following para 2 (b) should be added:

“The Government that exists on the date this Constitution comes into force shall continue to discharge the respective duties until the emergence of the new Government formed and assigned duties in accord with this Constitution.”

As the abovementioned point is in accord with the adopted fundamental principles, it should be considered seriously. The National Convention Convening Work Committee discussed the matter with the members of the panel of chairmen concerned. The Delegate Groups sent their opinions regarding the suggestion to the Work Committee in writing after the panels of chairmen had held discussions with the respective delegates. All the Delegate Groups suggested stating the para 2 (b) as follows:

“The Government that exists on date this Constitution comes into force shall continue to discharge the respective duties until the emergence of the new Government formed and assigned duties in accord with this Constitution.”

Concerning the suggestion to amend the Para 5, I would like to say that it is not an easy task to annul all the unnecessary laws at the same time or all at once. There may be laws that have not been repealed yet, but are contrary to the Constitution. Similar provisions are prescribed in drafting a new State constitution. It is found that the 1974 Constitution features this point, similarly. So, I would say this expression is used, as prescribed in the State Constitutions.

Mr Chairman,

The Delegate Group of Other Invited Persons said “The Work Committee Chairman gave the clarifications regarding the chapter “Transitory Provisions” at the plenary session of the National Convention held on 13 November 2006.

Regarding the coming into force of the State Constitution, he called for advice and suggestions of the delegates to decide whether or not the point:

“All functioning State service personnel of departmental organizations including Tatmadaw under the State Peace and Development Council on the day this Constitution comes into force shall continue in their functions unless otherwise prescribed by the Government of the Union of Myanmar.”

All functioning State service personnel of departmental organizations including Tatmadaw under the State Peace and Development Council on the day this Constitution comes into force shall continue in their functions unless otherwise prescribed by the Government of the Union of Myanmar.

in force in so far as they are not contrary to this Constitution until and unless they are repealed or amended by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.” From the time the State Constitution comes into force to the time of the emergence of the Constitutional Tribunal, there will not be yet an organization that has power to decide whether a law is contrary to the State Constitution. So, in the para, the expressions “Existing laws shall remain in force in so far as they are not contrary to this Constitution until and unless they are repealed or amended by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw” should be “Existing laws shall remain in force until and unless they are repealed or amended by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw”.

This Constitution shall come into force throughout the Union after its adoption in a referendum by the assenting votes of more than half of all the people who have the right to vote.” should be adopted as a detailed basic principle.

Now, the seven-step Road Map is in the process of being implemented, and under the fourth step, the State Constitution will be approved through a referendum in accordance to the detailed basic principles to be adopted unanimously by the National Convention.

In the process, seeking the approval of the people, approving the State Constitution by the votes of more than half of all the people who have the right to vote, coming into force of the State Constitution throughout the Union after its adoption in a referendum, that points conform with the constitutions of many other countries as well as the 1947 Constitution and 1974 Constitution of our nation. So, these points should be adopted as detailed basic principles.

Here, I would make a suggestion that the word “votes” should be replaced with the expression “assembling votes” because it can also be assumed as votes against, or abstentions.

Therefore, the principle should be:

“This Constitution shall come into force throughout the Union after its adoption in a referendum by the assembling votes of more than half of all the people who have the right to vote.”

In our view if the word “assembling” is added to the detailed basic principle, its interpretation will become more precise.

As the abovementioned point is in accord with the adopted fundamental principles, it should be considered seriously. The National Convention Convening Work Committee discussed the matter with the members of the panel of chairmen concerned. The Delegate Groups sent their opinions regarding the suggestion to the Work Committee in writing after the panels of chairmen had held discussions with the respective delegates. All the Delegate Groups suggested stating the para 1 as follows:

“This Constitution shall come into force throughout the Union after its adoption in a referendum by the assenting votes of more than half of all the people who have the right to vote.”

In accord with the great majority of the delegates the following detailed basic principles regarding the chapter — Transitory Provisions — have been adopted:

1. “This Constitution shall come into force throughout the Union after its adoption in a referendum by the assenting votes of more than half of all the people who have the right to vote.”

2. (a) “The State Peace and Development Council shall, continuing to exercise State sovereignty, carry out during the interval between the coming into force of this Constitution and the day the first session of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is convened, all the functions of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw under the Constitution.”

(b) “The Government that exists on the date this Constitution comes into force shall continue to discharge the respective duties until the emergence of the new Government formed and assigned duties in accord with this Constitution.”

3. “The work done by the State Peace and Development Council to bring the Constitution into force shall be deemed to have been carried out in accord with this Constitution.”

4. “All policy guidelines, laws, rules, regulations, notifications, proclamations, measures, responsibilities and rights of the State Peace and Development Council shall cease to have effect from the date the Constitution comes into force.”

5. “Existing laws shall remain in force in so far as they are not contrary to this Constitution until and unless they are repealed or amended by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.”

6. “Existing laws, regulations, bye-laws, notifications, orders, directives and procedures shall remain in force in so far as they are not contrary to this Constitution until and unless they are repealed or amended by the Government of the Union.”

7. “All courts existing on the date of the coming into operation of this Constitution shall continue to exercise their jurisdiction until new courts are established by law in accord with this Constitution. All cases, civil, criminal and revenue, pending in the said courts, shall be disposed of in accord with the laws exercised on the date on which the cases came up for trial.”

8. “All functioning State service personnel of departmental organizations including Tatmadaw under the State Peace and Development Council on the day this Constitution comes into force shall continue in their functions unless otherwise prescribed by the Government of the Union of Myanmar.” — MNA

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Sunday, 5 August, 2007
**Construction Minister offers Waso robes to monks**

NAV PI TAW, 3 Aug — Under the aegis of the Ministry for Construction, Maj-Gen Saw Tun and wife Daw Myint Myint, the 2nd Waso robes offering ceremony of the Sangha was held in Nay Pyi Taw on 27 Aug. The ceremony was attended by Brig-Gen Myint Thein, the commander of Coastal Region Command; Maj-Gen Saw Tun, Deputy Ministers U Tint Swe and Brig-Gen Myint Thein, the directors-general and managing directors of the ministry, officials and staff families.

At the office of Inland Water Transport (Rakhine branch), the commander met with officials and gave instructions on their reports and inspected repair of ships in dock.

Later, those present shared the merits gained. After the ceremony, the minister and party offered day meals to the members of the Sangha.

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**Teachers, parents to participate in school sanitation tasks**

NAV PI TAW, 4 Aug — According to the 2007-08 academic year calendar, a period from 13 to 18 August has been designated as School Sanitation Week. Teachers of all basic education schools across the nation are urged to carry out five school sanitation tasks and to provide requirements of each student in order to meet the standards of weight and height in cooperation with the parents.

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**UMFCCI organizes educative talks on tax**

YANGON, 4 Aug — An educative talk on environmental conservation organized by working group for environment of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation was held at the Office Tower of the federation in Lanmadaw Township this afternoon.

President of UMFCCI U Win Myint gave an opening speech. Director U Kay Kay of Internal Revenue Department gave talks on Myanmar economic tax collection system in conformity with market oriented economic system. Statistician U Win Thinn also gave a talk on awareness facts related to Revenue matters.

Chairman of the work committee U Tun Kyi presented gifts to U Kay Kay and U Tun Kyi.

A total of 350 persons including responsible persons of UMFCCI and partnership organizations attended the talks.
Yangon Division Supervisory Committee for Secure and Smooth Transport meets

YANGON, 4 Aug — The coordination meeting of Yangon Division Supervisory Committee for Secure and Smooth Transport was held at the meeting hall of Yangon Command Headquarters yesterday, with an address by Chairman of the committee Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win.

In his address, the commander urged those present to take deterrent action against those who violated traffic rules and to supervise systematically on overloaded vehicles.

After hearing reports on matters related to ferries, enforcement of traffic rules and safe transport of commuters presented by officials of the universities and colleges, departmental officials and chairmen of the bus lines, the commander made concluding remarks and attended to the needs. — MNA

Monsoon Special Sales of General brand air-conditioners launched

YANGON, 4 Aug — The Surewin-Lucky Draw 2007 and the Monsoon Special Sales jointly organized by Fujitsu General Co Ltd and Golden Orchid Co Ltd was held at Doreen Restaurant on Wardan Street in Lannadaw Township this afternoon.

Director Dr Thant Lwin Maung of Golden Orchid Co Ltd presented prizes to sale agents. Responsible persons also gave prizes to winners in the lucky draw programme.

Sales Manager U Aung Aung of General Aircon explained arrangements for distribution of quality General brand air-conditioners to the market.

The salesroom of General Aircon is kept open at 83/91, Bo Aung Kyaw Street, Kyaukatada Township, Tel: 371906 and 706223. — MNA

Coordination meeting on giving free treatment to eye patients held

YANGON, 4 Aug — With the joint sponsorship of the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Energy and the Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation a coordination meeting on giving free medical treatment to those with eye complaints of villages in Kungyangon Township and its environs, Yangon Division was held at the meeting hall of Kungyangon Township Peace and Development Council in Kungyangon this morning with an address by Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi. The meeting was also attended by Head of Administration Department of MWAFL Dr Daw Khin San Nwe and eye specialists, officials of the Ministry of Energy, departmental personnel, members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association, MWAF, Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Towards and others.

Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi explained the purpose of giving free medical treatment to eye patients. Next, those from the work committee and the subcommittees reported on arrangements made to the minister who fulfilled the requirements.

The meeting ended with the concluding remarks by the minister.

The meeting proceeded to the Township People’s Hospital and inspected medical ward, OPD and operation theatre. — MNA

Traffic safety discussed in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Aug — The Nay Pyi Taw Traffic Rules Enforcement Supervisory Committee held the meeting 25/2007 at the hall of Nay Pyi Taw Command Headquarters, here, on 1 August.

Present on the occasion were Patron of the Supervisory Committee Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin, Police Chief of Staff Police Col Khin Maung Si and officials.

The chairman of the supervisory committee reported on tasks carried out for enforcement of traffic rules and occurrences of traffic accidents within one week.

Members of the subcommittees and those in charge of bus lines participated in the discussions.

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

Medicines, personal goods provided for inmates of Buthidaung Jail

YANGON, 4 Aug — Under the arrangements of Rakhine State Union Solidarity and Development Association, members of District USDA and social organizations met inmates of the jail in Buthidaung Township of Maungdaw District on 27 July and fulfilled their requirements.

Next, members of social organizations provided health care services to the inmates and donated traditional medicines, pharmaceuticals and personal goods worth K 606,000 to them.

On the occasion, members of USDA, Women’s Affairs Organization, Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Red Cross Society, War Veterans Organization, police members, officials of Myanmar Correctional Department, specialists and members of Fire Brigade comforted the inmates. — MNA

Members of Rakhine State USDA and social organizations provide medicines and personnel goods for inmates. — MNA
Flourishing bronze casting works of Myanmar

Mandalay is known for its 10 traditional arts and crafts. Out of them, bronze casting can mainly be seen in Padindan Ward, Chanmyathazi Township, Mandalay. There are 12 bronze casting works with more than 280 craftsmen and workers, and they are casting various sizes of bronze Buddha statues and other kinds of bronze statues. We, media group of Kyemon daily, visited the bronze casting works of U Soe Myint-Daw Myint Myint Aye of Padindan in Chanmyathazi Township and interviewed them.

Daw Myint Myint Aye said: “We receive orders from various parts of the country for bronze Buddha statues of different sizes and heights. And these portions have to be combined through welding process. After that the statutes have to be dried for one to three days according to the size. Then wax is to be stuck on and horse dung and yellow earth are to be applied on it. After that, the rough bronze image comes into shape.”

Daw Myint Myint Aye said: “in the process of moulding the Image, bronze has to be boiled together with zinc according to the ratio of 100:80. The ratio of bronze to zinc to be boiled must be at 1 viss: 80 ticals. The bronze casting container holds 250 viss of bronze, and 120 viss of bronze has to be used for an image with a height of 4 feet. Charcoal has to be used in the bronze casting process. The boiling of bronze usually takes about 7 hours. The images which have been waxed are to be placed upside down into pits for bronze casting”. The bronze casting is the hereditary work of their family. There are 13 workers—five workers for moulding and eight workers for finishing touches at their families with six or eight workers for welding works. The head of the image is applied gold foils. The final touches to the images includes giving finishing touches to the statues. And then, the rough bronze images is poured into the mould made with one viss of wax.

The workers doing finishing touches have to shape the images of different sizes. Giving the final touches to the images includes applying gold foils. The bronze casting is followed by the welding works. The head of the image is cast separately. It takes about 20 days for casting an image with a height of 18 inches, three months for casting an image with a height of three feet, and six months for casting an image with a height of 13 feet. Ten images with 18 inches in size or five images with three feet in size can be molded simultaneously. In that process, can be poured into the mould made with one viss of wax.

The workers doing finishing touches to the images have to shape the images of different sizes. Giving the final touches to the images includes applying gold foils. When the process of giving finishing touches is completed the shining and adorable images are in sight. The bronze casting, a Myanmar traditional arts work, contributes a lot to the regional development. Therefore, I am sure that the bronze casting of Myanmar will continue to flourish for generations.

Translation: ST+TS

Tourists seen studying bronze casting work.

A bronze Buddha statue of four feet in height.

Bronze casting work in progress.

Bran and red earth have to be applied to the statute of 18 inches in height for one layer; the statute of 30 inches in height for two layers; and the statute of 45 inches and above in height for three layers. And then they are moulded and wax is removed by heating them. After that bronze liquid is poured into the mould and then, the rough bronze image comes into shape.”

Explaining the bronze casting process, U Soe Myint said: “We need such raw materials as red earth, bran, soft earth, horse dung, glue, wax, oil drag and yellow earth. Bronze and zinc are essential raw materials. A statute has to be first structured with red earth and bran to shape the image according to height so as to get a rough image. Next soft earth is used to smooth the rough image. Then wax is to be stuck on and horse dung and yellow earth are to be applied on it. After that, the statues have to be dried for one to three days according to the size. Then wax is to be stuck on and horse dung and yellow earth are to be applied on it. After that, the rough bronze image comes into shape.”
US ringleader guilty of murder in Iraqi killing

CAMP PENDLETON (California), 3 Aug — A US Marine squad leader who told his men “we just got away with murder” after they kidnapped and killed an Iraqi grandfather in Iraq last year was found guilty on Thursday of murder and other charges.

A military jury in a Camp Pendleton Marine Corps Base courtroom, north of San Diego, found that Sergeant Lawrence Hutchins III committed unremitting murder and larceny, made false official statements and participated in conspiracy to murder and commit other crimes in the killing.

He was found not guilty of additional charges of kidnapping, assault and housebreaking.

Witnesses said Hutchins led the unit in planning to kidnap and kill a terror suspect in the middle of the night. But when the unit could not find the suspect, they randomly executed Hashim Ibrahim Awad, 52, a father of 11 and grandfather of four who lived next door.

After Hutchins shot the man in the head, the squad then set a stolen AK-47 and shovel next to the corpse to suggest he was an insurgent planting a roadside bomb.

In an earlier trial, Petty Officer Melson Bacos said Hutchins’ anger over the release of a suspected “terrorist” from Baghdad’s Abu Ghraib Prison prompted the murder of the man’s neighbours.

Three climbers die in Slovenian Alps

BELGRADE, 3 Aug — A 16-year-old girl fell to her death and two other people died from heart attacks when they were climbing Slovenia’s Alps on Wednesday, said reports reaching here from Slovenia.

The 16-year-old girl slipped and fell 300 metres down a ravine while climbing from Crna to Rodica in the Julian Alps in northwestern Slovenia, the Slovenian news agency STA report-ed, without revealing the girl’s name.

A mountain rescue team was dispatched and found the girl dead in the ravine, the reports said, quoting officials of the Civil Rescue and Protection Agency.

The largest part of Slovenia’s territory is taken up by the Alps, where 47.3 per cent of the two million population lives. Mountaineering, which has a long tradition in Slovenia, is also one of the most popular forms of recreation.

MNA/Xinhua

Two US soldiers killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 3 Aug — Two American soldiers were killed and 10 others wounded on Tuesday, the US military said on Thursday.

A brief military statement said that the soldiers, assigned to Task Force Marine, were killed and wounded by indirect fire, without saying where the incident took place.

However, the area of responsibility for the Task Force Marine is located along the southern edge of Baghdad and scales from the border of Saudi Arabia to the border of Iran.

MNA/Xinhua

Typhoon bears down on Japan, flights cancelled

TOKYO, 2 Aug — A powerful typhoon approached Japan’s southern island of Kyushu on Thursday, bringing with it a warning of likely flooding and forcing the cancellation of 128 flights, broadcaster NHK said.

Typhoon Usagi, whose name means rabbit in Japanese, was about 190 kilometres (118 miles) east of the tiny island of Tanegashima, about 1,000 kilometres (621 miles) southwest of Tokyo at 9 am (0000 GMT), the Meteorological Agency said.

Winds were gusting up to 234 kilometres per hour (145 miles per hour) close to the centre of the storm, which was moving north northwest at about 30 kilometres per hour (19 miles per hour), the agency said, as it warned of floods and high seas around southern Japan.

Usagi is expected to beat a path across the island of Kyushu and then change course to the northeast, fading into a tropical storm in the Sea of Japan before striking northern Japan at the weekend.

Last month Typhoon Manyi killed three people and injured more than 70 in Kyushu.

MNA/Reuters

10 injured as six bombs rock southern Thailand

BANGKOK, 2 Aug — Insurgents launched six bomb attacks in Thailand’s southern province of Narathiwat Wednesday morning, injuring at least 10 persons.

Police said the attacks were launched during 7.45 am (0045 GMT) to 9 am (0200 GMT) in four districts of Narathiwat.

In Narathiwat Town, which is the capital of Narathiwat Province, three bombs were triggered. Two of the bombs were installed in dustbins and the other was attached on a motorcycle parking in front of a Kasikorn Bank. The other three bombs exploded in Bacho, Sungai Kolok and Rangae districts.

Two soldiers were injured in the Bacho blast, local police reported.

While in Raj-ae District, a bomb severely injured a local resident and seven others.

MNA/Xinhua

People walk against strong wind in Fukuoka city on Japan’s southern island of Kyushu.

INTERNET
US soldier killed in bomb attack in southern Iraq

BAGHDAD, 3 Aug — A US soldier was killed and two others were wounded in a roadside bomb attack in southern Iraq, the US military said on Thursday. The attack took place on Wednesday during a combat logistics patrol near the city of Basra, some 550 kilometres south of Baghdad, a military statement said.

“The wounded soldiers were treated by Coalition Forces medical personnel and transported to a nearby medical facility for further evaluation and treatment,” the statement said.

Earlier in the day, the military announced the killing of two more soldiers and the wounding of 10 others by indirect fire on Tuesday.

The latest death brings the number of US soldiers that have been killed in Iraq to about 3,660 since the Iraq war broke out in 2003, according to media figures.

MANILA, 3 Aug — Terrorism took centre-stage at a meeting of Asia-Pacific foreign ministers on Thursday as the group denounced the abductions of South Koreans in Afghanistan.

“The ministers condemned in unequivocal terms the abduction of Korean nationals as a heinous act of terrorism,” one diplomat said after a closed-door session of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Regional Forum.

Earlier, the Foreign Secretary of the hosts Philippines, Alberto Romulo, said the crisis should be quickly resolved. “We all wish the remaining 21 hostages are returned to their families as soon as possible,” he said before the start of talks.

South Korean Foreign Minister Song Min-soon said he “hoped for continued support for the early and safe resolution of the crisis”.

The Taleban kidnapped 23 South Korean church volunteers south of Kabul last month and have executed two of them. The hardline Islamist guerrillas have said they will kill the rest unless captured comrades were freed.

Asian security talks denounce Taleban abductions

Hamas praises Russia’s efforts to resume talks

GAZA, 3 Aug — Islamic Hamas movement welcomed on Wednesday Russian efforts to mediate between Hamas and Fatah, calling on Arab nations to act like Russia. Russia has reportedly invited Hamas’s political chief Khaled Mashaal for talks in Moscow in the coming days after Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas met Russian officials in his visit to Moscow.

“Russia is an objective side and we welcome its mediation and wait a similar role by the Arabs,” Hamas said in a statement sent to the Press.

Abbas has repeatedly rejected a new dialogue with Hamas unless the Islamic movement returns the Palestinian Authority compounds that were captured after fierce rounds of fighting against Fatah.

While Russia promised to provide humanitarian aid to the Palestinian Authority and send 50 armoured personnel carriers there, and keep ties with Hamas in a bid to promote dialogue. Fatah chief Abbas has sacked a Hamas-led coalition that was in office during Gaza violence in June and formed another government in the Fatah-dominated West Bank.

Hamas has appealed several times for Abbas to negotiate after it found itself confined to the Gaza Strip and unable to open the crossing points which Israel has closed following the takeover of the territory.

A general view of the Hilton hotel in the Universal City area of Los Angeles on 3 Aug, 2007. Buyout firms like Blackstone Group, which recently said it would buy Hilton Hotels, will have to adjust for less debt and will likely seek smaller deals. — Internet

MNA/Xinhua

Hamas praises Russia’s efforts to resume talks

The ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) brings together the 10-member Southeast Asian group with 17 dialogue partners, including the United States, China, Japan, Russia, India, the European Union and Australia.

MNA/Reuters
Study suggests 10 new words a day
no sweat for toddlers

BEIJING, 2 Aug—Learning 10 new words a day is no big deal for a toddler, a new study suggests.

Children go through a “vocabulary explosion” at about 18 months of age that involves learning new words at a rate that often amazes their parents. Researchers have previously thought complex mechanisms must govern this voracious rate of word-learning.

“The field of developmental psychology and language development has always assumed that something happens at that point to account for this word spurt: kids discover things have names, they switch to using more efficient mechanisms and they use their first words to help discover new ones,” said study author Bob McMurray of the University of Iowa.

“Many such mechanisms have been proposed.” But these mechanisms aren’t necessary, according to McMurray, whose study of a mathematical model to describe the vocabulary explosion is detailed in the 3 Aug issue of the journal Science.

McMurray says that while children may engage those types of specialized mechanisms to help them learn new words, computational simulations he conducted suggest that simpler mechanisms — such as word repetition and learning multiple words at once — can explain the vocabulary explosion.

“Children are going to get that word spurt guaranteed, mathematically, as long as a couple of conditions hold,” McMurray said. “They have to be learning more than one word at a time and they must be learning a greater number of difficult or moderate words than easy words. Using computer simulations and mathematical analysis, I found that if these two conditions are true, you always get a vocabulary explosion.”

New device electrifies hiccups!

BEIJING, 3 Aug — The inventor of the Device for the Treatment of Hiccups says you can throw away the paper bags, forget fright attacks, and quit trying to drink water while standing on your head.

“Hiccups lasting up to 48 hours are classified as ‘bouts.’ Hiccups lasting longer than 48 hours are called ‘persistent.’ Those lasting longer than a month are called ‘intractable,’” said Philip Charles Ehlinger, Jr.

Hiccups lasting longer than a month? Intractable? How about “excruciating?” At this point, sufferers may resort to more extreme measures such as “inducing vomiting, or applying traction on the tongue or pressure on the eyeballs.” Sometimes, the best pain relief is torture.

Faced with the above options, you can see the incentive to invent something new. This device — which looks like a hands-free version of one of those “cup and string” phones — is a metallic cup with one electrode making contact with your cheek and another electrode making contact with your temple.

When the cup is full of water and you begin to drink, an electrical circuit is created, thus stimulating the vagus and phrenic nerves and “reliably interrupting the Hiccup Reflexive Arc.”

Iran not concerned about US arms sale to Gulf states

TEHERAN, 3 Aug—Iranian Defence Minister Mostafa Mohammad Najjar said on Wednesday that the Islamic Republic is not concerned about Washington’s sale of arms to a number of countries in the Gulf region, the official IRNA news agency reported.

Speaking to reporters after a Cabinet meeting on Wednesday, Najjar said that Iran is a powerful country in the region and Washington’s sale of such arms is not a matter of concern to his country.

Instead, “the Zionist regime (Israel) and those who wish to dominate the region should be concerned”, he added. The United States is supporting Israel in order to save US arms factories from bankruptcy and spread fear in the region, the Iranian Defence Minister said.

But “we are never afraid of them”, he said, adding that Iran has no problems with neighbouring Muslim countries, and if they buy any arms they will belong to whole Muslim world.

Najjar noted that it is Israel that should be concerned because it always pursues aggressive policy and is the real cause of insecurity in the region.

MNA/Xinhua

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MNA/Xinhua
**SPOR**

**Flesch soars to one-shot lead with pair of eagles**

**Los Angeles, 3 Aug —** American Steve Flesch, fueled by two eagles, soared into a one-shot lead in the Reno-Tahoe Open first round in Nevada on Thursday.

The 40-year-old from Ohio, bidding for his third PGA Tour title, fired a blistering, nine-under-par 63 at Montreux Golf and Country Club.

Left-hander Flesch eagled the par-five fourth on his way to an outward nine of six-under 30. He then eagleed the par-five 11th before signing off at the last with his fifth birdie of the day after hitting his approach to four feet.

Argentina's Jose Coceres was alone in second place after shooting a seven-birdie 64, one ahead of Australian Steve Allan and American John Merrick.

American Will MacKenzie, who clinched his maiden PGA Tour title at last year's tournament, was among a group of three players bunched on 66. Most of the Tour's biggest names are competing at this week's eight-million-US-dollar WGC-Bridgestone Invitational at Firestone Country Club in Akron, Ohio.

**MNA/Reuters**

**Nilsson takes early lead at rainswept Russian Open**

**NAKHABINO (Russia), 3 Aug —** Sweden's Christian Nilsson overcame bad weather conditions to fire seven-under 65 and take an early lead at the Russian Open on Thursday.

The 38-year-old Swede, still looking for his first European Tour victory, had a bogey-free first round with seven birdies to lead Frenchman Jean-Baptiste MacKenzie, who clinched his maiden PGA Tour title at last year's tournament, was among a group of three players bunched on 66. Most of the Tour's biggest names are competing at this week's eight-million-US-dollar WGC-Bridgestone Invitational at Firestone Country Club in Akron, Ohio.

**MNA/Reuters**

**Eriksson continues Man City spending with triple swoop**

**London, 3 Aug —** Sven-Goran Eriksson has stepped up his recruitment drive as Manchester City manager by signing three players, the Premier League club said on Thursday.

Barcelona players (L-R) Gianluca Zambrotta, Eric Abidal, Victor Valdes and coach Frank Rijkaard pose during a news conference in Beijing on 3 Aug, 2007 as part of Barcelona's nine-day pre-season tour to Asia. On 5 Aug, they face Beijing Guoan in the Chinese capital and two days later play Yokohama Marinos in Japan. On 10 Aug, they take on the Mission Hills Invitation XI in Hong Kong. — **XINHUA**

On 3 Aug, they face Beijing Guoan in the Chinese capital and two days later play Yokohama Marinos in Japan. On 10 Aug, they take on the Mission Hills Invitation XI in Hong Kong. — **XINHUA**

Old Elano has a four-year contract. He caught the eye when scoring twice for Brazil in their 3-0 friendly win over Argentina at Arsenal's Emirates Stadium last September.

Brazil defender Corluka joins City from Dinamo Zagreb for an undisclosed fee. Although just 21, he has nine caps for Croatia and featured in their 2-0 win over England in a Euro 2008 qualifier last year.

The 22-year-old Garrido, who has played for Spain's Under-21s, has arrived in a 1.5-million-pound deal from Real Sociedad on a four-year contract. "This morning has proved to be an immensely productive one, the outcome of which is the acquisition of three top-quality players for Manchester City Football Club, chief executive Alistair Mackintosh told their website (mfc.co.uk).

Manchester United sign 9-year-old YouTube wonder kid

**London, 3 Aug —** Manchester United have signed a gifted nine-year-old after his grandfather sent the Premier League champions a DVD showcasing the boy's talents which has become a YouTube sensation.

Rhain Davis, who was born in England but has lived in Austria since the age of four, was hailed by the British Press on Thursday as the next Wayne Rooney after the United striker.

The boy's dribbling and goal-scoring prowess for an Under-10 side in Brisbane, Australia, feature in a four-minute YouTube clip, already viewed more than 800,000 times.

United confirmed the signing but played down the hype around Davis, who has moved back to Cheshire in northern England with his father, near the club's training ground.

"He's a member of our academy and we don't comment on individual members," a United spokesman told Reuters.

He added that the club sign about 40 players of Davis' age every year and, as is standard, will decide annually whether to renew his contract or release him.

What was so unusual in Davis' case was that his skills were brought to the attention of United's youth scouts by the DVD submission, which could inspire other hopefuls, the spokesman said.

"We're bracing ourselves for a whole series of DVDs," he added.

**MNA/Reuters**

**Sense of deja vu grips Community Shield rivals**

**London, 3 Aug —** New-season optimism may be offset by old concerns for champions Manchester United and FA Cup holders Chelsea when they meet in the curtain-raising Community Shield at Wembley Stadium on Sunday.

United will want to make amends for their 1-0 Cup final defeat by the Londoners in this match-up between the Premier League's top two teams in 2006/07, who are expected to push each other all the way again in the coming campaign.

However, United's hopes of revenge could hang on finding the right response to a disappointing defensive display against Inter Milan in a friendly on Wednesday.

"We were all over the place at times," was Sir Alex Ferguson's verdict on United's 3-2 home defeat by the Italian champions.

In a performance that recalled United's struggles to contain AC Milan in the first half of their Champions League semifinal at Old Trafford in April, Inter scored three first-half goals to send them to their first pre-season defeat.

Ferguson has not been alone in experiencing an unwanted sense of deja vu, with Chelsea counterpart Jose Mourinho pondering an injury to captain John Terry that puts his participation in Sunday's match in question.

The England skipper suffered a broken toe during Chelsea's US tour and sat out the 2-0 friendly victory away to Danish club Brondby on Monday.

Terry's toe problem and Wayne Bridge's hip surgery are reminders of last season's defensive difficulties for Mourinho, whose planning has also been hindered by the delayed arrival of Brazil centre back Alex.

Chelsea supporters should still see some of their club's new signings and it could be particularly instructive to observe how midfielder Steve Sidwell fares after his impressive pre-season form since arriving from Reading.

United, by contrast, will almost certainly be without Owen Hargreaves and Anderson although their other new face, Nani, could play after recovering from the ankle knock that ruled him out against Inter.

**MNA/Reuters**
Egypt discovers 2,500-year-old grave of royal guard

Cairo, 4 Aug — The grave of a royal guard of the 26th dynasty, which dates back to about 2,500 years ago, was unearthed by an Egyptian-Czech archaeological mission in the south of Cairo, Egyptian Minister of Culture Farouq Hosni said on Thursday.

A large limestone sarcophagus, which contained another casket, was discovered while the archaeologists were excavating in search of yet-to-be-discovered Pharaonic monuments in Abu-Sir area, about 27 kilometres south of Cairo, said Hosni.

The embedded box is made of diorite and has inscriptions from the Book of the Dead, he added.

The grave, which belongs to Menkhep-Nikaw, also houses funereal pots, good-luck amulets and furniture, including faience and carnelian stones, Hosni said.

Zahi Hawass, Secretary-General of the Egyptian Supreme Council of Antiquities, said the new discovery proved Abu-Sir to be a virgin area, with many Pharaonic mysteries still buried under its earth.

Hawass noted that the engravings, which represent whole chapters from the Book of the Dead, were indeed the most captivating of discovered Pharaonic designs between the 26th and 27th dynasties (664-405 BC).

Judging from experience, Hawass said that the Egyptian-Czech mission was the only second batch of visitors into the grave after tomb-raisers, who looted it in ancient Pharaonic times.

CAIRO, 4 Aug — The grave of a royal guard of the 26th dynasty, which dates back to about 2,500 years ago, was unearthed by an Egyptian-Czech archaeological mission in the south of Cairo, Egyptian Minister of Culture Farouq Hosni said on Thursday.

A large limestone sarcophagus, which contained another casket, was discovered while the archaeologists were excavating in search of yet-to-be-discovered Pharaonic monuments in Abu-Sir area, about 27 kilometres south of Cairo, said Hosni.

The embedded box is made of diorite and has inscriptions from the Book of the Dead, he added.

The grave, which belongs to Menkhep-Nikaw, also houses funereal pots, good-luck amulets and furniture, including faience and carnelian stones, Hosni said.

Zahi Hawass, Secretary-General of the Egyptian Supreme Council of Antiquities, said the new discovery proved Abu-Sir to be a virgin area, with many Pharaonic mysteries still buried under its earth.

Hawass noted that the engravings, which represent whole chapters from the Book of the Dead, were indeed the most captivating of discovered Pharaonic designs between the 26th and 27th dynasties (664-405 BC).
YANGON, 4 Aug — The following is the clarification of the National Convention Convening Work Committee on the detailed basic principles that should be adopted in the chapter “Transitory Provisions” to be included in drawing the State constitution at Nyaungnaphin Camp in Hmaubw Township on 2-8-2007.

Mr Chairman,

At the plenary session of the National Convention held on 13 November 2006, the Chairman of the National Convention Convening Work Committee explained the detailed basic principles that should be adopted in connection with the chapter — Transitory Provisions.

The Delegate Groups — the Delegate Group of National Races, the Delegate Group of Peasants, the Delegate Group of Workers, the Delegate Group of Intellectuals and Intelligentsia, the Delegate Group of State Service Personnel, the Delegate Group of Other Invited Persons, the Delegate Group of Political Parties — the National Unity Party, the Union Pa-O National Organization, the Shan State Kokang Democratic Party, the Mro or Khami National Solidarity Organization, the Lahu National Development Party, the Union Kayin League, the Kokang Democracy and Unity Party and the Wa National Development Party — and the Delegate Group of Representatives-Elect — the representatives-elect of the political parties and the three-member group including independent representatives-elect Dr Hmu Htan and the six-member group including independent representatives-elect U Tin Win discussed questions on the Work Committee Chairman’s clarifications and laid down the following detailed basic principles:

1. “This Constitution shall come into force throughout the Union after its adoption in a referendum by the assenting votes of more than half of all the people who have the right to vote.”

2. “The State Peace and Development Council shall, continuing to exercise State sovereignty, carry out during the interval between the coming into force of this Constitution and the day the first session of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is convened, all the functions of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw under the Constitution.”

3. “The work done by the State Peace and Development Council to bring the Constitution into force shall be deemed to have been carried out in accord with this Constitution.”

4. “All policy guidelines, laws, rules, regulations, notifications, proclamations, measures, responsibilities and rights of the State Peace and Development Council shall devolve on the Union of Myanmar”.

5. “Existing laws shall remain in force in so far as they are not contrary to this Constitution until and unless they are repealed or amended by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.”

6. “Existing rules, regulations, bye-laws, notifications, orders, directives and procedures shall remain in force in so far as they are not contrary to this Constitution until and unless they are repealed or amended by the Union Government.”

7. “All courts existing on the date of the coming into operation of this Constitution shall continue to exercise their jurisdiction until new courts are established by law in accord with this Constitution. All cases, civil, criminal and revenue, pending in the said courts, shall be disposed of in accord with the laws exercised on the date on which the cases came up for trial.”

8. “All functioning State service personnel of departmental organizations including Tatmadaw organizations under the State Peace and Development Council on the day this Constitution comes into force shall continue in their functions unless otherwise prescribed by the Government of the Union of Myanmar.”

This Constitution shall come into force throughout the Union after its adoption in a referendum by the assenting votes of more than half of all the people who have the right to vote.

Mr Chairman,

Independent representatives-elect Dr Hmu Htan of Thantlang Township Constituency in Chin State, U Aung Thein of Ywangan Township Constituency in Shan State (South) and U Tun Kyaw of Nambass Township Constituency in Shan State (North) gave a suggestion, saying, “In order to complete the drawing of the State Constitution, the National Convention has adopted the fundamental principles and detailed basic principles that reflect the policies and stances, which are necessary foundations for building a new nation. We have to draft the State Constitution with these fundamental principles and detailed basic principles. The aspiration of the people will come true if the fourth step of the Road Map — Adoption of the Constitution through a national referendum — is realized within one year after the completion of the National Convention. Personally, I suggest that the officials take necessary measures to hold a referendum within one year after the completion of the 1947 constitution says “The first general elections under this Constitution shall be held within eighteen months from the date of the coming into operation of this Constitution”.

“Regarding the 1974 Constitution, the 1974 Constitution was declared on 3 January 1974, the first elections were held under the 1974 Constitution from 27 January to 10 February 1974. In addition, the first session of the Pyithu Hluttaw was held in Yangon on 11 am on 2 March 1974.

So, I would like to make a suggestion that officials concerned should make preparations for implementation of the fifth step in a suitable occasion through a referendum for speedy building of a modern and developed nation.”

Concerning the first suggestion, I would like to say that the task is being implemented in accord with the seven-point Road Map, it is not possible to exactly fix the date and time.

Regarding the second suggestion, the task of “holding a free and fair election”, which is the fifth step of the already-laid down State’s Road Map, is to be carried out by the Election Commission in accordance with the State Constitutio, Election Law and regulations. Therefore, I would say the suggestion will be recorded so that necessary measures in this regard can be taken in a suitable length of time.

Independent representatives-elect U Tin Win of Kyakklat Township Constituency-2, U Thein Kyi of Taungdwingyi Township Constituency-1, U Hla Soe of Minbu Township Constituency-2, U Mya Haing of Twantay Township Constituency-2, U Kyi Win of

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