NAY PYI TAW, 8 Aug — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence, together with Chairman of Taninthayi Division PDC Commander of Coastal Region Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw Oo, inspected progress in construction of Dawei Airport on 6 August afternoon.

In his instructions, Lt-Gen Maung Bo said that as the 12,000 feet long, 100 feet wide and 26 inches thick runway and the 600 feet long and 300 feet wide apron have been completed at Dawei Airport, officials of Department of Civil Aviation and Myanma Airways are to cooperate with local authorities to keep the airport lush and green. And, officials at different levels are to supervise the maintenance tasks for durability of the airport.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo together with the commander inspected the runway and gave instructions on dredging of drains along the runway.

Accompanied by the commander and Col Than Soe of Dawei Station, Lt-Gen Maung Bo met service-men and family members of Dawei Station at Aung San Hall of the local battalion in Dawei and urged them to actively participate in rural development tasks. Next, he presented exercise books and stationery for the families through Col Than Soe of Dawei Station. — MNA

Lt-Gen Maung Bo of Ministry of Defence inspects the runway of Dawei Airport. — MNA

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

Lt-Gen Maung Bo inspects progress of Dawei Airport Construction Project

Prime Minister felicitates Singaporean counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Aug — On the occasion of the 42nd Anniversary of the National Day of the Republic of Myanmar, which falls on 9th August 2007, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore. — MNA

Senior General Than Shwe sends message of felicitations to Singaporean President

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Aug — On the occasion of the 42nd Anniversary of the National Day of the Republic of Singapore which falls on 9th August 2007, Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr S.R. Nathan, President of the Republic of Singapore. — MNA

Four political objectives
* Stability of the State, community peace and tranquility, prevalence of law and order
* National reconsolidation
* Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
* Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

Four economic objectives
* Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well
* Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system
* Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad
* The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples

Four social objectives
* Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
* Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
* Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
* Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation

Four political objectives

Four economic objectives

Four social objectives
Estimation of three ASEAN pillars and overcoming challenges through cooperation

The Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) was established on 8 August 1967 and now it has turned 40 years. The association was formed with the aims of promotion on mutual cooperation on economic, social and cultural aspects among its members in the region and development of the member nations.

This year marks the 10th Anniversary of joining of Myanmar to ASEAN. Myanmar joined the association in 1997 with the expectation of cooperation and contributing to the regional peace and stability, prosperity and development in the region and beyond.

South East Asian region gained economic progress and it has been a haven of peace and harmony due to endeavours of the leaders of all ten South East Asian nations.

Now the ASEAN is working on its Charter to give the grouping its legal personality as well as to further strengthen its cooperation through enhanced structure and decision-making mechanism. The adoption of the ASEAN Charter will serve a firm foundation in achieving the ASEAN Community and fulfill the aspiration and shared values of every member country and ASEAN as a whole.

In the forty-year history, ASEAN not only has successes but experienced many challenges, natural disasters and hazardous problems. However, it has shown its resilience and successfully met the challenges.

Three pillars — ASEAN Security Community, ASEAN Economic Community and ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community serve as a strong foundation. The way of working in solidarity, consultation, consensus, mutual respect and non-interference is the strength of ASEAN. We are confident that the ASEAN will overcome the challenges through noble traditions, solidarity and cooperation.

Commander, Minister meet USDA members in Sittway

Minister Maj-Gen Thein Swe presents cash assistance to Sittway and Maungtaw district

The minister inspected dam repairs to erosion and called for continued efforts. — MNA

Certificate and prizes presentation ceremony of CPA and DA on schedule

Yangon, 8 Aug — A ceremony to present certificates and awards to winners in CPA and DA examinations of Myanmar Accountancy Council will be held at International Business Centre on Paya Road at 9 am on 9 September.

Those who passed the second semester examinations of CPA held from September 2002 to November 2005, and the outstanding trainees will be presented certificates and awards at the ceremony. Besides, those who passed the first semester examinations of CPA held from November 2002 to March 2007 and the first semester examinations of DA held from September 2002 to November 2005, and outstanding trainees will also be presented certificates and prizes.

Those who are invited to attend the ceremony are to send K 2,000 and a passport size photo to No (1/9), Training School of Auditor-General’s Office on Thakhin Mya Park Road in Ahlon Township not later than 24 August and draw invitation cards prior to the ceremony.

The list of names of outstanding trainees will be announced at the training school. — MNA

Foreign Minister felicitates Singaporean counterpart

Nay Pyi Taw, 9 Aug — On the occasion of the 42nd Anniversary of the National Day of the Republic of Singapore which falls on 9th August 2007, U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr George Yeo, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Singapore. — MNA

Construction Minister oversees work

Yangon, 7 Aug — Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun accompanied by officials of Public Works inspected work of Sittoung Bridge (Moppalin) construction project yesterday.

The minister oversaw building of the approach road to the bridge on Waw bank and gave instructions on construction of the bridge to the officials concerned.

Afterwards, he inspected work of building Bago-Thanatpin-Kayant-Hongwa-Thanlyin road in Kawa Township.

He went to construction site of the road that will link with Thilawa Industrial Zone through Dagon Bridge and called upon the officials to build it meeting the set standards. — MNA

Drive Safely

Certificates and prizes presentation ceremony of CPA and DA on schedule

YANGON, 8 Aug — A ceremony to present certificates and awards to winners in CPA and DA examinations of Myanmar Accountancy Council will be held at International Business Centre on Paya Road at 9 am on 9 September.

Those who passed the second semester examinations of CPA held from August 2002 to January 2007 and the second semester examinations of DA held from September 2002 to November 2005, and the outstanding trainees will be presented certificates and awards at the ceremony. Besides, those who passed the first semester examinations of CPA held from November 2002 to March 2007 and the first semester examinations of DA held from September 2002 to November 2005, and outstanding trainees will also be presented certificates and prizes.

Those who are invited to attend the ceremony are to send K 2,000 and a passport size photo to No (1/9), Training School of Auditor-General’s Office on Thakhin Mya Park Road in Ahlon Township not later than 24 August and draw invitation cards prior to the ceremony.

The list of names of outstanding trainees will be announced at the training school. — MNA

People's Desire

* Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
* Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation
* Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
* Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy
Musharraf says any US strikes in Pakistan will be counter-productive

ISLAMABAD, 8 Aug—US-Pak relations appear to be on the boil on suggestions of unilateral American strikes against al-Qaeda leaders on Pakistani soil with President Pervez Musharraf Tuesday saying it will be “counter-productive” to the joint fight against terrorism, PTI reported.

The comments by Pakistan General in the highest level rejection of US suggestions of possibility of striking at al-Qaeda targets in Pakistan’s border areas came hours after President George W. Bush expressed confidence of “getting the job done” given an opening.

Musharraf told visiting American Senator Richard J. Durbin in a meeting in Karachi that Pakistan remained resolved to fighting terrorism, the foreign ministry said.

“He emphasised that only Pakistan’s security forces, which were fully capable of dealing with any situation, would take counter-terrorism action inside Pakistani territory,” a foreign ministry statement said quoting Musharraf. “In this regard, the President pointed out that certain recent US statements were counter-productive to the close cooperation and coordination between the two countries in combating the threat of terrorism,” it said.

Bush while preserving ambiguity over American intentions told reporters he was confident that with “actionable intelligence” US will be able to bring top al-Qaeda leadership to justice.

EU threatens tit-for-tat visa limits on Americans after US tightens law

BRUSSELS, 8 Aug—The European Union is threatening to impose tit-for-tat entry restrictions on all US citizens travelling to Europe in response to new American laws designed to strengthen security at airports and prevent would-be terrorists entering the country.

US tourists can now travel to Europe without a visa, Franco Frattini, justice and home affairs commissioner, is drawing up plans for an EU-wide system of “electronic travel authorization” (ETA) similar to that written into US law by President George Bush late last week as part of new homeland security rules proposed by the 9/11 commission and endorsed by Congress. The ETA requires tourists from 14 mostly west European states, including Britain, benefiting from the US visa waiver programme to register online and give details of their passport, travel plans and planned social and business meetings at least two days before departure. A similar scheme operates in Australia. The new system has heightened fears about privacy protection as the EU and US already exchange information about transatlantic passengers and airline manifests, with several would-be travellers refused entry to planes at US insistence.

It is also seen as a deterrent to business travel to the US and to tourism in general, which is down 10% in the US since 2000 while it is up 13% in Britain and 20% in France.

Up to four dead in UK civilian plane crash

LONDON, 7 Aug—A civilian plane crashed shortly after taking off from a British airport killing up to four people, an Isle of Wight Airport spokesman said on Sunday.

“We think there were four people on the plane,” Isle of Wight Airport manager Richard Steele said. The Piper Cherokee plane was travelling from Sandown, where the airport is located, to an unspecified destination in France, but crashed within a minute of taking off.

“The airport’s fire services responded rapidly, supported by the local fire brigade,” added Steele.

Sunday’s crash is being investigated by the Air Accidents Investigation Branch.—MNA/Reuters

A player rides a bike underwater during a recreational game at Dalian Sun Asia Ocean World in Dalian, Northeast China’s Liaoning Province, on 5 Aug, 2007.—INTERNET

Vietnamese rescuers are moving thousands of people to higher ground on 7 Aug, 2007, after a storm dumped heavy rain in the central region, killing 14 people, officials said.—INTERNET

A player rides a bike underwater during a recreational game at Dalian Sun Asia Ocean World in Dalian, Northeast China’s Liaoning Province, on 5 Aug, 2007.—INTERNET

Troops annihilate “terrorists” under cover of military vehicles during a rehearsal in Russia’s Chelyabinsk, on 6 Aug, 2007. The first joint exercise of the joint anti-terrorism military drill, dubbed as “Peace Mission 2007”, sponsored by the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and it was slated for 9-17 Aug, was carried out on 6 Aug, here. —XINHUA

A player rides a bike underwater during a recreational game at Dalian Sun Asia Ocean World in Dalian, Northeast China’s Liaoning Province, on 5 Aug, 2007.—INTERNET

EU threatens tit-for-tat visa limits on Americans after US tightens law

BRUSSELS, 8 Aug—The European Union is threatening to impose tit-for-tat entry restrictions on all US citizens travelling to Europe in response to new American laws designed to strengthen security at airports and prevent would-be terrorists entering the country.

US tourists can now travel to Europe without a visa, Franco Frattini, justice and home affairs commissioner, is drawing up plans for an EU-wide system of “electronic travel authorization” (ETA) similar to that written into US law by President George Bush late last week as part of new homeland security rules proposed by the 9/11 commission and endorsed by Congress. The ETA requires tourists from 14 mostly west European states, including Britain, benefiting from the US visa waiver programme to register online and give details of their passport, travel plans and planned social and business meetings at least two days before departure. A similar scheme operates in Australia. The new system has heightened fears about privacy protection as the EU and US already exchange information about transatlantic passengers and airline manifests, with several would-be travellers refused entry to planes at US insistence.

It is also seen as a deterrent to business travel to the US and to tourism in general, which is down 10% in the US since 2000 while it is up 13% in Britain and 20% in France.

Up to four dead in UK civilian plane crash

LONDON, 7 Aug—A civilian plane crashed shortly after taking off from a British airport killing up to four people, an Isle of Wight Airport spokesman said on Sunday.

“We think there were four people on the plane,” Isle of Wight Airport manager Richard Steele said. The Piper Cherokee plane was travelling from Sandown, where the airport is located, to an unspecified destination in France, but crashed within a minute of taking off.

“The airport’s fire services responded rapidly, supported by the local fire brigade,” added Steele.

Sunday’s crash is being investigated by the Air Accidents Investigation Branch.—MNA/Reuters

A player rides a bike underwater during a recreational game at Dalian Sun Asia Ocean World in Dalian, Northeast China’s Liaoning Province, on 5 Aug, 2007.—INTERNET

Troops annihilate “terrorists” under cover of military vehicles during a rehearsal in Russia’s Chelyabinsk, on 6 Aug, 2007. The first joint exercise of the joint anti-terrorism military drill, dubbed as “Peace Mission 2007”, sponsored by the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and it was slated for 9-17 Aug, was carried out on 6 Aug, here. —XINHUA

A player rides a bike underwater during a recreational game at Dalian Sun Asia Ocean World in Dalian, Northeast China’s Liaoning Province, on 5 Aug, 2007.—INTERNET

EU threatens tit-for-tat visa limits on Americans after US tightens law

BRUSSELS, 8 Aug—The European Union is threatening to impose tit-for-tat entry restrictions on all US citizens travelling to Europe in response to new American laws designed to strengthen security at airports and prevent would-be terrorists entering the country.

US tourists can now travel to Europe without a visa, Franco Frattini, justice and home affairs commissioner, is drawing up plans for an EU-wide system of “electronic travel authorization” (ETA) similar to that written into US law by President George Bush late last week as part of new homeland security rules proposed by the 9/11 commission and endorsed by Congress. The ETA requires tourists from 14 mostly west European states, including Britain, benefiting from the US visa waiver programme to register online and give details of their passport, travel plans and planned social and business meetings at least two days before departure. A similar scheme operates in Australia. The new system has heightened fears about privacy protection as the EU and US already exchange information about transatlantic passengers and airline manifests, with several would-be travellers refused entry to planes at US insistence.

It is also seen as a deterrent to business travel to the US and to tourism in general, which is down 10% in the US since 2000 while it is up 13% in Britain and 20% in France.

Up to four dead in UK civilian plane crash

LONDON, 7 Aug—A civilian plane crashed shortly after taking off from a British airport killing up to four people, an Isle of Wight Airport spokesman said on Sunday.

“We think there were four people on the plane,” Isle of Wight Airport manager Richard Steele said. The Piper Cherokee plane was travelling from Sandown, where the airport is located, to an unspecified destination in France, but crashed within a minute of taking off.

“The airport’s fire services responded rapidly, supported by the local fire brigade,” added Steele.

Sunday’s crash is being investigated by the Air Accidents Investigation Branch.—MNA/Reuters

A player rides a bike underwater during a recreational game at Dalian Sun Asia Ocean World in Dalian, Northeast China’s Liaoning Province, on 5 Aug, 2007.—INTERNET

EU threatens tit-for-tat visa limits on Americans after US tightens law

BRUSSELS, 8 Aug—The European Union is threatening to impose tit-for-tat entry restrictions on all US citizens travelling to Europe in response to new American laws designed to strengthen security at airports and prevent would-be terrorists entering the country.

US tourists can now travel to Europe without a visa, Franco Frattini, justice and home affairs commissioner, is drawing up plans for an EU-wide system of “electronic travel authorization” (ETA) similar to that written into US law by President George Bush late last week as part of new homeland security rules proposed by the 9/11 commission and endorsed by Congress. The ETA requires tourists from 14 mostly west European states, including Britain, benefiting from the US visa waiver programme to register online and give details of their passport, travel plans and planned social and business meetings at least two days before departure. A similar scheme operates in Australia. The new system has heightened fears about privacy protection as the EU and US already exchange information about transatlantic passengers and airline manifests, with several would-be travellers refused entry to planes at US insistence.

It is also seen as a deterrent to business travel to the US and to tourism in general, which is down 10% in the US since 2000 while it is up 13% in Britain and 20% in France.

Up to four dead in UK civilian plane crash

LONDON, 7 Aug—A civilian plane crashed shortly after taking off from a British airport killing up to four people, an Isle of Wight Airport spokesman said on Sunday.

“We think there were four people on the plane,” Isle of Wight Airport manager Richard Steele said. The Piper Cherokee plane was travelling from Sandown, where the airport is located, to an unspecified destination in France, but crashed within a minute of taking off.

“The airport’s fire services responded rapidly, supported by the local fire brigade,” added Steele.

Sunday’s crash is being investigated by the Air Accidents Investigation Branch.—MNA/Reuters

A player rides a bike underwater during a recreational game at Dalian Sun Asia Ocean World in Dalian, Northeast China’s Liaoning Province, on 5 Aug, 2007.—INTERNET

EU threatens tit-for-tat visa limits on Americans after US tightens law

BRUSSELS, 8 Aug—The European Union is threatening to impose tit-for-tat entry restrictions on all US citizens travelling to Europe in response to new American laws designed to strengthen security at airports and prevent would-be terrorists entering the country.

US tourists can now travel to Europe without a visa, Franco Frattini, justice and home affairs commissioner, is drawing up plans for an EU-wide system of “electronic travel authorization” (ETA) similar to that written into US law by President George Bush late last week as part of new homeland security rules proposed by the 9/11 commission and endorsed by Congress. The ETA requires tourists from 14 mostly west European states, including Britain, benefiting from the US visa waiver programme to register online and give details of their passport, travel plans and planned social and business meetings at least two days before departure. A similar scheme operates in Australia. The new system has heightened fears about privacy protection as the EU and US already exchange information about transatlantic passengers and airline manifests, with several would-be travellers refused entry to planes at US insistence.

It is also seen as a deterrent to business travel to the US and to tourism in general, which is down 10% in the US since 2000 while it is up 13% in Britain and 20% in France.
**Fortune** claims Mexican tycoon as world’s richest man

**MEXICO CITY, 8 Aug** — Mexican telecom billionaire Carlos Slim has overtaken Microsoft founder Bill Gates as the world’s wealthiest man with riches of 59 billion US dollars, Fortune magazine said on Monday.

Fortune, which tracks the performance of the world’s top companies, said Slim has increased his net worth by 12 billion US dollars so far this year based on the market value of his companies listed on stock exchanges.

In an online profile of Slim, 67, Fortune said he had a fortune of 59 billion US dollars based on the value of his public holdings at the end of July.

“Gates, the Microsoft founder and perennial No. 1, had a net worth estimated to be at least 58 billion US dollars,” the magazine said.

Slim, the son of a Lebanese immigrant, owns Latin America’s largest cell phone company America Movil.

Fortune said Slim’s companies, ranging from a restaurant chain to a bank, made up a third of the Mexican stock market and his family’s holdings represented more than 5 percent of Mexico’s gross domestic product last year.

In July, a respected financial journalist announced that Slim had overtaken Gates as the world’s richest man but the magnate said he did not care.

“It’s water off a duck’s back to me,” the cigar-smoking Slim told foreign correspondents last week. “I don’t know if I’m No 1, No 20, or No 2,000. It doesn’t matter.”

Gates and billionaire Warren Buffett, who was the second-richest person in the world until Slim overtook him this year, have been giving more of their money to charity in recent years.

Slim also backs philanthropic causes and last week announced a 300-million-US-dollar plan to build 100 schools in Mexico, but says he does more good by creating wealth and jobs through his own companies.

---

**Girls outshine boys in Pakistan HSSC exams**

**DOHA, 7 Aug** — Sixty-nine per cent of students who appeared for the HSSC Part-I examinations of Federal Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education Islamabad, Pakistan were passed, the board said.

In the exams, girls outshined boys in all streams, the board said.

Of the total 196 students appeared for the examination from Pakistan Educational Centre (PEC) Doha, 135 students got through.

Maqaddas Jamil of Pre-Engineering Group topped at PEC by securing a total 498 marks in A1 Grade. While PEC registered a 74 per cent victory in the Pre-Medical Group, the Pre-Engineering Group witnessed 81 per cent victory.

The Science General Group and Pre-Medical Group, the Pre-Engineering Group, the Pre-Medical Group registered a 74 per cent victory.

In addition, the Pre-Medical Group, Aisha Safdar is the topper in PEC. Aisha Aslam stood second and Ayesha Ejaz third. Muhammad Umar and Afifa Muhammad Abdullah scored second and third highest marks in the Pre-Engineering Group.

---

**Five US soldiers killed in bomb attacks in Iraq**

**BAGHDAD, 8 Aug** — Five American soldiers were killed and 13 others wounded in roadside bomb explosions across Iraq on Monday, the US military said on Tuesday.

A soldier was killed and another wounded when an explosively-formed penetrator, or EFP, detonated near his vehicle during combat operations in western part of the capital, a military statement said.

EFP is a shaped charge explosive designed to penetrate armor effectively. They were first developed during the World War II.

Previously, US officials accused Iran of providing and training militants in Iraq with these deadly armoured-piercing roadside bombs, but Iran denied the accusations.

In an earlier statement, the military announced the killing of four of its soldiers and the wounding of 12 more in a single roadside bomb attack on Monday in Iraq’s restive province of Diyala, northeast of Baghdad.

---

**Taleban say Bush, Karzai responsible for fate of Koreans**

**GLAIZN (Afghanistan), 7 Aug** — Taleban insurgents said Afghan President Hamid Karzai and US President George W. Bush, meeting in Camp David on Monday, must agree to free jailed rebels or be responsible for the deaths of 21 Korean hostages.

The renewed Taleban threat comes as negotiations to free them remained deadlock with no agreement even on where to hold talks between South Korean diplomats and the kidnappers.

The Taleban have killed two of the hostages and have repeatedly threatened to kill the remaining 18 women and three men unless the Afghan Government agrees to free jailed rebels.

“Karzai has gone to America and it is possible he will take a strong decision with Bush to release the Koreans and agree to exchange prisoners because Bush and Karzai are responsible for securing the hostages,” Taleban spokesman Qari Mohammad Youssuf told Reuters by telephone from an unknown location.

Asked what the Taleban would do if there is no swap, Youssuf said: “The responsibility will lie with Karzai and Bush.”

Afghanistan has refused to release Taleban prisoners, saying that would encourage a kidnapping “industry”.

“We will not do anything that will encourage hostage-taking, that will encourage terrorism. But we will do everything else to have them released,” Karzai told CNN.

---

**Circus acrobat Henri Ayala of Columbia, stands on a chair on a high wire above a circus tent during an attempt to set a Guiness World record by balancing on a chair on a high wire out doors, York, northern England, on 7 Aug, 2007.**

**Xinhua**

---

**Five US soldiers killed in bomb attacks in Iraq**

**BAGHDAD, 8 Aug** — Five American soldiers were killed and 13 others wounded in roadside bomb explosions across Iraq on Monday, the US military said on Tuesday.

A soldier was killed and another wounded when an explosively-formed penetrator, or EFP, detonated near his vehicle during combat operations in western part of the capital, a military statement said.

EFP is a shaped charge explosive designed to penetrate armor effectively. They were first developed during the World War II.

Previously, US officials accused Iran of providing and training militants in Iraq with these deadly armoured-piercing roadside bombs, but Iran denied the accusations.

In an earlier statement, the military announced the killing of four of its soldiers and the wounding of 12 more in a single roadside bomb attack on Monday in Iraq’s restive province of Diyala, northeast of Baghdad.

**MNA/Xinhua**
**Economic News**

**UAE national airline records 20% growth in seat load**

ABU DHABI, 7 Aug—Etihad Airways, the national airline of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), registered a growth of 20 percent in its seat load factor in the first half of 2007 compared with the same period in 2006, local newspaper Gulf News reported on Monday.

Etihad’s planes were on average 65 percent full in the first six months of 2007, a figure often considered an industry benchmark for an airline’s break-even point, the report said.

The Abu Dhabi-based airline flew 90 percent full in economy, 76 percent full in business class and 49 percent full in first class in the first half of 2007.

The results are an important step forward for the four-year-old Etihad that is expected to become profitable in 2010, even as it makes significant investments in new aircraft and routes.

“We are flying at full speed at the moment. The majority of new aircraft are in and we can see the market is picking up,” the airline’s executive vice-president Geert Boven said. Etihad has been implementing an expansion plan to fly all routes on a daily basis, with 35 of its 44 destinations now available.

To continue its network growth plans, the airline signed in July a deal of 2.2 billion US dollars with Airbus for three A330 freighters, as well as four A340-600s and five A330 passenger aircraft.

**Angola to build over 40 modern hotels**

LUANDA, 7 Aug—More than 40 new four- and five-star hotels with modern facilities will be built and put into operation in Angola’s leading cities across the country before 2010, Angola’s official news agency ANGOP reported on Monday.

Eduardo Jonatao Tchingunji, Hotels and Tourism Minister, was quoted as saying that the initiative is part of efforts of the his ministry to collaborate in the solving of the nation’s poverty and unemployment problem.

The minister said “it is important to create conditions for adequate accommodations, showing our competence in this sector to meet the fast development of the national economy”.

He added that the government therefore will set up more tourism schools and hotel staff training schools to bring up more competent hotel staffs to provide first-rate accommodation service.

**Cyprus, Israel examine further cooperation in agriculture**

NICOSIA, 7 Aug—Cyprus Agriculture Minister Photis Photiou discussed on Monday with his Israeli counterpart potential cooperations in common agricultural strategy, trade and research programmes. Cyprus Agriculture, Natural Resources and the Environment Minister Photis Photiou, who is currently visiting Israel, told Cyprus News Agency that the Israeli side responded positively to his suggestion that Israel import Cypriot agricultural products when they stop cultivation of the land, a practice that takes place every seven years in Israel. Photiou said he examined the issue of water shortage in Cyprus with Shalom Simhon, Israeli Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development. He welcomed Israeli companies to take part in tenders for desalination plants in Cyprus.

**Russia expands key aircraft market in Cuba**

HAVANA, 7 Aug—Russia has delivered the first of three Tupolev medium-haul jet planes to Cuba, expanding one of its main export markets for commercial aircraft, the Cuban Communist Party newspaper Granma reported on Monday.

The cargo version of the TU-204 arrived in Havana on Sunday and two passenger jets will be delivered before the end of the year as Cuba upgrades its aging Soviet-era fleet, the paper said.

Last year, Cuba received three Il-96-300s long-haul passenger jets used on routes to Europe and Latin America by Cuban carrier Cubana de Aviacion.

A Russian diplomat said the sales to Cuba are one of the most important export contracts for Russia’s commercial aircraft industry since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991.

The deal was financed by Illyushin Finance Co. Cuba last year agreed to buy 100 million US dollars a year in civilian aircraft from Russia over the next seven years, including short-haul regional Antonov AN-148 planes.

**Nigeria to establish two more oil refineries**

ABUJA, 7 Aug—State-owned Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) said here on Monday it will establish two new refineries with capacities for 200,000 barrels daily each.

Levi Ajounuma, General Manager of Group Public Affairs Division under NNPC Group, said the two new refineries would be located in Nigeria’s port city of Okrika and Brass in oil-rich southeastern Niger Delta Area.

The NNPC said in its brief sent to the Ministry of Energy that the corporation would inaugurate the new refineries by 2011 or 2012. Ajounuma said the additional refineries would bring the total domestic refining capacity to 845,000 barrels per day.

The current demand of about 30 million litres of petrol daily required 600,000 barrels refining capacity daily, he said, adding the domestic refineries’ limited production capacity could not satisfy the country’s robust demand for product oil, such gasoline and diesel.

“Even if Warri and Kaduna refineries were to operate at 100 per cent capacity, there will still be need to import the shortfall to satisfy consumers,” Ajuonuma said.
Three coffees a day keep memory loss at bay for older women: Study

Toronto, 7 Aug — A daily dose of caffeine helps fight memory loss — at least for older women, a study released Tuesday says.

Researchers in France found women aged 65 and older who drank at least three cups of coffee or tea a day were able to retain memory and thinking skills better than women who drank less than one cup.

But men didn’t experience the same benefits.

The study published Tuesday in the medical journal of the American Academy of Neurology found the benefits for women increased with age.

Women over 80 who drank three or more cups of coffee or equivalent tea daily were 70 percent less likely to have a failing memory, the study says.

Caffeine consumption, however, was not found to prevent dementia.

Researchers tracked the cognitive abilities of 7,015 people over 65 years old — 4,197 women and 2,818 men — over four years. All subjects, who lived in France, were tested over the years for dementia and cognitive performance, such as memory, attention and orientation.

The researchers caution that further study is needed before they advise women to increase their daily dose of caffeine.

Other scientists agree that benefits need to be weighed against the risks of caffeine consumption, such as anxiety and increased heart rate.

Six miners trapped in collapsed Utah mine

Los Angeles, 7 Aug — A minor earthquake occurred in the US western state of Utah on Monday, causing a mine to collapse in which six miners were trapped.

Researchers in France found women aged 65 and older who drank at least three cups of coffee or tea a day were able to retain memory and thinking skills better than women who drank less than one cup.

But men didn’t experience the same benefits.

The study published Tuesday in the medical journal of the American Academy of Neurology found the benefits for women increased with age.

Women over 80 who drank three or more cups of coffee or equivalent tea daily were 70 percent less likely to have a failing memory, the study says.

Caffeine consumption, however, was not found to prevent dementia.

Researchers tracked the cognitive abilities of 7,015 people over 65 years old — 4,197 women and 2,818 men — over four years. All subjects, who lived in France, were tested over the years for dementia and cognitive performance, such as memory, attention and orientation.

The researchers caution that further study is needed before they advise women to increase their daily dose of caffeine.

Other scientists agree that benefits need to be weighed against the risks of caffeine consumption, such as anxiety and increased heart rate.

The mine was less than 20 miles (about 32 kilometres) from the epicentre of the 4.0 magnitude earthquake, authorities said.

The General mine reported a "cave-in" at 3:30 am local time, an hour after the earthquake, said the sheriff’s office at the Emery County where the quake took place.

"Rescue workers are on scene trying to locate six miners that are unaccounted for," said the sheriff's office.

Walter Arasbuz, the head of the University of Utah’s Seismograph Stations, said there was a clear link between the quake and the mine collapse, based on wave lengths.

A command centre was being set up in Huntington, the Emery County, about 15 miles (about 24 kilometres) from the mine, said Teresa Behunin, an accountant with Utah American Energy, which owns the mine rescue team with heavy equipment has been sent to the mine, about 140 miles (about 224 kilometres) south of Salt Lake City.

80 feared drowned in east India boat tragedy

New Delhi, 7 Aug — About 80 people are feared drowned after a boat capsized in Indian eastern state Bihar on Monday, according to the Hindu’s report on Tuesday.

The report said the boat, on its way to Samastipur District from Patna, the capital of Bihar, with 100 people, went down in the swollen Ganga river. Most of the people were labourers. At least 10 persons reportedly swam to safety. Rescue operations were underway to trace the others.

UN team in Iran for nuclear transparency talks

Teheran, 7 Aug — A technical team from the United Nations nuclear watchdog arrived in Teheran on Monday to discuss an “action plan” to give the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) more access to Iran’s nuclear facilities.

Iran’s offer of greater transparency aims to defuse Western suspicions that it is concealing plans to make atomic bombs behind a civilian nuclear programme, a charge Teheran denies. Having failed to convince world powers about its peaceful intentions, Teheran faces a possible third round of UN sanctions for not halting uranium enrichment, a process that could have both civilian and military applications.

The four-member IAEA team, headed by Michio Hosoya, will hold several days of talks with officials from Iran’s Atomic Energy Organization and by deputy head Mohammad Sareedi, the official IRNA news agency said. “The talks, due to be continued until Thursday, would focus on drawing up the guidelines for inspection of Natanz nuclear facilities in central Iran,” IRNA reported, citing an unnamed source.

Natanz is home to Iran’s nuclear enrichment work.

Lao President starts state visit to Cambodia

Pinom Penh, 7 Aug — Lao President Choummaly Sayasone arrived in Cambodia on Monday to pay a state visit from 6 to 8 August.

Choummaly and his senior delegation were invited to pay this visit by Cambodian King Noroom Sihamoni, according to a Press release from the Cambodian Foreign Ministry.

During this visit, Choummaly will meet with Cambodian King Sihamoni, Prime Minister Hun Sen, Senate President Chea Sim and National Assembly President Heng Samrin, it added.

Meanwhile, Thongloun Sisoulith, Lao Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, will lead a delegation to attend the 101th meeting of the Cambodia-Lao Joint Commission of Bilateral Cooperation scheduled from 8 to 10 August in Sihanoukville city of Cambodia, the Press release said.

The meeting aims at strengthening and expanding cooperation in all fields between the two countries, it said.

A woman visits an indoor ice sculpture exhibition in Wuhan, Central China’s Hubei Province, on 5 Aug, 2007. — Internet

The file photo of 2 Aug, 2007 shows tourists ride horses on Xilingol Grasslands, in north China’s Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region. —Xinhua

Nga Thong, a 23-year-old elephant from Ayutthaya Province, leaves after the rehearsal of the opening ceremony of the 24th Universiade Bangkok 2007 in Bangkok, capital of Thailand, on 6 Aug, 2007. —Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua
Lt-Gen Maung Bo attends monsoon paddy cultivation ceremony of Dawei District, physic nut growing ceremony in Launglon

Local farmers urged to extend cultivation of monsoon paddy for meeting target of 500,000 acres in Taninthayi Division

Nav Pyi Taw, 8 Aug — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence, together with Chairman of Taninthayi Division PDC Commander of Coastal Region Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw Oo and Col Than Soe of Dawei Station, attended the collective monsoon paddy cultivation of Dawei District in the paddy field near Kanaingda Village of Dawei Township yesterday.

Taninthayi Division Manager U Tin Maung Myint of Myanmar Agriculture Service reported on arrangements for growing of 36,000 acres of monsoon paddy.

Speaking on the occasion, Lt-Gen Maung Bo said that as Taninthayi Division produced 305.51 million baskets of paddy in 2006-07, with a 125.62 per cent of food sufficiency, he stressed the need to extend cultivation of monsoon paddy for meeting the target of 500,000 acres in the division.

As Hsinthwelat paddy strain yielded over 100 baskets of paddy per acre in Taninthayi Division, farmers in the whole division are to use such quality paddy strain in the rainy season. He added that agricultural Supervisory Committees at different levels are to supervise extended cultivation of edible oil crops this year. He said that companies and entrepreneurs are to plant oil palm for meeting the target of 500,000 acres.

Furthermore, he urged local farmers and horticulturists to grow physic nut with local farmers. In addition, technicians of the farm are to share technology on systematic nurturing of physic nut with local growers and social organizations. Lt-Gen Maung Bo urged officials to supervise cultivation of physic nut on a manageable scale at other perennial crop farms.

The commander, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and the commander of ward and village PDCs and other officials joined hands with local people in undertaking regional development tasks.

The ceremony was attended by Lt-Gen Maung Bo. Moreover, the commander, Major General, and the managing directors of the department and enterprises under the ministry, they frankly discussed energy matters.

Li-Gen Maung Bo of Ministry of Defence donates cash and provisions to a Sayadaw.—MNA

Energy Minister receives Bangladeshi Ambassador

Minister Brig-Gen Than Htay, the director-general and the managing directors of the department and enterprises under the ministry, they frankly discussed energy matters.

Sixteen members of Insein Township NLD quit

YANGON, 8 Aug.—Altogether 16 members of Insein Township National League for Democracy of Yangon Division including U Tin Win, U Than Htut, U Hla Oo, U Myo Naing, U Kyaw Win and U Aung Htay Oo on 23 July resigned from the party of their own volition, sending letters of resignation to the NLD Headquarter and local authorities concerned.

In their letters of resignation sent to Insein Township Multi-party Democracy General Election Subcommission, they said that they resigned from the party of their own accord as they no longer put trust in and supported it.

MNA
Kayah State has witnessed unprecedented progress among the states in the country. It is situated in the eastern part of the nation. And its area is 4530 square miles. Such national races as Kayah, Kayan, Mono, Kayaw, Yintale, Gekho Geba, etc reside in Kayah State together with Kachin, Kayin, Chin, Pa-O, Bamar, Mon, Rakine, Shan and Intha. With a population of over 300,000, the population density of Kayah State is over 70 per square mile.

Being a hilly region bordering with Shan plateau, Kayah State is between 2,950 feet and 6,000 feet above sea level. The current of most rivers that flow from north to south is strong as they have to pass hilly and uneven regions.

Prevalence of peace is the basic requirement of development. The Tatmadaw government extended olive branch to the national race armed groups to give up the armed struggle line and to actively take part in nation-building endeavours together with local people. This is the genuine goodwill of the government towards all the national people. This being the case, efforts are being made to bring about equitable and harmonious development across the nation.

With the prevalence of peace, unprecedented progress has been made in Kayah State. In 1988, Kayah State was unable to enjoy self-sufficiency in rice. In the time of the Tatmadaw government Kayah State has undergone a great change with a vast farmland facilitated with irrigation networks. Dawtacha Dam that benefits 1000 acres of farmland was built in Bawlakhe Township in 1997 and Loinanpha Embankment that benefits 2150 acres of farmland in Dimawhso Township in 2002. Moreover, steps have been taken to implement more river water pumping stations and to reclaim virgin and fallow land. As a result, the sown acreage in Kayah State has increased from 89,992 in 1988 to 276,106 in 2006.

In the meantime, efforts have been made for supply of irrigated water to farmlands. So, there were seven reservoirs, lakes and embankments in 1988 and the number increased to nine in 2006. There were 61,501 acres of monsoon paddy in 1988 and the number increased to 100,348 in 2006. And the per acre yield increased from 42.38 baskets in 1988 to over 60 in 2006. The sown acreage of gram has increased from 1,031 in 1988 to 41,480 in 2006 while that of maize has increased from 3,431 in 1988 to 17,467 in 2006. The sown acreage of groundnut has increased from 554 in 1988 to 4,762 in 2006 and that of mustard from 62 in 1988 to 4,762 in 2006. The sown acreage of sunflower has increased from 544 in 1988 to 3,694 in 2006. Likewise, there were 200 acres of watershed in 1988 and the number has increased to 3,085 in 2006. And there was no Thitseint (Bellaric myrobalan) plantation in 1988 but there were 300 acres of the plantation in 2006.

Agriculture, livestock breeding and forestry sectors are the backbones of the development of a country and the transportation sector should be implemented for the same purpose. Therefore, the Tatmadaw Government upgraded the transportation sector in Kayah State to bring about equitable development of the country.

Transport and communication facilities were inadequate in Kayah State before 1988. There were Aungban-Pinlaung-Moheywe-Loikaw Road, Toungoo-Leiktho-Yado-Loikaw Road and Loikaw-Hopong Road in Kayah State. Toungoo-Leiktho-Yado Road was not serviceable all the year round before 1988.

During the time of the Tatmadaw Government, the government upgraded roads in the state including Toungoo-Leiktho-Yado Road. In Kayah State, the 185-mile long road was constructed, Loikaw-Ponchaung-Shadaw Road, Toungoo-Mawchi-Loikaw Road, Bawlakhe-Ywathit-Suitpaung Road and Hpaungs-Maesaenan-Maes-Namnan Road were upgraded. Moreover, over 180-feet-long Htise Kha Bridge and Htoochaung Bridge are under construction.

Aungban-Loikaw Railroad linking Shan State and Kayah State was inaugurated on 27 March (Armed Forces Day), 1993. The railroad is 106.62 miles long with 25 railway stations on it.

Similarly, the Tatmadaw Government has also upgraded the communication sector of Kayah (See page 9)
Land and aquatic resources are used for the development of a country. Similarly, human resources should also be nurtured to efficiently exploit the natural resources.

The Government opened more basic education schools and appointed more teachers. Hence, the number of students increased. In addition, school enrolment rate and adult literacy rate increased in the State.

Thanks to the opening of an Arts and Science University in Loikaw that is one of the 24 special development regions, the local youth are able to pursue higher education, and the education sector of Kayah State will surely improve.

Although there were only 333 schools in the state in 1988, the number reached 388 in 2006. In 1988 there were no multi-media classrooms and e-learning centres but the schools across the state were installed with 21 multi-media classrooms and 17 e-learning centres in 2006. Likewise, the number of teachers was 1,987 in 2006, up from 1,259 in 1988. The number of students increased to 52,430 in 2006 although it was 29,916 in 1988. The school enrolment rate of kindergarten students was 53.26 per cent in 1988 but it was 95.92 per cent in 2006.

In the higher education sector also, although there was no university in the state in 1988, now an Arts and Science University has been opened in the state. With one e-learning centre, 40 teaching programmes, 140 faculty members and 2,939 university students, Kayah State is trying to develop human resources of the higher education sector.

According to the national education promotion programme, the technological college and the computer college in Loikaw have been upgraded into the universities and there are now about 400 basic education schools in Kayah State including 35 schools opened under the border area development programme.

As a result, socio-economic life of the Kayah national people has improved and the youth of the state are now in a position to enjoy learning opportunities though its education standard was low in the previous eras. Indeed, peace and stability and unity of Kayah State is fundamental for its development.

Therefore, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, also Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee, delivered an address at the opening of the main building of Loikaw University in Kayah State on 5 August 2007. In his address, he said:

“Kayah State complete with universities in which arts and science, engineering, architecture and computer science and even master’s degree courses are being conducted is a state where there was no university and college in 1988. Hence, the emergence of such splendid building facilitated with modern teaching and learning aids is of great significance.

“Only when local people are fit and healthy will they be able to carry out development tasks in their regions. And only when local youths are nurtured into intellectuals and intelligentsia will they be able to maintain the already-achieved development. With this concept, efforts are being made to create opportunities to pursue higher education in all parts of the nation and to fully provide health care services to the people of different regions.

“Faculty members are to nurture the students to become intellectuals and intelligentsia in their own region who will maintain and further develop fruits of peace and stability and unity that have been already achieved.”

The speech of the Secretary-1 not only highlighted the good political, economic and social foundations as well as prospects of Kayah State but also urged the local nationals to maintain and safeguard these already-achieved fruitful results.

With these sound political, economic and social foundations, Kayah State is serving as a force with a view to ensuring national solidarity of the future nation.

All in all, the development of Kayah State contributes towards achieving the national goal of building a peaceful, modern and developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation.

Translation: TS+AMS+ST

Myanma Alin + Kyemon: 8-8-2007
Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan receives Advisor Mr Dato Ainuddin Noordin of MEASAT Satellite Systems Sdn Bhd.— MNA

Yangon, 8 Aug — Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan received Mr Dato Ainuddin Noordin, Advisor to MEASAT Satellite Systems Sdn Bhd of Malaysia, at Myanmar Radio and Television on Pyay Road here today.

Also present at the call were Director-General of MRTV U Khin Maung Htay, Managing Director of Myanmar Motion Picture Enterprise U Aung Myo Myint and Chief Engineer U Tin Wam of MRTV.— MNA

Delegate group of State Service Personnel...

(from page 16)

made by Chairman of the NCC Work Committee U Aung Toe regarding already-adopted basic principles, amendments, additions and repeals of basic principles and detailed basic principles.

Afterwards, U Thein Aung of the Ministry of Sports read out the proposal of the delegate group of State Service Personnel regarding amendments, additions and repeals of basic principles and detailed basic principles. After that, U Soe Myint of Civil Service Selection and Training Board and U Thein Htay of Mandalay City Development Committee made suggestions concerning the proposal.

After seeking approvals of those present, the meeting chairman delivered the concluding remarks. — MNA

Minister on inspection tour of PyinOoLwin

Nay Pyi Taw, 7 Aug — Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw inspected construction of Teleport Building at Yadanabon Myothit project site in PyinOoLwin yesterday.

At the briefing hall, the officials reported to the minister on water supply tasks being carried out by Development Affairs Committee, construction of roads and supply of electric power by Electric Power Distribution Enterprise.

During his tour, the minister also inspected Anisakhan Auto-Exchange in PyinOoLwin. At the office, the official reported to the minister on installation of machines at the office.

While in PyinOoLwin, the minister also visited an auto-exchange project site in Padeytha Myothit.— MNA

Amarapura, Hinthada townships in flood

Nay Pyi Taw, 8 Aug — Recently the water level of Taungthaman Lake under U Pyin Bridge in Amarapura Township has been on the rise due to overflowing Ayeyawady and Dokhtawady rivers, reaching the floor of the bridge. Out of the eight rest houses on the bridge, Kyipinkhaung Rest House has been under water by six inches.

The campus of Yadanabon University in Taungthaman Village in Amarapura Township, the circular road of Taungthaman Lake and the tarred road near Myabayet Monastery have been under water by two feet to four feet. Hence, the university was temporarily closed.

Due to incessant rains, the river water at Hinthada, Zalun, Laymyethna, Myaung and Kyangin and Ingapu Townships in Ayeyawady Division rose to above the danger level, and responsible personnel and social organizations are taking preventative measures against floods. — MNA

Mayor inspects progress in preventive measures against DHF

Yangon, 8 Aug — Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Zaw and Vice-Major Col Maung Pa inspected mass activity on preventive measure against dengue fever jointly organized by Health Department and YCDC in South Oakkalapa Township this morning.

After hearing reports on outbreak of the disease and preventive and educative measures presented by officials at the office of Yangon East District Development Affairs Committee in the township, the mayor gave necessary instructions and attended to the needs.

Next, the mayor, the vice-major and officials looked into sanitation, spraying of insecticide and educative talks on prevention of DHF in No 11 Ward and encouraged the local people.

Similarly, mass activities on preventive measures against DHF were held in Htme, Thingangyun, Ahlon and Mingala Taungnyunt Townships. — MNA

Chairman of National Convention Convening Management Committee Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lan Maung presents cash to a delegate who is receiving treatment at No 1 Defence Services General Hospital (1000-bed). (News on Page 16)— MNA

Minister for Electric Power No 2 visits vehicle divisions

Yangon, 7 Aug — Minister for Electric Power No 2 Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, together with Yangon City Electric Power Supply Board Chairman Col Khin Maung Soe and officials, visited the vehicle divisions of YCEPSB and Myanmar Electric Power Enterprise yesterday.

Officials concerned reported on functions of the divisions. After giving necessary instructions, the minister inspected the departmental vehicles, tanks of fuel and pumps. — MNA

Information Minister receives guest

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan receives Advisor Mr Dato Ainuddin Noordin of MEASAT Satellite Systems Sdn Bhd.— MNA

Yangon, 8 Aug — Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan received Mr Dato Ainuddin Noordin, Advisor to MEASAT Satellite Systems Sdn Bhd of Malaysia, at Myanmar Radio and Television on Pyay Road here today.

Malaysian and Vietnamese wellwishers donated US$ 565 to Jivitadana Sangha Hospital through Joint Secretary-1 U Thein Aung of Administrative Board of the Hospital recently.— H
**“AP” says journalist missing in Iraq**

**NEW YORK, 8 Aug** — An Iraqi journalist working for the Associated Press has been missing for more than a week and witnesses and relatives say he has been kidnapped, the US news organization said on Tuesday.

Talal Mohammed, 40, worked as both a journalist and photographer for the AP in Baqouba and had been travelling to Baghdad, 35 miles (56 kilometres) southwest, when he disappeared on 28 July, the agency said in a statement.

He was with a friend aboard a bus when both were kidnapped at an illegal checkpoint near Baqouba, relatives of Mohammed told the AP. The relatives said the details of Mohammed’s capture came from his friend who was later released.

“It was unclear whether Mohammed was seized because he worked for a Western news agency or for some other reason,” the AP said. “Five AP employees have died violently in the Iraqi war, three of whom have been killed since December.”

“The AP did not release information on the kidnapping earlier because it had been in touch with US military authorities in the region in the hope of finding Mohammed.”

Mohammed, who is married with children, has worked with the AP since fall 2006.

Data from the Committee to Protect Journalists shows that 112 journalists have been killed in Iraq since the war began in March 2003, 90 of which were Iraqi. Another 40 media support workers have also died in the same period.

**Vietnam reports 200,000 cancer patients annually**

**HANOI, 8 Aug** — Vietnam has annually detected some 200,000 cancer cases in recent years, local newspaper Pioneer reported Tuesday.

The K Hospital in Hanoi capital alone, which specializes in cancer diagnosis and treatment, has annually treated 150,000 cancer patients, including 75,000 fatalities, over the past five years, the paper quoted the hospital’s director Nguyen Ba Duc as saying.

Many of the patients are aged over 40. The most common cancers include lung cancer, gastric cancer, bronchial tube cancer, and liver cancer. The infection and fatality are attributed mainly to the polluted environment and the late diagnosis of the disease.

**Vietnam battles rising floods, death toll hits 14**

**HANOI, 8 Aug** — Vietnamese rescuers are moving thousands of people to higher ground on Tuesday after a storm dumped heavy rain in the central region, killing 14 people, officials said.

Another 15 people were missing.

Most of the deaths were in the Central Highlands coffee-growing region where flash floods swept away people, houses, rice and corn crops at the weekend, the government said in its disaster report on Tuesday.

Many areas were cut off by floods that struck the region’s hilly terrain ahead of a storm that neared the central coast on Monday before weakening into a depression, the national weather bureau said.

The depression, with winds of up to 49 kilometres (30 miles) per hour at its centre, was 130 kilometres (80 miles) northeast of the central province of Quang Binh early on Tuesday and moving slowly north-west.

It dumped up to 500 millimetres (20 inches) of rain on the coffee belt and a swathe of coastal provinces where rivers rose to dangerous levels on Tuesday, the government said.

The coffee crop in the Central Highlands was not at risk and rains even helped green coffee cherries develop before the harvesting starts in late October, traders said.

**French “Spiderman” arrested atop Lisbon bridge**

**LISBON (Portugal), 8 Aug** — A French daredevil climber, who has scaled skyscrapers around the world, was arrested once again on Monday after reaching the top of a bridge overlooking Lisbon.

Alain Robert, 44, also known as the French Spiderman, used no ropes when he climbed the 190 metres (620 feet) over the Tagus River during rush hour on Monday. Robert said he had been arrested more than 100 times for climbing buildings.

“I’m still at the bridge with the police,” he told Reuters by phone after the climb. “It was a very difficult job because the wind was strong and the cables on the bridge kept on swinging.”

A helicopter hovered above Lisbon’s 25th of April bridge — similar to San Francisco’s Golden Gate bridge — filming Robert for a documentary while hundreds of commuters looked up.

Two policemen standing at the top of the pillar arrested Robert for trespassing. He will have to pay a fine of 120 euros (166 US dollars) before being released.

Robert first climbed a building at the age of 12 when he got locked out of his apartment and decided to mount the eight stories up to an open window.

He has since climbed more than 70 buildings around the world, including Chicago’s Sears Tower in 1999.

Robert was proclaimed 60-per-cent disabled after landing on his head from a 15-metre drop 25 years ago. Although he now suffers from epilepsy and vertigo, his confidence is unwavering.

**Vietnamese Premier pays a home visit to Qian Xuesen, the 96-year-old renowned scientist and founder of China’s space technology on 3 Aug, 2007.** — XINHUA

The poster for the “Edinburgh Jazz and Blues Festival 2007” is seen on the street in Edinburgh, Scotland, on 3 Aug, 2007. The Edinburgh Festivals in fact made up of a variety of festivals and events including the International Festival, The Fringe, Book Festival, Film Festival, Military Tattoo, Jazz festival and Edinburgh Mela. It is a generic term used to describe the cultural explosion which takes place in the city in August each year. — XINHUA

Workers collect palm seeds before sending them to a factory in Bahorok District in Langkat, North Sumatra Province, on 1 Aug, 2007. — INTERNET
Vodoz lamented the fact that in many armed conflicts it is civilians who suffer most.

He emphasized that “nothing can justify men and women, elderly people and children who have never borne arms — or combatants who have laid them down — being the primary victims in armed conflict or other situations of violence. Nothing can excuse murder, rape, looting or humiliating treatment”. He pointed out that legal standards must be converted into explicit rules and concrete action, and into orders and procedures that can be understood by all combatants.

According to ICRC, the workshop on international humanitarian law is intended for high-ranking officers — from lieutenant colonel to brigadier — with responsibility for training or for drawing up operating instructions, or involved in the conduct of military operations.

“This workshop represents a new step in the efforts the ICRC has been making for 30 years to help governments and armed forces fulfil their obligations under international humanitarian law,” ICRC said in the statement.

**Levees damaged by flood in Yellow River**

Jinan, 7 Aug.—Floodwaters caused by continuous rains have damaged levees on the Yellow River and altered the course of the river by more than 100 metres in east China, say flood control authorities.

The runoff in the section in Shandong Province was 3,600 cubic metres per second on Monday. Rocks had been flushed out from the bases of seven levees in Yuncheng County since Thursday and the levees had collapsed in places, said an official with the Shandong bureau of Yellow River Conservancy Committee.

Local officials and residents had repaired the damaged levees with the help of experts from the Yellow River flood control headquarters, the official said.—MNA/Xinhua

**Vietnam to enhance supervision of OTC market**

Hanoi, 7 Aug.—Vietnam will strengthen regulating the over-the-counter(OTC) market in order to reduce investor’s risks on the market, local newspaper Vietnam News reported on Monday.

A draft plan drawn up by the State Securities Commission is expected to be issued later this month. Under the plan, the country will apply a new trading system and create a more professional OTC market, and the Hanoi Securities Trading Centre will play a more active role in monitoring the market, said the paper.

According to the new rules, all public companies are required to deposit OTC shares with the Securities Depository Centre. Similarly, investors trading in OTC shares will also have to deposit their shares with depository members and place all buy and sell orders through accounts with securities companies. Then these orders will be transferred to the Hanoi stock exchange’s transaction system, allowing brokerages to gain access, find buyers and sellers, and make deals for investors. — MNA/Xinhua
Iran tests new home-made fighter jet

TEHRAN, 7 Aug — Iran on Sunday made a successful test flight of its second home-made fighter jet, state media reported.

According to the semi-official Fars news agency, the fighter jet, Azaraksh (Lightning), which was said to be "comparable" to the US F-5 fighter jet, made a successful flight in a ceremony in the central city of Isfahan.

Defence Minister Mostafa Mohammad Najjar and some other senior military officials attended the ceremony, it said.

"The domestically developed fighter plane is another example of the technological achievements of Iran," Isfahan governor Mortezza Bakhtiar was quoted as saying by the official IRNA news agency.

"When the United States is selling its arms to its allies in the region, our country's experts are making huge progress every day toward self-sufficiency in defence," he added.

Azaraksh is Iran's second homegrown fighter jet after Sa'egheh (Thunder), which has been described as a parallel to the US F-18 fighter jet.

Apple updates iMacs, iLife, iWork amid school buying season

BEIJING, 8 Aug — Apple Inc made a large-scale update of its iMac desktops, revised its iLife applications and added a new spreadsheet program to its iWork productivity suite, US media reported Wednesday.

In an event held at Apple's Cupertino, Calif, headquarters, CEO Steve Jobs introduced three new iMacs, two with 20-in LCD screens, and one with a 24-in monitor. The 20-in screens offer 1680-by-1050-pixel resolutions; the 24-in screen has a resolution of 1920 by 1200 pixels. The new iLife suite came with updated versions of all its applications. The iPhoto and iMovie programmes received the most extensive revisions, with iMovie rewritten completely, allowing users to make high-quality movies quicker and easier, according to CEO Steve Jobs. A number of tweaks were added to Numbers (a spreadsheet application), which allows users to view two spreadsheets on the same page and to print their charts more easily without breaks in the data.

Jobs also demonstrated new features in iPhoto, part of the revamped iLife '08 suite, with new links between both iPhoto and Apple's iPhone, and the company's Mac online service and other iLife '08 applications, including a refreshed iWeb and a totally redesigned iMovie. The new keyboard is more Mac Book-like and comes in an optional wireless version.

Air India to lease planes for international routes

NEW DELHI, 7 Aug — With shortage of aircraft affecting its services on long haul routes, Air India has charted out plans to induct leased planes to maintain its international schedules and launch new routes.

The current fleet was short by one aircraft and the airline was operating without a standby plane, severely affecting its punctuality and schedule integrity, official sources said.

To handle the situation, Air India has recently held negotiations to lease planes after it received offers for wet-lease of two Boeing 747-400s and two Airbus A340-300s. The two Boeing jets would replace similar planes to maintain the present daily Mumbai-Chicago flight, while the Airbus aircraft would be deployed on Dhaka-Kolkata-London and Mumbai-London routes.

Two A330s are also being leased for deployment on the new India-Hong Kong route from November one and on India-Mauritius Johanesburg route from 15 December.

Medical plane crashes in New Mexico, killing five aboard

WASHINGTON, 7 Aug — Five people aboard a medical plane were killed when the aircraft crashed overnight in New Mexico, US media reported Monday.

The victims included a 15-month-old girl who was being transported to a hospital, her mother, the pilot, a nurse and a paramedic.

Wreckage of the plane were found on Monday on a mountaneous area, and the cause of the accident was not known immediately.

The twin-engine turbo prop plane, which was owned by Las Cruces-area Southwest Medivac, was flying to the University of New Mexico Hospital in Albuquerque, New Mexico on Sunday night when it crashed.

Clashes flare up in northern Lebanese camp

BEIRUT, 7 Aug — The Lebanese Army on Monday stepped up its fighting against Islamist militants in a Palestinian refugee camp, using heavy mortar fire in attacks on their locations, the official National News Agency reported.

According to the report, the Army targeted a Fatah al-Islam location in the so-called security square of the Nahr al-Bared camp this morning, causing bloody battles.

Army units also attacked militant groups near Naji Al-Ali compound and other areas of the camp.

Reports also indicated that the militants on Sunday night fired sniper fire and mortar rounds on Army units in response to Army attacks.

The Lebanese Army have been battling with the militants of Fatah al-Islam in the Nahr al-Bared camp since 20 May. The bloodiest internal violence since the Lebanese 1975-1990 civil war has killed more than 200 people.

A dead cow is dropped into a truck in a farm in Normandy, near Guildford, south east England on 7 Aug, 2007. A second herd of cattle in southern Britain has contracted foot and mouth disease, the government said on Tuesday, raising fears that the highly damaging animal virus is spreading.

—INTERNET
**SPORTS**

China’s two famous athletes—Yao Ming (L) and Liu Xiang—shake hands during a one-year countdown ceremony of the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing, on 8 Aug, 2007. —INTERNET

Poland needs more time to build Euro 2012 stadiums

WARSAW, 8 Aug — Poland wants to set a new deadline for the construction of their Euro 2012 stadiums, Sports Minister Elzbieta Jakubiak said on Monday.

Since Poland won the right in April to co-host the event with Ukraine, early euphoria has been replaced by growing concerns it may not prepare new grounds and upgrade inadequate infrastructure in time.

European soccer’s governing body UEFA says the tournament co-hosts must build the necessary stadiums by mid-2010.

“We need additional time and the year 2011 will be the most suitable,” Jakubiak told a news conference.

The surprising choice of Poland and Ukraine as co-hosts ahead of Italy was originally touted by the Polish Government as an opportunity to put the country on the international soccer map. — MNA/Reuters

Ochoa wins Women’s British Open

ST ANDREWS (Scotland), 7 Aug — Mexico’s world number one Lorena Ochoa claimed her first major title with a final round 74 at the Women’s British Open on Sunday.

The 25-year-old from Guadalajara, who had led from round one, finished on five under par, four shots ahead of Sweden’s Maria Hyjorth and South Korea’s Lee Je-Youn.

They both shot 71 to share second place with American Reilley Rankin in fourth on level par after also shooting 71.

Ochoa, who started the day six shots ahead, never looked like losing her lead. She had three birdies in the first nine holes and dropped four shots, three on the back nine.

The only minor hiccup was at the par-five 17th where Ochoa hit her second into an almost unplayable lie in a fairways bunker and had to hit out sideways. However, she salvaged a bogey six.

Sorenstam, starting the round tied for third and seven off the lead, was expected to be the main threat but she opened with two birdies in the first six holes.

But the 2003 champion hit a drive out of bounds at the 17th and could only post a 76 for a share of 16th.

Olympic Champion Manaudou sacked by Turin club

PARIS, 7 Aug — World and Olympic champion Laure Manaudou has been sacked by the Italian club she joined three months ago.

Marco Durante, president of Turin club LaPresse Nuoto, said she was fired because of her disrespectful behaviour towards coach Paolo Penso and towards her national team. “I called Laure this morning to tell her my decision,” Durante said in a statement.

“If she apologizes to Paolo Penso and to the French national team after returning from her holidays, she will be able to re-join the team. But there is only one chance in a million that Laure will understand (what she has done) and turn back.”

The Frenchwoman split with coach Philippe Lucas in May and moved her training base to Italy, saying she wanted a new challenge and wished to be nearer her boyfriend, Italian swimmer Luca Marin.

Manaudou is the Olympic 400 metres freestyle champion. She also won gold in the world championships 200 and 400 freestyle.

Penso questioned her dedication to training in an interview with L’Equipe on Monday. — MNA/Reuters

Andy Roddick of the US poses for photographers with the winner’s trophy after defeating compatriot John Isner in the final of the Legg Mason Tennis Classic at the William HG FitzGerald Tennis Centre in Washington. Roddick won 6-4, 7-6 (7/4) to end a fairy-tale run by the unheralded 416th-ranked American newcomer. — INTERNET

Platini warns English soccer chiefs over greedy owners

LONDON, 7 Aug — English soccer authorities should not allow foreign businessmen interested only in making “a quick buck” to take over their clubs, UEFA president Michel Platini said in a television interview to be broadcast on Tuesday.

“I would be worried if I were English because of all the foreign ownership,” the head of European soccer’s governing body said in the interview to be aired on British satellite channel Sky News.

“They could be rich people coming to help English football and develop it, but they may just want to make a quick buck. I fear your clubs will lose identity. If it was in France, I would fight it.”

Last month, Manchester City became the latest of several foreign-owned English Premier League clubs when former Thai prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra took over. — MNA/Reuters

FIFA says only 18 African nations have safe stadiums

JOHANNESBURG, 7 Aug — Only 18 African countries visited by FIFA have soccer stadiums safe enough to allow them to host World Cup qualifiers, the world governing body said on Monday.

FIFA officials completed an inspection of 50 of the continent’s 53 football playing nations in June. They did not visit Kenya, Somalia or World Cup hosts South Africa.

The inspections follow FIFA’s decision last year to insist on better safety standards at international matches, particularly World Cup qualifiers.

Messi’s golden goal boots fetch 4,000 euros at auction

MADRID, 7 Aug — A signed pair of Lionel Messi’s boots has been sold for 4,000 euros (5,514 US dollars) at an auction in Beijing on Barcelona’s tour of Asia, Spanish media reported on Sunday.

They were the boots the Argentina forward wore when he scored a goal for Barcelona similar to Diego Maradona’s famous solo effort against England in the 1986 World Cup, in the King’s Cup semi-final first leg against Getafe in April.

Other items of Barca memorabilia auctioned included the shirt France striker Thierry Henry wore at his official presentation in June and a cutting of Brazil forward Ronaldinho’s hair.

Around 1.5 million euros were raised for disabled children in China. — MNA/Reuters

Olympic 400 metres champion Jeremy Wariner runs a personal best of 43.50 seconds at the DN Gala meeting in Stockholm on Tuesday to equal fellow-American Quincy Watts as the third fastest man in the event’s history. —INTERNET

Johansson ends 10-year wait with victory in Russia

NAKHODSO (Russia), 7 Aug — Sweden’s Per-Ulrik Johansson shot a final round five-under 67 to cruise to a six-stroke triumph at the rain-affected Russian Open on Sunday and clinch his first victory in a decade.

The 40-year-old, playing in only his third European Tour event this year, made five birdies to set a record-low score for the tournament of 23-under-par 265 to better the mark of last year’s winner Alejandro Canizares of Spain by a stroke.

Dutchman Robert-Jan Derksen, who started the day four strokes behind Johansson, bogeyed the ninth after a flawless round on Saturday to finish second with a three-under 69 and a 271 total. The former Ryder Cup player, whose last victory came in 1997 when he successfully defended the European Open in Ireland, also boosted his bank account by 244,250 euros (336,710 US dollars) after earning just over 4,000 euros in 2007 before this event. — MNA/Reuters

Ferguson says Tevez to make United debut on Wednesday

LONDON, 7 Aug — Argentine striker Carlos Tevez will make his Manchester United debut on Wednesday and could feature against Reading in the Premier League next weekend, manager Alex Ferguson said on Sunday.

Ferguson expressed excitement at the arrival of Tevez, who is set to complete a move to Old Trafford from West Ham United this week following a prolonged transfer saga which centred on who owned the striker. On Friday West Ham reached a two-million-pound (4.07-million-US-dollar) settlement with Tevez’ representatives, paving the way for the player to join the Premier League champions.

“I think the boy’s got something exceptional in him,” the United manager said. “We experienced it in the last game against him at Old Trafford when he was a real handful to us.” — MNA/Reuters

Japan’s golden goal boots fetch 4,000 euros at auction

MADRID, 7 Aug — A signed pair of Lionel Messi’s boots has been sold for 4,000 euros (5,514 US dollars) at an auction in Beijing on Barcelona’s tour of Asia, Spanish media reported on Sunday.

They were the boots the Argentina forward wore when he scored a goal for Barcelona similar to Diego Maradona’s famous solo effort against England in the 1986 World Cup, in the King’s Cup semi-final first leg against Getafe in April.

Other items of Barca memorabilia auctioned included the shirt France striker Thierry Henry wore at his official presentation in June and a cutting of Brazil forward Ronaldinho’s hair.

Around 1.5 million euros were raised for disabled children in China. — MNA/Reuters

INTERNET

INTERNET

INTERNET
US troop level in Iraq reaches record high

WASHINGTON, 8 Aug — The United States has more troops in Iraq now than at any previous time in the war, with around 162,000 members of the military in the country, the Pentagon said on Tuesday.

He said the rise above 160,000 was not due to any effort to increase the surge, which is highly controversial in Washington, Democrats and some members of Bush's Republican Party have argued it is time to pull troops out of Iraq.

“There is no change to the level of effort and the combat power that we are projecting into Iraq,” Whitman said.

Storms flood farms and homes in northern Greece

ATHENS, 8 Aug — Summer storms flooded farms and village homes in northern Greece on Monday, destroying crops and forcing the evacuation of a camp site, authorities said.

Heavy rains hit northern Greece overnight, in the middle of an unusually hot summer, causing floods and power cuts in the city of Thessaloniki and other towns in the region.

“We have intense storms in the north... and they are likely to continue for several hours,” Greek weather service director Dimitris Ziaopoulos told state TV.

He said the storms could spread to the rest of the country and hit the Aegean islands in the middle of the tourist season.

About 50 houses and shops in the northeastern town of Komotini have been destroyed by the floods. The fire brigade received nearly 200 emergency calls from Komotini and Thessaloniki residents to pump water out of buildings.

TV showed cars trapped in muddy streets and trees uprooted by strong winds. Hundreds of hectares of cotton and tobacco crops have been destroyed.

Weather Bulletin

Wednesday, 8 August, 2007

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thunder showers have been isolated in Sagaing Division and Kayah State, scattered in Kachin, Shan and Chin States, Mandalay and Magway Divisions, fairly widespread in Bago and Yangon Divisions and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions with locally heavyfall in Rakhine and Mon States, isolated heavy falls in Mandalay and Magway Divisions. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Nay Pyi Taw (0.12) inch, Thandwe (0.45) inches, Sittwe (0.87) inches, Kyaukpyu (1.37) inches, Mudon (4.31) inches, Maingtaw (4.22) inches, Mawlamyine (3.30) inches, Dawei (2.84) inches, Hpa-an (2.48) inches, Kayan (1.93) inches, Thayawady (1.89) inches, Pyinuma (1.73) inches and Mibin (1.57) inches.

Maximum temperature on 7-8-2007 was 84°F. Minimum temperature on 8-8-2007 was 71°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 8-8-2007 was 100%. Total sunshine hours on 7-8-2007 was (0.1) hour approx.

Rainfall on 8-8-2007 was (1.57) inches at Mibin, (1.69) inches at Kabu-Aye and (1.73) inches at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-8-2007 was (5.46) inches at Mibin, (8.86) inches at Kabu-Aye and (90.04) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (15) mph from Southwest at (09:00) hr MST on 8-8-2007.

Bay inference: Monsoon is strong in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and moderate elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal. Forecast valid until evening of 9-8-2007: Rain will be isolated over Sagaing Division, scattered in Chin and Kayah States, Mandalay and Magway Divisions, fairly widespread in Kachin State, upper Sagaing, Bago and Ayeyawady Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with likelihood of isolated heavyfall in Rakhine State. Degree of certainty is (100%). State of the sea: Squalls with moderate to rough sea are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) to (40) mph.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 9-8-2007: Isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (80%). Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 9-9-2007: Some rain. Degree of certainty is (100%). Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 9-8-2007: Isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (60%).
Kayah State on the right track of development

Kayah State complete with universities in which arts and science, engineering, architecture and computer science and even master’s degree courses are being conducted is a state where there was no university and college in 1988. Hence, the emergence of such splendid building facilitated with modern teaching and learning aids is of great significance.

Pages 8+9

KETU NILA