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Sunday, 19 August, 2007

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

Four political objectives
* Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, 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

Lt-Gen Myint Swe inspects manufacturing of agricultural equipment

Innovative measures to be taken in manufacturing agricultural equipment to contribute to development of agricultural sector of State, people

Yangon, 18 Aug — Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence inspected tasks of Agricultural Equipment Factories of the Agricultural Mechanization Department under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, here, this morning.

At the agricultural machinery factories region in Kyakkalo in Mingaladon Township, Lt-Gen Myint Swe, together with Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win, senior military officers and officials, heard reports on tasks of agricultural mechanization factories in Yangon, locations and areas of No 1 Agricultural Machinery Assembling Workshop, No 1 Main Workshop, No 3 and No 4 Agricultural Equipment Factories in Mingaladon Township and No 1 Agricultural Equipment Factory in Mayangon Township, strength of workers, use of machinery and implementation of the plan for 2007-08 presented by Director-General U Win Maw of AMD.

After attending to the needs, Lt-Gen Myint Swe said that the government is trying to transform the agricultural task from applying the manual to the mechanizing system in accord with the one of four economic objectives — Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well. He stressed the need to manufacture quality products such as Leyar-16 power-tillers and Leyar-22 power-tillers, harvesters, threshers and dryers, modern paddy millers, pumps and other agricultural equipment. He added that innovative measures are to be taken in manufacturing agricultural equipment to contribute toward development of the agriculture sector of the State and the people.

At No 4 Agricultural Equipment Factory, Lt-Gen Myint Swe inspected iron casting and manufacturing of shaft, gear and other equipment and gave necessary instructions. (See page 9)

Agricultural equipment factories of the Agricultural Mechanization Department have manufactured 580 Leyar-22 power-tillers against the target of 1,500 in 2007-08.

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

**Sunday, 19 August, 2007**

**Literati to serve the national interest**

Literature is a cultural pillar of every race. Throughout the Myanmar history, literati have opportunities to preserve the heritage of Myanmar literature and they are to continue to preserve the national heritage from generation to generation. Concerted efforts are to be made for flourishing and development of Myanmar literature.

The government is giving encouragement to the progress of national literature and fulfilling the requirements for flourishing of the literary world in every aspect while placing emphasis on power and significance of invaluable literature. Every year outstanding literati and their works are selected and literary awards are presented to them.

Literati have to make efforts for the people to gain knowledge and to widen the scope of knowledge of the people through their literature without losing the sight of true international situation. The literati are responsible for keeping the national outlook and spirit dynamic.

Some big nations are trying to inject administrative pattern and culture and customs they desire into Myanmar. Therefore, the literati are to produce literature that keeps national spirit alive and dynamic forever.

It is necessary for the literati to make continued endeavours for producing the fine works that serve the national interest.

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**15 members of Mawlamyinegyun Township NLD resign**

**Yangon, 18 Aug** — A total of 15 members including U Khin Maung Aye, U Myint Thaung, U Mya Win, U Maung Htwe, U Win Naing and U Lun resigned from Mawlamyinegyun Township National League for Democracy of Ayeyawady Division on their own accord on 10 August and they sent letters of resignations to the NLD (Headquarters) and local authorities.

In their letters sent to Ayeyawady Division Multi-party Democracy General Election Subcommission, they said that they no longer accepted acts of the NLD and wished to stand as members of the party. That is why they resigned from the party of their own volition, they said.

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**Members of committees and boards under Ministry of Information honoured**

**Experts to place emphasis on upgrading literary, music and motion picture works to have better standards**

**Yangon, 18 Aug** — Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan attended the ceremony to honour those who participated in the committees for implementation of the aims of the Ministry of Information, at the Studio (A) of Myanmar Radio and Television on Pyay Road, here, this morning.

Speaking on the occasion, the minister said that the purpose of honouring the members of the boards and committees concerning literary, motion picture and music sectors is to appreciate them for their efforts in implementing the aims of the ministry with the national outlook. In addition to the main duties and functions, the Ministry of Information is performing the tasks of the National Literature Award Scrutinizing Committee, the Sarpay Beikman Manuscripts Scrutinizing Committee, the Pakokku U Ohn Pe Literature Award Scrutinizing Committee, the Myanmar Motion Picture Promotion and Scrutinizing Board, the Motion Picture Censor Board, the Video Censor Board, the Myanmar Radio and Television classical song scrutinizing committee, the modern song scrutinizing committee, the Myanmar Maha Gita scrutinizing committee. State service personnel, advisers and experts are included in these committees.

He continued to say that the experts have much experiences in their respective fields. Despite being old, they tried hard in discharging their duties assigned by the State to scrutinize the works without bias. At present, it is known to all that foreign media are making slanderous accusations against the government through the literature and broadcasting units by using various ways and means. Hence, the scholars are to rebut these accusations through literature.

The minister also said that the experts are to place emphasis on upgrading literary, music and motion picture works to have better standards. With a view to ensuring development of Myanmar motion picture, the motion picture course is being conducted to the students at University of Culture. In addition, modern machinery have been supplied to the motion picture industry. Furthermore, it is necessary to take innovative measure in the music field. Arrangements are being made for conducting the media course at universities.

If the persons in the literary, music and motion picture communities are to join hands with the government to serve the national interest, although they have different views and opinions, remarkable progress can be witnessed in the sectors. Later, the minister gave instructions on scrutinizing of literary awards and functions of the motion picture, music and video censor boards.

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presented cash rewards to members of the National Literary Award Scrutinizing Committee for 2006-07 through Chairman of the Committee Managing Director U Soe Win of News and Periodicals Enterprise; to members of the Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award Scrutinizing Committee for 2006-07 through Chairman U Myint Thein; to members of the Pakokku U Ohn Pe Literary Award Scrutinizing Committee for 2007-2010 through Chairman U Myo Thant (Maung Hsu Shin); to members of the Myanmar Motion Picture Promotion and Scrutinizing Board for 2005, the Motion Picture Censor Board for 2006 and the Video Censor Board through Daw Po Po Kyi; to members of the Myanmar Radio and Television classical song scrutinizing committee, the modern song scrutinizing committee and the Myanmar Maha Gita scrutinizing committee through Chairman of Myanmar Music Asayan U Maung Maung Latt (Naung).

On behalf of the experts, members of Myanmar Historical Commission Dr Khin Maung Nyunt expressed gratitude. After the ceremony, the minister cordially greeted the experts.
Poll shows most Californians want US out of Iraq war

Los Angeles, 17 Aug — Voters in California want US lawmakers to help end the Iraq war, with nearly 60 per cent of them saying Congress should set a deadline for US troops’ withdrawal by spring, according to a public opinion poll released Wednesday.

The poll also found that President George W Bush is losing support among Republicans in the Golden State: 40 per cent of California Republicans now favour pulling out some or all troops from Iraq and 30 per cent want the Democratic-led Congress to pass legislation for that purpose.

Meanwhile, Bush’s approval ratings in California have stayed at rock bottom, with 26 per cent of voters approving of his job performance, compared with 65 per cent who disapprove. His rating was also 26 per cent in March, when the last similar poll conducted.

Only former president Richard Nixon dipped to lower levels — a 24-per-cent approval rating — and that was at the height of the Watergate scandal, according to Mark DiCamillo, director of the Field Poll, California’s independent public opinion service.

“This is the lowest approval rating for an extended period of time of any US president” in California, DiCamillo said.

“That rating for Nixon was just for one moment in time, and then he resigned.” — MNA/Xinhua

Contaminated milk discovered in western France

Paris, 17 Aug — A dairy located near Redon, western France, has discovered milk that is contaminated with dioxin, local officials, who are handling the matter, said on Thursday.

This is the second dairy in the region to report a case of contaminated milk. The first case, in which milk was found to contain higher levels of dioxin than stipulated by European standards for foodstuffs, was reported in another regional dairy at the end of July.

The contaminated milk involved in the latest case was also delivered from farms around the same region where the first one was reported, according to the same source.

Two other dairies operating in the region have also conducted tests on several milk samples and the results are set to be released shortly.

The conclusions of the investigations, which were conducted to determine the source of the contamination, were not comprehensive. — MNA/Xinhua

Men stand at the site of a suicide bomb attack in village of Kahtaniya, one of two villages struck on Tuesday by garbage trucks packed with explosives, west of Mosul, northwest of Baghdad on 16 Aug, 2007. — INTERNET

UK security worker shot dead in Afghanistan

London, 17 Aug — A British security worker has been shot dead in Afghanistan Wednesday, according to the British Foreign Office.

The Foreign Office confirmed that the shooting happened in a residential area in the east of Afghan capital Kabul about a mile from British Embassy.

The victim, named Richard Adamson, was the senior manager of the British security company ArmorGroup, which since 2003 provides protection to personnel in Afghanistan working for the British Embassy and organizations such as the Department For International Development, HM Customs and Revenue and the British Council. Two Afghans from the ArmorGroup were suspected of the killing and had been arrested, according to Afghanistan Interior Ministry.

The next of kin of the victim had been informed, a spokesman for ArmorGroup said. The shooting came on the same day as a bomb near Kabul left dead three German police officers who were protecting the German Embassy. — MNA/Xinhua

Four million US teens drenched in drug, alcohol culture

BEIJING, 17 Aug — Thirty-one percent of high school students in US — more than 4 million — see drug dealing, illegal drug use or students high or drunk at least once a week on their school grounds, said a survey quoted by media reports on Friday.

Nine percent of middle school students, or more than 1 million, at least once a week see classmates engaging in drug-related activity at school, the survey found.

The results also show that since 2002, the proportion of students who attend schools where drugs are used, kept or sold has soared 39 percent for high school students and 63 percent for those in middle school.

From 2006 to 2007, the proportion jumped 20 percent for high school students and 35 percent for middle school students, according to the survey.

Joseph Califano, chairman of the National Centre on Addiction and Substance Abuse (CASA) at Columbia University in US warned that too many US schools have become open drug bazaars for teens. — Internet

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Three undersea quakes strike Indonesia, no damage reported

JAKARTA, 17 Aug — Three undersea earthquakes struck western and eastern Indonesia on Friday, but there were no reports of casualties or damage, the country’s meteorological agency said.

There were no tsunami warnings issued. The first quake struck overnight at 0126 a.m. (1826 GMT on Thursday) south of a strait between the islands of Java and Sumatra, with its epicentre about 275 kilometres (170 miles) southeast of the capital Jakarta.

The Indonesian agency said the quake measured 5.9 on the Richter Scale, while the US Geological Survey said on its website the quake was magnitude 5. The other two quakes struck about eight hours later in the Banda Sea in the far east of Indonesia.

Former US Marine charged with killing Iraqi prisoners

LOS ANGELES, 17 Aug — The US attorney in Los Angeles has filed charges against a former Marine sergeant for his alleged role in the killing of eight unarmed Iraqi prisoners, it was reported on Thursday.

The defendant, who conducted the killing during a November 2004 battle in Falloujah, Iraq, is expected to appear in court today, according to the Los Angeles Times.

Jose Nazario, a former sergeant, is being charged in civilian court because he is no longer a Marine.

Naval Criminal Investigative Service agents are examining allegations against other members of Nazario’s squad, who are still in the Marine Corps, but referred Nazario’s case to the US attorney, sources were quoted as saying.

The investigation involves the same company — Kilo Company, 3rd Battalion, 1st Regiment — that is the focus of the worst alleged atrocity in Iraq, the killing of 24 civilians in Haditha on 19 November, 2005, said the paper. Nazario enlisted in the Marines in September 1997 and left as a sergeant in October 2005.

Magnitude 6.7 quake jolts Solomon Islands

SINGAPORE, 17 Aug — A magnitude 6.7 quake struck the Solomon Islands to the northeast of Australia on Thursday, the US Geological Survey said on its website.

The USGS, monitored in Singapore, said the quake’s epicentre was about two kilometres (about one mile) under the sea and occurred 75 kilometres (45 miles) west-southwest of Honiara, the capital of the Solomon Islands. There were no immediate reports of damage and the Hawaii-based Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre said in a statement on its website that a destructive Pacific-wide tsunami was not expected.

Three soldiers injured in Thai southern bomb attack

BANGKOK, 17 Aug — Three soldiers were injured when insurgents detonated a bomb on a road in Thailand’s southern province of Narathiwat Thursday morning, local police said.

The bomb exploded on the Rusoh-Samakkhi Road in Rusoh District while around 10 soldiers were patrolling the road on foot.

The three soldiers were severely injured and have been rushed to a nearby hospital.

Thailand’s three southernmost provinces — Narathiwat, Yala and Pattani — have been troubled with insurgency-related violence which has claimed more than 2,300 lives since it resumed in early 2004.

Lightning kills 306 Chinese in three weeks

BEIJING, 17 Aug — Lightning strikes killed 306 Chinese from 25 June to 16 August, the China Meteorological Administration (CMA) announced on Thursday.

So far this year, 499 Chinese have been killed by lightning, 199 more than the same period last year, said the CMA.

China was more frequently hit by extreme weather conditions this year, said CMA head Zheng Guoguang.

Extreme weather was usually concentrated in summer and autumn, especially in July and August, he said, adding it was hard to forecast.

The meteorological disasters this year were of “various types, wide reaching, scattered and very intense”, he said and pointed out that global warming increased the possibility of extreme weather.

Zhe described China’s Jiangxi Province suffered most from lightning, which had killed 116 people in the province this year.

Research shows that all the victims were rural residents and 79 per cent were working in fields where they were killed.

Indonesian teenager dies of bird flu

JAKARTA, 17 Aug — A 17-year-old Indonesian girl has died of bird flu, taking the country’s death toll from the virus to 83, a Health Ministry official said on Thursday.

Her death comes days after a 29-year-old woman living on Bali died of the disease, becoming the resort island’s first known human fatality from the H5N1 virus.

The 17-year-old maid from Tangerang west of Jakarta died on Tuesday after falling ill with high fever last week, Joko Suyono of the ministry’s bird flu centre said by telephone.

The most common way for humans to become infected with the H5N1 virus is through contact with sick fowl, but officials were still investigating how she contracted the disease.
New Zealand to invest $12m in China to expand trade

BEIJING, 17 Aug — New Zealand Trade and Enterprise (NZTE) is to invest $12 million US dollars in China to boost trade and promote its businesses.

Rod MacKenzie, group managing director of North Asia with NZTE, said the investment would be used to develop a New Zealand concept centre in Shanghai.

The Centre would chiefly provide information on New Zealand, such as travel, fashion, food and lifestyles. Meanwhile, New Zealand, will open five new business offices in China in four years.

The project served as a strategic plan for identifying key trade opportunities in China, especially during the 2010 Shanghai World Expo, said MacKenzie. Locations of the five offices were yet to be decided, but the NZTE said that it had researched markets and trade opportunities in Wuhan, Dalian, Shenzhen, Qingdao and Chengdu.

New Zealand would seek new export opportunities in China in fields such as food, beverage, wood and agricultural technologies. Bilateral trade topped 5.11 billion US dollars in 2006, said MacKenzie.

New Zealand’s exports to China include dairy products, eggs, honey, wood, wool, pulp, and seafood while imports from China are chiefly electronics, furniture, toys, steel products and textiles.

Putin pledges $2b to Kyrgyzstan

BISHKEK, 17 Aug — Russia will invest two billion US dollars in former Soviet Kyrgyzstan, Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Wednesday, after meeting his Kyrgyz counterpart ahead of a regional summit.

Central Asia hosts huge supplies of untapped energy resources and the West, Russia, China and Iran have been eying ways of developing them and transporting them to world markets. Kyrgyzstan also hosts both a Russian and a US air base.

BMW sedan performs worst in crash test

DETROIT, 16 Aug — The 2008 BMW 5 Series was the worst performer in new side-impact crash tests of luxury sedans by the insurance industry.

The Acura RL, Kia Amanti and Volvo S80 all earned the highest safety rating from the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, according to results released Thursday. The Cadillac STS and Mercedes E-Class earned the second-highest rating.

The tests were designed to show what would happen if a truck or sport utility vehicle hit the side of the sedan at 31 mph, the speed of a serious crash. Side-impact crashes are the most common type of fatal crash after a frontal crash, killing around 9,000 people on US roadways in 2005, the institute said. “Growing sales of SUVs and pickups have exacerbated height mismatches among passenger vehicles, thereby increasing the risks to occupants of many vehicles struck in the side,” Insurance Institute President Adrian Lund said in a news release. All six sedans were equipped with standard side air bags. The air bags in the BMW 5 Series protected the head, but separate air bags designed to protect the chest and abdomen performed poorly, the institute said.

Cell Therapeutics to buy cancer drug

WASHINGTON, 16 Aug — Biotech firm Cell Therapeutics Inc on Thursday will announce plans to pay Biogen Idec Inc. up to $30 million for a lymphoma cancer treatment. Seattle-based Cell Therapeutics will take over sales, marketing and development of Zevalin in the US, while Bayer Schering will continue to sell the drug outside the country. Zevalin posted sales of $15.4 million in the US last year as a treatment for patients with relapsed non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma.

Cell Therapeutics management hopes to expand the drug’s use to serve an initial treatment for non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma. “We see potential for substantial revenue growth for this product,” Cell Therapeutics Chief Executive James Bianco said in a statement.

Crude prices rise on storm forecast, rate cut

NEW YORK, 17 Aug — Crude prices rose Friday on Hurricane Dean and the Federal Reserve’s interest rate cut.

The National Hurricane Centre said Dean strengthened, which will head straight into the Gulf and a direct threat to oil and gas infrastructure.

The Fed cut its discount rate by a half percentage point, easing some investors’ fears of an economic slowdown.

Light, sweet crude for September delivery rose 98 cents to settle at 71.98 dollars a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

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Putin pledges $2b to Kyrgyzstan

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YANGON, 18 Aug—The following is the compilation presented by member of the Panel of Chairmen of the plenary session of the national convention U Kan Nyunt of delegate group of peasants on suggestions made by delegate groups on matters concerning the amendments, the additions and the repeals and the transfer out of the fundamental principles and detailed basic principles that have been adopted by the national convention. 

Esteemed delegates,

At the plenary session of the national convention held on 6 August 2007, the work committee chairman said, “The plenary session of the national convention held on 16 September 1993 adopted the following State fundamental principles for para 9 in connection with judiciary:

“(a) the judicial power of the state is distributed among Pyidaungsu Taya Hluttaw (Supreme Court), Region Taya Hluttaw (Region High Court), State Taya Hluttaw (State High Court) and law courts of different levels including law courts of self-administered areas;

(b) in the Pyidaungsu is constituted one Pyidaungsu Taya Hluttaw, Pyidaungsu Taya Hluttaw is the supreme law court of State;

(c) Pyidaungsu Taya Hluttaw has power to issue writs.”

But from para 1 to 9 of the formation of judiciary and paras 1, 2 and 8 of sharing of judicial power, use the term “Supreme Court of the Union” to clearly express the difference between the term “Supreme Court of the Union” and the term “High Court” of the region or state. In our view, to have a uniform context and to prevent occurrence of disputes in the future, the term “Supreme Court of the Union” should be used.

Hence, delegates will have to suggest whether the term Pyidaungsu Taya Hluttaw in the subparas (a), (b) and (c) of para 9 of the chapter “State fundamental principles” should be substituted with the term “Supreme Court of the Union”. 

Esteemed delegates,

Concerning the matter, National Unity Party said, to be able to clearly express the difference between the term “Supreme Court of the Union” and the term “High Court” of the Region or State, to have a uniform context and to prevent occurrence of disputes in the future, the term “Supreme Court of the Union” should be used instead of the term Pyidaungsu Taya Hluttaw. (See page 7)
The expression “may exercise relaxation of stipulation on age limit” should be substituted with the expression “shall exercise relaxation of stipulation on age limit”.

YANGON, 18 Aug — The following is the compilation presented by member of the Panel of Chairmen of the Plenary Session of the National Convention U Kyaw Win Tun of Delegate Group of Workers on suggestions made by Delegate Groups on matters concerning the amendments, the additions and the repeals and the transfer out of the fundamental principles and detailed basic principles that have been adopted by the National Convention.

Esteemed delegates,

At the plenary session of the National Convention held on 6 August 2007, the Work Committee Chairman said, “The plenary session of the National Convention held on 29 March 1996, adopted the detailed basic principles for the formation of executive including subpara (b) of para 22 which states “The President of the State may exercise relaxation of stipulation on age limit in the State Constitution in appointing Region or State Ministers, the okkahta of the self-administered division or self-administered zone or State. In our view, to have a uniformed context and to prevent occurrence of disputes in the future, the term “Supreme Court of the Union” should be used. Hence, the term Pyidaungsu Taya Hluttaw in the subparas (a), (b) and (c) of para 9 of the Chapter “State Fundamental Principles” should be substituted with the term “Supreme Court of the Union”.

Esteemed delegates,

Of the four papers presented by the Delegate Group of Representatives-Elect, the representatives of the NUP and MoO or Khami National Solidarity Organization presented the papers same as those of the respective Regional or State Hluttaw, that of okkahta of the self-administered division or self-administered zone Hluttaw or okkahta of the self-administered division or self-administered zone Hluttaw representative elected to undertake the affairs of national races for appointment as Region or State Ministers” to the President of the State.

According to subpara (b) of para 22, the okkahta of the self-administered division or self-administered zone or Hluttaw representative elected to undertake the affairs of national races should be automatically appointed Minister of the respective Region or State. The okkahta of the self-administered division or self-administered zone or Hluttaw representative elected to undertake the affairs of national races may meet all the qualifications of the minimum age limit of 35, the minimum age limit for the President of the State.

On 27 March 1996, the NUP held a plenary session to adopt the detailed basic principles and the Constitution applying to the Ministers of the region or state will also apply to the self-administered division okkahta or self-administered zone Okkahta.”

The subpara (c) of para 22 states, “The Region or State Minister shall submit the names approved by the Region or State Hluttaw, that of okkahta of the self-administered division or self-administered zone and that of Hluttaw representatives elected to undertake the affairs of national races for appointment as Region or State Ministers”.

According to subpara (b) of para 22, the okkahta of the self-administered division or self-administered zone or Hluttaw representative elected to undertake the affairs of national races should be automatically appointed Minister of the respective Region or State. The okkahta of the self-administered division or self-administered zone or Hluttaw representative elected to undertake the affairs of national races may meet all the qualifications of the minimum age limit for the President of the State.

(See page 8)

“Supreme Court of the Union”...

(from page 6)

Union Pa-O National Organization said, “When we study the Work Committee Chairman’s clarification, we found that the eight amendment-cum-additions, the five amendments and one transfer altogether 15 are appropriate.”

Shan State Kokang Democratic Party said, “The term “Pyidaungsu Taya Hluttaw” in the subparas (a), (b) and (c) of para 9 of the Chapter “State Fundamental Principles” should be substituted with the term “Supreme Court of the Union”.

Mro or Khami National Solidarity Organization said the subpara (b) of the State Fundamental Principles say, “In the Pyidaungsu is constituted one Pyidaungsu Taya Hluttaw, Pyidaungsu Taya Hluttaw is the supreme law court of State”. In our view, to have a uniformed context and to prevent occurrence of disputes in the future, the term “Supreme Court of the Union” should be used. Hence, the term Pyidaungsu Taya Hluttaw in the subparas (a), (b) and (c) of para 9 of the Chapter “State Fundamental Principles” should be substituted with the term “Supreme Court of the Union”.

Lahu National Development Party said, “The term Pyidaungsu Taya Hluttaw in the subparas (a), (b) and (c) of para 9 of the Chapter “State Fundamental Principles” should be substituted with the term “Supreme Court of the Union”.

Union Kayin League said, “From paras 1 to 9 of the Formation of Judiciary and paras 1, 2 and 8 of Sharing of the Judicial Power, use the term “Supreme Court of the Union” to clearly express the difference between the term “Supreme Court of the Union” and the term “High Court” of the Region or State. In our view, to have a uniformed context and to prevent occurrence of disputes in the future, the term “Supreme Court of the Union” should be used. Hence, the term Pyidaungsu Taya Hluttaw in the subparas (a), (b) and (c) of para 9 of the Chapter “State Fundamental Principles” should be substituted with the term “Supreme Court of the Union”.

Independent Representatives-Elect Dr Hmu Htan of Thanlant Township Constituency in Chin State, U Aung Thein of Ywangan Township Constituency in Shan State and U Tun Kyaw of Nambhan Township Constituency in Shan State (North) said to be able to clearly express the difference between the term “Supreme Court of the Union” and the term “High Court” of the Region or State, to have a uniformed context and to prevent occurrence of disputes in the future, the term “Supreme Court of the Union” should be used. Hence, the term Pyidaungsu Taya Hluttaw in the subparas (a), (b) and (c) of para 9 of the Chapter “State Fundamental Principles” should be substituted with the term “Supreme Court of the Union”.

Independent Representatives-Elect U Tin Win of Kyakat Township Constituency 2, U Thein Kyi of Youngdwingyi Township Constituency 1, U Hla Soe of Minbu Township Constituency 2, U Mya Hlaing of Twantay Township Constituency 2, U Kyi Win of Mingladon Township Constituency 1 and U Tun Maung of Mingladon Township Constituency 2 said, “From paras 1 to 9 of the Formation of Judiciary and paras 1, 2 and 8 of Sharing of the Judicial Power, use the term “Supreme Court of the Union” to clearly express the difference between the term “Supreme Court of the Union” and the term “High Court” of the Region or State. In our view, to have a uniformed context and to prevent occurrence of disputes in the future, the term “Supreme Court of the Union” should be used. Hence, the term Pyidaungsu Taya Hluttaw in the subparas (a), (b) and (c) of para 9 of the Chapter “State Fundamental Principles” should be substituted with the term “Supreme Court of the Union”.

Delegate Group of Other Invited Persons said, “The term Pyidaungsu Taya Hluttaw in the subparas (a), (b) and (c) of para 9 of the Chapter “State Fundamental Principles” should be substituted with the term “Supreme Court of the Union”.

Delegate Group of Workers said, “The term Pyidaungsu Taya Hluttaw in the subparas (a), (b) and (c) of para 9 of the Chapter “State Fundamental Principles” should be substituted with the term “Supreme Court of the Union”.

Delegate Group of intellectuals and Intelligentsia said, “The term Pyidaungsu Taya Hluttaw in the subparas (a), (b) and (c) of para 9 of the Chapter “State Fundamental Principles” should be substituted with the term “Supreme Court of the Union”.

Delegate Group of State Service Personnel said, “From paras 1 to 9 of the Formation of Judiciary and paras 1, 2 and 8 of Sharing of the Judicial Power, use the term “Supreme Court of the Union” to clearly express the difference between the term “Supreme Court of the Union” and the term “High Court” of the Region or State. In our view, to have a uniformed context and to prevent occurrence of disputes in the future, the term “Supreme Court of the Union” should be used. Hence, the term Pyidaungsu Taya Hluttaw in the subparas (a), (b) and (c) of para 9 of the Chapter “State Fundamental Principles” should be substituted with the term “Supreme Court of the Union”.”
To ensure a contextual uniformity and to have a clear definition in drafting the Constitution, subpara (i) para 28 and subpara (e) para 31 should be amended as explained by the Work Committee chairman

Yangon, 18 Aug—The following is the compilation presented by member of the Panel of Chairmen of the Plenary Session of the National Convention Dr Maung Maung Wint of Delegate Group of Intellectuals and Intelligentsia on suggestions made by Delegate Groups on matters concerning the amendments, the additions and the repeals and the transfer out of the fundamental principles and detailed basic principles that have been adopted by the National Convention.

Esteemed delegates,

At the plenary session held on 6 August 2007, the Work Committee chairman explained that the plenary session of the National Convention held on 29 March 1996, adopted detailed basic principles for the formation of executive. In the detailed basic principles, sub-para 12 of para 22 states as follows:

(i) The Region of State Chief Minister shall be responsible to the President of the State.

(ii) The Region or State Minister shall be responsible to the Region or State Chief Minister concerned and through the Chief Minister, to the President of the State.

The subpara (i) of para 28 states, “The Advocate-General of the Region or State is responsible to the President of the State through the Chief Minister of the Region or State concerned, to the Pyidaungsu Attorney-General and to the Chief Minister of the Region or State concerned”.

The subpara (e) of para 31 states, “The Auditor-General of the Region or State is responsible to the President through the Chief Minister of the Region or State concerned, to the Pyidaungsu Auditor-General and to the Chief Minister of the Region or State concerned”.

In the above-mentioned detailed basic principles, the terms and usages in connection with Region or State are

The expression “may exercise relaxation of…”

As the para states “The President of the State may exercise relaxation of stipulation on age limit”, he may or may not exercise relaxation on age limit. To be able to clearly express the essence and aim of the given detailed basic principle and to prevent constitutional disputes in the future, it should be used “shall exercise relaxation of stipulation on age limit”.

In this regard, delegates should discuss whether the expression “may exercise relaxation of stipulation on age limit” of the subpara (h) para 22 should be substituted with the expression “shall exercise relaxation of stipulation on age limit”.

Esteemed delegates,

Concerning the matter, National Unity Party said, “The subpara (b) of para 22 in connection with the formation of executive states, “The President of the State may exercise relaxation of stipulation on age limit”. So he may or may not exercise relaxation on age limit. To be able to clearly express the essence and aim of the given detailed basic principle and to prevent constitutional disputes in the future, it should be used “shall exercise relaxation of stipulation on age limit”.

Hence, the expression “may exercise relaxation of stipulation on age limit” of the subpara (h) para 22 should be substituted with the expression “shall exercise relaxation of stipulation on age limit”.

Union Pa-O National Organization said, “When we study the Work Committee Chairman’s clarification, we found that the eight amendment-cum-additions, the five amendments and one transfer altogether 15 are found that the eight amendment-cum-additions, the five amendments and one transfer altogether 15 are appropriate.”

Shan Kokang Democratic Party said, “The expression “may exercise relaxation of stipulation on age limit” of the subpara (h) para 22 should be substituted with the expression “shall exercise relaxation of stipulation on age limit”.

Mro or Khami National Solidarity Organization said, “As the expression said, “The President of the State may exercise relaxation of stipulation on age limit”, he may or may not exercise relaxation on age limit. To be able to clearly express the essence and aim of the given detailed basic principle and to prevent constitutional disputes in the future, it should be used “shall exercise relaxation of stipulation on age limit”.

The expression “may exercise relaxation of stipulation on age limit” of the subpara (h) para 22 should be substituted with the expression “shall exercise relaxation of stipulation on age limit”.

Lahu National Development Party said, “The expression “may exercise relaxation of stipulation on age limit” of the subpara (h) para 22 should be substituted with the expression “shall exercise relaxation of stipulation on age limit”.

Union Kayin League said, “The subpara (h) of para 22 in connection with the formation of executive states “The President of the State may exercise relaxation of stipulation on age limit” of the subpara (h) para 22 should be replaced with the expression “shall exercise relaxation of stipulation on age limit”.

Kokang Democracy and Unity Party said Kokang Democracy and Unity Party said, “We agree to the amendments, additions and repeals made to few detailed principles and facts as explained by the Work Committee Chairman.”

Wa National Development Party said, “To be able to clearly express the essence and aim of the given detailed basic principle and to prevent constitutional disputes in the future, it should be used “shall exercise relaxation of stipulation on age limit”. Thus, the expression “may exercise relaxation of stipulation on age limit” of the subpara (h) para 22 should be substituted with the expression “shall exercise relaxation of stipulation on age limit”.

Esteemed delegates,

Of the four papers presented by the Delegate Group of Representatives-Elect, the representatives of the NUP and Mro or Khami National Solidarity Organization presented the papers same as those of the respective partners.

Independent Representatives-elect Dr Hmu Huan of Thantlang Township Constituency in Chin State, U Aung Thein of Yawngan Township Constituency in Shan State (South) and U Tun Kyaw of Namhsan Township Constituency in Shan State (North) said, “To be able to clearly express the essence and aim of the given detailed basic principle and to prevent constitutional disputes in the future, it should be used “shall exercise relaxation of stipulation on age limit”.

Therefore, delegates should discuss whether the expression “may exercise relaxation of stipulation on age limit” of the subpara (h) para 22 should be substituted with the expression “shall exercise relaxation of stipulation on age limit”.

Esteemed delegates,

Delegate Group of Peasants said, “To be able to clearly express the essence and aim of the given detailed basic principle and to prevent constitutional disputes in the future, it should be used “shall exercise relaxation of stipulation on age limit”.

Delegate Group of State Service Personnel said, “The expression “may exercise relaxation of stipulation on age limit” of the subpara (h) para 22 should be substituted with the expression “shall exercise relaxation of stipulation on age limit”.

Delegate Group of Intellectuals and Intelligentsia said, “To be able to clearly express the essence and aim of the given detailed basic principle and to prevent constitutional disputes in the future, it should be used “shall exercise relaxation of stipulation on age limit”.

Delegate Group of Other Invited Persons said, “The expression “may exercise relaxation of stipulation on age limit” of the subpara (h) para 22 should be substituted with the expression “shall exercise relaxation of stipulation on age limit”.

MNA
To ensure a contextual uniformity and to...

(from page 8)
clear and easy to understand. They should be used in drafting the Constitution to ensure a contextual uniformity and to have a clear definition. Here, delegates will have to discuss whether sub-para (f) para 28 and sub-para (e) para 31 should be amended as follows:

Subpara (f) of para 28 “The Advocate-General of the Region or State is:

(i) responsible to the President of the State through the Chief Minister of the Region or State concerned,

(ii) responsible to the Pyidaungsu Attorney-General and to the Chief Minister of the Region or State concerned.

The subpara (e) of para 31 “The Auditor-General of the Region or State is:

(i) responsible to the President through the Chief Minister of the Region or State concerned,

(ii) responsible to the Pyidaungsu Auditor-General and to the Chief Minister of the Region or State concerned.

Esteemed delegates, National Unity Party said, “To ensure a contextual uniformity and to have a clear definition in drafting the Constitution, subpara (f) para 28 and subpara (e) para 31 should be amended as explained by the Work Committee chairman”.

Union Pa-O National Organization said, “Of the basic principles and detailed basic principles, the Work Committee chairman explained, eight points for addition, five points for amendment, one point for repeal, and one point for transfer totalling 15 points should be added, amended, repealed or transferred”.

Shan State Kokang Democratic Party said that sub-para (f) of para 28, and sub-para (e) of para 31 of Formation of Executive should be adopted as detailed basic principles, as explained by the Work Committee chairman.

Also present at the dinner were Commandant of National Defence College Maj-Gen Mya Win, Deputy Commandant of Yangon Command Brig-Cgen Kyaw Kyaw Tun, Commander of Ayeyarwady Naval Region Command Commodore Win Shwein Commander of Mingaladon Air Base Brig-Cgen Zin Yaw, Rector Brig-Cgen Ya Pyae of Defence Services Medical Academy, senior military officers and Chinese Military Attache’ Senior Col Fan Lian Fen.— MNA
Commander, minister attend fish releasing ceremony in Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana District

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Aug — Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin and Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein attended a fish releasing ceremony held at Paunglaung Dam in Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana District this morning. At the briefing hall, the commander and minister heard reports on salient points of the Dam presented by an official and gave necessary instructions. Next, the commander and minister put fingerlings into the Paunglaung Dam. A total of 500,000 various species of fingerlings have been released into the dam. Altogether 3 million fingerlings were put into the Yezin, Ngalike, Chaungmagyi and Yan Aung Myin and Thephyu dams this year.

Establishment of project for Afforestation in Dry Zone signed

NAV PYI TAW, 18 Aug — A signing ceremony for the Agreement between Dry Zone Greening Department and Kokusai Kogyo Co. Ltd. Regarding Consultant Services for Project for the Afforestation in the Dry Zone of Myanmar was held yesterday afternoon. The agreement was signed by Director-General U Tun Tun of the Forestry Department and Project Manager Mr Nakamura Kinya of the company delivered addresses at the ceremony. Next, they signed an agreement on project for the afforestation in the dry zone of Myanmar.

Visiting Chinese delegation arrives from Mandalay

YANGON, 18 Aug — Accompanied by Chinese Military Attaché Senior Col Fan Lian Feng and officials, the visiting Chinese delegation members visited Mandalay by air yesterday morning. The guests were welcomed at Yangon International Airport by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Hay Win and senior military officers. General Liu Dongdong and delegation presented a documentary VCD on goodwill visit to the Chinese General at the hall of the airport.

Political Commissar of Jinan Military Region Command concludes visit

YANGON, 18 Aug — The Chinese delegation led by Political Commissar General Liu Dongdong of Jinan Military Region Command of the People’s Liberation Army of the People’s Republic of China left here by air this morning. They were seen off at the Yangon International Airport by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Hay Win, senior military officers, Chinese Military Attaché to the Union of Myanmar Senior Colonel Fan Lian Feng and party. Before their departure, Commander Maj-Gen Hla Hay Win presented a documentary VCD on goodwill visit to the Sayadaw and members of the Sangha.

F&R Ministry offers ‘soon’ to monks

YANGON, 17 Aug — Under the aegis of Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun and wife Daw Khin Than Win, the ministry of Finance and Revenue held a ceremony to offer a day meals to 413 members of the Sangha of State Pariyatti Sasana University ( Yangon) at Mogok refectory on Thiri Mingalar Kaba-Aye Hill this morning. It was attended by Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar U Than Nyein and wife Daw Khin Thwe Thwe Myint, the managing directors, the directors-general and their wives.

First, the congregation received the Five Precepts from the Rector Sayadaw Agga Maha Ganthavacaka Pandita Bhaddanta Wunnita and offered provisions to the Sayadaw. Next, the governor presented K 335,000 for a day meal to Deputy Director U San Thin, Hlaing of Department for Promotion and Propagation of Sasana. Later, those present shared the merits gained. After the ceremony, the governor and wife and party offered ‘soon’ to the Sayadaw and members of the Sangha.
New Zealand birth rate highest in 16 years

Wellington, 17 Aug — An increase in births in the June 2007 year led to the highest natural increase in New Zealand since 1992, Statistics New Zealand said on Friday.

It said births exceeded deaths by 33,150 in the June 2007 year. There were 61,610 births registered in New Zealand in 2007, up 3,360 (5.8 percent) from the June 2006 year.

New Zealand population is now around 417 million.

This is the highest number of births since 1972, when 64,510 births were registered. In the June 2007 year, there were increases in fertility rates for all age groups.

Women aged 30-34 years had the highest birth rate (127 births per 1,000 women aged 30-34 years) followed by those aged 25-29 years (111 births per 1,000 women). The median age (half are younger, and half older, than this age) of New Zealand women giving birth was just above 30 years and has been relatively stable since 2003.

A newborn girl can expect to live 81.9 years, and a newborn boy 77.9 years, said Statistics New Zealand. It said life tables for 2004-2006 show that the gap between female and male life expectancy has narrowed from 6.4 years in 1975-1977 to 4.1 years.

Two fighting bulls stand oneside in and one outside of the bullring, during a pubic bullfight in Penafiel, central Spain, on 16 Aug, 2007. Penafiel is a village of less than four thousand inhabitants that as most of the small villages around the Spain's geography celebrate their traditional festival in honor of their Patron Saint with some days of revelry and bullfights. — Internet

Hu Jintao calls for faster regional integration in central Asia

Bishkek, 17 Aug— Chinese President Hu Jintao on Wednesday urged Central Asian countries to work together to enhance cooperation so as to speed up regional integration and promote economic and social development in the region.

“Security and stability in Central Asia, after all, depend on the joint efforts by countries in the region,” Hu said at a meeting with Uzbekistan President Islam Karimov in Bishkek, capital of Kyrgyzstan.

Central Asian nations will find for themselves development paths that best suit them, Hu said.

The two leaders are here for a summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), which is scheduled for Thursday. China and Uzbekistan are major forces in maintaining regional stability and have witnessed fruitful security cooperation, Hu said.

China hopes law enforcement agencies of the two countries will work more closely both in bilateral terms and within the SCO framework to safeguard peace in the two countries and in the region as well, the Chinese President said.

Hu hailed the development of relations between China and Uzbekistan, saying the two countries have deepened mutual trust, cooperated closely on the international arena and boosted regional exchanges. Uzbekistan is an important trade partner for China in Central Asia and China is satisfied with the achievements in bilateral trade and economic cooperation, he said.

China would enhance cooperation with Uzbekistan in such fields as economy, trade, energy, natural resources, transport, telecommunication, agriculture and infrastructure, he said.

British tourists fuelling endangered wildlife trade

London, 17 Aug— Coral, ivory and snakeskin souvenirs brought home by unwitting British tourists are helping to push endangered species closer to extinction, environmental group WWF (World Wild Life Fund) said on Thursday.

Traditional Chinese medicines made from endangered tigers, rhinos and seahorses also come top of World Wild Life Fund blacklist of illegal holiday souvenirs. “Although the latest figures indicate that some illegal wildlife trade items are being brought in knowingly by wildlife criminals, the majority of seizures appear to be items innocently brought back by holidaymakers as souvenirs,” said Heather Sohl, wildlife trade officer at WWF.

“Our message is: if in doubt, don’t buy.”

The group warns that at the height of the holiday season some tourists may try to bring home live snakes, iguanas and chameleons as household pets, while others attempt to transport protected plants such as orchids from abroad. — MNA/Reuters

More than 400 migrants rescued off Sicilian coast

Rome, 17 Aug— Italian Coast Guards rescued more than 400 migrants off the southern island of Lampedusa on Thursday, including a group of 300 men, women and children crammed into a wooden boat, officials said.

The number of migrants from Africa arriving on Italian shores has spiked in recent weeks, boosted by the balmy summer weather and calmer sea conditions.

Italian Coast Guards said they first helped two rubber dinghies — one carrying 49 people, the other 57 — in the sea off Lampedusa before spotting the boat with about 300 people.

Those on board included men, women and children, some suffering from dehydration. They were taken aboard Coast Guard vessels which brought them to the island.

The Coast Guards have also recovered the corpses of seven of as many as 14 migrants spotted floating in search of a better life. Many set sail in flimsy and overcrowded boats that capsize long before they reach safety. — MNA/Reuters

A woman walks with the Indian national flag during Independence Day celebrations in Kolkata on 15 Aug, 2007. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh marked the 60th anniversary of independence from British rule by urging the country to work harder to free itself from the shackles of poverty, ignorance and disease. — Internet

Rescuers search for victims in the debris of a collapsed bridge in Fenghuang county, central China's Hunan Province, on 15 Aug, 2007. — Internet
Claims Day Notice

MV BOUGAIN VILLA VOY NO (133)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BOUGAIN VILLA VOY NO (133) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.8.2007 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

Shipment Agency Department
Myanmar Port Authority
Agent for: M/S Premier Spectrum
SDN BHD

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Claims Day Notice
MV VASCOS DA GAMA VOY NO (059)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV VASCOS DA GAMA VOY NO (059) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.8.2007 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

Shipment Agency Department
Myanmar Port Authority
Agent for: M/S Interasia Lines

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

ASEAN 10+3 Youth Exchanges Programme Starts in China

BEIJING, 17 Aug — More than 500 youth delegates from ten member nations of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and China, Japan and the Republic of Korea (ROK) (10+3) gathered here on Thursday to launch the ASEAN 10+3 youth exchanges programme.

The youth delegation, invited by the All-China Youth Federation, is to join the China-ASEAN Youth Camp and attend the China-ASEAN Young Leaders Meeting with topics on youth leaders' role in ASEAN members' social development, volunteers and East Asia community buildup. Besides China's capital Beijing, the ASEAN youth delegation will also visit Manzhouli, a border city near Russia in north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region.

ASEAN 10+3 Youth Camp was held in China in October 2006 to commemorate the 15th anniversary of the establishment of China-ASEAN dialogue relations. According to a joint statement issued on the China-ASEAN commemorative Summit in 2006, China and ASEAN leaders agreed to strengthen social and cultural cooperation by encouraging greater cooperation between institutions of secondary and higher education; increasing youth exchanges by initiating the China-ASEAN Young Leaders Conference, China-ASEAN Young Entrepreneurs Association and China-ASEAN Young Civil Servants' Exchange Programme as flagship projects.

This 10+3 youth exchanges programme is initiated to implement the consensus reached by all state leaders to push forward youth exchanges and cooperation in an all-round way, according to the All-China Youth Federation.

MNA/Xinhua

Sino-Iranian ties see continuous growth

BEIJING, 17 Aug — The friendly and cooperative ties between China and Iran have seen continuous growth thanks to the efforts made by both sides, Chinese President Hu Jintao said here on Wednesday.

Through various forms of communication and contacts, the two countries have enhanced mutual understanding and mutually beneficial cooperation, Hu said while meeting with Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

The two sides have achieved progress in economic and trade cooperation along with increasing exchanges in the humanities, Hu said. On the basis of equality, mutual respect and benefit, China is ready to strengthen friendly cooperation with Iran in all fields and at various levels so as to enrich the contents of bilateral cooperation and push the bilateral ties forward, Hu said. Ahmadinejad, who was here to attend the annual summit of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) as an observer, said the Iranian-Chinese relations are built on the basis of mutual respect, and both peoples have deep affections toward each other.

Iran hopes to enhance contacts with China, make long-term planning for bilateral cooperation, actively carry out cooperation in trade, energy, electricity, culture, sports, science and technology and strengthen communication and consultation in global and regional affairs, he said. — MNA/Xinhua

Colombia to construct Latin America's longest tunnel

BOGOTA, 17 Aug — The Colombian Government on Wednesday invited bids for the construction of Latin America's longest tunnel, a project that will cost $300 million US dollars and provide a road link between the Colombian capital and the port of Buenaventura.

The tunnel will boost the competitiveness of the country's exports by speeding up the transportation of goods, Minister of Transport Andres Uriel Henao told a Press conference.

The project, which is expected to shave 40 minutes off the journey time for private cars and 90 minutes for cargo trucks, will avoid curves and sharp gradients, he said.

With new security systems, lighting control, closed circuit television and ventilation, construction of the tunnel will begin in 2008 and is expected to be completed in 2011, said the minister. Buenaventura is Colombia's largest port and handles 60 per cent of the country's exports. — MNA/Xinhua
NASA delays spacewalk to decide on repair

HOUSTON, 17 Aug — NASA on Wednesday put off a planned fourth spacewalk for the space shuttle Endeavour crew as officials said they had not decided whether to repair a gouge in the ship’s heat shield.

While the US space agency studied the 3-inch-by-2-inch gash in Endeavour’s belly, a spacewalking astronaut on Wednesday had to go back inside after finding a hole in his glove during work outside the International Space Station.

The fourth spacewalk, which includes other tasks besides the possible repair, had been scheduled for Friday but now will take place on Saturday, NASA said. Mission management team chairman John Shannon said more tests were being run on damage mockups, but analysis so far “showed there would be no danger at all to the underlying structure” if Endeavour returned to Earth without the repair.

He said he expected a decision Thursday whether to do the repair, after the additional tests were finished. “I am cautiously optimistic that repair will not be needed,” Shannon said. The gash occurred when insulating foam from the shuttle fuel tank struck Endeavour’s belly as it launched from Florida on 8 August on a construction mission to the space station. MNA/Reuters

Fishermen on a small outrigger are forced to return due to strong wind and big waves on 16 Aug, 2007 in the suburban town of Navotas north of Manila. Fishermen on a small outrigger are forced to return due to strong wind and big waves. — MNA/Reuters

UK picks shortlist to build bigger express trains

LONDON, 17 Aug — The British Government announced on Thursday a shortlist of firms bidding to design and build a new type of express train that will be more environmentally friendly and capable of carrying more passengers.

The Department for Transport said the short-listed firms were the Alstom-Barclay Rail Group, Hitachi Europe Ltd, and the Express Rail Alliance, which is a consortium comprising Bombardier Transportation, Siemens, Angel Trains and Babcock & Brown.

“We are developing a flexible train that can be deployed on different lines, in different lengths, and with different sources of power — so this train can operate wherever we need it in the future,” Rail Minister Tom Harris said in a statement. An invitation to tender will be issued to short-listed bidders in autumn this year. Proposals will then be received from bidders in summer 2008, with the award of the contract in winter 2008-09, the Department of Transport said. — MNA/Reuters

His fur dirty from playing in the sand, polar bear Knut takes a rest in his open-air enclosure at the Berlin Zoo on 17 Aug, 2007. Still, Knut is the zoo’s visitors’ favorite, although he is changing from the cute cub to the polar bear equivalent of an unruly adolescent. — MNA/Reuters

Study says AIDS virus a ‘double hit’ to the brain

WASHINGTON, 17 Aug — The AIDS virus damages the brain in two ways, by not only killing brain cells but by preventing the birth of new cells, US researchers reported on Wednesday.

The study, published in the journal Cell Stem Cell, helps shed light on a condition known as HIV-associated dementia, which can cause confusion, sleep disturbances and memory loss in people infected with the virus.

It is less common in people taking drug cocktails to suppress the virus, and why HIV damages brain function is not clearly understood.

The virus kills brain cells but it also appears to stop progenitor cells, known as stem cells, from dividing, the team at Burnham Institute for Medical Research and the University of California at San Diego found.

“It’s a double hit to the brain,” researcher Marcus Kaul said in a statement. “The HIV protein both causes brain injury and prevents its repair.”

The cocktail of drugs known as highly active antiretroviral therapy or HAART that treats HIV does not infiltrate the brain well, allowing for a “secret reservoir” of virus, said Stuart Lipton, who worked on the study. HIV-associated dementia is becoming more common, as patients survive into their older years.

Working in mice, the researchers found that the virus directly interferes with the birth of brain cells from stem cells. MNA/Reuters

Fans mark Elvis death anniversary with vigil

MEMPHIS (Tennessee), 17 Aug — Elvis Presley fans from around the world gathered outside his Memphis home on Wednesday to mark the 30th anniversary of his death in an event meant to both honour the singer’s legacy and raise cash in on it.

Tens of thousands of fans were expected to file past Presley’s grave site at his Graceland estate beginning Wednesday night and continuing into Thursday morning.

The candlelight vigil began amid an intense heat wave, with temperatures in Memphis rising past 100 degrees (38 degrees Celsius) by mid-afternoon. Paramedics treated several waiting fans for heat exhaustion and kept ambulances standing by. MNA/Reuters

Fans mark Elvis death anniversary with vigil

MEMPHIS (Tennessee), 17 Aug — Fans mark Elvis death anniversary with vigil. — MNA/Reuters

Oscar group reelects Ganis, names Tom Hanks V-P

LOS ANGELES, 17 Aug — The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, which awards the Oscars, said on Wednesday it reelected Sid Ganis to his third straight term as president and made actor Tom Hanks one of its vice-presidents.

Ganis is a film industry veteran who has been on the academy’s Board of Governors for 21 years. He has been an executive with several film companies including Columbia Pictures and Paramount Pictures.

Hanks won two Oscars for best actor in 1993’s “Philadelphia” and 1994’s “Forrest Gump”. He had previously served as a governor of the academy’s actors branch, and has a long history in Hollywood as both an actor and producer. — MNA/Reuters

Stay cool: fans mark Elvis death anniversary with vigil.
Hanover 96 beat promoted Karlsruhe to seal first points

BERLIN, 18 Aug — Hanover 96 came from behind to win 2-1 at promoted Karlsruhe and claim their first points of the Bundesliga season on Friday.

Karlsruhe, 2-0 winners at Nuremberg last weekend, looked set to make it two wins from two back in the Bundesliga when they took the lead with a Mark Franz header from a free kick eight minutes before the break.

They had chances to add to their lead before Hanover hit back in the 55th minute with what was a near-perfect copy of the first goal. Arnold Bruggink curled a hit back in the 55th minute with what was a near-break.

Franz header from a free kick eight minutes before the end, looked set to make it two wins from two back in

CINCINNATI, 18 Aug — Top seed Roger Federer struggled to a 6-3, 3-6, 6-2 victory over Spaniard Nicolas Almagro on Friday to reach the semifinals of the Cincinnati Masters.

The world number one was unusually erratic as he dropped his first set of the week before recovering his poise to set up a clash with Lleyton Hewitt.

Federer, looking for his fifth career title, broke in the sixth game but immediately dropped his serve before breaking for a second time to take the opening set.

Almagro, appearing in his sixth quarterfinal of the year, broke serve in the eighth game of the second set before edging out the 3-6, 6-2 victory over fourth seed Spaniard Nicolas Almagro on Friday to reach the semifinals of the Cincinnati Masters.

In the battle of the two former world number ones, the Australian broke serve in the first game and stormed through to his fourth semifinal of the year. He will face either world number one Roger Federer or unseeded Spaniard Nicolas Almagro.

Federer toils on way to Cincinnati semis

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Three charged over infant’s death in Britain

LONDON, 18 Aug — Two men and a woman have been charged over the death of a 17-month-old infant who died in a London hospital on 3 August, police said on Friday.

Tracey Connolly, 25, and Stephen Barker, 31, were both charged with the murder of the boy.

Jason Barker, 35, was charged with allowing or causing the death of a child under 16. All three are due to appear before Highbury Magistrates later on Friday.

Police said a post mortem on the child had failed to determine the exact cause of death and further tests were ongoing.

Detectives had been alerted after staff at North Middlesex Hospital raised concerns.

Three missing in US Navy plane crash

WASHINGTON, 18 Aug — Three US Navy sailors are missing at sea after a command and control plane crashed over the Atlantic on Wednesday night, CNN reported on Thursday.

The E-2C Hawkeye was conducting exercises off the Virginia-North Carolina coast at the time, according to the report.

The plane crashed after it launched from the deck of the aircraft carrier USS Harry S Truman about 11 pm Wednesday. Navy officials said they do not know what caused the plane to crash, and search and rescue missions are under way from units on the Truman, the carrier USS Eisenhower and the Coast Guard.

The twin-engine plane usually carries a crew of five, but had only three aboard during the flight.

The plane was part of a training squadron and is based at the Naval Station Norfolk in southern Virginia.

Weather

Saturday, 19 August, 2007

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kayah State, rain or thunderstorms have been isolated in Shan and Kayin States, scattered in Mandalay and Magway Divisions, fairly widespread in Kachin State, lower Sagaing, Bago and Ayeyawady Divisions. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Nay Pyi Taw (1.02) inch, Phayao (4.08) inches, Kyauksphyu (4.07) inches, Bago (2.60) inches, Thanlwin (2.63) inches Homalin (0.17) inches, Pathin (0.05) inches Monywa (0.51) inch and Pakokku (0.23) inch. Maximum temperature on 17-8-2007 was 92ºF. Minimum temperature on 17-8-2007 was 71ºF. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 18-8-2007 was 92%. Total sunshine hours on 17-8-2007 was (Nil). Rainfall on 17-8-2007 was (1.54) inches at Mingaladon, (1.41) inches at Kaba-Aye and (0.51) inch at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2007 was (92.05) inches at Mingaladon, (94.13) inches at Kaba-Aye and (93.78) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from Southeast at (16:30) hours MST on 17-8-2007.

Bay influence: According to the observations at (06:30) hrs MST today, a low pressure area has formed in the North Bay. Monsun is generally strong in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 19-8-2007: Rain or thunderstorms will be isolated in Kayah State and Magway Division, scattered in Shan and Chin States, Lower Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions, fairly widespread in Kayin State, upper Sagaing, Bago, Ayeyawady and Tanintharyi Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with likelihood of isolated heavyfall in Rakhine State. Degree of certainty is (90%).

State of the sea: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) to (40) mph.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Strong monsoon.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 19-8-2007: Likelihood of isolated rain or thunderstorms. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 19-8-2007: One or two rain or thunderstorms. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 19-8-2007: Likelihood of isolated rain or thunderstorms. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Flood Warning

Issued at 12:30 hr MST on 18-8-2007 According to the (06:30) hr MST observation today the water level of Sittung at Taungoo is (566) cm. It may reach its danger level (600) cm during the next (24) hrs commencing noon today.

*19-8-07 NL 8/19/07, 02:29 AM*
Esteemed delegates,

The subpara (a) of para 2 of the adopted detailed basic principles for the chapter “Political Parties” states “A political party shall accept and practise discipline-flourishing genuine multiparty democracy.” The expression emphasizes in all seriousness that the democracy Myanmar will practise in the future is a discipline-flourishing genuine multiparty democracy system. In our view, there should be a contextual uniformity in drafting the Constitution.

Hence, the usage “discipline-flourishing genuine multiparty democracy” instead of “genuine multiparty democracy system” should be used in para 2 subpara (d), para 3 and para 28 of the Chapter “State Fundamental Principles” should be “discipline-flourishing genuine multiparty democracy”.

Union Pa-O National Organization said, “Of the basic principles and detailed basic principles, the Work Committee chairman explained eight points for amendment, five points for amendment, one point for repeal, and one point for transfer totalling 15 points. We support that these 15 points should be added, amended, repealed or transgressed”.

Shan State Kokang Democratic Party said, “The expression “genuine multiparty democracy system” contained in para (b), sub-para 4 (c) and (d) should be “discipline-flourishing genuine multiparty democracy”. Mro or Khami National Solidarity Organization said, “In laying down the State Fundamental Principles, it is stated “flourishing of genuine multiparty democracy system” and “the State practises genuine multiparty democracy system”. But subpara (a) of para 2 of the adopted detailed basic principles for the chapter “Political Parties” states “A political party shall: (a) accept and practise discipline-flourishing genuine multiparty democracy.” We need a uniformed context in drafting the Constitution.

Hence, we would like to suggest to use “discipline-flourishing genuine multiparty democracy” instead of “genuine multiparty democracy system” in para 2 subpara (d), para 3 and para 28 of the Chapter “State Fundamental Principles”.

Lahu National Development Party said, “We agree that the expression “discipline-flourishing genuine multiparty democracy” instead of “genuine multiparty democracy” should be used in para 2 subpara (d), para 3 and para 28.

(See page 6)