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

* 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 economic 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 social objectives

State Peace and Development Council Chairman
Senior General Than Shwe accepts credentials of Bangladeshi Ambassador

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Aug—Mr Abu Roshde Rokonuddawla, newly accredited Ambassador of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh to the Union of Myanmar, presented his credentials to Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, at Bayintnaung Yeiktha, here, at 10.30 am today. Also present on the occasion were Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint and Director-General U Kyaw Kyaw of the Protocol Department. — MNA

Senior General Than Shwe receives Bangladeshi Ambassador Mr Abu Roshde Rokonuddawla at Bayintnaung Yeiktha. — MNA

Senior General Than Shwe accepts credentials of Bangladeshi Ambassador Mr Abu Roshde Rokonuddawla.— MNA

Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

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

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PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 25 August, 2007

Grow more high yield strains of tea

Rubber, oil palm, mulberry and tea are perennial cash crops. Among them, tea is favourite in Myanmar society.

Tea is used for processed tea and green tea. Moreover, eating pickled tea is common in Myanmar society. As there are more and more packed pickled tea and condiments, tea market has expanded.

Study has shown that drinking tea is good for health. Myanmar grows tea mainly in Shan State and Chin State. And Chin State is trying to become the state of tea.

Tea likes cool weather and tea plantations can be thriving on hilly regions and mountain ranges. Quality tea strains can produce 1700 viss of raw tea per acre and 450 viss of dried tea per acre.

Myanmar grew 200,000 acres of tea in 2005-2006 and this year’s tea cultivation is being extended.

All in all, farmers are urged to boost cultivation of high yield tea strains.

NCCMC Chairman Audit-Gen Maj-Gen Lun Maung delivers an address at the coord meeting of NCCMC. — MNA

YANGON, 24 Aug.—The National Convention Convening Management Committee held a meeting at its office in Nyaungnapun Camp of Hmawby Township this morning.

Secretary of the Committee Col Win Naung acted as MC. Chairman of the NCCMC Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung gave a speech. Officials of the NCC Work Committee Office, the NCCMC Office and subcommittees submitted reports on their respective sectors.

Those present participated in the discussions, and the meeting ended with the remarks by the chairman.

Also present at the meeting were Vice-Chairmen of the NCCMC Maj-Gen Than Htay of the Ministry of Defence and Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu and officials. — MNA

Contingency Planning Meeting for Disaster Management commences

MRCS President Dr Tha Hla Shwe gives speech at Contingency Planning Meeting for Disaster Management. — MNA

YANGON, 24 Aug.—The Disaster Management Division of Myanmar Red Cross Society and International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies jointly organized the Contingency Planning Meeting for Disaster Management at Traders Hotel on Sule Pagoda Road, here, this morning.

Present at the meeting were President of MRCS Dr Tha Hla Shwe and executives, Director-General U Than Oo of Relief and Resettlement Department, Managing Director U Soe Win of News and Periodicals Enterprise, departmental officials, leader of the resident representative team of International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies Ms Bridget Gradner and officials, representatives of State and Division Red Cross Supervisory Committees and guests.

First, President Dr Tha Hla Shwe of MRCS delivered an address and Ms Bridget Gradner gave speeches. Next, they posed for documentary photo.

Afterwards, the Contingency Planning Meeting for Disaster Management followed. The meeting will last up to 26 August. — MNA

All this needs to be known

* Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
* Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
* Do not be softened whenever appeared

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago.
The second best time is now.
Belarus to retaliate on visas for US officials

MINSK, 23 Aug—Belarus said on Wednesday that it was retaliating against punitive Western measures by toughening rules for US officials wanting to visit the ex-Soviet state, but promised to make entry easier for other travellers.

The United States, following the lead of the European Union, last month expanded a list of Belarussian officials barred entry in connection with human rights violations and the disputed reelection last year of President Alexander Lukashenko. Belarus said then it would impose countermoves.

Belarusian foreign policy will include more legal officials, said authorites, adding that the US restrictions expanded a list of judges and election officials to include more legal officials, the Interior Ministry and the intelligence service.

Washington said it had toughened the measures despite Belarussian moves to ease pressure on opposition activists.

Sudan kicks out Canadian, European Union diplomats

SUDAN, 23 Aug—Sudan has given notice to Canada’s charge d’affaires in the country to leave in the next several days, a spokesman for the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade told CNN.

The Sudanese government gave no reason for expelling diplomat Nuala Lawlor, said spokesman Rodney Moore.

“As far as we know, Nuala stood up for what this country stands for — freedom, democracy, and the rule of law,” Moore said. “We asked the Sudanese government why and we are still waiting for an answer.”

Earlier, Sudan’s official news agency, SUNA, reported that the government had given notices to leave to the top Canadian and European Union diplomats, saying their activities constitute an interference into the internal affairs of Sudan. SUNA cited Khartoum’s Foreign Ministry for the information.

NY police investigating white powder reports

NEW YORK, 23 Aug—New York police said on Tuesday they were investigating suspicious mailings of white powdery substances received by several financial companies in the New York City, a police spokesman said.

“None of the material tested so far has tested positive for any dangerous substance, and was found in some instances to be flour or corn starch,” said police spokesman Paul Browne.

He said envelopes containing zip-lock bags with the powder inside and greeting cards without a message and postmarked from Hartford, Connecticut, were sent to the companies on Monday and Tuesday. He did not name the companies that received the mailings.

In 2001, powdery anthrax sent in letters to news organizations and government offices in New York, Florida, Washington and elsewhere killed five people and made at least 17 people ill.

US soldier killed in roadside bomb blast west of Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 23 Aug—A roadside bomb explosion killed a US soldier and wounded four others during combat operations west of the Iraqi capital on Wednesday, the US military said.

All were from Multi-National Division-Baghdad. The military said units operating in that area are conducting ongoing raids and clearing operations to disrupt insurgent and militia elements.

The number of US military deaths in Iraq stands at 3,723, with a total of 65 in August, according to a CNN count of Pentagon figures.
Los Angeles police investigate patient dumping cases

LOSALES, 23 Aug—New allegations of patient dumping have prompted Los Angeles police to launch an in-vestigation in the city notorious for such practice, authorities said Tuesday.

The alleged dumping took place on Skid Row in downtown Los Angeles, where there a number of patient dumping cases reported before, police said.

“I can confirm we have an investigation,” said Officer Norma Eisenman, of the Los Angeles Police Department’s Media Relations Section.

She said the investigation was being conducted by detectives in the Central Division but gave no details.

Los Angeles police investigate patient dumping cases

The American Broad-casting Corporation Channel 7 reported that the investigation focuses on two cases of patients allegedly being dumped in front of the Union Rescue Mission.

The network identified the patients but said they could not be contacted.

Attorney: US pilots won’t testify in Brazil about deadly 2006 crash

NEW YORK, 23 Aug—Two American pilots indicted on manslaughter-related charges stemming from a mid-air collision between the corporate jet they were piloting and a Brazilian airliner will not travel to Brazil to testify but are willing to provide testimony from America, the pilots’ lawyer, Joel R Weiss, said Thursday.

The luxury Embraer Legacy 600 jet which Joe Lepore and Jan Paladino were piloting clipped a Gol Airlines Boeing 737 on 29 Sept, causing the larger jet to crash into the remote Amazon jungle, killing all 154 on board. The smaller jet made an emergency landing after takeoff after completing the ground portion of a mission west of Kandahar from a combat mission when one of the helicopters went down. The crash “occurred shortly after takeoff after completing the ground portion of a night operation,” according to the military.

The crash occurred in Kirkuk and, according to the military, was the result of a “mechanical malfunction” and not an attack. All on board the downed chopper were members of the Army’s Task Force Lightning, which operates across northern Iraq. The 14 included four crew members based at Fort Lewis, Washington and 10 passengers based at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, the military said.

Two Canadian soldiers killed in Afghanistan

VANCOUVER (British Columbia), 23 Aug — Two Canadian soldiers and an interpreter were killed and two journalists injured on Wednesday during an attack in southern Afghanistan, the Canadian military said.

The soldiers and journalists from Radio-Canada, the country’s French-language public network, were on a patrol that was returning from a mission west of Kandahar when a roadside bomb exploded, officials said.

The network identified the journalists as came-raman Charles Dubois, who suffered a severe leg injury, and Patrice Roy, who was being treated for shock.

A third soldier was also wounded in the incident.

Iran develops 900-kg “smart bomb”

TEHERAN, 23 Aug—Iran has developed a 2,000-pound (900-kilo-gramme) “smart bomb”, official media quoted a Defence Ministry state-ment as saying on Wednesday, in the latest announcement from Teh-eran about progress regarding military hard-ware.

The guided bomb, named Qased (Mess-enger), was developed by specialists within the ministry and is now operational, IRNA news dropped from F-4 and F-5 jets. Iran still uses planes, such as the F-5, supplied by the United States to the government of the former shah of Iran, who was a close US ally.

Mohammad Reza Shah was ousted in the 1979 Islamic Revolution, after which Washington cut ties with Teheran.

The two countries are embroiled in a deepening standoff over Iran’s nuclear programme, which the West suspects is aimed at making atom bombs, a charge Iran denies.

Iran often says it has built new arms or upgraded weapons but rarely gives enough details for analysts to determine their capa-bilities.

Although much of Iran’s weaponry is outmoded, analysts say Iran has become proficient at modifying such arms.

Two US soldiers killed in chopper crash based out of Hawaii, Washington

BAGHDAD, 23 Aug—The 14 US soldiers who died Wednesday when their helicopter crashed in northern Iraq were returning from a combat rescue mission and were based out of Hawaii and Washington, the US military said Thursday.

The crash occurred in Kirkuk and, according to the military, was the result of a “mechanical malfunction” and not an attack.

All on board the downed chopper were members of the Army’s Task Force Lightning, which operates across northern Iraq. The 14 included four crew members based at Fort Lewis, Washington and 10 passengers based at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, the military said.

Two UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters were “extracting soldiers from a combat mission” when one of the choppers went down. The crash “occurred shortly after takeoff after completing the ground portion of a night operation,” according to the military.

US soldiers killed in Afghanistan

Two Canadian soldiers were killed in southern Afghanistan. The names of the two soldiers that were killed were not immediately released.

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Syria, Iraq discuss oil cooperation

DAMASCUS, 23 Aug—Syrian Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources Sufian Alaw and his visiting Iraqi counterpart Hussain al-Shahristani discussed means of boosting bilateral cooperation in the oil and gas domains, the official SANA news agency reported on Tuesday.

They reviewed the possibility of activating the signed cooperation agreements, particularly the ones of joint cooperation in oil and gas industry, establishing a pipeline to transport crude oil and the principle agreement to link gas networks, the report said.

They also deliberated on the exchange of petroleum products and Iraq’s connection to the Arab gas pipeline, which is under construction to transport the Egyptian gas through Syria and Jordan.

Shahristani was accompanying Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki, who was on his first official visit to Syria since taking office last year. They arrived in Damascus on Monday morning for a three-day visit. MNA/Xinhua

Pakistan, South Africa to enhance economic cooperation

ISLAMABAD, 23 Aug—Pakistan and South Africa decided to increase the economic cooperation between the two countries in the fields of mining, steel, auto, chemical and plastics, scientific and engineering research, the Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) reported Tuesday.

The Engineering Development Board (EDB) of Pakistan and the visiting six-member South African delegation led by Willem van der Spuy, Director of Department of Trade and Industry discussed issues about the possible cooperation in the above-mentioned fields between the two countries at a meeting held here Tuesday, according to the APP report.

The meeting marked the ice-breaking in the politico-economic relations between the two countries as it was the first time for a South African delegation to visit Pakistan in eight years, APP reported. The South African delegation underlined the importance of a specific work programme in these sectors so that the relationship could be built on a sustainable basis.

The delegation assured that South Africa was keen to build partnership with Pakistan on the basis of a South-South cooperation policy of the country and would like to increase interactions between the two governments and business communities. MNA/Xinhua

Computer monitor sales in Brazil grow two fold in first half

RIO DE JANEIRO, 23 Aug—Computer monitor sales in Brazil grew 200 per cent in the first half of 2007, the local branch of the technological research firm International Data Corporation (IDC) said on Tuesday.

According to IDC, four million monitors were sold across the country in the first half of 2007, including LCD (Liquid Crystal Display) and CRT (Cathode Ray Tube) types.

The LCD monitors are massively replacing CRTs in sales. IDC’s senior analyst Reinaldo Sakis explained that consumers are putting more emphasis on ergonomics and saving space on the desktop, as well as price competitiveness.

“Korean giants” have been consecutively losing share in the Brazilian market to smaller manufacturers, such as AOC, Proview and Waytec, he said.

The analyst pointed out that computer companies should cooperate with monitor manufacturers for the production of monitors on notebooks. IDC said it expects nine million monitors to come onto the national market by the end of 2007. MNA/Xinhua

China’s Chery produces millionth car

WUHU (Anhui Province), 23 Aug—China’s Chery Automobile produced its millionth car on Wednesday, becoming the first Chinese automaker to reach the milestone.

The firm, established in 1997, started production in December 1997 and made its first million cars in seven years and nine months, said a statement from the company.

It took Chery about six years to make its first 500,000 vehicles, and only 17 months to complete the second half million.

The millionth car is an A3 four-door hatchback, which made its debut at last year’s Beijing auto show and is expected to go on the market later this year.

The compact model, equipped with Chery’s own-brand engine, was designed to meet environmental and safety standards in the US and European markets, despite some industry analysts claiming Chinese producers lack the technology to meet the standards on their own.

In contrast with Chery, Sino-German automaker FAW Volkswagen spent 13 years making its first million cars, while it took more than eight years for Shanghai GM and Guangzhou Honda to build their first million cars. MNA/Xinhua
Pentagon cuts armoured vehicles due in Iraq in 2007

WASHINGTON, 23 Aug — US troops in Iraq will receive at least 1,000 fewer special armoured vehicles than expected this year due to the amount of time needed for shipment, the Pentagon said on Wednesday.

Pentagon spokesman Geoff Morrell said the Defence Department expected defence contractors to produce 3,900 Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicles this year.

But only 1,500 would make it to the war zone — down from the Pentagon’s previous shipment target of 2,500 to 3,000.

“If we could get 1,500 to theatre by the end of this year, that would be a positive development,” Morrell said. The new goal of 1,500 was first reported by Stars & Stripes, the newspaper for troops overseas that is partially funded by the Defence Department.

The MRAP vehicle is one of the Pentagon’s top acquisition priorities and the Defence Department’s aim has been to buy as many as can be produced.

It follows years of criticism directed at the Pentagon for not providing adequate armour to troops. The MRAPs V-shaped hull is designed to protect occupants from roadside bombs, which have killed many US troops in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Morrell said it takes about 50 days to equip and ship a finished MRAP into the war zone. That includes 15 days for equipping and 35 for transport by ship.

The Pentagon was already flying some MRAPs to the war zone, Morrell said. But given the numbers to be produced, it will quickly become more cost effective to send them by ship, he said, noting November and December would be the highest production months to date.

15 injured as plane makes emergency landing in Colombia

BOGOTA, 23 Aug — At least 15 people were injured on Wednesday when their plane made an emergency landing at an airport in southwestern Colombia, the Civil Aviation Authority said Wednesday.

The accident occurred at the Antonio Narino Airport in Chachuaqui, a town in the southwestern province of Narino.

The plane’s pilot, co-pilot and their assistant, who were in very serious conditions, were rushed to a hospital in Pasto, capital of Narino. The Russian-made AN-26 plane, with 53 people on board, including the three crew members, experienced a failure in one of its engines when it requested an emergency landing.

The plane landed on the airport’s No 2 runway, but lost control and smashed into a sports centre.

Authorities have set up a committee to investigate the accident.

US Army major indicted on Iraq bribery charges

WASHINGTON, 23 Aug — A US Army major, his wife and sister were indicted on Wednesday in a suspected scheme to accept millions of dollars in bribes for Defence Department contracts in Iraq and Kuwait.

The indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Texas charges John Cockerham, his wife, Melissa, and his sister Carolyn Blake, with conspiracy to defraud the US Government, commit bribery and obstruct justice while Cockerham was a contracting officer in Kuwait in 2004 and 2005. All three were also indicted on money-laundering conspiracy charges. Cockerham was additionally charged with three counts of bribery.

Ferry capsizes in southern Thailand

BANGKOK, 23 Aug — A ferry carrying 42 people capsized on Tuesday due to huge wave near Thailand’s famous resort of Phi Phi Island but all passengers and crews were saved by rescuers, local report said.

The boat sank when a high wave hit the boat during a storm near Phi Phi Island of southern Krabi Province. The 38 passengers and four crew were all rescued shortly after the accident, local news network The Nation said.

A passenger was quoted as saying that about one third of the way to Phi Phi Island, a strong storm broke out and the boat was hit by a big wave and capsized.

Iraqi Red Crescent says 500 killed in Yazidi attack

BAGHDAD, 23 Aug — More than 500 people were killed in last week’s suicide truck bombings that targeted the minority Yazidi community in northern Iraq, the Iraqi Red Crescent said on Wednesday.

If the Red Crescent toll is correct, it would make the 14 August bombings in the villages of Khataniya and al-Jazeera the worst attack since the US-led invasion in 2003.

Scores of clay-built homes were levelled in last week’s bombings, burying entire families in rubble, and Iraqi officials have offered widely differing figures on the death toll.

The governor of Nineveh Province last week put the toll at 344 with 70 still missing.

Iraqi officials gave higher figures, although it was not clear what these were based on.

The previous worst attack in post-invasion Iraq, the coordinated bombings that hit Baghdad’s Shiite Sadr City District in November 2006, killed more than 200 people.

17-day-old twin Red River Hoglets keep close to their mother Bahiti at London Zoo on 23 Aug, 2007. Red river hogs, or Potamochoerus porcus inhabit the forests and swamps of west and central Africa. Most active at night, they can often be found rooting for tubers with their upturned snouts. — INTERNET
Lt-Gen Kyaw Win inspects hydro power project, honour outstanding farmers in Lashio
Local farmers to take opportunities to extend cultivation on vacant and virgin lands

Shan State has exceeded its cultivation target of paddy and edible oil crops

NAY PSI TAW, 24 Aug —Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Kyaw Win of the Ministry of Defence on 22 August met with officials of the Shweli Hydro Power Project and Shweli Bridge (Namhkam) construction project being implemented near Namhkam in Lashio.

At the meeting held in Lashio, Assistant Director U Nay Lin of the Hydro Power Implementation Department under Ministry of Electric Power No 1 and Commander Maj-Gen Aung Than Htut reported on tasks of the implementation of the hydro power project.

After hearing reports, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win called for timely completion of the project.

Shweli Hydro Power Project is being implemented on Shweli River 17 miles south west of Namhkam. The project will be equipped with a 610-MW-generator and upon completion, the project is expected to produce 4,022 million kilowatt hours.

Superintending Engineer U Win Kyi of the bridge construction special group-16 of Public Works reported on completion of Shweli Bridge (Namhkam).

After hearing reports, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win called for durability of the bridge as the bridge located on Mandalay-Lashio-Muse-Bhamo Union Road would become a key bridge for the trade sector in the region.

After the meeting, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win attended a ceremony to honour outstanding farmers in Lashio.

Mandalay-Lashio-Muse-Bhamo Union Road would become a key bridge for the trade sector in the region. The bridge located on Mandalay-Lashio-Muse-Bhamo Union Road would become a key bridge for the trade sector in the region.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win awarded three townships who won prizes for the highest average per acre yield category in the township level 10-acre summer paddy cultivation competition.

Next, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win presented prizes to three townships who won first, second and third prizes for the highest average per acre yield category in the township level 100-acre summer paddy cultivation competition.

In his address, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win praised Shan State (North) for its achievement in boosting production of paddy. He also urged departmental officials and local farmers to work together for boosting per acre yield year by year. He also urged local farmers to use supplements in growing paddy to ensure increased per acre yield so that they can enjoy higher income.

Myanmar is an agro-base country and agriculture is the key for development of the economy. With the assistance of the local authority, local farmers are to take opportunities to extend cultivation on vacant and virgin lands in the region. There are over 800,000 acres of vacant and virgin lands in Shan State (North). Shan State has exceeded its cultivation target of paddy and oil crops. Officials and local farmers are to make efforts for maintenance of present level of cultivation in the region.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win urged.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win attended a ceremony to broadcast fertilizer on rain-fed paddy fields for 2007. Lt-Gen Kyaw Win also visited a booth where saplings of Hsinshweli strain paddy and seeds of oil crops were displayed.

During his tour of Lashio, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win also attended a ceremony to donate cash to Shan State (North) People’s Hospital held at City Hall in Lashio.

At the ceremony, Commander Maj-Gen Aung Than Htut reported on matters related to contribution of cash to the funds of the hospital.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win handed over K 10 million donated by Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council to the hospital through the commander.

Wellwishers also donated cash to the hospital through Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Hla Myint and officials concerned. A total of K 22 million were donated to the hospital at the ceremony.

The medical superintendent of the hospital spoke words of thanks and the ceremony ended.

—MNA

Ceremony of 5th AFPIC Council & 2nd Conference Meeting held

YANGON, 24 Aug — The Myanmar Forest Products and Timber Merchants Association opened the ceremony of the 5th ASEAN Forest Products Industry Club (AFPIC) Council & 2nd Conference Meeting at Traders Hotel this morning.

Present on the occasion were Managing Director U Win Tun of Myanmar Timber Enterprise and officials, President U Sein Lwin of MFPTMA and executives, ASEAN delegates and guests.

First, General Director U Win Tun and officials of ASEAN FPTMA posed for a documentary photo. Delegates from Myanmar, Thailand, Malaysia, Laos and Cambodia attended the ceremony.

Secretary Mr Dato Nazuri of ASEAN Forest Products and Timber Merchants Association made an opening speech on the occasion and Managing Director U Win Tun extended greetings.

Next, Managing Director U Win Tun and officials of ASEAN FPTMA presented awards to outstanding farmers who managed to exceed 250 baskets per acre yield in summer paddy cultivation.

Afterwards, Commander Maj-Gen Aung Than Htut awarded three townships who won prizes for the highest average per acre yield category in the township level 10-acre summer paddy cultivation competition.

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—MNA

— THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Saturday, 25 August, 2007
These days, opposing groups have been hurling all sorts of invented criticisms citing the news about the fuel price hikes. I hear they are putting blame on the government that commodity prices have risen and the bus fares have shot up due to sudden fuel price hikes. They also said that the public had to walk since they could not afford bus fares and they were so poor that they had to drink rice gruel instead of eating rice. This way they are tarnishing the image of the nation and the people. They are found to be agitating the public to put blame on the government that commodity prices have risen. Of course not. Well, in this case, there may be a black sheep in a family but even he will not be too rude to criticize his parents.

We should not ignore this fact. The people should not pay heed to the abusive words of axe-handles who try to agitate the people and put blame on every action of the present government. That is what I want to say. I mean every word and action should be fair. We need to ponder what are the underlying causes or reasons. At the same time, one should not be one-sided in dealing with an issue. One and all need to observe both sides of the coin in a just and fair manner. Then only, will one see the correct answer.

In fact, a State is very much like a family of yours and mine. The government is like the parents of a family, and the people are like the children. The parents would never like to see the sufferings of their children. The same way, the government loves and has sympathy for us, the people. We should understand that the government wants the people to enjoy peaceful and prosperous life the way the parents have goodwill towards their children. By the way, are all of us, the parents, in a position to fulfil the wishes of our children as much as we desire? Of course, not. We have our own limitations. We have to do our best for our children based on our limited resources. It is not that we are satisfied with what we have done for the children. It may not be to our full satisfaction. Every family is trying to ensure its continued existence employing all possible means. Will it be fair on the part of the children if they criticize their parents for failing to do their duty? However, the opposing groups are in the wrong.

My understanding is that in Myanmar society, no children criticize their parents. They are always happy with whatever their parents have done for them. It is because they have complete trust and confidence in the incomparable loving-kindness and goodwill of their benefactors believing that the latter would spare no effort in fulfilling their wishes. The parents, on their part, provide whatever is necessary depending on their resources for the well-being of the children after overcoming all adversities. This is a characteristic of Myanmar people. There may be a black sheep in a family but even he will not be too rude to criticize his parents.

Well, I will inform the readers as far as I understand concerning the fuel price hikes. It is common knowledge that the ruling government has done away with the socialist economic system in order to introduce the market-oriented economic system as desired by the people. Obviously, it has given top priority to the wishes of the people. The government will never entertain any ill will whatsoever to inconvenience the people. In my view I believe that it may have unavoidable circumstances to deal with.

The nature of the market economic system is not to control the market and prices. With business mind, emphasis is placed on the profit. Frankly speaking, business transactions are made based on the quality of the product and appropriate price, in other words transaction is made when the product is good and the price is right. As there is rivalry between supply and demand, the price is placed under control. At a time when we are practising market economy according to the desire of the people, there is no reason to criticize price hikes.

(See page 9)

The government imported diesel and petrol and distributed them in the country at a loss in an effort to protect the people against greedy businessmen who are waiting every opportunity to raise the commodity prices, to enable the cultivators to carry out farming at reasonable costs, to minimize production costs and spending in farming and to contribute towards smooth transport of both passengers and goods. Have the critiques forgotten these? I have no wish to raise this question. I would like to ask them not to forget the good service of the government.
Since the change-over from the old economic system to the market economic system, numerous undertakings in the social, health, education and transport sectors and others have been subsidized by the government to ease the basic requirements of the people. It has done so in the interests of the people, who are like children. The same applies in the fuel sector. The government imported diesel and petrol and distributed them in the country at a loss in an effort to protect the people against greedy businessmen who are waiting every opportunity to raise the commodity prices, to enable the cultivators to carry out farming at reasonable costs, to minimize production costs and spending in farming and to contribute towards smooth transport of both passengers and goods.

Have the critiques forgotten these? I have no wish to raise this question. I would like to ask them not to forget the good service of the government.

I would like to tell you as far as I know. Rising fuel prices is a world issue. Every nation has increased the fuel prices in their country according to the world market. It is said that the fuel prices have been increased twelve times since 2003 in China, our neighbouring country. It can be said that it is only our country that the fuel prices are to be increased. In 2000, the price of crude oil was between 22 and 28 dollars per barrel. When the Iraq war worsened in the late 2003, the prices gradually rose. In March 2005 a barrel of crude oil reached 47 dollars. Market analysts predicted that oil prices would gradually reach 105 dollars. The present price of a barrel of crude oil is 71.08 dollars. This shows whether their prediction is right or not. It is estimated that oil prices will continue to rise in 5 to 10 years.

Fuel prices will continue to rise because some experts said it was impossible to discover oil reserve that can be exploited on commercial basis utilizing the present technology. Some said this is not because of drying up of oil but because of reluctance in making sufficient investment in oil production. The rise in oil prices affects our country.

Since the change-over from the old economic system to the market economic system, numerous undertakings in the social, health, education and transport sectors and others have been subsidized by the government to ease the basic requirements of the people. It has done so in the interests of the people, who are like children.

The government spends a lot of money on a number of sectors at a loss in the interest of the people. At the same time, it is building political, economic and social infrastructures with greater momentum. Progress made everywhere is the proof.

Some burden must be cut. We must have accepted it in the interest of the country. Every citizen has to share the expenditure burden falling on the government. If one does not want to share the burden of the parents, one will no longer be their child. If one accepts this concept, the difficulty we encounter today is just a small one.

Fuel prices have been soaring for a long time worldwide. The government increased the fuel prices in order to reduce the expenditures. Fuel price in the country is cheaper than that of other countries. The government does not gain much profit from the present price hike. It still loses money but it minimized the loss. There is no doubt that the government is making efforts for the convenience of the people.
government is making efforts for the convenience of the people.

If the government had not taken seriously the public interest, the State’s energy sector would have been privatized earlier. If so, private businessmen would have increased oil prices that might be far higher than those in the international market in this market economic system desired by the entire people. Then, I would like to wait and see how the anti-government groups will respond.

In the countries practising market economic system, commodities are imported and distributed only by the private sector. Those products will be sold at a certain profit. Unlike our country, the governments of such countries do not sell their oil at a loss and their citizens also accept the prices that have to go up or down according to the market economy. So, we should adapt ourselves to that market-oriented system.

Please don’t think of me as one who is siding with the government. I have said we should see things fair and square. But I am explaining to those wearing dark glasses.

Well, let me go back to the example of parents and their children. It is natural that all parents want their children to be educated and lead a comfortable life. Before 1988, tertiary education could be pursued only by the children of rich people. There were only a few universities and colleges located only in major cities. That was why those from major cities and those from far-flung areas could afford had the opportunity to pursue university education. Children coming from poor families had to start doing their jobs after dropping out of school. Even those who were lucky enough passed only the matriculation. But now, thanks to the ruling government, all regions of the country have enjoyed equitable development and a network of universities and colleges have emerged. As a result, parents from far-off areas can have their children learn education in their own regions by spending a small amount of money. An era in which only rich people could learn university education no longer existed. Poor parents can now send their children to universities; no need to force them to leave school as soon as they have passed the matriculation.

Higher education field has seen significant progress. Likewise, the basic education sector has enabled each and every child to learn basic education. Parents are happy to see their children have a promising future.

As for the health sector, hospitals have emerged in all the regions of the State including border areas. The opportunities to provide medical treatment and medical equipment that the people could enjoy only in Yangon and Mandalay before 1988 have reached far-flung areas. In the past patients with serious cases could not be sent to Yangon and Mandalay Hospitals due to various difficulties including financial constraints. But now the hospitals in other towns and cities are in a position to save many lives. For this, those who have survived thanks to such health care facilities and their relatives will always remember and thank the ruling government. Likewise, I want to say that our people will always show their gratitude to the government.

Moreover, a network of roads and bridges have been built for the improvement of transport sector; dams and reservoirs have been built for irrigation water and industrial zones have been established for the development of industrial sector.

The government, therefore, deserves to be recognized and honoured. I would like to tell axe-handles that our entire people have accepted this point.

To sum up, the government and the people are like parents and children. Every parent does not want to see his or her children get into trouble and every child never defies his or her parents when they arrange something for his or her own good. If there is one, we can say they are like yarning their aunt over their parents. So, we should not take seriously the matter of oil price hike. It is one of the unavoidable issues facing the entire world. No one is to blame for this as the nation has to relax its burden. Here, we would like to say clearly that we children are willing to share the burden of our parents.

Besides, I want to warn the anti-government groups that are resorting to various wicked ways to cause instability in the State as soon as they’ve got a chance. Don’t disturb our parents and children. It is high time they kicked their bad habit of finding fault with and blaming the ruling government. If they continue to hold negative view, they will come to a bad end one day. Only when they see things with constructive attitude, will there emerge good results and benefits. We cannot ignore the concept of cause and effect in everything. Therefore, we should see both sides of the coin to produce fruitful results.

Translation: AK= NW+ ST
(Myanma Alin & Kyemon 24-8-2007)
***************
So-called ‘88’ generation…

“88” disturbances. In doing so, information was received that the internal and external destructive elements are employing three strategies:
1. To apply confrontational cause in order to disrupt and delay the success of the National Convention,
2. To resort to various ways to cause again civil unrest, “88 disturbances”, and
3. To launch internal and anti-government campaigns including terrorist acts.

In implementing the three strategies, anti-government groups agreed to choose a suitable strategy, participate in an anti-government movement and to cooperate each other in favourable condition.

Information was also received that in accordance with these strategies, National Council of Union of Burma (NCUB), which is organized with exiled terrorists and remnants of insurgents, organized the central mass movement committee to implement the mass movement plan designed by remnants of Burma Communist Party. Under the committee, there is a legal mass movement committee consisting with UGs in the country. So-called “88” generation students, so-called veteran politicians, some members of CRPP and some members of NLD are participating in activities of the committee.

They have planted and trained cadres in the mass of NLD are participating in activities of the committee.

The 13 persons including Min Ko Naing are being interrogated and action will be taken against them in accord with the law.

MNA
Car bomb wounds 42 in northern Iraq

MOSUL (Iraq), 23 Aug—Forty-two people were injured during a car bomb attack targeted a US patrol near the city of Mosul in the northern province of Nineveh, a provincial police source said on Wednesday.

“A car bomb parking on a main road in Mosul’s southwestern suburb of Ghizlani detonated Tuesday night near a passing US patrol, wounding 42 people, including five policemen,” Brigadier Abdul Karim al-Jubouri, head of the provincial police office, told Xinhua. Fifteen women were among the victims, al-Jubouri said, adding that it was unknown whether the US troops sustained any casualty as the troops immediately sealed off the scene.

The attack took place during the daily curfew time in the city, which starts at 10:00 pm (1800 GMT) to 6:00 am (0200 GMT) local time, he said.

MNA/Xinhua

Three-dimensional Chinese chess born in Qiqihar

BEIJING, 23 Aug—The first three-dimensional Chinese chess came out recently in Qiqihar, northeast China’s Heilongjiang Province.

The three-dimensional jade Chinese chess was made by a jade workshop in Qiqihar, based on the original design of Tong Yingtai, inventor of the unique set. The set has been awarded an intellectual patent right.

Working with a local tourist bureau in Heilongjiang province, Tong Yingtai has devoted 14 years to studying and designing the three-dimensional Chinese chess, hoping to bring the unique Chinese culture to the world.

Following his invention, Dong spent more than 4 months traveling by bicycle across some 87 Chinese cities from the north to the south in 2001, publicizing his three-dimensional chess along his trip.

This time, with the approaching of Beijing 2008 Olympics, Dong once again plans to embark on his bike tour on 1 Sept this year, across some 38 more cities from China’s west to east, hoping to extend his welcome to the “Green Olympics” in Beijing.

MNA/INTERNET

Ukrainian leader diverts plane, fights fire

KIEV, 23 Aug—Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko diverted his plane to join crews battling a forest fire that has been raging for three days and demanded the resignation of the minister responsible for public safety.

Television footage showed Yushchenko, gearing up for a parliamentary election next month, picking up a shovel on Tuesday, heaving sand onto smoldering wood and straining to help firefighters push a vehicle out of a bog.

The President, long at odds with a government led by his arch rival, Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich, was returning to Kiev from southern Ukraine when he spotted a long plume of smoke. He ordered the pilot to change course and land.

A statement from the President’s office said Yushchenko had “personally taken control of firefighting and rescue efforts” and accused Emergency Minister Nestor Shufrych of misleading the public on efforts to bring the fire under control.

“The minister has displayed total incompetence and is completely uninformed,” presidential chief of staff Viktor Baloga said.

“The President demands that the Prime Minister review whether N Shufrych should remain in his job. Incompetent and unprofessional individuals have no place in government.” Officials said more than 600 people, including residents, were still battling the blaze in Kherson region on Wednesday.

MNA/Reuters

Eight dead as floods plague hit central US

CHICAGO, 23 Aug—Rivers from Nebraska east to Ohio climbed out of their banks on Wednesday, swollen from thunderstorms that soaked the central United States for days and killed at least eight people.

The situation appeared to be worsening in Ohio where 21 counties battled high water, with officials declaring a state of emergency in nine of them in the north-central part of the state.

Showers and thunderstorms were forecast in that area and in general across the region for much of the week as a front stalled over the Midwest, setting up continued thunderstorms as cold air clashed with moisture-laden air from the Gulf of Mexico.

More than 100 people were being evacuated from Findlay, Ohio, with fire and rescue crews using boats to pull people from flooded homes and businesses, Ohio Emergency Management Agency spokesman Tom Hunter said. Cars were submerged and blocks of streets were under water in several towns, and hundreds of residents had been moved to shelters in nearby counties.

No injuries have so far been reported, Hunter said.

“This is the worst flooding many of these communities have seen in 30 or 40 years and many, many people will have to rebuild homes and lives. Our hearts go out to the families,” he said. —MNA/Reuters

Indonesia confirms 2nd human bird flu death on Bali

JAKARTA, 23 Aug—An Indonesian woman from the popular tourist resort of Bali has died of bird flu, a Health Ministry official said on Wednesday, the second confirmed death from the H5N1 virus on the island.

Joko Suyono of the ministry’s bird flu centre in Jakarta said the woman, who died on Tuesday in a hospital in Bali’s capital Denpasar, tested positive for H5N1 after a second test.

The woman, a 28-year-old poultry trader, had suffered from high fever and breathing problems before being hospitalized near her village of Tanah Lot on Saturday.

Tanah Lot on the southwestern part of Bali is popular with tourists for its postcard sunset view and a temple that sits on an outcropping of rock in the ocean. A 29-year-old Indonesian woman from west Bali died more than a week ago of bird flu, the first confirmed death in the resort, the centre of Indonesia’s tourism industry.

MNA/Reuters

C H R O N I C L E O F N A T I O N A L D E V E L O P M E N T

COMPARISON BETWEEN PERIOD PRECEDING 1988 AND AFTER

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Illustrated with short and colorful photos.

Published by the Ministry of Information.

Available at

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01-381-418, 249021

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MNA/Reuter

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MNA/Reuters

Chronicle of National Development

Comparison between period preceding 1988 and after

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MNA/Reuter
Study: stomach stapling leads to longer life

BEIJING, 23 Aug—Researchers in Sweden and the United States studying stomach stapling and other radical obesity treatments have found they not only lead to lasting weight loss but also dramatically improve survival.

Researchers separately found obese people who underwent drastic surgery had a 30 percent to 40 percent lower risk of dying seven to 10 years later compared with those who did not have such operations.

The research, published in Thursday’s New England Journal of Medicine, should put to rest uncertainties about the benefits and risks of weight-loss surgery and may cause governments and insurers to rethink who should qualify for the procedure, some doctors said. “It’s going to dispel the notion that bariatric surgery is cosmetic surgery and support the notion that it saves lives,” said Dr Philip Schauer, director of bariatric surgery at the Cleveland Clinic in Ohio, who had no role in the research. Obesity surgeries have surged in recent years. In the United States alone, 177,600 operations were performed last year, according to the American Society for Metabolic & Bariatric Surgery. The most common method was gastric bypass, or stomach-stapling surgery, which reduces the stomach to a small walnut-sized pouch and bypasses part of the small intestine where digestion occurs.

Conviction of former Illinois governor upheld

CHICAGO, 23 Aug—A federal appeals court on Tuesday upheld the corruption conviction of former Illinois Governor George Ryan, 73-year-old will have to begin serving a 6-1/2-year prison sentence.

Ryan, promoted for years for a Nobel because of his opposition to capital punishment, has been free on bond pending appeal since he was sentenced on 6 September, 2006.

In a 2-1 decision, the US Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit ruled that Ryan and colleague Larry Warner received a fair trial, despite jury problems. “The high-profile nature of these proceedings gave rise to some unusual problems with the jury, but we are satisfied that the court handled them acceptably,” the ruling said.

“The district court properly denied the defendants’ new trial motion,” the appeals panel said in affirming the convictions.

In 2006, a jury convicted Ryan and Warner on 18 counts of racketeering, conspiracy, fraud and other offences involving favouritism and kickbacks for state contracts and property leases that enriched Ryan and his friends. The two maintained their innocence throughout the trial. — MNA/Reuters

Aussie scientists find 4-billion-year-old diamonds

BEIJING, 23 Aug—Scientists in Australia have unearthed diamonds inside zircon crystals that are more than 4 billion years old, almost as old as the Earth.

Found in the Jack Hills region of Western Australia, the gems are considered the oldest terrestrial diamonds ever discovered. Researchers think they could give insights into the early evolution of the planet’s crust.

“Jack Hills is the only place on Earth that can give us this kind of information about the formation of the Earth,” said study team member Alexander Nemchin, a geochemist at Curtin University of Technology, Western Australia. “We’re dealing with the oldest material on the planet.”

Earth developed from a cloud of dust around a proto-Sun about 4.5 billion years ago. It coalesced into a planet-size body and its surface temperatures probably rose above 10,830 degrees Fahrenheit (6,000 degrees Celsius) during its early formation. When the molten Earth cooled, the liquid lava gelled into rocks. — Internet

Study finds key markers for bird flu changes

WASHINGTON, 23 Aug—Researchers have found some of the changes that a flu virus needs to become a deadly pandemic strain, and said on Tuesday the H5N1 avian influenza virus has so far made only a few of them. They said their study can help scientists watch for the mutations most likely to make H5N1 a global threat.

David Finkelstein of St Jude Children’s Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee, and colleagues looked at H5N1 virus samples from people who had been infected. — MNA/Reuters

A fire fighter stands in front of a forest fire in the Kherson region in southern Ukraine on late 21 Aug, 2007. — XINHUA

A girl attentively reads the literal introduction beside the statue of Athena, wearing a simple helm and aegis breastplate, holding a basket at the Greek art exhibition that opens on 12 Aug to 9 Nov in Beijing’s Capital Museum. — XINHUA

A fire fighter stands in front of a forest fire in the Kherson region in southern Ukraine on late 21 Aug, 2007. — MNA/Reuters

Children watch the photographer in the city of Ghazni, southwest of Kabul, on 23 Aug, 2007. — Internet

Louvre treasures on show in Beijing

BEIJING, 23 Aug—Thousands of visitors from home and abroad challenged the autumn heat and swarmed into the Capital Museum on Tuesday, for the ongoing classical Greek art exhibition in Beijing. More than 130 art works, on loan from the Louvre Museum, mainly includes items from ancient Greece from the 5th Century BC to the 4th Century BC, have offered local visitors a good chance to sense the grandeur of Greek civilization dating back more than 1000 years.

The exhibition integrates three parts which provide a panorama of Greek civilization, revealing its social life, the mental world of Greek people and their splendid cultural legacies. — Internet
Chelsea agree to sell Robben to Real

LONDON, 24 Aug — Chelsea have agreed to sell Dutch winger Arjen Robben to Spanish champions Real Madrid, the London club said on Wednesday.

Real confirmed the agreement and said the 23-year-old would sign a five-year deal with the club after undergoing a medical. Spanish media reported that the nine-times European champions would pay around 36 million euros (48.53 million US dollars) for the player.

Robben had been stalling over signing a contract extension at Chelsea, even though his existing deal has two years to run.

He becomes Real's eighth signing of the close season following defenders Pepe, Pepe, Dutch duo Wesley Sneijder and Royston Drenthe, Argentine striker Javier Saviola and former Liverpool goalkeeper Jerzy Dudek. With Ruud van Nistelrooy having signed for Real last season, Robben's signing brings the club's Dutch contingent to four. — MNA/Reuters

\[Image\]

Swiss ensure unhappy return for van Nistelrooy

GENEVA, 23 Aug — Euro 2008 co-hosts Switzerland ensured an unhappy resurrection to Ruud van Nistelrooy's international career on Wednesday, handing the Real Madrid striker and his Dutch teammates a deserved 2-1 friendly defeat.

Bayer Leverkusen midfielder Tranquillo Barnetta scored both Swiss goals, firing the home side ahead with a ninth-minute penalty before doubling their lead with a neat left foot finish six minutes into the second half.

Van Nistelrooy, returning to the Dutch side for the first time since being dropped by coach Marco van Basten after last year's World Cup, put in some lively moves but failed to get the better of a well-drilled Swiss defence. — MNA/Reuters

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Henry lifts France to 1-0 win in Slovak friendly

TRESAVA (Slovakia), 24 Aug — Striker Thierry Henry's fine free kick gave France a 1-0 victory over Slovakia in a friendly on Wednesday. Barcelona striker Henry blasted a low free kick from 25 metres into the left corner on 39 minutes as keeper Stefan Senecky was still positioning his defensive wall.

Winger Franck Ribery went close to doubling the lead midway through the second half, weaving into the penalty box before firing narrowly wide from close range. Philippe Mexes also hit the bar with a powerful header after Florent Malouda's corner.

Austria’s Sebastian Prödl (R) and Czech Republic's Jan Koller fight for the ball during their friendly soccer match in Vienna, on 22 Aug, 2007. — Internet

\[Image\]

Ronaldinho spares Portugal blushes in Euro 2008 tie

LONDON, 23 Aug — Cristiano Ronaldo saved Portugal from an embarrassing 3-1 defeat to Armenia on Wednesday while Belgium denied Serbia's hopes of reaching Euro 2008 with a 3-2 qualifying win.

David Healy, the competition's top scorer, notched two goals to help Northern Ireland go second in Group F with a 3-1 victory over Liechtenstein.

Three of the night's six qualifiers involved teams in Group A where Portugal and Serbia's dropped points enabled Finland to move above them in the table with a 2-1 win at home to Kazakhstan.

Portugal found themselves a goal down in the 10th minute when Armenia's Robert Arzumanyan headed in a corner.

Manchester United winger Ronaldo calmed the visitors' rattled nerves in the 38th when he robbed an opponent and weaved and jinked his way into the penalty area before sliding the ball into the net.

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**Two top Press officers resign from UK’s BAA**

**MARRIOT, 24 Aug — Two top Press officers have resigned from Spanish-owned BAA, the firm said on Wednesday without giving reasons, as the beleaguered UK airport operator fights off a barrage of criticism on the state of its airports.**

The departure of Duncan Bonfield, director of corporate affairs, and Mark Mann, head of media relations, are the latest exits of BAA executives after Tony Douglas left in July as chief executive of Heathrow Airport after nine years at the firm. The Daily Telegraph newspaper reported on Wednesday that Bonfield and Mann had stepped down, because they were unsatisfied with how Spanish construction company Ferrovial, which bought BAA last year, is dealing with British media, politicians and regulators.

Duncan Bonfield declined to comment on the Daily Telegraph story, beyond confirming his departure. A Ferrovial spokeswoman said the firm had nothing to add to the BAA statement. Shortly after Ferrovial’s purchase of BAA in a debt-fuelled 10.1-billion-pound (20-billion-dollar) takeover in June 2006, an air travel-related terror scare resulted in strict new security measures at all UK airports.

**WEATHER**

**Friday, 24 August, 2007**

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thunder-showers have been scattered in Shan State, upper Sagaing and Magway Divisions, fairly widespread in Kayin State, lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Bago Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfall in Rakhine State. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Nay Pyi Taw (0.28) inch, Thandwe (4.33) inches, Loikaw (2.05) inches, Pathein (1.86) inches, Falam (1.77) inches and Mogok (1.37) inches. Maximum temperature on 23-8-2007 was 86°F. Minimum temperature on 24-8-2007 was 73°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 24-8-2007 was 92%. Total sunshine hours on 23-8-2007 was (2.2) hours approx.

Rainfall on 24-8-2007 was (0.28) inch at Mingaladon, (0.44) inch at Kaba-Aye and (1.14) inches at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2007 was (93.15) inches at Mingaladon, (96.38) inches at Kaba-Aye and (95.98) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (8) mph from South-West at (17:30) hours MST on 24-8-2007.

Bay influence: Monsoon is weak to moderate in the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal. Forecast valid until evening of 25-8-2007: Rain or thunder-showers will be scattered in Sagaing and Magway Divisions, fairly widespread in Kayin, Chin, Shan, Kayin and Kayah States and Bago Division and widespread in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (80%). State of the sea: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 25-8-2007: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 25-8-2007: Isolated rain or thunder-showers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 25-8-2007: Likelihood of isolated rain or thunder-showers. Degree of certainty is (65%).

Weather outlook for last weekend of August 2007: During the coming weekend, fairly widespread rain in Yangon Division, isolated rain in Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay Division.

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Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thunder-showers have been scattered in Shan State, upper Sagaing and Magway Divisions, fairly widespread in Kayin State, lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Bago Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfall in Rakhine State. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Nay Pyi Taw (0.28) inch, Thandwe (4.33) inches, Loikaw (2.05) inches, Pathein (1.86) inches, Falam (1.77) inches and Mogok (1.37) inches. Maximum temperature on 23-8-2007 was 86°F. Minimum temperature on 24-8-2007 was 73°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 24-8-2007 was 92%. Total sunshine hours on 23-8-2007 was (2.2) hours approx.

Rainfall on 24-8-2007 was (0.28) inch at Mingaladon, (0.44) inch at Kaba-Aye and (1.14) inches at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2007 was (93.15) inches at Mingaladon, (96.38) inches at Kaba-Aye and (95.98) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (8) mph from South-West at (17:30) hours MST on 24-8-2007.

Bay influence: Monsoon is weak to moderate in the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal. Forecast valid until evening of 25-8-2007: Rain or thunder-showers will be scattered in Sagaing and Magway Divisions, fairly widespread in Kayin, Chin, Shan, Kayin and Kayah States and Bago Division and widespread in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (80%). State of the sea: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 25-8-2007: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 25-8-2007: Isolated rain or thunder-showers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 25-8-2007: Likelihood of isolated rain or thunder-showers. Degree of certainty is (65%).

Weather outlook for last weekend of August 2007: During the coming weekend, fairly widespread rain in Yangon Division, isolated rain in Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay Division.
NAY PYI TAW, 24 Aug — Chairman of the Myanmar National Olympic Council Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein enjoyed the final match of the 1st Nay Pyi Taw Inter-Ministry Football Tournament, organized by the Ministry of Sports and Myanmar Football Federation at No 1 Nay Pyi Taw Sports Ground, here, this afternoon.

Lt-Gen Thein Sein watches final match between the Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs team and Ministry of Commerce team in Nay Pyi Taw Sports Ground.— MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Aug — The Tatmadaw unavoidably assumed the State responsibilities on 18-9-1988 as the State administrative machinery was nearly defunct driving the Union to the brink of collapse and causing deteriorating situation in all sectors of the nation in the absence of peace, tranquility and public security due to the repercussions of 1988 disturbances. Since its duty assumption, the government has laid down aims and objectives and is speedily implementing the tasks for ensuring stability of the State, peace and tranquillity and prevalence of law and order, secure and smooth transportation, well-being of the people and proper functioning of people’s day-to-day business.

So-called ‘88’ generation student group agitating to undermine stability and security of the State

At such a time, the government also strove for the transition to multi-party democracy and the market-oriented economic system desired by the entire people. The National Convention being convened for formulating an enduring constitution to shape a discipline-flourishing democracy will be complete soon. At a time when the NC is nearing complete success, a constitution (draft) will be drawn and then a referendum held to seek the approval from the people so as to successfully realize the seven-step Road Map and ensure discipline-flourishing democratic system.

Furthermore, concerted efforts are being made for ensuring stability of the State and improving economic, social, education, health and transportation sectors including construction of infrastructures so as to systematically practise democracy with essence and ensure the proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system. Thanks to such goodwill efforts, the government will be able to perform peaceful transfer of the State responsibility for successful realization of democratic system and market-oriented economic system desired by the people.

With the ill-intention of grabbing power through a short-cut, internal and external destructive elements are plotting to dominate the upcoming political affairs and to disrupt the proceedings of the National Convention and to cause civil unrest again similar to the

Some NLD members involved in acts of harming peace and stability of State

People comment that a political party responsible to control its members

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Aug— With the aim of building a peaceful modern and developed nation, the State Peace and Development Council, in accord with the desire of people, is striving for proper evolution of multi-party democracy and market-oriented economic system. To undermine these endeavours, a group of so-called ‘88’ generation student group committed terrorist and subversive acts to destabilize the State and it is found that some NLD members are involved in these acts.

Recent incidents showed that NLD members and NLD youth members in collusion with the so-called ‘88’ generation students, participated in acts to cause unrest in the country. On 22 August, those who were expelled from NLD, members of NLD and some of the so-called ‘88’ generation students, walked in procession on Yangon-Insein Road. When they reached Parami traffic lights at 11.20 am, people who did not wish to see the unrest stopped Naw Ohn Hla, San San Myint, Htet Htet Oo Wai, Yin Yin Myat, Daw Yin Shwe, San San Lwin, Than Zaw Myint and Khin Maung Yi who were among the rogues who instigated the people to cause unrest and handed them over to authorities concerned.

Similarly, at about 10.30 am on 23 August, people who did not want to see the unrest stopped (See page 11)