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Lt-Gen Ko Ko inspects Myaungmya Jute Factory, No (5) Chemical Fertilizer Factory Construction Project (Pathein)

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Aug — Lt-Gen Ko Ko of the Ministry of Defence accompanied by Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Kyaw Swe and officials visited Myaungmya Jute Factory of Myanma Industrial Crops Development Enterprise on 3 August.

Officials presented reports on production of jute products and the commander made a supplementary report at the meeting hall of the factory.

Next, Lt-Gen Ko Ko gave necessary instructions and looked into production process of the factory.

On 4 August, Lt-Gen Ko Ko inspected thriving paddy fields and broadcasting of natural fertilizer at U To Gyai Village in Pathein Township.  
(See page 7)

Bhamo-Katha Railroad Project, a fruitful result of stability and peace

Since national reconsolidation in the nation, the government has been taking all measures constantly in its attempt to expedite the tasks for progress of border areas that have seen peace and stability.

Now, peace and stability have been maintained well in border areas, and the government is improving the health, education and communication sectors especially transportation sector in border areas.

Progress of the transport sector has helped generate a prosperous future of local people of border areas, following dramatic development in the related fields such as education, health care and economy.

On our tour of Kachin State for some bylines about regional development, an itinerary took us to ongoing Bhamo-Katha Railroad Project.
(See page 7)

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

Four social objectives
* Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
* Uplift of national prestige and integrity 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

A unit of heavy machinery building the axis of Bhamo-Katha Railroad near Kyaukkyi Village, Shwegu Township, Kachin State.

Article: Myint Maung Soe;  
Photos: Myo Min Thein (Mayangon)
Village libraries: constant source of knowledge for rural people

In Myanmar, not only formal education system but also informal education and self-study education systems are being implemented for all, regardless of age and education, to be able to learn. In the formal education sector, more and more opportunities are being created for all school-age children to have access to education. And the youths of higher educational institutions are now able to study advanced subjects through information and communications technologies.

In the informal education sector also, steps are being taken for children well past school age and adults to be able to learn the rudiments of reading and writing. Efforts are being made for all to be literate and, at the same time, follow-up measures are being taken for those who are already literate to acquire a reading habit and help them read more and more.

Nowadays, the people in rural areas are in a position to broaden their horizons through reading as self-reliant libraries are being opened in villages. It is necessary not only to open more and more village libraries but also to strive for their maintenance and long-term development. It is also necessary to endow the libraries to keep them well-furnished and well-stocked and train people to become librarians.

A ceremony to donate cash, buildings and newspapers and periodicals for self-reliance village libraries in Shan Stat (South) was held at the city hall in Taunggyi on 2 August. The donations received were worth more than K 100 million.

The number of new libraries is now increasing due to the combined efforts of regional authorities, local people, well-wishers, social organizations and departmental personnel. If we strive for maintenance and long-term development of newly-opened libraries, they will become a constant source of knowledge for rural people.

Regional development tasks of Kyunsu Township undertaken

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Aug—Minister for Industry-2 Vice-Admiral Soe Thein and Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein met local people from Kyunsu of Taninthayi Division on 31 July. The ministers inspected progress of work fulfilled during the past tours. And they presented awards to outstanding students and assistance for regional development.

On 1 August, the ministers attended prize-awarding ceremony held at Kyunsu Township and presented awards to outstanding students. After that, they donated cash assistance to Shweannawa Education Foundation of Kyunsu Township.

In the evening, the ministers inspected regional development in Mayanchaung, Kattalu, Katan, Kapa and Kabin villages.

Minister Vice-Admiral Soe Thein presenting award to an outstanding student from Kyunsu Township.—MNA

NIPRO Corporation (Japan) donates Haemodialysis Machine

MANDALAY, 6 Aug—On behalf of NIPRO Corporation (Japan), Managing Director of Myanmar Yutani Co Ltd Mr Yoshinori Komaru donated Kyats 20 million worth Haemodialysis Machine to the Department of Nephrology of Mandalay General Hospital yesterday. Medical Superintendent of Mandalay General Hospital Dr U Maung Win accepted the donation and spoke words of thanks.—NLM
Afghan troops arrest five local Taleban commanders

KABUL, 6 Aug — Afghan forces in clashes with Taleban insurgents arrested five local commanders of the outfit over the past two days in northern province of Baghlan and southern Uruzgan Province, officials said on Thursday.

The troops captured Taleban commander Mullah Aziz during an operation against insurgents in the relatively peaceful Baghlan Province on Wednesday, said military officer Abdul Ahad Khan.

Mullah Aziz, the officer added, had acted as commander of Taleban fighters in Baghlan-e-Markazi district and was involved in carrying out series of subversive activities.

In another incident, four more local Taleban commanders namely Mullah Lala, Mullah Hanan, Mullah Rabbani and Mullah Mullah were arrested in the southern Uruzgan Province, commander of the troops in the region Shir Mohammad Zazi said. —Internet

Roadside bomb kills 21 Afghan civilians

KABUL, 6 Aug — A roadside bomb hit civilians riding a tractor to a wedding in southern Afghanistan, killing at least 20 people, officials said on Thursday. Helmand provincial police chief Assadullah Sherzad said women and children were among the 21 dead and five wounded in Garmsir district, where roadside bombs are frequently used to attack foreign and Afghan forces.

The Afghan Ministry of Defence said that the roadside bomb on Wednesday morning killed at least 20 people. Thousands of US Marines and British soldiers are pushing into Helmand, one of the centers of the Taleban insurgency, in attempt to extend government control and ensure stability ahead of the 20 Aug presidential elections.

The insurgents, who pledge to disrupt the vote, have markedly ramped up attacks and dramatically increased their use of roadside bombs this year.

The UN says civilian deaths in the escalating war soared by 24 percent during the first half of 2009 compared with the same period last year and blamed most of the casualties on Taleban attacks launched with little regard for civilian lives. —Internet

Hiroshima mourns atomic bomb anniversary

HIROSHIMA, 6 Aug— Some 50,000 people gathered on Thursday at the peace park in Hiroshima to mourn the 64th anniversary of the atomic bombing of the city by US forces during the World War II.

Hiroshima Mayor Tadatoshi Akiba delivered a peace declaration, calling for the abolition of nuclear weapons by 2020.

“The hibakusha still suffer a hell that continues,” said Akiba. “The Japanese government should support hibakusha, including those who were victims of black rain and those who live overseas,” he said.

It was reported on Wednesday that the Japanese government aims to come to an agreement with all atomic bomb survivors who have sued the government for financial support to help them pay medical bills for illnesses related to the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Akiba also said, “The year 2020 is important because we want to enter a world without nuclear weapons with as many hibakusha as possible. We call on the world to join forces with us to eliminate all nuclear weapons by 2020.”

Referring to the movements such as the environmentalists, Akiba said, “Global democracy that respects the will of the people and respects the power of the people has begun to grow.” —Xinhua

New Zealand’s unemployment rate rises to 6%

WELLINGTON, 6 Aug — New Zealand’s unemployment rate rose to a nine-year high of 6 percent in the three months to the end of June from 5 percent in the previous quarter, and is the largest quarterly increase since 1988, Statistics New Zealand said Thursday.

Official figures released by Statistics New Zealand on Thursday also showed seasonally adjusted employment falling 0.4 percent to 2.17 million, while the number of unemployed jumped by 48,000 in the 12 months to a 10-year high of 138,000.

The jump in unemployment was largely the result of 15,000 women losing their jobs. The number of males in full-time employment fell but there was an increase in part-time jobs. —Internet

Three killed in clashes in northern Iraq

MOSSUL, 6 Aug — Clashes between gunmen and Iraqi police in the country’s northern city of Mossul on Wednesday killed a policeman and two gunmen, a local police source said. The clashes in northern Mossul also resulted in the wounding of a third gunman who was captured by the police, the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

Mossul, some 400 km north of Baghdad, is said to be one of the last strongholds of al-Qaeda fighters in the war-torn country. Sporadic attacks are still common in Baghdad and other Iraqi cities, despite the dramatic drop of violence over the past two years. —Internet

US soldier killed in Afghanistan

KABUL, 6 Aug — A US soldier was killed in a bomb attack in western Afghanistan, the NATO-led force said on Thursday, adding to a soaring foreign military death toll in the fight against the Taleban.

The soldier from the International Security Assistance Force was killed on Wednesday, ISAF said in a statement. The soldier died when a patrol struck a roadside bomb after troops “engaged” insurgents who were spotted planting bombs in an operation “successfully neutralising their activity,” it added.

US military spokeswoman Lieutenant Commander Christine Sidenstricker confirmed the soldier was from United States. Last month was the deadliest for foreign troops in Afghanistan since the 2001 US-led invasion ousted the extremist Taleban regime from power for sheltering Al-Qaeda following the 11 September attacks.

Internet
ROK’s Posco intends to build steel factory in Indonesia

JAKARTA, 6 Aug — Pohang Iron and Steel Company (Posco), the world’s second biggest steel company from South Korea, intends to build roll coil factory in Indonesia’s Cilegon of Banten Province, the business daily Bisnis Indonesia quoted an official as saying on Thursday.

The project that possibly would be materialized together with PT Krakatau Steel (KS), Indonesia’s biggest steel company, will produce hot rolled plate. The Industry Ministry’s director for metal industry I Putu Suryawirawan said that the new factory was projected to have installed capacity of 2.5 million tons a year with electricity needs up to 500 megawatt (MW).

According to Putu, the total investment for the project is predicted to reach 2.25 billion US dollars. “The current global economic crisis is not obstacle for Posco to invest in Indonesia,” said Putu. The company’s president director Fazwar Bujang added that the investment also would be used to complete the factory’s infrastructure, like new port that is capable to accommodate ship containers loaded with 200,000 tons of material.

Dollar falls against major currencies

NEW YORK, 6 Aug — The dollar fell back against major currencies on Wednesday after technical consolidation a day ago, with investors waiting for rate decisions from Britain and the euro-zone.

The dollar has been falling in the previous sessions as strong economic data hurt safety haven demand for the US currency. It regained some grounds as currency trading on Tuesday was dominated by profit taking. Risk appetite remains relatively high amid improving expectations for economic recovery, driving the dollar lower on Wednesday.

The European Central Bank and the Bank of England will hold their regular monetary policy meetings on Thursday. The central banks are both expected to keep their key rates unchanged at record lows.

Some latest reports showed that the UK economy is pulling out of recession. It cut expectations that the Bank of England would expand its quantitative easing polices on Thursday’s meeting.

US economic data released on Wednesday are mixed. A Commerce Department report US showed factory orders rose by 0.4 percent in June, much better than an expected loss. The service sector shrank by 0.6 points in July, the Institute of Supply Management said. US private employers cut 371,000 jobs in July, worse than expected but better than the previous month, according to payroll firm ADP.

India’s carmaker Maruti-Suzuki expects to increase its export

NEW DELHI, 6 Aug — India’s largest carmaker Maruti-Suzuki India (MSI) Thursday said its exports are expected to achieve the one-lakh, or 100,000, units’ mark in the current financial year which ends next March.

“Maruti cars are exported to over 100 countries and the volume of exports is likely to cross one lakh units in 2009-10,” MSI Chairman RC Bhargava said in an interview here. “Exports of small cars would be one of the major elements in the company’s future growth strategy,” he said.

“From a company which was started to produce one lakh cars a year, we have reached a production rate of 10 lakh cars a year,” Bhargava said, adding that the company has a market share of over 55 percent in the cars and vans segment. He said that the company did not have any idle capacity and didnot lay off any of its employees during the last fiscal year, when the domestic auto market was going through a demand slump. “In 2008-09, we had a small growth rate in sales volumes.”

But the company made reasonable profits despite the impact of higher commodity prices and weaker rupee,” Bhargava said.

Vietnam’s export turnover of vegetables, fruits remains stable

HANOI, 6 Aug — Vietnam raked in 245 million US dollars from export of vegetables and fruits in the first seven months this year, about the same value during the same period last year despite global downturn, according to the agricultural ministry on Thursday.

In July, the country’s fruit and vegetable export turnover was 35 million US dollars, said the information center of the Vietnamese Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

In the first seven months, Russia topped the list of the country’s foreign importers of these goods with 26 million US dollars.

Mexico Govt seeks to reduce bean imports

MEXICO CITY, 6 Aug — The Mexican government plans to invest 500 million pesos (383,550 US dollars) annually in training bean farmers to reduce the nation’s imports, Agriculture Minister Alberto Cardenas said on Wednesday.

“Via the (government-backed) Produce Foundation, we are investing around 500 million pesos a year to broadcast the knowledge that the National Food and Produce Research Agency is discovering,” Cardenas said at the opening of the International Bean Congress and Fair held in the central Mexican state of Zacatecas. Mexico produced 1.12 million tons of beans last year. Meanwhile, imports have risen to 94,000 tons. Despite the large acreage of farmlands devoted to beans, Mexico is still far behind Brazil, the world’s largest bean producer, as well as India, China and Myanmar, Cardenas observed. The government has also laid out a 12-point plan to help farmers, Cardenas added. The plan includes improving seed technology, machinery investment assistance, modernizing logistics and storage centers, and promoting consumption.

Brazil’s Petrobras becomes fourth largest company on American continent

RIO DE JANEIRO, 6 Aug — Brazil’s state-owned oil and gas giant Petrobras has become the fourth largest company on the American continent, according to a study released on Wednesday by consulting company Economica.

According to the study, which included companies from all Latin American countries and the United States, Petrobras’ market value increased 81.1 percent since the beginning of this year, reaching 173.59 billion US dollars, the highest among Latin American corporations. Last year, Petrobras was already the largest corporation in Latin America, but ranked 17th on the complete list.

Women of the Hani ethnic group return home after picking fresh tea leaves at a tea plantation on the Nannuo Mountains in Menghai County of Xishuangbanna Dai Autonomous Prefecture of southwest China’s Yunnan Province, recently.

The Nannuo Mountains, one of the most famous montane tea fields, had a good harvest of tea this year. — Internet

Joffrey Ballet School students Alyssa Boysen (L) and Michelle Ludwig practice in a fountain in Washington Square on a warm night in New York, on 3 Aug, 2009.— Internet
Military alone no solution to Afghan problem

KABUL, 6 Aug — The new Secretary General of North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Anders Fogh Rasmussen on Wednesday ruled out the military alone as solution to Afghan imbroglo. “We have to realize that there is no military solution solely to the situation in Afghanistan and we need a broader perspective and comprehensive approach,” NATO’s top man told a joint Press conference with President Hamid Karzai here. He further stressed that military efforts, hand in hand with a strong commitment from the international community to reconstruction in Afghanistan, is essential for having solution.

Meanwhile, NATO’s chief said that peace talks would be held with “those who lay down their arms.”

He also said that more than 40 countries are present in Afghanistan and “I can assure you to remain in Afghanistan as long as needed.” This is the first visit of Rasmussen to Afghanistan as NATO chief since assuming office on 1 Aug. The former Danish Prime Minister over the rebuilding of Afghan national security forces said that the alliance would continue to train Afghan army and Afghan police until they take charge of the security of their country from the international troops. The NATO secretary general also expressed the alliance support for the coming on 20 Aug Afghan presidential election by saying, “NATO ISAF would do their best possible to ensure security for the election.”—Xinhua

One killed, seven wounded in two shootings in Chicago

CHICAGO, 6 Aug—One man was killed and seven other people wounded in two shootings on the southwestern side of Chicago on early Wednesday, police said.

In Chicago’s West Pullman neighbourhood, four men or boys were shot in early hours on Wednesday with one of them dying hours later at Stroger Hospital in the south. The dead man was identified as Antoine Harris, 31. He was shot twice in the abdomen, police said. A reputed gang member, Harris has been arrested more than two dozen times since 1993, according to court records.

Harris was one of two shooting victims taken to Stroger in serious to critical condition. The other, a 21-year-old man, suffered multiple gunshot wounds, police said. Earlier in the morning, a girl and three males, aged 16 to 21, were shot on the street in the West Englewood neighbourhood, all of them were taken to hospitals, police said.—Xinhua

Panama Canal Authority signs agreement with US port

PANAMA CITY, 6 Aug—The Panama Canal Authority (ACP) has signed an agreement with Port Everglades of the United States to generate new business, the Manager of the Panama Canal Authority (ACP), Alberto Alemán Zubieta, announced on Wednesday.

“The ACP and Port Everglades will work together to promote the commerce to Florida through the Panama Canal,” Alemán Zubieta said. Alemán Zubieta added that this agreement would allow the two sides to exchange information on their most recent modernization efforts and market analyses. The modernization of the Panama Canal began on 3 Sept, 2007, at a cost of about 5.25 billion US dollars, according to the ACP. “At Bharti, we have always believed in undertaking business projects that have a positive impact on the society at large. The launch of Bhutan Fiber Connect is reiteration of Bharti Airtel’s commitment to building a truly global network,” Kohli said.—Xinhua

Indian telecom giant Airtel inks MoU with Bhutan government

NEW DELHI, 6 Aug—India’s telecom giant Bharti Airtel has entered into an agreement with the Royal Government of Bhutan to extend fibre connectivity to the Himalayan Kingdom. Bharti Airtel Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Joint Managing Director Manoj Kohli confirmed on phone on Thursday.

“At Bharti, we have always believed in undertaking business projects that have a positive impact on the society at large. The launch of Bhutan Fiber Connect is reiteration of Bharti Airtel’s commitment to building a truly global network.”—Kohli

Performers of She Huo, the typical northwest China’s Shaanxi folk art, perform during a rehearsal of the 60th Military Tattoo Festival in Edinburgh, Britain, on 5 Aug 2009.—Xinhua

Ramallah, 6 Aug—A former aide of late Fatah leader Yasser Arafat on Wednesday accused the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) of ignoring the probes to know who was behind the death of Arafat.

Bassam Abu Sharif, a former advisor to Arafat told a news conference held in Ramallah that Arafat died in France when Jacques Chirac was the president. Sharif hinted that the former French president knows the real reason behind the death of Arafat.

Arafat died of a mysterious disease in a French hospital on 11 Nov, 2004. The Palestinians accused Israel of poisoning him through food, drinks or medicines that he received when he was under siege into al-Muqata’a, the headquarters of PNA in Ramallah. “There is a real nonfeasance in having a real and serious probe and get to the truth that everyone is eager to know,” said Abu Sharif, who called on Fatah party to immediately form an inquiry committee to investigate Arafat’s death.—Xinhua

Two ladies take a photo on the 3D picture with the theme of 2010 World Expo in Shanghai, China, on 5 Aug, 2009. A large three-dimensional painting created by Edgar Mueller was seen in the Meilong Plaza in Shanghai on Wednesday.—Xinhua

A series of quakes rocks eastern Indonesia

JAKARTA, 6 Aug—Three moderate earth quakes with magnitudes of 5.4, 5.3 and 5.3 rattled eastern parts of Indonesia earlier on Thursday, but no report of damage or casualty, Meteorology and Geophysics Agency said here.

The 5.4 magnitude quake struck at 00:30 am Jakarta time (1730GMT Wednesday) with epicenter at 117 kilometres southwest Faktak of West Papua, the agency said. About one hour later, the 5.3 quake jolted with epicenter at 208 kms southwest Tolitoli of Central Sulawesi and at 62 kms in depth, the agency said. Indonesia with over 230 million people lived on a vulnerable quake-hit zone so called the Pacific Ring of Fire, where two continental plates stretching form Western hemisphere to Japan meet that cause often triggers seismic and volcanic movements.

All items from Xinhua News Agency

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Xinhua

The backout work of the 13-storey collapsed building is underway in Minhang District of Shanghai, east China, on 5 Aug, 2009.—Xinhua

Official urges PNA to probe the reality of Arafat’s death
**Panda dolls attract Beijing youth**

**Beijing, 6 Aug—** Pandas are all the rage this summer in Beijing.

A selection of panda dolls and costumes has been selling like hot cakes among Beijing’s youth, China News Service reported.

The dolls, which include panda boys and girls, brides and grooms, were created by a group of young people who have returned from their studies abroad. The designers plan to promote their brand “Panda Town” as the new “Chinese Barbie”.

The costumes also include western-styles to “panda” to international tastes.—Internet

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**Indonesia inducts research ship for marine survey**

**Jakarta, 6 Aug —** Indonesia’s Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources Purnomo Yuyakanto inaugurated the operation of Geo-Marine III research ship to conduct surveys on marine geology in the country’s waters, local media reported on Thursday.

“We have been expecting the ship for so long because we only have mapped 25 percent of total Indonesia’s sea width. We haven’t mapped yet the rest 75 percent in the deep sea where our big natural resources lie,” said Purnomo at the ship inauguration in West Java’s Cirebon regency on Wednesday.

The minister was hoping that the ship would accelerate mapping program and natural resources exploration in the deep sea. According to Bambang Dwiyanto, head of a research department of the ministry, the construction of the research ship was started in April 2006 following fund approval by Finance Minister Sri Mulyani-Indrawati.

The 61.7-metre-long ship has maximum speed of 13.5 knots with exploring power of 30 days. The ship is also completed with survey equipments like navigation and position system, survey tools for geology, geophysics and oceanography, geological and geophysics laboratory, electronic and mechanical garage, as well as diving equipment. Total cost for the ship construction was 98 billion rupiah (9.8 million US dollars).—Internet

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**17-foot python killed in Fla**

Florida wildlife authorities said a 17-foot, 2-inch Myanmar python was captured and destroyed on a private property in Oketchobee County.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission said the 207-pound reptile, which was captured and killed on Thursday, did not have a pet microchip required for those snakes considered “reptiles of concern,” the Orlando (Fla.) Sentinel reported on Friday.

“arithmetic contents were examined, but nothing identifiable was found inside,” the commission said in a news release.

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**Test vision long before kindergarten**

US vision experts say as much as 80 percent of learning occurs through a child’s eyes and a vision test is needed long before a child goes to school.

The Vision Center at Children’s Hospital Los Angeles experts advise not waiting until kindergarten for a child’s first complete eye exam.

They recommend pediatricians perform a dilated eye exam to detect any serious eye problems within the first two months of life and every child have a comprehensive eye exam by age three.

Some of the more serious eye diseases like lazy eye — amblyopia — or crossed eyes — strabismus — are correctable, especially when caught early.

If a child is having trouble learning to read, parents should include a comprehensive vision examination as one of the tools used to find out why.

“Generally, the earlier we diagnose vision issues, the better the outcome for the child,” a pediatric ophthalmologist at the center Dr Mark Borchert said in a statement.

“Professional eye examination tests not only measure distance of vision, but also how accurately the eyes focus and how well the eye muscles are working.”

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**Flames consume a replica of the 17th-century flagship Prins Willem in Den Helder, northern Netherlands. Fire has destroyed the replica of the 17th-century flagship of the Dutch East India Company. The three-mast tall ship, which was built in the 1980s, was moored for many years at Holland Village in Nagasaki, Japan, before it returned to the northern Dutch port in 2003.**

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**Leopard mum Saia gives her hitherto unnamed cub a wash in Hanover zoo. Saia gave birth to a male and female cub at the end of May. After mating with Saia leopard dad Yallah was banned to a separate enclosure for safety reasons.**

**Venezuelan President criticizes Colombia’s decision on US military bases**

**Caracas, 6 Aug —** Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez said on Wednesday that Colombian President Alvaro Uribe “directs a war policy” by allowing the installation of seven US military bases in Colombian territory. At a Press conference, Chavez reaffirmed his government’s decision on severing diplomatic and commercial ties with Colombia as he considers that the military bases “target Venezuela.”

The US military bases target the Orinoco oil strip, one of the largest oil reserves in the world, he said.” We feel threatened,” Chavez said. “It is like your known enemy is in your neighbour’s house, well armed and crazy.” “The Yankees do not have friends, they have interests,” he added. Chavez also said Colombia is a failed country, where drug trafficking activities have prevailed at all social levels.

He rejected Colombia’s accusations of Venezuela providing weapons for the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), the country’s largest rebel group, saying the pictures of three ATK rocket launchers presented by Colombia “do not have support” as those are single-use weapons. Bogota has said a batch of Swedish-made weapons bought by Venezuela during the 1980s had ended up in the hands of the FARC, which has been fighting the Colombian government for more than four decades.—Internet

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**A herd of wild horses grazes on a pasture atop Krug Mountain in Western Bosnia. Dozens of wild horses graze peacefully atop a Bosnian plateau where the silence is broken only by neighing, a breathtaking sight enthusiasts are fighting to preserve.**

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**A selection of panda dolls and costumes has been selling like hot cakes among Beijing’s youth.**
At the briefing hall, Lt-Gen Ko Ko heard reports on agricultural production and paddy quality presented by departmental officials and gave instructions on agricultural matters.

Then officials handed over books on methods for boosting paddy output to local farmers.

After hearing reports on academic and administration matters presented by the headmistress and the division education officer, Lt-Gen Ko Ko gave necessary instructions and spoke words of encouragement.

Next, Lt-Gen Ko Ko went to No (5) Chemical Fertilizer Factory Project (Pathein) of Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise in Kangyidaunk Township.

Lt-Gen Ko Ko of Ministry of Defence inspects construction of No. 5 Chemical Fertilizer Factory Project (Pathein) of Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise in Kangyidaunk Township.—MNA

After hearing reports on facts about the project presented by officials, Lt-Gen Ko Ko gave necessary instructions, presented gifts and viewed the scale model of the factory.

Then Lt-Gen Ko Ko oversaw the worksite of the factory construction project and left necessary instructions.

MNA

Bhamo-Katha Railroad Project, a fruitful result of stability and peace

Article: Myint Maung Soe; Photos: Myo Min Thein (Mayangon)

Under the arrangements made by the Bhamo District Peace and Development Council, we visited the project site, a 30-minute boat drive from Shwegu. On arrival at the port in Kyaukkyi Village-tract, we proceeded to the project by motorcycle, which is about two miles from Kyaukkyi.

In an interview, Secretary U Hsan Oo of the township PDC said, “Shwegu Township section of Bhamo-Katha Railroad Project is being implemented by two companies. They are Myanmar Shwe Tharaphu Company and Alloy Company. Now, Myanmar Shwe Tharaphu Company is undertaking Kyaukkyi-Thayagon section. To be exact, the project has been launched since 19 June this year. The company has 22 technicians and eight units of heavy machinery. Myanmar Shwe Tharaphu Company has a target to deal with groundwork for 10 million cubic feet of earth.”

He added, “Alloy Company has been carrying out groundwork since 15 June this year for Thayagon-Minkyawgone section with six units of heavy machinery and 36 technicians. The company also has a target of 10 million cubic feet of earth to build an axis for the railroad.”

Simultaneously, other companies were carrying out groundwork to complete the building of an axis for Katha section. The project is due to be completed by 2010.

When Bhamo-Katha Railroad section is completed, goods can be transported by train from Mandalay to Bhamo. And trade activities can be carried out with the People’s Republic of China through Lwejel border checkpoint in Bhamo District. In addition, the transport facility will help improve the transport for the convenience of local people of Bhamo District where waterways are only source of transport.

In respect of Bhamo-Katha Railroad Project, U Kyaw Kyaw Naing, a local, said, “Local people of us never dreamt about such a railroad here. We thank the government very much for restoration of peace and stability and for the railroad.”

Upon completion, the prudent project will help improve the transport, economy, education and health care of the townships and villages along the railroad.

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Translation: MS Myanma Alin:

5-8-2009

MNA
From stability and peace to democracy

Ba Nyar Aung

Now, Myanmar’s politics is at a crossroads. A constitution has been approved. Myanmar is going to hold an election in 2010 in which representatives will be elected to form legislative bodies at all levels in accordance with the constitution. So, the people and those who plan to form political parties to stand for election have to prepare themselves for and hold discussions about the election. And the people relish the thought of enjoying a prosperous future of the nation. However, we cannot rest assured that things will go smoothly, and we have not completed all preparations yet. Certain persons are plotting to destroy all our hopes.

The greater momentum the State’s seven-step Road Map is picking up, the more active constructive elements are to disrupt the programme. Now, the election is going to take place as the fifth step of the Road Map, but there have been many demands for amendments to the constitution as well as comments on the forthcoming election associated with the role of a specific person and organization. What is worse is that certain persons are secretly as well as publicly deceiving the people into staging mass demonstrations and violence if they will not have their demands fulfilled.

Their attempts focus on democratization in Myanmar through violence or regime change, which was very common in the Bush administration. That way does not work, as evidenced by the situations in Iraq and Afghanistan. The experiences gained in Iraq and Afghanistan affairs have proved that democracy cannot be imported, like a product. In Iraq and Afghanistan, national reconstruction tasks show unsuccessful due to the fact that salient points in the histories and cultures of the countries are not taken into consideration, internal security and stability cannot be restored well, and democracy was introduced without institutionalization.

However, those opposing the seven-step Road Map are trying to make political reforms through regime change. They seem to keep on thinking that democratization process will be successful here in Myanmar although it proved unsuccessful in Iraq and Afghanistan. The events in the Myanmar’s history show that such impractical approaches produce disadvantages rather than advantages. In the post-independence period in 1948, the communists led by Thakin Than Tun disagreed with the AFPFL government. However, Bruma Communist Party standing as a legal party had the right to stand for election according to the 1947 constitution. If the party won in the election, it could hold discussions in the parliament to cease the disagreements. Then, they could present them to the public. In other words, it had an opportunity to deal with the disagreements through negotiation in the frame of the law. Nonetheless, BCP did waste the unique opportunity, and tried to oust the AFPFL government through armed insurgency, an illegal means. Therefore, BCP transformed itself from a legal into illegal party. BCP members then went underground with a plan that they had to triumph in next two years. Forty years after that, the party collapsed into pieces.

In like manner, Myanmar Socialist Programme Party proposed for a referendum in 1988 in order that the people could choose either of the two systems: one-party system or multiparty system. According to the 1974 constitution that was still in force at that time, provisions on changes in nation’s administrative machinery could be amended only through the desire of the public. So, Myanmar Socialist Programme Party’s proposal served as a door to political reforms. Nevertheless, those opposing Myanmar Socialist Programme Party did not accept the proposal. They were in fear that if a referendum was held, the ruling party might win. So, they deceived the people into taking to the streets by generating public outrage and issuing made-up news. Then, the ruling government announced that it would hold a multiparty election in next three months instead of a referendum, but they did not accept it either. They launched regime change programme, chanting slogans “Fight if democracy is not guaranteed”, “Fight whether democracy is guaranteed or not”, and “Form an interim government”. Later, anarchy came to reign supreme and many innocent people were beheaded and factories and mills were burnt down through mob rules. Even so-called democracy leaders were not in a position to control the anarchic acts. The situations forced the Tatmadaw to take over State duties. The political unrest also reflected that attempts to make political reforms through violent means outside the framework of the law had adverse effects, rather than positive results. If the drive for political reforms had been carried out in the framework of the 1974 constitution, the tasks to make Myanmar political reforms would have gone smoother and more rapidly.

Now, within the reach of the people is a golden opportunity to realize democratization process in the framework of the constitution in Myanmar. Amidst a large variety of challenges and disruptions the National Convention was completed to formulate a new constitution. The National Convention adopted basic principles and detailed basic principles as a result of thorough and frank discussions held by the representatives. National legal experts drafted the State Constitution (2008) based on the adopted principles. The constitution was approved by the vast majority of the voters in the referendum. The constitution is the foundation for democratization in Myanmar.

Only now are they demanding amendments to the constitution be made before the election. They did not have their demands fulfilled in the National Convention, so they claimed that the new constitution did not meet democracy norms. In fact, the National Convention was attended by delegates representing the people from all strata of life, and various national races. Different delegates and delegate groups have their different businesses and different views. It was impossible for the National Convention to satisfy all the wishes of the entire people. It sought through discussions the most appropriate way from among the different views. It is unreasonable to blame the National Convention just because all their demands were not satisfied there. Whether a constitution is appropriate or not rests on whether it is designed to serve the nation’s interest or not. The government alone is not authorized to amend the constitution because it is written with the principles adopted at the National Convention and it has been approved with the massive support of the people. If the constitution is to be amended so, the minority disregard the wishes of the majority of the people, and such an impudent act is against democracy. Those demanding amendments to the constitution seem to be overlooking that point.

Another point is that it is absolutely unwise to copy a constitution. Suppose it had been done so, the United Nations would have drawn a model constitution for all countries. None of the constitutions of the western democracies is identical. So, a constitution is to be compiled according to the political background, economy, races and culture of a nation concerned. So, clearly, it is not wise to say that a constitution of a country does not meet democracy norms as it is not similar to a foreign one.

Indeed, the State Constitution (2008) vests far more opportunities than previous ones in legislative and executive rights in order that national races will be able to manage tasks for regional development on their own. Legislative bodies at all levels prescribed by the constitution are the places where the major forces for Myanmar’s politics—Tatmadaw, political parties and national races—can hold talks. The fundamental rights of the citizens enumerated in the constitutions are identical to the fundamental rights stipulated in the United Nations’ Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Those provisions will guarantee the people opportunities to enjoy democracy rights correctly. Likewise, the provisions on amendments give the people opportunities to amend the constitution step by step with maturity of the people and political forces in practicing democracy. These points indicate that the people can choose the most suitable way to exercise democracy in the framework of the law.

The constitution and the 2010 election serve as the first giant step for practicing democracy correctly and firmly. Many more steps are yet to be taken. A 1000-mile journey starts with the first step. If the first step is in disorder, it will be hard to take more steps. Now, the first step has not been taken, but certain elements are resorting to means to hinder it. The people of us are to be vigilant against their attempts. If the first step is taken properly, the processes can go on smoothly and steadily. If the people learn lessons from the past historic incidents in which the motherland and the people went through the hell of untold miseries triggered by the unlawful attempts to make political reforms outside the framework of the law, the people of us will be able to keep on taking steps towards democracy regularly and smoothly. That is the bounden duty of the entire people of us.
YANGON Command Commander attends Commander’s shield chess tourney, prize-presenting ceremony

YANGON, 6 Aug—The YANGON Command Commander’s shield chess tournament was held along with prize-presenting ceremony at the Command yesterday afternoon, attended by YANGON Command Commander, Maj-Gen Win Myint, senior officers of Command, officers and other ranks of regiments and units and participants.

At the prize-presenting ceremony, the officials concerned presented prizes to the winners.

Next, the commander presented the shield to the winning team and concluded the ceremony.

The 1st work coordination meeting of Leading Committee for 17th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions took place at the meeting hall of the Command in Kyauktada Township. The commander delivered an address at the meeting.

Afterwards, those present touched upon the matters for respective sectors and the commander gave necessary instructions. —MNA

Prizes awarded to offspring of SC staff

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Aug—The prize-presenting ceremony for offspring of staff of Supreme Court and courts taking education in 2008-2009 academic year and stipend-providing ceremony for 2009-2010 academic year were held at meeting hall of Supreme Court here this morning. Chief Justice U Aung Toe spoke on the occasion and presented prize to the six-distinction winner.

Next, Deputy Chief Justice U Khin Maung Latt and Supreme Court judges and directors-general presented awards and stipends to outstanding students. Afterwards, a student spoke words of thanks. —MNA

Eight passengers killed, 23 injured in head-on collision on Yangon-Mandalay Road

YANGON, 6 Aug—A head-on collision took place on YANGON-Mandalay Road in Sinbuangwe Township, Magway Division, on 3 August evening. It left eight passengers dead and 23 injured.

A Dyna truck on its way from Aunglan to Sinbuangwe collided head on with truck towed by Tipper lorry leading to Aunglan, near Tharyarpon village in Sinbuangwe Township, mile post No. (235/7) on Yangon-Mandalay road, at 10.30pm on 3 August.

Seven out of forty passengers on Dyna truck were killed on the spot and one in Aunglan People’s Hospital and 23 others were injured and 21 others in Aunglan People’s Hospital and two in Pyay People’s Hospital where they are receiving medical treatment and necessary aid officials concerned, doctors and nurses.

Action is being taken against the drivers Ye Min Tun and Sit Aye Lwejel. —MNA

Energy Minister visits fuel station, storage and distribution branch

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Aug—Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi inspected selling and distribution of fuel at Fuel Station No. (0702) in Taunggyi on 4 August and called for systematic measures on fuel sale, fire preventive measures and ensuring smooth relations with the customers. He then viewed the coffee plantation at the station.

At Storage and Distribution Branch (A) of Myanma Petroleum Products Enterprise in Shwemyang, the minister heard a report on storage and distribution of fuel by an official and gave instructions on distribution of fuel and fire preventive measures and viewed Sein-ta-lone mango trees grown in the compound.

Next, the minister oversaw distribution of octane at Octane Branch (Heho) and left necessary instructions. He then viewed thriving fruit trees at the staff plantation. —MNA

Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw delivers speeches at 17th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Aug—Minister for Culture Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein and Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegrapb Brig-Gen Thein Zaw delivered speeches at a ceremony held at Townhall of Bhamo in Kachin State on 3 August to meet with executive members of Bhamo Chambers of Commerce and Industry, departments and town elders.

The minister met local people at Seinlon village of Lwejel and inspected thriving fruit trees along the Seinlon-Lwejel road.

After that, the minister met with departmental officials, town elders and members of social organizations at Townhall of Lwejel and staff at border trade camp and communication camp in Lwejel.

On 4 August, Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw delivered an address at prize-presenting ceremony held at townhall of Bhamo and presented awards to outstanding students and teachers.

At Bhamo auto exchange, the minister met officials, town elders and members of social organizations from Bhamo District and attended to the needs after hearing the reports presented by those present. —MNA

Chief Justice U Aung Toe presents award to a six-distinction winner.—MNA

Justice U Khin Maung Latt and Supreme Court judges and directors-general presented awards and stipends to outstanding students. Afterwards, a student spoke words of thanks. —MNA

Commerce Minister, CPT Minister undertake regional development tasks in Bhamo

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Action is being taken against the drivers Ye Min Tun and Sit Aye Lwejel. —MNA

Health & Beauty Exhibition 2009 on 18-20 September

YANGON, 6 Aug—Spring Commercial Co Ltd will organize Health & Beauty Exhibition 2009 at Tatmadaw Convention Hall on U Wisara Road from 18 to 20 September.

The exhibition provides room for 150 pavilions. Local and foreign hospitals, clinic, beauty salons, fitness centres and training centres on body care medicine, cosmetics, hair, skin and nail care goods, advanced body care therapies and equipment, traditional cosmetics, and body building are invited to the exhibition.

The exhibition is designed to generate best opportunities in which customers and producers and distributors can deal with directly, and those companies wishing to stage their exhibitions may dial Tel: 392593, 09-5198491, or 09-5004345, says Spring Commercial Co Ltd.—NLM
Information Minister receives Russian Ambassador

Nav Pyi Taw, 6 Aug—Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan received Russian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Mikhail Mgledaze at his office here at 4.30 pm today.

Also present at the call were Director-General U Khin Maung Htay of Myanmar Radio and Television, Director-General U Ye Htu of Information and Public Relations Department, Managing Director U Aung Nyein of Printing and Periodicals Enterprises, Managing Director U Soe Win of News and Periodicals Enterprises, Head of Office U Myint Htwe of the Ministry of Information and officials.—MNA

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan receives Russian Ambassador Mr Mikhail Mgledaze.

MNA

Forestry Minister receives Panthera Foundation CEO

Nav Pyi Taw, 6 Aug—Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung received Chief Executive Officer Dr Alan Robert Rabinowitz and party from Panthera Foundation at the ministry, here, yesterday. It was attended by Director-General of the Forest Department U Aye Myint Maung, Director-General of the Dry Zones and officials.

Chairman U Kyaw Thu of Civil Service Selection and Training Board delivers address in meeting with national races at the reception of Nos. 9 and 10 MED 2-year course, Nos. 4, 41 and 42 and 43 BED 4-year course, Nos. 5 and 6 BED 2-year bridge course, No. 19 BED 1 year course and No. 19 middle school teachership 1 year course on 5 August. (News Reported) — MNA

Fire breaks out on cargo ship in water near Danitaw

Yangon, 6 Aug—Seven people were dead, nine lost and eight injured in a cargo ship fire broken out in the river near Danitaw, Botataung Township here on 3 August.

The fire started in engine room while Kyant-14 vessel was filling oil to Sein Shwe Moe cargo ship in the river near Danitaw, Botataung Township at about 4 am on 3 August. In the accident, four were dead, eight injured and two are missing from Sein Shwe Moe cargo ship and three dead and seven are still missing from Kyant-14 vessel. Authorities concerned are searching the lost victims around the scene. The injured were sent to hospital and necessary assistance is being provided. MNA

Acer notebook: lucky draw programme held

Yangon, 6 Aug—In gratitude for the service of agents in July, Shwelaminagar Company, sole agent of Acer to Myanmar, organized its lucky draw programme at Acer showroom at the corner of Strand road and Lanthit street in Lanmadaw Township, here, today.

Managing Director U Soe Win Aung presented K 500,000 each to lucky draw winner Sai Lai Sae and owner of Citicom Store Daw Khin Myat Htut.

The company will organize its lucky draw programme for August and present cash awards to winners. MNA

Sarpay Beikman 50th book in circulation

Yangon, 6 Aug—Today the book of writer Thein Than Win (Mahlaing) awarded Pakokku U Ohn Pe literary award (first prize in novel), organized by Sarpay Beikman book association under the Printing and Publishing Enterprise, came out as the 50th book of the association. Those members of the association in Yangon may take out the book at No. (529/531), Sarpay Beikman book association on Merchant road and, copies are sent to other members by post.

Those wishing to be members may contact the secretary of the association at No. (529/531) on Merchant street (Tel: 01-249031). MNA
Russia says Turkey agrees to start S Stream work

Moscow, 6 Aug — Turkey has agreed “in principle” to allow the South Stream gas pipeline to pass through its territorial waters, a senior Russian official said on Wednesday, ahead of a visit by Prime Minister Vladimir Putin to Turkey.

Putin’s trip follows a signing ceremony in Ankara last month for transit agreements for the rival Nabucco gas pipeline, a European Union-backed project designed to counter Russia’s strong influence on European energy supplies.

“An agreement has been reached in principle to start construction work,” Yuri Ushakov, deputy head of government staff, told a news briefing. He said the Turkish Government will also give permission to begin a feasibility study “within days”.

A Turkish Government source who declined to be identified confirmed to Reuters Turkey will agree to allow the South Stream gas pipeline to pass through its territorial waters. — MNA/Reuters

Over 100 ill after ammonia leak in north China

HORHOT, 6 Aug— More than 100 people fell ill Wednesday after an ammonia gas leak at a pharmaceutical plant in north China’s Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, local police said.

The leak occurred at 9:40 a.m. when a truck carrying 50 to 60 tons of liquid ammonia was unloading at the workshop of Chifeng Pharmaceutical Factory in Chifeng City, said Wang Suoyou, summoner of the fire control detachment of the city’s public security authorities.

The leak had been sealed, Wang said.

Local public security, environment protection and work safety authorities had set up a team to investigate the accident. Authorities were also testing the city’s water supplies for ammonia contamination. About 300 police officers were maintaining order on the site. An initial investigation suggested that the leak was caused by workers failing to operate the equipment properly and old pipes. People within 2 kilometres downside of the leak were evacuated. — MNA/Xinhua

About 4,000 Indonesian migrant women infected by HIV/AIDS yearly

JAKARTA, 6 Aug — Some 4,000 Indonesian migrant women workers who returned to Indonesia were infected by HIV/AIDS every year, according to the result of a survey carried out by health agency on Wednesday.

“The data was obtained from migrant workers arrival center in Jakarta International Airport. The number could double as migrant workers who arrived in other arrival centres in the country were not detected,” Bob Mont-house, the director of Bali Health Foundation (Yakeba) that carried out the survey was quoted by Antara news agency as saying.

Besides Jakarta airport, Indonesia also provides migrant workers arrival centres at Surabaya, Medan and Makassar international Airports, he said. Bob said that most of Indonesian migrant women workers infected by HIV/AIDS were working in factories, textile manufactures, plantations and house maids.

“They were infected by HIV/AIDS due to their free lifestyle, being raped by their employers or by their colleagues,” he told reporters in the capital city of Bali Province, Denpasar. He said that most of those migrant workers did not know that they were already infected by HIV/AIDS. — MNA/Xinhua

Indonesia’s culture, tourism development on right track

JAKARTA, 6 Aug — Indonesia’s culture and tourism are developing well despite of the world’s financial crisis that wrecked many countries, the Jakarta Post quoted minister as saying on Thursday.

Minister for Culture and Tourism Jero Wacik said that Indonesia’s movie and music industry grew significantly compared with the previous year while tourist arrivals was expected to keep growing this year. “No less than 90 films are in production this year alone, up from 27 last year, 21 in 2004 and only six in 2001,” Wacik told the daily on Wednesday.

He said that the revival of the domestic film industry has been followed by the re-emergence of local films and festivals, which had died out in recent years. Meanwhile, Indonesia’s music industry has grown at the extraordinary rate with a countless number of new songs composed and produced.

However, he admitted that something that had not been in his priority list was the fight against the rampant practice of cassette and compact disk piracy.

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago.

The second best

Villagers who worry from the advancing ice mass of the Aletsch glacier

GENEVE, 6 Aug— Villagers from deeply Roman Catholic south Switzerland have for centuries offered a sacred vow to God to protect them from the advancing ice mass of the Great Aletsch glacier. Global warming is making them want to reverse their誓言, and the Alpine faithful are seeking the permission of the pope.

Since the vow was established in 1678, the deal was simple: the citizens of the isolated mountain hamlets of Fiesch and Fieschertal would pledge to lead virtuous lives. In exchange, God would spare their homes and livelihoods from being swallowed by Europe’s largest glacier as it expanded toward the valley with heavy winter snows.

Times have changed, and the once-feasome Aletsch is melting amid temperatures that are 0.7 degrees Celsius (1.3 Fahrenheit) warmer than in the 19th century. The pastor at the Emmerwald Chapel has warned his flock that a new danger threatens. — Internet

Bulgarian astronomers find seven new asteroids.

INTERNET

The Aletsch glacier, the largest in the Alps is pictured in 2007. Roman Catholics in two southern Swiss Alpine communities want to give up a centennial tradition of praying for the retreat of mountain glaciers and switch to prayers against climate change instead.—INTERNET

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INTERNET
Canada’s Quebec Province, police said.

A helicopter crash on Wednesday morning in central Laurier in northwestern Quebec. The town was just hit by a major tornado on Tuesday. About 40 houses were damaged and many trees uprooted. The victims are the pilot, who lived in the area, and a passenger.

Xinhua

Drug feud kills 42 in Colombia

BOGOTA, 6 Aug — Feud between rival drug groups in Colombia has resulted in heavy clashes that killed at least 42 people, including several civilians, a regional health advisor said Wednesday. The clashes took place in the northern part of Colombia’s southwestern state Narino, said Xavier Hernandez, health advisor to the local government.

Hernandez added that the two responsible paramilitary groups are Los Rastrojos and Aguila Negra, who were feuding over control of drug trafficking routes and a drug-planting area of 5,000 hectares of coca. Fabio Trujillo, secretary of the Narino state government, told Xinhua via telephone: “We have received information about the deaths, and the local government has begun to look into recent clashes of similar types,” Trujillo said.

Peace advisor Hernandez added that a special investigation team consisting of the Peace Office of Narino, the United Nations and the Organization of American States would arrive in the troubled area this weekend. Currently, Colombia is the world’s largest producer of cocaine, according to the UN Office on Drugs and Crime.—Xinhua

Three killed, nine injured in Pennsylvania shooting

WASHINGTON, 6 Aug — Three people were killed and nine others injured when a man opened fire in a fitness center near Pittsburgh on Tuesday night.

Police said the 48-year-old man walked into a fitness center near Pittsburgh on Tuesday night and fired up to 52 shots at a dance exercise class, killing two women and wounding nine others before fatally shooting himself.

“He walked right into the room where the shootings occurred as if he knew exactly where he was going,” Allegheny County police Superintendent Charles Moffatt said at a press conference on Wednesday. “I think he went in with the idea of doing what he did.”

Witnesses said the gunman, who was wearing a workout outfit, walked to the back of the room, sat down a bag before coming up with two guns and opening fire on the class. Moffatt confirmed that at least two guns were discovered at the crime scene and a note was also found in the man’s bag. Moffatt did not disclose the details of the note.

Xinhua

Woman installs cell phone shielding device at home

BEIJING, 6 Aug — A woman in Guiyang, capital of Guizhou Province, installed a device in her house that shields cell phone signals in an attempt to stop her husband from going out with his friends to get drunk at nights. The woman surnamed Huang, 33, said she was frustrated because her husband, the chief of an advertising firm, received phone calls from friends every night asking him to come out for a drink.

“Each night my husband would return home drunk, which is why I installed the device,” Huang said. However, on Sunday, her husband figured the reason for not getting phone calls off late and decided to stay in office after work to receive phone calls from his friends.—Xinhua

Plane engine fire injures eight in France

PARIS, 6 Aug — Eight people were slightly injured on Wednesday when the engine of a Vueling Airline plane caught fire just before take-off from Paris Orly Airport, local media reported. The Airbus A320 owned by the low-cost Spanish carrier was preparing to fly to Alicante in Spain when the fire occurred. All passengers and crew were evacuated from the plane. The injuries were caused when people escaped from the plane via emergency exits. An official from Orly airport said “the alarm was triggered at 10:35 am (0835 GMT) and it was over at 11:09 am”—Xinhua

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Xinhua
Argentina reports 337 total deaths of A/H1N1 flu

Buenos Aires, 6 Aug — Argentine Health Ministry Wednesday reported the A/H1N1 influenza death toll in the country rose to 337. Vice Health Minister Maximo Diosque told local media that they were testing other 400 deaths to determine whether these victims had died of A/H1N1 flu.He said Argentina had registered a total of 762,711 flu cases, of which 93 percent were A/H1N1 flu.— Internet

Mozilla fixes more Firefox holes

Beijing, 6 Aug — Mozilla, the company behind the popular Firefox browser, has finally resolved a number of security flaws. The Firefox update released on Monday fixes a recently disclosed flaw in the way Firefox 3.0 and other programs handled SSL certificates, which are used for secure online communications. The SSL certificate issue could allow an attacker to use a “null to intercept” SSL communications between the browser and a site. Such traffic is normally encrypted so that it would only appear as indecipherable letters and numbers to any digital spies. However the flaw could allow a so-called “man-in-the-middle” hijack if an attacker had access to a network.

Firefox 3.0.13 fixes this problem, along with further certificate problems. Mozilla has released patches and Mozilla's public statement. Mozilla said that Firefox 3.5.1 provides fixes for these errors, but a new 3.5.2 browser update certificates other security holes, including a javascript bug that could potentially allow malicious users to install malware.

Last month a major security flaw was reported in Firefox 3.5. Efforts by Mozilla to patch that hole initially failed leaving users vulnerable to attacks. The remote denial-of-service vulnerability affected Firefox versions 3.5.0 and prior.

According to Security Focus, the vulnerability came about through the software’s Unicode text handling system, which allowed a remote attacker to execute arbitrary code simply by embedding it into a web site.

As soon as the visitor hit an affected page, the software would crash, leading to a denial of service attack, and under certain conditions the code would be executed by Windows.

Windows 7 reported bug not likely “showstopper”

Beijing, 6 Aug — Microsoft is looking into reports of a potential bug in the final version of Windows 7, an issue appearing neither widespread, nor that “showstopper” as claimed by some, media quoted Microsoft's top Windows executive as saying on Thursday.

The issue, noted on several enthusiast sites this week, involves a fairly arcane process used to check for problems in a particular disk. Under certain scenarios, the site suggested Windows 7 might siphon off all the available memory to perform the scan, potentially crashing the system. A report went so far as to characterize the issue as a potential “showstopper” that might derail the product's launch, while others such as ZDNet’s Ed Bott have downplayed the threat.

However, in the discussion on one of the blogs, the top windows executive Steven Sinofsky said, “While we appreciate the drama of 'critical bug' and then the pickup of 'showstopper' that I’ve seen, we might take a step back and realize that this might not have that defect level.” Sinofsky wrote on the site: “Bugs that are so severe as to require immediate patches and attention would have to have no workarounds and would generally be such that a large set of people would run across them in the normal course of using their PC... So far this is not one of those issues.”

Microsoft finalized the code for Windows 7 two weeks ago and is preparing to release it to developers in Microsoft’s MSDN and Technet programmes on Thursday, as well as making it available to some large businesses on Friday. Those plans are continuing, a Microsoft representative said.—Internet

A/H1N1 flu death toll reaches 19 in Ecuador

Quito, 6 Aug — Ecuador’s Health Ministry reported on Wednesday that the A/H1N1 influenza death toll has risen to 19, and that the number of infected patients was 666. According to the ministry, among the 19 deaths, four were in the province of Pichincha, Guayas, Azuay, Chimborazo and Loja each reported three deaths, while Tungurahua, Cotopaxi and Imbabura had one casualty each.— Internet

A/H1N1 flu death toll hits 134 in Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO, 6 Aug — Brazil’s health authorities Wednesday reported that the A/H1N1 flu virus in the European Union and European Free Trade Associate (EFTA)countries rose to 28,908, with 1,538 cases in Spain and 28,770 in the European Union (EU) and European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries to 28,908, with 1,538 cases in Spain and 28,770 in the European Union (EU) and European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries.

Of the new cases, 786 were confirmed in Germany, 136 in Norway, 26 in Switzerland, 25 in Austria, 19 in Republic Czech, six in Slovenia, five in Slovakia, four in Romania, two respectively in Poland and Lithuania, the European Center for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) said in its daily situation report.

The total number of confirmed cases of the A/H1N1 flu in the European Union (EU) and European Free Trade Association (EFTA)countries rose to 28,908, with 1,538 cases in Spain and 28,770 in the European Union (EU) and European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries.

1,016 new A/H1N1 cases confirmed in Europe

Stockholm, 6 Aug — A European health agency said Wednesday that 1,016 new A/H1N1 cases were reported in European countries within the last 24 hours.

Of the new cases, 786 were confirmed in Germany, 136 in Norway, 26 in Switzerland, 25 in Austria, 19 in Republic Czech, six in Slovenia, five in Slovakia, four in Romania, two respectively in Poland and Lithuania, the European Center for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) said in its daily situation report.

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A girl wearing a face mask takes a photograph along Whitehall in London.—Internet

Study says births may rise if wealthy countries wealthier

Beijing, 6 Aug — If wealthy countries which worry about their shrinking birth rates get just a little richer, the birth rates should head up again, according to a study in the latest issue Nature as quoted media on Thursday. The study was carried out in 24 countries over 30 years, looking at the fertility rates and a measure of education, income and lifespan called the human development index.

“Our analyses show that at advanced human development index levels, further development can reverse the declining trend in fertility,” Hans-Peter Kohler of the University of Pennsylvania and colleagues wrote in the journal. The United States and the Netherlands are both approaching this point, Kohler’s team said, and immigration can further boost fertility.

“Low fertility means fewer babies, and eventually a smaller workforce that would have to pay higher per capita costs of infrastructure and social support systems,” Shripad Tulajpurokar of the Stanford Center for Population Research at Stanford University in California wrote in a commentary. “For many rich countries, population decline is a serious concern. But the report shows that policymakers can plan for a rosier future.

“Whereas a decade ago Europe, North America and Japan were assumed to face very rapid population aging and in many cases significant population declines, our findings provide a different outlook for the 21st century,” Kohler’s team wrote.—Internet

Samsam Bubbleman, a US professional bubble-maker creates what he says the world’s largest free-floating soap bubble in a London park. The “bubbleologist” said his bubble will replace the current Guinness World Record holder, a 9.486-square-meter bubble created in Minnesota in 2005.—Internet
**Chinese star Zheng meets world No1 Safina in LA championship**

Washington, 6 Aug — Chinese tennis ace Zheng Jie booked a Los Angeles Championship third round clash with world number one Dinara Safina of Russia after she beat Russian Elena Vesnina on Wednesday. Safina sailed into the third round of the 700,000 US dollars WTA event with a 6-2, 6-4 win over Slovakia’s Daniela Hantuchova.

Poland’s Urszula Radwanska upset Slovakian seventh seed Dominika Cibulkova 6-4, 6-7 (6-8), 6-4 and will face either China’s Li Na or Canada’s Alexandra Wozniack in the third round. Other seeded winners included Russian Number five Nadia Petrova, who ousted Israel’s Shahar Peer 6-2, 2-6, 6-3; and Polish eighth seed Agnieszka Radwanska, who eliminated Japan’s Ai Sugiyama 6-2, 6-1. —Internet

**Drogba signs new three-year deal at Chelsea**

London, 6 Aug — Chelsea striker Didier Drogba signed a new three-year contract with the Premier League club on Wednesday. The 31-year-old is now tied to Chelsea until 2012 after extending his current deal, which had a year to run, by a further two years.

The Ivory Coast international looked on his way out of Stamford Bridge last season after being dropped by Luiz Felipe Scolari, but he played his way back into form under Guus Hiddink and scored in Chelsea’s FA Cup final victory over Everton.

He was also involved in a controversial clash with referee Tom Hennings overbre following Chelsea’s Champions League semi-final exit against Barcelona which earned the former Marceille star a three-match European ban. —Internet

**Recovering Woods relaxes major standard for 2009**

Akron, 6 Aug — Winning at least one major title has always been the yardstick for a good year according to Tiger Woods but for 2009 he is prepared to relax his goal.

The American world number one has not clinched a major victory since the 2008 US Open at Torrey Pines, having won his last title eight months while having reconstructive knee surgery.

“This year I think just being able to come back and play and be successful again has been a tremendous step in the right direction,” Woods told reporters at Firestone Country Club on Wednesday.

“If you would have asked me at the beginning of the year before I even played whether I’d have four wins by now, I couldn’t see it because walking 18 holes was going to be a task.”

Since returning to the PGA Tour for the WGC-Accenture Match Play Championship in late February, Woods has triumphed four times in 11 starts, most recently at the Buick Open on Sunday.—Internet

**Fabregas admits Arsenal are in a ‘difficult moment’**

London, 6 Aug — Arsenal captain Cesc Fabregas admits the club are in a “difficult moment” after going four years without winning a trophy.

After a disappointing campaign marred by injuries and poor form, Arsene Wenger’s team ended last season grateful to finish fourth and secure a place in the Champions League qualifying round. The close-season has offered little respite for the Gunners as Wenger sold Emmanuel Adebayor and Kolo Toure to Manchester City and struggled to find big-name replacements.

Fabregas, 22, is the latest Arsenal star to be linked with a move away from the Emirates Stadium as AC Milan prepare a 30 million pounds (50.8 million dollars) bid for the Spain midfielder. —Internet

**Sunderland signs England striker Bent**

Sunderland, 6 Aug — Sunderland finally completed their club record 10-million-pounds (17-million-dollars) swoop for Tottenham striker Darren Bent on Wednesday.

The 25-year-old had become increasingly frustrated after Tottenham’s transfer demands forced him to wait for over a week to move to the Stadium of Light.

The England international even criticised Spurs chairman Daniel Levy on the Twitter website before being forced to apologise for his comments.

But Bent was able to put pen to paper on a four-year contract with Steve Bruce’s team after the last financial details were agreed between the two clubs.

“Steve Bruce finally has his man as Sunderland have confirmed the 10 million pounds signing of Spurs striker Darren Bent,” a statement on Sunderland’s website confirmed.

Bent becomes the Black Cats’ fourth close-season signing after the arrivals of Fraizer Campbell, Lorik Cana and Paulo Da Silva. Bent is Sun- derland’s previous biggest deal — the nine million pounds capture of Scotland goalkeeper Craig Gordon from Hearts. —Internet
Wild elephant attacks kill 120 people this year in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO, 6 Aug—Wild elephant attacks have left 120 villagers dead so far this year in Sri Lanka, a local English newspaper reported on Thursday.

The Island quoted Jayantha Jayewardene, the managing trustee of the Biodiversity and Elephant Conservation Trust as saying that on average 65 humans and 125 elephants were killed each year due to the human-elephant conflict prevalent in many parts of the country.

He said measures had been taken to reduce human-elephant conflict through educating children in rural schools.

Wildlife officials said the island’s elephant population has shrunk to 4,500 from 12,000 a century ago due to poaching, deforestation, drought and starvation.

MNA/Xinhua

Polar bear Knut catches a croissant thrown to him at his snow-covered enclosure at the zoo in Berlin in February 2009. Fresh snowfall is forecast over the next few days. Knut the polar bear, who became a worldwide media sensation as a cub in 2007, will soon be joined in Berlin zoo by Gianna, a female companion originally from Italy, German reports said.—INTERNET

WEATHER

Thursday, 6th August, 2009

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST:

During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Magway Division, rain have been isolated in lower Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions, scattered in Shan State, fairly widespread in Kachin State and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions with locally heavyfall in Rakhine State, isolated heavyfalls in Mon State and Tanintharyi Division. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Dawei (5.00) inches, Thanlwin (4.49) inches, Kyaukpyu (4.25) inches, Kyekkhame (3.35) inches, Shweygin (2.79) inches, Pilaung (2.56) inches, An (2.40) inches, Hakha (2.36) inches and NyaungU (0.16) inch.

Maximum temperature on 5-8-2009 was 89°F. Minimum temperature on 6-8-2009 was 72°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 6-8-2009 was 88%. Total sun shine hours on 5-8-2009 was (1.8) hour approx.

Rainfall on 6-8-2009 was (1.26) inches at Mingaladon, (0.12) inch at Kaba-Aye and (0.16) inch at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2009 was (77.13) inches at Mingaladon, (85.43) inches at Kaba-Aye and (88.35) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (5) mps from Southwest at (12:30) hours. MST on 5-8-2009.

Bay inference: Monsoon is strong in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 7th August 2009: Rain will be isolated in Kayah State, lower Sagaing and Magway Divisions, scattered in Mandalay Division, fairly widespread in Kachin,Chin, Shan, KayinStates and upper Sagaing Division and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Kayin, Mon States and Tanintharyi Division. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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 (35-40) mps.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Continuation of strong monsoon.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 7-8-2009: Isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 7-8-2009: Some rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 7-8-2009: Likelihood of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (60%).
Only with stability and peace will the nation develop
Only with stability and peace will democratization process be successful

People’s Desire
- We favour peace and stability
- We favour development
- We oppose unrest and violence
- Wipe out those inciting unrest and violence

VOA, BBC - sowing hatred among the people
RFA, DVB - generating public outrage
Do not allow ourselves to be swayed
By broadcasts designed to cause troubles

Danger water level of Sittoung River

YANGON, 6 Aug—The Meteorology and Hydrology Department announced that according to the (12.30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Sittoung River at Madauk is (1103) cm and it has exceeded by (33) cm (about 1 foot) above its danger level. It may remain above its danger level (1070) cm during the next (48) hours commencing noon today.—MNA

ASEAN U-19 Football Tournament

YANGON, 6 Aug—The ASEAN U-19 Football Tournament took place at Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam this evening.
In the Group-B, host Vietnam beat Myanmar 3-1.
Kyaw Ko Ko scored the only goal for Myanmar at 37th minute of the first half.
Myanmar has secured three points with one win and one loss.
On 8 August, Myanmar play against Malaysia as the last match.—MNA

One more person found infected with A(H1N1)

Fifteen have been infected with virus in Myanmar

Tenth patient infected with A(H1N1) discharged

YANGON, 6 Aug—Nine of the 14 patients infected with new influenza A(H1N1) were discharged from the hospitals as they had fully recovered from illness. The remaining five patients are receiving the treatment: one at Waibagi Specialist Hospital; two at Yangon General Hospital, one at Yangon East Hospital and one at Insein General Hospital.

Of the 18 family members who came into contact with fourteenth patient, a 3 and half years old boy, cousin of the patient, was transferred to Yangon Children’s Hospital yesterday through township health department. Public Health Laboratory detected him and he was found to be infected with new influenza A(H1N1).

The tenth patient, 57-year-old man infected with virus, was discharged from the hospital for he had fully recovered from the disease. Surveillance measures against family members were halted today. There are five patients — one at Waibagi Specialist Hospital, one at Yangon General Hospital, one at Yangon East Hospital and one at Insein General Hospital — have been kept at separate rooms of the hospitals and they are getting better.
Up to now the number of patients infected with the virus has reached 15 in Myanmar and 10 of them were discharged from the hospitals. The remaining five are being treated by specialists.
The National Health Laboratory detected 132 flu-suspected persons and 15 were found to be infected with the virus.—MNA