Established 1914

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

China Development Bank Chairman calls on Prime Minister General Soe Win

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Aug — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Soe Win received a Chinese delegation led by Chairman of China Development Bank Mr Chen Yuan of the People's Republic of China at the Prime Minister's Office in Nay Pyi Taw at 5 pm today.

Also present at the call were Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun, Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Kyaw Kyaw Maung, Director-General Col Thant Shin of the Prime Minister's Office and Director-General U Kyaw Kyaw of the Protocol Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

MNA

Prime Minister General Soe Win welcomes Chairman of China Development Bank Mr Chen Yuan at his office in Nay Pyi Taw. — MNA

Prime Minister General Soe Win receives Chairman of China Development Bank Mr Chen Yuan at his office in Nay Pyi Taw.

MNA

Weather Forecast for (4-8-2006)

Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas
Likelihood of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Yangon and neighbouring areas
Some rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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

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

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 4 August, 2006

For speedy transport of goods

Smooth and easy transport is conducive to regional development. This being so, the government is building new roads and bridges. As more and more new roads and bridges have emerged, trading and transportation of regional products have become easier.

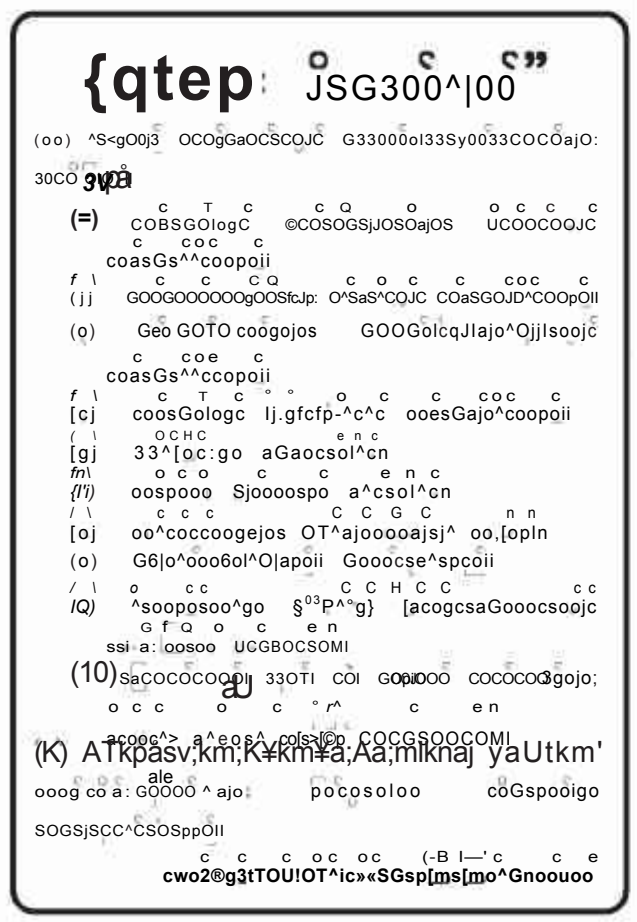
The newly-built Shwelinban Bridge was inaugurated in Hlinethaya Township in Yangon North District on 30 July. It is a reinforced concrete bridge 208 feet long and with a motorway 44 feet wide and built across the Shwelinban Creek, a tributary of the Hline River.

As the Shwelinban Bridge is on the road linking Yangon and Hlinethaya where there is an industrial zone, it is going to be easy to ship the products of the industrial zone not only to Yangon but also to other states and divisions via Yangon.

There are already five bridges built on the Hline River — the Bayintnaung, Uto, Myochaung, Aungzeya, and Shwepyitha bridges. Now with the emergence of the Shwelinban Bridge, transportation of passengers and goods from one region to another will become easier and speedier.

Moreover, as the Panhline, Twantay and Kayan bridges have already opened during recent months, there is hardly any natural barrier in Yangon Division. Now Yangon Division has a total of 28 bridges and, therefore, agricultural, livestock and marine products of Ayeyawady Division and industrial products of the Hlinethaya Industrial Zone will be able to be distributed rapidly.

Now is the time when the government is building new roads and bridges, using all the manpower, financial and technological resources available. With improvement in transport infrastructure, we believe, the flow of passengers and goods will become easy and quick and social and economic status of the people higher.



People's Desire

* **Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views**
* **Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation**
* **Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State**
* **Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy**

Prize-winning books of Sarpay Beikman, Pakokku U Ohn Pe in circulation

YANGON, 3 Aug — The Printing and Publishing Enterprise of the Ministry of Information distributed books of Sarpay Beikman and Pakokku U Ohn Pe manuscript award contests today.

The books were written by U Aung Than Tun (Monywa), Htin Lin Aung (Civil), Zin Min (Thameinhtaw), Htan Hlaing, Ni Nyein (Anyar Tekkatho) and Nanda Khin (Thakkala).

The books are available at Sarpay Beikman Book Stalls on Merchant Street in Yangon and new Yadanabon Market, Mandalay. — *MNA*

Myanmar Judo Team leaves for Vietnam

YANGON, 3 Aug — The Myanmar Judo Team left here by air this morning to take part in the Vietnam International Invitational Judo Tournament to be held in Ho Chi Minh City of Vietnam from 3 to 7 August 2006.

General Secretary of Myanmar Olympic Committee Director-General U Thaung Htaik of the Sports and Physical Education Department, President of Myanmar Judo Federation U Tun Tun, Vice-Presidents Dr Min Naing and U Aye Kyi, Secretary General Staff Officer Daw Thi Thi Shein of SPED and executives saw off the team at the airport.

The Myanmar Judo Team is formed with Zeyar Min Naing, Aung Tun Kyaw and Saw Maing San of the Ministry of Rail Transportation, Moe Sanda Tun of the Ministry of Forestry, Aye Aye Thin of the Ministry of Industry-1, Aye Aye Aung of the Ministry of Construction and Khin Myo Thu of the Ministry of Rail Transportation, and observer U Wai Lu Min Naing (executive of MJF) under control of Team Leader U Aung Myo Shein (executive of MJF) together with Coach for men players Mr Akira Suzuki and Coach for women players CQ Zaw Lwin of the Ministry of Defence and Referee Daw Khin Mu Mu of the Ministry of Construction. *MNA*

Myanmar Judo Team seen at the airport before departure for Vietnam.

MJF

MYANMAR GAZETTE

YANGON, 3 Aug — The State Peace and Development Council has confirmed the following persons as heads of service organizations shown against each on expiry of the one-year probationary period.

Name	Appointment
(a) U Myint Swe	Principal Nationalities Youth Resource Development Degree College (Yangon) Education and Training Department Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs
(b) U Kyaw Zan Hla	Director-General Civil Service Affairs Department Civil Service Selection and Training Board
(c) U Tin Aung Win	Chairman Social Security Board Ministry of Labour
(d) Dr Aung Kyaw Myat	Rector Mandalay Technological University Advanced Science and Technology Department Ministry of Science and Technology. — *MNA*

UMFCCI, Thai business group meet

YANGON,2Aug—Responsible persons of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and officials of Corp Integration Business Group of Thailand on 27 July discussed cooperation in cultivation of high yield crops and opportunities for contract farming.

At the meeting held at UMFCCI office yesterday, UMFCCI was led by Vice-Presidents U Win Aung and U Zaw Min Win, and General Secretary U Sein Win Hlaing while the Thailand side was led by Mr Montri C, President of Corp Integration Business Group.

The two sides also sought ways for dissemination of post-harvest methods.

MNA

Meeting of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and Thai business group in progress. — UMFCCI

Iranian President throws US, Britain off UN Security Council

TEHERAN, 2 Aug— The United States and Britain are responsible for Israel's killing of civilians in Lebanon and should not be trusted with seats on the UN Security Council, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said on Tuesday.

Israeli forces launched a massive offensive against Lebanon after Hizbollah kidnapped two of its soldiers in a cross-border raid on 12 July. Most of the victims of the conflict have been Lebanese civilians.

Iran regularly blames Britain, as a creator of Israel, and the United States, as the state that bankrolls and protects it, for deaths in conflicts in the Middle East. "They are not competent to be members of the Security Council or to have the power of veto... They are criminals and should be put on trial," Ahmadinejad told a crowd in the northeastern town of Bojnurd.

Iran has accused the UN Security Council of acting illegally by demanding that Iran end its nuclear work or face the threat of sanctions. The West says it believes Iran is planning to build atomic warheads, a charge Teheran denies.

Ahmadinejad accused Israeli forces of being part of a British and US plan to recreate a colonial Middle East.

"Are they humans? They are worse than the beasts. They are bloodthirsty savages," he said. "They have launched strikes from the ground, air and sea. Hospitals, schools, mosques and churches are not safe," he said of the Israeli attacks.—*MNA/Reuters*

ကမ္ဘာ့နိုင်ငံစုံ ဓာတ်ပုံများ

Miss China Liu Duo (C) poses with 1st runner-up Gu Lan (R) and 2nd runner-up Zhang Ni of the China Zone Miss World 2006 pageant in Beijing, on 2 August, 2006. The final of the China zone contest of the 56th Miss World pageant was held Wednesday in Huairou County of Beijing. —INTERNET

UNICEF says breastfeeding, simple way to save children's lives

GENEVA, 3 Aug — Breastfeeding is a very simple way to save children's lives, especially in poor developing countries, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) said on Tuesday in a Press release marking the start of the 2006 World Breastfeeding Week.

In a developing country, a child who is breastfed is almost three times more likely to survive infancy than a child who is not, UNICEF said.

"World Breastfeeding Week gives us an opportunity to advocate a very simple way to save children's lives," UNICEF Executive Director Ann M Veneman said.

"Though breastfeeding rates are increasing in the developing world, an estimated 63 per cent of children under 6 months of age are still not adequately breastfed so that millions of children start their lives at a disadvantage," she added.

World Breastfeeding Week is observed in more than 120 countries by UNICEF and its partners, including the World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action and the World Health Organization.

The aim is to promote exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months of life which yields tremendous health benefits including providing critical nutrients, protecting from deadly diseases and fostering growth and development.

Breastfeeding and good nutrition for children are critical for achievement of the UN Millennium Development Goals, particularly the goals related to child survival, such as reducing the rate of under-5 child mortality by two-thirds by 2015 and eradicating extreme poverty and hunger.

MNA/Xinhua

Oceans teem with bacteria, many unknown

OSLO, 2 Aug—The oceans are teeming with 10 to 100 more types of bacteria than previously believed, many of them unknown, according to a study released on Monday that has jolted scientists' understanding of evolution in the seas. Using a new genetic mapping technique, US, Dutch and Spanish scientists said they found more than 20,000 different types of microbe in a single litre (1.8 pint) of water from deep sites in the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans.

"These observations blow away all previous estimates of bacterial diversity in the ocean," said lead author Mitchell Sogin of the Marine Biological Laboratory at Wood's Hole, Massachusetts.

He said past studies had suggested that one litre of water would contain 1,000 to 3,000 types of microbe —the oldest form of life on the planet. Microbes make up more than 90 per cent of the total mass of life in the seas, from bacteria to whales.

"We've found 10 or maybe 100 times more diversity in sea water than anyone imagined was present," he said. The study was part of a global Census of Marine Life and was published by the *Proceedings of the US National Academy of Sciences Journal.*

Sogin said the findings suggested there might be more than 10 million types of bacteria in the seas alone. Until recent years, estimates of the total number of species on earth -- from microbes to elephants— were below a million. The new findings suggest that a swimmer swallowing a mouthful of sea water may be consuming perhaps 1,000 types of bacteria.

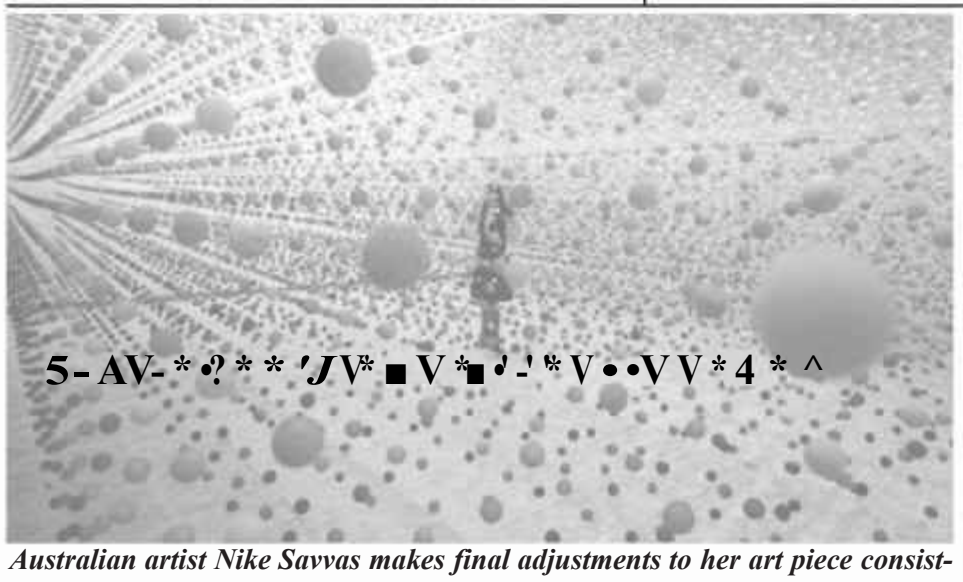
MNA/Reuters

Australian actor Hugh Jackman performs during a photo call for the musical "The Boy from Oz" in Sydney on 2 August, 2006.—INTERNET

US soldiers charged with murder in Iraq court

BAGHDAD, 2 Aug— A military court opened a preliminary hearing in Iraq on Tuesday to determine whether four US soldiers charged over the deaths of three male prisoners will face court martials.

They have already been charged with murder, attempted murder, conspiracy, communicating a threat, and obstructing justice in the killings on or about 9 May north of Baghdad. The Article 32 hearing, at Contingency Operating Base Speicher in Tikrit, north of Baghdad, comes at a sensitive time when the military is investigating other cases of alleged abuses, including the killings of up to 24 unarmed civilians in the town of Haditha last year by US Marines.— *MNA/Reuters*



Australian artist Nike Savvas makes final adjustments to her art piece consisting of over 50,000 polystyrene balls at the New South Wales Art Gallery in Sydney on 3 August, 2006. —INTERNET

Food poisoning in schools show sharp rise in China

BEIJING, 2 Aug—China's Ministry of Health is urging local education officials to improve food safety in school canteens following a sharp rise in the incidence of food poisoning.

During the second quarter, the ministry received 64 reports of food poisoning incidents in schools, more than four times as many than in the previous quarter. More than 1,950 people were poisoned, seven times more than in the first quarter of the year.

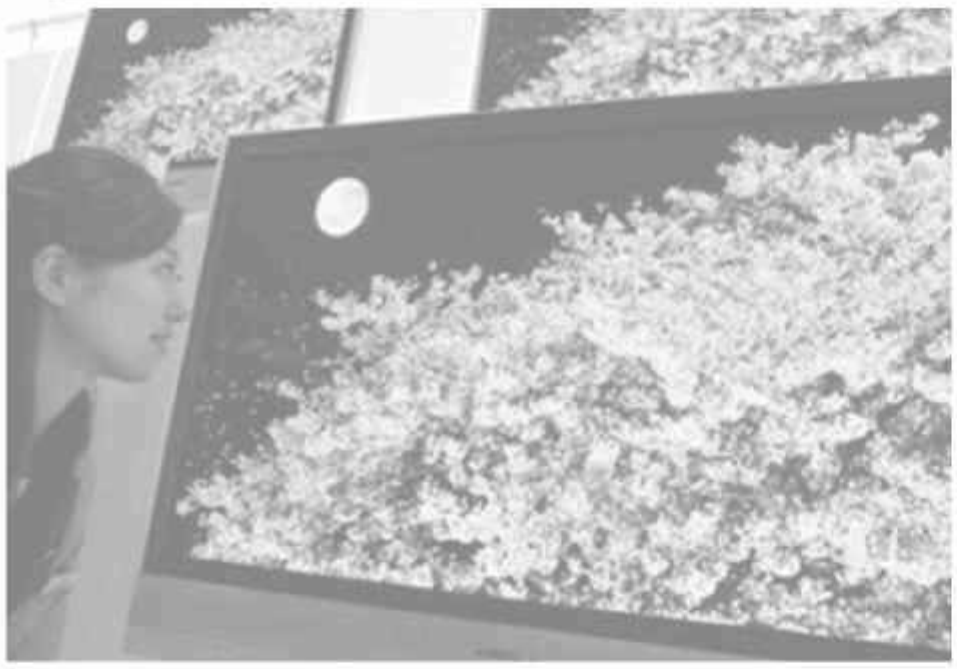
Two people died from food poisoning at schools in the second quarter.

Among the incidents, 46 occurred in school canteens causing 1,400 people to fall ill, said the ministry in a report.

The infections were a result of poor management of canteens, such as purchasing substandard food and poor disinfecting practices.

Local health authorities must enhance supervision and guidance of school hygiene and work to help clean up school canteens, urged the ministry.

MNA/Xinhua



A woman looks at a plasma television in Tokyo 26 July, 2006. Diamonds are no longer a girl's best friend, according to a new US study that found three of four women would prefer a new plasma TV to a diamond necklace. —INTERNET

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Indonesia, Malaysia, Brunei to promote Malay language

JAKARTA, 2 Aug— As English usage becomes more common, Indonesia, Brunei and Malaysia are establishing a regional agreement to revitalize Malay as their national language.

"We would like to maintain Malay-Indonesian's position as a national and regional language and put foreign languages like English, Chinese or Arab in a purely supporting role," Indonesian Education Minister Bambang Sudibyo was quoted Tuesday by *The Jakarta Post* daily as saying.

He made the remarks Monday after signing the commitment. Bambang said that to implement the programme nationwide, the ministry was initiating a law that would stipulate the use of Bahasa Indonesia as the leading language.

The planned law would also require that Bahasa Indonesia be used for public speeches and commercial advertisements. — *MNA/Xinhua*

SAARC FMs agree to grant observer status to US, S Korea, EU

DHAKA, 2 Aug— South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) foreign ministers Tuesday agreed in principle to grant observer status to the United States, South Korea and the European Union.

Bangladeshi Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan speaks to the media as the chairman of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) council of ministers at the end of a meeting in Dhaka, on 2 August, 2006. INTERNET

The foreign ministers reached the agreement in a scheduled informal meeting aside the ongoing session of the SAARC Council of Ministers that got off to a formal start here on Tuesday afternoon, with Prime Minister Khaleda Zia inaugurating the two-day meeting.

A senior official of Bangladesh Foreign Ministry, who was present at the meeting, said that the foreign ministers were focused on resolving the disputes between India and Pakistan over the operationalization of South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA).

At the 13th Summit held in Dhaka last November, the SAARC leaders provided observer status to China and Japan and full membership to Afghanistan. They will formally join the SAARC at its 14th Summit to be held in India next year.

The Council of Ministers that will sit for working session Wednes-day also considered various recommendations made by the SAARC Standing Committee that concluded its meeting Tuesday morning.—*MNA/Xinhua*

Tsunami warning system to be in place in India by next year

NEW DELHI, 2 Aug — Prospective victims of cyclones like tsunami will be able to get 30-minute escape time after the cyclone detection radar system is put in place in India by next year, Upper House of Parliament was informed Monday.

Indian Government is in the process of acquiring 50 more Doppler weather radar, costing 230 million rupees each, to forecast tsunami-type cyclones, Federal Science and Technology Minister Kapil Sibal said during Question Hour.

"We will be able to tell in 20-30 minutes what is going to happen," he said on the advantages of the new warning system.

The indigenous version of the Doppler radar has not been effective and the government has decided to import 50 weather warning radars, Sibal said.

Four such radars have been installed in India, he said.

In reply to a query, the minister said to augment the network of meteorological observations in eastern Indian state of Orissa, automatic weather stations are planned to be set up in the state.

MNA/PTI

South African man slays killer leopard with spears

JOHANNESBURG, 2 Aug — A leopard which killed a pregnant woman in rural South Africa was slain by the victim's neighbour who confronted the animal armed only with a traditional spear, wildlife officials said on Tuesday.

"A 22-year-old pregnant woman, Nomusa Mncwango, was killed on Sunday morning while fetching water. Her two sisters ran and sounded the alarm," said Maureen Zimu, spokeswoman for K Z N Wildlife, the conservation arm of KwaZulu-Natal Province, where the incident occurred on communal farm land.

Her neighbour, Thengukuphila Mlambo, went to investigate armed with a spear and was "savagely attacked" by the big cat but managed to stab it. Mlambo, 43, is recovering in hospital.— *MNA/Reuters*

Argentine police seize 1.5 tons of marijuana

BUENOS A IRES, 2 Aug— Argentina's anti-drug police seized 1.5 tons of marijuana and arrested a man suspected of drug trafficking on Tuesday in the northeastern province of Misiones, a police spokesman said. The 24-year-old man was driving on a main road near a village when his vehicle was stopped by police.

Police searched the van and found 55 bags filled with marijuana "bricks", — vacuum packed blocks of the drug. — *MNA/Xinhua*

A woman holds a banner during a protest about the Israeli attacks on Lebanon outside an office building housing the Israeli embassy in Manila on 3 Aug, 2006. INTERNET

US soldier killed in bomb attack in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 2 Aug— An American soldier was killed and another wounded when a roadside bomb struck their vehicle in south of Baghdad, the US military said on Tuesday.

The two soldiers, assigned to the 16th Corps Support Group, were travelling in a convoy on Monday when the attack occurred, the military said in a statement. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Giant panda cub Su Lin (R) celebrates her first birthday with her mother, Bai Yun, by chomping into a specially created birthday cake made by San Diego Zoo staff, in San Diego, California, 2 August, 2006. —INTERNET

Samuel Rial of Spain practices Psicobloc climbing over the Mediterranean sea in Cala Barques at the Balearic island of Mallorca on 30 July, 2006. Psicobloc is a type of rock-climbing where the climber tries to scale cliffs as high as fifteen meters without a rope.—**INTERNET**

India, Pakistan agree to pursue peace process

DHAKA, 2 Aug—India and Pakistan agreed to pursue the present peace process and make efforts so the process is not in anyway adversely affected.

The agreement came at talks between Indian External Affairs Secretary Shyam Sharan and his Pakistan counterpart Riaz Mohammad Khan here Monday night before the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation Foreign Ministers meeting held here Tuesday.

The Foreign Secretary-level talk was scheduled to be held in New Delhi on 21 July, but India postponed it following Mumbai bomb blasts on 11 July.

"(The) peace process between the two countries is important and all possible efforts should be made to see that the process is not anyway adversely affected," Shyam Sharan told journalists after nearly one-hour talks.

In reply to a question, he said all aspects of bilateral relations were discussed at the meeting.

Asked about any date for further meeting on composite dialogue, Sharan said they agreed to be in touch.

Pakistan Foreign Secretary Riaz Khan described the talks as "positive". "We're all convinced that peace is important. There is no other option but to pursue it," Khan said.

MNA/Xinhua

Extreme conditions create rare Antarctic clouds

SYDNEY, 2 Aug— Rare, mother-of-pearl coloured clouds caused by extreme weather conditions above Antarctica are a possible indication of global warming, Australian scientists said on Tuesday.

Known as nacreous clouds, the spectacular formations showing delicate wisps of colours were photographed in the sky over an Australian meteorological base at Mawson Station on 25 July. Australian Antarctic Division scientist Andrew Klekociuk said such clouds are occasionally produced by air rising over Arctic and Antarctic mountains in high polar latitudes during winter.

"You have to be in the right part of the world in winter, and have the sun just below your horizon to see them," he said.

Nacreous clouds can only form in temperatures lower than minus 80 degrees Celsius (minus 112 Fahrenheit).

Meteorologist Renae Baker said a weather balloon in the vicinity of the clouds in the stratosphere about 20 kilometres (12 miles) above the Earth's surface measured temperatures as low as minus 87 Centigrade (minus 124.6 Fahrenheit).

"That's about as cold as the lowest temperatures ever recorded on the surface of the Earth," Baker, who photographed the clouds, said in a statement.

Klekociuk said the rarely seen clouds, also known as polar stratospheric clouds, were more than just a curiosity."They reveal extreme conditions in the atmosphere, and promote chemical changes that lead to destruction of vital stratospheric ozone," he said.

MNA/Reuters

Three British troops killed in S Afghanistan

KABUL, 2 Aug—Three British soldiers were killed and a fourth was wounded in a Taleban attack in southern Afghanistan following NATO's takeover of the troubled region from US forces this week, a NATO statement said here Wednesday.

A British patrol convoy was attacked by Taleban rebels in an ambush in the violence-plagued Helmand Province Tuesday. The rebels used rocket propelled grenades and heavy machine guns in the attack, killing three British soldiers and seriously wounding a fourth.

NATO's attack helicopters also bombarded Taleban fronts and inflicted some causalities, according to the NATO statement. — *MNA/Xinhua*

China's per unit of GDP energy consumption up 0.8%

BEIJING, 2 Aug—China's energy consumption per unit of gross domestic product (GDP) edged up 0.8 per cent in the first half of this year, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) said on Tuesday.

Energy consumption of per unit added value increased in coal mining, oil and petrochemical, non-ferrous metal and other industries, and dropped in steel, building materials, and chemical and textile industries, the N B S said.

The figures in the first six months sent a major challenge to China's economic planners, who had planned a 4-per-cent cut in the country's energy consumption per per unit of G D P this year, analysts here said.

MNA/Xinhua

The German 4x100 m freestyle relay team Annika Liebs (L), Petra Dallmann (2nd L), Britta Steffen (2nd R) and Daniela Goetz display their gold medals after setting a new World record in the time of 3 minutes 35.22 seconds at the European Aquatic Championships in Budapest on 31 July, 2006.

INTERNET

WFP airlifting food to drought hit western Nepal

KATHMANDU, 2 Aug — The United Nations (UN) World Food Programme (WFP) has started airlifting food to the drought-hit districts of western Nepal.

A Press release issued by the W F P on Tuesday said it began emergency helicopter operations to help feed 250,000 drought- affected people in far-western Nepal.

The statement quoted W F P representative Richard Ragan as saying that "Of the 10 districts we're hoping to feed, only Bajura, Dailekh, Kalikot, and Jajarkot have benefited so far. The other six hard-hit areas of Rolpa, Rukum, Dolpa, Humla, Jumla and Mugu won't get any food unless we are able to raise more funds."

MNA/Xinhua

Indonesia to install 500 sirens to give warnings of tsunami

JAKARTA, 2 Aug—Indonesia plans to set up over 500 sirens on the top of telecommunication towers along the beach of tsunami-vulnerable areas across the country, in a bid to speed up tsunami information dissemination to people, Information Minister Sofyan Djalil said here on Tuesday.

"We expect 500 sirens to be set up along the beach that are considered necessary to have them, in order to give warning when the disaster occurs at night," Djalil told reporters, adding that the sirens would be controlled by the Meteorology and Geophysics Agency.

Meanwhile, Indonesia plans to equip the tsunami early warning system before 2008, which will cost about 1.3 trillion rupiahs (about 130 million US dollars), he said. Indonesia installed three buoys in western waters off Sumatra Island two years ago, and has recently set up two buoys in waters off Bali Island.

MNA/Xinhua

Indonesian elementary students take a shelter under tables during an earthquake exercise in Jakarta, on 2 August, 2006. —**INTERNET**

Cadbury Schweppes sets up research centre in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 2 Aug — Cadbury Schweppes, a leading confectionery company based in Britain, is setting up a Science and Technology Centre in Singapore, Channel NewsAsia report said Tuesday.

Built at a cost of 4.3 million Singapore dollars (about 2.7 million US dollars), the centre will have 10 researchers from Japan, Australia, India, Singapore and Malaysia.

They will use new technologies to develop affordable products, such as all-natural fruit-based bars and candies, for the Asia- Pacific markets.

Complementing Cadbury's other research facilities in Mumbai, Tokyo and Melbourne, this centre is expected to help accelerate growth in key emerging markets in the region like China and India.

The confectionery market in the Asia-Pacific Region has grown by 50 per cent in the past four years for Cadbury Schweppes, the report said, adding that confectionery sales in the region accounted for 30 per cent of the company's two-billion-US-dollar turnover.

MNA/Xinhua

Models hold Canon's new 'HDV Video Camcorder iVIS HV10' during the camcorder's launch event in Tokyo on 2 August, 2006. The camcorder is priced at about 150,000 yen ($1,312) and will be put on sale from September.
INTERNET

China's profts of non-ferrous, machine industry soar

BEIJING, 2 Aug— Profit of China's non-ferrous industry grew 86.5 per cent year-on-year in the first half of this year, while that of the machinery industry increased 45.6 per cent.

According to latest statistics issued by the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), the profit of non-ferrous industry hit 52.8 billion yuan (6.576 billion US dollars), while that of machinery industry reached 127.8 billion yuan, the *Xinhua*-run *Shanghai Securities News* reported Tuesday.

Meanwhile, profit of the metallurgy industry reached 62.8 billion yuan, 18.9 per cent lower than the same period last year.

The machinery industry's output grew 21.6 per cent to 640.9 billion yuan during the first half of the year. Coal, electric and petrochemical industries grew 13.3, 36.2 and 27.9 per cent, with profits of 28.3, 48.9 and 218.4 billion yuan respectively.

MNA/Xinhua

Dry summer affects grain harvest in Finland

HELSINKI,3 Aug— Finland's 2006 grain harvest is expected to be around 25 per cent down on last year's because of the prolonged dry spell.

According to the Finnish Meteorological Institute, the weather in July was exceptionally hot and dry in Finland, particularly in the south of the country, and the Helsinki region witnessed its driest summer in 45 years.

Because of the dry spell, the grain harvest in Finland is expected to be about a quarter smaller than last year, down to about three million tons, the Finnish Agriculture Ministry said. Meanwhile livestock farmers have begun to cull herds because of a shortage of fodder.

The situation is worst in southeastern Finland, where many beef and dairy farms have already begun reducing herd sizes. This could lead to a shortage of beef on the market later.

MNA/Xinhua

Sergiy Breus of Ukraine is seen from underwater as he swims to win the men's 50m butterfly title at the European Aquatic Championships in Budapest on 1 August, 2006.—**INTERNET**

Turkey plans to buy 30 new "F-16"

ANKARA, 2 Aug — Turkey is planning to buy 30 new *F-16* fighter jets worth at least 1.5 billion US dollars as a stop-gap solution until new generation fighters join its Air Force in the next decade, *Turkish Daily News* reported Tuesday.

"Our plan is to buy 30 new *F-16* fighters, and negotiations are continuing," the report quoted procurement and military officials as saying.

The officials said a final agreement might emerge before the end of this year if all technical and financial talks with Lockheed Martin, the aircraft's manufacturer, go smoothly.

The move is likely to kill an earlier plan with Israel for the upgrade of 48 Vietnam-era *F-4E* fighters, the officials added.— *MNA/Xinhua*

An actress from Valerio Festi's Company of Italy performs during the show "El duelo de los angeles y los demonios" (The bereavement of the angels and the demons) in the northern Spanish town of Castro Urdiales on 3 August, 2006.—**INTERNET**

Two killed, 22 injured in road mishap in central Nepal

KATHMANDU, 2 Aug — At least two people died and 22 persons were injured on Monday in a road mishap in central Nepal, local media reported here on Tuesday.

"At least two people died and 22 others injured when a passenger bus they were travelling in met with an accident on Monday evening at Hariharpur area Sindhuli District, some 100 kilometres east of Kathmandu," state-run radio Nepal reported.

The condition of 17 of the injured people is serious, the radio added. However, the radio did not mention the reason of the accident.—*MNA/Xinhua*

Flood leaves 15 dead in Afghanistan

KABUL, 2 August — Heavy rain and floods have claimed the lives of at least 15 people in the east, southeast and south of Afghanistan over the weekend, officials said Tuesday.

Six people, according to Provincial governor Gul Agha Shirzoi, were killed in eastern Nangarhar Province when the flood washed away hundreds of acres of lands in Shirzad District Sunday night.

Another five persons including two women were killed and six others wounded when a downpour caused floods in parts of southeast Paktika Province including Argon and Saraoza districts, governor of Paktika Akram Khupulwak told *Xinhua.* The downpour also claimed the lives of two more people in the neighbouring Khost Province. —*MNA/Xinhua*

Road accident kills three, injures 29 in Bangladesh

DHAKA, 2 Aug— Three people were killed and 29 others injured in a road accident in northwestern Bangladesh early Tuesday, local news agency *UNB* reported.

Police and local sources said a bus first collided with a cattle-laden truck coming from opposite direction at the connecting road of the south end of Jamuna Bridge in northwestern Sirajganj District at about 4:00 am (22:00 GMT) killing two bus passengerss on the spot.

Another bus passenger died on way to hospital.

At the same time, two trucks coming from opposite direction hit the previous accident-ridden vehicles from behind, injuring 29.

Identities of the deceased persons could not be known immediately.— *MNA/Xinhua*

Two million Britons leave homes unlocked

LONDON, 3 Aug — More than two million Britons regularly leave their homes unlocked when they go out and 17 million householders do not lock up when they are at home, according to research from insurer Halifax.

Householders take the least care with the back door with 1.3 million people leaving it unlocked even though police figures show one-in-four successful burglaries involve criminals gaining access via an unlocked door.

In a poll of 1,168 adults, some of the reasons given for not locking-up were: a belief neighbours were keeping an eye out - 18 per cent, a belief the area had a low crime rate — 18 per cent and just plain forgetfulness — 10 per cent.

"With street crime rising by 8 per cent this year, the idea that any street in Britain is safe enough for you to leave your door unlocked is little more than a nostalgic notion," said Vicky Emmott, senior underwriter at Halifax Home Insurance.

"But judging by the findings of our report, millions of Britons still live in the past," she said in a statement.

She said the best advice was the simplest — lock external doors even when at home. — *MNA/Reuters*

New Seychellois President inaugurated

VICTORIA, 3 Aug — Newly elected Seychellois President James Michel was inaugurated on Tuesday evening at the State House. Addressing the nation ahead of former president France Albert Rene, his rivals in the elections, diplomats and other representatives, Michel said he would preserve on the road that leads the country to "unity, peace, fraternity and opportunity for all."

Michel said the five-year mandate was an opportunity to build on the work that his government had started two years ago.

MNA/Xinhua

A resident walks through the wind near the waterfront in Hong Kong Thursday, 3 August, 2006. Hong Kong raised its storm alert to Strong Wing Signal No. 3 Thursday, as Typhoon Prapiroon, strengthening from a severe tropical storm, moves toward the coast of Guangdong in southern China. —INTERNET

Malacca Strait war rating may hit Malaysia's economy

KUALA LUMPUR, 3 Aug — Malaysia urged London insurer Lloyd's on Tuesday to lift its war-risk designation of the Malacca Strait, saying it feared higher premiums would hit its economy and eventually make its ports less competitive.

One of the world's busiest sea lanes, the Malacca Strait links Asia with the Middle East and Europe and carries about 40 per cent of the world's trade, including 80 per cent of the energy supplies of Japan and China.

Transport Minister Chan Kong Choy said Lloyd's should consider reviewing its position, prompted by fears of pirate attacks, and urged the insurer to say what steps the countries along the seaway must take for the designation to be dropped.

"There must be transparency on this issue," Chan told a meeting of marine policy experts in the Malaysian capital.

"Otherwise the increased insurance premiums would inevitably impact on the littoral states' economies.

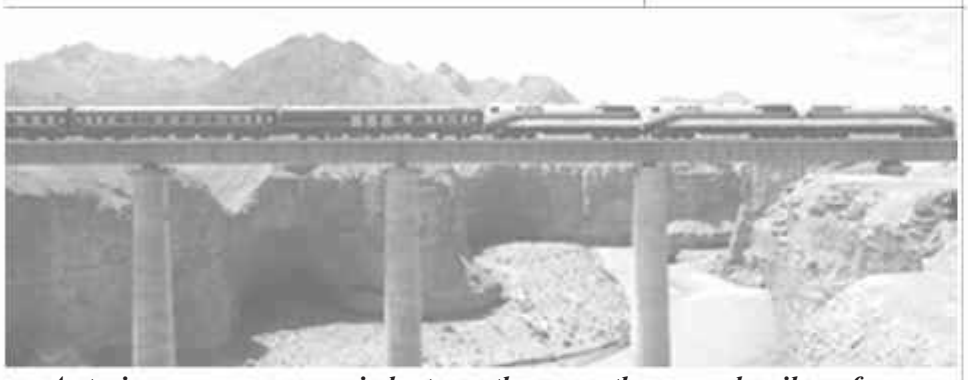
This will in turn hurt their ability to continue funding the enhancement of the safety and security of navigation in the Strait."

The Strait was declared vulnerable to "war, strikes, terrorism and related perils" more than a year ago by Lloyd's Market Association's Joint War Committee, an advisory body made up of underwriters from the Lloyd's insurance market.

The move meant container vessels must pay as much as 5,000 US dollars extra in insurance premium for passing through the 805-kilometre (500-mile) long Strait.

In June, ocean crime watchdog the International Maritime Bureau (IMB) said the Strait was no longer a piracy hotspot due to increased patrolling by the three littoral states of Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore.But the long-term threat remained.

MNA/Reuters



A train passes over a viaduct on the recently opened railway from China's northwest Qinghai province to Tibet. China is building a 27-billion-dollar train line from Beijing to the southern economic hub of Shenzhen and foreign investors will be invited to join the project, state press reported.— INTERNET

Chinese drug listed as 1st choice in emergency treatment for malaria

GULIN (Guangxi), 3 Aug — The artesumate injection by a Chinese pharmaceutical company has been listed by the World Health Organization (WHO) as the first choice in emergency treatment for malaria, the world's worst parasitic infection, the company's board chairman said Tuesday.

"We will not seek exorbitant profits from the injections after the WHO's move and try to make sure the poor can afford," said Yan Xiaohua, also CEO of the Guilin Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd, based in Guilin, south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.

The price of artesumate injection by the Chinese company in Africa, a region that suffers worst from malaria, is only 60 per cent of that of the drugs produced by Western pharmaceutical companies, he added.

The company, as the only producer of artesumate in China that has met Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) requirements of the WHO, has the independent brand and intellectual property rights of artesumate, Yan said. It has developed holograms as a security device to fight against counterfeits.

Artemisinin-based combination therapies (ACTs) are recognized by the WHO as the safest and best existing treatment against malaria. Artesumate is made from artemisinin that is extracted from Artemisia annua, or southernwood.

Ninety per cent of the plant are now growing in China and Vietnam.

MNA/Xinhua

Residents use a boat in flood waters in a town near Candaba, Pampanga province, north of Manila on 2 August, 2006.—INTERNET

Earthquake jolts off New Zealand

WELLINGTON, 3 Aug— An earthquake measuring 6.2 on the Richter Scale struck under the sea off New Zealand's North Island on Wednesday, reports said. Officials said it was too deep to trigger a tsunami.

The quake occurred at O046 G M T at a depth of 320 kilometres, the seismological agency G N S Science reported.—*MNA/Xinhua*

Shen Hua to produce 10 mln-ton coal-liquefied petroleum in 2012

BEIJING, 3 Aug —Shen Hua Group Corporation Limited plans to put three liquefied coal projects into production in 2011 and 2012 with a capacity of producing 10 million tons of petroleum a year.

The three projects, in Yulin City of West China's Shaanxi Province and two in Yinchuan, capital of northwestern Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, will each be able to produce 3.2 million tons of petroleum a year or 75,000 to 80,000 barrels per day, said Zhang Yuzhuo, vice-president of Shen Hua.

Zhang told *Xinhua* that the Chinese Government has given permission to Shenhua to cooperate with South African Sasol on feasibility research of the Yulin project and one of the projects in Yinchuan. Shen Hua recently signed a memorandum with Shell to research Shell's coal liquefaction technology in the other project in Yinchuan, said Zhang.

Although Zhang could not provide an estimate of the cost of the three projects China has said it would invest 400 million to 500 billion yuan in liquefied coal projects by 2020. —*MNA/Xinhua*

Commander meets industrial entrepreneurs at No 1 Industrial Zone of Dagon Myothit (South) Township

YANGON, 3 Aug — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win met with industrial entrepreneurs at No 1 Industrial Zone of Dagon Myothit (South) Township this morning.

At the office of the industrial zone management committee, the commander heard reports on operating of industries, yearly implementation of the project targets and cultivation of physic nut plants in the zone presented by Chairman of the Industrial Zone Supervisory Committee Chairman of Yangon East District P D C Lt-Col Maung Maung Shein, progress of production in the zone by Chairman of the Township P D C U Ko Ko Hlaing, and matters related to the industrial zone and requirements of the zone by Chairman of the Management Committee U Soe Tint.

Col Khin Maung Soe of Yangon City Electric Power Supply Board reported on supply of power to downtown Yangon and industrial zones. In his speech, the commander said that the Government is giving encouragement to transformation from manual farming into industrialized one and progress of the industrial sector such as manufacturing of import-substitute products and development of the private-run industries. He stressed the need to boost industrial production to be able to contribute toward the increase of Yangon Division GDP. As Yangon City has been designated as the economic city, existing infrastructures are to be utilized to manufacture more quality products. Furthermore, the commander said that extended cultivation of physic nut plants are to be carried out, and arrangements are to be made for establishment of the factories that can extract oil from physic nut seeds.

After the meeting, the commander inspected Mars mosquito repellent coil factory of Asia World Co, transformer factory of Earth Industrial (Myanmar) Co Ltd, garment factory of Silk Garment Industry Co Ltd, electronic equipment factory of Khin Maung Nyunt Trading Co Ltd, SEM brand transformer factory of Soe Electric and Machinery Co Ltd and physic nut farms, and attended to the needs.

Dagon Myothit (South) Township Industrial Zone was established on 475.374 acres of plot in Ward 23 of Dagon Myothit (South) Township on 20 February 1992. Entrepreneurs had invested K 7,330 million at 156 factories in the industrial zone. Up to July 2006, the industrial zone had manufactured products worth K 54,321.2 million. *MNA*

Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win inspects Transformer Factory of Soe Electric and Machinery Co Ltd in Industrial Zone in Dagon Myothit (South). — MNA

As Yangon City has been designated as the economic city, existing infrastructures to be utilized to manufacture more quality products.

Energy delegation arrives back from Laos

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Aug — A delegation led by Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay arrived back here on 31 July after participating in the 24th ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting (AMEM) and 3rd AMEM+3 at Vientiane, Laos, from 27 to 28 July.

At the meetings, the ministers discussed closer regional co-operation in energy security and strategizing for efficient, competitive and sustainable energy in the region.

Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Than Htay also attended the ASEAN Energy Business Forum 2006 on 28 July and discussed Myanmar's energy sector and its co-operation in energy sector in the region.

Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi welcomed back the energy delegation at the airport. — *MNA*

Energy Ministers of ASEAN pose for a documentary photo at 3rd AMEM+3 Meeting. — MNA

7-day meditation camps scheduled in Kayan

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Aug — Mogok Vipassana Dhamma Meditation Centre No 406 in Kayan will organize 7-day meditation camp in the centre in August, September and November. Those wishing to do meditation and to donate meals at the centre may contact Ph 390311.

The first 7-day meditation camp is scheduled to start on 23 August. During the meditation, Sayadaw Bhaddanta Ñanobhasa, Sayadaw Bhaddanta Pandita, Bhaddanta Khemacara and Bhaddanta Sagara will teach methods of meditation. — *MNA*

Objectives of the 14th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions

— To vitalize patriotism and nationalism
— To preserve and safeguard Myanmar cultural heritage
— To perpetuate genuine Myanmar music, dance and traditional fine arts
— To preserve Myanmar national character
— To nurture spiritual development of the youths
—To prevent influence of alien culture, and
— To strengthen national unity and Union Spirit.

Championship Trophy handed over

Deputy Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Aung Tun (L) accepts Championship Trophy of Ministry of Commerce Team. — NLM

YANGON, 3 Aug — The championship trophy of Myanmar League for 2006-2007 was handed over to the Ministry of Commerce this morning.

Present on the occasion were Chairman of Sports and Physical Education Committee of the Ministry of Commerce Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Tun, advisers and heads of department, manager, coaches and players of the victorious football team and guests.

At the ceremony, Patron of football subcommittee of the ministry Managing Director of Myanma Agricultural Produce Trading U Than Tun Aung explained facts about the football team. Next, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Tun made a speech on the occasion. Managing Director U Than Tun Aung handed over the championship trophy and Chairman of football subcommittee of the minisry U Ni Paw, the duplicate trophy to the deputy minister. Afterwards, Commerce team captain Min Thu spoke words of thanks. — *NLM*

Myanmar delegation leaves for Japan

YANGON, 3 Aug — Executive of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry Dr Myo Thet and Deputy Director Daw Khin Swe Than of labour department flew to Japan on 29 July to attend ASEAN-Japan H R D Collaboration Training Course to be held in Chiba, Japan from 31 July to 7 August and in Manila, the Philippines from 8 to 12 August.

They was seen off by Vice-President U Aung Lwin of U M F C C I. — *MNA*

H &T Minister meets with hoteliers, entrepreneurs in Tachilek

NAY P YI T AW, 3 Aug — Minister for Hotels and Tourism Maj-Gen Soe Naing accompanied by officials met with hoteliers and entrepreneurs of travel agencies in Tachilek at the office of Tachilek District Peace and Development Council on 31 July. The minister made an address at the meeting.

Director-General U Htay Aung of Directorate of Hotels and Tourism reported on measures being taken by the ministry for the development of hotels and tourism industry. The minister heard reports on sector-wise tasks presented by the entrepreneurs and fulfilled the requirements. The minister also met with responsible persons of Golden Triangle Paradise Resort on 1 August. The minister and party inspected visits of travelers in Golden Triangle Region, and gave necessary instructions to officials. He also visited Shwedagon Pagoda in Tachilek and presented cash donations.

Minister Maj-Gen Soe Naing inspected No (1) Friendship Bridge in Tachilek and cordially met with service personnel at the office of Myanma Tourism Service (Tachilek). — *MNA*

Staff of Auditor-General's Office donate blood

YANGON, 3 Aug— Staff families of Auditor-General's Office collectively donated blood at National Blood Department here today.

A total of 40 employees donated blood at the 14th blood donation ceremony of the office.

Deputy director-generals of the office, responsible persons and Medical Superintendent Dr Daw Nu Nu Tha of Yangon People's Hospital also greeted the donars during their donation.

MNA

New technology introduced

YANGON, 3 Aug — Jointly-organized by T M W Enterprise Ltd and Sony Broadcasts and Professional Products (Asia) Singapore, a ceremony to introduce new technology was held at Traders Hotel this morning.

First, Managing Director of T M W Enterprise U Wai Lwin made an opening speech.

Materials of entertainment, shooting and editing, IT appliances, vedio conferencing, medical equipment and security control items were introduced. Moreover, functions of the projector with the use of high technology were demonstrated.

A workshop was later conducted at Myanmar Motion Picture Asiayon. It was attended by responsible personnel of MRTV, Myawady, MMPA and Video Asiayon. — *MNA*

Managing Director of TMW Enterprise Ltd U Wai Lwin introduces new technology. — MNA

Progress of Hlawga Gas Turbine, Sub-power Stations inspected

YANGON, 3 Aug — Minister for Electric Power No (2) Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint accompanied by Col Khin Maung Soe of Yangon City Electric Power Supply Board heard reports on functions of power supply and declining of voltage presented by Managing Director Dr San Oo of Myanma Electric Power Enterprise at Hlawga Sub-power Station on 1 August.

The minister and party inspected maintenance tasks at Bank (1) transformer at the gas turbine.

The minister and party proceeded to the 10th mile sub-power station not far from Yangon-Mandalay Highway and attended to the needs.

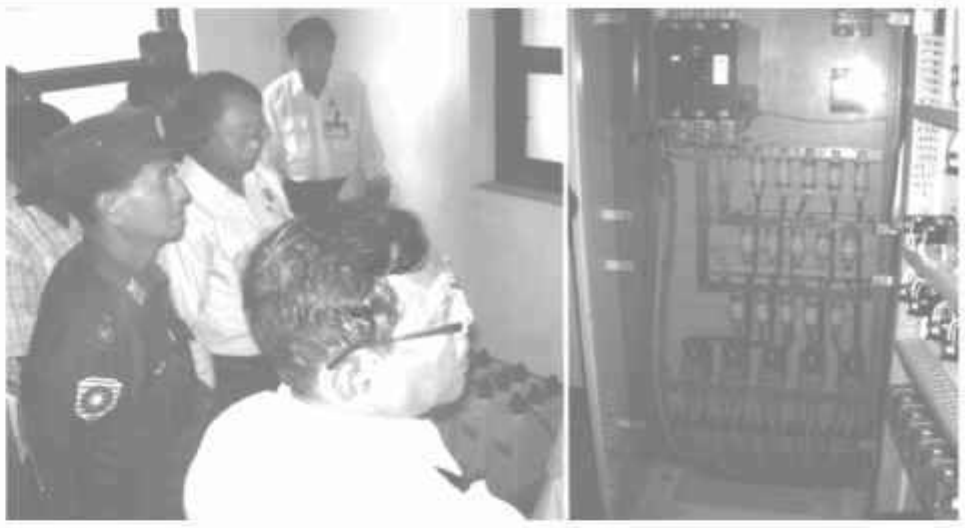
At Mayangon Sub-Power Station, Head of the Sub-power Station U Htay Win reported to the minister on receiving and supply of power and supply of electricity to Hepatitis-B Vaccine Factory.

On arrival at Seinpanmyaing Sub-power Station, the minister inspected functions of the station and fulfilled the requirements.

Afterwards, the minister and party inspected Kaba Aye Sub-power Station on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road, North Okkalapa Township Office and the sub-power station at Dagon University in Dagon Myothit (East) Township.

At Hlawga Gas Turbine, Manager U Than Naing Oo and officials conducted the minister round the control room. Next, the minister inspected construction of the 230-kv Thakayta-Thanlyin new power line and extension of the 66-kv line at the switch yard of the gas turbine.

MNA



Minister for Electric Power No (2) Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint inspects installation of power lines at Hepatitis-B Vaccine Factory.
MNA

Yangon Division USDA donates desks, benches in Dagon Myothit (North)

YANGON, 3 Aug — CEC members of Union Solidarity and Development Association responsible for Yangon Division Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa accompanied by officials attended a ceremony to donate school equipment to the Basic Education Primary Schools in Dagon Myothit (North) held at No (8) BEPS in Ward-45, Dagon Myothit (North) this morning.

Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa present a bench to a headmistress at the ceremony to donate benches to schools in Dagon Myothit (North) Township. — YCDC

The mayor and the vice-mayor presented 180 desks and benches donated by Yangon Division USDA for BEPSs to headmasters and headmistresses. The mayor accepted 300 USDA membership applications.

Yangon Division USDA had presented 1,070 desks and benches for BEPSs in Yangon Division and arrangements are being made to donate school equipment to 409 basic education schools.

MNA

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Yangon Division WAO holds educative talks

YANGON,3 Aug— Organized by Yangon Division Women's Affairs Organization, educative talks on dynamism of patriotic spirit and prevention against human trafficking were held at No 2 Basic Education High School in Latha Township this morning. Patron of Yangon Division WAO Daw Mar Mar Wai made an opening speech at the ceremony.

Writer Daw Kyu Kyu Thin and Deputy Police Captain Aye Aye Myint of Yangon Division's WAO gave talks on dynamism of patriotic spirit and prevention against human trafficking.

Patron of Yangon West District WAO Daw Ni Ni Sein presented 4,800 membership applications to Patron Daw Mar Mar Wai of Yangon Division WAO.

It was attended by Chairperson of Yangon Division WAO Daw Khin Myo Thu and executive members of division and members of Yangon West District WAO, instructors, headmistress, teachers and students. — *MNA*

Patron of Yangon Division Women's Affairs Organization Daw Mar Mar Wai accepts membership applications presented by patron of Yangon West District WAO Daw Ni Ni Sein.

MNA

Medical students visit MMCWA

Vice Chairperson of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association Daw Aye Aye greets students of University of Medicine. — MNA

YANGON, 3 Aug — Final-year students of the University of Medicine (Yangon) today visited Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association here.

At the multi-purpose building of MMCWA, Secretary of the association Dr Daw Wai Wai Tha and Executive Member Daw Thazin Nwe briefed on organizational set-up and health care services and education, economic and social welfare activities of the association.

The 120-member group also visited the clinic and Early Childhood Centre of MMCWA. — *MNA*

Bodies of 28 migrants wash up on Saharan coast

RABAT, 3 Aug — The bodies of 28 illegal sub-Saharan migrants who had tried to reach the Canary Islands washed up on a beach in Western Sahara on Tuesday, Moroccan state news agency *MAP* reported.

The migrants, who had set off from the Moroccan coast in two boats, were discovered in Blibilatte, 40 kilometres (25 miles) north of the territory's chief city Laayoune, *MAP* quoted local officials as saying.

Police searching the area found 49 migrants who were held for questioning. A search was underway for other passengers who were on board the boats, *MAP* said.

Under pressure from European governments, Morocco has tightened security along its northern coastline, forcing thousands of illegal migrants trying to escape poverty to attempt longer, more risky routes further to the south or east.

More than 10,000 have arrived in the Canaries this year, more than the number for all of 2005, after braving the seas separating the Spanish-owned islands from Africa.

MNA/Reuters

Britain at severe risk of terrorist attack

LONDON, 3 Aug — Britain faces a severe risk of another terrorist attack, the first public terror warning system of the country said on the Home Office and MI5 websites on Tuesday.

The threat level was made public for the first time since the current five-tier threat rating system was introduced earlier this month.

The system ranks threats as low, moderate, substantial, severe or critical. The levels will be updated and the public will be advised as to what action to take in response to any threat.

British Home Secretary John Reid has ordered the changes to simplify the previous seven tier system, which was criticized as too complicated and was not available to the public.

The previous threat levels were determined by the Joint Terrorism Analysis Centre based at MI5 in London, which handles more than 50,000 items of intelligence every year.

The centre's role came under intense scrutiny after last July's London bombings when it emerged that the organization had lowered the threat level from "several general" to "substantial" only a month before the attacks.

MNA/Xinhua

Italy, Nigeria work out legal migration measures

ABUJA, 3 Aug— Italian Charge d'Affaires in Nigeria Nico Longo here on Tuesday said Italy and Nigeria are establishing ways to manage legal migration to Italy.

Part of the measures, he said, was to "offer legitimate avenues to potential Nigerian immigrants, particularly to meet the demands of the domestic Italian labour market".

Longo made the remarks at the presentation of vehicles and equipment donated by the Italian Government to the Nigerian Immigration Service to fight trans-border crimes, human trafficking and child labour.

He added that Italy had an annual quota system for immigrants in search of work, hinting that Nigeria had not been able to meet its quota in the past few years.

MNA/Xinhua

Ballerina Svetlana Lukina of the Bolshoi Ballet rehearses "The Pharaoh's Daughter" at the Royal Opera House in London on 31 July, 2006.—INTERNET

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Jordan McFadden, 5, tries to catch huge water drops in his mouth from a watering center at the Pennsylvania Renaissance Faire near Cornwall, Pa, on 2 Aug 2006. The fair was open for Summer Youth Day, a one-day event for children's groups. —INTERNET

Pentagon may have misled 9/11 panel in investigation

WASHINGTON, 3 Aug — The U S Defence Department may have deliberately mislead the panel which investigated the September 11 terrorist attacks in 2001 in an attempt to cover up the bungled response to the hijackings, *The Washington Post* reported on Wednesday.

Suspicion of wrongdoing ran so deep that the 10-member commission, in a secret meeting at the end of its tenure in summer of 2004, debated referring the matter to the Justice Department for criminal investigation, said the newspaper, quoting several commission sources.

Staff members at a number of military and aviation departments thought that e-mails and other evidence provided enough probable causes to believe that officials violated the law by making false statements to Congress and to the commission, hoping to hide the major security failures surrounding hijackings, the sources said. In the end, the panel agreed to a compromise, turning over the allegations to the inspectors general for the Defence and Transportation departments, who can make criminal referrals if they believe they are warranted, officials said.

Although the commission's final report, released in July 2004, made it clear that the Defence Department's early versions of events on the day of the attacks were inaccurate, the revelation that it considered criminal referrals reveals how skeptically those reports were viewed by the panel and provides a glimpse of the tension between it and the Bush Administration, the *Post* reported.

For more than two years after the attacks, officials with the North American Aerospace Command (NORAD) and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) provided inaccurate information about the response to the hijackings in testimony and media appearances, the report said. Authorities suggested that the US Air Force had reacted quickly, that jets had been scrambled in response to the last two hijackings and that fighters were prepared to shoot down United Airlines Flight 93 if it threatened Washington.

In fact, the commission reported a year later, audiotapes from NORAD's Northeast headquarters and other evidence showed clearly that the military never had any of the hijacked airliners in its sights, or at one point chased a phantom aircraft — American Airlines Flight 1 — long after it had crashed into the World Trade Center.— *MNA/Xinhua*

France not planning to attend UN forces meeting

PARIS, 3 Aug — France does not plan to attend a meeting in New York on Thursday of United Nations members to discuss contributions to an international force for southern Lebanon, a French diplomatic source said on Wednesday.

France's refusal to attend the meeting — because it considers it to be premature — highlights divisions among the international community over how to bring an end to the fighting between Israel and Hizbollah guerillas in Lebanon.

France has been mentioned as a possible leader of such an international force but wants a truce accompanied by an agreement on a framework for a permanent ceasefire before any troops are deployed.

The French position is at odds with the United States which would like the force to be agreed upon before a ceasefire is in place.

"The meeting is premature ... because we consider that the conditions for force deployment, in other words the immediate end to hostilities and a political agreement, have not been met," the French diplomatic source said.

"For the moment, we do not expect to participate but it will depend on the discussions that are taking place at the moment."

The meeting had originally been scheduled for Monday.

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said on Tuesday major powers must patch up their differences over crisis.

He urged the United States, Britain, France, Russia and China — the Security Council members with veto power — to lay divisions aside to resolve the crisis as quickly as possible.

A senior UN official said Annan was anxious to avoid a split between the United States and France as happened before the 2003 Iraq war.

MNA/Reuters

Parish priest Patrick Hungerbuehler from Duedingen leads a mass during the annual shepherd festival on the Gemmi pass between the Bernese Oberland in Switzerland and the Valais on 30 July, 2006. The annual festival is an opportunity for shepherds and farmers from both sides of the Gemmi pass to meet in a friendly atmosphere. —INTERNET

Somaliland arrests 36 after drug raids

H ARGEISA, 3 Aug— The breakaway enclave of Somaliland said on Tuesday it had arrested 36 people, including foreigners, on suspicion of selling drugs.

More than 200 security personnel searched 34 houses in eight different areas of Somaliland capital Hargeisa, Minister of Interior Aden Mohamed Waqaf told reporters.

"Thirty six people were arrested in the operation including foreigners and some members of the security forces," Waqaf said. He did not say where the foreigners came from.

"Consumption (of) and addiction to liquor and hashish has increased in major towns. Most of these drugs are smuggled by land, especially from Ethiopia." Waqaf said a special unit to tackle the drug trade would soon be set up. — *MNA/Reuters*

HSBC to expand business in Chinese Mainland

H ONG K ONG, 3 Aug — Stephen Green, chairman of the global banking giant HSBC Holdings PLC said in Hong Kong on Tuesday that the group is to put more investment on business expansion in the Chinese Mainland.

He said at a Press conference that the group expected to expand commercial and personal banking services in the Chinese Mainland.

The group announced on Monday that it obtained 280 million US dollars of profit before tax in the Chinese Mainland in 2005, up 74 per cent over the previous year.

Michael Smith, chief executive of Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited, said at the Press conference that the group is to promote its Chinese Mainland business by depending on the existing 33 branches in the Chinese Mainland.

MNA/Xinhua

Russian synchronized swimming team competes in the team combination final during European Aquatic Championships in Budapest on 30 July, 2006. The Russian team won the event. —INTERNET

Bomb blast hits railway in eastern Turkey

ANKARA, 3 Aug — A bomb was detonated at a railway in Turkey's eastern province of Erzincan, damaging one carriage of a freight train, but no casualties reported, the semi-official *Anatolia* news agency reported on Wednesday.

The blast occurred near Gullubag train station in the Ilic Town of Erzincan on Tuesday night, *Anatolia* said, adding that an investigation was underway.

It was not clear whether the explosion was related to the Kurdish rebels, who set off a bomb and derailed 12 carriages of a freight train in the eastern Turkish province of Mus last month.

MNA/Xinhua

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Htain Lin Oo *(Li 8)* Advocate
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E-mail: mtpip@mptmail.net mm
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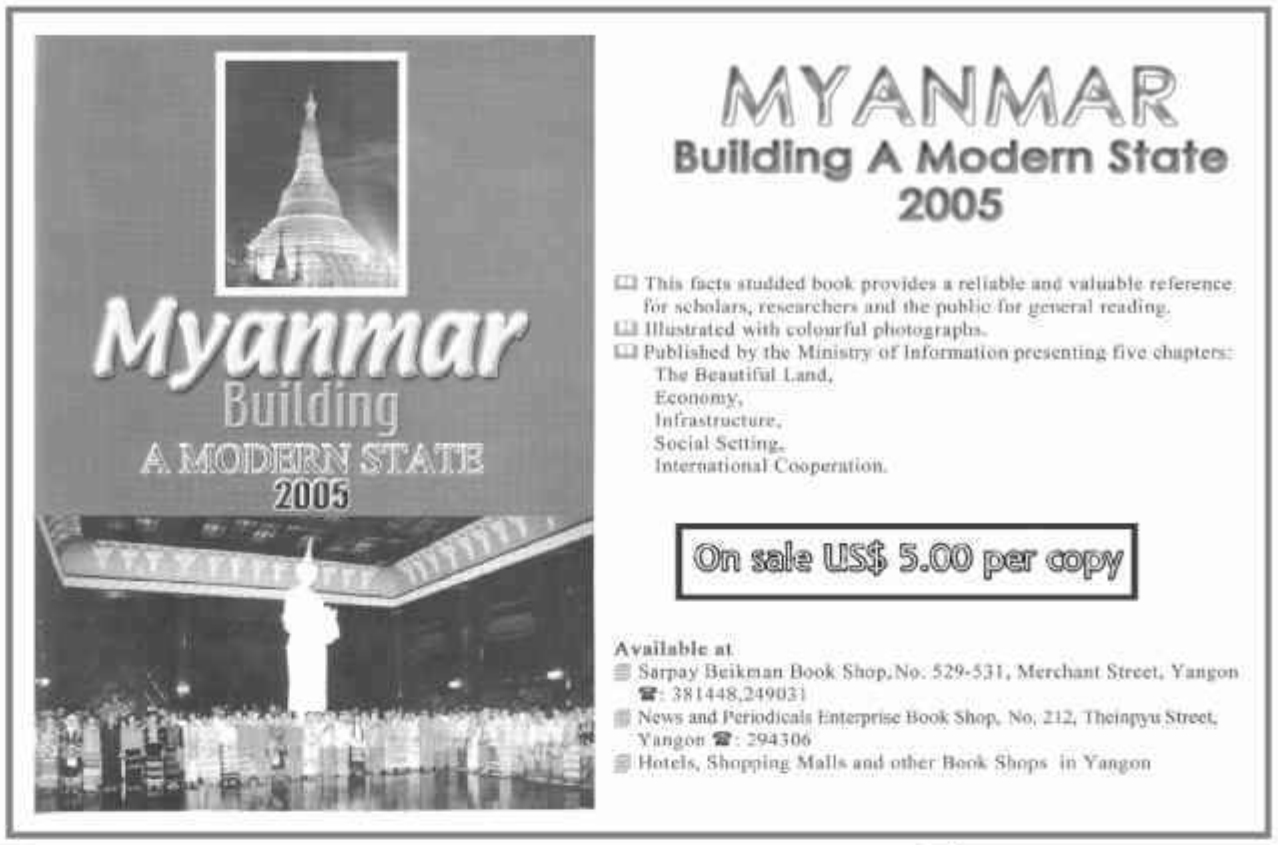
Dated: 4 August 2006



China's ban on medical ads take effect

BEIJING, 2 Aug— A number of new regulations will go into effect on Tuesday, involving ban on medical ads and the trade of corpses

In a joint statement by the State Administration of Radio, Film and Television and the State Administration of Industry and Commerce, television and radio advertisements for medicines, medical equipments, weight loss, breast enlargement and other beauty products and treatments are temporarily banned.

Television and radio stations that fail to fulfil their obligations to cause serious results will be dealt with as such ads may violate consumer's rights and endanger their health.

In new measures set out by the Ministry of Health, the government has banned the trade of corpses and commercial activities involving corpses, saying no organization or individual is allowed to accept body donations except for medical institutes, medical schools, medical research institutes and forensic research institutes.

Bodies are not allowed to be moved into or from China other than for interment or medical research purposes.

MNA/Xinhua

China exports light, multi-purpose airplanes to Zambia

HARBIN, 2 Aug— Three China-made light aircraft from a manufacturer in northeast China's Heilongjiang Province were delivered to Zambia's Defence Ministry on Monday.

The 19-seat *Y12* series planes are twin-engine, general-purpose monoplanes designed and developed by the Harbin Aviation Industry (Group) Ltd (HAI), based in the provincial capital Harbin.

The aircraft would be mainly used for troop transport and emergency rescue operations, said Chilufya Kapwepwe, counsellor at Zambia's Embassy to China.

Zambia bought five of the *Y12* series in the deal. The other two will be delivered in November.

By the end of 2005, HAI had sold more than 100 such aircraft to 20 countries and regions, such as Nepal, Pakistan, Peru, Tanzania and Namibia.

China's home-made aircraft are gaining popularity abroad, especially in developing countries.

Last Friday, China delivered two domestically manufactured *Xinzhou-60* passenger planes developed by the Xi'an Aircraft Company, to Laos and the Republic of Congo, the first such sales to the two countries.

MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam's pepper export up in first seven months

HANOI, 2 Aug— Vietnam, the world's biggest pepper exporter, shipped abroad 89,000 tons of pepper worth 129 million US dollars in the first seven months of this year, recording respective year-on-year surges of 36.9 per cent and 44.3 per cent.

The surges are mainly attributed to higher world prices and bigger volume of processed pepper, according to the Vietnam Pepper Association on Tuesday.

Export prices of Vietnamese pepper are now standing at some 1,575 US dollars per ton, 175 dollars higher than early this year, partly because of its higher quality and the world's smaller pepper output caused by unfavourable weather conditions.

Vietnam, which used to export raw pepper, has in recent years intensified investment in employing advanced production lines to turn out high-grade pepper, capable of meeting strict requirements set by such big markets as the European Union, the United States and Japan, the association said.

MNA/Xinhua

US July auto sales drop, Asian brands gain

DETROIT, 2 Aug— US automakers on Tuesday posted sharp declines in July vehicle sales, hurt by comparison to last summer's discount-driven sales boom and the shift away from big trucks and SUVs in the face of high gasoline prices.

Pinched by the cost of fuel and higher interest rates, more consumers opted for smaller cars in the month, an accelerating trend that has proven a windfall for the Asian automakers, especially Toyota Motor Corp and Honda Motor Co Toyota posted a 16-per-cent gain in sales, making it the No 2 automaker in the US market for the first time in the month, ahead of both Ford Motor Co and DaimlerChrysler AG, which both reported steep sales declines.

MNA/Reuters

Brazil police nab man with diamonds in the rough

RIO DE JANEIRO (Brazil), 2 Aug— Police in Brazil's remote Amazon state of Rondonia have arrested a man who had 666 rough diamonds stashed in his underpants.

The diamonds, worth about 200,000 US dollars, were apparently smuggled out of an Indian reservation of the Cinta Larga tribe in Rondonia, a state police spokesman said on Tuesday.

MNA/Reuters

DONATE BLOOD

Vietnam to boost footwear export to US, EU

HANOI, 2 Aug — Vietnam will intensify export of footwear to traditional markets, including the United States and the European Union (EU), in a move to reap 6.2-6.5 billion US dollars from exporting the products in 2010, according to a local agency on Tuesday.

Vietnam plans to earn over one billion dollars in 2010 from shipping footwear to the United States, equal to more than 5 per cent of the foreign country's total footwear import turnover, the Trade Information Centre under the Trade Ministry said, noting that the percentage was 3 per cent in 2005.

Vietnam also eyes revenue of over 3.2 billion dollars for footwear exported to the EU in 2010, accounting for more than 7.5 per cent of the block's total footwear import turnover in the year. The local product exported to the EU made up 7.3 per cent of the block's total footwear import turnover in 2005.

MNA/Xinhua

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Japan, Indonesia to strengthen energy cooperation

TOKYO, 2 Aug— Japan and Indonesia agreed on Monday that both countries should strengthen energy cooperation, *Kyodo News* reported.

Japanese Economy, Trade and Industry Minister Toshihiro Nikai shared a common view with visiting Indonesian Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Purnomo Yusgiantoro that the two countries should promote energy discussions, the report said.

During their talks, Yusgiantoro expressed expectations for more Japanese investment in Indonesia's resource development projects, while Nikai promised to help Indonesia design its national atomic power policy, the report quoted government officials as saying.

Indonesia is the biggest supplier of liquefied natural gas to Japan.

The Japanese Government has asked Indonesia to maintain its exporting volume to Japan, which has been declining recently.

MNA/Xinhua

***A shaman in a feathered pre-Hispanic head dress hands out crystals to supporters of Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, presidential candidate for the Party of the Democratic Revolution, as they take part in a protest in Mexico City's central Zocalo square on recently.* —INTERNET**

US Senate approves bill to open more off shore drilling

WASHINGTON, 2 Aug — The US Senate approved a bill on Tuesday to open more federal waters in the central Gulf of Mexico to oil and gas drilling. The measure, which was approved with a vote of 71-25, will open 8.3 million acres of federal waters in the Gulf region and would be a major step toward producing more domestic energy. "This bill will substantially reduce our reliance on foreign oil and gas....It brings more American energy to American consumers," declared Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist.—*MNA/Xinhua*

***A crowned crane is seen inside its enclosure at a zoological park in New Delhi on 1 August, 2006. The 'crown' for which the bird is named is made of a fan of coloured bristle-like feathers.*—INTERNET**

Hollywood, HK action films compete for Chinese market

BEIJING, 2 Aug — Hollywood and Hong Kong are slugging it out at Chinese cinemas with two action blockbusters going head to head for the next month.

Hong Kong's latest kung fu romp, "Dragon Tiger Gate", landed the first blow on the "Mission Impossible" team's latest outing when it opened on Friday, taking in 15.6 million yuan (1.85 million US dollars) on the Chinese Mainland through its first weekend, compared with 10.16 million yuan (1.27 million US dollars) for "M:I3" over the same period.

The 10-million-US-dollar "Gate", directed by Hong Kong Wilson Yip and starring kungfu star Donnie Yen and singer Nicholas Tse, grossed over 30 million yuan (3.75 million US dollars) over its opening weekend in Asia, according to the Beijing Polybona Film Publishing Co, Ltd, the movie's distributor.

The figure also included 5 million yuan (625,000 US dollars) in Hong Kong and 11 million yuan (1.38 million US dollars) in Taiwan, Singapore and Malaysia.

The Polybona, however, has reduced its box office expectation from 80 million yuan (10 million US dollars) to 60 million yuan (7.5 million US dollars) facing its strong enemy.

"Only 'M:I3' could constitute a threat to 'Gate' this summer, but we believe 'Gate' has a good prospect," Yu Hao, spokesman of the Polybona, told *Xinhua* Tuesday. — *MNA/Xinhua*

US billionaires evade multi-billion taxes

WASHINGTON, 2 Aug — American billionaires evaded taxes of 40 billion US dollars through illegal offshore tax havens, according to a Senate investigation report to be issued late on Tuesday.

The report, by the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, detailed how these wealthy, politically connected people ducked hundreds of millions of dollars in tax payments by using secretive cooperatives and trusts on Belize, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, the Isle of Man, Nevis and Panama, said Tuesday's *Washington Post.*

The billionaires who took advantage of the tax havens included Robert Wood Johnson IV, owner of the New York Jets football team; Sam Wyly and Charles J Wyly Jr, longtime Republican donors and backers of President Bush; and Haim Saban, a Democratic Party fundraiser who made his first fortune promoting Mighty Morphin Power Rangers.

The Senate's report said that, along with a few others, Saban and Johnson — a major GOP donor and an heir to the Johnson & Johnson consumer-goods fortune — were able to buy, for relatively small fees, roughly 2 billion dollars in capital losses that they used to erase taxable gains garnered from stock sales.

MNA/Xinhua

Two robots have a fight match during the "2006 Hong Kong Robot Olympic Games" in Hong Kong, south China, on 2 August, 2006. —INTERNET

China-made Chery sedan to be assembled in Egypt

CAIRO, 2 Aug — Chinese carmaker Chery Automobile announced here on Tuesday that the assembling lines of Chery sedan were officially kicked off in Egypt with the cooperation of an Egyptian car company.

The lines were under the cooperation with Chery's Egyptian partner Daewoo Motors Egypt (DME), a former partner of GM Daewoo Auto and Technology Co, Chery's vice-president Zhou Biren said at a Press conference.

Chery's two car types, A5 with a 1.6-litre engine and A6 with a 2.0-litre engine, would be produced in Egypt in the forms of C K D , or completely knocked-down, and S K D , or semi-knocked-down, Zhou said.

He said that D M E was expected to have an annual capacity of 25,000 units in the initial stage, which could be further raised to 50,000 units in the future.

Chery signed the agreement of strategic partnership with D M E in November 2005, shortly after the latter ended cooperation with the world known automobile manufacturer GM Daewoo.

According to the agreement, D M E would pay for the use of Chery's technologies and brand while Chery would provide technological support and car parts for D M E . — *MNA/Xinhua*

SPORTS

Lleyton Hewitt of Australia returns a shot against Vincent Spadea of the US during a match at the Legg Mason Tennis Classic, on 2 Aug, 2006 in Washington. Hewitt won 6-7(3), 7-6 (5), 6-4.—INTERNET

Red Star Belgrade breeze past Cork City

BELGRADE, 3 Aug— Serbian champions Red Star Belgrade beat Cork City 3-0 in their Champions League second qualifying round second leg on Wednesday to set up a third round clash with AC Milan.

Two close-range headers by international striker Nikola Zigic and a superb volley from midfielder Dejan Milovanovic handed former European Cup winners Red Star Belgrade a 4-0 aggregate win over the Irish side.

Earlier on Wednesday, Milan were cleared by UEFA to play in Europe after the final verdict by the Italian soccer authorities for their role in a match-fixing scandal. Milovanovic delighted the 30,000 home crowd in the third minute when he rifled the ball into the top corner from more than 25 metres after Zigic headed it down into his path.— *MNA/Reuters*

Roberto Carlos will complete contract with Real

MADRID, 3 Aug— Real Madrid have said Brazilian defender Roberto Carlos will stay until his contract finishes, ending speculation about a possible move. The Brazilian has one season left on his contract at Real with an option of another dependent on the number of games he plays next season.

"The left back, who is at the pre-season training camp in Austria, will complete his contract with the side," Real said in a statement on their website on Wednesday. The 33-year-old was reported to have met with Real sports director Predrag Mijatovic on Tuesday, after having been convinced he was wanted by new coach Fabio Capello. He had hinted that it was time to move on at the end of last season, saying he had received an offer from English champions Chelsea for a three-year contract. — *MNA/Reuters*

Michael Phelps of the US swims to a win in the men's 200m butterfly final during the USA Swimming National Championships in Irvine, California, on 2 August, 2006. —INTERNET

Levski Sofia keep alive Champions League dream

SOFIA, 3 Aug—Levski Sofia maintained their dream of becoming the first Bulgarian club to compete in the Champions League group stage when they beat Sioni Bolnisi of Georgia in the second qualifying round on Wednesday.

A first-half goal by Valeri Domovchiiski and a late strike by Emil Angelov helped seal their 2-0 win in Georgie and a 4-0 aggregate victory.

They will now play Chievo Verona of Italy in the third qualifying round after Verona were promoted into the competition in the wake of the Serie A match-fixing scandal.

Sioni, who failed to make any real threat at the Lokomotiv stadium in the Georgian capital, finished the match with 10 men after Archil Alamvidze was sent off in the 63th minute.— *MNA/Reuters*

Steffen sets world record in 100m freestyle at European swimming

BUDAPEST, 3 Aug—Britta Steffen of Germany set a world record in the women's 100-metre freestyle in 53.30 seconds at the European swimming championships on Wednesday.

Steffen sliced off 0.12 seconds from the previous record set by Lisbeth Lenton of Australia in January.

Earlier, Steffen also led Germany to a world record in the 400m freestyle relay by swimming her leg in 52.66, the fastest ever. Her individual record was noteworthy because she skipped the sport last year, when her best time of 56.37 was not even among the 100 best in the world. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Belgium's Kim Clijsters returns a backhand to Australia's Samantha Stosur during their match at the 2006 Acura Classic women's tennis tournament in Carlsbad, California, on 2 August, 2006. —INTERNET

Vieira completes move to Inter Milan

ROME, 3 Aug—French international Patrick Vieira has completed his transfer from Italian Juventus to Inter Milan player on Wednesday.

The 30-year-old midfielder, who underwent a medical on Tuesday, has signed a four-year contract until June 30, 2010.

"I am very happy, I am very pleased," Vieira said at a Press conference at Inter's training ground.

"Inter really wanted to sign me and this was a decisive factor for me.

"I am convinced that Inter can do very well, and that I can do very well here.

"I wanted to continue to play at the highest level, I wanted to continue to play to win a lot and this was the reason why I chose Inter, who have great players and great potential. Now we have to work hard to achieve what we and all the fans want."

Vieira is one of several key players to leave Juventus after the Turin club was found guilty of match fixing last month.

Juventus were stripped of the Serie A titles they won in 2004-05 and in 2005-06, and were demoted to the Second Division with a 17-point penalty for the start of next season.

With Juventus and AC Milan both guilty of match-fixing, Inter were crowned last season's Serie A champions. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Bayern beat Schalke in shootout to reach League Cup final

BERLIN, 3 Aug— Bayern Munich beat Schalke 04 4-1 in a penalty shootout on Wednesday to advance to the final of Bundesliga's pre-season League Cup tournament against Werder Bremen on Saturday.

Bayern, who won the Bundesliga last season, and fourth-placed Schalke played to a scoreless draw after 90 minutes. There was no extra time and the two clubs went straight to the shootout in Munich before a crowd of 40,000. Bayern reserve keeper Michael Rensing, filling in for Oliver Kahn, stopped the first shot by Sebastian Boenisch and watched as Sebastian Abel sent Schalke's second shot over the bar.

Bayern connected all four of their penalties; Mehmet Scholl, Owen Hargreaves, Roque Santa Cruz and Willy Sagnol.

Both teams had plenty of chances to score during the match. Bayern advanced to the League Cup final for the sixth time and have won it five times already.

Germany striker Lukas Podolski made his first appearance in Munich after transferring from Cologne but accomplished little.

"We played well at times," said Bayern coach Felix Magath. "But you could see we have a lot of work to do. We let in a lot of chances, but had quite a few good chances ourselves. It was an exciting match to watch for the spectators."

Bremen, who finished second last season, beat third place Hamburg SV 2-1 on Tuesday in the other semi-final and now face Bayern in Leipzig. The Bundesliga season begins on August 11. — *MNA/Reuters*

Gallas loses number 13 shirt to Ballack

LONDON, 3 Aug— Chelsea defender William Gallas discovered on Wednesday that his treasured number 13 shirt has been given to new signing Michael Ballack. The France international has worn the shirt since he joined in May 2001 from French club Olympique Marseille.

He found himself in hot water earlier this week when he failed to join up with the rest of the squad on their pre-season tour of the United States, claiming he needed more time off.

Gallas, 28, has struggled to hold down a place in his favoured position of centre back in the Chelsea team and said in May that he wished to leave.

His agent said he thought his treatment by Chelsea, who threatened to discipline him for his failure to arrive in the US, was unfair.

"It is not possible for them to give Ballack the number 13 shirt without talking to William first," Pierre Frelot said.

"William has been wearing that shirt for five years and it is the shirt he expects to be in. As far as we are concerned William's absence is still a misunderstanding. "I am surprised they haven't waited to hear the explanation of the player in person first before releasing a statement and taking action against him."

Gallas has 12 months left on his contract.

MNA/Reuters

Paula Creamer of the US tees off on the 16th tee during a Pro-Am event ahead of the start of the Women's British Open golf tournament at Royal Lytham and St Annes golf course in Lytham, north west England on 2 August, 2006. The tournament begins on 3 August. —INTERNET

Official says Vietnam faces high risk of bird flu return

HANOI, 3 Aug — Vietnam is encountering high risk of bird flu reoccurrence amid outbreaks in some neighbouring countries and potential weather conditions favourable for development of bird flu viruses, the local newspaper *Youth* said on Wednesday.

The newspaper quoted Bui Ba Bang, deputy minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, as saying that the high risk is fuelled by recent bird flu outbreaks in neighbouring countries, future stronger raising of poultry to serve big traditional festivals in late 2006 and early 2007, and coming cold weather conditions which favour the development of the viruses,

Other contributing factors include the unavailability of bird flu vaccines for white-featured ducks and coming season of migratory birds, he said.

Vietnam is intensifying disease surveillance, prevention of poultry smuggling, and vaccination among fowls nationwide, the newspaper said.

MNA/Xinhua

Flood Bulletin

(Issued at 12:30 hrs MST on 3-8-2006)

According to the (06:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Sittoung River at Madauk is (1144) cm. It may remain above its danger level (1070) cm during the next (72) hrs commencing noon today.

Storm news

(Issued at 11:00 hrs MST on 3-8-2006)

According to the observation at (09:30) hrs MST today, the depression over Northwest Bay has centered at about (60) miles Southeast of Chandbali, India. It is forecast to move Westnorthwest direction and cross the Orissa Coast, India within next (12) hours commencing this morning.

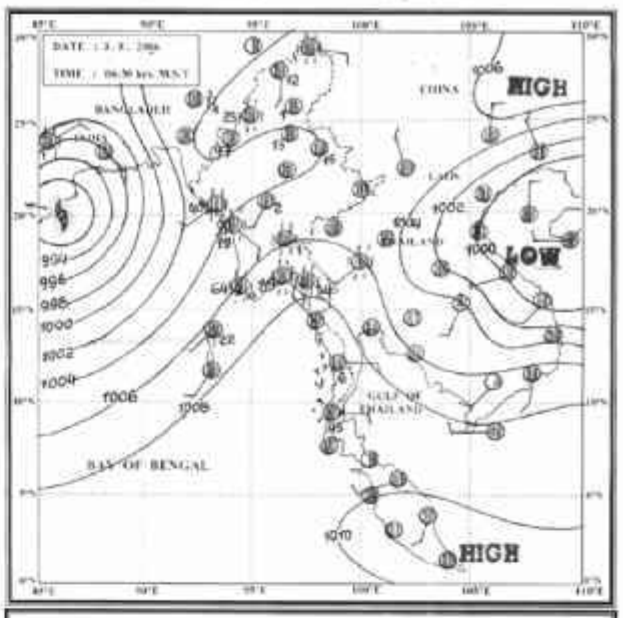
Typhoon "Henry" kills 6, displaces thousands in Philippines

MANILA, 3 Aug— Six people were killed and 476,027 people were displaced by flooding caused by tropical storm "Henry" in Philippines, the local television network *ABS-CBN News* reported Wednesday. The television network quoted officials of the Philippine National Disaster Coordination Council as saying the worst affected provinces were Isabela, Quirino and Pampanga. A total of 411 barangays (villages) in Central Luzon, Ilocos and Cagayan Valley regions are still flooded. As of 02:00 am (1600 GMT, Tuesday), "Henry" was spotted 430 kilometres west southwest of Vigan, Ilocos Sur in northern Luzon, with maximum sustained winds of 85 kilometres per hour (kph) and gusts of up to 100 kph, according to weather bureau PAGASA.

MNA/Xinhua

***Venezuela's Juan Landaeta, right, hits Japan's Koki Kameda, with a right during the 7th round of their WBA light flyweight title match, on 2 August, 2006, in Yokohama, west of Tokyo. Kameda won the WBA fly lightweight championship by a 2-1 decision*—INTERNET**

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Thursday, 3 August, 2006

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain have been isolated in lower Sagaing and Magway Divisions, scattered in Kayah State and Mandalay Division, fairly widespread in Shan State and Bago Division and widespread in the remaining areas with locally heavyfall in Yangon Division. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Yangon (Mingaladon) (3.74) inches,Yangon (Kaba-Aye) (3.62) inches, Yangon (Central) (3.03) inches, Pathein (2.64) inches, Thaton (2.56) inches, Hmawbi (2.32) inches, Kyaukpadaung (0.70) inch and Chauk (0.24) inch.

Maximum temperature on 2-8-2006 was 85°F. Minimum temperature on 3-8-2006 was 66°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 3-8-2006 was (100%). Total sunshine hours on 2-8-2006 was (1.9) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 3-8-2006 were (3.74) inches at Mingaladon, (3.62) inches at Kaba-Aye and (3.03) inches at Central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2006 were (59.25) inches at Mingaladon, (71.89) inches at Kaba-Aye and (76.06) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (8) mph from Southwest at (16:30) hours MST on 2-8-2006.

Bay inference: The low pressure area over West Central Bay has further intensified into a depression on last night. According to the observation at (9:30) hrs MST today,the depression has moved into Northwest Bay and is centered at about (60) miles Southeast of Chandbali, Indi, It is forecast to move Westnorthwest wards and cross Orissa Coast. India within next (12) hours commencing this morning. Monsoon is strong in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 4-8-2006: Rain will be isolated in Kayah State, lower Sagaing and Magway Divisions, scatteredin Mandalay Division and fairly widespread in Kachin and Chin States, upper Sagaing Division and widespread in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfalls are likely in Rakhine and Mon States, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions. Degree of certainty is (80%).

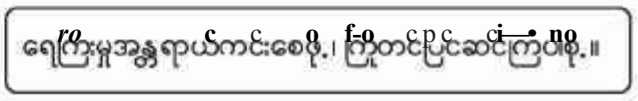
State of the sea: Squalls with rough sea are likely attimes off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) to (40) mph.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Strong monsoon.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 4-8-2006: Likelihood of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 4-8-2006: Some rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 4-8-2006: Likelihood of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).



Myanmar

Friday, 4 August
View on today

7:00 am
1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayardaw U Ottamasara

7:25 am
2. To be healthy exercise

7:30 am
3. Morning news

7:40 am
4. Nice and sweet song

7:55 am
5 c ojo^ps^lycocoGtjpgc

8:10 am
6. 330?l(§[Cy

8:20 am
7. The mirror images of musical oldies

8:25 am
8. Ak'pcp

8:30 am
9. International news

8:45 am
10. English for everyday use

4:00 pm
1. Martial song

4:15 pm
2.Song to uphold national spirit

4:30 pm
3. Musical programme

4:45 pm
4. 32GO!aDCCOfg0^oSogMG6|S

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(o= ejp)

5:00 pm
5. Song of national races

5:15 pm
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5:25 pm
7. (g|«0»OI §,|OOOCOO!

5:40 pm
8. Song of yester years

5:50 pm
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6:00 pm
10. Evening news

6:30 pm
11. Weather report

6:35 pm
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7:00 pm
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8:00 pm
14. News
15. International news
16. Weather report
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18. The next day's programme

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Friday, 4 August

Tune in today

8:30 am Brief news
8:35 am Music:
-Love & affection
8:40 am Perspectives
8:45 am Music:
-Here & now
-Never gonna say I'm sorry
8:50 am National news/ Slogan
9:00 am Music:
-World filled with love
9:05 am International news
9:10 am Music:
-Don't rush me
1:30 pm News / Slogan
1:40 pm Lunch time music
-Just to be close to you
-A year ago today
-What will you do about me
9:00 pm WOM
-Shehnai Recital
9:15 pm Article
9:25 pm Music at your request
-Heaven
-Something like you
-If I don't have you
9:45 pm News /Slogan
10:00 am PEL

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Progress of Yeywa Hydel Power Project inspected

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Aug — Minister for Electric Power No (1) Col Zaw Min, accompanied by Deputy Director-General U Win Kyi of Hydro-electric Power Implementation Department and officials, inspected the diversion weir and construction tasks of Yeywa hydel power project being implemented by No 2 Construction Group of Hydro Electric Power Implementation Department on the Myitnge River near Yeyaman Village, 30 miles south-east of Mandalay, on 31 July morning.

The minister viewed progress of RCC embankment and digging of the approach tunnel, the water intake building, the inspection gallery, land preparations for the power plant and related work.

Deputy Director-General U Win Kyi reported on work done and future tasks.

The minister gave instructions on completion of the project ahead of schedule, minimizing loss and wastage and ensuring worksite safety.

In meeting with engineers, the minister explained the future tasks of the project. On completion, the 790-megawatt Yeywa Hydel Power Plant will be able to generate 3,550 million kwh yearly.

The plant will link with the national grid through Shwesaryan and Kyaukse (Belin) sub-power stations to supply power to the entire nation.

MNA

Minister for Electric Power-1 Col Zaw Min inspects Yeywa Hydel Power Project. — ELECTRIC POWER-1

Yeywa Hydel Power Project. — ELECTRIC POWER-1

NLD heading for confrontation to harm nation, people

24 quit NLD in Ayeyawady Division as they no longer have any trust in party leaders

YANGON, 3 Aug — Twenty-four members of the National League for Democracy in Einme and Mawlamyinegyun townships, Ayeyawady Division, quit the party on 16 and 18 July respectively.

Ward/village N L D chairman U Bo Kay, vice-chairman U Parsaka Lay, secretary U Po Thein, joint secretary U Po Htoo, members U Parsaka Gyi, Daw Ngwe Shin, U Aung Than Soe, U Ne Doe, U Shwe Wut, U Than Zaw and U Tha Sein Aung in Einme Township resigned from the party on 16 July.

In Mawlamyinegyun, ward/village secretary U Myint Aung, joint secretary U Thein Win, treasurer U Hla Htay, executives U Hla Nyein, U Khin Nyunt, U Khin Soe, U Tin Thaung, U Soe Myint, and Daw Phyu Phyu Win, and members U Saw Aung, U Saw Hla Aung, U Thein Htay and U Htein Lin quit the party on 18 July.

They presented their signed letters of resignation to N L D headquarters and the respective local authorities.

In the signed letters they submitted to Einme and Mawlamyinegyun Township Multiparty Democracy General Election Sub-commissions, they said that the N L D has never served the interest of the nation and the people, instead heading for confrontation that will harm the entire country. As they have no more trust in N L D leaders, they quit the party of their own volition. — *MNA*

The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded

Yangon (Mingaladon)	(3.74) inches
Yangon (Kaba-Aye)	(3.62) inches
Yangon (Central)	(3.03) inches
Pathein	(2.64) inches
Thaton	(2.56) inches
Hmawby	(2.32) inches
Kyaukpadaung	(0.70) inch
Chauk	(0.24) inch.

INSIDE

There are already five bridges built on the Hline river — the Bayintnaung, Uto, Myochaung, Aungzeya, and Shwepyitha bridges. Now with the emergence of the Shwelinban bridge, transportation of passengers and goods from one region to another will become easier and speedier.

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