

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

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

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Aug—Mr Abu Roshde Rokonuddawla, newly accredited Ambassador of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to the Union of Myanmar, presented his credentials to Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, at Bayintnaung

Yeiktha, here, at 10.30 am today.

Also present on the occasion were Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint and Director-General U Kyaw Kyaw of the Protocol Department. — MNA

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



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



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

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 25 August, 2007

Grow more high yield strains of tea

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

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

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

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

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

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

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လစဉ် လ၏ ဒုတိယပတ် (တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့) နှင့် နောက်ဆုံးပတ် (တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့) တို့သည် ရုံးလုပ်ငန်းအတွက် မဖြစ်မနေသွားလာရန် လိုအပ်သည့် ကိစ္စရပ်များမှအပ မော်တော် ယာဉ်များ မသုံးစွဲရနေဖြစ်သည်။

၂၀၀၇-ခုနှစ် သြဂုတ်လ အတွက်

နောက်ဆုံးပတ် (တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့)
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(၉-၉-၂၀၀၇) ရက်နေ့
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All this needs to be known

- * Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
- * Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
- * Do not be softened whenever appeased

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

National Convention Convening Management Committee meets



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

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

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

ports on their respective sectors.

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

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

MNA

Contingency Planning Meeting for Disaster Management commences



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

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

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

sory Committees and guests.

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

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

MNA

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

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Belarus to retaliate on visas for US officials

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

The United States, following the lead of the European Union, last month expanded a list of Belarussian officials barred entry in connection with human rights violations and the disputed reelection last year of President Alexander Lukashenko. Belarus said then it would impose counter-measures but gave no

details. On Wednesday, Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Vanshina said authorities in Minsk had no choice but to respond. “In response to the unfriendly act of the United States, Belarus will impose corresponding visa restrictions for specific categories of US officials,” she said in a statement on the ministry’s website.

“But let me stress that retaliatory measures will in no way affect personal contacts between Belarussians and Americans.”

Vanshina’s statement gave no further details. But she said US tourists and businessmen wishing to

visit would be issued visas to the country, which lies between Russia and three EU states, without having to provide letters of invitation.

This was “an act of good will and underscores the friendly character of Belarussian foreign policy”, she said.

The US restrictions expanded a list of judges and election officials to include more legal officials, officers in the Interior Ministry and the intelligence service, still known as the KGB, and heads of state enterprises.

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

MNA/Reuters

Sudan kicks out Canadian, European Union diplomats

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

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

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

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



Authorities in Nepal are planning to slash the permit price for climbing Mount Everest by up to 75 per cent outside the main spring climbing season, a minister told AFP on Wednesday.—INTERNET

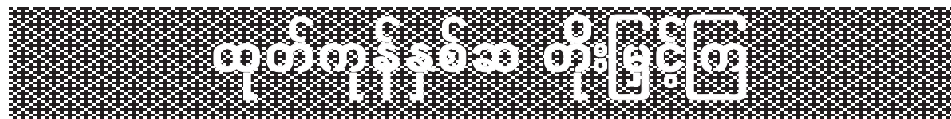
US soldier killed in roadside bomb blast west of Baghdad

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

All were from Multi-National Division-Baghdad.

The military said units operating in that area are conducting ongoing raids and clearing operations to “disrupt insurgent and militia elements.”

The number of US military deaths in Iraq stands at 3,723, with a total of 65 in August, according to a CNN count of Pentagon figures.—Internet



British Airways planes parked at Heathrow Airport in London, in this on 1 Aug, 2007 file photo. British Airways PLC was fined \$300 million on 23 Aug, 2007 after pleading guilty to antitrust charges and admitting fixing some prices on international flights.—INTERNET

German returns “cursed” stolen Pharaonic carving

CAIRO, 24 Aug — A German has handed in a package containing part of a Pharaonic carving to Egypt’s Embassy in Berlin, with a note saying

his stepfather had suffered a “curse of the Pharaohs” for stealing it, Egypt said on Wednesday.

The note said the man felt obliged to return the carving to make amends for his late stepfather and enable his soul to rest in peace, Egypt’s Supreme Council for Antiquities said.

The stepfather had stolen the piece while on a visit to Egypt in 2004 and

on his return to Germany suffered paralysis, nausea, unexplained fevers and cancer before dying recently, the anonymous man said in the note.

The Egyptian Embassy in Berlin had been handed over to the Supreme Council for Antiquities, where a committee of experts was trying to ascertain its authenticity, the statement said.—MNA/Reuters

NY police investigating white powder reports

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

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

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

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



Team Australia presents fireworks during the Malaysia International Fireworks Competition 2007 in Putrajaya, outside Kuala Lumpur, on 22 Aug, 2007. INTERNET



Tourists crowd at the city centre park in front of Malaysian landmark Petronas Twin Tower(L) in downtown Kuala Lumpur in Jan 2007.

INTERNET

Los Angeles police investigate patient dumping cases

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

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

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

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

The American Broadcasting Corporation Channel 7 reported that the

investigation focuses on two cases of patients allegedly being dumped

in front of the Union Rescue Mission.

MNA/Xinhua



Bollywood actor Abhishek Bachchan poses with the new Motorola “MotoRazr” mobile phone during its launch in New Delhi on 23 Aug, 2007.

INTERNET

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

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

The luxury Embraer Legacy 600 jet which Joe Lepore and Jan Paladino were piloting clipped a Gol Airlines Boeing 737 on 29 Sept, causing the larger jet to crash into the remote Amazon jungle, killing all 154 on board. The smaller jet made an emergency landing after the collision with a wingtip missing.

Weiss cited the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty which he said provides his clients the right to testify from their home country. Theo Diass, the pilots’ Brazilian attorney, will appear before a Brazilian judge on 27 Aug and ask that the two men be able to provide a video or written testimony.—Internet

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

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

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

A third soldier was also wounded in the incident

which took place about 50 kilometres from Kandahar in southern Afghanistan.

The names of the two soldiers that were killed were not immediately released.

MNA/Reuters



US UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters are seen nerar the US military base in Mosul, north of Baghdad on 4 Jan, 2006. Fourteen US soldiers were killed on 22 Aug, 2007, when their helicopter crashed in northern Iraq, the US military said. — XINHUA

စက်မှုပစ္စည်းအား ခေတ်တော်ကောင်း

Iran develops 900-kg “smart bomb”

TEHERAN, 23 Aug—Iran has developed a 2,000-pound (900-kilogramme) “smart bomb”, official media quoted a Defence Ministry statement as saying on Wednesday, in the latest announcement from Tehran about progress regarding military hardware.

The guided bomb, named Qased (Messenger), was developed by specialists within the ministry and is now operational, IRNA news dropped from F-4 and F-5 jets.

Iran still uses planes, such as the F-5, supplied by the United States to the government of the former shah of Iran, who was a close US ally.

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

The two countries are

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

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

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

MNA/Reuters

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

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

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

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

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

Internet

ECONOMIC NEWS

Syria, Iraq discuss oil cooperation

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

They reviewed the

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

They also deliberated on the exchange of petroleum products and Iraq's connection to the

Arab gas pipeline, which is under construction to transport the Egyptian gas through Syria and Jordan.

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

MNA/Xinhua

Pakistan, South Africa to enhance economic cooperation

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

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

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

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

MNA/Xinhua

An Indian Railways official talks on a wireless set beside Kashmir's first ever train before its trial run at a railway station in Budgam, 15 km (9 miles) west of Srinagar, on 23 Aug, 2007.

INTERNET



Computer monitor sales in Brazil grow two fold in first half

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

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

The LCD monitors are massively replacing CRTs

in sales. IDC's senior analyst Reinaldo Sakis explained that consumers are putting more emphasis on ergonomics and saving space on the desktop, as well as price competitiveness.

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

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

MNA/Xinhua

China's Chery produces millionth car

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

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

It took Chery about six years to make its first

500,000 vehicles, and only 17 months to complete the second half million.

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

The compact model, equipped with Chery's own-brand engine, was designed to meet environmental and safety standards in the US and

European markets, despite some industry analysts claiming Chinese producers lack the technology to meet the standards on their own.

In contrast with Chery, Sino-German automaker FAW Volkswagen spent 13 years making its first million cars, while it took more than eight years for Shanghai GM and Guangzhou Honda to build their first million cars.

MNA/Xinhua



Workers fit the body of a BMW 1 in the BMW plant in Leipzig, eastern Germany. Europe's biggest economy grew at a slower pace in the second quarter than in the first three months of the year, the German government said on 23 Aug, 2007.—INTERNET

Pentagon cuts armoured vehicles due in Iraq in 2007

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

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

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

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

Department.

The MRAP vehicle is one of the Pentagon’s top acquisition priorities and the Defence Department’s aim has been to buy as many as can be produced. It follows years of criticism directed at the Pentagon for not providing adequate armour to troops. The MRAPs’ V-shaped hull is designed to protect occupants from roadside bombs, which have killed many US troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. Morrell said it takes about 50 days to equip and ship a finished MRAP into the war zone.

That includes 15 days for equipping and 35 for

transport by ship.

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

MNA/Reuters



Visitors play at a Playstation exhibition stand at the Games Convention 2007 fair in the eastern German city of Leipzig on 23 Aug, 2007.—INTERNET

US Army major indicted on Iraq bribery charges

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

The indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Texas charges John Cockerham, his wife, Melissa, and his

sister Carolyn Blake, with conspiracy to defraud the US Government, commit bribery and obstruct justice while Cockerham was a contracting officer in Kuwait in 2004 and 2005. All three were also indicted on money-laundering conspiracy charges. Cockerham was additionally charged with three counts of bribery.— MNA/Reuters

Ferry capsizes in southern Thailand

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

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

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

MNA/Xinhua

15 injured as plane makes emergency landing in Colombia

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

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

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

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

Authorities have set up a committee to investigate the accident.

MNA/Xinhua



Teenagers jump into a fountain to cool themselves just outside the Moscow Kremlin, on 23 Aug, 2007. On Thursday the temperatures in Moscow reached 32°C (90°F).—INTERNET



17-day-old twin Red River Hoglets keep close to their mother Bahiti at London Zoo on 23 Aug, 2007. Red river hogs, or *Potamochoerus porcus* inhabit the forests and swamps of west and central Africa. Most active at night, they can often be found rooting for tubers with their upturned snouts. — INTERNET

Iraqi Red Crescent says 500 killed in Yazidi attack

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

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

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

The governor of

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

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

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

Saeed Haqi Ismael, the head of the Red Crescent in Iraq, told *Reuters* the organization’s figure was based on lists compiled to distribute financial aid to families who had reported losing relatives in the bombings. Families received 100 US dollars for each relative who had been killed and 50 US dollars for every one wounded.

MNA/Reuters

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win inspects hydro power project, honour outstanding farmers in Lashio

Local farmers to take opportunities to extend cultivation on vacant and virgin lands

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



Lt-Gen Kyaw Win of Ministry of Defence views fertilizer broadcasting in paddy fields.— MNA

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The deputy commander and officials presented awards to outstanding farmers who managed to exceed

250 baskets per acre yield in summer paddy cultivation.

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

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

In his address, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win praised Shan State (North) for its achievement in boosting production of paddy. He also urged departmental officials and local farmers to work together for boosting per acre yield year by year. He also urged local farmers to use supplements in growing paddy to ensure increased per acre yield so that they can enjoy higher income. Myanmar is an agro-base country and agriculture is the key for development of the economy. With the assistance of the local authority, local farmers are to take opportunities to extend cultivation on vacant and virgin lands in the region. There are over 800,000 acres of vacant and virgin lands in Shan State (North). Shan State has exceeded its cultivation target of paddy and

oil crops. Officials and local farmers are to make efforts for maintenance of present level of cultivation in the region, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win urged.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

YANGON, 24 Aug — The Myanmar Forest

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

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

First, General

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

Next, Managing

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

MNA



Managing Director of Myanmar Timber Enterprise U Win Tun presents gift to Mr Dato Nazuri. UMFCCI

မူးယစ်အန္တရာယ် လူ့ရန်စွယ်
ကာကွယ်တိုက်ဖျက်
လက်ချင်းဆက်။

Fruitful result depends on fairness on both sides

Kyaw Min Lu (Shwe Pyi Tha)

These days, opposing groups have been hurling all sorts of invented criticisms citing the news about the fuel price hikes. I hear they are putting blame on the government that commodity prices have risen and the bus fares have shot up due to sudden fuel price hikes. They also said that the public had to walk since they could not afford bus fares and they were so poor that they had to drink rice gruel instead of eating rice. This way they are tarnishing the image of the nation and the people. They are found to be agitating the public to

of yours and mine. The government is like the parents of a family, and the people are like the children. The parents would never like to see the sufferings of their children. The same way, the government loves and has sympathy for us, the people. We should understand that the government wants the people to enjoy peaceful and prosperous life the way the parents have goodwill towards their children. By the way, are all of us, the parents, in a position to fulfil the wishes of our children as much as we desire? Of course not,

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

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

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

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It is the genuine goodwill that the government sells fuel at a loss to the people. As you know, due to instigation of Daw Suu Kyi and NLD, the government manages to deal with economic sanctions and stands on its own feet. We should not ignore this fact. The people should not pay heed to the abusive words of axe-handles who try to agitate the people and put blame on every action of the present government. That is what I want to say. I mean every word and action should be fair.

create mass protests and demonstrations taking advantage of the prevailing situation.

True. The authorities increased the diesel and petroleum prices unavoidably on 15-8-2007. Under the circumstances, buses and trucks depending on fuel have to raise their fares duly. There may also increase in the prices of products produced through machines that depend on fuel. I do not want to say that the prices have not risen. The public in general will certainly experience inconveniences in one way or another due to the fuel price hikes. To be frank, my family is no exception. So, we have to practise frugality, of course. It will not be proper for one person to shout loudly since the matter is concerned with the entire people. This is my personal view.

However, please do not ask me if I am in favour of fuel price hikes. Of course not. Well, in every issue, there is cause and effect. There are always underlying causes for any effect or result. We need to ponder what are the underlying causes or reasons. At the same time, one should not be one-sided in dealing with an issue. One and all need to observe both sides of the coin in a just and fair manner. Then only, will one see the correct answer.

In fact, a State is very much like a family

because we have our own limitations. We have to do our best for our children based on our limited resources. It is not that we are satisfied with what we have done for the children. It may not be to our full satisfaction. Every family is trying to ensure its continued existence employing all possible means. Will it be fair on the part of the children if they criticize their parents for failing to do their duty? However, the opposing groups are in the wrong.

My understanding is that in Myanmar society, no children criticize their parents. They

The government imported diesel and petrol and distributed them in the country at a loss in an effort to protect the people against greedy businessmen who are waiting every opportunity to raise the commodity prices, to enable the cultivators to carry out farming at reasonable costs, to minimize production costs and spending in farming and to contribute towards smooth transport of both passengers and goods. Have the critiques forgotten these? I have no wish to raise this question. I would like to ask them not to forget the good service of the government.

(from page 8)

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

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

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

Saudi Arabia-led OPEC is trying to stabilize the oil price to be at a reasonable price. In 1985 the world oil production was 15 per cent more than consumption. But in 2005 there was only one per cent surplus and it is difficult to control the crisis. It usually takes seven years from drilling at an oil field to production of oil. Despite increased production, it will take time to see a fall in the oil price. Our country that cannot produce sufficient petroleum will continue to depend on the foreign oil prices. It is learnt that the price of diesel and petrol in the neighbouring countries changes depending on the current price.

Let's compare the increased prices of diesel

and petrol here in our country and those of Thailand. According to the prices in July, a litre of petrol costs about 30 baht and a litre of diesel costs about 26 baht. One gallon is equivalent to 4.54 litres. A gallon of petrol is 136 baht (3.5 dollars) and a gallon of diesel is 118 baht (3.1 dollars). Let's compare the price of petrol in the country with that of the US, a big democratic country. The current price of a gallon of petrol in the US is between 3.19 and 3.51 dollars and a gallon of diesel is 2.91 dollars. It is obvious that the increased price here is much cheaper than the current price of those countries. Anti-government groups that blame the government should know that the government sold petrol at a loss before the price hike. They should consider the matter on the side of the government.

It is the genuine goodwill that the government sells fuel at a loss to the people. As you know, due to instigation of Daw Suu Kyi and NLD, the government manages to deal with economic sanctions and stands on its own feet. We should not ignore this fact. The people should not pay heed to the abusive words of axe-handles who try to agitate the people and put blame on every action of the present government. That is what I want to say. I mean every word and action should be fair.

The government spends a lot of money on a number of sectors at a loss in the interest of the people. At the same time, it is building political, economic and social infrastructures with greater momentum. Progress made everywhere is the proof. We can work out how much the government has spent. The expenditures on nation-building tasks at a loss in the interest of the people mean an enormous burden to the government. One day the heavy burden will be dangerous. **Therefore some burden must be cut. We must have accepted it in the interest of the country. Every citizen has to share the expenditure burden falling on the government. If one does not want to share the burden of the parents, one will no longer be their child. If one accepts this concept, the difficulty we encounter today is just a small one.**

Sharing the burden saves the expenditure of the government. Anti-government groups are creating confrontation between the government and the people. All know what will happen at the end of a conflict between the parents and children.

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

(See page 10)

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(from page 9)

government is making efforts for the convenience of the people.

If the government had not taken seriously the public interest, the State's energy sector would have been privatized earlier. If so, private businessmen would have increased oil prices that might be far higher than those in the international market in this market economic system desired by the entire people. Then, I would like to wait and see how the anti-government groups will respond. **In the countries practising market economic system, commodities are imported and distributed only by the private sector. Those products will be sold at a certain profit. Unlike our country, the governments of such countries do not sell their oil at a loss and their citizens also accept the prices that have to go up or down according to the market economy. So, we should adapt ourselves to that market-oriented system.**

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

Well, let me go back to the example of parents and their children. It is natural that all parents want their children to be educated and lead a comfortable life. Before 1988, tertiary education could be pursued only by the children of rich people. There were only a few universities and colleges located only in major cities. That was why those from major cities and those from far-flung areas who could afford had the opportunity to pursue university education. Children coming from poor families had to start doing their jobs after dropping

out of school. Even those who were lucky enough passed only the matriculation. **But now, thanks to the ruling government, all regions of the country have enjoyed equitable development and a network of universities and colleges have emerged. As a result, parents from far-off areas can have their children learn education in their own regions by spending a small amount of money.** An era in which only rich people could learn university education no longer existed. Poor parents can now send their children to universities; no need to force them to leave school as soon as they have passed the matriculation. Higher education field has seen significant progress. Likewise, the basic education sector has enabled each and every child to learn basic education. Parents are happy to see their children have a promising future. In reality, thanks should go to the government.

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

Moreover, a network of roads and bridges have been built for the improvement of transport sector; dams and reservoirs have been built for

irrigation water and industrial zones have been established for the development of industrial sector. The government, therefore, deserves to be recognized and honoured. I would like to tell axe-handles that our entire people have accepted this point.

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

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

Translation: AK+NW+ST
(Myanma Alin & Kyemon 24-8-2007)

Should adapt ourselves to that market-oriented system

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

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein ...

(from page 16)

After the final match, the prize presentation ceremony followed.

Also present on the occasion were Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin, ministers, the Attorney-General, the Nay Pyi Taw Mayor, members of the Myanmar National Olympic Council, Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint and members, deputy ministers, members of Civil Service Selection and Training Board, the director-general of the SPDC Office, the director-general of Government Office, departmental heads, the President of MFF and officials, service personnel and guests.

In the final match, the Ministry of Commerce team clinched title with a 2-0 victory over Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs.

Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, Minister for Agriculture and

Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo and Minister for Science and Technology and Minister for Labour U Thaung presented individual prizes to third prize winning Ministry of Sports team, second prize winning Ministry of CPT team and first prize winning Ministry of Commerce team respectively.

Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint gave the best goalkeeper award to Min Naing of Commerce, the best defender award to Soe Thura Aung of Ministry of Finance and Revenue, the best midfielder award to Zaw Win Maung of CPT, the best forwarder award to Myint Thein of Ministry of Sports and the best player award to Thu Htet Paing of Commerce.

Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin handed the trophy and reward to fairplay award winning Ministry of Sports team and reward to fourth-placed Ministry of Finance and Revenue team.



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein presents championship shield to Ministry of Commerce team at Inter-Ministry football tournament in Nay Pyi Taw.— MNA

The Secretary-1 awarded cash rewards to third prize winning Ministry of Sports team and second prize winning Ministry of CPT and championship shield and cash reward to Ministry of Commerce team. — MNA

So-called '88' generation...

(from page 16)

'88' disturbances. In doing so, information was received that the internal and external destructive elements are employing three strategies:

- (1) to apply confrontational cause in order to disrupt and delay the success of the National Convention,
- (2) to resort to various ways to cause again civil unrest similar to the "88" disturbances, and
- (3) to launch internal and external anti-government campaigns including terrorist acts.

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

Information was also received that in accordance with these strategies, National Council of Union of Burma (NCUB), which is organized with exiled terrorists and remnants of insurgents, organized the central mass movement committee to implement the mass movement plan designed by remnants of Burma Communist Party. Under the committee, there is a legal mass movement committee constituted with UGs in the country. So-called '88' generation students, so-called veteran politicians, some members of CRPP and some members of NLD are participating in activities of the committee. They have planted and trained cadres in the mass of monks, students and workers and continued to resort to unrest and terrorist acts in the country.

As part of a plan to incite unrest and commit terrorist acts in the country, so-called '88' generation students group sent Zaw Zaw Aung of North Dagon and Swe Ko of Tamway to Thai-Myanmar border in late 2005 to contact organizations in exile. As the plan did not

produce any results, Min Ko Naing and Ko Ko Gyi sent Nay Tin Myint (a) Nay Win to Maesot again and he arrived at Maesot on 29 May 2007. His duty is to contact anti-government groups in foreign countries and to support the terrorist acts and anti-government movements to meet with success, reports said.

These reports were covered in dailies issued on 5 July. Meanwhile, ABSDF insurgent group sent Ma Kyi Pya Lin and Ma Soe Lin Khaing, members of ABSDF, to Myanmar through Maesot on 3 July, 2007 to carry out sabotage at the National Convention at Nyaungnapin Camp and to plant bombs in Yangon. They arrived Hpa-an on 4 July 2007 and proceeded to Yangon and planned to explode bombs on Seven July Day, Martyrs' Day and during the time of National Convention.

Similarly, another so-called '88' generation students group in exile also sent Aung Ko Naing, a member of the group, to Myanmar on 14 July, 2007, to plant bombs in the country. He arrived at Mae Sariyan on Thai-Myanmar border on 15 July, 2007 and proceeded to the country through Loikaw route. Aung Ko Naing contacted Ma Kyi Pyar Lin and Ma Soe Lin Khaing and planned to blow up the venue where the National Convention was being held and hostels where delegates to the convention put up. They had a plan to use US-made time bombs in the terrorist acts.

As authorities concerned received a tip-off and managed to tighten security, terrorist groups failed to commit their subversive acts. However, their explosive devices have already been inside the country and they are attempting to commit terrorist acts when it is opportune.

At the same time, the group of so-called '88' generation students are inciting unrest with the intention of disrupting the National Convention and causing instability of the

State by launching signature campaigns, white expression campaign, prayer campaigns and white Sunday campaigns.

Besides, the group issued a declaration regarding the drawing of a State constitution on 28-6-2007 and a declaration marking the 19th anniversary of four 8's on 8-8-2007. The contents of those declarations were aimed at disturbing the National Convention, undermining the efforts to facilitate the proceedings of the NC and causing misunderstanding among the people. It was found that copies of the declarations were distributed in the country and even sent to foreign organizations and news agencies. The attempt was to get the international community to put pressure on the country.

The moves of the so-called '88' generation students not only harm stability of the State, community peace and rule of law but also violate **the law (5/96) guarding against acts undermining the efforts to successfully carry out peaceful transfer of State responsibility and facilitate the proceedings of the National Convention**. Likewise, their acts to commit terrorist acts in collusion with insurgent groups infringe the existing laws. So, authorities concerned took custody and are interrogating the so-called '88' new generation students Min Ko Naing, Ko Ko Gyi, Pyone Cho (a) Htay Win Aung, Min Zeya, Mya Aye (a) Thura, Kyaw Min Yu (a) Jimmy, Zeya (a) Kalama, Kyaw Kyaw Htwe (a) Markee, Arnt Bwe Kyaw, Panneik Tun, Thet Zaw and Nyan Lin on 21-8-2007.

Htay Kywe, who led the move, is still at large, it is learnt.

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

MNA

Some NLD members...

(from page 16)

NLD member Tun Myint, Salai Ye Pi Jin, Tin Oo Maung, Phyo Min Kyin, Sai Min Thein, Min Aung, U Tin Myint, Aung Kyaw Oo, Aung Min Naing (a) Meethway, Tin Zaw Oo, Myo Khin, Zaw Zaw Aung and Ko Kyi Phyu near NLD Headquarters in Bahan Township in Yangon and NLD members U Sow Kywe, Daw Khin Aye and Daw Myint Thein about 9 am on the same day near the junction of Pyidaungsu Road and Kyauktan Road in Dagon Myothit (South) and handed over them to authorities concerned.

Likewise, on 24 August, at about 11 am, people

who did not want to see unrest stopped NLD members U Nyunt Win, Aung Zaw Oo, U Thein Htay, Min Min Oo, Tin Maung Kyi, U Saw Lwin and U Thein Myint Tun who instigated the people to cause unrest in Dagon Myothit (South), Myint Aye in Kyimyindine Township at about 11.30 am, Nyo Nyo Lwin, Myint Oo, Khin Mar Cho, Daw Sein Htwe, Ma Soe Soe, Ma Thinzar, Ma Tin Hla, Ni Ni Aye, Myint Maw, Daw San San Myint (a) Daw Win Myat, Daw Khin San Oo, May Theingi, Tun Tun Win, U Than Hlaing, Aung Kyaw Naing, U Lu Aye and Myint Naing near Yangon City Hall at about 2 pm, Myo Min Maung near Dagon University and Kyaw Thurein near Sule Pagoda in Yangon at around 1 pm and handed them over to authorities concerned.

People who wish to stay in peace in their wards and townships do not accept those who ignite unrest stop them and hand them over to authorities concerned, those responsible persons accept and take care of them as the instigators' lives are in danger. As preventive measures have been taken, there were no outbreak of unrest and people were able to live with peace of mind in the respective areas.

It is learnt that people who see and hear the collusion among NLD members and those expelled from NLD and the so-called '88' generation students make comments that NLD party should take the responsibility for those acts and that as a political party it should control its members. — MNA

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Consignees of cargo carried on MV SHAN HAI GUAN VOY NO (54) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24.8.2007 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W.7 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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Three-dimensional Chinese chess born in Qiqihar



The undated photo shows Tong Yongzhen, the inventor, presenting the first three-dimensional Chinese chess.—INTERNET

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

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

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

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

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

Ukrainian leader diverts plane, fights fire

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

Television footage showed Yushchenko, gearing up for a parliamentary election next month, picking up a shovel on Tuesday, heaving sand onto smouldering wood-

land and straining to help firefighters push a vehicle out of a bog.

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

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

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

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

MNA/Reuters

Car bomb wounds 42 in northern Iraq

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

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

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

MNA/Xinhua

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ဥယျာဉ်တောတန်း
စိတ်ရွှင်လန်း၏။

Indonesia confirms 2nd human bird flu death on Bali

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

Joko Suyono of the ministry's bird flu centre in Jakarta said the woman, who died on Tuesday in a hospital in Bali's capital Denpasar, tested positive for H5N1 after a second test. The woman, a 28-year-old poultry trader, had suffered from high fever and breathing problems before being hospitalized near her village of Tanah Lot on Saturday.

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

MNA/Reuters

Eight dead as floods plague hit central US

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

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

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

More than 100 people were being evacuated from Findlay, Ohio, with fire and rescue crews using boats to pull people from flooded homes and businesses, Ohio Emergency Management Agency spokesman Tom Hunter said. Cars were submerged and blocks of streets were under water in several towns, and hundreds of residents had been moved to shelters in nearby counties. No injuries have so far been reported, Hunter said.

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

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Study: stomach stapling leads to longer life

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

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

The research, published in Thursday's New

England Journal of Medicine, should put to rest uncertainties about the benefits and risks of weight-loss surgery and may cause governments and insurers to rethink who should qualify for the procedure, some doctors said. "It's going to dispel the notion that bariatric surgery is cosmetic surgery and support the notion that it saves lives," said Dr Philip Schauer, director of bariatric surgery at the Cleveland Clinic in Ohio, who had no role in the research.

Obesity surgeries have surged in recent years. In

the United States alone, 177,600 operations were performed last year, according to the American Society for Metabolic & Bariatric Surgery. The most common method was gastric bypass, or stomach-stapling surgery, which reduces the stomach to a small walnut-sized pouch and bypasses part of the small intestine where digestion occurs.

Internet



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

Louvre treasures on show in Beijing

BEIJING, 23 Aug— Thousands of visitors from home and abroad challenged the autumn heat and swarmed into the Capital Museum on Tuesday, for the ongoing classical Greek art exhibition

in Beijing.

More than 130 art works, on loan from the Louvre Museum, mainly includes items from ancient Greece from the 5th Century BC to the 4th

Century BC, have offered local visitors a good chance to sense the grandeur of Greek civilization dating back more than 1000 years.

The exhibition integrates three parts which

provide a panorama of Greek civilization, revealing its social life, the mental world of Greek people and their splendid cultural legacies.

Internet



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

INTERNET

Conviction of former Illinois governor upheld

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

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

In a 2-1 decision, the US Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit ruled that Ryan and colleague Larry Warner received a fair trial, despite jury problems.

"The high-profile nature of these proceedings gave rise to some unusual problems with the jury, but we are satisfied that the court handled them acceptably," the ruling said.

"The district court properly denied the defendants' new trial motion," the appeals panel said in affirming the convictions.

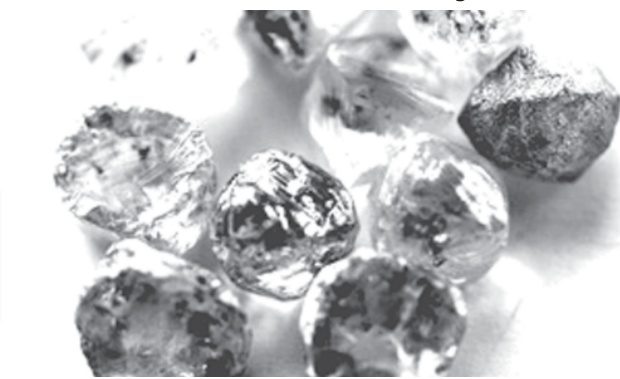
In 2006, a jury convicted Ryan and Warner on 18 counts of racketeering, conspiracy, fraud and other offences involving favouritism and kickbacks for state contracts and property leases that enriched Ryan and his friends. The two maintained their innocence throughout the trial. — MNA/Reuters

Aussie scientists find 4-billion-year-old diamonds

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

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

"Jack Hills is the only place on Earth that can give us this kind of information about the



The diamonds are about 1 billion years older than the oldest known diamonds found in terrestrial rock. —INTERNET

formation of the Earth," said study team member Alexander Nemchin, a geochemist at Curtin University of Technology, Western Australia. "We're dealing with the

oldest material on the planet."

Earth developed from a cloud of dust around a proto-Sun about 4.5 billion years ago. It coalesced into a planet-

size body and its surface temperatures probably rose above 10,830 degrees Fahrenheit (6,000 degrees Celsius) during its early formation. When the molten Earth cooled, the liquid lava gelled into rocks. — Internet

Study finds key markers for bird flu changes

WASHINGTON, 23 Aug—Researchers have found some of the changes that a flu virus needs to become a deadly pandemic strain, and said on Tuesday the H5N1 avian influenza virus has so far made only a few of them.

They said their study can help scientists watch for the mutations most likely to make H5N1 a global threat.

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

MNA/Reuters



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

SPORTS



Italy's Marco Materazzi (top) fights for the ball with Lithuania's Tomas Danilevicius during their Euro 2008 Group B qualifying match in Kaunas, Lithuania, June 2007. Materazzi has undergone an operation to remove a build up of blood in his thigh, which he injured during Wednesday's embarrassing 3-1 friendly defeat to Hungary.
INTERNET

Henry lifts France to 1-0 win in Slovak friendly

TRNAVA (Slovakia), 24 Aug — Striker Thierry Henry's fine free kick gave France a 1-0 victory over Slovakia in a friendly on Wednesday. Barcelona striker Henry blasted a low free kick from 25 metres into the left corner on 39 minutes as keeper Stefan Senecky was still positioning his defensive wall. Winger Franck Ribery went close to doubling the lead midway through the second half, weaving into the penalty box before firing narrowly wide from close range. Philippe Mexes also hit the bar with a powerful header after Florent Malouda's corner. **MNA/Reuters**

Ronaldo spares Portugal blushes in Euro 2008 tie

LONDON, 23 Aug — Cristiano Ronaldo saved Portugal from an embarrassing defeat in Armenia on Wednesday while Belgium dented Serbia's hopes of reaching Euro 2008 with a 3-2 qualifying win. David Healy, the competition's top scorer, notched two goals to help Northern Ireland go second in Group F with a 3-1 victory over Liechtenstein. Three of the night's six qualifiers involved teams in Group A where

Portugal and Serbia's dropped points enabled Finland to move above them in the table with a 2-1 win at home to Kazakhstan. Portugal found themselves a goal down in the 10th minute when Armenia's Robert Arzumanyan headed in a corner. Manchester United winger Ronaldo calmed the visitors' rattled nerves in the 38th when he robbed an opponent and weaved and jinked his way into the penalty area before sliding the ball into the net.

Serbia suffered a worse fate in Belgium where two goals from Moussa Dembele and another from Kevin Mirallas gave the hosts a 3-2 victory. Finland went second in the group when goals from Akexei Eremenko Jr and Teemu Tainio got the better of Kazakhstan, who replied through Dmitriy Byakov. Poland lead the table with 19 points from nine games, two points ahead of Finland. **MNA/Reuters**



Germany's goalkeeper Fabian Giefer, (1), cut in a header with help of his teammate Nils Teixeira, (4), and Toni Kroos, (10), to keep Ghana's Sadick Adams, (9), from scoring goal during their match for 2007 FIFA U-17 World Cup in Cheonan, south of Seoul, on 23 Aug, 2007. Germany defeated Ghana with 3-2. — INTERNET

Boyd powers Scotland to friendly win over South Africa

LONDON, 24 Aug — Kris Boyd's second-half strike gave Scotland a 1-0 win over South Africa in a friendly in Aberdeen on Wednesday. South Africa suffered an early setback when they lost striker Sibusiso Zuma after just 10 minutes, with the Arminia Bielefeld player being carried off on a stretcher. Scotland broke the deadlock in the 71st minute when substitute Boyd got on the end of a Darren Fletcher pass over the top and his right-footed shot went in off the post. The match served as a warm-up for Scotland's next Euro 2008 Group B qualifier at home to Lithuania on September 8. The Scots lie third in the group, behind Italy and leaders France. **MNA/Reuters**

Chelsea agree to sell Robben to Real

LONDON, 24 Aug — Chelsea have agreed to sell Dutch winger Arjen Robben to Spanish champions Real Madrid, the London club said on Wednesday. Real confirmed the agreement and said the 23-year-old would sign a five-year deal with the club after undergoing a medical. Spanish media reported that the nine-times European champions would pay around 36 million euros (48.53 million US dollars) for the player. Robben had been stalling over signing a contract extension at Chelsea, even though his existing deal has two years to run.

He becomes Real's eighth signing of the close season following defenders Heinze, Christoph Metzelder, Pepe, Dutch duo Wesley Sneijder and Royston Drenthe, Argentine striker Javier Saviola

and former Liverpool goalkeeper Jerzy Dudek. With Ruud van Nistelrooy having signed for Real last season, Robben's signing brings the club's Dutch contingent to four. — **MNA/Reuters**



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

Swiss ensure unhappy return for van Nistelrooy

GENEVA, 23 Aug — Euro 2008 co-hosts Switzerland ensured an unhappy resumption to Ruud van Nistelrooy's international career on Wednesday, handing the Real Madrid striker and his Dutch teammates a deserved 2-1 friendly defeat. Bayer Leverkusen midfielder Tranquilo Barnetta scored both Swiss goals, firing the home side ahead with a ninth-minute penalty before doubling their lead with a neat left foot finish six minutes into the second half. Van Nistelrooy, returning to the Dutch side for the first time since being dropped by coach Marco van Basten after last year's World Cup, put in some lively moves but failed to get the better of a well-drilled Swiss defence. **MNA/Reuters**



Germany's Astrid Hoeffte jumps during the long jump event at the so-called 'International Paralympic Day 2007' (IPD) in Berlin on 23 Aug, 2007. The sporting event presenting disabled sports, took place next to the Brandenburg gate in the German capital on Thursday. — INTERNET

Real Madrid agree to sign Heinze

MADRID, 24 Aug — Spanish champions Real Madrid have agreed to sign Argentine defender Gabriel Heinze on a four-year deal from Manchester United, the Primera Liga side said on Wednesday. "Real Madrid and Manchester United have reached an agreement for the transfer of Gabriel Heinze," Real said on their website (www.realmadrid.com). "The player will join up with his new team immediately." Real did not reveal the fee but Spanish media reported they would pay about 12 million euros (16.18 million US dollars) for the 29-year-old international. Heinze has made it clear he wanted to leave Old Trafford but his attempt to force a move to Liverpool failed when a

Premier League arbitration panel refused his request. The defender is the seventh new player to join Real since they sacked Fabio Capello after winning the league title last season. **MNA/Reuters**

Golfer Mike Weir of Canada tees off for the first round of "The Barclays," the first of four PGA tour Playoffs for the FedEx Cup at the Westchester Country Club in Rye, New York, on 23 Aug, 2007. INTERNET



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein watches final match of 1st Nay Pyi Taw Inter-Ministry Football Tournament

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Aug — Chairman of the Myanmar National Olympic Council Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein enjoyed the final match of the 1st Nay Pyi Taw Inter-Ministry Football Tournament, organized by the Ministry of Sports and Myanmar Football Federation at No 1 Nay Pyi Taw Sports Ground, here, this afternoon.

(See page 11)



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

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

Attempting to disrupt National Convention, committing terrorist acts

Agitators including Min Ko Naing being interrogated

Action to be taken against them in accord with law

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

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

Furthermore, concerted efforts are being made for ensuring stability of the State and improving economic, social, education, health and transportation

sectors including construction of infrastructures so as to systematically practise democracy with essence and ensure the proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system. Thanks to such goodwill efforts, the government will be able to perform peaceful transfer of the State responsibility for successful realization of democratic system and market-oriented economic system desired by the people.

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

(See page 11)

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

People comment that a political party responsible to control its members

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

are involved in these acts.

Recent incidents showed that NLD members and NLD youth members in collusion with the so-called '88' generation students, participated in acts to cause unrest in the country. On 22 August, those who were expelled from NLD, members of NLD and some of the so-called '88' generation students, walked in procession on Yangon-Insein Road. When they reached Parami traffic lights at 11.20 am, peo-

ple who did not wish to see the unrest stopped Naw Ohn Hla, San San Myint, Htet Htet Oo Wai, Yin Yin Myat, Daw Yin Shwe, San San Lwin, Than Zaw Myint and Khin Maung Yi who were among the rogues who instigated the people to cause unrest and handed them over to authorities concerned.

Similarly, at about 10.30 am on 23 August, people who did not want to see the unrest stopped

(See page 11)