

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

Prime Minister General Thein Sein receives Kuwaiti delegation

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Aug—Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Thein Sein received a Kuwaiti delegation led by Advisor to the office of Kuwaiti Prime Minister Dr Ismail Khedr Al-Shatti at the meeting hall of the Government Office here at 9 am today.

Also present at the call were Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo, Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Deputy Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Col Thurein Zaw, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint, Deputy Minister for Electric Power No.2 Brig-Gen Win Myint, Director-General of the Government Office Col Thant Shin, Director-General U Kyaw Kyaw of Protocol Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Charge d' Affairs Mr Nayef Y.J Aladres of Kuwait Embassy to Myanmar based in Dhaka, Bangladesh, and high-ranking officials.—MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein welcomes Advisor to the office of Kuwaiti Prime Minister Dr Ismail Khedr Al-Shatti in Nay Pyi Taw.
MNA



Prime Minister General Thein Sein receives Advisor to the office of Kuwaiti Prime Minister Dr Ismail Khedr Al-Shatti and party in Nay Pyi Taw. — MNA

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 27 August, 2008

Extend cultivation of marketable beans and pulses

Being rich in protein, beans and pulses, like rice and wheat, are in demand. Human beings can enjoy cognitive and physical development by consuming beans and pulses every day.

In Myanmar, beans and pulses are consumed commonly in Anyar (arid) regions, whereas consumption of beans and pulses is not much in the regions where fish and marine products are in abundance. It is required to boost domestic consumption of beans and pulses through production of foodstuff and instant food based on beans and pulses.

Ayeyawady, Bago, Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway divisions are extensively growing beans and pulses that are marketable at home and abroad. Sagaing, Magway and Mandalay divisions grow the crops on a commercial scale.

In addition, soya bean is cultivated on a large scale in the nation as it is also in demand in foreign markets. It is cultivated as a cold season crop in Mandalay Division, especially in Madaya, Myingyan and Ngazun townships. It also thrives in plains as well as the regions in Shan State (North), so it is cultivated on a broader scale in those regions.

Myanmar beans and pulses have had a foothold in the international market. So, it is to take measures not only for boosting export of the crops but also for fetching handsome prices through extensive cultivation of quality strains of crops, and use of fertilizers and pesticides.

Now, Myanmar beans and pulses have earned a good reputation for its quality in local and international markets. Therefore, farmers should cultivate crops of suitable quality strains on a wider scale for their economic growth.

Managing Director of Lucky Bird Trading Co Ltd U Htin Aung Khine extends greetings at a ceremony to introduce Toshiba notebook. — MNA



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

Hman Kyaung Sayadaw's 79th birthday Anniversary held

Lt-Gen Myint Swe of Ministry of Defence presents robes and offertories to Sayadaw Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Dhaja Bhaddanta Paññajota.

MNA

YANGON, 26 Aug — The 79th birthday of Hman Kyaung Sayadaw Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Dhaja Bhaddanta Pyññajota was held at Thayettaw Monastery

Library science multiplier course opens in Yekyi Township

YANGON, 26 Aug—Library science multiplier course was opened at Yekyi hall, Yekyi Township in Patheingyi District on 25 August.

The course was conducted with the aim of maintaining village self-reliance libraries in the long run.

Chairman U Kyaw Kyaw Wai of the township PDC, staff officer of the district IPRD U San Win and secretary of the township USDA U Maung Maung Tin gave speeches.

The course is being attended by 99 clerks in Ngathayingyaung and Yekyi Townships.

Township IPRD

in Lammadaw Township on 24 August. On the occasion, Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence donated robes and provisions to the Sayadaw. Next, the military officers and wellwishers presented robes and provisions to members of the Sangha. Sayadaw Bhaddanta Paññavamsa delivered sermon and Lt-Gen Myint Swe and congregation shared merits for the donation.— MNA

Toshiba Notebook PC introduced, dinner held

YANGON, 26 Aug—Toshiba Singapore Pte Ltd and Lucky Bird Trading Co Ltd introduced notebooks and held dinner party at Ball Room of Sedona Hotel on 22 August.

First, Managing Director U Htin Aung Khine of Lucky Bird Trading Co Ltd extended greetings on the occasion and Manager Ms Angela Amelia of Toshiba Singapore Pte Ltd made a speech.

Next, Senior Specialist Mr Darren Tsai of Toshiba Singapore Pte Ltd explained points about new notebooks and hosted dinner to those present.

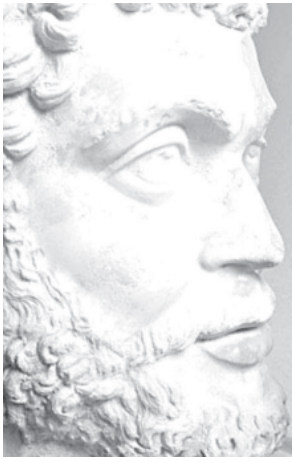
The new notebook is the thinnest and lightest. Toshiba Portege R 500 can bear extreme temperature, moisture and vibration. Its solid state drive (SSD) can do more than other PC's. It is installed with 3 D Accelerometer. It has clear data, spill resistant keyboard and shock protection.

For further information, contact the office of Lucky Bird Trading Co Ltd (Yangon) (Tel-248167, 379875, 09-9924544, 09-9927729), Mandalay branch office (Tel-02-21572, 09-8022025 and Nay Pyi Taw branch office (Tel-067-23190).

MNA



Huge statue of Roman ruler found



Marcus Aurelius ruled over the empire for 19 years.

SAGALASSOS, 26 Aug—Parts of a giant, exquisitely-carved marble sculpture depicting the Roman emperor Marcus Aurelius have been found at an archaeological site in Turkey.

Fragments of the statue were unearthed at the ancient city of Sagalassos.

So far the statue's head, right arm and lower legs have been

discovered, high in the mountains of southern Turkey.

Marcus Aurelius was portrayed by Richard Harris in the Oscar-winning 2000 film *Gladiator* and was one of the so-called "Five Good Emperors".

He reigned from 161AD until his death in 180AD.

In addition to his deeds as emperor, Marcus Aurelius is remembered for his writings, and is

considered one of the foremost Stoic philosophers. The partial statue was unearthed in the largest room at Sagalassos' Roman baths.

The cross-shaped room measures 1,250 sqm (13,500 sq ft), is covered in mosaics and was probably used as a frigidarium—a room with a cold pool which Romans could sink into after a hot bath.—Internet



The statue of Marcus Aurelius stood in the north-western niche.

Pakistan: Targeted vehicle carried top US diplomat

ISLAMABAD, 26 Aug—Gunmen opened fire on a US consulate vehicle carrying an American in Pakistan's militancy-plagued northwest Tuesday morning, but there were no casualties, police said. The attack in Peshawar came a day after the government announced a ban on Pakistan's Taliban movement in a sign it is toughening its stance against militancy. It also came on the heels of a breakup of the ruling

coalition, a fracture that could concentrate more power into the hands of a party that says it is committed to supporting the US war on terror.

The vehicle itself sustained minor damage, said Mohammad Nabi, an official at the police control room in Peshawar, the capital of the North West Frontier Province. He said the vehicle was carrying an American—whom he would not identify—but that driver managed to reverse it and

reach safety. Militant activity is rampant in parts of north-west Pakistan, though mainly in tribal regions where US officials say insurgents have found safe havens from which to plan attacks on American and NATO forces across the border in Afghanistan. —Internet



Iraqi police remove a suicide vest from an Iraqi girl in Baquba in this handout photo from the Iraqi police taken on 24 August, 2008.—INTERNET

Russian President says he's not afraid of Cold War

MOSCOW, 26 Aug—Russian President Dmitry Medvedev said Tuesday that he is not afraid of a new Cold War, but does not seek it.

"We are not afraid of anything, including the prospect of a new Cold War," Medvedev was quoted as saying Tuesday by the *ITAR-Tass* news agency. "But we don't want it and in this situation everything depends on the position of our partners."

The statement comes hours after Medvedev recognized the independence of two Georgian rebel provinces, defying the West. The recognition follows a short but intense



Russian President Dmitry Medvedev, Premier Vladimir Putin, left, attend the Security Council meeting in Russian Black Sea resort of Sochi.

war with Western-allied Georgia earlier this month.

"If they want to preserve good relations

with Russia in the West, they will understand the reason behind our decision," Medvedev said.

—Internet



A released Palestinian kisses the ground at the Beituniya checkpoint near the West Bank city of Ramallah on 25 Aug, 2008. Israel released 198 Palestinians held in its prisons on Monday. According to official figures, Israel still jails more than 10,000 Palestinians. —XINHUA

Suicide bomber kills 28 police recruits in Iraq

JALAWLA (Iraq), 26 Aug—A suicide bomber blew himself up in a crowd of police recruits in northern Iraq on Tuesday killing 28 people, in an attack that showed that parts of Iraq have yet to see the security gains felt elsewhere.

The bombing took place in the town of Jalawla in the north of volatile Diyala province, just a day after Kurdish Peshmerga security forces withdrew from the town at the request of the central government in Baghdad.

The attack, which also wounded 45 people, was the biggest for weeks in Iraq. It came amid Iraqi efforts to conclude a security deal with the United States that would require US forces to leave Iraq by the end of 2011.

No one claimed immediate responsibility for the attack, which killed Kurdish and Arab recruits alike.

Recruitment centres have been frequent targets for militants in the past, especially al Qaeda, which regards recruits as collaborators with the United States.—Internet

Tropical Storm Gustav approaches Haiti, Cuba

PORT-AU-PRICE, 26 Aug—Haitians were told to prepare for evacuations as Tropical Storm Gustav formed quickly Monday in the Caribbean and was on a path to hit the country's denuded southern coast as a hurricane before moving on to Cuba. Haiti upgraded storm warnings to hurricane warnings along much of its coast Monday as Gustav closed in from the south. The rapidly strengthening storm was almost a hurricane by late Monday with winds of 70 mph (110 kph) and was expected to slam into Haiti on Tuesday afternoon, the National Hurricane Centre in Miami said. A hurricane has winds of at least 74 miles (119 kph).—Internet



People ride in the back of a truck through a flooded street caused by rain from Tropical Storm Gustav in Santo Domingo, on 25 Aug, 2008.

INTERNET



A ferry in the Java’s sea port of Merak. A powerful 6.6-magnitude earthquake struck at sea off the Indonesian island of Java on Tuesday and a tsunami warning was issued, authorities said.—INTERNET

Strong quake hits Indonesia’s West Java, potential for tsunami

JAKARTA, 26 Aug— A powerful shallow quake with magnitude of 6.6 rocked West Java province of Indonesia on Tuesday, with potential for tsunami, the Indonesian Meteorology Agency said.

The quake was felt up nearby Jakarta, the capital of Indonesia, with intensity of 2 to 3 MMI (modi-

fied mercally intensity), an official of the agency, named Hidayanti, said.

The quake struck at 10:07 am (0307 GMT) with epicentre at 125 kilometres northwest of Ujungkulon in West Java province and 20 kilometres under seabed, she said.

“We have issued a

tsunami warning,” Hidayanti told *Xinhua*.

Indonesia sits at a vulnerable zone, so called “the Pacific Ring of Fire” where two continental plates, stretching from the Western Hemisphere through Japan and South-east Asia, meet that causes frequent volcanic movements.—*Internet*

Wall Street Journal: US auto sales woes continue

WASHINGTON, 26 Aug — US automakers are expected to report big declines in August domestic sales despite stepped-up incentives, *The Wall Street Journal* reported Monday, quoting research firm JD Power & Associates.

The research firm estimates sales for August will come in at around 1.21 million vehicles, or 13.4 million vehicles on a seasonally adjusted annual rate. That is down from the year-ago seasonally adjusted rate of 16.2 million vehicles, but up 6.3 percent from July.

All major manufacturers had year-to-year retail sales declines through the first 14 days of August, although Nissan Motor Co’s decline was modest.

“That general pattern is expected to hold through the remainder of the month, with only GM by the end of the month expected to show a significant improvement over its month-to-date performance as its incentive programme takes effect,” JD Power said.

Only Nissan is expected to finish the month with higher sales — up 1.5 percent. Declines of

24 percent to 30 percent are forecast for GM, Ford Motor Co and Chrysler LLC, while Toyota Motor Corp is projected to have a 13 percent decline.

—*Internet*

Brazil’s raw steel production up 11.5 percent in July

RIO DE JANEIRO, 26 Aug— Brazil’s raw steel output reached a total of 3.2 million tons in July, up 11.5 percent over the same month of 2007, according to a study released on Monday by the Brazilian Institute of Siderurgy (IBS).

The study shows the output of laminated steel reached 2.2 million tons in July, roughly the same volume as in July 2007. The output of long laminated steel reached 974,200 tons, up 11.9 percent over the same month of 2007. —*Internet*

Spanish police seize 318kg of cocaine

MADRID, 26 Aug — Spanish police Monday seized some 318 kg of cocaine and detained three suspects during an anti-drug operation in the country’s eastern port of Valencia. The drugs were found on a ship loaded with rustic furniture from Paraguay, police said.

Officers also seized 1,250 euros (1,837 US dollars), three cell phones and two vehicles.

Police said the operation will continue and more suspects are expected to be detained as investigations advance.

—*Internet*

Fire destroys 10 Boise homes, damages 9 more

BOISE (Idaho), 26 Aug —A wildfire that started in a field of sagebrush and cheatgrass spread quickly up a ridge Monday night, destroying 10 homes and damaging another nine, the Boise fire chief said.

Within two hours, firefighters had managed to build two containment lines and were dousing remaining flames on the

exterior of homes.

“We still have an active fire, but we think we have it contained,” Fire Chief Dennis Doan told *The Idaho Statesman* newspaper.

More than 50 homes were evacuated in the middle-class neighbourhood on the city’s south-east side.

Shelters were set up in

nearby schools.

Ada County paramedics reported no homeowner injuries but several firefighters suffered minor injuries.

KTVB reported that seven Boise police officers were treated for smoke inhalation. Fire officials have not yet determined the cause of the fire.

—*Internet*



In this photo provided by Marina Svahn, homes burn as a wildfire sweeps through a Boise, Idaho, neighbourhood on 25 Aug 2008. A wildfire that started in a field of sagebrush and cheatgrass spread quickly up a ridge and burned as many as 10 homes in Boise neighbourhood Monday night.—INTERNET

New Zealand scientists find no connection between N and S island major fault lines

WELLINGTON, 26 Aug— New Zealand scientists have discovered there is no connection between major fault lines in the North and South islands through central Cook Strait — meaning that an earthquake fault rupture may be contained to one island if it occurred.

The findings are part of research released on Tuesday by the National Institute of Water & Atmospheric Research (NIWA) which provides vital new information to help assess the potential hazard of earthquakes in New Zealand.

It was the first time

scientists have been able to comprehensively map the active offshore faults in the Wellington and Cook Strait region - New Zealand’s most active seismic risk area.

NIWA has mapped about 20 active faults in the Wellington and Cook Strait region capable of generating earthquakes of magnitude 7 or greater, but none of them connect from the North Island to the South Island. —*Internet*



People walk past armoured vehicles bound for US forces in Afghanistan after it was set on fire by a group of people in Karachi on 25 Aug, 2008. —INTERNET



Employees of India software giant Infosys Technologies walk inside the company’s compound in Bangalore. Leading Indian outsourcing company Infosys plans to buy British consultancy Axon Group for 753.1 million dollars as it moves to expand its business advisory footprint, a statement said on 25 Aug, 2008. —INTERNET

Best Games of my life: Samaranch

MEXICO CITY, 26 Aug—Honorary President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Juan Antonio Samaranch said that the 29th Olympic Games of Beijing was the best one of his life.

"I have attended many Olympic Games since Helsinki 1952, Finland

and the ones of Beijing 2008 have been the best I have ever seen," Samaranch said as quoted by Mexican daily *El Sol de Mexico* on Monday.

Successful Olympic Games need three things: good organization and facilities, a good local sports delegation, and

people's enthusiasm, and China fulfilled all of them, Samaranch said.

China achieved "good organization and facilities and it has presented to the world the best stadium and swimming pool of the world," Samaranch said.

"China achieved very good results. They are the first at the gold medal table," Samaranch said.

And the enthusiasm of the Chinese people was seen on the thousands volunteers who participated during Beijing 2008.

Samaranch also said that the Olympic Games of London 2012 will be different, they "will have their own personality", so there is not a point to compare London 2012 with Beijing 2008.

Xinhua



Honorary President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Juan Antonio Samaranch (C) congratulates a little performer of the affiliated high school of the Central Academy of Art and Design in Beijing, China, on 24 Aug, 2008.

XINHUA

IFJ calls for release of kidnapped journalists in Somalia

NAIROBI, 26 Aug—The International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) on Monday called for the release of two Western journalists and their local assistant after they were abducted on Saturday near the Somali capital, Mogadishu. The media rights watchdog's statement comes as there has been no claim of responsibility for the abduction of Amanda Lindhout, a Canadian reporter freelancing for a French television and Canada's Global National News, and Nigel Brennan, a freelance Australian photojournalist.

"This shocking incident underscores the terrible dangers and threats that continue to face journalists in Somalia," said Gabriel Baglo, the director of the IFJ Africa office. —Xinhua



Hu Xinming, an artist from northwest China's Shanxi Province, makes a mud sculpture at the Olympic Village in Beijing, China, on 23 Aug, 2008.—XINHUA

All items from Xinhua News Agency



Tourists visit the Wutai Mountain in north China's Shanxi Province, on 24 Aug, 2008.—XINHUA



A journalist takes photos at the site of the cinema palace at Lido, Venice, Italy, on 26 Aug, 2008. The 65th Venice Film Festival will take place at Lido from 27 Aug to 6 Sept, 2008.—INTERNET

Egyptian governor invites Chinese investment

CAIRO, 26 Aug—Egypt's North Sinai Governor Mohamed Shousha said here Monday that he welcomes investments from China, particularly in the domains of high

technology, tourism, mining and water resources. In an interview with *Xinhua*, Shousha said there is a great potential for Egypt and China to boost investment in various fields in the northeastern Egyptian governorate. He said North Sinai governorate is working on realizing development in the fields of agriculture, industry, mining, tourism and human resources. He expressed his hope that his governorate, even Egypt as a whole, can attract more investments from China to make use of China's advanced high technology, which has witnessed great developments in the past years.—Xinhua

Civilians, policemen wounded in clash at largest refugee camp in Darfur

KHARTOUM, 26 Aug—Seven civilians and five policemen were wounded during a clash at the largest refugee camp in the western Sudanese restive region of Darfur on Monday.

The clash took place when police forces were attempting to enter the Kalma Camp for the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Niyala, the capital city of South Darfur State, to search illegal weapons hidden by rebels in the camp, according to a statement issued by the Security Committee of the South Darfur State.

Housing more than 50,000 people, the Kalma camp is the largest camp for the IDPs in Darfur where a five-year conflict has led to the killing of tens of thousands of civilians and displaced over one million.

The police forces took the action after issuing an order of search and notifying the hybrid peacekeeping troops of the United Nations and the African Union.

Xinhua

One person killed in small plane crash in northern Canada

OTTAWA, 26 Aug—One person was killed and another injured lightly after a small plane crashed in Canada's Northwest Territories, police said Monday. The SuperClub went down about 100 kilometres north of Fort Liard in the Jackfish Creek area on 21 Aug, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) said in a release. The pilot suffered extensive injuries and was airlifted to hospital but was pronounced dead on arrival. The passenger was treated and later released from hospital.—Xinhua

Israel shuts crossing points into Gaza after rocket attacks

GAZA, 26 Aug—Israel shut down crossing points into Gaza on Tuesday in response to Palestinian rockets which hit its southern territories, Israeli radio reported. The decision was made by Israeli Defence Minister Ehud Barak and his deputy, Matan Vilnai, in response to two rockets fired from Gaza which Israel said landed in Western Negev. Israel started to apply

gradual opening of the crossing points into the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip after Egypt brokered a ceasefire deal between the Jewish state and the Islamic movement last June. No Palestinian groups claimed responsibility for the rocket attacks which violated the ceasefire. The deal was intended to ease the Israeli blockade on the coastal Strip and restore the vio-

lence. The ceasefire helps to restore relative calm but Hamas says Israel still limits the flow of cargo into the impoverished territory and doesn't compensate the shortage that comes up when the crossings are closed due to the rocket attacks. Israel imposed the sanctions on Gaza last June after Hamas took over control of the territory by force. Internet



Radi Kai of stands near a wheelchair using an electronic exoskeleton at a development centre in the northern city of Haifa on 18 Aug, 2008.—INTERNET

US soldier killed in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 26 Aug—An American soldier died of wounds sustained from small-arms attack in northern Baghdad, the US military said on Tuesday. The soldier, who assigned to a Multi-National Division-Baghdad, died on Monday at a military hospital after being shot by a small-arms fire while he was conducting a foot patrol in the area, a military statement said. The soldier was evacuated to a medical facility but later died due to his fatal wounds, the statement said. The name of the deceased soldier is being withheld pending notification of next of kin, it added. More than 4,145 US soldiers have been killed in Iraq since the US-led invasion in March 2003, according to media count based on Pentagon figures. Internet

Fairfax journalists stop work in Sydney over job cuts

CANBERRA, 26 Aug—Editorial staff at the Sydney Morning Herald and Sun Herald stopped work on Tuesday to negotiate with the boss about the Fairfax job cuts. A female employee in the Sydney Morning Herald newsroom said about 95 percent of the staff on her floor, where the editorial team for two papers was based, had stopped work at 4 pm to discuss a possible response to the news, according to the Australian Associated Press report. About 180 Fairfax journalists will be offered redundancy packages after the company said it would shed 550 jobs in New Zealand and Australia as part of a cost saving strategy. Internet

Israeli settlement construction nearly doubles over 2007

JERUSALEM, 26 Aug—The construction of Jewish settlements in the West Bank has nearly doubled over 2007, despite Israel's pledge to freeze such activities, an Israeli watchdog said Tuesday. According to figures from the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS), construction in the settlements has increased by a factor of 1.8 by comparison to the same period last year, said the Settlement Watch Team of the monitoring group Peace Now in a report. "The Housing Ministry initiated 433 new housing units during the period of January-May 2008, compared to just 240 housing units during the same period of 2007," said the report, noting that construction initiated by the Housing Ministry accounted for 64 percent of all the construction counted in the West Bank by the CBS in recent months.—Internet

Shanghai to open world's highest sightseeing hall to public

The world's highest sightseeing hall, located on the 100th floor of China's tallest skyscraper, will open to the public on Saturday, local media reported. The hall is 474 metres (1,555 feet) above the ground in the Shanghai World Financial Centre, the Oriental Morning Post reported Tuesday. Sightseers who want a bird's eye view of the city will have to pay 150 yuan (22 dollars) each for the experience, it said. The building, finished earlier this year but not yet open to the public, has 101 floors for a total height of 492 metres, making it the tallest in China.



A sailor repairs masts and rigging of a boat during wet weather at the harbour of the Baltic sea coastal village of Schilksee near Kiel, Germany.



A photo from Discovery Channel shows Dede (left) dubbed "Tree Man" sits next to his daughter. The Indonesian villager dubbed "Tree Man" for massive bark-like warts on his body returned home Monday after doctors removed six kilogrammes (13.2 pounds) of the growths.

Exposure to burning incense leads to respiratory tract cancer

Long-term exposure to burning incense will increase the risk of developing cancers of the respiratory tract, said a study to be published in the October issue of Cancer as reported in media ;Monday. In the study of more than 61,000 subjects living in Singapore who were followed for up to 12 years, investigators found that being regularly exposed to burning incense almost doubled the risk of developing squamous cell upper respiratory tract carcinomas including nasal/sinus, tongue, mouth and laryngeal. Squamous cell carcinoma refers to tumours that arise in the cells lining the internal and external surfaces of the body.

Poland to open museum for cousin of T-Rex

Poland opens a museum on Thursday to exhibit the remains of a previously unknown dinosaur, an ancestor of Tyrannosaurus Rex, which have attracted scientists from around the world to this small southern village. Since an official announcement of the find last week, paleontologists have been flocking to the brickyard where Polish Science Academy scientists dug up an incomplete skeleton of a predator dinosaur that lived around 200 million years ago.



File photo shows a dog wearing a raincoat being taken for a walk in New York. The third annual Pet Fashion Week in Manhattan has brought together the world's dog-loving fashion gurus offering the dog-lovers a chance to share ideas, market their products and watch the best from the canine catwalk.

NEWSALBUM



A giant panda at Beijing Zoo. Three giant pandas have been born in southwest China, bringing the total number of new arrivals of the endangered species this year to at least 19.

Three pandas born during final weekend of Olympics: reports

Three giant pandas have been born in southwest China, bringing the total number of new arrivals of the endangered species this year to at least 19, state media reported. The three were born at the Chengdu Panda Breeding and Research Centre in Sichuan province, the reports said. Eight-year-old Chengji, whose name means "achievement" in Chinese, on Saturday gave birth to twins, the Beijing Morning Post said. They were named Yingying and Nini, according to scol.com.cn, an official Sichuan news website.

Supporters of Bangladesh's ex-PM go on rampage

DHAKA, 26 Aug— Supporters of Bangladesh's detained former prime minister, Begum Khaleda Zia, went on a rampage in the capital Dhaka on Monday, burning and damaging vehicles in a protest which left one man dead and nine injured, police said.

The protesters were demanding that the country's Army-backed interim administration allow Khaleda's sailing son to go abroad for treatment.

Both Khaleda and her son and likely political heir Tareque Rahman have been under detention for more than a year to face

charges of graft and abuse of power.

The victim, a trader, died after he was hit by metal pieces from a CNG-run vehicle that exploded after the crowd set it on fire, police said.

The protests began after television channels reported Tareque had stumbled and hurt himself in a Dhaka hospital where he was being treated for a broken spinal chord.

"Tareque, who is too weak to walk without an aide fell on the floor of the toilet and received injury on his head. He is being treated," a doctor at the hospital told reporters.

MNA/Reuters

Poll shows Russians feel Western countries hostile

MOSCOW, 26 Aug— Half of all Russians believe big Western countries are hostile to Russia's interests, according to a new poll published on Monday by pollsters VTsIOM.

The poll was conducted before the outbreak of fighting in Georgia but it comes against the backdrop of growing strains between the Kremlin and the West over Russia's military intervention in its ex-Soviet neighbour.

The United States and the European Union have demanded Russia pull its troops back to their pre-conflict positions, while officials in Moscow say Western governments have turned a blind eye to Georgian aggression.

The poll found 47 per cent of Russians feel large Western countries like the United States, Germany,

Britain and Japan seek to solve problems at Russia's expense. Only 37 per cent felt the same countries had a common interest with Russia in tackling issues like crime and terrorism.

MNA/Reuters

Britain's "Iron Lady" Thatcher has dementia

LONDON, 26 Aug— Former British prime minister Margaret Thatcher — once known as one of the world's most formidable political minds — has been suffering from dementia for the past seven years, according to her daughter, Carol.

Carol Thatcher tells in her memoirs of how her 82-year-old mother, nicknamed the "Iron Lady" for her tough reputation, often struggles to remember things and repeats questions.

In a memoir serialized in the *Mail* on Sunday newspaper, her daughter paints a picture of a very different woman from the political heavyweight who strutted the world stage in the 1980s. "The woman who had dominated discussions for so long could no longer lead debates or keep up with the thread of a drinks-party conversation," she wrote.

"On bad days, she could hardly remember the beginning of a sentence by the time she got to the end."

MNA/Reuters



A military helicopter searches the coastal area of Davao city in southern Mindanao island for the missing Philippine Air Force C-130 cargo plane. Rescuers and villagers on Tuesday found a body and debris believed to be from a C-130 military cargo plane that crashed in the waters off the southern Philippines, officials said.—INTERNET

Protesters try to take Thai state TV off-air

BANGKOK, 26 Aug— About 80 armed anti-government activists broke into the studios of Thai state broadcaster NBT on Tuesday to try to halt programming as a prelude to a major demonstration against the seven-month-old coalition.

Police arrested the group, who were armed with two pistols, golf clubs, sling shots and knives, NBT reported on air after the attempted disruption.

"Today is the people's revolution day, so we want NBT to stop broadcasting," NBT chief Surayont Hoontasan quoted one of the

protesters as saying.

"They shouted 'Get out, get out' at us repeatedly. All 150 of us were rounded up for a short while before police arrived and talked them down to the ground floor," newscaster Soifah Osukonthip said on air.

The People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD), a motley group of royalist, pro-military businessmen, is hoping to draw "hundreds of thousands" of people to Tuesday's rally outside Government House, their latest attempt to unseat the elected government. Police say they are expecting only up to 35,000.

The PAD denied any

involvement in the raid on the television station by the group, who were wearing black and with their faces covered. NBT initially reported the group as about 40 strong. "This is nothing to do with us," PAD leader Pibob Thongchai told *Reuters*. "We will have to wait for the results of the police investigation to find out who these people are."

National police spokesman Surapol Thuanthong said on Monday police would not confront the demonstrators, but would be backed up by fire trucks and ambulances. He did not say how many riot police would be deployed.

MNA/Reuters

Hamas reopens 70 civil organizations in Gaza

GAZA, 26 Aug— Hamas authorities in Gaza on Monday opened 70 civil organizations and charities they closed last month during a crackdown on the rival Fatah movement.

The Hamas-controlled Interior Ministry said it was proved that the 70 organizations were working according to the law and "their papers were legal". But 26 other organizations were working in violation of the law "since some of them were

dissolved earlier and the remaining others were working without a license", a statement by the ministry said.

Hamas launched the crackdown against Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas' Fatah movement after a mysterious beachside blast killed a girl and five Hamas members on 25 July.

During the tension, Hamas arrested hundreds of Fatah members and shut down dozens of civil

organizations it considered linked to Fatah. The secular movement denied Hamas charges that it was behind the explosion.

Hamas also claimed that the Fatah-dominated Palestinian Authority (PA) launched a crackdown on its organizations in West Bank in response to the Hamas arrests of Fatah supporters in Gaza, where Hamas took control last year after routing the security forces loyal to Abbas.—MNA/Xinhua



People wade through flood water in Hyderabad, India, Tuesday, 26 Aug, 2008. India's monsoon season, which lasts from June to September, brings rain vital for the country's farmers but also massive destruction. Floods, mudslides, collapsing houses and lightning strikes kill hundreds of people every year.—INTERNET

Maj-Gen Ohn Myint inspects construction of Yangon-Mandalay Highway and cultivation of paddy in Mandalay Div



Maj-Gen Ohn Myint views transplanting at ceremony to plant rain-fed paddy in Kyaukse. — MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Aug – Maj-Gen Ohn Myint of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Brig-Gen Tin Ngwe and officials met Tatmadaw members and their families at Bayintnaung Hall of Myingyan Station and departmental officials, townsenders and members of social organizations at Manikinsana Hall in Myingyan on 24 August.

Maj-Gen Ohn Myint inspected weeding and broadcasting of fertilizers on the 5.5 acres of groundnut plantation of farmer U Aung Khin of Balon Village in the township. The commander presented cash award to

beans and pulses growers.

Deputy senior engineer U Thein Zaw of road construction project special group-13 and officials reported on construction of Pyinsi-Saga-in earth road section of Yangon-Mandalay Highway Project.

Maj-Gen Ohn Myint inspected thriving monsoon paddy fields of farmer U Kyaw Thein of Yitkan Village in Myittha Township and construction of Samonhaung bridge. Kyaukse District senior Engineer U Maung Maung Lwin reported on data of the bridge and progress of work. The reinforced bridge is 168 feet long and 24 feet wide and it has three-foot walkway on both sides.

The commander inspected the 16-mile Sama canal, renovation of Panlaung Bridge. Township Assistant engineer U Thet Naing reported on progress of work.

Maj-Gen Ohn Myint and party viewed cultivation of monsoon paddy in Kyaukse District and demonstration of cultivation of paddy. They observed fertilizers, pesticides folio-fertilizers and sample of paddy strains.

Maj-Gen Ohn Myint observed bio-fertilizers manufactured by Kyaukse Technological University and sale of the fertilizers to farmers. It costs K 2,000 per bag of fertilizer.

They arrived in Mandalay in the evening..—MNA

Earthquake Report

YANGON, 26 Aug — A moderate earthquake of intensity 5.8 Richter Scale with its epicenter outside of Myanmar (Indonesia) about 1,450 miles south of Dawei Seismological observatory was recorded at 9 hrs 40 min 32 sec MST on 26th August 2008. — MNA

Rail Transportation Minister looks into Chauk station, Pwintbyu-Pakokku railroad section

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Aug—Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min together with Deputy Minister U Pe Than inspected Chauk station and station yard in Magway Division on 23 August. The minister gave instructions on punctual arrival and departure of trains, transport matters, beautifying of yard, growing of shade-trees and fulfilled the requirements.

At Seikphyu on Pwintbyu-Pakokku railroad section of Kyangin-Pakokku railroad construction project, the minister looked into railroad axis, earth work and site chosen for construction of railway station.

Next, the minister and party inspected earth work along the railroad axis, stockpiling of stones, construction of bridges and

earth embankment, site chosen for construction of railway station and place across the motorway.

At the construction site of Chitchaung Bridge implemented by Public Works, the minister and party inspected construction of bridge.

Next, the minister and party proceeded to Pwintbyu-Pakokku railroad construction project. At the briefing hall of the project, officials reported on progress of construction of bridge and railway stations and works to be done to the minister. The deputy minister made a supplementary report.

The minister called for timely completion of works and attended to the needs.

Next, the minister and party looked into progress of earth embankments and earth

works in a motorcade and gave necessary instructions.

The minister inspected railroad works along Ayeyawady River, earth work and embankment at Kyaukhlayga camp on Tantkyi Hill and progress in construction of Kyunchaung Station.

At the briefing hall of Htoo Trading Co Ltd, the minister met with officials and inspected progress of construction of the tunnel.

Kyangin-Pakokku railroad is 320 miles long. Upon completion, people can travel to Gangaw and Kalay through Pakokku, to Myitkyina in upper Myanmar through Pakokku-Chaung U, Monywa, YeU, KhinU and from Pathein in Ayeyawady Division to Pakokku in Magway Division.



Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min inspects earth work to construct railroad near Yaw Creek in Pakokku. — RAILWAYS

MNA

Greening of environs 20-mile radius of Inlay Lake discussed

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Aug—Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing of the Ministry of Defence met Pa-O national leader U Aung Hkam Hti of Special Region-6 of Shan State (South) and party at Pinlon Yeiktha in Taunggyi on 24 August.

Present were Chairman of Shan State (South) Peace and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command Brig-Gen Ya Pyae and senior military officers.

Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing discussed regional development and presented stationery, medicine and sport gear to U Aung Hkam Hti.

Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing also presented stationery and sport gear for the station to Commander Brig-Gen Ya Pyae.

Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing and party toured Ayethaya Industrial Zone. They met industrialists of the zone at the foundry shop. They inspected iron works, feedstuff, manufacturing and assembling of jeeps and light trucks and production of ethanol and test run of motor cycle and engine with the use of ethanol.

Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing attended the work coordination meeting No.

4/2008 of committees for greening of environs within the radius of 20 miles of Inlay Lake, conservation of forest, land and production of fauna and supervisory committees. Officials concerned reported on tasks to be undertaken from 2005-06 to 2009-10 and completion of the tasks in various sectors.

Chairman of Project Supervisory Committee Commander Brig-Gen Ya Pyae gave a supplementary report. In his discussions, Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing said Inlay Lake situated in hilly region is a famous natural lake and the project on greening of the environs within the radius of 20 miles is being implemented. He called for cooperation with Forest Department with the assistance of local authorities.

He also stressed the importance of the conservation and protection of the lake and its environs as the region attracts tourists. —MNA

The wise outstrips the intoxicated

Not intoxicated among the intoxicated and wide-awake among the sleeping, the wise one outstrips them as a swift horse outstrips a weak one.

Dhammapada-29



Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing visits Ayethaya Industrial Zone in Taunggyi. — MNA

Energy Minister inspects Htauk Sharpin/Kanni Oilfield in Minbu Tsp

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Aug — Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi inspected oil well No. 958 at Htauk Sharpin

/ Kanni Oilfield in Minbu Township on 23 August.

After hearing reports at the briefing hall on production of oil from

the well and from the whole oilfield, plans to drill new oil wells and possibility of production of the substance, the

minister instructed officials concerned to make concerted efforts for more oil production and laid down future programmes. Then, he looked into extracting of crude oil out of oil well No. 758.

Oil well No. 758 produces 230 barrels of crude oil a day and the Htauk Sharpin Oilfield, 2825 barrels of crude oil a day.

The minister went over store camp of Focus Energy Limited, a cooperation company with Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise at Htauk Sharpin/Kanni region, and met with company staff.

On 25 August, the minister inspected field preparation of Gold Petrol Co Ltd at Oil Well No. 3232 at Yaynangyoung Oilfield in Yaynangyoung Township. Gold Petrol Co Ltd is cooperating with Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise.

At the briefing hall, the minister heard report of an official on programmes to exploit more oil and gave instruction on the soonest drilling of oil by transporting oil drilling machines to the work site.

MNA

**Minister Brig-Gen
Lun Thi inspects
preparation to drill
oil well No. 3232 of
Gold Petrol Co Ltd
in Yaynangyoung
Oilfield. — MNA**



2nd Nay Pyi Taw Inter-Ministry Football Tournament goes on

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Aug—The second round of the 2nd Nay Pyi Taw Inter-Ministry Football Tournament 2008 continued at the designated sport grounds here this evening.

At Nay Pyi Taw No.1 Football ground, Ministry of Information won over Ministry of Culture 7-1 and Ministry of Sports, over Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries 6-2 in the Group-BB at Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana Paung Laung football grounds.

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, departmental heads, officials and fans enjoyed the matches.

At Nay Pyi Taw



Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan enjoys soccer match of Information Ministry team and Culture Ministry team. —MNA



Engineers of Public Works receive advanced civil engineering skills

YANGON, 26 Aug—Engineers and workers of Public Works under Ministry of Construction have received skills for

civil engineering in Yangon.

Course on advanced civil engineering for assistant engineers and course on construction of roads for labourers were opened at the central training school of Ministry of Construction here yesterday with an opening address by Deputy

Minister for Construction U Tint Swe.

Altogether 29 trainees are attending the 5-week courses which will last till 26 September. Deputy Minister for Construction Brig-Gen Myint Thein and departmental officials also attended the opening ceremony.

MNA

Flood News

YANGON, 26 Aug — According to the 11:30 hr MST observation today, the water level of Thanlwin river at Hpa-an is 825 cm and it has exceeded by 75 cm about 2.5 ft above its danger level. It is forecast to remain above its danger level during the next 3 days.—MNA

Acting course 1/ 2008 concluded

YANGON, 26 Aug —The acting course No. 1/ 2008 conducted by Myanmar Motion Picture Asiayon was held at Myanmar Motion Picture Asiayon in Bahan Township today.

At the ceremony to conclude the course, Managing Director of Myanmar Motion Picture Enterprise U Aung Myo Myint, Chairman of MMPE U Myint Thein Pe and Chairperson of Supervisory and Training Committee for Acting Course Daw Myint Myint Khine delivered speeches.

Next, the managing director handed over certificates of honour to Director Academy U Kyi Soe Tun and gave prizes to six outstanding trainees.

The chairman of MMPE presented awards to winners of the photo contests and the artistes entertained with dances. A total of 61 trainees participated in the 90-day course. Arrangements are underway to open the film technician courses for motion picture.— MNA

Cash and kind for doyen literati

YANGON, 26 Aug —Wellwishers donated cash and kind to Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association recently to pay respects to doyen literati. Writer U Tin Soe (Thagadue)-Daw Tin Tin Aye donated K 200,000 to MWJA; U Hsaik Kyin K 30,000, Shin Nay Min (Excellent Model Agency) K 100,000 and Myeik Township WJA K 50,000. Chairman of the association U Hla Myaing, Chairman of the Financial Committee U Tin Kha and Secretary Dr Tin Tun Oo presented certificates of honour to them.

Those wishing to donate cash and kind to MWJA may contact Serpay Beikman Building (ph-385273, 252417).— MNA

Outstanding sales promoters of TOYO Battery honoured

YANGON, 26 Aug—A ceremony to present prizes to outstanding sales promoters of Proven Technology Industry Co Ltd (TOYO Battery) was held in conjunction with hosting a dinner at Western Park Royal restaurant in Kandawgyi Gardens here at 5.30 pm on 23 August with an opening speech by Managing Director of the company U Ohn Lwin.

Next, prizes were presented to best sales promoters—Power U Than Tun (Tamu), U Myint Lwin (Yangon), U Kan Nyunt (Inwa Brothers Co Ltd, Tamu), Aung Kyaw Thein (Pathein), U Tun Tun (Taunggyi), Ko Tun Win (Olympic Battery, Yangon), Lwin Battery and Plate Marketing, (Yangon), Nay Myo Electrics (Maung Khine Street, Yangon) and Nay Oo Store (Tamu).

After that, Chief Operating Officer/ Executive Director U Than Htaik Lwin presented a washing machine to Power U Than Tun (Tamu) and a refrigerator

to Ma San Sandar Lwin on behalf of U Myint Lwin (Yangon) as additional gifts.

The company produces batteries such as N-20, N-40 ZL, N-50 ZL, N-70 L, N-70 ZL, N-100, N-120, N-150, N-200 as well as other batteries used in locomotives, coaches, cranes and Stand by Battery used in the Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs.

As ISO 9001-2000 (Quality Management System) certificate holder, the company is in the process of test-producing tubular batteries based on Japanese standards and will distribute them sooner.

For further information, contact is to be made to battery and electrical appliances across the nation and its head office, F/S (14), Shwe Sabai Yeikmon, Bayintnaung Road, Kamayut Township (Tel 527667, 701719, 701720), and No 113, 84th Street, between 29th and 30th Street, Mandalay (Tel 02-32248).—MNA



Managing Director of MMPE U Aung Myo Myint presents prize to an outstanding trainee.

MNA



Executive Director U Than Htaik Lwin presents refrigerator to Ma San Sandar Lwin.

MNA

Lt-Gen Myint Swe inspects...

(from page 16)
in Yankin Township, the tax-free market in Tamway Township, Pantara tax-free market in Dagon Township and Hanthawady tax-free market in Sangyoung Township and inspected foodstuff and personal goods shops of the Ministry of Industry-1 and the Ministry of Energy, meat, eggs and vegetables shops of YCDC, battalions and regiments in Yangon Division, the District

and Township PDC Offices, Yangon Division Vegetables, Poultry and Fish Breeding Special Zones in Nyaungnabin, Hmawby Township, meat, fish and dairy product shops of the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, Ngwepinle Livestock and Fisheries Co Ltd, private entrepreneurs of Kyimyindine, Central Model Fish Market, onion shops of Onion, Garlic and Kitchen Items Producers Association, rice shops of Myanmar Rice Dealers

Association, edible palm oil shops of Myanmar Edible Oil Merchants and Entrepreneurs Association, kitchen items shops and provisions shops.

During his inspection tour, Lt-Gen Myint Swe gave instructions to officials on ensuring sale of more items and sale of fresh and wholesome meat, eggs and vegetables at reasonable prices.

MNA

Myaung Creek Bridge on Kalay-Gangaw...

(from page 16)
Local people can go to northern Chin State and Tamu in a short time along the Mandalay-Monywa-Gangaw-Kalay Road through the newly-built bridge. Social, health and eco-

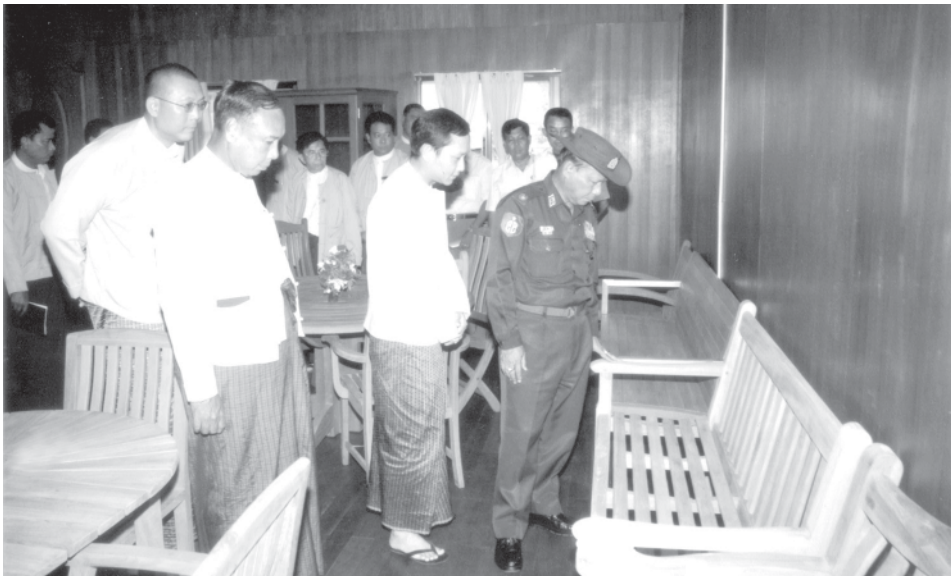
nomic conditions will improve in the future, he added.

Next, Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun explained construction of the bridge and its data.

Commander Brig-Gen Myint Soe, Minister Maj-

Gen Saw Tun and Col Aung San Chit of Kalay Station formally opened the bridge and they sprinkled scented water on the stone inscription and walked on the bridge.

MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Thein Aung inspects furniture at the wood-based factory of United Wood Industries Co Ltd in Hlinethaya Industrial Zone. — FORESTRY

Forestry Minister inspects wood-based factories in Hlinethaya Industrial Zone

YANGON, 26 Aug — Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung inspected wood-based factories in Hlinethaya Industrial Zone here yesterday.

During the inspection tour of the

wood-based factory of Asia Wood Co Ltd in Hlinethaya Industrial Zone No. 4, the minister inspected producing furniture and parquet and packaging of wood-based products for export.

He also went to the

wood-based factory of United Wood Industries Co Ltd in Hlinethaya Industrial Zone No. 5 and inspected producing and packaging of furniture there.

MNA

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

Objectives of the 16th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions

1. Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
2. Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
3. Keeping genuine patriotism based on national solidarity alive and dynamic
4. Turning out younger generation who will continue to safeguard the national culture and character



USDA Secretary-General U Htay Oo inspects paddy husk-powered gasifier in Nyaungkaya Village in Meiktila. — A & I

USDA Secretary-General supervises rural development tasks

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Aug—Secretary-General of the Union Solidarity and Development Association U Htay Oo together with departmental officials met peasants of Nyaungkaya village in Meiktila Township on 23 August and gave instructions on agricultural production and supply of irrigation water.

The Secretary-General then looked into generating of electricity and pumping of water by running of 15 hp engine with the use of paddy husk-powered gasifier manufactured by Agricultural Mechaniza-

tion Department.

As the gasifier can reduce the use of diesel and cost-effective in using engine, farmers are now beginning to use it for pumping water in Kaphyu and Shwehlan village.

The Secretary-General later viewed ploughing of farms to cultivate monsoon paddy with irrigation water from

Meiktila lake around Zaungchan-gon village. The Secretary-General inspected paddy plantations around Yintaw village and met with farmers of Pyinzin village.

The Secretary-General gave instructions on repair of lakes, cultivation of quality paddy strains, use of gasifier.—MNA

All this needs to be known

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

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Win Mu Tin
M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L
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Dated: 27 August 2008

**Philippine Army
seizes 15 rebel
camps in south**

MANILA, 26 Aug—
Philippine Army chief on
Monday said government
forces have already seized
at least 15 camps and
villages of the country's
largest Muslim rebel group
in southern region of
Mindanao as skirmishes
between the military and
the rebel group escalated
over the past few days.

In a joint Press con-
ference with Defence
Secretary Gilberto Teo-
doro Jr, Armed Forces chief
General Alexnder Yano
said some of the captured
are actually communities
which the rebels of Moro
Islamic Liberation Front
(MILF) had turned into
fortresses. He said the
camps and villages were
captured during the last
72 hours.—MNA/Xinhua

**Strong earthquake
rocks Tibet**

LHASA, 26 Aug—A strong earthquake measuring
6.8 on the Richter Scale rocked Zhongba County,
Xigaze prefecture in southern Tibet at 9:22 pm on
Monday, but no casualties have been reported.

The epicentre was about 10 kilometres underground
at 31 degrees north and 83.6 degrees east, according to
the China Earthquake Networks Centre.

Zhongba County in the west of Xigaze has a
population of 18,000.

A county government worker said the quake was
strongly felt in some townships and cracks had appeared
in some buildings.

Local authorities are still assessing the situation in
remote townships.—MNA/Xinhua



**Smoke rises as rescue operation goes on at the exploded chemical plant
on the outskirts of Yizhou City, southwest China's Guangxi Zhuang
Autonomous Region, on 26 Aug, 2008.—INTERNET**

**Pakistani Govt rejects
Taleban's unilateral ceasefire**

ISLAMABAD, 26 Aug—
A Pakistani official said
Sunday that the operation
against Taleban would
continue until their
surrender.

Adviser to the Prime
Minister on Interior
Rehman Malik told
reporters that the unilateral
ceasefire announced by
Taleban was not accep-
table, as they had broken
previous pledges.

The private Geo TV
quoted Malik as saying
that the ceasefire could
only hold if Taleban
surrender their arms
publicly in Islamabad.

Malik said that 550
Taleban had been killed
in the Bajaur military
operation, while a number
of dead bodies were still
lying in the area.

To a question, he said
that some of killed and
arrested militants are
Uzbiks, details of whom
will be shared with media
soon. —MNA/Xinhua

**UK opinion poll puts Brown's
Labour 21 points behind**

LONDON, 26 Aug—
British Prime Minister
Gordon Brown's Labour
Party is struggling to win
back any political ground
from the resurgent
opposition Conservative
Party, an opinion poll
showed on Sunday.

A ComRes poll for the
Independent on Sunday
put Brown's Labour on
25 per cent, trailing 21
points behind the David

Cameron's Conservatives
with 46 per cent support.

Both main parties had
gained a point on last
month's score in the
ComRes poll, with the
third party, the Liberal
Democrats steady at 16
per cent.

Brown has seen his
opinion poll ratings
plummet in the past six
months, crushing a brief
political honeymoon after
he took over as Labour
leader from former prime
minister Tony Blair last
June.

Despite persistent
rumours of a possible
leadership challenge,
Brown insisted on
Saturday that he still
expected to be in the top
job at Christmas.

The poll, which
surveyed 1,014 adults
across Britain on 20 and
21 August, showed that
only 72 per cent of those
who identified themselves
as Labour supporters
likely to take part in the
next election said they
would vote for Labour.

MNA/Reuters

**Croatian doctor
jailed for graft**

ZAGREB, 26 Aug—A
Croatian court sentenced
a surgeon to nine years in
prison on Monday for
taking bribes, concluding
a corruption case that had
attracted intense media
attention in the European
Union aspirant state.

The surgeon, who
pleaded not guilty, had
been accused of taking
210,000 kuna (43,570 US
dollars) in bribes between
1998 and 2006 from
patients who needed
urgent surgery.

The verdict came as
Croatia seeks to prove it
has stepped up efforts to
counter graft — a major
hurdle for the country's
EU membership bid—
before Brussels issues a
progress report in No-
vember. Zagreb hopes to
join the bloc in around
2011.

Analysts said a positive
assessment was not
certain, citing Brussels'
continued concern about
corruption in Bulgaria and
Romania, which joined the
bloc in 2007.

MNA/Reuters

**Daihatsu debuts new
minicar in Japan**

Tokyo, 26 Aug—Daihatsu on Monday launched a
new minicar model of the Move Conte in Japan in
response to the mounting demand for fuel-efficient
cars amid soaring fuel gasoline prices.

The minivehicle with a 660 cc engine is priced at
somewhere between 1,039,500 yen (9,500 US dollars)
and 1,674,750 yen (15,220 dollars), according to the
company. And Daihatsu aims to sell 4,000 units a
month.—Internet



**A Tiger Airways' plane. South Korea's Incheon city has postponed the launch
of a joint-venture budget carrier with Singapore's Tiger Airways in the face of
fierce opposition from domestic low-cost airlines, a report said.—INTERNET**

**Donate
blood**

Sri Lankan Govt officials hail local election result

COLOMBO, 26 Aug — Sri Lankan Government officials said Sunday that the ruling party's comprehensive win in Saturday's provincial council elections was an endorsement of President Mahinda Rajapakse's anti-terrorism campaign.

Rajapakse's United People's Freedom Alliance (UPFA) coalition won both the elections in North Central Provincial Council and Sabaragamuwa Provincial Council held on Saturday.

In both councils, the

UPFA garnered around 55 per cent of the vote while the main opposition United National Party (UNP) was reduced to under 40 per cent.

"This is a clear endorsement of the President's anti-terrorism campaign plus his development work during the last three years," Anura Yapa, the minister of Media and Information told the media.

"The opposition has been completely routed", Mahindananda Aluthgamage, the deputy

minister of Power said.

"People have clearly given the backing to the President's campaign against the LTTE (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam)", Minister of Education Susil Premajayantha said.

In the final result for the 44-member Sabaragamuwa or south eastern provincial council, the UPFA won 25 seats while the UNP won 17 seats and the main left party, the JVP (People's Liberation Front) gained two seats.

MNA/Xinhua



Afghan men prepare graves for people killed in a US airstrike at Azizabad village in Herat province, east of Kabul on 23 Aug, 2008. The US military said Monday that an attack by coalition forces in Afghanistan last week which allegedly killed dozens of civilians was a "legitimate" assault on Taliban forces.—INTERNET



Investigators work at the site where a light aircraft crashed in Cabanas municipality, Zacapa department, on 24 Aug. At least 10 out of 14 tourists died when the light aircraft crashed for unknown reasons.—INTERNET

Gene found for rare and deadly childhood cancer

WASHINGTON, 26 Aug — Researchers have found a gene that causes most inherited forms of neuroblastoma, a rare and deadly form of childhood cancer, and say the discovery points to new treatments.

Mutations in a gene called ALK were strongly linked to neuroblastoma, the researchers from the United States, Italy and Belgium reported on

Sunday. They said several companies already are working on drugs that target this gene, which is also mutated in some cases of lung cancer and lymphoma. "This discovery enables us to offer the first genetic tests to families affected by the inherited form of this disease," said Dr Yael Mosse of The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, who worked on the study.

"Furthermore, because there already are drugs in development that target the same gene in adult cancers, we can soon begin testing those drugs in children with neuroblastoma."

Neuroblastoma accounts for 15 per cent of childhood cancer deaths, with just a 40 per cent survival rate, even though it only causes about 7 per cent of all pediatric cancers.

MNA/Reuters

Study shows poor treatment may cause "untreatable" TB

WASHINGTON, 26 Aug — Poor treatment may be fueling the rise of an especially hard to treat form of tuberculosis called extensively drug resistant or XDR TB, doctors reported on Sunday.

But they said their project, based at a remote Siberian prison, showed they could successfully

treat nearly half the patients with XDR TB. It also suggested that better treatment of patients with other forms of multiple-drug-resistant TB would help prevent the infection from worsening into the XDR form.

"While early studies suggested that XDR TB is untreatable, our report indicates that while it may

be difficult, it is possible to treat these patients through the use of aggressive regimens," Dr. Salmaan Keshavjee of Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School said in a statement. "A cure rate of 48.3 per cent is promising in a disease that has been touted as untreatable."

MNA/Reuters

West Nile virus claims first death in California

LOS ANGELES, 26 Aug — West Nile virus continued to spread in parts of California, killing a 72-year-old woman, authorities said on Monday.

The woman, the first person in California this year to die of West Nile virus infection, died earlier this month after

being hospitalized in Orange County in Southern California, according to the California Department of Public Health.

Her death came after health officials warned that the risk of contracting West Nile virus from mosquito bites is the highest in four years.

Orange County has not had a West Nile virus-related death since 2004.

Statewide, there have been 112 human cases of West Nile virus infection reported in 2008, including 97 symptomatic cases. In Orange County, there have been 26 symptomatic cases and four cases where people who donated blood were told that they had been infected, but suffered no symptoms. —Internet

Key Georgian rail line reopens after explosion

TBILISI, 26 Aug — Georgia's main east-west railway was reopened overnight following a fuel train explosion on the line west of the central town of Gori, Georgian Railways said on Monday.

Railway spokeswoman Irma Stepnadze said damage to the line was limited. "Railway traffic has been restored," she told Reuters. The explosion, which police said they believed was caused by a landmine, occurred on the main track of the railway line linking eastern and western Georgia — a route used by oil exports from Azerbaijan to European markets.—MNA/Reuters



Vehicles are seen running slowly in rain in east China's Shanghai Municipality, on 25 Aug, 2008. Torrential rain swept through Shanghai on Monday, causing flight delays and flooding more than 60 downtown roads.—INTERNET

SPORTS

Recovering Tiger Woods says 2009 schedule unclear



Tiger Woods

DUBAI, 26 Aug — (United Arab Emirates), Tiger Woods said he is not sure whether he will be ready to defend his title at the Dubai Desert Classic early next year.

The world's top-ranked golfer missed the rest of the 2008 season shortly after winning the US Open

in June so he could have reconstructive surgery on his left knee to repair a torn ligament.

"It's frustrating for me," he said Monday of the injury at an event to promote a golf course he helped design in the Persian Gulf city.

Woods said his schedule heading into next year is uncertain, but that he plans to "be hitting golf balls at the beginning of the year." The Dubai Desert Classic begins on 27 Jan.—*Internet*

Fletcher earns Man Utd victory at Portsmouth

LONDON, 26 Aug — Champions Manchester United recorded their first win of the Premier League season when Darren Fletcher's scruffy goal secured a 1-0 triumph at Portsmouth on Monday.

Fletcher was credited with turning the ball in from Patrice Evra's centre in the 32nd minute although Portsmouth defender Sylvain Distin appeared to make contact with the cross and Sol Campbell also got a touch in a vain attempt to keep it out.

It was the second goal in as many games for the Scotland midfielder after he also found the net in last week's 1-1 draw with Newcastle United.

United manager Alex Ferguson praised Fletcher, who is getting a run in the team due to the injuries and suspensions keeping out Cristiano Ronaldo, Nani and Park Ji-sung.

"He (Fletcher) is great at making those runs (into the penalty box)," Ferguson told Sky Sports television. "He has got fantastic energy and I'm really delighted he's getting the credit he deserves."

Wayne Rooney also beat Portsmouth keeper David James with a shot early in the second half but had the effort ruled out for offside. — *MNA/Reuters*



Anton Ferdinand

Carragher warns Liverpool against Liege complacency

LIVERPOOL, 26 Aug — Jamie Carragher has warned that Liverpool could pay the ultimate price for complacency if they underestimate Standard Liege in Wednesday's Champions League qualifier second-leg at Anfield.

Rafa Benitez's team, who lifted the European Cup for a fifth time by beating AC Milan in Istanbul in 2005, face a nervous return leg against the Belgian champions after failing to score in a tense 0-0 draw in the first leg two weeks ago.

If the second-leg ends as a scoring draw, Liverpool will be knocked out before the Champions League group stages and forced to look ahead instead to a UEFA Cup campaign.

But former England defender Carragher insists that Liverpool will not allow themselves to go into Wednesday's game with any thoughts of taking Liege lightly.

He said: "They are definitely the toughest opponents we've had in a Champions League qualifier. I know people expect us to get through, but it's not as if we're playing a Mickey Mouse team."

"The Belgian league has a lot of quality and their champions are used to getting into the group stages. We had a tough match against Anderlecht a few years ago, so I'm not surprised Liege caused us problems.

Internet

Keane ready to tie up Anton Ferdinand deal

SUNDERLAND, 26 Aug —England (AFP) - Sunderland manager Roy Keane hopes to complete the signing of Anton Ferdinand after revealing the West Ham defender will have a medical with the club on Tuesday.

Ferdinand, the brother of Manchester United and England star Rio, has been told he can leave Upton Park after the Hammers accepted a bid of around eight million pounds (10 million euros) from Keane.

West Ham boss Alan Curbishley is reportedly unhappy that the transfer has been forced through without his agreement, but Keane expects to conclude the move imminently.

"Anton is up today (Tuesday) for a medical and we hope to get that tied up today," Keane said.

However, a hamstring injury means Ferdinand will not be involved in Wednesday's League Cup second-round trip to Nottingham Forest or Sunday's Premier League clash with Manchester City.—*Internet*

Nine-man Real hit back to win Spanish Super Cup

MADRID, 26 Aug — Nine-man Real Madrid earned an unlikely 4-2 comeback victory over Valencia at home to win their eighth Spanish Super Cup at the Bernabeu on Sunday.

King's Cup winners Valencia had taken control of the traditional curtain-raiser to the season with a 3-2 first leg victory at the Mestalla a week ago, and then a first-half strike from David Silva in the second leg.

A red card for new Real signing Rafael van der Vaart just before the break and a second yellow for Dutch compatriot Ruud van Nistelrooy after he had in the levelled from the penalty spot in the 49th minute, left the visitors in control.

But Real rose to the challenge and further goals from Sergio Ramos, Ruben de la Red and Gonzalo Higuain in the last 13 minutes completed a remarkable fightback by the Spanish champions.

The visitors took the lead with their first attempt on goal after an intricate passing move gave Spain midfielder Silva space to fire low into the corner from the edge of the area in the 33rd.

Real lost Van der Vaart to a red card on his home debut after he dived in with his studs up on Juanma Mata, and the Bernabeu howled their frustration at the break.— *MNA/Reuters*

Nadal, Dementieva advance at US Open

NEW YORK, 26 Aug — Reigning Olympic champions Rafael Nadal and Elena Dementieva got their US Opens off and running Monday, facing stiff challenges from a pair of unseeded players.

Nadal, who goes into a Grand Slam ranked No. 1 in the world for the first time, outlasted Bjorn Phau 7-6 (7/4), 6-3, 7-6 (7/4) on day one of the 20.6 million dollar tournament.

"When you win in three sets it is a good results," Nadal said. "I had some difficult moments in the match so that is going to help me be prepared for the pressure moments later on."

Like Nadal, Dementieva came out shaky but finished on a winning note by brushing aside Akgul Amanmuradova in straight sets.

The fifth seed Dementieva hopes her 6-4, 7-5 victory is a stepping stone to better things.

"The first round is never easy," said Dementieva, who stopped Serena Williams and Vera Zvonareva before beating Russian compatriot Dinara Safina in the gold medal match at the Olympics.

The 22-year-old Nadal, of Spain, fired seven aces and hammered 37 winners but it wasn't the opening statement he had hoped for as he needed almost three hours to beat 146th ranked journeyman Phau.

Internet

Shevchenko leads late transfer merry-go-round

ROME, 26 Aug — Ukraine forward Andrei Shevchenko completed his move to AC Milan on Monday after passing a medical and his arrival is set to spark some last ditched transfer activity in the country.

According to Tuesday's Press the big four are all going to bring in players before the transfer window closes at the end of the month.

Both major daily sports newspapers *Gazzetta dello Sport* and *Corriere dello Sport* claim that Milan will add Arsenal defender Philippe



Ukraine forward Andrei Shevchenko (pictured in 2006) has completed his move to AC Milan after passing a medical and his arrival is set to spark some last ditched transfer activity in the country.

Senderos to their roster this week.

Gazzetta says the Italians will pay 2 million euros (2.9 million dollars) to take the big Swiss centre-back on loan for one season with an option to buy him in a year's time for 8 million euros.

It says Senderos was due in Milan on Tuesday to undergo a medical.

Gazzetta also claims Porto winger Ricardo Quaresma's on-off transfer to Inter Milan is 80 percent certain to go through during the next 48 hours.—*Internet*

Democratic National Convention kicks off

DENVER (The United States), 26 Aug—Democratic current and former officials, lawmakers, prominent figures and voters vowed their support for Barack Obama's bid for the White House as the Democratic National Convention kicked off on Monday in Denver, Colorado.

About 5,000 Democratic officials, delegates from 50 states and the District of Columbia as well as US territories, and foreign guests gathered here to witness the Illinois Senator's moment to accept the presidential nomination on 28 August, the last day of the four-day convention.

"During our national convention, we will demonstrate to all Americans why we need Barack Obama and Joe Biden in the White House," Howard Dean, Chairman of the Democratic National Committee, said in an opening address.

"American realizes we cannot have four more years of the same, ineffective approach to governing."

MNA/Xinhua

Blast at rally in Pakistan kills 3

ISLAMABAD, 26 Aug — A blast at a rally in southwestern Pakistan killed three people and wounded at least 20 others Tuesday, authorities said.

The blast took place in Jaffarabad, in Pakistan's largest province, Balochistan, said police officer Abdul Majid Bangar.

Supporters had gathered to commemorate the second anniversary of the death of Nawab Akbar Khan Bugti, the British-educated former governor of Balochistan who was killed in a 2006 military raid.

Balochistan is a province near the Afghan border that is rich in natural gas.

Militants in Balochistan have for years complained that the central government has paid little attention to them and their economic needs. They have been fighting Pakistani military forces for self-rule.

More recently, the province has seen an influx of Afghan refugees. And the Afghan government believes that key Taliban leaders may be hiding among them.

Internet

Honduras joins Venezuelan pact; Chavez promises oil

TEGUCIGALPA, 26 Aug—Honduras, long considered an ally of the United States in Central America, joined on Monday a Latin American pact that has been pushed by Venezuela as a way to contain US influence in the region.

Honduras is a member of a free trade pact between Central America and the United States.

But President Manuel Zelaya, a logging magnate seen as a moderate liberal, has been drifting toward closer ties with Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez, a US foe.

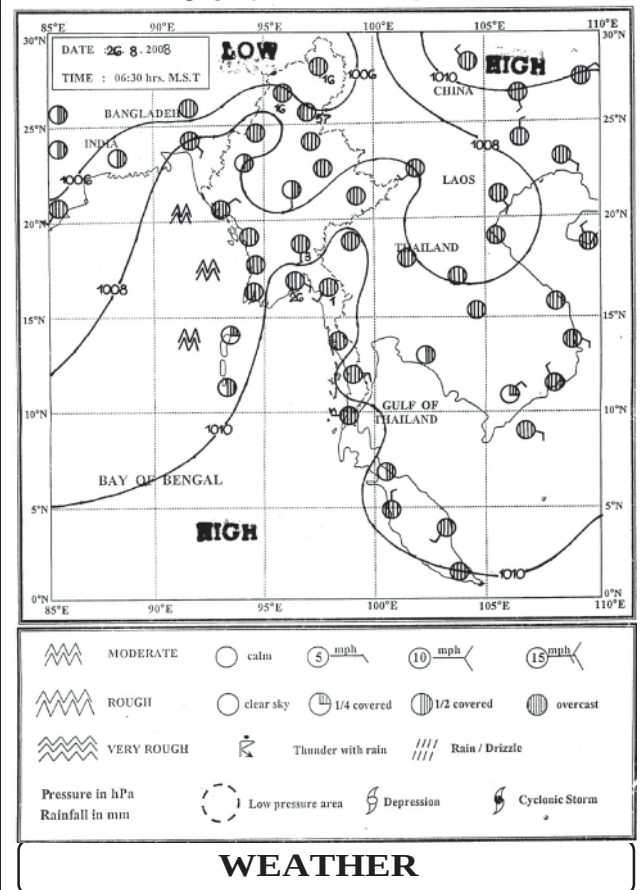
On Monday, Honduras joined the Bolivarian Alternative for the Americas, or ALBA, which is based on complementary trade and cooperation instead of free-market competition.—MNA/Reuters



Models display wedding dress creations by South Korean fashion designer Andre Kim during the annual Bali Fashion Week on 25 Aug, 2008.

INTERNET

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



Wednesday, 27 August
View on today

- 7:00 am**
တောင်တန်းသာသနာပြု
ဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၏
ပရိတ်တရားတော်
- 7:25 am**
2. To be healthy
exercise
- 7:30 am**
3. Morning news
- 7:40 am**
4. Songs of yesteryears

- 7:50 am**
5. Dance of national
races
- 8:00 am**
6. “အသိစိတ်ကလေး
အရင်းတည်၍”
(ဖြိုးငွေစိုး၊ ထက်ရှား၊
မိုးပြည့်ပြည့်မောင်)
(ဒါရိုက်တာ-ကြည်စိုး)
- 8:15 am**
7. ၂၀၀၈ခုနှစ်၊ (၁၆) ကြိမ်မြောက်
မြန်မာ့ရိုးရာယဉ်ကျေးမှု အဆို၊
အက၊အရေး၊အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲဝင်များ
လေ့လာနိုင်ကြရန် (မဟာဂီတ)
ဝါသနာရှင်(ဒုတိယတန်း)အဆင့်
(အမျိုးသား၊ အမျိုးသမီး)
- 8:30 am**
8. International news
- 4:00 pm**
1. Martial song
- 4:10 pm**
2. Musical programme

- 4:20 pm**
3. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 4:30 pm**
4. Songs to uphold
National Spirit
- 4:40 pm**
5. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 4:50 pm**
6. Classical songs
- 5:00 pm**
7. ရှုဖွယ်စုံလင်အာဆီယံအစီအစဉ်
- 5:10 pm**
8. ၂၀၀၈ခုနှစ်၊ (၁၆) ကြိမ်မြောက်
မြန်မာ့ရိုးရာယဉ်ကျေးမှု အဆို၊
အက၊အရေး၊အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲဝင်များ
လေ့လာနိုင်ကြရန် (မဟာဂီတ)
(အဆင့်မြင့် ပညာအဆင့်)
(အမျိုးသား၊ အမျိုးသမီး)
- 5:30 pm**
9. ရာဇဝတ်လွင်သရုပ်ဆောင်လွင်ပြင်

- 6:00 pm**
10. Evening news
- 6:30 pm**
11. Weather report
- 6:35 pm**
12. မြန်မာ့လေ့ရိုးရာလက်စွဲ
- 6:50 pm**
13. ထက်မြက်ပျော်ရွှင်
အိမ်ထောင်ရှင်
- 7:20 pm**
14. “ဆိုလိုက်ကြနီ”
- 8:00 pm**
15. News
- 8:00 pm**
16. International news
- 8:00 pm**
17. Weather report
- 8:00 pm**
18. ၂၀၀၇ခုနှစ်၊ (၁၅)
ကြိမ်မြောက်မြန်မာ့ရိုးရာ
ယဉ်ကျေးမှုအဆို၊အက၊အရေး၊
အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ (သုဝဏ္ဏသာမ
ဇာတ်တော်ကြီးပြိုင်ပွဲ)
(အောင် ကိုဝင်းနှင့် အဖွဲ့)
(တတိယဆု) (ရန်ကုန်တိုင်း)
(ဒုတိယပိုင်း)

- ☆ Skyful liars attempting to destroy nation
- ☆ BBC lying
- ☆ VOA deceiving
- ☆ RFA setting up hostilities
- ☆ Beware! Don't be bought by those ill-wishers

Lt-Gen Myint Swe inspects tax-free markets in Yangon Division

YANGON, 26 Aug— Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Win Myint, Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa and officials, this morning arrived at Konmyinthta tax-free market, Mayangon Township, Nawade tax-free market, Mayangon Township, the tax-free market (See page 11)



Lt-Gen Myint Swe inspects a tax-free market in Tamway Township. — MNA

A \$130 phone headset helpfully talks back



The \$130 V1 from BlueAnt Wireless recognizes spoken English commands, and responds, also in English.—INTERNET

NEW YORK, 26 Aug—Bluetooth wireless

headsets for mobile phones are puzzling: We're supposed to control them with couple of unmarked buttons and get feedback from a single indicator light.

What is the headset trying to say when the LED is blinking that particular way? How do I connect it to a new phone? Do I press the big button or the small button, or both at once? The user interface is as cryptic as an alien artifact. On Tuesday, BlueAnt Wireless launched the first

headset that, by comparison, is clearly from Planet Earth. The \$130 V1 headset recognizes spoken English commands, and responds, also in English.

It's eerily like having an automated call center in your ear. It can't do everything that a standard headset combined with a voice-recognizing phone can do, but it's a useful advance for an industry that's been focused on everything except ease of use.

Internet

Canon offers EOS 50D

BEIJING, 26 Aug— Canon on Tuesday introduced its new Canon EOS 50D targeting professionals looking for a D-SLR, which is the successor to the current 40D.

The new 50D will use a 23.3mm-by-14.9mm sensor, similar to the 40D, but will be Canon's first SLR to incorporate the new "Digix 4" image processor for

delivering a faster shooting performance. The performance boost is aided by the support for the faster compact flash memory card, UDMA CF.

Other improvements to the 50D include a 3-inch LCD screen with much sharper images due to the 920K pixels, compared to the 40D's LCD screen with 230K pixels.

The 50D's LCD screen will also offer a



live-view option for using the LCD screen as a view finder. An HDMI is added as well, which provides a digital connection for picture playback on HDTVs.

Internet

Myaung Creek Bridge on Kalay-Gangaw Road inaugurated

YANGON, 26 Aug— Myaung Creek Bridge on Kalay-Gangaw Road linking Sagaing and Magway Divisions was inaugurated this morning.

The bridge, 186 feet long and 12 feet wide, was constructed by Bridge Construction Project Special Group-15 of the Public Works of the Ministry of Construction. It can withstand 20 tons of loads.

Present were Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Brig-Gen Myint Soe, Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, Col Aung San Chit of Kalay Station, local authorities, Public Works officials, members of social organizations, students and guests.

Commander Brig-Gen Myint Soe delivered a speech. He said construction of the bridge started

on 25 July 2007. In the past there was a temporary bridge on which light truck can drive on it. There were inconveniences in transport because of the floods in the rainy season. After completion of the bridge, local people can travel easily to other regions at any time any season.

He said before 1988 there were only two major bridges—Sagaing Bridge across Ayeyawady River and Sittoung Bridge across Sittoung River. Now there are eight bridges across

Ayeyawady River, two bridges across Chindwin River, five bridges across Thanlwin River and one bridge across Sittoung River. There are altogether 236 bridges which are 180-foot long and above.

He said in Sagaing Division there were 22 bridges which are 180-foot long and above before 1988. Now the number of bridges has increased in comparison with that of the past. The present bridge is the 15th one in Sagaing Division, he said.

(See page 11)

Decrease in rain in Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Aug— According to 12.30 pm observation of the Department of Metrology and Hydrology monsoon is weak in the Bay of Bengal and the whole Myanmar will receive less amount of rain during 72 hours commencing noon today.

MNA