

# U.S. dance troupe eager to step on Vietnam's stages

(From L-R) Step Afrika members Sumayya Ali, Latonya Grant, Jakari Sherman, Delonte Briggs, Mfon Akpan and Ryan Johnson pose for a photograph in HCMC yesterday. These members of the U.S.-based step dancing company told reporters that they were excited to perform their stepping dance that combines foot-steps, claps, and spoken words to produce complicated rhythms. Three more members of the troupe came last night to join their performances of traditional and contemporary step dancing at the Municipal Theater in downtown HCMC tonight, the Thua Thien Hue Center of Culture and Information in Hue City on



June 13, the Haiphong Opera House on June 15, and the Hong Ha Theater in Hanoi on June 17. The world-renowned group will also run workshops for art students at cities in which they perform.

Step Afrika members will, of course, teach the audience how to dance on the stage with them. The group members said step dancing was a universal language so it was easy to learn and easy to appreciate this form of music. It is also a way for performers to express their different states of emotion. The U.S. Embassy in Hanoi and the U.S. Consulate General in HCMC will host the Vietnamese tour of Step Afrika. Having been founded in 1994, Step Afrika is acclaimed worldwide for its performances of unique step dances created by African American college students. *(Photo: Binh Nguyen)*

ext week's

JMP is set  
g victory in  
ary vote on  
round vote  
the party

tax and labor laws but left  
opposition leaders claiming  
the president would wield too  
much power.

"A republic has to have coun-  
terweights," Segolene Royal,  
the Socialist candidate Sarkozy

campaign shook up the presi-  
dential election but whose cen-  
trist group is set to win just a  
handful of seats in parliament.

Socialists were projected to  
win 60-170 seats, a result that  
could trigger a fresh bout of in-  
fighting in a party still reeling

position fears, saying the major-  
ity in parliament was broad  
enough to include a variety of  
viewpoints.

"I confess I'm a bit surprised by  
the concern that it seems to cre-  
ate," he told France Inter radio.  
"There are balances everywhere."

# , Saudi ministers hold talks on energy

ON) British  
air Darling  
Dil Minister  
gy security  
y technolo-  
audi Arabia  
oman said.  
United Arab  
ere he will  
te-run Abu  
Company  
g the case  
utch Shell  
a giant gas  
oman for

Darling's Department of Trade  
and Industry said.

At least five international en-  
ergy companies have submitted  
bids for the sour gas project that  
could have a price tag as high  
as US\$10 billion.

Darling's visit to Saudi Arabia  
comes amid a row over media  
reports that defence contractor  
BAE Systems paid 1 billion  
pounds (US\$2 billion) over a  
decade to a Saudi prince in con-  
nection with Britain's biggest-  
ever arms export contract.

BAE Systems has denied  
wrongdoing in response to the  
reports last week in The Guard-  
ian newspaper and on the BBC.

The spokeswoman said the  
BAE issue had not been raised  
in Darling's talks with Saudi  
ministers yesterday.

She said no deals were dis-  
cussed during the visit which fo-  
cused on oil and gas market issues.

Darling held talks with Naimi  
on energy security and tech-  
nologies to help develop new  
low carbon energy sources, the

spokeswoman said.  
"In particular they were dis-  
cussing new research and de-  
velopment around carbon cap-  
ture and storage technologies  
which we think have great  
potential," she said.

The talks also prepared the  
ground for British-Saudi energy  
talks to be held in London at the  
end of next month, she said.

"Saudi Arabia is the world's  
largest exporter of oil and has a  
key role to play in maintaining  
market stability," she said.

# U.S. dance troupe to tour Vietnam

Step Afrika, which is a nine-member U.S.-based stepping dance company, will tour Vietnam with their performance and art courses in Vietnamese cities next week.

The world-renowned group will perform at the Municipal Theater in downtown HCMC at 8 p.m. on June 12 after they conduct an artistic course for students of the Vietnam-U.S. Society English Training Service Center at the theater.

Step Afrika will tour the central province of Thua Thien-Hue and present a public show at the Thua Thien Hue Center of Culture and Information, 41A Hung Vuong Street, Hue City, at 7:30 p.m. on June 13.

The northern port city of Haiphong is the next stop for Step Afrika. There, they will perform at the Haiphong Opera House on Hoang Van Thu Street in Hong Bang District at 8 p.m. on June 15.

The next day, they will travel to Hanoi for a workshop on step dancing at the Vietnam National Opera Ballet Theater. On June 17, they will step onto the stage at the Hong Ha Theater at 51 Duong Thanh Street in the capital city at 8 p.m.

Founded in 1994, Step Afrika is acclaimed worldwide for its performances of unique step dancing created by African American college students. The stepping

dance combines footsteps, claps, and spoken words to produce complicated rhythms.

Step Afrika has been featured on CNN, BET, PBS & NPR as well as in numerous books, documentaries and articles that examine the tradition of stepping.

The company is a model for the use of dance in educational settings, espousing the themes of teamwork, academic achievement and cross-cultural understanding.

The U.S. Embassy in Hanoi and the U.S. Consulate General in HCMC will host Step Afrika's Vietnamese tour, which serves as a cultural ambassador for the United States and represents the nation at events around the world.

For tickets and more information, contact:

- The U.S. Consulate General's Public Affairs Section in HCMC at (08) 821 6400, ext. 120 (Mr. Triet) or 106 (Mr. Duc).

- Ms. Chi of Thua Thien Hue Center of Culture and Information at (054) 815 030 or 0914478896.

- Ms. Nguyen Thi Kim Linh of the Haiphong People's Committee at (0313) 810 231.

- Ms. Nguyen Thanh Hien of the Public Affairs Section at the U.S. Embassy in Hanoi at (04) 831 4580, ext. 5177.

Binh Nguyen

Published by  
Saigon Times Group  
EDITORIAL OFFICE  
35 Nam Ky Khoi Nghia St., District 1,  
Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.  
Tel: (84.8) 8295.936  
Fax: (84.8) 8212.043  
E-mail: [saigon.times@hcm.vnn.vn](mailto:saigon.times@hcm.vnn.vn)  
Website: [www.saigontimes.com.vn/daily](http://www.saigontimes.com.vn/daily)

Nº2954 WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6, 2007

VIETNAM'S ENGLISH-LANGUAGE BUSINESS DAILY

The  
**Saigon Times**  
Daily

ASIA COMMERCIAL BANK

ACB

ASIA COMMERCIAL BANK

442 Nguyen Thi Minh Khai Street, District 3, HCM City  
ĐT: 8334085-8395179, Fax: (848) 8399885, Telex: 813158 ACB-VT  
E-mail: acbbank@hcm.vnn.vn, Website: www.acb.com.vn

# Home



PALACE HOTEL

56-66 Nguyen Hue Blvd, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam  
Tel: (84-8) 8244231 - 8244232 - Fax: (84-8) 8244229 - 8244230  
E-mail: palace@hcm.vnn.vn

PAGE 2

TUESDAY, JUNE 12, 2007

THE SAIGON TIMES DAILY

## Vinaphone allows subscribers to pay via SMS

By THUY TRIEU

(SGT-HCMC) The Saigon Thuong Tin Commercial Bank, or Sacombank, has launched a new service allowing Sacombank clients who hold pre-paid accounts of mobile service provider Vinaphone to pay fees via SMS.

This is the first time a bank

card which enable the registration of the Easytopup service are local credit card SacomPassport, international payment card Sacom Visa Debit, and international credit card Sacombank Visa.

Easytopup's technology solution is provided by Telemoney Vietnam, a technology solutions provider

# Thua Thien-Hue to open new sea tourism route

By DAO LOAN

(SGT-HCMC) The central province of Thua Thien-Hue will join hands with China's Guangxi province to open a sea tourism route linking

a verbal commitment to taking tourists to the province next month," he said.

His department and the Beihai tourism authority have signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on tour-


of Quang Ninh. When the new route is opened, cruise liners will sail on to the Chan May port in Hue after stopping over in Halong Bay. "Tourists will have a wider choice than the current route," he said.

ported that in the past one year the city had received 321 cruise ships with 140,000 tourists on board from Beihei and Hainan.

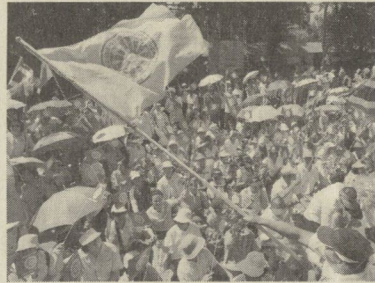
Hung said his Chinese partners were interested in Hue and neighboring provinces

National Administration of Tourism and tour operators will survey dozens of new sea tourism routes linking Vietnam with neighboring countries and territories, including China's Hainan Island,

page 6 : STEP AFRIKA

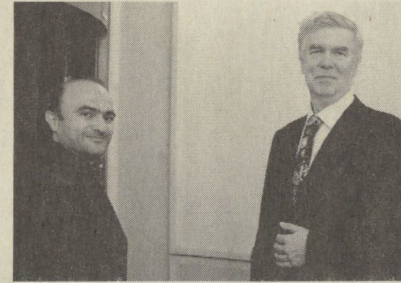
 **The Saigon Times** Daily  
AVAILABLE ON INT'L FLIGHTS

**Thai Buddhists rally again for official status**



Page 4

**EU-Iran nuclear talks fail; IAEA warns of risk**



Page 5

**Tired Federer pulls out of Halle**

Page 8

**Published by Saigon Times Group**

**EDITORIAL OFFICE**

35 Nam Ky Khoi Nghia St., District 1, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

Tel: (84.8) 8295.936

Fax: (84.8) 8212.043

E-mail: [saigon.times@hcm.vnn.vn](mailto:saigon.times@hcm.vnn.vn)

Website: [www.saigontimes.com.vn/daily](http://www.saigontimes.com.vn/daily)

# The Saigon Times Daily

**Weather**

**Hanoi:** Mostly cloudy; showers and thunderstorms; temp. 26-32°C; humidity 84%

**Haiphong:** Mostly cloudy; showers at times; temp. 26-32°C; humidity 83%

**Hue:** Cloudy; sunny; temp. 26-36°C; humidity 67%

**Dalat:** Cloudy; sunny; temp. 16-26°C; humidity 83%

**HCMC:** Cloudy; sunny; showers and thunderstorms; temp. 26-36°C; humidity 78%

**Can Tho:** Cloudy; sunny; temp. 26-35°C; humidity 82%