

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Volume XII, Number 108

2nd Waning of Second Waso 1366 ME

Monday, 2 August, 2004

Myanmar stands ready to work closely with two new members in order to achieve desired goal

Achievement made so far in energy sector has been through cooperation and coordination among BIMST-EC countries
GENERAL KHIN NYUNT ADDRESSES FIRST BIMST-EC SUMMIT

YANGON, 1 Aug— Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt attended the First BIMST-EC Summit at the Thai Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Bangkok, Thailand, at 9.30 am on 31 July.

Present on the occasion were Prime Minister of Bangladesh Begum Khaleda Zia, Prime Minister of Bhutan Lyonpo Jigmi Yoeser Thinlay, Prime Minister of India Dr Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt, Prime Minister of Nepal Mr Sher Bahadur Deuba, President of Sri Lanka Madama Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga, Prime Minister of Thailand Mr Thaksin Shinawatra, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Win, ministers, deputy ministers, ambassadors and high-ranking officials of

BIMST-EC countries and guests.

At 8.30 am, high-ranking officials of BIMST-EC countries arrived at the Thai Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the venue of the summit.

Next, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and other heads of government of BIMST-EC countries arrived at the Thai Ministry of Foreign Affairs where they were welcomed by Thai Prime Minister Mr Thaksin Shinawatra.

Afterwards, the First BIMST-EC Summit commenced at the Vithes Samonsorn Hall on the first floor of the Building of Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Thai Prime Minister Mr Thaksin Shinawatra delivered an opening address. Next, the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, the Prime Minister of

(See page 8)



Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt addresses opening of First BIMST-EC Summit in Thailand.— MNA



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

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 2 August, 2004

Strengthening relationship between Myanmar and Thailand

The State Peace and Development Council is striving in all fields for the Union of Myanmar to keep abreast of the nations of the world. Nowadays, rapid changes in the international order and economy have been taking place in the international sphere and at such a time, it is necessary to closely cooperate in the economy and trade sectors among neighbouring and regional countries.

Myanmar is paying serious attention to promoting friendship and cooperation in economy and trade with neighbouring countries, ASEAN countries and BIMST-EC countries.

Myanmar and Thailand share over 1,300 miles long border and they are also members of ASEAN and BIMST-EC. Moreover, their faith and cultural traditions are the same.

At the invitation of Prime Minister of Thailand Mr Thaksin Shinawatra, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt attended the first BIMST-EC Summit held on 30 and 31 July in Bangkok, Thailand.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, together with heads of government of BIMST-EC member countries, called on King of Thailand His Majesty Bhumibol Adulyadej at Klai Kangwon Palace in Hua Hin on 30 July. The Prime Minister also met his Thai counterpart Mr Thaksin Shinawatra at the latter's office.

During the meeting, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt said that progress of relationship between Myanmar and Thailand is encouraging and the two countries are cooperating in all sectors, especially cooperation in narcotic drugs control and elimination is most satisfactory. Myanmar Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt also expressed thanks for assistance provided by Thailand in the development projects of Myanmar. Thai Prime Minister Mr Thaksin Shinawatra said that Thailand wishes to cooperate with Myanmar in generating electricity, transportation and constructing deep sea port and that both nations will continue to collaborate in ensuring further cementing relations and boosting economy of the two sides.

Promoting friendship and cooperation between Myanmar and Thailand means serving the interests of peoples of the two countries. We believe that as relationship between Myanmar and Thailand is most encouraging and the two countries are cooperating in all sectors, the friendship and relationship between the two countries will surely be fostered.

World Breastfeeding Week (1st to 7th August 2004)

*Exclusive Breastfeeding:
the Gold Standard*

Safe, Sound, Sustainable

Ministry of Health

2004-2005 Academic Year School Enrolment Week (9th to 13th August 2004)

At All Basic Education Schools

Ministry of Education

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

Waso robes offered

YANGON, 1 Aug —

The 11th Waso robes offering ceremony of the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs was held at Sipinthatayay Dhammayon on Arzani Road in Bahan Township here this morning.

Minister for PBANRDA Col Thein Nyunt and wife Daw Kyin Khaing, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Than Tun, Deputy Minister Col Tin Ngwe and wife Daw Khin Mya Chit, officials and staff offered Waso robes and alms to members of the Sangha.

Similarly, the Thanantana Dhammapalaka Association offered Waso robes and "soon" to members of the Sangha at a ceremony held at Mogok Rectory on Kaba Aye Hill here this morning. Religious Affairs Department Director-General Dr Myo Myint, Vice-Chairman of Thanantana Dhammapalaka Association U Kyi Min and wellwishers offered Waso robes to Sayadaws. — MNA



Minister Col Thein Nyunt and wife offer Waso robes to a Sayadaw. PBANRDA



Thanantana Dhammapalaka Association offer "soon" to Sayadaws. — (H)

Breastfeeding Week commences

Prizes for Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative, Home Delivery presented

YANGON, 1 Aug — A ceremony to present prizes to hospitals and townships acknowledged as Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative and Baby Friendly Home Delivery, organized by the Ministry of Health was held at the hall of the Institute of Nursing on Bogyoke Aung San Street this morning, with an address by Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo, President of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, Vice-President Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint, directors-general, deputy directors-general and officials of the departments under the ministry, resident representatives of UN agencies, officials of NGOs, heads of health departments at division/state and township levels who won prizes, health staff and guests.

First, Health Minister Dr Kyaw Myint made a speech on the occasion, saying that the World Breastfeeding Week has been launched since 1992 in all parts of the world and so has been in Myanmar yearly. The movement of Thirteenth Breastfeeding Week 2004 in Myanmar commenced today.

The aims of the World Breastfeeding Week are—to stress the importance of breastfeeding of the baby during the first six months from birth and to find ways and means for mothers to realize this importance and breastfeed their babies until six months old. The Ministry of Health, on its part, is laying down a series of projects and implementing them to enhance health standard of the entire people in accord with the guidance given by the National Health Committee. The movement of breastfeeding week is also a project to promote the health standard and its implementation has started since 1993 January. A total of 339 hospitals have been acknowledged as Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative and 117 townships as Baby Friendly Home Delivery. One motto is selected for holding the World Breastfeeding Week every year and this year's motto is Exclusive Breastfeeding: the Gold Standard, Safe, Sound, Sustainable. Breast milk is a gift of nature and it is the



MMCWA President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe presents Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative prize to Bago Division (East) Hospital. — MNA

most suitable for a child. It contains antibiotics which prevent common diseases of humans. Breastfeeding means the baby is to be fed only the breast milk, and not any other food or liquid. Breastfeeding Week will be launched continuously from 1 to 7 August.

The minister urged health staff to cooperate with health related ministries, NGOs and local people for successful realization of breastfeeding project.

Next, resident representative of UNICEF Ms Carroll C Long made a speech on the occasion. Minister Dr Kyaw Myint, Deputy Minister Dr Mya Oo, President of MMCWA Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, resident representative of UNICEF Ms Carroll C Long and directors-general of the ministry presented prizes to winners of Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative, and Baby Friendly Home Delivery through the responsible personnel.

After the ceremony, Minister Dr Kyaw Myint and President of MMCWA Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe cordially greeted those present.

MNA

Two Turkish drivers taken captive

BAGHDAD, 31 July—Turkish company, Kahramanli, told to quit Iraq within 48 hours

An Iraq resistance group allegedly linked to Abu Musab al-Zarqawi has captured two Turkish drivers and threatened to behead them unless their employer, a Turkish company, stopped working in Iraq.

Aljazeera TV aired a video on Saturday of the two men crouching in front of a group of masked resistance fighters standing in front of a Tawhid and Jihad group banner.

The company, Kahramanli, was given 48 hours by the group to halt its operations in Iraq.

Resistance groups in Iraq are waging a kidnapping campaign to drive out companies and troops supporting the US occupation.

Two Pakistani nationals were killed earlier this week after their employee, a Kuwaiti company, failed to negotiate their release.

However, Angelo De La Cruz, a Filipino, was released after his government pulled out its troops from Iraq.

Currently negotiations are on for the release of seven truck drivers — three Indians, three Kenyans and an Egyptian — Internet



The Mother of Ahmed Abdul Aziz, center background, who died in clashes in Kufa in April 2004, at age 27, is accompanied by Aziz's sister and mother in law to share news of the birth of his baby boy, as they visit his tomb at the cemetery near Kufa, southern Iraq on 30 July, 2004. —INTERNET

Kadafi opposes Saudi troops proposal

TRIPOLI, 1 Aug — Libyan leader Moamer Kaddafi said on Friday he was opposed to a Saudi proposal to send an Arab or Muslim force to strife-torn Iraq. "Arab or Muslim forces should be sent only if the occupation forces pull out and are replaced by forces authorised by the United Nations," said Kaddafi in comments pub-

lished by the Jana official news agency. "Otherwise the (Arab and Muslim) forces would also become occupation forces," he added. US Secretary of State Colin Powell on Thursday said he welcomed the Saudi proposal of dispatching Arab or Muslim troops to Iraq to serve either as part of the US-led multinational

force or separately. Iraqi radical Shiite Muslim cleric Moqtada Sadr and Sunni Muslim religious elders on Friday rejected the Saudi proposal. "I advise all countries that want to help Iraq, not to send forces here," said Sadr in a sermon at Friday prayers in the main mosque in Kufa, south of Baghdad. Internet

US military adviser, Afghan soldiers killed in clashes

HERAT (Afghanistan), 31 July — A US military adviser to Afghanistan's fledgling Army and two Afghan soldiers were killed on Thursday in clashes with renegade factions in the central province of Ghor, a senior Afghan official said.

In the latest sign of tensions between the US-backed central government and factional commanders who oppose its drive to disarm them, fighting erupted in Ghalmin, near the provincial capital of Chaghcharan, Ghor police chief Amar Khuda said.

According to Khuda, the fighting erupted when Afghan National Army forces went to Ghalmin to convince General Zaman Khan and General Ahmad Khan to hand over their weapons.

Both generals had been involved in clashes in June when another commander forced them to flee Chaghcharan. They were then removed from their positions by the central government to appease local opposition, but have yet to lay down their arms.

MNA/Reuters

Dhaka rejects Riyadh plea for troops to Iraq

DHAKA, 31 July — Bangladesh has rejected a recent Saudi Arabian request to send troops to Iraq, a foreign office spokesman in Dhaka said on Saturday.

Saudi Foreign Minister Saud al-Faisal recently had an informal meeting in Riyadh with diplomats from seven Muslim countries including Bangladesh, Egypt, Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia and requested the envoys to consider sending troops to Iraq, the Foreign Office sources said.

The diplomats, including that of Bangladesh, responded negatively to the request and suggested that the issue be raised at forums like the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the Arab League, the Foreign Office sources claimed.

"We have time and again said that we will not send our troops unless under the command of the United Nations," the foreign ministry spokesman in Dhaka said on Saturday. "There is no reason to change the stance yet."

Internet

US MIA operations to resume in Vietnam

WASHINGTON, 31 July — The American effort to account for its soldiers declared missing in action (MIA) in the Vietnam War will resume in Vietnam's Central Highlands this fall, the Pentagon said in a statement on Thursday.

An agreement to restart the search for MIAs, including excavations at sites suspected to contain bodies of the servicemen, was secured on Wednesday after a meeting between visiting Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defence for POW/Missing Personnel Affairs Jerry Jennings and provincial leaders in Pleiku, the capital of Gia Lai Province of Vietnam, the Pentagon said.

Jennings described the resumption of MIA operation in Vietnam as "a very positive step".

Under the agreement, the US and Vietnamese experts will meet in September and US investigators will then contact local government officials to discuss the operations.

Operations to find MIAs were halted three years ago. Of the 1,855 Americans missing from the Vietnam War, about 110 are thought to be in the Central Highlands area.

MNA/Xinhua

India to help countries to set up maritime forces

NEW DELHI, 1 Aug — Chief of India's Coast Guard said Friday several countries, including Malaysia and Sri Lanka, have sought India's help in setting up maritime forces to patrol their coastlines and prevent crimes at sea.

"We are interacting with all our neighbours, from Japan to the Maldives, for framing modalities to counter terrorism, piracy and pollution and for search and rescue operations," the Indo-Asian News Service quoted Vice-Admiral Sureesh Mehta, the Coast Guard director-general as saying.

"People are looking up to us to help them set up their Coast Guard forces. Malaysia took inputs from us two years ago and it will set up its Coast Guard next year. Sri Lanka, which is also setting up its Coast Guard, is looking up to us."

Mehta was speaking to

reporters along with Defence Minister Pranab Mukherjee, shortly after the latter visited the Coast Guard headquarters here for a briefing.

The Coast Guard chief and his senior staff gave Mukherjee a detailed presentation on the force's modernization, fleet expansion plans and areas of concern, said a statement.

Mehta also briefed Mukherjee about a few issues under consideration, including the setting up of a hotline between the Coast Guard and Pakistan's Maritime Security Agency, the introduction of the International Ship and Port Security Code last month and recruitment plans to make up for shortage of manpower.

The Coast Guard, formed in 1978, is responsible for guarding India's coastline of over 7,000 kilometres and its exclusive economic zone.

MNA/Xinhua

At least nine Iraqis killed in Fallujah clashes

BAGHDAD, 31 July — At least nine Iraqis were killed and 16 others injured in fierce clashes between US forces and gunmen overnight in Fallujah, west of Baghdad, a doctor said on Friday.

Ahmed Abdullah, a doctor at Fallujah general hospital, said some of the wounded were in a serious condition after the fighting, which residents said lasted several hours and destroyed houses and factory buildings in the east of the city.

Another hospital doctor said 10 people had died in the fighting, which largely took place in an industrial area.

Calls of "God is great" echoed from mosques as US aircraft and tanks attacked, residents said.

A US military spokesman said on Thursday Iraqi security forces and US Marines had clashed with guerillas and had called in an airstrike on a target in eastern Fallujah.

He said guerillas had attacked a US position with mortars, rocket-propelled grenades, machineguns and

small arms. US forces responded with tank and artillery fire.

After fierce clashes in Fallujah in April that killed hundreds of Iraqis, US forces

withdrew from the city and handed over security to an Iraqi force.

Critics say the city has since become a safe haven for guerillas and kidnappers.

In recent months US forces have attacked buildings in the city they say were being used by militants linked to al-Qaeda ally Abu Musab al-Zarqawi. — MNA/Reuters



An Iraqi youth looks over battle damage in Fallujah, Iraq on 30 July, 2004. — INTERNET

Pakistan decides not to send troops to Iraq

ISLAMABAD, 31 July—Pakistan has decided in principle not to send its troops to Iraq even if formally asked by the United Nations or the Iraqi interim government, reliable political sources told Dawn on Saturday.

The ruling circles of the capital are in a state of shock over the unfortunate death of two Pakistani nationals at the hands of militants in Iraq.

The issue of sending troops to Iraq was discussed between Prime Minister Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain and President General Pervez

Musharraf before the former's departure for Saudi Arabia.

The premier conveyed the sentiments of President Musharraf to the Saudi leadership during his meetings and later informed him (the president) on his return home about the Saudi reaction.

The reason for sending fi-

nally not to send the troops, the sources said, was based on the popular sentiment of the people who feel being troops of a Muslim country, the Pakistani soldiers should not be put into a situation where they were likely to confront the citizens of another Muslim country. The government has also

conveyed its decision in principle and taken most of the mainstream opposition parties, including religio-political ones, into confidence over the issue.

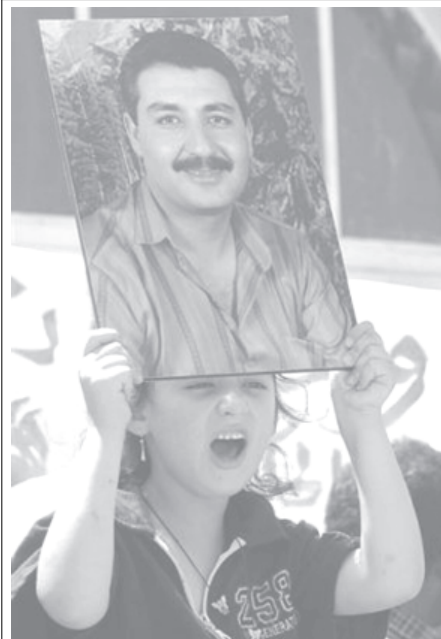
A strategy has been evolved to give the message to the outside world that since no consensus is possible on the question of sending troops the government is not in a position to oblige the US and its allies.

Under the strategy, the opposition has been encouraged to keep up the pressure on the authorities and a number of opposition leaders have started a regular campaign against the idea of sending troops to Iraq.

It is said to be under the same strategy that the government and the opposition passed a joint resolution in the National Assembly calling for a consensus before taking any decision on sending troops to Iraq.

Internet

ဝက်စွမ်းအား ခေတ်တော်လွှား



Assil, 10, the daughter of Mohammad Khleifat who is a hostage in Iraq, carries a portrait of her father as she shouts anti-US slogans during a protest in Irbid, 55 miles north of the Jordanian capital, Amman, on 30 July, 2004.

INTERNET

Deadline ends for hostages; Kuwaiti firm to quit Iraq

NEW DELHI /DUBAI, 1 Aug — As the extended deadline passed off last night without any reports of untoward happening on the fate of three Indian hostages in Iraq, the Iraqi negotiator said the captives' Kuwaiti employer has agreed to withdraw from the country, an indication that the talks are progressing in a positive manner.

With the hostage drama continuing for the 11th day on Saturday, efforts to seek release of Antaryami, Tilak Raj and Sukhdeo intensified with government sending one of its top diplomats to Iraq where the Kuwaiti transport company KGL's nominee held talks with the Iraqi negotiator Sheikh Hisham Al Dulaimi.

Just before the expiry of the 8.30 PM IST deadline set by the Islamic Secret Army - Holders of Black Banners, Dulaimi after holding talks with the KGL's representative Mahdi Saleh said

the firm was ready to compensate victims of US military action in Fallujah and withdraw from Iraq.

"The company has shown its willingness to help 250 victims of genocide in Fallujah," Dulaimi was quoted as saying by AFP from Baghdad.

"We ask for more time from the kidnappers so that we can achieve a positive outcome," he said adding "we are in negotiations and we are trying to overcome some obstacles particularly those relating to kidnappers' demand that are of political nature." —Internet

Turkish driver held hostage in Iraq arrives home

ISTANBUL, 1 Aug — A Turkish truck driver held hostage in Iraq for 12 days has arrived home in southeast Turkey, having been released after pledging never to return to Iraq, CNN Turk television said on Saturday.

Guerillas seized Mehmet Dayar as he drove in a convoy carrying fuel for US forces in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul earlier this month.

Another Turkish driver, Abdulcelil Bayik, was killed by the guerillas at the same time, CNN Turk said.

Television pictures showed relatives visiting Dayar, a father of seven, at his home in Cizre near the Iraqi border.

The body of another Turkish driver killed in Iraq by guerillas was brought back to

Turkey this week. Cemal Ugur was taking supplies to US forces in Iraq when he was killed by militants outside Baghdad, his brother told Reuters. He had been missing for more than two months.

Scores of foreign workers in Iraq, including several Turkish truck drivers and construction workers, have been kidnapped by guerillas since April. Some hostages have been released, but others have been murdered.

MNA/Reuters



Indian protestors display anti-US placard while demanding the release of Indian hostages in Iraq during a demonstration in the central Indian city of Bhopal, on 31 July, 2004. —INTERNET

India says developing nations should get fair deal at WTO talks

BANGKOK, 31 July — Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has said that developing countries should get a "fair deal" at the tough WTO negotiations at Geneva to make globalization "sustainable, more inclusive and equitable"

The group of 20 developing countries which include India, Brazil, China, Egypt and South Africa has been working to "remove distortions in the international trade in agriculture caused by massive subsidies in the developed world and to ensure a fair deal for developing countries in these negotiations through effective special and differential treatment," Singh said in an interview.

The G-20 was established in August 2003 ahead of the Cancun Ministerial of the WTO to counter the EU-US proposal on agriculture which was heavily loaded towards the developed countries to the detriment of the developing countries.

The group has since taken a tough stand on agriculture which has ensured that EU-US did not have its way on the agriculture negotiations so as to protect the livelihood concerns of millions of subsistence farmers

in the developing countries.

The group has been a major force in achieving unity of purpose amongst developing countries and works closely with other developing nations groups, like the Africa Group and the Least Developed Countries.

"For globalization to be sustainable, it should be more inclusive and equitable," he said.

Singh said as one of the fastest growing economies of the world, India was doing everything it could to become an active partner in promoting economic cooperation and integration within the region.

India is part of Asia and it would, therefore, seek active cooperation with Southeast Asian countries and beyond. The United Progressive Alliance Government, which assumed power in the country months ago, would further engage with the world economy and continue with economic reforms. — MNA/PTI

Powell, Ridge express great regret over Chinese citizen

BEIJING, 31 July — In an apparent bid to mollify China, both US Secretary of State Colin Powell as well as Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge have expressed regret and promised a thorough probe over the treatment meted out to a Chinese businesswoman by American security officials.

Powell promised in a letter to his Chinese counterpart Li Zhaoxing that the US Government would thoroughly investigate the beating case of a Chinese citizen Zhao Yan according to US laws, the Chinese media reported Friday.

He said he was deeply disturbed when he learned of the mistreatment of the 37-year-old Chinese citizen underwent at the hands of US Customs and Border Protection officers. Zhao was hit by an officer of the US Customs and Border Protection at Niagara Falls on the US-Canadian border last week.

Powell informed Li that the accused officer, Robert Rhodes has been suspended from his post and detained on charges of felony assault, pledging that the US Government

would continue its thorough investigation.

Separately, Ridge also expressed "great regret" over the incident, Xinhua news agency reported.

In a telephone call to Lan Lijun, Charge d' Affaires of the Chinese Embassy, Ridge described the beating of the Chinese businesswoman as "a horrible incident" which was "totally unacceptable" and expressed "great regret" to the Chinese Government and people.

George Fernandes, India's Defence Minister and Convener of the then ruling National Democratic Alliance, was also twice strip-searched at Dulles Airport in Washington in early 2002 and in the middle of last year. — MNA/PTI

Iraq police say the job is now perilous

BAGHDAD, 1 Aug — Being an Iraqi police officer used to be a safe, cushy job that sometimes required chasing down pickpockets and car thieves, but left plenty of time for tea.

Since the fall of Saddam Hussein, however, guerrillas armed with automatic weapons, mortars and car bombs have made law enforcement one of Iraq's most hazardous occupations.

"It used to be prestigious. ... People respected us, criminals were afraid of us," said 1st Lt. Amjid Mohammed, a 26-year-old detective at al-Bayaa police station, Baghdad's largest. "Today it's the opposite: It's we who are afraid."

Guerrillas see police as collaborators with US-led forces, who are struggling to restore order. They've blown up police stations all over the coun-

try, sometimes disguised as cops. They've gunned down officers in drive-by shootings as they left home for work, and they've battered police stations with mortar barrages and rocket-propelled grenades. From April 2003 to May 2004 alone, 710 Iraqi police were killed out of a total force of 130,000 officers, authorities said. Until then, police say, an officer's death was nearly always of natural causes.

Last month's handover of sovereignty to an interim Iraqi government has brought little change.

A truck bomb Wednesday targeted a police recruiting

center in Baqouba, 35 miles northeast of Baghdad, where hundreds of job applicants were gathered. It killed 70 people.

"We're being targeted all the time," said Mohammed, his face scarred from a car-bombing that destroyed the al-Bayaa station in October, killing 15 Iraqis and one US soldier.

On 19 July, the two-story station was hit again by an explosives-packed fuel tanker. Nine died, including an officer. About 70 of al-Bayaa's 200 officers were wounded.

Police complain they're ill-equipped. The al-Bayaa sta-

tion has just eight flak jackets, and lacks vehicles, arms and ammunition, said 1st Lt. Riyal Ahmed Ali, 24, a stocky jail guard.

Police only patrol in vehicles. Foot patrols are considered too dangerous, Ali said.

Now a 12-foot-high concrete blast wall is going up around the station.

"This will help, but it won't stop them," Khalaf said of the two previous car-bombings. "We are waiting for the third."

Internet

Indians advised to defer visits to Iraq

NEW DELHI, 31 July — The India Government advised Thursday its citizens against travelling to Iraq in consideration of the serious security situation in that nation.

In view of the seriousness of the current security situation in Iraq, the government of India advises its citizens to defer visits to that country for the time being, the *Indo-Asian News Service* cited the External Affairs Ministry as saying.

The advisory came as negotiations for the release of three Indians taken as hostages in Iraq continued for the ninth day, against the backdrop of intensified bombings by resistance groups.

On Wednesday, at least 68 people were killed and over 50 others wounded in a suicide car bomb attack in the southern town of Baquba in Iraq. More than 5,000 Indians are estimated to be working in Iraq. — *MNA/Xinhua*



Iraqis grieve at a funeral a victim killed by Wednesday's car bomb in Baqouba, Iraq on 30 July, 2004. — INTERNET

"Tourist Police" for overseas visitors to New Delhi

NEW DELHI, 31 July — New Delhi will soon have "Tourist Police" to protect overseas visitors from harassment and cheating, the *Indo-Asian News Service* (IANS) reported Thursday.

Dozens of security personnel are being deployed at the city's nine most popular tourist spots and the Indira Gandhi International Airport in New Delhi, IANS quoted a senior police official as saying.

"Each team will have a policeman who is fluent in

English and with a pleasant personality, who will interact with the tourists," the officer said.

The police teams will have brochures on tourist places, auto-rickshaw and taxi fare charts and a detailed map of Delhi, information on important com-

mercial places and emergency numbers.

The idea is to help foreign tourists who know very little about Delhi. The Tourist Police units will go a long way in providing safety to tourists, the officer added.

In addition to a communication set-up of their own, to be set up soon, Tourist Police will have communications gadgets linked to the local area wireless network.

In case a foreigner faces any trouble in the capital, the police control room will alert the tourist police unit about the incident and it will take charge of the situation, the officer said.

The new measure has come out four months after the murder of Australian tourist Dawn Emilie Griggs near the Indira Gandhi International Airport by a taxi driver that she had hired at the airport.

MNA/Xinhua

Iraq urges truck companies to use Iraqi drivers

BAGHDAD, 1 Aug — Iraq is urging foreign transport companies to employ Iraqis instead of foreign truck drivers in an effort to stem a growing wave of kidnappings, a senior government source said on Saturday.

Dozens of foreign drivers have been taken hostage in Iraq over the past few months, and the kidnappers have usually threatened to kill them unless their employers cease operations in the country or meet other demands.

The transport companies, many of them from Jordan, Kuwait, Turkey and Saudi Arabia, employ poor migrants as drivers, drawing workers from India, Pakistan, Turkey or further afield.

Internet



A helicopter drops water over a forest fire by Gerena. Five forest fires broke in Spain's northwestern region of Galicia, as firefighters reported a larger blaze in the deep south having been brought under control. — INTERNET

"Deeply disturbed" India issues fresh appeal to Iraqi captors

NEW DELHI, 31 July — India has said it was "deeply disturbed" by the threat held out by the captors of Indian hostages in Iraq to kill one of them on Friday and issued a fresh appeal for their release as they were not working for "occupation forces" in the West Asian country.

"We have seen reports about one of the Indian hostages in Iraq being threatened by a person wielding an automatic weapon. We are deeply disturbed by this development," Junior Minister for External Affairs E Ahamed told reporters on Thursday after a nearly four-hour meeting of Crisis Management Group (CMG) set up by the government to deal with the hostage crisis.

Ahamed said the Indian Government continued to make all efforts to secure early and safe release of the three Indian nationals held hostage in Iraq and the Indian Embassy in Baghdad renewed its appeal Friday evening for the release of the hostages.

The embassy in a statement made it clear that the three abducted Indians were "poor people who went to Kuwait seeking employment and were not working for the occupation forces in Iraq."

Ahamed said the Indian Government "shared the concern and anxiety of family members" of the three hostages and said the CMG was

monitoring the developments round-the-clock.

"We have called for the early release of the hostages so that they could rejoin their families in India. We have also clarified that they would not return to Iraq."

The appeal is being widely circulated and has been communicated to Sheikh Hizham Al Dulaimi, the negotiator with the abductors, who has conveyed that he is assisting in the resolution of the issue out of humanitarian considerations.

"Government of India is

making all possible efforts to bring this unfortunate incident to an early conclusion. This being a sensitive issue, we have avoided public comment on these efforts," Ahamed said.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and External Affairs Minister K Natwar Singh who are in Bangkok for the BIMST-EC (Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Thailand Sri Lanka - Economic Cooperation) summit are being informed about developments on a regular basis, he added.

MNA/PTI

Vietnam wants stronger ties with China's Guangxi

HANOI, 31 July — In the context of good and drastic development of the Vietnam-China relations, Vietnam would like to broaden and deepen its economic and trade ties with China's Guangxi, a senior government official said here on Friday.

"We want to seek measures to boost the ties so that Guangxi will become a bridge, an entrance of the co-operation between China and ASEAN members the Association of Southeast Asian

Nations) including Vietnam," Vietnamese deputy Prime Minister Ve Khoan said while receiving a delegation led by Li Jinazao, vice governor of the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. *MNA/Xinhua*



Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein views direct paddy seeding competition with the use of machine. — MNA



Serious attention paid to agricultural development

Secretary-2 attends completion of paddy cultivation for 2004-2005 in Yangon Division, direct seeding competition

YANGON, 1 August— A ceremony to mark completion of paddy cultivation for 2004-2005 in Yangon Division, division-level direct seeding competition and ceremony to present outstanding awards for agricultural produce in 2003-2004 were held on 25 acres of paddy fields—11 acres of farmer U Ye Myint Aung, 7 acres of farmer U Aung Soe and 7 acres of farmer U Myat Thein— on Yangon circular road at West Malit Village in Hlegu Township, Yangon North District this morning, attended by Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

Also present on the occasion were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Brig-Gen Khin Maung, Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa, officials of the SPDC office, departmental heads, farmers from Dagon Myothit Townships representing Yangon East District, Kyimyindine Township representing Yangon West District, Kyauktan, Thongwa, Kayan, Thanlyin, Twantay, Kungyangon and Kawhmu Townships representing Yangon South District, Shwepyitha, Hlinethaya, Mingaladon, Htantabin, Hmawby, Hlegu and Taikkyi Townships representing Yangon North District, entrepreneurs and guests.

First, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein delivered an address. He said: In Yangon Division, altogether 1.145 million acres have been put under monsoon paddy against the target of 1.2 million acres and thus 95.43 percent of paddy cultivation has been completed. All the cultivable land in Yangon Division have been put under paddy and only wetland areas were left to be put under paddy. It is heartening to see that in this monsoon cultivation season, the wetland will be put under paddy to meet the target. Although paddy cultivation has been completed, farmers are to make continuous efforts till the harvest time.

The economy of the State depends on development of the agriculture sector. Therefore, development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well is one of the four economic objectives out of 12 objectives of the State. Thus, all are to pay serious attention to development of the agriculture sector.

It is pivotal to build an industrialized nation for national development. Therefore,

In Yangon Division, altogether 1.145 million acres have been put under monsoon paddy against the target of 1.2 million acres and thus 95.43 percent of paddy cultivation has been completed.

the government has established industrial zones throughout the nation for industrial development and provided necessary assistance to them. Moreover, to gain technical know-how and for human resource development, universities and colleges have been opened to produce intellectual and intelligentsia.

Under the current circumstances of the State, efforts are being gradually made to transform the conventional farming into mechanized one and use of farm machinery may be witnessed throughout the country. Using the farm machinery from the time of broadcasting seeds to the time of harvest will save time, labour and cost and thus it is necessary to use more farm machinery. A look at the agricultural production of the State shows that in 1962-63 about 1.2 million acres were put under monsoon paddy and its yield was about 400 million baskets. In 1982-83, altogether 12.9 million acres of land were put under paddy and its yield was 680 million baskets. In 2001-2002, altogether 13 million acres were put under monsoon paddy and 2 million acres under summer paddy and its yield was 1050 million baskets. In 2003-2004, altogether 13.43 million acres were put under monsoon paddy and 3.1 million acres under summer paddy and the yield was 1156 million baskets. As the State has set the target of yielding 100 baskets per acre and to produce 1200 million baskets nationwide, all are to make concerted efforts to meet the target. Four methods must be applied to boost per acre yield. They are to apply correct agricultural methods, to grow quality strains, to use organic and inorganic fertilizers, and to extend sown acreage.

In the hilly regions of Shan State, quality strains that can yield 180 baskets per acre have been used and thus in the plain region also, it is necessary to use quality strains that are suitable to the regions. For the development of the agriculture sector, dams and reservoirs and river water pumping stations have been built and underground water tapping projects implemented. With the effective use of water supplied from these facilities, efforts are to be made to boost agricultural produce. For equitable development of the regions in the Union, border areas and national races development projects,

projects for 24 development regions and rural area development projects are being implemented. As the rural areas are places where majority of the population reside and its main business is farming, emphasis is to be placed on economic development of rural areas, raising the living standard of rural people and development of the agriculture. At the same time, all are to strive for development of the livestock breeding tasks.

Next, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe made a speech. He said that the government is striving for national development based on the agriculture sector. Head of State Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance on setting goals for 10 major crops for agricultural development. Using the correct methods is very important in farming, he said. The State has laid plan to put 1,200,080 acres of land under monsoon paddy

In Yangon Division, 1145264 acres have been put under monsoon paddy against the target of 1200080 and thus 95 percent of land have been put under monsoon paddy. Moreover, 878256 acres of land have been put under timely (Yaytaw Moetaw) monsoon paddy cultivation against the target of 877436 acres and thus it has exceeded the target. The remaining 54816 acres will be put under paddy later.

in Yangon Division and set the target to yield 70 baskets per acres to produce 84 million baskets this year, he elaborated. Local authorities in cooperation with experts are to make efforts to realize the goal. Moreover, local authorities are to pay attention to using inorganic and organic fertilizers, he added. Moreover, farmers are to make efforts for ensuring greening of 30-mile radius of Yangon International Airport, he stressed.

Afterwards, the chairmen of Yangon South, North, East and West Districts presented reports on completion of paddy cultivation in 2004-2005 to Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe. Later, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and party viewed round the pilot plot of growing quality strains, breeding of azola, modern transplanting methods, direct seeding plot, thriving field that was put under paddy by using direct seeding by machines, paddy transplanting, broadcasting fertilizers and producing EM bokashi fertilizer.

Next, the Secretary-2, the commander, the deputy minister, the vice-mayor and party released the fingerlings into the paddy fields followed by the ceremony to present outstanding awards for agricultural produce in 2003-2004. Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein presented outstanding award for excellent performance in the agriculture sector on the World Food Day 2003-2004 to the chairman of Hlegu Township Peace and Development Council. Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe presented third prize in central level monsoon paddy production on World Food Day 2003-2004 to Kyauktan Township through the Chairman of the township PDC. Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Khin Maung presented third prize for summer paddy cultivation to Htantabin Township and Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa outstanding award for cultivation of beans and pulses to Thongwa Township. Officials presented outstanding farmers awards to U Hla Win of Kyauktan Township for excellent performance in monsoon paddy cultivation, U Aye Han of Kayan Township for excellent performance in cultivation of green gram, U Khin Nyein of Kyauktan Township for excellent performance in cultivation of sunflower. Thongwa Township won third prize in crop cultivation, Kayan Township the second and Taikkyi Township the first. The third prize full for repayment of bank loans for monsoon paddy went to Twantay Township, the second to Thongwa Township and the first to Hlegu Township. Hlegu Township also won a prize for repayment of bank loans for summer paddy. Next, prize presentation for direct seeding competitions was held. In the competitions, Taikkyi Township won consolation prize and Hmawby Township, the third. Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe presented the second prize in the competitions to Kyauktan Township and Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, the first prize to Hlegu Township. The chairman of District PDCs presented certificate of honour to those who rendered assistance to the ceremony. In this competition held today, a farmer can put 3 acres of land under paddy per day by using direct seeding machine. After the ceremony the Secretary-2 and party viewed exhibition booths.

In Yangon Division, 1,145,264 acres have been put under monsoon paddy against the target of 1,200,080 and thus 95 percent of land have been put under monsoon paddy. Moreover, 878,256 acres of land have been put under timely (Yaytaw Moetaw) monsoon paddy cultivation against the target of 877,436 acres and thus it has exceeded the target. The remaining 54,816 acres will be put under paddy later. — MNA

A milestone in Myanmar's dental medical field

Before 1960, there were only a few qualified dentists in Myanmar and the majority were traditional dentists. In 1964 the College of Dental Medicine was opened in Yangon and 50 to 60 dental doctors annually were turned out from the College with BDS degrees. In 1974, the college was upgraded into the Institute of Dental Medicine. In the year 1998, the Mandalay Institute of Dental Medicine was also opened.

To bring out the number of dentists which is more proportionate to the country's population, 150 students each year were allowed to join the Institutes in the year 2000 and 200 students each year beginning the year 2003. In addition to the degree courses, post-graduate classes were also extended at the Institutes of Dental Medicine. Today, the masters degree courses (MDS) and Doctorate courses (DrDSc) are being conducted at the institutes under the guidance of the Ministry of Health and supervision of the Medical Science Department. The Myanmar Dental Association was formed in 1979. Under the aegis of the Ministry of Health, concerted efforts were made for the development of dental science inside and outside the country. Joining hands with the Federation Dentaire Internationale, the Asia Pacific Dental Federation, the Japanese Cleft Palate Foundation (JCPF) and the Asia Oral Health Promotion Society (AOPH), joint scientific meetings were held and cleft lip & palate surgeries carried out occasionally. In the year 2004, the International College of Continuing Dental Education (ICCDE) offered the Myanmar Dental Association to hold a joint scientific meeting. The

Dr Ba Myint
(Institute of Dental Medicine,
Yangon)

It is a heartening success story in which the dental science field of Myanmar can take pride. In fact, Myanmar dentists led by Prof Dr U Ko Ko Maung had successfully carried out such operations on two patients. Nowadays, equal progress has been made not only in oral and maxillo surgery but also in other dental medical sectors.

meeting will cover cleft lip & palate surgery operations, exchange of developing dental science and knowledge and conducting field tours.

A Myanmar dental specialist group headed by Specialist Prof Dr U Ko Ko Maung of Thingangyun Sanpya Hospital of the Health Department under the Ministry of Health and comprising Anaesthetist Dr Daw Kyi Kyi San of the same hospital, together with a group from ICCDE led by Specialist Dr Myra Elliott of Mount Elizabeth Hospital of Singapore, carried out cleft lip & palate operations on 25 patients from 12 to 16 July 2004. The combined team also carried out Hemimandibulectomy. In so doing, operation was conducted successfully on Maung Zeya Aung, 18, a sophomore specializing in Geology of Dagon University who was suffering from Right Side TMJ Ankylosis.

Maung Zeya Aung, when he was about four months old, was dropped from the bosom and he was hit in the jaw. The hurt

which was not severe was neglected. However, when he was about six months old, the adults came to notice that he could not open his mouth properly. When he was about nine months old, one side of his face became not similar to another side and he had to undergo operation at the age of three years for the first time. About one year later, he could not open his mouth. At the age of six, he had to undergo operation for the second time. Yet he could not open his mouth. For various reasons he did not undergo medical treatment and he had been living difficultly for 12 years. He could not open his mouth and had much difficulty in eating food. And he could not speak clearly. However, he is zealous and has become a university student. To relieve his difficulties, he came to Jaw & Oral Surgery Unit of Thingangyun Sanpya Hospital on 8 July 2004 to undergo medical treatment. He had to have his jaw X-rayed and arrangements were made to carry out operation. Dr



Professor Dr U Ko Ko Maung, Head of Jaw & Oral Surgery Unit of Thingangyun Sanpya Hospital

Maung Zeya Aung, 18, a sophomore specializing in geology at Dagon University, can now open his mouth after the successful operation. He had not been able to open his mouth for 12 years.



Maung Zeya Aung before and after the operation.

Myra Elliott of Singapore was interested in the case of Maung Zeya Aung and requested to join the surgeons in operating the patient's jaw. Then, fibre optic endoscope was borrowed from the hospital and Anaesthetist Dr Daw Kyi Kyi San and the Singaporean doctors co-operated in making intubation for the patient. As the Oral and Maxillo Surgical Unit is well facilitated, the operation was performed smoothly. It took four hours and after the operation, the patient could open his mouth. It is a heartening success story in which the dental science field of Myanmar can take pride. In fact, Myanmar dentists led by Prof Dr U Ko Ko Maung had successfully carried out such operations on two patients. Nowadays, equal progress has been made not only in oral and maxillo surgery but also in other dental medical sectors. In the past, teeth were taken out due to decay and pus formation in their roots. Now, root canal therapy of international standard is being applied in Myanmar instead of taking out teeth.

When it is necessary to take out a tooth unavoidably, the mini-

dental implant system is applied in Myanmar without harming any sound natural tooth in place of the bridge system which requires filing of sound natural teeth. Arrangements are being made to extensively apply the minidental implement system in dental health care services. Preventive measures are being taken at the institutes of dental medicines, Myanmar Dental Association (Central) and its branches to avert outbreak of dental and oral complications since prevention is better than cure. In the field of Myanmar Dental Science, progress has been made not only in preventive, curative, rehabilitative and esthetic measures but also in research on dental and oral complications. In this connection, local dentists and experts conducted research on dental and oral health in Myanmar and presented their papers abroad yearly. Myanmar dentists and experts together with foreign dentists who came to the Institute of Dental Medicine (Yangon) conducted research with the help of Myanmar dentists. In the process, a doctorate trainee from the Medical

and Dental University of Japan had conducted researches at the Institute of Dental Medicine (Yangon) of Medical Science Department, the Department of Oral and Maxillo Medical Science and the Medical Research Department (Lower Myanmar) for her doctorate degree. She presented the findings to the relevant university as part of her thesis based on her own research which secures her a doctorate degree. Therefore, it is obvious that progress has been made in the research work of Myanmar Dental Medical Science. With the aid of Myanmar dentists and experts, she had been able to present her paper at the Oral Pathological Conference held in Brazil in 2002 and her findings were also printed in the International Journal of Oral Medicine and Pathology in 2003. This being the case, the dental medicine, during the past ten years, has been making progress in all spheres with the assistance of the Government and under the supervision of the Ministry of Health.

(Myanma Alin: 1-8-2004)
(Translation: T.Htut+TTA+TS)

In the field of Myanmar Dental Science, progress has been made not only in preventive, curative, rehabilitative and esthetic measures but also in research on dental and oral complications. Local dentists and experts conducted research on dental and oral health in Myanmar and presented their papers abroad yearly.



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt together with heads of Government of BIMST-EC member countries pose for documentary photos after the opening ceremony of First BIMST-EC Summit.— MNA

Myanmar stands ready to work...

(from page 1)

Bhutan and the Prime Minister of India gave speeches.

Afterwards, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt delivered an address. He said: First of all, on behalf of my delegation and on my own, I would like to congratulate you on your assumption of the Chairmanship of the BIMST-EC Summit Meeting. I am convinced that under your experienced and able leadership, the meeting will be successful. Allow me also to extend our sincere appreciation and gratitude to you, Mr Prime Minister, and through you to the Government and the people of Thailand for the warm hospitality and the excellent arrangements made for the Summit. It is, indeed, an honour and a pleasure for me to take part in today's historic meeting to exchange views on how to further strengthen our cooperation. I would like to take this opportunity to extend our heartfelt congratulations and a very warm welcome to our two new members, Kingdom of Nepal and Kingdom of Bhutan. We are of the view that their membership in the organization will not only promote greater economic cooperation among BIMST-EC Member States but also enhance greater contacts and better understanding among the peoples of this region. In this regard, Myanmar stands ready to work closely with our two new members in order to achieve our desired goal. The Bangkok Declaration which gave birth to our organization stated that to create an enabling environment for rapid economic development and implement specific co-operation projects which are supportive as well as complementary to national development plans of the Member States. Accordingly, six areas of cooperation have been identified and through these areas of cooperation, we have further strengthened and developed our economic ties.

Tourism, one of the sectors of cooperation identified under BIMST-EC, holds great prospect for the region. The development of tourist industry can contribute to poverty alleviation by creating new economic opportunities and rising income in rural areas. In this regard, Myanmar welcomes the launching of "Visit BIMST-EC Year 2004".

Myanmar is a cultural destination popularly known as "the Land of Pagodas". Apart from being known as "the Land of Pagodas", Myanmar also offers a variety of tourist attractions such as its rich culture, nature endowed with tropical forests, unspoiled beaches and snow capped mountain ranges, world famous gems such as rubies and jade and handicrafts. While promoting and developing our tourist industry, we also continue to preserve our cultural heritage. Promoting transportation linkages among the Member States will help to expend trade, tourism and people to people contact. In addition, transport linkages within the grouping can strengthen regional economic growth and integration and of cementing the bonds based on cultural and historical affinities.

Myanmar together with Thailand and India are discussing on a cooperative endeavour to construct a highway from Moreh in India to Mae Sot in Thailand through Bagan in Myanmar known as the "India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway Project".

In the transportation linkages sector, in addition to linkages by highways, we also need to find ways to facilitate our maritime transportation network. In this regard, Myanmar presented the "Development of the Dawei Deep Sea Port Project" to the Sixth BIMST-EC Ministerial Meeting held in Phuket. The Dawei-Nyaw Byin International Deep Sea Port will not only be to the economic benefit of Myanmar and Thailand but

Myanmar together with Thailand and India are discussing on a cooperative endeavour to construct a highway from Moreh in India to Mae Sot in Thailand through Bagan in Myanmar known as the "India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway Project".

will also greatly facilitate trade and commerce of freight forwarders and exporters within the region. The Free Trade Area for the BIMST-EC region is appropriate and timely because BIMST-EC is an important link between South-East Asia and South Asia. We are convinced that the Free Trade Area will act as a stimulus to the further strengthening of economic cooperation among Member Countries. The Free Trade Area for BIMST-EC will also help to lower costs, increase intra-regional trade and investment, and increase intra-regional efficiency.

I would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to the Member States of BIMST-EC for allowing us to continue our role as the lead country in the energy sector. During six years as the lead country, we have kept our commitments, organized, and convened Committee of Experts/Officials Meetings regularly. We have also established committees, task forces and finalized the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the energy sector committee. Here, I would like to acknowledge that the achievement made so far in the energy sector has been through cooperation and coordination among the BIMST-EC countries. We are encouraged that during the short span of over seven years of existence, BIMST-EC has seen considerable progress in the identified areas of cooperation. Some of the achievements we have thus made so far include signing of the Framework Agreement on Free Trade Area under Trade and Investment Sector and launching of the "Visit BIMST-EC Year 2004" under Tourism Sector. We should also be aware of the fact that although there is progress in some sectors of cooperation, there are other areas where we still need to make greater efforts. It is our firm belief that to become a genuinely effective forum to bring progress and prosperity to our people, BIMST-EC must be more action-oriented as well as result-oriented. In this endeavour, Myanmar pledges to cooperate and work together with all its members to achieve the desired goal.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister of Nepal and the President of Sri Lanka gave addresses, and the opening ceremony concluded. After the opening ceremony, heads of government of BIMST-EC Member States had documentary photos taken.— MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt greets wife of Myanmar Ambassador, wife of Military Attaché, embassy staff and families before his departure.— MNA

BIMST-EC is an important link between South-East Asia and South Asia. The Free Trade Area for the BIMST-EC region will act as a stimulus to further strengthening of economic cooperation among Member Countries. It will also help to lower costs, increase intra-regional trade and investment, and increase intra-regional efficiency.



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and Heads of Government of BIMSTEC member countries seen at the luncheon. — MNA

PM General Khin Nyunt attends Retreat ...

(from page 16)

— Recognize that future cooperation under BIMSTEC requires the development of key infrastructure, in particular transportation & communication linkages, to facilitate tourism, trade and investment and accordingly agree to strengthen and accelerate cooperation for developing concrete regional project proposals such as the ongoing negotiations on road linkages between the member countries.

— Agree to promote sustainable and optimal energy utilization through development of new hydrocarbon and hydropower projects, interconnection of electricity and natural gas grids, energy conservation, and renewable energy technologies.

— Agree to coordinate our diverse strengths in the tourism sector to derive maximum benefit from our natural, cultural and historical attractions, and recog-

nize the need to enhance inter-regional tourism through such strategies as joint marketing of intra-BIMSTEC tourism packages, exchange of visits and information as well as sub-regional tourism cooperation.

— Agree to facilitate travel within the region for business travel, exchange programmes and tourism, including through the introduction of a BIMSTEC Business Travel Card/Visa.

— Encourage the private sector to explore ways to tap the economic partnership potential of the member economies and make full use of BIMSTEC opportunities.

— Decide to proactively promote increased interaction among our people through programmes, such as exchanges media persons, students and faculty, sports persons, as well as exchanges in the fields of performing arts and entertainment, such as motion

pictures, television programmes and music.

— Agree to task their Foreign Ministers with the responsibility of coordinating overall BIMSTEC cooperation.

Afterwards, they decided to hold the next BIMSTEC Summit in India on 2006. After the retreat, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and heads of government of BIMSTEC Member States had luncheon at the hall on the second floor of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Building.

After the luncheon, Thai Prime Minister Mr Thaksin Shinawatra cordially saw off heads of government of BIMSTEC member states on their departure for respective hotels. Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party arrived at the Peninsula Hotel at 2.15 pm.

Before their departure from the hotel, the wife of the Myanmar Ambassador and the wife of the Military Attaché, staff of the

Member countries also agree to coordinate their diverse strengths in the tourism sector to derive maximum benefit from our natural, cultural and historical attractions, and recognize the need to enhance inter-regional tourism through such strategies as joint marketing of intra-BIMSTEC tourism packages, exchange of visits and information as well as sub-regional tourism cooperation.

Myanmar embassy and families bade farewell to Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party. Next, the Prime Minister and party went to Bangkok International Airport. At the special lounge, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt cordially greeted

Thai Deputy Prime Minister General Thammarak Issarangura, the Thai Ambassador to Myanmar and officials.

Afterwards, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and the Thai Deputy Prime Minister exchanged souvenirs.

Next, General Khin Nyunt greeted Myanmar Ambassador U Myo Myint, Military Attaché Col Ko Ko Maung and officials. Later, the General and party left Bangkok International Airport and arrived back here in the evening.

MNA



Thai Deputy Prime Minister General Thammarak Issarangura bids farewell to Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt at the airport. — MNA

Member countries agree to promote sustainable and optimal energy utilization through development of new hydrocarbon and hydropower projects, interconnection of electricity and natural gas grids, energy conservation, and renewable energy technologies.



Minister U Win Aung and FMs of BIMST-EC member countries pose for a group photo. — MNA

FMs of BIMST-EC countries attend working luncheon & coordination meeting

YANGON, 1 August— Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung attended the luncheon and coordination meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of BIMST-EC member states at the Vithes Samonsorn room of the building of Thai Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Bangkok, Thailand at 1.30 pm on 30 July.

Present on the occasion were the Foreign Affairs Ministers of BIMST-EC member states and senior officials.

First, they were served with luncheon at the Vithes Samonsorn 3 room in Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand. Afterwards, they together posed for documentary photos. Next, the coordination meeting continued. — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attends Waso robes offering ceremony at Tipitaka Maha Gandayon Monastery in Kaba Aye

YANGON, 1 Aug — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attended the Waso robes offering ceremony at Kaba Aye Tipitaka Maha Gandayon Monastery in Mayangon Township at 3 pm today. Also present on the occasion were State Ovadaçariya Upa Okkatha of Shwekyin Nikaya Maha Nayaka Joint Sasanabaing Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Shwehintha Thirimanta Sankyaung Sayadaw Bhaddanta Rajindabhivamsa and members of the Sangha, Presiding Nayaka of the monastery Tipitakadhara Dhamma-bhandagarika Agga Maha Pandita Abhidhamma Pali Paragu Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sumangalalankara (PhD) and Sayadaws, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers, the mayor, deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads and wellwishers.

Sayadaw Bhaddanta Rajindabhivamsa administered the Five Precepts. Members of the Sangha recited Parittas.

Next, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, the commander, the ministers, the mayor and the deputy ministers donated Waso robes and alms to the Sayadaws.

Administration Sayadaw of the Maha Gandayon Monastery Maha Ganthavaçaka Pandita Bhaddanta Kavidhaja supplicated on arrangements for presenting prizes to winner monks of the monastery in Dhammaçariya and Pahtamabyan examination in 1365 and for honouring the lecturer Sayadaw and the deputy lecturer Sayadaw of the Kaba Aye Tipitaka Maha Gandayon Monastery.

Yangon Division Religious Affairs Department Staff Officer U San Thinn Hlaing read out the list of wellwishers to the fund— K 1 million donated by Thiri Thudhamma Manijotadhara Dr Tha Yin Myat-Thiha Thudhamma Theingi Daw Nwe Nwe Aye, daughter Ma Chaw Su Myat; K 500,000 each by U Ohn Zaw-Daw Aye Aye Mon, Agga Maha Thiri Thudhamma Theingi lawyer



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt offers Waso robes to a Sayadaw at the ceremony. — MNA

Daw Khin Kyi; a family from Po Sein Road in Bahan Township; and Thiri Thudhamma Manijotadhara U Sein Hla Win; K 300,000 by Twantay Ashin Indaka, mother Daw Hla Sein and family; K 200,000 each by U Tun Tun Oo-Daw Mar Mar and family; and Dr Naing Htut Aung-Dr Wai Wai Yin and family; K 100,000 by Daw Khin Myint; U Lin Myint-Daw Khin Khin Win; and Ko Win

Myint and brothers and sisters; K 50,000 by Ma Aye Nanda, Maung Kutho Aung of US; K 20,000 by Dr Daw Htay Kyi and family; K 10,000 each by U Banyar Than Hein-Daw Win Mu Tin; and Daw Hla Htwe.

Later, Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sumangalalankara delivered a sermon and the Prime Minister and the congregation shared merits gained. — MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects progress in upgrading Yangon Kandawgyi Gardens. — MNA

Prime Minister inspects upgrading of Yangon Kandawgyi Gardens

YANGON, 1 Aug — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt this morning inspected upgrading of Yangon Kandawgyi Gardens.

On arrival at the Agricultural Museum in Education Zone in Kandawgyi Gardens, the Prime Minister was welcomed by ministers,

deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of department and officials of respective zones.

Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein, Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and officials presented reports on upgrading tasks of respective zones in the gardens and requirements, and the Prime Minister fulfilled the needs. Next, the Prime Minister inspected Elephant Plaza where the mayor and officials reported on construction of the plaza. After inspecting the nursery shops and booths of flowery plants in Education Zone, the Prime Minister instructed officials to raise oil palms and Gangaw trees, and to clear the decaying lotus and weeds in the lake.

The Prime Minister and party looked into construction of Fresh Water Fish Garden and heard

reports by Minister Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein and officials on scale model of Fresh Water Fish Garden and construction for display of crocodiles and pet fish. Afterwards, the Prime Minister and party visited Central Forest Zone and inspected construction of a restaurant and Water Plaza.

At Recreation Zone, the zone construction in charge Dr Khin Shwe and officials reported to the Prime Minister on

arrangements for laying concrete blocks in the zone and construction of a jetty in Kandawgyi Gardens and a recreation centre. The Prime Minister and party inspected construction of the bridge linking between Baganlon Island and Thihadipa Island in Relaxation Zone. Later, the Prime Minister gave necessary instructions to the officials of respective zones and left there.

MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe presents the third prize for monsoon paddy cultivation to the Kyauktan Township PDC chairman. (News on page 6)—MNA

Construction of Elephant Plaza, Fresh Water Fish Garden, for display of crocodiles and pet fish, Central Forest Zone, a restaurant and Water Plaza and Recreation Zone were inspected.



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt formally opens the steel door at the Mahazeya Atula Marazein Buddha Image. — MNA

PM General Khin Nyunt attends opening of Natlan passage and steel door at Mahazeya Atula Marazein Buddha Image

YANGON, 1 Aug — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attended the opening of Natlan passage to Mahazeya Atula Marazein Bronze Buddha Image and steel door in conjunction with the gold foil offering ceremony at the archway of the Image in Bahan Township this morning.

Also present on the occasion were ministers, the Yangon mayor, deputy ministers, the deputy commander, senior military officers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads and authorities, members of the pagoda board of trustees and wellwishers.

Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Chairman of All-round Renovation Committee for the Buddha Image No 3 Military Region Commander Col Tint Hsan and wellwisher U Tun Aye formally opened the Natlan Passage to the Image.

Afterwards, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt pressed the button to open the steel door at the image. Then, the Prime Minister sprinkled scented water on it.

The Prime Minister offered gold foils to the Image. Next, the Prime Minister and party offered flowers, water, lights and joss sticks to the Image in Gandakuti Taik.

At the merit sharing ceremony, State Ovadaçariya

Shwekyin Nikaya Upa Okkatha Maha Nayaka Joint Shwekyin Sasanabaing Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Shwehintha Thirimanta Sankyaung Sayadaw Bhaddanta Rajindabhivamsa, Vice-Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bahan Aungmyebonsan Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Paññindabhivamsa and members of the Sangha.

Sayadaw Bhaddanta Rajindabhivamsa administered the Five Precepts. Members of the Sangha recited Parittas. Next, the Prime Minister offered Waso robes and alms to the Shwekyin Nikaya Joint Sasanabaing Sayadaw and the Vice-Chairman Sayadaw.

Similarly, the ministers, the deputy ministers and departmental heads donated provisions to the Sayadaws.

Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung accepted K 4,640,550 donated by ACE Construction Co Ltd Managing Director U Tint Hsan-Dr Htay Htay Nyein; K 4.1 million by U Tun Aye-Daw Ni Ni Win of No 7, Yuzana Street, Mingala Taungnyunt Township; K 1 million by U Myo Win of Steel Brothers Co; K 1 million by U Ye Chan-Daw Yu Tin Moe and family; K 700,000 by U Bo Gyi-Daw Than Than; K

600,000 by Teingyar U Than Hla; K 500,000 by Daw Lun Htay; K 200,000 by Daw Tint Tint; K 130,000 by U Kyaw Myint-Daw San San; K 100,000 by U Than Gyoung-Daw Tin Sein; K 200,000 by U Hlaing Yi-Daw Mya Ngwe; and K 3,194,850 by wellwishers.

Next, Sayadaw Bhaddanta Paññindabhivamsa delivered a sermon, and the Prime Minister and the congregation shared merits gained.

The Prime Minister performed the ritual of golden and silvery showers to mark the successful completion of the ceremony. Wellwishers are invited to donate gold foils to the Buddha Image.

At Shwedagon Pagoda, the Prime Minister went round the pagoda and cordially conversed with pilgrims. The Prime Minister offered flowers, water, lights and joss sticks to Razamuni Buddha Image near northern stairway and paid homage to the image. The Prime Minister planted a moonseed vine sapling at north-east corner of Shwedagon Pagoda. Also present were the ministers, the mayor, the deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads and authorities and pilgrims. Next, the Prime Minister paid homage to Shwedagon Pagoda. He then inspected Bandaya mango tree at north-east corner and performed the ritual of golden and silvery showers to mark successful completion of planting a moonseed vine sapling.

The Prime Minister offered flowers, water, lights and joss sticks to Padamyar Myetshin Buddha Image upper terrace of the pagoda.

The Prime Minister inspected the platform of the pagoda. — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt offered gold foils to the Image. Next, he offered flowers, water, lights and joss sticks to the Buddha Image.



The newly opened Natlan passage of the Mahazeya Atula Marazein Buddha Image. — MNA

Wellwishers invited for sinking tube-wells

YANGON, 1 August— The Development Affairs Committees under the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs are making concerted efforts in sinking tube-wells in order to get sufficient fresh water in rural areas in States and Divisions where water is scarce.

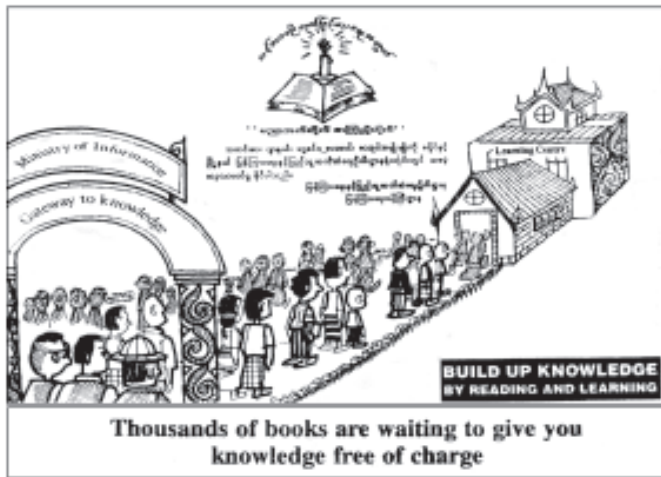
One 200 feet deep two-inch diameter tube-well costs K 250,000; one 400 feet deep two-inch diameter tube-well costs K 500,000; and one 200 feet deep four-inch diameter tube-well costs K 500,000.

Those wishing to donate cash for the tube-well sinking projects for rural areas may contact the Director-General (Tel: 01-245420 & 253088), the Deputy Director-General (Tel: 01-240118), the Director (Engineering) (Tel: 01-291967), the Directors (Sagaing Division Development Affairs Committee) (Tel: 071-21012), the Director (Magway Division Development Affairs Committee) (Tel: 063-23164) and the Director (Mandalay Division Development Affairs Committee) (Tel: 02-54657).

MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt plants a moonseed vine (hsindonnanwe) sapling at north-east corner of Shwedagon Pagoda platform. MNA



ADVERTISEMENTS

INVITATION FOR TENDER No. 004/POL/2004-2005

Sealed Tenders from eligible suppliers are invited for the supply of Engine Oil SAE 50, API (CB/SB) (OR) (CC/SC), (For Diesel Engine). Prices are to be Quoted in Myanmar Kyats Yangon.

- Tender Documents are available at the office of Procurement & Stores Department, Head Office, Road Transport, No. 375, Bogyoke Aung San Street, Yangon, Myanmar, Commencing on the 2nd August 2004.
- Tender will be closed on 16th August 2004 at (16.00) hours.
- The Road Transport Reserves the right to reject any or all Tenders without furnishing reasons.
- Detailed information will be available at the office of the Procurement & Stores, Department or Contact Phone Nos. (01-252574) (or) (01-376549)

MANAGING DIRECTOR
ROAD TRANSPORT

UN body launches network to fight bird flu

BANGKOK, 31 July—The UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) launched a Southeast Asian "bird flu network" on Friday to improve surveillance and detection of the killer virus, which is spreading steadily across the region.

The network will offer training to veterinary officials in impoverished countries in the region to allow them to recognize the tell-tale signs of bird flu more quickly.

It will also try to make national disease laboratories coordinate more closely to ensure tissue samples from dead animals are tested more rigorously and faster.

"National borders cannot stop the disease from spreading," said Joseph Domenech, head of animal health at the Rome-based FAO.

"Only regional cooperation is likely to achieve success. Our aim is to improve the quality of diagnosis and epidemiology," he said on the last day of a three-day regional meeting on the disease. The virulent H5N1 bird flu strain, which first broke out in Hong Kong in 1997, killed millions of chickens and 24 people when it swept across much of Asia earlier this year. Mass culling brought an end to that outbreak, but after a lull of a few

months, bird flu has broken out again in China, Vietnam, Indonesia and Thailand, where 21 of its 76 provinces have confirmed renewed outbreaks. Even though the latest infections have been found only in birds, health experts are still worried the virus might mutate and lead to human-to-human transmission, creating the potential to unleash a global pandemic of killer flu. —MNA/Reuters

ADB grants to help China finance SMEs

Ministry of Industry (1) Myanmar Cenramic Industries 192, Kaba Aye Pagoda Road. Yangon, Myanmar

INVITATION TO TENDER NOTICE

Sealed Tenders are invited by Myanmar Ceramic Industries for the Cold Repair of the No. 1 Furnace at Bottle Glass Factory, Thanlyin Township, Yangon Division. Tender forms and detail informations are available on payment of Kyats 5000/- (five thousand only), at Myanmar Ceramic Industries, Planning Department within Office Hour, starting from 30th July, 2004.

Closing Date of Tender is 20th, September, 2004(Monday), 15.00 Hour Myanmar Standard Time. Please contact Phone No 562036, 566074 for detail information.

Managing Director
Myanmar Ceramic Industry

Kerry expresses support for stem cell research

BOSTON, 31 July—US Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry expressed support on Thursday for stem cell research that could help cure such diseases as Parkinson's, diabetes, Alzheimer's and AIDS.

"What's if we find a breakthrough to cure Parkinson's, diabetes, Alzheimer's and AIDS? What if we have a president to believe in science, so we can unleash the wonders of discovery like stem cell research to treat illness and save millions of lives?" Kerry asked in a prime-time speech delivered here on the last day of the Democratic National Convention.

In the speech, Kerry accepted the party's nomination for president of the United States.

Ron Reagan, son of late Republican president Ronald Reagan, urged support for research on embryonic stem cell that could help cure a number of diseases, in a speech on Tuesday at the convention that opened on Monday.

MANILA, 31 July—The Asian Development Bank said Friday that it approved a technical assistance grant of 550,000 US dollars to help China to finance its small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

The ADB said in a statement that the technical assistance will promote development of SME credit guarantee companies through an effective policy, regulatory, and operational framework.

It will also support institutional reforms and the financial strengthening efforts of credit guarantee companies, developing standardized procedures and templates for various aspects of their operations, the statement said.

According to the Bank, SMEs account for almost half of the China's gross domestic product, provide 75 per cent of urban jobs, and are growing faster than the larger state-owned enterprises.

However, more than 80 per cent of SMEs have reported difficulties in accessing financial services and securing financing due to limited banking services to them.

To address the lack of banking services for SMEs, credit guarantee companies were set up in the mid-1990s, the Bank said.

"Credit guarantee companies address the lack of banking services for SMEs, and provide a lot of value added services such as market access and managerial training," says Ying Qian, an ADB principal financial economist. —MNA/Xinhua

ပြည်တွင်းပြန်ကိုအားပေးပါ

ချိပ်ပိတ်တင်ဒါခေါ်ယူခြင်း

စဉ်	ပစ္စည်းအမျိုးအမည်	အရေအတွက်	တင်ဒါပိတ်ရက်
၁။	Air Circuit Breaker & Cable Wire	2 Items	၂၆-၈-၂၀၀၄
၂။	Control Valve, Assembly	1 Set	၂၆-၈-၂၀၀၄
၃။	I.S Machine Spare Parts	6 Items	၂၆-၈-၂၀၀၄
၄။	250 KVA Generator Spares	2 Items	၂၆-၈-၂၀၀၄
၅။	Air Compressor Spares	3 Items	၃၁-၈-၂၀၀၄
၆။	Polishing & Cutting M/C Spares for Granite	22 Items	၃၁-၈-၂၀၀၄
၇။	Electrical Control Spare Parts	15 Items	၃၁-၈-၂၀၀၄
၈။	Renovation of Pump with Assembly	7 Items	၃၁-၈-၂၀၀၄
၉။	Machinery Spare Parts for Kyaukse Cement Mill	11 Items	၃၁-၈-၂၀၀၄
၁၀။	Toggle Bearing	12 Nos	၃၁-၈-၂၀၀၄

အမှတ်(၁) စက်မှုဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ မြန်မာ့ကြွေးတည်မြေထည်လုပ်ငန်း၊ ရောင်းဝယ်ရေးဌာန၊ အမှတ် (၁၉၂)၊ ကမ္ဘာ့အေးဘုရားလမ်း၊ ရန်ကုန်တွင် ရုံးချိန်အတွင်း ဆက်သွယ်ရန်မပြုတင်ဒါပိတ်ချက်ကို လာရောက်ဝယ်ယူနိုင်ပါသည်။ **တင်ဒါပိတ်တရားဝင်ဝယ်ယူသူများထံမှ တင်ဒါကိုသာ လက်ခံပါမည်။**
(အသေးစိတ်သိရှိလိုပါက စုစမ်းရန် တယ်လီဖုန်းအမှတ်-၅၆၆၂၉၅၊ ၅၆၆၂၉၂)

မြန်မာ့ကြွေးတည်မြေထည်လုပ်ငန်း

Japan donates food to Lesotho

JOHANNESBURG, 31 July—Japan has provided Lesotho with for a donation of about one million US dollars which has been used to buy food aid in the kingdom.

At a ceremony in Maseru on Friday, Lesotho Minister of Agriculture and Food Security Daniel Phororo officially received the nearly 1,200-ton-food donation which will be distributed by the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP).

Also present at the ceremony were Toshinori Shigeie, Japanese Ambassador to South Africa, and

Techeste Zergaber, WFP Country Director for Lesotho.

"Thousands of Basotho who have been devastated by drought and the scourge of HIV/AIDS will benefit from Japan's generous donation. WFP is using the funds to purchase urgently needed food supplies for those people who were unable to produce enough of their own food to last until the next harvest," said Zergaber. —MNA/Xinhua

Chinese spend \$30b on weddings each year

BEIJING, 31 July—Chinese people spend a total of 250 billion yuan (30 billion US dollars) on wedding ceremonies each year, with nearly 10 million couples getting married, including 90,000 in Beijing alone, the latest statistics of China's Ministry of Civil Affairs show.

The huge wedding ceremony market has boosted the development of more than 40 related sectors, including photo studios, jewellery, restaurants, tourism, apparel and furniture and even cars, apartments, banking and insurance, said Xu Ruixin, president of the China Social Work Association.

"It has become a new industry full of business opportunities and with great prospects," Xu said.

Although the "wedding economy" has developed fast and pushed the growth of many other related sectors, Xu meanwhile suggested newlyweds be rational in wedding consumption.

"The wedding economy should develop in a rational, reasonable and healthy way," Xu said. —MNA/Xinhua

မညာရေးဖြင့် ခေတ်မီပုံနှိပ်တိုးတက်လာ နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်မည်

NASA satellite may find ice on hottest planet

CAPE CANAVERAL (Florida), 31 July— A satellite that heads off to Mercury, the hottest planet in the solar system, on Monday has NASA scientists buzzing because it is expected to journey there and find, of all things, ice.

The *Messenger* (MErcury Surface, Space ENvironment, GEochemistry and Ranging) spacecraft takes off three decades after the last time NASA took an up-close look at Mercury, where the temperature at noon is just a shade under 900 degrees Fahrenheit (482.22 Celsius).

The 427-million US dollars mission starts with lift-off aboard a *Boeing Delta 2* rocket scheduled for 2.16 am EDT (0616 GMT) on Monday from the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida, the space agency said.

If ice does exist on Mercury, it manages to stay out of the sun, inside the shadowy interior of craters at the poles of the nearly airless planet, where the temperature may not rise above minus -300 degrees Fahrenheit (-184.44 Celsius).

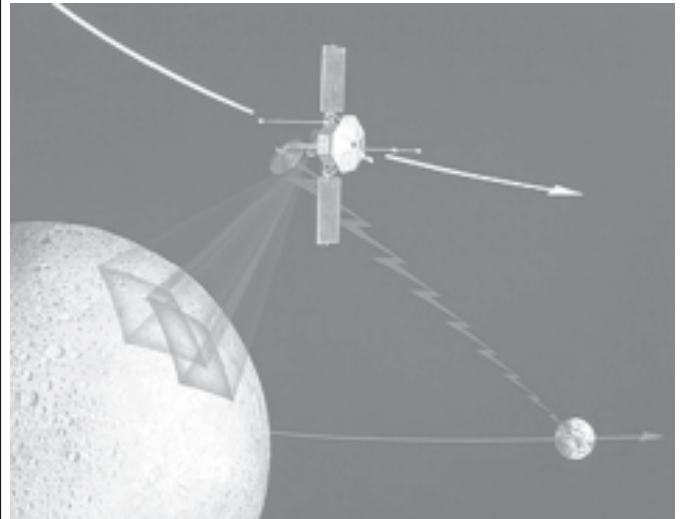
Radio telescopes on Earth have detected the signature of ice in those craters, scientists say, though they caution it might also be super-frozen silica or something else. Equally intriguing is Mercury's composition. The planet is about

two-thirds iron and as dense as a planet the size of Earth, although it is much smaller, scientists say. Mercury is slightly larger than the Earth's moon.

"Did Mercury start off more Earth-like, then lose its rocky exterior?" asked Sean Solomon of the Carnegie Institute of Washington and principal scientist for the *Messenger* mission. Both long exposure to solar winds or some giant impact might account for that, he said.

"What are the processes that contributed to the inner planets (Mercury, Venus, Earth and Mars) turning out so differently?" To understand that "we really have to study the most extreme of those outcomes, and that's Mercury," Solomon said. *Messenger* will be the first satellite to visit Mercury since *Mariner 10* a generation ago. It photographed about 45 per cent of the planet's surface during three fly-bys in 1974 and 1975.

But *Mariner* was travelling too quickly to enter orbit around Mercury, where *Messenger* will spend at least a year. —MNA/Reuters



This September 1974 NASA illustration shows 'Mariner 10' orbiting planet Mercury. NASA plans to launch a new spacecraft, baptized Messenger, to the mysterious planet closest to the sun. —INTERNET

India, Pakistan offer help to Bangladesh in tackling massive floods

DHAKA, 31 July — India and Pakistan have expressed sympathy for flood-affected people of Bangladesh and offered all possible assistance to tackle the situation as the water levels showed signs of receding across the country on Friday.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, in a letter to his Bangladesh counterpart Khaleda Zia, has conveyed his deep sympathies to the government and Bangladeshi people at the grave loss of life suffered and the extensive damage inflicted by the floods. "We know the people of Bangladesh will face this disaster with courage and fortitude. As neighbours and friends, the people of India stand ready to assist the people of Bangladesh in this hour of need," Singh said in his letter, the *Daily Star* newspaper reported.

Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf telephoned Zia on Thursday and offered to assist the calamity-hit people and wanted to know the current situation.

Zia thanked both the leaders, saying an assessment of the needs due to the losses caused by the worst floods since 1998 was underway, the report said. So far 400 people have lost their lives in the severe floods which hit the southeast Asian nation, reports said. More than 30 million of the country's 130 million population have been hit, even as experts today said there were signs that the water was receding across Bangladesh.

Meanwhile, water-borne diseases, specially diarrhoea, were spreading as flood waters started to recede, health officials said. —MNA/PTI

Scientists make mad cow prion in lab for first time

WASHINGTON, 31 July — Researchers have for the first time made a prion in the laboratory and used it to demonstrate that the misfolded proteins are indeed the sole cause of mad cow disease, the US and German scientists reported on Thursday.

The research, published in the journal *Science*, also may help open the way to treatments for the currently untreatable and incurable family of prion diseases, which include not only mad cow but the human Creutzfeldt Jakob disease, and a related human form of CJD caused by eating mad cow-infected beef.

"Our study demonstrates that misfolding a particular segment of the normal prion protein is sufficient to transform the protein into infectious prions," said lead researcher Giuseppe Legname at the University of California San Francisco. Scientists

from the Heinrich-Heine Universität in Duesseldorf, Germany also took part in the study.

The researchers created a synthetic prion by using bacteria to grow prion fragments and then folding them into larger protein structures.

They injected these into the brains of mice bred to be susceptible to transmissible spongiform encephalopathies such as bovine spongiform encephalopathy — mad cow disease — CJD and others. The mice started showing symptoms in about a year, the researchers reported.

"A great deal of evidence indicates that prions are composed only of protein, but this is the first time that this has been directly shown in mammals," Legname said.

"The challenge in the last few years has been to figure out exactly how to demonstrate that prions are made entirely of protein." —MNA/Reuters

Molecule in betel leaf holds cancer drug promise

KOLKATA, 31 July — A group of scientists in this eastern Indian city have claimed to have made a major breakthrough in cancer studies when they struck upon a molecule in betel (paan) leaf that targets and kills leukemia cells and holds the promise of becoming the world's first herb-based, cheap therapeutic drug for blood cancer.

A multi-disciplinary team from Council for Scientific and Industrial Research's premier lab Indian Institute of Chemical Biology (IICB) here is ecstatic over the serendipitous find since there is just one prohibitively expensive drug currently available world for the treatment of Chronic Myelogenous Leukemia (CML), a severe type of blood cancer.

The molecule, identified as chlorogenic acid, code-named icb-101 throughout the three-year hush-hush study, came as a chance discovery while the team was conducting immuno-modulatory studies on betel leaf and its effect on human cell lines.

"We found that chlorogenic acid induced programmed cell death in human cancer cells translated

in experimental nude mice," immunologist and team leader Santu Bandyopadhyay told PTI here on Friday.

The 12-member team, comprising IICB Director and cell biologist Prof Samir Bhattacharya, drug designer Chhabinath Mandal, medical chemist Bikas Pal, animal scientist Aditya Konar, haematologists Dillip Bhattacharya and Utpal Chaudhuri and a number of laboratory aides, has applied for US and global patents for the molecule.

The pathbreaking work, to be published in the journal *"Blood"* in October, has been given a verbal go-ahead for immediate multi-centric human trials in the country by Director General of Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) Dr N K Ganguly, the team disclosed.

MNA/PTI



The Richardson ground squirrel uses ultrasonic frequencies to provide a warning to fellow members of its group, the first time an animal has been found to use high-frequency sound this way. —INTERNET

India to provide Rs 18.45m grant to Nepal for nursing campus

KATHMANDU, 31 July — India will provide 18.45-million-rupee grant assistance to the government of Nepal for construction of a nursing campus in central Terai Region.

A memorandum of understanding was signed between Government of Nepal and the Embassy of India, Kathmandu, to this effect on Thursday, according to Indian Embassy sources.

The grant assistance will be utilized for constructing the Nursing Campus in Janakpur. The implementation of the project will go a long way in improving education for the people in the district of Dhanusha, an embassy release said. —MNA/PTI

ကျေးဇူးတင်: ကိုယ့်အားကိုးတုံ့ပြန်မှုကိုရရှိရန်

သတင်းသွင်း: သတင်း၊ အကြံပေးချက်များ သတင်းသွင်း

ကျေးဇူးတင်: ကိုယ့်အားကိုးတုံ့ပြန်မှုကိုရရှိရန် ပြန်ကြားရေးနှင့် ဖွံ့ဖြိုးရေး ဦးစီးဌာနနှင့် ဆက်သွယ်ပါ

ကျေးဇူးတင်: ကိုယ့်အားကိုးတုံ့ပြန်မှုကိုရရှိရန် သုတ/ရသ အချက်များလွှဲပြောင်းပါသည်။

ပြန်ကြားရေးနှင့် ဖွံ့ဖြိုးရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

SPORTS

Barcelona wait for Real Madrid approval on Eto'o bid

MADRID, 31 July—Barcelona have made Real Mallorca an improved offer for African Player of the Year Samuel Eto'o and are waiting on approval from arch-rivals Real Madrid for the deal to go through.

Real Madrid co-own the rights to the Cameroon striker with Mallorca and have seven days to decide whether to accept a 50-per-cent share of the Barca bid, reported to be 22 million euros (26.51 million US dollars), or to buy out the player's contract in full.

Barcelona had an offer for Eto'o turned down by the clubs last week but Mallorca, at least, are now ready to do business.

"This is important in economic terms for Real Mallorca," the club said on their web site on Friday. "It's lower than the offers we have from two other clubs but those proposals have not been accepted by the player. "It has been decided to pass the offer on to Real Madrid to resolve a situation that has become untenable."

Barcelona have already signed seven players for the new season, including Swedish striker Henrik Larsson, but club president Joan Laporta wants to add Eto'o to the squad. —MNA/Reuters



Japan's goalkeeper Yoshikatsu Kawaguchi (L) gets a leaping hug from Tsuneyasu Miyamoto after saving a penalty shot in a shootout against Jordan in the Asian Cup quarter-final match on Saturday in the southwestern Chinese city of Chongqing. Japan beat Jordan 4-3 on penalty kicks after the teams drew 1-1 after extra time. —INTERNET

Norwegian striker Karadas signs for Benfica

LISBON, 31 July—Norway striker Azar Karadas Thursday signed a four-year contract with Portuguese league powerhouse Benfica, the Lisbon club's web site said. Portuguese media reported Benfica had paid around 1.5 million euros for the 22-year-old forward, who has won three caps for Norway.

"I am very happy, this is a dream come true. I want to help Benfica to achieve the Portuguese title and to the best possible job at the Champions League," Karadas told newspaper A Bola Thursday. Karadas started his career in 1999 with Braan, where he stayed until 2001, joining Rosenborg that same year. —MNA/Xinhua

Answers for yesterday's crossword puzzle

U	N	D	I	E	S	S	A	R	A	B	L	E
M	S	O	S	U	S	V	S	N	S	G		
P	S	N	U	B	N	O	S	E	D	S	G	
I	O	W	A	S	M	S	W	S	W	R	E	N
R	O	S	I	T	A	R	S	A	S	O		
E	R	R	A	N	T	S	L	O	P	I	N	G
S	S	D	S	O	S	S	W	S	N	S	S	
R	E	S	O	R	T	S	N	A	P	P	E	R
U	S	M	T	I	M	O	N	S	I	S	A	
S	L	A	V	S	N	S	R	S	O	P	E	N
K	S	N	I	G	H	T	M	A	R	E	S	C
I	S	S	E	S	A	S	B	S	S	I		
N	I	T	W	I	T	S	L	A	S	H	E	D

French fans want Zidane to stay

PARIS, 31 July—Almost two thirds of French people want Zinedine Zidane to keep playing for his country until the 2006 World Cup, according to a poll published on Friday.

While defenders Marcel Desailly and Lilian Thuram announced they were retiring from international football after Euro 2004, 62 per cent of those polled would like the Real Madrid playmaker to continue while 29 per cent think he should call it quits.

French daily Le Parisien which published the poll said Zidane had already decided to bid farewell to Les Bleus.

But new French manager Raymond Domenech said on Thursday he had no prejudice against France's old guard and that Zidane had not told him he wished to end his career with the national team. —MNA/Reuters

Drogba on target as Chelsea sweep Roma aside

NEW YORK, 31 July—Didier Drogba scored on his debut as Chelsea brushed aside AS Roma 3-0 in the Champions World Series in Pittsburgh on Thursday.

Both teams finished with 10 men after Chelsea's Mateja Kezman and Olivier Dacourt of Roma were sent off in the 66th minute at Heinz Field.

England midfielder Joe Cole put the big-spending Londoners in front in the 11th minute before Serbia and Montenegro marksman Kezman doubled Chelsea's advantage after 63 minutes with his fourth goal in three pre-season friendlies.

Ivory Coast striker Drogba, who last week became the club's record buy when he joined from Olympique Marseille, made sure of victory with a 68th-minute goal. Chelsea began their North American tour with a 4-2 win over Celtic in Seattle last Saturday.

MNA/Reuters

Briton Williams knocks out Tyson

LOUISVILLE (Kentucky), 31 July—Unheralded Briton Danny Williams produced one of the biggest upsets in the history of boxing when he knocked out former world champion Mike Tyson in the fourth round of their heavyweight fight on Friday.

Tyson dominated the opening round but Williams hit back with several crunching blows and slowly began to take control against the 38-year-old American.

Williams, 31, landed with a stream of thunderous rights in the fourth before sending Tyson to the canvas after two minutes 51 seconds. Referee Dennis Alfred halted the count to usher Williams back to his corner before stopping the fight as a groggy Tyson could barely get to his feet.

"I showed I am a warrior," Williams told US television. "He hurt me for a few seconds in the first round but I came back and boxed him smart."

"I was sure I was gonna win. I knew I had the capability of beating him."

Williams, however, said he expected Tyson to ask for a second crack at him. "I know he's gonna want a rematch," said the Briton. Tyson came charging out at the start of the contest with a flurry of punches which

sent Williams reeling.

But Williams rallied in the second, swapping blows with his opponent and landing several rights to Tyson's head.

Williams was twice cautioned by Alfred in the third round, the first time for hitting after a break and opening a slight cut over Tyson's right eye, and the second for an apparent low blow.

But he continued to engage Tyson in several close-in battles, trading punches with the former champion for most of the round.

Williams took over in the fourth and, with a shocked crowd of 17,273 mostly Tyson fans looking on, pounded the American into the ropes late in the round.

On the undercard, Laila Ali, fighting in her famous father Muhammad's hometown, maintained her unbeaten record by stopping super middleweight Monica Nunez in round nine. Ali is now 18-0 with 15 knockouts.

MNA/Reuters

Celtic sign Camara in British record loan deal

GLASGOW, 31 July—Scottish champions Celtic have completed the signing of Senegal striker Henri Camara in a British record loan deal from English First Division side Wolverhampton Wanderers.

The 27-year-old is Celtic's first signing of the close season and will bolster the Glasgow club's squad for the defence of their Premier League title and Champions League campaign.

Media reports suggested Celtic paid Wolves 1.7 million pounds (3.08 million US dollars) to sign Camara on a season-long loan deal and they will have the option to make the move permanent.

"I am very pleased to have Henri Camara on board," said Celtic manager Martin O'Neill, who is preparing for the final game of the club's pre-season tour of the US and Canada against AS Roma in Toronto on Saturday. "He will be a welcome addition to the squad and if things go well for him here we'll have the option to buy him at the end of the season." O'Neill told the club's web site on Friday.

Camara joined Wolves, who were relegated from the English Premier League at the end of last season, from French club Sedan for 1.5

million pounds in August 2003. The forward said playing in the Champions League with Celtic would be the "biggest footballing experience of my life".

"I can't wait to get started," said Camara, who helped his country reach the last eight at the 2002 World Cup finals.

"I hope to make a major contribution to the team's results and help us get into the second stage of the Champions League for the first time." Celtic chief executive Peter Lawell said he was "hopeful" more new players would arrive before the start of the season.

MNA/Reuters

Liverpool granted permission to build new stadium

LONDON, 31 July—Liverpool were granted planning permission to build a new 60,000-capacity stadium by the city council on Friday.

Liverpool's web site said councillors gave their approval after inspecting the site of the proposed development in nearby Stanley Park on Friday.

The club, who submitted their planning application last October, are keen to move to a new stadium as Anfield, their home since 1892, has a capacity of only 45,362.

A larger stadium would give them more financial muscle alongside rivals Manchester United, Arsenal and Chelsea.

Under the plans the current Anfield Road stadium site would be transformed into a public plaza surrounded by apartments, offices, bars and restaurants and a hotel.

The new stadium, which Liverpool hope will open in 2006, will retain the Anfield name. The club plans to invest 80 million pounds (145.1 million US dollars) in the project with the money borrowed against future ticket sales.

MNA/Reuters



South Korea's Seol Ki Hyeon (R) kicks the ball away from Iran's Hossein Ka'Abi during their Asian Cup quarterfinal match in Jinan, capital city of Shandong province, on 31 July, 2004. Iran won 4-3 to advance to the semifinals. —INTERNET



Monday, August 2

7:00 am

1. Parittas Recitation by Mingun Sayadawgyi

7:15 am

2. တိပိဋကဓရ၊ ဓမ္မဘူတဂါရီတ၊ အက္ခယာဏ်တ၊ တန္တုသိက္ခိတံသ (ဓမ္မာနာရတော်) ဟောကြားသော ဥဗ္ဗိတသန္တိဝိဇ္ဇိတော်

7:25 am

3. To be healthy Exercise

7:30 am

4. Morning news

7:40 am

5. Nice and sweet song

7:50 am

6. Songs of national races

8:05 am

7. Cute little dancers

8:15 am

8. အရေးကြီးသော

8:20 am

9. ဝင်းလှေလှေသံတံ

8:30 am

10. International news

8:45 am

11. Let's go

4:00 pm

1. Martial song

4:15 pm

2. Songs to uphold National Spirit

4:30 pm

3. Demonstration exercises for correct pronunciation

4:45 pm

4. Musical programme

5:00 pm

5. အဆေးသင်တန်းသို့ ပညာရေး ဖုန်ဖြင့် သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ ပထမနှစ် (သိပ္ပံ အထူးပြုအားလုံး) (ခါတုရား)

5:15 pm

6. Dance variety

5:30 pm

7. Musical programme (The Radio Myanmar Modern Music Troupe)

5:45 pm

8. Songs and dance of national races

5:50 pm

9. မြန်မာစာ ဖြန့်ချိစာစာ

6:05 pm

10. Discovery

6:15 pm

11. နိုင်ငံခြားကလေးတစ်ယောက်၏ ဖခင်အဖွဲ့ (အပိုင်း-၁)

6:30 pm

12. Evening news

7:00 pm

13. Weather report

7:05 pm

14. Industrial achievement

7:15 pm

15. Musical Programme

7:30 pm

16. ကျေးလက်အသံတစ်ခုနှင့် အလှဆင်

8:00 pm

17. News

18. International news

19. Weather report

20. နိုင်ငံခြားကလေးတစ်ယောက်၏ ဖခင်အဖွဲ့ (အပိုင်း-၂)

21. The Next day's programme

MRTV -3

2-8-2004 (Monday)
(Programme Schedule)
Morning Transmission
(9:00 - 10:00)

9:00 Signature Tune

9:02 Greeting

9:02 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Myanma Panorama & Myanma Sentiment"

9:06 A Day in the life of the PaO Family

9:10 Headline News

9:12 A Gift to mark a visit to Myitkyina (Kachin-Snack)

9:15 National News

9:20 Livistona Speciosa (Taung Htan)

9:25 Kachin Dance

9:30 National News

9:35 Mythun (Counterpart of Cattle)

9:40 Song "Gaze Upon"

9:42 Dat Taw Gyeik Waterfall

9:45 National News

9:50 Archeological Museum, Pakhangyi (I)

9:58 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

1-8-2004 (Sunday)

Evening Transmission
(15:30 - 17:30)

15:30 Signature Tune

15:32 Greeting

15:32 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic

Sights "Mingalarab"

15:36 A Day in the life of the PaO Family

15:40 Headline News

15:42 A Gift to mark a visit to Myitkyina (Kachin-Snack)

15:45 National News

15:50 Livistona Speciosa (Taung Htan)

15:55 Kachin Dance

16:00 National News

16:05 Mythun (Counterpart of Cattle)

16:10 Song "Gaze Upon"

16:12 Dat Taw Gyeik Waterfall

16:15 National News

16:20 Archeological Museum, Pakhangyi (I)

16:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Myanma Panorama & Myanma Sentiment"

16:30 National News

16:35 Talent Show on the Myanmar Bamboo Xylophone

16:40 Myanma Green Tea

16:45 National News

16:50 The Unique Pindaya Shan Paper

16:55 Dance of the Drums The Mountain with Antique Stone Sculpture

17:00 National News

17:05 Production of A Delicious Seafood

17:10 Myanmar Modern Song "Hill Steps Town"

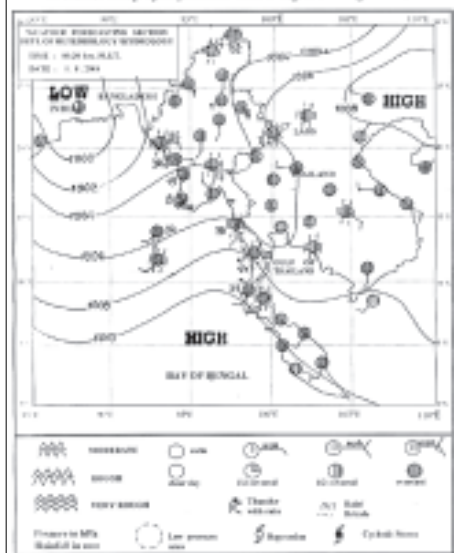
17:12 Plaster Toys

17:15 National News

17:20 Their Master's Images

17:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Area



WEATHER

Sunday, 1 August 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Magway Division, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Sagaing, Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions and scattered in Rakhine, Kayah States and Bago Division and widespread in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfalls in Kachin, Kayin and Mon States and Taninthayi Division. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Yay (7.17 inches), Putao (4.84 inches), Dawei (3.39 inches) and Hpa-an (3.27 inches).

Maximum temperature on 31-7-2004 was 29.5°C (85°F). Minimum temperature on 1-8-2004 was 21.2°C (70°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 1-8-2004 was 96%. Total sunshine hours on 31-7-2004 was (0.04) hour approx.

Rainfall on 1-8-2004 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 1684 mm (66.30 inches) at Yangon Airport and 1663 mm (65.47 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 1657 mm (65.24 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 5 mph from Southwest at 15:25 hours MST on 31-7-2004.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 2-8-2004: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Kayin, Shan, Kayin and Mon States and Taninthayi Division, scattered in Chin, Kayah and Rakhine States and Yangon, Bago and Ayeyawady Divisions and isolated in the remaining areas with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Mon and Kayin States and Taninthayi Division. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Sea will be moderate in Myanmar waters. **Outlook for subsequent two days:** Moderate monsoon.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 2-8-2004: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%). **Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 2-8-2004:** Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Flood Bulletin (Issued at 1 pm on 1-8-2004)

The water levels of Ayeyawady River at Aungmye and Pyaw are about (3) ft above the danger levels. The water levels may fall below the danger levels during the next five days commencing noon today. The water level of Ayeyawady River at Hinthada will not change markedly above the danger level during the next three days commencing noon today. The water levels of Chindwin River at Mawlaik, Kalewa and Monywa are about one foot above the danger levels. The water levels may fall below the danger levels during the next two days commencing noon today. The water level of Thanlwin River at Hpa-an is slightly above the danger level. The water level may fall below the danger level during the next four days commencing noon today.



Myanmar Olympic Committee Chairman Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint delivers an address at the opening of the Junior Snooker Competition, jointly sponsored by Myanmar Billiard & Snooker Federation and Sein Wuthmon Company at Asia Plaza in Yangon on Sunday. — (H)



Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint delivers an address at the closing ceremony of the FIBA Asia Referees' Clinic. — MBF

Course for basketball referees concludes

YANGON, 1 Aug — The FIBA Asia Referees' Clinic, 2004, jointly sponsored by Ministry of Sports, FIBA Asia and Myanmar Basketball Federation, concluded with ceremony at Youth Training centre in Thuwunna here at noon today. Myanmar Olympic Committee Chairman Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, MBF President Prof Dr Sein Myint, General Secretary U Maung Maung Myint and others were present at the ceremony. — MNA

Radio Myanmar

Monday, August 2

Tune in today:

8:30 am Brief news

8:35 am Music

8:40 am Perspectives

8:45 am Music

8:55 am National news/Slogan

9:05 am Music

9:10 am International news

9:15 am Cultural Images of Myanmar

-Myanma Thana-

-akha

1:30 pm News/Slogan

1:40 pm Story for Children

1:50 pm Songs for Children

9:00 pm Weekly news review

9:10 pm Music

9:15 pm Article

9:25 pm Adapted originals

-Take your Chance

-When I look into

your eyes

9:45 pm News/Slogan

10:00 pm PEL

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 Khin Nyunt attends the Informal Meeting of Heads of Government of BIMSTEC member countries in Bangkok, Thailand. — MNA

PM General Khin Nyunt attends Retreat of Heads of Govt of BIMSTEC member countries

Matters on tourism, agriculture, energy, water supply, development of traditional medicines, prevention against violence, poverty alleviation discussed

YANGON, 1 Aug—Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt attended the Informal Meeting of heads of government of BIMSTEC Member States held on the first floor of Buakaew Room of the Thai

Ministry of Foreign Affairs at 11 am yesterday.

Also present on the occasion were Prime Minister of Bangladesh Begum Khaleda Zia, Prime Minister of Bhutan Lyonpo Jigmi Yoeser Thinlay, Prime Minister of India Dr Manmohan

Singh, Myanmar Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, Prime Minister of Nepal Mr Sher Bahadur Deuba, President of Sri Lanka Mrs Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung,

Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Win, ministers and deputy ministers of BIMSTEC member states.

They cordially discussed matters related to regional tourism, agriculture, energy, water supply, development of traditional medicines, prevention against violence and poverty alleviation.

Next, they approved the BIMSTEC Summit Declaration. The Declaration mentions that the Heads of Government of BIMSTEC member countries:

—Agree that our grouping shall henceforth be known as BIMSTEC or the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation.

Note with satisfaction BIMSTEC's achievements so far, including the signing of the Framework Agreement for a BIMSTEC Free Trade Area, the launch of Visit BIMSTEC Year 2004-2005 and the year-long Plan of Action on tourism, the establishment of the BIMSTEC Chamber of Commerce, the first BIMSTEC Youth Football Tournament held in Phuket, the establishment of the BIMSTEC Centre in Bangkok, and a biomass gasifier plant in Myanmar, and pledge to move forward with renewed vigour.

Member countries agree to focus on specific areas of cooperation, including but not limited to trade & investment, transport & communications, tourism energy, human resources development, agriculture, fisheries, science & technology and people-to-people contact.

They also agree to explore the expansion of BIMSTEC cooperation into the areas of culture, education, public health, rural development, environment, ICT and biotechnology.

—Agree to focus on specific areas of cooperation, including but not limited to trade & investment, transport & communications, tourism, energy, human resources development, agriculture, fisheries, science & technology and people-to-people contact.

—Agree to explore the expansion of BIMSTEC cooperation into the areas of culture, education, public health, protection of biodiversity and traditional knowledge, rural community development, small and medium-scale enterprise, construction, environment, information and communications technology, biotechnology, weather & climate research, natural disaster mitigation & management.

—Agree to take all

possible steps including timely completion of the Free Trade Area negotiations for realization of the full potential of BIMSTEC trade and investment, taking into account the special needs of individual member countries.

(See page 9)

Member countries agree that the grouping shall henceforth be known as BIMSTEC or the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation.



Thai Foreign Minister calls on Myanmar Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt at Peninsula Hotel in Bangkok. — MNA

Thai FM calls on General Khin Nyunt

YANGON, 1 Aug—Foreign Minister of Thailand Dr Sutakirat paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt at Room No 3609 of the Peninsula Hotel in Bangkok yesterday morning. Also present on the occasion together with Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt were Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung and Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Win. After the meeting, the Prime Minister and the Thai Foreign Minister exchanged gifts. — MNA

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