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Saturday, 7 August, 2004

Government exerting efforts to ensure equitable development of States/Divisions and improvement of living standard of national people Prime Minister inspects regional development projects, meets departmental personnel

YANGON, 6 Aug.—Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, together with member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of

Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye, ministers, the chairman of the Civil Service Selection and Training Board, the Chief of Staff (Navy),

left Pak by helicopter and arrived at Pakokku on 4 August afternoon. They were welcomed there by Acting Commander of No 101 LID Col Thein Tan, senior military officers, local authori-

ties, service personnel, townselders and social organizations. The Prime Minister and party proceeded to Pakokku University main building

construction project. Rector of the university U Soe Myint reported on academic an administrative matters; Managing Director of Eden Group Co Ltd U Chit Khaing on progress of work



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects completion of the main building at Pakokku Airport on 4-8-2004.— MNA

Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint, Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Devel-

opment Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye, ministers, the chairman of the Civil Service Selection and Training Board, the Chief of Staff (Navy),

ties, service personnel, townselders and social organizations.

The Prime Minister and party proceeded to Pakokku University main building

construction project. Rector of the university U Soe Myint reported on academic an administrative matters; Managing Director of Eden Group Co Ltd U Chit Khaing on progress of work

The Prime Minister held a meeting with the rector, deans and faculty members and fulfilled the requirements. He inspected work progress.

The Prime Minister met local authorities, departmental officials, local senior citizens and members of social organizations. Pakokku District PDC Chairman Lt-Col Htay Oo reported on cultivation of the ten major crops and monsoon and summer paddy and output in the region, conditions of food sufficiency, growing of beans and pulses and edible oil crops, education and health sectors and requirements. The Prime Minister presented a TV, VCD, computer and accessories each to

PM General Khin Nyunt to pay working visits to SRV, LPDR, Cambodia

YANGON, 7 Aug — At the invitation of Mr Phan Van Khai, Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, Mr Bounnhang Vorachith, Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Samdech Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt will pay working visits to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Kingdom of Cambodia in the near future. — MNA

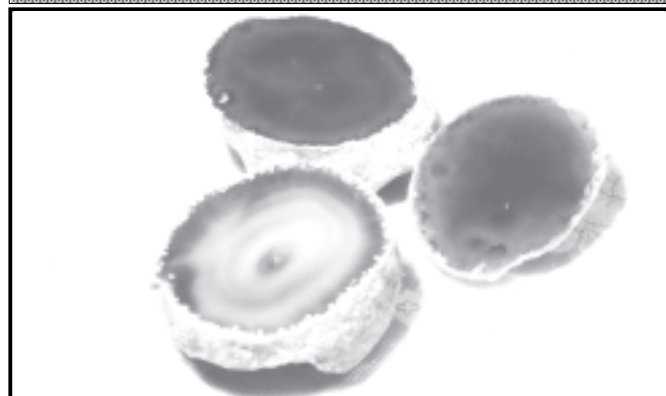


In Magway Division, a total of 26 dams have been constructed, nine under construction and 11 to be built. And 46 water pumping stations have been built, one in the process and six to be constructed.

With regard to the transport field, Pakokku Airport project will be completed soon.

On completion of the project, jumbo jets can use the facility.

Two gem stones of prime quality handed over to State



Precious gems mined from Phakant gemland. They will be kept at Myanmar Gems Museum. (News on page 16) — MNA

Nos 1, 2, 3 and 4 Basic Education High Schools.

The Prime Minister attended to the needs for regional development and education and health fields, saying that the tour was aimed at fulfilling the requirements and rendering assistance for progress of the regions on the western bank of Ayeyawady River as well as (See page 8)

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

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 7 August, 2004

Equitable rural area development through concerted efforts

In the past, Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Divisions located in the arid zone of Myanmar faced scarcity of water, forest degradation and difficulty in cultivation.

Nowadays, the 13-District Greening Project is being implemented in accord with the guidance of the Head of State, and thanks to the project, the regions become green. Establishment of reserved forests and conservation of protected public forests will help change the climate in the region.

Greening tasks in the arid zone will surely contribute towards agricultural development.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, on 5 August, met with township-level departmental personnel, townsenders and members of social organizations at the hall of Yesagyo Township Peace and Development Council in Magway Division.

On the occasion, the Prime Minister heard reports presented by officials concerned. After fulfilling the requirements in education, health, agriculture, livestock breeding and rural development tasks, he said that he has been visiting the township and providing assistance to it time and again since the start of the Pakhangyi-Pakhanngge region development project, that thanks to a number of water pumping stations, regional agriculture is developing significantly and that but agriculture should be extended with the aim of ensuring food sufficiency of the region.

For boosting per acre yield and ensuring food sufficiency in the region, Myanmar Agriculture Service is to develop a high-yield paddy strain that suits to the dry region and to lead farmers for agricultural progress. Edible oil crops and beans and pulses grow well in the region which is designated as an oil bowl of the nation, and thus efforts are to be made to cultivate the crops with might and main. The Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries is also to provide assistance including setting up of model farms for the region to conduct livestock breeding business that suits to its climate and geographical conditions.

As urban areas are gaining progress with greater momentum, rural development tasks are to be carried out with integrated efforts of volunteer organizations and departments under the leadership of the Government.

To achieve progress in the whole township, township level officials are urged to tour right down to the grassroots levels and provide assistance for the development of villages lying in the far corners of the region.

Kayah State gets TV retransmission station

YANGON, 6 Aug — Under the arrangement of TV transmission programme, construction of the TV retransmission station was completed in Ywathit, Kayah State, on 3-8-2004. After holding the opening ceremony on Wednesday morning, the TV retransmission station commenced its functions on broadcasting of TV Myanmar programmes through wave 7 and 10 watt. — MNA

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

Exclusive Breastfeeding: the Gold Standard

Safe, Sound, Sustainable

Ministry of Health

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



Wellwisher U Kyan Paw of Mingalar Sawandi Co hands over cash donation of K 10 million to Minister Maj-Gen Sein Htwa. — MNA

K 10m donated to relief of flood victims in Kachin State

YANGON, 6 Aug — U Kyan Paw (Mingalar Sawandi Co Ltd) of 44, Bayintnaung Road, Thingangyun Township, donated K 10 million for relief of flood victims in Kachin State to Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa at the Ministry of SWRR in Mayangon Township this morning.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint, Officer on Special Duty Brig-Gen Thura Sein Thauang, departmental heads and officials. Wellwisher U Kyan Paw explained the purpose of the donations and presented donations to the Minister. Next, the Minister gave a certificate of honour to the wellwisher. — MNA



Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Win signs the book of condolences. — MNA

Deputy Foreign Minister signs Book of Condolences for late Philippine Senate President and FM

YANGON, 6 Aug — Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win signed the Book of Condolences at the Embassy of the Republic of the Philippines in Bahan Township at 2.30 pm today, in memory of the late Mr Arturo M Tolentino, Former President of the Philippine Senate and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Philippines. — MNA

Rice Year poster contest to be held

YANGON, 6 Aug — The International Rice Year Observation Work Committee will organize the Rice Year poster contest with the theme "Rice is Life". The contest is divided into five categories namely the age 6-9 group, the age 9-12 group, the age 13-16 group, the age 16-20 group and the age 20 and above group. The first to fourth groups are to draw the poster at a designated place within 4 hours and the fifth group can draw at home and submit their works not later than 24 August. Entry forms can be obtained at Myanmar Traditional Artists & Artesans Association (Central) at eastern wing of Bogoyoke Market, here. The poster size for the first to fourth groups must be 15 inches by 20 inches and that of the fifth group is 20 inches by 30 inches. Handsome prizes will be given.

MNA

POEM:

Knot the Closest Tie through Breast-Feeding

- * All expectant and new mothers
Be proud to breast-feed your babies and toddlers
Because it's believed to the way-best
To ensure their life-long health.
- * Some scientists said breast-fed kids
Get more insulin from their mothers' milk
With a lesser chance to get "diabetes"
Or any other related disease.
- * A new born baby is an addition to the family
For mothers to bring it up properly
Childhood molding is utterly necessary
Through a lasting relationship
Gained from breast-feeding.
- * Holding the baby in both arms
Cuddled and being fed in her bosom
With its secured and warm feelings running high
A mother creates the closest tie with her beloved child.
- * For the babies growing on breast-feeding
Those precious moments have a special meaning
Forever to cherish and treasure
Full of tender love, fondling and pleasures.
- * A period of nine months, a little less or more
Many favourite things a pregnant mother has to forgo
For the tiny one inside,
Looking after herself with great care
Daily praying for the arrival
Of a baby proper and well.
- * To the pregnancy-care and sacrifice willingly made
Add a new extension she can take;
To breast-feed and get the advantage
Of a mother-child relationship so great.

Aye Aye

Cash donated to primary school

YANGON, 6 Aug — Wellwisher U Kyaw Naing of Dihline Foodstuff Industry of Hlinethaya Township here donated K 100,000 for providing stipends and cash assistance to students of Thekkegyaung village basic education primary school in Dedaye Township on 30 July.

Township Peace and Development Council Chairman U Htain Lin accepted the cash donation.

MNA

Beach football matches held

YANGON, 6 Aug — The beach football tournament for six delta regions of Toe River for the Dedaye Township Peace and Development Council Chairman's trophy was held at Toe village on 1 August. Local authorities, personnel of social organizations and students were present on the occasion. Hsu Club team and Tamar Takaw team played 2-2 draw. The local populace were interested in the beach football tournament which never took place there. — MNA



The opening ceremony of the beach football tournament for six delta regions of Toe River for the Dedaye Township Peace and Development Council Chairman's trophy in progress. — MNA

US chopper shot down in Iraq

NAJAF (Iraq), 5 Aug—Eight people were killed and a US helicopter was shot down as US troops battled Shiite Muslim militiamen in Iraq, while a suicide bombing and shoot-out outside a police station left another nine people dead.

US helicopters circled above Najaf cemetery, while heavy gunfire and mortar rounds boomed across the Shiite holy city.

The clashes continued into the late afternoon after a brief lull following the downing of a helicopter attached to the 11th Marine Expeditionary unit.

"A UH-1 marine helicopter was shot down at about 11.45 am (0745 GMT)," a military spokesman said. The two crew members were recovered alive, although the extent of their injuries was not immediately known, he added.—*Internet*



An Iraqi police officer stands guard near wreckage of police vehicles destroyed in a car bomb attack which targeted a police station in the town of Mahawil, south of Baghdad, on 5 Aug, 2004. Guerillas detonated a car bomb and sprayed gunfire at a police station in a town south of Baghdad on Thursday, killing at least six people and wounding 24 in the latest attack on Iraq's fledgling security forces. — *INTERNET*

Turkish truck driver killed in attack in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 5 Aug—Gunmen in Iraq have stopped a convoy of trucks and killed a Turkish truck driver who was unable to recite prayers, a report said today.

Gunmen stopped the convoy in northern Iraq, about 70 kilometres from the border with Turkey on Monday and killed trucker Osman Alisan, *CNN-Turk* television said.

The Turkish Foreign Ministry could not confirm the report, but the Anatolia news agency said Mr Alisan's employers had notified the trucker's family of his death and were making arrangements to bring his body back to Turkey.

The father-of-three, who had taken the job to pay debts, was returning to Turkey after delivering fuel to US forces in Iraq, the report said.

Since then, Turkey's truckers association has said it was halting deliveries to US forces in Iraq in hopes of freeing Turks kidnapped in Iraq after the release of a video that showed militants shooting and killing Turkish contractor Murat Yuce.

Yesterday, the Jordanian militant Abu

Musab al-Zarqawi's Tawhid and Jihad group responsible for Mr Yuce's execution-style slaying said in a statement that it has decided to release two kidnapped Turkish truck drivers, Abdurrahman Demir and Sait Unurlu.

Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul later confirmed that the two had been freed.

But a Foreign Ministry official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said at least two other Turks are still missing in Iraq—believed to have been kidnapped.

They include translator Aytullah Gezmen who is believed to have been kidnapped along with Mr Yuce, and truck driver Tefvik Alkan who has been missing for almost a month. CNN-Turk said another Turkish truck driver, Selahattin Turan, had been missing for about a week and was also believed to have been kidnapped. The Foreign Ministry official could not confirm that report.

Internet

Every country and people has right to make own decision

CAIRO, 5 Aug—Former UN Secretary-General Butros Butros-Ghali on Wednesday called for establishing a multi-polar world system for the sake of peace and stability.

"China, together with India and the European Union, should play bigger roles in international affairs," Ghali told *Xinhua* in an exclusive interview in Cairo.

"Under the circumstances of globalization, any attempt to impose the mentality of a mono-polar world system will do harm to the whole world. On the contrary, the international relations could be able to move toward the right direction," said Ghali, who served as secretary-general of the

United Nations from 1992 to 1996. "Every single country and people has the right to make its own decision," said Ghali. As for the US-proposed Greater Middle East Initiative, Ghali said that he has been opposed to it.

"This plan, involving Afghanistan, Iran and Turkey, will weaken the solidarity of the Arab world, and marginalize the Palestinian issue. It will also deal a heavy blow to all the efforts to promote cooperation between the Arab world and

the European Union," he said.

The United States unveiled a reform plan in February to promote democracy in an area stretching from Morocco in the west to Afghanistan and Pakistan in the east. But the initiative was widely criticized in the Arab world as a foreign intrusion.

"Any reform should be carried out from inside, not from outside," Ghali stressed.

MNA/Xinhua

သုတေသနနှင့် ဖော်ပြချက်

Majority of Poles oppose Iraq policy, says poll

WARSAW (Poland), 5 Aug—A new opinion poll out Thursday puts public opposition to Poland's military presence in Iraq at 73 percent.

The poll, conducted by the Public Opinion Research Centre among a representative sample of 920 adults in the second week of July, suggested 67 percent of Poles favored an immediate withdrawal of the country's 2,400 troops.

Opposition to the war in Iraq has hardened since the last such poll in June when opposition to the war was 7 percentage points lower.

The Polish government has been one of

Washington's staunchest allies in the military campaign in Iraq.

Public opinion, however, has consistently been at variance with government policy. Most opinion polls have shown public opposition to the war at between 60 percent and 80 percent since the invasion of Iraq last year.

The government says it will not withdraw its forces until the job is done.

Internet

921 US troops killed since beginning of military operations in Iraq last year

BAGHDAD, 5 Aug—As of Thursday, 5 August, 921 US service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq in March 2003, according to the Defence Department. Of those, 684 died as a result of hostile action and 237 died of non-hostile causes.

The British military has reported 61 deaths; Italy, 18; Spain, eight; Poland, seven; Bulgaria, six; Ukraine, four; Slovakia, three; Thailand, two; and Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia and the Netherlands have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 783 US soldiers

have died—575 as a result of hostile action and 208 of non-hostile causes, according to the Defence Department on Thursday.

The latest deaths reported by US Central Command:

A 13th Corps Support Command soldier was killed and five were wounded in Balad when their convoy was attacked Thursday with a rocket-propelled grenade and small arms fire near Najaf.—*Internet*

Wen Jiabao says sound Sino-US ties conducive to world peace

BEIJING, 5 Aug—Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao said here Wednesday that the sound growth of Sino-US ties is conducive to world peace, stability and development.

Wen made the remarks in his meeting with Ted Stevens, President pro tempore of the United States Senate. Wen said that three conclusions could be drawn from the history of the Sino-US relations:

First, harmonious co-existence between China and the United States brings benefits to both, while confrontation harms both.

Second, China and the United States share common interests and must

cooperate. Third, the maintenance of the sound Sino-US relations is conducive to the peace, stability and development of the entire world.

The healthy and stable growth of Sino-US relations conforms to the fundamental interests of the two countries and their people, Wen said.

Wen said that so long as both sides handle bilateral relations with a strategic and long-term view, respect each other, seek common ground,

leave differences aside and maintain dialogue and exchanges, the two countries can co-exist peacefully and cooperate in a wide range of areas.

Wen briefed the guests on China's economic situation. The development of China is a major contribution to global peace and prosperity and also creates conditions for the expansion of Sino-US economic relations, he said.—*MNA/Xinhua*



An American tank stands by as the crew allow time for an ambulance to pick up a Mahdi army injured man and another casualty from the fighting between Al-Sadr's men and US troops in the Baghdad neighbourhood of Sadr City, Iraq, on 5 Aug, 2004.

INTERNET

Multinational troops, Shiite militia battle in southern Iraq

NAJAF, 5 Aug—At least 17 people were killed and a US helicopter was shot down in the fiercest fighting between multinational troops and Shiite Muslim militiamen in Iraq since a truce was brokered in June.

Clashes persisted throughout the day, and officials reported more than 100 people wounded in the Shiite south and the Baghdad slum stronghold of radical militia leader Moqtada Sadr.

By late night, US jets were still intermittently shelling militia positions in the cemetery in Najaf, but ground fighting had ceased in the Shiite holy city, said an AFP correspondent. Earlier, planes were heard roaring over the capital.

A helicopter attached to the 11th Marine Expeditionary unit was forced down in the Najaf region in the morning, a US military spokes-

man in Baghdad said, adding that the crew was recovered alive.

The incident took place just hours after the fighting first started overnight between Iraqi police and Sadr's Mehdi Army militia.

Near Najaf, a US soldier was killed and five were wounded when their convoy was attacked with rocket-propelled grenades and gunfire. The soldiers had been redeployed to the area from north of Baghdad, the military said.

The death brought to more than 680 the number of US troops killed in action in Iraq since the 2003 US-led

invasion, based on Pentagon statistics.

Najaf's general hospital, attacked by rockets in the morning — killing a doctor and seriously wounding four other staff members — said nine people died in the fighting and another 34 were admitted with injuries.

In Baghdad's Sadr City, five people were killed and 58 wounded in fighting between US forces and the Mehdi Army, the health ministry said.

On Saturday, US-led multinational forces arrested Sheikh Mithal al-Hasnawi, Sadr's representative in Karbala, another Shiite holy

city south of Baghdad.

It was the US arrest of one of Sadr's key deputies that helped to trigger the fire-brand cleric's first standoff with the coalition in the spring.

Further north, in Mahawil, at least nine people were killed and more than 20 wounded when gunmen opened fire and a suicide bomber blew up a minibus outside an Iraqi police station, police and an interior ministry spokesman said.

The attack came just over a week after 70 people were killed in a massive suicide blast outside a police station in Baquba, north of Baghdad.

Internet

ဝက်စွမ်းအား ခေတ်ကျော်လွှား

Clinton raps Bush over Iraq: 'number five' security threat

TORONTO, 6 Aug—Former US President Bill Clinton said the Bush administration had damaged the US anti-terrorism campaign by toppling Saddam Hussein in Iraq — which he branded Washington's "number five" security threat.

Clinton, in Canada to promote his memoirs, said in a television interview that the Iraq war had drained vital resources from the US battle against al-Qaeda.

He rapped his successors in the White House for not pouring enough men and funds into the battle to catch Osama bin Laden, and al-Qaeda and Taliban holdouts along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border.

"Why did we put our number one security threat in the hands of the Pakistanis with us playing the supporting role and put all our military resources into Iraq which was I think at best our number five security threat?" Clinton said in an interview with CBC television.

"How did we get to the point where we have 130,000 troops in Iraq and 15,000 in Afghanistan?" — *Internet*



Al-Sadr's men fight with US troops in the Baghdad neighbourhood of Sadr City, Iraq, on 5 Aug, 2004. — INTERNET

Malaysia says not sending troops to Iraq

KUALA LUMPUR, 5 Aug — Malaysia will not send troops to Iraq for now, Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said on Wednesday.

"It is better for us to wait for a while and to see how the situation is," he told a news conference.

"At the moment, we are not sending and we are considering the proposal put forward by the Saudi Foreign Minister," said Abdullah, who also heads the 57-nation Organization of the Islamic Conference.

Saudi Arabia proposed last month that Arab and Islamic troops replace US and allied forces trying to restore peace in war-torn Iraq.

The Arab League has said Arab troops should not go to Iraq while the country remains under de facto foreign occupation and without a clear UN mandate.

Violence has left thousands dead since invading forces toppled President Saddam Hussein last year. Guerrillas regularly attack foreign forces, Iraqi police and the oil industry.

MNA/Reuters

S Korean Govt urges people not to travel to Iraq

SEOUL, 5 Aug — The South Korean Government on Wednesday urged its citizens again not to travel to Iraq or other regions deemed dangerous as Seoul planned dispatch of additional troops to northern Iraq.

In an unusual joint Press conference that gave a sense of urgency, Foreign Minister Ban Ki-moon and Defence Minister Yoon Kwang-ung warned that "a second and a third tragedy" can happen, referring to the death of a South Korean hostage in June.

MNA/Xinhua

Singapore tests vessel-identifying system for maritime security

SINGAPORE, 5 Aug—Singapore, an important hub port in Asia, is testing a new electronic system to identify, monitor and track smaller vessels to keep port safe from terrorist attacks.

This was revealed by Singapore's Transport Minister Yeo Cheow Tong while addressing an international maritime and port security conference here on Wednesday.

Yeo said that Singapore's Maritime and Port Authority (MPA) is now testing a low-cost system for identifying smaller vessels

not covered by the International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) code, which has been put into practice since July 1, this year.

MNA/Xinhua

Shiite militia declares war on British troops in Iraq

BASRA, 5 Aug—Militiamen loyal to Shiite Muslim radical leader Moqtada Sadr declared holy war against British forces based in Iraq's main southern city of Basra after four of their comrades were arrested.

Three Mehdi Army militiamen were later killed during a 15-minute gunfight with British troops on Al-Gama bridge in northern Basra, said Sheikh Saad al-Basri, Sadr's representative in the overwhelmingly Shiite city.

The area is a bastion of Sadr support in the city.

Three other militiamen were wounded in the exchange and two British land rovers damaged, Basri said.

"We will wage jihad (holy war) and war against the foreign troops, not against police and Iraqi forces," he vowed earlier.

"However, if they (the Iraqi personnel) fight on the side of the occupiers, we will strike them harshly."

Basri accused British forces of arresting four Sadr supporters in order to "create in Basra, the state of crisis that exists in Najaf".

A British military spokesman in Basra could not confirm the Mehdi casualties but said troops had been attacked on three separate occasions with small arms fire, causing no multinational casualties or damage to equipment.

The army did confirm four militia mem-

bers had been arrested Wednesday as part of a "routine security check and are being held to assist with inquiries".

An AFP photographer saw British troops deployed in armoured vehicles and tanks around Sadr's main offices and elsewhere in the city.

Police chief General Mohammed Kazem al-Ali said officials at Sadr's office had rejected his attempts to defuse the tension through negotiations. In Amara, north of Basra, a number of mortar rounds were fired at a British position in the city, but there were no casualties, a British spokeswoman said.

Basra deputy governor Salam Audeh, who represents Sadr on a provincial council, accused foreign troops of reneging on a June truce that ended Sadr's uprising earlier this year.

The British military also confirmed that two projectiles were fired at a multinational base camp in Sibah, south of Basra on the Kuwaiti border. One hit the camp and the other fell short.

Neither caused any casualties, it said.

Internet



One of al-Sadr's men fights with US troops in the Baghdad neighbourhood of Sadr City, Iraq, on 5 Aug, 2004. — INTERNET

Britain, US face new allegations of prisoner abuses

LONDON, 5 Aug— Britain and the United States are facing fresh allegations of prisoner abuses at Guantanamo Bay after three former British detainees claimed that they were repeatedly abused during their detention at the US naval base in Cuba, the *Guardian* newspaper reported Wednesday.

Details of the experiences of Rhuhe Ahmed, Shafiq Rasul and Asif Iqbal were disclosed by the paper on Wednesday and would be formally released in the United States later in the day.

The allegations have been contained in a new dossier detailing repeated beatings and humiliation suffered by the three detainees who were captured in Afghanistan, then held at Guantanamo Bay for two years, before being released in March without charge. Ahmed claimed in the 115-page dossier that shortly after his capture in November 2001, a British SAS special forces soldier interrogated him for three hours while an American colleague pointed a gun at him and threatened to shoot him.

The three men also alleged that they were repeatedly beaten, shackled in painful positions during interrogations and subjected to sleep deprivation.

In an echo of the abuse scandal at Abu Ghraib Jail in Baghdad which shamed the

US Government, the three Britons said they were photographed naked and subjected to anal searches unnecessarily, after being shackled for hours.

The three also alleged complicity by Britain in their treatment, challenging the claim by the British Foreign Office that none of the British detainees alleged mistreatment to British officials who visited them at Guantanamo, or following their release.

Iqbal said a British Embassy official took down a two-page list of alleged abuses, while the two others say they made their complaints orally. Nine Britons were imprisoned in Guantanamo without charge or access to a lawyer. Ahmed, Rasul and Iqbal were among five released detainees in March, who were questioned on arrival in Britain before being released.

The British Government is still in discussions with Washington over the detention of four other Britons at the US base.

MNA/Xinhua



British troops secure the main avenue leading to Shiite cleric Moqtada Sadr's office in Basra, southern Iraq, on 5 Aug, 2004.

INTERNET

Iraq urges migrants abroad to wait to return

BAGHDAD, 5 Aug— Tens of thousands of Iraqis living abroad are keen to return home but are being urged to stay where they are for up to two years, until the security situation improves and they can be properly received.

Iraq's Minister of Displacement and Migration, who recently returned from a tour of European countries, the United States and Canada — where most Iraqi migrants live — said she had asked foreign governments to help in urging Iraqis to wait.

"We asked the countries to cooperate with us and not force the Iraqis to leave because right now we don't have the capability to receive those immigrants," the minister, Pascale Warda, told a news conference on Wednesday.

"Many, many would like to come back very soon, but because of our situation, because of the lack of security, we are calling on them ... to wait a little bit, maybe some months, maybe one year, hopefully not more than two years," she said.

An estimated four million Iraqis live abroad, the bulk of them in Europe and North America, although there are also sizeable populations in Iran, Jordan, Syria and Turkey.

Since Saddam Hussein's fall, with the

country racked by crime and insecurity and as guerrillas keep up a near 16-month insurgency against US and Iraqi forces, there have been anecdotal reports of thousands of Iraqis fleeing the country.

In particular, doctors, scientists and other professionals are reported to have left after being targeted by criminals in robberies or kidnappings, provoking a brain drain.

The minister said many of those reports were overblown and said that while many Iraqis were applying for passports, it was often just to visit relatives abroad, not to emigrate wholesale.

"Not that many people have left, not that big a number," she said. "Because of the security situation some are trying to do that... but it's really not that big a number."

Instead, the bigger problem was planning for the return of those living abroad, an issue that affects the labour, finance, education and human rights ministries as well as immigration.

MNA/Reuters

Zarqawi group releases two Turkish hostages

DUBAI, 5 Aug— A militant group linked to al-Qaeda ally Abu Musab al-Zarqawi has released two Turkish drivers it was holding hostage in Iraq because their companies agreed to stop working there, *Al Jazeera* television said on Wednesday.

"Due to the Turkish firm's decision to stop sending supplies to US forces in Iraq, the Tawhid and Jihad Group has decided to free the two Turkish hostages," said a videotaped statement from the group broadcast on the Arabic-language channel.

On Sunday, the haulage firms Kahramanli and Oztur, which employ hostages Abdulrahman Demir and Said Unurlu, said they were prepared to suspend operations in Iraq to secure their release.

Tawhid and Jihad had threatened to behead the two men if its demands were not met. Militants in Iraq have waged a campaign of kidnappings aimed at driving out companies and troops supporting US forces and the new Iraqi interim administration.

Scores of hostages have been kidnapped by armed groups in Iraq. Some have been freed but nine, including at least one Turk, have been killed by Tawhid and Jihad and other groups. — MNA/Reuters

Chinese hybrid rice takes root in Ecuador

CHANGSHA, 5 Aug— Chinese hybrid rice has taken root half a world away in Ecuador, where the high-yield, top quality rice has been well received by local farmers and grain processors.

"It has won the hearts of many farmers and triggered a fever for Chinese hybrid rice among leading

Ecuadorean food processors," said Xu Jingbo, a hybrid rice expert sent to Ecuador by Yahua Seeds Holding

Cobased in the central China Province of Hunan.

Xu, also an official with the provincial agricultural department, headed an eight-member expert panel to the equatorial country three years ago to carry out field tests under a Sino-Ecuadorean cooperation programme designed to promote hybrid rice growing there. The Yahua company and its Ecuadorean partner Reybanpac have been chosen to implement the programme.

The trial has been so successful that Xu estimates total acreage of the hybrid rice in Ecuador will top 660 hectares this year.

"We have developed Ecuador's first hybrid rice brand, the Mirey, based on three high-yield, top quality rice strains from China," said Xu. "It has been applauded by local consumers".

Meanwhile, Ecuador has ordered 40 tons of hybrid rice seeds from China over the past three years.

MNA/Xinhua



Gunmen allied to radical Iraqi Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr deploy during skirmishes with British troops in the southern Iraq city of Basra on 5 Aug, 2004. — INTERNET

Iraq to conduct general census

BAGHDAD, 5 Aug — The Iraqi Ministry of Planning and Developing Cooperation has allocated 60 million US dollars to achieve the general census in the country, which would be conducted within two months, local newspaper *Al-Sharq Al-Awsat* reported Tuesday.

A source in the ministry was quoted as saying that for the purpose, a higher committee would be formed which represents a number of ministries, the municipality of Baghdad and the consultative council.

It will also include a member representing the region of Kurdistan, with an operation room headed by the Central Department of Census, the source added.

The source said that the committee of

preparing and updating the maps relating to the administrative units have finished the work assigned to it.

An experimental census would be carried out in a number of regions to point out the problems and obstacles that could face the general census to be able to treat them.

The census would include all the Iraqi governorates, in addition to the Iraqis living abroad. — MNA/Xinhua

Three Iranian banks allowed to open branches in Iraq

TEHERAN, 5 Aug — Iraq's Central Bank has authorized three Iranian banks to open branches in the war-ravaged country, the English-language *Iran Daily* reported Tuesday.

The daily, citing visiting Iraqi Deputy Foreign Minister Hamed Al-Bayati, said that the Iranian banks would be allowed to operate in Iraq after depositing a certain sum with the provisional government.

Meanwhile, Al-Bayati expressed his hope that more Iranian banks would be authorized to open branches in his country, the daily said.

Teheran was one of the first governments to an-

nounce its readiness to participate in Iraq's reconstruction, Al-Bayati told the daily, adding that many Iranian companies are now actively doing reconstruction work in his country.

MNA/Xinhua



An Iraqi man gestures toward battle damage in the city of Najaf in Iraq, on 3 August, 2004.



Pool of blood seen at a checkpoint on the northern road heading to the city of Baquba, northeast Baghdad, where a suicide car bomb exploded on 3 August, 2004.



Iraqis look at a damaged car in the city of Najaf, Iraq, on 3 Aug, 2004.



Car bombing in Mosul, Iraq, killed at least two people and injured about 60 on 1 August, 2004.



Iraqis crowd the area after an explosion in the parking lot in the Baghdad suburb of Al Doura on 1 August, 2004.

Images of Iraq



Iraqis push parked vehicle away from the site of two car bombs that exploded in Baghdad on 1 August, 2004.



US Army soldiers and Iraqis gather at the scene of car bombing in Mosul, Iraq, on 1 August, 2004.



An Iraqi man looks at a damaged bus in the city of Najaf in southern Iraq, on 3 August, 2004.

Infrastructures built for human resource development



New school building of Tachilek Basic Education Middle School in Shan State (East). — (KYEMON)



Sabaibyu building of Thayettan Basic Education Post Primary School in Madaya Township, Mandalay Division. — MNA



Thanks to the combined efforts of the government and the people, Mongkai in Shan State gets new school building for its Basic Education High School. — MNA



New school building of Basic Education Primary School No.7 in Ward 168, Dagon Myothit Seikkan Township, Yangon Division.—MNA



The three-storey school building of No.2 Basic Education High School in Wakema, Ayeyawady Division. — MNA

Government exerting efforts to ensure equitable ...

(from page 1)

meeting departmental officials. On his way, he dropped into Yesagyo and Pauk townships in the morning to support regional development tasks especially to attend to the needs for raising the education and health sectors in the rural areas.

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe designated Pakokku as the capital of the region on the western bank of Ayeyawady River and gave guidance on upgrading Pakokku to a city possessing characteristics of a city. Accordingly, high-ranking officials have to make inspection tours of Pakokku and its environs occasionally with regard to the development undertakings.

As a result, Pakokku District has been facilitated with 50-bed, 25-bed and 16-bed hospitals and station hospitals including the 200-bed hospital numbering 15. With respect to the education sphere, a splendid university is in the process of being built in Pakokku and so are Pakokku Government Computer College and Pakokku Government Technological College. Pakokku is a region in which cotton thrives, so the government is implementing Pakokku Textile Plant Project and it will be opened soon. Regarding the agricultural sector, it has built dams and water pumping



Bagan period style ancient bronze Buddha image cast in Konbaung period.— MNA



Ancient Pañcaloha Buddha image cast in the 11th AD of early Bagan period.—MNA



PM General Khin Nyunt reveres the two ancient Buddha images donated by wellwishers (U Aung Than Myint)-Daw Thein Thein and family.— MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt accepts two ancient Buddha images donated by wellwisher Daw Thein Thein.—MNA

stations, and more irrigation facility projects are being implemented in the region. In Magway Division, a total of 26 dams have been constructed, nine under construction and 11 to be built. And 46 water pumping stations have been built, one in the process and six to be constructed. With regard to the transport field, Pakokku Airport Project will be completed soon, and on completion jumbo jets can use the facility. In its drive to ensure parallel progress of Magway Division and Chin State, the government has been taking measures for better transport of these two regions. With a view to upgrading the roads linking Pakokku and Chin State to all-weather facilities, the government is implementing Pakokku-Mindat-Matupi-Yayzwa-Haka road. Kyaukhtu Airport has been put into commission recently so as to expand the scope of the air transport of Chin State. The government's systematic measures and vigorous efforts mean ensuring equitable development of States and Divisions of the Union and proportionate improvement of the living standard of national races living in these regions. Especially, it has placed great emphasis on building of roads, bridges, airports, universities, colleges, school buildings, hospitals, health care centres, dams, reservoirs and water pumping stations in all parts of the nation with a view to ensuring better transport, boosting contacts and relations between the regions in States and Divisions, uplifting the educational and health standards of the nation and strengthening the national economy. With the concept that only when all the national races living in States and

Divisions enjoy equitable development, will there flourish Union Spirit and the spirit of national solidarity among them, the government has been paying attention to regional development projects. The entire people are therefore to be convinced of this concept and to perform their duties with zest and zeal for ensuring perpetual existence of the Union and strong economy of the nation, while living unitedly in accordance with the national policies of the government.

Departmental officials at all levels on their part are also to be well convinced of the concept and to make combined endeavours and coordinate for ensuring betterment of respective regions, raising the living standard of local people, and accomplishment of the policies and plans adopted by the State, while enlisting the participation and strength of respective social organizations and local residents. After the meeting, the Prime Minister cordially greeted those present.

On arrival at Pakokku Government Technological College, the General and party were welcomed by the principal, faculty members and students. Chairman of the Myanmar Education Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt heard a report by Minister for Science and Technology U Thaung on extension of the building and choosing the site for the construction project. The Prime Minister fulfilled the needs.

The Prime Minister and party headed for Pakokku runway project, where they were welcomed by Director-General of the Civil Aviation Department U Win Maung

and officials. The Prime Minister inspected progress in constructing the main building of Pakokku Airport and the runway and left necessary instructions.

Next, they went to Pakokku Textile Plant Project of Myanmar Textile Industries under the Ministry of Industry-1. They looked into work progress and installation of weaving machines. The minister and officials conducted the Prime Minister round the project site. On the morning of 4 August at Bagan Guest House, the Prime Minister accepted two ancient Buddha images donated by wellwishers (U Aung Than Myint)-Daw Thein Thein and family of No 78/79, Ponnyet Street, Min Hti Yin Ward, Bagan. The two bronze images were cast in the early Bagan Period (11 AD) and Konbaung Period. The ancient cultural artefacts are of great historical value, and in order not to be smuggled out of the country the wellwishers made a decision to donate them to the State. — MNA

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe designated Pakokku as the capital of the region on the western bank of Ayeyawady River and gave guidance on upgrading Pakokku to a city possessing characteristics of a city.



Construction of the main building at Pakokku Airport in progress.— MNA



Construction of Pakokku Textile Factory nearing completion.— MNA

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than tours Pyapon Township

Pyapon Basic Education High School No 2 gets new school building

YANGON, 6 Aug — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing and party, attended the opening ceremony of extended two-storey building at Basic Education High School No 2 in Pyapon Township yesterday morning.

The commander formally opened the two-storey building. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than unveiled the stone plaque. Headmistress Daw Yin Yin Thein handed over documents related to the building to Director (Academic) U Tun Kyi of No 1 Department of Basic Education.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than presented a computer for the multimedia classrooms and K 300,000 to the funds of the school through the headmistress. Next, the commander presented a TV and school stationery to the headmistress. Afterwards, the commander presented K 100,000 to Kyaiklat Township Band.

Speaking on the occasion, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than said that the



The opening ceremony of the new school building of Pyapon Township Basic Education High School No 2 in progress. — MNA

government laid down human resource development plans to build a peaceful, modern and developed nation. Arrangements are being made for uplift of rural health standard which is one of the five rural development tasks. In addition, the government carries out tasks to open and upgrade basic education schools in cooperation with well-wishers and appoint more teachers at the schools. Universities and hospitals have been opened in 24 development regions. In Ayeyawady Division, students in Patheingyi, Hinthada and Maubin get opportunities to pursue higher education at universities in their

respective regions.

It is necessary to maintain the school building opened today for its durability. Teachers are to nurture their pupils to become intellectuals and intelligentsia on whom the State can rely. And, the students also are to try their best in studying their lessons.

The new school building, 110 feet long and 30 feet wide, was built at a cost of K 22 million. Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than attended the ceremony to offer Waso robes and 'soon' to 53 monasteries of Bogale and its surrounding areas at the Township Dhammayon Sasana Beikman. First, the congregation received the Five Precepts from Bogale

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than presented a computer for multimedia classrooms and K 300,000 to school fund to the headmistress. The new two-storey school building, 110 feet long and 30 feet wide, was built at a cost of K 22 million.

Township Sangha Nayaka Committee Zeyamedani Monastery Sayadaw Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Nanavamsa. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, the commander and officials presented Waso robes to the Sayadaws. Member of the State Central Working Committee of the Sangha Myaseinyang Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Samvara delivered a sermon.

At the meeting hall of Bogale Township Peace and Development Council,

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than met departmental officials, social organization members and local people.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than said that peace and stability and prevalence of law and order, strengthening of economy and development of human resource play an important role in building a peaceful, modern and developed nation. At present, peace and stability can be restored, and the government is making arrangements

for strengthening economy and development of human resource.

In addition to development of urban areas, five rural development tasks are being carried out for uplift of living standard of rural people. The people are also to participate in performing the tasks laid down by the State. In the agricultural sector, suitable crops for the region including summer and monsoon paddy out of 10 main crops are to be put on extended areas. And, fisheries and poultry farming are to be extended. Departmental personnel and local authorities should serve interest of the people.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than presented K 200,000 for development of Bogale Township and the commander, school stationery to officials.

They inspected thriving monsoon paddy in Bogale, Pyapon, Kyaiklat, Maubin and Nyaungdon townships by boat and arrived back here in the evening. — MNA



Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than formally unveils the stone inscription of the new school building of Pyapon BEHS-2. — MNA



Agri, livestock breeding tasks inspected

YANGON, 6 Aug — Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman and Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, accompanied by Brig-Gen Kyaw Thu of Phugyi Station, No 1 Military Region Commander Col Tun Kyi, Yangon Division PDC Secretary Lt-Col Myint Kyi, departmental officials and local authorities, inspected agricultural and livestock breeding tasks and regional development measures in Taikkayi Township, Yangon North District, this morning.

Maj-Gen Myint Swe attended a ceremony to release fingerlings into paddy fields belonging to farmer U Pu Than of Kyunchaung village in the township. On the occasion, Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Brig-Gen Kyaw Thu and officials distributed fingerlings to be released into paddy fields to local farmers. Next, they put fingerlings into paddy fields. They also viewed the activities to release 35,000 fingerlings of various species into 70-acre paddy field. Later, the commander and party inspected thriving paddy fields along Yangon-Pyay Highway by car.

In Aphyauk, the commander and party looked into the condition of embankments along the Ayeyawady River. They also inspected measures being taken to prevent the overflowing of water near Kyway Bagan Creek village, Taikkayi Township. Commander of Taikkayi Station Brig-Gen Htein Win reported on concerted efforts made by members of the local battalions and local people to lay sandbags for construction of embankment between Chaunggyi and Kyway Bagan Creek villages.

After hearing the reports, Maj-Gen Myint Swe gave instructions and fulfilled the requirements. — MNA

Preventing loss of State, private property in waterway accidents

YANGON, 6 Aug — With a view to preventing loss of the State and private property in accidents of water craft which crash into bridges in rivers, a coordination meeting was held at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Transport on Merchant Street here this afternoon. The meeting was attended by Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe, Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung, Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min, Deputy Minister for Construction Brig-Gen Myint Thein, Deputy Minister for Transport U Pe Than and officials of various departments such as Public Works, Myanmar Timber Enterprise, Marine Administration Department, Myanmar Port Authority, Inland Water Transport and Directorate of Water resources and Improvement of River System First, Minister Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe gave a speech. Next, Deputy Minister for Transport U Pe Than reported on changing of waterways at river crossing bridges, survey of waterways and prevention of bank erosions near the bridges. Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min explained conditions of bridges built by Myanmar Railways. Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung discussed drift of bamboo rafts in rivers and inspection of bamboo rafts at check points before passing through under the bridges.

Deputy Minister for Construction Brig-Gen Myint Thein reported on inspection of durability of bridges and coordination for safely running of water craft. Next, Deputy Minister U Pe Than and officials took part in the discussions. — MNA

A historical milestone leading the nation to a new age — 6

Aung Moe San

For Myanmar, which is in the process of transition into a democratic state, there should not be permanent enemy nor permanent friend. But she needs to carefully and rightly differentiate between friend and foe. Only then will she be able to set up a democratic state with the least risk.

The enemies of a developing nation engaged in the establishment of a democratic state are: the persons who wish to set up a socialist economy after abolishing the market economy; the sanctions that halt and destroy the process of establishing a multi-party democratic state; the instigation to break up the national consolidation; the daredevil acts to leapfrog to democracy goal without laying down different stages (ultra rightists' dream to establish democracy); and the ways and means opposing the system of implementing a democratization programme that is in accord with the social situation of a developing nation.

On the other hand, extending support and encouragement which are free from personal attachment, ideological prejudice and bias, for a nation in accord with the time and situation and its the economy, politics, democratization task and modernization and progress, is the form of friendship for developing nations.

Nowadays, Myanmar is in progress in implementing the seven-point policy programme in her democratization task. The nation will set up a democracy system in accord with the policy programme without fail. Holding of the National Convention, which is the base of the policy programme, is under way in the nation, and the delegates are discussing the laying down of basic principles for the emergence of a constitution.

The Government has dutifully invited the delegates of all the political parties, national races and the people from all walks of life, and other persons who should be invited to take part in the Convention to enable the entire nation to unitedly build a democratic state in accord with the policy programme, that conforms to the way of life of the people. It keeps the door open to the organizations that have not reached the road to national consolidation and democracy yet. Those organizations too should reconsider instead of dreaming to copy the western type of democracy, to march on the old and backward way of giving priority more to an individual than the ideology, to adopt hero worshipping and to revenge.

The people have been suffering from the ill effects of economic sanctions and confrontations for 15 years. If one really stands for the people, he must protect the nation from economic sanctions that hurt the people. All the

Extending support and encouragement which are free from personal attachment, ideological prejudice and bias, for a nation in accord with the time and situation and its the economy, politics, democratization task and modernization and progress, is the form of friendship for developing nations.

forces of the national races will have to unitedly safeguard the nation against all attempts to break up the national solidarity. We all must be united, so that dissension may not occur at all.

In addition, with patriotism, we all need to join hands to ward off pressures and interferences to put our nation under the influence of some foreign powers, especially, we will have to collectively take part in implementing the seven-point policy programme, while discarding the practice of confrontations and the intransigent attitude.

If one is not dutiful in performing these national tasks he cannot free himself from the dream of copying the western style of democracy. The western style of democracy cannot agree to Myanmar way of life. In addition to the differences in economic, political and historical sectors, the issue of culture also poses a barrier.

The enemies of a developing nation engaged in the establishment of a democratic state are: the persons who wish to set up a socialist economy after abolishing the market economy; the sanctions that halt and destroy the process of establishing a multi-party democratic state; the instigation to break up the national consolidation; the daredevil acts to leapfrog to democracy goal without laying down different stages (ultra rightists' dream to establish democracy); and the ways and means opposing the system of implementing a democratization programme that is in accord with the social situation of a developing nation.

Myanmarsar Professor U Aye Maung wrote an article on culture in the National Culture Magazine published in 1962. The following is a brief account of the article:

"The genuine culture is the essence and jewel of human beings. Culture is rooted in geographical conditions, social system, mode of dress, arts, religion, literature and thoughts. A fine culture is based on patriotism. A culture that is devoid of national spirit or opposed to it is not a genuine culture of the people. Accepting such a culture amounts to ignoring and insulting one's own nation and people".

The definition of the word "culture" is very wide. It is connected with the human way of life and social style. In short, religion, administration, customs and arts are inclusive in culture. Hence, the essence of human beings is the genuine culture of mankind.

Since the assumption of the State duties, the Tatmadaw Government has been developing the nation in all aspects not with words but with deeds. It has laid down the four political objectives, the four economic objectives and the four social objectives, which are in conformity with our way of life, and is implementing them practically. It has abolished the centralized socialist economy and political system and introduced the market economy and multi-party democracy. It held a multi-party democracy general election. It has been convening the National Convention, with the participation of the delegates from all walks of life and all the national races, to draw a constitution. The task to draw a constitution and build a democratic nation faced a delay on account of confrontation and opposition, based on the method of creating conflicts. However, the Government has been able to bring unprecedented progress to the country.

It has also restored the national consolidation very well. The work of permitting the armed groups that returned to the legal fold to take part in regional development endeavours leads to the emergence of a Union, where equality and freedom flourish. Thanks to the market economy, people all over the country can conduct their businesses freely. And the transport development and infrastructural projects that reach the remote border areas have helped cement Union Spirit and the spirit of national solidarity.

In this regard, the seven-point policy programme has laid down and is being implemented for the emergence of a democratic nation. No one should doubt about the emergence of a democratic nation. No one needs to argue about the matter nor makes a debate on it. Because the seven-point policy programme is a historical milestone directing the nation to the entrance of a new age.

(Translation: TMT)

(Kyemon + Myanma Alin: 6-8-2004)

Efficient use of electricity

- * Use daylight as the main source of light
- * Use the least possible amount of electricity only if there is not enough natural light
- * Use the least possible amount of electricity required in production and service enterprises
- * Preventing waste of electricity benefits the user and others

There are about 500,000 households using electricity in Yangon. Thus, saving a four-foot fluorescent lamp everyday by each household amounts to saving power that is equal to the capacity a 20-megawatt power station can supply.

All this needs to be known

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

Efficient use of fuel

- * Saving one gallon of fuel per car per month will save the nation one US dollar
- * Thus, a total of 455,822 cars in Myanmar can save US\$ 5.5 million in a year
- * The amount, US \$ 5.5 million, can build a major bridge across Ayeyawady River

2004-2005 Academic Year

School Health Week (9th to 13th August 2004)

At All Basic Education Schools

Ministry of Education

သားငါးကဏ္ဍ တိုးတက်ရေး
စပါးခင်းမှာ ငါးတွဲပွဲကစားမည်။

စပါးကဏ္ဍ ငါးကဏ္ဍ
လယ်ယာသားငါး ပြည့်စုံပွဲမား။

ASEAN Food Festival

(10 am to 2 pm) 7th August 2004
Kandawgyi Palace Hotel (Lake View)



NCCC Chairman State Peace and Development Council Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein delivers an address at the co-ordination meeting. — MNA

Co-ord meeting between National Convention Convening Commission, Work Committee, Management Committee held

YANGON, 6 Aug — The coordination meeting No 20/2004 of the National Convention Convening Commission, the National Convention Convening Work Committee and the National Convention Convening Management Committee was held at the meeting hall of NCCC in Kyaikkasan Grounds, here, this afternoon, with an address by Chairman of NCCC Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein. Also present were Vice-Chairman of NCCC Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut, Secretary Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and Commission members, NCCWC Secretary U Thauung Nyunt and members, Chairman of NCCMC Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung and Management Committee members.

Joint-Secretary-2 of the NCCC Director-General U Myint Thein of the Pyithu Hluttaw Office acted as master of ceremonies. First, Chairman of NCCC Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein delivered an address, saying that the National Convention was adjourned on 9 July 2004 after completing one of its portions. And then, the National Convention Convening Work Committee continues to carry out the remaining tasks. As the Panel of Patrons of the National Convention strives to lay down basic principles after coordinating and combining proposals submitted by eight delegates groups to the National Convention, the Work Committee is to provide assistance to the Panel of Patrons if necessary.

Next, he said that the National Convention Convening Commission must compile a report as a record concerning performance of the National Convention up to till 9 July 2004. At the same time, it is necessary to look into requirements to extend buildings for

the National Convention and to extend and repair them in a short time. He stressed the need to keep list of materials used during the period of the National Convention and make frequent inspections. He urged all to keep systematic accounts and data which cost in the National Convention and the audit group is to check the accounts and data in accord with the financial rules and regulations. In conclusion, he said the NCCC, the NCCWC and the NCCMC are to coordinate tasks of the National Convention in the future like today's meeting.

Next, NCCC Secretary Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan reported on compilation of the report concerning the National Convention held from 17 May to 9 July 2004, records of the NC delegates and progress in repairing buildings at Nyaungnnapin Camp in Hmawby Township. Afterwards, Secretary of NCCC U Thauung Nyunt presented reports on tasks related to proposals submitted eight delegate groups, and NCCMC Chairman Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung on systematic maintenance of materials at the Nyaungnnapin Camp, assistance being provided to NC delegates warded at the hospital and keeping of cash donations for the National Convention. After hearing the reports, Lt-Gen Thein Sein gave the concluding remarks. — MNA

The National Convention was adjourned on 9 July 2004 after completing one of the its portions. As the Panel of Patrons of the National Convention strives to lay down basic principles after coordinating and combining proposals submitted by eight delegates groups to the National Convention, the Work Committee is to provide assistance to the Panel of Patrons if necessary.



MWAF President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe inspects water supply works at Indagaw model village in Bago Township. — MNA

MMCWA President on tour

YANGON, 6 Aug — President of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe accompanied by Vice-Presidents of MMCWA Dr Kyi Soe and Dr Tin Lin Myint, Central Executive Committee members and officials arrived this morning at Indagaw model village in Bago Township, Bago Division and Hlegu Township in Yangon Division to inspect the tasks of the MNCWA and attend to the needs.

On arrival at Indagaw model village, they were welcomed by patron of Bago Division supervisory committee of the MMCWA Daw Sao Nwon Khon Hsam and officials, district and township MCWA members and health staff. The MMCWA president and party cordially greeted the speakers of the talks on adolescent reproductive health in rural health department in Indagaw model village. They looked round health educative posters in rural health department in the village and documentary photos on activities of the village MCWA at a reading room. The president met with members of the village MCWA. Chairperson of the village association explained activities. Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe gave a speech. She also presented stationery and medicines for the village.

In Hlegu, she inspected a delivery room, and observed photos showing the health care and educational activities of the MMCWA. She then met with pregnant women and mothers and presented medicine for them. At the Township MCWA, she met with the members and discussed the association's functions. Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint, CEC members, Patron of Yangon MCWA Supervisory Committee Daw Khin Thet Htay and others were also present. The chairperson of the township association explained accomplishments, future programmes, the function of the association-owned delivery room and requirements. After looking into the requirements, Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe made a speech. She also presented medicines for the delivery room. After the meeting, she cordially conversed with the audiences and left for Yangon in evening. — MNA

Oil fields in Magway Division inspected

YANGON, 6 Aug — Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay inspected Mann and Htauksharbin oil fields in Minbu Township, Magway Division, on 31 August. He met officials of Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise and MPRL, FEL Co jointly engaged in oil exploration, and discussed matters on extended exploration of oil and gas.

At Yenangyoung Oil Field, the deputy minister also met officials the MOGE and the Gold Petrol Co jointly engaged in the oil exploration. The deputy minister dealt with extended production of oil and gas, and inspected Oil Well No 3230. He looked into No 1 Fertilizer Factory (Sale) under the Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise and left instructions on repairing of the oil refinery and fulfilled requirements.

On 1 August, the deputy minister held discussions with officials of Chauk Oil Field and local authorities on extended exploration of oil, minimizing loss and

wastage and security measures. Next, the deputy minister made inspection tours of Sabei and Thagyitaung oil fields and met the general managers and officials. He discussed oil exploration tasks and inspected drilling work. He also inspected seismic works near Gyobyan village in Pakokku Township. Afterwards, he went to Letpanto and Kyauk-khwet oil field and inspected drilling of new wells.

On 2 August, the

deputy minister inspected seismic group 2 near Kaingdaw village in Myaing Township. Then, he headed for Thankantan and inspected storage of oil and left necessary instructions.

During his inspection tour, the deputy minister dealt with increased production of oil and gas, minimizing loss and wastage, measures for drilling of new oil wells, and timely completion of the projects and attended to the needs. — MNA



Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay being reported on production of oil and natural gas in Yenangyoung oil field. — ENERGY

နိုင်ငံတော်ခေါ်ယူခြင်း

၁။ အမှတ်(၁) စက်မှုဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ မြန်မာ့ဆေးဝါးနှင့်ဆိမ့်ပစ္စည်းလုပ်ငန်း၊ အလှကုန်ပစ္စည်းစက်ရုံအတွက် အောက်ဖော်ပြပါဈေးပုလင်းခွန်(၂)မျိုးဝယ်ယူ လိုကြောင်း ကြော်ငြာအပ်ပါသည်။

စဉ်	ပစ္စည်းအမည်	အရေအတွက်	တင်ဒါပိတ်မည့်ရက်
(က)	(၂၀) စီစီရေမွှေး ပုလင်းခွန် (Bottle + Cap)	၃၀၀၀၀-ခုရေ	(၁၀-၈-၂၀၀၄) (၁၄:၀၀) နာရီ
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၂။ အသေးစိတ်အကြောင်းအရာများကို အလှကုန်ပစ္စည်းစက်ရုံတွင် ရှိချိန်အတွင်း စုံစမ်းနိုင်ပြီး၊ တင်ဒါပုံစံများ ဝယ်ယူနိုင်ပါသည်။

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV SEA MERCHANT VOY NO (519)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SEA MERCHANT Voy No (519) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8-8-2004 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T (1) where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11.20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: A/C ADVANCE CONTAINER
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HP showcases Linux notebook computer

LOS ANGELES, 5 Aug — Hewlett-Packard on Tuesday showcased a new notebook personal computer that comes preloaded with Linux operating system, instead of Windows operating system.

At the LinuxWorld Conference and Expo in San Francisco, HP touted its Compaq nx5000 business notebook PC as the world's first pre-installed Linux notebook PC from a major hardware vendor.

HP said the notebook PC, powered by Intel's Centrino mobile chips, will give mobile professionals the flexibility of Novell's SUSE Linux and come equipped with OpenOffice, CD-R/RW support, DVD and media player, wireless and Bluetooth connectivity. — MNA/Xinhua

Primera introduces home CD printer

LOS ANGELES, 5 Aug — Primera Technology on Tuesday introduced a compact desktop printer that prints directly onto CD-Rs and DVD-Rs with water-proof thermal transfer ink.

Primera Technology, a manufacturer of CD and DVD disc duplication and printing equipment, said Signature Z1 CD/DVD printer is targeted at home and office markets.

The company said its Signature Z1 prints each of four quadrants of the disc by spinning it and then applying ink in each area, distinguishing the printer from other inexpensive thermal transfer disc printers that can print only a single line at a time on discs.

Primera priced Signature Z1 at 139.95 US dollars and replacement ribbons at 19.95 US dollars. The company said if the customer only wants to print the top and bottom area of the disc, printing cost per disc is just 10 cents.

MNA/Xinhua

Germany, Italy call for flexible stability pact

BERLIN, 5 Aug — Germany and Italy on Wednesday called for a flexible interpretation of the Stability and Growth Pact governing deficits of the 12 euro-zone countries.

When appraising a country's debt and deficit, its investment in future growth must be taken into consideration, German Finance Minister Hans Eichel said after meeting with his visiting Italian counterpart Domenico Siniscalco.

"Our upcoming budget should be more future-oriented," said Eichel, adding that more money should be put on research, innovation and education.

While affirming the necessity of the pact, Eichel said it was up to EU ministers to decide how it should be applied.

Besides the deficit problems, Italy is also under pressure of huge amount of debt which has far exceeded the ceiling of 60 per cent of GDP set by the pact.

MNA/Xinhua

S Africa's motor sales head for 20-year high

JOHANNESBURG, 5 Aug — New motor vehicle sales in South Africa, the continent's strongest economy, were up in July and expected to improve to a level last seen in 1983, according to the nation's auto industry association.

Average vehicle sales last month, at 39,206 units, were 15 per cent better than the 34,095 units sold in July 2003, the National Association of Automobile Manufacturers of South Africa (NAAMSA) said Tuesday.

"Current indications are that the new vehicle market for the full Year 2004 could exceed 410,000, resulting in the highest level since 1983, and the third highest ever," NAAMSA said in a statement.

The association said the improvement could be attributed to various factors such as the continuing positive economic envi-

ronment, consumer and business sentiment, improved new vehicle affordability, attractive incentives and new product offerings.

In the new car category, sales were up 15.9 per cent on last year, and increased 2.8 per cent compared to June 2004. Sales of new light commercial vehicles, bakkies and minibuses reached 10,680 units, which was a 9.8 per cent increase over the 9,728 units sold in July 2003.

The truck and bus market for the year to July 2004 was up 36.5 per cent in the case of medium commercial vehicles and 22.1 per cent in the case of heavy trucks and buses, compared with last year's figures.

NAAMSA said vehicle exports for June also reached 10,691 units, the highest monthly figure since November 2003, and were expected to continue improving in the coming months. — MNA/Xinhua

DHS to begin biometric exit Pilot in US-Visit programme

HOUSTON, 5 Aug — The US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) will pilot and evaluate automated biometric exit procedures for foreign visitors to ensure that they leave on schedule. The border management system introduced at 115 airports and 14 seaports earlier this year will be expanded to 11 more airports and two seaports, Asa Hutchinson, undersecretary for border and transportation security, said here.

According to the programme titled "US-VISIT", all foreign visitors are fingerprinted and photographed when they arrive at major US airports and seaports. The fingerprints and photos are automatically checked against databases to ensure that documents are legitimate and the visitor's name does not appear on terrorist or law enforcement watch lists. — MNA/PTI

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Thai Govt to revive poultry industry hit by bird flu

BANGKOK, 5 Aug — Thai Deputy Prime Minister Chaturon Chaisaeng has ordered related ministries to urgently revive the country's poultry industry hit by bird flu outbreak, local Press reported here on Wednesday.

At a weekly meeting of the national committee on bird flu eradication, Chaturon said the country's poultry export had already plummeted by 62 per cent due to the two bird flu outbreaks in the past seven months. It is expected that poultry export in Thailand will plummet by 70 per cent for the whole year.

To revive Thailand's poultry industry, Chaturon instructed the Agriculture Ministry to design new poultry

try farming methods, including introducing the evaporation system under which poultry are isolated to avoid their contact with wild bird. And an insurance programme will be launched by the Commerce Ministry to help farmers resume poultry raising.

More than 160,000 birds have been culled or died after a new round of bird flu rekindled the country on July 6. Most poultry farms in Thailand were heavily hit by the bird flu crisis breaking out at the beginning of this year.

The establishment of a regional centre for bird flu diagnosis and control in Bangkok will also help Thailand to combat the disease more effectively, said

Chaturon.

Last week, delegates from 10 countries agreed here to set up a headquarters of South-east Asia's bird flu surveillance network in Bangkok.

Meanwhile, the livestock department removed 11 areas from Thailand's list of zones affected by bird flu. "We should be able to declare our country free of bird flu very soon," the department's director-general Yukol Limlamthong was quoted by newspaper *The Nation* as saying on Wednesday.

He added the department was tackling the outbreaks to ensure the disease would not dampen frozen chicken exports next year.

MNA/Xinhua

WB offers Vietnam emergency credit to support anti-bird flu activities

HANOI, 5 Aug — The World Bank (WB) has just approved an emergency credit worth 5 million US dollars to Vietnam to help it control of the avian influenza epidemic.

The Vietnam Avian Influenza Emergency Recovery Project totalling 6.2 million dollars is to strengthen the country's disease surveillance and diagnostic capacity and poultry industry's infrastructure, and safeguard human health by improving public awareness, said a

news release issued by the WB in Vietnam on Wednesday.

"The recent epidemic clearly revealed the inadequacy of veterinary and extension services to cope with an animal health epidemic of this nature. The project will provide much-needed technical advice to the government on the strategy it should follow to recover from the present crisis and for the future control of avian influenza epidemics," noted WB acting country director

Martin Rama.

The project will benefit poultry farmers and traders who lost their poultry as the result of the avian influenza epidemic, and help protect other farmers against such losses in future. Funding for the project includes the WB's credit, 550,000 dollars of the food and Agriculture Organization in the form of technical assistance and training, and 650,000 dollars from the Vietnamese Government.

MNA/Xinhua

Study shows Mediterranean diet halves risk of heart attacks

ROME, 5 Aug — The Mediterranean diet halves the risk of heart attacks, according to a new study released here on Wednesday.

The four-year study of 11,000 heart patients in 170 Italian hospitals was conducted by the Italian Hospital Cardiologists' Association (Anmco) along with Milan's prestigious Mario Negri research institute.

According to Dr. Carlo Schweiger, president of Anmco's Health Care Foundation, the Mediterranean diet, based on fish, vegetables, fruit, olive oil and a glass of wine at meals, halves the risk of heart attacks.

The research was the first in-depth study of the impact on health of the widely touted Italian-style diet and its ability to cut down the risk of death from heart attacks.

MNA/Xinhua

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WHO withdraws Ranbaxy's AIDS medicines

NEW DELHI, 5 Aug — The World Health Organization has removed three AIDS medicines manufactured by Ranbaxy from its purchase list as it found them to be “non-compliant with international standards of good clinical and laboratory practices”.

This follows a similar action by WHO last May on two AIDS drugs manufactured by Cipla.

A WHO Press release issued in Geneva on Wednesday said that the three antiretrovirals will be removed from the list until such time as Ranbaxy can submit data of new studies providing unequivocal evidence of the products bioequivalence with the originator medicines.

WHO said it “is committed to ensuring that the medicines it prequalifies for procurement in developing countries are of the highest standard”.

The antiretrovirals in question are the triple fixed-dose combination pill containing Lamivudine, Stavudine and Nevirapine in two different strengths and a Lamivudine

plus Zidovudine tablet.

While the three Ranbaxy products meet quality specifications, proof of bioequivalence is missing in view of non-compliance with good clinical and laboratory practices as well as data handling requirements found in the contracted laboratory, WHO said. This effectively means that the medicines may or may not offer the same therapeutic benefits as the originals on which they are based. Ranbaxy has undertaken to resubmit the products in question to a different laboratory for proof of bioequivalence.

“If and when those products and the laboratories are found to meet the specified requirements, WHO will reinstate them in its list of prequalified products,” WHO said.

MNA/PTI

NASA names supercomputer “KC” after Indian astronaut

HOUSTON, 5 Aug — NASA has dedicated its new Altix supercomputer ‘KC’ to the memory of Indian-born astronaut Kalpana Chawla, one of the seven crew aboard the space shuttle *Columbia* which disintegrated midair in February last year.

Naming the new supercomputer ‘Kalpana’ follows a long tradition at NASA’s Ames Research Centre of calling its new supercomputers after pioneers in the supercomputer industry or individuals who have significantly contributed to research at the aircraft research laboratory.

“It is indeed an honour to name NASA’s new SGI Altix 3000 supercomputer after Kalpana Chawla,” said Ames Centre Director G. Scott Hubbard, adding “she was not only a member of the NASA family, but also a special member of our own Ames family. We all miss her and her many contributions to the agency”.

At Ames, Chawla had the challenging task of computing the airflow surrounding a jet-supported, delta-wing aircraft during

landing. During an interview in 1995, Chawla predicted that her exposure to a wide variety of computer systems at Ames would be especially useful to her as an astronaut.

Of the dozens of experiments successfully conducted by the *Columbia* crew, Chawla’s favourite was the Israeli Mediterranean Dust Experiment, which involved pointing a camera at Earth to study the effects of dust on weather and the environment.

“Fittingly, the SGI Altix 3000 supercomputer that will be named ‘Kalpana’ is being used to develop substantially more capable simulation models to better assess the evolution and behaviour of the Earth’s climate system,” said Ghassem Arsar, NASA’s Deputy Associate Administrator for Earth Science. — MNA/PTI

Astronomers observe new type of cosmic explosion

LONDON, 6 Aug — A new type of cosmic explosion that occurred late last year could shed light on the death of massive stars, astronomers said on Wednesday.

It was more powerful than supernovae, explosions marking the death of a huge star, but weaker than gamma-ray bursts (GRB), the mysterious and most brilliant blasts in the universe.

“I was stunned that my observations... showed that this event confirmed the existence of a new class of bursts,” said Alicia Soderberg, of the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena, who reported the

finding in the science journal *Nature*.

“It was like hitting the jackpot.”

Scientists had thought all gamma-ray bursts had a standard energy and the same intrinsic brightness until the discovery of the cosmic blast that occurred on December 3, 2003 and is known by its date of birth, GRB 031203.

“With this new event we realise it is not true. There are sub-energetic bursts that are less luminous with fainter

emission, which means there is a not a standard energy,” Soderberg said in an interview.

“Perhaps there is some sort of continuum between the two explosions that we didn’t realize before,” she added.

The new blast occurred about 1.6 billion light years away. A light-year is about six trillion miles the distance light travels in a year. It was also much closer than other gamma-ray bursts and about

a thousand times weaker.

Astronomers do not know what causes gamma-ray bursts. They are thought to occur when stars collapse possibly to become a black hole, creating a huge gravitational pull from which nothing can escape.

But last month, cosmologist Stephen Hawking said he believes some material oozes out of black holes over billions of years through irregularities on their surface. — MNA/Reuters

Solar system may be unique after all

WASHINGTON, 5 Aug — Our solar system may be unique after all, despite the discovery of at least 120 other systems with planets, astronomers said on Wednesday.

All the other solar systems that have been found have big, gassy planets circling too close to their stars to allow them to be anything like Earth or its fellow planets, the British and US-based researchers said.

If that is the case, Earth-like planets will be very rare, the astronomers write in the latest issue of the *Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society*.

“Maybe these other extrasolar systems... contain only the giant planets,” said Mario Livio of the Space Telescope Science Institute in Baltimore.

Livio and colleagues took a close look at what is known about the other plan-

etary systems that have been discovered.

“In (our) solar system the orbits are very circular. Most of the giant planets observed in extrasolar systems have very elliptical orbits,” Livio said in a telephone interview.

This could mean that astronomers have been wrong in assuming that all planets formed in basically the same way. Livio said most experts thought that planets formed out of dust. “This dust coagulates and forms small rocks and the rocks combine and form small bodies and then those bodies form things like Earth,” he said.

MNA/Reuters

Environmental changes can produce emerging viruses

WASHINGTON, 5 Aug — Environmental changes, such as replacing forests with ranchland, combined with genetic mutations, can produce viruses like SARS and HIV, according to a research from the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB).

Researchers reached this conclusion after studying viruses from two late-20th-Century outbreaks of Venezuelan equine Encephalitis (VEE) - a deadly illness that can cause brain inflammation in horses and humans - in Mexico and compared them with a similar virus that does not usually infect horses or humans.

They suggested that replacing forests with ranchland along a 805-kilometre-long, 32- to 80-kilometre-wide stretch of Mexico’s and Guatemala’s Pacific coastal plains put extreme evolutionary pressure on the VEE virus strain that was prevalent there.

MNA/PTI

Depression study suggests need for longer drug use

WASHINGTON, 5 Aug — People with depression have an over-active brain circuit that can stay turned on even when they are not feeling down, US researchers reported on Wednesday.

The finding suggests that some depressed patients remain vulnerable all the time, and need to stay on medication even after they get better, the researchers said.

Researchers at the National Institute of Mental Health deliberately induced some symptoms of depression in patients to image their brains using positron emission tomography or PET scans.

They can do this by giving the patients a cocktail of amino acids, said Dr. Alexander Neumeister, a researcher

now at Yale University in Connecticut.

The correct mix lowers levels of the amino acid tryptophan. The body converts tryptophan into serotonin, the neurotransmitter — message-carrying chemical — that is boosted by many anti-depressants.

“That happens very fast — within five hours,” Neumeister said in a telephone interview.

They tested 27 people who had been treated for depression but who were currently feeling healthy and taking no

medication, and compared them to 19 people who had never had depression.

About 60 per cent of the former depression patients had their symptoms come back temporarily when their tryptophan was depleted, Neumeister said. PET scans showed abnormal activity in certain brain regions known to be associated with depression in the front and centre of the brain, such as the orbitofrontal cortex, the thalamus, anterior cingulate, and ventral striatum. — MNA/Reuters

George Lucas opens animation studio in Singapore

LOS ANGELES, 5 Aug — George Lucas, creator of blockbuster films “Star Wars” and “Raiders of the Lost Ark,” on Tuesday announced the opening of a digital animation studio in Singapore.

This is Lucas’ first overseas foray by his Lucasfilm production company. The studio, named Lucasfilm Animation Singapore (LAS), will produce digital animated content including films, television and game for global audiences.

“I’ve been a fan of Asian

animation and illustration all my life. Asian cinema has had a particularly big impact on a lot of my work,” Lucas said in a statement.

“By having a base in Singapore, we can create a new style of animation that will blend East and West — and offer something not seen be-

fore,” Lucas added. This Singapore-based team will be headed by Gail Currey, vice-president and general manager of Lucasfilm Animation. Financing for LAS is a joint venture between Lucasfilm Ltd and Singapore’s Economic Development Board (EDB). — MNA/Xinhua



An American flamingo chick, born on 16 July, 2004, peeks out from its mother's feathers to feed at the Smithsonian's National Zoo in Washington, on 20 July, 2004. — INTERNET

SPORTS

Athens attracts record number of foreign volunteers

ATHENS, 5 Aug — The Athens Olympics have attracted the largest number of foreign volunteers in the history of the Games, officials said on Wednesday.

With 44,000 selected of a total 45,000 volunteers needed for the Games, organizers said some 4,500 were foreign nationals.

"This is the highest percentage ever recorded in an Olympic Games," Volunteer Programme Director Dimitris Tzirias said.

He said that figure was considerably higher in the application stage where 36 per cent of applicants were residing abroad. Only 11 per cent of those were Greeks living abroad.

Organizers sifted through 160,000 applications, conducting more than

90,000 interviews, Tzirias said.

Failure to secure accommodation during the Games or appear for a scheduled interview had witnessed the number of foreigners drop considerably.

Organizers of the August 13.29 Games launched the volunteer programme three years ago in a bid to attract helping hands for the Games and create a Greek volunteer culture from scratch.

"Besides covering the needs of the Games, we also wanted to leave a legacy of volunteers in Greek society," Tzirias said. "We have succeeded in this."

Some two thirds of all Athens Games volunteers are under 35.

Smiling and helpful volunteers were credited for the success of the Sydney 2000 Games, which were praised as the best ever.

Volunteers from as far afield as Japan and the United States have flocked to the Greek capital for the return of the Olympics to the site of their modern revival after 108 years.

"What better way to spend the summer than volunteer for the Games in Athens," American volunteer Lopaka Luis Ulmaheihel Purdy from Hawaii told reporters. "The Games have a larger goal of uniting the world."

Tzirias said organizers had not yet recorded any wave of last-minute change of heart among volunteers, with daily volunteer attendance around 95 per cent in all Olympic venues that are operating.

MNA/Reuters



Real Madrid's new defender Argentine Walter Samuel, right, passes the ball past Alicante's Yordi during a friendly soccer match in Alicante, Spain, on Thursday, 5 Aug, 2004. — INTERNET

Japan's Alex dealt lucky hand before Asian Cup final

BEIJING, 5 Aug — Japan midfielder Alex, booked in his last two games, is set to play in the Asian Cup final against hosts China thanks to a controversial decision by tournament organizers.

The Brazilian-born player will benefit after the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) decided not to carry over yellow cards picked up during the knockout stage to the final.

"The players were laughing about it in training this morning," Japan media officer Ichirota Fukushi told Reuters.

"They were wondering how Alex was still playing. Yellow cards are rescinded, apparently."

The AFC confirmed they had changed the rules regarding yellow cards since the last Asian Cup in Lebanon four years ago.

The decision puts the AFC at odds with accepted practice at competitions run by

soccer's world governing body FIFA, though Asian officials claimed there was nothing controversial about it.

"If it was a red card he would be out but people do not want to see the top players miss the final," AFC director of communications Michelle Chai said.

"The decision was taken within the laws of the game and for the good of the game." — MNA/Reuters

Lizarazu still considering international future

PARIS, 5 Aug — France left back Bixente Lizarazu is considering extending his international career after talks with new coach Raymond Domenech.

The 34-year-old Olympique Marseille defender had said he was considering retiring from the national side after France suffered a shock elimination by Greece in the quarterfinals of the European championship in June. "I was not going to take any decision today," Lizarazu, capped 97 times, was quoted as saying by daily *Le Parisien*. "But I had to talk to the coach. It's important to hear what he had to say."

"Raymond Domenech presented me his plans for the national team and it opened up some new outlooks."

"It was a very interesting meeting but you mustn't draw any conclusions yet." — MNA/Reuters



Bixente Lizarazu of France evades a tackle during the Euro 2004 quarterfinal soccer match between France and Greece at the Jose Alvalade Stadium in Lisbon, Portugal, on 25 June, 2004. Lizarazu, 34, announced he was retiring from international soccer on Thursday, 5 Aug, 2004, saying it's time to let younger players make their mark in the national team with the 2006 World Cup on the horizon. — INTERNET

Aston Villa to sign Nantes midfielder Berson

NANTES(France), 6 Aug — Aston Villa are set to sign defensive midfielder Mathieu Berson from Nantes.

The French club said on Thursday they had reluctantly agreed to sell the 24-year-old who had been seeking a move to the English Premier League.

"Following numerous requests from Mathieu Berson to continue his career in England, Nantes football club has accepted his departure, with regret," Nantes said in a statement. The move has still to be finalized but a fee of 2.3 million euros has been agreed and Nantes said the money would be used to strengthen their squad.

Berson played 122 Ligue 1 matches for Nantes and scored seven goals. He won the French Cup with the club in 2000 and the league title the following year.

MNA/Reuters

Sharapova advances at Montreal

OTTAWA, 6 Aug — Wimbledon champion Maria Sharapova got an easy win in her first match at the 1.3 million US dollars Montreal Cup on Wednesday, beating Kristina Brandi of Puerto Rico 6-1, 6-4.

The 17-year-old Sharapova, the first Russian player to win Wimbledon, was challenged briefly in the second set but was able to quickly recover and put the match away with her dominating backhand and solid ground strokes.

Her compatriots and fourth seed Elena Dementieva and eight-seeded Nadia Petrova both lost the second-round matches at the event. Dementieva became the first major upset victim of the week, losing to Argentina's Gisela Dulko 6-1, 6-4. Dulko, 19, is a WTA rookie who already has pulled off several upsets. Petrova was also knocked out of the tournament, dropping a 6-4, 6-7, 7-5 decision to fellow Russian Elena Likhovtseva.

Third-seeded Anastasia Myskina, the French Open champion, moved on with an easy 6-0, 6-4 win over Arantxa Parra Santonja of Spain. Other winners included ninth-seeded Paola Suarez of Argentina, number 10 seed Vera Zvonareva and Francesca Schiavone of Italy, the 11th-seed, who all recorded straight set victories. — MNA/Reuters

Senegal's Diata set for Lyon move

LYON(France), 6 Aug — Senegal defender Lamine Diata will sign a two-year contract with Olympique Lyon next week, the French champions said on Thursday.

"He will be in Lyon at the start of the week to undergo the usual medical and to sign his contract," Lyon said on its official website.

The 28-year-old was out of contract at Ligue 1 side Stade Rennes. Diata will be reunited with Lyon coach Paul Le Guen, who signed him for Rennes in 1999.

Lyon said it had beaten off competition from several other clubs in Ligue 1 and the English Premier League to sign the versatile defender.

MNA/Reuters

Sweden's Jonson joins Norwich City

LONDON, 6 Aug — Sweden midfielder Mattias Jonson has joined newly-promoted Premier League team Norwich City on a two-year deal from Danish side Brondby for an undisclosed fee.

The 30-year-old played in all Sweden's matches at Euro 2004 and got the controversial late equalizer against Denmark that ensured both teams reached the last eight at Italy's expense.

"He's an attacking player with great pace and good experience. He had an exceptional Euro 2004 and will add quality to what we've got," said Norwich manager Nigel Worthington.

Norwich, who won the First Division championship last season, have an option to extend Jonson's contract by another year, the English club said on their web site on Thursday. "It's a big opportunity to show the club and the fans what I am all about," said Jonson. "I have a great feeling right now and I'm really looking forward to joining the team."

Jonson, who has 41 caps, can play on either flank or as a centre forward and takes over the number nine shirt from Welshman Iwan Roberts who has left the club. — MNA/Reuters

MRTV -3
**7-8-2004 (Saturday)
(Programme Schedule)
Morning Transmission
(9:00 - 10:00)**

- 9:00 Signature Tune
Greeting
- 9:02 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
- 9:06 Annual Pilgrims
From the River
- 9:10** **Headline News**
- 9:12 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes " Hot and
Spicy Prawn Curry"
- 9:15** **National News**
- 9:20 Unforgettable Trip to
Ahka Village
- 9:25 The Ogre Dance
- 9:30** **National News**
- 9:35 Central Glass Pavilion
- 9:40 Myanmar Modern
Song "We'll Greet
You In Mon Lan-
guage"
- 9:42 Myanmar Custard
Apple
- 9:45** **National News**
- 9:50 Traditional Bamboo
Utensils of Myanmar
- 9:58 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

**7-8-2004 (Saturday)
Evening Transmission
(15:30 - 17:30)**

- 15:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
- 15:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanma
Panorama & Myan-
ma Sentiment"
- 15:36 Annual Pilgrims
From the River

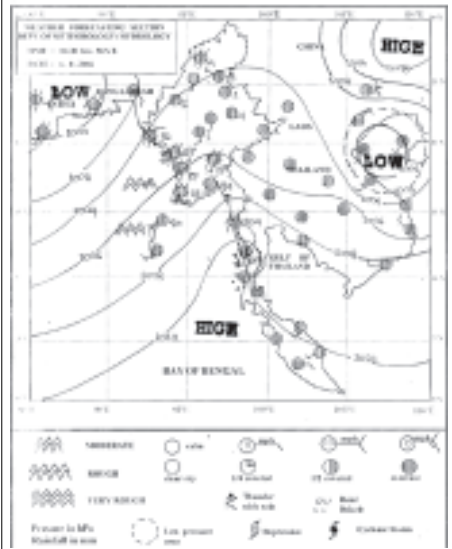
- 15:40** **Headline News**
- 15:42 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes " Hot and
Spicy Prawn Curry"
- 15:45** **National News**
- 15:50 Unforgettable Trip to
Ahka Village
- 15:55 The Ogre Dance
- 16:00** **National News**
- 16:05 Central Glass Pavilion
- 16:10 Myanmar Modern
Song "We'll Greet
You In Mon Lan-
guage"
- 16:12 Myanma Custard
Apple
- 16:15** **National News**
- 16:20 Traditional Bamboo
Utensils of Myanmar
- 16:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
- 16:30** **National News**
- 16:35 Good Prospects For
Myanmar Coffee
- 16:40 Thanakha, a Myanmar
Cosmetic
- 16:45** **National News**
- 16:50 Myanmar Movies Im-
pact "Dream Angel"
- 17:00** **Weekly News High-
lights**
- 17:05 King Alaung Min-
taya's Palace Site
- 17:10 Myanmar Modern
Song "The Night
When We Celebrate
Donyein Dance"
- 17:12 Lawka Nanda Sanctu-
ary Garden
- 17:15** **Weekly News High-
lights**
- 17:20 Around Bagan by
Pony Cart (Ananda
Temple)
- 17:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"
- 7-8-2004 (Saturday)
Evening Transmission
(19:30 - 23:30)**
- 19:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
- 19:32 Song of Myanmar

- Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
- 19:36 Devoutly Making Do-
nations
- 19:40** **Headline News**
- 19:42 Pan-Say Region,
Home to Kho-Hlon-
Lishows
- 19:45** **National News**
- 19:50 Myanmar Elephants
from Myanmar Forest
- 19:55 Kayah Dance
- 20:00** **National News**
- 20:05 Traditional Chin
House
- 20:10 Myanmar Modern
Song "You can take
me but not my love"
- 20:12 Dawei Water Fetching
Dance
- 20:15** **National News**
- 20:20 The Ancient City of
Myanmar (Bagan)
- 20:25 Songs on Screen
"Young Love"
- 20:30** **National News**
- 20:35 Export Products of
Fish & Prawn
- 20:40 Myanmar Traditional
Marionette
- 20:45** **National News**
- 20:50 Hill Resort Town
(Thandaung)
- 20:55 Htaung Yaung Nay
(Classical Dance of
the Royal Maids)
- 20:58 Myanmar Traditional
Art, Silversmith
- 21:00** **National News**
- 21:05 Myanma Traditional
Flower Arrangements
(Harp)
- 21:10 Songs on Screen
"With a Weak Point"
- 21:12 Percussion of "Pan"
(or) Communal Drum
- 21:15** **Weekly News High-
lights**
- 21:20 Greening of the Hills
and Ranges, in order
to achieve Climate
Change (Taung Thar
Hill) (Magway Divi-
sion)
- 21:25 Song of Myanmar

- Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanma
Panorama & Myan-
ma Sentiment"
- 21:35 Annual Pilgrims
From the River
- 21:40** **Headline News**
- 21:42 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes " Hot and
Spicy Prawn Curry"
- 21:45** **National News**
- 21:50 Unforgettable Trip to
Ahka Village
- 21:55 The Ogre Dance
- 22:00** **National News**
- 22:05 Central Glass Pavil-
ion
- 22:10 Myanmar Modern
Song "We'll Greet
You In Mon Lan-
guage"
- 22:12 Myanma Custard
Apple
- 22:15** **National News**
- 22:20 Traditional Bamboo
Utensils of Myanmar
- 22:25 Song on Screen
"Everlasting"
- 22:30** **National News**
- 22:35 Good Prospects For
Myanmar Coffee
- 22:40 Thanakha, a Myan-
mar Cosmetic
- 22:45** **National News**
- 22:50 Myanmar Movies
Impact "Dream An-
gel"
- 23:00** **National News**
- 23:05 King Alaung Min-
taya's Palace Site
- 23:10 Myanmar Modern
Song "The Night
When We Celebrate
Donyein Dance"
- 23:12 Lawka Nanda Sanctu-
ary Garden
- 23:15** **Weekly News High-
lights**
- 23:20 Around Bagan by
Pony Cart (Ananda
Temple)
- 23:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and
See Myanmar"

Rainfall on 6-8-2004

- 1.34 inches at Yangon Airport,
- 1.34 inches at Kaba-Aye and
- 0.87 inch at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 1811 mm (71.30 inches) at Yangon Airport and 1791 mm (70.51 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 1795 mm (70.67 inches) at central Yangon.

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas**WEATHER**

Friday, 6 August 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been cloudy in lower Sagaing Division, rain have been isolated in Chin and Kayah States, scattered to widespread in the remaining areas with locally heavyfalls in Rakhine State and isolated heavyfalls in Mon State and Taninthayi Division. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Dawei (8.07) inches, Maungdaw (3.46) inches and Kyautaw and Yay (3.03) inches each.

Maximum temperature on 5-8-2004 was 27.4°C (81°F). Minimum temperature on 6-8-2004 was 19.3°C (67°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 6-8-2004 was 96%. Total sunshine hours on 5-8-2004 was nil. Rainfall on 6-8-2004 was 34 mm (1.34 inches) at Yangon Airport, 34 mm (1.34 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 22 mm (0.87 inch) at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 1811 mm (71.30 inches) at Yangon Airport and 1791 mm (70.51 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 1795 mm (70.67 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 15 mph from Southeast at 10:25 hours MST on 5-8-2004.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 7-8-2004: Rain will be isolated in Chin and Kayah States, Magway and Sagaing Divisions, scattered in Kachin and Shan States, Mandalay and Bago Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Mon State. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Squalls with rough sea are likely attimes in the Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coast. Surface wind speed in squall may reach (40) mph. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Moderate monsoon.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 7-8-2004: Some rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 7-8-2004: Likelihood of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Weather outlook for first weekend of August 2004: During the coming weekend, rain will be widespread in Yangon Division and scattered in Mandalay Division.


**Saturday, August 7
View on today:**

- 7:00 am**
1. Recitation of Parittas
by Missionary Saya-
daw U Ottamathara
- 7:25 am**
2. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am**
3. Morning news
- 7:40 am**
4. Nice and sweet song
- 7:55 am**
5. Dance variety
- 8:10 am**
6. အတိ:ပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:20 am**
7. ရန်ကုန်တိုင်းမဟာရာ
ဓမ္မလောကီတံ
- 8:30 am**
8. International news
- 8:45 am**
9. Grammar Made Easy
- 11:00 am**
1. Martial song
- 11:10 am**
2. Musical programme
- 11:30 am**
3. News

- 11:40 am**
4. Games for children
- 12:05 pm**
5. Round-up of the
week's TV local news
- 1:40 pm**
6. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတမ်းတွဲ
"သောတရားစာ" (အပိုင်း-၁၅)
- 2:10 pm**
7. မြန်မာ့နဂါးရုပ်လုပ်ငန်း
သုတေသနနှင့်မျိုးစေ့ခြံ (ဗုဒ္ဓမြို့)
- 2:20 pm**
8. "နိုင်ငံသားကောင်းဟူသည့်"
ဓမ္မဝါဒီပြိုင်ပွဲဝင်သန့်ဝင်း၊
ကျော်ရီရီနီတင်တင်အီတင်ရီရီအေး
(ဒါရိုက်တာ-ဓမ္မဝင်း)
- 2:30 pm**
9. Dance of national
races
- 2:45 pm**
10. International news
- 4:00 pm**
1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm**
2. Songs to uphold
National Spirit
- 4:30 pm**
3. English for Everyday
Use
- 4:40 pm**
4. အမှတ်(၃)အခြေခံပညာတိုးတက်ရေး
အထက် (၁) အထက် (၁) အထက် (၁)
ပညာရေးဦးစီးဌာန (တတိယဆင့်)
(အထက် (၁) အထက် (၁) အထက် (၁))

- (အမျိုးသမီးဝတ်စုံအဖုံ့)
- 5:10 pm**
5. အထူးသတင်းစာနှင့် ပညာရေး
ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသတင်းစာ
တတိယနံပါတ် (ရုပ်စောအထူးပြု)
(ရုပ်စော)
- 5:25 pm**
6. မြန်မာ့ပြုစုမှုပညာနှင့်အထူး
အားပေးမှု
- 5:30 pm**
7. Musical Programme
- 5:45 pm**
8. Games for children
- 6:10 pm**
9. မြန်မာ့စာပေ၊ မြန်မာစာပေ
- 6:20 pm**
10. Musical Programme
- 6:30 pm**
11. Evening news
- 7:00 pm**
12. Weather report
- 7:05 pm**
13. Discovery
- 7:15 pm**
14. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတမ်းတွဲ
"ရန်ကုန်မြို့သို့ဝင်ရောက်မှုနှင့်
(အပိုင်း-၃)
- 7:45 pm**
15. "ဓမ္မစာအုပ်သစ်များအား
တော်ရောင်း" (မြန်မာ့စာပေ
အထူးအားပေးမှု)
- 8:00 pm**
16. News
17. International news
18. Weather report
19. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတမ်းတွဲ
"နယ်လုံးသားထက်တစ်စုံတည်း"
သောအရပ် (အပိုင်း-၁၃)
20. The next day's
programme


**Saturday, August 7
Tune in today:**

- 8:30 am** Brief news
- 8:35 am** Music: Woman in
me
- 8:40 am** Perspectives
- 8:45 am** Music: Rock &
roll music
- 8:55 am** National news/
Slogan
- 9:05 am** Music: Give me
love
- 9:10 am** International news
- 9:15 am** Music (Spotlight
on a star)
- 1:30 pm** News/Slogan
- 1:40 pm** Request
- If you walk away
-The fifth
-Wherever would
I be
- 9:00 pm** ASEAN review
-News
- 9:10 pm** Article
- 9:20 pm** Myanma culture
by Dr Khin
Maung Nyunt
-Waso II
- 9:30 pm** Souvenirs
-Sincerely
-Always on my
mind
- 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

PM discusses development of gem business

Two gem stones of prime quality handed over to State

YANGON, 6 Aug — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt held a meeting to discuss development of gem business in Myanmar this afternoon at the Ministry of Mines.

Present at the meeting were ministers, the Chief Justice, the Attorney-General, the deputy minister for Mines, members of the Leading Committee for Development of Gem Business in Myanmar, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and heads of department.

Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint reported to the meeting on State's income from the gem enterprise, revenues from the gem exhibitions, income of the 2004 special jade and gem sales, income and expenditure for 2004-2005, joint-venture gem mining enterprises and endeavours to develop the gem business of Myanmar.

Deputy Minister U

Myint Thein explained the situation of designated plots and reclaimed plots in gemlands, and the issuance of jade and gem mining permits in accord with the law.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt looked into the requirements. In his discussions, he spoke of the need to strive to increase State revenues from the gem business, to develop the gem business of the nation in accord with the law and to take environmental conservation measures.

After the meeting, the Prime Minister presented two gem stones of significant quality to the State through Minister Brig-Gen Ohn Myint. An entrepreneur presented the two gem stones to the Prime Minister. Mined from Phakant gemland in Kachin State, the two precious stones are of prime quality. The gem stone contain a moving



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt views the rare stones of prime quality.—MNA

liquid inside it.

The two gem stones will be displayed at the Myanmar Gems Museum.

MNA

Secretary-1 inspects functions of Fair Sun Co Ltd in Shwepyitha Industrial Zone (3)

YANGON, 6 Aug — Chairman of the Industrial Development Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win inspected functions of Fair Sun Co Ltd in Shwepyitha Industrial Zone (3) this af-

ternoon. He was accompanied by Deputy Minister for Industry-2 Lt-Col Khin Maung Kyaw, Deputy Minister for Science and Technology Dr Chan Nyein, officials of the SPDC office, No 4 Military Region Commander Col Yan Naing Oo and officials.

Fair Sun Co Ltd Managing Director Dr Pe Khin reported to the Secretary-1 and party on organizational set-up of the company, machinery installation for manufacturing of car parts, and arrangements for production of moulds and other parts. He reported that there are a foundry shop and a machine shop at the factory of the company. Iron products will be assembled with the use of the computerized numerical control system (CNC). And arrangements are under way to manufacture the parts through the system of direct numerical control (DNC) in addition to CNC system. He also reported on sample production of TE truck parts such as cover gear shift, tool and

cutter, oil pump housing and spring bracket.

Next, the Secretary-1 and party inspected moulding with the use of CNC machine, installation of modern machinery and production of motor car parts and dust collector. Then, the Secretary-1 inspected construction progress of the foundry shop.

In meeting with officials, State Peace and Development Council Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win said that there are good prospects for private industry as the quality of iron products has improved and modern computerized machines are being used. The State has valued the innovations and technical competence of private entrepreneurs, he added. Fair Sun Co Ltd is manufacturing 12 kinds of parts for TE trucks. Besides, arrangements are being made to produce casting parts, machining parts and other motor car parts not only for local but also for foreign markets.

MNA

Mined from Phakant gemland in Kachin State, the two precious stones are of prime quality. The gem stone contain a moving liquid inside it.

The two gem stones will be displayed at the Myanmar Gems Museum.



Industrial Development Committee Chairman Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win inspects tasks of Fair Sun Co Ltd in Shwepyitha Industrial Zone (3).—MNA