

# The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Tuesday, 10 August, 2004

## **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

## **Senior General Than Shwe sees off General Khin Nyunt Prime Minister to visit Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia**

YANGON, 9 Aug — At the invitation of Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, His Excellency Mr Phan Van Khai; Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, His Excellency Mr Bounnhang Vorachith; and Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, His Excellency Mr Samdech Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt and party left here by special flight at 7.30 am today to pay State Visits to these countries.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party were seen off at Yangon International Airport by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe, Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann, Secretary-2  
(See page 8)



*Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe sees off Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt at the airport. — MNA*

**At the invitation of Prime Minister of Vietnam Mr Phan Van Khai, Prime Minister of LPDR Mr Bounnhang Vorachith and Prime Minister of Cambodia Mr Samdech Hun Sen, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt is to visit the three countries.**



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

## PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 10 August, 2004

### Train youths to be outstanding intellectuals and intelligentsia

The Government is making constant efforts for the progress of the nation, strong national economic life and higher living standard of the people.

Nowadays, such national development infrastructures as dams, river water pumping stations, roads and bridges, universities and colleges and basic education schools, hospitals and clinics, railway stations, sea ports and airports are emerging one after another.

All these are the dividends of the Government's relentless efforts during the last 16 years. Yet, there is much to be done and so it is necessary for the Government and the people to continue working together till our national goal is achieved.

The Special Refresher Course No 2 for teachers of universities and colleges was opened in PyinOoLwin Township, Mandalay Division on 3 August and Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attended the opening ceremony and delivered a speech. In his address on the occasion, General Khin Nyunt, also Chairman of the Myanmar Education Committee, said that there is still much for all those responsible in the education sector to do for the emergence of a constant learning society — the noble vision of the education sector, the main pillar for a modern and developed nation.

The Government is essaying not to be left behind in science and technologies, especially in information and communications technology. At the same time, it is also trying for peace, prosperity and development of the nation and the people and promoting constructive cooperation with international community.

Now is the most crucial time for all the national races living together through thick and thin in the Union for thousands of years as their representatives are now finding ways and means at the National Convention for the emergence of a genuine democratic state in the interests of the entire people.

At such a time like this, teachers from universities and colleges are required to do their bit for the successful realization of the seven-point future policy programme that will lead to the emergence of a peaceful, developed and discipline-flourishing democracy.

We would like to call on the teachers from universities and colleges to train their students to become outstanding intellectuals and intelligentsia, always bearing in mind that youths will be able to build and protect the nation only if they have wider horizons and higher qualifications.



Under the programme of School Health Week, a field trip group led by Dr Daw Lwin Lwin of Bahan Township Health Care Centre gave talks on prevention against DHF, grouped blood, measured height, and weighed body of the students at No 10 BEPS, Bocho 2 Ward, Bahan Township. — H



Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe presents offertories to a member of the Sangha at the opening ceremony of Sangha Nayaka and Vinaya Courses. — MNA

### Sangha Nayaka and Vinaya courses opened

YANGON, 9 Aug — The Sangha Nayaka and Vinaya courses of Yangon Division Sangha Nayaka Committee were opened this morning at Mingala Market Dhammayon of Yangon Division Sangha Nayaka Committee in Bahan Township, attended by Yangon Division

Peace and Development Council Chairman Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe.

Present on the occasion were Yangon Division Sangha Nayaka Committee Chairman Agga Maha Saddhama Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Kosalla, Chair-

men Sayadaws of all Ganas, members of the Sangha, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, Yangon Division PDC Secretary Lt-Col Myint Kyi, officials and wellwishers. Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kosalla gave an Ovadhakatha concerning the

opening of the courses, and the deputy minister supplied on religious affairs. The commander, the deputy minister and officials offered alms to the monks. Later, wellwishers also offered provisions to the Sayadaws and members of the Sangha.

MNA

### Minister receives guests from Singapore and PRC

YANGON, 9 Aug — Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung received Mr Teo Eng Chong, Executive Director of Mutibase Construction Pte BHD of Singapore, and

party at his office this afternoon. At the call, they discussed prospects for potential future investment together with the ministry on the 'raw materials to finished products' basis.

Similarly, Professor Mr Chen Yong Kuan, Secretary of the Party Committee and Vice President of China Harbours Engineering (Group) Co (HEC), and party together

with Economic and Commercial Counsellor of the Chinese Embassy in Myanmar Mr Tong Hai and embassy officials, called on the minister at his office at 4.30 pm today. On the occasion, they discussed matters pertaining to the implementation of Thanlyin-Kyauktan industrial zone.

Also present at the call on Myanmar side were the director-general and managing directors of the ministry, Director-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs U Win Mya, and Director-General of the Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development Col Aung Win and Deputy Director-General U Win Myint. — MNA



Industry-1 Minister U Aung Thaung receives Secretary of the Party Committee Vice President of the China Harbours Engineering (Group) Co (HEC) Professor Mr Chen Yong Kuan and party on 9 August. — INDUSTRY-1

### F&R Deputy Minister inspects MEB (Pazundaung Branch) construction

YANGON, 9 Aug — Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Col Hla Thein Swe, accompanied by Managing Director of the Myanmar Economic Bank Col San Tun and Director-General of the Internal Revenue Department U Win Naing, this morning inspected the construction site of the MEB (Pazundaung Branch) in Tamwe Township.

After hearing the reports on progress of work presented by an official of the Olympic Construction Co Ltd, the deputy minister gave instruction on timely completion of work.

MNA

### Malaria Clinical Management Meeting opened

YANGON, 9 Aug — An Invitational Consensus Meeting on Clinical Management of Malaria jointly organized by WHO and Vector Borne Disease Control Project of Health Department under the aegis of Myanmar Medical Academy was held at Medi-

cal Research Department (Lower Myanmar) here today.

Present were Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo, Chairman of Myanmar Medical Academy Dr Ko Ko, officials of the Ministry of Health, WHO Resident Rep-

resentative Dr Agostino Borra, Professor Dr Nicholas J White of Oxford University, and others.

Deputy Minister Dr Mya Oo spoke on the occasion. Participants took part in the discussions. The meeting continues tomorrow. — MNA



Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo addresses the meeting on clinical management of malaria. — MNA



## Marine killed in western Iraq

**BAGHDAD, 9 Aug**—The military says another US Marine has been killed in action in Iraq.

A statement issued Monday says the Marine was killed in Anbar Province, a Sunni-dominated area of anti-US feeling in western Iraq. It's not clear when the Marine died. The dead American was assigned to the First Marine Expeditionary Force.—*Internet*



Fighters loyal to radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr hold their weapons in the southern Iraqi city of Basra on 5 Aug. 2004. — INTERNET

## Indian families on tenterhooks as Iraq rebels make new demands

**NEW DELHI, 8 Aug**—Families of three Indians kidnapped in Iraq waited anxiously as militants reportedly made new demands to release their seven hostages in a blow to hopes of a breakthrough in the three-week ordeal.

India's junior Foreign Minister Edappakath Ahamed said late Saturday that "all indications" pointed to an early release of the Indian truck drivers plus three Kenyans and an Egyptian who were kidnapped on 21 July. But the seven drivers' Kuwait-based employer said Sunday they had learned of a fresh demand from the abductors, who had originally ordered the company to pull out of Iraq.

"Till yesterday we were very close" to securing the release, said Rana Abu Zaineh, spokeswoman for the Kuwait Gulf Link Company Limited (KGL).

"But late night there was a new demand. It is nothing related to our company," she told the Indian news channel *Aaj Tak*, declining to elaborate.

"Nothing (is) sure till this minute; we

are still discussing it," she said, adding that the company was talking with negotiator Sheikh Hisham al-Dulaimi, an Iraqi tribal leader. However, a spokesman for Dulaimi in Baghdad denied having any knowledge about a new demand by the kidnappers.

The militants also demanded compensation for the families of those killed by US and coalition troops in the Iraqi city of Fallujah, a guerilla stronghold that has seen intense bombardment.

The Indian newspaper *The Hindu*, quoting unnamed officials, said Sunday that the kidnappers had also demanded five million dollars in ransom which was scaled down to three million dollars and then to 350,000 dollars. India was opposed to the US-led invasion of Iraq and after prolonged debate decided against sending troops to the country.—*Internet*

## Pacific states leaders highlight regional transport needs

**APIA (Samoa), 8 Aug**—Pacific leaders agreed Friday to work out as soon as possible the solutions to meet the transport needs of the region.

According to a statement issued after a retreat meeting, the leaders agreed to adopt the Forum Principles on Regional Transport Services, which aims at improving the quality of regional air and shipping services.

The leaders held that adherence to principles of good governance is crucial to the viability and sustainability of transport services, which should be, wherever possible, run on a sustainable commercial basis.

New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark said that transport, key to economic development, is an issue the Pacific leaders must address immediately. Samoan Prime Minister Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi said that an innovative solution "is vital to provide good and sustainable air and sea transport arrangements for the region".—*MNA/Xinhua*

## Asia, Pacific fishery resources face overfishing problem

**BANGKOK, 8 Aug**—Fishery resources in Asia and the Pacific region was declining fast with more small fish with low market value being captured, the United States Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) warned on Friday.

Over the past 30 years, fishery in the region has reflected the trend of changing from capturing larger sized demersal (bottom-dwelling) fish towards smaller pelagic, said an FAO report presented to the Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission during a meeting held in northern Thai city of Chiang Mai.

Small fish species, damaged catch and juvenile fish targeted in these fisheries are referred to as "trash fish" and have a low market value, according to the report.

An increasing proportion of this "trash fish" is used directly or indirectly as fish meal in aquaculture and livestock feed.

*MNA/Xinhua*

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## Australians condemn government on Iraq

**CANBERRA, 8 Aug**—Australia Former defence chiefs and diplomats condemned Australia's involvement in the Iraq war Sunday in a major blow to Prime Minister John Howard's re-election prospects.

The 43 eminent Australians including two former chiefs of defence and three ambassadors issued a scathing public statement accusing the government of deceit and of rubber-stamping foreign policies decided by Washington.

With some commentators predicting that Howard this week will announce a September 18 election, the statement underscores the war as a major issue. Howard hopes for a fourth three-year term as Prime Minister.

Australia and Britain were the only allies to send troops to support the US-led invasion of Iraq.

"We are concerned that Australia was

committed to join the invasion of Iraq on the basis of false assumptions and the deception of the Australian people," the statement said.

"Above all, it is wrong and dangerous for our elected representatives to mislead the Australian people."

Howard's decision to commit 2,000 troops to the Iraq invasion sparked the biggest peace protests in Australia since the Vietnam War.

Australia still has nearly 900 troops in and around Iraq, and their deployment is likely to become a key election issue, with Howard saying they must remain there as long as they are needed.—*Internet*

## India, Pakistan elaborate upon demarcation of boundary in Sir Creek

**NEW DELHI, 8 Aug**—India and Pakistan Saturday "elaborated" upon their respective positions on demarcation of the international boundary in the Sir Creek area, a marshy land in Rann of Kutch, and agreed that early resolution of the issue would be in the interest of both countries.

"The talks were held in a frank and friendly atmosphere. The two sides elaborated upon their respective positions and had a detailed and useful exchange of views on the various issues involved," a joint Press statement, released at the end of the two-day talks here, said.

"It was agreed that early resolution of the issue would be in the interest of both countries. The two sides agreed to continue the discussions," it said.

The Indian delegation to the talks was led by Prithvish Nag, Surveyor-General of India and the Pakistan side was headed by Rear Admiral Ahsan ul Haq Chaudhry.

Sir Creek is one of the eight subjects in the composite dialogue process resumed earlier this year. It follows close on the heels of official level discussions on Siachen and promotion of friendly exchanges between the two countries.

Furthering the composite dialogue process, India's federal Home Secretary Dharendra Singh will leave for Pakistan on August 9 for two-day talks on combating terrorism and dealing with the menace of narcotic trade and growing drug cartels.

Singh will be accompanied by a delega-

tion of officials from Home Ministry and Narcotics Department. During the parleys beginning August 10 he is expected to convey India's concern over cross-border terrorism and infiltration as also infrastructural facilities being given to terrorist groups in Pakistan, official sources said. —*MNA/PTI*

## Megawati rejects Thai drug dealers' clemency appeals

**JAKARTA, 8 Aug**—Indonesian President Megawati Soekarnoputri has denied appeals for clemency by two Thai nationals convicted for drug trafficking after a legal struggle of almost 10 years, a local newspaper reported Saturday.

The rejection of the appeals filed by Saelow Praset, 53, and Namsong Sirilak, 31, follows Thursday's execution of Ayodhya Prasadh Chaubey, 67, reported *The Jakarta Post*.

Chaubey was arrested days after the Thais in February 1994 in the North Sumatra capital of Medan. The three were charged with smuggling 12.19 kilograms of heroin into the country. —*MNA/Xinhua*



An Iraqi shop owner rescues some of his goods from the burnt remains of his store left after a fire tore through the outdoor market during clashes between fighters loyal to radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr and US forces along with Iraqi National Guards in the holy Muslim city of Najaf, 100 miles (160 kilometres) south of Baghdad, Iraq, on 7 Aug. 2004. — INTERNET

# Iraq issues warrants for Chalabi, nephew

**BAGHDAD, 9 Aug**—Iraq has issued arrest warrants for Ahmad Chalabi, a former Governing Council member with strong US ties, on counterfeiting charges, and for his nephew Salem Chalabi — head of the tribunal trying Saddam Hussein — on murder charges, Iraq's chief investigating judge said Sunday.

The warrant was the latest strike against Ahmad Chalabi in his removal from the centres of power. A long-time Iraqi exile opposition leader, he had been a favourite of many in the Pentagon but fell out with the Americans in the weeks before the US occupation ended in June.

Both men denied the charges, dismissing them as part of a political conspiracy against them and their family.

Salem Chalabi, named as a suspect in the June murder of Haithem Fadhil, director general of the finance ministry, called the accusation "ridiculous."

His uncle said the charges were "outrageous" and "manufactured lies".

Ahmad Chalabi was somewhat marginalized when he was left out of the new interim government that took power 28 June but has since worked to reposition himself as a Shiite populist. At the helm of the warcrimes tribunal for Saddam, the Ivy League-educated Salem Chalabi remains a central figure in Iraq.

"They should be arrested and then questioned and ... if there is enough evidence, they will be sent to trial," Judge Zuhair al-Maliki said.

In Washington, the Bush administration had no comment about the charges against the Chalabis. "This is a matter for the Iraqi authorities to resolve and they are taking steps to do so," said White House spokeswoman Suzy DeFrancis.

The warrants, issued Saturday, accused Ahmad Chalabi of counterfeiting old Iraqi dinars, which were removed from circulation after the ouster of Saddam's regime last year.

Iraqi police backed by US troops found counterfeit money along with old dinars during a raid on Chalabi's

house in Baghdad in May, al-Maliki said. He apparently was mixing counterfeit and real money and changing them into new dinars on the street, the judge said.

The accusation is not Ahmad Chalabi's first brush with legal problems. He is wanted in Jordan for a 1991 conviction in absentia for fraud in a banking scandal. He was sentenced to 22 years in jail, but has denied all allegations.

The men were out of the country Sunday but promised to return to Iraq to face the allegations.—*Internet*

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## Iran diplomat reportedly kidnapped in Iraq

**BAGHDAD, 9 Aug**—Militants in Iraq said Sunday they took a top Iranian diplomat hostage, according to a video shown on the Arab-language Al-Arabiya television station.

The video showed a bearded man identified as Faridoun Jihani speaking to the camera, though his voice was inaudible. The video also showed nine forms of Jihani's identification, as well as his passport and a business card identifying him as the "consul for the Islamic Republic of Iran in Karbala," a southern Iraqi city.

The kidnappers did not voice any threats to kill Jihani and made no demands, ac-

cording to the report.

In Teheran, the Iranian Foreign Ministry said Jihani was missing, but it stopped short of confirming he was kidnapped.

Jihani "disappeared Wednesday night on the road from Baghdad to Karbala," a Shiite holy city 50 miles south of the capital, the ministry said in a statement. "After he failed to reach Karbala, all efforts to find his whereabouts failed," it said.

Jihani would be the second senior diplomat taken hostage in Iraq in recent weeks. Mohammed Mamdouh Helmi Qutb, an Egyptian diplomat, was abducted 23 July outside a mosque in Baghdad and freed unharmed 26 July.

More than 70 foreigners have been taken hostage in Iraq in recent months in an effort by insurgents to force coalition members to withdraw forces and to pressure trucking companies supporting coalition troops to stop doing business here.

*Internet*

## UN, China enhance exchanges on migration

**GENEVA, 8 Aug**—The International Organization for Migration (IOM), a United Nations agency, said Friday that substantial progress has been made in its relations with China during a visit to China by IOM chief.

At the invitation of the Chinese Government, IOM Director-General Brunson McKinley made an official visit to China on Monday and Tuesday, said IOM spokesperson Niurka Pineiro.

McKinley held talks with Chinese Government officials and discussed the regular labour migration, and the possibility of joint research projects, said Pineiro.

They also discussed measures to control irregular migration, especially through information campaigns in areas where smugglers are active, and high-tech applications for identity documentation and movement management, she added.—*MNA/Xinhua*

## Central Asian states, Russia hold largest drill

**ALMA ATA, 8 Aug**—Members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization conducted their largest military manoeuvre since the Soviet collapse in 1991 from Tuesday to Friday in north Kyrgyzstan to practise anti-terror combat cooperation, Kyrgyz media reported.

Friday saw the peak of the four-day joint exercises involving some 2,000 personnel from Russia, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan as well as Russian Air Force planes based near Kyrgyzstan's capital Bishkek.

Militaries of three Central Asian countries and Russia practised suppressing an armed terrorist incursion during Friday's drill. Russian jets and helicopters struck mountainside targets in northern Kyrgyzstan as elite soldiers stormed a village to practice rooting out militants.

The exercises aimed to demonstrate the ability of countries in the Collective Security Treaty Organization, a group of six former Soviet republics, to repulse a terrorist incursion.

These countries tried to "resolve questions of political and military cooperation... in case of an attack on one country by illegal armed formations", Kyrgyz Defence Minister Esen Topoyev told Kyrgyz public television.

"The situation in Central Asia is stable, but we don't rule out terrorist attacks in Afghanistan or any other countries in the region," said Russian Defence Minister Sergei Ivanov. Similar exercises will be held in the region next year, he said.

Aircraft from a new Russian-led base in Kyrgyzstan took part in the exercises for the first time, and Ivanov said Moscow plans to invest in improving the infrastructure of the base in the city of Kant.

*MNA/Xinhua*



Fighters loyal to radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr aim their Kalashnikovs during clashes with US forces and Iraqi National Guards in the holy Muslim city of Najaf, 100 miles (160 kilometres) south of Baghdad, Iraq, on Saturday, 7 Aug, 2004. — *INTERNET*

## Clinton criticizes Bush for contracting out US security to Pakistan

**VANCOUVER, 8 Aug**—Former US President Bill Clinton has criticized the Bush Administration for "contracting out" US security to Pakistan by putting in its hands the hunt for Osama bin Laden, the key threat to the US, and for diverting military resources to Iraq campaign, which he described as "number five" security threat.

Clinton said the absence of peace process in Middle East, the conflict between Iraq and Pakistan and their ties to Taliban and North Korea and its nuclear programme all posed greater threats than Iraq.

"Who's the threat from? Iraq? Saddam Hussein? No from bin Laden and al-Qaeda," he said citing the recent terror alert against attacks on key institutions in US cities.

"Why did we put our number one security threat in the hands of Pakistanis with us playing the supporting role, and put all our military resources in Iraq, which I think at best was number five security threat," Clinton, who was in Toronto to sign copies of his memoir *My Life*, told CBC television.

He claimed he would have taken the

word of UN weapons inspector Hans Blix over his own intelligence agencies about there being no weapons of mass destruction in Iraq.

"Yeah, I would have. It's not a question of believing him over intelligence agencies but the intelligence was ambiguous on the point really," he said.

Rapping George W Bush government for rushing into a war with Iraq, Clinton said it diverted attention from US "number one threat" — al-Qaeda and Osama bin Laden.

He asked whether "it was wise to make all these commitments in Iraq and in effect contract our security out to the Pakistanis in Afghanistan and with bin Laden and al-Qaeda..." — *MNA/PTI*

**DUSHANBE, 8 Aug**—Russian guards in Tajikistan have seized more than a ton of heroin from neighbouring Afghanistan in the biggest drugs haul intercepted on the border, the guards said on Friday.

Prosecutors also arrested the head of the Tajik drugs control agency on unspecified charges, although there was no immediate indication the two incidents were linked.

Afghan opiate drugs flow into Russia via vast but sparsely populated Central Asia and then on to Western Europe. In the West, the latest stash could have fetched up to 300 million US dollars.—*MNA/Reuters*

## Russian guards seize ton of Afghan heroin in Tajikistan



An Iraqi Shiite militiaman armed with a rocket propelled grenade launcher patrols a street in the east Baghdad suburb of al Sadr city on 7 Aug, 2004. — *INTERNET*



## Lebanese families beg release of hostages in Iraq

TRIPOLI (Lebanon), 8 Aug — Weeping and clutching photos of their missing loved-ones, the families of four Lebanese truck drivers kidnapped in Iraq begged on Saturday for their safe release.

"I plead with the Islamic Clerics Association, the tribal leaders and the Iraqis to bring a father back to the 12 children he provides for," said Nada Sayyoor, sitting in her cramped home in the northern city of Tripoli. Her husband Qasim Murqbawi was one of four men captured on Thursday on a road between Baghdad and Ramadi, a volatile area west of Baghdad where suspicion of foreigners runs high.

Sayyoor said she had heard nothing from her 50-year-old husband since he called from Baghdad on Monday.

An Iraqi friend who Murqbawi usually stays with in Iraq had called to ask why he never made it, she said. The company Murqbawi was delivering fruit juice for had also called to say the goods had not arrived. There are now at least five Lebanese nationals missing in Iraq. Lebanese businessman Antoine Antoun was kidnapped along with a Syrian driver on Friday last week, according to his relatives in northern Lebanon.

In recent months, several Lebanese have been kidnapped in Iraq and later released.

Some captors demanded money. Others accused them of working too closely with US-led forces. In June, a Lebanese hostage was killed in Iraq.

It was not clear who had kidnapped the four truck drivers or why. All of them come from one of the most deprived regions of Lebanon.

Murqbawi had crossed into Iraq with fellow Lebanese Khalidun Osman and two brothers, Taha and Nasir al-Jundi.

Osman's family said they could not confirm whether the father-of-five had been kidnapped.

The father of the two brothers, Mohammed al-Jundi, 73, pleaded with Muslim clerics and the Lebanese Foreign Ministry to do what they could to bring his sons home.

"They went to Iraq to work despite the dangers on the roads to make a living and support their children and us," said Jundi, adding that his sons each had two young children.

"All we can do is depend on God and ask him to bring them home." — MNA/Reuters

## Kuwait donates fire fighting engines to Iraq

KUWAIT CITY, 9 Aug — Kuwait donated eight fire fighting engines to Iraq in an effort to help maintain stability in the neighbouring country, the Kuwait News Agency reported Saturday.

Jasem Al-Mansouri, director-general of Kuwaiti Fire Brigades Department said delivering these engines was part of the international efforts, hoping to "see a prosperous and stable Iraq soon".

He explained that the department donated eight advanced fire fighting engines, including one for fighting aircraft fire.

He said that all eight engines were in service and could be used for fighting large fire.

On training Iraqi firefighters, Al-Mansouri said "there is no objection at present to train Iraqi firefighters in Kuwait's training centre, which has the required potentials and capabilities, after official talks held with the Iraqi side."

The Kuwaiti Humanitarian Operations Centre supervised the delivery of the engines to the US forces, who would later hand them over to the Iraqi Civil Defence Department.

Colonel Sajed Al-Buajian, representative of the Kuwaiti Humanitarian Operations Centre said that the centre would continue its cooperation with the coalition forces to satisfy the humanitarian needs of the Iraqi people, especially food, health and education.

Since the establishment of the centre, it has been providing humanitarian aid to the Iraqi people as well as facilitating the transportation of aid by local or by international organizations. — MNA/Xinhua

## Cambodia to speed up final ratification of WTO membership

PHNOM PENH, 8 Aug — Cambodian Cabinet on Friday approved the membership of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and determined to finish the final ratification before the deadline expires in September this year.

Cambodia along with Nepal were welcomed by the fifth WTO ministerial conference held in Cancun, Mexico last September into its fold. Accession to the WTO must be ratified by Cambodia's National Assembly by March 31, 2004, but the political deadlock after the July 27 election in 2003 made Cambodia fail to meet the deadline. The government sent a letter to the secretariat of the WTO on January 26, asking it to extend the ratification process and get six more months to do it.

When the Assembly ratifies the membership, Cambodia will join the WTO in 30 days and become its 148th member. — MNA/Xinhua



An American soldier atop an armoured vehicle along with Iraqi police stand guard in front of the Iraqi Olympic committee building after mortar rounds fell close to the compound in central Baghdad, Iraq, on 7 Aug, 2004. Five people were injured in the incident. — INTERNET



Fighters loyal to radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr carry light arms during clashes with US forces and Iraqi National Guards at Sadr City in Baghdad, Iraq, on 7 Aug, 2004. — INTERNET

## Way cleared for release of Indian hostages in Iraq

NEW DELHI, 8 Aug — India on Saturday night said way has "reportedly" been cleared for the release of three Indian hostages in Iraq and "all indications" at this juncture point to a positive outcome to the crisis.

"What we have learnt so far is that face-to-face negotiations have taken place between Sheikh al-Dulaimi (the negotiator for the abductors) and senior representatives of the KGL company (employer of the three Indians) today, as a result of which the way has reportedly been cleared for the release of the hostages," India's junior Minister for External Affairs E Ahamed told reporters.

Indicating that the hos-

tages — Antaryami, Tilak Raj and Sukhdeo Singh — may be handed over on Sunday, Ahamed said, "you (media) have waited for 17 days, please wait for a day."

To a question whether New Delhi would send a plane to Baghdad to bring back the hostages, he posed "even before they have been released, you want me to send a plane."

Ahamed said as soon as the government gets information of their release, "ap-

propriate steps will be taken".

Striking a note of caution, Ahamed said "it must be appreciated that unless we have authoritative and clear confirmation that the hostages have been released, we must wait with patience and with hope."

He said "what I can confirm, however, is that all indications at this juncture point to a positive outcome to the crisis. We will keep you informed about any fresh developments". — MNA/PTI

## Tripartite meeting on infectious diseases held in HK

HONG KONG, 8 Aug — The Guangdong, Macao and Hong Kong health authorities agreed to continue strengthening their cooperation in the prevention and control of infectious diseases at a tripartite meeting here on Friday.

According to a Hong Kong governmental news release, medical experts and healthcare professionals of the three places discussed and shared experiences on a wide range of subjects including infectious disease prevention and control measures and attachments and training of medical professionals.

Delegates reviewed the work the three parties had carried out since the last expert group meeting in 2003, as well as the latest situation on the planning and development of admission and treatment facilities for patients of infectious diseases.

The three parties agreed to strengthen cooperation in the notification mechanism;

experience sharing in infection control measures; admission and treatment of patients and the planning of joint exercises with a view to better responding to and handling the outbreak of infectious diseases in the three places.

They also examined the trends of various infectious diseases in the three places and presented their respective strategies against infectious diseases with common interest including atypical pneumonia, Japanese encephalitis, dengue fever and viral gastroenteritis.

The fifth tripartite meeting was decided to be held in Macao next year.

MNA/Xinhua

## High-tech businesses number 13,000 in Beijing

BEIJING, 8 Aug — High-tech businesses are helping to fuel economic development in China's capital city, as their number has topped 13,000, said the Beijing Municipal Science and Technology Committee.

During the first half of this year, local high-tech industries added value amounted to 17 billion yuan (more than two billion US dollars), up 20 per cent on a yearly basis.

With the exception of aeronautic and astronautic fields, all other high-tech sectors in Beijing maintained a two-digit growth this year.

The industry garnered 20.3 billion yuan (2.44 billion US dollars) in software sales alone from January to June this year, up 35 per cent year-on-year.

MNA/Xinhua

## Ancient pottery with plowing design unearthed

LANZHOU, 8 Aug — A 4,800-year-old piece of coloured pottery bearing designs of plowing was recently unearthed at Lintao County in northwest China's Gansu Province.

Chinese archaeologists believe the pottery, which is 30-centimetre-tall and 34-centimetre in width, belongs to the Majiayao culture, a historical period in about 3300 B.C. to 2050 B.C. The picture on the pottery vividly portrays a scene of plowing in simple black lines. Beside the farmland is a river, painted in several zigzag lines.

Wang Zhi'an, President of the Gansu Provincial Majiayao Culture Society, said the design reflects the production and life of people in that period. It is rare in China to discover a picture depicting men plowing in fields. — MNA/Xinhua

## Bush warns Americans “still not safe”

KENNEBUNKPORT (Maine), 8 Aug — US President George W Bush on Saturday warned Americans this week's terrorism alert was another sign the country was still not safe but said he was taking steps to prevent future terrorist attacks.

Alert levels were raised earlier this week for specific locations in New York City, Washington and New Jersey after a top-level review of information that al-Qaeda may be plotting to attack financial institutions including the New York Stock Exchange, the International Monetary Fund and World Bank.

“We're doing everything we can in our power to confront the danger,” Bush said in his weekly radio address. “We're making good progress in protecting our people and bringing our enemies to account.”

The Administration has

been facing tough questions after it became known that some of the information that led to the elevated alert was three years old.

Bush said new information gleaned from arrests in Pakistan and other new intelligence suggested that al-Qaeda had recently updated information on those potential targets.

“We're still not safe,” said Bush, who was spending the weekend at his family's oceanfront compound in Maine to attend the wedding of his nephew, George P Bush, the son of Florida Governor Jeb Bush.

“We'll keep our focus,

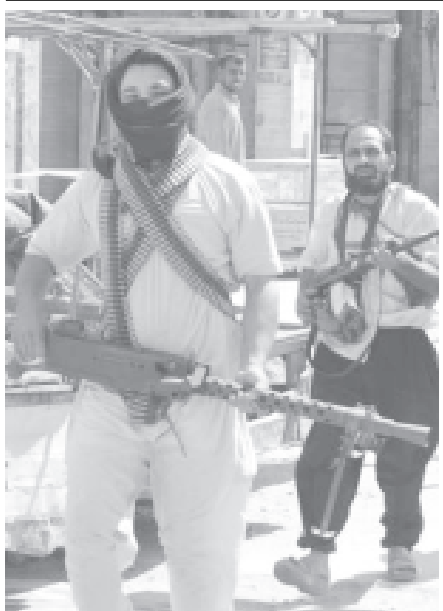
we'll keep our resolve, and we will do our duty to best secure our country,” he said.

Under political pressure, Bush said this week he would name a national intelligence director to coordinate information collected domestically and abroad, a key recommendation by the commission that investigated the September 11, 2001 attacks.

Bush, initially cool to the idea of a new intelligence chief, overrode the advice of some top advisers in agreeing to appoint one, but decided to make the office independent of the White House, counter to commission's proposal.

His opponent in the race for the White House, Massachusetts Democratic Senator John Kerry, has urged quick adoption of the commission's recommendations and said Bush should call Congress back from its summer break to adopt the reforms.

MNA/Reuters



*Iraqi Shiite militiamen patrol during street battles with US Marines and Iraqi security forces in Najaf on 7 Aug, 2004. US Marines battled Shiite militiamen in Najaf for a third day on Saturday, as the death toll mounted in the worst bout of fighting in Iraq in four months. —INTERNET*

## Floods hit tourism in Bangladesh

DHAKA, 8 Aug — The floods are taking toll on Bangladesh tourism sector as occupancy rate in hotels and guesthouses drops sharply in last month, reported the *Daily Star* on Saturday.

The floods have caused 30-per-cent drop on average in occupancy rate of hotels and guesthouses across the country, as foreign tourists do not take pleasure trips during floods, said Sadique Ahsan, president of Bangladesh Hotel and Guest House Owners Association.

According to unofficial statistics, some 5,000 foreign tourists visit Bangladesh a year who spend some 1,000 US dollars each during their trips. Besides, about 200,000 foreigners come to Bangladesh a year for business or other purposes.

Tour operators usually have little business during monsoon of the year, but they are now almost out of business due to floods, as they have to suspend all tours to Sundarbans, the largest mangrove forest in the world, and other sightseeing spots including Ranganamati, Bandarban and Sylhet.

The outbreak of water-borne diseases and damaged infrastructure will surely discourage tourists to visit Bangladesh in the next season, said Faridul Haque, president of Bangladesh Tour Operators' Association. —MNA/Xinhua

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## UN offers to help broker ceasefire in Iraq

UNITED NATIONS, 8 Aug — The United Nations offered its help on Saturday to try to stop some of the worst fighting seen in Iraq in about four months between Shiite militiamen and coalition forces.

The United Nations, which is helping Iraq prepare for a National Conference in mid-August, said in a statement that it “is ready to extend its facilitating role to the current crisis, if this would be helpful”.

The statement said UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, urged that force be used only as a “last resort” and called “for every effort to be made, even at this late hour, to work out a ceasefire and peaceful solution”.

Although just a handful of UN staff are in Iraq — a team of technical experts helping set up a national conference on Iraq's political future, and a security liaison team — the world body has maintained contacts with many parties in Iraq.

It helped facilitate organization of the interim government and is aiding Iraq's

preparations for national elections next year. But it has not been involved in helping negotiate ceasefires between American-led coalition forces and Iraqi militants.

The statement added that Annan said he was “extremely concerned at the widespread fighting that has broken out in Iraq over the last several days, especially in the holy city of Najaf.”

“He is particularly troubled by the high toll of dead and wounded, including civilian casualties.”

In the past three days, US Marines said they had killed 300 militiamen loyal to Iraqi Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr in Najaf. But the cleric said only 36 militiamen had been killed.

The United Nations welcomed Iraqi Prime Minister Iyad Allawi's offer of a limited amnesty for guerrillas and wider participation in the political process as steps in the right direction.

The new UN chief envoy for Iraq, veteran Pakistani diplomat Ashraf Jehangir Qazi, will go to Baghdad this month along with a small team to re-establish a permanent UN presence.

The world body at one point had some 600 international staff working in Iraq following the US-led invasion. All were pulled out last year after a bomb attack on UN offices in Baghdad.

Hundreds of UN staff are working on Iraqi projects from neighbouring Jordan.

MNA/Reuters

## Five killed in US small planes collision

WASHINGTON, 8 Aug — At least five people were killed when two small planes collided on Saturday morning in New Jersey, with one of them plunging into the back yard of a home, local Press report said.

The collision near Kinnelon involved two single engine light planes, a *Cessna 150* and a *Piper PA-28*. Neither plane had filed a flight plan, so it was still not clear how many people were on board, the *Associated Press* quoted a spokeswoman with the Federal Aviation Administration as saying.

Nobody on the ground was injured, the spokeswoman said.

It was the second fatal accident involving small planes occurred in the United States in the past week. A small plane crashed into a house in suburban Austin, Texas on Tuesday, killing the six people aboard. Three people inside the two-storey home were not injured.

MNA/Xinhua

## Kerry vows to lift Bush restrictions on stem cells

LAMAR (Colorado), 8 Aug — Democratic challenger John Kerry on Saturday marked the third anniversary of President George W Bush's restrictions on stem-cell research by vowing to lift them for the sake of millions of Americans with debilitating diseases.

“To those who pray each day for cures that are now beyond our reach, I want you to know that help is on the way,” Kerry said in remarks taped for his party's weekly radio address in the second week of a cross-country campaign tour with running mate John Edwards.

“Come next January,” said Kerry, who hopes to be inaugurated as president at that time, “we're going to create a new anniversary — one that will be cause for celebration. We're going to lift the ban”.

Stem-cell research heated up as an election-year issue after the death of former president Ronald Reagan, who was stricken with Alzheimer's disease. His son, Ron Reagan, made an emotional plea to expand such research at last month's Democratic National Convention.

In August 2001, Bush restricted the use of federal funds for embryonic stem cell research to batches, called cell lines, that existed at that time. Critics complain more lines need to be opened to federally financed study.

Embryonic stem cells, taken from days-old human

embryos, have the potential to form any kind of tissue in the body. Researchers hope to learn to use them to create tailor-made transplants to treat Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and other ills.

Because an embryo must be destroyed to harvest the cells, some anti-abortion groups oppose their use.

MNA/Reuters

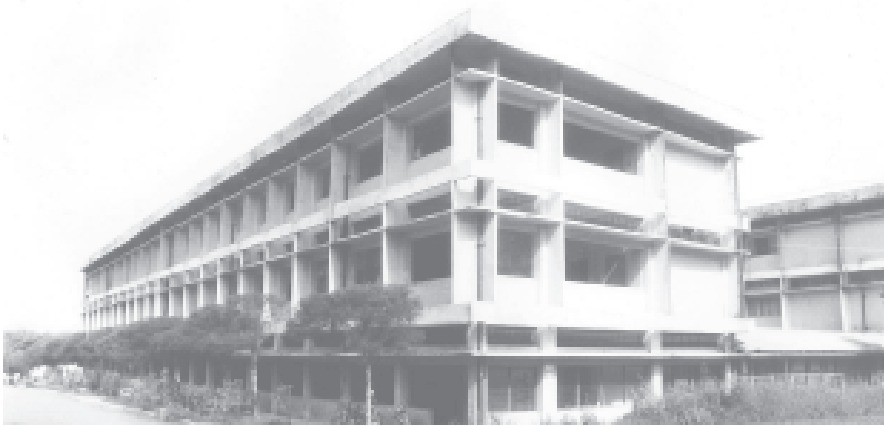


*Iraqi shop owners walk through the burnt remains of commercial stalls left after a fire tore through the outdoor market during clashes between fighters loyal to radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr and US forces along Iraqi National Guards in the holy Muslim city of Najaf, 100 miles (160 kilometres) south of Baghdad, Iraq, on 7 Aug, 2004.*

INTERNET

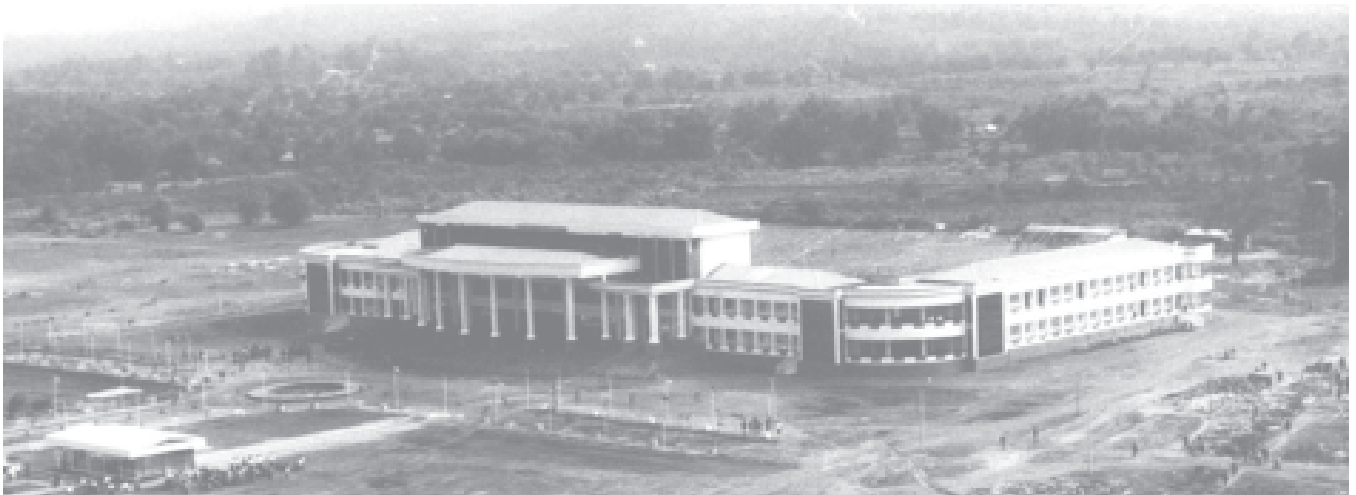


*Kengtung Degree College in Shan State (East). — MNA*



*Kalay University in Kalay, Sagaing Division. — MNA*

**Enabling  
locals to  
pursue higher  
education in  
own regions**



*Three-storey main building and two-storey buildings of Government Technical Institute in Mohnyin, Kachin State. — MNA*



*Maubin University in Ayeyawady Division. — MNA*



## Senior General Than Shwe sees off...

(from page 1)

of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, members of the State Peace and Development Council, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the Commander-in-Chief (Air), the Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command, ministers, senior military officers, Ambassadors of Foreign Missions led by Dean of Diplomatic Corps Ambassador of the Republic of Singapore to Myanmar Mr Simon Tensing de Cruz, resident representatives of UN agencies and their wives, the charge d'affaires of the embassies of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Kingdom of Cambodia and staff of embassies and departmental officials.

The Myanmar goodwill delegation led by Prime Min-



*Diplomats and officials of UN agencies led by Dean of Diplomatic Corps Ambassador of Singapore to Myanmar Mr Simon Tensing de Cruz see off Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt at Yangon International Airport.— MNA*

ister General Khin Nyunt comprises Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win,

member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Aung Hwe, Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen

Pyi Sone, Minister of Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing, Minister for Informa-

tion Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Deputy

Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win and departmental heads.

MNA

## Without losing sight of public interests,...

(from page 16)

increase. Export items do not mean only rice and various kinds of beans and pulses. It is not possible to depend only on two crops for rapid economic development of the State. Therefore he spoke of the need to make efforts for export of other crops.

The economy of the State will not develop if we are contented with the export of only rice and beans and pulses. Other nations earn hundreds of millions of dollars through the export of fruits, flowers including orchid and vegetables such as roselle, water green and drumsticks. Foreign trade volume will increase by exporting a lot of new export items. **It was during the time of the present government that beans and pulses could be exported. The State could export beans and pulses more than the maximum amount of the past. It was nearly ten times tonnage.**

He said concerted efforts are to be made for more export of new items in cooperation with national entrepreneurs, merchants and farmers. If basic commodities such as chilies and onions are exported when they are only sufficient for local consumption, prices of commodities will rise and people might face with some difficulties, he pointed out.

He spoke of the need to make efforts for production

of basic crops more than local consumption and only surplus of crops are to be exported. Agricultural sector has developed greatly under the present government, comparing with that of the past.

**For sufficiency in local consumption, the government has provided assistance to national entrepreneurs and laid emphasis on cultivation of oil palm.**

In accord with the guidance of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe, agricultural works on which the government relies are to be carried out. Only when more crops can be exported will the income of the country increase and can import goods necessary for the State.

He said the government has laid down the policy on balance of foreign trade and increase of value-added goods by promoting the amount of export and reducing the volume of import.

He said the government is implementing the task of development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well, one of the four economic objectives. Therefore, earning of foreign exchange through boosting production of agricultural product plays an important part in securing strong economy of the State.

He urged the national entrepreneurs to make efforts in the interests of the State and the people as well as their

## Excerpts from Head of State's...

(from page 16)

- **Agricultural products should meet the requirements not only for local food sufficiency but also for export.**
- **Accelerated measures are to be taken to ensure that the agricultural products meet both demands—domestic consumption and export.**
- **The government has reformulated the policy on agricultural crops trading for extended cultivation of the main crops for local consumption and increase of export of marketable crops and for development of local and foreign trade.**
- **Today there are few economic enterprises under the control of the government.**
- **The Tatmadaw government lifted restrictions on State-controlled commodities significantly and permitted merchants to trade freely.**
- **The lifting of restrictions is aimed at boosting production of agricultural crops.**
- **By doing so, export of crops will also increase. Export items do not mean only rice and various kinds of beans and pulses.**

(See page 9)



*General Thura Shwe Mann greets oil palm entrepreneurs at the meeting on development of oil palm industry and reclamation of farmland.— MNA*

own with goodwill after realizing the encouragement of the government extended to them. Next, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein made a speech. He said that the government has laid down political, economic and social objectives and is implementing them for the emergence of a peaceful modern and developed nation.

In the political sector, the National Convention, the first step of the seven-point future political programmes of the State, is being held for the emergence of a peaceful, modern and discipline-flourishing democratic nation.

(See page 9)



## Without losing sight of public...

(from page 8)

The seven-point future political programme of the State including the holding of the National Convention will be implemented step by step and the National Convention, the first step of the programme, is being successfully held.

It is imperative to have the three basic requirements in the process of transition to a modern, developed and democratic nation.

The first basic requirement is to ensure stability of the State and prevalence of law and order; the second to enhance the living standard of the people while fulfilling their food, clothing and shelter needs with the strong national economy; and the third to equip the people with knowledge and moral scruple.

Development of agricultural sector plays an important role in strengthening the national economy, the prerequisite for the emergence of a modern developed and democratic nation.

When it comes to ensuring the strong national economy, the people and entrepreneurs need to make integrated and well-coordinated efforts.

Nowadays, significant progress has been made in agriculture, fish and meat, forest and mining sectors, which are foreign exchange earners, as a result of the combined and concerted efforts of the government, co-operatives and the private sector.

The government has been able to improve the socio-economic life of the people alongside the per capital income as the national economy is making progress.

There is still much left to be done including the nurturing and producing outstanding intellectuals and intelligentsia in ensuring the emergence of a modern developed industrial nation.



Diplomats and officials of UN agencies led by Dean of Diplomatic Corps Ambassador of Singapore to Myanmar Mr Simon Tensing de Cruz see off Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt at Yangon International Airport. (News on page 1)—MNA

In such circumstances, priority will have to be given to development of agricultural sector while making strenuous efforts for national development.

**In accordance with the geographical conditions and demand of foreign market, the government has designated ten major crops and work is under way for successful realization of the project.**

In addition, special projects have been laid down and are being implemented for enabling the national people to engage in growing coffee, tea and pepper, the three lucrative crops, on a commercial scale.

Moreover, the government is placing emphasis on growing of long-staple cotton which is in high demand in foreign market and perennial crops such as oil palm, rubber and Thitseint that are foreign exchange earners.

There arises a shortage of labour in many countries with the emergence of mills & factories and development of construction work.

Therefore, the entrepreneurs in cooperation with the

government are to strive for the emergence of agricultural undertakings based on industry.

Likewise, it is required to expand the market as there has been an increase in production. At the same time, extended cultivation of crops which already have market is to be carried out.

**At a time when the crops market is on growing demand, strenuous efforts are to be made for development of national economy while expanding foreign market by taking agriculture as base.**

Next, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha reported on resolutions of business entrepreneurs' coordination meeting (5/2004) on development of oil palm and rubber cultivation and land reclamation held in June 2004; Taninthayi Division PDC Secretary Lt-Col Myo Nyunt on matters related to cultivation of oil palm crops by national entrepreneurs since 1999 to meet the 500,000-acre cultivation target in the division

according to the guidance of the Head of State, thriving oil palm business of national entrepreneurs since the beginning of 2004, arrangements to extend oil palm cultivation for 2005-2006, collection of saplings and seeds and assistance rendered to the entrepreneurs; Deputy Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Aung Tun on studies conducted in the regions of Magway Division regarding the cultivation of onion, sesame, cotton, oil palm and other crops; Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin on land allotments to national entrepreneurs and reclamation, arrangements to disburse loans for cultivation and formation of Rice Cultivators Association and Rubber Cultivators Association and other associations for cultivation of various crops; and Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun on financial procedures and rules and regulations on loan disbursements for the entrepreneurs.

National entrepreneurs

## Excerpts...

(from page 8)

- **It is not possible to depend only on two crops for rapid economic development of the State.**
- **The economy of the State will not develop if we are contented with the export of only rice and beans and pulses.**
- **Other nations earn hundreds of millions of dollars through the export of fruits, flowers including orchid and vegetables such as roselle, water green and drumsticks.**
- **Foreign trade volume will increase by exporting a lot of new export items. It was during the present government that beans and pulses could be exported.**
- **The State could export beans and pulses more than the maximum amount export of the past which was almost over ten times tonnage.**
- **Concerted efforts are to be made for more export of new items in cooperation with national entrepreneurs, merchants and farmers.**
- **If basic commodities such as chilies and onions are exported when they are only sufficient for local consumption, prices of commodities will rise and people might face some difficulties.**
- **Efforts are to be made for production of basic crops more than local consumption and only surplus of crops are to be exported.**



Thriving oil palm plantation in Longlon Township, Taninthayi Division.

at the meeting reported on lands reclaimed, collection of saplings and seeds and machinery for boosting cultivation and requirements. The ministers and officials also presented their reports on assistance to be rendered by their ministries concerned. In response to the reports, General Thura Shwe Mann said for the development of agricultural sector it is important that economic benefits for both

growers and exporters should be equitable. So, it is required for them to make coordinated efforts for the sector, he said. Then, he stressed the need for business entrepreneurs themselves to undertake the cultivation for the benefits of production and trading sectors.

After the meeting, General Thura Shwe Mann cordially greeted the national entrepreneurs.

MNA

# TB, a leading killer of women

Dr Khin Swe Win

"Tuberculosis" -The very word evokes feelings of fear, anxiety, stigma and despair. For centuries this has been so. In the South-East Asia Region, home to 38% of the world's eight million new cases of TB every year, TB has meant death and prolonged suffering for millions of men, women and children. Nearly 700,000 people in the region die every year of TB. The disease has claimed lives of people during their most productive year. It has impoverished families and left many, especially women, abandoned and destitute.

TB kills more than all causes of maternal mortality put together.

It is customary to view women's health problems largely in the reproductive health area. High maternal mortalities have been the focus of attention (and rightly so) for a long time, especially in the developing countries.

But what is increasingly coming to light is most alarming. Over 900 million women are infected with TB worldwide. One million women die every year of TB and another 2.5 million women get sick with the disease.

## TB kills more than all causes of maternal mortality put together.

Women in their reproductive years have a higher risk of developing active TB than men of the same age. This means that it is during the most critical years of a woman's life, when women raise children, work and are generally economically productive than that at another time in life, that TB strikes.

What is particularly tragic is the fact that many women have little access to TB control services. It is estimated that in the world, among women injected with TB at any given time, at least one third die because they are undiagnosed or receive poor treatment. A joint study by the World Bank, WHO and Harvard University showed that TB caused an annual loss of 7-8 million healthy years of life among women, aged 15 to 44, while 3-6 million healthy years were lost to HIV and 2 million to

**Women in their reproductive years have a higher risk of developing active TB than men of the same age. This means that it is during the most critical years of a woman's life, when women raise children, work and are generally economically productive than that at another time in life, that TB strikes.**

malaria.

In the South-East Asia Region, TB is responsible for the death of almost half a million women each year.

TB has been a neglected issue both in men and women but in women it seems much more evident.

Women have to overcome several barriers before they

**TB mortalities are higher in women than in men. The loss of a mother's life is not only tragic in itself, but it also seriously damages the very fabric of family life. Children specially suffer and are even at risk of contracting TB, due to close contact with their mothers.**

can easily access health care. Their dual responsibilities at home and at work leave them little time to reach diagnostic and curative services. It is also believed that in the South-East Asia Region, more specific to care-seeking for TB, is lack of decision making power in women, as well as poor knowledge of TB especially of its signs and symptoms.

The social stigma attached to TB is also much more in women than in men. While men usually worry about loss of wages and capacity for work, women worry about social rejection from husbands, in-laws and the community in general. If single, TB also foils a woman's chances of finding a suitable match in marriage.

TB mortalities are higher in women than in men. The loss of a mother's life is not only tragic in itself, but it also seriously damages the very fabric of family life. Children specially suffer and are even at risk of contracting TB, due to close contact with their mothers.

The HIV/TB co-epidemic is yet another threat with grave implications for women. HIV infection in women is rising in the developing countries. This means many more women will suffer and die of TB if health care are not made easily accessible to them. It is well documented that DOTS allows women to be treated successfully and affordably near their homes.

It is therefore high time that TB control programmes were made gender specific. Empowering poor women with health knowledge and providing them with equitable access to resources on a sustainable basis is now essential.

In Myanmar, NGOs, such as Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association members and Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation members give health education to communities, are also involved in identification and referral of suspected patients to TB centres, provision of DOTS and follow-up TB patients until cure.

So with the advent of DOTS, participation of NGOs, such as MMCWA, MWA, Myanmar Medical Association, Red Cross Society, Union Solidarity and Development Association, etc., in stopping TB has taken on even greater importance. Being closer to communities including women they serve, and being more credible, dependable and more integrated in the services they provide, the committed and dedicated personnel of health services and NGOs will contribute towards the lowering of TB mortalities in women.

## Talks on Bio-Medical Ethics on 14 Aug

YANGON, 9 Aug— With the sponsorship of the Microbiological Society of the Myanmar Medical Association (Central), talks on Bio-Medical Ethics will be given at the Hall-B of the MMA on Theinbyu Road, Mingala Taungnyunt Township, on 14 August 2004 at 9 am.

The association member doctors and medical students are invited to attend the talk.

MNA

## People's Desire

- \* Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
- \* Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation
- \* Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
- \* Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy

## 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.



## 2004-2005 Academic Year

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

At All Basic Education Schools

Ministry of Education



Head of Yangon Division Health Department Dr Hla Myint and officials viewed round the booths of School Health Week for 2004-2005 academic year at the No 1 Basic Education High School, Dagon Township, on 9 August. — MNA



Ambassador of Singapore Mr Simon Tensing de Cruz welcomes Chief Justice U Aung Toe at the reception to mark the National Day of the Republic of Singapore on 9 August. — MNA



# Ornithological Survey on northern parts of Yangon

Sein Sein Thein (Dagon University)



*Scholars studying birds.*

Last week, I and some of my candidates for M.Res degree in Dagon University were travelling to northern parts of Yangon (Hlegu to Bago Yoma mountain range and Thardukan Village near Shwe Pyi Thar township). The purpose of this trip was to identify the avian fauna present within or in close proximity within 2 km each side of the wetlands and to discuss the potential effects to avian fauna. The Ornithological Survey areas takes all of the intertidal mud flats of wetlands. The first chosen wetland is along the Nga Moe Yeik river and passes through (6) different Vegetation Communities. The potential impact of the wetland will vary depending on the type of habitat, it passes through the species present in that habitats. Species potentially of concern in this wetland are migratory birds, waterbirds and wading birds. We have found pelican on the riverbanks. Pelican are the

most obvious vertebrates in wetland because they have a large bodies and interesting behavior and then we found so many waterfowls near and far of our boat. They are fast flyers with a lack of manoeuvrability, tend to fly at night. They can breed in the low dune of the Nga Moe Yeik river. Hence there will not be any impact on the breeding or breeding habitat of this species. All types of water birds can breed in fertile manmade wetlands including rivers, lakes reservoirs, ponds, freshwater swamps, mudflats, rice-fields and sewage farm. The major uses and threats recorded at the wetlands were fishing agriculture and hunting. Thus, we recorded all species and their abundance, together with their activity and position on the mudflat and high tide roost sites. We provided twice monthly field surveys of the avian fauna of wetland and at low water and raising tide.

We computerized in data interpretation including interrelationship with invertebrates and sediment parameters along mudflat. I assumed, data may be changed year by year. It depends on environmental

## *One of the habitats of waterbirds in Thardukan.*

knowledge from all of the research data will aid the interpretation of bioinformatics.

We used computer to record our data for new generations. Over the next decade, a

application of information technology to biology. An important function of bioinformatics is to store biological data in data base and provide computing tools to access and analyse this data. Many Computer

urgent to work out to know the relation between wetland and nutria, determining the effect of toxic compounds and emerging contaminants on the reproductive system of waterbirds and identifying



## *Not far from Bago Yoma Mountain range.*

conditions. Altogether 142 species of birds were sighted in Hlegu township according to Myanmar Bird+Nature Society. The

good understanding of bioinformatics will greatly help research works in Myanmar. Bioinformatics can be defined as the

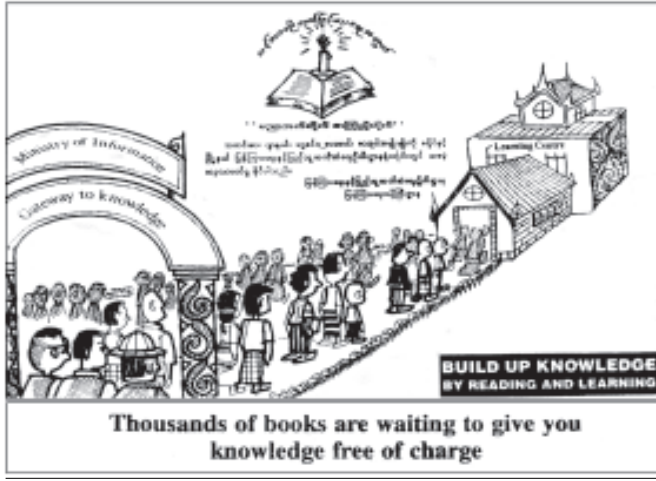
Programmes have been written by or for biologists. The worldwide web (www) has been a real boon to biologists wanting to access bioinformatics resources. Storage of the results of experimental and observational data are important aspect of bioinformatics. Bioinformatic programmes and expertise are available from many universities and academic bioinformatics centre.

In addition, there are numerous other useful resources on the (www). Now we used distance learning from bioinformatics. Because the population of some water birds has decreased due to loss of habitats, changes in feeding habitats and over harvesting. Our research data will become new bioinformatics. It is very

the changes in the food web and feeding habits of waterbirds in wetland. In Myanmar, wetlands play an important role in sustaining diverse species of wildlife which induce avian fauna, marine and mammals by providing rich habitats and healthy environs. Fish and wildlife of wetland give a considerable contribution to human welfare in the form of food for rural people. Mangrove wetlands protect the storm and erosion on the coasts and estuaries. Well managed productive ecosystems of wetland will contribute to better development of socio-economic status in our country. On a global scale, the international organizations are conserving their wetlands. Now we also conserve our wetlands by bioinformatics.



*Former village, Wa Net Chaung where pelicans frequent.*



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## ADVERTISEMENTS

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### JUNIOR LEADER



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သတင်းနှင့်စာအုပ်စင်လုပ်ငန်းစာအုပ်ဆိုင်စာအုပ်စာအုပ်ဆိုင်နှင့်သတင်းစာ  
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The New Light of Myanmar

အင်္ဂလိပ်စာ တိုးတက်လိုသူတိုင်း ဂျူနီယာလီဒါကို ဖတ်ကြည့်ပါ။  
Read Junior Leader to improve your English.

### စားပွဲနှင့် ကုလားထိုင်များငှားရန်

အလွှာ ထိမ်းမြားမင်္ဂလာ အစည်းအဝေး အခမ်းအနားများတွင် ခေတ်မီ  
လယ်စတစ်စားပွဲနှင့် ကုလားထိုင်များ ဈေးနှုန်းသက်သာစွာဖြင့် ငှားရမ်းနိုင်ပါသည်။  
နံနက် ၉ နာရီမှ ည ၁၁ နာရီ အထိ နားရမ်းခန်းစာအုပ်ဆိုင်နှင့်သတင်းစာ  
အမှတ် ၂၂၈-ပိတ်မြို့လမ်း ခိုင်တထောင်မြို့နယ်၊  
ရန်-၂၄၅၆၀၊ ၂၄၅၆၁

## Georgia accuses Russian plane of violating air space

Moscow, 8 Aug — Georgian Foreign Ministry Friday lodged a protest with Russia against a Russian military aircraft's violation of its air space, which further escalated the regional rows between Moscow and Tbilisi.

The Georgian Foreign Ministry said in a note that a Russian military plane flew over Tskhinvali, South Ossetia of Georgia, which marked another provocation of Moscow. Tbilisi demanded that Moscow take every possible means to pre-

vent such things from happening again, reported ITAR-TASS.

Responding to the incident, Georgian Interior Minister Irakly Okruashvili told the Press that all action intended to encroach on the Georgian border will be deterred and should anything like that happen again, Georgia would take means similar to "sinking all vessels, including tour boats" trespassing on the territorial waters of Georgia.

MNA/Xinhua

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV BOUGAIN VILLA VOY NO (064)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BOUGAIN VILLA Voy No (064) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10-8-2004 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P 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: M/S PREMIER SPECTRUM  
Phone : 256908/378316/376797

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV KOTA MUTIARA VOY NO (127)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA MUTIARA Voy No (127) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10-8-2004 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T 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: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER  
Phone : 256908/378316/376797

## WHO sees south Sudan Ebola outbreak halted

GENEVA, 8 Aug — An outbreak of the deadly Ebola virus in southern Sudan, which infected 17 people and killed seven, appears to have been halted, the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Friday.

A WHO official said the outbreak, first reported in Yambio country of Sudan's Equatoria Province in May, would be officially declared over on Saturday, 42 days after the death of the last person confirmed infected by the virus. The incubation period for the disease, whose origin is still unknown despite years of research, is 21 days and the United Nations agency says an outbreak can be considered over when no

new cases have been reported for twice that length of time.

Ebola, which in its worst form causes massive internal bleeding and is one of the most deadly diseases in the world, was first identified in the Sudan in 1976, but has claimed most victims in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda.

Although largely confined to tropical regions of Africa, it has also been reported in rain forest areas in the Western Pacific.

The most virulent of its four known strains occurs in the Congo where, in the first known outbreak in 1976, 88 per cent of the 318 reported victims died, and in 1995 it killed 81 per cent of 315 in-

fects people.

Over the last two years in the Congo, it killed between 75 per cent and 89 per cent of all victims, a total of 199, in three separate outbreaks.

But death rates in Sudan, which has its own strain and where there had been two other outbreaks before this year, have been much lower, averaging around 50 per cent of victims.

A large outbreak caused by the Sudanese strain in Uganda in 2000-2001 affected 425 people but only about half, a total of 224, died. The only other significant outbreaks have been in Gabon — another country with heavy tropical forest cover. — MNA/Reuters

## Expert says to be careful of unlicensed translators

BEIJING, 8 Aug — An expert from a national quality watchdog group who declined to disclose his name, has urged people to be careful when employing local translation companies.

There are more than 3,000 translation companies in China, and a large number of consulting firms are also engaged in such business without any professional translators, said the expert, who is a member of the China Society for the Promotion of Quality. — MNA/Xinhua

## မြည်တွင်းပြန်ကိုအားပေးပါ

## Italian swims from Alcatraz with hands, feet bound

SAN FRANCISCO, 8 Aug — An Italian pharmacist swam from the former prison island of Alcatraz to San Francisco with his hands and feet tied on Friday, the first such feat in more than three decades.

"I'm feeling good but a bit cold," Alberto Cristini told Reuters shortly after completing the roughly two-mile swim in an hour and 50 minutes. "The currents were strong when I started out but everything turned out well."

A resident of Rovigo

near Venice, Cristini, 43, had his hands and legs tied with thick rubber bands. He wore a black wet suit, pointed his hands forward and kicked with his legs.

By the time he arrived at Chrissy Field near the Golden Gate Bridge, he looked pale and his eye were bloodshot.

Although currents between Alcatraz and San Francisco were said to be so

strong and waters so cold that no prisoner could escape, others have made the swim.

Health club trainer Pedro Ordesen claims hold the record for most unshackled swims between Alcatraz and San Francisco at 238. "This is one of the most difficult channels of water in the world to cross because of the currents," he said.

MNA/Reuters

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV KENG TUNG VOY NO (27)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KENG TUNG Voy No (27) arrived on 7-8-2004 are hereby notified that their cargo will be discharged into the premises of Myanmar Port Authority 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 between 8 am to 11:20pm 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.

AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA FIVE STAR LINE.  
Phone : 295279,295280,295281,295658,295659

## US to upgrade radar system in Greenland

STOCKHOLM, 8 Aug — The United States, Denmark and Greenland, an autonomous territory of Denmark, signed agreements Friday at Igaliu, a small village in southern Greenland, to upgrade the radar system at Thule, a Cold War US air base with a crucial role in US plans for a missile defence system.

Three agreements were signed by US Secretary of State Colin Powell, his Danish counterpart Per Stig Moeller and Josef Motzfeldt in charge of external affairs for Greenland. One of the documents updated the 1951 agreement, the second provided for economic and tech-

nical cooperation and the third was aimed at protecting the environment.

"Together we will meet the security challenges of the 21st Century, from missile defence to international terrorism," Powell said at the signing ceremony.

The Thule base, about 1,500 kilometres south of the North Pole, was built between 1951 and 1953 under a defence treaty between the United States and Denmark signed on April 27, 1951.

As the United States is to formally launch its missile defence system in September this year, the radar system at Thule is too old to meet the requirement.

MNA/Xinhua



# ပညာရေးနှင့် ခေတ်မီပို့ဆက်ရေးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

## EAC agree on preferential tour site rates

DAR-ES-SALAAM, 8 Aug—The East African Community (EAC) has agreed to charge the nationals of member states preferential rates for visiting the tour sites in its three member countries.

The agreement was reached and announced in Arusha, northern Tanzania, where the EAC secretariat sits, local newspaper *The Guardian* reported on Saturday.

Tanzanians visiting EAC tour sites will now be charged 1,500 Tanzanian shillings (1.2 US dollars); Kenyans and Ugandans visiting the same sites will be charged 100 Kenyan shillings (about 1.25 dollars) and 5,000 Ugandan shillings (about 2.78 dollars), respectively.

To enjoy the preferential admission rates, the EAC nationals need to produce national identification cards, passports or other travel documents.

"The preferential treatment is a major development in the ongoing liberation of the tourism sector in East Africa," *The Guardian* quoted EAC Public Relations Officer Allot Magaga as saying. — MNA/Xinhua

## S-W China province reports big rise in border trade

KUNMING, 9 Aug—Southwest China's Yunnan Province handled 2.5 billion US dollars in border trade during the first six months of this year, a 25.4-per-cent rise over the same period of 2003, according to local Customs.

The total included 1.1 billion dollars in imports, up 30 per cent year-on-year, and 1.4 billion dollars in exports, up 21.7 per cent.

Neighbouring Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam and Laos, Yunnan boasts over 4,000 kilometres of border line and in recent years, border trade has become an important driving force for the province's economic development.

Statistics from the Customs showed private businesses have replaced state-owned enterprises to become the largest contributor to Yunnan's border trade. They contributed 1.1 billion US dollars to the province's border trade, accounting for 45.5 per cent of the total.

In addition, among all the border trade partners of Yunnan, Vietnam reported the highest growth rate of 37 per cent and the country's metal ores, especially iron ore, have become very hot in Yunnan. — MNA/Xinhua

## UN to hold conf on Small Island Developing States issues

APIA (Samoa), 9 Aug—The United Nations is to hold a high-level international conference in Mauritius next January focusing on issues of Small Island Developing States (SIDS), announced UN Undersecretary-General Anwarul K Chowdhury here on Saturday.

Chowdhury, also UN high representative for the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing states, said during the 35th Pacific Islands Forum summit meeting that the Mauritius meeting is set on January 10-14, 2005, with the last two days being the high level segment.

The upcoming conference is for the 10-year review of the Barbados Programme of Action for the SIDS, said Chowdhury.

He noted that issues like

HIV/AIDS, security concerns, communications, trade opportunities and market access, climate change and renewable energy should receive special attention during the meeting.

Regarding to the outcomes of the international meeting, the Undersecretary-General said that many SIDS have expressed that they should be practical and respond to the real challenge to the sustainable development of the SIDS that seem

to be growing each year.

"For that we need to prioritize the concrete actions to be undertaken in the coming years in favour of SIDS, and to set in place an effective implementation mechanism."

Chowdhury said that the UN General Assembly has urged that representation to be at the highest possible level, and UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan has recently written to all heads of state and government re-

questing their participation in the meeting.

He told reporters at a news briefing that it is UN's constant stance that issues of developing nations, especially that of small developing nations, should receive more global attention.

"Efforts by the Industrial countries to provide assistance to the Small Island States are also supported by the United Nations," said Chowdhury.

MNA/Xinhua

## Thai kids spend more on snacks than on learning

BANGKOK, 8 Aug—Thai youngsters spend three times more on snacks than on learning materials, local Press on Saturday quoted a research conclusion as saying.

On average, Thai youngsters spend 9,800 baht (about 233 US dollars) annually on snacks while only 3,000 baht (about 71 dollars) on learning, said the research conducted by Thailand Research Fund. The research calculations were based on 21 million Thais in the age range of 5-24 years.

The young people receive a yearly total of 35 billion baht (833 million US dollars) as pocket money, said the research findings presented to a seminar on Friday.

About 16 billion baht (380.95 million US dollars) of the pocket money went into shopping, an amount equivalent to 15.7 per cent of this year's state budget, according to the research.

Heavy advertising and a society hard hit by consumerism were believed reasons behind the young Thais' spending values, said Amornvich Nakhontap, a scholar of Chulalongkorn University's faculty of education. The market share of children's snacks is about 10 billion baht (238 million US dollars) in value, he said. — MNA/Xinhua

## Italian Govt launches 10-year water system overhaul

ROME, 8 Aug—The Italian Government on Friday launched a 10-year programme aimed at overhauling the nation's water distribution and supply system.

Italian Environment Ministry said that the state will spend over 30 billion euros on upgrading the system to make it more modern, efficient and environmentally friendly.

"The 2004 budget tasked my ministry with running this programme," said Italian Environment Minister Altero Matteoli.

"It's the first time that a single plan brings together

all the works and operations in the water sector. We have worked so that the infrastructure projects focus on sustainability."

Compared to other countries, Italy has an abundant supply of fresh water.

The Environment Ministry estimates that, potentially, three million litres of water are available for each Italian citizen per annum.

But because of infra-

structure problems and the fact that water flows are not always regular, the country makes use of less than a third of that potential pool.

MNA/Xinhua

## Tanzanian-S African economic ties needs balance

DAR-ES-SALAAM, 8 Aug—The economic ties between Tanzania and South Africa needs a shift from one-sided preference to mutual benefits, a senior South African diplomat has said.

Tanzanian newspaper *The Guardian* quoted on Saturday Sindiso Mfenyana, South African High Commissioner to Tanzania, as saying that he is committed to ensuring that the economic ties between the two countries, currently seen as favouring South Africa, will be improved to benefit both.

Mfenyana has just started his term of four years in Tanzania.

MNA/Xinhua

## Macao's hospitality industry logs 1.8m guests in first half year

MACAO, 9 Aug—The hospitality industry of China's Macao Special Administrative Region recorded 1.87 million guests in the first six months, an increase of 52 per cent on the same period last year.

The Macao Statistics and Census Bureau said on Saturday that Macao's 67 hotels and guesthouses recorded an average room occupancy rate of 74.9 per cent in June, up 25.2 per cent on the year-ago period.

China's Mainland, Hong Kong and Taiwan contribute the main source of guests in Macao's hotels, taking up 56.4 per cent, 32.6 per cent and 3.4 per cent of the total, respectively. — MNA/Xinhua

## World's hairiest man has ear hair removed to hear

BEIJING, 8 Aug—The world's hairiest man, Chinese rock singer Yu Zhenhuan, underwent ear surgery in Shanghai on Friday to remove hair that was impairing his hearing, the *Xinhua* news agency said on Friday.

Doctors said Yu had complained of constant earaches and nausea and had lost one-third of his hearing, *Xinhua* said.

Yu was recognized in 2002 as the world's hairiest man by the *Guinness Book of World Records*, *Xinhua* said.

Yu's body, save the palms of his hands and the soles of his feet, is covered with an average of 41 hairs per 0.16 square inch, a condition doctors term "atavism", it said.

The hirsute 26-year-old Yu, a rock-and-roll singer, made his entertainment debut at the age of six in a movie about "a hairy child's adventure", the state news agency said. — MNA/Reuters

ကျေးရွာတိုင်း ကိုယ်အားကိုးကိုင်ရာကြည့်ရှုမှုရမည်



ကျေးရွာတိုင်း ကိုယ်အားကိုးကိုင်ရာကြည့်ရှုမှုရမည် သုတ/ရသ စာအုပ်များလွှဲအပ်နိုင်ပါသည်။

ပြည်ကြားရေးနှင့် ပြည်သူ့ဆက်ဆံရေးဦးစီးဌာန

## SPORTS

**Porto confirm sacking of coach Del Neri**

LISBON, 9 Aug—European champions Porto have fired new coach Luigi del Neri, the Portuguese club said on Saturday following media reports that the Italian had been dismissed for repeated absences.

Del Neri and Porto officials met late on Friday and agreed to terminate his contract "for personal reasons", the club said in a brief statement on its web site. No replacement was named.

Del Neri, formerly the coach at Italy's Serie A club Chievo Verona, was hired in June to replace Jose Mourinho, who left to become manager at west London club Chelsea.

Porto officials were irritated by the amount of time del Neri spent away from the club, according to the private TSF radio station and the A Bola newspaper's web site.

He took two days off this week and was not at Friday's training session alleging that he had missed flight connections while returning to Portugal. Players and officials also were unhappy with his handling of the team, A Bola and TSF said.

Porto won the Champions League final in May with a 3-0 victory over Monaco and are also the Portuguese champions.—MNA/Reuters



Arsenal captain Dennis Bergkamp lifts the FA Community Shield in Cardiff, Wales after their match against Manchester United. — INTERNET

**Arsenal draw first blood against Man United**

CARDIFF, 9 Aug—Arsenal drew first blood in their annual battle for supremacy with Manchester United when they won the Community Shield 3-1 at the Millennium Stadium on Sunday.

Second-half strikes by Gilberto, Jose Antonio Reyes and a Mikael Silvestre own goal gave the champions victory over the FA Cup winners in the English season's traditional curtain-raiser.

Although both teams were missing key players, Arsenal deserved their win over a United side with one eye on Wednesday's Champions League qualifier against Dinamo Bucharest.

The Gunners were without the injured Patrick Vieira, Fredrik Ljungberg and Sol Campbell but inspired by Spanish striker Reyes and 17-year-old midfielder Francesc Fabregas they produced an efficient performance.

"Reyes looks outstanding," Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger told reporters. "He has very quickly become a very important player. He is very brave and every game he looks stronger and stronger."

Wenger admitted the constant speculation about whether Vieira would be joining Real Madrid had affected his preparations for the new season.

"We have been disrupted in our preparation but the situation has not made a difference to team morale," he said.

With the recent heat and humidity replaced by damp, overcast conditions in Car-

diff, both sides started with gusto in a first half that somehow remained goalless.

Arsenal forwards Thierry Henry and Dennis Bergkamp were denied by American goalkeeper Tim Howard while Jermaine Pennant wasted the best chance of the half when he side-footed wide of an empty United goal after Henry's shot was saved.

United also showed plenty of attacking intent, with new signing Alan Smith buzzing around to good effect.

Smith, staking his claims to partner the injured Ruud van Nistelrooy, blazed high over the bar with his best chance on 40 minutes.

The deadlock was broken after 49 minutes when Reyes, who had just shot into the side-netting when it was easier to score, sprinted clear before rolling the ball across for Brazilian midfielder Gilberto to tap in.

Smith endeared himself to the United fans six minutes later when he smashed a 20-metre volley past Lehmann to make it 1-1.

But Arsenal were not to be denied their first silverware of the season, moving back in front on the hour when Reyes, signed in January for around 17 million pounds (30.98 million US dollars) from Sevilla, fired home after Gilberto had

scooped a pass across the area.

United knew it was not to be their day in the 79th minute when fullback Ashley Cole's attempted cross cannoned off central defender Silvestre and inside Howard's near post.

Although Arsenal will be happy with the victory they will not celebrate too loudly as only once in the past 10 years have the winners of the curtain-raiser gone on to win the league title at the end of the season.

"It was a good game for us in terms of the tempo," United manager Alex Ferguson said. "And the important thing was to come through without any more injuries."

MNA/Reuters

**Greece sees no threats for Athens Olympics**

ATHENS, 9 Aug—Greece declared itself the safest country on earth on Saturday as unprecedented security to guard the Athens Olympics went into full swing with under a week to go.

NATO ships patrolled the turquoise waters of the Aegean, a communications and surveillance blimp hovered over Athens, and most of the 70,000 strong security force called in to protect the August 13-29 Games moved into position.

"Greece is the most secure country in the world," Deputy Defence Minister Ioannis Lampropoulos declared. "We have no feeling that we are threatened by anyone."

Most of Greece's Air Force was on standby and dozens of Patriot defence missiles, creating an air shield above the capital, were armed and locked.

And with the first of seven luxury cruise ships that will host VIPs and Olympic officials already docked at the port of Piraeus, the most expensive Olympics security operation ever got under way, six days before the opening ceremony.

International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Jacques Rogge applauded Greece's one-billion-euro security efforts, four times bigger than Sydney spent for the 2000 Olympics.

But he warned there could never again be a 100-per-cent guarantee of security since September 11 2001's attacks on the United States.

"The world has changed: a nutcase on a boat with the wrong weapons and you're in trouble," Rogge told the Belgium newspaper De Morgen. "Security tops the list. We're doing everything to tackle it but nobody can guarantee 100 per cent security."

Lampropoulos said with less than a week until the start of the first Summer Games since September 11's attacks, intelligence services around the world were still not picking up the slightest hint an attack.—MNA/Reuters



Rennes' Adailton (Rear) vies with Paris Saint-Germain forward Fabrice Florese during an LI match.—INTERNET

**PSG lose as leading rivals win opening matches**

PARIS, 9 Aug—Paris St Germain slumped to a 2-1 defeat at Stade Rennes on Saturday while champions Olympique Lyon, Monaco and Olympique Marseille made winning starts on the opening weekend of the Ligue 1 season.

Rennes shocked PSG, last season's runners up, when Olivier Sorlin and Alexander Frei scored two goals in two minutes midway through the first half.

The hosts came close to wrapping up the match with a third goal but striker Olivier Monterrubio shot wide from the penalty spot after a foul from defender Yepes on Frei.

PSG pulled one back when Portuguese international Pedro Pauleta converted from the spot just before the break, but his side were unable to move up a gear in the second half as Rennes held on to seal all three points.

Marseille snatched a last-gasp win over Girondins Bordeaux when Laurent Battles scored four minutes into injury time. The visitors finished with ten men after defender Cyril Rool was sent off for a second bookable offence in the 71st minute.

A first-minute goal from new striker Ernesto Chevanton gave Monaco a 1-0 win at promoted St. Etienne as the principality team hoped to stake their claim as one of the title favourites despite losing a number of key players in the close season.

Uruguayan Chevanton, who has replaced Real Madrid's Fernando Morientes, outmanoeuvred two defenders to slot home from inside the box.

St. Etienne, back in the top flight after three seasons in the Second Division, fought hard to find an equaliser but coach Didier Deschamps' side held on.

"We were a bit lucky to find the net so early," Deschamps said. "But we managed to hang on afterwards and we controlled the match for most of the time.—MNA/Reuters

**FIFA to set up office in S Africa for 2010 World Cup**

JOHANNESBURG, 9 Aug—World soccer's governing body FIFA is to open an office in South Africa early next year to help the country prepare for the 2010 World Cup.

The FIFA emergency committee approved plans to establish a presence in the country to assist in running the tournament. South Africa's interim 2010 organizing committee, which had been mandated to set up structures and hire personnel for a local organizing committee by the end of the year, now intends bringing its plans forward, officials said on Saturday.

FIFA said on Friday it would form a company, MATCH AG, to combine know-how in the key areas of management, accommodation, ticket sales and IT solutions with the South Africans.—MNA/Reuters

**Romario held by police for child payment failure**

BRASILIA (Brazil), 9 Aug—Former Brazil striker Romario was held by police in Rio de Janeiro on Saturday after failing to make child maintenance payments, his lawyer told a national radio station.

The gifted and temperamental player, who inspired Brazil to their fourth World Cup win in 1994, turned himself in at a Rio police station after his first wife pressed charges against him for failing to make payments to their two children, lawyer Michel Assef told Brazil's CBN national radio network.

Romario's manager Luis Moraes was unable to confirm to Reuters that the player had been arrested as was widely reported in the Brazilian media.

Romario was due to play a Brazilian championship game for his club Fluminense against Parana later on Saturday.

MNA/Reuters



File photo of veteran Brazilian striker Romario Faria (R) and his ex-wife Monica Santoro (2nd L) with their children Romarinho (2nd R) and Moniquinha during a birthday party in Rio de Janeiro, on 22 September, 2003. — INTERNET



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

- 9:00 Signature Tune Greeting  
9:02 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Myanmar Panorama & Myanmar Sentiment"  
9:06 Typical Traditional Customs of Mor Shan  
9:10 **Headline News**  
9:12 Art of Carving on Fruits  
9:15 **National News**  
9:20 Usefulness of Nipa Palm  
9:25 Lon Yuu Festival Dance  
9:28 Lucky Bamboo  
9:30 **National News**  
9:35 Kanbawza Thardi Museum  
9:40 Myanmar Modern Song "Rain, Please Tell My Lover"  
9:42 Travelogue "Sagging"  
9:45 **National News**  
9:50 Myanmar Mat  
9:58 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

**10-8-2004 (Tuesday)  
Evening Transmission  
(15:30 - 17:30)**

- 15:30 Signature Tune Greeting  
15:32 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar"  
15:36 Typical Traditional Customs of Mor Shan  
15:40 **Headline News**  
15:42 Art of Carving on Fruits  
15:45 **National News**  
15:50 Usefulness of Nipa Palm  
15:55 Lon Yuu Festival

- Dance  
15:58 Lucky Bamboo  
16:00 **National News**  
16:05 Kanbawza Thardi Museum  
16:10 Myanmar Modern Song "Rain, Please Tell My Lover"  
16:15 **National News**  
16:20 Myanmar Mat  
16:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Myanmar Panorama & Myanmar Sentiment"  
16:30 **National News**  
16:35 Myanmar Eretes Sticticus  
16:40 Myanmar Traditional Snacks  
16:45 **National News**  
16:50 Oil Painting Model Demonstration  
16:55 Tu Hna Thwe  
17:00 **National News**  
17:05 PaO Traditional Bag  
17:10 Myanmar Modern Song "Saying with the Eyes!"  
17:12 Melodious Myanmar Harp (Auspicious Blessing)  
17:15 **National News**  
17:20 Myanmar Ancient Ornaments Show-room  
17:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

**10-8-2004 (Tuesday)  
Evening Transmission  
(19:30 - 23:30)**

- 19:30 Signature Tune Greeting  
19:32 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Myanmar Panorama & Myanmar Sentiment"

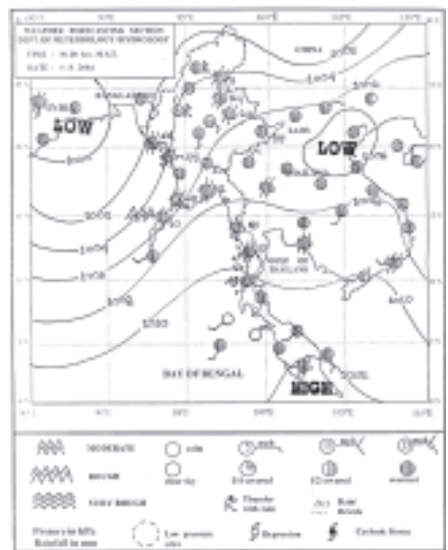
- 19:36 The Gok Hteik Viaduct  
19:40 **Headline News**  
19:42 Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes "Brown Mollusc Soup"  
19:45 **National News**  
19:50 Dawei Traditional Longyi Weaving Art  
19:55 Dance of The Konbaung Era  
20:00 **National News**  
20:05 Travelogue "Yangon to Bagan"  
20:10 Song "Treasure Land"  
20:15 **National News**  
20:20 Butterfly Garden in Yangon  
20:25 Myanmar Modern Song "Sumprabum"  
20:30 **National News**  
20:35 Myanmar Musical Orchestra (Bwe Song)  
20:40 Myanmar Tapestry Artist  
20:45 **National News**  
20:50 Lobsters Trading  
20:55 Kayan Dance  
20:58 Journey to Mogok (The Ruby Land)  
21:00 **National News**  
21:05 Finished Products of Teak  
21:10 Myanmar Modern Song "Come, Visit My Home"  
21:12 Kayin Traditional Vegetable Curry (Tarlabaw)  
21:15 **National News**  
21:20 Intricate Art of Silversmith  
21:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar"  
21:35 Typical Traditional

- Customs of Mor Shan  
21:40 **Headline News**  
21:42 Art of Carving on Fruits  
21:45 **National News**  
21:50 Usefulness of Nipa Palm  
21:55 Lon Yuu Festival Dance  
21:58 Lucky Bamboo  
22:00 **National News**  
22:05 Kanbawza Thardi Museum  
22:10 Myanmar Modern Song "Rain, Please Tell My Lover"  
22:12 Travelogue "Sagging"  
22:15 **National News**  
22:20 Myanmar Mat  
22:25 Myanmar Modern Song "Dakukuku"  
22:30 **National News**  
22:35 Myanmar Eretes Sticticus  
22:40 Myanmar Traditional Snacks  
22:45 **National News**  
22:50 Oil Painting Model Demonstration  
22:55 Tu Hna Thwe  
23:00 **National News**  
23:05 PaO Traditional Bag  
23:10 Myanmar Modern Song "Saying with the Eyes!"  
23:12 Melodious Myanmar Harp (Auspicious Blessing)  
23:15 **National News**  
23:20 Myanmar Ancient Ornaments Show-room  
23:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

**Rainfall on 9-8-2004**

- 0.04 inch at Yangon Airport,  
- 0.12 inch at Kaba-Aye,  
- 0.04 inch at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 1870 mm (73.62 inches) at Yangon Airport and 1860 mm (73.23 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 1854 mm (72.99 inches) at central Yangon.

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas

**WEATHER**

Monday, 9 August 2004

**Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:** During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in lower Sagaing and Magway Divisions, scattered in Kayah State, upper Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with locally heavyfalls in Rakhine State, isolated heavyfalls in Kayin State, Mandalay, Bago, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Kyaukpau (7.13) inches, Zaungtu (4.06) inches, Dawei (3.94) inches, Hinthada (3.82) inches, Thandwe (3.62) inches, Hpa-an (3.46) inches, Sittway (3.43) inches and Pymmana (2.48) inches.

Maximum temperature on 8-8-2004 was 26.0°C (79°F). Minimum temperature on 8-8-2004 was 18.8°C (66°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 8-8-2004 was 96%. Total sunshine hours on 8-8-2004 was nil. Rainfall on 8-8-2004 was 1 mm (0.04 inch) at Yangon Airport, 3 mm (0.12 inch) at Kaba-Aye, 1 mm (0.04 inch) at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 1870 mm (73.62 inches) at Yangon Airport and 1860 mm (73.23 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 1854 mm (72.99 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 7 mph from West at 07:30 hours MST on 8-8-2004.

**Bay inference:** Monsoon is vigorous in the Andaman Sea and strong in the Bay of Bengal. **Forecast valid until evening of 10-8-2004:** Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in lower Sagaing Division, scattered in Kayah State, Mandalay and Magway Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Rakhine, Kayin, Mon States, Ayeyawady, Bago and Taninthayi Divisions. Degree of certainty is (80%).

**State of the sea:** Occasional squalls with rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) to (40) mph.

**Outlook for subsequent two days:** Strong monsoon. **Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 10-8-2004:** Some rain. Degree of certainty is (100%). **Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 10-8-2004:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

**Flood Warning**

(Issued at 13:00 hrs MST on 9-8-2004)  
The water level of Bago River at Bago may rise 30 cm (about -ft) and reach the danger level (910) cm during the next (24) hours commencing noon today.

**Flood Bulletin**

(Issued at 13:00 hrs MST on 9-8-2004)  
The water level of Sittoung River at Madauk is (about-1-ft) above the danger level. The water level may remain above the danger level during the next (3) days commencing noon today.

**Earthquake Report**

(Issued at 11:00 hrs MST on 9-8-2004)  
An earthquake of slight intensity (4.5) Richter Scale with its epicenter inside of Myanmar about (206) miles north of Kaba-Aye seismological observatory was recorded at (19) hrs (16) min (36) sec MST on 8th August, 2004.

**Condolences**

Our deepest sympathy and heartfelt condolences to Mr. Martin Pun, Chairman of Myanmar Business Coalition on AIDS and family on the passing away of his beloved mother, Mrs. Olive Pun @ အိုလီဗာ (92 years) on the 6th of August.

Our thoughts are with you,  
MBCA family

Radio  
Myanmar

**Tuesday, August 10  
Tune in today:**

- 8.30 am Brief news  
8.35 am Music: Don't play your rock & roll to me  
8.40 am Perspectives  
8.45 am Music: Feel so good  
8.55 am National news/Slogan  
9.05 am Music: Be with you again  
9.10 am International news  
9.15 am Music: Go  
1.30 pm News/Slogan  
1.40 pm Lunch time music  
-I really miss you  
-Written on my heart  
-Oh baby  
-Love is all we need  
9.00 pm English Speaking Course Level-1 Unit (25)  
9.15 pm Article/Music  
9.25 pm Weekly sports reel  
9.35 pm Music for your listening pleasure  
-Show me heaven  
-Come in out of the rain  
9.45 pm News/Slogan  
10.00 pm PEL



Tuesday, August 10

View on today:

- 7:00 am  
1. Parittas Recitation by Mingun Sayadawgyi  
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. ကဏ္ဍမိုးညွှန်  
8:05 am  
6. အတူပြန်  
8:20 am  
7. Songs of yesteryears

- 8:30 am  
8. International news  
8:45 am  
9. Grammar Made Easy  
4:00 pm  
1. Martial song  
4:15 pm  
2. Songs to uphold National Spirit  
4:30 pm  
3. အစားသုံးတူသလို ပညာရေး ခုန့်ပြင် သင်ကြားသင်ခန်းစာ - တတိယနှစ် (ဓာတုဗေဒအထူးပြု) (ဓာတုဗေဒ)  
4:45 pm  
4. Dance of national races  
5:00 pm  
5. နှစ်စားဆင်စားစာတင်  
5:15 pm  
6. ပြန်စာစာ၊ ပြန်စာစာကား  
5:30 pm  
7. Sing and Enjoy

- 6:10 pm  
8. နိုင်ငံခြားကားတိုင်းစာတင်ဆက် "ဓမ္မကုဏ္ဍ" (အပိုင်း-၁၄)  
6:30 pm  
9. Evening news  
7:00 pm  
10. Weather report  
7:05 pm  
11. သားငါးဖွဲ့ပြိုင်ပွဲအကျိုး  
7:20 pm  
12. The mirror images of the musical oldies  
7:35 pm  
13. လားရှိုးခရိုင် နှစ်ပေါင်းကျော်လွှာ ဆင်စားသင်ခန်းစာ  
8:00 pm  
14. News  
15. International news  
16. Weather report  
17. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတင်ဆက် "တစ်ခုံစာအုပ်" (အပိုင်း-၁၂)  
18. The next day's programme



General Thura Shwe Mann addresses coordination meeting on development of oil palm industry and reclamation of farmland. — MNA

**Without losing sight of public interests, the State always fulfills the requirements Government has provided assistance to national entrepreneurs and laid emphasis on cultivation of oil palm**

## GENERAL THURA SHWE MANN MEETS ENTREPRENEURS

YANGON, 9 Aug — A coordination meeting was held with entrepreneurs at the meeting hall of Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyinthta here this afternoon to discuss development of oil palm industry and reclamation of farmland for agricultural purpose. Member of the State Peace and Develop-

ment Council Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and Lt-Gen Tin Aye; ministers, deputy ministers, senior military officers, responsible personnel of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, entrepreneurs and guests.

In his speech, General Thura Shwe

lic interests, the State always fulfills the requirements. Apparent is the impetus given at the time of the Tatmadaw Government to private national entrepreneurs. Such kind of encouragement was unheard of in the past. The national entrepreneurs, on their part, should also render fully energetic co-operation in respect of the agricultural growth crucial for the country while placing emphasis on the benefits for the country, themselves and the general public.

To recall what Head of State Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance on agricultural growth, the major production industry of the State is agricultural production. Basically, agriculture still remains the economy of the country. The growth in agricultural production in the rainy season is of prime importance for the emergence of favourable economic conditions. It is therefore necessary for the ministries concerned to take the lead in the measure for earnest undertaking of farm works and agricultural production in all seriousness. Speaking of the importance of increased agricultural production, agricultural products should meet the requirements not only for local food sufficiency but also for export. Therefore, accelerated measures are to be taken to ensure that the agricultural products meet both demands.

He said the government has reformulated the policy on agricultural crops



Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein. — MNA

trading for extended cultivation of the main crops for local consumption and increase of export of marketable crops and for development of local and foreign trade. Today there are few economic enterprises under the control of the government. The Tatmadaw government lifted restrictions on State-controlled commodities significantly and permitted merchants to trade freely. The lifting of restrictions was aimed at boosting production of agricultural crops. By doing so, export of crops will also

(See page 8)

### Excerpts from Head of State's guidance on agricultural development

- Basically, agriculture still remains the economy of the country.
- The growth in agricultural production in the rainy season is of prime importance for the emergence of favourable economic conditions.
- It is necessary for the ministries concerned to take the lead in the measure for earnest undertaking of farm works and agricultural production in all seriousness.

(See page 8)

ment Council General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence attended the meeting and delivered an address on the occasion.

Present at the meeting were State Peace and Development Council Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein; members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, Lt-Gen Maung

Mann said today's meeting will focus on cooperation between the State and national entrepreneurs in the drive for extended cultivation of crops which have ready market. The State, on its part, is rendering assistance through respective ministries for the improvement of the agricultural sector which is the main economy of the country.

Without letting itself lose sight of pub-



Minister Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin



Minister U Soe Tha



Minister Maj-Gen Hla Tun

**In accord with the guidance of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe, agricultural works on which the government relies are to be carried out. Only when more crops can be exported will the income of the country increase and can import goods necessary for the State.**

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