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Saturday, 14 August, 2004

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt sends congratulations to Singaporean counterpart

YANGON, 13 Aug — General Khin Nyunt, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of congratulations to His Excellency Mr Lee Hsien Loong, on his assumption as Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore on 12 August 2004.— MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win inspects the multimedia classrooms at Kyimyindine BEHS-2.— MNA

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

Nation to be transformed into a modern one through systematic combination of human and natural resources Kyimyindine BEHS-2 facilitated with multimedia classrooms

YANGON, 13 Aug—The inauguration of the multimedia teaching centre of No 2 Basic Education High

School in Kyimyindine Township, Yangon West District, took place at the school this morning, at-

tended by Vice-Chairman of the Myanmar Education Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Devel-

opment Council Lt-Gen Soe Win. Also present on the occasion were Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Yangon City Development Committee Chairman Mayor Brig-Gen Aung

Thein Lin, Deputy Ministers for Education U Myo Nyunt and Col Aung Myo Min, officials, local authorities, the principal, teachers, old students, members of the school board of trustees, wellwishers, students and others.

(See page 8)

INSIDE

Perspectives

ASEAN solidarity through Myanmar- Cambodia cooperation (Page 2)

Article

For whom the US imposes sanctions on Myanmar garment and shoe exports? (Page 10)

At such knowledge age, measures are to be taken for enabling people to constantly fulfil their knowledge.



MEC Vice-Chairman Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win addresses opening ceremony of multimedia teaching centre at Kyimyindine BEHS No 2.— MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 14 August, 2004

ASEAN solidarity through Myanmar-Cambodia cooperation

Myanmar and Cambodia have shared cultural and religious identity throughout the course of history. Moreover, the two countries are paying serious attention to regional stability and development while enhancing friendship, mutual understanding and cooperation between them.

At the invitation of Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia Mr Samdech Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt, accompanied by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and party, paid a State Visit to Cambodia on 10 August.

During the visit, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, also called on Mr Samdech Chea Sim, Acting Head of State of Cambodia and Chairman of the Senate, at Senate House in Phnom Penh, the Kingdom of Cambodia.

On the occasion, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt said that as Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam and Myanmar were the last to join ASEAN, strenuous efforts were to be made to keep pace with senior members of ASEAN in terms of development, and that close and effective cooperation and coordination among CLMV countries were of vital importance to overcome the challenges.

Mr Samdech Chea Sim, Acting Head of State of Cambodia and Chairman of the Senate, said that the government of Cambodia and its people welcomed the goodwill visit of Myanmar Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, that Myanmar and Cambodia were the two countries that pulled themselves out of servitude and that in the drive to keep the momentum of development, steps should be taken hand in hand to bring forth mutual interests in the region and bring prosperity to the respective countries.

At the meeting held at the Office of the Council of Ministers in Phnom Penh, the Prime Ministers of the two countries cordially exchanged views on mutually beneficial issues, and international affairs.

The Cambodian Prime Minister said that both Myanmar and Cambodia will collectively exert efforts in the area of ASEAN integration and that Cambodia is committed to equal participation of all the Association members in the Asia-Europe Meeting, without making any discrimination against member countries.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt said that he was satisfied with the flourishing of bilateral close relations and cooperation between the two countries, that the meeting was beneficial for both countries and that he valued the support given by Cambodia, with understanding, for Myanmar's developments, and thanked the country.

We firmly believe that Myanmar and Cambodia, hand in hand with other ASEAN member nations, will continue to strive for the regional prosperity and progress, and the ASEAN solidarity and firmness.

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

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

Construction of Fish Garden inspected in Kandawgyi

YANGON, 13 Aug — Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein, accompanied by officials of the Fisheries Department, arrived at briefing hall of the construction site of Fresh Water Fish Garden of the ministry at Education Zone in the construction site of Yangon City Kandawgyi Garden and Zoological Gardens (Yangon) this morning. After hearing the reports, the minister gave instructions.

Next, the minister inspected building of ornamental garden pool in which crocodiles and tortoise will be displayed. He also oversaw the construction of small waterfalls in the Fish Garden. Later, he called for efforts to make the garden look attractive and educative. — MNA

Stimulant tablets seized

YANGON, 13 Aug — A combined team comprising members of local intelligence unit and Lashio Special Anti-Drug Squad, acting on information, searched the house of Htun Hsa in Peinglaung village, Mongtin village-tract, Lashio Township on 5 July 2004. They seized WY brand 10,810 stimulant tablets packed with plastic sheet hidden in the box. Action was taken against him under Section 15/19 (A) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. — MNA

Nine Precepts to be administered 15 Aug

YANGON, 13 Aug — State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Vice-Chairman Dawei Gawthitarama Monastery Sayadaw Abhidaja Maha Ratha Guru Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Acinnabhivamsa will administer Nine Precepts after completion of morning programme of TV Myanmar on 15th Waning of Second Waso, 1366 Myanmar Era, 15 August, Sunday. — MNA



Htun Hsa seen with seized drugs. — MNA

Work proficiency course concludes

YANGON, 13 Aug — The Work Proficiency Course No 1/2004 for clerical staff of Myitkyina District General Administration Department concluded with ceremony at the department in Myitkyina, Kachin State, at 2 pm today.

The one-month course is attended by 164 trainees. — MNA

Goodwill volleyball matches to be held

YANGON, 13 Aug — The Athletes in Action volleyball team of Canada will play goodwill matches with Myanmar Volleyball Federation selected team on 14 August and with MVF youth selected team on 16 August at National Gymnasium-1 in Thuwunna here. Admission is free. — MNA



The Canadian volleyball team seen on arrival at Yangon Airport. — NLM

Open Golf C'ship of Myanmar Golf Tour 2004 continues

YANGON, 13 Aug — Shwesaryan Open Golf Championship, first leg of Myanmar Golf Tour 2004, organized by the Myanmar Professional Golfers Association and the Myanmar Golf Federation, continued for the second day at Shwesaryan Golf Resort in Mandalay this morning.

After the second day 18-hole round, Soe Kyaw Naing (Pan-West) maintained his lead in the professional golfers event with 139 strokes. His runners-up were Zaw Zaw Latt (Pan-West) with 142 strokes, Min Naing (Srixon) 143, and Myint Shwe (Wilson) and Aung Win (YCDC) with



149 each. In the men's amateur event, Aung Aung

Kyaw was still leading with 150 strokes. Thein Zaw Myint and Htay Aung Htay shared the second place with 151 strokes each and Bo Bo and Maung Latt stood at the third place with 154 each.

Rothmans of Pall Mall Myanmar Pte Ltd sponsored the championship together with the co-sponsors — Air Mandalay, Tiger Beer, Alpine Drinking Water, Htoo Trading, KM Golf Centre, Maruman, Tour Stage, Srixon, Wilson, Grand Slam (Munsing Wear), Accel International Co Ltd (Canon), Sedona Hotel (Mandalay), and Sun Far Travels & Tour. The championship continues tomorrow. — MNA



Professional golfer Zaw Paing Oo takes part in the golf tourney. — MGF

929 US troops killed since beginning of military operations in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 12 Aug—As of Thursday, 12 August, 929 US service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq in March 2003, according to the Defence Department. Of those, 691 died as a result of hostile action and 238 died of non-hostile causes.

The British military has reported 63 deaths; Italy, 18; Spain, eight; Poland, seven; Bulgaria, six; Ukraine, four; Slovakia, three; Thailand, two; and Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia and the Netherlands have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 791 US

soldiers have died — 582 as a result of hostile action and 209 of non-hostile causes, according to the Defence Department.

The latest deaths reported by US Central Command: — Two Marines were killed when a helicopter crashed late Wednesday in Anbar Province.

Internet

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64th British soldier killed in Iraq

BASRA, 12 Aug—A British soldier has been killed in a bomb attack on an Army patrol in Basra — the second to die in Iraq this week. The dead soldier was named by a Scottish newspaper.

The Daily Record said the soldier was on his second tour of duty in Iraq.

Another soldier was seriously injured after the explosive was detonated near the passing soldiers.

The Daily Record said Sergeant Kevin Stacey, 26, was now fighting for his life in a military hospital in Kuwait.

The soldiers were on routine exercise protecting fellow British soldiers in the southern city of Basra when they were hit around mid-morning local time.

Squadron leader Spike Wilson described the bomb as an "improvised explosive device".

On Monday, 20-year-old Private Lee O'Callaghan died after being shot in the chest during a gun battle between British forces and armed insurgents. Despite the two deaths, Squadron leader Wilson said there had been a period of relative calm recently. There have now been 64 British service personnel killed in Iraq.—Internet



A woman walks past a banner that reads 'We want peace and security, not deployment of Salvadoran troops to Iraq, at the entrance of the Legislative Assembly in San Salvador, on 12 Aug, 2004.—INTERNET

Group warns El Salvador not to send troops to Iraq

DUBAI, 12 Aug—The fate of Salvadoran troops in Iraq will be "hell" if their government goes ahead with plans to send fresh troops to the embattled country, a shadowy militant group warned on an Islamist website.

"If you send troops to Iraq, we will not be merciful and will not refrain from responding. Your fate will be hell like what happened to Spain and other countries," said Jamaa al-Tawhid al-Islamiya, or Islamic Unification Group.

"We advise the people of El Salvador not to send their sons to Iraq as we only understand the language of car bomb blasts and blood," the group said in a statement.

"Therefore, government and people of El Salvador, come back to your senses and do not follow the Americans and their allies," it said.

The group said the statement was a warn-

ing to El Salvador, Australia, Denmark, Italy and other countries with troops deployed in Iraq to pull out their forces.

The authenticity of the statement could not be verified.

Salvadoran President Antonio Saca said Monday he would not give in to threats against his country if it went ahead with plans to send a new contingent to Iraq on August 17 to relieve the 374 Salvadoran troops currently posted in the country.

Last week, a group calling itself the Mohammed Atta-Al Qaeda Jihad Brigades issued a statement that threatened El Salvador if it sent new troops to Iraq.—Internet

Former Iraqi nuclear chief says Iraq ended nuclear aims in 1991

LONDON, 12 Aug — Iraq destroyed its nuclear weapons programme in 1991 and never restarted it, the head of Iraq's nuclear programme under former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein told the BBC in an interview.

"We had orders to hand over the equipment to the Republican Guards (after the 1991 Gulf War)... and they had orders to destroy the equipment that we handed over to them," Jafar Dhia Jafar told the BBC television's "Newsnight" programme.

Everything was destroyed under the orders of Saddam, such that the programme could not be restarted at the time and that it never restarted, said Jafar, who ran Iraq's nuclear programme for nearly 25 years.

During the interview, experts of which appeared in advance on the BBC web site, Jafar claimed that the British Government's assertion that Iraq tried to purchase uranium from Niger was categorically false.

Jafar also told the BBC that he was approached by US intelligence to defect, but remained in Iraq until he fled just two days before Baghdad fell to coalition forces last year.—MNA/Xinhua

UN extends assistance mission in Iraq for another year

UNITED NATIONS, 13 Aug — The United Nations Security Council adopted unanimously on Thursday a US-British draft resolution renewing the mandate of the UN Assistance Mission in Iraq for another 12 months.

Resolution 1557 provides for a review of the UN mission in 12 months or sooner if requested by the Iraqis.

Pakistani Ambassador to the UN Munir Akram told reporters after the vote that the adoption of the resolution was a "necessary decision".

"This is obviously an indication of the continued commitment of the United Nations and the Security Council to play a role in bringing peace and stability to Iraq," he said.

But he added that under Council Resolution 1546, it is up to UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan to decide when the UN mission would return to Iraq and what exact role the world body would play in Iraq.

The mission was established a year ago to help with Iraq's political and economic reconstruction. But all its international staff were withdrawn from the country in October after the UN office in Baghdad came under two bomb attacks. The first attack, taking place on August 19, killed 22 people, including mission chief Sergio Vieira de Mello.

Except sending small teams in for specific tasks, the United Nations now has no permanent presence in Iraq. Most of the mission is currently based in Jordan's capital, Amman, with others operating from Kuwait and making occasional visits to Iraq.—MNA/Xinhua

Abdullah urges big firms to invest in agriculture

KUALA LUMPUR, 13 Aug — Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi Thursday urged government-related companies (GLC) and other big firms to get involved in the agriculture sector and help enhance agro-based industries.

"The involvement of GLC and the big firms can form the nucleus for the growth of the national agriculture industry," he said in an opening address to a conference on the "Direction of the Agriculture and Agro-based Industries Sector" here.

He said these companies could diversify their activities even though at present they had their own main areas of interest.

Notwithstanding this, they would have to play a role in such traditional sec-

tors as fisheries and livestock breeding and not focus only on the plantation and wood-based industries, he said.

Malaysia experiences losses of some five billion ringgit (13.15 billion US dollars) a year in fish landings by failing to fully exploit its marine resources, according to the Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-based Industries.

Abdullah said GLC and big companies could form smart partnerships with small-scale entrepreneurs who could operate satellite farms for

them.

Abdullah said the big companies could share their technology and expertise as well as fertilizers and seedlings with smallholders in developing their sector for their mutual benefit.

Speaking at a news conference later, Abdullah said he had also made the proposal recently at a meeting of the Board of Directors of Khazahan Nasional, the government investment company.

MNA/Xinhua



Iraqi Shiites take to the streets of the southern city of Basra to protest against ongoing conflict in Najaf on 12 August, 2004. US Marines backed by aircraft and tanks launched a major offensive to crush a Shiite militia resistance in Najaf, igniting mass street protests in at least two other cities.—INTERNET

Iran condemns US atrocities in Iraq

TEHERAN, 12 Aug— Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Hamid-Reza Asefi on Thursday condemned the “atrocities” committed by US troops in holy sites in Iraq, and expressed “extreme concern” and “disgust” over the latest US atrocities.

Asefi expressed hatred towards the sacrilege of the holy places as well as exacerbation of US attacks in Najaf and Kut which took lives of many innocent civilians and called the operation “inhuman and horrible” which

was in contradiction with all international norms,” the official IRNA news agency reported. The spokesman condemned “the total lack of morality” of the US troops and “the duplicity of those who spoke of democracy”

but were holding up any genuine return of sovereignty to the Iraqis.” The US invaders have proved that they are not abiding by any ethical principles and their recent atrocities are unjustifiable. This has once

again unveiled the mask from the face of the occupiers who disguise themselves as harbingers of democracy,” Asefi said.

US warplanes launched air strikes on Iraq’s Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr’s militiamen in Najaf Thursday, killing at least five civilians and injuring six in the latest fighting. Expressing strong concern over worsening situation in Iraq, Asefi said, “adopting a wrong military and security policy, continued presence of alien forces as well as delay in transfer of power to people in Iraq are the root cause of this crisis, which has hurt the sentiment of the Islamic World.”

He called on international organizations to “react without delay to the events in Najaf and stop the massacre of the defenceless people in Iraq.” —Internet



An Iraqi man walks among houses damaged during air strikes by American planes in the turbulent city of Fallujah, Iraq, on 12 Aug, 2004. The strikes killed four people and injured four others, hospital officials said.—INTERNET

ICRC concerned about civilian toll in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 12 Aug—The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) raised deep concerns about a spike in deadly clashes in flashpoint cities across Iraq.

“The ICRC is deeply concerned about the growing violence in various parts of Iraq, such as Kut, Baghdad (Sadr City), Samara, Fallujah and Najaf,” the organization said in a statement on Thursday.

On the eighth day of fierce battles in the city of Najaf, the Red Cross called on both sides to ensure civilian lives are spared and that the sick and wounded are quickly evacuated.

“Fighting in these heavily populated areas are increasing the risks of civilian casualties and hampering

basic services,” it warned.

The Geneva-based agency it had provided three tonnes of emergency medical and surgical aid in a bid to relieve war-ravaged civilians in Najaf - the scene of some of the heaviest fighting between US occupation forces and the Mahdi Army militia loyal to cleric Muqtada al-Sadr. In cooperation with the Baghdad health department, the ICRC has delivered sufficient aid - including anaesthetics, painkillers, IV fluid and antibiotics - to help 200 patients, and said it was ready to provide more if

necessary. Nationwide fighting in the past 24 hours has left some 165 Iraqis dead and 600 wounded.

Internet

Angola’s new oil project to produce 250,000 barrels per day

LUANDA, 12 Aug—The deep water oil project denominated “Kizomba A” in Angola, whose exploration began this week, will produce 250,000 barrels of oil per day. According to a statement on Wednesday

from Angola’s state company SONANGOL and its associate, Esso Exploration Angola Limited, the project has recoverable resources estimated at one billion barrels of oil (crude production). Located about 370

kilometres from the capital of Luanda, the project includes, among other mechanisms, connections of submarine wells to one of the biggest ships of production, storage and unloading, FPSO.—MNA/Xinhua

shakier than many believed,” Woodward adds.

Pentagon correspondent Thomas Ricks is quoted as saying that “there was an attitude among editors: Look, we are going to war, why do we even worry about all this contrary stuff?”

Stories that questioned the justifications behind the war and cast a doubt whether the US was doing the right thing by invading Iraq were relegated to the inside pages.

Veteran reporter Walter Pincus put together a story questioning whether the Bush administration had proof that Saddam Hussein was hiding weapons of mass destruction.—Internet

Brazil, Peru, Bolivia strengthen border infrastructure integration

LIMA, 12 Aug—Brazil opened a new bridge into Bolivia and set the cornerstone for another to link with Peru on Wednesday in a bid to speed up South American integration process.

Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva met his Bolivian and Peruvian counterparts Carlos Mesa and Alejandro Toledo along their shared borders in Assis, Brazil.

After Lula and Mesa inaugurated a new bridge, named “Friendship,” between Brasilia, Brazil, and Cobija, Bolivia, the Brazilian President and Toledo inaugurated the construction of a Brazilian-funded suspension bridge between Assis and Inapari, Peru.

The bridge, named “Integration,” is expected to be

completed in one year and will become an important link between Peru and the South America’s largest country.

“The construction of a South American nation begins with the physical integration of the towns,” Lula said at the ceremony. He called the border meeting as “historical unity” among the three South American nations.

Mesa said that the three countries will create, “shoulder to shoulder, a South American nation that we are all dreaming of”.

All three leaders lauded the bridges as a way to boost trade between the neighbouring nations. Analysts say the construction of border bridges is part of a proposal on the South American infrastructure integration, which will speed up South American integration process.

In addition, the three leaders signed pacts on strengthening technological cooperation in natural resources and the environment and easing the entry limits between the nations.

MNA/Xinhua

ဝတ်မှုမ်းအား ခေတ်ကျော်လွှား

Employer of hostage truck drivers in Iraq says talks blocked

NEW DELHI, 12 Aug—The employer of three Indians, three Kenyans and an Egyptian held hostage in Iraq said that a curfew in the insurgent stronghold of Fallujah had blocked efforts to negotiate with the kidnappers.

“We did not hear anything from them (the abductors)” on Thursday, said Rana Abu-Zaineh, spokeswoman for Kuwait Gulf Link Company Ltd (KGL) which employs the seven truck drivers.

“Our people are unable to reach out to the kidnappers, either directly or through anybody else because of curfew in Fallujah,” she told the Press Trust of India news agency.

On Sunday, KGL had announced it was withdrawing from talks with Iraqi tribal chief Sheikh Hisham al-Dulaimi, who was mediating between the company and the kidnappers, after accusing Dulaimi of “playing games.”

Indian foreign ministry sources said the hostages were on the verge of being released after protracted negotiations Sunday when Zaineh said the kidnappers had put forward an unspecified new demand.

The truck drivers were kidnapped on July 21 by a previously unknown group that threatened to kill them if KGL did not pull out of Iraq.—Internet

Washington Post admits ‘Iraq flaws’

WASHINGTON, 12 Aug—The war was fought on unsubstantiated data, a Senate report said. Several months after The New York Times said they did a poor job reporting on Iraq, editors of the Washington Post have admitted they underplayed stories questioning the Bush administration’s justifications for invading Iraq.

In a front page story published on Thursday, the influential US daily said it ignored stories and information that questioned whether President George Bush really had evidence that Iraq was pursuing an illicit weapons of mass destruction programme.

“We did our job but we didn’t go enough, and I blame myself mightily for not pushing harder,” assistant managing editor Bob Woodward says in the story.

“We should have warned readers we had information that the basis for this was



An Iraqi pushes a Shiite woman in a wheel chair past American armoured vehicles lining up on the streets, while civilians flee amid heavy gun battles resonating throughout Najaf in southern Iraq on 12 Aug, 2004. US forces launched a major offensive to crush a militia loyal to radical Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr. The fighting between US forces and al-Sadr’s Mahdi Army militia began here a week ago and has spread to other Shiite areas of the country.—INTERNET

165 killed, 600 wounded in 24 hours of clashes across Iraq

BAGHDAD, 13 Aug — Clashes flaring up across Iraq have left at least 165 people dead and about 600 wounded over the past 24 hours, the Iraqi Health Ministry said Thursday.

US bombing in the Shiite-dominated al-Sharqiya District of Kut, some 170 kilometres south of Baghdad, has killed 75 and wounded 148 others.

Another 44 died and 164 were wounded in clashes between US forces and fighters loyal to firebrand cleric Moqtada al-Sadr in the Shiite stronghold of Sadr City in the capital, a ministry spokeswoman said.

Clashes pitting US forces and Sadr's Mehdi Army in Iraq's holy city of Najaf wore into the second week, with a major US military offensive looming.

A total of 25 were killed and 153 wounded by now in Najaf, some 160 kilometres south of Baghdad, the ministry said.

In Amara, some 360 kilometres south of Baghdad, 14 were killed and 77 wounded, while clashes in another southern city of Diwaniya left seven dead and 52 wounded.

Resistance has flared up across the country's Shiite districts recently, presenting the sternest task for Iraq's interim government, which was also bogged down by an unabated hostage crisis.

MNA/Xinhua

US planes attack Sadr's house in Najaf

NAJAF (Iraq), 13 Aug — US warplanes bombed targets near the house of radical Iraqi cleric Moqtada al-Sadr in the holy city of Najaf on Thursday as US Marines battled militiamen in the area, witnesses said.

They said plumes of black smoke billowed as the combatants exchanged heavy fire. There was no immediate word on whether the cleric was at the house.

US forces launched an assault in Najaf to end a week-long resistance in the city. Sadr had asked his militiamen earlier this week to fight on even if he was killed or captured.

MNA/Reuters

Iran will not abandon atomic technology drive

TEHERAN, 13 Aug — Iran declared on Wednesday that threats to send its nuclear case to the UN Security Council would not make it drop its quest for peaceful nuclear technology.

The statement by President Mohammad Khatami came after US officials expressed growing confidence in recent days that international resolve was hardening to deal with Iran's nuclear programme and report it to the United Nations Security Council for possible sanctions.

Iran has angered Britain, Germany and France — who have sought to broker a diplomatic solution to Teheran's nuclear case — by re-starting parts of its nuclear programme and refusing to abandon efforts to master uranium enrichment.

Washington says Iran wants to enrich uranium to bomb-grade levels. Teheran

says it only wants to make low-grade enriched uranium for use in nuclear power reactors.

"We don't want our case to be sent to the United Nations. We hope to resolve the issue through justifications and explanations," Khatami told reporters.

"But if anyone wants to deprive us of our right (to peaceful nuclear technology) we and our nation would be ready to pay the price," he added.

Hardline lawmakers, who gained control of Parliament in February, have accused Khatami's government of giving too many concessions in its nuclear talks with Euro-

pean countries.

On Wednesday, 238 of Parliament's 290 members signed a draft bill which would oblige the government to continue its pursuit of peaceful nuclear technology.

Some lawmakers have threatened to force the government by law to resume uranium enrichment, a move which would escalate Western concerns about Iran's atomic ambitions.

Iran's claim that it has no intention of building nuclear arms was given a boost on Tuesday by reports that UN nuclear inspectors had traced highly enriched uranium particles found in Iran to equipment bought from Pakistan.—MNA/Reuters



US soldiers aim their guns as Iraqi civilians flee their homes for safety during a day of heavy gun battles in Najaf in southern Iraq on 12 Aug, 2004. —INTERNET

Philippine Govt rules out possibility of troop redeployment in Iraq

MANILA, 12 Aug — The Philippine Government Wednesday denied reports that it would soon send troops back to Iraq.

Presidential spokesman Ignacio Bunye said in a statement that it was still too early to discuss details of the Philippines' role in the reconstruction efforts in Iraq.

"We have yet to receive a formal request from the United Nations on this," he added, referring to the range and extent of a Philippine participation in rebuilding Iraq.

Foreign Secretary Delia Albert reportedly told reporters on Tuesday that the Philippines may send another humanitarian contingent to Iraq, but only under the aegis of the United Nations, and only after elections have been

held to instal a permanent government by January.

"We are preparing on our side to see how our participation will be," Albert said.

However, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) clarified in a Wednesday statement that the possibility of sending another humanitarian contingent to Iraq is not being contemplated. "There are no discussion on this matter at policy levels or with other countries," it said.

But, the DFA reaffirmed the willingness of the Philippines to join a United Nations-sponsored efforts to rebuild Iraq.

"The Philippines remains committed to a democratic, stable and pluralistic Iraq, free from terror and at peace with itself and its neighbours. The Philippines will continue to do what it can, within its capabilities and pursuant to its interests, and in the context of and guided by UN Security Council Resolution 1546, in helping the people of Iraq," the statement said.

The Philippines pulled out its 51-strong troops from Iraq on July 19 for the safety release of a kidnapped Filipino truck driver, Angelo de la Cruz, a month ahead its scheduled time to withdraw.

MNA/Xinhua

China typhoon kills 63, 1,800 injured

BEIJING, 13 Aug — One of the worst typhoons to hit China in several years has killed 63 people and injured more than 1,800 as it battered southeastern Zhejiang Province, officials said on Friday.

Typhoon Rananim hit the coast late on Thursday, wreaking widespread damage in the rice-growing province and knocking down more than 18,300 buildings, said an official of the provincial meteorological bureau.

"There are 63 people dead and more than 1,800 injured," the official said. "Of them 185 are seriously hurt," he said.

The death toll was likely to rise as the typhoon roared inland into eastern Jiangxi Province, officials said. They said most of the casualties occurred when homes collapsed.

Officials had evacuated 400,000 people from coastal areas of Zhejiang Province to escape the typhoon that was forecast to be the worst since 1997 when a storm ripped into China, killing nearly 250 people and causing 19.8 billion yuan (2.4 billion US dollars) in economic losses.

"This is the strongest typhoon since 1997," said an official of the provincial civil affairs bureau.

"Lots of trees and electricity pylons were toppled."

The Zhejiang government had requested aid from the central government to deal with the disaster, one local

official said.

The storm brought torrential rains and gale-force winds, with wind speeds exceeding 100 miles per hour and made landfall at about 8 pm (1200 GMT) on Thursday near the town of Wenling.

An estimated 63 fishing boats with a total of more than 60 crew on board were trapped at sea, the *China Daily* said.

Mud flows, landslides and storm tides along the coast were all dangers, *Xinhua* quoted Gao Shuanzhu, chief forecaster at the Central Meteorological Station, as saying.—MNA/Reuters

Jordan ranks first in poverty reduction in Mideast

AMMAN, 12 Aug — Jordan was ranked first in poverty reduction efforts in the Middle East region, Jordanian TV quoted an UN report as saying Tuesday.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) said in its Human Development Report 2004 that Jordan's human poverty index "shows that the government is spending a much larger share of its finances in addressing poverty than many other high-income Arab countries".

According to the UNDP report, Jordan was ranked at 90 among 177 countries in the Human Development Index (HDI), which is a measure of life expectancy, adult literacy and per capita income.

The report showed that Jordan this year

registered its HDI to 0.750, a small rise from 0.743 last year.

UNDP Resident Representative Christine McNab told the Jordanian TV that Jordan is making "steady" progress in meeting its human development goals, adding its investments, particularly in education, made it the best among Arab countries.

"Jordan's indicators for health and education show clearly the progress Jordan has made towards human development," said McNab.

MNA/Xinhua



US tanks take position in Baghdad's Sadr City slum as fighting raged on between militiamen loyal to radical Iraqi Shiite Muslim cleric Moqtada Sadr and US forces on 11 Aug., 2004. —INTERNET



An Iraqi worker cleans the debris of a damaged gas station after it came under attack by mortar fire in Baghdad, on 9 August, 2004.



American soldiers stand guard next to the damaged vehicle left at the site of car bomb blast in Balad Ruz some 100 kms northeast of Baghdad, Iraq, on 9 August, 2004. The blast killed at least seven police officers in an apparent attempt to assassinate a deputy governor.

Images of Iraq



An Iraqi man grieves after losing his brother in a bomb explosion near Baquba, 40 miles north of Baghdad, on 11 August, 2004.



Iraqi civilians flee to a safe area after US led troops raided the city of Najaf on 12 August, 2004.



Guerrillas fire a mortar in the city of Najaf on 9 August, 2004.



A wounded Iraqi man is helped in Najaf after US led troops raided the city on 12 August, 2004.



Dawei railway station in Taninthayi Division. — MNA



Pyinthaya-Htiri section of Hsaikkhaung-Namhsan Railroad runs through the mountainous region of southern Shan State.—Myanma Alin

**Rail links strengthening
friendship among
national brethren and
forging
Union Spirit**



A railroad and a bridge built on Pakokku-Gangaw-Kalay railroad in Magway Division.—MNA



The inauguration of Mongseik-Kaunghsai section of Shwenyaung-Namhsan Rail Road in Shan State (South). — MNA



MEC Vice-Chairman SPDC Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win unveils signboard of the multimedia classrooms of Kyimyindine BEHS-2.— MNA

Nation to be transformed...

(from page 1)

The first session of the opening ceremony commenced in front of the school building. Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Deputy Minister Col Aung Myo Min and Chairman of the School Board of Trustees U Saw Than Chit Maung cut the ribbon to open the facility. The Secretary-1 unveiled the signboard of the facility.

After that, the Secretary-1 and party inspected language lab, computer room, computer aided instruction, study room (reading and listening), electronic media (video lab), domestic science room, drawing room and pedagogical aids room.

Next, the second session followed. The headmaster reported on layout of the classrooms; and the chairman of the school board of trustees, on the drive for the emergence of the facility.

The Vice-Chairman of the MEC presented cash dona-

tions to the school through the principal.

The school board of trustees donated K 1.5 million to the school, the parent-teacher association, K 1 million; and U Aung Aung Tun-Daw Sandar Win, a computer valued at K 500,000 through the Secretary-1; member of the school board of trustees U Ko Ko Gyi, K 300,000, the shops in the school compound, K 264,000; and U Aung Naing and family, K 150,000 through the commander; and U Tha Sein (Silver Beach Restaurant)-Daw Aye Thein and family, K 135,000; U Tun Yin of Hteiktan Brokerage House of Thiri Mingalar Market Board of Trustees, U Maung U (Tharaphu Greens Brokerage House)-Daw Mu Mu and family U Tun Kyi (Thar Ma Nya Fruit Brokerage House)-Daw Pe', U Aung Htay-Daw Htar Htar Nwe, and U Aye Thauang of Bargaya Jetty Guava and Mangoes Brokerage House, K 100,000 each to the mayor and the deputy ministers.

The MEC Vice-Chairman in his speech said that the wellwishers' goodwill led to the emergence of the multi-

media classrooms of the school. He called for an effective and beneficial use of the electronic educational aids and computers. Only when the students work hard in their studies whereas the people provide assistance and teachers guide and nurture their students, will the students enjoy better life and the plan to produce highly-qualified human resources meet with progress.

At such knowledge age, measures are to be taken for enabling the people with a range of ages are to constantly build up their knowledge. Intellectuals and intelligentsia are invaluable main human resources for the State. The nation is to be transformed into a modern one through systematic combination of human and natural resources.

After the inauguration, the Secretary-1 cordially greeted those present.

Then, the Secretary-1 and party posed for a documentary photo together with the headmaster, members of the school board of trustees, teachers and students.

MNA

Myanmar girls stranded in Thailand sent back

YANGON, 13 Aug — Young Myanmar women were sent back to Myanmar under the joint coordinated agreement between the Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation and the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security of Thailand and under the joint cooperation of the Social Welfare Department and UNIAP. A total of 20 young

women who went to Thailand illegally for work but faced difficulties there were handed over to Myanmar side at the Friendship Bridge in Tachilek.

The handover of the women was conducted on the basis of mutual understanding and initial agreement of cooperation between Myanmar and Thailand. The measure to accept

young women in trouble and send them back to their parents is part of the programme of prevention against human trafficking.

The handover ceremony took place at the Friendship Bridge in Tachilek in the morning of 10 August, attended by member of the supporting group of the MWAF, the director-general of the SWD, the leader of the working group for rehabilitation and reintegration of the MWAF, local authorities, patrons of local women's affairs committees, departmental officials, and personnel of UNIAP.

Those present on the occasion from Thai side were Permanent Secretary Mr Wanlop Phloytabtm of the Ministry of SDHS, director-general and directors, offi-



Officials from Myanmar and Thailand hand over 20 Myanmar young women who went to Thailand illegally for work, in Tachilek.— SWD

cials of Thai Immigration Department and police officers, NGOs, and international organizations.

Later, members of both sides posed for a documentary photo on the bridge. The young women were eight from Tachilek, two each from Kengtung and Mongpyin, three from Mongphyat, one each from Mongyawn, Mongyan, Mongkhat, Tangyan and Kyaukme.

Officials met and comforted them at the meeting hall of Tachilek District Peace and Development Council. Their belongings were also returned to them on the occasion. Arrangements were made to send them back to their parents on 10, 11 and 12 August with the cooperation of the women's affairs committees concerned, departments and UNIAP. — MNA

The girls were eight from Tachilek, two each from Kengtung and Mongpyin, three from Mongphyat, one each from Mongyawn, Mongyan, Mongkhat, Tangyan and Kyaukme



Daw Kyi Kyi Mya of MWAF speaking at the ceremony to send back 20 Myanmar young women who went to Thailand illegally for work to Myanmar from Thailand.— SWD

Ways for ensuring secure & smooth transport sought

YANGON, 13 Aug—Yangon Division Supervisory Committee for Ensuring Secure and Smooth Transport sought ways and means for better transport at a coordination meeting at Yangon Command Headquarters at 5.30 pm today. It was attended by Chairman of the Supervisory Committee Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, local authorities, members of the Supervisory Committee, rectors of the universities and colleges in Yangon, officials, chairmen of private bus-lines in Yangon and guests.

The commander dealt with steps to be taken by Supervisory Committee members for convenience of passengers and commuters.

The committee members reported on supervision of tasks for safety of the people; rectors, pro-rectors, principals and registrars, on requirements to be fulfilled by the Supervisory Committee for convenience of educational staff and students; and chairmen of private bus-lines, on enforcement of rules and regulations for bus drivers and conductors of private buses. Traffic accidents are now on the decrease due to traffic rules enforcement work. However, severe action still needs to be taken against violators. Slow-moving vehicles and pedestrians also are to abide by traffic rules. — MNA

Industry-1 Minister meets entrepreneurs at Mandalay Industrial Zone

YANGON, 13 Aug — Chairman of Myanmar Industrial Development Committee In-charge of Mandalay Industrial Zone Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung this morning met members of the industrial zone supervisory committee, management committee and entrepreneurs at Kanaung Hall in Mandalay Industrial Zone, Pyigyidagun Township.

Chairman of Factories Establishment Committee U Aung Naing Oo, Chairman of Automobile Assembling Committee U Myint Swe and Mandalay Power-tiller Manufacturing Manager U Khin Maung Yi reported on respective sectors. After fulfilling the requirements, Minister U Aung Thaung said that Mandalay, Monywa and Taunggyi-Ayethaya Industrial Zones are being upgraded with assistance being provided by the government. Foundry Plant, Press Shop, Forging Shop, Heat Treatment Shop and Machine Shop will be set up at these industrial zones. So, machinery, spare parts and engines will be manufactured. Therefore, industrialists are urged to actively participate in establishing of advanced industrial zones, he said.

At Kanaung Hall, the minister viewed engines manufactured at Mandalay industrial zone. Next, the minister went to the Industrial Zone Upgrading Project Office. Chan Hein Construction Manager U Zaw Hein reported on progress in building the foundry plant and the forging shop. The minister gave instructions on timely completion of civil tasks. Next, he inspected progress of construction tasks.

Afterwards, the minister viewed tasks of private factories. Later, the minister inspected the site for building Win Thuza Shop in the compound of Leather Factory in the township. — MNA



Minister U Aung Thaung delivers an address in meeting with industrialists in Mandalay. — INDUSTRY-1

MWAF Working Committee meets

YANGON, 13 Aug — The coordination meeting 1/2004 of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation Work Committee was held at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement in Mayangon Township this morning.

Present on the occasion were Patron of MWAF Work Committee Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, Chairman of Work Committee Deputy Minister for SWRR Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint, MWAF Vice-President Prof Dr Daw May May Yi, Secretary Social Welfare Department Director-General U Sit Myaing and heads of department.

First, President of the Work Committee Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint made a speech. Next, Prof

Dr Daw May May Yi explained the tasks of the Work Committee to be carried out at present. Master of ceremonies Joint-Secretary of Work Committee Daw Khin Htar May read seven points put on record and explained matters related to reorganizing of MWAFWC. Afterwards, Member of Work Committee Prof Daw Khin Aye Win read and explained draft plan dealt with hosting the third meeting of ASEAN Women's Affairs Committee in Myanmar. This was followed by a general round of discussions by Prof Dr Daw Khin Aye Win and those present at the meeting. Next, the meeting came to a close with the closing remarks by Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint. — MNA



Deputy Minister for SWRR Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint delivers an address at the co-ordination meeting of MWAF Work Committee. — MNA

Minister U Win Aung sends congratulations to Singaporean FM

YANGON, 13 Aug — U Win Aung, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of congratulations to His Excellency BG George Yong-Boon Yeo, on his assumption, as Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Singapore on 12 August 2004. — MNA

Coordination meeting of NCC Work Committee, Panel of Chairmen held

YANGON, 13 Aug — The coordination meeting between the National Convention Convening Work Committee and members of the Panel of Chairmen of the Plenary Session of the National Convention was held at the meeting hall of the Work Committee at Kyaikkasan Ground, here, this morning, with an address by Chairman of the Work Committee Chief Justice U Aung Toe.

Also present were Vice-Chairman of the Work Committee Attorney-General U Aye Maung, Secretary U

Thaung Nyunt and members, and members of the Panel of Chairmen of the Plenary Session. Joint-Secretary U Khin Maung Myint of the Work Committee acted as master of ceremonies.

Speaking on the occasion, Work Committee Chairman Chief Justice U Aung Toe said that with respect to the proposals submitted by eight delegate groups to the National Convention, the paper on findings of the Panel of Chairmen must be compiled before the plenary session of the National Convention is reconvened. In so doing, the office of the Work Committee will provide necessary assistance for the Panel of Chairmen, he said.

Next, those present took part in the discussions. Later, Work Committee Chairman Chief Justice U Aung Toe gave concluding remarks. — MNA



NCC Work Committee Chairman Chief Justice U Aung Toe delivers an address at the meeting. — MNA

With respect to the proposals submitted by eight delegate groups to the National Convention, the paper on findings of the Panel of Chairmen must be compiled before the plenary session of the National Convention is reconvened.

For whom the US imposes sanctions on Myanmar garment and shoe exports?

Aung Moe San

In imposing economic sanctions on Myanmar, America is focusing on garments and shoe exports. Some quarters holding negative views on Myanmar and the persons who have not yet known the ulterior motive of the US government are supporting the sanctions, because they wrongly think that the US government out of goodwill has committed itself to the flourishing of democracy in Myanmar. But America's acts are not meant for democracy and human rights, but just to protect the interest of US entrepreneurs, and to enable congressmen and the president to win majority votes, with the support of entrepreneurs. As the per unit cost of garments and shoes manufactured by the US factories is much higher than that of the goods of the same kind produced in Myanmar, their goods cannot compete with those of Myanmar in the market.

Textile and garment factories are based in southern states of the US. Since the time of Kennedy, the successive presidents have been neglecting the policy of free trade and practising protectionism to win more votes in these states. The US has introduced the quota system for Asian countries exporting finished goods produced from their own raw materials, but abolishing the quota system for Latin American nations producing finished goods with the raw materials imported from the US.

Vietnam exported US \$ 50-million worth of garments in 2001, when it started to introduce market economy. The next year, its export of garments increased to \$ 952 million. Its target for 2003 was \$ 2.4 billion. Thus, in April 2003, the US put pressure and made Vietnam sign an agreement limiting its export quota to \$ 1.7 billion. The US Secretary of Trade of the Bush Administration said that as Vietnam is not a WTO member, it will face severe one-sided punishment unless it accepts the decision. Bush has already pledged very often to protect the interest of the voters of the South where the core of the textile industry is located, and not to make any concession concerning the trade issue.

In the 1960s, Japan became the target of US congressmen representing the textile and garment industry. Later, Hong Kong, Singapore and the Republic of Korea became targets. But now those countries have passed through the level of relying on textile and garment industry. Although its rivals are enjoying greater economic development than the textile industry of the US South, it is still existing with the help of quota system.

Today, the US is saying that its national security is being harmed because of China as the ratio of direct trade between the two countries is five to one in China's favour. So, the US is harbouring grudge against China, and is aiming the country as its new target. The US Trade Deficit Fact-Finding Commission of the US Congress was reconstituted as the US-China Economic and Security Fact-Finding Commission.

On 15 June this year, the Commission presented a report to the Congress, saying that the trade deficit with China has become a major hazard for the US. The report said that because of the trade deficit, the job-generation capacity of the US industries fall, leading to jeopardizing efforts to reduce the number of unemployment; that manufacturing industries are of vital importance for national economy and security; and that trade deficit will not only hurt the industrial sector of the US, but also other economic sectors.

The report also includes use of the WTO as a weapon to check whether China's trade activities are in accord with the rules and laying down of a comprehensive

Vietnam exported US \$ 50-million worth of garments in 2001, when it started to introduce market economy. The next year, its export of garments increased to \$ 952 million. Its target for 2003 was \$ 2.4 billion. Thus, in April 2003, the US put pressure and made Vietnam sign an agreement limiting its export quota to \$ 1.7 billion. The US Secretary of Trade of the Bush Administration said that as Vietnam is not a WTO member, it will face severe one-sided punishment unless it accepts the decision. Bush has already pledged very often to protect the interest of the voters of the South where the core of the textile industry is located, and not to make any concession concerning the trade issue.

national policy to block China to catch up with the US that is the leader in the field of science and technology. America also sees China's growing energy demand for her developing industries as threat to its energy sufficiency.

China imported 28-billion-dollar worth of goods from the US, while its exports to the country were valued at 152-billion dollars. The trade ratio between the two countries is five to one in China's favour, as rich Americans can buy a lot of Chinese goods at reasonable prices, while Chinese are buying less US goods that are expensive. The consumers from a country like America that is practising the market economy can freely make a choice between cheaper and expensive quality goods. As labour cost is high in the US, it is difficult for its textile industry to compete with that of the developing countries where labor is cheap. It would be more difficult for the US to compete with China. Even the economists cannot discover what causes the US goods to become too expensive, and China to produce goods at lower prices. Thus, the US is putting the blame on China to alleviate its own problems, while trying to destroy the fine traditions of free trade. The root cause of the problem is that individuals own large areas of land in capitalist countries and the land prices are rising higher and higher. Thus, it is not strange that the cost of production at the industries built on expensive land is high. Thus, the US should abolish the system that permits individuals to own large stretches of land, but instead, the country is applying pressure on the trade partners to pursue its protectionist policy. On the other hand, China is practising the community-land-ownership system. Hence land prices are much cheaper in the country. Moreover cheap land prices have contributed to the production of goods at less cost. Thus, China has a clear advantage over the West in the market.

Now, America's intention of focusing on garment and shoe exports in imposing economic sanctions on Myanmar has become quite clear. It has imposed economic sanctions only to rescue its textile industry from facing hardships; for the president and congressmen to win the support of entrepreneurs in the coming election; to win the support of groups that are opposing Myanmar Government; and to make the international community see the US as a country playing a leading role in the democracy cause of Myanmar. The act of imposing economic sanctions on Myanmar is like hitting three birds with one stone; in reality it is the US policy of protectionism. Thus, the US has imposed economic sanctions on Myanmar for its economic interest, while harming the interest of Myanmar people.

(Translation: TMT)

(Myanma Alin + Kyemon: 13-8-2004)

Efficient use of electricity

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

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

Efficient use of fuel

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



NCC Management Committee Chairman Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung speaks at the meeting. — MNA

Meeting discusses ...

(from page 16)

Chairman of National Convention Convening Management Committee Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung explained the systematic maintenance of buildings and facilities, and cooperation with the departments concerned to conduct repair of necessary sectors.

Chairman of Security Subcommittee Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Phone Swe briefed the meeting on his body's functions and accomplishments.

Other participants including members of the NCCC, Secretary of the National Convention Convening Work Committee U Thaung Nyunt, Vice-Chairman of NCCMC Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu, Vice-Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa, officials of NCCWC, NCCMC, subcommittees and guests also took part in a general round of discussions.

After attending to the needs, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan said that as he and other officials had already coordinated with departments and organizations concerned to facilitate the work, responsible personnel in the practical field and construction staff will have to effectively continue the work. — MNA

China imported 28-billion-dollar worth of goods from the US, while its exports to the country were valued at 152-billion dollars. The trade ratio between the two countries is five to one in China's favour, as rich Americans can buy a lot of Chinese goods at reasonable prices, while Chinese are buying less US goods that are expensive.



A trio of male Sumatran tiger cubs, recently born at the National Zoo, explore their habitat at the zoo in Washington, on Wednesday, 11 Aug, 2004. The three 14-week-old male cubs are, from top to bottom, Jalan, Besar, and Marah. The cubs are part of the Species Survival Plan, meaning they will be relocated to other zoos for breeding within the next three years. Sumatran tigers are an endangered species, with only 500 found in the wild on the Indonesian island of Sumatra and 200 in captivity. — INTERNET

Vietnam lobbies US lawmakers on shrimp spat

HANOI, 13 Aug—Vietnam intensified its fight against threatened US anti-dumping duties on its shrimp exports when legislators in the Communist country sent a rare appeal letter to their American counterparts seeking support.

Deputies from the National Assembly, Vietnam's highest legislative body, drafted a letter to 25 members of the House of Representatives and Senate saying charges of unfair pricing brought by US shrimpers were not true.

"Vietnamese shrimp farmers and processing

businesses have been operating on a free market basis and received no support or subsidies from the government," state-run Vietnam News Agency said, quoting from the letter late on Wednesday.

The US Government last month imposed anti-dumping duties of up to 93.13 percent on farm-raised shrimp from Vietnam, one of six countries accused of selling their produce at below-market prices. Vietnam has an estimated 3.5 million shrimp farmers.

Development group

ActionAid has said the duties, if confirmed in November, could devastate Vietnam's economy. It sold some 500 million US dollars' worth of the shellfish to the United States in 2003.

Observers said Vietnam's appeal to Capitol Hill showed it had learned from a similar trade spat last year, involving its catfish exports, on which duties of up to 64 per cent were imposed.

This time, Hanoi engaged a US law firm with experience in anti-dumping cases to defend its position.

MNA/Reuters

Philippines assures safety for tourists despite cholera outbreak

MANILA, 13 Aug—The Philippines remains a safe place for tourists to visit despite a new outbreak of cholera which has killed scores of people, the Philippine Health Department said Thursday.

"It is still safe for people to travel here since the outbreak is only confined to central Pangasinan (in the northern Philippines). The risk for travellers is very low even in the area where the epidemic actually occurred," Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit said in a statement.

Forty-seven people have died out of 4,403 acute gastroenteritis cases reported between May 28 to August 5, according to the

department's task force on acute gastroenteritis surveillance and outbreak response. The task force said the number of cases being admitted into the Pangasinan Provincial Hospital, where most of the cases are being treated, has started to go down.

But Dayrit warned the public to avoid consuming potentially contaminated food and drinks.

"A food and water-

borne disease like cholera can easily be prevented. We just need to take some precautions such as choosing foods that were processed, cooking food thoroughly, eating cooked foods immediately and storing cooked food carefully," Dayrit said. Cholera is a serious infection of the bowels caused by drinking infected water or eating infected food.

MNA/Xinhua

Argentine ants create super colony in Australia

MELBOURNE, 13 Aug—Like some "B-grade" horror movie, a giant colony of Argentine ants stretching 62 miles has been discovered in the Australian city of Melbourne, threatening the local insect population.

Argentine ants may look like any ordinary household ant, but they are aggressive and are regarded as one of the world's 100 worst animal invaders, displacing native plants and animals, according to Monash University scientist Elissa Suhr.

"In Argentina ant colonies span tens of

metres and are highly aggressive towards one another," said Suhr, who has studied the giant Argentine ant colony.

"Population numbers (in Argentina) never explode and they are no threat to other plants and animals," Suhr said in a statement received on Thursday.

"In Melbourne, their genetic make-up and behaviour is really different. Here, Argentine ants no longer fight and have formed a supercolony extending at least 62 miles across the city."

Argentine ants have been discovered across Australia.

MNA/Reuters

New PM Lee urges Singaporeans to work together for bright future

SINGAPORE, 13 Aug—Singapore's new Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong on Thursday night urged the Singaporeans to work together with him for a bright future.

Addressing the swearing-in ceremony at the Istana, Lee outlined his vision for Singapore.

He promised to build an "open and inclusive" society where the Singaporeans are free to be unconventional or simply different, but at the same time have a deep common purpose and identity.

"We are one nation together, building a future for ourselves and our people. As we prosper, all communities will progress and no one will be left behind. We will look after the less educated and the elderly who have helped build Singapore. And we must also have a place in our hearts and our lives for the disabled, who are our brothers and sisters too," he said.

He also wants to build a "vibrant and competitive economy," saying that is the way to create good jobs, and improve the lives of all Singapore citizens.

He admitted that today's Singapore is more vibrant and open, more resilient and cohesive. It is in sync with the times, and ready for tomorrow's challenges.

As the third premier after his father Lee Kuan Yew and Goh Chok Tong, Lee also called on the Singaporeans to adapt to the changing world.

"Our future is full of promise, but we must be prepared for the unexpected. In a globalized world, we must re-think our assumptions, take bold and fresh approaches and adapt nimbly to changing conditions."

On the same occasion, Singapore's President S. R. Nathan also said that looking ahead, the pace of change in the world will only

increase.

"Our economic and security environment is already undergoing changes. The new realities in our economic landscape are already upon us — intense competition for capital, access to new technologies and new markets. External events can affect our peace and tranquillity suddenly and without warning. They will test our will and stress our basic vulnerabilities," the President said.

He called on the Singaporeans, regardless of race, language and religion, to work together to make the country an outstanding and prosperous home.

The 52-year-old Lee, who holds degrees from Cambridge University in Britain and Harvard in the United States, military rank of brigadier-general and speaks four languages, has been groomed to lead since his appointment as Goh's deputy in 1990.

MNA/Xinhua/Reuters



A white tiger with blue eyes and no stripes, one of only 20 worldwide, born in captivity is seen at a wild animal refuge in the southern Spanish town of Guadalest. — INTERNET

Beijing private cars exceed one million

BEIJING, 13 Aug—Privately-owned cars in Beijing reached 1.04 million by the end of July, accounting for nearly half of the motor vehicles in the Chinese capital, Beijing Daily reported Thursday.

On the average, Beijing has one vehicle for every seven residents, according to the paper. In the first six months of 2004, Beijing reported 166,000 newly registered cars.

"The capital has taken the lead in entering an auto

era among all other major Chinese cities," the paper said.

Although private cars have been blamed for traffic jams in Beijing, the municipal government has said repeatedly that it does not consider taking measures to restrict the number of private cars, according to the paper.

Currently, one out of four permanent residents in Beijing holds a driver's licence, statistics from the Beijing communications

authorities show.

Beijing is now leading Shanghai and Guangzhou in the ownership rate of private cars, according to a survey AC Nielsen conducted in the three cities.

The survey shows that the amount of people who own a car in a city is largely decided by the price of cars. The average price per car in Beijing is 139,000 yuan (16,808 US dollars), Shanghai, 220,000 yuan, and Guangzhou, 190,000 yuan.

MNA/Xinhua

Cambodia to have TV programme for deaf

PHNOM PENH, 13 Aug—Cambodia will have a new TV programme for deaf people soon, aiming to recognize deaf persons as part of the community, local media reported on Thursday.

Under a two-year agreement signed by the Information Ministry and Krousar Thmey, a non-governmental organization

(NGO) that works with deaf and blind children, two interpreters will use sign language to give summaries of local and international news on TV.

The programme will be once a week and for one-half hour. The special TV programme on the state-run TVK would likely begin in August or September, the

Cambodia Daily quoted the Information Minister Khieu Kanharith as saying.

Cambodia now has seven TV stations in all, but no programmes for deaf people.

Earlier this year, TVK launched a monthly show interviewing disabled people about their lives.

MNA/Xinhua

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Scientists say T Rex had teen growth spurt

CHICAGO, 12 Aug—Tyrannosaurus Rex grew incredibly fast during a teenaged growth spurt that saw the dinosaur expand its bulk, but the fearsome beasts “lived fast and died young”, researchers said on Wednesday.

By counting the age rings on dinosaur bones, much like botanists count tree rings, paleontologists have concluded that T Rex grew from one ton to six tons in just four years before levelling off around age 18 and living out a brief adulthood of about 10 years.

“Almost every child asks: ‘How did dinosaurs get so big?’ That has remained one of the great mysteries in paleontology,” said Florida State University scientist Gregory Erickson, a research associate at The Field Mu-

seum in Chicago where the findings were announced. “Here we cracked the code for one family of dinosaurs, the Tyrannosauridae.”

Erickson and his colleagues, who wrote about their research in the journal *Nature*, measured the circumference of fossil dinosaur femurs to determine the flesh load they carried. At the peak of its growth spurt, T Rex added 4.6 pounds to its frame each day, developing into an 11,000-pound bone-crushing giant. Thanks to the discovery in recent decades of more

complete fossil skeletons of T Rex — such as the 67-million-year-old “Sue” on display at the Field Museum — paleontologists have learned much more about how dinosaurs moved, lived and died.

“Sue,” it turned out, was 28 years old when it died and had stopped growing nine years earlier. Sue’s gender is not known — it was named for Sue Hendrickson, the amateur dinosaur hunter who in 1990 found the fossil embedded in a South Dakota hillside.

The increasing availability of the giants’ bones have allowed scientists to dig in. Erickson discovered that while the growth rings disappeared in large bones such as the femur as bone marrow expanded, rings on smaller bones like the ribs, shins, and hips could still be deciphered.

Scientists compared age rings from 60 bones from 20 specimens — seven T. rexes, five Albertosaurus, five Gorgosaurus and three Daspletosaurus — to those of modern-day descendants such as snakes, lizards and crocodiles.

T Rex had the fastest growth spurt of the largest dinosaurs. — MNA/Reuters



Thanks to the discovery in recent decades of more complete fossil skeletons of T Rex, such as the 67-million-year-old ‘Sue’ on display at the Field Museum in Chicago seen here, paleontologists have learned much more about how dinosaurs moved, lived and died. Tyrannosaurus Rex grew incredibly fast during a teenaged growth spurt that saw the dinosaur expand its bulk by six times, but the fearsome beasts ‘lived fast and died young,’ researchers said on 11 Aug, 2004. — INTERNET

Allergy vaccine could hit market soon

BRUSSELS, 12 Aug—A Belgian researcher was quoted on Wednesday as saying a vaccine to tackle allergies could hit the market within two years following promising results from trials involving birch pollen.

Professor Paul Van Cauwenberge, who coordinates a European allergy and asthma research project, said researchers at the Medical University of Vienna have been able to protect a trial group of 124 people against the effects of birch pollen allergy.

They were injected with a genetically modified version of the pollen.

Van Cauwenberge is the coordinator of the Global Allergy and Asthma European Network (GA2LEN), of which the Medical University of Vienna is a partner.

“There is a good chance that this synthetic vaccine would result in a safe, healing vaccine,” Van Cauwenberge told Belgian daily *De Morgen* in an interview.

“The vaccinated patients reacted like healthy people. If they (the researchers) can confirm this on a larger scale there is a good chance that we, within a few years, would not only obtain a safe but also ‘healing’ vaccine,” Van Cauwenberge added. He said the vaccine could hit the market relatively soon. — MNA/Reuters

Spassky urges mercy for old chess rival Fischer

TOKYO, 12 Aug—Boris Spassky, an old rival of former world chess champion Bobby Fischer, has challenged US authorities to arrest him and put them in the same cell, along with a chess set, since both defied US sanctions, Fischer’s lawyer said on Wednesday.

Fischer, one of the chess world’s great eccentrics, was detained at Tokyo’s Narita Airport last month, when he tried to leave for Manila on a passport US officials say was invalid. The chess grandmaster has been wanted in the United States since 1992, when he violated US economic sanctions by going to Yugoslavia, where he won \$3 million for beating Spassky in a chess match.

In a letter said to have

been written by Spassky and made available to the media by Masako Suzuki, a lawyer working on Fischer’s case, Spassky asked US President George W. Bush to be lenient towards Fischer, who he called a “tragic personality”.

“I would not like to defend or justify Bobby Fischer. He is what he is,” the letter said. “I am asking only for one thing. For mercy, charity.”

The letter said Spassky

and Fischer “committed the same crime” by playing the match in Yugoslavia but that Spassky, as a French citizen, was immune to prosecution since the French Government had not imposed sanctions.

“If for some reason (mercy) is impossible... put sanctions against me also,” the letter said. “Arrest me. And put me in the same cell with Bobby Fischer. And give us a chess set.”

MNA/Reuters

Pierson re-elected US movie academy president

LOS ANGELES, 12 Aug—Oscar-winning writer Frank Pierson was re-elected to his fourth term as president of the Oscar-awarding Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, it was announced Wednesday.

Four other incumbent officers were also returned to their posts in the election conducted Tuesday night at the regularly scheduled August meeting of the Academy’s Board of Governors, the academy announced.

According to the academy’s by-laws, this will

be the last consecutive term that Pierson can serve.

Pierson, a governor representing the writers branch of the academy for the past six years, was first elected president in 2001.

Once a president of the Writers Guild, Pierson won an Academy Award for his original screenplay for

“Dog Day Afternoon.” He was also nominated for Oscars for “Cat Ballou” and “Cool Hand Luke.”

Board members serve three-year terms, while academy officials complete one-year term, with a maximum of four consecutive terms in any one office. — MNA/Xinhua

China thinks about sending philosophers into space

BEIJING, 12 Aug—China, whose first astronaut was a crack fighter pilot, is planning to send engineers, scientists, teachers and even philosophers into space, a top official said on Wednesday.

“Going into space is not such a big mystery,” said Sun Laiyan, administrator of the China National Space Agency.

“In the future, they won’t just be pure pilots and astronauts. There will need to be an engineer or a scientist, too. We could even have some teachers or philosophers go up.”

Yang Liwei, selected from a pack of Air Force pilots, became the first man in China to be launched into space last October as part

of an ambitious manned space programme that is a major source of national pride.

The next manned space launch, called Shenzhou VI, is scheduled for next year, Sun said. There was no decision yet whether it would carry one or two astronauts, he told a news conference on a satellite programme to monitor electric and magnetic activity around the Earth.

MNA/Reuters

Beijing bans illegal business operations around schools

BEIJING, 12 Aug—Beijing began clamping down on illegal business operations within 200 metres of campuses of primary and high schools and universities Tuesday, the *Beijing Daily* reported Tuesday.

Targets include illegal Internet cafes, computer game rooms, karaoke halls, beauty salons and saunas around campus, and local authorities will also punish those who sell cigarettes, adult products and pornographic books to juveniles or rent private rooms for students for illegal use.

“The special move, lasting till the end of September, was launched to clear up the environment for the mental health of young people and regulate business operations around schools,” Deputy Mayor Fan Boyuan was cited in the newspaper.

China ordered local

governments across the country early in February not to approve any Internet cafe operations in residential areas or within 200 metres of primary and high schools, according to the General Administration for Industry and Commerce (GAIC), China’s market watchdog. — MNA/Xinhua

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SPORTS

Brazilian Ailton wins German Player of the Year award

BERLIN, 12 Aug — Brazilian striker Ailton has become the first foreigner to be voted German Player of the Year after his goals helped Werder Bremen win the Bundesliga and German Cup titles last season.

The 31-year-old, who was the German first division's top scorer with 28 goals, won a vote by sports journalists for the soccer magazine *Kicker* to be released on Thursday.

Ailton, who has since joined Werder rivals Schalke 04, won 216 of the 712 votes cast.

VfB Stuttgart left back Philipp Lahm, one of few players to shine for the German national side at Euro 2004, came second with 172. Last year's winner Michael Ballack was third with 63.

Werder's Thomas Schaaf was named coach of the year, ahead of Peter Neururer, who steered VfL Bochum to a commendable fifth place in the Bundesliga, and third-place Otto Rehhagel, architect of Greece's Euro 2004 success.

MNA/Reuters

Argentine President meets Maradona

BUENOS AIRES, 13 Aug — Former Argentina football great Diego Maradona met his country's President Nestor Kirchner on Thursday in an attempt to gain permission to leave the country to continue his drug rehabilitation treatment.

Maradona's family forced him to enter a private clinic on the outskirts of Buenos Aires in May for cocaine addiction treatment after he was rushed to intensive care in April with a swollen heart and breathing problems.

The 43-year-old, who captained his country to World Cup glory in 1986, wants to undergo treatment in Switzerland and then return to a spa in Cuba, where he has spent much of the last four years.

In May a judge overseeing Maradona's case said the former footballer was in "no condition to decide" where he should have treatment while his family doctor said it was his "last chance" to kick his cocaine habit.

He can only leave Argentina with a judge's authorization.

Maradona wanted Kirchner to pursue his case although presidential aides said the two did not even broach the subject during

a 15-minute meeting, their first ever.

Maradona, who has shed 20 kilos to weigh in at 100 kilos, spent around 40 minutes in the famous Casa Rosada presidential palace and was accompanied by one of his daughters.

Family doctor Alfredo Cahe said his patient told him this week that he wanted to talk to the President "because people have no idea how I am doing. I am not crazy nor incompetent."

Maradona, who failed a drugs test at the 1994 World Cup finals, has suffered ill health since 2000 when he was admitted to the intensive care department of a Uruguayan hospital suffering from hypertension and an irregular heartbeat.

Maradona is regarded as one of the greatest footballers of all time. As well as captaining his country at the 1986 World Cup he also led Napoli to two Italian league titles in 1987 and 1990. — MNA/Reuters

African Player of the Year Eto'o to join Barca

MADRID, 13 Aug — African Player of the Year Samuel Eto'o will sign for Barcelona after Real Madrid decided not to exercise their option on the Real Mallorca striker, the Catalan club said on Thursday.

"The Cameroon international Samuel Eto'o will be presented at 1900 local time (1700 GMT) as a new Barcelona player," the club said on its website.

Spanish media said Barca would pay a fee of about 24 million euros (29.41 million US dollars) for the 23-year-old, who is co-owned by Mallorca and Real Madrid.

Real were reported to be keen to use Eto'o as part of a deal to sign Liverpool striker Michael Owen but the Cameroon player's insistence on joining the Catalan club gave them little option but to accept the move.

Eto'o is the seventh player to join Barca since the end of last season when they finished runners-up to Valencia in the Span-

ish title race and brings their total spending on new recruits to over 60 million euros.

Portugal playmaker Deco, Sweden striker Henrik Larsson, French midfielder Ludovic Giuly and Brazilian defenders Juliano Belletti, Silvinho and Edmílson are the other new signings.

Eto'o's arrival will fuel speculation that Barca plan to offload Argentine striker Javier Saviola before the season.

The Cameroonian, who scored 14 league goals last season, will take one of three berths for non-European Union players at Primera Liga clubs and that will increase the pressure on Barca to secure Spanish citizenship for other new signings. — MNA/Reuters



Shelbourne's Stuart Byrne (L) and Deportivo La Coruña's Juan Valeron stumble over the ball during their Champions League third qualifying round, first leg soccer match at Lansdowne Road, Dublin, on 11 Aug, 2004. The match ended in a 0-0 draw. —INTERNET

Zidane retires from international football

PARIS, 13 Aug — France playmaker Zinedine Zidane announced on Thursday that he was ending his international career after a 10-year spell with Les Bleus.

"I've an important statement to make," said the 32-year-old playmaker on his website. "My international career is over now."

"I called the coach yesterday to let him know I had made up my mind. I think it was the right time to say 'stop'," he said.

France coach Raymond Domenech confirmed the news as he unveiled his squad for next week's friendly against Bosnia.

"Zidane will not play for France anymore. I'm sorry about it. I would have liked him to carry on. He thought he had to leave the place to young players," said Domenech.

Zidane has had a long and successful career with France, winning the 1998 World Cup and the 2000 European Championship.

His retirement closes a glorious chapter in French soccer history since only goalkeeper Fabien Barthez remains from the team that beat Brazil to become world champions in 1998.

Zidane's announcement came after defenders Lilian Thuram and Bixente Lizarazu and captain Marcel Desailly had all called time on their international careers since the end of Euro 2004.

MNA/Reuters

Maradona to request intervention of Argentine President

BUENOS AIRES, 12 Aug — Argentine soccer legend Diego Maradona could request Argentina's President Nestor Kirchner to speed up the legal proceedings that could allow him to leave the country to undergo a drug-addiction treatment, doctor Alfred Cahe said on Wednesday.

The former captain of the Argentine soccer team that won the Mexico 1986 World Cup, who has been fighting against his cocaine addiction for years, was on the verge of death a year after a severe heart attack and respiratory problems.

Cahe told local radio that Maradona does not wish to remain in Argentina and he "could request the President to speed up the process and to allow him to leave the country".

Interior Minister Anibal Fernandez said on Wednesday that the President will meet Maradona, 43, on Thursday, but he denied the meeting has anything to do with the personal or legal situation of the soccer star.

Maradona is subject to a court warrant to

stay in a clinic in the west Buenos Aires neighbourhoods for refusing to receive medical treatment, a situation which endangers his life.

Cahe said Maradona wants to continue with a long-term rehabilitation treatment in Switzerland.

Maradona was taken to the Swiss-German Clinic in Buenos Aires last April 18 with cardiac and respiratory problems, and was about to die when receiving attention at the intensive-care unit.

He abandoned the clinic but was taken back there later as his conditions worsened again. He has remained there since May 9.

MNA/Xinhua

Bolton keen on Liverpool's Diouf

LONDON, 12 Aug — Bolton Wanderers are interested in signing Senegal striker El Hadji Diouf from Premier League rivals Liverpool.

"We are talking to Liverpool about him (Diouf)," Bolton manager Sam Allardyce was quoted as saying on the Anfield club's web site. "The chairman is doing that on our behalf and I'll be talking to him at some stage to see what the situation is."

"A change of club would benefit him because his future appears to be no longer with Liverpool." Diouf has not been given a squad number by the Anfield club for the new season which starts this weekend.

"Not getting a squad number means every intention has been shown by them that he is no longer wanted," said Allardyce. "So to go and resurrect your career at 23 is a very important thing to do, and it's very important to pick the right club." — MNA/Reuters

Red Star win 3-2 thriller against PSV Eindhoven

BELGRADE, 12 Aug — Two set pieces and a swift break gave Red Star Belgrade a 3-2 win over PSV Eindhoven in the first leg of their Champions League third qualifying round tie on Wednesday.

PSV took an eighth-minute lead through Korean striker Ji Sung Park with a crisp shot from the edge of the penalty box.

The home team, cheered by a crowd of 56,000 turned the match around with a 29th-minute header from defender Milan Dudic and a superb Bosko Jankovic free kick 10 minutes later.

Red Star took a 3-1 lead on the hour when striker Marko Pantelic headed home a good cross by Milan Bisevac but John de Jong silenced the home fans in the 66th minute when he slotted in a rebound for PSV.

The return leg is in a fortnight's time.

MNA/Reuters



Unidentified athlete sail on their Tornado catamaran during a training session at the Agios Kosmas Sailing Centre two days before the opening of the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens. —INTERNET

MRTV -3
**14-8-2004 (Saturday)
(Programme Schedule)
Morning Transmission
(9:00 - 10:00)**

- 9:00 Signature Tune
Greeting
- 9:02 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanma
Panorama & Myan-
ma Sentiment"
- 9:06 Travelling on the
Chin Mountain
Ranges
- 9:10 Headline News**
- 9:12 Fish Breeding of
Shwe Mu Yinn Re-
gion
- 9:15 National News**
- 9:20 Traditional Folk
Weaving Works
- 9:25 Performance of King
Brahminy Bird
Dance
- 9:30 National News**
- 9:35 Native of Pa O Na-
tionals
(Kyauktalane)
- 9:40 Myanmar Modern
Song "This Rain"
- 9:42 Usefulness of the
Whole Toddy Palm
- 9:45 National News**
- 9:50 How To Make Chin-
lone
- 9:58 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and
See Myanmar"

**14-8-2004 (Saturday)
Evening Transmission
(15:30 - 17:30)**

- 15:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
- 15:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
- 15:36 Travelling on the
Chin Mountain
Ranges
- 15:40 Headline News**
- 15:42 Fish Breeding of

**Shwe Mu Yinn Re-
gion**

- 15:45 National News**
- 15:50 Traditional Folk
Weaving Works
- 15:55 Performance of King
Brahminy Bird Dance
- 16:00 National News**
- 16:05 Native of Pa O Na-
tionals
(Kyauktalane)
- 16:10 Myanmar Modern
Song "This Rain"
- 16:12 Usefulness of the
Whole Toddy Palm
- 16:15 National News**
- 16:20 How To Make Chin-
lone
- 16:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanma
Panorama & Myanma
Sentiment"
- 16:30 National News**
- 16:35 Wildlife Conserva-
tion in Myanmar
- 16:40 Myanmar Traditional
Food "Pone Ye Gyi"
- 16:45 National News**
- 16:50 Myanmar Movies
Impact "Pauk Pauk
Myauk Myauk"
- 17:00 Weekly News
Highlights**
- 17:05 Myanmar Modern
Song "Evergraceful
Lady"
- 17:10 Kambozathadi, Palace
of Conquerors
- 17:15 Weekly News
Highlights**
- 17:20 Myanmar Rattan Fur-
niture For the Con-
noisseurs
- 17:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and
See Myanmar"

**14-8-2004 (Saturday)
Evening Transmission
(19:30 - 23:30)**

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

- 19:36 The Fascinating
Oceanography of
Myanmar
- 19:40 Headline News**
- 19:42 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes "Toufu-
assorted with Prawn"
- 19:45 National News**
- 19:50 Nan Pan Market Day
- 19:55 Group Dance Entitled
(Pyant Pwa Sein)
- 20:00 National News**
- 20:05 Travelogue
"Taunggyi"
- 20:10 Myanmar Modern
Song "Sagawa Flow-
ers Land"
- 20:15 National News**
- 20:20 Hsinbyushin Tem-
ples, Stone Carving
and Monasteries
- 20:25 Song on Screen
"A Diamond-studded
song"
- 20:30 National News**
- 20:35 Conservation of the
Forest Resources in
Myanmar
- 20:40 Mandalay and its
Popular Snack
- 20:45 National News**
- 20:50 Myanma Traditional
Tayaw Kinbun
Shampoo
- 20:55 Dance of the Royal
Page
- 21:00 National News**
- 21:05 Fair Price High
Quality Myanmar
Carpets
- 21:08 Myanmar Modern
Song "Feel like an
Earthquake"
- 21:10 Hot Springs in
Lashio and Nan
Kham
- 21:15 Weekly News
Highlights**
- 21:20 Myanma Artistic
works At Shwe-
dagon Pagoda Arch-
ways
- 21:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
- 21:35 Travelling on the
Chin Mountain
Ranges
- 21:40 Headline News**
- 21:42 Fish Breeding of

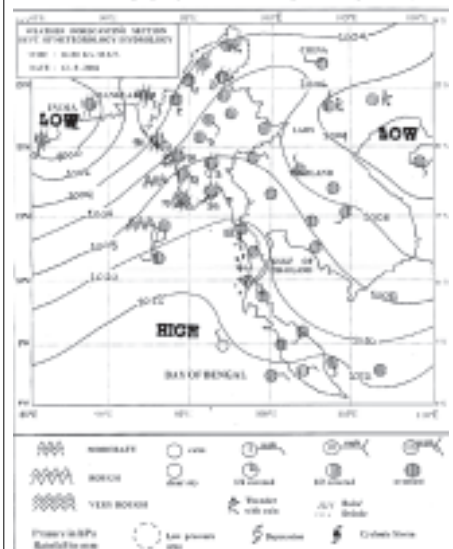
**Shwe Mu Yinn Re-
gion**

- 21:45 National News**
- 21:50 Traditional Folk
Weaving Works
- 21:55 Performance of King
Brahminy Bird
Dance
- 22:00 National News**
- 22:05 Native of Pa O Na-
tionals
(Kyauktalane)
- 22:10 Myanmar Modern
Song "This Rain"
- 22:12 Usefulness of the
Whole Toddy Palm
- 22:15 National News**
- 22:20 How To Make Chin-
lone
- 22:25 Myanmar Modern
Song "Follow me
Let's go"
- 22:30 National News**
- 22:35 Wildlife Conserva-
tion in Myanmar
- 22:40 Myanmar Tradition-
al Food "Pone
Ye Gyi"
- 22:45 National News**
- 22:50 Myanmar Movies
Impact "Pauk Pauk
Myauk Myauk"
- 23:00 National News**
- 23:05 Song on Screen
"Evergraceful
Lady"
- 23:10 Kambozathadi, Pal-
ace of Conquerors
- 23:15 Weekly News
Highlights**
- 23:20 Myanmar Rattan
Furniture For the
Connoisseurs
- 23:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and
See Myanmar"

Rainfall on 13-8-2004

- 5.08 inches at Yangon Airport,
 - 3.11 inches at Kaba-Aye and
 - 2.44 inches at central Yangon.
- Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 2085 mm (82.08 inches) at Yangon Airport, 2018 mm (79.45 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 1986 mm (78.18 inches) at central Yangon.

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas

**WEATHER**

Friday, 13 August 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been cloudy in Kayah State, rain have been isolated in lower Sagaing Division and scattered to widespread in the remaining areas with locally heavyfalls in Rakhine State, Bago and Yangon Division, isolated heavyfalls in Mon State. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Ann (7.09) inches, Maungtaung (6.93) inches, Kyauktaw (6.30) inches, Yangon (Mingaladon) (5.08) inches, Yangon (Hmawbi) (4.92) inches, Yangon (Hkayan) (4.69) inches, Thaton (4.09) inches, Sittway (4.02) inches, Kyaukpadaung (3.94) inches, Tharrawady (3.74) inches and Bago (3.39) inches.

Maximum temperature on 12-8-2004 was 31.0°C (88°F). Minimum temperature on 13-8-2004 was 19.5°C (67°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 13-8-2004 was 100%. Total sunshine hours on 12-8-2004 was (3.6) hours approx. Rainfall on 13-8-2004 was 129 mm (5.08 inches) at Yangon Airport, 79 mm (3.11 inches) at Kaba-Aye, 62 mm (2.44 inches) at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 2085 mm (82.08 inches) at Yangon Airport, 2018 mm (79.45 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 1986 mm (78.18 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 19 mph from South-west at 06:30 hours MST on 13-8-2004.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 14-8-2004: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Shan and Kayah States, Lower Sagaing and Magway Divisions, scattered in Kachin and Kayah States, upper Sagaing, Mandalay and Taninthayi Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Rakhine State. Degree of certainty is (100%).

State of the sea: Occasional squalls with rough seas are likely at times Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coast. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40) mph. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. **Outlook for subsequent two days:** General decrease of rain in Eastern part of Myanmar areas. **Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 14-8-2004:** Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%). **Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 14-8-2004:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%). **Weather outlook for second weekend of August 2004:** During the coming weekend, rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Yangon Division and scattered in Mandalay Division.

Flood Warning

(Issued at 13:00hrs MST on 13-8-2004)

The water level of Bago River at Bago may rise (30) cm (about 1- ft) and reach the danger level (910)cm during the next (48)hrs commencing noon today.

Flood Bulletin

(Issued at 13:00 hrs MST on 13-8-2004)

The water level of Shwegyin River at Shwegyin is (5) cm above the danger level. The water level may remain above the danger level during the next (3)days commencing noon today.



Saturday, August 14

View on today:

- 7:00 am**
1. နေ့စဉ်သတင်းအချက်အလက်
- 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. မဟာသံဃာတော်များ (ပထမပိုင်း)
- 8:30 am**
6. International news
- 8:45 am**
7. Grammar Made Easy.
- 11:00 am**
1. Martial song
- 11:10 am**
2. Musical programme

- 11:30 am**
3. News
- 11:40 am**
4. Round-up of the week's TV local news
- 1:20 pm**
5. နိုင်ငံခြားသတင်းအချက်အလက် (အပိုင်း-၁၇)
- 2:00 pm**
6. ပထမဦးဆုံးသတင်းအချက်အလက်
- 2:05 pm**
7. "ကံ-ကံစီးအကျိုး"
- 2:30 pm**
8. Dance of national races
- 2:45 am**
9. International news
- 4:00 pm**
1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm**
2. Songs to uphold National Spirit
- 4:30 pm**
3. English for Everyday Use
- 4:45 pm**
4. အမှတ်(၃) အစီအစဉ်အကျဉ်းချုပ် (ပထမပိုင်း) နှင့် အမှတ်(၄) အစီအစဉ်အကျဉ်းချုပ် (ဒုတိယပိုင်း)

- 5:15 pm**
5. အစောဆုံးသတင်းအချက်အလက် (အပိုင်း-၁၈)
- 5:30 pm**
6. Musical programme
- 5:45 pm**
7. နိုင်ငံခြားသတင်းအချက်အလက် (အပိုင်း-၁၈)
- 6:05 pm**
8. နိုင်ငံခြားသတင်းအချက်အလက် (အပိုင်း-၁၈)
- 6:20 pm**
9. နိုင်ငံခြားသတင်းအချက်အလက် (အပိုင်း-၁၈)
- 6:30 pm**
10. Evening news
- 7:00 pm**
11. Weather report
- 7:05 pm**
12. Discovery
- 7:10 pm**
13. နိုင်ငံခြားသတင်းအချက်အလက် (အပိုင်း-၁၈)
- 7:40 pm**
14. ဝါဆိုပြည့်နေ့တော်
- 8:00 pm**
15. News
16. International news
17. Weather report
18. နိုင်ငံခြားသတင်းအချက်အလက် (အပိုင်း-၁၈)
19. The next day's programme



Saturday, August 14

Tune in today:

- 8:30 am** Brief news
- 8:35 am** Music: I breathe again
- 8:40 am** Perspectives
- 8:45 am** Music: There you'll be
- 8:55 am** National news/Slogan
- 9:05 am** Music: Promises
- 9:10 am** International news
- 9:15 am** Music (Spotlight on a star)
- 1:30 pm** News/Slogan
- 1:40 pm** Request
- In love with you
- You to me are everything
- Heart broken
- 9:00 pm** ASEAN review
- News
- 9:10 pm** Article
- 9:20 pm** Myanma culture by Dr Khin Maung Nyunt
- Wanted seas and ocean dead or alive
- 9:30 pm** Souvenirs
- Words of love
- Close to you
- 9:45 pm** News/Slogan
- 10:00 pm** PEL

Supervisory Committee for Utilization of Power and Fuel Chairman inspects coal-fired power plant project in Pinlaung

YANGON, 13 Aug.—Chairman of Supervisory Committee for Utilization of Power and Fuel member of the State Peace and Development Council Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Kyaw Win together with Vice-Chief of AFT Maj-Gen Aung Kyi, Deputy Commander of Eastern Command Col Win Myint and senior military officers, on 11 August, arrived at the coal-fired power plant project being undertaken at Tikyit Village, Pinlaung Township, where they were welcomed by local authorities and departmental officials. At the meeting hall of the plant, Shan State Senior



Chairman of Supervisory Committee for Utilization of Power and Fuel Lt-Gen Kyaw Win hears reports on functions of Tikyit Coal-Fired Power Plant Project by an official.— MNA

Instructions given on were work site safety, minimizing loss and wastage, timely completion of the coal-fired power plant project and meeting the set standard.

Electric Engineer U Kyaw Thaung reported on construction of the plant, work being carried out sector-wise, strength of staff and technicians, arrival of equipment to be installed at the plant and potential production of 60 megawatt of electricity upon completion of the project.

Chairman Lt-Gen

Kyaw Win gave instructions on work site safety, minimizing loss and wastage, timely completion of the project and meeting the set standard. He also urged officials at different levels to make concerted efforts for successful realization of the project.

Next, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win inspected the coal min-

ing plot, where Project Deputy Director of Shan Yoma Dragon Co U Aung Naing Soe reported on arrival of machinery and delivery of coal from the mining plot to the plant.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win fulfilled the requirement.

Yesterday afternoon, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win, the deputy commander and officials arrived at the Shweyinaye paddy pilot plantations at the entrance to Hopong, where they were welcomed by local authorities and departmental offi-

cials. Next, Township Manager of Myanmar Agriculture Service U Toe Aung reported on acres of farmland being put under paddy, cultivation techniques, use of fertilizer and paddy output to Lt-Gen Kyaw Win who gave instructions on distribution of cultivation techniques for increasing the per acre yield, applying of direct seeding methods and called on departmental officials and local people to make concerted efforts for self-sufficiency in rice.

MNA



Construction of Tikyit Coal-Fired Power Plant Project in progress in Pinlaung Township.— MNA

The meeting focused on security issues, repair and maintenance of buildings, landscaping, systematic keeping of facilities for delegates, and construction of new buildings.

Meeting discusses preparations for National Convention during adjournment

YANGON, 13 Aug — A meeting was held at Nyaungnabin Camp in Hmawby Township, Yangon Division, today to discuss security of the Camp, the venue of the National Convention, maintenance and repair of facilities and buildings, designing and construction of new buildings, and landscaping.

Speaking at the meeting, Secretary of the National

Convention Convening Commission Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan said that the first meeting to discuss security issues and building maintenance work during the adjournment of the National Convention was held on 16 July this year. The meeting focused on five matters — security issues, repair and maintenance of buildings, landscaping, systematic keeping of facilities

for delegates, and construction of new buildings, he recounted.

Today's meeting would also concentrate on the five matters, he said, inviting frank suggestions and discussions concerning the requirements. Collective efforts are needed for the success of the task, he noted.

(See page 10)



NCCC Secretary Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan addresses preparations for National Convention during adjournment.— MNA