

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Volume XII, Number 122

1st Waxing of Wakhaung 1366 ME

Monday, 16 August, 2004



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt meets local authorities, departmental officials, social organization members and local people in Taungdwingyi on 14-8-2004.— MNA

Agriculture being boosted on account of adequate supply of irrigation water

PM General Khin Nyunt inspects renovation tasks of pagodas in Taungdwingyi, meets departmental officials

YANGON, 15 Aug — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and his entourage, accompanied by Magway Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Col Zaw Min, arrived at Taungdwingyi yesterday, where they were welcomed by local authorities, departmental officials and members of social organizations.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party went to the construction site for all-round renovation of historic Aungmyin Zeya Pagoda in the town. At the project, Col Zaw Min reported on tasks being undertaken for renovation of the pagoda, donations received and spending other renovation tasks being carried out at Shweintaung,

Yadanapinsi, Shwemawdaw, Shweyaungdaw and Ponpya pagodas in the town.

With respect to the renovation of Aungmyin Zeya Pagoda, U Than Aye, Assistant Engineer of the No 1 Agricultural Machinery Factory (Ssinde) under the Ministry of Industry-2, also reported on brick foundation works, progress in construction of the first, second and

third terraces, and maintenance works for other pagodas. After hearing the reports, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt added some requirements to the renovation tasks being implemented.

Next, wellwishers donated cash to the funds for the renovation of Aungmyin Zeya Pagoda. Donations made on the occasion were K 4,863,670 by Magway

District PDC, K 1.11 million by Gangaw District PDC, K 8,830,857 by Pakokku District PDC, K 11,139,401 by Thayet District PDC, K 4,286,500 by Minbu District PDC, K 8,999,578 by people of Taungdwingyi Township, K 1 million by Brig-Gen Myint Zaw and Daw Aye Win, K 900,000 each by U Tint Swe and Daw Htay Htay Win family of Yangon and U Thiha Aung and Daw Zin May Aye family of Taungdwingyi, K 140,000 by Lt-Col Win Swe and Daw Khin Win Naing family, K 1.1 million by No 2 Basic Education Department (Head Office, Upper Myanmar), K 100,000 by U Khine Htwe and Daw Thin Thin Khine family of Yangon, K 950,000 by U Myat Lwin and Daw Myat Myat Soe

family of Yangon, K 1 million each by Daw Khin Swe Yu and family and Magway Division PDC, K 5 million by the Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs, and K 10 million by entrepreneurs of Yangon.

Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint and ministers accepted the donations, which amounted to K 61,320,060.

(See page 8)

INSIDE

Perspectives

Regional development through cooperation between service personnel and people (Page 2)

Article

Radio Free Asia—an objective observation (Page 10)



Ancient silver coins, beads, earthen pots and artefacts of Pyu period excavated from Beikthanoe City, Taungdwingyi Township. (News on page 16) — MNA

Officials and farmers in Taungdwingyi Township urged to make concerted efforts for development of regional agricultural services after making good use of better opportunities and results created by government

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

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 16 August, 2004

Regional development through cooperation between service personnel and people

Plans for regional development, boosting the production of agricultural, livestock breeding and other businesses and raising the living standard of the entire people to be implemented by departmental concerned have been laid down by the Government. With the concept that departmental officials are responsible for serving the interests of the people, they are to coordinate and cooperate to realize the goal.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, on 13 August, met with members of Thayet District and Township Peace and Development Councils, departmental officials, members of local organizations and townsenders and gave necessary instructions on the needs in education, health and regional development tasks.

On the occasion, the Prime Minister said that cooperation makes administrative machinery effective and dynamic and that regional development tasks are to be undertaken with the participation of the people and social organizations. Officials can win the trust of the people by serving the latter's interests. Mutual cooperation between departmental concerned and the people will surely bring about the benefits of the people. Strength of the departments, the people and social organizations are to be combined unitedly for regional development and public interest.

In Magway Division, regional development undertakings including building of hospitals and schools have been carried out by the State to promote the socio-economic life of local people. In the interests of the people, officials concerned are to effectively use the infrastructures built by the State.

Development of a region mainly relies on management, perseverance and goodwill of respective township level departmental officials. Hence, only when the departmental officials make combined endeavours through coordination among the departments or sector-wise committees, will respective regions make greater progress. In particular, those responsible are to make field trips down to respective rural areas to attend to the needs of local residents in accordance with the five rural development tasks for ensuring all-round development of these areas. In the drive for regional progress, measures are to be taken for effectively enlisting the strength of social organizations and fulfilling the requirements of local residents.

We would like to call on all departmental officials, the people and social organizations to make collective efforts for achieving greater progress in the respective townships, wards and villages.

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

Ambassador U Kyi Thein accredited to Iran

YANGON, 16 Aug — The Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Kyi Thein, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of India, concurrently as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to the Islamic Republic of Iran.—MNA

Ambassador U Ohn Thwin accredited to Nigeria

YANGON, 16 Aug — The Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Ohn Thwin, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of South Africa, concurrently as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to the Federal Republic of Nigeria.—MNA

Pakistani delegation arrives

YANGON, 15 Aug—A delegation led by Lt-Gen Tariq Waseem Ghazi of National Defence College of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan arrived here by air at 9 am today. The delegation was welcomed at Yangon International Airport by Deputy Commandant of National Defence College Brig-Gen Than Maung, senior officers of the Ministry of Defence, Pakistani Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Muhammad Nawaz Chaudhry and officials.

The delegation visited Shwedagon Pagoda in the evening and made cash donations there.—MNA

Rave Myanmar Snooker Junior Championship on 16-22 Aug

YANGON, 15 Aug — A trial for the Rave Myanmar Snooker (Senior & Junior) Championship 2004, organized by Myanmar Billiards and Snooker Federation, was held in Yangon, Mandalay, Patheingyi, Mawlamyine and Taunggyi as of 1 August. After the trial, 16 players in the junior class were selected. They were: Thiha Win, Sai Htwe, Moe Aung Thu and Naing Lin Thu of Yangon, Tin Maung Oo, Win Min and Aye Min of Mandalay, Aung Ko Ko Oo, Aung Ko Oo and Kyaw Kyaw Lin of Patheingyi, Ye Win, Than Soe and Than Htay of Mawlamyine and Zaw Min Htaik, Kyaw Moe and Zaw Htwe of Taunggyi.

The first round matches in junior class snooker event will be held at Game City of Yangon Zoological Gardens on 16 August, Asia Plaza on 38th Street on 17 August and Game City on 18 August at 10 am and 1 pm daily. The quarter-finals will be held on 19 August, the semi-finals on 20 August, the third place match on 21 August and the final on 22 August. The first prize winner can win K 400,000, the second prize winner K 200,000 and third prize winner K 100,000. And, K 30,000 each will be presented to remaining 13 players.—MNA

Ambassador U Soe Win presents credentials to Governor-General of New Zealand

YANGON, 16 Aug —U Soe Win, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to New Zealand, presented his Credentials to Her Excellency the Right Honourable Dame Silvia Cartwright DBE, Governor-General of New Zealand, on 3 August 2004, in Wellington.—MNA

Mid-Year Gem Empo in Oct

YANGON, 15 Aug—The Mid-Year Myanmar Gems Emporium will be held in October 2004. Those wishing to participate in it may contact the Myanmar Gems Enterprise from 1 August to 30 September 2004 to have their gems tested and the floor prices fixed. The MGE has been making arrangement in cooperation with respective enterprises and departments for sales and export of gems of entrepreneurs in accordance with GTC Systems in the interests of the State and gems entrepreneurs.—MNA

Dinner hosted to Canadian volleyball team

YANGON, 15 Aug —The Canadian volleyball team named Athletes in Action which had played a goodwill match with Myanmar Volleyball Federation selected team was hosted to a dinner at Karaweik palace here Sunday evening. Present on the occasion were Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, Yangon City Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, officials and guests. —NLM



Myanmar Volleyball Federation President U Tun Myint Naing presents a souvenir to Mr Dave Johns, leader of AIA team at the dinner. —NLM

Don't smoke



Mya Yeik Nyo Royal Golf driving range upgraded

YANGON, 15 Aug — After making undertaking tasks for a long time, the Mya Yeik Nyo Royal driving range was opened this morning. All-round upgrading works were carried out inclusive of toilets, bathrooms and changing of decorations. It is now kept open from 2 pm to 9 pm daily. —MNA



Fighting set to resume in Iraq's Najaf, talks fail

NAJAF, 14 Aug— US and Iraqi forces were poised to resume fighting rebel Shi'ite militia in the holy city of Najaf after peace talks aimed at ending an uprising that has killed hundreds collapsed Saturday.

Iraq's national security adviser Mowaffaq al-Rubaie told a news conference in Najaf that the embattled US-backed interim government had given up trying to reach a deal with radical cleric Moqtada al-Sadr and his Mahdi Army in the southern city.

"It is with deep sorrow and regret that I announce the failure of efforts to end

the crisis in Iraq peacefully. Our goal was to spare more blood, preserve security and for the militias to lay down their arms," Rubaie said.

"The Iraqi interim government is resuming military clearing operations to ... establish law and order in this holy city."

Saturday night, residents said the city was tense, although fresh hostilities had

yet to resume.

An uneasy truce has held in Najaf since Friday, when US troops and tanks loosened their noose around the Imam Ali Mosque and an ancient cemetery where Sadr and his followers have holed up. The firebrand cleric has vowed to fight to the death.

Najaf's 10-day conflict has ignited fighting in seven other cities and mass street

protests that threaten to undermine the authority of Prime Minister Iyad Allawi barely seven weeks since he took power from US-led occupiers.

Thousands of protesters from other parts of southern Iraq have streamed to Najaf and joined Sadr in the Imam Ali Mosque, the holiest Shi'ite Islamic site in Iraq.

The peace talks failed on the eve of a national conference aimed at advancing Iraq's stuttering progress toward democracy.

A Sadr aide blamed Allawi for the collapse.

Internet



A US Army armoured vehicle burns after it was hit by a rocket propelled grenade in the northeast Baghdad neighbourhood of Baladiyat on 10 Aug, 2004. —INTERNET

Jordan opposition urges Muslim leaders to oppose US-led forces in Iraq

AMMAN, 14 Aug — Jordan's Islamic opposition issued a religious edict demanding that Muslim leaders oppose the US-led military presence in neighbouring Iraq.

"Sharia (Islamic law) insists that freeing Muslim land from enemy occupation is a duty for all Muslim leaders and their peoples," the Islamic Action Front said in a statement.

"All those who take part in the occupation or offer any support to it commit the greatest of sins and betray God, His Prophet, the land of Islam and its holy places," the statement said.

"It is a crime to assist the Crusader forces who have occupied Iraq and encouraged

corruption, immorality, crimes and torture, and violated Islamic holy sites.

"It is totally forbidden to provide food or any other assistance to the occupation forces in Iraq," the statement said.

Islamic leaders should instead provide "moral and logistical support to the resistance."

The IAF, political wing of the Muslim Brotherhood, holds 17 of the 110 seats in parliament, and is Jordan's main opposition group. — *Internet*

Russia calls for new approaches on settling Iraq crisis

Moscow, 14 Aug — A senior Russian diplomat said Friday that other approaches on solving Iraq crisis are needed.

"The deteriorating situation in Iraq clearly demonstrates that the world community should have probably relied on other approaches to dealing with that country," Deputy Foreign Minister Yuriy Fedotov was quoted by *Interfax* news agency as saying.

"Before the UN Security Council passed Resolution 1546, Russia was calling for a stable model of a transitional period in Iraq relying on a broad national dialogue," he said.

Such dialogue "would trigger a national reconciliation process and involve all influential political groups, in particular opposition groups, in resolving the situation in the country," the diplomat said.

"Regrettably, another decision was made. What we face now are side effects of a process that could have been more positive," he said.

Fedotov also reiterated Russia's proposal to convene an international confer-

ence on Iraq.

"This proposal may be resurrected now that the situation in Iraq is deteriorating," he said. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Air travellers face chaos at Britain's major airports

LONDON, 14 Aug — Air passengers are facing possible travel chaos at London's Heathrow and Gatwick airports as British Airways' check-in staff voted Friday to strike in a row over pay.

The GMB union said 53 per cent of its about 3,000 members at the airline backed industrial action. Turnout was 48 per cent.

It said they had no wish to disrupt the plans of holiday-makers and other travellers at the height of the tourist season but talks had dragged on for months.

Two other unions, the Transport and General Workers' Union (TGWU) and Amicus, are also involved in the pay row.

MNA/Xinhua

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US planes raid Fallujah, several dead

FALLUJAH (Iraq), 14 Aug — US planes bombed several targets in the Sunni Muslim city of Fallujah on Friday for the second day, killing four Iraqis, including two children, witnesses and hospital officials said.

Another four people, including one child, were wounded, said Fallujah Hospital director Rafeh Iyad.

The US military said it had no information on the attacks on the city west of Baghdad. The region has been a centre of anti-US resistance.

Several people were also killed and injured in US raids on the city on Thursday.

The raids occurred as a Shiite Muslim revolt gripped several cities across central and southern Iraq. Fallujah residents have expressed solidarity with the anti-US militia engaged in the uprising.

MNA/Reuters

Iraq shuts down main oil pipeline in south

BAGHDAD, 14 Aug — Iraq has shut down its main oil export pipeline in the south, after intelligence indicating that Shiite militiamen might attack infrastructure, an Iraqi oil official said Saturday.

"The situation in Basra is bad. Management ordered the pipeline shut late yesterday (Friday)," said an oil official of Iraq's Southern Oil Company, who declined to give his name.

He added that "very few people showed up to work again today. The feeling is it is not wise to challenge Sadr's followers," referring to the "uprising" in central and southern Iraq by Mehdi Army militia led by anti-US cleric Moqtada al-Sadr.

A spokesman of the Southern Oil Company confirmed that "the production has been stopped since the start of the crisis and now we have stopped pumping too through

the pipeline."

On Monday, the company halted production following threats by Sadr supporters to blow up the vital oil infrastructure in the south if the US troops did not stop their strike on Sadr's militia in Najaf.

The flows of oil from the offshore terminals were running through another smaller pipelines at a rate of one million barrels per day, said the company's official.

The crude exports from Basra's two main offshore terminals were slashed in half, costing the government at least 30 million dollars a day in lost revenue.

Internet



Soldiers of the US Army stop a pick-up truck with family members trying to get a critically wounded man to the hospital from a neighbourhood outside of Sadr City, Iraq, after clashes with other soldiers just down the street on 14 Aug, 2004. — INTERNET

Iraq war veteran driven to suicide

LONDON, 14 Aug — The wife of a Territorial Army veteran who killed himself in his garage has told of how her lively, fit husband returned from the war in Iraq as a "broken man," the *British Times* newspaper reported Friday.

"Iraq changed him. He was a broken man," Peter Mahoney's wife, a nurse, told the paper. Mrs Mahoney contrasted a photograph taken before his service abroad, in which he looks alert, with a second photograph taken this year, showing him head down, drawn and pale, the paper said.

The paper also said that after his return, Mahoney made no secret of his disillusionment and said that he believed talk of weap-

ons of mass destruction, the major justification used by the United States and Britain for the Iraq war, was a "political smokescreen".

Mahoney, 45, father of four, was plucked from civilian life to spend six months at the heart of the US-led war against Iraq. He was assigned to the Royal Logistic Corps and saw life on the battlefield at first hand, helping the injured and delivering medical supplies to frontline troops.

Upon returning home in July last year, the paper said, Mahoney appeared to his family and close friends to be a changed man, clearly disturbed by what he saw in the desert and questioning the government's motives.

MNA/Xinhua

Swiss firm denies wrongdoing in UN-Iraq oil plan

UNITED NATIONS, 14 Aug—A Swiss company, whose role in the UN oil-for-food programme in Iraq has come under scrutiny as part of a corruption inquiry, on Thursday denied any wrongdoing and said it was cooperating with investigators.

Geneva-based Cotecna Inspection SA, which in December 1998 was awarded the UN contract to monitor Iraqi imports under the programme, said in a statement that its work was done "in full compliance with the contract requirements, with its own strict code of ethical conduct and according to the best practices in the industry".

The oil-for-food programme, which began in late 1996 and was shut down last year, allowed Iraq to sell oil and buy civilian goods to ease the impact of 1991 Gulf War UN sanctions on ordinary Iraqis.

Paul Volcker, a former US Federal Reserve chairman, is heading the UN investigation into the pro-

gramme after documents surfaced following the fall of Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein that appeared to show bribery and kickbacks.

Cotecna, which was previously in the spotlight over accusations of conflicts-of-interest because it had at one point employed the son of UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, said it was cooper-

ating fully with the UN investigation and with separate inquiries being conducted by the US Congress.

Cotecna said Kojo Annan, the son of the UN leader, had ended his full-time employment with the company in December 1997, a year before Cotecna won the UN contract. His father began his first term as secretary-general in January 1997.

Kojo Annan continued to work as a consultant for Cotecna until the end of 1998, but was involved in activities only in Nigeria and Ghana, Cotecna said.

The privately owned company said it had been awaiting legal waivers from the United Nations in order to comply with congressional requests for information.

A subpoena issued on August 4 by the US House Committee on Government Reform gives Cotecna the opportunity to "transmit full and detailed information that will allow it to set the record straight," it said in its statement. — MNA/Reuters



A Mahdi army soldier receives aid donated by Fallujah residents in the holy city of Najaf, on 14 Aug. 2004. Truce talks aimed at ending more than a week of violence between Shiite militants and US and Iraqi forces in the holy city of Najaf broke down Saturday, Iraqi National Security Adviser Mouwaffaq al-Rubaie said. — INTERNET

US to pull 70,000 troops from Europe, Asia

WASHINGTON, 15 Aug—The United States plans to withdraw about 70,000 US troops from Europe and Asia in a major restructuring of military forces prompted by the end of the Cold War and the beginning of the war on terrorism, US officials said on Saturday.

President George W Bush will unveil the realignment in a speech on Monday to the Veterans of Foreign Wars in Cincinnati, Ohio, said the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

"The President is going to make an announcement about a major initiative to reduce the burden on our forces overseas," said one of the US officials.

The officials confirmed a report in the *Financial Times* of a total reduction of about 70,000 troops in US deployments overseas. The British newspaper, citing people briefed on the plan, said two-thirds of the reductions would be made in Europe, mostly in Germany.

There are more than 100,000 US troops in Europe, including about 70,000 in Germany, and another 100,000 in the Pacific Region and Asia. About 150,000 troops are stationed in Iraq and Afghanistan.

A senior Administration official travelling with Bush in Portland, Oregon, said the President "will be discussing next week how the United States will structure its military capabilities to meet the threats of the 21st Century with new technologies and new capabilities."

"It's important not that our military posture reflect the Cold War but the new

threats of the 21st Century," said the senior official.

Like the official travelling with Bush, officials in Washington refused to provide details, beyond saying there would be a major realignment. One official said there would be a "fairly significant reduction" in forces.

"This is not a diminished commitment to our allies or to our responsibilities in the world," said another official.

The US military announced earlier this year that it was removing about

12,500 of the 37,000 troops stationed in South Korea for decades and sending many of them to Iraq or Afghanistan. One US official said, however, some of those troops could be returned to South Korea.

"Germany is definitely a place where there will be a major re-arrangement," said an official.

Pentagon officials have been studying US commitments overseas for more than two years in an initiative to rearrange the ponderous global deployments of US

forces adopted in the Cold War and make the American military more mobile in the new war on terrorism.

MNA/Reuters

Himachal Pradesh remain on high alert as rivers level rise

RAMPUR, 15 Aug — With the level of Pareechu River from Tibet rising by about two feet, the areas along the banks of Sutlej and Spiti rivers in northern Indian state Himachal Pradesh remained on high alert, with the administration closely monitoring the situation.

Air Force helicopters made aerial survey of the areas and Army remained on standby mode to evacuate people and assist administration in case of flash floods.

Minister of Food and Civil Supplies Singh Ram said he spoke to External Affairs Minister Natwar Singh who assured that the central government was in constant touch with the Chinese authorities to know the exact nature of the overflow from the lake in Tibet caused by landslides. The lake was reported to be overflowing and was likely to burst and trigger flash floods in the state.

Ram said the reason for the rise in the level of the river at the Indo-Tibetan border was yet to be ascertained.

"There are six nullahs feeding the river and we are yet to see if the rise in water level is because of the discharge from these



At least 13 Iraqis killed, 84 wounded in Samarra clash

BAGHDAD, 15 Aug — Heavy overnight clashes broke out between US troops and guerillas in Samarra, north of Baghdad, killing at least 13 Iraqis and injuring 84 others, police and medical sources said Saturday.

Samarra's general hospital said it had received 13 bodies including three women and two children and 84 injured. Many of the wounded were also women and children.

Police headquarters at the entrance of the city was badly damaged in the fighting. Three of the policemen were also killed, the city police said.

Samarra, some 110 kilometres north of the capital, was a Sunni Muslim insurgency hotbed of insurgency since the beginning of US-led war on Iraq in March last year.

MNA/Xinhua

Syrian truck driver kidnapped in northern Iraq

KIRKUK, 14 Aug—A Syrian truck driver has been kidnapped in northern Iraq, according to a police official.

"The Syrian truck driver Hassan Awad Mohammed was kidnapped this morning," Kirkuk police chief Major General Turhan Yussif said.

He said the driver was abducted by masked gunmen in two cars near the town of Al-Buwait, 75 kilometres northwest of Kirkuk.

"Eyewitnesses said Mohammed, 35, was abducted by more than seven masked gunmen. He started shouting and saying that he was a Syrian when the abductors forcefully dragged him out of his truck," the police chief said.

The driver was later pushed into a car and taken to an unknown destination, he added.

"We found his identity card under the driver's seat of the truck," Major Yussif said. Mohammed's truck was loaded with iron pipes, he added. — Internet

Philippines to train soldiers as journalists

MANILA, 14 Aug— The Philippine military said on Friday it would give 30 soldiers a crash course on news reporting to strengthen the government's campaign against terrorism.

Major Gamal Hayudini of the military's civil relations service in southern Mindanao Island, said the deployment of the troops in local radio and television stations was aimed at strengthening the government's information programme to combat terrorism. The 10-day journalism course will begin on Monday. The military will pay for the soldiers' salaries and allowances after they join media outlets, mostly in Mindanao where the government has been fighting Muslim rebels for 30 years.

"They will do what regular reporters do, including getting instructions from local station managers," said Hayudini. "They will do actual radio and television reporting and will do coverage regularly like the mainstream media."

He said the military had assured media companies that the soldiers would not spy on journalists. Hayudini said the programme was aimed at improving the military's information dissemination and countering disinformation fed into the mainstream media that may affect anti-terrorism campaign. — MNA/Reuters

nullahs or from the lake in Tibet", he said. "We are yet to get the satellite images and anything concrete can be said only when a clearer picture emerges", Ram said.

MNA/PTI



Iraqi family are viewed through a shattered wall of their home, which was shelled during an overnight raid conducted by US and Iraqi forces over the eastern Baghdad Shi'ite suburb of al-Sadr city, on 14 August, 2004. — INTERNET

Kerry blames Iraq war for higher oil prices

LOS ANGELES, 14 Aug — US Democratic presidential nominee John Kerry blamed on Friday Bush Administration's Iraq war for contributing to the rise of oil prices which are hurting the US economy.

Kerry told supporters in Springfield, Oregon, that higher oil prices hurt the US economy by sapping consumer's spending powers, eating into companies' profits and weakening consumer confidence.

"The world is unstable right now. The marketplace

is unstable," Kerry said. "That hurts your jobs. That hurts your wallets."

Kerry made the remarks after surging oil prices amid reports of worsening guerillas fighting in Iraq helped drive down US stock prices in recent days. Kerry's campaign has criticized Presi-

dent Bush for promising to bring down the cost of gasoline by pressuring Middle Eastern oil-producing nations.

"When we have gas prices going through the roof, the Americans I've met don't think we've turned the corner," Kerry said. "This is

bad news for their wallets and even worse news for our economy."

Kerry has promised to reduce the nation's use of foreign oil by replacing a portion of it with renewable fuels like gas produced from corn and soybeans. "We're going to declare America energy independent," Kerry said during another speech in Oregon.

The stops in Oregon marked the end of Kerry's two-week coast-to-coast campaign tour that focuses on economy and jobs. President Bush also plans to campaign in Oregon on Friday.

MNA/Xinhua

ASEM-5 to discuss int'l issues, membership enlargement

HANOI, 15 Aug — The fifth Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM-5) to be held here in early October is expected to focus on issues of mutual concern among the international community, and a plan to admit 13 more members.

Major topics to be discussed at the summit meeting will cover the fight against terrorism, multi-national cooperation, the United Nations' role, non-traditional security including disease quarantine, and measures to strengthen Asia-Europe partnership through concrete programmes and cooperation plans, *Vietnam News Agency* on Friday quoted deputy head of the ASEM-5 Secretariat Nguyen Hong Cuong as saying.

The ASEM-5 is expected to adopt three important

documents, namely, a joint statement on economic partnership, a joint statement on cultural and civilization dialogue, and a statement of the meeting's president.

Cuong also unveiled a plan to consider accepting 13 more members, including Laos, Cambodia, Myanmar, and the 10 new members of the European Union (EU), namely, Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Slovenia, Malta and Cyprus.

ASEM has recorded a

number of achievements since its establishment in 1996, but challenges still lay ahead with the biggest one being how to turn dialogue and cooperation projects among member countries into practical and efficient operation, he stated.

Vietnam and other ASEM members expect the summit will make greater contribution to the development of partnership between Asia and Europe, and the promotion of cooperation between the two continents in politics, economy and culture, especially in economy.

The ASEM-5 will take place on October 7-9 as scheduled, since almost all member countries have confirmed their participation, Cuong noted.

MNA/Xinhua

Sadr calls on Iraqi govt to quit, vows to fight on

NAJAF (Iraq), 14 Aug — Radical cleric Moqtada al-Sadr on Friday urged Iraq's "dictatorial" interim government to resign and said his militia would fight US forces in the holy city of Najaf until death or victory, his spokesman said.

The spokesman quoted Sadr as telling supporters at Imam Ali Mosque: "I advise the dictatorial, agent government to resign... the whole Iraqi people demands the resignation of the government... they replaced Saddam with a government worse than him."

"I will not leave this holy city," the spokesman quoted Sadr as telling supporters who chanted "no, no to America". "We will remain here defending the holy shrines till victory or martyrdom."

Sadr's Mahdi Army militia have been battling US and Iraqi Government troops in Najaf for more than a week.

He warned supporters that a truce in the city might be a ploy to trick his men into laying down their weapons. Sadr urged supporters in other cities in central and southern Iraq to continue their uprising, saying the truce was restricted to Najaf. — MNA/Reuters



A US Marine stands guard at the Al-Basrah Oil Terminal in Iraq. Tearaway world oil prices, topping records and straining wallets, present a new economic menace barely three months before the US presidential elections, analysts say. —INTERNET

Poland says 20 soldiers surrounded by Iraqi militants

WARSAW, 14 Aug — A group of 20 Polish soldiers have been surrounded by several hundred militants loyal to Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr at a police station in Hilla, southern Iraq, a Polish military spokesman said on Friday.

"Our soldiers were helping the Iraqi police, when their post was surrounded. Negotiations with the militant forces are under way, but there is no shooting going on," Polish General Staff spokesman Colonel Zdzislaw Gnatowski said.

Gnatowski confirmed a report from Polish news agency PAP that US helicopters were circling overhead.

"If they don't reach an agreement, it may be necessary to use force," he said, but added that it appeared tensions were easing as negotiations progressed.

Poland commands a multinational force of 8,000 troops in south-central Iraq, including 2,500 Polish troops.

MNA/Reuters



Civilians walk among the debris left after US warplanes bombed the largely Sunni city of Samarra, about 60 miles north of Baghdad, after a series of clashes, on 14 Aug, 2004. — INTERNET

US allows diplomats to return to Saudi Arabia

WASHINGTON, 14 Aug — Non-essential US diplomats ordered out of Saudi Arabia earlier this year because of security concerns can now return but the country remains too dangerous to allow family members to accompany them, the US State Department said on Thursday.

The United States ordered non-emergency employees and dependents to leave Saudi Arabia on 15 April and warned all Americans they should leave, citing new signals that attacks were planned on US and

Western interests. The State Department's departure order came as the kingdom battled a wave of violence believed to be linked to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaeda network.

That order was rescinded on Thursday, but families of all diplomats at the US Embassy in Riyadh and consulates in Jeddah and Dhahran will not be permitted to return until further notice, the State Department said.

"Our mission in Saudi Arabia has gone off Ordered Departure status and is now an unaccompanied post as a result of continued security concerns," the department said in a new travel warning. The State Department also reiterated a warning for US citizens to defer travel to Saudi Arabia and urged Americans already there to leave. The department cited targeted attacks against American citizens and "the continuing serious threat to their safety" while in Saudi Arabia. —MNA/Reuters

UN launches urgent food appeal for Bangladesh

DHAKA, 14 Aug — The United Nations launched an urgent global appeal on Thursday for 210 million US dollars of emergency aid to feed millions of poor in impoverished Bangladesh, which has been ravaged by the worst floods in 15 years.

"The UN launches this flash appeal to help the very poor survive the next six months in post-flood Bangladesh," Jorgen Lissner, UN resident coordinator in Bangladesh, said at a function in Dhaka to launch the appeal.

The UN said millions of people in Bangladesh were facing severe food shortages as their food stocks were exhausted and many had sold their assets to survive after floods devastated thousands of villages, submerged crops and washed away homes.

Lissner said also funds were urgently needed for health care and sanitation programmes.

"The objective of this appeal is to solicit contributions for the immediate relief and early recovery needs of the people of Bangladesh most adversely affected by the devastating floods".

About 800 people have died in low-lying Bangladesh in five weeks of flooding and, at one point, some ten mil-

lion were made homeless. Surging river waters swept through two-thirds of the riverine nation and damage to infrastructure, houses and crops was estimated at 7 billion US dollars.

Dhaka initially said it would try to tackle its flood needs without outside aid, but later sought international help as the extent of the devastation became more evident.

"The UN flash appeal shows that Bangladesh is not alone in terms of crisis and disasters," Bangladesh Food and Disaster Management Minister Kamal Ibne Yusuf said.

Though flood waters have receded, diseases such as diarrhoea were spreading due to lack of drinking water and sanitation.

Last week, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the International Red Cross also launched global appeals for aid to help Bangladesh's flood victims. — MNA/Reuters



Smoke billows from a burning building in Najaf as US warplanes led an assault on Sadr's militia in the city on 12 August, 2004.



Iraqi civilians flee the fighting in the city of Najaf, on 12 August, 2004.



A shot up truck on the road to Baqouba as a man points at the bullet holes on the vehicle, 60 kms north of Baghdad, Iraq, recently.

Images of Iraq



An Iraqi woman cries as US troops raid the Iraqi city of Najaf, on 12 August, 2004.



A man tries to evacuate his injured brother from the al-Hakim hospital during clashes between al-Mahdi army with US and Iraqi forces in Najaf, Iraq, on 10 August, 2004.



Forest plantation in Kanthalay village in Magway Township, Magway Division. —FORESTRY

Endeavours for greening environments in arid zone of the nation



Forest plantation designed to produce firewood in Minpayagan village in Thazi Township, Mandalay Division.

FORESTRY



Wetchokekon lake in Wetchokekon village in Kyaukpadaung Township, Mandalay Division supplies potable water to rural people and contributes towards greening of environs. —FORESTRY



Hseikkawa dam built at the foot of Tantkyi Hill in Pakokku Township contributes to greening of environment. —FORESTRY

Agriculture being boosted on account of ...

(from page 1)

After inspecting the construction works at the pagoda, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party proceeded to Shweintaung Pagoda, where they paid homage to the pagoda and oversaw the renovation tasks.

At the hall of Taungdwingyi Township PDC, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt met local authorities, departmental officials, members of social organizations and townsenders. At the meeting, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt heard reports on location and area of the township, population, climatic conditions, land resources, cultivation of monsoon and summer paddy, food sufficiency, greening tasks and education and health activities.

On the occasion, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presented TVs, VCPs and computers to BEHS Nos 1 and 2 in the township through the school heads concerned.

Departmental officials also reported on education, health, agriculture, livestock breeding, forestry and development affairs. After hearing the reports, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt delivered an address.

In his speech, he said the development momentum of the township is gaining speed as a result of frequent visits



Shwehtidaw hoisting ceremony in progress at Shweyaungdaw Pagoda in ancient Beikthanoe City, Taungdwingyi Township, on 14-8-2004. (News on page 16) — MNA



Ancient Aungmyinzeya Pagoda under all-round renovation in Taungdwingyi. — MNA

of the leadership of the State and assistance provided by them. Agriculture is booming in the township. Therefore, the township enjoy a considerable growth of economy.

To realize agricultural development in Magway Division, the State is constructing a great number of irrigation facilities, six of which are now supplying irrigation water to ensure extended cultivation of double as well as mixed cropping.

Agriculture is being boosted on account of adequate supply of irrigation water. And the growth in economy of the township is also accounted for the assistance provided by the Government.

He said departmental officials and farmers in Taungdwingyi Township are to make concerted efforts for development of regional agricultural services after making good use of better opportunities and results created by the government. He urged them to speed up successful cultivation of oil crops in the region while endeavouring systematically for regional rice sufficiency in accord with the objectives set.

He said the government has laid down the objective to make Magway Division become the edible oil bowl of the State and it has been providing assistance in order to fulfill 50 per cent of domestic edible oil consumption by Magway Division. Local sufficiency of edible oil can reduce import of edible oil. He said machinery that can contribute towards the emergence of an industrialized nation, materials and locomotives that can help develop transport sector can also be imported by the use of surplus of foreign exchange.

He urged the farmers in Magway Division to make strenuous efforts for boosting production and extended cultivation of oil crops that help develop the nation.

He said neighbouring countries and some in the region export agricultural products, fruit and vegetables and their economy is in success. Myanmar being an agro-based country, endeavours are to be made for strong economy of the State while growing new marketable export crops to earn more foreign exchange.



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects all-round renovation works at Shweindaung Pagoda in Taungdwingyi. — MNA

He said township level officials should not be contented with only services such as distribution of quality strains of crops, artificial insemination and prevention and treatment of animal diseases. He spoke of the need to give encouragement to the breeders by distributing quality pedigrees and techniques and showing the way to develop private livestock breeding on commercial scale after establishing a model farm in a township.

The Prime Minister also spoke of the need to cooperate with local authorities, departmental officials and the people for economic development in rural regions, to lay down plans phase by phase for ensuring better transport important to rural region development.

Township level officials should not be contented with only services such as distribution of quality strains of crops, artificial insemination and prevention and treatment of animal diseases. Encouragement should be given to the breeders by distributing quality pedigrees and techniques and showing the way to develop private livestock breeding on commercial scale after establishing a model farm in a township.

He said tasks are being carried out to have at least a well or a pond in every village for clean drinking water in development affairs sector. The government is fulfilling the requirements on education and health sectors for regional development, he added.

He said departmental officials are to make harmonious efforts for uplift of education and health standards,

economy and transport of rural regions in cooperation with social organizations and the people. By doing so, townships and villages will develop, he said.

Attending to the needs of the people for their interests causes public confidence and cooperation. He urged the officials to carry out the tasks in cooperation with social organizations and departments concerned for development of the villages and townships, while serving the interest of the people.

After the ceremony, the Prime Minister cordially greeted those present. The Prime Minister and party left Magway and arrived back here in the evening.

MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt conveys the Seinbudaw round the Shweyaungdaw Pagoda.—MNA

Prime Minister hoists Shwehtidaw ...

(from page 16)

In the Htidaw hoisting ceremony, the Prime Minister, party and wellwishers conveyed the Seinbudaw, Hngatmyatnada and tiers of the Htidaw round the pagoda and then, the Prime Minister and party carried them to the pandal of Decorated Carriage.

The disciples hoisted tiers of the Htidaw and Hngatmyatnada atop the pagoda. At the auspicious time, the Prime Minister hoisted the Seinbudaw atop the pagoda. Next, he sprinkled scented water on them. Afterwards, members of the Sangha consecrated the Pagoda. Next, the Prime Minister and party proceeded to the construction site of Archaeological Museum Project in ancient Beikthanoe City.

Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung reported to the Prime Minister on the location of the museum, architectural design, arrangements for display of artefacts, construction of the road, power supply and greening tasks. The Prime Minister gave necessary instructions. Afterwards, the Prime Minister viewed silver coins of Pyu period, beads, earth pots bearing and other artefacts unearthed at ancient Beikthanoe City.— MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presents the Seinbudaw of the Shweyaungdaw Pagoda to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Viccitanana.—MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party take Nine Precepts from Shweyaungdaw Pagoda Monastery Patron Sayadaw Bhaddanta Viccitanana.—MNA

New library, school building opened

YANGON, 14 Aug — The new Shwekywapon library was opened in Kywapon Village, Sagaing Township, on 10 August. The one-storey facility is 20 feet long and 15 feet wide. It was built at a cost of over K 1 million. A new building of the post-primary school in Kywapon Village was also opened. The one-storey building is 108 feet long, 26 feet wide and 11.5 feet high. It was built at a cost of K 3.4 million. — MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects decoration works at Myanmar Convention Centre. (News on page 16) —MNA

Paddy transplanting contest held in Kyaukse

YANGON, 14 Aug—A district level paddy transplanting contest (2004-2005) was held in conjunction with an agricultural demonstration on 11 August at the field No 1425 (A) in Kanchaw Village-tract, TadaU Township, Kyaukse District.

Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint delivered a speech. Next, Manager of Division Myanmar Agriculture Service U Aung Kyin explained the rules and marking system of the contest. The commander and those present watched the contest. The commander looked into the demonstration and inspected farm implements and machinery and agricultural methods booths organized by the Agricultural Mechanization Department. The commander gave necessary instructions and attended to the needs. Afterwards, Police Col Aung Htut of Myanmar Police Force (Mandalay Division) and officials presented second and third prizes to the winning transplanting teams. The commander presented the first prize to TadaU Township team. Seven transplanting teams from four townships of Kyaukse District took part in the contest. — MNA

Radio Free Asia — an objective observation

Bala Min Htin

"Radio Free Asia" (RFA) may be construed as an independent radio station, news broadcaster or voice in the Asia region. Far from it, for, from the linguistics point of view, including morphology and other related sciences, the word "free" also has other meanings "uncontrolled" or "unbridled". For example, in the verse "I don't like him. He is too free in his behaviour and language" the word "free" means "uncontrolled manner".

It may also be taken to mean "I don't like him. His words and actions are unbridled. He goes off the rock".

RFA, in fact, is not a free radio in Asia. It has been observed to be unfree, dancing to the tune of a group of persons controlling it from behind the scene. For long, it has been a place for minions producing much foul air, and living and working under orders and in pay of their masters. Willingly or not, the minions of RFA have to broadcast nothing but nonsense, underpaid, provided grudgingly by the superpower (hegemonist) which enjoys a clear advantage over others in the field of IT and is dominating the media world. The country has been dealing others with domineeringly, with much discrimination and the attitude that it is beyond compare. Those in the dole of that power work willingly or unwillingly to justify their having been employed as hirelings, their voice coming out from the hole that excretes the remains of food. Just this much will convey an objective assessment of RFA. Patriotic persons and those imbued with the spirit of safeguarding the race and religion will understand better.

In Myanmar language, there are sayings, which go, "Hate finds faults, while love brings benefits": "Thief shouting 'Stop thief!': 'Helping the enemy like handing the sword to the thief': 'Staying idle and criticizing others': 'Burning the granary to spite the rat': 'Setting up citizens against each other'. These reflect the great conspiracies of the traitors, betraying the national patriotic forces in all sectors, and aiding and abetting the alien forces. Trying to interfere in Myanmar's affairs by using the traitors as their stooges, acting hand in glove to undermine and destroy the race and religion, these traitors and those in whose employ they have to subsist are known to have schemed and worked for destruction of this nation throughout history, in great conspiracy with their ilk.

An instance may be drawn from the Burma

RFA, in fact, is not a free radio in Asia. It has been observed to be unfree, dancing to the tune of a group of persons controlling it from behind the scene.

Communist Party which put up a last-ditch fight at Mongyang, like the last flicker of a candle about to sputter out, or the antics in 1988 of a power-crazy old politician with a rosary dangling from his neck but still had an intense desire to grab power, and the real lives of persons shining without any political quality, yet taking the shine from others. These are but a few snippets from history. It has been over half a century since the Union of Myanmar, together with the farsighted leaders of other nations, had prescribed and practised the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence. Enshrined in these principles is the policy of non-interference or in other words a policy that caters for global peace and development. All the Five Principles are interactive for peace, prosperity of mankind, helping to lead the world towards flourishing of the Four Cardinal Virtues and the Deterrent Principles of Shame and Fear which guard the world from falling into chaos. Generally, the current global trend is towards peace, progress and prosperity.

We subscribe to what Westerners say: "Sticks and stones don't hurt my bones, words do not hurt me either." The slanders of RFA which are a skyful of lies are not effective. The continuous barking of a dog may disturb your sleep, but if you hit it with a stick, you would be like the person foolish enough to fight a dog. Therefore, we have remained silent. We go by the maxim "No matter how much others demean, preserve your dignity". We will continue to preserve our good political reputation with noble mind, no matter how dirty others may get. Although our nation is small, its political dignity is at the highest among the world nations. But what must be retorted

There is a strategy called the protracted war of psychological propagandizing and agitation based on the concept — wrong may be construed as right if it is repeatedly heard.

must be retorted. We are free from political prejudices and have trust only in objective conditions, write this rebuttle as I am tired of hearing the slanders, and I rebut as a colourless objectivist citizen.

There is a strategy called the protracted war of psychological propagandizing and agitation based on the concept — wrong may be construed as right if it is repeatedly heard. A foundation will become weak if it is levered again and again. This strategy has been used as an effective weapon not only at the current era of psychological warfare, but also during the Cold War. The strategy was used by the BCP during the unrest in 1967. And during the 1988 turmoil, anarchists tried to attack the then government, misusing the concept of democracy repeatedly to suit their purpose like the Devil quoting Gospel to suit its purpose. At present also, those who bode us ill are trying to maintain the momentum of their verbal attacks, while still using the old weapon, targeting the Tatmadaw Government which they unjustly dubbed "the Myanmar military junta".

Because of the unrest, the Tatmadaw Government took over all the duties of the State in accord with its bounden duty to save the nation. It assumed the duties of State not because it hankered for power, but because of the unavoidable circumstances, and as a pre-requisite for restoration of peace, development and the rule of law for the nation had dire need for this kind of action at the time. After assuming the duties, it has been making tireless efforts in the economic, political and social areas for the rule of law, internal peace and socio-economic development of the people. As it can discharge its duty amicably and skillfully and with goodwill in solving problems, appreciation for its success in restoring national consolidation has spread all over the world. The Tatmadaw Government was able to improve the economic growth rate which was under the zero mark then, and later it has been able to gradually raise the gross domestic product. No person or group can transform from the socialist system (centralized system) overnight to democracy, which permits people to steer towards their own destiny, without passing through an interim period. And even if they try to make the transition toward democracy without an interim period, their efforts will fail shortly.

Politics is the highest phenomenon of social science. It also has a profound, delicate and wide interpretation. Politics being human affairs, any consideration of either of the aphorisms 'the human abode is a mess of doings' and 'the life of every individual is filled with tens of billions of grief will convince how enormous the responsibility of the persons who take charge of all matters in a country. For critics, what they need is only their mouths. However, true to the sayings 'the interference is minor but not negligible' and 'he will throw sand over meat which he cannot eat', there is a group of people who are hatching a scheme that they would make a hole in the main drum if they were not allowed to play the role of actor. The external elements approached such a group to hold sway over them in the sphere of political influence, and invented scurrilous rumours about the Tatmadaw Government of Myanmar. They were so consumed by pessimism, that they failed to think realistically.

With their power-craze, superciliousness and self-opinionated manner and boasting that 'only when they are in office will this country be prosperous', they distanced themselves bit by bit from the reasoning public and the world of Myanmar politics, without being able to consider that craving, pride and selfishness are three causes capable of locking them up in hell. Myanmar is a country where Theravada Buddhism flourishes. The nature of religion and politics is different from each other because the former is the secular world and the latter, mundane existence. When it comes to the law of social development,

appropriate ideology and superstructure which are in consistence with infrastructure (economic base) come into being according to nature of dialectics. Accordingly, sound philosophies of religion have a reasonable effect on politics one way or another. To be explicit, it will be fatally wrong if the leadership of the Myanmar Tatmadaw who are in uniform is mistaken for militarists. Professing Buddhism, they are in fact polite people. They are discharging the duties of State for unavoidable reason. They are in fact pro-socio-development practitioners holding the white dove in their hands. The RFA as well as the BBC and the VOA are critics trying to reverse the current authentic condition of politics in Myanmar. This being the case, it is advised out of love that we, Myanmar Buddhists, should beware of them, judging them by the five ethical standards worth practising as enunciated below:

In the Anguttara Nikaya, the Piñcaka Nipata, the Aghata Vagga and the Codana Sutta, the Venerable Sariputta said, "My Friends, he who wants to put the blame on the other should do so only after he first lets these five self-imposed elements appear in him and then blames himself. The five elements are:

1. speak only when the time is right;
2. speak what is right;
3. speak politely;
4. speak when it profits the other; and
5. speak in earnest.

(Note: Codana implies stimulation, blaming the others, and criticism.)

There is no question of the leadership of our Tatmadaw Government showing understanding, patience and forgiveness towards national brethren. They do not, however, harbour any immoral thoughts in relations with foreign countries. The national people of Myanmar would have far less sentiments. These are the examples the Tatmadaw Government has set in a way to enhance amity and diminish enmity.

However, contrary to the divine nature of the five self-imposed elements, the RFA, the VOA and the BBC involved in concoction of lies are those who go by the saying "Politics is the refuge of scoundrels". They have no dignity and scruple whatsoever, not even as small as the tiniest drop of mist.

The reason is that they always speak demeaningly of the nation-building endeavours made by the Myanmar Tatmadaw Government. They turn a blind eye to reality. As the saying goes "As you sow, so shall you reap", they must no doubt pay the price for their gross misconduct which will boomerang on them some day. This article is written with deep sympathy for the puppets who crave for dollars and play whatever tune called by those in whose pay they are.

(Myanmar Alin + Kyemon: 15-8-2004)

(Translation: TMT+KTY)



UMFCCI Executive Daw Kalya Pyi Wai Shan seen before departure for Singapore. — UMFCCI

Official leaves for Singapore

YANGON, 15 Aug —Executive of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce & Industry Daw Kalya Pyi Wai Shan left here by air this afternoon to attend the Singapore-UNDP TCDC: Productivity Improvement in the Public Sector from 16 to 20 August 2004. She was seen off at Yangon International Airport by UMFCCI General Secretary U Sein Win Hlaing and officials. — MNA

Tatmadaw families donate cash and kind to monasteries, nunneries

YANGON, 15 Aug—A ceremony to present provisions and make cash donations for the trust funds to 12 Pariyatti Sarthintaiks and 3 nunneries in Mingaladon Township, Yangon North District, Yangon Division by families of Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) and well-wishers was held at Dhamma Theikdi Kyaung of Tawtaik Dhamma Yeiktha Sarthintaik in Tawtaik Ward, Mingaladon Township this afternoon, attended by Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

Also present on the occasion were members of the Sangha and nuns of Sarthintaiks in the township led by State Ovadacariya Presiding Sayadaw of Tawtaik Dhamma Yeiktha Sarthintaik Maha Kammathana Cariya Agga Maha Kammathana Cariya Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Dhaja Bhaddanta Dhammasara, Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, Vice-Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, heads of department, Chairman of Yangon North District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Myat Min, the Chairman of Township Peace and Development Council and members, departmental officials, social organizations and religious associations and well-wishers.

The ceremony was opened with the three-time recitation of Namo Tassa.

The congregation led by Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and party received the Eight Precepts from Presiding Sayadaw of Tawtaik Dhamma Yeiktha Sarthintaik Bhaddanta Dhammasara.

Next, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and party Department presented offertories to Bhaddanta Dhammasara.

Afterwards, Minister Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, Minister Maj-Gen Sein Htwa, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa and senior military officers presented offertories to members of the Sangha.

Vice-Adjutant-General Brig-Gen Hla Shwe, Chief of Staff (Navy) Captain Nyan Tun and Colonel General Staff (Air) Lt-Col NayWin presented provisions donated by families of Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) and well-wishers to members of the Sangha and nuns.

Next, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko and Director-General Dr Myo Myint of Religious Affairs Department presented provisions donated by the Ministry of Religious Affairs; Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa, provisions donated by the YCDC; Assistant Director U Thet Tun of Yangon Division General Administration Department, provisions donated by Yangon Division Peace and Development Council; an official, edible oil and soaps donated by Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings Ltd; Factory Manager U Nay Win, iodized salt and toothpaste donated by Myanmar Salt and Chemicals Enterprise; and Deputy Director-General Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin of Traditional Medical Department, traditional medicines donated by YMD to Sayadaws and members of the Sangha.

Next, well-wishers presented provisions and traditional medicines to the Sayadaw.

Next, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein accepted cash donations which included K 150,000 by families of Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air); K300,000 by U Tin Win-Daw San San Win; K 200,000 by U Bo Gyi-Daw Than Than of Pylon Chantha Medical House; and K150,000 by U Thaug Win-Daw Htay Htay Nyunt of BTB Co.

Next, Minister Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, Minister Maj-Gen



Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein presents offertories to a Sayadaw at the ceremony to donate rice, edible oil, salt and funds to monasteries and nunneries in North Okkalapa Township by families of Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air Force). — MNA

Sein Htwa and Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko accepted the donations which included K 150,090 by (U Thein Maung)-Daw Pa Pa; K 108,000 by U Tin Aung-Daw Hla Hla Nwe; K 160,000 by Mingaladon Township Peace and Development Council; K 100,000 each by Yangon North District Peace and Development Council, U Than Naing-Daw Kyi Kyi Swe, U Aung Mon-Daw Hla Hla Maw, U Hla Htay-Daw Tin Nwe Oo and CHO Store of Mingaladon Market; K 80,000 by U Myo Aung-Daw Khin Yi Mon; K 50,000 each by U Hla Myint of Kaythipan Traditional Medicines, U Tun Shwe-Daw Thin Thin Swe of Tun Shwe Wa Medical House, U Khin Maung Tun of Htet Lin Medical House, U Tint Aung of Myanmar Rice Millers Association and U Than Maung of North Okkalapa Township; K 45,000 by Yangon Division Peace and Development Council; K 30,000 each by Daw Hla Hla of Lanmadaw Township and Thiha Thudhama Theingi Daw Mya Thein and families and K10,000 by U Than Maung-Daw Hla Hla. Colonel General Staff (Air) Lt-Col Nay Win supplicated on the purpose of the donations. Next, Sayadaw Bhaddanta Vinayagara delivered a sermon and the Secretary-2 and party shared merits gained.

Today's donations for the monasteries and nunneries in Mingaladon Township were 360 bags of rice, 138 viss of edible oil, 276 viss of gram, 1,380 viss of iodized salt, 276 tubes of tooth paste, 3,530 bottles of traditional medicines, 1,380 cakes of beauty soap and 1,380 cakes of soap and K 2,163,090 to the funds.

Similarly, Tatmadaw families donated rice, oil, salt, medicines, gram and cash to the funds of 16 monasteries and three nunneries in North Okkalapa Township this afternoon.

At Dhammamedini Sarthintaik of Zabuaey Monastery in the township, Secretary-2 Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein attended the donation ceremony. Also present on the occasion were members of the Sangha from monasteries in the township, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, deputy ministers, the vice-mayor, senior military officers, departmental heads, local authorities, wellwishers and guests.

Today's donations for the monasteries and nunneries in North Okkalapa Township were 504 bags of rice, 195.60 viss of oil, 391 viss of gram, 1,950 viss of iodized salt, 3,228 tubes of tooth paste, 3,288 bottles of traditional medicines, 1,950 cakes of soap and K 6,950,090.

First, North Okkalapa Township Sangha Nayaka Committee Chairman Gandayon Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kheminda administered the eight precepts.

Next, the Secretary-2, the commander, the minister and those present donated provisions to the Sayadaws.

Afterwards, Vice-Adjutant-General Brig-Gen Hla Shwe, Chief of Staff (Navy) Captain Nyan Tun and Colonel General Staff (Air) Lt-Col Nay Win offered 489 bags of rice, 195.60 viss of oil, 1,950 viss of iodized salt, 391 viss of gram and 390 tubes of tooth paste donated by Tatmadaw families to Sayadaws and nuns of monasteries and nunneries.

Similarly, wellwishers donated alms to the Sayadaws and nuns. The Secretary-2, the commander, the minister, the deputy ministers and senior military officers accepted cash and kind presented by wellwishers. Col Aye Thaw of the Ministry of Defence supplicated on the purpose of the donations. Next, Presiding Nayaka of Dhammayangyi Monastery Dwipitakadhara Dwipitaka Kovida Agga Maha Ganthavaçaka Pandita Member of the State Central Working Committee of the Sangha Sayadaw Bhaddanta Aggadhamma delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits. Today's donations for the monasteries and nunneries in North Okkalapa Township were 504 bags of rice, 195.60 viss of oil, 391 viss of gram, 1,950 viss of iodized salt, 3,228 tubes of tooth paste, 3,288 bottles of traditional medicine, 1,950 cakes of soap and K 6,950,090.— MNA



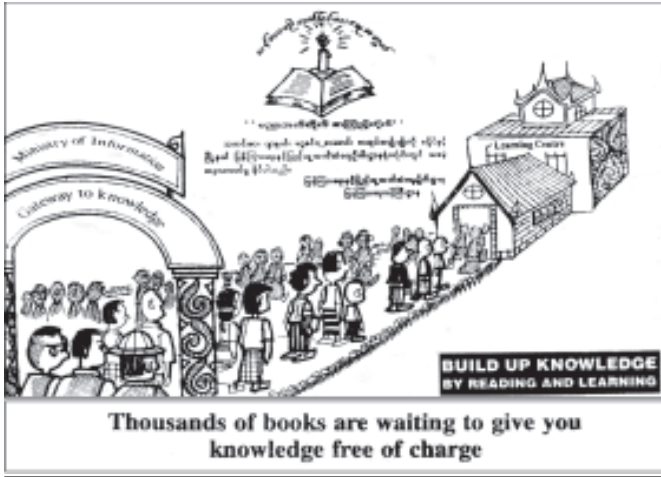
Myanmar and Belgian doctors performing operations. MNA

Myanmar, Belgian doctors jointly perform cardiac operations

YANGON, 15 Aug— Myanmar and Belgian doctors are jointly performing cardiac surgical operations on 13 patients at the No 1 Defence Services Hospital (1000-bed) here beginning this morning. They will continue surgical operations till 20 August.

Annually Belgian doctors led by cardiac specialist Dr Francis Wellens of OLVZ hospital of Belgium joined hands with Myanmar doctors in performing operations and this was the fifth time. It is aimed at promoting medical standard of both sides.

Such cooperation will continue in the future, it is learnt. — MNA



ADVERTISEMENTS

US rates on 30-year mortgages fall to 5.85%

WASHINGTON, 14 Aug— Rates on 30-year mortgages in the United States dropped this week to the lowest level in nearly four months, Freddie Mac reported Thursday.

In its weekly nationwide survey, Freddie Mac said that rates on 30-year, fixed-rate mortgages fell to 5.85 percent this week from 5.99 percent last week, registering the lowest level since early April.

Rates on 30-year mortgages hit a high this year of 6.34 percent in the week of May 13 and have slowly drifted downward since then. Freddie Mac's survey also found that rates on 15-year, fixed-rate mortgages, which is a popular option for refinancing, declined this week to 5.24 percent from 5.40 percent last week. Rates for one-year adjustable-rate mortgages stayed steady at 4.08 percent this week.

A year ago, rates on 30-year mortgages averaged 6.31 percent, with 15-year mortgages at 5.46 percent and one-year adjustable-rate mortgages at 3.80 percent.

This week's decrease of mortgage rates was resulted from the unexpectedly weak employment report released by the government last Friday, analysts believed. According to the report, the US economy created only 32,000 jobs in July, far below the 200,000 jobs analysts had been expecting.

MNA/Xinhua

ပြည်ထောင်စုမြန်မာနိုင်ငံတော် ဝန်ထမ်းချယ်လေ့ကျင့်ရေးအဖွဲ့ ကြော်ငြာစာအမှတ်၊ ၃၂/၂၀၀၄ (၂၀၀၄ ခုနှစ်၊ ဩဂုတ်လ ၁၀ ရက်) လျှောက်လွှာခေါ်ယူခြင်း

၁။ ဆက်သွယ်ရေး၊ စာတိုက်နှင့် ကြေးနန်းဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ မြန်မာ ဆက်သွယ်ရေးလုပ်ငန်းတွင် လစ်လပ်လျက်ရှိသော အောက်ဖော်ပြပါ ရာထူးများအတွက် လျှောက်လွှာများ အလိုရှိပါသည်။

ရာထူး ပညာအရည်အချင်း လစ်လပ် လက်ထောက်မန်နေဂျာ တက္ကသိုလ်တစ်ခုခုမှ ၄ နေရာ

၂။ လျှောက်ထားသူသည်— (က) ပြည်ထောင်စုမြန်မာနိုင်ငံသားဖြစ်ရမည်။

(ခ) ၆-၂၀-၂၀၀၄ နေ့တွင် အသက် ၃၅ နှစ် (ဝန်ထမ်းဖြစ်ပါက အသက် ၄၀ နှစ်) ထက် မကျော်လွန်သူဖြစ်ရမည်။

၃။ လျှောက်လွှာကို ဝန်ထမ်းချယ်လေ့ကျင့်ရေးအဖွဲ့ရုံးသို့ ၆-၂၀-၂၀၀၄ နေ့ အရောက်ပေးပို့ရမည်။

၄။ လျှောက်လွှာတွင် ဖော်ပြရမည့်အချက်များ၊ ပူးတွဲပါရှိရမည့် စာရွက် စာတမ်းများ၊ ဝင်ကြေးငွေ ၅၀/- ပေးသွင်းရမည်နှင့်လမ်း၊ ရေဖြေ၊ နှုတ်ဖြေ စစ်ဆေးမှုအတွက် လေ့လာရန်လိုအပ်ချက်များနှင့်စပ်လျဉ်း၍ ဤအဖွဲ့က ကြေညာချက်အမှတ်၊ ၁/၉၁ ဖြင့် ထုတ်ပြန်ထားသော ဝန်ထမ်းရွေးချယ်လေ့ကျင့်ရေးအဖွဲ့က ကြော်ငြာစာအမှတ်၊ ၃၂/၂၀၀၄ နေ့အရောက် လျှောက်လွှာ တင်သွင်းသူများအတွက် လမ်းညွှန်စာစောင်ပါ သတ်မှတ်ချက်များနှင့်အညီ လိုက်နာဆောင်ရွက်ရန် ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

၅။ ရန်ကုန်မြို့နှင့်မန္တလေးမြို့ များတွင်ချေကြေးစာစစ်စာနာကျေးဇူးတင်ပါ။ မိမိမြေဆိုလိုသော စာစစ်စာနာကျေးဇူးတင်ပါ။ လင်းတိုကျွန်းမော်ပြရမည်။

၆။ ဝန်ထမ်းများသည် မူရင်းလျှောက်လွှာတစ်စောင်ကို မိမိတာဝန်ထမ်းဆောင်သည့် ဌာနအကြီးအကဲမှတစ်ဆင့် ဝန်ကြီးဌာန၏ နှင့်ပြုချက်ရယူပြီး ဝန်ထမ်းရွေးချယ်လေ့ကျင့်ရေးအဖွဲ့ရုံးသို့ ၆-၂၀-၂၀၀၄ နေ့အရောက် ပေးပို့ရမည်။ လျှောက်လွှာတစ်စောင်ကို ခါးပုံနှင့်အတူ ဤအဖွဲ့ရုံးသို့ တိုက်ရိုက်ပေးပို့ရမည်။

၇။ ၃၀-၁၀-၂၀၀၄ နေ့နှင့် ၃၁-၁၀-၂၀၀၄နေ့များတွင် အရည်အချင်းစစ်ချေစာစစ်စာနာကျေးဇူးတင်ပါ။ ၂၈-၁၀-၂၀၀၄ နေ့မှစ၍ မန္တလေးတိုင်း အထွေထွေအုပ်ချုပ်ရေးဦးစီးဌာနရုံးနှင့် ဤအဖွဲ့ရုံးတို့တွင် ဖြေဆိုခွင့် ကတ်ပြားများ ထုတ်ပေးမည်။

၈။ စုံစမ်းမေးမြန်းလိုပါက ဤအဖွဲ့ရုံးသို့ လူကွယ်တိုင်ဖြစ်စေ၊ တယ်လီဖုန်းအမှတ် (၃၇၈၁၆၃)သို့ ဖြစ်စေ ဆက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါသည်။

၉။ ဤကြော်ငြာကို ဝန်ထမ်းရွေးချယ်လေ့ကျင့်ရေးအဖွဲ့၏ Website လိပ်စာ csstb. imis. com. mm တွင်လည်း ဖော်ပြထားပါသည်။

Colombian police confiscate 1.2 tons of cocaine

BOGOTA, 14 Aug—The Colombian police confiscated 1.2 tons of cocaine and captured two drug traffickers in an anti-drug sweep on Thursday in the capital city of Bogota, a spokesman for the police told the Press.

The spokesman pointed out the cocaine was found in the front wheel of a roller which would be exported to Mexico in the western suburb of Bogota. The destination of the cocaine worth 20 million US dollars is the United States.

Colombia is the world's top cocaine producer, with an annual output of 580 tons of cocaine, most of which end up in the

United States and west Europe.

According to official statistics, the Colombian Army and police destroyed 75,000 hectares of coca plantations, smashed 319 cocaine processing factories and confiscated 42 tons of cocaine and 382 kilos of heroin in a series of anti-drug operations from January to July this year.

MNA/Xinhua

ပြည်တွင်းဖြစ်ကိုအားပေးပါ

ချိပ်ပိတ်ဈေးနှုန်းလွှာခေါ်ယူခြင်း

ရန်ကုန်မြို့တော် စည်ပင်သာယာရေးကော်မတီ၏ လုပ်ငန်းသုံး အတွက် လမ်းခင်းကတ္တရာ တန်(၂၀၀၀) ကို ပုံနှိပ် ဖြစ်စေ၊ 3-Ply Poly bag ဖြင့်ဖြစ်စေ ကော်မတီ၏ သို့လောင်းရမှုများအရောက် ကျပ်ငွေဖြင့် ဝယ်ယူရန် ချိပ်ပိတ် ဈေးနှုန်းလွှာများ စိတ်ဝင်ပါသည်။

ဈေးနှုန်းလွှာပိတ်ရက်မှာ ၂၅-၈-၂၀၀၄ နေ့ (၁၆:၀၀) နာရီဖြစ်ပြီး ဈေးနှုန်းတင်သွင်းလွှာ ပုံစံတစ်ခုလျှင် ကျပ် ၁၀၀၀- (ကျပ်တစ်ထောင်တိတိ) နှုန်းဖြင့် ဘတ်ဂျက်နှင့်ငွေစာရင်းဌာန၊ ပစ္စည်းဝယ်ယူရေးဌာနမှတစ်ဆင့် ဝယ်ယူနိုင် ပါသည်။

အသေးစိတ်အချက်အလက်များကို ဖုန်းအမှတ်-၂၈၂၇၃၄၊ ၂၄၈၁၁၂ လိုင်းခွဲ (၂၃၇) တို့သို့ ဆက်သွယ် မေးမြန်းနိုင်ပါ သည်။

ဥက္ကဋ္ဌ ပစ္စည်းဝယ်ယူရေးဌာနချုပ်

ချိပ်ပိတ်ဈေးနှုန်းလွှာခေါ်ယူခြင်း

ရန်ကုန်မြို့တော်စည်ပင်သာယာရေးကော်မတီ၏ ရေပေးစနစ် လုပ်ငန်းသုံးအတွက် လိုအပ်လျက်ရှိသော Electro Chlorinator (One Complete Set) ဝယ်ယူလိုပါသဖြင့် စိတ်ဝင်စားသည့် ပစ္စည်းပေးသွင်းလိုသူများ ထံမှ မြန်မာကျပ်ငွေဖြင့် ချိပ်ပိတ်ဈေးနှုန်းလွှာများ တင်သွင်းနိုင်ပါကြောင်း စိတ်ဝင်စားပါသည်။

ဈေးနှုန်းလွှာများကို ၂၅-၈-၂၀၀၄ နေ့ (၁၆:၀၀)နာရီအချိန် နောက်ဆုံး တာ၍ တင်သွင်းရန်ဖြစ်ပြီး ဈေးနှုန်းတင်သွင်းလွှာပုံစံ တစ်ခုလျှင် ကျပ် ၁၀၀၀/- (ကျပ်တစ်ထောင်တိတိ) နှုန်းဖြင့် ဘတ်ဂျက်နှင့်ငွေစာရင်းဌာန၊ ပစ္စည်း ဝယ်ယူရေးဌာနမှတစ်ဆင့် ဝယ်ယူနိုင်ပါသည်။ အသေးစိတ်သိရှိလိုပါက ဖုန်းအမှတ်-၂၈၆၀၆၊ ၂၈၂၇၃၄၊ ၂၄၈၁၁၂ လိုင်းခွဲ (၂၃၇) တို့သို့ ရုံးချိန်အတွင်း ဆက်သွယ်မေးမြန်းနိုင်ပါသည်။

ဥက္ကဋ္ဌ ပစ္စည်းဝယ်ယူရေးဌာနချုပ်

UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION MYANMA RAILWAYS INVITATION TO SEALED TENDER

1. Sealed Tender is invited by Myanma Railways, from the interesting Supplier, for supply of the following Stores:-

Sr.No.	Tender No.	Description	Quantity
1.	2/MR/RAIL BUS/(M)	IN SERVICE RAIL BUSES	12-Nos
	2004-2005		

Closing Date. - 6.9.2004 (Monday) (12:00) Hours.

2. Tender documents are available at the office of the Deputy General Manager (Supply), Myanma Railways, Corner of 51st Street and Merchant Street, Botataung, Yangon starting from 16.8.2004 during the office hours.

3. For further details please call: 291982, 201555 Ext-602, 605, 612

Deputy General Manager
Supply Department, Myanma Railways,
Botataung Yangon

Forest fire forces 6,000 from homes in Spain

MADRID, 14 Aug—A fierce forest fire has forced around 6,000 people from their homes in the east of Spain, officials said on Friday.

The fire has claimed 700 hectares of the Sierra de Calderona national park in the Valencia region since it started on Thursday evening.

Residents of nearby towns were evacuated in case the flames spread and the electricity supply to the area has been cut.

The blaze appeared to have been started intentionally, regional security chief Luis Ibanez said.

MNA/Reuters

The best time to plant a tree
was twenty years ago.

The second best time is now.

မညာရေဖြင့် ခေတ်မီဖွံ့ဖြိုးတိုးတက်သော ခိုင်ခံ့တော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

Malaysian PM calls for coordinated approach to promote SMEs

KUALA LUMPUR, 14 Aug— Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said Friday that a more streamlined and coordinated approach to small and medium-scale enterprises (SMEs) was necessary to maximize the resources and reduce wastage.

Such approaches were needed to spur the development of SMEs and for them to achieve the most effective outcome, he said in his opening remarks at the National SMEs Development Council meeting organized by Bank Negara Malaysia, the central bank, in Putrajaya, Federal Administrative Centre.

"The government is giving its highest priority to SMEs where there are 12 ministries and 40 government agencies involved in their development," he said.

To be effective, the Prime Minister also suggested that the council meet twice a year for the government to be kept informed of the progress which had been achieved in the development of SMEs.

Abdullah also called on the private sector to work together with the government towards strengthening infrastructure for the development of domestic SMEs.

"It is imperative for the government, together with the private sector, to work towards strengthening the infrastructure, which will then contribute to the overall development of the SMEs in a sustainable manner," he said.

"Due to their (SMEs) significant number, size and nature of operations, they provide a vital link in the business,

supply chain, create synergies, and have immense potential to grow and evolve into larger entities or corporations," he said.

The number of SMEs registered with the Malaysian Companies Commission including those from the services sector is 630,709 as of December 2003, of which some 43,388 are companies involving in manufacturing. SMEs contribute some 30 per cent of Malaysia's gross domestic product.

The Prime Minister said the council was being formed to accelerate the process of strengthening the enabling infrastructure that supports the development of SMEs.

He said this would in turn enable the SMEs to be upgraded in a systematic and sustainable manner and enhance their contribution to Malaysia's economic expansion and development.

Following a report entitled "A Comprehensive Framework for the Development of SMEs" by the central bank, an inter-ministry steering council was set up in October 2002, to examine the areas in which efforts are needed to enhance the institutional framework for the development of SMEs.

MNA/Xinhua



A rural worker selects arabic coffee beans at a farm near Varginha, in the state of Minas Gerais, Brazil. Brazilian researchers and officials say their recent unravelling of the coffee bean's genome puts the South American nation in the forefront of coffee research. — INTERNET

Australian FM speaks highly of China's role in region, world

CANBERRA, 14 Aug— Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer on Friday spoke highly of China's role in the region and the world.

"China in the 21st Century is playing an unprecedented role in our region, and globally sharing its vitality and energy with the world," he told a conference on Australia-China Free Trade Agreement Conference in Sydney.

Australia warmly welcomes a rapidly growing and internationalizing China as a driver of regional and global trade and as an important contributor to regional security and prosperity, he said.

In the current global environment, "China's pragmatic and cooperative approach to these threats (from terrorism, weapons of mass destruction) — and to other security and foreign policy issues — has cemented its role as a constructive actor and as a valued contributor to the region's core security and stability," he said.

Downer pointed out that China is playing a pivotal

role in hosting the Six-Party Talks on the nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsula, adding Australia strongly supports China's extensive efforts to convene the talks.

He also praised China's role on issues of arms control and non-proliferation issues and counter-terrorism.

MNA/Xinhua

UNICEF raises alarm over AIDS orphans in Sub-Saharan Africa

LUSAKA, 14 Aug— The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has raised alarm over the situation of AIDS orphans in Sub-Saharan Africa, saying that the population of AIDS orphans in the region could double from the current 11 million in six years.

"When we launched the Africa orphan generation report last year, we pointed out there were 11 million orphans in Sub-Saharan Africa. We have estimated that the figure would double over the next six years," Per Engebak, UNICEF's regional director for Eastern and Southern Africa said here

Friday.

The newly appointed regional director who is on a familiarization tour said in southern Africa alone, there are 6.8 million orphans.

In four southern African countries, one-third of the children population are orphans, he said.

Engebak warned that the worst is yet to come and that the population of orphans would start to fall only after 2020. "Every country needs to be on alert," he said.

The UNICEF official called for concerted efforts from governments, non-governmental organizations, the media to combat the pandemic of HIV/AIDS.

"There have to be concerted efforts at every level. This is the collective responsibility of the entire society to rally around this national efforts," he said.

MNA/Xinhua

NASA identifies foam flaw that killed astronauts

NEW ORLEANS, 14 Aug — The foam that struck the space shuttle *Columbia* after liftoff and led to the deaths of all seven astronauts on board was defective, NASA said on Friday.

An official investigation into the accident, conducted by the Columbia Accident Investigation Board, had left the matter open, since none of the foam or the fuel tank could be recovered for study.

But the space agency said on Friday that testing had since confirmed the defect and found the foam broke off the shuttle's external fuel tank because NASA did not know its procedures for applying foam insulation were flawed.

A suitcase-sized chunk of foam from an area of the tank known as the left bipod, one of three areas where struts secure the orbiter to the fuel tank during liftoff, broke off 61 seconds into the flight on 16 January of last year.

It gouged a large hole in *Columbia's* left wing.

The damage went undetected during the shuttle's 16-day mission, but caused the nation's oldest spacecraft to break apart under the stress of re-entering the Earth's atmosphere on 1 February, killing the astronauts.

"We now believe, with the testing that we've done, that defects certainly played a major part in the loss."

We are convinced of that," said Neil Otte, chief engineer for the external tanks project.

He spoke at the Michoud Assembly Facility in New Orleans, where the half-million pieces of every shuttle fuel tank come together.

MNA/Reuters

Sri Lanka provides "dry rations" for flood hit Bangladeshis

COLOMBO, 14 Aug — Sri Lankan Government has provided a consignment of "dry rations" for the Bangladeshi people who have been severely affected by the recent floods, the Foreign Ministry said on Friday.

Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar presented the consignment of dry rations including biscuits and tea to High Commissioner of Bangladesh Yakub Ali in Colombo.

"This donation could be seen as a goodwill gesture extended to the people of Bangladesh and to assist the government of Bangladesh at this critical moment," the Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

MNA/Xinhua

India working out FTAs, PTAs with ASEAN, MERCOSUR, GCC

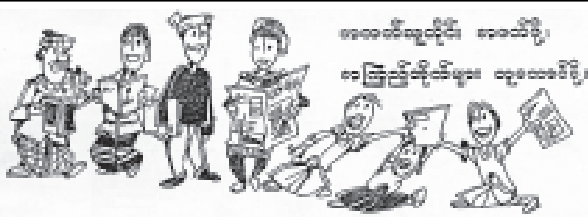
NEW DELHI, 14 Aug— On the heels of signing Free Trade Agreement with Thailand, India is working out FTAs and PTAs with ASEAN, MERCOSUR and Gulf Cooperation Council.

Pointing that these trade arrangements would provide the country's industries with easier access to export markets in partner nations, junior Minister for External Affairs Rao Inderjit Singh on Friday asked the industry to prepare itself for international competition. "These trade arrangements provide to our industries easier access to export markets in the partner countries. At the same time, Indian industry is being exposed to more international competition than ever

before. In such a competitive environment, there is no shortcut to survival other than to become internationally competitive," he said.

The minister was speaking after inaugurating a national workshop on "Strategic Approach to Strengthening International Competitiveness in Knowledge-based Industries" organized by Department of Scientific and Industrial Research and policy think-tank Research and Information System. — MNA/PTI

ကျေးရွာတိုင်း ကိုယ်အားကိုးစောင့်ရှောက်မှုရရှိရန်



၁။ ကျေးရွာတိုင်း ကိုယ်အားကိုးစောင့်ရှောက်မှုရရှိရန် အသုံးပြုရန် ပြန်လည်အသုံးပြုနိုင်သော အစားအသောက်များကို အောက်ဖော်ပြပါအတိုင်း ဖြန့်ဖြူးပေးမည်။

၂။ ကျေးရွာတိုင်း ကိုယ်အားကိုးစောင့်ရှောက်မှုရရှိရန် အတွက် သုတ/ရသ အချက်များအား အသုံးပြုနိုင်ပါသည်။

မြန်မာနိုင်ငံတော် ဖွဲ့စည်းပုံအခြေခံဥပဒေ

SPORTS

Owen arrives Madrid for real medical

MADRID, 14 Aug—England striker Michael Owen arrived in Madrid on Friday afternoon to complete a medical before joining Real Madrid from Liverpool. The 24-year-old flew in a private jet into the military airbase of Torrejon on the outskirts of the Spanish capital before being whisked away in an unmarked grey limousine to the Zarzuela clinic in the north of the city.

Dressed in a light blue T-shirt and jeans, Owen cut a relaxed figure as he smiled and waved to around 30 photographers waiting for him as he entered the clinic to undergo a detailed medical.

Owen's reception was far more low key than the one given to fellow England international David Beckham, who joined Real last year.

Owen was expected to return to England immediately after the medical in order to link up with the national squad before next week's friendly against Ukraine. Radio Marca reported that Owen would not be officially unveiled to the media until next Thursday.

The striker is expected to sign a four-year contract with Real, with an option to extend the deal for an extra year.

Real will pay 12 million euros (14.71 million US dollars) for the former European Footballer of the Year in a deal which also sends Real midfielder Antonio Nunez to the Premier League club.—MNA/Reuters



Greek actress Thalia Prokopiou, dressed as the priestess, lights the torch at the Temple of Hera using a parabolic mirror.—INTERNET

Promoted Plymouth go top of second division

LONDON, 14 Aug—Promoted Plymouth Argyle climbed to the top of the English Second Division with a 1-0 win at Cardiff City on Friday.

Cardiff midfielder Lee Bullock scored an own goal in the 24th minute when a header by Plymouth striker Stevie Crawford went in off his back.

Plymouth have taken seven points from their opening three games. They are three points ahead of Cardiff and six other teams that will be in action over the weekend including West Ham United, at home to second-placed Wigan Athletic on Sunday.—MNA/Reuters

Answer for yesterday's crossword puzzle**Farinos signs two-year deal with Mallorca**

MADRID, 14 Aug—Spanish midfielder Javier Farinos has joined Real Mallorca on a two-year contract from Inter Milan, the Primera Liga club said on Friday.

Mallorca said the 26-year-old former Valencia player would be on loan for the first season before becoming the property of the Spanish club.

The midfielder left Valencia for Inter in June 2000 for 17 million US dollars, but failed to establish himself as a first-team player at the Serie A club.

He played on loan at Villarreal during the 2002-03 season and will be reunited with the club's former coach Benito Floro, who is now in charge at Mallorca.

The midfielder's arrival will help compensate for the loss of leading striker Samuel Eto'o, who was sold to Barcelona for 24 million euros.—MNA/Reuters

Eriksson slams "sick" interest in private life

LONDON, 14 Aug—England manager Sven-Goran Eriksson hit out at what he called the "sick" interest in his private life on Friday following the recent revelations that have rocked the Football Association (FA).

Eriksson's affair with former FA secretary Faria Alam and a botched attempt by officials to hush up Alam's relationship with the Swede's boss, chief executive Mark Palios, have been given exhaustive media coverage. The events triggered the resignations of Palios and FA communications director Colin Gibson.

"It's been a mess, it's been a soap opera and it's very regrettable," Eriksson told reporters on Friday.

"I always think that private business should be private. I've never understood that normal people have an interest in your private life, even if I'm the manager of England."

Asked if the saga had affected his view of English people, Eriksson said: "I like them. But what I can never understand is that sick interest in private lives."

A determined Eriksson said he had no intention of resigning and dismissed any idea that his salary, estimated to be four million pounds (7.32 million US dollars) a

year, was not justified by the results after England's quarterfinal exit at Euro 2004.

Eriksson said he had never considered quitting over the controversy.

"I could throw in the towel because of football results, but not because of mass media intrusion in my private life," he said.

"I can quit if we don't qualify for the 2006 World Cup, but that's football."

"I don't know if I'm paid too much or not. I know what other managers are earning and I know I'm not the best paid manager in the world."

"I never read a word about how much (Fabio) Capello earns, or (Marcello) Lippi, (Jose) Mourinho, (Arsene) Wenger, or (Alex) Ferguson. But in this job I see it every day."

Eriksson tried to sum up his view of people's expectations.

"Sometimes I feel in this job that you should be a saint, at least a monk, you shouldn't earn very much money and you should win every football game," he said.

MNA/Reuters

Liverpool claims Owen joining Real Madrid

LIVERPOOL (England), 14 Aug—Liverpool's England striker Michael Owen will move to Real Madrid for an undisclosed fee, the English Premier League club said on Friday.

"Michael will have a medical with Madrid before the deal is completed," said Liverpool coach Rafael Benitez.

The 24-year-old's contract at Liverpool was only due to run until the end of the coming season, when he would have been able to leave the Merseyside club on a free transfer.

"I was very happy with Michael and I wanted him to stay," added Benitez. "The problem was he only had a year left on his contract. Real Madrid started talking with his agent and in the end it was an impossible situation to control."

Real Madrid's right-sided midfielder Antonio Nunez, who made 11 appearances last season and scored one goal, is joining Liverpool on a three-year contract as part of the deal.

Spain's Radio Marca said Owen is joining Real on a four-year deal with an option for an extra year, adding that he is not expected to earn quite as much as the other

"galactics" but should pocket about five million euros (6.13 million US dollars) a year. British media had reported that Owen would be joining the nine-times European champions for eight million pounds (14.65 million US dollars). He will link up with England captain David Beckham at the Bernabeu once the deal goes through.

Owen was left on the bench when Liverpool played Graz AK in their Champions League qualifier on Tuesday, fuelling speculation about a move to Spain, with Czech striker Milan Baros and new signing Djibril Cisse leading the team up front.

"I now have three strikers," said Benitez. "It's bad that Michael's gone but we have three very good forwards and I'll be looking for a solution in the future."

Arsenal and France captain Patrick Vieira, who had also been strongly linked with a move to Real, said earlier on Friday that he would be staying at the north London club.—MNA/Reuters

Struggling Botafogo held to 1-1 draw on centenary night

RIO DE JANEIRO, 14 Aug—Botafogo, the club which has been graced by some of the great names in Brazilian football history, were held to a frustrating 1-1 draw at home by Atletico Paranaense as they celebrated their centenary.

Thursday's result kept Botafogo in the relegation zone of the Brazilian championship which reached its halfway mark this week.

The club, who bounced back from the Second Division at the first attempt last year, stayed 22nd in the 24-team table with 22 points from 23 matches as they struggle to avoid going straight back down. The bottom four will be relegated.

Atletico took a first-half lead as striker Washington scored his 13th goal of the championship before Botafogo striker Schwenk pounced on a defensive blunder to rescue a point for Botafogo in the second half.

Atletico coach Levir Culpi, who walked out on Botafogo after only two games of the championship, was given a rough reception by the Botafogo supporters. His team are fifth.

Palmeiras midfielder Magrao and Fluminense midfielder Roger were sent off for fighting as Palmeiras, who accompanied Botafogo out of the Second Division last season, came from behind to win 3-2 and jumped to fourth, one point behind leaders Santos, Ponte Preta and Sao Paulo.

Former player Nilton Santos, nicknamed the "Encyclopedia of Football", watched the Botafogo match. He won the World Cup with Brazil in 1958 and 1962 and spent his whole career at the club, playing more than 700 games.

Other former Botafogo players include Gerson, Leonidas da Silva, Jairzinho and Garrincha.

MNA/Reuters



Anaheim Angels, Chone Figgins (right), is congratulated by teammate Jose Molina after hitting a two-run home run in the sixth inning off Detroit Tigers Roberto Novoa in Anaheim, Calif., on 14 Aug, 2004.

INTERNET

MRTV -3
**16-8-2004 (Monday)
(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 Planting of Mulberry
tree and Breeding of
Silkworms
- 9:10 Headline News**
- 9:12 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes
"Sour Soup prepared
with fish and vegeta-
bles"
- 9:15 National News**
- 9:20 Blue Sea
- 9:25 Ka-Nee-Sone-Swa
Dance
- 9:30 National News**
- 9:35 Song "Peace Be with
you"
- 9:40 Let's Talk About
Lahu Nationals
- 9:45 National News**
- 9:50 Shrimp Spawning
Industry
- 9:58 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and
See Myanmar"

**16-8-2004 (Monday)
Evening Transmission
(15:30 - 17:30)**

- 15:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
- 15:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
- 15:36 Planting of Mul-
berry tree and
Breeding of Silk-
worms
- 15:40 Headline News**

- 15:42 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes
"Sour Soup prepared
with fish and vegeta-
bles"
- 15:45 National News**
- 15:50 Blue Sea
- 16:00 National News**
- 16:10 Ka-Nee-Sone-Swa
Dance
- 16:12 Song "Peace be with
you"
- 16:15 National News**
- 16:20 Shrimp Spawning In-
dustry
- 16:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanma
Panorama & Myan-
ma Sentiment"
- 16:30 National News**
- 16:35 Lovely Customs and
Dances of Gon Shan
- 16:40 Ancient Htoke Kan
Thein Temple
- 16:45 National News**
- 16:50 The Reh Lake (The
Greatest attraction in
Chin State)
- 16:55 Dawei Water Fetch-
ing Dance
- 17:00 National News**
- 17:05 Myanma Elephants
from Myanma Forest
- 17:10 Myanmar Modern
Song "Naughty Girl"
- 17:15 National News**
- 17:20 ASOD's Tour of
Northern Shan State
(Part-I)
- 17:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and
See Myanmar"

**16-8-2004 (Monday)
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 Alms-Food (Soon)
- 19:40 Headline News**
- 19:42 Clothes make the

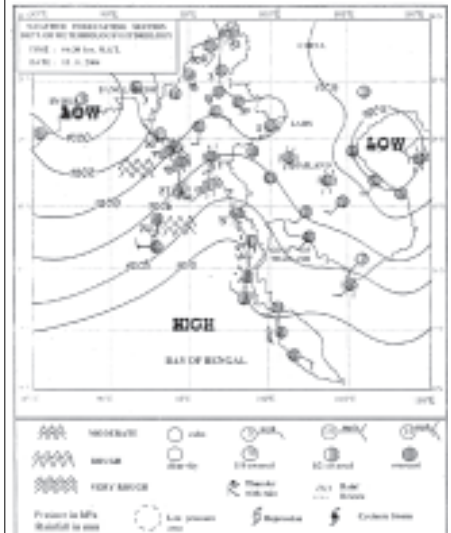
- Woman
- 19:45 National News**
- 19:50 Myanmar Movies
Impact
- 20:00 National News**
- 20:05 Our Coffee Town
- 20:10 Melodious Myanmar
Harp
- 20:15 National News**
- 20:20 Architecture of the
Great Ananda
- 20:25 Myanmar Modern
Song "Our Cherry-
land"
- 20:30 National News**
- 20:35 Unforgettable Trip to
Ahka Village
- 20:40 Marvel of a Pagoda
with Uncountable
Buddha Images
- 20:45 National News**
- 20:50 PaO Nationals' Tra-
ditional Long Drum
- 20:55 Dasagiri's Proposal
towards Thidar
- 21:00 National News**
- 21:05 Sagaing Pagoda-
studied Hills
- 21:10 Myanmar Modern
Song "Sagawa Flow-
ers Land"
- 21:15 National News**
- 21:20 Myanma Traditional
Bronze Casting
- 21:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
- 21:35 Planting of Mulberry
tree and Breeding of
Silkworms
- 21:40 Headline News**
- 21:42 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes

- "Sour Soup pre-
pared with fish and
vegetables"
- 21:45 National News**
- 21:50 Blue Sea
- 22:00 National News**
- 22:10 Ka-Nee-Sone-Swa
Dance
- 22:12 Song "Peace be
with you"
- 22:15 National News**
- 22:20 Shrimp Spawning
Industry
- 22:25 Myanmar Modern
Song "No right to
love, yet"
- 22:30 National News**
- 22:35 Lovely Customs
and Dances of Gon
Shan
- 22:40 Ancient Htoke Kan
Thein Temple
- 22:45 National News**
- 22:50 The Reh Lake (The
Greatest attraction
in Chin State)
- 22:55 Dawei Water
Fetching Dance
- 23:00 National News**
- 23:05 Myanma Elephants
from Myanma For-
est
- 23:10 Myanmar Modern
Song "Naughty
Girl"
- 23:15 National News**
- 23:20 ASOD's Tour of
Northern Shan
State (Part-I)
- 23:28 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and
See Myanmar"

Rainfall on 15-8-2004

- 0.59 inch at Yangon Airport,
 - 1.10 inches at Kaba-Aye,
 - 1.10 inches at central Yangon.
- Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 2137 mm (84.13 inches) at Yangon Airport, 2088 mm (82.20 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 2081 mm (81.93 inches) at central Yangon.

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas

**WEATHER**

Sunday, 15 August 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain has been isolated in lower Sagaing, Magway Divisions, scattered in Chin State, upper Sagaing, Mandalay Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfalls in Kachin, Rakhine States and upper Sagaing Division. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Thandwe (7.32) inches, Hkamti (4.25) inches, Putao (4.21) inches.

Maximum temperature on 14-8-2004 was 29.5°C (85°F). Minimum temperature on 15-8-2004 was 20.0°C (68°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 15-8-2004 was 100%. Total sunshine hours on 14-8-2004 was (1.3) hours approx. Rainfall on 15-8-2004 was 15 mm (0.59 inch) at Yangon Airport, 28 mm (1.10 inches) at Kaba-Aye, 28 mm (1.10 inches) at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 2137 mm (84.13 inches) at Yangon Airport, 2088 mm (82.20 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 2081 mm (81.93 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 14 mph from South-west at 13:40 hours MST on 14-8-2004.

Bay inference: Monsoon is moderate to strong in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 16-8-2004: Rain will be isolated in Kayah State, Magway Division, scattered in Kachin, Shan States, Sagaing, Mandalay Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfalls are likely in Rakhine, Mon and Kayin States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Generally strong monsoon.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 16-8-2004: Some rain. Degree of certainty is (100%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 16-8-2004: Likelihood of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Flood Bulletin

(Issued at 11:00 hrs MST on 15-8-2004)

The water level of Bago River at Bago is (8) cm above the danger level. The water level may practically remain unchanged during the next (2) days commencing noon today.

ဦးဝန်(မင်းသုဝဏ်)**အသက်(၉၆)နှစ်**

ရန်ကုန်မြို့ အမှတ်(၁၈) ထွန်းလင်းရိပ်သာ၊ ကမာရွတ်မြို့နယ်နေ ဒေါ်ကြည်ကြည်၏ ခင်ပွန်း၊ ဦးဉာဏ်ရှိ + ဒေါ်တင်မမ၊ ဦးတင်ကျော် + ဒေါ်စုစုလင်း ဒေါ်တင်ချို + ဦးကျော်ဘုန်းမြင့်တို့၏ ဖခင်(ဒေါ်တင်နု) ၏ မောင် (ဦးထွန်းကြည်) ဒေါ်ရင်နု(နယု) + (ဦးအုန်းအေး(ခ)တက်တိုး)တို့၏ အစ်ကိုဖြစ်သူ ဦးဝန် (မင်းသုဝဏ်) သည် ၁၅-၈-၂၀၀၄ ရက်နေ့(တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့) နံနက် ၁၁:၃၀ နာရီအချိန်တွင် နေအိမ်(သပြေညို)၌ ကွယ်လွန်သွားပါ၍ ၁၇-၈-၂၀၀၄ (အင်္ဂါနေ့) မွန်းလွဲ ၂:၀၀ နာရီတွင် ရှေးသားသင်္ဂြိုဟ် ဂူသွင်း သင်္ဂြိုဟ်မည် ဖြစ်ပါကြောင်း၊ ရွှေမျိုးမိတ်သင်္ဂြိုဟ် အပေါင်းအား အသိပေးအကြောင်းကြားအပ်ပါသည်။ (နေအိမ်မှမွန်လွဲ ၁ နာရီတွင်ကားများထွက်ခွာပါမည်) ကျန်ရစ်သူသားစု


**Monday, August 16
View on today:**

- 7:00 am**
1. Recitation of Parittas
by Missionary Saya-
daw U Ottamathara
- 7:25 am**
2. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am**
3. Morning news
- 7:40 am**
4. Nice and sweet song
- 7:55 am**
5. Song of national races
- 8:05 am**
6. Cute little dancers
- 8:15 am**
7. ဘောလုံးပွဲအစီအစဉ်
- 8:30 am**
8. International news

- 8:45 am**
9. Let's Go
- 4:00 pm**
1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm**
2. Songs to uphold
National Spirit
- 4:30 pm**
3. Practice in reading
- 4:45 pm**
4. Musical programme
- 5:00 pm**
5. အေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ် ပညာရေး
ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ
-တတိယနှစ်(သတ္တဇာအထူးပြု)
(သတ္တဇာ)
- 5:15 pm**
6. ဘေးသုခဗေဒအစီအစဉ်
- 5:20 pm**
7. Dance variety
- 5:35 pm**
8. Musical programme
(The Radio Myanmar
Modern Music
Troupe)
- 5:45 pm**
9. Song and dance of
national races

- 5:55 pm**
10. မြန်မာစာ မြန်မာစာတေး
- 6:05 pm**
11. Discovery
- 6:10 pm**
12. နိုင်ငံခြားကားထွန်းစက်လမ်းဆွဲ
"မဇ္ဈိမဗိသုဒ္ဓိ" (အပိုင်း-၁၇)
- 6:30 pm**
13. Evening news
- 7:00 pm**
14. Weather report
- 7:05 pm**
15. Industrial Achievement
- 7:15 pm**
16. Musical programme
- 7:30 pm**
17. ကျေးလက်သဘာဝစံနမူနာ
အရာဆင်
- 8:00 pm**
18. News
19. International news
20. Weather report
21. နိုင်ငံခြားစက်လမ်းဆွဲ
"နုလင်းသားစက်တစ်ခုတည်း"
သောအချိန် (အပိုင်း-၁၃)
22. The next day's
programme


**Monday, August 16
Tune in today:**

- 8:30 am** Brief news
- 8:35 am** Music: All I ever
need is you
- 8:40 am** Perspectives
- 8:45 am** Music: Billi Ball
- 8:55 am** National news/
Slogan
- 9:05 am** Music: Doodah
- 9:10 am** International news
- 9:15 am** Music: Sweet love
- 1:30 pm** News/Slogan
- 1:40 pm** Lunch time music
-Looking for you
-Endless love
-Lost myself in
you
- 9:00 pm** Spotlight on the
star
- 9:15 pm** Article
- 9:25 pm** Women's affairs
-The light of
wisdom
- 9:35 pm** Vocal Gems
-When I need you
-Full circle
-I turn to you
- 9:45 pm** News/Slogan
- 10:00 pm** PEL



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt hoists Seinbudaw atop Shweyaungdaw Pagoda in ancient Beikthanoe City, Taungdwingyi Township, on 14-8-2004.— MNA

Prime Minister hoists Shwehtidaw atop Shweyaungdaw Pagoda in ancient Beikthanoe City

YANGON, 15 Aug — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party, accompanied by Chairman of Magway Division Peace and Development Council Col Zaw Min, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads and local authorities, religious and social organization members and local people.

Sayadaw Bhaddanta Viçittañāna administered the Nine Precepts. Members of the Sangha recited Parittas. Next, the Prime Minister offered Seinbudaw for the pagoda and provisions and Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Hngetmyatnadaw and provisions to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Viçittañāna. Similarly, the ministers offered tiers of the Htidaw and alms to the Sayadaws. Next, Sayadaw Bhaddanta Viçittañāna delivered a sermon, and the Prime Minister and those present shared merits gained.

At 8.15 am, the Prime Minister attended the ceremony to hoist Htidaw, Hngetmyatnadaw and Seinbudaw atop the Shweyaungdaw Pagoda built by Panhtwa Queen. Also present were member of the State Central Working Committee of the Sangha Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw of Shweyaungdaw Phayagyi Monastery Bhaddanta Viçittañāna and members of the Sangha, Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, ministers, the Chief of Staff (Navy), deputy ministers,

Chairman of Magway Division Peace and Development Council Col Zaw Min, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads and local authorities, religious and social organization members and local people.

At 8.15 am, the Prime Minister attended the ceremony to hoist Htidaw, Hngetmyatnadaw and Seinbudaw atop the Shweyaungdaw Pagoda built by Panhtwa Queen. Also present were member of the State Central Working Committee of the Sangha Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw of Shweyaungdaw Phayagyi Monastery Bhaddanta Viçittañāna and members of the Sangha, Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, ministers, the Chief of Staff (Navy), deputy ministers,

(See page 9)

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

At the construction site of Archaeological Museum Project in ancient Beikthanoe City, the Prime Minister viewed silver coins, beads, earth pots and artefacts of Pyu period.



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects construction of the building for Shin Upagutta Statue and Natlan passage in the precinct of Shwedagon Pagoda.— MNA

Prime Minister inspects all-round renovation of Shwedagon Pagoda

YANGON, 15 Aug — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspected all-round renovation tasks of Shwedagon Pagoda this morning and gave necessary instructions to officials.

Accompanied by officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, the Prime Minister arrived at the site of all-round renovation of Aung Min Aung Pagoda in front of Maha Buddhological Museum near the western stairway of the pagoda at 9.30 am. The Prime Minister and party were welcomed there by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, deputy ministers and departmental officials.

First, the Prime Minister heard reports on matters concerning all-round renovation of Aung Min Aung Pagoda presented by Deputy Minister for Science and Technology U Nyi Hla Nge and officials. The Prime Minister gave instructions on renovation tasks to be carried out at the pagoda without losing its original style and inspected the renovation tasks.

Next, the Prime Minister and party inspected greening tasks at Shin Upagutta Lake in the precinct of Shwedagon Pagoda. In the briefing hall, U Soe Myint of SPA Co Ltd, Deputy Chief Engineer (Electrical) U Aung Thein of Public Works and officials reported on 10 sectors of the greening tasks including construction of the circular road at the lake and the prayer hall, decoration of the circular road, water supply and water fountain works, nursery of

lawns, rebuilding of the Natlan passage, construction of the new building for Shin Upagutta Statue, power supply and decoration and others and progress of tasks.

After giving necessary instructions, the Prime Minister inspected progress of greening tasks, construction of the building for the Shin Upagutta Statue and the Natlan passage.

On arrival at Myanmar Convention Centre on Mindhamma Road in Mayangon Township, Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and officials welcomed the Prime Minister and party.

The Mayor reported to the Prime Minister on progress of building the centre and decoration works. The Prime Minister gave necessary instructions and left the Centre in the afternoon.— MNA