

# The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Tuesday, 17 August,

## Senior General Than Shwe sends felicitations to Indonesia

YANGON, 17 Aug— On the occasion of the 59th anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of Indonesia which falls on 17 August 2004, a message of felicitations has been sent from Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar to Her Excellency Madame Megawati Soekarnoputri, President of the Republic of Indonesia.—MNA

## Vice-Senior General Maung Aye sends felicitations to Indonesia

YANGON, 17 Aug— On the occasion of the 59th anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of Indonesia which falls on 17 August 2004, a message of felicitations has been sent from Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar to His Excellency Dr Hamzah Haz, Vice-President of the Republic of Indonesia.—MNA

## Prime Minister receives Israeli Ambassador

YANGON, 16 Aug—Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, on behalf of the Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council, received Israeli Ambassador to the Union of Myanmar Mr Yaacov Avrahamy who had completed his tour of duty at the hall of Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyintha here at 5 pm

today. Also present on the occasion were Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Win, Director-General at the Prime Minister's Office U Soe Tint and Director-General of Protocol Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Thura U Aung Htet.—MNA

*Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt receives Israeli Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Yaacov Avrahamy at Zeyathiri Beikman Hall on 16-8-04. — MNA*

### Four political objectives

- \* Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
- \* National reconsolidation
- \* Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
- \* Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

### Four economic objectives

- \* Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well
- \* Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system
- \* Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad
- \* The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples

### Four social objectives

- \* Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
- \* Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
- \* Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
- \* Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation



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## Minister inspects reservoirs, river water pumping projects in Sagaing, Mandalay divisions

YANGON, 16 Aug — Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin, accompanied by officials, on 14 August inspected the construction of Salingyi Reservoir near

Salingyi, Monywa District, Sagaing Division. The reservoir is being built by the Irrigation Department.

Director-General of the Irrigation Department U Kyaw San Win reported to

the minister on the two sites chosen for the new Phaungkata reservoir and condition for storage of water.

Afterwards, the minister arrived Kyawzi river water

pumping project in Taungtha Township, Mandalay Division, and inspected the pumping system there. Kyawzi river water pumping project was built to irrigate the farmlands in

northwest of Taungtha Township.

During his tour, the minister also inspected water supply of the No 2 pumping station of the  
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**Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.**

## PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 17 August, 2004

## Strive for boosting yield of edible oil crops

The Union of Myanmar being an agricultural country, the Government has been fulfilling all the requirements for the development of agriculture by building dams and river water pumping stations and by providing quality strains and disseminating cultivation methods to the farmers. The farmers, on their part, are required to try to strengthen the national economy by extending the cultivation of marketable crops.

During his trip to Magway Division, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt visited Taundwingyi Township on 14 August and met members of the Township Peace and Development Council, departmental personnel, members of social organizations and townselders. In his address on the occasion, the Prime Minister touched on the development of agriculture and urged all the farmers in Magway Division to make relentless efforts to extend the cultivation of edible oil crops, which can contribute to the national development and to the success of manufacturing industry.

The Government is providing all the necessary assistance to make Magway Division an oil pot of the nation so that it can meet fifty per cent of the domestic consumption. Township departmental personnel and farmers, on their part, are required to make concerted efforts to develop agricultural industry of their region and to boost the yield of edible oil crops by making the most of favourable conditions created by the Government. The more oil crops we can produce, the more we can reduce the import of edible oil. In this way, we can save foreign currency and use it for purchasing locomotives and other machinery necessary for building river-crossing bridges and establishing an industrialized nation.

We would like to call on the farmers in Magway Division to try their utmost to be able to extend the cultivation of edible oil crops by making effective use of the assistance offered and favourable environments created by the Government so that agriculture, their main industry, can contribute to the national development.

## WTO Valuation Workshop for Private Sector Batch-5 opened

YANGON, 16 Aug — With the sponsorship of the Customs Department and the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, the WTO Valuation Workshop for Private Sector Batch-5 was opened at the UMFCFI training centre on Bo Sun Pat Street here this morning.

It was attended by Director-General of CD Col Khin Maung Lin, the direc-

tor, the assistant directors, advisers to the UMFCFI, UMFCFI President U Win Myint, Secretary-General U Sein Win Hlaing and CEC members, course instructors and trainees.

Director-General Col Khin Maung Lin and Chairman U Win Myint made speeches on the occasion.

The twelve-day course is being attended by 47 trainees. — MNA



UMFCCI President U Win Myint delivers an address. — UMFCFI

## Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt sends felicitations to Indonesia

YANGON, 17 Aug — On the occasion of the 59th anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of Indonesia which falls on 17 August 2004, a message of felicitations has been sent from General Khin Nyunt, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar to Her Excellency Madame Megawati Soekarnoputri, President of the Republic of Indonesia. — MNA



Two athletes of Canadian Athletes in Action team trying to block the smash of Kyaw Thuya of the Myanmar youth team of Myanmar Volleyball Federation at the second Myanmar-Canada friendly match held at National Sport Stadium-1 (Thuwunna) on 16-8-2004.

NLM

## Myanmar-Canada volleyball friendly continues

YANGON, 16 Aug — Chairman of the Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint watched the second match of goodwill volleyball match between the selected youth team of Myanmar Volleyball Federation and the 'Athletes in Action' team of Canada at the National Sports Stadium-1 (Thuwunna) in Yangon this

afternoon.

Among the spectators were members of the Myanmar Olympic Committee, officials of the Ministry of Sports, members of panel of patrons of Myanmar Women's Sports Federation, guests and fans.

In the match, the Myanmar team beat the Canadian team with the points of 25-21, 24-26, 25-21, 20-25 and 15-12. — MNA



YANGON, 16 Aug — Shwesaryan Open Golf Championship, organized by Myanmar PGA and Myanmar Golf Federation, entered its fourth day, final day, at Shwesaryan Golf Resort in Mandalay yesterday.

Prizes were presented to winners. On the occasion, U Maung Maung Myint, Managing Director of Kaung Myat Co Ltd gave away prizes to golfers who won 'daily best' awards; and U Ko Ko Lay, Executive of MPGA and MGF, to 'daily best' award winners at professional level.

Mandalay City Development Committee Secre-

tary Lt-Col Maung Pu presented awards to those who stood first, second and third at amateur level.

Tiger Beer, Air Mandalay, Wilson and KM Golf Centre also presented additional prizes to Myo Min Aung, who won first prize at amateur level.

Deputy Commander of Central Command Brig-Gen Nay Win presented awards to those who came first, second and third at professional level. Air Mandalay awarded Soe Kyaw Naing (Pan-West), who stood first at this level, with a Yangon-Mandalay round trip ticket. Next, Rothmans of Pall Mall Myanmar Pte Ltd Chairman Col Aung San also awarded him with a cheque as cash award.

Later, Major Thein Aung (Retd), Joint Deputy

## Foreign Minister sends felicitations to Indonesia

YANGON, 17 Aug — On the occasion of the 59th anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of Indonesia which falls on 17 August 2004, U Win Aung, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Dr N Hassan Wirajuda, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia. — MNA

## Poet leaves to attend World Poetry Reading Activity

YANGON, 16 Aug — CEC member of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association Editor-in-Chief of Nainggangonye Publishing House U Ohn Maung (Myinmu Maung Naing Moe) left here by air this afternoon to attend the 10th World Poetry Reading Activity to be held in KL, Malaysia from 16 to 22 August.

Famous poets from foreign and domestic were

invited to that activity which was organized by MOFA and Ministry of Culture of Malaysia and Kuala Lumpur Mayor's Office. He was accompanied by CEC member of MWJA advisor to Ministry of Culture U Myo Thant (Maung Hsu Shin) and was seen off at the airport by Chairman of MWJA U Hla Myaung (Ko Saung), Joint-Secretary U Myint Kywe (Maung Myint Kywe) and family. — MNA



CEC members of MWJA U Ohn Maung (Myinmu Maung Naing Moe), Editor-in-Chief of Nainggangonye Publishing House and U Myo Thant (Maung Hsu Shin), seen at the airport before departure for Malaysia. — MNA

## Shwesaryan Open Golf C'ship concludes

Managing Director of Rothmans of Pall Mall Myanmar Pte Ltd, presented a gift to Shwesaryan Golf Resort. U Law Sit Han, Mandalay Golf Association, Hi Tech Co Ltd, and Hi Tech Myanmar Cement Co Ltd also presented additional awards to winners.

The tournament was sponsored by Rothmans of Pall Mall Myanmar Pte Ltd,

together with Air Mandalay, Tiger Beer, Alpine Drinking Water, Htoo Trading, KM Golf Centre, Maruman, Tour Stage, Spixon, Wilson, Grand Slam (Munsingwear), Accel International Co Ltd (Canon), Sedona Hotel (Mandalay), and Sun Far Travels & Tours as cosponsors.

It was organized by Han Event Management. — MNA



MCDC Secretary Lt-Col Maung Pu presents the trophy to Myo Min Aung. — MGF



# US bombing kills civilians, Chinook downed

FALLUJAH, 15 Aug—Aljazeera sources in Iraq have reported that a US Chinook helicopter crashed in the Amariya district of Fallujah as medical sources report more civilian casualties from an airstrike.

However, there has been no official confirmation from US military sources.

Hospital officials told Aljazeera that five civilians were killed and six injured when US fighter jets bombed a home

in the al-Askari district of Fallujah.

"It started at 11.30 (08.30 GMT). The operation was defensive in nature and not offensive as our marines were being targeted and shot by small arms and RPGs," said Lieutenant Colonel TV Johnson.

"We gave air support and carried out six different sorties during the day. Right now, it has stopped. We do it as and when needed," he added. Two civilians were also killed in clashes between Iraqi resistance fighters and a US patrol west of Fallujah.—Internet



American helicopters fly over the holy city of Najaf, in southern Iraq on 15 Aug, 2004. — INTERNET

## Mideast to join "Clean Up the World" campaign

ABU DHABI, 15 Aug — Thousands of people in the Middle East will clean up streets, beaches, reefs and coastal areas along the Mediterranean and the Arabian Sea next month as part of a "Clean Up the World" campaign, the Saudi daily Arab News reported Friday.

"Clean Up the World", held in conjunction with the United Nations Environment Programme, mobilizes over 30 million volunteers from more than 100 countries annually to clean up, fix up and conserve their local environment.

The 2004 "Clean Up the World" weekend is slated for September 17-19. Motivated by a common concern for the environment, communities throughout the Middle East are encouraged to take actions to raise

environmental awareness.

In the United Arab Emirates, over 800 volunteers, including 300 divers, will remove and recycle rubbish from beaches, reefs and dive sites.

MNA/Xinhua

## Indonesia, Japan to hold talks on economy

JAKARTA, 15 Aug—The Indonesian Government will host a high-level discussion with a visiting delegation from Japan on Monday to find ways to improve the investment climate in this country.

"Japan has always been an important partner for Indonesia in so many ways: economy, trade, investment, and so on," the spokesman of the Foreign Ministry Marty Natalegawa was quoted by the Jakarta Post daily on Saturday.

Investors have been complaining about various conditions that are detrimental to investment, including a

lack of legal certainty, widespread corruption, inefficient bureaucracy and labour disputes. For Japanese investors, who invest mostly in the manufacturing sector, tax-related issues have also become a problem.

Investment used to be one of the country's main economic growth drivers. However at present, it accounts for less than 15 per cent of

growth in the country's gross domestic product—an indicator of economic growth—with domestic consumption contributing more than 75 per cent.

MNA/Xinhua

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## Uprising halves Iraq oil exports

BAGHDAD, 15 Aug—Iraq's oil exports are still running at half their normal rates as a Shiite uprising prevented the re-opening a main export pipeline and shut the South Oil Company's headquarters.

Exports have been around 900,000 barrels per day (bpd) for nearly a week, since the southern pipeline was attacked by saboteurs and while a US offensive against the followers of Moqtada al-Sadr extended to several Iraqi cities.

The unrest and a threat by followers of the Shiite cleric to attack the oil infrastructure in response to the US offensive have kept Iraq from reopening the 48-inch pipeline and reaching its August export goal of 1.8 million bpd.

An Iraqi oil official said it was impossible to say how long the threat from the uprising would cripple oil sales, the country's key revenue earner.

"The situation is very fluid and fragile — we can't anticipate anything," the official told Reuters. "What is correct now is that we are loading about 900,000 barrels of Basra Light. How long we can sustain that — only God knows."

Flows from southern fields to Iraq's two Gulf terminals, which now account for all of the country's exports, were continuing through a second 42-inch pipeline.

The larger pipeline has been repaired, but authorities shut it on Saturday after receiving intelligence that the Mehdi Army militia loyal to Sadr might target it.—Internet

## Cambodian party leader meets CPC delegation

PHNOM PENH, 15 Aug — Cambodian royalist FUNCINPEC Party's Secretary-General Prince Norodom Sirivudh met here Friday with the visiting Chinese delegation headed by He Yong, member of the Secretariat of the Central Committee of the Community Party of China (CPC).

During the meeting, both sides briefed each other about their domestic political and economic condition and exchanged views on Sino-Cambodian ties and regional and international issues of common concern.

Prince Sirivudh, also the Deputy Prime Minister and co-ministers of Interior Ministry, said Cambodia Government and people are happy to see the great results the Chinese people have achieved under the policy of opening and reform initiated by late Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping.

He also thanked the CPC and the Chinese Government and people for their great and sincere support and assistance extended to Cambodia.

Prince Sirivudh reaffirmed the stance of sticking to "one-China" policy and supporting China's cause of reunification.

He, also deputy secretary of the CPC Central Commission for Discipline Inspection, highly appreciated Cambodia for its firm adherence to the "one-China" policy and supporting China's cause of reunification.

MNA/Xinhua

## Megawati expresses hope for better relations with Singapore

JAKARTA, 15 Aug—The Indonesian President Megawati Soekarnoputri congratulated new Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and expressed hope that two governments would work to improve bilateral relations, said Indonesian Foreign Minister Hassan Wirajuda.

"President Megawati sent the letter yesterday (Thursday) and expressed the hope that the two countries could strengthen their ties," The Jakarta Post daily Saturday quoted Wirayuda as saying.

The Minister said he had also congratulated new

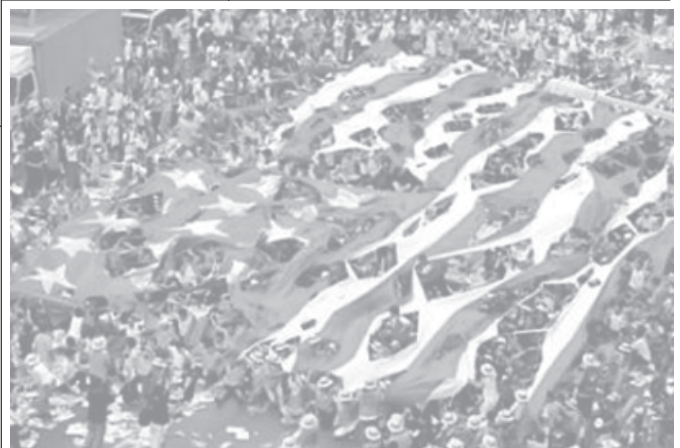
Singaporean Minister for Foreign Affairs George Yeo on his appointment to Lee's Cabinet.

"Hopefully many pending issues between the neighbouring countries will be addressed soon," Hassan said.

He said that Indonesia had several pending issues

with Singapore, including an extradition treaty process and the planned establishment of joint bilateral commission.

"We are always optimistic that Singapore will pay more attention to these issues and hope to see a new approach to settle them," Hassan said.—MNA/Xinhua



Protesters tear apart a large US flag near the US Embassy in Seoul on 15 Aug, 2004. About 10,000 protesters rallied on Sunday as they demanded US withdraw its troops from South Korea, that South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun cancel planned troop dispatch to Iraq and for Roh to resign. — INTERNET

## Iraq evicts reporters from Najaf

**BAGHDAD, 15 Aug—** Iraqi police ordered all journalists to leave the holy city of Najaf on Sunday, just as a new US offensive against militants hiding out in a revered shrine began.

Four police cars surrounded a hotel in the city where journalists were staying and presented the order signed by Najaf's police chief, Brig Ghalib al-Jazari.

It did not spell out a

punishment for those who did not comply, but police who delivered the order said any reporters remaining would be arrested, according to journalists at the hotel. The police said any cameras and cellular

phones they saw would be confiscated. In response to the threat, many journalists left the city.

Later Sunday, the government appeared to be backing down.

Government spokesman

George Sada said he contacted Interior Minister Falah Hassan al-Naqib, who informed him that police will be "taking it easy on the journalists."

"They are doing this out of concern over the journalists' safety," Sada said. "The Interior Minister decided that if the journalists want to stay, it will be at their peril and they will then have to bear the consequences."

Interior Ministry spokesman Adnan Abdulrahman denied anyone was threatened with arrest.

The order, if it were enforced, would mean the only news coverage of the ongoing violence in Najaf, one of the most revered cities to Shiite Muslims, would be provided by reporters embedded with the US military.

Internet



A plume of smoke rises over the skyline of the holy city of Najaf in southern Iraq on 15 Aug, 2004. — INTERNET

## FAO signs agreements with three Indian organizations

**NEW YORK, 15 Aug —** As part of its effort to help countries expand their technical and managerial potential in agriculture sector, the Food and Agriculture Organization has signed agreements with three Indian bodies that would enable them to take lead in improving food security and water management in the country's drought-prone areas.

In the first project, FAO will join the AME Foundation, a local NGO, to improve water management and promote alternative farming practices to strengthen food security in the Deccan Plateau region of southern India.

The other two proposals will be managed by the Bharathi Integrated Rural Development Society and the Acharya NG Ranga Agricultural University and will address water management issues and encourage more sustainable agricul-

tural practices.

"These projects will provide a number of important lessons and insights on how to improve food security through better land and water management, using participatory, community-driven approaches," said Daniel Gustafson, FAO Representative in India. "The programme represents a two-way flow of expertise between the partners and FAO."

Under the agreements, FAO will provide technical and management support to

three projects funded with 13.9 million euros from the Netherlands, while the plans will be implemented by the Indian partners.

The agency recently reconsidered its method of technical assistance because many countries wish to expand their own technical and administrative capabilities. As a result, FAO's role in these projects has decreased so that project management responsibility rests with governments and other national institutions.

MNA/PTI

## India to launch recoverable spacecraft in 2005

**NEW DELHI, 15 Aug—** India will join an elite club of countries with the launch next year of its first recoverable and reusable spacecraft in polar orbit, the *Indo-Asian News Service (IANS)* reported Friday.

Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) is completing preparations for the launch of the spacecraft to be used for conducting zero gravity experiments in a reusable capsule.

With it, India will join the elite club of six countries that have the technology and domain expertise. The six nations are US, France, Russia, China, Japan and the European Union (the European Space Agency).

"We will be sending a recoverable spacecraft of 500 kilos into the orbit using the *Polar\_Satellite*

*Launch Vehicle (PSLV)*. It will be retained for over a month to conduct zero gravity experiments in metal melting, composites and microbes for biological tests.

"The spacecraft will be manoeuvred to re-enter the atmosphere and land safely on earth for retrieving the experimental data from its capsule and its reuse subsequently," IANS quoted ISRO chairman G Madhavan Nair as saying at the space agency headquarters in Bangalore in south India.

ISRO will be launching the space capsule *Recovery Experiment (SRE)* payload as a co-passenger with *Cartosat-2* satellite in the second half of 2005 from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh State in southeast India.

"The *SRE* spacecraft will be positioned in the polar orbit at about 650 kilometres above Earth," Nair stated.

The spacecraft can also be recovered from sea using the floatation system.

MNA/Xinhua

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## Mahdi Army digs in, hopes for peace deal

**NAJAF, 15 Aug—**In an exclusive interview with *Aljazeera*, a *Moqtada al-Sadr* spokesman says the Mahdi militia are prepared for any attack against Najaf, but are also ready to accept any peace initiative.

Ahmad al-Shibani stressed that any peace move initiated by the interim government, which he branded as a proxy agent of the US occupation of Iraq, would be welcomed by al-Sadr. "We want to stop the bloodshed, maintain the honour and integrity of the Iraqi people, and bring this crisis to an end," he told *Aljazeera*.

His comments came a few hours after the Iraqi Ministry of the Interior stated that US occupation forces supported by Iraqi national guardsmen will 'soon' begin a large-scale offensive on Najaf.

In further signs that an attack on Najaf is imminent, Iraqi police forces in the city forced journalists to immediately leave the area. Najaf sources told *Aljazeera* that some journalists refused to leave and are hiding out in the besieged city.

While US forces have stressed that they will respect the sanctity of the holy shrine of the Imam Ali, *Aljazeera* is reporting that a single shell breached the outer sanctum of the shrine, hitting an outer wall and killing one Mahdi Army fighter.—*Internet*

## Ukraine captain in Iraq killed

**BAGHDAD, 15 Aug—**The commander of a Ukrainian platoon in Iraq was killed by a remote-controlled land-mine blast while collecting water this morning, the Defence Ministry said.

Capt Yuriy Ivanov, the commander of a logistical support platoon, was getting water from a source near Suwayrah, 40km south of Baghdad, when he was killed by the explosion, ministry spokesman Viktor Vlasnyuk said.

Mr Vlasnyuk said local Iraqis had known that Ukrainian forces in the area often collected water at the source and apparently set a trap. Nobody else was hurt in the blast, Mr Vlasnyuk said.

Ukraine has about 1600 troops in Iraq, making it the fourth-largest contributor to the coalition and the largest among non-NATO countries. Eight of its troops have died in Iraq, three of them

in combat, and some 20 have been wounded.

Many Ukrainians favour the withdrawal of the country's troops from Iraq, and some opposition politicians have called for a pullout. The contribution has become an issue in the campaign for Ukraine's October presidential election.

Defence Minister Yevhen Marchuk, who said last month that Ukraine was in negotiations on decreasing and eventually withdrawing the troops, told visiting US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld on Friday that they will remain for the foreseeable future.

Internet

## Thousands more face threat in S Asia flood ordeal

**AHMEDABAD (India), 15 Aug—** Authorities in western India put helicopters and boats on stand-by on Friday to move on short notice to evacuate thou-

sands of villagers living downstream from two dams where water levels have risen alarmingly.

Around 70,000 people from nearly 200 villages in

the northeast of Gujarat State were at risk from flooding due to greater water flow from the dams located on the Maha Sagar River.

MNA/Reuters



Dutch soldiers search for weapons in the used clothing market in the Iraqi town of Samawa, on 14 Aug, 2004. — INTERNET



## Pakistan expresses concern over killings in Iraq

ISLAMABAD, 15 Aug—Pakistan Friday expressed its deep concern over the latest spate of killings in Iraq and demanded that the sanctity of holy places and shrines in Najaf, Karbala and other places to be respected.

"Pakistan is deeply concerned over the latest spate of killings in Iraq," said Foreign Office spokesman Masood Khan.

"These killings must come to an end, sanctity of holy places and shrines in Najaf and Karbala and other places should be respected and Iraq should be steered towards peace, security and stability," the spokesman said, stopping short of criticizing the operations of the US-led occupation forces in Iraq.

Pakistan, a major Muslim country with a population of 140 million, opposed the US invasion of Iraq and viewed it as illegitimate although Islamabad is a major ally of Washington in the war

on terror.

US troops and Iraqi security forces backed by warplanes and helicopters Thursday launched a major assault on the Mehdi Army, followers of the radical Shiite leader and cleric Muqtada Al-Sadr, in the holy city of Najaf in a bid to end the fierce fighting there, leaving at least 160 dead.

According to the US Defence Department, about 2,200 US Marines, along with 500 to 1,000 soldiers and an undisclosed number of US-trained Iraqi troops, were involved in the offensive.

MNA/Xinhua

## UAE to fly Iraqi refugees in Pakistan back home

ABU DHABI, 15 Aug — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) will dispatch two planes to transport 146 Iraqis in Pakistan back home, the official WAM news agency reported Friday.

The gesture is in response to an appeal by the Office of the United Nations Higher Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), which requested the UAE assistance in repatriating the Iraqi refugees.

MNA/Xinhua

## Malaysia travel business frets as skies hazy again

KUALA LUMPUR, 15 Aug—Malaysia's travel industry expressed fears on Friday that the haze from Indonesian forest fires, which has driven away foreign tourists in the past, is posing a fresh threat to local businesses.

Malaysia sees its peak season for Arab tourists between now and September and tour operators said the recurrence of the acrid-smelling haze, after a brief respite last month, could hurt new bookings and arrivals.

Visibility in Kuala Lumpur was down to about

three miles on Friday as dust particles from forest fires in Indonesia combined with the dense humidity and local air pollution to create the stifling haze that residents have come to dread. The fires are mainly due to illegal slash-and-burn cultivation on plantations on the islands of Sumatra and

Kalimantan (Borneo).

"I'm afraid if this is prolonged, and the air quality gets any worse, we could start seeing some very undesirable things happening to our business," said a local tour agent who handles mainly Arab and European travellers.— MNA/Reuters

## Canada's trade surplus hits record

OTTAWA, 15 Aug—Canada's trade surplus hit a record of 8.6 billion Canadian dollars (about 6.6 billion US dollars) in June as the country's exports grew for a fifth consecutive month, Statistics Canada said Friday.

Merchandise exports hit a record high of slightly more than 39.0 billion Canadian dollars (about 29 billion US dollars) for June, eclipsing previous record levels achieved during the high-tech boom.

Exports increased by 4.4 per cent, while imports fell 3.7 per cent from their record high in May.

Canada's exports increased to all of

its principal trading regions, while every industry, except forestry products, registered gains.

Increasing global demand and a steady economic rebound for the first half of 2004 in the United States appear to be eroding any dampening effects that the strong Canadian dollar had over the exporting community, Statistics Canada said.

MNA/Xinhua



US Army tanks of the 1st Cavalry Division drive down a street during an operation in Baghdad, on 15 August, 2004. Guerillas fired mortars at a meeting where Iraqi leaders met to pick an interim national assembly on Sunday, killing at least two people.

INTERNET

## Bush declares Florida disaster area

WASHINGTON, 15 Aug—US President George W Bush on Friday declared the southeastern state of Florida a disaster area following Hurricane Charley came ashore in the state earlier in the day.

Bush declared "a major disaster exists"

in Florida and ordered federal aid to supplement local recovery efforts in the areas struck by tropical storm Bonnie and Hurricane Charley beginning on August 11, the White House said in a statement.

The action makes federal funding available to affected individuals in the counties of Charlotte, Lee, Manatee and Sarasota, the statement said.

Assistance can include grants for temporary housing and home repairs, low-cost loans to cover uninsured property losses, and other programmes to help individuals and business owners recover from the effects of the disaster, according to the statement.

Federal funding is also available to state and eligible local governments for debris removal and emergency protective

measures, and hazard mitigation measures.

A stronger-than-expected hurricane struck coastal Florida on Friday, slamming the heavily populated Gulf Coast with devastating storm surges and 230-kilometre-per-hour wind that snapped trees in half, ripped roofs off buildings and blacked out hundreds of thousands of people.

Nearly two million people were ordered to evacuate, with airports and theme parks hurriedly closed ahead of the strongest storm to hit Florida in a decade. Florida Governor Jeb Bush said preliminary estimate of damage could exceed 15 billion US dollars.

About 340,000 homes and businesses were without power in southwest Florida, and that number was expected to grow as Charley cut across the state, media reports said.

MNA/Xinhua

## Australian police face dangerous PNG mission

SYDNEY, 15 Aug — Australia signed an agreement on Friday with Papua New Guinea for a five-year, 900-million-Australian-dollar (639-million-US-dollar) programme to bring peace to a nation where criminal gangs rule the capital and tribes engage in bloody wars.

As part of a new interventionist policy in the South Pacific, the first of 210 Australian police land in Papua New Guinea in early September.

"This is going to be, for the police, quite dangerous work," Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer said in Sydney after signing

the treaty with PNG counterpart Sir Rabbie Namaliu.

The assistance programme for the former Australian colony, which gained independence in 1975, will also see 60 Australians placed in government departments in an attempt to end endemic corruption in the resource-rich but under-de-

veloped nation.

Australia's interventionist policy in the South Pacific stems from its fear that political and economic instability in its small island neighbours could create havens for drug traffickers, people smugglers and terror groups.

MNA/Reuters

## India for better ties with China, Pakistan

NEW DELHI, 16 Aug — "India is committed to strengthening and expanding its relations with China and the two countries shall carry forward the process of discussion to resolve the boundary question with political vision and a practical approach," Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said here Sunday.

Addressing the nation on the occasion of the 58th Independence Day, the Prime Minister said that India is also committed to strengthening and expanding its relations with Pakistan.

Manmohan Singh said that the positive trends which commenced with (former Indian prime minister) Rajiv Gandhi's visit to China in 1998 have provided a sound basis for later trends in the bilateral ties.

Referring to relations with Pakistan, the Prime Minister said that India is

committed to carrying forward the peace process with Pakistan but cross-border terrorism and violence would make this task "more difficult and complex", adding that "we have always been in favour of a purposive bilateral dialogue with Pakistan to resolve all outstanding issues".

"The edifice of peace that we wish to build must stand on the twin pillars of mutual trust and confidence."

Manmohan Singh said that the "assurance of peace and prosperity in our neigh-

bourhood" was an important priority for India.

"Our government will give the highest priority to building closer political, economic and cultural ties with all our neighbours," he said.

Singh said that all India's neighbours are developing countries whose priority, like that of India, will also have to be the improvement of the quality of life of their citizens and these countries are not only bound together by common borders but also by common destiny.

MNA/Xinhua



Soldiers with the US Army's 1st Cavalry Division, 1st Brigade, 1-12 Cav, from Fort Hood, Texas, run into a building during a codon and search in a neighbourhood outside of Sadr City in Baghdad on 15 Aug, 2004. — INTERNET

## Two US soldiers killed in separate attacks in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 15 Aug — Two US soldiers, including one Marine, have been killed in separate attacks in Iraq's western al-Anbar Province, the US military said Saturday.

The US military said in a statement that one US Marine was killed in action on Friday and another soldier died of fatal wounds sustained in separate incident.

Al-Anbar Province, which includes the restive cities of Ramadi and Fallujah, has

been the bastion of unrest against the US occupation.

The latest casualties bring to 694 the number of US soldiers killed in Iraq since the beginning of the US-led invasion in March last year. — MNA/Xinhua



US troops deploy on the streets of the southern Iraq city of Najaf, on 15 August, 2004. Shiite militiamen battled US and Iraqi forces in Najaf on Sunday, resuming hostilities after Saturday's collapse of peace talks aimed at ending 10 days of fighting.

INTERNET

## China holds first seminar for African Press officials

BEIJING, 16 Aug — The first seminar held by the Information Office of China's State Council for African Press officials opened here Saturday.

Press officials from 17 African countries will participate in the two-week seminar. They will exchange views with Chinese journalists and learn more about China's achievements.

This seminar is the first of its kind and a result of the cooperation between the governments of China and African countries. Besides Beijing, the participants will travel to Shanghai, Chongqing and Suzhou.

One hundred seminar participants, African diplomats to China, Chinese officials and media representatives attended a reception here Saturday evening sponsored by the Information Office of State Council for the opening of the seminar. — MNA/Xinhua

## 114 kilos of morphine seized in northwestern Iran

TEHRAN, 16 Aug — Iranian anti-drug police seized over 114 kilos of morphine last week in the northwestern province of West Azarbaijan, the official IRNA news agency reported on Sunday.

Police seized the haul concealed in an automobile and arrested two suspected drug traffickers in the operation, the report said.

Iran sits in the crossroad linking drug producing Afghanistan and Pakistan with markets in the Persian Gulf states, Central Asia, western Europe and other regions.

The country accounts for 80 per cent of the opium and 90 per cent of the morphine intercepted worldwide, according to the International Narcotics Control Board. — MNA/Xinhua

## US Embassy in Colombo to open after security threat

COLOMBO 15 Aug — The US Embassy in Sri Lankan capital Colombo which has been threatened by suspected anthrax will open and operate normally on Monday after a six-day closure, the US Embassy said in a statement on Friday. The US Embassy here was evacuated and closed indefinitely early on Tuesday

when it received white powder in an envelope suspected containing deadly anthrax.

"Tests conducted on a white powder found in an envelope this week at the embassy proved negative for any toxic substances," the US Embassy said.

MNA/Xinhua



Smoke billows from inside the so-called Green Zone, where over 1,000 delegates are taking part in the Iraqi national conference on 15 August, after several mortars landed in the heavily fortified area in the centre of Baghdad. — INTERNET

မြန်မာ့စွေတာ၊ သိန်းပါးလေလွင့်၊ ထုတ်ကုန်မြင့်

## Former British FM urges Blair to learn Iraq lessons

LONDON, 16 Aug — Former British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook on Sunday urged British Prime Minister Tony Blair to learn lessons from the US-led war against Iraq, saying that Blair should distance himself from the US Administration's preemptive strike doctrine.

Anti-war voters would see the prospect of military adventures diminishing and Blair had to understand that he could not take Britain to war again in such very divided circumstances, Cook told the BBC Breakfast with Frost programme.

"One good thing he could do at this (coming) Labour Party conference would be to rule out the doctrine of preemptive strike which (US President) George W. Bush invented to justify the attack on Iraq," Cook said.

"That places enormous stress on having the correct intelligence and one of the things we have learnt from Iraq is that you will never have intelligence good enough to justify war on its own," said Cook, who resigned from Blair's Cabinet as leader of the House of Commons days before the Iraq war in protest against the government's Iraq policy.

The argument that war could in any case be justified for humanitarian reasons would not sway the voters who thought that the

United States and Britain had opposed the wishes of the international community, Cook insisted. The popularity of Blair, the staunchest US ally on Iraq, has plummeted since the war due to his policy on Iraq and his government has been accused of exaggerating the threat posed by Iraq's alleged weapons of mass destruction to justify the Iraq war.

MNA/Xinhua

## Musharraf extends Independence Day greetings to Kalam

ISLAMABAD, 16 Aug — Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf on Saturday greeted his Indian counterpart A P J Abdul Kalam on the eve of the neighbouring country's Independence Day.

"On the anniversary of India's independence, it gives me great pleasure to convey to you and the people of India our felicitations and warm greetings," he said in his message to Kalam. — MNA/PTI

## Instability keeps Iraq oil exports half normal rate

BAGHDAD, 16 Aug — Iraq's oil exports were still running at half their normal rate on Sunday as instability due to an anti-US uprising prevented the re-opening of a main pipeline feeding the country's terminals in the Gulf.

For nearly a week, the unrest has kept Iraq from hitting its August export goal of 1.8 million barrels per day (BPD).

An Iraqi oil official said it was impossible to say how long the threat from the rising would cripple oil sales, the country's key revenue earner.

"The situation is very fluid and fragile — we can't anticipate anything," the official told Reuters. "What is correct now is that we are loading about 900,000

barrels of Basra Light. How long we can sustain that — only God knows."

Exports from Iraq's offshore terminals, which account for all its oil sales, have run at half normal levels of 1.8 million bpd since last Monday when saboteurs attacked a 48-inch pipeline that links southern oilfields to two offshore terminals.

A 42-inch pipeline remains in operation.

The larger pipeline has been repaired, but authorities shut it on Saturday after

receiving intelligence that the Mehdi Army militia loyal to Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr might target it.

An official from the South Oil Co. confirmed on Sunday that the pipeline was still shut. The Mehdi Army has vowed to attack Iraq's oil infrastructure in response to a US offensive against the 30-year-old cleric and his followers, which is drawing closer to the Imam Ali shrine in the centre of Najaf.

US crude oil futures hit 46.65 US dollars a barrel on

Friday, the latest peak in a series of record highs, underpinned by worries about sabotage in Iraq and fresh evidence of strong Chinese demand. Analysts see US oil heading for 50 US dollars. One tanker, the Lucky Sailor, was loading some 888,000 barrels per day (BPD) of Basra Light crude from platform number four of the Basra Oil Terminal (BOT), formerly known as Mina al-Bakr, a shipping agent said.

MNA/Reuters

## US to target human trafficking in Texas

HOUSTON, 15 Aug — Thousands of people are brought into the United States against their will each year in acts of modern-day slavery, US Justice Department officials said recently as they announced new measures to end the practice.

"The simple truth is that some 16,000 people every year are brought into this country against their will," said Michael Shelby, US Attorney for the Southern District of Texas.

"Those people are held captive, they are beaten, they are assaulted, many times they are raped, they are threatened with death."

The Justice Department has launched a new task force in Texas to ferret out criminals who force illegal immigrants to work in captive labour or prostitution, Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights Alexander Acosta said.

The department plans to set up similar task forces in more than a

dozen locations across the country, he said.

Human trafficking "is real, it is hideous, it is nothing less than modern-day slavery," Acosta told a news conference.

Shelby said the victims of human traffickers are reluctant to seek help because they are in the country illegally and they are often threatened by their captors.

The officials said that because these cases are hard to track, they did not know if human trafficking crimes were on the rise.

According to a report on the Justice Department web site, approximately 80 per cent of human trafficking victims are female.

MNA/Reuters





*A gymnasium built in Kyaukse, Mandalay Division.—MNA*



*Kyaunggon in Ayeyawady Division gets a new gymnasium to produce fit and healthy youths.*

MNA

**Endeavours  
to uplift  
health and  
fitness  
of the entire  
nation**



*Youths in Kengtung of Shan State (East) are now able to undergo physical training at the newly built gymnasium. —(PHOTO HTAY AUNG- KYEMON)*

## AEAIWC holds its fifth meeting...

(from page 16)

the Directorate of Trade, reported on matters pertaining to the seeking of approvals for the minutes of the fourth meeting and progress of the realization of the resolutions of the meeting. Later, approvals were sought.

Secretary of AEAIRC and Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu put into discussions sectorwise matters concerned. Chairmen and officials of the economic cooperation subcommittee, the investment subcommittee, the fisheries subcommittee, the firm implements subcommittee, the trade subcommittee, and the industrial subcommittee presented progress reports on their respective tasks.

The meeting came to an end with concluding remarks made by Brig-Gen Pyi Sone. — MNA

## Wellwishers invited for sinking...

(from page 16)

01-245420 or 01-253088; the deputy director-general at 01-240118; the deputy director-general (Engineering) at 01-291967; the director (Sagaing Division

DAC) at 071-21012; the director (Magway Division DAC) at 063-23164; and the director (Mandalay Division DAC) at 02-54657.

MNA

## ASEAN, China meet for drug control

YANGON, 16 Aug — The third meeting of substitution development working group of ASEAN and China Cooperative Operations in Response to Dangerous Drugs (ACCORD) was held at Grand Plaza Park Royal Hotel here this morning.

Substitution development tasks implemented by

each country and future plans were discussed at the meeting. The meeting was attended by representatives of ASEAN member countries, China and UNODC (Bangkok/Yangon), guests from foreign missions and departments, officials and observers.

MNA

## Filling stations, refinery and oil field inspected in Mandalay, Magway Divisions

YANGON, 16 Aug — Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, accompanied by officials inspected the place chosen to open Compressed Natural Gas Filling Station, Paleik, Singaing, Mandalay Division on 14 August and designated the axis to connect natural gas pipelines.

During his presence, the managing director and director (Engineering Service) of Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise presented reports on situation of 14-inch diameter natural gas pipeline and petrol-run bus lines in TadaU, Kyaukse, Singaing, Myintha and Kume and Meiktila in Mandalay. After the minister had opened Paleik CNG Filling Station and gave instructions on replacing petrol-run bus lines with natural gas-run ones from TadaU, Kyaukse, Myintha and Kume for the first phase and bus lines for Mandalay to Meiktila for the second phase. He instructed officials to carry out work for speedy implementation to open CNG Filling Stations along the natural gas pipelines as soon as possible.

On his arrival at Filling Station No 0621 and 0633 on 15 August, he inspected sale of fuel and gave necessary instructions to officials. He went on to No 2 Refinery

(Chauk). At the briefing hall, the managing director of MOGE and the factory manager presented reports on production of oil. The minister gave instructions on minimizing loss and wastage and cooperation to boost production and inspected production of crude oil and raw materials for wax. Next, the minister went to Yenanchaung oil field and the managing director and general manager of the oil field presented reports on drilling of new wells and maintenance of old ones. In response to the reports, the minister laid down arrangements to be made for enabling production of oil exceed the target. — MNA

## Minister inspects reservoirs, river water pumping projects...

(from page 1)

Ngathayauk river water pumping project in NyaungU District and preparations for monsoon paddy cultivation.

Afterwards the minister proceeded to the construction site of the Ngathayauk Dam project about three miles northwest of Ngathayauk in NyaungU District, Mandalay Division and inspected the construction work being carried out with the use of machinery. He also saw over the earth work for the main dam and construction of control tower. The Ngathayauk Dam is being constructed by the Irrigation Department. Later, the minister went to the construction site of Kyaukku river water pumping project which is to supply irrigation water to farmlands around NyaungU Airport. In-charge of the project reported to him on construction of the main pumping station, sub-pumping stations and channels to irrigate 3000 acres of farm land all the year round. The minister inspected the construction work and gave instruction on timely completion of work. — MNA

**Kyawzi river water pumping project was built to irrigate the farm lands northwest of Taungtha Township.**



Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi inspects the shop to sell compressed natural gas-CNG at Paleik, Singaing Township on 14 August. — ENERGY

## PBANRD Minister receives Japanese Ambassador

YANGON, 16 Aug — Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt received Japanese Ambassador to

Myanmar Mr Yuji Miyamoto at his office at noon today.

Present on the occasion were Director-General Col Than Swe of Department of

Border Areas and National Races Development, Director-General Col Than Win of Education and Training Department and officials.

MNA

## Greening tasks for Mandalay Airport environs inspected

YANGON, 16 Aug — Accompanied by Civil Aviation Department Director General U Win Maung, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe arrived at Mandalay International Airport by flight of Myanma Airways this morning and inspected the growing of shady trees and flowering plants in the compound of the airport by car. Airport General Manager U Tun Hlaing and officials reported to the minister on kinds of

trees planted and the number of trees and water supply for growing them. Next, the minister inspected the entrance road to the airport and growing of flowers in front of the archway. The minister also looked into the growing of flowering plants and the water tank and gave necessary instructions.

At the VIP lounge of the airport, General Manager U Tun Hlaing reported to the minister on growing of trees and plants for greening the

environs and other plans to be carried out. Director-General U Win Maung gave a supplementary report. The chairman of Kyaukse District Peace and Development Council also reported on water supply tasks for growing the trees and plants and Officer on Special Duty Col Thein Swe on nurturing of landscaping grass and growing of shady trees and seasonal flowers. The minister gave necessary instructions and fulfilled the needs.

MNA



Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe inspects cultivation of shady plants along the road to Mandalay International Airport. — TRANSPORT



Third meeting of ASEAN-China Cooperative Operations in Response to Dangerous Drugs (ACCORD) in progress. — CCIDAC

## Meeting on Human Resource Development for Public Health held

YANGON, 16 Aug — A ceremony to meet Human Resource Development for Public Health, organized by the Ministry of Health, took place at the meeting hall of the ministry on Bogyoke Aung San Street this morning.

It was attended by Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo, directors-general, deputy directors-general, rectors, directors, the chairman of Myanmar Medical Science Academy, professors and officials.

First, the deputy min-

ister made a speech on the occasion, saying that the Department of Health under the Ministry of Health always coordinated for human resource development for public health.

In providing to the public health care services, there has been achievement of human resources development. Basic health infrastructure of a country depends upon that of township, district, state and division. So as to catch up with standard of functions of International and WHO and systems must be kept

for development of human resources of public health and the meeting needs to be discussed by technicians, he added.

Afterwards, Deputy Director-General of Department of Health Dr Ye Myint presented reports on measures being taken for development of human resources of public health and those present took part in the discussions.

Next, the deputy minister made concluding remarks and the meeting went into recess.

MNA





Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung delivers an address at the coordination meeting (2/2004) of organizing the People-to-people Exchange Programme: ASEAN Cultural Interaction at the Grassroots, Phase III, on 16-8-2004. — MNA

## Ministry of Construction holds Four-monthly meeting

YANGON, 16 Aug—The first and second four-monthly meeting (2004) of the Ministry of Construction was held at the Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development.

It was attended by Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, Deputy Ministers U Tint Swe and Brig-Gen Myint Thein, Public Works Managing

Director U Nay Soe Naing, Construction Inspection Department Director General U Soe Tint, DHSHD Director General Col Aung Win, departmental heads, superintending engineers of states and divisions, superintending engineers of various construction projects and engineers.

First, the minister addressed the opening

ceremony.

The superintending engineers of states and divisions reported on construction tasks to be carried out, acquisition and use of funds and use of machinery and construction materials. In response to the reports, the minister gave necessary instructions and attended to the needs.

MNA



Construction Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun delivers an address at 1st and 2nd four-monthly work coordination meeting for 2004. — CONSTRUCTION

## 6th ASEAN Universities Network Educational Forum commences

YANGON, 16 Aug—The 6th ASEAN Universities Network Educational Forum opened at Diamond Jubilee Hall here today.

Present were Minister for Education U Than Aung, Deputy Ministers U Myo Nyunt and Col Aung Myo Min, officials, ASEAN Universities Network Executive Director Prof Dr

Supachai Yavaprabhas and others.

After the minister had made a speech, Prof Dr Supachai Yavaprabhas explained about the Forum.

He presented souvenirs to the minister and officials.

Afterwards, the minister, deputy ministers, the executive director of ASEAN and faculty

members of ASEAN Universities Network and students posed for a documentary photo.

Teachers and students of member countries of ASEAN Universities Network attended the forum and would carry out seminars and field tour programmes commencing today until 27 August. — MNA

## IWT MD inspects waterway, running of vessels

YANGON, 16 Aug—Managing Director of Inland Water Transport U Soe Tint inspected current and waterways near Nawade

Bridge in Pyay, running and berthing of vessels, the Township Manager's Office in Aunglan.

He inspected waterway

of Ayeyawady Bridge (Magway) in Magway, current of Ayeyawady River, warning signs and a check point.—MNA



Gem merchants observe jade and gem lots at the 17th gem and jade sale for 2004. — MNA

## Coord meeting held to organize People-to-people Exchange Programme: ASEAN Cultural Interaction at Grassroots, Phase III

YANGON, 16 Aug—The coordination meeting (2/2004) on organizing the People-to-people Exchange Programme: ASEAN Cultural Interaction at the Grassroots, Phase III, was held at the National Museum on Pyay Road here at 1 pm today. It was attended by Chairman of the Leading Committee for organizing the programme Minister for Culture Maj-

Gen Kyi Aung, Mandalay Mayor Brig-Gen Yan Thein, the leading committee members deputy ministers, departmental heads, members of subcommittees and officials.

Minister Maj-Gen Kyi Aung explained matters related to holding the seminar on the People-to-people Exchange Programme: ASEAN

Cultural Interaction at the Grassroots, Phase III, a project of ASEAN Culture and Information Committee in Myanmar. Next, officials of the subcommittees reported on their arrangements for the seminar.

The deputy ministers and officials took part in the discussions and the meeting concluded with the remarks by the minister.

MNA

## UMEHL holds 17th gem and jade sale

YANGON, 16 Aug—The Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings Ltd held its 17th gem and jade sale for 2004 at the Myanmar Gems Mart on Kaba Aye Pagoda road here this morning, attended by Managing Director of UMEHL Maj-

Gen Win Hlaing (Retd).

The managing director inspected uncut jade displayed on the ground floor and gems lots and jewellery displayed at the middle and upper floors where officials concerned conducted him round.

Next, the managing director greeted gem merchants who were observing jade and gem lots.

Altogether 164 jade lots and 323 gem lots were sold through tender system and competitive bidding at the gem and jade sale.—MNA



A 511-carat sapphire worth K 150 million displayed at the 17th gem and jade sale for 2004. — MNA



Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings Ltd Managing Director Maj-Gen Win Hlaing (Retd) inspects the 17th gem and jade sale for 2004. — MNA

# Cultivating a kind heart

*Khiun Nyi San*

Without a kind heart one will not be able to serve the mankind's interest, no matter how wise, strong or wealthy he is. Knowledge, wisdom and thought will cultivate a kind heart.

I have heard a tender group of words "cultivating a kind heart" (moral education) at a pre-elementary school named 'Higashi Bessho' in Ohta town, Japan. Under the arrangement of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Education, a delegation comprising 20 primary assistant teachers of Myanmar visited Japan for 23 days.

As soon as our bus arrived at the gate, Japanese children of the school welcomed us by waving their hands. And when we entered the school compound, they greeted us "Konichiwa" in Japanese and "Good Morning" in English. Both greetings have the same meaning. We shook hands with them all, while greeting them "Mingalaba", "Konichiwa" and "Good Morning". We all the teachers and the children had the same feeling: the feeling of pleasure.

The greetings were followed by the drill and fitness exercise of the school children. We visited the classrooms where the children were reciting poems, making dolls or singing songs. At a number of places of the school, we watched with pleasure many paintings, which were the works of children, and toys and colourful pictures the children like.

"How do you feel visiting our children?" the principal asked us when we met with her at the parlour. "We are very happy", we all responded. She said that the teaching methods of 16 pre-elementary schools in Ohta in Gunma Prefecture were different from one another, and that her school taught physical education, songs, poems, drawing and origami. Special attention has been paid to cultivating a kind heart (moral education) and physical education to strengthen their morale and cultivate morals and manners, she said, explaining the salient points of the school. She invited us to ask more questions.

"Cultivating a kind heart". The words are very tender and have a deep and wide meaning. "What kind of education do you teach children, whose hearts are so pure and tender? And how do you teach them?" I asked her

**As soon as our bus arrived at the gate, Japanese children of the school welcomed us by waving their hands. And when we entered the school compound, they greeted us saying "Konichiwa" in Japanese and "Good Morning" in English.**

politely and with respect. She was thinking for a while. Everybody in the room was silent, eagerly waiting her answer. "It is a very difficult question to answer. But I will try my best to define it" she said. She explained that if children do not get enough embracing love from their parents and elder brothers and sisters, they will have no morals and manners and less sympathy for others; that they will have less humanitarian spirit and will become rude and rough; that cultivating the heart means nurturing children's soul and correcting their mind to have a kind heart; that during the time when their brains are developing at a fast rate, children are being trained and nurtured to value and observe the good manner including humanitarian spirit and helpfulness throughout the rest of the life.

She continued to say that the teaching method includes story telling, taking lessons, and knowledge about famous persons and places; that children are being taught to have good thoughts and morals, to have the spirit to love and help each other; that they are being trained to be good in individual and group-wise performance; that questions asked by the children are being answered attentively; that although she has no concrete evidence to prove the success of the cultivating a kind heart programme at present, but it will be useful for the children till they become adults.

The principal then told us about a child who had attended the school. She said that when the child saw his grandma crying sorrowfully at her husband's funeral, he tried to comfort his grandma, saying that he would take

care of her and bring happiness to her; that the child then gave her a present, which was a photo of his grandpa and grandma walking happily hand in hand in a damson garden; and that when she saw the photo, grandma was able to control herself. The boy's good deeds came out from his kind heart, she said. The principal was talking with us through an interpreter.

In return we spoke words of thanks to express our pleasure to visit the school and know about the good deeds of the boy. When we left the school, we saw the children waving at us.

**It is beneficial for the human society to train a child to have a kind heart. A person will benefit the human society if he is trained to have a heart of gold since young. Children are sincere in every way, and sincerity helps the world become a pleasant place.**

It is beneficial for the human society to train a child to have a kind heart. A person will benefit the human society if he is trained to have a heart of gold since young. Children are sincere in every way, and sincerity helps the world become a pleasant place. A child's gift can uplift the spirit of an old woman who had a lot of experience in her life. It can make her realize the truth and also gives her strength.

Every race and every nation has their own customs. Myanmar people by nature lead a simple life under the teachings of the Lord Buddha. The process of cultivating the heart (moral education) can be found everywhere in Myanmar. Parents as well as teachers are giving moral education to the children. The teachings of Lord Buddha nurture the people.

Children are future leaders and the strength of the nation. We, teachers, have full responsibility to nurture and train them. They will become outstanding persons walking on the correct path only if we teach them out of love. Teachers are a pillar in building a modern and developed nation with the power of knowledge. So, Teachers, let us strive for giving valuable and useful knowledge to children.

(Translation: TMT)

Myanma Alin+Kyemon: 14.8.2004.

Poem

## Worthy of choice

- \* **Not interfering in others' internal affairs**  
Considerate, helpful  
For peace and positivity  
In words and deeds, always engaged  
That person's innate mind  
Will definitely be revealed
- \* **Affairs of another's home, in personal affairs**  
Barging in without being asked  
Boss around, mess things up  
To cause dissent  
Use unworthy words  
At all times, hurting others  
Constantly engaged in doing  
What kind of innate mind that person has  
Is definitely revealed.
- \* **If those two kinds of persons**  
Should meet those with clean mind  
Those who can prove positive  
Will surely be seen by human kind  
His benefit, your benefit is put in the balance  
Those who make  
This world perfect, peaceful are real human  
Definitely  
May you be able to make the choice.

Byan Hlwar

(Trs)

## People's Desire

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

## Efficient use of electricity

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

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

## Efficient use of fuel

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

## Koizumi pledges more efforts for peace

Tokyo, 16 Aug— Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi said Sunday he would further push efforts to "contribute to global peace" and "win trust from the world", suggesting the continuation of current policy to expand Japan's role in global affairs.

Addressing a ceremony at Tokyo to commemorate the 59th anniversary of the end of World War II, the Premier said that the war inflicted "huge damage and suffering" to a lot of countries, especially the Asian nations.

"I will make my utmost efforts for Japan to actively contribute to global peace and win more trust from the world," Koizumi said.

The remarks implied his resolution to go on with the policy to promote presence of the Self-Defence Forces internationally.

Sending troops abroad is controversial in Japan considering its pacifist

Constitution. But overseas operations as UN peace-keeping and anti-terrorism missions have been seen since 1990s. Around 500 Japanese troops are currently posted in southern Iraq.

The government reportedly would submit an amendment bill next year, calling to upgrade "international cooperation" from the "collateral mission" to "basic mission".

In addition, the Defence Agency is mulling on setting up special forces for such purpose.

Koizumi, as well as most of his Cabinet members, did not visit on the day the Yasukuni Shrine that honours Japanese war dead, including A-class WWII war criminals.

The Premier, who had vowed to visit the shrine every year, announced early this month his absence because this year's visit was realized on July 1.

MNA/Xinhua



## China, Brazil hail 30th anniversary of diplomatic ties

**BELJING, 16 Aug—**The Chinese and Brazilian presidents exchanged congratulatory messages Sunday to mark the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

The two countries have had all-round and effective cooperation and made fruitful achievements in such fields as politics, economy and trade, science and technology, culture, and international affairs since the establishment of their diplomatic relations 30 years ago, especially the establishment of their strategic partnership, Chinese President Hu Jintao said in a letter to his Brazilian counterpart Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva.

"Your state visit to China in May this year achieved full success, furthering the relations to an all-round and deep development," Hu said.

Both China and Brazil are major developing countries, he said. Under the background of a multi-polar world and the accelerated development of economic globalization, strengthening and deepening Sino-Brazilian strategic cooperation will be beneficial to the two countries' common

development, safeguarding legal rights of the vast developing countries, furthering the establishment of a fair and reasonable international political and economic order.

China is willing to work with Brazil and the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries is an opportunity to bring the Sino-Brazilian strategic partnership to a new level and develop Sino-Brazilian ties into a good example of new-style relations between developing countries, Hu said.

In his letter to Hu, Brazilian President Lula said that under the basis of mutual respect of each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity, non-interference of each other's internal affairs, the Brazil-China relations have been strengthened evidently.

The political dialogue between the two countries may be rated as a good example of such dialogue

and bilateral cooperation has progressed smoothly, Lula said.

Mutual understanding and common ground in international affairs have developed steadily, said the Brazilian President.

Lula recalled his state visit to China in May this year and reiterated the four guiding principles on the further development of bilateral relations reached with China.

He said the Brazilian Government has attached great importance to the harmonious development of friendly relations between the two governments and the two peoples.

Lula expressed his belief that the strategic partnership between Brazil and China would be strengthened further.

Also on Sunday, Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing and Brazilian Foreign Minister Celso Amorim exchanged congratulatory messages.

MNA/Xinhua

## India, China to step up cooperation between police forces

**BELJING, 16 Aug—**Opening up a new area of cooperation between India and China, police organizations of the two countries have started interacting on a regular basis to step up ties and safeguard national security.

Under this, a high-level Indian delegation led by Joint Secretary AK Jain has arrived here for talks with senior officials of the Chinese People's Armed Police (PAP), an armed defence force which undertakes police duties.

This visit will open up a new area of cooperation as part of the policy of enhancement, diversification and promotion of comprehensive relations between India and China, official sources said.

They said the visit of the

Indian delegation was a return visit to that made by the Deputy Commander of the PAP, Lieutenant-General. Liang Hong in February this year.

Liang had led a seven-member Chinese police delegation to India for the first time and had successful exchange of views with his Indian counterparts, sources noted. During his stay here, Jain is scheduled to meet with the Commander of the PAP and hold official talks with the deputy Commander of the PAP. Apart from Beijing,

the four-member delegation would also visit PAP facilities in Xi'an, Shanghai and Shenzhen.

During their visit to Shanghai, China's commercial capital, the Indian delegation is expected to familiarize with PAP's role in safeguarding the major port there.

Their visit to Shenzhen would be basically to understand how the PAP has undertaken securing the country's leading Special Economic Zone (SEZ), sources said. — MNA/PTI

## India watching developments in Maldives

**NEW DELHI, 16 Aug—**India said Saturday it was watching developments in Maldives, where government has declared a state of emergency.

"We have learnt about it. We are naturally concerned. We are watching the developments," *the Press Trust of India* quoted

External Affairs Minister spokesman Navtej Sarna as saying when asked about clamping of emergency in that nation.

He said India enjoys close relations with Maldives.

The state radio in Male announced Friday the declaration of a state of

emergency. The Maldivian Government said the step was taken to prevent deterioration of law and order.

India is among the first to recognize Maldives after its independence in 1965 and to establish diplomatic relations.

MNA/Xinhua

## Bulgaria seizes heroin hidden in onion truck

**SOFIA, 16 Aug—**Bulgarian Customs seized 123 kilos of heroin on Sunday hidden in a Turkish-registered truck loaded with onions bound for Romania.

Customs officers detained the driver, a 28-year-old Turkish citizen, as he tried to cross the Turkey-

Bulgaria border at the Kapitan Andreevo checkpoint, state news agency BTA said.

The heroin had a street value of about seven million US dollars, the agency added.

Bulgaria, which borders Turkey, Greece, Macedonia, Serbia and

Montenegro and Romania, lies on the Balkan route used by smugglers moving drugs from Asia to Western Europe. The impoverished Balkan state, which hopes to join the European Union in 2007, usually seizes more than a ton of heroin annually.

MNA/Reuters

## Hu Jintao urges cadres to better people's lives

**NANCHONG (Sichuan), 16 Aug —** Chinese President Hu Jintao has urged cadres across the country to do practical things of immediate concern to the general public and lead the people to create a better life.

Hu, also General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC), made the remarks during an inspection tour of southwest China's Sichuan Province from August 13 to 15.

"The Party is built for the public and it exercises state power for the people," Hu said.

"Chinese cadres must earnestly carry out all the party's policies to enrich the people under the guidance of Deng Xiaoping Theory and the important thoughts of Three Represents", which says that the Communist Party of China always earnestly represents the development requirements of China's advanced social productive forces, the progressive course of China's advanced culture, and the fundamental interests of the over-whelming majority of the Chinese

people.

Hu visited workshops, rural areas and farmers, and carried out inspections over topics such as implementation of scientific development concept and the building of the party.

While talking to local farmers, the President reassured them that the central government's policies to boost grain production and increase farmers' income will not change and will be conducted in a better manner.

Meanwhile, Hu encouraged local cadres to make more efforts to assist agriculture and rural work.

The President specifically visited Baita Village, in Yilong County, Nanchong, one of the old revolutionary base areas, where the farmers have suffered severe water shortages. After Hu's instruction to solve the

problem at the beginning of this year and local government's efforts for several months, the difficulty has been much improved.

"The people in the old revolutionary base areas once made great contributions to the victory of the Chinese revolution; we must give them wholehearted care to help them shake off poverty and lead a well-off life as soon as possible," Hu said at the village.

During the inspection, the President heard a work report from the provincial government and spoke highly of the achievements the province has made.

Hu called on all the people in Sichuan, birthplace of late Chinese senior leader Deng Xiaoping, to turn their deep emotion for Deng into a powerful spiritual drive to work harder to create a brand-new future for the province. — MNA/Xinhua

## Ukrainian soldier killed by mine in Iraq

**KIEV, 16 Aug—** A Ukrainian soldier in Iraq was killed by a mine on Sunday, the Defence Ministry said. "This morning, as our soldiers were drawing water, a mine exploded. A captain died from his wounds after the explosion," said a Defence Ministry spokesman.

The death, at least Ukraine's seventh casualty in Iraq, is likely to put pressure on President Leonid Kuchma to bring home the 1,600 Ukrainian troops deployed near the city of al-Suwayra, south of the capital Baghdad. Ukraine's Defence

Minister promised US counterpart Donald Rumsfeld on Friday that troops would stay in Iraq until local security forces were ready to take over their duties.

But the deployment has become a major political issue in the run-up to October presidential elections, with strong pressure from leftist parties to pull out.

By sending troops to Iraq, Kuchma hoped to repair ties with Washington, which were severely strained by reports of illegal weapons sales to Saddam Hussein.

MNA/Reuters

## Dutch soldier killed in Iraq, five badly wounded

**AMSTERDAM, 16 Aug—**A Dutch soldier was killed and five seriously wounded in a shooting incident on Saturday evening in Iraq, the Dutch Defence Ministry said.

The ministry said in a statement early on Sunday the shooting probably began with an attack on a military vehicle in the southern town of Ar Rumaythah, where some of the around 1,200 Dutch troops stationed in Iraq are based.

A ministry spokesman said this was the second death of a Dutch soldier in Iraq after another was killed in May. The dead man was a 29-year-old member of the military police.

The ministry said the five wounded, one from the military police and four from the Army, were out of danger and their condition was stable. Several other soldiers were slightly wounded. It is not yet clear who carried out the attack.

After the shooting, rapid reaction forces and Apache helicopters were engaged, while a US Black Hawk helicopter helped with the medical evacuation.

Some time after the incident, the Dutch camp came under fire but no soldiers were hurt. The Dutch military police is investigating the attack.

MNA/Reuters



Matt Hartley, South African vet, gives medicinal drugs in a Coke bottle to a 50 year-old chimpanzee in Abidjan zoo. — INTERNET

*MNA/Reuters*



# ပညာရေးဖြင့် ခေတ်မီပွံ့ပြားတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်ဖို့

## Project "HOPE" helps Chinese have healthy heart

BEIJING, 16 Aug — A multi-sponsor programme aiming to train cardiologists for China has benefitted nearly 20,000 Chinese citizens, according to the programme's first annual meeting held here on Saturday.

National Healthy Heart Programme (NHHP), organized by American Project HOPE (Health Opportunities to People Everywhere) and sponsored by Medtronic Inc, was launched in December 2002. It provides professional guidance to cardiologists, doctors and nurses who take care of patients suffering from cardiovascular diseases.

Eighty-two senior cardiologists and experienced medical workers from major Chinese hospitals volunteered to participate in NHHP. They will help jun-

ior cardiologists and medical workers better diagnose cardiovascular diseases and educate patients about heart diseases.

Upon completion of the NHHP programme, participants are expected to spread their knowledge to the prevention and control of cardiovascular diseases to a broader audience, their patients, colleagues and residents in their communities.

So far, NHHP has di-

rectly trained 234 cardiologists and 344 community doctors and indirectly helped 17,907 Chinese citizens through the efforts made by the NHHP participants.

"It is better to teach people to fish than feeding them with fish," said Ellen Paquette, Project HOPE director in Asia-Pacific and Middle-East Region, while commenting on the significance of the programme.

MNA/Xinhua

## "New York Times" says reporter subpoenaed over leak

NEW YORK, 15 Aug — A *New York Times* reporter has been subpoenaed by a grand jury investigating the disclosure of a CIA undercover officer's identity to syndicated columnist Robert Novak and other journalists, the newspaper reported on Friday.

The subpoena to Judith Miller was one of several issued to journalists in the investigation of whether Bush Administration officials illegally leaked the covert officer's name.

Arthur Sulzberger Jr, the *Times*' publisher, said the paper would move to quash the subpoena, issued at the behest of special prosecutor Patrick Fitzgerald. He said the subpoena seeks to compel Miller to reveal confidential sources.

"Journalists should not

have to face the prospect of imprisonment for doing nothing more than aggressively seeking to report on the government's actions," he said.

Lawyers for the *Times* said the paper expects to receive a separate subpoena for its records, and would fight it.

A federal judge on Monday rejected requests to quash subpoenas issued to Tim Russert of NBC's "Meet the Press" and Matthew Cooper of *Time* magazine on the grounds they violate the reporters' privilege under the Constitution's First Amendment.

*Times* magazine was fined 1,000 US dollars a day, and Cooper was ordered "confined at a suitable place", but the judge sus-

pended both penalties pending appeal.

Novak identified the CIA officer, Valerie Plame, in a July 2003 column.

Plame's husband is Joe Wilson, a former diplomat whom the CIA asked to travel to Niger in 2002 to check reports that Iraq tried to buy enriched uranium from the African country. Wilson accused the Bush Administration of having leaked his wife's identity as retribution for his having publicly taken issue with the claim.

MNA/Reuters

## Hurricane Charley kills four in Cuba

HAVANA, 16 Aug — Four people were killed and five others injured as Hurricane Charley tore across Cuba, leaving 200,000 homeless, local authorities said Saturday.

Hurricane Charley crossed the coast just after midnight and took over two hours to sweep Cuba. It destroyed 16,000 houses and cut powers in several areas.

Violent winds battered the capital Havana, damaging buildings and bringing down 500 electricity cables. Technicians were trying to resume the supply of electricity and gas, the National Electricity Regulation chief, Victor Puentes, said.

The hurricane struck Mariel port and destroyed tens of vessels and school buildings. The province of Pinar del Rio in the western Caribbean country was not directly affected by the hurricane, but suffered a power blackout.

The hurricane damaged fruit plantations, including banana and sugarcane, and vegetable production. Authorities sent brigades to assist the areas affected by Charley.

MNA/Xinhua

## World scientists to discuss hydatid disease control

NAIROBI, 15 Aug — Over 200 top international scientists from the world will gather in Kenya's capital Nairobi next week for an annual congress to discuss hydatid disease prevention and control in Africa, the organizers said here Friday.

Scientists from China, Germany, the United States, Switzerland, Britain, the Netherlands, Japan, France, Australia, Finland, Israel, Sudan, Morocco and some other countries will attend the 21st International Congress of Hydatidology in Nairobi on August 16-21, said a statement from the African Medical Research Foundation which will co-host the meeting with

Kenya Medical Research Institute. This is the first time that this congress is being held in sub-Saharan Africa, according to the statement.

"The congress discussion will focus mainly on the spread, prevention, control and treatment of hydatid disease," the statement said. Hydatid disease (hydatidosis) is a serious parasitic disease, caused by the larval stage of

the dog tapeworm, likely leading to death in most cases if not treated.

It is found all over the world mainly in sheep and goat rearing regions. Turkana area, in northern part of Kenya, has one of the highest infection rates of hydatid disease in the world with over 2.5 per cent of the population infected.

MNA/Xinhua

## Bus crash kills 34 in El Salvador

MEXICO CITY, 16 Aug — A bus fell into a ravine on Saturday in eastern El Salvador, killing 34 passengers and injuring 24 others, said reports reaching here from El Salvador. The tragedy happened near the town of Carolina, east of San Miguel, reports said, quoting a spokesman for National Civil Police (PNC) of El Salvador.

MNA/Xinhua



A member of the National Ballet of Cuba practices before a rehearsal of 'Cinderella,' on the top floor of a century-old mansion housing Alicia Alonso's company dance studio, in Havana, on 28 April, 2004. Cuba is turning out some of the world's finest ballet dancers hotly sought by leading international companies. Their blend of joyful Cuban sensuality and a superb classical training has stunned audiences and won them critical acclaim. — INTERNET

## Texas man launches ad campaign for new liver

HOUSTON, 15 Aug — A Texas man suffering from cancer has launched a media campaign including billboard advertisements to attract potential organ donors for a liver transplant he needs to save his life.

Two billboards reading "I need a liver — Please help save my life" have gone up along Houston's highways in recent days to find a donor for Todd Krampitz, 32, who was diagnosed with cancer in May.

Krampitz and his wife have bought newspaper advertisements and posted their story on a web site, with updates on his condition and possible donors.

"Todd's only hope for survival is a liver transplant," the web site says.

About 70 organ transplants are done every day in the United States, but another 16 people on waiting lists die each day because of a lack of available organs, according to the US Department of Health and

Human Services.

There are about 17,471 patients waiting for liver transplants, according to Annie Moore, spokeswoman for United Network for Organ Sharing. Those patients are ranked in order of need, she said.

Krampitz was seeking a directed donor, who would specify that their liver would go directly to him.

Moore said the publicity around Krampitz' case was welcomed by UNOS, which oversees organ donations for the US Government.

"It does bring increased awareness to the critical shortage of organs," she said.

MNA/Reuters

## SPORTS

## Chinese shooters, Japanese judokas lead big Asia day

ATHENS, 16 Aug— Chinese shooters bagged the first two gold medals of the Olympic Games and Japanese judokas made Games history on Saturday — a banner day for Asians at Athens.

With a huge throng of Chinese journalists cheering her every shot, Du Li of China won the first gold at the Games with a come-from-behind victory over Russia's Liubov Galkina in the women's 10-metre air rifle event.

Following Du, Wang Yifu — the Chinese team's oldest member and competing in his sixth Games — defeated Russia's Mikhail Nestruev on the final shot in the men's 10-metre air pistol event.

Wang, 43, wiped away tears at his medal ceremony. The graceful duo, who beat Russia's Julia Pakhalina and Vera Ilyina, were no sooner crowned than Tian Liang and Yang Jinghui found gold in the men's synchronized 10-metre platform, beating rivals from Britain and Australia.

Not to be outdone by their giant neighbour on the first medal day, Japan's Tadahiro Nomura became judo's first triple Olympic champion and compatriot Ryoko Tani broke new ground by taking her second Olympic gold — the first woman judoka to do so.—MNA/Reuters



China's Ruina Gong returns to Thailand's Salakjit Ponsana during their second round Olympic women's singles badminton match at the Goudi Olympic complex in Athens, on 15 August, 2004. — INTERNET

## Taylan wins gold for Turkey with record

ATHENS, 16 Aug— Turkey's Nurcan Taylan outmuscled Li Zhuo with a world record to claim the first gold in the Olympic weightlifting on Saturday with victory in the 48kg class.

Nurcan combined a world record lift of 97.5kg in the snatch and 112.5 kilos in the clean and jerk for a world record total of 210 kilos to take gold.

Li had been expected to win but instead settled for silver with 205 kilos. Thailand's Aree Wirattaworn took the bronze with 200 kilos.—MNA/Reuters

## Greece suspends dope-test sprint pair

ATHENS, 16 Aug— Olympic 200 metres champion Costas Kenteris and women's 100 metres silver medallist Katerina Thanou were suspended from the Greek team at the Athens Games on Saturday pending an IOC hearing into missed drugs tests.

The decision by a divided Greek Olympic Committee (HOC), after hours of argument behind closed doors, put the onus of ordering an outright ban back onto the International Olympic Committee, which will hear the pair's explanations on Monday.

The suspension also applies to the athletes' coach Christos Tzekos, who has fallen foul of Greek athletics chiefs before.

Both runners remained in hospital after a mysterious motorcycle accident hours after the scandal broke on the eve of the Games.

The Greek officials took four hours to reach a decision, split five votes to one: "Exchanges were extremely heated," HOC head Lambis Nikolaou said. "In my opinion they should have been expelled from the team right now."

Tzekos, however, was unrepentant: "We have done everything by the book. We have nothing to be afraid of and I would like to thank everyone who supports us," he told reporters.

As well as missing a drugs test appointment on Thursday, the two Greek Sydney medallists had both also missed a test in the United States scheduled for earlier in the week; they had

left the country for Athens a day earlier than planned.

Michalis Dimitrakopoulos, a lawyer representing the athletes and Tzekos, denied they had taken banned drugs: "The Greeks should know their champions are clean," he said.

"They have never taken banned substances."

Kenteris and Thanou would appear in person before Monday's IOC panel if given leave by doctors, Dimitrakopoulos added.

The IOC decided on Friday to give the two athletes a 72-hour extension when they reported sick for a hearing on Friday.

Kenteris, a national hero, had been tipped as the man to light the flame at the Games opening ceremony in the OL-

ympic Stadium on Friday but, in a surprise, the honour instead went to Nikos Kaklamanakis, a windsurfing gold medallist in 1996.

He and his training partner were said by team officials to be stable and not seriously hurt but were expected to remain in a special athletes' isolation ward until Sunday.

An official statement on their injuries in the crash, in which no other vehicle was involved, said Kenteris "sustained a slight head injury, a sprain to the vertebra at the back of his neck, a knee sprain and scratches to his right leg".

Thanou suffered "slight abdominal injuries, a sprain to the right leg".

MNA/Reuters

## Montano becomes third generation of family to win sabre

ATHENS, 16 Aug— Aldo Montano became the third generation of his family to win an Olympic sabre medal when the Italian outdid his silver-medallist father and grandfather to take gold in a thrilling final against Hungary's Zsolt Necsik. His grandfather, also Aldo, won team silver at Berlin in 1936 and London in 1948, a feat repeated three times by his father in 1972, 1976 and 1980.

Montano had to work hard for his gold as Necsik took an early 5-1 lead. But the Italian battled back, using a mixture of panache and gamesmanship, to tie the score at 14-14.

The winning hit made, he danced around the stage before performing a somersault and leaping into the arms of his coach — fortunately having already dropped his sabre.

MNA/Reuters

## Australia break US hold on relay

ATHENS, 16 Aug— Australia pulled off their first Olympic victory in the women's 4x100 metres freestyle relay in nearly 50 years on Saturday, deposing the long-dominant Americans and breaking the world record in an exciting final.

Alice Mills, Libby Lenton, Petria Thomas and Jodie Henry clocked three minutes 35.94 seconds to beat the 3:36.00 mark set by a German quartet at the European championships in Berlin in July 2002.

The last time Australia won this particular Olympic crown was at the 1956 Mel-

bourne Games in the heyday of the great Dawn Fraser.

Commonwealth champion Henry stormed past American Jenny Thompson on the anchor leg in the fastest relay split ever of 52.94 seconds, beating the 53.36 of China's ex-Olympic champion Le Jingyi.

The Americans, who had

won the event at the last three Olympics and were last beaten at the 1988 Games, had to settle for silver in 3:36.39 while the Netherlands took bronze in 3:37.59.

Saturday's victory matched the performance of the Australian men's team, who broke the world record on the opening day of the 2000 Games to hand the Americans their first Olympic defeat in the 4x100 freestyle relay.

Henry's superb swim has established her as favourite for the individual 100 freestyle gold.

Germany's Antje Buschschulte handed over a narrow lead at the end of the first leg but 100 freestyle world record-holder Lenton stormed through to put Australia in front in the second leg, with the US second and Germany third.

Amanda Weir overhauled Thomas to give the US a taste of the lead but then came Henry's storming leg.

Thompson's silver was the 11th Olympic medal of her career, matching the tally of her compatriot Mark Spitz.—MNA/Reuters

## Paper says Games security a "terrorist's dream"

LONDON, 16 Aug— Security at the Athens Olympics is a terrorist's dream, a British newspaper said on Saturday after an undercover reporter was able to plant three suspicious packages undetected.

Greece, which has spent an unprecedented one billion euros on Games security, attacked the paper's ethics and said the reporter was inspired by crime fiction.

The Sunday Mirror tabloid said reporter Bob Graham also used a bogus job as a driver to wander round the main stadium with passes in the names of "Michael Mouse" and "Robert bin Laden", and to get near world leaders at Friday's opening ceremony.

"Security is absolutely disgraceful. The Games are a terrorist's dream come true," Graham said in a Mirror statement.

"Given assurances from the authorities and the resources available, it is a scandal on an Olympic scale." Greece's Public Order Minister George Voulgarakis reacted angrily to the claims, saying the article was a "profound insult to journalism and the principles of objective and responsible reporting".

"I would recommend to Mr. Graham to read fewer detective novels," he said in a statement.—MNA/Reuters

## China synchronized for double gold

ATHENS, 16 Aug— China enjoyed a golden start to the Olympic diving competition on Saturday when they won both the women's three-metre springboard and the men's 10-metre platform synchronized events in style.



China's gold medallists Minxia Wu and Jingjing Guo celebrate during the medal ceremony following their victory in the women's synchronised three metres springboard final at the Athens 2004 Olympic Games on 14 August, 2004. — INTERNET

after four rounds.

Pakhalina and Ilyina gave it their best shot with their final attempt, however, recording a perfect 10 from one synchronization judge en route to the best individual dive score of the final, 82.80 points.

But it was still not enough to hold on to their title.

"We were confident all along because we had faith in our ability," said Guo. "As a Chinese person it is a great honour to win for my country and I will do all I can to be able to take part in the 2008 Games".

Tian, the Olympic individual highboard champion, and his new partner Yang went even better, scooping three perfect 10s for synchronization on their fourth dive, a three-and-a-half somersault tuck which earned a mighty 92.16 points.

That, along with four further 10s, helped them to a total of 383.88 points, 12.36 ahead of Peter Waterfield and Leon Taylor, who picked up Britain's first medal of the Games when they took silver.

MNA/Reuters



China's Minxia Wu (left) and Jingjing Guo perform one of their gold medal dives during the Womens 3m synchro springboard at the 2004 Summer Olympic Games in Athens, Greece, on Saturday, 14 Aug, 2004. — INTERNET

Guo Jinjing and Wu Minxia avenged their defeat by Yulia Pakhalina and Vera Ilyina in Sydney four years ago by beating the Russians into second place in the women's event.

Tian Liang and Yang Jinghui then completed a great day for the hosts of the 2008 Games by dominating the men's platform event.

World champions Guo and Wu led from the opening dive to chalk up 336.90 points and finish 6.06 points clear of the Russians, also beaten into silver by Guo and Wu in the last two world championships.

The Chinese lived up to their favourites' billing by producing a series of superb dives, opening a virtually unbeatable lead



# MRTV -3



## 17-8-2004 (Tuesday) (Programme Schedule) Morning Transmission (9:00 - 10:00)

9:00 Signature Tune  
Greeting  
9:02 Song of Myanmar  
Beauty & Scenic  
Sights "Mingalabar"  
9:06 Myanmar Cattle Mar-  
ket  
9:10 **Headline News**  
9:12 Traditional Chin Li-  
queur (Khaung Yay)  
9:15 **National News**  
9:20 Boost Production for  
Surplus Marine  
Product  
9:25 Bagan Duet Dance  
9:30 **National News**  
9:35 Wa Traditions & An  
Engagement Cer-  
emony  
9:40 Song "Mesmerize  
Your Longing Wish"  
9:45 **National News**  
9:50 Splendour by the  
Sea, Ngwe Saung  
9:58 Song of Myanmar  
Beauty & Scenic  
Sights "Come and  
See Myanmar"

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

15:30 Signature Tune  
Greeting  
15:32 Song of Myanmar  
Beauty & Scenic  
Sights "Myanma  
Panorama & Myan-  
ma Sentiment"  
15:36 Myanmar Cattle  
Market  
15:40 **Headline News**  
15:42 Traditional Chin Li-  
queur (Khaung Yay)  
15:45 **National News**  
15:50 Boost Production for  
Surplus Marine  
Product  
16:00 **National News**  
16:05 Wa Traditions & An  
Engagement Cer-  
emony  
16:10 Song "Mesmerize  
Your Longing Wish"  
16:15 **National News**

16:20 Splendour by the Sea,  
Ngwe Saung  
16:25 Song of Myanmar  
Beauty & Scenic  
Sights "Mingalabar"  
16:30 **National News**  
16:35 Cruise on Min Kyan  
Sit  
16:40 Costumes for  
Myanmar Ladies  
16:45 **National News**  
16:50 Mythun (Counterpart  
of Cattle)  
16:55 A Rural Village  
17:00 **National News**  
17:05 The World of Mro  
Nationals  
17:10 Myanmar Modern  
Song "Bagan, The  
Wonder Land"  
17:15 **National News**  
17:20 ASOD's Tour of  
Northern Shan State  
(Part-II)  
17:25 Song of Myanmar  
Beauty & Scenic  
Sights "Come and  
See Myanmar"

## 17-8-2004 (Tuesday) Evening Transmission (19:30 - 23:30)

19:30 Signature Tune  
Greeting  
19:32 Song of Myanmar  
Beauty & Scenic  
Sights "Mingala-  
bar"  
19:36 Planting of Mul-  
berry tree and  
Breeding of Silk-  
worms  
19:40 **Headline News**  
19:42 Easily Cooked Tasty  
Dishes  
"Soup Soup pre-  
pared with fish and  
vegetables"  
19:45 **National News**  
19:50 Blue Sea  
19:55 Ka-Nee-Sone-Swa  
Dance  
20:00 **National News**  
20:05 Song "Peace be with  
you"  
20:10 Let's Talk About  
Lahu Nationals  
20:15 **National News**  
20:20 Shrimp Spawning  
Industry  
20:25 Myanmar Modern  
Song "Myanmar"  
20:30 **National News**  
20:35 Lovely Customs  
and Dances of Gon  
Shan  
20:40 Ancient Htoke Kan  
Thein Temple  
20:45 **National News**

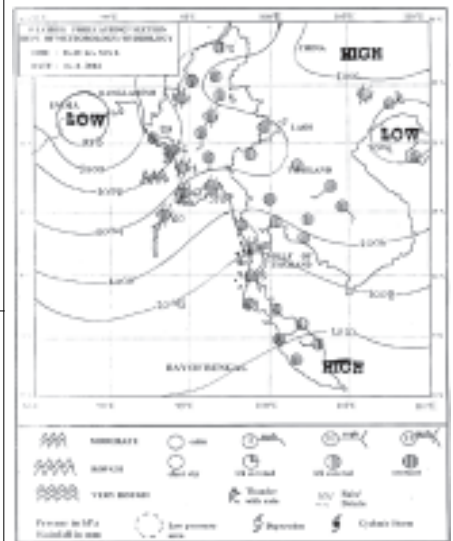
20:50 The Reh Lake (The  
Greatest attraction in  
Chin State)  
20:55 Dawei Water Fetch-  
ing Dance  
21:00 **National News**  
21:10 Myanmar Modern  
Song "Naughty Girl"  
21:15 **National News**  
21:20 ASOD's Tour of  
Northern Shan State  
(Part-I)  
21:25 Song of Myanmar  
Beauty & Scenic  
Sights "Myanma  
Panorama & Myan-  
ma Sentiment"  
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22:55 A Rural Village  
23:00 **National News**  
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Nationals  
23:10 Myanmar Modern  
Song "Bagan, The  
Wonder Land"  
23:15 **National News**  
23:20 ASOD's Tour of  
Northern Shan State  
(Part-II)  
23:28 Song of Myanmar  
Beauty & Scenic  
Sights "Come and  
See Myanmar"

## Rainfall on 16-8-2004

— 1.81 inches at Yangon Airport,  
— 2.05 inches at Kaba-Aye,  
— 1.61 inches at central Yangon. Total rain-  
fall since 1-1-2004 was 2183 mm (85.94 inches)  
at Yangon Airport, 2140 mm (84.25 inches) at  
Kaba-Aye and 2122 mm (83.54 inches) at cen-  
tral Yangon.

## Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



## WEATHER

Monday, 16 August 2004

**Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours  
MST:** During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly  
cloudy in Magway Division and rain or thundershowers  
have been isolated in Kayah State and Mandalay Divi-  
sion, scattered in Kachin State, upper Sagaing and Bago  
Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with  
locally heavyfalls in Mon State and isolated heavyfalls in  
Ayeiawady Division. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall  
recorded were Mawlamyine (5.59) inches, Maubin (4.53)  
inches, Mudon (4.29) inches, Patheingyi (2.64) inches and  
Hpa-an (2.48) inches.

Maximum temperature on 15-8-2004 was 28.0°C  
(82°F). Minimum temperature on 16-8-2004 was 18.8°C  
(66°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 16-8-2004  
was 96%. Total sunshine hours on 15-8-2004 was nil.  
Rainfall on 16-8-2004 was 46 mm (1.81 inches) at Yangon  
Airport, 52 mm (2.05 inches) at Kaba-Aye, 41 mm (1.61  
inches) at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004  
was 2183 mm (85.94 inches) at Yangon Airport, 2140  
mm (84.25 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 2122 mm (83.54  
inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at  
Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 13 mph from Southwest at 12:50  
hours MST on 15-8-2004.

**Bay inference:** Monsoon is strong in the Bay of  
Bengal. **Forecast valid until evening of 17-8-2004:** Rain  
or thundershowers will be isolated in lower Sagaing, Man-  
dalay and Magway Divisions, scattered in Kachin and  
Kayah States, upper Sagaing, Bago and Tanintharyi Divi-  
sions and widespread in the remaining areas with likeli-  
hood of isolated heavyfalls in Ayeiawady Division,  
Rakhine and Mon States. Degree of certainty is (80%).

**State of the sea:** Occasional squalls with moderate to  
rough seas are likely off and along Myanmar Coast. Sur-  
face wind speed in squalls may reach (35) to (40) mph.  
**Outlook for subsequent two days:** Likelihood of  
increase of rain in eastern Myanmar areas.

**Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for  
17-8-2004:** Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of cer-  
tainty is (80%). **Forecast for Mandalay and neighbour-  
ing area for 17-8-2004:** Likelihood of isolated rain or  
thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

## Flood Bulletin

(Issued at 13:00 hrs MST on 16-8-2004)

The water level of Thanlwin River at Hpa-an is (98)  
cm (about 3 ft) above the danger level. The water level  
may remain above the danger level during the next (5)  
days commencing noon today.

The water levels of Sittoung River at Toungoo is (11)  
cm (about half ft) and Madauk is 159 cm (about 5-ft)  
above the danger levels. The water levels may remain  
above the danger levels during the next (3) days com-  
mencing noon today.

The water level of Shwegyin River at Shwegyin is  
(52) cm (about 2 ft) above the danger level. The water  
level may remain above the danger level during the next  
(3) days commencing noon today.

## ဝမ်းနည်းကြွေကြွေ ဦးဝန် (မင်းသုတ)

မြန်မာနိုင်ငံစာပေလုပ်ငန်းအဖွဲ့ ဖြစ်မြောက်ရေးကော်မတီ  
ဥက္ကဋ္ဌ (၁၉၆၆-၆၇) မြန်မာနိုင်ငံစာပေနှင့်စာနယ်ဇင်းအဖွဲ့၏  
တန်ခိုးတရား သတ်ကြီး စာပေညာရှင် ဆရာဦးဝန် (မင်းသုတ) ၏  
၁၅-၈-၂၀၀၄ ရက်နေ့ နံနက် (၁၁:၃၀) နာရီက ကွယ်လွန်  
အနိစ္စရောက်ခဲ့ သည့်အတွက် မိသားစုနှင့် တပ်တပ်မျှ ဝမ်းနည်း  
ကြွေကြွေရပါကြောင်း။

ဗဟိုအမှုဆောင်ကော်မတီ

မြန်မာနိုင်ငံ စာပေနှင့်စာနယ်ဇင်းအဖွဲ့

## U Maung Maung Kha Swe (a) Carl Aged 45

Managing Director, Integrated Marketing Ltd,  
Vice President, Focus Energy Ltd

Son of (U Myint Swe) and (Daw Nyo Nyo (a)  
Daw Nelly Thein) living at No 24/G, Pyithu Lane of Pyay  
Road, Yangon; son-in-law of (Major Kyaw Soe) and (Daw  
Khin San Myint); beloved husband of Thiri Thudhamma  
Theingi Daw Aye Aye Soe (Director at YIEC); beloved  
father of Ma Kay Khine Kha (a) Olivia Kha (U.W.C.S.E.A,  
Singapore) and Maung Akar Kha (a) Raymond Kha  
(U.W.C.S.E.A, Singapore); passed away at Shwegondine  
Special Clinic at 4:05 pm on 16-8-2004. Relatives far and  
near are informed that entombment will be made at Yeway  
Cemetery at 12 noon on 18-8-2004. (Buses will leave the  
above residence at 11 am.)

Bereaved family



Tuesday, August 17  
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  
7:50 am  
5. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ  
8:00 am  
6. ကဗျာပန်းဥယျာဉ်  
8:10 am  
7. Song of yesteryears  
8:20 am  
8. ကဗျာပြိုင်ပွဲ နီးကောင်းတံတား

8:30 am  
9. International news  
8:45 am  
10. Grammar Made Easy  
4:00 pm  
1. Martial song  
4:15 pm  
2. Songs to uphold  
National Spirit  
4:30 pm  
3. English for Everyday  
Use  
4:45 pm  
4. Musical programme  
5:00 pm  
5. အဝေးသင်တန်းသို့လ် ပညာရေး  
ရှင်ပြိုင်ပွဲသင်တန်းစာ  
ပထမနှစ် (အထူးပြုအားလုံး)  
(အင်္ဂလိပ်စာ)  
5:15 pm  
6. Dance of national races  
5:30 pm  
7. စမ်းနားဆင်စားစာတံတား  
5:40 pm  
8. Sing and Enjoy

6:15 pm  
9. နိုင်ငံခြားကာတွန်းစာတံတား  
"ဗျောက်မင်းရဲစုန်း"  
(အင်္ဂလိပ်-ဝေ)  
6:30 pm  
10. Evening news  
7:00 pm  
11. Weather report  
7:05 pm  
12. Musical programme  
7:15 pm  
13. သားငါးဖွံ့ဖြိုးကြည့်အတိုင်း  
7:30 pm  
14. The mirror images of  
musical oldies  
7:40 pm  
15. စိမ်းနုနုမင်း ဝိုင်းမြန်ပြည်  
8:00 pm  
16. News  
17. International news  
18. Weather report  
19. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတံတား  
"တစ်ခရစ်ရာအပါ" (အင်္ဂလိပ်-ဝေ)  
20. The next day's  
programme



Tuesday, August 17  
Tune in today:

8:30 am Brief news  
8:35 am Music: Together  
again  
8:40 am Perspectives  
8:45 am Music: Don't look  
any further  
8:50 am National news/  
Slogan  
9:00 am Music: What's  
your flava?  
9:05 am International news  
9:10 am Music: When  
you're looking  
like that  
1:30 pm News/Slogan  
1:40 pm Lunch time music  
-Time for love  
-Walk me home  
-Just as long as  
I've got you  
-What forever for  
English Speaking  
Course Level-1  
Unit (26)  
9:15 pm Article/music  
9:25 pm Weekly sports reel  
9:35 pm Music for your  
listening pleasure  
9:45 pm News/Slogan  
10:00 pm PEL



## AEAIWC holds fifth meeting

YANGON, 16 Aug—The ASEAN Economic Agreements Implementation Work Committee held its fifth meeting at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Commerce this afternoon.

The meeting was attended by Chairman of AEAIWC and Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, Vice-Chairman of AEAIWC and Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun, deputy ministers who are members of AEAIWC, the deputy chief justice, the governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar, departmental heads, officials of the National AFTA Unit and the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Headquarters), and guests.

The meeting was opened with an address delivered by Brig-Gen Pyi Sone. Next, U Tint Thwin, Joint-Secretary-2 of AEAIWC and Director of (See page 8)

*Agriculture and Irrigation Minister Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin inspects Salingyi Reservoir construction site on 14-8-04. (News on page 1)— (A & I)*



*Industry-1 Minister U Aung Thaung delivers an address the English Proficiency Course No 2/2004 concluding ceremony.*

INDUSTRY-1

## Conclusion of English Proficiency Course held

YANGON, 16 Aug—The English Proficiency Course No 2/2004 sponsored by the Ministry of Industry-1 concluded at the training hall of the ministry this morning with an address by Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung.

Present on the occasion

were Deputy Ministers Brig-Gen Thein Tun and Brig-Gen Kyaw Win, the Directors-General and Managing Directors of the departments and the Directors and the General Managers.

Courses were being conducted to promote the

efficiency of the staff and to develop the production enterprises, said the minister. The course was conducted to enhance their skill in the international relations, to understand their work and to speedily implement their tasks, he noted.

Trainees were urged to

enhance their knowledge and effectively apply at their work, he stressed.

Later, the Minister presented the prizes to the out-

standing trainees and gave certificates to the leader of trainees. The eight-week course was attended by 29 trainees.—MNA

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## Minister inspects banks

YANGON, 16, Aug — Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun, accompanied by Deputy Minister Col Hla Thein Swe, Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Kyaw Kyaw Maung and Vice-Governor Col Than Nyein, inspected Myanma Economic Bank Branch-2 on Pansodan Street this morning. MEB Managing Director Col Hsan Tun and bank in charge Assistant General Manager Daw Khin Cho Oo reported on banking services. The minister gave instructions on keeping the bank neat and tidy, measures to be taken for bank security and ensuring the convenience in offering bank services.

Next, the minister and party went to Pazundaung Bank Branch that is being constructed in Tamway Township. U Aung Than of Olympic Construction Co reported to the minister on construction tasks. Later, the minister left necessary instructions. — MNA



*Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun and party inspect construction of Myanma Economic Bank building (Pazundaung Branch). — F & R*