

# The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Volume XII, Number 124

3rd Waxing of Wakhaung 1366 ME

Wednesday, 18 August, 2004



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt greets President of the Federation of Indian Plywood and Panel Industry of the Republic of India Mr S P Goenka. — MNA

## Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives Indian guests

YANGON, 17 Aug — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt received President Mr S P Goenka of Federation of Indian Plywood and Panel Industry of the Republic of India and party at the hall of Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyinthar this evening.

Also present at the call were Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minis-

ter for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, Director-General of the Government Office U Soe Tint and Director-General of Protocol Department Thura U Aung Htet. Matters relating to investment in agricultural, forestry, mining, industrial, and energy sectors and border trade were discussed.—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

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives President Mr S P Goenka of Federation of Indian Plywood and Panel Industry and party. — MNA



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It is also estimated that if the annual consumption increases to 24 billion barrels, all the existing crude oil deposits underneath the earth will dry up by the year 2040. Oil consumption is increasing two per cent annually. But on the other hand, thanks to the new technologies, there are prospects to find new oil deposits. {Article by Maung Phyu (Energy) on page 10}

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

## PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 18 August, 2004

### Strive for total eradication of narcotic drugs

Narcotic drugs still pose a grave danger to the entire mankind and therefore every nation and region on earth is seriously taking anti-drug measures. The Government of the Union of Myanmar, on its part, is taking the lead in the tasks being carried out for the prevention of the danger of narcotic drugs and their total elimination.

The problem of narcotic drugs is a bad legacy left by the colonialists. The colonialists resorted to all sorts of unscrupulous means to prolong their rule over Myanmar and its national people, to sow discord and distrust among them and to jeopardize the national unity. At the same time, they introduced in Myanmar the cultivation and use of poppy that can lead to the extinction of mankind. And they used narcotic drugs as a weapon to harm Myanmar people's national prestige and integrity and to lower their economic and social status.

Therefore, the Government, hand in hand with the national races, has been taking constant measures to wipe out the menace of narcotic drugs from the soil of Myanmar once and for all.

And it is in accordance with the guidance of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe that the Government has been implementing the 15-year drug elimination plan since 1999.

In its drive for the elimination of narcotic drugs, the Government is not only putting the curb on drug abuse and trafficking but also taking measures to root out the cultivation of poppy.

In the border regions where poppy used to be grown, the Government is persuading local people and rendering all the necessary assistance to them so that they can improve their social and economic status by engaging in the cultivation of opium-substitute crops, livestock breeding and other businesses.

Moreover, the New Destiny Project has been laid down and is being implemented for speedy elimination of narcotic drugs.

The significant aspect of the New Destiny Project is that ministers and deputy ministers, leading their respective teams, visit the project areas, doing organizational and educational work and providing all the necessary assistance in cash and kind to poppy growers. As a result, it is found that they are abandoning the cultivation of poppy of their own accord.

The Government of Myanmar is accelerating its anti-drug measures on a self-reliance basis and in cooperation with international community and neighbouring countries. At such a time like this, we would like to call on the entire national people to lend themselves to the Government's endeavours to root out the danger of narcotic drugs once and for all.

### Wellwishers donate publications to IPRD

YANGON, 17 Aug — Wellwishers this morning donated publications to the Information and Public Relations Department of the Ministry of Information.

At the book donation ceremony held at the IPRD on Pansodan Street here, Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein accepted the publications totalling 3098 including magazines and journals worth K 1,512,150 and spoke words of thanks.

Director-General of the IPRD U Chit Naing, Managing Director of the News and Periodicals Enterprise Col Soe Win, Managing Director of the Myanmar Motion Picture Enterprise U Bo Kyi and officials also attended the ceremony. — MNA

### People's Desire

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

### Minister inspects construction of UMFCCI office

YANGON, 17 Aug — Chairman of Penal of Patrons of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce & Industry Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, together with Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Tun and officials, inspected the progress in constructing the office of the UMFCCI on Minye Kyawswa Road in Lanmadaw Township here at 1 pm today.

Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce & Industry President U Win Myint and officials reported on progress of work and the minister gave necessary instructions.

MNA



UMFCCI President U Win Myint reports on progress of work to Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone. — UMFCCI



Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan receives Managing Director Mr HS Yoon and party.

MNA

### Information Minister receives Korean guests

YANGON, 17 Aug — Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan received Mr Kim Sung Wook, Managing Director of IC Enterprise Co Ltd of the Republic of Korea engaged in film production, and party at the ministry at 4 pm yesterday.

Also present at the call were Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Thein, departmental heads, the head of office of the ministry and officials.

MNA

### Minister receives Singaporean guest

YANGON, 17 Aug — Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan received Mr HS Yoon, Managing Director of Hyosung Singapore Pte Ltd and Myanmar Hyosung Co Ltd in Myanmar, at the ministry at 5 pm yesterday.

Also present at the call were Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Thein, departmental heads, the head of office of the ministry and officials.

MNA



Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Thein accepts book donations. — MNA

## African leaders slam ...

(from page 16)

"In democracy as in all other things, no one size fits all," he said. "Multiparty democracy and its attendant elections must never be a cover for the destabilization of our countries" he added.

MNA/Reuters



## 935 US troops killed since beginning of military operations in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 17 Aug—As of Monday, 16 August, 935 US service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq in March 2003, according to the Defence Department. Of those, 697 died as a result of hostile action and 238 died of non-hostile causes.

The British military has reported 63 deaths; Italy, 18; Spain, 11; Poland, seven; Bulgaria, six; Ukraine, six; Slovakia, three; Thailand, two; and Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia and the Netherlands have reported one death each.

Since 1 May, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 797 US soldiers have died, 588 as a result of hostile action and 209 of

non-hostile causes.

*The latest deaths reported by the military:*

- Three soldiers with the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit were killed Sunday in Najaf province.

- A soldier was killed Sunday in an explosion in northern Baghdad.

- A Marine was killed Sunday in Anbar province, Iraq.—Internet

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## Three US soldiers killed during Iraq fighting

BAGHDAD, 16 Aug—Three American soldiers were killed in action in Iraq, a military spokesperson said Monday.

Two of the soldiers were killed Sunday in Najaf when troops came under attack by militiamen loyal to firebrand Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, Marine Capt Carrie Batson said. The 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit is responsible for the area, but soldiers from the Baghdad-based 1st Cavalry Division were deployed to Najaf after fighting erupted there on 5 August.

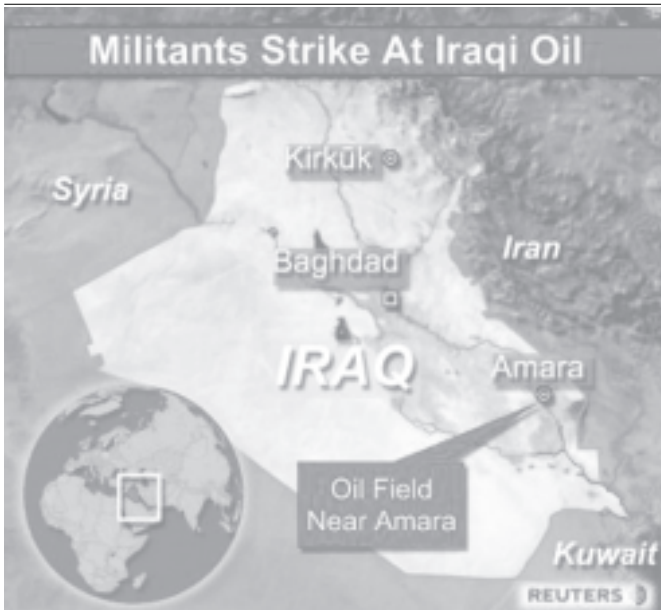
Batson said a third soldier attached to the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, deployed in Anbar Province, was also killed Sunday. Anbar includes the volatile cities of Fallujah, Ramadi and Qaim on the Syrian border.—Internet

## DM says Russia, US neither enemies nor allies

MOSCOW, 16 Aug—Russian Defence Minister Sergei Ivanov said Sunday that Russia and the United States are neither enemies nor allies for the moment and the development of bilateral ties requires a constructive attitude. Russia and the United States "are certainly not enemies but, probably, not allies yet," said Ivanov, commenting on his meetings with US Secretary of Defence Donald Rumsfeld in Russia's Saint Petersburg, ITAR-TASS news agency reported. "We are somewhere in the middle. It is an evolutionary process, which cannot start instantaneously and end in a week. We need time and constructive attitude," Ivanov was cited as saying.

The Russian minister noted that the threats of terrorism and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction to Russia and the United States bring the two countries closer together.

Rumsfeld arrived in St. Petersburg on Friday and held several meetings with Ivanov at the weekend on a variety of international and bilateral security issues, including the situations in Iraq and South Ossetia, a renegade region of Russia's neighbour Georgia, and possible bilateral military cooperation.—MNA/Xinhua



Shiite militia have set fire to an oil well in southern Iraq on 16 August, 2004.—INTERNET

## Militia set fire to Iraq oil well in new tactic

BAGHDAD, 16 Aug—Shiite militia have set fire to an oil well in southern Iraq, Baghdad said Monday, adopting a new tactic in the uprising against US forces and the new Iraqi government.

"The well in a field near the city of Amara was targeted on Sunday," an Iraqi government spokesman said.

While the attack on one of thousands of oil wells in Iraq's southern fields will have negligible impact for production, it underlines the threat to Iraq's oil infrastructure from the Mehdi Army, followers of anti-US cleric Muqtada al-Sadr.

The militia is mostly active in central and southern Iraq and has threatened to attack oil facilities in response to the US offensive against Sadr and his followers in the city of Najaf, a centre of Shiite learning.

The uprising has already forced Iraq to close its main southern oil export pipeline, reducing the country's export flows by almost half for the past week, oil officials and shippers monitoring the situation said.

The unrest has cut the country's exports to about 900,000 barrels per day since last Monday, when saboteurs attacked the pipeline and a US offensive against Sadr's followers spread to several Iraqi cities.

"The pipeline is not operating. We do not know when conditions would improve to re-open it," said a South Oil Company official, who declined to be identified.

"Decisions are made on a day-to-day basis. It is not even known whether employees will show up to work tomorrow," he said, adding that employees working from the headquarters have been ordered to stay at home for the past week.

Internet

## Bahrain calls for Iraq peace

MANAMA, 17 Aug—Bahrain pledged yesterday to do all it can to help end the bloodshed in Iraq. It will also do everything possible to help save the country's holy shrines, said Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaikh Mohammed bin Mubarak Al Khalifa. The government is in contact with various international and regional bodies to try to avert further bloodshed, he said.

Shaikh Mohammed was speaking as he met MPs representing Parliament's eight-strong Islamic Bloc.

The MPs, headed by bloc leader Ali Al Samaheji and including Shaikh Abdulla Al A'Ali, Mohammed Shaikh Al

Abbas and Abbas Hussain, handed Shaikh Mohammed a letter urging Bahrain to intervene over the continued fighting in Najaf and other areas.

It asked that Bahraini Ambassador to Iraq Hassan Malallah Al Ansari be in-

structed to meet Iraqi interim government and US officials to seek ways to protect lives and holy sites, said Mr Al Samaheji.

He said that as an Islamic group it was the bloc's duty to help protect innocent lives.

Internet



Spc Chuck Ayars, from Nashville Tenn, with the US Army's 1st Cavalry Division, 1st Brigade, 1-12 Cav from Fort Hood Texas, runs into a building during a cordon and search in a neighbourhood outside of Sadr City in Baghdad, on 15 Aug, 2004.—INTERNET

## Italy, Netherlands threatened over Iraq

CAIRO, 16 Aug—An online statement purportedly from an Islamic militant group threatened the Netherlands and Italy with “bloodbaths” if they do not withdraw their troops from Iraq.

There was no way to verify the authenticity of the statement, which appeared late Sunday on a Web site known as a clearing house for militant-related material.

The statement addressed all European countries that have sent troops to Iraq and Afghanistan, but also spe-

cifically mentioned the Netherlands and Italy.

“We advise you to withdraw the Dutch troops from Iraq, otherwise we will not be responsible for the retaliation which will not be through the Internet, but through our special means,” warned the Jamaat al-Tawhid al-Islamiya group.

“Wait for the hell which will turn your nights into bloodbaths.”

The statement addressed Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi by name and said: “You have defied the soldiers of Islam so wait for the Islamic quake.”

Italy has about 3,000 troops in Iraq.

The Dutch Foreign Ministry said Monday the Netherlands had no plans to withdraw its approximately 1,350 troops from Iraq. Spokesman Bart Jochems called the Internet threat a “foggy story,” adding that the government repeatedly has said it will not be swayed by terrorists.

The online statement was signed by the Omar el-Mukhtar Brigade of the Jamaat al-Tawhid al-Islamiya, or Group of Islamic Monotheism. Omar el-Mukhtar was a Libyan nationalist who fought against the Italian occupation and was hanged in 1931.

Internet

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## Three Lebanese, Syrian hostages freed in Iraq

BEIJING, 17 Aug—Captors have been reportedly released three Lebanese and Syrian truck-drivers who were kidnapped earlier in the month. The fate of the three Kenyan truck drivers is still unknown.

Iraqi captors have been reportedly released three Lebanese and Syrian truck-drivers who were kidnapped earlier in the month.

Syrian driver Osama Issa and his two Lebanese colleagues Taha al-Jundi and Khalidun Osman were kidnapped on a road west of Baghdad on August 6.

Meanwhile, the fate of the three Kenyan truck drivers kidnapped in Iraq is still unknown. An Iraqi group, called “The Holders of the Black Banners,” kidnapped three Kenyans, three Indians and an Egyptian on July 21.

Reports said two Kenyan diplomats are in Kuwait to negotiate the release of the three Kenyan hostages.—Internet

## Journalist, translator kidnapped in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 16 Aug—A Western journalist and his Iraqi translator were kidnapped by two armed men in a busy market in the southern Iraqi city of Nasiriyah, police said Monday.

Police began investigating the incident after the translator’s family reported him missing, said police Capt Haidar Aboud.

According to witnesses in the market, the journalist, identified as Micah Garen, and the translator, Amir Doushi, were walking when two men in civilian clothes and armed with Kalashnikov assault rifles seized them, Aboud said.

Adnan al-Shoraify, deputy governor of Dhi Qar Province, said the incident occurred Friday. Al-Shoraify said Garen was a journalist with US-French citizenship who worked for the US-based Four Corners Media and was working on a project involving antiquities near Nasiriyah, about 200 miles southeast of Baghdad.

According to its Website, Four Corners is a “documentary organization working in still photography, video and print media” that is working in Iraq. The Web site says Garen is one of the organization’s managers, and shows a portfolio of his photos in Iraq. In New Haven, Conn,

Garen’s father Alan said the 33-year-old had been working in Iraq for about two months as a freelance journalist. He couldn’t confirm his son was missing, saying only that “I haven’t heard anything for several days.”

A spokesman for Italian

forces deployed in Nasiriyah, Capt. Ettore Sarli, said Garen had been staying at the Italian airbase there, but left 12 August and told the troops he was headed to Baghdad.

Garen turned in his Press card before leaving, he said.—Internet



A French journalist holding an American passport has been kidnapped in the southern Iraqi city of Nasiriyah, Al Jazeera television reported, on 16 August, 2004. — INTERNET

## Philippines stresses opposition to unilateralism

MANILA, 16 Aug—Philippine Foreign Secretary Delia Albert said on Sunday that Philippines opposes unilateralism in international relations and supports the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) in trying to keep multilateralism alive and strong in the 21st Century.

Before leaving for Durban, South Africa, to attend a summit of ministers from NAM on August 19, Albert said that this year’s NAM, with the theme of “Challenges for Multilateralism in the 21st Century”, is very relevant in the face of increasing impressions that the relations between states are being defined in terms of unilateralism.

“We must prevent any possible rise of unilateralism, particularly in today’s increasingly interdependent world,” she told reporters at the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Albert also described NAM as the “unique place to be the vanguard of multilateralism”. “Universal consensus is difficult to achieve on many pressing issues, but this should not be an excuse for unilateralism,” she said. The

Foreign Secretary described regionalism as an important component of multilateralism which contributes to strengthening the values and ideals behind multilateralism.

She said she would join her counterparts from other ASEAN countries to promote regionalism in the NAM during the Durban summit.

“We have specific language in the draft NAM ministerial declaration that fo-

cuses on ASEAN and its role in maintaining peace and security as well as in promoting growth and development in the region,” said Albert.

She said she would also meet with foreign ministers from the Organization of the Islamic Conference to discuss the prospect of Philippines’ joining the group as an observer nation. — MNA/Xinhua

## Five new polio cases found in northwestern Nigeria

LAGOS, 16 Aug—Five new cases of poliomyelitis have been recorded in Nigeria’s northwestern state of Niger, the official News Agency of Nigeria reported Sunday.

Mallam Mohammed Kudu, coordinator of Niger State of the National Programme on Immunization (NNPI) of Nigeria, was quoted as saying the five cases were discovered in the state’s four local government areas of Minna, Rijau Mariga, Lavun and Kontagora.—MNA/Xinhua

## IAEA to set up forum on creating nuclear-free Mideast

CAIRO, 16 Aug—Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Abul Gheit said on Sunday that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) was preparing to set up a forum on creating a nuclear-free Middle East.

Speaking to reporters after talks with IAEA Director-General Mohamed ElBaradei, Abul Gheit said the forum, likely to be hosted by Austria next January, would bring together Middle East countries and the UN Security Council’s permanent members.

“The proposed forum would be a chance to exchange views between parties concerned and mark a step toward freeing the region of nuclear weapons,” the top Egyptian diplomat said.

He also reiterated Egypt’s readiness to offer necessary support to render the gathering a success.

For his part, ElBaradei said he had exchanged views with Abul Gheit on a number of issues, such as security in the Middle East, the IAEA’s efforts and an international call for a nuclear-free Middle East.

He said the envisaged forum would see the participation of all countries in the region, including Israel.

“A durable and comprehensive peace in the region cannot be realized unless parties concerned understand the importance of regional security and the issue of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear capacities,” he said. — MNA/Xinhua

## Egypt says ready to promote ties with China

CAIRO, 16 Aug—Egyptian Prime Minister Ahmed Nafez said on Sunday that his country was ready to further promote strategic and cooperative relations with China.

Nafez made the remarks during a meeting with visiting Chinese Vice-Foreign Minister Wang Yi, according to a Chinese Embassy source.

Nafez said that Egypt regards China as a reliable friend and is willing to

deepen its cooperation with China in political, economic, trade, scientific, technological and educational fields.

Egypt welcomes Chinese investment, and Chinese enterprises could see Egypt as a springboard for expanding their businesses in Africa, the Middle East and Europe, the Prime Minister said.

Egypt is also interested in learning from China’s experience in its reforms and

development drive, Nafez added.

For his part, Wang said that Egypt is one of the first group of developing countries to establish strategic ties with China, and China is prepared to strengthen strategic dialogue with Egypt and further expand cooperation with Egypt. During his stay here, Wang also met with Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Abul Gheit.—MNA/Xinhua



Iraqi children look at a burning American armoured vehicle attacked by guerillas during clashes with American troops in the volatile Sadr City neighbourhood in Baghdad, Iraq, on 16 Aug, 2004.—INTERNET



## Conflict in Najaf dominates Iraq political meet

**BAGHDAD, 17 Aug** — Iraqi leaders met for a second day on Monday to pick an interim national assembly but fighting in Najaf dominated the event, piling pressure on Prime Minister Iyad Allawi to hold more talks with Shiite rebels.

Residents said the holy city was tense as Shiite militia loyal to radical cleric Moqtada al-Sadr roamed the streets near the Imam Ali Mosque and an ancient cemetery, from where they have attacked US and Iraqi forces during the 12-day conflict.

"I can tell you that the Najaf fighting is dominating the whole conference. We hope this issue can be solved so we can proceed with our work," said Hamid al-Kifaey, one delegate.

Guerillas fired mortars at the meeting just hours after it opened on Sunday, killing at least two people on the edge of the fortified compound where the three-day gathering is being held.

The brazen attack starkly illustrated

Iraq's precarious security as politicians and religious leaders plot the country's road to democracy ahead of landmark elections in January.

The meeting will choose a 100-member assembly, or national council, to oversee Allawi's interim government until elections are held in January.

Several blasts echoed across central Baghdad on Monday, but none appeared to come from the Green Zone compound. However, warning sirens sounded at one stage from the area. Fresh fighting between US forces and Sadr's Mehdi militia broke out in a Shiite slum in Baghdad, witnesses said. They said US troops were sealing off the area, called Sadr City. — MNA/Reuters



US Marines patrol a street in the southern Iraqi city of Najaf on 16 August, 2004. US troops and Shiite militiamen battled in the holy Iraqi city of Najaf on Monday, just hours after political and religious leaders in Baghdad agreed to make a last-ditch appeal for peace. — INTERNET

## Megawati pledges more Russian warplanes for Air Force

**JAKARTA, 17 August** — Indonesian President Megawati Soekarnoputri, in her annual speech to the House of Representatives on Monday, said the government would buy more Russian warplanes in the near future.

Megawati, who visited Moscow in April last year to sign the 192 million US dollars purchase deal of four Sukhoi jet fighters and two MI-35 military helicopters, planned to increase them into one squadron each.

"We hope that in the not-too-distant future, and in line

with the increasing capability, we shall complement that air power so that they (Shukoi and MI-35) will respectively compose a squadron," she said.

She stressed that "however great the fund that must be allocated to build and deploy a defence and security

force, it must be realized that it is one of the consequences of statehood".

The draft budget for fiscal year 2005, unveiled Monday by Megawati, allots 22 trillion rupiah (around 2.4 billion US dollars) to the Ministry of Defence.

MNA/Xinhua

## Official urges full preparations for French culture year in China

**BEIJING, 16 Aug** — Chinese State Councillor Chen Zhili urged on Friday Chinese ministries and local governments to prepare well for the upcoming French culture year in China.

Chen told an enlarged meeting of the Chinese organizing committee for the cultural programme that the "China-France Culture Year" is a huge cultural exchange. The Chinese culture year in France held from last October to last July was a great success.

The Chinese culture year in France exhibited extensive Chinese culture and a vigorous modern China, Chen said.

The French culture year in China, which will begin this October, and will help Chinese people learn more about the French culture, she said.

The programme is significant for enhancing friendship between the two peoples, promoting mutual understanding and exchanges and deepening relations between China, France and Europe as a whole, she noted.

The senior official asked all departments and local governments to assist their French counterparts in preparation, cultivate a good atmosphere in Chinese society for the culture year and promote Sino-French cooperation in science and technology, education and trade.

MNA/Xinhua

## Militants give El Salvador 20 days to leave Iraq

**DUBAI, 16 Aug** — An Islamist group has given El Salvador 20 days to pull out troops from Iraq or it would strike inside the Central American country and against its forces in Iraq, according to an Internet statement posted Monday.

"We give you 20 days to withdraw from Iraq. This is the last chance after which there will not be any more statements, only bloodshed," said Mohammed Atta Brigades — al Qaeda of Jihad.

"The aim of this deadline is to give you a chance to review yourselves and after that we wash our hands of the blood of every Salvadorian whether in Iraq or in El Salvador," said the

statement posted on a Web site which has carried Islamist militant statements in the past.

It was not possible to verify the statement's authenticity.

The group has previously threatened to attack El Salvador if it did not cancel its plans to send a new contingent of soldiers to Iraq this month.

El Salvador has stepped

up security but said it would go ahead with the new deployment, planned for around 17 Aug.

On 12 Aug, San Salvador told its diplomats around the world to seek additional security and warned its soldiers already in Iraq to be vigilant after another Islamist group — Islamic Tawhid — vowed to turn Iraq into "hell" for Salvadorian troops.

Internet

## Southern Africa's regional anthem on the horizon

**PORT LOUIS, 16 Aug** — Council of Ministers of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) has recommended a SADC anthem to the regional bloc's annual meetings, a senior official said here Saturday.

"The anthem is based on an African rhythm, which was identified as commonly and traditionally practised by Africans in the SADC region," Albert Muchanga, deputy executive secretary of the bloc, told reporters in a Press briefing.

A team of musicians from 12 SADC countries is engaged in putting music to the lyrics, which were authored by Angolan historian and guitarist, Manuel Gomes dos Santos, assisted by his fellow-countryman and ethnomusicologist, Jorge Macedo.

The words, written in English, combines the text with African rhythms and melodies, including the elements of the continent, exhortation and response, repetition, compassed rhythm, parallel tenor and inter-rhythms.

Muchanga said the anthem can reinforce a sense of regional belonging and identity, popularize objectives and common agenda, promote popular participation in the region's programme and activities. — MNA/Xinhua

## GCC mobile phone market set to grow

**ABU DHABI, 16 Aug** — The mobile phone market in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) is set to grow 40 per cent annually, UAE's official WAM news agency reported Sunday.

The increase of first-time mobile phone users and the growth of people who are frequently upgrading phone models are two main driving forces behind the projected growth, an inside source was quoted as saying.

The life cycle of a mobile phone in the GCC region has reduced from two years in 1998 to less than nine months in 2003. The world's highest phone replacement rate constitutes another force behind the regional market's fast growing.

The launch of an "Islamic" mobile phone also contributed much to the growth.

MNA/Xinhua

## SADC to create development fund

**PORT LOUIS, 16 Aug** — Southern African Development Community (SADC) claimed here Saturday that it plans to create a regional development fund to serve development of the region's economy.

Albert Muchanga, deputy executive secretary of SADC, said at a media briefing that the development fund is one of some outstanding tasks deliberated by the SADC Council of Ministers in the past two days.

SADC will also launch feasibility study of the fisheries agency, staff development and training, performance management as well as SADC properties.

Muchanga said that the council had fruitful and frank deliberations on the way forward for the region and it also made recommendations to the summit on a number of pertinent issues.

He told reporters that SADC member states have ratified 20 legal instruments, including protocol on transport, communications and meteorology, protocol on shared watercourse systems, protocol on combating illicit drugs and protocols on trade and mining.

MNA/Xinhua



An Iraqi civilian looks at the debris left after US warplanes bombed the largely Sunni city of Samarra, about 60 miles north of Baghdad, after a series of clashes on 14 Aug, 2004. — INTERNET



*A plume of smoke rises from the site where one of five loud explosions shook central Baghdad, Iraq, on 15 August, 2004.*



*Samir Taha who was injured during a blast on al-Rasheed Street, a commercial district in Baghdad, is transferred from the Medical city hospital emergency ward to another medical facility to treat his injuries in Baghdad, Iraq, on 17 August, 2004.*

## Images of Iraq



*An image of the face of an Iraqi man is seen on the shattered windshield of a car which was damaged when three mortars hit a commuter bus station in central Baghdad, Iraq, on 15 August, 2004.*



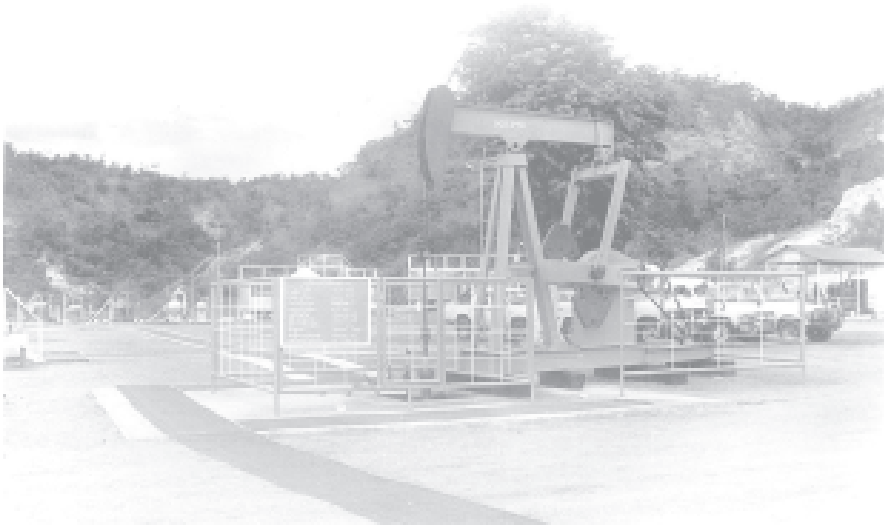
*A badly wounded Iraqi man is treated at a Baghdad hospital after he was hurt in a mortar attack, which struck a bus station in the center of the capital, on 15 August, 2004.*



*An Iraqi man walks past the crater left by a roadside bomb that killed six Iraqis near a market in Khan Ban Sad, near Baqouba, Iraq, on 11 August, 2004.*

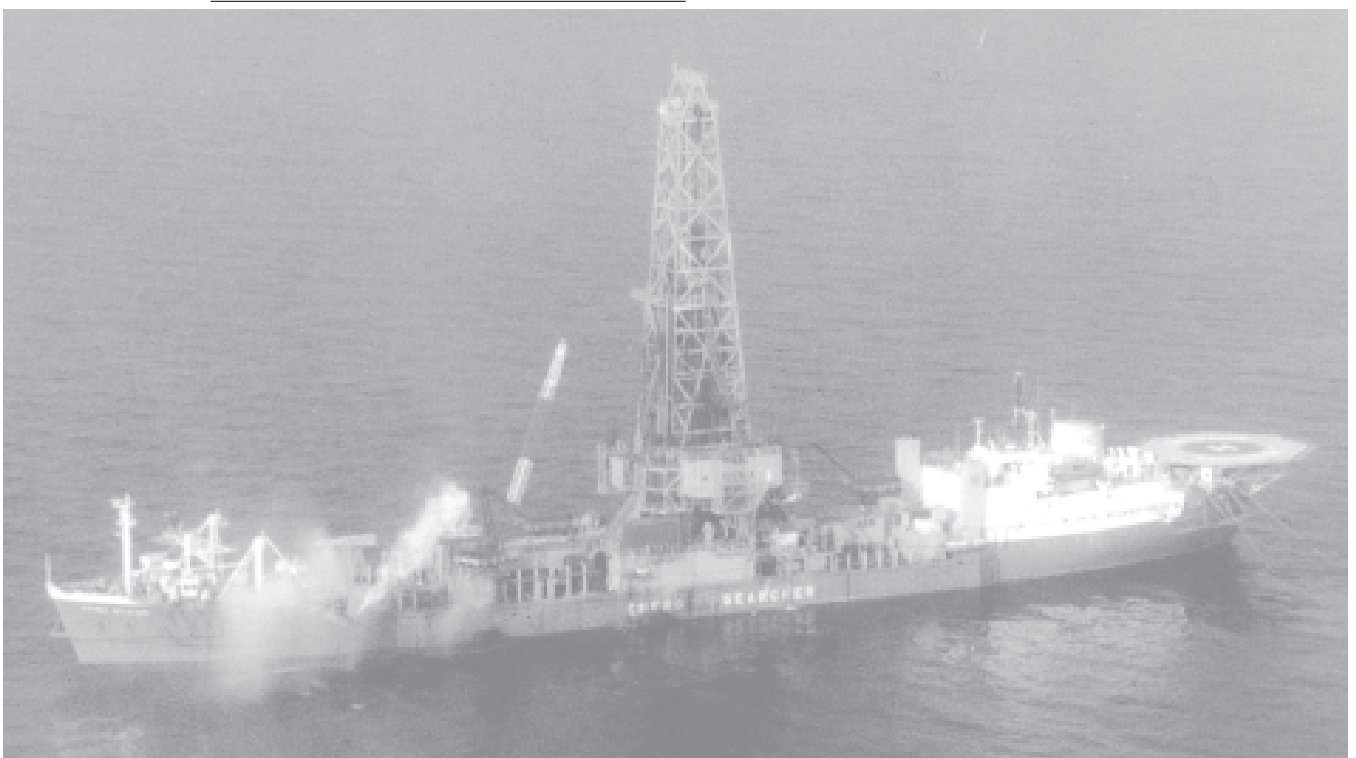


*Liquefied gas factory of the Ministry of Energy in Nyaungdon-Pantanaw-Maubin oil field. — MNA*



*Oil Field No-1 of Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise in Thagyitaung oil and gas filed, Pauk Township, Pakokku District, Magway Division. — MNA*

**Success  
achieved in  
the energy  
sector**



*The Energy Searcher Drilling Machine at work at the Shwe-1 test well in Block No A-1, offshore Rakhine coast. — MNA*



## Opening of self-reliant libraries speeded up

YANGON, 17 Aug—The Ministry of Information held a coordination meeting at its meeting hall on Theinbyu Road here this afternoon to take steps for opening more self-reliant libraries in villages being undertaken by the Information and Public Relations Department.

It was attended by Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, directors-general and managing directors of departments and enterprises under the ministry, officials of Myawady Publishing House, the Press Scrutiny and Registration Department and private publishing houses.

The minister delivered an address on the occasion, saying that the government has been translating the four social objectives into reality, one of which is "Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation". In the process, the Ministry of Information is taking responsibilities for disseminating of information the length and breadth of the nation including border areas, and ensuring the country's current news to cover the international community, and excellent coverage of the issues, while respective ministries are boosting the health and education standards of the people across the nation.

At the same time, he said, the ministry is implementing the tasks for opening of self-reliant libraries in all the villages of the nation. So far, out of 13,478 village-tracts, 4,962 village-tracts have been facilitated with self-reliant libraries and there remains 8,516.

He said if wellwishers and local people make combined efforts with the assistance of the State, the project will hit the target earlier than scheduled. The Ministry of Information is implementing one of its goals — facilitating all the village-tracts of the nation with self-reliant libraries by 2005-2006. Only when rural people have access to publications daily, can they build up their knowledge of health, education and agriculture and will it result in a higher living standard.

The minister called on those responsible to contribute assistance and suggestions as much as they can towards implementation of the tasks for speedy emergence of self-



Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan accepts 671 copies of publications donated by Kaung Thant Publishing House. — MNA

reliant libraries in all the villages.

Next, Director-General of the IPRD U Chit Naing reported on steps being taken for opening of self-reliant libraries in the villages and programmes to provide publications for the facilities. Those present gave their views.

Afterwards, private publishing houses and departments donated 14,180 publications worth K 5,411,340 to the libraries through the minister. U Ohn Maung (Yama) of Pynnya Alinpya Publishing House handed over K 90,000 for establishment of self-reliant libraries to the minister.

The minister remarked the reports and thanked the wellwishers.

MNA



Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung sees off Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Win at the airport. — MNA

## Deputy FM leaves for South Africa

YANGON, 17 Aug — Leader of the Myanmar delegation, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win left here by air this afternoon to attend the XIV NAM Ministerial Conference and Asian-African Sub Regional Organizations Conference (AASROC II) to be held from 17 to 20 August 2004 in Durban, Republic of South Africa. The deputy foreign minister was seen off at the Yangon International Airport by U Win Aung, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Heads of Department and officials from the ministry.

U Ohn Thwin, Myanmar Ambassador to the Republic of South Africa, U Nyan Lynn, Director General of Consular and Legal Affairs Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, U Hla Myint, Minister Counsellor of the Myanmar Embassy in South Africa and U Maung Maung, Director of the Political Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will also attend the meeting as members of the Myanmar delegation.

MNA

## Members of Panel of Alternate Chairmen of NC Plenary Meeting meet

YANGON, 17 Aug—The coordination meeting between members of Panel of Alternate Chairmen of National Convention Plenary Meeting was held at the meeting hall of the National Convention Convening Work Committee on Kyaikkasan Grounds here this morning.

It was attended by members of PAC Daw Khin Nu, U Tun Yin Law, U Yaw Aye Hla, U Maung Hla (a) U Hla Myint, U Mya Aye, Dr Myo Thant Tin, Dr U Thein Oo Po Saw and U Tun Aung Chein, Joint Secretary-2 of

NCCWC Dr U Thauang Myint, members U Hsan Tun and U Ba Han, Director of the Work Committee Office U Than Aung and deputy directors.

The meeting discussed matters related to presenting the findings of the Panel of Chairmen of National Convention Plenary Meeting on papers presented by eight delegate groups concerning the sharing of power on legislative affairs at the National Convention held from 17 May to 9 July, when the National Convention resumes.

MNA

**Matters related to presenting the findings of the panel of chairmen of NCPM on papers presented by eight delegate groups concerning the sharing of power on legislative affairs were discussed.**

## International Education Expo kicks off in HK

HONG KONG, 17 Aug — An international education expo was kicked off here Monday, attracting a large number of middle school graduates who are interested in studying in the Chinese Mainland universities.

The Hong Kong International Expo features over 130 exhibitors from Chinese Mainland, Hong Kong, Britain, Australia, Canada and New Zealand etc. About 20 per cent of the Expo's exhibitors were from Chinese Mainland including Jinan University, Qinghua University, Jiaotong University and Suzhou University etc., which are popular study destinations for Hong Kong students.

Representative of an education consultancy company Stanley Kong said that more Hong Kong students were seeking higher education in Chinese Mainland.

"Since Hong Kong and Mainland have recently signed an agreement on recognizing the qualification of each other's university education, Hong Kong students became more interested in studying in the Mainland.

"Besides, parents are generally able to afford their children studying in Mainland as the tuition fee and living standard are relatively low comparing with those of foreign countries," said Kong.

Kong also said that his company has received some 600 inquiries this year which is a double of last year's number.

Visitors Chui Wai-lam and Hui Ha-tsz were this year's matriculation graduates. Both of them failed to enter local universities and were thinking of studying in the Mainland.

"Although I have got an offer of an Associate Degree programme in Hong Kong, I would prefer studying a Bachelor's degree programme in Chinese Mainland, which I believe would receive more international recognition than a Hong Kong non-bachelor's degree

qualification," said Chui.

Hui also said that studying in the Mainland would give her a chance to understand more about the Motherland which would help pave the path for her future career in Mainland.

The Expo will be held for four days and is expected to attract about 100,000 visitors to attend.

MNA/Xinhua



The meeting of members of the Panel of Alternate Chairmen of the National Convention Plenary Meeting in progress. — MNA





**COORD MEETING HELD:** The Ministry of Construction held its first and second four-monthly work co-ordination meeting for 2004 on 14 August. Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun delivers an address at the meeting. — CONSTRUCTION

## Wen Jiabao stresses importance of permanent China-Mexico commission

BEIJING, August 17 — Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao said here Monday the establishment of a permanent commission between the governments of China and Mexico marks a concrete step in the strategic partnership of the two countries. Wen made these remarks during his meeting with visiting Mexican Foreign Minister Luis Ernesto Derbez Bautista at the Great Hall of the People.

The founding ceremony of the permanent bi-national commission was held earlier Monday, with Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing and Derbez attending.

The establishment of the commission was one of the consensus that had been reached by Wen and Mexican President Vicente Fox during his visit to Mexico last December. The two countries established diplomatic ties in February 1972. Since then great progress has been made in bilateral cooperation in all fields and Mexico has become China's second largest trade partner in Latin America. China has also become the major trade partner of Mexico in Asia. Bilateral trade volume reached 3.11 billion US dollars in the first half of this year, up 34.8 per cent year-on-year.

During the meeting, Wen said the Chinese Government has attached great importance to the development of its relations with Mexico.

China and Mexico are both big developing countries, Wen said. To strengthen friendly bilateral cooperation will help benefit the social and economic development of the two countries, and increase their role in international affairs.

Wen praised the establishment of the commission, saying that he hoped the two sides can continue to cooperate and push the friendly cooperative relations forward.

Derbez said the strategic partnership is significant to both countries. During his visit to China, the two sides have exchanged views on politics, trade and economy, science and technology, education and culture, communications, agriculture and tourism, and reached a series of consensus. "This will benefit the mutually beneficial cooperation of the two countries," he said. He said that there was a great potential for bilateral cooperation and the Mexican Government will work harder to improve it.—MNA/Xinhua

## Gem & Jade Sale continues

YANGON, 17Aug—The 17th gem and jade sale for the year 2004 of the Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings Ltd continued for the second day today at the Myanmar Gems Mart on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road here from 9 am to 5 pm.

Altogether 164 jade lots and 323 gem lots will be sold through tender system and competitive bidding at the sale.

Gem merchants will continue to go through jade lots and gem lots from 9 am to 5 pm until 18 August, and jade lots and gem lots will be sold through bargain and auction systems. A total of 810 gem merchants—688 local gem merchants and 122 foreign gem merchants—have arrived here to attend the gem and jade sale, and they are observing gem lots and jade lots put on display. — MNA



**Merchants observing a huge jade stone at the 17th Gems and Jade Sale (2004) of the UMEHL.** — MNA

## Powdered milk for Defence Services Obstetric, Gynaecological and Paediatric Hospital

YANGON 17 Aug —Mo Asia Co Ltd-Dumex donated the bottles of powdered milk to the Defence Services Obstetric, Gynaecological and

Paediatric Hospital (300-bed) here today.

First, Dr Beauty of the Mo Asia Co Ltd-Dumex explained the purpose of the donation and presented

the powdered milk tins worth K 250,000 through Commandant of the hospital Professor Lt-Col Kyaw Nyunt.

MNA



**Officials of Mo Asia Co Ltd Dumex hand over milk powder tins to Commandant Professor Lt-Col Kyaw Nyunt.** — PUPR

## China, Nepal sign cooperative agreements

BEIJING, August 17 — China and Nepal signed four agreements on economic and technological cooperation and other areas in Beijing Monday afternoon.

The documents include the Agreement on Economic and Technological Cooperation between the governments of the two countries, an agreement on Nepal's use of a road in Tibet to transport goods, an agreement on a bridge across the borders of the two countries and an agreement on automobile transportation.

Chinese Vice-Premier Huang Ju and visiting Crown Prince of the Kingdom of Nepal Paras Bir Bikram Shah Dev attended the signing ceremony. During their meeting before the signing of the agreements, Huang said China places great importance on expanding mutually beneficial cooperation with Nepal and is willing to expand communication and cooperation between the enterprise and business circles of the two countries. He said China is ready to enhance friendly communication with Nepal and continue to explore new forms and ways of cooperation in all fields.

Huang said China and Nepal are close and friendly neighbours, noting that theirs is a model of a relationship between the two countries of different social systems. He said relations have developed smoothly since the two countries established diplomatic ties 49 years ago.

The two countries have supported each other on international occasions and maintained good communication and coordination.

Huang said China is willing to develop good-neighbourly, friendly and cooperative relations with all its neighbours, including Nepal.

Paras said the two countries have maintained a long-term sincere friendship and cooperative relations, with which Nepal is satisfied. He said Nepal is willing to further expand cooperation with China in all fields. He also expressed the wish that China will continue to support the economic development of Nepal.

Paras arrived in Beijing Saturday afternoon, continuing his 13-day official visit to China. Paras visited Guangzhou, Shanghai and Tibet before his Beijing tour, where he will conclude his visit Tuesday.

During his stay in Beijing, Paras attended a ceremony marking the setup of the China-Nepal Friendship Association Monday noon. — MNA/Xinhua

# Alternative fuels and their future prospects

*Maung Phyu (Energy)*

Recently, I found a news report in the dailies which said that some drivers in England were using cooking oil, mixed with few methanol, as fuel for their diesel Subaru cars; that it was much cheaper than diesel; that as it was an illegal and untaxed fuel; and that police fined 500 pounds when they found a driver using it. After reading the news report, I wrote this article.

We obtain fuels including petrol, diesel and kerosene after refining crude oil which is a kind of fossil fuel. Crude oil is also included in non-renewable energy resources. It takes millions of years to form fossil fuels. Trees, plants and animals that died over 300 million years ago were transformed into crude oil by high pressures and high temperatures deep down the earth. Man started to drill and used crude oil over 150 years ago. According to world history, the first commercial oil well was drilled near Titusville, Pennsylvania State, the US, in 1859. Although the process of the formation of crude oil takes millions of years, man needs only a hundred years or so to extract crude in large volumes.

For example, up to 1930, 17 billion barrels of crude oil were extracted. But in 1970, annual crude oil production reached 17 billion barrels, and up to 1997, 807 billion barrels of oil have been extracted. Experts have estimated that about 995 billion barrels of oil are still left underneath the earth.

It is also estimated that if the annual consumption increases to 24 billion barrels, all the existing crude oil deposits underneath the earth will dry up by the year 2040. Oil consumption is increasing two per cent annually. But on the other hand, thanks to the new technologies, there are prospects to find new oil deposits.

Anyhow, it is sure that one day, all the crude oil of the world will be gone. Because of the unstable political situation in the Middle East, the main crude oil producing region on earth, constant flow of oil to the markets is not sure in the future. Thus, Asia which is depending on the Middle East for about 60 per cent of its oil needs is making plans to store crude oil as strategic reserve for emergency use.

**Experts estimated that about 995 billion barrels of oil still left underneath the earth. If the annual consumption increases to 24 billion barrels, all crude oil deposits underneath the earth will dry up by the year 2040. Oil consumption is increasing 2% annually. Thanks to the new technologies, there are prospects to find new oil deposits.**

Japan, the Republic of Korea and Thailand that are relying on imported oil have strategic reserves as follows:

Country	Stored volume (barrels in million)	Strategic reserve (Days)
(a) Japan	567	161
(b) ROK	133	67
(c) Thailand	-	29

Japan says that storing crude oil is just a temporary project, proposing the following ways for energy sufficiency:

1. Oil stockpiling.
2. Utilization of clean coal, natural gas and renewable energies.
3. Efficient use of energy.
4. Promotion of understanding between producers and consumers.

Thus, it can be said that drivers in England who use cooking oil for diesel are using renewable fuel. But it is not a new idea. Dr Rudoff Diesel, who invented diesel engine, in 1895 tested the engine with various kinds of fuels. At the World Trade Fair, held in Paris, France, in 1900, Dr Diesel ran the diesel engine with peanut oil. In 1911, Dr Diesel said that as his engine could run with various kinds of vegetable oils, it would help develop agro-based countries.

In the later periods, scientists and engineers tested various kinds of fuels other than diesel to run the diesel engine. Some alternative fuels do not need adjustments to the diesel engine, but some require. The basic alternative fuels for diesel are:

## 1. Biodiesel

It is a mixture of 80 to 90 per cent vegetable oil, 10 to 20 per cent alcohol and 0.35 to 1.5 per cent catalyst. It is a stable fuel, that is safe for diesel engines. It can be

**Biodiesel is a mixture of 80% to 90% vegetable oil, 10% to 20% alcohol and 1.35% to 1.5% catalyst. It is a stable fuel, that is safe for diesel engines. It can be easily and safely mixed with diesel fuel. It is also easy to produce. The diesel engine does not need any adjustment to use the fuel.**

easily and safely mixed with diesel fuel. It is also easy to produce. The diesel engine does not need any adjustment to use the fuel.

## 2. Vegetable Oil/ Kerosene Mix

It is a mixture of vegetable oil and kerosene. It can be used in diesel engines. But special care is needed in mixing the fuel. Wrong ratio in mixing the ingredients may damage the diesel engine. An extra tank will be needed, if the fuel is used. Diesel must be used in igniting and stopping the engine. It is still at the testing stage. It may damage the diesel engine if something goes wrong.

## 3. Straight vegetable oil

After igniting with diesel, the diesel engines can be run with heated pure vegetable oil. Both used or unused vegetable oil can be utilized. An extra tank is needed for vegetable oil; and pipes, for heating it. After making the adjustments, the engine is ignited with diesel fuel or biodiesel. Then, the heated vegetable oil can be used to run the engine. Diesel fuel is used to stop the engine. It is a safe fuel if used with care.

Man is trying to find alternative fuels as crude oil will be exhausted in the future. The alternative fuels include solar energy, geothermal energy and nuclear energy. At present, Denmark is the forerunner in the alternative fuel programme. But its wind turbines can only generate 20 per cent of the country's energy consumption at present. France produces 80 per cent of its electricity needs from nuclear power. Japan has the Kashiwasaki Kariwa Nuclear Power Station, the largest in the world, located in the northwest part of the country. Its generation capacity is 8,212 megawatts. It has the world's largest nuclear power station, and yet the country needs to import crude oil.

There are many kinds of cooking oils that can be used as alternative fuel. Of them, I would like to present the ten crops together with their oil yield rates.

Cooking oil	Oil yield per acre (in pounds)
1. Oil palm	4,585
2. Coconut	2,070
3. Jatropha	1,460
4. Rapeseed	915
5. Peanut	815
6. Sunflower	720
7. Safflower	605
8. Soybean	345
9. Hemp	280
10. Corn	135

An advantage of the cooking oil crops is that they can directly store the solar energy. Although the formation of fossil fuels including crude oil takes millions of years, cooking oil crops can be cultivated within few months. Thus, it is sure that in the near future (roughly, about 50 years from now) cooking oil fuels will become important alternative for fossil fuels.

\*\*\*\*\*

(Translation: TMT)

(Myanma Alin + Kyemon: 17-8-2004)

## Efficient use of electricity

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

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

## All this needs to be known

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

## Cash donations invited for Maha Rattha Sameggi Pagoda in Panglong

YANGON, 17 Aug — As the symbol of unity and consolidation of national brethren of the Union of Myanmar, the Maha Rattha Samaggi Pagoda has been built on Vikasini Hill in Panglong, Loilem District, southern Shan State.

Wellwishers can make cash donations for golden umbrella to be hoisted atop the pagoda and nine Buddha Images with different mudras (hand postures). — MNA

## 'Soon' offered at State Pariyatti Sasana University

YANGON, 17 Aug — Families of the Ministry of Finance & Revenue offered "soon" to Sayadaws and members of the Sangha at the State Pariyatti Sasana University (Yangon) this morning. Minister for Finance & Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun and wife, Deputy Minister Col Hla Thein Swe and wife and heads of department also presented offertories to Sayadaws.

Minister for Finance & Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun handed over K 300,000 for the "soon" to Director-General of the Department Promotion and Propagation of Sasana U San Lwin. — MNA

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



## Tourists to Jordan increased 30% in first half of 2004

AMMAN, 17 Aug— Tourists to Jordan increased by 30.8 per cent in the first six months of 2004, compared with the same period of last year, the Ministry of Tourism and Environment said Monday.

A total of 723,516 tourists arrived in Jordan from January to June, compared with 553,289 last year, as fears over travel to the region subsided worldwide, the ministry's latest figures showed.

Tourists from America and Europe listed on top of the surge in tourist numbers, with an increase of 84.8 per cent and 88.7 per cent respectively.

Visitors from East Asia and the Pacific also rose by 79 per cent during the corresponding period,

according to the official figures.

The country, which for years has been relying on foreign visitors for a large portion of its revenue, has continued to feel the pinch of the turmoil in the Middle East over the past three years.

The situation in the Palestinian territories, the war in Iraq and its aftermath, the SARS outbreak in Asia, and terror threats, have all kept global travel at a slowdown.

Despite these setbacks,

Jordan's tourism has looked for other positive ways to attract regional tourists.

Promotion efforts carried out by the Jordan Tourism Board over the past three years in the Gulf countries has seen more visitors from the oil-rich states.

Around 338,023 Gulf tourists visited the country from January to June, 14 per cent up from 294,228 visitors in the same period of last year, according to the ministry's figures.

MNA/Xinhua

## NAM countries to focus on multilateralism at ministerial meeting

JOHANNESBURG, 17 Aug— Foreign ministers and officials of the 116-member Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) will discuss the issue of multilateralism and challenges of development during their meeting in South Africa's port city of Durban this week.

The NAM originated in a 1955 meeting of 29 Asian and African countries, at which heads of state discussed common concerns including colonialism and the influence of the West.

The organization's 14th ministerial conference is a "mid-term review" between the last heads of state and government summit in Malaysia last year and the next in Cuba in 2006.

Chinese Deputy Foreign Minister Wang Yi will lead a Chinese delegation to the meeting. China is one of 29 participants of the 1955 Asia-Africa Conference in Bandung, Indonesia, which led to the establishment of NAM in 1961.

MNA/Xinhua

## Zimbabwean business exploits opportunity in Uganda

HARARE, 17 Aug— The Cotton Company of Zimbabwe (CCZ) will soon establish a subsidiary company in Uganda as the locally listed company moves to strengthen its presence in the region, according to the *Sunday Mail*.

Managing Director Sylvester Nguni of the company was quoted as saying that the former parastatal has already

seconded some of its skilled personnel to some of its regional operations as part of efforts aimed at ensuring the success of the regional projects.

"The Ugandan market presents us with a lot of opportunities that we can exploit to enhance shareholder value as the country's authorities have pledged to support cotton farmers in that country with finance and

grower extension services," he said.

Nguni added that the former parastatal, which was successfully privatized in 1997, would continue looking at investment opportunities in the country and also in the region as part of measures aimed at diversifying its investment portfolio and enhancing shareholder value.

MNA/Xinhua

## Malaysian Air Force helicopter missing in Sarawak

KUALALUMPUR, 17 Aug— A Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) *Nuri* helicopter with 10 people on board was reported missing on Sunday near Ba'Kelalan in Sarawak's northern highlands region.

Miri Region acting

Police Chief Superintendent Abang Abdillah Abang Othman said the helicopter was reported missing at 1:50 p.m. by the control tower in Kota Kinabalu, capital of neighbouring Sabah State.

"The helicopter was on

a normal flight from Miri to Ba'Kelalan ferrying five soldiers who were due to replace their colleagues stationed at Ba'Kelalan. The other five are the two pilots and three crew members," he said.

MNA/Xinhua

## Turkey issues flood warning for Istanbul

ANKARA, 17 Aug— Turkish meteorology authorities warned that Istanbul, the country's largest city, is expected to experience its heaviest rainfalls in a decade within two days, Turkish private NTV reported Monday.

Turkish Meteorology Bureau General Manager Adnan Unal said that heavy rainfall could cause flooding due to defective infra-structure in the city.

The bureau also warned that heavy rainfalls are expected

in Kocaeli of northwest Turkey and storms in the Dardanelles region.

Temperatures are set to fall six degrees Celsius with wet winds from the Balkans, according to the bureau.

MNA/Xinhua

## Bank of Indonesia optimistic to reach economic target

JAKARTA, 17 Aug— The governor of Bank of Indonesia (BI) Burhanudin Abdullah was optimistic on Monday to reach the target of 6.5 per cent rate of promissory note and 5.5 per cent inflation

rate in 2005, despite the weakening global interest rate. "In this world nothing is impossible, those are the challenging targets that would become the programme of the BI," he told reporters at the

Parliament building.

The governor admitted that the trend of the global interest rate had continuously increased, but the economic growth would not be as strong as in 2004. — MNA/Xinhua

## Megawati defends achievements

JAKARTA, 17 Aug— Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri, said on Monday her government had stabilized the economy and cracked down hard on militants and separatists.

Megawati has been lagging her run-off opponent, former security minister Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, in opinion polls, but received a boost over the weekend when she got the endorsement of

one of the country's most powerful parties, Golkar.

In an annual state of the nation address on Monday, Megawati said that despite shortcomings in the battle against rampant corruption, which has stunted much-needed foreign investment, her government had stabilized the economy following the Asian financial crisis of the late 1990s.

MNA/Reuters

## Three missing in flash floods in southwestern England

LONDON, 17 Aug— Three people were officially declared missing while dozens were rescued after a heavy flood struck southwest England on Monday, local police said. It was very difficult to establish if there were any more missing, police added.

Heavy storms on Monday afternoon brought 6 centimetres of rainfall in two hours in the Boscastle area in north Cornwall, washing cars and buildings into the sea and leaving people stranded on rooftops and trees, according to a BBC report.

Power supplies were switched off for safety reasons and hospitals put on standby after a torrential downpour hit the area.

Rescue workers described the situation as "horrendous" and Michael Mulford, spokesman for Royal Air Force (RAF) Kinloss which is coordinating the military rescue effort, said hundreds more people could need air-lifting from the flood-stricken

area.

"We have to consider the possibility we may have many hundreds, up to theoretically 1,000 people who may need rescuing," he was quoted by the BBC report as saying.

About six buildings had collapsed due to the force of the water, and an estimated 50 cars had been swept away, he added.

"This is the biggest combined incident we have had in many, many years. It is very seldom we have more than two helicopters at one scene," he said.

At least seven helicopters were used to rescue residents and holidaymakers along a 32-kilometres stretch of the area. Devon and Cornwall police said the rescue operation would carry on all night.

As many as 13 flood warnings have been in place in the region, according to Britain's Environment Agency.

MNA/Xinhua

## Indonesia projects higher economic growth in 2005

JAKARTA, 17 Aug— Indonesia's economic growth is projected to reach 5.4 per cent in 2005 to fare better than the targeted 4.8 per cent this year, which is estimated to be achievable.

"This growth is estimated to remain supported by the increase in domestic consumption, in addition to the increase in exports and the improving investment climate," President Megawati Sukarnoputri said while addressing the House of Representatives on Monday. She acknowledged that the growth is "still below the potential of the Indonesian economy and may not be sufficient to significantly lessen unemployment and poverty".

The draft budget, which made up a major part in the President's speech, sets the inflation rate at 5.5 per cent

against the estimated 6.5 per cent this year, and the rupiah conversion rate at the average of 8,600 to the US dollar.

It assumes the benchmark interest rate of the three-month central bank's promissory notes (SBI) at 6.5 per cent in 2005, lower than the assumed 7.6 per cent this year, and national oil output at 1.13 million barrels per day.

Finance Minister Boediono said earlier the world oil price was assumed at 24 dollars per barrel.

With the above assumptions, the draft budget sees revenues at around 41.99 billion US dollars, increasing

by 3.1 billion dollars when compared to the current budget, and expenditure at 43.87 billion dollars.

Megawati said tax revenue will make up 78.7 per cent of total state revenues in 2005.

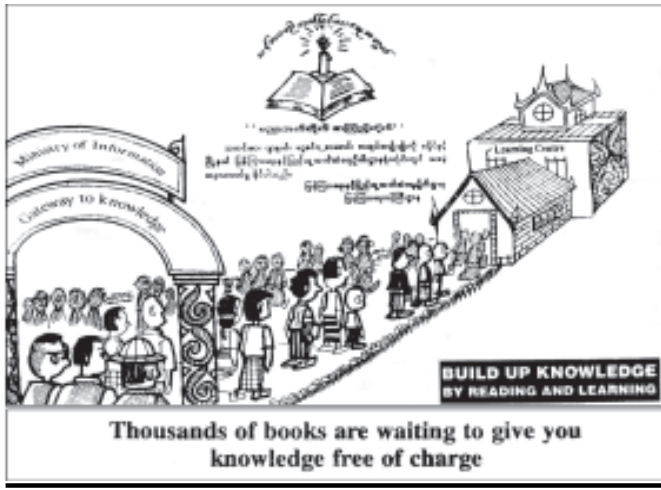
Megawati said the budget will experience a deficit of 1.88 billion dollars or 0.8 per cent of the country's gross domestic product.

"The figure is lower than targeted deficit in the 2004 state budget, amounting to 24.4 trillion rupiah, or 1.2 per cent of the GDP," she said.

MNA/Xinhua



An Indian family travel by camel to Manohar Nagar, 40km north of the capital of Rajasthan, Jaipur. The army was called in the northern Indian desert state as torrential rains marooned villages and brought down houses in the usually arid region, officials said. — INTERNET



## ADVERTISEMENTS

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### “Charley” devastates Florida citrus groves

**LAKELAND (Florida), 16 Aug** — Hurricane Charley devastated Florida's 9.1-billion-US-dollar citrus industry, uprooting trees and stripping off fruit that was ripening for next season's crop, the state's largest citrus growers' group said on Sunday.

Florida Citrus Mutual said growers in three of the state's largest citrus-producing counties, DeSoto, Hardee and Polk, saw their groves, barns and equipment destroyed.

The unripe, golf-ball-sized orange crop was in the process of maturing for the 2005 harvest but was blown off the trees that remained, Florida Citrus Mutual said.

Those three counties, in addition to nearby Manatee, Sarasota, Lee and Charlotte counties, hold more than 280,000 acres,

or about 35 per cent, of Florida's 800,000 acres of citrus groves.

The state was still assessing damage to its 9.1-billion-US-dollar citrus industry, which employs 90,000 people.

“This will certainly have a huge impact on their livelihood and this season's citrus crop,” said Andy LaVigne, executive vice-president of the mutual group that represents 11,000 industry members.

MNA/Reuters

### Thousands homeless as Florida begins storm clean-up

**PUNTA GORDA (Florida), 16 Aug** — The death toll from Hurricane Charley climbed to 16 on Sunday as thousands left homeless in southwest Florida sorted through wreckage and President George W Bush rushed in to view the devastation.

The fiercest hurricane to strike Florida in 12 years, Charley's 145mph winds destroyed mobile homes, ripped roofs off houses and damaged tens of thousands of other buildings when it smashed ashore on Friday.

Florida emergency management officials said three more deaths had been confirmed, bringing the toll to 16.

At Punta Gorda, one of the Gulf Coast towns that bore the brunt of Charley's assault, local officials declined to say how many bodies were being stored in refrigerated trucks brought in as temporary morgues. But it was beginning to look like the fatalities would not be as high as originally feared.

By Sunday, 1.1 million people in the state were still without power, many of them in the area of Charley's initial tornado-like punch through a 10-mile wide swath. Several cities lacked running water.

MNA/Reuters

### Forest fire in eastern Spain brought under control

**MADRID, 16 Aug** — Fire-fighters have brought under control a forest fire that forced 6,000 people from their homes and scorched part of a nature reserve in eastern Spain, officials said on Saturday.

The fire, which authorities said may have been started intentionally, claimed more than 700 hectares of the Sierra de Calderona nature reserve in the Valencia region since it started on Thursday evening.

“Everything indicates that the fire is under control and that it will be completely extinguished in the coming hours or days,” Public Administration Minister Jordi Sevilla said after meeting regional officials and fire services.

Residents of nearby towns, who were evacuated in case the flames spread, were allowed to return home on Friday evening.

MNA/Reuters

**စီးပွားရေးနှင့် ကုမ္ပဏီများဆိုင်ရာ သတင်းစာ**  
**မြန်မာ့လယ်ယာထွက်ကုန်ပစ္စည်းရောင်းဝယ်ရေး**  
**ဆန်စက်၊ ဆန်စက်တည်ရာမြေနှင့် အဆောက်အအုံများ ရောင်းချရန်**  
**အိုင်ပီဘီတင်ဒါများခေါ်ယူခြင်း**

၁။ မြန်မာ့လယ်ယာထွက်ကုန်ပစ္စည်းရောင်းဝယ်ရေးသည် အောက်ပါ ဖြန့်ချိမှုများရှိ ဆန်စက်၊ ဆန်စက်တည်ရာမြေနှင့် အဆောက်အအုံများ ရောင်းချရန်ရှိပါသဖြင့် အိုင်ပီဘီတင်ဒါများကို ပေးသွင်းရန် ဖိတ်ခေါ်ပါသည်။

(က) ပဲခူးမြို့ရှိ စက်အမှတ် (၁၃၀)၊ ဓမ္မဗျူဟာမြို့ဆန်စက်၊ ဆန်စက် တည်ရာမြေနှင့် အဆောက်အအုံများ။  
(ခ) ဝေါမြို့ရှိစက်အမှတ်(၁၄၈)၊ ရွှေစင်ယောင်ဆန်စက်၊ ဆန်စက် တည်ရာမြေနှင့် အဆောက်အအုံများ။  
(ဂ) ကာပြန်ယိုစက်အမှတ်(၁၄၅)၊ ဘင်လွန်းဆန်စက်၊ ဆန်စက် တည်ရာမြေနှင့် အဆောက်အအုံများ။

၂။ အိုင်ပီဘီတင်ဒါပေးသွင်းခြင်းအား ၂၄-၈-၂၀၀၄ ရက်နေ့ ၁၂:၀၀ နာရီပိတ်ပင်ခြင်းဖြစ်ပါသည်။ အသေးစိတ်အချက်အလက်များကို သိရှိလိုပါက အောက်ဖော်ပြပါမြို့နယ်တွင် ၃၀-၇-၂၀၀၄ ရက်နေ့မှစ၍ ရုံးချိန်အတွင်း ပေးမြန်းပေးနိုင်ပါသည်။

အထွေထွေမန်နေဂျာ၊ ကြိုတင်ခွဲထုတ်လုပ်ရေးဌာန  
မြန်မာ့လယ်ယာထွက်ကုန်ပစ္စည်းရောင်းဝယ်ရေး (ရှေ့ဆောင်)  
အမှတ်၊ ၃၀/၇/၂၀၀၄ ဖမ်းဆီးတန်းလမ်း၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့  
ရန်၊ ၂၄-၈-၂၀၀၄ နေ့ရက်

### Tanzanian police to crack down on cross-border drug trafficking

**DAR-ES-SALAAM, 16 Aug** — The Tanzanian police have vowed to crack down on cross-border drug trafficking, especially the trafficking of khat, a local East African drug, from Kenya, local Press reported Saturday.

The police are to take actions against drug dealers active along the Dar-es-Salaam-Morogoro Highway, after being tipped off by an investigative report by local newspaper *The Guardian*.

The illicit drug of khat, also known as miraa or mirungi or giza, has found its way to Tanzania from Kenya through passenger buses and pick-up trucks. The drug is then

delivered to Tanzania's Dar-es-Salaam, Coast and Morogoro regions through highways.

One kilo of khat now sells at 5,000 Tanzanian shillings (45 US dollars) in Tanzania.

Khat is among at least six tons of drugs seized in the country by law enforcers in the past two years. Other seized drugs include cocaine, heroin and marijuana.

MNA/Xinhua

### Zambia starts producing drugs for AIDS patients

**LUSAKA, 16 Aug** — Zambia has started producing anti-retroviral drugs (ARVs) for AIDS patients with assistance from Cuba, Health Minister Brian Chituwo has said.

“We have started the manufacture of ARVs in the country. Batches of the drug have been produced but we need a compulsory licence from the Ministry of Commerce to enable us put the drugs on the market,” he was

quoted as saying by independent newspaper *Sunday Post*.

Chituwo said various regulatory issues have to be sorted out before the drug could be put on the market, including certifications from the World Health Organization and the Poison Board.

Zambia, with a population of 11 million, has seen its HIV/AIDS prevalence rate dropping from 26 per cent to 16 over recent years.

In related development,

the Health Minister also said that preparations have started for AIDS vaccine trials in Zambia, through the Zambia Emory AIDS Vaccine Project in association with International AIDS Vaccine Initiative.

“We hope we can start this year after we explore consultations with various stakeholders to review regulations that govern vaccine trial,” he said.

MNA/Xinhua

### Death toll from Nigeria's flood rises to 65

**LAGOS, 16 Aug** — The death toll in a flash flood that swept through the eastern Nigerian village of Loko this week has risen to 65, *The Guardian* newspaper reported Saturday.

About 40 bodies were discovered between Wednesday and Thursday while 15 more were discovered Friday, the report said.

The causality number was high because the flood, triggered by seasonal rains which were said to be the heaviest in 50 years there, occurred Tuesday midnight when everybody was in bed, some victims were quoted as saying.

Willie Zalwalie, spokesman for the Adamawa state

government, told reporters that a team of medical officials had been dispatched to the village in the Song local government area.

Also, a committee had been set up by the government to assess the level of damage caused by the flood and recommend how the government could assist the victims and check a recurrence of such a disaster in the state, he added.

“The area is prone to flood disaster because it is located in a valley and it is very close to a river bank, so any time that there is heavy down pour the residents of the village suffer flood disaster,” he said.

All the residents of Loko Village had been relocated to a primary school in Song local government headquarters, the spokesman said.

MNA/Xinhua

### Zimbabwean youths to receive free HIV counselling

**HARARE, 16 Aug** — As part of the World Youth Day commemoration, Zimbabwean youths will receive free HIV counselling and testing in all the 18 voluntary counselling and testing centres, according to the *Sun-*

*day Mail* newspaper.

The campaign will run from Monday until August 28 at the 18 New Start Centres dotted across the country where youths will be offered friendly yet unequivocal advice on what one should

do after testing either negative or positive, including tips on diet and mental well-being. — MNA/Xinhua

**DONATE BLOOD**



# စညာရးဖြင့် ခေတ်မီဖွံ့ဖြိုးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

## Thailand plans Press fair

BANGKOK, 17 Aug — Thai journalists and media organizations are planning to hold the country's first-ever Press fair next month.

The Thai Press Association is holding the event as part of the organization's 50th anniversary celebrations, according to Phusadee Keetavaranat, President of the Press Association of Thailand.

The event will showcase the various popular news television programmes and other media activities in print, radio, television, online news services and independent production houses.

The organizers hope that the event will also help foster good relations between the Press and the public, and between the various news media and production houses.

There will be various exhibits on display including one tracing the historical development of the Thai Press, its current activities and its future development plans. Award-winning news photographs will also be on show.

Some foreign media including Xinhua News Agency will be invited to enter the exhibition.

The Thailand Press Fair will be held on 2-5 September at the IMPACT Area Trade & Exhibition Centre in Muang Thong Thani, on the outskirts of Bangkok.

MNA/Xinhua

## India to set up response team for natural, man-made emergencies

NEW DELHI, 17 Aug — The Indian Government is contemplating setting up a National Emergency Response Force (NERF) for dealing with calamities related to nuclear, biological and chemical disasters.

Eight battalions of paramilitary forces drawn from various federal agencies have been earmarked for development of fully-trained special response teams, according to the annual report of the Home Ministry for 2003-04.

Four of these eight battalions would also be trained to handle nuclear, biological and chemical (NBC) related emergencies, the report said. Sixteen teams, each with a strength of 45, had already been trained.

These eight battalions are proposed to be constituted into a force and would be designated as NERF, it said.

The government also proposes to strengthen one training institute each for the four paramilitary forces and the states had been advised to have their own teams of specialists, it said and added that 10 states and federally administered Union Territories had already initiated action in this regard. The trainers of the state police force would be trained at the training institutes of paramilitary forces and the states had also been authorized to utilize 10 per cent of the annual allocation made in the calamity relief fund for purchase of equip-

ment, the report said. The report said that 14 Regional Response Centres were proposed to be set up in different parts of the country where essential search and rescue equipments and relief materials would be stored so that the specialist response teams could respond to any disaster in the neighbouring state immediately.

A steering committee had been constituted in the Union Home Ministry to oversee the creation of capabilities for emergency response. The government also proposes to set an Incident Command System (ICS) which will provide for

specialized Incident Command Teams with an Incident Commander and Officers trained in different aspects of Incident Management.

In order to further strengthen the capacity for response, the fire services are proposed to be developed into multi-hazard response units.

A project had been drawn up and would be taken for implementation as soon as the resources were mobilized, the report said and added that it is proposed to provide multi-hazard response units under this project up to the sub-divisional level. — MNA/PTI

## Italy says number of illegal immigrants tumbles

ROME, 16 Aug — The number of illegal immigrants entering southern Italy fell by almost 50 per cent over the past year, the Interior Ministry said on Saturday.

The figures gave a boost to Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi's government which introduced tough legislation in 2002 aimed at cracking down on people trafficking.

The Interior Ministry said in a statement that 9,985 immigrants reached Italy's southern shores by boat between July 2003 and June 2004. In the previous 12-month period, that figure totalled 19,294.

"Notably, the flow of

people ... coming via Albania and Turkey was sharply lower," the ministry said.

The vast majority of immigrants landed on the Mediterranean islands of Sicily and Lampedusa — some 9,917 against a previous 17,830. Italy believes many of these people set sail from Libya and is seeking a deal with Tripoli to try to stem the flow.

Rome has struck one such deal with neighbouring Albania, helping the local

Navy to patrol national waters and prevent boats laden with immigrants from heading to Italy.

Despite Saturday's figures, Italian authorities say they have no intention of lowering their guard.

The Interior Ministry said on Saturday that Italy had chartered 50 planes over the past year to fly home illegal immigrants against just 23 flights in the previous 12 months.

MNA/Reuters

## Acute diarrhoea tops illness of foreigners in Thailand

BANGKOK, 17 Aug — Acute diarrhoea has become the number one cause of illness among foreigners in Thailand in the first seven months of this year, the local Press quoted an expert as saying.

Some 5,133 foreigners out of a total of 12,456 alien patients in the first seven months had been suffering from acute diarrhoea, said Pensri Chitnamsap, an epidemiologist of the Disease Control Department of the Public Health Ministry.

"Most foreign patients are working immigrants and their families," Pensri was quoted by the Bangkok Post newspaper as saying.

Only 1,060 of the total foreign patients were tourists or those coming to seek medical services in Thailand.

Other common illnesses among foreigners were malaria, fever, pneumonia and food poisoning, she added. — MNA/Xinhua

## Police detain 131 migrants trying to reach Spain

FUERTEVENTURA (Spain), 16 Aug — Police detained 131 Africans trying to reach Spain on rickety boats on Saturday, intercepting vessels heading for the Canary Islands and the south coast, officials said.

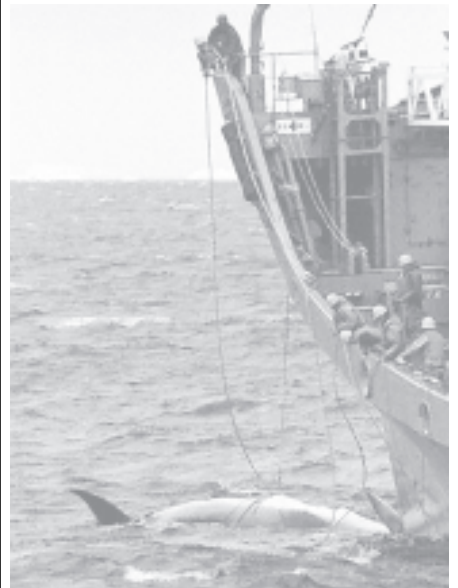
Two boats were intercepted as they approached Fuerteventura, which at just 75 miles from the Moroccan coast is the closest of Spain's Canary Islands to Africa.

Police stopped two other boats heading for the south coast of Spain, police and government officials said.

Every year thousands of people risk their lives trying to reach Spain.

On Friday four boats carrying 150 people were intercepted near Fuerteventura.

MNA/Reuters



Whalers haul in a Minke whale in the Southern Ocean. Norwegian whale hunters failed to reel in the permitted number of whales this year due to a dwindling demand for the marine mammal's meat, a whaling advocacy organization said. — INTERNET

## Russian border guards seize heroin, opium on Tajik-Afghan border

MOSCOW, 17 Aug — Russian Border Guards seized more than 292 kilograms of heroin and opium on the Tajik-Afghanistan border, Russian Interfax news agency reported Monday.

The news agency quoted the Border Guards' Press service as saying some 134.8 kilograms of heroin were discovered on the spot. On the same day, Russian Border Guards also seized 157.8 kilograms of drugs, including 25.8 kilograms of heroin and 132 kilograms of raw opium in another section of Tajik-Afghanistan border, according to the Press service.

The smugglers opened fire at border guards when they were detected and ordered to surrender, the Press service said. The guards detained one of them

while three others fled back to Afghanistan.

Three sacks containing 134.8 kilograms of heroin were discovered on the spot. On the same day, Russian Border Guards also seized 157.8 kilograms of drugs, including 25.8 kilograms of heroin and 132 kilograms of raw opium in another section of Tajik-Afghanistan border, according to the Press service.

Russia is a major transit

country for Afghan opium and heroin flowing from Central Asia to Western Europe. Most of the drugs produced in Afghanistan were smuggled into Russia and Western Europe via Tajikistan.

Russia keeps thousands of Border Guards and other troops in Tajikistan under a 1992 agreement signed by Moscow and Dushanbe to stem the flows of drugs and weapons from Afghanistan.

MNA/Xinhua

ကျေးဇူးတင် ကိုယ်အားကိုးတို့၏အကျိုးအမြတ်ကိုရရှိရန်



ကျေးဇူးတင် ကိုယ်အားကိုးတို့၏အကျိုးအမြတ်ကိုရရှိရန် သုတ/ရသ အချက်များလွှဲပြောင်းနိုင်ပါသည်။

မြန်မာ့အသံနှင့် ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားတို့၏အကျိုးအမြတ်ကိုရရှိရန်

## SPORTS

**Russian Alipov wins men's trap gold**

ATHENS, 17 Aug—Russia's Alexei Alipov won the Olympic gold medal in the men's trap shooting competition on Sunday with a near-flawless performance on a windy range carved into a mountain top outside Athens.

The 29-year-old from Moscow scored 149 out of a possible 150, including a perfect 25 in the final round. He also did not miss on four of the five 25-shot rounds of qualifying on Saturday and Sunday morning.

"I was fortunate to have just one miss," said Alipov. "The weather conditions were having a great effect on everyone. We managed to find conditions similar to this in Cyprus and trained there for quite some time before the Olympics. That helped."

Giovanni Pellielo of Italy took the silver medal with 146 points and Australia's Adam Vella the bronze with 145.

Defending champion Michael Diamond of Australia was knocked out in the qualifying round despite the support of a big following of fans from his home country at the Markopoulo range.

MNA/Reuters



Turkey's Halil Mutlu kisses his gold medal after winning the mens under 56kg category in the weight lifting in Athens 2004 Olympics on 15 August, 2004.—INTERNET

**Mutlu muscles way to third gold medal**

ATHENS, 17 Aug—Turkey's Halil Mutlu muscled into the Olympic record books on Sunday, claiming a third gold medal to confirm his place among weightlifting's all-time greats.

The diminutive Turk, at 1.50 metres (4 feet 11 inches) too small for military service, once again towered supreme over opponents in the 56-kilo weight class, hoisting 135 kilos in the snatch and 160 kilos in the clean and jerk for a winning total of 295 kilos.

China's Wu Meijin, who won world championship titles in the division in 2002 and 2003 while Mutlu competed at a higher weight, was unable to halt the nine-year unbeaten run of the "Little Dynamo" and settled for silver with 287.5 kilos.

Sedat Artuc of Turkey completed the podium, taking the bronze with 280 kilos.

MNA/Reuters

**Australia fire first shots for gold**

ATHENS, 17 Aug—Australia fired a solid first salvo in their battle to win an elusive men's hockey gold on Sunday while fellow favourites Germany and the Netherlands also squeezed out wins.

The Australians have made the Olympic semifinals seven times and won six medals but despite having one of the strongest teams on the circuit they have never climbed all the way up the podium.

"We are unabashed in our determination to win the gold," said coach Barry Dancer after his team beat New Zealand 4-1 with three flowing field goals from 25-year-old Jamie Dwyer.

It was harder work for world champions Germany whose trademark defensive style was tested in a tight fight with Pakistan, whose flair-filled attacks won deafening cheers from their thousands of supporters.

Top-ranked Germany spent little time in attacking territory but a couple of crosses found safe sticks that knocked the balls into goal to take the game 2-1.

But it could all have been very different if Pakistan's star striker Sohail Abbas had been on form rather than shooting their two short corners high and wide.

Much modern hockey relies on power play and penalties but Pakistan and India

displayed the skilful stickwork they are known for and won plenty of opportunities that were belied by the final scorelines.

India's Dhanraj Pillay, playing his fourth and final Olympics, picked holes in the Dutch defence, finding space between their legs and nipping the ball into line with the tip of his stick to the delight of the crowd. But most of the runs stopped short of the goal mouth and once the Dutch found their stride, the defending champions thundered past the Indian defence and took the match 3-1.

"I'm upset that we didn't score more but everybody played well and we'll come back," said Gagan Singh, who scored two minutes before the end after missing four shots at goal. India now meet South Africa, who served up a surprise 2-1 win against Argentina thanks to strong circle defending against flick specialist Jorge Lombi and two speedy goals by Greg Nicol.

In the other matches of the day, fourth-ranked Korea were disappointed with a 1-1 draw against Spain while Britain shot past Egypt 3-1.—MNA/Reuters

**Xian, Uchishiba strike gold**

ATHENS, 17 Aug—Masato Uchishiba ended an embarrassing run for the Japanese when he won the under 66-kilo judo gold at the Olympics on Sunday.

The usually dominant Japanese had not won a medal in the class in six Olympics and world championships since 1996.

But Uchishiba displayed his speed of thought and movement in countering Jozef Krnac of Slovakia for ippon in the final to win Japan's third judo gold in two days.

Uchishiba, representing his country at a major world event for the first time, said he had shut his mind off from everything but his fights on Sunday.

China's Xian Dongmei became the first person to defeat a Japanese judoka at the Athens Games when she took the women's under 52-kilo title by pinning Yuki

Yokosawa just over a minute into the final.

Yokosawa, 24, made the final only by the skin of her teeth, scoring ippon in the last second of her semifinal against world champion Amarilys Savon of Cuba.

Savon took bronze by defeating Salima Souakri of Algeria with tomoe-nage (stomach throw) before bursting into tears and announcing her retirement from the sport.

Belgium's Ilse Heylen outlasted France's Annabelle Euranie in a six-minute marathon for the other bronze medal.

Xian, 29, said the Olympics might also be her swansong.

MNA/Reuters

**Beckham admits he was below par at Euro 2004**

SLALEY (England), 17 Aug—England captain David Beckham said his performances at Euro 2004 were below what he expected of himself.

"I've set high standards and ... I don't think I had a terrible championship but I can play a lot better," Beckham said on Monday before England's friendly against Ukraine at St James' Park, Newcastle on Wednesday.

"I know I've been given a talent which can't disappear just like that. For four games I didn't perform like I can. I want to prove that's right."

Beckham said a change to a more intensive weights programme in training at the end of last season may have contributed to his lacklustre performances in Portugal.

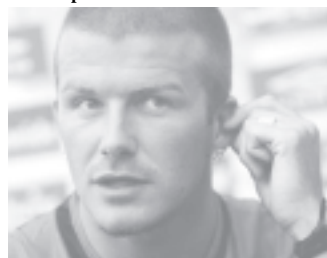
"I had done too many weights at the end of the season and didn't realize it had affected me as it had and that's not an excuse," he said.

"I was a little bit bored after training and ... I would go into the gym for an hour and work out but I've stopped doing weights now and I've lost weight and I feel good."

The Real Madrid midfielder said he had been affected by the criticism after England's quarterfinal loss to Portugal.

"I've been criticized over the years for endorsements but never before for my on-field play which upsets me, that's why I sat down with my family to discuss things," he said.

"There were a few doubts put in my mind but I never doubted myself (and) ... after Euro 2004 I spent time and rested with my family, and just took three weeks off and did absolutely nothing."



England's captain David Beckham speaks during a news conference at Sleaford Hall near Newcastle, north England on 16 August, 2004. England play Ukraine in an international friendly soccer match at St James' Park in Newcastle on 18 August.—INTERNET

Beckham added that the team would put the disappointment of Euro 2004 behind them and concentrate on the 2006 World Cup qualifying campaign, which begins with a European Group Six match in Austria on 4 September.

"We were all disappointed in the summer because we felt we could have gone further but we've got to look at the World Cup," he said. "You've got to accept the pressure and that people might criticize you if things aren't going well, but I'm strong enough to take that."

"The pressure will always be there at this level both on and off the field."

MNA/Reuters

**Kitajima upsets Hansen to grab gold**

ATHENS, 17 Aug—Japan's Kosuke Kitajima ruined Brendan Hansen's birthday party when he beat him to win the men's 100-metre breaststroke gold medal at the Athens Olympics on Sunday. Kitajima won the gold in a time of one minute 00.08 seconds ahead of Hansen who touched the wall in 1:00.25. Hugues Duboscq of France was third in 1:00.88.

Hansen, celebrating his 23rd birthday, led at the half-way mark from Duboscq but Kitajima glided past him on the last lap.

Although Kitajima is also the world champion, Hansen went into the race as favourite after breaking the Japanese swimmer's world record last month.—MNA/Reuters

**Slovak shotputter fails dope test**

BRATISLAVA, 17 Aug—Slovak shot putter Milan Haborak has tested positive for a banned substance and has left the Olympics, the Slovak SITA news agency reported on Sunday.

SITA said 31-year-old Haborak's sample, taken at last month's IAAF Super Grand Prix meeting in Madrid, tested positive for an unnamed banned substance.

"I really am sorry because I was really looking forward to competing (in Athens). I trained long and hard. But I do not know that I took something that is banned," SITA quoted him as saying before leaving Athens.

MNA/Reuters

**Relay flop ends Phelps' medal quest**

ATHENS, 17 Aug—American swimmer Michael Phelps' quest to win a record eight Olympic gold medals ended on Sunday with his country's worst ever showing in the men's 4x100-metre freestyle relay.

Phelps had made a perfect start to his ambitious campaign when he won the 400 individual medley on Saturday but his hopes of winning eight were dashed as early as the second day.

The US were expected to win the relay but could only manage third as the South African quartet of Roland Schoeman, Lyndon Ferns, Darian Townsend and Ryk Neethling wiped half a second off the old world record set by Australia at the last Olympics.

The bronze medal puts paid to Phelps' goal of breaking Mark Spitz' record of seven gold medals in a single Games but his coach Eddie Reese said the 19-year-old would be unaffected.

"He will not miss a beat if he doesn't get seven gold medals," Reese told a news conference.

MNA/Reuters

**Manaudou wins first gold for France**

ATHENS, 17 Aug—Teenager Laure Manaudou won the women's 400-metre freestyle on Sunday, France's first gold medal at the Athens Olympics.

The 17-year-old won with a time of four minutes 05.34 seconds, setting a European record and becoming the first Frenchwoman to win an Olympic swimming title.

Pole Otylia Jedrzejczak finished second less than an hour after she was third in the 100 butterfly final while American Kaitlin Sandeno grabbed the bronze.

MNA/Reuters



France's Laure Manaudou competes during the women's 400m freestyle, heat 5, at the 2004 Olympic Games at the Olympic Aquatic Centre in Athens.—INTERNET



**MRTV -3**
**18-8-2004 (Wednesday)  
(Programme Schedule)  
Morning Transmission  
(9:00 - 10:00)**

- 9:00 Signature Tune  
Greeting  
9:02 Song of Myanmar  
Beauty & Scenic  
Sights "Myanmar  
Panorama & Myan-  
ma Sentiment"  
9:06 Let's Decorated with  
....Enchanting toys  
**9:10 Headline News**  
9:12 Welcome to Khua  
Do Festival  
**9:15 National News**  
9:20 Mee Hsu Khan Folk  
Songs  
9:25 Bagan Era Chorus  
Dance  
**9:30 National News**  
9:35 A Journey to Re-  
search Taron Race  
9:40 Song "Those days of  
Bagan"  
**9:45 National News**  
9:50 Resort for Rest and  
Recreation (Inle  
Khaungtaing Vil-  
lage)  
9:58 Song of Myanmar  
Beauty & Scenic  
Sights "Come and  
See Myanmar"

**18-8-2004 (Wednesday)  
Evening Transmission  
(15:30 - 17:30)**

- 15:30 Signature Tune  
Greeting  
15:32 Song of Myanmar  
Beauty & Scenic  
Sights "Mingala-  
bar"  
15:36 Let's Decorated with  
....Enchanting  
toys  
**15:40 Headline News**  
15:42 Welcome to Khua  
Do Festival

- 15:45 National News**  
15:50 Mee Hsu Khan Folk  
Songs  
15:55 Bagan Era Chorus  
Dance  
**16:00 National News**  
16:05 A Journey to Re-  
search Taron Race  
16:10 Song "Those days of  
Bagan"  
**16:15 National News**  
16:20 Resort for Rest and  
Recreation (Inle  
Khaungtaing Village)  
16:25 Song of Myanmar  
Beauty & Scenic  
Sights "Myanmar  
Panorama & Myan-  
ma Sentiment"  
**16:30 National News**  
16:35 Extravagant Evi-  
dences of Myanmar  
Culture (Part-I)  
16:40 A Glimpse at the  
Mighty Loggers  
**16:45 National News**  
16:50 Silk Wear from  
Amarapura  
16:55 An Ode to Love  
**17:00 National News**  
17:05 Lumber Buffaloes  
17:10 Myanmar Modern

- Song "Let my first  
love know"  
**17:15 National News**  
17:20 Ecstasy of Life  
17:25 Song of Myanmar  
Beauty & Scenic  
Sights "Come and  
See Myanmar"  
**18-8-2004 (Wednesday)  
Evening Transmission  
(19:30 - 23:30)**  
19:30 Signature Tune  
Greeting  
19:32 Song of Myanmar  
Beauty & Scenic  
Sights "Myanmar  
Panorama & Myan-  
ma Sentiment"  
19:36 Myanmar Cattle Mar-  
ket  
**19:40 Headline News**  
19:42 Traditional Chin Li-  
queur (Khaung Yay)  
**19:45 National News**  
19:50 Boost Production for  
Surplus Marine Pro-  
duct  
19:55 Culture Stage "Bagan  
Duet Dance"  
**20:00 National News**  
20:05 Wa Traditions & An

- Engagement Cere-  
mony  
20:10 Song "Mesmerize  
Your Longing  
Wish"  
**20:15 National News**  
20:20 Splendour by the  
Sea, Ngwe Saung  
20:25 Song on Screen  
"Love Slave"  
**20:30 National News**  
20:35 Cruise on Min Kyan  
Sit  
20:40 Costumes for  
Myanmar Ladies  
**20:45 National News**  
20:50 Mythun (Counter-  
part of Cattle)  
20:55 A Rural Village  
**21:00 National News**  
21:05 The World of Mro  
Nationals  
21:10 Myanmar Modern  
Song "Bagan, The  
Wonder Land"  
**21:15 National News**  
21:20 ASDO's Tour of  
Northern Shan State  
(Part-II)  
21:25 Song of Myanmar  
Beauty & Scenic  
Sights "Mingalabar"

**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 Thudamma Theingi Daw Aye Aye Soe (Director at YIEC); beloved father of Ma Kay Khine Kha (a) Olivia Kha (U.W.C.S.E.A, Singa-  
pore) 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.)

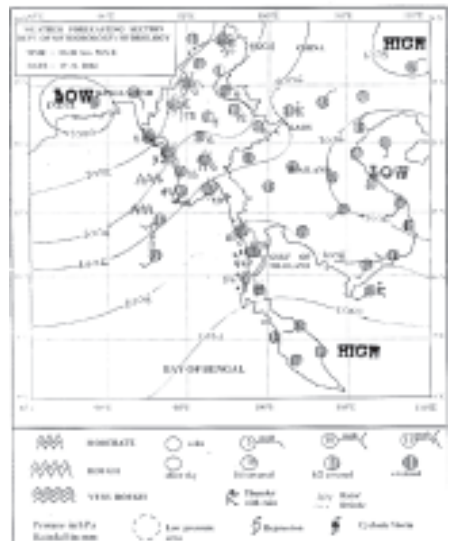
**Bereaved family**

**Rainfall on 17-8-2004**

—0.99 inch at Yangon Airport,  
—0.79 inch at Kaba-Aye,  
—1.22 inches at central Yangon.

Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 2208 mm  
(86.93 inches) at Yangon Airport, 2160 mm  
(85.04 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 2153 mm (84.76  
inches) at central Yangon

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas


**WEATHER**

Tuesday, 17 August 2004

**Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:** During the past 24 hours, weather has been cloudy in Magway Division and rain or thundershowers have been scattered in Kayah State, upper Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions, and widespread in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfalls in Kachin and Rakhine States. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Putao (3.66) inches, Thandwe (3.58) inches, Hpa-an (2.95) inches and Thaton (2.44) inches.

Maximum temperature on 16-8-2004 was 30.0°C (86°F). Minimum temperature on 17-8-2004 was 19.0°C (66°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 17-8-2004 was 100%. Total sunshine hours on 16-8-2004 was (2.9) hours approx. Rainfall on 17-8-2004 was 25 mm (0.99 inch) at Yangon Airport, 20 mm (0.79 inch) at Kaba-Aye, 31 mm (1.22 inches) at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 2208 mm (86.93 inches) at Yangon Airport, 2160 mm (85.04 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 2153 mm (84.76 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 11 mph from South at 15:40 hours MST on 16-8-2004.

**Bay inference:** Monsoon is generally strong in the Bay of Bengal. **Forecast valid until evening of 18-8-2004:** Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Mandalay and Magway Divisions, scattered in lower Sagaing Division, Shan and Kayah States and widespread in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (80%).

**State of the sea:** Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coast. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) to (40) mph. **Out-look for subsequent two days:** Generally strong monsoon.

**Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 18-8-2004:** One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%). **Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 18-8-2004:** Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

**CONDOLENCES**
**U MAUNG MAUNG KHA SWE (a) CARL  
Aged 45**

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

The Directors and Staff of Focus Energy Ltd wish to express their most sincere sympathy and heartfelt condolences to Daw Aye Aye Soe, her children, and all family members at the sudden and most unexpected passing of U Maung Maung Kha Swe (Carl) — a dear husband, father, and a most respected and well regarded Vice-President of Focus. We will all miss him dearly. "Adieu" U Maung Maung Kha Swe — we all wish you well in the life hereafter.

**FEL Board of Directors and All Staff**


**Wednesday, August 18  
View on today:**

- 7:00 am**  
1. Recitation of Parittas  
by Missionary Say-  
daw U Ottamathara  
**7:25 am**  
2. To be healthy exercise  
**7:30 am**  
3. Morning news  
**7:40 am**  
4. Nice and sweet song  
**7:55 am**  
5. မြန်မာ့ပြည်သူ့အသံ  
**8:05 am**  
6. အရေပြေညှိ  
**8:15 am**  
7. ရိုးရာဇာတ်ကား  
**8:30 am**  
8. International news  
**8:45 am**  
9. Learning English The

Easy And Happy Way  
For Children And  
Beginners

- 4:00 pm**  
1. Martial song  
**4:15 pm**  
2. Songs to uphold  
National Spirit  
**4:30 pm**  
3. Practice in Reading  
**4:45 pm**  
4. Musical programme  
**5:00 pm**  
5. အဝေးသံတူညီသော ပညာရေး  
ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ  
-ခုတ်ယူနစ် (သတ္တဝေအထူးပြု)  
(သတ္တဝေ)  
**5:15 pm**  
6. Song of national races  
**5:30 pm**  
7. Classical song  
**5:45 pm**  
8. "စက်မှုပညာဆိုင်ရာသင်ခန်းစာ"  
အကယ်ဒမီစာအုပ်၊ အကယ်ဒမီ  
ပရိသတ်တို့အတွက်၊ အကယ်ဒမီ  
ပရိသတ်တို့အတွက်  
(ဒါရိုက်တာ-ဝင်းထွန်းထွန်း)

- 5:55 pm**  
9. မြန်မာ့အသံ၊ မြန်မာ့အသံ  
**6:10 pm**  
10. ရှုထုတ်သံတော်အသံအစဉ်  
**6:20 pm**  
11. Discovery  
**6:30 pm**  
12. Evening news  
**7:00 pm**  
13. Weather report  
**7:05 pm**  
14. Musical programme  
**7:20 pm**  
15. Strong and healthy  
Myanmar  
**7:30 pm**  
16. Musical programme  
**8:00 pm**  
17. News  
18. International news  
19. Weather report  
20. စကားသဘောအကြောင်း (သင်ခန်းစာ)  
မြန်မာ့စာပေဆုရှင်များ အသံ၊  
အကယ်ဒမီ၊ အစိုးရ၊ အစိုးရ  
(ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား)  
"မဟာဓမ္မရာဇာတိတော်ကြီး"  
(အထူးပြု) (ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား)  
21. The next day's  
programme


**Wednesday, August 18  
Tune in today:**

- 8:30 am** Brief news  
**8:35 am** Music: ET  
**8:40 am** Perspectives  
**8:45 am** Music: True to  
your heart  
**8:50 am** National news/  
Slogan  
**9:00 am** Music: Let's say  
together  
**9:05 am** International news  
**9:10 am** Music: Iron horse  
**1:30 pm** News/Slogan  
**1:40 pm** Lunch time music:  
Everybody knows  
-When I need you  
-Forever and a  
day  
**9:00 pm** Variation on a tune  
-The power of  
love  
**9:15 pm** Article/music  
**9:25 pm** Music at your  
request  
-Right here  
waiting  
-Love me for a  
reason  
**9:45 pm** News/Slogan  
**10:00 pm** PEL

## Workshop on demonstration of biomass gasifier for drying tobacco held

YANGON, 17 Aug — Under BIMSTEC energy cooperation programme, a workshop on sharing experience on demonstration project for SMIs using biomass gasifier systems and information exchange of gasifier application and technologies in the BIMSTEC region was held at Bagan Hotel in NyaungU, Mandalay Division yesterday morning, with an opening speech by Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi.

It was attended by directors general, managing directors and officials of departments and enterprises under the ministry, officials of the Ministries of Industry-1, Forestry, Electric Power and Science and Technology and the Industrial Development Committee, those of Myanmar Renewable Energy Association and NGOs and representatives of BIMSTEC member countries, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi delivered an



Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi poses for a documentary photo together with those present at the workshop. — ENERGY

opening speech. Energy Planning Department Director General U Soe Myint presided over the morning session and Deputy Director General U Thein Lwin the afternoon session, and those present at the workshop took part in the discussion at length.

This morning, the representatives of the workshop studied the functions of Biogasifier which was built in March

2004 in Kokke Village, Myingyan Township, Myingyan District. In the afternoon, the representatives discussed use of biogas produced from biogas wastes in generating electricity and undertaking river-water pumping projects, technological development of biogasifier and energy cooperation among the BIMSTEC countries.

MNA

## CITES experts meet

YANGON, 17 Aug — The third meeting of ASEAN CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and

Fauna)-Experts Working Group jointly conducted by the Ministry of Forestry and ASEAN Secretariat was launched this morning at Sedona Hotel here.

The experts attending the meeting are expected to focus on conservation and protection of endangered species of flora and fauna in ASEAN region and around the world. They will also discuss matters relating to trade in endangered species and implementation of the

aims of the convention. The meeting will last till 19 August.

The opening of the meeting was attended by Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung, Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein, Yangon City Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and deputy ministers, ambassadors of the ASEAN member countries and officials concerned.

MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Thein Aung poses together with those present at the opening ceremony of the Third Meeting on ASEAN - CITES Experts Working Group. — MNA

**Matters relating to conservation and protection of endangered species of flora and fauna in ASEAN region and around the world will be discussed at the meeting which will last till 19 August.**

Minister of Foreign Affairs U Win Aung and wife being greeted by Indonesian Ambassador Mr Wyoso Prodjowarsito and wife at the reception to mark Independence Day of the Republic of Indonesia on 17-8-2004. — MNA

## African leaders slam West's lectures on democracy

GRANDE BAIE (Mauritius), August 17 — Southern African leaders rounded on Western powers on Monday, backing Zimbabwe's Robert Mugabe and saying Africans were tired of preaching from countries who denied them democratic rights under colonial rule. The Southern African Development Community (SADC) summit opened in Mauritius on Monday and Tanzanian President Benjamin Mkapa launched a stinging attack on Western countries pressing SADC to ensure democracy.

"We are tired of being lectured on democracy by the very countries which, under colonialism, either directly denied us the rights of free citizens, or were indifferent to our suffering and yearnings to break free and be democratic," Mkapa told fellow heads of state at the summit's opening ceremony. Mkapa said the region should develop electoral laws in line with its political, social and cultural background.

(See page 2)

