

Subhasita ca ya vaca, to have words well spoken; this is the way to auspiciousness.

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Friday, 20 August, 2004

Senior General Than Shwe sends felicitations to Hungary

YANGON, 20 Aug — Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Ferenc Madl, President of the Republic of Hungary, on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of Hungary, which falls on 20 August 2004. — MNA

Lt-Gen Tin Aye attends 17th Gem, Jade Sales of UMEHL

YANGON, 19 Aug — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Tin Aye of the Ministry of Defence attended the 17th Gem and Jade Sales 2004 of the Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings Ltd at the Myanmar

Gems Mart on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road here this afternoon.

At 2.30 pm, Lt-Gen Tin Aye arrived at the Myanmar Gems Mart where Managing Director of UMEHL Maj-Gen Win Hlaing (Retd) and members of the Board of Directors,

members of the sales committee and officials welcomed him.

In the auction hall, Lt-Gen Tin Aye viewed gem merchants at home and abroad purchasing gem and jade lots through competitive bidding.

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



Lt-Gen Tin Aye views merchants purchase of gems and jade by merchants at 17th Gem and Jade Sales of UMEHL.— MNA



The third meeting of ASEAN CITES experts in progress.— MNA

CITES experts meeting concludes

YANGON, 19 Aug — The third-day session of the Third Meeting of the ASEAN Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna, jointly conducted by the Ministry of Forestry and ASEAN Secretariat, was held at Sedona Hotel here today.

Director-General of Forest Department U Soe Win Hlaing acted as chairman of the meeting and Ms Atty Annalazar A Vitug from the Philippines as vice-chairperson of the meeting. The experts attending the meeting discussed matters relating to the resolutions of the draft report of the 3rd Meeting of the ASEAN Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna.

In the afternoon, they visited Shwedagon Pagoda, Myanmar Gems Museum and Bogyoke Aung San Market. Yesterday evening, Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung hosted a dinner to the experts at Sedona Hotel and presented souvenirs to them. — MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 20 August, 2004

To strive for further development of livestock breeding sector

The Union of Myanmar, in its drive to establish an industrialized nation, has been giving special emphasis to the development of the agriculture, the livestock breeding and the forestry sector, all of which can earn necessary capital for an industrial nation. Moreover, the Government has been fulfilling all the requirements for the emergence of a modern and developed nation.

During his visit to Patheingyi, Ayeyawady Division in June this year, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance to responsible personnel regarding the development of the livestock breeding sector.

He said that the agriculture sector, the livestock breeding sector and the forestry sector are important for the economic development of the country. Myanmar has favourable conditions geographically for development of these sectors, he said.

He called for concerted efforts for developing the livestock breeding sector remarkably by taking systematic measures.

Myanmar is rich in terrestrial and aquatic resources and therefore the Head of State gave far-sighted guidance to strive for further development of the livestock breeding sector. It is required for the national entrepreneurs to bear the guidance of the Head of State in mind and do accordingly.

Now that livestock breeding entrepreneurs are well-versed in their trade and have introduced modern techniques for breeding prawns, they have to try not only to meet domestic consumption but also to earn foreign exchange by exporting the surplus.

In exporting marine products, it is very important to expand the market, to export them by sea as well as through the border trade and to produce quality products.

Responsible personnel of the livestock breeding sector have to distribute pedigrees, to employ artificial insemination and to prevent and cure animal diseases. Not only that, it is necessary for them to establish a model livestock breeding farm and encourage livestock breeding entrepreneurs in their respective townships by distributing pedigrees and disseminating breeding techniques.

Hence, we would like to call on the national entrepreneurs to make concerted efforts and to cooperate with the Government for further development of the agriculture, livestock breeding and forestry sectors.

Cash donations invited for Maha Rathabhi Samaggi Pagoda in Panglong

YANGON, 18 Aug — As the symbol of unity and consolidation of national brethren of the Union of Myanmar, the Maha Rathabhi Samaggi Pagoda has been built on Vikasini Hill in Panglong, Loilem District, Shan State (South). Wellwishers can make

cash donations for golden umbrella to be hoisted atop the pagoda and nine Buddha Images with different mudras (hand postures). A ceremony to make cash donations will be held at Vijaya Mingala Hall on Kaba Aye hillock here at 1 pm on 24 August. — MNA

Don't smoke

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

Myanmar Gazette

YANGON, 19 Aug—The State Peace and Development Council has appointed the following persons as heads of service organizations shown against each on probation from the date they assume charge of their duties.

Names	Appointment
(a) Police Brig-Gen Zaw Win	Director-General
Deputy Director-General	Prisons Department
Myanmar Police Force	Ministry of Home Affairs
Ministry of Home Affairs	Affairs
(b) U Saw Win	Rector
Pro-rector	Maubin University
Maubin University	Higher Education Dept
Higher Education Dept	(Lower Myanmar)
(Lower Myanmar)	Ministry of Education
Ministry of Education	

MNA

Appointment of Ambassador agreed on

YANGON, 20 Aug — The Government of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of Mr Denis Comeau, as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Canada to the Union of Myanmar.

Mr Denis Comeau is accredited to the Union of Myanmar, with resident in Bangkok, Thailand. — MNA

More US troops implicated...

(from page 16)

Seven US military police reservists from the 372nd Military Police Company were earlier accused of humiliating and in some cases beating and photographing Iraqi detainees at the infamous prison near Baghdad. Some of those military police guards allege that they were simply acting under orders from military intelligence to "soften up" detainees for interrogation.

Colonel Thomas Pappas, who was commander of the 205th Intelligence Brigade, has already received a letter of reprimand for failing to ensure that his troops protected

rights for prisoners guaranteed by the Geneva Conventions. US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and other top defence officials have promised to leave no stone unturned in several investigations into the US abuse of prisoners in Iraq and Afghanistan. General John Abizaid, head of the US Central Command, and Lieutenant-General Ricardo Sanchez, who was the top US military officer in Iraq at the time of the abuse, told Congress earlier that they did not find out about the abuse until this year when a military policeman revealed the problem at the prison. — MNA/Reuters

Advertising Division (Mandalay Branch) opens

YANGON, 18 Aug — The Advertising Division (Mandalay Branch) was opened on 15 August 2004 for those wishing to place their advertisements in Myanmar Alin, Kyemon and the New Light of Myanmar dailies published by the News and Periodicals Enterprise. Those who wish to put their advertisements or supplementary advertisement sheets may contact Mandalay Sub-Printing House between 20th and 21st Streets and 82nd and 83rd Streets in Aungmyayathazan Township, Mandalay, (Tel: 02-32729 or 02-39935).

MNA

Guests call on UMFCCI officials

YANGON, 19 Aug — A Singaporean delegation led by Director-General of Intellectual Property Office of Singapore Ms Liew Woon Yin called on Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce & Industry General Secretary U Sein Win Hlaing, Joint Secretary-2 Dr Maung Maung Lay, CEC members and executives at the UMFCCI head office on Merchant Street here yesterday morning. They discussed matters relating to intellectual property office, trade mark registration and copy right. — MNA

POEM:

Heritage handed down

* As long as we're free
No being cornered
Or being drawn his way.

* Without shackles
Thus being free
Will not ever be
Allowed to lose.

* Free of shackles
Independence
Of Myanmar generations
One after another
Must be the unfailing
Handing down of heritage.

Nwai Cho (Trs)

Republican congressman says Iraq war was mistake

WASHINGTON, 19 Aug— Breaking ranks with the White House and his Republican leaders in Congress, Republican Doug Bereuter of Nebraska has said in a letter to constituents the US military action in Iraq was a mistake.

The Iraq war was a "costly mess" with no quick way out, wrote Bereuter, vice-chairman of the House Intelligence Committee and a senior member of the House International Relations Committee.

"I've reached the conclusion, retrospectively, now that the inadequate intelligence and faulty conclusions are being revealed, that all things being considered, it was a mistake to launch that military action especially without a broad and engaged international coalition," he said in the letter dated August 6.

Republican leaders in Congress have supported President George W. Bush's decision to invade Iraq on grounds that it had weapons of mass destruction that posed a danger to the United States. No stockpiles of such weapons have been found.

But Bereuter, who has resigned his seat in the House of Representatives to become president of the Asia Foundation, expressed dismay over the decision to go to war.

"The cost in casualties is already large and growing, and the immediate and long-term financial costs are incredible," he wrote, reflecting on his 2002 vote in favour of a resolution authorizing the use of force against Iraq.

"Our country's reputation around the world has never been lower and our alliances are weakened," he added.

"Now we are immersed in a dangerous, costly mess and there is no easy and quick way to end our responsibilities in Iraq without creating bigger future problems in the region and, in general, in the Muslim world."

MNA/Reuters

Navigational stations launched for safety of vessels

YANGON, 18 Aug—The Ayeyawady and Chindwin Rivers are raging now because of the downpours. With a view to ensuring safety of vessels sailing under the bridges across these rivers, the Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems has launched navigational stations near the facilities so as to provide them with navigational facts and present situations of the waterways.

A navigational station each has been built at Shwekyetyet for Sagaing

Bridge, on Lanywa Bank for Anawrahta Bridge in Chauk, near Myathalon Pagoda for Magway Bridge, at Mya Village for Nawaday Bridge in Pyay, at Sakkawt for Bo Myat Tun Bridge and at Ahtet Taloklat for Maubin Bridge along Ayeyawady River, and at Ahlon for Monywa Bridge and at Amyintywa for Hsinbyushin Bridge along the Chindwin River.

It said the vessels moving downstream the rivers are to get navigational facts from respective stations.

MNA

Two Marines killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 19 Aug— A US Marine assigned to the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force was killed Wednesday while conducting "security and stability operations" in the volatile Anbar Province and a second Marine died in a vehicle accident, the military reported Thursday.

The names of the two Marines were being withheld

pending the notification of next of kin.

As of Tuesday, 943 US service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq in March 2003, according to the US Defence Department.

Internet

US consumer prices post first decline in eight months

WASHINGTON, 18 Aug— US consumer prices declined marginally in July, posting the first fall since last November, the Labour Department said in a report released Tuesday.

The US Consumer Price Index (CPI) — which increased 0.3 per cent in June and 0.6 per cent in May — dropped 0.1 per cent in July largely as a result of lower gasoline prices which fell by 4.2 per cent in July, the biggest decline in eight months, the report said.

Energy prices, which rose 2.6 per cent in June and 4.6 per cent in May, fell 1.9 per cent in July.

However, excluding energy and food prices, which often float widely from month to month, core consumer prices increased by 0.1 per cent in July. For the past seven months, US consumer prices have been rising at an annual rate of 4.1 per cent, higher than the 1.9 per cent increase of 2003.

Analysts forecast that the CPI will increase in August in line with surging oil prices which hit record highs last week.—MNA/Xinhua



A Polish soldier stands guard near a helicopter in Camp Lima, some 100kms south of Baghdad. — INTERNET

Explosion hits Iraq Foreign Ministry

BAGHDAD, 18 Aug— A mortar round hit the roof of Iraq's Foreign Ministry building Wednesday afternoon, causing no damage or injuries, Foreign Minister Hoshiyar Zebari said.

The building was just a few hundred yards from a convention centre where a key national gathering of political, religious and civic leaders was entering its final day.

The four-day conference, being held in the heavily fortified Green Zone enclave, was considered a top target for insurgents, and mortars had previously landed nearby

on Sunday and Tuesday.

Zebari said the mortar attack Wednesday did not appear to be aimed at his ministry.

"I think it was targeting the Green Zone," he said. The blast shook the convention centre early in the afternoon as delegates worked to elect members to a national council. — Internet

US Army imposes 15% withholding on Halliburton

WASHINGTON, 18 Aug — The US Army will withhold payment on 15 per cent of future invoices of Halliburton Co's logistics deal in Iraq due to an ongoing billing dispute, the company and the US military said on Tuesday.

Linda Theis, a spokeswoman for the Army Field Support Command in Rock Island, Illinois, said the withholding could amount to about 60 million US dollars a month in payments to Halliburton unit Kellogg Brown and Root, the Army's biggest contractor in Iraq.

"We notified the company today. The withhold will not affect any past invoices but will be applied to future ones from tomorrow, August 18," said Theis.

Halliburton said that the company would fight the Army's decision in court and would argue the 15 per cent withholding should not apply to any of its Iraq work, which according to government estimates could top 18 billion US dollars.

"Halliburton is confident the government action is not justified and expects that its legal arguments will be upheld in litigation," said a company statement.

The announcement was at odds with information

given by the Houston-based company on Monday that it believed the military had granted another extension on an earlier decision to suspend the withholding, which could potentially affect up to 8.2 billion US dollars in future work orders in Iraq.

Halliburton argued on Tuesday its Monday statements "were accurate at the time based on clear oral assurances from senior Pentagon representatives".

Theis said it was unclear

why Halliburton believed the Army had decided to grant another extension and said she was not aware of the final decision until early Tuesday.

The threat to dock payments has hung over the company for months because of a dispute over whether KBR properly documented bills for feeding and housing troops in Iraq and Kuwait. Two previous extensions were granted and another one had been expected by KBR when a deadline expired last Sunday.

Halliburton shares slid more than 4 per cent, or 1.14 US dollars, to 26.65 US dollars in Tuesday morning trade on the New York Stock Exchange. The shares have tumbled 16 per cent since the beginning of August.

MNA/Reuters

WFP needs over \$80m for needy people in Angola

LUANDA, 18 Aug — The World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations food aid organization, needs at least 81.5 million US dollars for the cereal supply operations in Angola until the end of this month, a spokesman of the UN agency was quoted by local media as saying on Tuesday.

Manuel Cristovao said on Monday that the WFP is sensitizing the donors in order to continue with the contributions, with a view to avoid the stoppage of the humanitarian aid operations to the vulnerable people.

"If the WFP continues without receiving new contributions from the donors, the institution will be forced to suspend the cereal distribution to the vulnerable people as from next September," he said. — MNA/Xinhua

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Seven wounded in mortar attack on Polish base in Iraq

WARSAW, 18 Aug— Seven people were slightly wounded during a mortar attack on the base of the Polish-led multinational force in southern Iraq, a Polish army spokesman said.

"Nobody was killed. Seven people in all were slightly injured, according to the last tally. They were three Poles — one civilian and two soldiers, one of whom was hit in the arm and the other in the leg — as well as one American, one Indian and two Iraqis," he said.

The commander of the Polish-led force in Iraq, Polish General Andrzej Ekiert, said the mortars were fired from a road two or three kilometres (miles) away.

"The shells were fired at speed. We know the line of fire. The only thing that surprises me is the time of the attack because up to then the base was only attacked at night," he was quoted as saying by the PAP news agency.

"A rapid reaction force was sent outside the base in response to the attack," spokesman Zdzislaw Gnatowski told AFP. Polish news channel TVN24 showed footage of one soldier, his leg covered in blood, being evacuated by ambulance.

TVN24 said it was the biggest mortar attack to date on the Polish base at Babylon, with 10 to 12 mortars being fired in a 10-minute period.

Poland, which controls a swathe of Iraq south of Baghdad, hopes to reduce the number of troops it has in the country from 2,500 to 1,500 soldiers in early 2005.

Internet

Norwegian firm to boost Uganda's fish industry

KAMPALA, 18 Aug — A Norwegian firm, Genomer, has pledged to boost Uganda's fish resources, saying that the sector was 50 per cent under-exploited, reported local media on Tuesday.

"We are coming to Uganda to exploit its fish production potential which is under-utilized by 50 per cent. Our vision is to develop the tilapia species into a more productive, high-quality and highly demanded for on the international market," the company's President Morten Hoyum said.

Hoyum said they would promote a sustainable fish

industry through delivery of superior tilapia type seeds and contemporary breeding technology.

The Norwegian company will begin its activities with a feasibility study in September whereas fish farming will kick off in October.

He added that they would construct good fish ponds and build a hatchery where farmers would access fish fries.

The company currently operates in Brazil, China, the Philippines, Thailand, Bangladesh and Singapore while in Africa, it has only been in Angola and currently prospecting Uganda and Zambia.—MNA/Xinhua



US Army soldiers take cover during a gun battle with guerilla snipers in Najaf, Iraq, on 18 Aug, 2004. — INTERNET

US soldier sues over extended service

WASHINGTON, 18 Aug—A California Army National Guard soldier sued the military in federal court Tuesday over a programme that could keep up to 20,000 Army personnel beyond their time of service.

It was the first lawsuit challenging extended military service following the September 11, 2001, attacks. The programme, known as "stop-loss," also was enacted during the buildup to the 1991 Gulf War.

The soldier's complaint comes as the Army struggles to find fresh units to serve in Iraq. Almost every combat

unit has faced or will face duty there or in Afghanistan, and increased violence has forced the deployment of an additional 20,000 troops to the Iraq region.

The Army says its stop-loss programme is necessary for a cohesive military with seasoned personnel, although it has been criticized as contrary to the concept of an all-

volunteer military force.

The soldier's attorneys did not release his name, age or hometown to protect his family's privacy.

"It's not that John Doe is a coward by any means," said the sergeant's San Francisco attorney, Michael Sorgen. He said his client, who was also ordered to stay in Iraq last year beyond his enlisted

commitment, suffers from post traumatic stress disorder, and his deployment has been put on hold.

According to the lawsuit, the soldier has more than a decade of service with the Marines, including combat in Iraq and Somalia. Last year, after returning from Iraq, he agreed to resign with a one-year commitment to the National Guard.

But he recently was notified that his service had been extended by as much as two years, and that he could soon be heading to Iraq for another combat tour, according to court documents. No court date has been set.

Internet

ဝတ်မှုမ်းအား ခေတ်ကျော်လွှား

Britain confirms soldier's death in southern Iraq

LONDON, 18 Aug—The British government on Wednesday confirmed that a British soldier was killed in clashes with militants in the southern Iraqi city of Basra.

The soldier, 29-year-old Lance Corporal Paul David Trevor Thomas, was a member of the 2nd Battalion The Light Infantry, attached to the 1st Battalion The Cheshire Regiment, said the Ministry of Defence (MoD).

Thomas was killed when British troops fought gunbattles with militiamen believed to be loyal to Iraqi cleric Moqtada Sadr in Basra on Tuesday.

Tuesday's incident took the number of deaths of British service personnel sent to Iraq to 65 since the start of the Iraq war last March.

Basra, where Britain has more than 9,000 troops, has been the scene of sporadic clashes between Iraqi militants and British forces over the past 12 days.—Internet



Mahdi army fighters loyal to radical Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr hoist their weapons as violence continues in the al-Sadr stronghold of Sadr city neighbourhood in Baghdad, on 18 Aug, 2004. — INTERNET

Group threatens to kill US journalist kidnapped in Iraq, says Al-Jazeera

DOHA, 18 Aug—An armed group in Iraq has threatened to kill a kidnapped American journalist unless US forces withdraw from the Shiite holy city of Najaf within 48 hours, Al-Jazeera television reported, showing a video.

"An armed group calling itself 'Martyrs Squad' has announced that it is holding American journalist Micah Garen ... and threatened to kill the hostage after 48 hours if US forces do not withdraw from the city of Najaf," it said.

The news channel aired a video in which the presumed hostage is shown with five hooded gunmen in the background, one of whom is reading a state-

ment. However, the gunman is not heard speaking.

Najaf has been the site of a showdown between radical Shiite cleric Moqtada Sadr and US and US-backed Iraqi forces.

The US State Department said earlier Wednesday it was without news of Garen, who was kidnapped in the southern Iraqi city of Nasiriyah last weekend.

Internet

Yoga even reaches to American infants

WASHINGTON, 18 Aug — Babies as young as three weeks are being introduced to Yoga at an institute in the American capital, to help them "sleep longer, digest better and grow stronger" as well as to give them a soothing feeling.

In the class at Boundless Yoga Studio here, open for those between three weeks to two years of age, babies and toddlers, with adult assistance, practice Yoga poses along with their caregivers.

After a visit to the institution, *The Washington Post* reported how babies as young as nine months are practising "soothing Yoga poses", based on a programme developed by Massachusetts Yoga instructor Helen Garabedian.

The author of "Itsy Bitsy Yoga Poses to Help Your Baby Sleep Longer, Digest Better and Grow Stronger," Garabedian claims that yoga relaxes babies' stress and anxiety.

The traditional "mom and baby" Yoga classes emphasise the mother's Yoga prac-

tice and incorporate the baby only passively. The new concept involves more than 75 poses focused strictly on the baby's movement, soothing and enjoyment.

Caregivers act as helpers, guiding the babies' arms and legs into poses.

"Some fitness-conscious parents are flocking to these classes, hoping an unusually early introduction to formalized movement will help keep their tots from becoming obesity statistics," said the *Post*.

"My mantra," said Garabedian, who started her programme five years ago, "is: fit baby equals fit toddler equals fit child equals fit teen equals fit adult."

MNA/PTI

Poland, Hungary to compete for outsourcing contracts

CHENNAI (Tamilnadu, India), 18 Aug — While majority of the business outsourcing contracts are awarded to Asian countries, two European nations — Poland and Hungary — are also high up in the league to bag outsourcing contracts.

"The majority of the outsourcing orders are being awarded to India, China, Malaysia, Singapore, Philippines and the Czech Republic. But Poland and Hungary, part of the European Union, are also high up in the outsourcing league," according to a Indo-German Chamber re-

port.

After a slow start, European countries were also bagging outsourcing contracts, it said.

The report referred to Forrester Research which said that European information and communication technology (ICT) outsourcing market

amounted to over 95 billion US dollar in 2003, an increase of 74 per cent over the previous year.

The research also predicted that the European outsourcing market would grow to 117 billion US dollar in 2004 and 143 billion US dollar by 2005.

MNA/PTI

Hostages safe, says Kuwaiti employer

NEW DELHI, 18 Aug — The Kuwaiti employer of the three Indians held hostage by guerillas in Iraq today said they were safe even as the transport company continued efforts to re-establish contact with the abductors.

Kuwait and Gulf Link (KGL) transport company spokesperson Rana Abu-Zaineh told PTI over phone from Kuwait that she again spoke to the family members of two of hostages — Antaryami and Sukhdeo Singh — in the northern Indian states Himachal Pradesh and Punjab respectively and assured them that the company was "doing everything" to secure safe release of the captives.

"We are sure all the hos-

tages are safe. We know this through our Iraqi friends and other sources," she said as having told the family members who posed several questions regarding the welfare of the captives.

She, however, noted that the company had been unsuccessfully making efforts to establish contact with the abductors 'Islamic Secret Army - Holders of Black Banners' since the negotiations broke down on August 8.

Asked whether there

could be any guess on how soon the hostages would be freed, Zaineh said it was impossible to predict as the "matter is not in our hand".

"We are trying our best to end the matter as soon as possible and get our boys back," she said.

The three Indian hostages- Antaryami, Sukhdev and Tilak Raj- along with three Kenyans and an Egyptian were kidnapped in war-ravaged Iraq on July 21.

MNA/PTI



Mahdi army fighters loyal to radical Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr prepare to launch a mortar attack as violence continues in the Sadr stronghold of Sadr city neighbourhood in Baghdad, on 18 Aug, 2004.—INTERNET

US forces kill two in Iraq jail riot

BAGHDAD, 19 Aug—US forces shot dead two prisoners during riot at the Abu Ghraib Prison yesterday, the worst violence for months at the notorious jail west of Baghdad.

Military police intervened first vocally, then with rubber bullets and finally with deadly force after more than 200 inmates were drawn into a massive brawl.

Five prisoners were wounded by other prisoners, and military officers said the intervention was necessary to prevent an inmate from being killed by the crowd.

Their rules of engagement allow US forces to respond with lethal force if necessary, officials said.

The fight began in one of the prison's two tent compounds when a group attacked a prisoner with tent poles.

Several skirmishes have aggravated tensions at Abu Ghraib in the past, but the latest US response puts its activity at the jail under fresh scrutiny at a delicate time.

The US army is about to bring further charges in the prisoner abuse scandal, beginning disciplinary action against two dozen soldiers and civilian contractors' staff involved in the interrogation of Iraqi detainees, Pentagon officials said yesterday.

In a report on the interrogation practices at the prison, which may be released as early as tomorrow, Major General George Fay recommends disciplinary proceedings against at least 24 personnel attached to the 205th Military Intelligence Brigade at the jail.

His findings follow months of insistence by the White House and Pentagon that the abuse at Abu Ghraib was confined to a handful of junior reservists. So far only seven members of a military police unit from Maryland have been charged.—Internet



US Army soldiers fight from a fortified position in Najaf, Iraq, on 17 Aug, 2004. Sporadic but heavy fighting continued overnight, with US forces attacking from tanks, Bradley fighting vehicles, and fortified positions, and guerrillas returning fire with mortars and small arms. —INTERNET

Annan ready to play "a facilitating role" in Najaf

UNITED NATIONS, 18 Aug — With anger in the Arab world rising over fighting between US-led forces and Shiite militia in the Iraqi holy city of Najaf, Iran and Saudi Arabia have sought UN intervention to which Secretary General Kofi Annan has agreed to play "a facilitating role" to help end the violence.

Annan spoke to US Secretary of State Colin Powell, Iran's Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi and his new Iraq envoy Ashraf Jehangir Qazi over the weekend, chief UN spokesman Fred Eckhard said, adding, the Secretary General is prepared to "play a facilitating role" provided it helps and all sides agree to it.

At the United Nations headquarters in New York, Eckhard and officials in Teheran confirmed that Kharrazi had sought intervention and to do whatever Annan could to defuse the situation, particularly in Najaf.

Kharrazi appealed for intervention to stop bloodshed during the telephone conversation with Annan and expressed "deep pain and sorrow" over the situation.

"The Secretary-General's position on that is that he is prepared to play a facilitating role if it can help, and if all sides agree to it," Eckhard said.

The Saudi Cabinet also called for a greater role for the United Nations to end bloodshed, the official Saudi Press Agency reported.

In an interview with BBC, Annan's special envoy in Iraq Ashraf Jehangir Qazi said the UN does not "wish to impose" itself, Eckhard said.

The Mehdi militia of radical Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr are resisting the American-led forces and efforts to bring about ceasefire have failed.

MNA/PTI

Turkish haulage firm quits Iraq after abduction

ISTANBUL, 18 Aug — A leading Turkish transport firm said on Tuesday it had withdrawn its personnel from Iraq after the murder of one employee and the abduction of another.

Several Turkish firms have said they will pull out of Iraq and end their lucrative trade with the conflict-hit state following a wave of kidnappings and attacks on drivers and engineers in recent months.

Iraqi militants released a videotape earlier this month showing the shooting of Mehmet Yuce, a driver for the Bilintur transport firm, after he read out a statement urging Turkey to end its trade with Iraq.

Bilintur said it be-

lieved another of its employees had been taken hostage in Iraq.

"We have completed withdrawing our personnel from Iraq to avoid putting at risk the life of our employee Ayullah Gezmen, who we believe was abducted," Bilintur said.

It was not clear how long Gezmen had been missing. No one from Bilintur was immediately available for comment.

Family members said on Monday two other Turk-

ish drivers carrying supplies to US forces had been taken hostage. Their company has refused to release its name for fear its personnel could face further attacks.

Scores of foreign workers in Iraq have been kidnapped since April. Many have been released but others have been killed.

Turkey's International Transporters' Association halted its delivery of goods to US forces in Iraq, but another major haulage group has said it will con-

tinue doing business there.

Turkish trucks and trailers make around 700,000 trips to Iraq each year, earning Turkey billions of dollars in exports.

Some 1,500 vehicles were crossing into Iraq every day before the hostage crisis began in April, but that number has dropped off sharply in recent weeks and cargo, including food, has been languishing at Turkish ports and other transport hubs.

MNA/Reuters

Putin, Chirac, Schroeder to meet at end of August

MOSCOW, 19 Aug — Russian President Vladimir Putin will meet French President Jacques Chirac and German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder at the end of the month, Russian Presidential Press-Secretary Alexei Gromov said Wednesday.

The summit will be held on August 30-31 in Russia's Black Sea resort of Sochi and the three leaders will discuss "crucial international issues", Interfax quoted Gromov as saying.

Russia, France and Germany — the main European countries which opposed the US-led war against Iraq — tried hard but failed to prevent the US-British coalition from staging military attacks on Iraq early last year.

During their summit meeting in April last year, held in St Petersburg, Putin, Schroeder and Chirac called for a central role for the United Nations in the post-war reconstruction of Iraq. — MNA/Xinhua

ASEAN senior police officials meet to improve anti-crime fight

BANGKOK, 19 Aug — Senior police officials from the 10 ASEAN countries on Wednesday continue their meeting in northern Thailand to discuss further cooperation to crack down criminal activities in the region.

The ongoing meeting from Tuesday to Friday would mainly focus on how to improve information sharing and law enforcement cooperation among ASEAN member countries.

The fight against organized crime, including transnational criminals disrupting financial markets and undermining political security, was one of the key topics of the meeting.

Cooperation is lacking between states to fight crimes that have no boundary, particularly those perpetrated by organized criminal networks, Thai Deputy Prime Minister Chavalit Yongchaiyudh was quoted by newspaper *The Nation* as saying. The meeting, while strengthening cooperation among nations to tackle these problems, will also send the world a signal that ASEAN is serious about rooting out transnational criminals operating in the region, he said at the opening ceremony of the Conference of ASEAN Police Chiefs. — MNA/Xinhua

Seven dead, 34 injured in road accidents in Nepal

KATHMANDU, 19 Aug — At least seven persons died, 34 others were injured and a dozen went missing Tuesday afternoon in two separate road accidents in Nepal, *The Kathmandu Post* newspaper reported Wednesday.

Six passengers died and 25 others injured while a dozen remain missing when a passenger bus veered off the road and plunged 100 metres into the swollen Trishuli River at Bhaludhunga area along the Prithvi Highway, some 250 kilometres southwest of Kathmandu, the independent English-language daily quoted Durga Karki, the bus driver, as saying.

"The accident occurred as the steering did not work," Karki said.

MNA/Xinhua



Armed Iraqi militiamen, loyal to radical Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr, stand guard in a street in the southern city of Basra on 18 August, 2004. — INTERNET



Residents look for documents in a building after it was bombed by US warplanes in Samarra, Iraq, on 14 August, 2004.



Women mourn for their relatives who were killed when a mortar shell struck their house in the town of Baqouba, Iraq, on 16 August, 2004.



An Iraqi man rides his bicycle past a burning Iraqi army vehicle following an attack in central Baghdad on 15 August, 2004.

Images

of

Iraq



An Iraqi man walks among houses damaged during air strikes by US planes in the turbulent city of Fallujah, Iraq, on 12 August, 2004.



Bhamo Degree College in Kachin State. —MNA



The three-storey library of Mawlamyine University in Mon State. — MNA

**To produce
qualified
intellectuals
and
intelligentsia**



Buildings on Myeik University campus in Taninthayi Division. — MNA



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



Yangon Division SC MCWA Patron Daw Khin Thet Htay speaking at closing ceremony of Youth Educative Training Camp 8/2004.—MNA

Youth Educative Training Camp folds

YANGON, 19 Aug—The camp folding ceremony of Youth Educative Training Camp No 8/2004, organized by Yangon Division Supervisory Committee for Maternal and Child Welfare Association with the assistance of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association (Central), was held at Yangon Command Headquarters this morning.

It was attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Develop-

ment Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe.

Also present on the occasion were members of Central Executive Committee of MMCWA, Patron of Yangon Division Supervisory Committee for MCWA Daw Khin Thet Htay, military region commanders, Secretary of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Myint Kyi, Chairman of Yangon Division Supervisory Committee for

MCWA Head of Division Health Department Dr Hla Myint and Committee members, district authorities, chairpersons of MCWA and members and others.

Daw Khin Thet Htay gave a speech and presented certificates to the youth.

Next, the two youths expressed thanks.

Later, the ceremony came to an end with singing of a song composed by the youth.—MNA

SCO nations aim for economic integration

BEIJING, 19 Aug—The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), which involves six Asian and European nations, has vowed to accomplish a free flow of commodities, capital, technology and service in the next 20 years.

Zhang Deguang, SCO secretary-general, made the remarks Wednesday at a two-day international seminar in Beijing attended by officials, experts and scholars from nearly 10 countries, including those from members states Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and China.

The seminar was sponsored by the China Institute for International Strategic Studies and Konrad Adenauer Foundation of

Germany.

The SCO countries will cooperate on security issues especially concerning terrorism and extremism, acknowledged Zhang.

“The SCO will never grow into a military bloc nor resume military confrontation as in the Cold War,” Zhang noted.

Zhang acknowledged the members states should cooperate in politics, economy, science and technology, culture, educa-

tion, energy, transportation and environmental protection.

The SCO secretariat is working to prepare for the SCO government heads meeting scheduled for next month in Bishkek, Kyrgyz capital, which is expected to issue substantial measures for economic cooperation.

The SCO, a regional cooperation body, was established in Shanghai on June 15, 2001.

MNA/Xinhua

S Korea prepares for Typhoon “Megi”, floods

SEOUL, 19 Aug—South Korea prepared for Typhoon Megi on Wednesday as heavy rain began to drench the southern part of the peninsula and worsening weather conditions shut airports and suspended ferries.

In neighbouring Japan, four people had been killed by Wednesday and two were missing after heavy rains struck western parts of the country, with more storms expected as Megi neared.

The Korea Meteorological Administration said Megi, which means catfish in Korean, was picking up speed and was expected to skirt the southern part of the peninsula before moving into the Sea of Japan early on Thursday.

No casualties were reported as of 5 p.m. (0800 GMT).

“So far we have some houses and rice paddies under water in the southern region,” an official at the Central Disaster and Safety Countermeasures Headquarters said by telephone. He said no damage assessment was available yet.

The meteorological administration said

on its web site (www.kma.go.kr) the centre of Megi was 224 miles southwest of Cheju at 0600 GMT and moving northeast. Wind speeds were 70 miles per hour.

Flights to the southern island of Cheju and major cities such as Kwangju and Pohang were cancelled, the disaster headquarters said.

Oil loading operations at the huge LG-Caltex Oil refinery in Yosu were suspended on Wednesday and the southern port city was expected to remain closed until Thursday morning, industry sources said.

Typhoons hit the peninsula each summer and the weather service said heavy rains could also hit the eastern part of the country, which was pounded last year by Typhoon Maemi, the strongest to hit the country in a century. That storm killed 129 people.—MNA/Reuters

Japan to devise cell phone-based system to track farm products

TOKYO, 19 Aug—Japan’s Farm Ministry will begin a project in fiscal 2005 to create a tracing system enabling consumers to know the “history” of farm products by means of mobile phones.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries said Wednesday in a preliminary report that it plans to complete the system, which will cover half of agricultural products, in three years.

In the planned system, small integrated circuit tags will be attached to agricultural products and information stored on them, such as data on agricultural chemicals used, will be able to be read by mobile phone handsets.

In addition to IC tags, which consist of tiny IC chips, the ministry plans to use advanced bar codes capable of storing up to several hundred times more information than existing bar

codes.

According to the report, the ministry will seek a budget appropriation of some 1.6 billion yen (14.5 million US dollars) for the project in fiscal 2005 on the grounds of growing consumer interest in the safety of food products.

The ministry will invite proposals for the system from the private sector and farm out the development of proposed ideas to selected concerns.—MNA/Xinhua

Singapore to ban eggs from Malaysia

SINGAPORE, 19 Aug—Singapore will suspend imports of eggs from neighbouring Malaysia, a supermarket official said on Wednesday.

Japan suspended poultry imports from Malaysia early in August after Singapore discovered a suspected case of avian influenza in live ducks shipped from Malaysia.

“We hear that Singapore Customs is going to stop the import of eggs from Malaysia,” an official at a major supermarket chain in the city state told Reuters.

Singapore’s Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority (AVA) said it plans to hold a

news conference on Wednesday evening, but gave no other details.

The AVA said in a statement earlier this month that tests showed a suspected case of H5 bird flu—a type of bird flu not known to be dangerous to humans and different from the H5N1 type that swept large parts of Asia early this killing 24 people—in live ducks shipped from the state of Perak in Malaysia.

Fresh outbreaks of bird flu have been reported in recent weeks in Vietnam, Thailand, China and Indonesia. Vietnam has reported three deaths so far in the latest outbreak.

MNA/Reuters

Landslide traps about 14 cars in Scotland

LONDON, 19 Aug—At least 14 vehicles were swept off a main road during floods and two landslides in central Scotland on Wednesday, leaving up to 50 people trapped, the Sky News reported. It is not yet known if there are any casualties. Two helicopters are helping with the emergency rescue effort on the road A85 near Loch Earn, in Stirlingshire, after heavy rains triggered the danger.

Emergency services were initially unable to make their way through the piles of mud to the victims, trapped in up to 14 vehicles.

MNA/Xinhua

Tata group’s \$2b proposal in Bangladesh looking good

DHAKA, 19 Aug—Talks on a two billion dollar investment proposal by India’s Tata group in Bangladesh in steel, power and fertilizer sectors is progressing “positively” here, officials familiar with the talks said on Wednesday.

“The talks are 100 per cent positive,” an official for Tata group told PTI without elaborating.

The Bangla Government was apparently positive to the proposal which envisages establishment of a gas-based power plant, steel mill and a fertilizer factory worth two billion dollars, the private UNB news

agency reported.

Tata’s resident director M.A. Pathan and general manager Sukaran Singh have held talks with senior Bangladeshi leaders as well as top officials of the state-run Board of Investment (BOI) over the past two days.

The proposals to BOI include investing 700 million dollars each in basic steel and power, besides 600 million dollars for a urea fertilizer plant. The proposal is said to be the biggest foreign investment offer the BOI ever received and is expected to create employment for some 8,000 people.

The Tata group

submitted the proposal to the Dhaka Government last month. A meeting with Industries Minister Matiar Rahman Nizami, who heads a five-member committee which would submit its report to Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, was likely to take place, sources said.

The conglomerate seeks to produce 1,000 megawatts of electricity for the country, while the fertilizer factory in southeastern Chittagong port city will have one million metric tons production capacity, according to available information.

MNA/PTI

South Africa for NAM action against unilateralism

DURBAN, 19 Aug—South Africa on Wednesday said the Non-Aligned Movement should take action to ensure the pre-eminence of the United Nations against the “imposition” of unilateralism.

“Now is the time when a heightened awareness of the threats to multilateralism through the imposition of unilateralism ought to galvanize us into concrete course of action,” said Sue van der Merwe, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs. Van der Merwe was addressing delegates from over 117 countries to welcome them to a two-day mid-term conference of NAM with the theme “Challenges for multilateralism in the 21st Century.”

For Thursday’s ministerial meeting, Deputy

Minister of State for External Affairs, Inderjit Singh is representing India, one of the founders of NAM.

“The time has arrived for us to defend the principles of the (NAM) Movement and to reaffirm the Movement’s role in, and contribution to, contemporary multilateral affairs,” said Van der Merwe.

“The central task facing us remains the creation of a multilateral milieu conducive to the eradication of poverty and underdevelopment... We must create a milieu in which we can change the lives of our

people for the better, whilst at the same time guaranteeing peace and security for all.

The pursuit of these tasks requires that we take ownership of shaping the multilateral agenda for action,” said Merwe.

NAM should take initiative to restore and enhance the partnership with the North to augment multilateralism, she said adding the political strength of NAM is needed “to strengthen our bargaining power in the relations between the developed countries and the South.”

MNA/PTI

Mars hills, crater yield evidence of flowing water

LOS ANGELES, 19 Aug—The hills of Mars yielded more tantalizing clues about how water shaped the Red Planet in tests by NASA’s robotic geologist, *Spirit*, while its twin, *Opportunity*, observed the deep crater it climbed into two months ago, scientists said on Wednesday.

Scientists at NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California said *Spirit* discovered a swath of bedrock that showed signs of being altered by water and may yield clues about the planet’s primordial atmosphere.

Scientists believe the bedrock was thrust up from below the lava-covered surface of the vast Gusev Crater, where *Spirit* landed January 3 and spent months crossing to arrive at a series of promontories dubbed the Columbia Hills.

For the past week, the rover has conducted a series of tests on a rock nicknamed Clovis that is perched on a spur about 30 feet above the plain, chief scientist Steve Squyres said at a briefing on Wednesday.

Both *Spirit* and *Opportunity* found ancient evidence of water on Mars earlier in their missions but new data recorded by *Spirit*’s scientific instruments this week suggests that the life-giving liquid was once more plentiful than they thought.

“This is different from the rocks out on the plain, where we saw coatings and veins apparently due to effects of a small amount of water. Here we have a more thorough, deeper alteration, suggesting much more water.”

Clovis is situated among rocks that do not show signs of water wear, which Squyres said could help scientists “get a handle on what took place.”

“So far we have

intriguing clues hinting that this rock Clovis had interacted with liquid water,” Squyres said. “We need to understand whether it was cold or hot ...liquid or gas. That should tell us a lot about the alteration by water.”

Opportunity, which landed on a flat gray plain on the opposite side of Mars that scientists said was once drenched by a salty sea, planned to investigate a dune field inside Endurance Crater, where the rover has explored since June.

The six-wheeled rovers have operated in Mars’ harsh atmosphere more than twice as long as they were designed to but are beginning to experience minor mechanical problems, NASA engineers said.

MNA/Reuters

Australian woman arrested in Vietnam on drugs charge

HANOI, 19 Aug—Vietnamese police have detained an Australian woman of Vietnamese descent after she tried to board an Australia-bound flight with 440 grammes of heroin stuffed in a hair-sprayer bottle, a newspaper reported on Wednesday.

The woman was placed under police custody at Tan Son Nhat Airport in the Communist country’s

commerce hub Ho Chi Minh on Tuesday, the government-controlled *Saigon Giai Phong* (Saigon Liberation daily) reported.

The arrest follows a string of similar detentions by Vietnam of Australians attempting to smuggle drugs out of the Southeast Asian country.

Last year, an Australian woman of Vietnamese descent was sentenced to

death for trying to smuggle 881.8 grammes of heroin to Sydney. She was later granted clemency and sentenced to life in prison instead.

Smuggling of 600 grammes of the drug is punishable by death or life imprisonment in Vietnam.

Officials at the Australian mission in Ho Chi Minh City could not immediately be reached for comment. — MNA/Reuters

HIV test kits developed in Vietnam

HANOI, 19 Aug—Vietnam has just succeeded in making HIV test kits which rapidly detect HIV carriers at a low cost.

The kit’s price is 30 per cent lower than that of the similar product imported from the United States and Germany, the kit’s maker, Vietnam-America Medical Equipment and Pharmaceutical Business and Production Joint Stock Company (Amvibiotech), announced on Tuesday.

Amvibiotech will also produce kits to

detect pregnancy, stomach ulcer, cancer, tuberculosis, syphilis and hepatitis in the coming time, it said.

Vietnam now has over 81,000 HIV-infected people, including more than 12,000 AIDS patients, who are from 93 per cent of communes of all 64 cities and provinces.

Its state budget for the disease’s treatment is expected to increase to 955,000 US dollars in 2005, posting an expected rise of 50 per cent over 2004. — MNA/Xinhua

Study shows fuel stations may pose child cancer risk

LONDON, 19 Aug—Living near a fuel station may quadruple the risk of acute leukaemia in children, research published on Thursday showed.

French scientists who carried out a study of more than 500 infants found that a child whose home was near a fuel station or vehicle-repair garage was four times as likely to develop leukaemia as a child whose home was further away.

And the longer a child had lived nearby, the higher the risk of leukaemia seemed to be, showed the research, published in the *Occupational and Environmental Medicine* journal.

The prevalence of childhood

leukaemia is four in every 100,000 children, but it is the most common type of childhood cancer in developed countries, say the researchers.

Few clear risk factors have been identified for the childhood variant, but exposure to benzene in the workplace has been identified as a possible factor in leukaemia in adults, the authors say.

The risk appeared to be even greater for acute non-lymphoblastic leukaemia, which was seven times more common among children living close to a fuel station or commercial garage, the research showed.

MNA/Reuters

China agrees to list Mexico as tourist destination

BEIJING, 19 Aug—A senior Chinese tourism official announced here Tuesday that the Chinese Government had agreed to list Mexico as a tourist destination for Chinese citizens.

Gu Zhaoxi, deputy director of the National Tourism Administration, made the announcement at the closing ceremony of the first meeting of the China-Mexico permanent bi-national commission.

Gu said China has submitted to Mexico a draft memorandum of understanding of the plan concerning this issue. “We hope an official agreement can be signed in the near future.”

China and Mexico established full diplomatic

ties in 1972. Mexico has become China’s second largest trade partner in Latin America and China has also become one of Mexico’s major trade partners in Asia.

“With increased cooperation as well as information and personnel exchanges, the two countries’ tourism industry will surely be boosted,” Gu said.

On Monday, China and Mexico officially set up a permanent bi-national commission and held four sub-committee conferences on politics, trade and economy, science and technology, and education and culture. Senior officials from the two sides also formed four working groups to discuss issues of social development, commu-

nications, exchanges, agriculture and tourism.

On Tuesday afternoon, the two sides concluded two-day discussions and signed a summary of the first meeting and an agreement on civil aviation transportation at the closing ceremony, which was presided over by Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing and Mexican Foreign Minister Luis Ernesto Derbez Bautista.

Li and Derbez agreed that the meeting produced fruitful results and broad consensus. They said the two sides will give full play to the permanent bi-national commission to instill new vitality into the China-Mexico strategic partnership.

MNA/Xinhua

Diarrhoea attacks 176,000 Bangladeshis in flood-hit areas

DHAKA, 19 Aug—At least 176,000 people have been attacked by diarrhoea in the flood-hit areas of Bangladesh since July 12. During the period, death toll from the disease rose to 81, The *New Nation* Wednesday quoted sources of the Health Directorate as saying.

The scarcity of safe drinking water had appeared to be a burning problem in the flood-hit areas causing outbreak of diarrhoea, dysentery and other waterborne diseases since mid July last.

The government so far has supplied about 70,000 water purifying tablets and 11

million packets of oral saline to the flood-affected areas.

Out of 4,053 medical teams, 3,277 had been working in the flood-affected areas since July 12.

Apart from this some 440 temporary health centres are engaged in providing emergency treatment to the patients in the flood-hit areas.

The current flood affected over 30 million people in the country. The death toll from flood-related incidents rose to 750 on Tuesday.

MNA/Xinhua



The United Nations Development Programme is considering building floating homes in Bangladesh following the worst flooding in years to strike this low-lying south Asian country. —INTERNET

Those who daren't show their face — 58

Paul Sa

Again, the internal and external destructive elements are trying to slander our nation. Because of the wicked mind and shortsighted vision, they do not wish to see the dignity of the nation and people rising high among the world nations. But all the people of Myanmar loathe them, who are like the slaves of aliens.

The VOA at 6 pm on 30 July 2004 aired a news report about the Myanmar Cultural Exhibition sponsored by Myanmar Association (UK) at the Oriental City in London, and an interview with Win Naing, who made stupid lies. The brief account of the news report was that a small group of Myanmar expatriates, who announced themselves as democracy activists, staged a demonstration against the exhibition. Concerning the incident, the VOA contacted chairman of Myanmar Association (UK) U Nay Win, protest leader expatriate Dr Win Naing and the spokeswoman of the Oriental City and interviewed them.

During the interview, U Nay Win said, "When the Myanmar Association held Thingyan festival at the Oriental City, its owner Mr Ronald Lean attended the festival and enjoyed Myanmar food.

As Mr Ronald Lean was interested in Myanmar food and culture, he said that he would permit the holding of a Myanmar cultural festival free of charge at the Oriental City. Thus, the Association rented a booth there to sell Myanmar food and Myanmar paintings and sculptures to raise funds for it. The booth was opened on 24 July, and with the entertainment programme of Harpist Ko Nay Wa, a programme was presented to enable foreigners to know more about Myanmar culture. Foreigners liked the programme very much, especially the skill demonstration of Myanmar traditional martial arts team won their applause. The exhibition was aimed at promoting Myanmar culture."

But the slanderous words of Win Naing were aimed at tarnishing the image and dignity of Myanmar race. He said as the name of the exhibition was 'Introducing Golden Myanmar', its goal was to let the global countries know to what extent Myanmar was enjoying prosperity; that it was an exhibition introducing Myanmar to the global

All the internal and external destructive elements are persuading the big countries of the West to apply political pressure and impose economic sanctions on Myanmar, and to stop providing all kinds of assistance and loans for her and to isolate her. Their destructive acts are meant to destabilize the socio-economy of the people and to make them face poverty. In addition, they are trying to float fabrications, saying that Myanmar's political, economic and social sectors are experiencing a state of decline; and that 52 million people of Myanmar are facing poverty and starvation.

family, while ignoring the everyday economic, political and social suffering of the 52 million people of Myanmar; that the time was not ripe yet to introduce the nation to the world; that it would help prolong the rule of the military junta; and that a demonstration was staged to express the worse situation Myanmar was facing.

Are the acts to oppose an exhibition, striving to raise the dignity of the nation and traditions and culture including the traditional martial arts the work of democracy activists to help materialize the democratic system in Myanmar? Too bad, all the destructive elements from inside and outside the nation including an expatriate like Win Naing are trying to block the spread of information about the nation's progress and prosperity over the world.

All the internal and external destructive elements are persuading the big countries of the West to apply political pressure and impose economic sanctions on Myanmar, and to stop providing all kinds of assistance and loans for her and to isolate her. Their destructive acts are meant to destabilize the socio-economy of the people and to make them face poverty. In addition, they are trying to float fabrications, saying that Myanmar's political, economic and social sectors are experiencing a state of decline; and that 52 million people of Myanmar are facing poverty and starvation. Tsk..tsk, I pity all the destructive elements from inside and outside the country, for, they are too much afraid of seeing people of global nations know all about the prevalence of peace and stability, socio-economic developments and prosperity in Myanmar, as it will lead to exposing all their lies and fabricated propaganda.

Now, I would like to present some of the nation's developments with firm facts and figures. The Government has built 162 dams, 265 water pumping stations and 172 major bridges during the period between 1988 and to this date. There are 18,600 miles of roads, up from 13,600 miles in 1988. In 1988, there were nearly 2,000 miles of railroads, and now there are nearly 3,000 miles. Today, there are 29 airports that can handle flights of Fokker-29 and Boeing 737 jets, up from 21 in 1988.

In 1988, there were 14 hydroelectric power stations, with a total generation capacity of 228 megawatts. Up to now, 28 new hydel power stations, with a total generation capacity of 162 megawatts, have been built. As six new gas-fired power stations have been built, the number of gas-fired power stations has reached 14 and their generation capacity, over 700 megawatts. Thus, the nation's total generation capacity at present is about 1,100 megawatts. When the 12 hydel power stations under construction are completed, they will add another 2,600 megawatts to the nation's total power generation capacity.

Nowadays, there are 776 hospitals in Myanmar, up from 617 in 1988. The number of institutions of higher learning has reached 156 at present from only 32 in 1988. In 1988, there were 772 high schools, 1,696 middle schools and 31,329 primary schools in the country. Now there are 1,894 high schools, 2,612 middle schools and 4,774 post primary schools and 31,225 primary schools. There many more developing areas including the industrial, economic, agricultural and border areas and national races sectors.

All the people of Myanmar are tired of hearing their repeated baseless lies and fabrications, and they have become ridiculous for the people.

It is said in an old and famous Myanmar poem that a person who has abandoned his own parents is foolish like a stupid dog. So, I would like to say that Win Naing, who talked ill of the exhibition that helped raise the dignity of Myanmar and her people, is like the person in the poem. Every Myanmar will take pride of and is happy to see an exhibition leading to the promotion of the nation's traditions and culture, literature and arts in the internal community, whoever the sponsor is and whenever it is held.

Thus, the internal and external destructive elements including Win Naing are useless persons, for, they are saying that holding of an exhibition to enhance the nation's dignity abroad amounts to helping prolong the rule of military junta and ignoring the daily sufferings of the people.

Whatever, Win Naing and other one or two persons who staged the demonstration said, the view of the spokeswoman of the Oriental City over the exhibition was that customers were so much interested in Myanmar culture and food.

All the people of Myanmar know that staging of a demonstration to tarnish the dignity of the nation and her people is a shameless act betraying the national cause. So, internal and external destructionists including Win Naing are like the persons who daren't show their face in public.

(Myanma Alin + Kyemon: 19-8-2004)

(Translation: TMT)

Efficient use of electricity

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

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

Efficient use of fuel

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

All this needs to be known

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

Indian admiral asks Navy to remain alert

MUMBAI, 19 Aug— Asking the Indian Navy personnel to beware of "enemies both outside and inside the country", Admiral Arun Prakash, Chief of Naval Staff, on Tuesday said Navy's strength would be upgraded.

"The naval soldiers are like a 'sword and shield' of the country in the sea," he said, adding, "their strength will be increased by commissioning more ships and submarines in the Indian Navy in the future."

"The soldiers have to remain alert as the enemies are active both inside and outside of the country," Admiral Prakash said addressing the officers and sailors of Western Naval Command after the ceremonial parade held in his honour on his maiden visit at Naval Air Station Kunjali-II here.

Admiral Prakash, who took over as Chief of Naval Staff on July 31, said the

Indian Navy would contribute towards tackling piracy and smuggling in the sea besides guarding the coastal boundary of the country.

The naval chief lauded soldiers and officers of the Indian Navy for adjusting to new technology and weapons that are being included into the force in a short span.

"The seniors should impart this knowledge to the juniors to maintain continuity of the strength of the force," he said.

The Indian Navy is committed to the security of the country, he said adding that soldiers should maintain good seamanship and airmanship as it was their foundation and follow the three principles of democracy, humanity and secularism. The Western Naval Command will also have the additional responsibility of the naval base coming up at Karwar, he added.

MNA/PTI



Myanmar Education Committee Chairman Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects multimedia classrooms of Minhla High School on 13 August 2004.

Investing most beneficially for the future

Education is more important today than ever before. It helps people acquire the skills they need for such everyday activities as reading a newspaper or managing their money. It also gives them the specialized training they may need to prepare for a job or career. There is considerable evidence that people who achieve higher levels of education earn higher wages.

Knowledge Age. To earn livelihood individually or to serve the interests of the nation and the people, education is indeed important.

As regards the development of the country, qualified intellectuals and intelligentsia are essential. Nowadays, it is of utmost importance for every nation to pay serious attention to human resource development.

T.Htut

technologies, research, ensuring constant learning society, education uplift and preserving national norms and characteristics. The Government applies strategies of formal education and non-formal education in uplift of education standard of the entire people.

Thanks to energetic efforts, fruitful results have been achieved in the education sector.

There were formerly only 32 universities and colleges in 1988 whereas there are now 156. Previously there were 772 high schools, 1696 middle schools and 31,329 primary schools nationwide; today there are 1,894 high schools, 2,612 middle schools, 4,774 post-primary schools and 31,225 primary schools. Myanmar has thus given priority to human resource development and made considerable progress.

The continuous efforts that have been exerted day and night for over 15 and nearly 16 years have led to fruitful results and benefits. But there still remains a lot to be done. There is still much for the Government, to do hand in hand with the people. Information and

ICT-based learning centres and resource centres have been opened from basic education schools right up to university level. Universities now have access to the e-library, the Internet and Intranet and can also employ video conferencing and web-based systems. Thus the way is now open for an e-Education system.

to university level. Universities now have access to the e-library, the Internet and Intranet and can also employ video conferencing and web-based systems.

Thus it can be said that the way is now open for an e-Education system. With the encouragement and support of the Government and with the cooperation of individual computer experts and entrepreneurs, MICT (Myanmar Information and Communications Technology) Parks have been opened in both Yangon and Mandalay. So, ICT-based services and modern communications networks are now accessible nationwide.

The main support and sustaining base for the emergence of a fully developed and modern nation is the education sector, and as such our national education goal is the establishment of a continually learning society. For the achievement of this most worthy goal, there are still many things that need to be done by those responsible in the education sector.

Today the Government

looking forward to the prosperous future, is doing its utmost to develop and open up the various fields of science and technology including that of ICT which is top priority internationally.

Studies in computer technology have been available in Myanmar for the last 20 to 25 years, but a lot of time was wasted, for it was narrowly confined to the academic world and not extended for research or practical application.

To remedy these shortcomings, vigorous efforts are to be made up for the lost time.

It is vital for today's youth who are the custodians of the future to broaden their views and have firm foundations of knowledge, for only then will they be able to guide the nation to a better future.

Of all the investments made in various fields, investment in uplift of education standard of the people especially youths is the most beneficial. For, highly qualified intellectuals and intelligentsia are essential for the prosperity of the nation.



The Government Technical Institute in Mohnyin, Kachin State.

MICT Parks have been opened in Yangon and Mandalay cities. So, ICT-based services and modern communications networks are now accessible nationwide.

It would not be wrong to say that education is important because it helps people increase their knowledge and understanding of the society as well as the world. Education helps people acquire skills that make their lives better and serve the interests of the nation and the people.

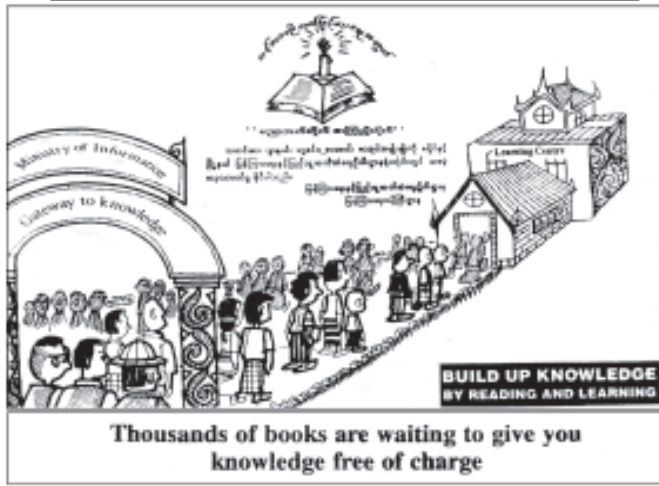
It is widely acknowledged that today is

In Myanmar, concerted efforts are being made to keep abreast of the education standard of the people with that of other nations. The 30-year long-term Education Promotion Plan has been implemented since 2001-2002 fiscal year. According to a senior education officer, the Education Promotion Plan covers human resource development, application of

Communication Technology (ICT)-based learning centres and resource centres have been opened from basic educational schools right up



Maubin University in Ayeyawady Division.



ADVERTISEMENTS

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

1. Sealed Tender is invited by Myanmar Railways, for supply of the following Spare Parts for Garrett Turbocharger which will be purchased in US Dollars and Myanmar Kyats:-

Sr. No	Tender No.	Description	Quantity
1.	12(T)24/MR (ML) 2004-2005	Spare Parts for Garrett Turbocharger	1- Lot (13- Items)

Closing Date.- 20.9.2004 (Monday) (12.00) Hours.

2. Tender documents are available at the office of the Deputy General Manager (Supply), Myanmar Railways, Corner of 51st Street and Merchant Street, Botataung, Yangon starting from 20.8.2004 during the office hours.

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

**Deputy General Manager
Supply Department, Myanmar Railways, Botataung, Yangon**

Road accident in S-W Iran kills 15, injuries over 22

TEHERAN, 19 Aug — Fifteen people were killed and over 22 others injured on Tuesday in a road accident involving a truck and a bus in the southeastern Iranian province of Sistan-Baluchistan, the official IRNA news agency reported on Wednesday.

The report said that the truck driver was to blame for the accident, for he veered his vehicle to the left side of the road and collided head-on with the bus.

Iran has one of the greatest rates of road accident in the world, and official statistics shows that in every 24 minutes there is one person killed in road accidents. Transport experts blame most of the accidents on hazardous roads and reckless driving.

MNA/Xinhua

**AIDS
is a national
concern.**

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U Than Maung, Advocate
Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd
For Mepha AG
223 Summit Parkview,
350 Ahlone Road,
20 August 2004
Dagon Tsp, Yangon, Myanmar

Laos strives to eliminate goitre by 2006

HANOI, 19 Aug — Laos has targeted to eliminating disorders caused by iodine deficiency, mostly goitre, by 2006 after reducing the percentage of its population suffering from the disorders to 5 per cent by the end of 2004 from 6 per cent in 2003 and 40 per cent in 1994.

To this end, the country has intensified information campaigns about the bad effects of iodine deficiency on humans and benefits of iodized salt among residents, especially rural and mountainous ones, according to reports reaching here from Laos on Tuesday.

To promote the use of iodized products such as salt and fish sauce among poor residents, the Lao Government has issued a policy to subsidize the production and distribution of the products to poor households nationwide.

The percentage of Lao households using iodized salt rose to 95 per cent in 2003 from 90 per cent in 2002 and 85 per cent in 2001.

MNA/Xinhua

ပြည်တွင်းဖြစ်ကိုအားပေးပါ

ခိုင်မိတ်တင်ဒါ ခေါ်ယူခြင်း

၁။ အမှတ်(၁) စက်မှုဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ မြန်မာ့စက္ကန့်နှင့်စာတုဗေဒလုပ်ငန်းကြံ့ကြံ့မှုအောက်ရှိ သဘောဆောင်စက်ရုံအတွက် အောက်ပါပစ္စည်းအား မြန်မာကျပ်ငွေဖြင့် ဝယ်ယူလိုကြောင်း ကြေညာအပ်ပါသည်။

ပစ္စည်းအမျိုးအမည် အရေအတွက် တင်ဒါခံယူရက်/အချိန်
Colour Pigment (၂) ချိန်း (၃-၉-၂၀၀၄) နေ့လည် ၁၂:၀၀ နာရီ

၂။ သိရှိလိုသည့် အချက်များရှိပါက ရောင်းဝယ်ရေးဌာန၊ ဖုန်းနံပါတ်- ၅၄၃၆၅ သို့ ဆက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါသည်။

မြန်မာ့စက္ကန့်နှင့်စာတုဗေဒလုပ်ငန်း

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

1. Sealed Tenders are invited by Myanmar Railways, for supply of the following Materials which will be purchased in Myanmar Kyats:-

Tender No-24/MA MA/Local/GNL (CME)

Sr. No	Description	Quantity
1.	Waste Cotton	(20000)-Lb
2.	Painting Materials	(1)- Lot
3.	CO ₂ Wire	(1)- Lot
4.	GI Pipe & Accessories	(1)- Lot
5.	Bolt & Nut	(1)- Lot
6.	Foam Rubber	(1)- Lot
7.	Basin & Camode	(1)- Lot
8.	Emery Cloth & Saw Blade	(1)- Lot
9.	Battery 12V. 200 & 150 Ah	(24)- Nos
10.	Bearing Spring 11D	(400)- Nos
11.	Perspex Sheet 8' x 4' x 5 t	(1000)- Sht

Closing Date.- 1.9.2004 (Wednesday) (12:00) Hours.

2. Tender documents are available at the office of the Deputy General Manager (Supply), Myanmar Railways, Corner of 51st Street and Merchant Street, Botataung, Yangon starting from 19.8.2004 during the office hours.

3. For further details please call: 291982, 291994, 201555 Ext-602,613

**Deputy General Manager
Supply Department, Myanmar Railways,
Botataung, Yangon**

ရန်ကုန်နိုင်ငံခြားဘာသာတက္ကသိုလ်

မဟာဝိဇ္ဇာသင်တန်းအတွက် သင်တန်းသားများ ခေါ်ယူခြင်း

၁။ ၂၀၀၄-၂၀၀၅ ပညာသင်နှစ်အတွက် မဟာဝိဇ္ဇာတွဲ (အင်္ဂလိပ်ဘာသာစကား) ပထမနှစ်သင်တန်းကို ၂၀၀၄ခုနှစ်၊ စက်တင်ဘာလ(၂၀)ရက်နေ့တွင် ဖွင့်လှစ်မည်ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

၂။ သင်တန်းတက်ရောက်လိုသူများသည်-
(က) ပြည်ထောင်စုမြန်မာနိုင်ငံသားဖြစ်ရမည်။

(ခ) မဟာဝိဇ္ဇာတွဲ (အင်္ဂလိပ်ဘာသာစကား) ပထမနှစ်သင်တန်းတက်ရောက်ရန် သတ်မှတ်ထားသော အရည်အချင်းများနှင့် ပြည့်စုံသူဖြစ်ရမည်။

၃။ ၂၀၀၄ခုနှစ်၊ ဩဂုတ်လ(၂၅)ရက်နေ့ နောက်ဆုံးထား၍ လျှောက်လွှာတင်သွင်းကြရမည်။ သင်တန်းစတင်ခွင့် ကြေညာချက်အပြည့်အစုံကို ရန်ကုန်အတွင်း ရန်ကုန်နိုင်ငံခြားဘာသာတက္ကသိုလ်တွင် လာရောက်စုံစမ်းမေးမြန်းနိုင်ပါသည်။

(သန့်သန်းအောင်)

ဇော်ကွန်းထိန်း

ရန်ကုန်နိုင်ငံခြားဘာသာတက္ကသိုလ်

Vietnam to issue new polymer banknote

HANOI, 19 Aug — Vietnam will issue a new banknote made from polymer early next month to better protect the local currency, the State Bank of Vietnam said on Tuesday.

The issuance of the banknote with a face value of 100,000 Vietnamese dong (6.4 US dollars) will more effectively prevent the local currency from being counterfeited, and not affect the current monetary circulation, it noted.

The central bank said that it has stopped printing the paper-based notes, and expects to replace them with polymer-based notes within one year. The two kinds of notes are now used alongside with each other.

Earlier, two types of polymer-based banknote with the face values of 50,000 dong (3.2 US dollars) and 500,000 dong (32 US dollars) were put into circulation last December.

MNA/Xinhua

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P.O. Box 109, Ph: 248108/723043

(For. Domnarn Somgait & Boonma Attorneys at Law, Thailand)

Dated: 20 August 2004

နိုင်ငံအဝန်း

သစ်တောစွမ်းမြင့်

စိမ်းလန်းစေရမည်။

မညာရေးနှင့် ခေတ်မီဖွံ့ဖြိုးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

Free meteorological data web site launched in China

BEIJING, 19 Aug—China Tuesday launched a free meteorological data web site aiming to improve its on-line meteorological information sharing service.

The web site, operated by the China Meteorological Administration, is part of a scientific data sharing project initiated by the Ministry of Science and Technology.

The web site provides data service on ground and upper air meteorological conditions, solar radiation, meteorological satellites and scientific experiments.

The free service is available to both research organizations and individuals who register at [http://](http://data.cma.gov.cn)

data.cma.gov.cn.

Dr. Zheng Guoguang, deputy director of the China Meteorological Administration, said that meteorological data is not only a foundation for research of the climate system, but also a necessity for scientific decisions on economic and social development, national defence, environmental protection and ecological development.

It is also indispensable in people's everyday life, Zheng said. Teng Mianzhen, an of-

ficial with the Ministry of Science and Technology, said that the web site is expected to become an authoritative source of meteorological information and data.

Currently, major data providers for the web site include the Meteorological Information Centre, the National Satellite Meteorological Centre, the Chinese Academy of Meteorological Science and observatories in the Tibet Autonomous Region and provinces of Hubei,

Gansu, Heilongjiang and Jiangsu.

More meteorological research organizations will be incorporated into the network to provide information and data for the free service, Teng said. Earlier in July, the China Meteorological Administration set up a web site, www.spaceweather.gov.cn, providing free services in space weather monitoring and warning to the public.

MNA/Xinhua

Kenya's oldest woman dies at age 119

NAIROBI, 19 Aug—Maria Shakwee Chepkemoi, who is believed to be the oldest woman in Kenya, has died at age 119, the *East African Standard* newspaper reported on Wednesday.

"The curtain finally fell on Mama Chepkemoi last Thursday night as she slept," the report said.

Maria died five days after the death of Daniel Wanjau, who also was believed to have been the oldest Kenyan man. He was 115. Like Wanjau, Maria lived across three centuries having been born in 1885 in Mutei location, Tambach Division of Keiyo District in northwest Kenya, according to her close family members.

Maria had five children, 35 grandchildren, 20 great grandchildren and three great great grandchildren. Her husband Chemuko died in 1940.

According to one of her grandchildren, Kiki Cherono, Maria will be buried at her younger son's farm.

Maria, according to Kiki, has never fallen ill in her lifetime, adding that the old lady refused to take modern medicine and restricted herself to herbal medicine.

MNA/Xinhua



The River Thames, which bisects the centre of London, is said by some to be among the world's cleaner urban waterways, but that claim to fame is undermined by frequent spillage from the capital's sewage system. — INTERNET

HK official optimistic about textile, clothes sector

HONG KONG, 19 Aug—Hong Kong will remain competitive in textiles and clothes manufacturing after the removal of import quotas by the World Trade Organization (WTO) next year, said a Hong Kong official on Tuesday.

John Tsang, Secretary of Commerce, Industry & Technology, said he does not think that local factories will move their facilities outside after the quota removal.

According to the WTO agreement on textile and clothing, quota restrictions imposed by all WTO members on their textile and clothing imports will be completely lifted on New Year's Day.

Tsang said the removal of the quota system marks an important milestone in the liberalization of international trade in textiles and clothing.

He said while trade liberalization can broaden the scope for trade and facilitate market expansion by Hong Kong business people, it will at the same time intensify market competition.

Tsang pledged the government will continue to offer the trade a business-

friendly environment and improve services. For example, all existing quota-related regulatory measures will be lifted. A simple and reliable system will be kept to protect the rights and benefits of locally made products.

He urged the trade to lower production costs and boost product quality to sharpen Hong Kong's competitiveness.

Tsang said the proposed regulatory framework for textiles after the quota removal has been worked out and law revisions will be tabled at the Legislative Council in October.

MNA/Xinhua

Arroyo pushes for education system reforms

MANILA, 19 Aug—Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo Wednesday pushed for reforms in education systems to upgrade the quality of education in the country and provide opportunities to the youth during her local school visit here.

The reform agenda includes the classrooms building programme, one scholar for every indigent family, computers for all schools, vocational and technical courses for job creation, and early child development programmes.

Arroyo said her government is planning to promote early child development pro-

grammes, build many school buildings every year, and provide emergency employment for out-of-school youth, among others, as part of its education reform package in the next six years.

She also took up other education-related issues, including skills training as a necessary tool for jobs creation, livelihood programmes, putting up of day care centres, teachers' problems, improve-

ment of school facilities, and the enhancing of mathematics, science, English and values formation in basic education. Earlier, the Presidential Palace explained that Arroyo is eager to continue her interaction with the masses to feel their pulse on significant issues and enable her to respond quickly to people's complaints brought to her attention during the meeting with local masses. — MNA/Xinhua



Europe is warming up more quickly than the rest of the world and cold winters could disappear almost entirely by 2080 as a result of global warming, researchers predicted on 18 August, 2004. Heat waves and floods are likely to become more frequent, threatening the elderly and infirm, and three quarters of the Swiss Alps' glaciers might melt down by 2050, the study prepared by the European Environment Agency (EEA) said. German holiday makers in this 8 Feb, 1999 file photo try to make their car snow safe after more than 1.70 metres of snow fell in parts of Austria's western Province of Tyrol. —INTERNET

Indonesia's economic growth slows in second quarter

JAKARTA, 19 Aug—The Indonesian economy grew at a slower rate in the second quarter, compared to the first quarter of the year as consumer spending weakened due to rising inflation, a local newspaper reported Wednesday.

The economic growth in the April-June period of this year was 4.32 per cent compared to the same period last year while year-on-year growth in the first quarter was 5 per cent, reported *The Jakarta Post*.

The rising inflationary pressures during the past three months due to weakening of the rupiah (the local unit has declined by nearly 10 per cent against the dollar) reduced

consumer spending as purchasing power weakened.

Inflation hit a 15-month high of 7.2 per cent in July, higher than the government's annual rate target of 6.5 per cent, due to soaring prices of food and other basic commodities.

Domestic consumption has been the main engine of economic growth during the past few years, accounting for more than 68 per cent of

gross domestic product (GDP). Quoting latest data from the Central Statistics Agency (BPS), the daily said growth in household spending slowed to 5.26 per cent in the second quarter from 5.71 per cent in the first quarter. Government spending in infrastructure, meanwhile, expanded by 6.08 per cent, but less than half the 12.75 per cent gain was in the previous quarter. —MNA/Xinhua

ကျေးဇူးတိုင်း ကိုယ့်အားကိုးကိုးစာကြည့်တိုက်ရှိသည်။



ကျေးဇူးတိုင်း ကိုယ့်အားကိုးကိုးစာကြည့်တိုက်များအတွက် သုတ/ရတ စာအုပ်များလွှဲဒါနံ့ရှိပါသည်။

မြန်မာ့နေရာနှင့် မြည်သူ့အဆင်အတန်းစီရသန

SPORTS

Olympics-Fencing:

Zagunis ends 100-year US gold famine

ATHENS, 18 Aug — Mariel Zagunis clinched the United States their first fencing gold for 100 years when she beat Xue Tan of China 15-9 in the Olympic women's sabre final on Tuesday.

Follow American Sada Jacobson collected the bronze with a 15-7 win over the Romanian Catalina Gheorgheoiu.

It was the first time the event had been held at the Olympics.

The 19-year-old Zagunis, who only made it to the Games as the third-ranked American when the Nigerian Olympic Committee declined to send Jacqueline Esimaye, raced to an 8-2 lead.

In spite of a spirited comeback that took Tan to within three points, she held on to win comfortably.

The last US fencing gold was won in the single sticks in St Louis in 1904 by Albertson van der Post — the only time that that event has been held at the Olympics.

When she finally notched up the point needed for victory, after two false alarms, Zagunis screamed for joy.

MNA/Reuters

Olympics-Swimming:

Klochkova repeats golden double

ATHENS, 18 Aug — Yana Klochkova completed a rare second Olympic golden double on Tuesday when she added the 200 metres individual medley gold to the 400 medley crown she won at the Athens Games on Saturday.

The 22-year-old Ukrainian led throughout the race to become only the third swimmer, and first woman, to achieve an Olympic 'double', having also won the 200 and 400 individual medley events at the 2000

Sydney Games.

American Amanda Beard, fourth in Monday's 100 metres breaststroke, moved up to second in her speciality stroke — third of the four medley legs — but could not catch Klochkova, who won in two minutes 11.14 seconds.

Beard, double breaststroke silver medalist at the age of 14 at the 1996 Atlanta Games, took another silver in 2:11.70, while Kirsty Coventry of Zimbabwe scooped bronze in 2:12.72

to add to the silver she won in Monday's 100 backstroke.

Hungary's Tamas Darnyi won both men's medleys in 1988 and 1992, while Russia's Alexander Popov won the 50 and 100 metres freestyle both in 1992 and 1996.

World championship 400 medley silver medalist in 1998 at the age of 15, Klochkova suffered a rare defeat at the hands of American Maggie Bowen in the 200 medley at the 2001 world championships but won the 400 medley and 400 freestyle.

Two years later she completed the 200-400 medley double at the Barcelona world championships. She has now won four Olympic and four world championship titles.

She has also won 10 individual European golds — a record she shares with Popov — including medley doubles at the last four editions of the championships.

MNA/Reuters



Ukraine's Yana Klochkova raises her arms in victory after winning the gold medal in the women's 200 metres individual medley at the Athens 2004 Olympic Games, on 17 August, 2004. — INTERNET

Argentina beats Australia 1-0

ATHENS (Greece), 18 Aug — Argentina, one of the first teams to have qualified for a quarter-final, proved unbeatable after a 1-0 victory over Australia Tuesday.

The South American eleven, who have come to "fight with passion to get a win" as said by Javier Saviola before the game, launched their attacks from the very start on Australia who were looking for at least a draw to ensure advancement at Karaiskaki Stadium in Athens.

The Australians, luckily, succeeded for their qualification efforts, while their group mates Tunisia and Serbia & Montenegro were kept out from further games.

Argentine striker Carlos Tevez, a rising star known as a "New Maradona", played 66 minutes on the pitch.

MNA/Xinhua

Parry ends Britain's eight-year wait for medal

ATHENS (Greece), 18 Aug — Stephen Parry claimed Britain's first swimming medal since the Atlanta Games eight years ago when he secured a bronze in the men's 200 metres butterfly final on Tuesday.

The 27-year-old Liverpoolian clocked one minute 55.52 seconds, bettering the British record he set in the semi-finals by 0.05 seconds, in finishing third behind winner Michael Phelps of the United States and Japan's Takashi Yamamoto.

"I just can't tell you, I know it sounds a cliché but it's a dream come true for me," Parry told reporters after stepping from the pool.

MNA/Reuters

Olympic-Soccer-Men:

Comic own goal puts Korea through

ATHENS, 18 Aug — South Korea advanced to the quarter-finals at the Athens Olympics on Tuesday after a bizarre own goal from Adama Tamboura gave them a 3-3 draw with Mali.

The Africans also went through but they were forced to survive a nervous finish after squandering a three-goal lead in the northern Greek city of Thessaloniki.

South Korea trailed 3-0 when Tenema Ndiaye completed a poacher's hat-trick in the 55th minute. But two goals in three minutes by striker Cho Jae-jin gave the Koreans a lifeline.

Tamboura sent South Korea into the last eight of the men's soccer competition in

the 64th minute with a comical own goal.

Substitute Choi Sung-kuk whipped in a cross from the left and Tamboura, attempting to clear the danger, powered a header past stunned Mali goalkeeper Cheick Bathily.

"Their third goal really made me mad," said South Korea coach Kim Ho-kon. "The players got a bit nervous but they deserve credit for the way they came back. They surprised me."

Both teams finished with five points from three games in Group A, Mali coming top with a superior goal difference.

African teams have won the last two Olympic titles, with Cameroon winning in Sydney four years ago and Nigeria winning gold at the 1996 Atlanta Games.

Meanwhile, Mexico beat hosts Greece 3-2 in the other game in Volos but the result was academic.

MNA/Reuters



US Cat Reddick, left, challenges for the ball with Australia's Dianne Alagich in the women's group G soccer match during the 2004 Olympic Games at the Kaftanzoglio Stadium in the north port city of Thessaloniki, Greece, on Tuesday, 17 Aug, 2004. — INTERNET

Olympics-Soccer-Women:

Australian "Matildas" salvage late draw with US

ATHENS, 18 Aug — Australia's "Matildas" salvaged a 1-1 draw against the United States at the Athens Olympics on Tuesday to join the Americans in the last eight of the women's soccer tournament.

The US team, runners-up in Sydney four years ago, went ahead in the 19th minute when midfielder Kristine Lilly powered home a left-foot volley at the back post. But the Australians snatched a point with eight minutes remaining in Thessaloniki thanks to a looping header from Joanne Peters.

World champions Germany finished top of Group F after a comfortable 2-0 victory over Mexico, with Petra Wimbersky and captain Birgit Prinz on target in Patras.

Forward Cristiane scored a hat-trick as Brazil demolished hosts Greece 7-0 to finish second behind the United States in Group G.

Sweden beat Nigeria 2-1 to top Group E. Greece and China were the only teams eliminated from the 10-team competition.

The quarter-finals all take place on Friday. — MNA/Reuters

Olympics-Swimming

Phelps wins second gold

ATHENS, 18 Aug — Michael Phelps won the men's 200 metres butterfly final at Athens on Tuesday to claim his second Olympic gold medal.

The American teenager held on for victory in one minute 54.04 seconds — the second fastest time in history — and just 0.11 outside the world record he set at last year's world championships.

Japan's Takashi Yamamoto broke the Asian record to win the silver in 1:54.56 while Stephen Parry got the bronze in 1:55.52 to provide Britain with their first Olympic swimming medal since the Atlanta Games in 1996.

MNA/Reuters

Iliadis becomes youngest judo champion

ATHENS, 18 Aug — Ilias Iliadis won a second gold medal for host country Greece on Tuesday and became the youngest men's Olympic judo champion.

The remarkable 17-year-old stormed to Olympic gold, blitzing double European junior champion Roman Gontyuk of Ukraine in the final as hoards of ecstatic Greeks raised the roof of the Ano Liossia Olympic Hall.

"My age does not matter," the Georgian-born champion said as his father Nikos translated into pigeon-Greek. "When someone has an objective, they have to fight to achieve this objective. When you have the gold medal in your sight you have to fight for it".

Silver-medallist Roman Gontyuk, 20, said he was happy with his medal and paid tribute to his conqueror.

He said: "It is a pleasure to win this medal as I did not expect it to happen. He (Iliadis) is a great champion and I am very happy with my medal".

Dmitri Nosssov fought through the pain barrier to win bronze with a powerful pick-up technique to defeat Mehman Azizov of Azerbaijan.

Brazil's Flavio Canto beat Robert Krawczyk of Poland to win the other bronze medal and said he hoped it would help him get more support for the social project he runs in a slum in his home city of Rio de Janeiro.

MNA/Reuters

ပြည်ထောင်စုမြန်မာနိုင်ငံတော်အစိုးရ
ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန
သတင်းနှင့်စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်း
အမှတ် ၂၁၊ သိမ်ဖြူလမ်း၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့

လျှောက်လွှာခေါ်ယူခြင်း

၁။ သတင်းနှင့်စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်း The New Light of Myanmar သတင်းစာတိုက်တွင် အယ်တန်းသတင်းထောက် (သို့မဟုတ်) စာပေလက်ထောက်-၂ (လစာနှုန်းကျပ် ၅၄၀၀-၁၀၀-၅၅၀၀) ရာထူးနေရာများအတွက် သတ်မှတ်အရည်အချင်းနှင့်ပြည့်မီသူများ လျှောက်ထားနိုင်ပါသည်။
၂။ လျှောက်ထားသူသည်-

- (က) ပြည်ထောင်စု မြန်မာနိုင်ငံသားဖြစ်ရမည်။
 - (ခ) တက္ကသိုလ်ဝင်စာမေးပွဲတွင် အင်္ဂလိပ်စာကို ဂုဏ်ထူးဖြင့် အောင်မြင်သူများ (သို့မဟုတ်)အင်္ဂလိပ်ဘာသာအစိတဖြင့် တက္ကသိုလ်တက်ရောက်နေသူများ (နေ့ပိုင်း) သို့မဟုတ် အင်္ဂလိပ်စာ အရေးအမှတ်အပြောကျွမ်းကျင်ပြီး တက္ကသိုလ်တစ်စုခု (နေ့ပိုင်း) တွင် တက်ရောက်နေသူများ။
 - (ဂ) နေ/ည တာဝန်ထမ်းဆောင်နိုင်သူ ဖြစ်ရမည်။
- ၃။ အထက်ပါအရည်အချင်းများနှင့် ကိုက်ညီသူများအား အောက်ပါအကျိုးခံစားခွင့်များ ခွင့်ပြုမည်-
- (က) တက္ကသိုလ် (နေ့ပိုင်း)သို့ တက်ရောက်ခွင့်ပြုပြီး ကျောင်းပြီးသည့်အထိ လစာကျပ် ၄၈၀၀/-ကို လစဉ်ခံစားခွင့်ပြုမည်။
 - (ခ) ကျောင်းတက်နေစဉ်ကာလအတွင်း လိုအပ်သလို ကူညီထောက်ပံ့ပေးမည်။
 - (ဂ) စာမေးပွဲကျမှီပါက ထောက်ပံ့ကြေးအားလုံးကို ပြန်လည်ပေးလျှော်ရမည်။
 - (ဃ) ကျောင်းပြီးပါက အယ်တန်းသတင်းထောက် (သို့မဟုတ်)စာပေလက်ထောက်-၂ (လစာနှုန်းကျပ်၅၄၀၀-၁၀၀-၅၅၀၀) ရာထူးတွင်ခန့်ထားမည်။
 - (င) အနည်းဆုံးလုပ်သက် တစ်ဆက်တည်း (၁၀)နှစ် တာဝန်ထမ်းဆောင်ရမည်။ ပျက်ကွက်ခြင်း၊နုတ်ထွက်ခြင်း၊ထုတ်ပယ်ခြင်းခံရပါက ကျပ်၂၅၀၀၀၀/- (နှစ်ဆယ့်ငါးသိန်း) ပေးလျှော်ရမည်ဖြစ်ကြောင်း ကတိခံဝန်ချက်ရေးထိုးရမည်။
 - (စ) လုပ်ငန်းတွင်ထူးချွန်ပါက ပြည်ပသင်တန်းများသို့ စေလွှတ်သင်ကြားပေးမည်။
- ၄။ လျှောက်လွှာများကို အောက်ပါစာရွက်စာတမ်းများပူးတွဲလျက် သတင်းနှင့်စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်း (ရုံးချုပ်)၊ ညွှန်ကြားရေးမှူး (သတင်း)၊ အမှတ်-၂၁၊ သိမ်ဖြူလမ်း၊ရန်ကုန်မြို့သို့ ၂၀-၀၉-၂၀၀၄ရက်နေ့ နောက်ဆုံးထား၍ အရောက်ပေးပို့ရမည်-
- (က) တက္ကသိုလ်ဝင်စာမေးပွဲ အောင်လက်မှတ်မိတ္တူနှင့် အမှတ်စာရင်းမိတ္တူ
 - (ခ) သက်ဆိုင်ရာမြို့နယ်ရုံးမှ လျှောက်လွှာပို့ရက်တိုင်မီ (၆) လအတွင်း ရရှိထားသည့် ပြစ်မှုကင်းရှင်းကြောင်းထောက်ခံချက်မူရင်း
 - (ဂ) မြို့နယ်အလုပ်သမားညွှန်ကြားရေးဦးစီးဌာနတွင် အလုပ်သမားမှတ်ပုံတင်ထားသည့် အလလစ ပုံစံ(၂)စာတိုင်ပုံမိတ္တူတစ်စောင်
 - (ဃ) လိုင်စင်စာတံပုံနှိပ် (စာတံပုံ နောက်ကျောတွင် အမည်နှင့် နိုင်ငံသားစိစစ်ရေးကတ် အမှတ်ရေးသားရန်)
 - (င) ဝင်ကြေးငွေ ကျပ် ၂၀၀/-ပေးသွင်းသည့်ချွန်ချွန်မူရင်း (သို့မဟုတ်) စာတိုက်ငွေပို့လွှာ (Money Order)ပြောစာမူရင်း

၅။ စာမေးပွဲဝင်ကြေး ငွေကျပ်၂၀၀/- ကို ရန်ကုန်မြို့၊ မြန်မာစီးပွားရေးဘဏ်၊ စက်မှုလက်မှုဥစ္စာဌာန စာရင်းအမှတ် (SEE 4201-N) သို့လည်းကောင်း၊ သက်ဆိုင်ရာစာတိုက်မှတစ်ဆင့် ဤလုပ်ငန်း(ရုံးချုပ်) သို့ ငွေပို့လွှာ (Money Order) ဖြင့်လည်းကောင်း ပေးသွင်းရမည်။
၆။ အသေးစိတ် အကြောင်းအရာများကို သတင်းနှင့် စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်း (ရုံးချုပ်)တယ်လီဖုန်း အမှတ် ၂၉၄၆၂၁သို့ စုံစမ်းနိုင်ပါသည်။



Friday, August 20
Tune in today:
8.30 am Brief news
8.35 am Music: Can't get you out of my mind
8.40 am Perspectives
8.45 am Music: -We take the chance
8.50 am National news/Slogan
9.00 am Music: - Baby I was made for you
9.05 am International news
9.10 am Music: -Life affair
1.30 pm News/Slogan
1.40 pm Lunch time music: -Girls and boys -All that she wants -Stop stop stop
9.00 pm World of music Songs from: China
9.15 pm Article/Music
9.25 pm Music at your request -Too much -Me & I -Close to you -Don't go breaking my heart
9.45 pm News/Slogan
10.00 pm PEL

Rainfall on 19-8-2004

- 1.89 inches at Yangon Airport,
- 2.13 inches at Kaba-Aye,
- 1.85 inches at central Yangon.

Thiri Pyan Chi U Kyi Maung
(Ex Colonel BC-3516)

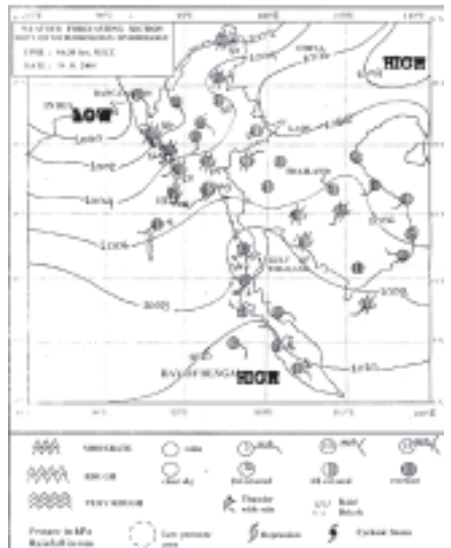
Age (86) years

No. 24, Kanbawza Avenue, Bahan Township, Yangon, beloved husband of Daw Kyi Kyi Thar, beloved father of (U Kyi Soe), (U Pyi Soe) and Daw Myint Myint (BEPS-No 3 Bahan), U Aung Thant and Daw Khin Myo Kyi, U Maung Maung, passed away at 12:15 pm on 19-8-2004. Funeral cortege will leave the Yeway Mortuary for Yeway Cemetery at 10:00 am on 21-8-2004 (Saturday) for cremation.

Cars will leave the above residence at 09:00 am.

Bereaved Family

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Area



WEATHER

Thursday, 19 August 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain has been scattered in Chin, Shan and Kayah States, upper Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfalls in Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Pyapon 4.45 inches and Hmawbi 3.54 inches.

Maximum temperature on 18-8-2004 was 81°F. Minimum temperature on 19-8-2004 was 67°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 19-8-2004 was 100%. Total sunshine hours on 18-8-2004 was nil. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 10 mph from South-west at 13:45 hours MST on 18-8-2004.

Bay inference: Monsoon is generally strong in the Bay of Bengal. Forecast valid until evening of 20-8-2004: Rain will be scattered in Kayah, Shan and Chin States, lower Sagaing, Magway and Mandalay Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Kachin State, upper Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Yangon Divisions. 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. Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of decrease of rain in Northern Myanmar areas. Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 20-8-2004: Some rain. Degree of certainty is (100%). Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 20-8-2004: Isolated rain. Degree of certainty is 80%.

Flood Bulletin

(Issued at 13:00 hrs MST on 19-8-2004)

The water level of Sittoung River at Madauk is 132cm (about 4-ft) above the danger level. Though the water level is falling steadily, it may remain above the danger level during the next five days commencing noon today.

The water level of Shwegyin River at Shwegyin is 15cm (about half-ft) above the danger level. The water level may fall below the danger level during the next 24 hours commencing noon today.



Friday, August 20
View on today:

- 7:00 am 1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Ottamathara
- 7:25 am 2. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am 3. Morning news
- 7:40 am 4. Nice and sweet song
- 7:50 am 5. ရိုးရာကျေးလက်ကဏ္ဍစဉ်း
- 8:00 am 6. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:10 am 7. The mirror images Musical Oldies

8:20 am 8. နဂါးရေလှောင်တစ်

8:30 am 9. International news

8:45 am 10. English for Everyday Use

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. အစေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ် ပညာရေး

ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ
-ပထမနှစ် (သိပ္ပံအထူးပြုအားလုံး)
(စာတုစေ)

5:15 pm 6. Song of national races

5:30 pm 7. နည်းစနစ်မှန်မှန်အားတစား အခြေခံ

5:40 pm 8. "ဗေဒလိုတော့မဖြစ်ဘူး"

ထွန်းထွန်းဝင်း၊ နေအောင်၊
စောနိုင် (ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားအောင်၊
မြန်မာ့နိုင်ငံသားသင်ယူလို့၊
ဇွန်ပွင့်
(ခါရိုက်တာ-စင်စရင်မောင်မောင်)

6:00 pm 9. မြန်မာစာပြန်မာစာကား

6:10 pm 10. Musical programme

6:25 pm 11. Discovery

6:30 pm 12. Evening news

7:00 pm 13. Weather report

7:05 pm 14. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတင်လမ်းတွဲ

"လူနွဲ့နွဲ့လူကောင်း" (အပိုင်း-၄)

7:35 pm 15. Song of yesteryears

8:00 pm 16. News

17. International news

18. Weather report

19. Myanmar video feature:

"သမုဒ္ဒရာနှင့်တူသောအချင်း"

(အပိုင်း-၂)

ဓမ္မ၊ ဖြိုးစွန်း၊ နန္ဒာလှိုင်၊

ခါရိုက်တာ-ကိုဇော် (အရတီဦး)

20. The next day's programme



SWRR Minister Maj-Gen Sein Htwa inspects six TE fire engines to be sent to YeU, KhinU, Mindat, Waingmaw, Tanai and Kyaikto Townships.— FSD

Minister inspects fire engines

YANGON, 19 Aug— Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa inspected TE fire engines innovated by engineers of the Fire Services Department, this morning at the department (Head Office).

Among the six fire engines, two are for YeU and

KhinU Townships in Sagaing Division, one for Mindat Township in Chin State, two for Waingmaw and Tanai Townships in Kachin State and one for Kyaikhtiyo (Kinmon Sakhan) in Kyaikto Township, Mon State.

The minister instructed the officials to send the fire

engines to respective regions as soon as possible.

Present on the occasion were Officer on Special Duty of the ministry Brig-Gen Thura Sein Thuang, the director-general and officials of the department and representatives from respective townships.

MNA

SOM for preparing Summit of CLMV held

YANGON, 19 Aug — The First Senior Officials' Meeting in Preparation for the Summit meeting of the Heads of Government of Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Vietnam

(CLMV) was held at the Hotel Nikko here yesterday. The meeting was attended by representatives from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam. Director-General U Thuang Tun of the Political Depart-

ment of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs presided over the meeting.

The representatives discussed the draft joint declaration to be released at the Vientiane Summit Meeting to be attended by the Prime Ministers of Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam.

The Joint Declaration will include strategy to expedite the process of the implementation of Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) and to set up an economic cooperation framework for the CLMV countries with a view to achieving prosperity in the sub-region through enhanced solidarity, mutual respect, closer friendship and active cooperation among the four countries. The CLMV Summit will be held in Vientiane, Lao PDR, in November this year.

MNA



Managing Director Maj-Gen Win Hlaing (Retd) addresses opening of 17th Gems and Jade Sales 2004 of UMEHL.— MNA

Merchants purchase gem, jade lots through bargain

YANGON, 19 Aug — The 17th Gem and Jade Sale for the year 2004 of the Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings Ltd was launched today at the Myanmar Gems Mart on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road here. A total of 307 gem and jade lots — 230 gem lots and 77 jade lots — were purchased by the gem merchants through bargain and auction system till 5 pm. The sale continued in the evening.

Managing Director of UMEH Ltd Maj-Gen Win Hlaing (Retd) opened the sale ceremony this morning and a total of 899 gem merchants at home and abroad attended it. Gem and jade lots were displayed from 16 August to yesterday. — MNA

More US troops implicated in Abu Ghraib abuse

WASHINGTON, 19 Aug — A new US Army report implicates 20 or more intelligence troops in the Abu Ghraib Prison scandal, defence officials said on Wednesday.

The investigation report, expected to be sent to Congress next week, recommends discipline against the military intelligence troops ranging from administrative reduction in rank and loss of pay to further investigation that could lead to military trials, one of the officials told Reuters.

The officials, who asked not to be identified, gave no further details, but said most of the troops implicated in the intelligence probe, launched by Army Major-General George Fay in April, were from the US 205th Military Intelligence Brigade that was assigned to Abu Ghraib when the abuses occurred.

"I think it will find that military police weren't the only ones doing anything wrong," said one defence official of the Abu Ghraib abuse and sexual humiliation of Iraqi prisoners which sparked fury in the Arab world and international condemnation.

(See page 2)

Third SOM of Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy commences

YANGON, 19 Aug — The Third Senior Officials' Meeting of the Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS) was held at Hotel Nikko, here, today.

Present on the occasion were representatives from Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Thailand and Vietnam. Director-General U Thuang Tun of the Political Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs presided over the meeting.

The meeting reviewed the progress of the ACMECS Plan of Action. The meeting noted with satisfaction that the bilateral

cooperation programmes between Thailand and Cambodia, Thailand and Lao PDR and Thailand and Myanmar have already been set in motion.

The meeting urged the member countries to take necessary measures for the early implementation of the common projects as well as bilateral initiatives which needs urgent action so as to meet the 2005 deadline.

The meeting considered common and bilateral cooperation programmes set forth under the Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy which covers cooperation in five areas namely Trade and Investment Facilitation,

Agriculture and Industrial Cooperation, Transport Linkages, Tourism and HRD.

The Senior Officials' Meeting was held in follow up implementation of the Action Plan envisioned in the Bagan Declaration.

MNA

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Perspectives

To strive for further development of live-stock breeding sector (Page — 2)

Article

Those who daren't show their face — 58 (Page — 10)