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Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt views shirts manufactured at Asian Garment Factory in Yangon Industrial Zone.—MNA

## PM attends opening of new school buildings

YANGON, 22 Aug — Myanmar Education Committee Chairman Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt this morning attended the opening ceremonies of the new school buildings of No 3 Post-Primary School, Mingaladon Township, Pre-Primary School of the Yangon Industrial Zone and No 38 Basic Education Primary School.

Chairman of Yangon

Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, the ministers, the Yangon City Mayor, the deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental officials, members of social organizations, headmasters and teachers also attended the ceremonies.

First, the new school building for No 3 Post-Pri-

mary School donated by the Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development was formally opened at 9 am by Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Deputy Minister for Construction Brig-Gen Myint Thein and Deputy Minister for Education U Myo Nyunt.

Next, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party inspected the new school building and classrooms.

Afterwards, General Khin Nyunt and party went to Pre-Primary School of the Yangon Industrial Zone in Mingaladon Township to attend the opening ceremony of it.

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Brig-Gen Myint Thein and Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint and Chairman of Zaykabar Co Lt Dr Khin Shwe inaugurated the school. Next, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party inspected it.

Afterwards, they proceeded to No 38 BEPS in Mingaladon Township. Commander Maj-Gen

### Four political objectives

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

### Four economic objectives

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

### Four social objectives

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

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Myint Swe, Deputy Minister for Construction Brig-Gen Myint Thein and Deputy Minister for Education U Myo Nyunt formally opened the school.

Next, a ceremony to hand over the new school buildings was followed in conjunction with cash donation ceremony at No 38 BEPS. First, Director-General of Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development Col Aung Win explained matters on the new school buildings.

(See page 8)



The newly-opened Pre-Primary School in Yangon Industrial Zone in Mingaladon Township.—MNA

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

## PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 23 August, 2004

### Towards agricultural development

Thanks to the united efforts of the State, the people and the Tatmadaw for realizing the goal of emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation, one can witness today that good foundations have emerged in all sectors.

These efforts have been made on self-reliance basis after enlisting the strength of intellectuals and intelligentsia at home.

One of the fruitful results achieved in the country is rapid development in the agriculture sector.

Myanmar being an agro-based nation is striving for development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well.

As regards raising the socio-economic life of people through the agriculture sector, Patron of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe said at the concluding ceremony of Myanmar and International Studies Course No 6 and Special Refresher Course No 7 of USDA that the Government built 162 dams and 265 water pumping stations and is building 28 more dams and 30 new water pumping stations, that the facilities will produce good results for the nation both at present and in the future, that thanks to the facilities, crop patterns have changed in the fields countable in acres in the million, and the way has been paved for double or triple cropping a year at the same plot and that there will create more job opportunities along with better economic life of the people since there has been a dramatic surge in harvesting, storage, transport, milling and distribution of paddy and other crops produced.

Nowadays, efforts are being made to boost per acre yield of the ten major crops namely paddy, long staple cotton, sugarcane, mung, green gram, pigeon pea, groundnuts, sesame, sunflower and maize. To meet the targets set for the ten crops, plans suitable to the respective states, divisions and townships are to be laid down and implemented.

As the State has been trying its best to supply water for agricultural purpose, farmers are now having opportunities to grow double or mixed crops and their living standard becomes high.

At such a time, departmental officials and farmers are urged to effectively use the good opportunities created by the State for the agricultural development of their own regions.

### Mid-Year Gem Empo in Oct

YANGON, 22 Aug—The Mid-Year Myanmar Gems Emporium will be held in October 2004. Those wishing to participate in it may contact the Myanmar Gems Enterprise from 1 August to 30 September 2004 to have their gems tested and the floor prices fixed. The MGE has been making arrangement in cooperation with respective enterprises and departments for sales and export of gems of entrepreneurs in accordance with GTC Systems in the interests of the State and gems entrepreneurs.—MNA

### All this needs to be known

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

### 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

### Union National Races Village to be place of public...

(from page 16)

ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and heads of department, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt at 4.30 pm arrived at the national races village where they were welcomed by Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt, Deputy Ministers Brig-Gen Than Tun and Col Tin Ngwe, departmental heads and officials. At the briefing hall, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt heard a report presented by Minister Col Thein Nyunt on extended growing of various kinds of mangrove, growing of mangrove species such as Madama (*Ceriops decandra*), Madama (*Ceriops tagal*), Byuokehsaung (*Byuguiera gymnorhiza*), Hnanbyu (*Bruguiera pyrifolia*), Byuwa Kyatelein (*Bruguiera cylindra*), Byu Shwewa (*Bruguiera sexangular*), Byuchedauk (*Rhizophora mucronata*), Byu Utalone (*Rhizophora apiculata*) and Byubaingdaung (*Kandelia candel*) obtained from Rakhine Coast, measures to be taken for construction of reliefs such as Keinnayi Keinnaya statues, Ngewdaung Dam, Phasi, Aukchin (Indian pied hornbill), Mingun Bell, Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine), large bowl, Kyaingtaung waterfall, Shan open-end drum with a long body and others which mark regional symbols of the respective na-

tional races, display of traditional houses depicting the living style and traits of the national races, utensils and musical instruments, extended cultivation of tress and flowery plants, and designing of the archway of the national races village to depict Union solidarity and strong nationalistic fervour.

In response to the report he gave instructions. He said that arrangements are to be made for the national races village to become a pleasant and beautiful place where people can enjoy pleasure. He also said efforts are to be made for strengthening national solidarity spirit and the Union Spirit after enjoying traditional culture, customs and arts of national races. He said the village must reflect unitedly living of the national races born in the Union and consolidation of national solidarity.

The Prime Minister suggested that decorations of game of Chinlon (caneball), a Myanmar traditional sport which reflect mutual assistance among Myanmar people and unity are to be taken. He said arrangements are to be made to display the existence of topographical conditions, flowers, forests in Myanmar and conservation of environment of Myanmar people.

Next, the Prime Minister inspected construction projects at the village and left there. — MNA

### PM and wife offer Waso robes\*

(from page 16)

Next, the Vice-Chairman Sayadaw delivered a sermon, and the Prime Minister and party shared merits gained. After the ceremony, the commander accepted cash donations to the trust fund of the monastery—K 500,000 donated by Thiri Thudhamma Manijotadhara Thiha Thudhamma Manijotadhara U Kyaw Min and family; K 1 million by Dr Win Myint-Daw Khaing Khaing Oo; K 1 million by U Maung Maung (Asia Express Co Ltd); K 500,000 by U Myo Swe Thein-Daw May Win Aung (Mandalay); K 500,000 by U Aung Ba Saw-Daw Tin Tin Mya (Kyaukpau); K 650,000 by mother Daw Aye Than, Maj Soe Mya-Daw Nu Shwe Wah; K 150,000 by U Tin Tun-

Daw Tin Tin Aye; K 300,000 by U Hla Htay Naing-Daw Nyo Nyo Thin; and K 300,000 by U Hton Chan Tha, U Kyaw Aung and Ma Phyu Phyu. Later, certificates of honour were presented to the wellwishers.— MNA

### Efficient use of electricity at ministries ...

(from page 16)

Officials of respective ministries reported on efficient use of electricity.

Speaking on the occasion, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win said that consumption of power is being inspected weekly at ministry-wise. So, the ministries are to supervise efficient use of electricity. Tasks are to be carried out with the help of natural light. As a result of efficient use, power can be supplied round the clock to 29 townships out of 31 in Yangon City at present. In the past, only eight townships got electricity round the clock. Therefore, efficient use of electricity is to be practised systematically.

Next, he attended to their needs. Later, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win saw over supply and power consumption in townships of Yangon City by ear.

MNA

### Wellwishers invited for sinking tube-wells

YANGON, 22 Aug—The Development Affairs Committees under the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs are making concerted efforts in sinking tube-wells in order to get sufficient fresh water in rural areas in States and Divisions where water is scarce.

One 200 feet deep two-inch diameter tube-well costs K 250,000; one 400 feet deep two-inch diameter tube-well costs K 500,000; and one 200 feet deep four-inch diameter tube-well costs K 500,000. Those wishing to donate cash for the tube-well sinking projects may contact the Department. — MNA



**SNOOKER C'SHIP ENDS:** The prize-distribution ceremony of the Rave Myanmar Snooker (Sr-Jr) Championships jointly sponsored by the Myanmar Billiard Federation and Sein Wut Hmon Co was held at Sein Hnint Mya hall of Asia Plaza Hotel in Yangon on 22 August. Myanmar Olympic Committee General Secretary Director-General of Sports and Physical Education Department U Thauing Htaik presents the first prize to Khun Zar Htwe (Shan State) at the ceremony. — NLM



## Roadside bomb kills two US soldiers in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 21 Aug — Two US soldiers were killed and three injured by a roadside bomb near the Iraqi city of Samarra, some 100 km (60 miles) north of Baghdad, a spokesman for the US Army First Infantry division said on Saturday.

The spokesman said the attack took place at 5:55 pm (1355 GMT) on Friday during a military patrol. He said the condition of the three wounded soldiers was unknown.

The attack brought to 710 the number of US servicemen and women killed in action in Iraq since the US-led invasion last year. — *Internet*

## Guerillas bomb oil pipeline in Iraq

BASRA, 21 Aug — Insurgents bombed Saturday an oil pipeline in southern Iraq that had not been in use for several days, setting it ablaze, security forces in the area said.

That attack took place at Berjisiya, 20 miles southwest of the southern city of Basra, said Lt Mohammed al-Mousawi of the Iraqi National Guard.

The pipeline, which connects the Rumeila oilfields with export storage tanks in the Faw peninsula, had been shut down for a week due to threats from insurgents, and

it was unclear what effect the bombing would have on exports.

"The aim behind attack is to damage the pipeline in case it is turned on again," al-Mousawi said.

The bomb exploded near a pipeline valve, he said. National Guard troops discovered and defused a second bomb nearby, he said.

Insurgents have repeatedly sabotaged Iraq's crucial oil industry, its main source of income, in an effort to hamper reconstruction efforts here. The threats to the oil infrastructure have increased in recent weeks amid a violent uprising by Shiite militants in southern Iraq, where much of the oil industry is located.

*Internet*

## US AC-130 gunships pound Najaf

NAJAF, 21 Aug — Eyewitnesses in Najaf are reporting that explosions have rocked the old section of the city, as US AC-130 gunships strike at al-Mahdi Army defences.

There were no immediate figures on casualties in the attack early on Sunday morning.

The attacks may signal that US occupation forces are readying for a fresh assault on al-Mahdi Army positions as negotiations between Moqtada al-Sadr aides and those representing Grand Ayat Allah Ali al-Sistani over control of the Imam Ali mosque are bogged down.

According to an Iraqi journalist based in Najaf, sporadic clashes between US occupation troops and Mahdi Army militia broke out several times on Saturday evening.

"The Mahdi Army is vowing to protect

the sanctity of the holy shrines even if the keys are handed over to Shia religious authorities," Husayn al-Haidari told Aljazeera in a telephone interview.

Aljazeera learned that a rapid deployment police station north of the city of Najaf on Saturday came under rocket-propelled grenade attack.

Flames were seen rising from the station, Aljazeera reported.

Clashes between al-Sadr's militia and US-led occupation forces also continued for a second day in the southern city of Kufa, leaving at least one dead and a dozen wounded, including civilians. — *Internet*



A US Army soldier breaks a window while searching vehicles on a raid in Najaf, Iraq, on 20 Aug, 2004. — *INTERNET*

## US airstrikes spread fear in Najaf

NAJAF, 21 Aug — US warplanes struck with such ferocity against radical Shi'ite militia in Najaf overnight that even the homing pigeons did not return afterwards to Iraq's holy city.

"I had 50 pigeons on the roof. It took me so long to train them. It is a family tradition started by my grandfather," said Mahmoud Ali, 17. "There was so much pounding that they flew away. They are all gone."

US AC-130 gunships, armed with one howitzer, one 40 mm gun, and one rotating 25 mm high-speed cannon that can fire 1,800 rounds per minute, sent up orange flashes as they fired through the night.

Houses shook 2.5 miles away from the strike zone.

"There was no way to sleep. Bang, bang all night," said Aziz Hassan, 40. "Many stores are closed. I am living on bread."

Residents of the fragile houses of the Old City hid in basements. Fearing the

worst, some had escaped to safer areas after firebrand cleric Moqtada al-Sadr ignored government demands to lay down his arms and disband his Mehdi Army militia.

The government has yet to carry out a threat to launch a major offensive to drive him and his men out of the sacred Imam Ali shrine where they are holed up.

Iraqis in Najaf, a holy place for millions of Shiites around the world, are bracing for another possible night of the thud of howitzers and use of the awesome firepower of the AC-130.

"My daughters cried all night. I told them it was nothing but they just kept cry-

ing," said Nasser Zichawi, 23, holding his three-year-old as nervous neighbours stood in the shadow of doorways. Many women and children have already left the Old City but the men have stayed behind to protect houses from thieves who thrive in the chaos of fighting.

If the intention of the onslaught was to break the will of Mehdi Army fighters, it had the opposite effect on a middle-aged fighter who had just come back from the front to search for his children.

"Yes I am from the Mehdi Army. I will fight. I will fight. I will kill," said Abu Seif Kathim, 42, a father of six.

*MNA/Reuters*

## SARAS takes off on its inaugural flight on Sunday

NEW DELHI, 21 Aug — Aviation history will be created in India on Sunday when the first indigenous civil aircraft, SARAS, will take to the skies.

SARAS, a 14-seater light transport aircraft with rear mounted twin turboprop engines, has been designed and developed by National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL), Bangalore.

The aircraft, on its inaugural flight, would be piloted by Squadron Leader K K Venugopal and Wing Commander R S Makker as co-pilot who belong to the Aircraft and Systems Testing Establishment of the Indian Air Force, official sources said here.

The IAF has already issued a Letter of Interest for procuring six SARAS aircraft for training, troop transport, executive and casualty evacuation roles, they said, adding, a detailed project report would be shortly submitted to the IAF headquarters.

*MNA/PTI*

## India says Asia, Africa need to define new multilateralism

DURBAN, 21 Aug — Advocating a new strategic partnership between Africa and Asia, India on Friday highlighted the importance for the two continents to shape a multilateral order and jointly resolve to eliminate poverty, hunger, illiteracy and disease.

"We need to define a new multilateralism, one that is not hierarchical. We have to shape the multilateral order, not merely accept it as it is...we do not have the luxury of time to wait for the world to change. We have to change it ourselves," Junior Minister for External Affairs Rao Inderjit Singh stressed.

Addressing the ministerial meeting of the Asian-

African sub-regional organizations, he said "all of us in Africa and Asia, some four billion people and over 80 countries, cannot say that we are being marginalized in the globalization process. Instead we ought to be defining it".

He said when the leaders meet at Bandung next year, a concise set of principles and a concrete plan of action should be evolved.

The minister suggested setting up a comprehensive database with two major sectors: one that lists projects and programmes in Africa and Asia for which financial and other support is required and the other comprised projects and programmes for which financial and other support was being offered or was available.

He said the Asian Development Bank and the Afri-

can Development Bank could evolve a mechanism to work together for the joint identification and funding of projects.

Singh said over the 50 years since the Bandung Conference in 1955, much has happened with the common struggle against colonialism, imperialism and racial oppression having succeeded.

*MNA/PTI*

# Iraq car bombing kills Polish soldier

**WARSAW (POLAND), 21 Aug—**A Polish soldier was killed and six more were injured in central Iraq on Saturday when a car bomb exploded as a military convoy passed by, military officials said.

The death brought to 10 the number of Polish soldiers killed so far in Iraq, where Poland commands a multinational security force.

The explosives-laden Chevrolet was detonated by radio as a coalition supply convoy, escorted by seven Polish military vehicles, was passing by, said Col. Zdzislaw Gnatowski, a spokesperson for the Polish army chief of staff in Warsaw.

The attack happened at 11.50 am local time, about six kilometres northeast of the city of Hillah, said Lt-Col Artur Domanski, a spokesperson for the

Polish-led force in Iraq.

The convoy of more than 10 trucks also came under machine-gun fire, Domanski said in a statement. Polish troops returned fire, killing some of the assailants.

The six injured soldiers

were taken to hospitals in Karbala and Baghdad. Gnatowski said they were in stable condition.

Poland sent combat troops to fight in the US-led invasion of Iraq and now commands the multinational force of some

6,200 troops in south-central Iraq, including 2,400 of its own.

Saturday's attack came two days after two Polish soldiers were killed when their cars crashed as they tried to escape an ambush in Hillah. — INTERNET

## French reporters vanish in Iraq

**BAGHDAD, 22 Aug—**Two veteran French journalists have gone missing in Iraq as concern mounts over the fate of an Italian reporter.

George Malbrunot of *Le Figaro* newspaper and Christian Chesnot of French radio have not been heard of since Thursday, the French foreign ministry said.

The two men have often worked together and published

a book on Iraq last year.

An interpreter working for missing Italian reporter Enzo Baldoni has been found dead, raising fears that the journalist has been kidnapped.

The editor-in-chief of

Mr Baldoni's magazine, *Diario*, said the interpreter's body was found near Najaf, where militants have been battling US-led forces for weeks. The last contact with Mr Baldoni had been on Thursday.

"One increasingly fears a kidnapping," Enrico Deaglio told Italian news agency *Ansa*.

A fourth Western journalist, French-American Micah Garen, is being held hostage along with his interpreter, but a threat to kill him has reportedly been lifted. An aide to Shia cleric Moqtada Sadr, who has been attempting to secure the reporter's release, said on Saturday that the two men could be released within days.

The French foreign ministry said on Saturday that its embassy in Baghdad had been "completely mobilised" but no trace of the two French reporters had been found since Thursday evening. A joint statement by *Le Figaro* and *Radio France Internationale* said the two news organizations were "concerned about their correspondents... both on assignment in Iraq". — INTERNET

## S Korea, US end troop cut talks

**SEOUL, 21 Aug —**South Korea and the United States closed a round of defence talks in Seoul on Friday aimed at scheduling a reduction of US troops on the Korean Peninsula without agreeing on the timeline of the realignment.

South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun said the defence posture in the country would continue for some time but its air defence power needed to be strengthened.

The United States has proposed to cut its 37,500 troops now deployed in the Korean Peninsula by a third by the end of 2005, but Seoul, concerned about a reduction in deterrence against Communist North Korea, has asked for a delay in the schedule.

"We have reached consensus that there is a need to extend the timeline," South Korea's Deputy Minister of Defence Richard Lawless said in a news conference after the talks.

"But we decided to continue discussions on the timeline of reduction of individual forces that are subject to the reduction."

US Deputy Undersecretary of Defence Richard Lawless said a brigade of 3,600 US troops redeployed

in Iraq this month would be part of the reduction.

"And beyond that, we have not reached agreement on either the full scope of the timeline or the composition of the other forces to be redeployed from the peninsula," he said.

South Korea's position would be considered in future talks, Lawless said.

The troop reduction is part of a global force realignment by the United States announced this week that would involve up to 70,000 troops from Europe and Asia within a decade.

Ahn repeated the position stated by both governments, that no reduction of deterrence against North Korea would result from the

troop realignment.

The United States has an 11-billion-US-dollar plan to boost military capabilities on the Korean Peninsula, which would also see units utilize technology to improve mobility and firepower.

Roh said South Korea's military dependence on the United States itself need not be a serious problem for now.

"The US military in Korea would continue to have the current posture for some time," he said at a South Korean airbase on Friday without specifying the time period.

"But over the long term, our force capabilities must be strengthened, including Air Force capabilities," he said. — MNA/Reuters

## Cleric says Najaf crisis cannot be solved by violence

**BEIRUT, 21 Aug—**Lebanon's top Shiite Muslim cleric urged a peaceful end on Friday to the crisis in Najaf, warning that a US assault to crush rebels in the Iraqi holy city risked destabilizing the whole country.

"The fact that the American forces and their allies can assault noble Najaf, and Muslims, is a serious crime," Grand Ayatollah Mohammad Hussein Fadlallah said in his Friday sermon.

"We urge that the Najaf issue be solved by peaceful means because the method this government is using will have serious, negative consequences for the Iraqi situation on more than one level," he said.

US Marines are fighting Shiite rebels holed up in the central city of Najaf, home to the Imam Ali Mosque, one of Shiite Islam's most revered shrines. US warplanes pounded the rebels on Friday after their leader, radical cleric Moqtada al-Sadr, rejected a final order from Iraq's Prime Minister to disarm and leave. Fadlallah, who is widely respected among Shiites the world over, stopped short of backing Sadr, but warned that the onus was on US troops to leave Iraq or risk a spreading conflict.

"The continued occupation of Iraq, even under Iraqi cover, will cause security tremors to spread in their different internal and external forms," Fadlallah said.

MNA/Reuters

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*Pakistani protesters burn US flags in Karachi, Pakistan, to condemn US operations in the holy city of Najaf, Iraq on 20 Aug, 2004. Pakistan's President called on the United States to avoid civilian casualties and protect sacred Islamic sites in the Iraqi city of Najaf. — INTERNET*

## China's social transition draws world's interest

**SHANGHAI, 22 Aug —**China's successful social transition experience is drawing wide attention of experts at the first World Forum on China Studies in Shanghai, where it is seen as inspiring to many other countries.

Social transition theory originally came from Western countries, said Lu Hanlong of the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences.

The change of economic modes and the consequential social transition in China's society since the 1980s, however, have produced a new model for China's developing peers, Lu said. Lu said that after living in a state-controlled ideology for a long time, China's society experienced a structural change when introducing the market economic system.

Manufacturers benefit from market trade when the government exerts smaller influence in certain fields, Lu said, stressing that "China's social transition cannot be explained by the traditional Western theory". Many experts believe that China's experience in political, economic and social transition have already formed a unique "China mode". Professor Lawrence J Lau, president of the Chinese University of Hong Kong, said China's policy from the late 1970s to the early 1990s made as many people as possible benefit from reform and opening up, guaranteeing social stability and steady economic growth. — MNA/Xinhua

## Nigeria braced for locusts, officials not alarmed

**LAGOS, 21 Aug —**Nigeria has seen small numbers of locusts in some northern areas, but authorities in Africa's most populous country said they had already stocked up on pesticides to prevent them damaging a bumper crop expected this year.

Massive swarms of desert locusts have already ravaged plants in Mauritania, Mali and Niger, and could be heading to Sudan's Darfur region, but Nigeria is unlikely to suffer severely from the plague.

"They are in about four local government areas, but the situation is not that alarming," said Ahmad Muhammadu Maccido,

agriculture commissioner of the northwestern Sokoto State.

"We have received reports that a large number of locusts would head our way very soon and we are prepared to deal with the situation. We have purchased pesticides to control the situation and there is nothing to worry about at the moment."

Locusts traditionally scourge the vast deserts of the Sahara and Sahel, often moving eastwards towards Arabia, but rarely enter Nigeria in serious numbers. A large swarm can devour a field of crops overnight and cause famine in areas without access to pesticides. — MNA/Reuters



*US Army tanks guard a main street on the edge of Najaf's old town, on 20 Aug, 2004.*

INTERNET



## Loud blasts heard in Iraq's Najaf

**NAJAF, 21 Aug—** Around four loud explosions echoed across the holy Iraqi city of Najaf early on Saturday, though their cause was not immediately clear, *Reuters* witnesses reported.

The explosions followed a relatively quiet night in Najaf, the southern city where a radical Shi'ite uprising has raged for more than two weeks.

The blasts followed a day of confusion in Najaf after the interim government said police had seized the Imam Ali mosque from militia loyal to firebrand cleric Moqtada al-Sadr.

The militia denied the claim and witnesses said late on Friday that Sadr's Mehdi Army still controlled the mosque, Iraq's holiest Shiite Muslim shrine.

The guerillas' continued control of the mosque and the streets around it, in face of mounting pressure from surrounding US and Iraqi Government forces, poses the greatest challenge to

Iraq's interim government since it took over from US occupiers at the end of June.

A Sadr aide said on Friday that talks were underway to hand control of the mosque to Iraq's most influential Shi'ite cleric, Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, but this would be only a symbolic concession unless the militiamen left the shrine.

*MNA/Reuters*



US troops arrive an area following clashes with members of the Shi'ite militia of al-Mehdi army in southeast Baghdad's suburb of Kamaliya, on 20 Aug, 2004. — INTERNET

## Najaf fighting kills 77 Iraqis in 24 hours

**BAGHDAD, 21 Aug—** At least 77 Iraqis have been killed and 70 wounded in fighting in the holy city of Najaf over the past 24 hours, Iraq's Health Ministry said on Friday.

The Ministry said 13 Iraqis were killed and 107 others wounded in Baghdad and one killed and another wounded in Basra in the same period.

It said all the casualties were from fighting pitting Shi'ite militiamen loyal to firebrand cleric Moqtada al-Sadr against US and government forces.

Six of those killed in Najaf were police who died in a mortar attack, it said.

*MNA/Reuters*

## Thai troops to pull out from Iraq

**BANGKOK, 21 Aug—** All Thai troops in Iraq will next Friday pull out of the country and head to Kuwait, the spokesman for Thai Defence Ministry said here on Friday afternoon.

Having withdrawn from the Lima Camp in Karbala, the Thai troops of some 420 soldiers will stay at the Virginia Camp in Kuwait, the spokesman Palanggoon Glaharn told reporters.

The troops will stay in Kuwait until the United States military transport them back to Thailand on September 20, when their 6-month mission officially ends, said Palanggoon.

Thailand in March has sent the second batch of 443 soldiers to the southern Iraqi city of Karbala to fulfil its commitment of one-year non-military mission in post-war Iraq.

Amid domestic opposition and despite deteriorating security situation in Iraq, the Thai Government insisted all Thai troops would pull out of Iraq in September as planned.

Palanggoon denied the plan to pulling out of Iraq next week was an earlier withdrawal, saying that "they have completed their mission there as planned."

A first group of 20 soldiers have moved out to Kuwait in early August to make preparation for the arrival of all the Thai troops.

Two Thai soldiers were killed in Iraq when the camp they were stationed came under bomb attacks in last December. — *MNA/Xinhua*



US Army soldiers take cover in a fortified position in Najaf, Iraq on 20 Aug, 2004. — INTERNET

## Group says seizes 12 Nepalis in Iraq

**DUBAI, 21 Aug—** An Islamist group has seized 12 Nepali workers because of their cooperation with US forces in Iraq, a statement issued on the Internet said on Friday.

"On August 19-20 we were able to take 12 people from a Nepali company prisoners," a statement purportedly from the Army of the Ansar al-Sunna group said. It listed the names of the 12 men.

The authenticity of the statement could not be verified.

"We shall show their pictures soon so that they will be a lesson to others," said the statement, posted on Friday on a web site often used in recent months by

groups fighting US-led forces in Iraq.

It said the Nepalese firm was operating in Iraq through a Jordanian company, but gave no further details.

The group, which has claimed many attacks since the US-led invasion last year, said in a statement posted on its web site on Wednesday that it had attacked five oil pipelines that feed into Baghdad's Dora refinery on 14 August.

No official link has been made between the group

and the attacks it has claimed.

Militants in Iraq have waged a campaign of kidnapping aimed at driving out individuals, companies and troops supporting US forces and the new Iraqi interim administration.

Scores of hostages have been taken. Some have been released but at least nine have been killed. The US military has said Ansar al-Sunna could be one of a handful of groups carrying out attacks in Iraq. — *MNA/Reuters*

## Blast at police post in Nassiriya, three dead

**NASSIRIYA (Iraq), 21 Aug—** A blast ripped through a police station in the town of Nassiriya in southern Iraq on Friday, killing three police and wounding others, police said.

It was not clear what caused the blast, but a policeman on the scene said it appeared that a rocket hit the building.

Italian troops, who control the Shi'ite city, helped police in cordoning off the station as ambulances ferried casualties to hospitals.

Insurgents have attacked many police stations across Iraq, sometimes using suicide car bombs, killing hundreds.

*MNA/Reuters*

## SAFMA meeting kicks off in Dhaka

**DHAKA, 21 Aug—** About 200 senior journalists from South Asian countries including from India gathered here on Friday seeking to bring the nations closer, with Bangladesh Foreign Minister Morshed Khan asking them to rise above "inhibitions" to make the SAARC grouping "effective".

Participants in the two-day South Asian Fee Media Association (SAFMA) conference include 35 journalists from India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Khan, inaugurating the conference, told them to "rise above racial, religious and cultural inhibitions to turn the seven-nation SAARC into an effective grouping for the overall benefit of region's people".

He said the "optimism"

which the last SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) summit in Islamabad has generated should continue to be channelled to the eventual goal of creating a South Asia free from poverty, hunger, mutual distrust, instability and insecurity.

Journalists have to overcome their "mental barriers often created by states and petty interest groups", he said. — *MNA/PTI*

## Star Air to launch Jakarta-Kuala Lumpur flights

**JAKARTA, 21 Aug—** Indonesian air carrier Star Air plans to open route between Jakarta and Kuala Lumpur in November with only one flight per day, an executive said Friday.

"We plan to begin Jakarta-Kuala Lumpur flight this year to boost our competitiveness in international routes," Star Air public relations manager Nurwulan Handayani was quoted by the *Antara* news agency as saying.

The company will acquire an MD-83 to serve the route that will bring Star Air's total fleet to four MD-83s and Boeing 737-200s manufactured in 1991, she said.

The company will set air fare on the Jakarta-Kuala Lumpur route based on the current market level, between 50 and 100 US dollars per passenger. — *MNA/Xinhua*

*MNA/PTI*

## Central African Republic reaffirms one-China policy

**BEIJING, 21 Aug** — The Central African Republic (CAR) reaffirmed its one-China policy and supports China's reunification cause, according to the Joint Communiqué signed by China and the CAR during CAR President Francois Bozize's visit to China.

The communiqué, signed in Beijing Thursday, says the CAR reaffirms that "there is only one China in the world and the Government of the People's Republic of China is the sole legitimate government representing the whole Chinese people, and Taiwan is an integral part of the Chinese territory." The CAR president began his visit to China Thursday. Chinese President Hu Jintao talked with him for an hour Thursday. Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao met with him Friday.

The two sides said in the communiqué that they are satisfied with the smooth growth of bilateral relations, and decided to strengthen cooperation in political and other areas. They will also enhance consultation on international matters, and work to establish sustainable, stable, and sound relations.

China appreciates and supports the CAR Government in its efforts to maintain domestic social and political stability and to resume economic development. China calls for more international support for the efforts.

China and the CAR would like to further strengthen cooperation in such fields as agriculture, infrastructure and human resources development, and to promote business cooperation between corporations of the two sides. The two sides agreed that peace and development remain the main theme of the times. The international society should strengthen consultation and maintain the diversity of the world.

China and the CAR reaffirmed China-Africa cooperative relations, and expressed their willingness to enhance cooperation within the framework of the China-Africa Cooperation Forum. — MNA/Xinhua

## US hostage calls on US to stop bloodshed in Najaf

**DUBAI, 21 Aug** — A US hostage in Iraq Micah Garen, appearing on a videotape, has called on the United States to stop the bloodshed in the Iraqi city of Najaf, Al Jazeera television said on Friday.

"He said he was asked to send a message to the American people to work to stop what he called 'the Najaf massacre'... he added that is receiving good treatment," the channel said, showing a videotape in which Garen appeared speaking to camera.

Garen said he was in good health, the channel reported. Garen's words could not be heard but he

looked physically well. He said he is being held by a group called the "Martyrs Brigades", the Qatar-based Arab satellite channel said.

Garen, who works for New York-based media production company Four Corners Media, was kidnapped last week in the southern Iraqi city of Nassiriya.

Militiamen allied to Iraqi Shiite cleric Moqtada

al-Sadr have been waging a bloody uprising in Najaf against US forces for nearly two weeks.

A Sadr aide from Nassiriya also called on the kidnappers to release Garen because of his reporting in Iraq. "I call on them to release him... especially since this person is one of those who has told the truth about the barbaric way the occupation forces deal with the Iraqi people," Aws al-Khafaji told Al Jazeera.

Militants in Iraq have waged a campaign of kidnapping aimed at driving out individuals, companies and troops supporting US forces and the new Iraqi interim administration.

Scores of hostages have been taken. Some have been released but nine have been killed.

MNA/Reuters

## China opens cartoon industry to private investors

**NANJING, 21 Aug** — China says that private investors will be encouraged to develop and create cartoon films and TV programmes in the country in the hopes of increasing growth in the industry.

In line with the "Opinions Regarding Development of Animation and Comic Industry for Film and TV Programmes in China," the State Broadcasting and Radio Administration promised that trustworthy, privately-financed cartoon making agencies would be treated equally with state-backed animation and comic production organizations. — MNA/Xinhua



US Army soldiers raid a building in Najaf, Iraq on 20 Aug, 2004. — INTERNET

မြို့ခြံချွေတာ၊ ထိန်းပါးလေလွန်၊ ထုတ်ကုန်မြင့်



US Army soldiers take cover from sniper fire during a raid in Najaf, Iraq on 20 Aug, 2004. — INTERNET

## Sadr aide says Najaf shrine still held by guerillas

**NAJAF (Iraq), 21 Aug** — A top aide to rebel Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr told Reuters in Najaf on Friday reports that Iraqi police had taken control of the city's Imam Ali Mosque were false.

"The shrine is in the control of the Mehdi Army. The Mehdi Army will resist any attempt by the Iraqi police to control the shrine," said Sheikh Ahmad al-Sheibani, a senior commander in Sadr's Mehdi Army militia.

"Procedures are under way to hand over control of the shrine to Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani," he added, referring to Iraq's most influential Shiite cleric.

MNA/Reuters

## Two US Marines killed in Iraq fighting

**BAGHDAD, 21 Aug** — Two US Marines have died in action in separate incidents in a volatile region west of Baghdad, the US military said on Friday.

The military said in a statement a Marine assigned to the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force died of wounds suffered on Wednesday while another Marine was killed in action in al-Anbar Province.

Al-Anbar includes the restive Sunni Muslim cities of Fallujah and Ramadi west of Baghdad.

At least 708 US servicemen have been killed in action since the US-led invasion of Iraq last year. — MNA/Reuters

## Union says BA pay deal imminent, talks continue

**LONDON, 21 Aug** — British Airways Plc and unions are close to agreement on a fresh pay deal for more than 10,000 staff that would avert a planned 24-hour strike next weekend, unions said.

The Transport & General Workers Union (TGWU) said talks may continue into the evening but it was confident a deal would be concluded on Friday.

"The feeling is there is not a huge amount that we need to get through," a TGWU spokeswoman said.

More than 10,000 baggage handlers, check-in staff and other ground crew have threatened to strike on August 27, which would have thrown travel at Britain's airports into chaos at the start of a long holiday weekend.

Unions have rejected the

airline's offer of a 1,000-pound (1,828-US-dollar) bonus for good attendance and an 8.5 per cent pay rise over three years.

Union officials said the success of negotiations hinged on a BA move to not link bonuses with attendance and to take into consideration staff who were forced to take long absences due to genuine illness.

A BA spokeswoman said the airline had stopped taking bookings for the long weekend as a precautionary measure but remained confident of averting the strike.

MNA/Reuters

## Global AIDS Fund says US turns up heat on donors

**GENEVA, 21 Aug** — The Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria urged donors on Friday to pay up what they have pledged by the end of next month or risk seeing the United States cut short its contribution.

The United States, the biggest contributor, has already paid 360 million US dollars this year but announced on Thursday it would not give a further 120 million US dollars it has promised unless other donors also fulfilled their pledges.

Under US law, Washington can only finance one-third of the Geneva-based fund's budget, meaning the size of its contribution is dependent on other countries' donations.

Global Fund spokesman Jon Liden said Italy in particular needed to meet its pledge or the fund risked missing its 2004 fund-raising goal.

On Thursday, Randall Tobias, the US Global AIDS Coordinator, told donors to cough up by September 30 or Washington would withhold further funding. The date was an extension of an earlier July 31 deadline.

The Global Fund, set up in 2002 as the brainchild of UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, has so far committed three billion US dollars to over 300 programmes worldwide.

It funds projects to combat AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis, three infectious diseases that kill nearly six million people each year.

MNA/Reuters



# High-yield Shweyinaye paddy strain — 2

*Yadanasi Sayadaw (Loilem)*



*Commander Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint and party inspect Shweyinaye strain paddy fields in Inlay, Nyaungshwe Township, Shan State (South).*

Crucial for every nation, agriculture has been top priority since the times of ancient monarchs. Kings themselves participated in ploughing ceremonies in honour of peasants and farmers.

A little treatise can be compiled if thorough analysis is conducted in respect of agriculture-related events the Lord Buddha had engaged throughout His whole life. One month into the birth of would-be-Buddha Prince



*Local farmers seen harvesting Shweyinaye strain paddy.*

**SR 456, a new kind of quality paddy strain branded as Shweyinaye paddy strain, has been introduced in the region. Now, local farmers have come to know that the output of the new strain totals at least more than 150 baskets of paddy per acre. The commander, cooperating with agriculturalists, technocrats and service personnel, is now playing a leading role in the drive to ensure local food sufficiency for some two million of population in the region. The news of high-yield Shweyinaye paddy strain is now wafting.**

Siddhattha, His father King Suddhodhana held a royal ploughing ceremony in the month of Nayan leaving Him in the care of attendants at a pavilion erected under a eugenia tree. The Prince was in a state of

deep concentration practising the first jhana by virtue of past existence, while His attendants were out for the royal ploughing ceremony. Owing to His miraculous jhana power, the shadow of the tree did not

sway but cast on Him like an umbrella although the afternoon came. The incident left the attendants in amazement. They then informed the king of it. Upon seeing the power and glory of his son, the king felt delighted so overwhelmingly that he shaped his palms like a lotus bud in reverence and worship to pay homage to his son.

Throughout the years after the attainment of the Buddhahood, the Lord Buddha placed emphasis on agriculture. Knowing that crops would be destroyed if the monks travelled crossing the plantations, He forbade travelling in the rainy season when paddy was cultivated, and urged His disciples to stay in their monasteries during the Lent. Travelling in the Lent without apparent reason would imply the breach of the Vinaya Rules. The Buddha also made the monks wear robes that were in the pattern of paddy fields in Magada District. 'Anottaro ponñakhictan lokasa', meaning 'the monk whose quality is as good as a fertile farmland to cultivate the seeds of virtue', is included in the Nine Attributes of the Sangha.

Moreover, the Buddha called himself peasant (Kasaka in Pali) in the Kasibharadwaja Suttan.

According to the Suttan, the Buddha was staying in Akanala village, where growers lived. One day He met with Kasibharadwaja, a land owner working with many a firm-hand. That morning, the land owner served his firm-hands with breakfast to mark the launch of ploughing season. At that time, the land owner had not been a Buddhist. Seeing the Buddha coming to their village, the land owner without any consideration told the Buddha that he earned his living by

growing paddy on his own, and that he also wanted the Buddha to do the same thing. Judging by what he said to the Buddha, the land owner took the Buddha for common people going round for food, looked down on such persons as human parasites, knew not the distinct glory of the Buddha, and took pride in himself as a grower standing on his own feet.

To him, the Buddha replied, "You are not the only person standing on his own feet; and I, the Buddha, is also that kind of person."

What the Buddha said surprised the land owner to a great degree. In his reply to the Buddha, the land owner asked the Buddha to show harrows and seeds of strain if He was a peasant.

To which, the Buddha replied that His generosity was seeds of strain; His virtues, rain water; His wisdom, harrows and sticks; and His diligence, oxen; in this way, He carried out farm work and sew the seeds; His paddy plants were heavy with grains called Nirvana.

In the end, when the brainy land owner saw the truth in what the Buddha meant, he knelt in homage before the Buddha touching the feet of the Buddha, and praised that the Buddha was the one who really deserved reverence, who was capable of uncovering what was

**Agriculture, in the words of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe in his inspection tour of Ayeyawady Division on 4-6 March 1994, benefits not only the farmers but also the general public. Senior General Than Shwe in his inspection tour of Shan State and Upper Myanmar on 8-15 October 1994, also gave guidance that steps are to be taken effectively to conduct research on quality strain for each crop. Under the guidance of the Head of State, Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint is working hard leaving no stones unturned so as to ensure local food sufficiency.**

hidden, who could direct wanderers to the right path, who held a light in the dark and so on. Later, he professed a belief in the Buddha, the Dhamma and the Sangha. He also asked for permission to enter the Order under the Buddha. The land owner thus rose from the life of grower to the life of Arahat.

Agriculture, in the words of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe in his inspection tour of Ayeyawady Division on 4-6 March 1994, benefits not only the farmers but also the general public. Senior General Than Shwe in his inspection tour of Shan State and Upper Myanmar on 8-15 October 1994, also gave guidance that steps are to be taken effectively to conduct research on quality strain for each crop.

Under the guidance of the Head of State, Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, Shan State Peace and Development Council Chairman and Eastern Command Commander, is working hard leaving no stones unturned so as to ensure local food sufficiency. Now, encouragement has been given to the efforts to put over 600,000 acres of farmland under paddy cultivation in the whole Southern Shan State in 2004-2005.

SR 456, a new kind of quality paddy strain branded as Shweyinaye paddy strain,

has been introduced in the region. Now local farmers have come to know that the output of the new strain totals at least more than 150 baskets of paddy per acre.

With the assistance provided by the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, the commander, cooperating with agriculturalists, technocrats and service personnel, is now playing a leading role in the drive to ensure local food sufficiency for some two million of population in the region. The news of high-yield Shweyinaye paddy strain and its delicious smell is now wafting.

The new strain can guarantee the yield of 150 baskets of paddy per acre if agricultural methods are employed alongside the correctly mixed ratio of organic fertilizers and inorganic fertilizers. In the past, the region produced 50 baskets of paddy at most. But, now the paddy output has tripled per acre. As a result, a farmer who owns one acre of farmland has become the one who owns three acres of farmland. Therefore, it will not be wrong to conclude that the hearts of the farmers will be in delight thanks to the new quality strain called Shweyinaye.

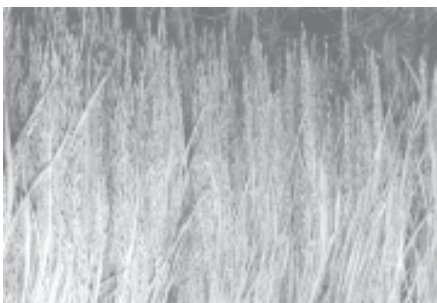
*(To be continued)*

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*(Myanma Alin + Kyemon: 22-8-2004)*

**(Translation: KTY)**

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*Thriving of Shweyinaye strain paddy distributed by the Ruby Dragon Co.*

**အိမ်တိုင်းမှာသစ်ပင် ရွာစဉ်မှာတောတန်း**

**တစ်တောဝင်တစ်တောင်တက်**

**မြို့တက်မယ့်လမ်း။**

## PM attends opening of new school ...

(from page 1)

He said Khayaybin Road was built up to No 3 Highway under the civil and regional project in accord with the guidance of the Head of State. Yangon International Airport Environs Development Project was being implemented by the Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development.

He reported on implementation of Khayaybin Yeikmon Housing Project and Sangyiwa Housing Project with the cooperation of Zaykabar Co and DHSHD. Moreover, the buildings of pre-primary schools and No

worth K 200,000 by Daw San (San Pwint Phyu Curtain); K 100,000 by Daw Aye Aye Mu (Parami Construction) and K 150,000 by U Tin Myint (Motherland). Maj-Gen Myint Swe accepted the donations. Then, for the pre-primary school of Yagon Industrial Zone, Dr Khin Shwe donated K 1.2 million for the teachers as 10-year cash assistance, a telephone worth K 500,000 and a set of TV and VCR and a refrigerator worth K 500,000; Shwepaukan Industrial Zone Management Committee and U Kyaw Win (Shwe Thanlwin) K 500,000 each; U Maung Maung (Shwekaba) and U Maung Maung (Asia Express) K 300,000 each; U Ko Ko Htwe (Taw Win Construction) K



Myanmar Education Committee Chairman Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt views round the classrooms of pre-primary school in Mingaladon Township. — MNA



The newly opened school building of No 3 Post-Primary School in Mingaladon Township. — MNA

38 Basic Education Primary School have been built to upgrade their status.

He also thanked the donors. Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development Deputy Director General U Win Myint presented the documents related to the school building to Director General U Aye Kyu of No 3 Basic Education Department.

Next, cash and kind donated to No 38 BEPS. Donations included K 2.4 million for the teachers as 10-year cash assistance and a telephone worth K 500,000 by Dr Khin Shwe of Zaykaba Co; K 500,000 each by U Yan Win (A1 Garment Factory) U Kyaing Shwe (Wah Wah Win Co) and U Maung Weit (Maung Weit Family Co); K 300,000 each by U Sein Thit (Top Star Construction), U Tint Hsan (ACE Construction) and U Kyaw Naing Oo (Naing Group Construction); curtains

200,000 and Daw Aye Aye Mu (Parami Construction) K 100,000 to Minister Maj-Gen Kyi Aung. Afterwards, cash was donated to No 3 Basic Education Post-primary school including K 300,000 by U Kyaw Naing Oo (Naing Group Construction); K 200,000 each by U Chan Aye (Chan Construction), U Pyay Aung (Pyay Aung Construction), U Kyaw Win (Arthawady Construction), Daw Aye Aye Mu (Parami Construction), U Kyaw Hsan Myint (Collected Triangle Construction), U Tin Thein (Aye Yeik Nyein Construction), U Maung Ngwe (Ngwe Win Aung Construction), U Aye Myint (Sinma Construction) and U Than Myint (Aye Yeik Mon Construction) and U Soe Win Oo; U Saw Lwin and U Cho (Shwe Family) K 100,000 each; and U Tin Myint (Motherland) K 150,000. Minister U Than Aung accepted the donations. On behalf of the school

heads, Headmistress Daw Mu Mu Tint of Mingaladon Township No 3 Basic Education Post-primary School expressed thanks.

In the Myanmar Education Committee Chairman's behalf, Minister U Than Aung expressed thanks, saying that it is a great pleasure that the Prime Minister, the commander, the ministers, the deputy ministers and departmental heads are here to attend the opening ceremonies of basic education schools and pre-primary schools. Nowadays, the government in co-operation with the public is striving its utmost to enhance the national education standard. While carrying out its main tasks, the Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development of the Ministry of Construction emphasizes equal development of infrastructures in education, health and social sectors for the people.

Today, development and upgrading tasks are being undertaken in Mingaladon region, a gate of Yangon City. (See page 9)



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Deputy Minister for Construction Brig-Gen Myint Thein, Deputy Minister for SWRR Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint and Zaygabar U Khin Shwe formally open the new school building of pre-primary school of Yagon Industrial Zone. — MNA



## PM attends opening of ...

(from page 8)

And, arrangements were made to construct buildings for the education sector and to donate cash assistance to teachers and educational staff at the school.

Nowadays, the government is making efforts with might and main for uplift of national education standard. The Myanmar society is being turned into a sustainable learning society. Basic education primary schools, post-primary schools, middle schools and high schools including universities and colleges have been opened with a view to creating opportunities to pursue education.

The government has been joining hands with wellwishers and social organizations to be able to increase enrolment of the school-age children by 96.56 per cent this year. In so doing, wellwishers donated over K 800 million for spending it on enrolment of school-age children. Nowadays, there are 93.3 per cent of literate population in the country. So, the literacy rate of our country stands in the top position of Asia. It is the result of harmonious efforts of the entire nationals. The education sector is being enhanced in the entire nation including hilly and plain regions, rural and urban regions. Later, he thanked the DHSHD and wellwishers for the donations.



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects a classroom of Mingaladon BEPS-38.—MNA



The newly opened Basic Education Primary School No 38 in Mingaladon Township. — MNA

Next, the Prime Minister and party inspected classrooms and the new school building of BEPS No 38.

After the ceremony, the Prime Minister and party inspected Asian Garment Factory in Yangon Industrial Zone. The Prime Minister and party viewed products of the factory.— MNA

**Nowadays, the government is making efforts with might and main for uplift of national education standard.**

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Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Deputy Minister for Construction Brig-Gen Myint Thein and Deputy Minister for Education U Myo Nyunt formally open building of Basic Education Primary School No 38 in Mingaladon Township. — MNA

# Tatmadaw families, wellwishers donate cash and kind to monasteries, nunneries

YANGON, 22 Aug — Families of the Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) and wellwishers donated rice, edible oil, salt, medicines, and beans and pulses to three Pariyatti Monasteries in Pabedan and Seikkan townships, and Thananta Dhamma Palaka (Hindu) Organization in Pabedan township, Yangon North District, this afternoon. They also set up trust funds for the monasteries and the organization.

The donation ceremony was held at Maha Theindawgyi Pariyatti School in Pabedan township. State Peace and Development Council Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein attended the ceremony and offered provisions.

Present on the occasion were Maha Theindawgyi Pariyatti School Presiding Sayadaw Agga Maha Ganthavacaka Pandita Bhaddanta Kumara and member Sayadaws, Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, Joint-

emony started with three-time recitation of namotassa. The congregation led by Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein took the Five Precepts from Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumara.

Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein offered provisions to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumara, and Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, senior military officers and the deputy mayor to member Sayadaws.

Next, Brig-Gen Hla Shwe, Captain Nyan Tun and Lt-Col Chan Maung of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Air) handed over the provisions, donated by the families of the Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) to the three Pariyatti Schools and the Hindu Organization, to the Presiding Sayadaw.

On the occasion, Col Maung Pa handed over the provisions donated by Yangon City Development Committee through the Presiding Sayadaw; member-1 Police Col Aung Daing, the provisions donated by



Secretary-2 Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein accepts cash donations for funds of monasteries in Panbedan Township.—MNA

Acting Managing Director U Win Htein of Myanmar Salt and Marine Chemicals Enterprise, iodized salt and toothpaste donated by MSMCE; and Deputy Director-General Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin, traditional

Medical House; five bags of rice by U Nyein and family of OK Rice Trading; three bags of rice by Seikkan Township PDC; three bags of rice by authorities of the wards in Seikkan township; five bags of rice by Yangon Division Fisheries; two bags of rice by Seikkan Township Union Solidarity and Development Association; 300 sorts of medicines by U Hla Htay and family of Hman Cho Medical House; 360 embrocation bottles by U Tun Shwe and

family of Tun Shwe Wa Medical House; 120 balm bottles and 50 inhalers by U Hla Myint and family of Kaythepon Medical House; 36 boxes of medicines by U Aung Zaw Myint and family of Myat Tha Zin Medical House; and 48 embrocation bottles by U Myint Lwin and family of Galon Raza Medical House.

Later, trust funds were set up. The families of the Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) donated K 40,000; Yangon Division PDC,

K 12,000; Pabedan Township PDC, K 42,500; Seikkan Township PDC, K 40,000; U Thein Win and family of Shwe Thanlwin Co, K 1 million; and Hindu Buddhists, K 266,300. Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein accepted the donations.

Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, senior military officers, the deputy mayor and departmental heads also accepted cash donations totalling K 6,726,831: K 340,000 by Latha Township PDC; (See page 11)



Senior military officers donate provisions of Tatmadaw families to a Sayadaw in Kamayut Township.—MNA

Adjutant-General Brig-Gen Hla Shwe, Chief of Staff (Navy) Captain Nyan Tun and senior military officers, Deputy Mayor Col Maung Pa, departmental heads, local authorities, members of social organizations, and others.

The donation cer-

Yangon Division Peace and Development Council; Deputy Director of the Religious Affairs Department U Htin Myo, the provisions donated by the Ministry of Religious Affairs; a representative, edible oil and soaps donated by Myanmar Economic Holdings Ltd;

medicines donated by the Traditional Medicine Department of the Ministry of Health.

The Presiding Sayadaw also accepted six bags of rice donated by Latha township; five bags of rice by U Thein Maung and family of Sandi Herbal

**Today's donations in Kamayut Township were 98 bags of rice, 24 viss of edible oil, 400 viss of iodized salt, 48 tubes of tooth paste, 1,959 bottles of traditional medicine, 240 cakes of beauty soap, 240 cakes of Shwewa soap and K 2,632,090 for the funds.**



Senior military officers present donations of Tatmadaw families to a nun in Shwepyitha Township.—MNA

**Today's donations in Pabedan Township are 103 bags of rice, 29 viss of edible oil, 59 viss of beans and pulses, 298 viss of salt, 60 boxes of toothpaste, 914 bottles of traditional medicines, K 4,640,653 for 3 schools, and K 2,086,178 for the Hindu Organization.**



## Tatmadaw families, wellwishers donate cash and kind to monasteries, nunneries

(from page 10)

K 200,000 by Sri Sudhir Moe; K 150,000 by U Tin Win and family of Myanmarpyitha KN Co; K 150,000 by KB Int'l Co Ltd; K 111,111 by All Myanmar Tamil Hindu Foundation; K 111,111 by Asia King Co Ltd; and K 101,000 by Myanmar Swiss Singapore Co Ltd.

Later, Lt-Col Than Hline of the Ministry of Defence explained the purpose of donation, followed by a sermon delivered by the Presiding Sayadaw. Next, the congregation led by Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein shared the merits gained from good deeds.

Today's donation amounted to 103 bags of rice, 29 viss of edible oil, 59 viss of beans and pulses, 298 viss of salt, 60 boxes of toothpaste, 914 bottles of traditional medicines, K 4,640,653 for the three schools, and K 2,086,178 for the Hindu Organization.

Similarly, Tatma-

daw families and people donated provisions to Thuseiktayn, Sasana Paragu and Phayathonzu monasteries in Kamayut Township, taking place at Thuseiktayon Pariyatti Monastery on Baho Road this afternoon.

Present were Chairman Sayadaw of Kamayut Township Sangha Nayaka Committee Ohndaw Pariyatti Monastery Presiding Nayaka Bhaddanta Paññadipa, Presiding Nayaka of Thuseiktayon Pariyatti Monastery Bhaddanta Jagara, members of the Sangha, Vice-Adjutant-General Brig-Gen Hla Shwe, Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, local authorities and wellwishers.

Sayadaw Bhaddanta Paññadipa administered the Five Precepts. Senior Military Officers and Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa offered provisions to the Sayadaws.



Secretary-2 Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein offers provisions to a Sayadaw at the ceremony to donate provisions to monasteries in Panbedan Township.— MNA

Next, Vice-Adjutant-General Brig-Gen Hla Shwe, Cmdr Aung San of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Navy) and

Lt-Col Than Hlaing of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Air) offered rice, oil and grams donated by Tatmadaw families to the Sayadaw.

Afterwards, wellwishers presented 26 bags of rice and 1,066 bottles of traditional medicines to members of the Sangha. Vice-Adjutant-General Brig-Gen Hla Shwe, senior military officers and Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa accepted K 2,632,090 donated by Tatmadaw families and wellwishers.

Lt-Col Than Hlaing (Air) supplicated on the purpose of the donations. Next, Sayadaw Bhaddanta Jagara delivered a sermon, and Secretary-2 Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein and the congregation shared merits gained.

Today's donations in Kamayut Township were 98

bags of rice, 24 viss of edible oil, 400 viss of iodized salt, 48 tubes of tooth paste, 1,959 bottles of traditional medicine, 240 cakes of beauty soap, 240 cakes of Shwewa soap and K 2,632,090 for the funds.

Similar ceremony to donate provisions to monasteries and nunneries in Shwepyitha Township was held at Aungsan Tawya Monastery on Shwephoneshein Road in Shwepyitha Township this afternoon, attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council

Brig-Gen Hla Shwe, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa, local authorities and

wellwishers.

Brig-Gen Hla Shwe, Cmdr Myint Tun (Navy) and Lt-Col Than Hlaing (Air) offered 128 bags of rice, 102.40 viss of gram, 512 viss of salt, 51.20 viss of oil donated by Tatmadaw families to the Chairman Sayadaw of Township Sangha Nayaka Committee.

The commander presented bags of rice donated by Yangon Division Peace and Development Council to the Sayadaw. Likewise, wellwishers offered alms to the Sayadaws.

Today's donations in Shwepyitha Township were 157 bags of rice, 81.20 viss of oil, 102.40 viss of gram, 512 viss of iodized salt, 512 cakes of soap, 512 cakes of beauty cakes, 102 tubes of tooth paste, 1,374 bottles of traditional medicine and K 1,666,090 to the funds.

MNA



Senior military officers present donations of Tatmadaw families to representatives of Thanantana Dhammapala Hindu Organization in Panbedan Township.— MNA

**Today's donations in Shwepyitha Township were 157 bags of rice, 81.20 viss of oil, 102.40 viss of gram, 512 viss of iodized salt, 512 cakes of soap, 512 cakes of beauty cakes, 102 tubes of tooth paste, 1,374 bottles of traditional medicine and K 1,666,090 to the funds.**

## Deputy FM back from South Africa

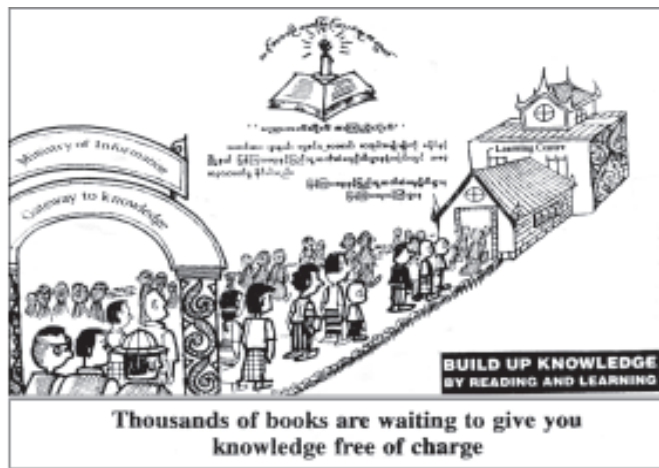
YANGON, 22 Aug— The Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win arrived back here by air this morning after attending the XIV Non-Aligned Movement's Ministerial Conference and Asian-African Sub-regional Organizations Conference (AASROC II) in Durban, Republic of South Africa.

They were welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by Heads of Department and officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The delegation members were Director-General U Nyan Lynn of Consular and Legal Department of Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Director of the Political Department U Maung Maung.— MNA



Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win being welcomed back at the airport.— MNA



## ADVERTISEMENTS

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

1. Sealed Tender is invited by Myanma Railways, for supply of the following Offset Machine and Numbering Machine which will be purchased in Myanmar Kyats:-

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Quantity
1.	9(T)2/MR(CRA) 2004-2005	Offset Machine Numbering Machine	1-No 4-Nos

Closing Date.- 23.9.2004 (Thursday) (12:00) Hours.

2. Tender documents are available at the office of the Deputy General Manager (Supply). Myanma Railways, Corner of 51<sup>st</sup> Street and Merchant Street, Botataung, Yangon starting from 23.8.2004 during the office hours.

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

Deputy General Manager

Supply Department, Myanma Railways, Botataung  
Yangon

### West Bengal to create investment base for Bengalis abroad

KOLKATA, 22 Aug—The Indian Government on Friday asked the eastern state of West Bengal to identify hundreds of Bengalis settled abroad who were keen on making investments here and said it would assist the state government in creating proper infrastructure.

Union Non-Resident Affairs Minister Jagdish Tytler told reporters on Friday here, the capital of the state, that he would meet Chief Minister Buddhadev Bhattacharjee and request him to identify areas of investments for those Bengalis living abroad and who were willing to make investments in the state.

"A large number of such non-resident Bengalis have expressed their willingness to come to West Bengal and make investments", he added.

Tytler, who attended a Rajiv Gandhi birthday programme here, said West Bengal was still "lagging" behind other states in terms of economic development, while unemployment was on the "rise". — MNA/PTI

### Four immigrants die trying to reach Spanish shore

MADRID, 22 Aug—Four sub-Saharan Africans trying to immigrate illegally drowned six metres from shore on Saturday at the same Spanish beach where 33 would-be immigrants died last week, state radio said.

Another 34 who crossed the Atlantic waters between northwest Africa and Spain's Canary Islands were rescued by police, the radio said, citing police sources.

Survivors said the victims jumped in the water believing it was shallow enough to walk ashore.

The deaths took place at Fuerteventura, one of the Canary Islands, a common target for desperate immigrants trying to reach Europe.

On mainland Spain, another 162 immigrants were picked up by authorities on Saturday after crossing the Straits of Gibraltar from Morocco, the radio said.

Untold thousands attempt the dangerous journey each year, usually on long, low-lying boats operated by smugglers.

Arrests and deaths normally pick up in the summer months when the weather is better. — MNA/Reuters

### Rare Komodo Dragon dies in zoo love plunge

LONDON, 22 Aug—Love could not conquer all for a rare, 10-year-old Komodo Dragon who plunged to her death at London Zoo after she scaled a dividing wall to reach her mate. Six-foot-long Nina died from internal bleeding after she fell trying to reach Raja, who is still in good health and on display, a zoo spokesman said on Saturday.

"Immediate measures have been put in place to prevent a similar incident happening and we are carrying out a thorough investigation into what occurred," London Zoo's curator David Field said in a statement.

The Komodo Dragon is the largest flesh-eating lizard in the world and is found in the wild on only four small Indonesian islands. They number about 5,000 worldwide.

MNA/Reuters

## ပြည်တွင်းပြန်လှည့်အားလေးပါ

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

1. Sealed Tender is invited by Myanma Railways, for supply of the following Woodfree Paper which will be purchased in Myanmar Kyats:-

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1.	9(T)3/MR(CRA) 2004-2005	Woodfree Paper(31"x43)	800-Reams

Closing Date.- 23.9.2004 (Thursday) (12:00) Hours.

2. Tender documents are available at the office of the Deputy General Manager (Supply). Myanma Railways, Corner of 51<sup>st</sup> Street and Merchant Street, Botataung, Yangon starting from 23.8.2004 during the office hours.

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

Deputy General Manager

Supply Department, Myanma Railways, Botataung  
Yangon

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723043

(For. Domnern Somgiat

& Boonma Attorneys

at Law, Thailand)

Dated: 23 August 2004

### S Korean President confident on defence capability

SEOUL, 22 Aug—South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun said Friday that South Korea will have no problem with its defence capability in future despite a US decision to cut the number of its troops here, reported South Korean Yonhap news agency.

Washington said in June it would slash its troop level here by one-third from 37,500 by December next year, stoking security concerns among South Koreans.

Moreover, 3,600 US troops have left South Korea for Iraq for year-long mission. They will not return to South Korea.

"We have no problem with our defence ability because the US troops here will retain the current system for a considerable period of time," Roh said during a visit to an Air Force unit, whose

location was not disclosed. "However, we should reinforce the combat capability of the Air Force and its overall capability under a long-term plan."

He also pledged to lay the groundwork for the plan while in office so the next government can continue to strengthen the Air Force and the country's self-defence capability. After Roh took office in 2003, he pushed a ten-year defence enhancement plan which will cost about 20 billion US dollars in total. — MNA/Xinhua

### Two die in light aircraft crash in Kent, England

LONDON, 22 Aug—Two men have died when their light aircraft crashed on the top of cliffs on the Isle of Sheppey, Kent, southeast England, Sky news reported on Saturday.

Sky quoted emergency teams as saying that the accident happened just before 14:00 p.m. local time on Saturday. Members of the public told Thames Coast Guard they saw the plane disintegrate in the air — Coast Guards said the men came down with the plane. Kent Fire and Rescue Service said they attended the scene and found no fire, but that two

men were confirmed dead. And Coast Guards received several emergency calls from residents and passers-by who saw the air crash in a field by the cliff-edge. Emergency teams said the bodies were recovered by Coast Guards, but that their identities have yet to be established. Investigators from the Civil Aviation Authority are at the scene.

MNA/Xinhua

### India working on homegrown Advanced Jet Trainer

BANGALORE, 22 Aug—Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal S. Krishnaswamy on Friday said India has begun designing a homegrown Advanced Jet Trainer (AJT) and the country should stop imports at 66 British Hawk AJTs.

"It should (import of Hawks) stop at 66 aircraft. After that, an indigenous AJT should fly," Krishnaswamy said in his inaugural address at a national seminar on Military Airworthiness and Certification here.

"We have discussed with Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) and they are doing

final design studies. Work is going on," he later told reporters, adding, the twin engined AJT would be an upper progression of the Intermediate Jet Trainer (IJT), which India has already built for stage II training of pilots.

The IAF and HAL, he said, would approach the government once the design

was finalized for the indigenous AJT, to fly at transonic speed (Mach 1, which is the speed of sound).

The AJT will have the same cockpit as that of the IJT and larger wings. "Let us keep a time limit, in 15 years an AJT should roll out of the production line", he said.

MNA/PTI



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## Scientists say risk of water wars rising

STOCKHOLM, 21 Aug—The risk of wars being fought over water is rising because of explosive global population growth and widespread complacency, scientists said on Friday.

"We have had oil wars," said Professor William Mitsch. "That's happened in our lifetime. Water wars are possible."

Scientists at the World Water Week conference which began on Sunday in Stockholm said that ignorance and complacency were widespread in wealthier countries.

"I don't know what will shake these regions out of complacency other than the fact there will be droughts, pestilence and wars that break out over water rights," said Mitsch, professor of natural resources at Ohio

State University.

Mitsch told Reuters potential flashpoints included the Middle East.

"Continuing on our present path will mean more conflict," a report by International Water Management Institute (IWMI) said.

With the world's population growing at exponential rates there was extreme pressure on water supplies to provide drinking water and food, said scientists at the Stockholm gathering.

"In 2025 we will have another two billion people to feed and 95 per cent of these will be in urban areas,"

said Professor Jan Lundqvist of Stockholm International Water Institute.

The answer was sustained investment in infrastructure. An estimated 80 billion US dollars was invested each year in the water sector, but this needed to at least double, said Professor Frank Rijsberman, the IWMI's director-general.

"I think if I look at the numbers I can't immediately see a way out over the next few years," said IWMI report co-author Dr David Molden. "I think we will reach a real crisis."

MNA/Reuters

## Los Angeles to contribute \$350m to stem cell research

LOS ANGELES, 21 Aug —The US second largest city of Los Angeles endorsed an ambitious plan Wednesday to spend 350 million US dollars on stem cell research.

Mayor Jim Hahn and the City Council endorsed the November 2 ballot initiative to finance the research in California through low-interest and tax-free bonds.

Medical experts said that the California Stem Cell Research and Cures Initiative could lead to new treatments or cures for such diseases as diabetes, Alzheimer's, cancer, Parkinson's, HIV/AIDS, multiple sclerosis and spinal cord injuries.

However, some others raised ethical concerns over using stem cells from human embryos.

Following the testimony of several members of the public, council member Alex Padilla said one of the reasons he supports stem cell research is that his mother is a diabetes patient.

"I see her pain. I see her discomfort," he said. "I dream of the day when she doesn't have those pains, those ailments in her life."

Hahn said more than 128 million Americans have diseases or injuries that could

be cured by stem cell research.

He said the initiative will provide the much-needed fund to make the promise of new cures and treatments a reality. That will not only save lives, but also reduce health care costs in the long term to boost local economy,

especially in the biotech and medical research areas, he added.

Meanwhile, mayors of San Francisco, San Jose, Irvine, Santa Ana, West Hollywood and Sausalito announced their support for the initiative.

MNA/Xinhua

## Antidepressant labels to reflect risk data

WASHINGTON, 21 Aug —The US Food and Drug Administration plans to update antidepressant labels to reflect studies that suggest a link between the drugs and suicide in youths, but remains cautious about the strength of such ties, according to new documents released on Friday.

The decision comes ahead of the release of a highly anticipated new analysis that FDA reviewers said supported earlier findings that certain antidepressants can increase the risk of suicide in some children and teen-agers.

The new review from Columbia University showed "a statistically significant association of suicidal events with antidepressant drug

treatment in short-term pediatric clinical trials for all indications," said FDA reviewer Dr. Andrew Mosholder in his analysis of the data posted on the agency's web site. Despite the new analysis, the FDA remained cautious.

"While there are some findings among these data suggestive of an increased risk of suicidality for some of these drugs, there remain

some inconsistencies in the results," the agency said in a separate statement. Still, the FDA said it planned to ensure new labelling for antidepressants would "reflect the most recent information" from the studies and analyses, although the specific wording had not been determined.

Antidepressant use in younger patients is part of a larger controversy over prescribing children medicines when most drugs are approved based on clinical trials of adults. Only Eli Lilly and Co.'s Prozac is approved in the United States for children and teenagers.

The FDA grants patent extensions to drugmakers who test products in children, but the companies are not required to make that data public.

The FDA has been reviewing antidepressant data for months but has yet to determine whether the widely used drugs raise the risk of suicide in children and adolescents, and what regulatory action should be taken.

MNA/Reuters



Ballet dancers from Russia's Kremlin Ballet perform "The Swan Lake" in Macedonia's capital Skopje, on late Friday, 20 Aug, 2004. The Kremlin Ballet gave a guest performance on Friday in Skopje during a celebration of Russian culture in Macedonia. — INTERNET

## US poverty likely rose in 2003, income gap wider

WASHINGTON, 21 Aug —More Americans likely slid into poverty in 2003 and the gap between the rich and the poor widened, economists said on Thursday in a report that could fuel Democrat criticism of President George W Bush.

While the nation's official poverty rate will not be released until next week, the left-leaning Centre for Economic and Policy Research estimated 700,000 Americans were added to the ranks of the poor last year, based on early numbers.

That takes the number of poor in the United States

to about 36.4 million, from 35.7 million in 2002.

The poverty line is set at an annual income of 9,573 US dollars or less for an individual, or 18,660 US dollars for a family of four with two children, according to the Census Bureau.

Using Census Bureau data for the first half of 2003, economist Heather Boushey said the percentage of the US population living in poverty rose to 12.8 per cent, up from 12.7 per cent in the first half of 2002.

Children were even more likely to be poor, the study showed, with poverty rising to 18.8 per cent of children in 2003 from 18.6 per cent in 2002.

The poverty rate tends to track the overall economy, rising during a recession and falling in boom times. It has increased each year

since 2000, sparking criticism from Democrats that Bush's economic policies are skewed to benefit the rich.

But Bush's economic team has argued he inherited the 2001 recession from former president Bill Clinton, a Democrat, and that three rounds of tax cuts have since spurred the economy's recovery and kick-started job growth.

The official poverty rate is set for release on 26 August. Boushey said it will likely be slightly different than her calculation because it will include a full 12 months of data and is taken from a separate but similar census survey.

In past years, there has been only a slight gap between six months of one survey and a full year of the second.

MNA/Reuters

## Canada says G-7 not doing enough to help Africa

OTTAWA, 21 Aug — Leaders from the Group of Seven rich industrialized nations need to do more to aid poor African countries, Canadian Finance Minister Ralph Goodale said on Thursday.

"Quite frankly, I don't believe we are doing as much as we should be doing, or as well as we should be doing it," Goodale told reporters on a conference call from Mali, the final stop on a four-nation fact-finding tour for British Prime Minister Tony Blair's Commission for Africa. G-7 nations focused on aiding Africa in 2002 when Canada hosted the leaders' summit, but other issues such as national security "overtook" that agenda and the leaders let Africa drop down their list of priorities, Goodale said.

"We all need to refocus int Britain takes the presidency of the G-7 in 2005 and says it intends to make Africa a high priority. Agricultural trade liberalization, access to affordable medicines to combat epidemics such as HIV/AIDS, and improved transparency in the granting and distribution of aid financing are among recommendations Goodale said he was considering.

"It's not something where one little change in world trade is going to be some kind of panacea that's going to solve everything," he noted. — MNA/Xinhua

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## SPORTS

## Russia snaps down Germany for gold medal in women's team epee

ATHENS, 21 Aug—Russia won the second consecutive gold medal as they triumphed in the women's team epee competition with a 34-28 win over world top-ranked Germany in the Athens Olympic Games.

France took the bronze medal by beating Canada 45-37.

Britta Heidemann won only one point for Germany in the slow-paced first four rounds, which resulted in a 8-1 lead to the advantage of the defending champions.

The 21-year-old scored a total of 19 points in her first Olympic appearance to make it 11-8 during the sixth round, and closed it to a two-point deficit at 28-26 with over a minute to go. Tatiana Logounova, who led Russia to two world championships in 2001 and 2003, hung on by making some counter-attacks to slow the exhausted Heidemann and regained the gold medal.

Germany bounced brilliantly with two come-back overtime victories on its way to the finals, but failed to make it happen again against the most-balanced Russian squad. — MNA/Xinhua



Joe Cole (R) celebrates the only goal in Chelsea's 1-0 victory over Birmingham City which put them top of the English Premier League. — INTERNET

## Ferguson weighs up Ronaldo return for Norwich clash

MANCHESTER (England), 21 Aug— Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson will gauge the fitness of midfielder Cristiano Ronaldo before deciding whether to include him in the side for Saturday's Premier League match against Norwich City.

Ronaldo was due to report back for training with United on Friday after Portugal were knocked out of the men's soccer tournament at the Athens Olympics earlier this week.

"We don't know his physical condition. He had been complaining of a groin injury before he went to the (Olympic) tournament and he missed some sessions with the Portuguese team,"

Ferguson told reporters.

"So we really don't know until we see him. When he comes back we will have to assess it."

Ronaldo was suspended for Portugal's final Olympic group match on Wednesday, which they lost 4-2 to Costa Rica.

The return of the 19-year-old, who was also a member of Portugal's Euro 2004 squad, will provide welcome relief for United whose attacking options have been depleted by injuries to Ruud van Nistelrooy, Ole Gunnar Solskjaer and Louis Saha.

Midfielder Darren Fletcher is suspended, while Quinton Fortune has a thigh strain and is doubtful for the home match against

Norwich.

"Norwich are a team that have just been promoted and are desperate to do well," Ferguson said.

"Some of their players have probably never played at Old Trafford. It's a big game for them and they could set out their stall to make it very difficult for us. But that's something we are used to and something we have to handle." — MNA/Reuters

## Henin sets gold standard in thrilling comeback

ATHENS, 21 Aug— Justine Henin-Hardenne staged one of the greatest comebacks of her career to fight back from 5-1 down in the final set and beat French Open champion Anastasia Myskina in the Olympics women's singles semi-final on Friday.

For the purist it contained too many errors, but Henin-Hardenne's 7-5, 5-7, 8-6 victory over the Russian will go down as a classic.

Her reward is a match against world number two Amelie Mauresmo for gold. The Frenchwoman beat Australia's Alicia Molik 7-6, 6-3.

While the women's final features the world's top two players, the men's gold medal match will be a contest between less illustrious characters.

Nicolas Pietrangeli can win Chile's first Olympic gold medal after he beat Taylor Dent 7-6, 6-1 in the semis.

He will face Mardy Fish of the US in Sunday's final after the American ousted Massu's fellow Chilean Fernando Gonzalez 3-6, 6-3, 6-4.

Henin-Hardenne also has gold on her mind.

The Belgian has suffered a mystery viral illness for most of this year — a period during which she surrendered her French Open crown to Myskina — and this tournament is the first in 12 weeks she has been able to play.

It had looked as though five matches inside a week had finally caught up with Henin-Hardenne when she let slip a lead of a set and a break, failed to serve out the match at 7-5, 5-4 and then fell behind 5-1 in the decider.

MNA/Reuters

## Luis Garcia, Alonso to sign for Liverpool after medicals

LIVERPOOL (England), 21 Aug— Spanish duo Xabi Alonso and Luis Garcia will sign for Liverpool once they have passed their medicals, the Premier League club's manager Rafael Benitez said on Friday.

"Alonso and Garcia are here for their medical examination," Benitez told reporters.

"They can't play on Saturday or on Tuesday in the Champions League but they're here and I'm pleased to have two more options."

Midfielder Alonso, 22, joins from Real Sociedad for around 10 million pounds (18.26 million US dollars) with winger Luis Garcia, 26, arriving from Barcelona for about six million (10.95 million US dollars), according to Spanish and British media reports.

Spanish media reported Liverpool were prepared to pay a nine-million-euro (11.09 million US dollars) buy-out clause on Luis Garcia's contract to secure the move, which Benitez confirmed.

"He had a clause with a fee that had to be paid and we paid that," Benitez said. "For us it was important to get this type of player although Barcelona didn't want to lose him."

Benitez was in charge of Luis Garcia during his time at Tenerife and the manager believes his adaptability is important to Liverpool's strategy this season.

"He played for me at Tenerife as a left winger and scored 16 goals," he said. "He can play on the left or right of midfield or as a second striker."

"At Barcelona he was also used as a striker in the youth teams so he can play four positions."

The two players will bring the number of Benitez' Spanish signings to four, although Antonio Nunez, who joined as part of an exchange deal with Real Madrid for England striker Michael Owen, was injured in his first training session this week and will be sidelined for up to a month.

Malaga defender Josemi has also joined the club.

Benitez has ruled out the departure of any more players from his current squad although he says Liverpool may make more signings if someone "good, nice and cheap" is available.

Liverpool, who drew 1-1 at Tottenham Hotspur in their first league match of the season last weekend, are at home to Manchester City on Saturday for Benitez' first game at Anfield.

MNA/Reuters

## Abby Wambach gives US 2-1 win over Japan

ATHENS, 21 Aug— Abby Wambach stroked home a 58th-minute winner to give the United States a 2-1 win over Japan on Friday, setting up a semifinal showdown with world champions Germany in the Olympic women's soccer tournament.

The Germans came from behind to beat Nigeria by the same score in their quarterfinal.

Wambach had the simplest of tasks to score her 17th goal in her last 18 games, the big forward walking the ball over the line after three American players had sprung the offside trap.

The Japanese felt differently and their players complained vehemently that Shannon Boxx — who supplied the pass to Wambach — and the goalscorer were both offside.

Veteran midfielder Kristine Lilly took advantage of a bad error from Japan's goalkeeper Nozomi

Yamago to give the Americans the lead two minutes before halftime.

However, Emi Yamamoto headed an equalizer for Japan three minutes into the second half to give the US team a scare at a virtually empty stadium in Thessaloniki.

In Patras, substitute Conny Pohlers snatched an 81st minute winner for Germany to ensure the two best teams — co-favourites in the absence of holders Norway

— meet in the semifinals on Monday.

However, Nigeria were furious that Indian referee Bentla Dcoth allowed the winning goal, claiming there had been a foul on goalkeeper Precious Dede in the build-up.

Meanwhile, Formiga and Cristiane both scored twice as Brazil crushed Mexico 5-0. Brazil next face Sweden, who beat Australia's "Matildas" 2-1.

MNA/Reuters

## World champion Kluft leads first day in heptathlon

ATHENS, 21 Aug— World champion Carolina Kluft took a comfortable lead after four events in the heptathlon at the Olympic Games on Friday.

Kluft, 21, winner of last year's world championships, collected a total of 4,109 points after the day's four events of 100m (13.21 seconds), high jump (1.91 metres), shot put (14.77m) and 200m (23.27s).

The Swede led second placed Kelly Sotherton of Britain by 240 points and looked sure to win the gold medal after the remaining three events are competed on Saturday.

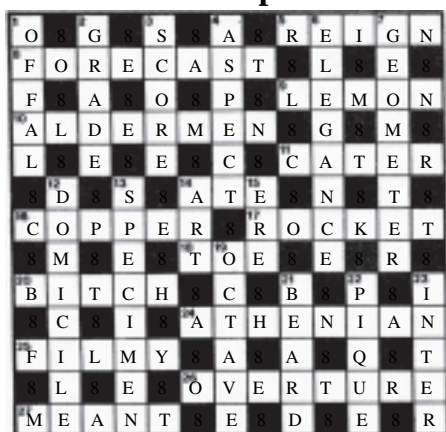
Dutch woman Karin Ruckstuhl stayed at third with a total of 3,777 points, 332 less than Kluft.

Defending champion Denise Lewis of Britain lied at a distant ninth with 3,688 points. — MNA/Xinhua



Manchester United's Alan Smith makes a scissor kick against Norwich during the Premiership football clash at Old Trafford on 21 Aug, 2004. Manchester United won the match 2-1. — INTERNET

## Answers for yesterday's crossword puzzle







## PM and wife offer Waso robes at Alodawpyay Monastery

YANGON, 22 Aug — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe attended the first Waso robes offering ceremony at Alodawpyay Dhammacariya University in Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township this afternoon.

Also present on the occasion were Vice-Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Bahan Aungmyebonsan Monastery Presiding Nayaka Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Bhaddanta Paññindabhivamsa and members of the Sangha, Chancellor of the University Presiding Nayaka of Alodawpyay Monasteries Missionary at home and abroad Alodawpyay Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Maha Ganthavaçaka Pandita Bhaddanta Ariyavamsa and members of the Sangha from Alodawpyay Monastery, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers, deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads and wellwishers.

The Vice-Chairman Sayadaw administered the Five Precepts. Next, members of the Sangha recited Parittas.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister and wife donated Waso robes and alms to the Vice-Chairman Sayadaw. Similarly, the commander, the ministers, the deputy ministers and wellwishers offered Waso robes and provisions to members of the Sangha.

(See page 2)



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe offer Waso robes to Vice-Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Sayadaw Bhaddanta Paññindabhivamsa.— MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt gives instructions on extension of Union National Races Village to officials.— MNA

## Union National Races Village to be place of public enjoyment PM inspects UNR Village extension tasks

YANGON, 22 Aug—Chairman of Work Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt this evening inspected tasks for extension of the Union National Races Village of the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs near Yangon-Thanyin

Bridge in Thakayta Township, Yangon East District and gave necessary instructions to officials concerned.

Accompanied by Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers, deputy

(See page 2)

## Efficient use of electricity at ministries inspected

YANGON, 22 Aug — Chairman of the Supervisory Committee for Utilization of Power and Fuel Member of the State Peace and Development Council Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Kyaw Win, accompanied by

Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut, Deputy Minister for Industry-1 Brig-Gen Thein Tun, Deputy Minister for Industry-2 Lt-Col Khin Maung Kyaw, Deputy Minister for Construction Brig-Gen Myint Thein, Deputy Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation Thura U Thaug Lwin, Deputy Minister for Transport Col Nyan Tun Aung, Deputy Minister for Livestock and Fisheries U Aung Thein, Chief Engineer U Tin Aung of the Ministry of Electric Power and officials, inspected utilization of power at the Ministry of Industry-1, the Ministry of Industry-2, the Ministers' Office and the Ministry of Rail Transportation at night on 21 August.

(See page 2)

**As a result of efficient use, power can be supplied round the clock to 29 townships out of 31 in Yangon City at present. Thrifty methods are to be practised systematically in electricity consumption.**

### Efficient use of electricity

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

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

### Efficient use of fuel

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