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Tuesday, 24 August, 2004

Senior General Than Shwe sends felicitations to Ukraine

YANGON, 24 Aug — Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Leonid D Kuchma, President of Ukraine, on the occasion of the Independence Day of Ukraine, which falls on 24 August 2004. — MNA

PM General Khin Nyunt sends felicitations to Ukraine

YANGON, 24 Aug — General Khin Nyunt, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Viktor Yanukovich, Prime Minister of Ukraine, on the occasion of the Independence Day of Ukraine, which falls on 24 August 2004. — MNA

Secretary-1 attends presentation of modern teaching equipment for Kyimyindine BEHS-5 Almost every school nationwide facilitated with multimedia classrooms



MEC Vice-Chairman Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win unveils the signboard of multimedia classrooms of Kyimyindine BEHS No 5. — MNA

YANGON, 23 Aug—A ceremony to present modern teaching equipment for No 5 Basic Education High School in Kyimyindine Township was held at the school this morning, attended by Vice-Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win.

Also present were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister for Education U Than Aung, Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Yangon Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin Deputy Minister for Education U Myo Nyunt, officials

of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of departments, officials, the headmaster, teachers, members of PTA, officials of the School Board of Trustees, members of social organizations, wellwishers and students.

Students of No 5 BEHS welcomed the Secretary-1 and party singing *Myanma Kyaung* with the accompa-

niment of band troupe.

Next, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister U Than Aung and Chairman of the School Board of Trustees U Chit Ko Ko formally opened the ceremony.

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win formally unveiled the signboard of multimedia classroom. Next, the Secretary-1 and party inspected language lab, computer room, computer aided instruction room, electronic media video lab and study room. They also observed teaching with the use of modern equipment and learning of students. They

inspected domestic science room and art studio. The students presented their musical skills.

Headmaster U Hla Myaing and Chairman of the School Board of Trustees U Chit Ko Ko reported on efforts for opening of multimedia classrooms and participation of wellwishers and parents.

Next, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe accepted cash and kind including K 6 million by Managing Director U Khin Maung San of Shwethaya Motor Vehicle Manufacturing Co, K 600,000 by Chairman of PTA, K 300,000 by U Ar

Wah (a) U Tun Win-Daw San San Maw of Sanpya Golden Fish Co, K 200,000 by Vice-Chairperson Daw Kyu Kyu Aye of the School Board of Trustees and 200 CD ROMs on Myanmar art and 200 CD-ROMs on (See page 8)

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

The Government launched a programme of enrollment for school-going-age children four years ago. In May 2004, the school enrollment rate reached 96.56 per cent.

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

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 24 August, 2004

Strive to uplift the education standard

In the time of the State Peace and Development Council, education promotion programmes are being implemented nationwide for promoting the education standard and for human resource development.

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

On the occasion, Minister for Education U Than Aung, on behalf of the Chairman of MEC, delivered an address. He said that nowadays, the Government is making efforts with might and main for uplift of national education standard and is building Myanmar society to become a constant learning society.

Nowadays, the Government, hand in hand with the people, is striving its utmost to promote the national education standard. In doing so, the Government is striving not only for development of the education sector but also for the development of health and social infrastructures.

The Government, in cooperation with wellwishers, has been constructing magnificent buildings in the education sector and assisting teachers and staff of the education sector with cash.

Thanks to these combined efforts, basic education schools, post-primary schools, middle schools and high schools emerged in respective regions of the country. Moreover, with the opening of universities and colleges, opportunities for pursuing higher education has been opened.

It is heartening to note that due to the united efforts of the Government, wellwishers and social organizations, enrolment of the school-age children has reached 96.56 per cent this year. In the process, 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 the country stands in the top position in Asia.

At a time when the Government is trying its best to promote the national education standard, wellwishers and the entire national people are urged to lend themselves to endeavours for uplift of education standard of the entire people.

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

YANGON, 23 Aug—The Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs held its work co-ordination meeting at the meeting hall of the Development Affairs Department on Thanlyetsoo Road in Botahtaung Township here at 8 am today. Minister for PBANRDA Col Thein Nyunt attended the meeting and delivered an address. Also present were Deputy Ministers Brig-Gen Than Tun and Col Tin Ngwe, directors-general and managing directors of the ministry, directors, engineers and officials. In his address, the Minister stressed the need to accelerate the momentum achieved in developing border areas as well as in rural areas. — MNA

Work co-ordination meeting held



Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt delivers an address at the meeting. — PBANRDA

Minister U Win Aung sends congratulations to Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines

YANGON, 23 Aug — U Win Aung, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of congratulations to His Excellency Mr Alberto G Romulo, who has been appointed as Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Philippines. — MNA

Cash donations invited for Maha Rattha Samaggi Pagoda

YANGON, 23 Aug — As the symbol of unity and consolidation of national brethren of the Union of Myanmar, the Maha Ratthabhi Samaggi Pagoda has been built on Vikasini Hill in Panglong, Loilem District, Shan State (South). Wellwishers may make cash donations for golden umbrella to be hoisted atop the pagoda and nine Buddha Images with different mudras (hand postures). A ceremony to make cash donations will be held at Vijaya Mingalar Dhamma Thabin Hall on Kaba Aye Hill here at 1 pm on 24 August. — MNA

Wellwishers invited for sinking tube-wells

YANGON, 23 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

POEM:

Myanmar's Spirit

- * On neighbours, untoward acts
We never commit, that's us Myanmar.
- * With friends and comrades in the region
On those joining hands, untoward acts.
We never commit, that's us Myanmar.
- * In international relations also
We always respect each other's domain
Always careful not to commit unworthy acts
Not to interfere, and is into our domain
there are encroachments, we strictly
Always protect, that's us Myanmar.
- * Just as we don't commit untoward acts
Others are not allowed, by normal attitude
It's always upheld, and, in matters
Of all descriptions, we do not shun
But always stand together, with true goodwill
Always get involved with due consideration
That's how we always act, that's us Myanmar.

Po Wa (Trs)

Nursery Market Festival continues

YANGON, 23 Aug — The Nursery Market Festival continued at Myayha Padetha Park in Bahan Township here today. It is aimed at providing necessary assistance to growers and attracting the public to be interested in agriculture, horticulture, livestock breeding and vegetable farming. Kitchen crops, fruits and saplings of herbal plants are being shown at the festival. Poultry farming and fish breeding are also exhibited there. — MNA



CASH DONATED: Cash donations were made to Myanmar Chinlon Federation at a ceremony held at the Yangon Division People's Police Force on 21 August. Wellwisher U Kyaw Sein (Mogok) of Phyu Sin Metta medical house hands over cash donation to MCF Patron Police Lt-Col Win Myint at the ceremony. — (H)

Myanmar Academy of Medical Science to meet on 25 August

YANGON, 23 Aug — The biannual plenary meeting of the Myanmar Academy of Medical Science for 2004 will be held at the Institute of Nursing (Yangon) on Bogoyoke Aung San Street, Lanmadaw Township, here from 9 am to 1 pm on 25 August (Wednesday).

Symposium on Township Health System will also be held and those wishing to attend it can get themselves registered beginning 8 am. — MNA

Three US Marines killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 22 Aug—Three US Marines have been killed in action in Iraq's volatile Anbar Province, the US military said in a statement on Sunday.

It said the Marines were killed on Saturday. It gave no further details. Anbar province includes the flashpoint town of Fallujah, a hotbed of anti-American guerillas.

Since the start of the war last year, 714 American troops have been killed in action. — *Internet*



A US Army soldiers take cover during a gun battle with guerillas in Najaf, Iraq, on 21 Aug, 2004. — INTERNET

Egyptian officials to hold talks with Fatah

CAIRO, 22 Aug — Two senior Egyptian officials will meet representatives from Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's Fatah faction during a visit to the Palestinian territories, an Egyptian newspaper said on Friday.

The semi-official *al-Ahram* daily reported Foreign Minister Ahmed Aboul Gheit and intelligence chief Omar Suleiman will also discuss Palestinian security reorganization with Arafat during the visit planned for the end of August.

Egypt fears anarchy could follow any Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and allow Islamist groups to take over the narrow wedge of land that is home to 1.3 million people.

"Aboul Gheit and Suleiman are due to meet officials from the Fatah organization during their visit... Arafat is expected to send a delegation of senior Fatah officials to

Egypt in the beginning of the coming month," the newspaper said.

Al-Ahram added the visits were in the framework "of talks between Egypt and the Palestinian factions to facilitate the possibility of forming a plan of national action with full agreement by the end of September".

Egypt reached an agreement last week with Palestinian militant group Hamas on guaranteeing Palestinian unity following a possible Israeli withdrawal from Gaza.

Aboul Gheit and Suleiman will also travel to Israel to meet Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to discuss the Israeli plan to withdraw from Gaza. — *MNA/Reuters*

China will not accept US hegemony in Asia

WASHINGTON, 22 Aug — China is unlikely to accept American hegemony in Asia and may even try to counter US global influence by joining other powers, a study paper said.

However, balancing Chinese power is more likely if "a larger state is involved in spearheading a balancing effort and if China seeks to achieve its goals by force, aggression and coercion," according to a discussion paper that emerged out of a seminar conducted in November by the National Intelligence Council.

In releasing the conclusions of the discussion, which was represented by all US intelligence agencies, including the CIA, the Council makes it clear that the paper, which was prepared by experts under the leadership of Professor John Ikenberry of Georgetown University, is intended for discussion and does not represent the views of the US Government.

The paper does not identify the "larger state" which can balance Chinese power regionally but the only larger states in the area apart from China are Japan, India and Russia. The paper focuses on the following subjects: The discussion group generally tended to support the thesis that China would not seek to emulate the erstwhile Soviet Union by attempting to construct its own global order.

China lacks the capacity for challenging unipolarity on a global scale; China is without a blue water Navy; regional ambitions are within reach but unaided global ambitions are not; a true global challenge may prompt a unified American balancing response.

Another viewpoint during the discussion did not

Four US soldiers face hearing in Germany over Iraq prisoner abuse

BERLIN, 22 Aug—Four US soldiers accused of abusing prisoners at a notorious jail in Iraq, including the suspected ringleader, face a military hearing in Germany on Monday, before their trial by court martial.

The four, Corporal Charles Graner, Specialist Megan Ambuhl, Staff Sergeant Ivan Frederick and

Specialist Javal Davis, are accused of assault, coercion and conspiracy to mistreat prisoners in Abu Ghraib prison outside of Baghdad.

The humiliation of the inmates, shown in souvenir-style photographs taken by some of the suspects, caused outrage around the world earlier this year and has undermined the reputation of the United States, above all in Muslim countries.

The prisoners were photographed being forced to perform sexual acts, piled naked in a pyramid, cowering from dogs or with electrodes attached to them. — *Internet*

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Poland wants to leave Iraq as soon as possible

WARSAW, 22 Aug—Poland wants to pull out of Iraq as soon as possible, Defence Minister Jerzy Szmajdzinski said as he arrived at a Polish military base in southern Iraq, the PAP news agency reported.

Szmajdzinski left Warsaw for Iraq overnight Saturday, on a mission to assess the political and military situation in the area under Polish command, his office said in a statement Sunday.

"We want to get out of Iraq as soon as possible, but first we have to build solid security conditions there," the minister was quoted as saying following a religious ceremony for a Polish soldier who was killed in a car bomb attack on Saturday.

The Defence Minister announced that he would travel to Iraq to see the situation for himself following the car bombing, the third of a string of attacks that have left three soldiers dead and more than a dozen wounded in the past week.

"Our contingent is carrying out its mission at a difficult time, marked by a power struggle, which explains the attacks and guerilla activities," the Minister added.

Internet

UAE flies 145 Iraqi refugees home

ABU DHABI, 22 Aug—A total of 145 Iraqi refugees who had lived in Pakistan for years were flown home aboard two C-130 transport planes provided by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Air Force, the official WAM news agency reported Saturday.

The report, citing UAE official sources, said the two planes leaving an air base in Rawalpindi, a city near Pakistan's capital Islamabad, Saturday morning were bound for the Iraqi capital of Baghdad.

The UAE had pledged to offer an urgent assistance to the refugees in coordination with the Pakistani Government. The initiative

was in response to appeals by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Red Cross, which was a continuation of the trend set by the UAE President Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan al-Nahayan to support international organizations, said the report.

In a statement to WAM, Al Shamsi, UAE Ambassador to Pakistan, said the UAE

President Sheikh Zayed's gesture was aimed at alleviating the suffering of the Iraqi refugees and was part of UAE's charity and humanitarian bid to help Iraqi people restore their country's infrastructure and provide health care.

Al Shamsi pointed out the returning of Iraqi refugees put an end to the suffering of the Iraqis in Pakistan, some of whom had spent 17 years in exile.

Richard Oanziger, the regional representative of IOM told WAM that UAE had played a key role by its prompt response to the request of the United Nations to solve the problem of the stranded Iraqis.

The humanitarian assistance provided by UAE and the dispatching of two transport aircraft were highly appreciated for the relief of the Iraqi people and their families, the ambassador was quoted as saying.

MNA/Xinhua

Two Iraqi civilians killed in Baquba blast

BAGHDAD, 22 Aug —At least two Iraqis, including a child, were killed and five others wounded Saturday in a blast in central Baquba, northeast of Baghdad, police said.

They said the blast occurred when an explosive device was detonated on a road when a US convoy passed through the area, but there were no casualties among the US soldiers.

The other killed Iraqi was a peddler and the five wounded were all dustmen, they added. In another development, a senior Iraqi policeman was shot dead early Saturday in the Iraqi city of Ramadi, west of Baghdad, eyewitnesses said.

Colonel Saad Samir al-Dulaimi, head of the crime fighting unit in the city, was shot and killed by unidentified gunmen as he left home at about 8.30 am (0430 GMT), said the eyewitnesses, adding that the attackers fled the scene in a vehicle. — *MNA/Xinhua*



A US Army soldier fires his rifle over a comrade during a gun battle with guerillas in Najaf, Iraq on 21 Aug, 2004. — INTERNET

Aussies repeatedly warned Iraq war would provoke terrorism

CANBERRA, 22 Aug—The Australian government was repeatedly warned by its own intelligence agencies before Iraq was invaded that the war would inflame terrorism, a newspaper reported Monday.

Prime Minister John Howard had contradicted this advice he had received both verbally and in written reports when he told the public on the eve of the war that it would lessen the terrorist threat, "The Sydney Morning Herald" newspaper said.

The newspaper cited interviews with several serving and retired intelligence figures who are not named.

The opposition Labor Party said the report confirmed the need for a judicial inquiry into Australian intelligence agencies. Labor has pledged to hold such an investigation if it wins elections due this year.

Prime Minister John Howard has dismissed such an inquiry as unnecessary.

"What we need to know from John Howard today is did he receive any such reports verbal or written from the

Australian intelligence community warning him about an increase in al-Qaida threat to Australia as a consequence of the Iraq war," Labor's spokesman on foreign policy, Kevin Rudd, told ABC radio.

An unnamed source told the newspaper senior members of the government were constantly being briefed on al-Qaida and terrorism, including the impact of the Iraq war on the jihad being carried out by al-Qaida, in the months and weeks leading to the US-led invasion last year.

"They were very, very aware of our views," a former intelligence analyst was quoted as saying. "We believed it would inflame extremism and increases terrorist recruitment."

Australia sent 2,000 troops to support US and British military forces in the Iraq invasion. — Internet

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Fierce fighting continues in embattled Najaf

NAJAF, 22 Aug—Explosions and gunfire shook Najaf's Old City on Sunday in a fierce battle between US forces and Shiite militants, as negotiations dragged on for the handover of the shrine that the fighters have used for their stronghold.

Late Sunday, US warplanes and helicopters attacked positions in the Old City for the second night with bombs and gunfire, witnesses said. Militant leaders said the Imam Ali Shrine compound's outer walls were damaged in the attacks.

The US military said it fired on sites south of the shrine, where militants were shooting from, and did not hit the compound wall. — Internet



US Army soldiers jump through a wall coming out of the ancient cemetery during a gun battle with guerillas in Najaf, Iraq, on Saturday, 21 Aug, 2004. — INTERNET

Indians among 200 people languishing in US detention centre

NEW YORK, 22 Aug— More than 200 immigrants, including a number of Indians, arrested in the aftermath of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, are languishing in Wackenhut Detention Centre here without being charged and many without access even to lawyers.

So desperate they became that at least 175 of them resorted to hunger strike on Monday last seeking better condition and an early conclusion of their cases.

The New York Daily News quoted an Indian immigrant Makhan Singh as saying in a telephone interview that confirmed the hunger strike. An immigrant from India, Singh, in his 30s, has a wife and two children who are American citizens. He has been in the detention centre for six months.

"They bring us food and we send it back," Singh was quoted as saying. The Wackenhut Prison, the report said, is a converted warehouse building with no windows in the middle of a warehouse district in Springfield Gardens, Queens.

It is drab and anonymous and out of the way, which works out well for keeping the men and women imprisoned in it "out of New York's collective consciousness", the report said.

But the detainees are determined to do whatever it

takes to let everybody know about the prison and what goes on inside it. "We need people to know about our situation," Singh told the paper. "We must be heard, and we will starve if we have to."

The report said the strikers' demands are "nothing if not fair". They are asking for the right to be treated humanely, the right to due process and appropriate medical care, the review of their cases and the immediate release of all non-criminal prisoners so they can be reunited with their families.

Many of the Wackenhut prisoners — people from all over the world — have been deprived of freedom for years even though no terrorism-related or other criminal charges have been brought against any of them, it said.

Like Singh, many of the detainees — all of them confined for alleged immigration violations — are married to US citizens and have American children. Yet the government refuses to release information about their status or what their future might be —

even though few, if any, of the immigrant detentions since 9/11 have yielded any useful results for President Bush's "war on terror", the report said. — MNA/PTI

Venezuelan vote audit confirms Chavez win

CARACAS (Venezuela), 22 Aug—An audit of Venezuela's recall referendum has confirmed that President Hugo Chavez won fairly and found no evidence to support fraud charges, observers and electoral council officials said on Saturday.

International observers carried out additional checks after the opposition rejected the results and said electronic voting machines had been manipulated to give Chavez a victory in the August 15 vote. If he had lost, Chavez would have been removed from office.

MNA/Reuters

US journalist in Iraq released

BAGHDAD, 22 Aug—US journalist Micah Garen, who was kidnapped in Iraq more than a week ago, was released in the southern city of Nasiriyah. Garen spoke to Al-Jazeera television late Sunday, confirming his release.

Garen was interviewed by telephone by the station moments after an aide to Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr said the American

had been released.

Garen thanked al-Sadr's representatives in Nasiriyah and everyone else who worked to secure his release.

Garen and his Iraqi translator, Amir Doushi, were walking through a market in Nasiriyah on 13 August when two armed men in civilian clothes seized them, police said. — Internet

Iraq confiscates containers, ships for smuggling oil

BAGHDAD, 22 Aug— The Department of the Southern Borders and Customs in Iraq announced that it had confiscated 100 tank-containers and 20 ships that were used to smuggle oil, a local newspaper reported Saturday.

The tank-containers, with the capacity of each reaches up to 36,000 litres, and the ships were ready for smuggling oil out of the southern Iraqi borders and through the Gulf, the report said.

Iraqi Minister of Oil Thamer Ghadhban announced Friday that the losses of the oil sector due to the sabotage and smuggling operations had reached about two billion US dollars.

The Iraqi Customs police force is exerting an enormous effort all over the country to control the borders with a view to stopping the smuggling operations.

It also established several floating sea bases to control the movement of ships and boats and prevent smuggling operations through the Gulf. —MNA/Xinhua

Khatami calls for emergency ICO summit on Iraq crisis

TEHRAN, 22 Aug— Iranian President Mohammad Khatami on Friday called on the Organization of the Islamic Conference (ICO) to hold an emergency summit to find solutions to the deepening Iraq crisis, the official IRNA news agency reported.

Khatami told Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, the chairman of the ICO, over phone that the Iraqi interim government was in a difficult situation and the crisis in the holy city of Najaf was deepening.

"Immediate action must be taken to end the escalating violence in that city," Khatami stressed. Iran has kept a close eye on the situation in its west neighbour since the downfall of former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

Parliament (Majlis) Speaker Gholam Ali Haddad Adel on Thursday called on the ICO to pay attention to the conflicts in Iraq in a message to secretary general of the Parliamentary Union of the ICO. On Wednesday, Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi urged Iraq's neighbours to convene an emergency meeting to discuss the current unrest in the war-ravaged country.

MNA/Xinhua



A wounded Iraqi man views the damage to his car following a roadside bomb attack in the northern city of Mosul, on 21 Aug, 2004. At least two members of the Iraqi National Guard force were injured along with three other civilians when a roadside bomb went off as their convoy was driving past on a highway in Mosul, 390 km north of Baghdad. — INTERNET

US aircraft make new attack in Najaf

NAJAF, 22 Aug — US aircraft launched a fresh assault on Shiite rebels in the embattled Iraqi city of Najaf early on Sunday after talks on transferring control of the mosque at the centre of a two-week siege ran into trouble.

A US military AC-130 gunship unleashed rapid cannon and howitzer fire on positions held by rebels loyal to radical cleric Moqtada al-Sadr, a *Reuters* witness said.

The attack lit the area with white flashes and was followed by a blast. Smoke drifted over the old city near rebel positions, and flashes were seen on the outskirts of the city. Tracer fire and orange flashes went skyward in reply.

The violence followed a day of relative calm while negotiators tried to end a two-week Shiite Muslim uprising led by Sadr's forces that has helped drive world oil prices to record highs.

Militiamen had earlier brandished weapons around the Imam Ali Mosque, dampening hopes that an offer by Sadr to hand the shrine over to the clerical establishment would end the siege, the biggest challenge yet faced by Iraq's interim government.

"Bring those Americans here to fight hand to hand," one of Sadr's followers said before the latest outbreak of fighting.

"They are cowards. They stay thousands of feet away in their airplanes. They are scared, they know we will slaughter them," he said, biting his finger for emphasis.

In nearby Kufa, where Sadr has in the past led prayers at the mosque, witnesses said US forces had also clashed with militiamen on Saturday.

A top Sadr aide said talks between the fiery cleric's representatives and Iraq's top Shiite religious authorities were continuing with a view to handing the shrine over to the control of Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani.

Sistani, the most influential cleric in the majority Shiite country, is in London recovering from surgery.

But the aide, Ali Smeisim, said the talks had hit a snag over a request by Sadr's side that Sistani send a delegation to take an inventory of precious items in the mosque — thought to include jewellery, relics and carpets — to head off any claim that Sadr's men had stolen anything from the shrine.

The Imam Ali Mosque is the holiest Shiite shrine in Iraq.

"We were told by people in Sayyed Sistani's office that they cannot form the committee in the current circumstances. We told them that Sayyed Sistani has representatives in Najaf ... and we believe a committee can be formed," Smeisim told reporters.

MNA/Reuters

Thais lift ban on GMO planting, to regulate trials

BANGKOK, 23 Aug — Thailand has lifted a three-year ban on planting genetically modified organisms (GMOs) by allowing the crops to grow in open-field trials with non-GMO plants, Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra said on Saturday.

The decision, made by Thaksin at a Friday meeting on biotech policies, upset anti-GMO activists who said Thailand had been pressured by US seeds firms before the completion of negotiations on a bilateral free trade agreement.

"We are technologically capable of developing GMOs," Thaksin said in his weekly radio address. "If we don't start now, we will miss this scientific train and lose out in the world."

The debate surrounding biotech grains has intensified worldwide, with advocates saying they could lead to a more secure future for food, while opponents say they could produce new toxins and allergens, affecting the health of consumers.

Thaksin, who chaired the national biotechnology policy board on Friday, decided to allow the co-existence of GM and non-GM crops in Thailand.

The decision, due for formal Cabinet approval on Tuesday, meant the government would later pass laws to regulate planting areas for GM crops, allow the import of GM seeds and order products containing GMOs to have explicit labels, he said.

Planting of GM crops is now done in government laboratories for papayas, chillies, and eggplants, while imports of genetically modified soybeans and maize for animal feedstock and other commercial uses are legal, biotech officials said.

The other two options

proposed by the board but rejected by Thaksin were to ban GMOs completely or to freely promote them in Thailand.

Anti-GMO advocates said by adopting the field-trial of genetically modified crops, Thailand was heading towards freely promoting GMOs as the government had no measures to prevent GM crops from contaminating non-GMOs.

"Look at the fields of GM papayas by the Agriculture Ministry that claims to have excellent security, lots of these papayas are also being grown by farmers in the surrounding areas," said Witton Lianchamroon of state-funded BioThai, a biotech policy study group.

MNA/Reuters



US Army soldiers raid a building under fire from guerillas in Najaf, Iraq, on 21 Aug, 2004. — INTERNET

Sadr's aide says talks underway to end Najaf crisis

BAGHDAD, 22 Aug — Talks on the fate of Imam Ali mausoleum was underway on Saturday, a top aide to Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr said, as hopes of peaceful solution flourished in Najaf standoff.

"As you see now I am going to the office of Ayatollah Sistani. Arrangements are being made so that you could see peace before you," the aide, Sheikh Ahmad al-Shaibani, told reporters near the holy mausoleum in the city.

Meanwhile, final details of the transfer of the mausoleum to followers of Grand

Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani are worked out, according to Shaibani. The keys were handed over to representatives of Iraq's top Shiite cleric Sistani, who is in a London hospital for treatment of a heart problem, Shaibani said.

"We handed over the keys to Sistani's office, but the actual handing over of the shrine has not happened

yet," he said.

Shaibani added that the Mehdi Army would guard the shrine even after handing it over to Sistani.

"The Mehdi Army will keep defending the shrine and Najaf," Shaibani told reporters. "The Americans will not be allowed into Najaf."

MNA/Xinhua

US warplanes bomb Fallujah again

FALLUJAH (Iraq), 22 Aug — US warplanes attacked targets in Iraq's Sunni Muslim city of Fallujah for a second time on Friday, witnesses said.

They said the planes fired three rockets into the industrial zone of the city. There was no immediate word on casualties. A similar raid overnight killed five people and wounded six, hospital sources said.

Fallujah is a hotbed for anti-US guerillas.

MNA/Reuters

Beijing reports progress in subway construction

BEIJING, 23 Aug — Construction continues on three new Beijing subway lines and authorities expect to complete the work in time for the 2008 Olympics.

Construction has begun on four of the 24 stops on the No 4 subway line, said the Beijing Urban Construction Group, the general contractor of the No 4 subway. The north-south No 4 line, which will have a total length of 28.16 kilometres, beginning at Majiapu on the southern fourth ring road and end at Longbei Village in northern Beijing.

In the meantime, workers have completed 44 per cent of the civil engineering work for the No 5 subway.

Construction has also started with eight of the 22 stops on the east-west No 10 subway, said an official from the Beijing Municipal Rail Transport Construction and Management Company. Beijing now has 95 kilometres of urban rail transport in operation, of which, subways make up 54.15 kilometres. So far, the subway passenger volume accounts for 15 per cent of the city's public transportation passenger volume, according to information from Beijing Subway Corporation. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Paper says blind Palestinian girl suddenly gets her sight back

GAZA, 23 Aug — An 18-year-old Palestinian girl of Shatti refugee camp west of Gaza City suddenly gained her sight back after she had been blind since she was six, local daily newspaper *al Hayat al Jadwa* reported Thursday.

According to the report, Ra'oufa Obeid has seen herself on the mirror for the first time on Wednesday as she was blind for about 12 years.

Obeid, the blind girl with beautiful green eyes was shocked and did not believe that she could see again, weeping and laughing at the same time when she saw herself in front of mirror in her toilet at home, said the daily.

Local people said that Obeid had completely lost her sight when she was six to a sickness, adding that she

has been seeing things black and was not able to distinguish between things.

"I had faced many troubles in my life. I had a very dark 12 years of my life," said Obeid, adding that she went into her toilet at home to wash her face and her head hit the water tap on the sink when she raised it.

After her head hit the water tap, she felt dizzy and after a while she saw her face for the first time when she

looked at the mirror hanged on the wall over the sink, she said.

"I went to see so many optical doctors and no one was able to find the remedy and treat in," Obeid told the daily.

She said that as soon as she saw herself, she ran to tell her mother who called the neighbours. All of them were happy to see Ra'oufa get her sight back.

MNA/Xinhua



Polish soldiers on patrol in Iraq recently. A Polish soldier was killed and six others wounded in a car bomb attack near Hilla in southern Iraq, a Polish military spokesman said. — INTERNET

Don't smoke



Doctors at a hospital in the town of Baquba, 60km northeast of Baghdad, treat an Iraqi wounded when a roadside bomb apparently targeting a US patrol went off early, killing two civilians travelling in a car and injured four others on 21 August, 2004.



Iraqi civilians cross a street in the besieged city of Najaf on 19 August, 2004.

Images of Iraq



Iraqi police search for colleagues who were killed when two mortar bombs hit the police headquarters in Najaf on 19 August, 2004.



An Iraqi man was injured when his vehicle was caught in the cross fire during clashes between Iraqi guerillas and US forces, in the Shiite stronghold of Sadr City, Baghdad, Iraq, on 23 August, 2004.



Debris fly from a building explosion during a US aerial assault on guerilla targets in Najaf, Iraq, on 19 August 2004.

Study says risk of passive smoking underestimated

NEW DELHI, 23 Aug — As experts regret that ban on smoking in public places is not being implemented properly, a new study has found that passive smoking poses much greater risk of heart diseases than believed so far.

"Our results suggest that the relative risk of coronary heart disease associated with high levels of passive exposure to smoke is greater than that estimated for partner smoking," the study published in the *British Medical Journal* said.

Most studies on passive smoking have examined the risk of living with someone who smokes. Although this is an important component of exposure, it does not take account of additional exposure in workplaces and in public places, it said.

The team measured levels of cotinine, a by-product of nicotine which is a highly sensitive and specific marker of active and passive exposure to tobacco. It provides a

more accurate measure of exposure from these sources.

The study, carried out by scientists at St. George's Hospital Medical School and Royal Free UCL Medical School in Britain, monitored 4,729 men from 18 British towns over 20 years.

Higher concentration of blood cotinine among non-smokers was associated with a 50-to 60-per-cent greater risk of heart diseases. It also concluded that risks associated with passive smoking were widespread among non-smokers. Meanwhile, activists here said ban on tobacco products imposed since May 1 had turned out to be a "facade". "People are seen smoking in the lobby of five star hotels. Same is true for many big restaurants where people smoke freely in non-smoking area," Bejon Mishra from the consumer rights organization "Consumers' Voice" said. — MNA/PTI



A militiaman of radical Shiite cleric Moqtada al Sadr's Mehdi army looks through a destroyed courthouse in Kufa, near the city of Najaf on 21 August 2004. — INTERNET

Poll says "Hamlet" Shakespeare's finest play

LONDON, 23 Aug — "Hamlet" has been voted the finest play of Shakespeare in a unique poll conducted by the Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC) among its actors and actresses.

The play beat "King Lear" into second place and "Antony and Cleopatra" came third. The other plays in the top ten were "Henry IV Part II", "Twelfth Night", "Macbeth", "Othello", "Titus Andronicus", "A Midsummer Night's Dream" and "The Tempest".

Paul Scofield, 82-year-old veteran of stage and cinema, has been acclaimed for giving the greatest performance in a Shakespeare play for his legendary portrayal of King Lear.

Paulina in "The Winter's Tale" has been chosen for the most inspiring Shakespeare character while Iago in "Othello" is chosen for the most unappealing Shakespeare character.

The 200 voters included Sir Ian McKellen, Sir Antony Sher, Janet Suzman, Ian Richardson, Sir Donald Sinden and Corin Redgrave.

"Hamlet" was also judged the Shakespeare play most relevant to today's world and the one with the most memorable quotation — "if it be now, 'it not to come; if it be not to come, it will be now; if it be not now, yet will come; the readiness is all".

Those who voted for "Hamlet", which

at 4,042 lines is the Bard's longest play, said that they had chosen it for its unique understanding of the human nature and for the universality of its themes.

Barbara Leigh-Hunt, who has appeared in RSC productions of "Hamlet" and "King Lear", said "Hamlet deals with the human condition — mentally, politically, ethically, in every way — without compare."

Michael Boyd, RSC artistic director, said that "King Lear" was his favourite but "Hamlet" was "the greatest play that I have ever worked on".

Toby Stephens, who is playing Hamlet in the RSC's current production at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre in Stratford-upon-Avon, however, said, he viewed "King Lear", once played by his late father Sir Robert Stephens, as marginally superior.

"To me, Lear's madness often speaks more truth than sanity. The play shows remarkable insight into the human condition and the hypocrisy of the world," he said.

Another surprise was the choice of best film adaptation of a Shakespeare play. The vote went to Akira Kurosawa's "Throne of Blood", a 1957 black and white version of Macbeth, in which Shakespeare's original story is transposed to medieval Japan.

Baz Luhrmann's 1996 modern dress production of "Romeo and Juliet", starring Leonardo di Caprio and Claire Danes, finished second.

MNA/PTI

Syria, Jordan call for end of occupation in Iraq

DAMASCUS, 23 Aug — Syrian Prime Minister Muhammad Naji Otri and his visiting Jordanian counterpart Faisal al-Fayez met here Sunday and called for an end to the foreign occupation in Iraq, the official SANA news agency reported.

"Ending the occupation of Iraq and the withdrawal of foreign troops are the key factor of stability and security in Iraq," Otri was quoted as saying.

Absence of security and stability in Iraq affected the neighbouring countries, Otri added, calling on the international community, as well as the Arab countries, to back and help the Iraqi people.

Fayez shared similar view with Otri, saying "as brothers and neighbours, we are interested in Iraq's sovereignty, stability and the withdrawal of foreign occupation from the 25-year-long war-torn country."

Fayez arrived here on Sunday morning for a two-day official visit to Syria. During their meeting, the two prime ministers also voiced support to the Palestinian people and urged Israel to withdraw from all occupied Arab lands, including Syria's Golan Heights, said SANA.

Both sides also reviewed bilateral cooperations in economic and cultural fields, particularly the establishment of a free trade zone, investment encouragement and avoidance of double taxation. — MNA/Xinhua

Indonesian worker, two Iraqis killed in Mosul ambush

MOSUL (Iraq), 23 Aug — An Indonesian worker and two Iraqis were killed during an ambush in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul on Sunday in an attack which also wounded a Filipino, Iraqi police said.

Police said the two foreigners, contractors working for a foreign company, were attacked by guerillas who cut off their vehicle and opened fire as the men drove towards their compound.

The Iraqis killed were a driver and a bodyguard. Several foreign contractors have been killed by guerillas in Mosul, a hotbed of resistance to the US.

Besides attacking US and other foreign forces, guerillas regularly target foreign contractors in an attempt to force companies to leave the country. — MNA/Reuters

Nepal urges release of Nepalis believed held in Iraq

DUBAI, 23 Aug — A Nepali minister on Sunday urged an Islamist group claiming to hold 12 Nepali hostages in Iraq to release them although he said Kathmandu still had no official confirmation that they had been abducted.

Army of Ansar al-Sunna said in a statement on its web site on Friday that it had abducted the 12 Nepali workers on August 19-20 because of their cooperation with US forces in Iraq. "If they have been kidnapped then we ask that they be released. These people have no military activities and are just ordinary workers looking for jobs abroad," Nepal's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Prakash Sharan Mahat told Arab satellite television Al Jazeera by telephone.

"We respect all Iraqis and there is no reason to kidnap them (Nepalis) because they went there only to find work," he added. Nepal has banned its nationals from travelling to or working in Iraq but many Nepalis are known to have gone there from elsewhere in the Middle East. — MNA/Reuters

Clashes near Najaf kill 40 people

BAGHDAD, 23 Aug — At least 40 Iraqis were killed on Saturday near the southern clashes near the fierce city of Najaf, where Shiite militias are involved in a standoff with US-led forces, the Interior Ministry said on Sunday. A ministry official said US troops had fought battles in the nearby town of Kufa, one of a number of cities where Shiite militias loyal to radical cleric Moqtada al-Sadr have risen up this month. The official said the dead were Mehdi Army fighters and civilians.

Mehdi Army rebels are holed up in the Imam Ali mosque in Najaf, defying government demands that they disband and leave the shrine. Negotiators in Najaf are trying to resolve the 16-day siege but efforts to hand over the mosque to the Shiite clerical establishment have run into trouble.

MNA/Reuters



Iraq women make their way through a deserted street during clashes between Moqtada al-Sadr's loyalists and US and Iraqi forces in the besieged city of Najaf on Saturday, 21 Aug. 2004. — INTERNET

Secretary-1 attends presentation of ...

(from page 1)

study of Myanmar language for pleasure worth K 1.2 million by Managing Director U Aung San Myat of Machrox Co.

Next, Minister U Than Aung accepted K 150,000 donated by Chairman of Central Sanpya Fish Market, K 100,000 each by U Hnin Sein-Daw Mya Nyein (Aung Thein Timber Shop) and U Aung Kyi Sein (Duwun Inverter) and K 50,000 by Chairman of Kyimyindine Night Market Discipline Committee.

Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and Deputy Minister U Myo Nyunt also accepted the donations.

On behalf of the Ministry of Education, Minister U Than Aung thanked the Secretary-1 for his instructions and those who rendered assistance for the opening of multimedia classrooms.

He said multimedia classrooms have been opened in almost every basic education high school nationwide with the encouragement of dignitaries of the State and participation of teachers, wellwishers, members of the School Board of Trustees. He said the government provided assistance for upgrading of the multimedia classrooms. Opening of such classrooms reflects the



MEC Vice-Chairman Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win meets those attend the opening ceremony of multimedia classrooms at Kyimyindine BEHS No 5. — MNA



Myanmar Education Committee Vice-Chairman State Peace and development Council Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win inspects multimedia classrooms at Kyimyindine BEHS-5. — MNA

government's efforts and the ministry's implementation for development of the education sector, he added.

He said the government launched a programme of enrollment for school-going-age children four years ago. In May 2004, the school enrollment rate reached 96.56 per cent. The government also created opportunities to learn basic and higher education in all the regions in the country. Now altogether 110,000 students are learning their studies in the border areas where there had been no school because of lack of peace in the past. In the education

sector, achievement have been made not only in plain region but also in hilly regions, he added. He said it is the young who will build the future and he urged the students to try their best to become brilliant ones with the use of multimedia classrooms. Next, the Secretary-1 cordially greeted members of the School Board of Trustees, wellwishers and parents. The Secretary-1 and party posed for documentary photos together with the headmaster, teachers, members of the School Board of Trustees, wellwishers and students. — MNA

Provost Company-1 women's & men's teams emerge champions in Commander's Shield Volleyball Tourney

YANGON, 23 Aug — The prize presentation ceremony of the Yangon Command Commander's Shield Volleyball Tournament 2004 was held at the Hline Gymnasium in Hline Township, this morning, attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe.

Also present were Deputy Commander Col Wai Lwin, station commanders, military region commanders, commanding officers of regiments and units under the command, officers, other ranks and families.

No 1 Provost Company team beat Central Supply and Transport Depot team in the women's event and No 1 Provost Company team beat Central Provost Unit team in the men's event.

Chairman of Volleyball Sub-committee Commander of No 1 Provost Company Maj Win Myint Tun presented gifts to the umpires. Next, Daw Than Than Mya, wife of No 1 Military Region Commander Col Tun Kyi, and Daw Le Le Thwin, wife of Col Win Naung of Mingaladon Station, presented first, second and third prizes to winners in the women's event. Brig-Gen Aung Khin Soe of Mingaladon Station and Mingaladon Station Commander Brig-Gen Min Thein presented prizes to the respective winners in the men's event.

Dr Daw Thi Thi Aye, wife of No 2 Military Region Commander Brig-Gen Myo Myint, gave best player awards to winners. Similarly, Deputy Commander Col Wai Lwin presented best player awards to the men winners. Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe presented championship shields to No 1 Provost Company women's team and No 1 Provost Company men's team. — MNA



MEC Vice-Chairman Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win and party pose for documentary photo together with teachers and students at Kyimyindine BEHS No 5. — MNA

Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe attends opening ceremony of Youth Forum

YANGON, 23 Aug — The Youth Forum to mark the 10th Anniversary of International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD)+10, jointly organized by Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association (MMCWA) and the United Nations Funds for Population Activities (UNFPA), was opened at the Sedona Hotel on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road, here, this morning.

MMCWA President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe gave an opening address. Next, representatives of the youth presented souvenirs to the Minister and the Deputy

Minister for Health, the Deputy Minister for Immigration and Population, the MMCWA President and the Resident Representative of UNFPA.

After the ceremony, the MMCWA President and guests viewed health educational materials and photos on activities displayed outside the hall. Also present were Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, Deputy Minister Dr Mya Oo, Deputy Minister for Immigration and Population U Maung Aung, Vice-Chairman of MMCWA Dr Kyi Soe, the Vice-Presidents of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation and mem-

bers, UNFPA Resident Representative Mr Najib Assifi, UNICEF Resident Representative Ms Carroll C Long, WHO Resident Representative Dr Agostino Borra and officials of UN agencies, Myanmar Red Cross Society, youths from State and Division MCWAs and 52 youth representatives of NGOs.

Next, the Youth Forum followed. President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, Vice-President Dr Kyi Soe, CEC members, departmental officials and youth representatives attended the ceremony. The Forum continues tomorrow. — *MNA*



MMCWA President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and party view health educative materials displayed at Sedona Hotel where Youth Forum was held.—MNA

Agriculture, irrigation facilities in Yangon, Bago Divisions inspected

YANGON, 23 Aug—Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin yesterday met trainees from the departments and enterprises under the ministry who will attend the diploma course and agricultural on-job training course at the Central Agriculture Research and Training Division in Hlegu Township. The minister instructed them to disseminate the agricultural methods and knowledge gained from the courses to local farmers. He inspected the agriculture and livestock breeding farms run by the trainees at CARTD. Managing-Director U Tun Than of Myanma Agriculture Serv-

ice reported on the tasks. The minister gave instructions.

The minister proceeded to the Agricultural Research Farm in DaikU Township and inspected thriving of quality strain paddy on the test plot jointly run by Agricultural Research Department and Myanmar Agriculture Service. The researchers reported on test-growing of eight paddy strains received from International Rice Research Institute of the Philippines and educative tasks given to farmers.

The minister went to the Pauktabin quality strains farm and inspected production of natural fertilizers and

met agriculturalists.

Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin proceeded to the site of Kabaung Multi-purpose Dam Project and Director-General of Irrigation Department U Kyaw San Win and Director of Construction Group 5 U Victor reported on progress of the project. On completion, the dam will be able to irrigate some 100,000 acres of farmland, prevent floods and generate hydroelectricity. The minister arrived at No 7 Sugar Mill (Ottwin) and inspected preparations to run the mill in November. The Mill Manager reported on the plan to produce sugar and other preparatory works. — *MNA*



USDA (Central) Secretariat Member Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presents exercise books for trainees to Hlinethaya Township USDA Secretary U Nyan Win.—MNA

USDA basic organizational multiplier course opened

YANGON, 23 Aug — Hlinethaya Township Union Solidarity and Development Association organized the USDA Basic Organizational Multiplier Course No 22 at the township USDA Office this afternoon, attended by Member of Secretariat of USDA (Central) Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan.

Also present on the occasion were township authorities, departmental officials, executives of division, district and township USDAs and trainees.

The Secretariat Member gave an opening speech and presented exercise books for the trainees to Township USDA Secretary U Nyan Win.

Chairman of Hlinethaya Township Peace and Development Council U Khin Thein Maung handed over K 100,000 donated by Township PDC to Township USDA Secretary U Nyan Win. After the opening ceremony, the Secretariat Member cordially conversed with the trainees and those present.

MNA

Course in basic diplomatic skills opened

YANGON, 23 Aug — The opening ceremony of the Certificate Course in Basic Diplomatic Skills (BDS 11/2004) conducted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was held at Wunzin Minyazar Hall of the Ministry this morning, with an address delivered by U Win Aung, Minister for Foreign

Affairs. Various subjects including International Conferencing, International Etiquette, Protocol, International Correspondence, International Law, Negotiation Techniques are included in the course. A total of 160 trainees are attending the 12-week course.

Also present on the

occasion were Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win, the Directors-General of the departments under the ministry, departmental officials, Myanmar ambassadors, senior diplomats, rector and professors of universities and institutes concerned and trainees. — *MNA*

Refresher Course for judges opens

YANGON, 23 Aug—The Refresher Course No 1 for township deputy judges sponsored by the Supreme Court was opened at the training and research division building of the SC in Hlinethaya Township this morning. Chief Justice U Aung Toe attended the ceremony and delivered an opening address..

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Chief Justice U Thein Soe, SC Justices U Khin Maung Aye, U Khin Myint, Dr Tin Aung Aye, U Myint Thein, U Tun Shin, U Chit Lwin and U Tin Aye, SC Director-General U Soe Nyunt and directors, advisers, the Yangon Division judge, the joint Yangon Division justices and joint directors, deputy directors, head of office, guests and trainees.

The six-week course is being attended by 60 trainees—MNA

Mayor inspects repair of roads

YANGON, 23 Aug—Accompanied by Head of Engineering Department (Roads/Bridges) U Bo Htay and officials, Yangon City Development Committee Chairman Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Linn, this morning and this afternoon inspected repair of roads, production process of items for road repair and work being carried out for proper flow of drains, and gives necessary instructions to officials concerned. The mayor and party inspected repaving of roads, damage due to continuous downfalls along Sule Pagoda Road, Maha Bandoola Street and Min Nanda Street in Dawbon Township by respective district and Township Development Affairs Committee. Next, the mayor and party proceeded to the tar mixture and stone crusher in Dawbon Township and observed the production of paving slabs. — MNA

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Nutrition Development Week
(1st to 7th September 2004)

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Ministry of Health, WHO, UNICEF, Ministry of Mines

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Iran denies developing missiles capable of reaching US

TEHERAN, 23 Aug — Iran on Sunday dismissed US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld's allegation that Teheran may be working to develop missiles capable of reaching the United States, the official IRNA news agency reported.

"Acquiring missiles which could have a range up to America is a new issue which we hear," Foreign Ministry spokesman Hamid-Reza Asefi was quoted by the agency as saying.

"Such a programme is not on our agenda and this propaganda of certain American officials is only for media consumption," he said.

Rumsfeld, speaking at the seventh annual Space and Missile Defence Conference on Wednesday, named Iran among countries that were allegedly working to develop and deploy missiles capable of reaching the United States.

Relations between Iran and the United States have always been tense since the Islamic Revolution of Iran in 1979.

The United States accuses Iran of supporting terrorism and seeking nuclear weapons, while Iran terms the United States as the enemy of all Islamic countries. As on the nuclear issue, Iran says its nuclear activity is solely for peaceful purposes, but the United States alleges Iran may also be in pursuit of nuclear weapons. — MNA/Xinhua



A work of origami, or paper folding, is shown on display during the origami convention in Tokyo, on 20 Aug, 2004. Showcasing a renaissance in the ancient Japanese art of origami, some of the best paper-folders in the world descended on Tokyo on Friday for a three-day competition and convention to celebrate the artistic possibilities of origami, which is believed to have been used to create sacred ornaments at the Grand Shrines of Ise, the centre of Japan's native shinto religion.

INTERNET

Venezuelan President reshuffles Cabinet

CARACAS, 23 Aug — Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez Sunday appointed new ministers of interior, justice and information, a Cabinet reshuffle after his victory in a recall referendum.

Information Minister Jesse Chacon will replace Lucas Rincon as interior minister and Andres Izarra, Press Secretary at Venezuela's Embassy in Washington, will take the charge of the Information Ministry.

In a televised speech, the President pledged to fight corruption, intensify social programmes for the poor and promote reforms of Venezuela's Supreme Court and the judiciary system.

MNA/Xinhua

Japan protests US military helicopter flight

TOKYO, 23 Aug — Japan on Sunday protested a US decision to fly military helicopters over its southern prefecture of Okinawa without fully explaining a crash involving an identical aircraft in the same area just over a week ago.

Six CH-53D Sea Stallion transports left an Okinawa air base on Sunday heading for Iraq. A similar helicopter crashed and burst into flames on the grounds of Okinawa International University in mid-August, injuring three crew. No one on the ground was hurt.

"It is extremely regrettable that the United States has resumed use of the CH-53D despite the opposition of the Japanese Government," the Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

"We strongly protest the use of this model when there has been no proper explanation of the cause of the accident, nor of steps taken to prevent recurrence," the statement continued.

The US military said initial investigations had led to the conclusion that the fault that led to the accident was unique to the helicopter involved in the crash.

"During the investigation of the cause of the accident, all CH-53D Sea Stallions flights had been temporarily suspended," the US Forces' public relations office said

in a statement.

"Every CH-53D helicopter has since been thoroughly inspected for safety and cleared to resume mission-essential flights."

Local people protested last week after the US military refused to let Japanese police examine the wreckage to try to determine the cause of the crash. The city assembly at Ginowan, where the crash occurred, passed a resolution demanding the return to Japan of the nearby US air base..

An agreement on the management and operation of US forces in Japan means that Japanese authorities must obtain US consent for investigations involving US military personnel.

Incidents such as the crash and crimes by US servicemen, including the 1995 rape of a 12-year-old Japanese girl by three US military personnel, have fuelled resentment towards the US presence in Okinawa.

Okinawa, a string of tropical islands 1,000 miles southwest of Tokyo, is home to about half of the 48,000 US military personnel in Japan. — MNA/Reuters

"Corelli" author loses plot in summerhouse theft

LONDON, 23 Aug — Louis de Bernieres, author of the best-selling novel *Captain Corelli's Mandolin*, will have to rewrite the first four chapters of his new novel because his computer was stolen from his summerhouse.

Thieves stole the laptop containing the first 50 pages of the author's new book *A Partisan's Daughter* after forcing open a window in a wooden summerhouse in the garden of his home in Norfolk, eastern England, newspapers reported on Saturday.

"I mostly feel angry," de Bernieres was quoted as saying by *The Independent*. "I was about 50 pages

through and it was going very well, I was on a roll."

De Bernieres said he first embarked on the novel, based on the life of a Yugoslav friend who claimed to be a prostitute, more than 20 years ago, but had not made a copy of his latest version.

The 49-year-old British writer said he was offering a 500-pound reward for the computer's return.

"Captain Corelli's Mandolin", set in the Greek island of Cephalonia during the Italian occupation of World War II, won the 1995 Commonwealth Writers Prize and sold 2.5 million copies worldwide.

Its 2001 big screen adaptation, starring Nicolas Cage and Penelope Cruz, disappointed both the critics and the box office.

MNA/Reuters

25 hippos die mystically in Ugandan National Park

KAMPALA, 23 Aug — The Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) Saturday said 25 hippos in Queen Elizabeth National Park in western Uganda have died from a strange disease.

Arthur Mugisha, executive director of the UWA was quoted by local media as saying that a team of veterinary doctors from the UWA, Makerere University, the Ministry of Agriculture and a European Union supported disease control programme was investigating the deaths.

He said the disease caused concern about a week ago when it claimed more than 15 hippos near Kyamburs River in one day.

"The doctors suspect that these could have been caused by soil-borne diseases," Mugisha said, fearing that a new disease that might be difficult to deal with had emerged.

Mugisha said strange diseases have massively killed wildlife such as the flamingoes in Kenya and Tanzania, adding that the UWA was also last year thrown into panic when a strange disease attacked and killed only zebras in Lake Mburo National Park in southern Uganda.

MNA/Xinhua

25 killed in Venezuelan military plane crash

CARACAS, 23 Aug — A Venezuelan Air Force plane carrying three crew members and 22 passengers has crashed in bad weather in central Venezuela, killing all on board, an aviation official said on Sunday.

Rescue workers located the wreckage of the twin-prop *Short C-23 Sherpa* near Mariara, in the foothills of mountains in Carabobo State, west of Caracas, and

no survivors were reported, a spokesman for Venezuela's Civil Aviation Search and Rescue Centre said.

Air traffic controllers lost contact with the plane Saturday afternoon when it was returning from the Caribbean island of La Orchila, off Venezuela's northern coast.

"We're assuming the accident happened in bad weather," the civil aviation

spokesman told *Reuters*.

The passengers were a mixture of military personnel and civilians, including five children, who had been on a "recreational trip" to Orchila island, the spokesman said.

The *Short Sherpa* is a military version of the *Shorts 360* airliner built by Shorts Brothers PLC of Northern Ireland, which is the European unit of Bombardier Aerospace. — MNA/Reuters

Almost 6 million Ugandans suffer from mental health

KAMPALA, 23 Aug — Close to six million people in Uganda suffer from mental health related problems of trauma, stress, violence and others, Radio Uganda reported on Saturday.

Minister of State for Education Beatrice Wabudeya disclosed this at the inauguration of the governing council of the school of psychiatric clinical officers.

Wabudeya challenged the newly inaugurated council to help government design strategies and mechanisms for the school so that it may contribute to national development.

She noted that the 51 psychiatric clinical officers who have gone through the school since its inception are not enough to match the growing number of people suffering from mental health problems.

Fred Kigozi, director of the Butabika National Referral Hospital for mental illness in Kampala, called upon the general public to always report cases of mental health early enough to medical personnel.

He added that increased stress, drug abuse and alcoholism among Ugandans have been blamed for an increased rate of mental illnesses across the country. — MNA/Xinhua



Tropical fish swim around the coral formations on the artificial reef project, in Pemuteran, on the island of Bali, Indonesia. — INTERNET

High-yield Shweyinaye paddy strain — 2

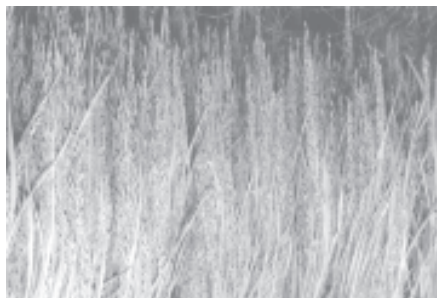
Nadanasi Sayadaw (Loilem)

(Continued from yesterday)

Under the patronage of the Commander of the Eastern Command, the harvesting, threshing and weighing ceremonies of paddy were held at respective places with the aim of enabling not only officials concerned but also local farmers to witness the fruitful results of introducing Shweyinaye paddy strain in the previous rainy season and this summer. Out of the similar ceremonies, the last one took place at the 50-acre model paddy field in ThaleU Village-tract, Inlay Region, Nyaungshwe Township, on 27 June this year.

Although they were not invited, a large number of local farmers were pouring to the model paddy field by just getting information about it. So, the site was crowded with local residents. It indicated that Shweyinaye paddy strain could draw the attention to the local farmers. Even the Commander and the Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation had to get through the heavy crowd of people to get to the model paddy field so as to grace the ceremony. Also present on the occasion were Secretary of Shan State Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Ye Tun Sein, Shan State level departmental officials, Chairman of Taunggyi District PDC Lt-Col Myint Tin, Chairman of Loilem District PDC Lt-Col Win Tint, district level departmental officials, Chairman of Nyaungshwe Township PDC U Maung Maung Soe and chairmen of Township PDCs, township level departmental officials, managers of Myanma Agriculture Service (township branches), members of social organizations, local farmers and enthusiasts. The site was therefore packed with local residents, and it vividly showed that the farmers in Shan State (South) took great interest in the new paddy strain. Besides, the pandal at which the harvesting of the 50-acre model paddy field was to be held was overcrowded with the people. And so were the booths of the Information and Public Relations Department and the Myanmar Agriculture Service. A study of the ceremony showed that local populace and farmers in Inlay Region were being transformed from observers into those interested in putting cultivation of Shweyinaye strain paddy into motion.

The ceremony was launched at 9 am. Director of the Agricultural Research Department Daw Khin Than Nwe presented salient points on Shweyinaye paddy strain. The Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation made further clarifications to the new paddy strain. According to their explanations, the average height of a Shweyinaye



Thriving of Shweyinaye strain paddy distributed by the Ruby Dragon Company.

strain paddy plant is around three and a half feet. It is strong and never falls down itself. And a Shweyinaye strain paddy plant can multiply itself into about ten plants. So, it can fulfil the requirement of feedstuff for cows and buffaloes. Moreover, the number of a paddy ear's grains range from 100 to 150. It is a species of Emahta group with clear and long grains. Rice of Shweyinaye strain is soft and delicious and rich in nutrition. Shweyinaye strain paddy thrives in a region getting a cold climate, so it is suitable to be cultivated in Shan State. The average per acre yield of Shweyinaye strain paddy is at least over 100 baskets.

Officials concerned and local farmers were encouraged with the ten points adopted by the Commander — boosting per acre yield, increasing the number of sown acreage, speeding up double or triple cropping as well as mixed cropping, use of more agricultural methods, use of high-yield strains, further minimizing loss and wastage, use of more farm machinery, supply of more water for agricultural purpose, use of more natural fertilizers, and promotion of agricultural knowledge and efforts of respective service personnel and local farmers.

The Commander also laid down the eight functions for respective officials and local farmers — extended reclamation of virgin and fallow land, introducing of high-yield strains of crops, application of agricultural methods, use of organic fertilizers, use of farm implement and machinery, introducing of multiple cropping and mixed cropping, putting of more confidence on agricultural functions, and taking more innovative measures as well as responsibilities by the agricultural staff.

Inspired by encouragements and functions, respective officials and local farmers will be able to upgrade the region's agricultural sector, opening a new page of the agricultural history of the region.

The Commander delivered a speech on the occasion. In his speech, he stressed the importance of systematic

Officials concerned and local farmers were encouraged with the ten points adopted by the Commander — boosting per acre yield, increasing the number of sown acreage, speeding up double or triple cropping as well as mixed cropping, use of more agricultural methods, use of high-yield strains, further minimizing loss and wastage, use of more farm machinery, supply of more water for agricultural purpose, use of more natural fertilizers, and promotion of agricultural knowledge and efforts of respective service personnel and local farmers.

agricultural methods. If the space between two transplanted paddy seedlings is about the length of a fist and the space between two rolls of paddy seedlings is about nine inches, there will be some 170,000 spaces in an acre of paddy field. If so, an acre yield of paddy will be more than 150 baskets. And if the farmers pay more attention to their agricultural work and make greater endeavours, the output can be increased to around 200 baskets, he said.

Then, the harvesting of paddy followed. After the harvested paddy was weighed, the per acre yield was 189 baskets. If 15 per cent is reduced from the output due to the moisture, there will remain 162 baskets. Hence, there is no farmer in Shan State who does not take interest in cultivating such species of high-yield paddy strain.

All in all, the fruitful results of introducing Shweyinaye strain paddy reflects the genuine goodwill of the Head of State, the loving kindness of the Commander of the Eastern Command Headquarters and necessary assistance rendered by the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, resulting in the great pleasure of local farmers.

In conclusion, through cultivation of Shweyinaye strain paddy, Shan State (South) can raise the living standard of local residents with higher income, while making a dramatic contribution towards the State's steps for ensuring greater paddy surplus.

(Concluded)

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

(Translation: MS)



A woman walks underneath a bronze statue of the late paramount leader Deng Xiaoping, the only such statue of Deng in China, surrounded by wreaths at Shenzhen's Lianhua mountain park to mark the 100th anniversary of the birth of Deng on 22 Aug, 2004. The Chinese authorities heaped praise on Deng, a reminder to China's 1.3 billion people that they owe their rising prosperity to Deng and to the Communist Party. — INTERNET

Philippines interested in attracting Chinese investment in mining

MANILA, 23 Aug — The Philippine Government Sunday expressed its interest in attracting Chinese investment to develop the country's rich mining resources, describing China as "a potentially huge investor".

"If the Philippines promulgates proper policies, it has a great opportunity of attracting China, which has exchange reserves of more than 400 billion US dollars," said Philippine Socio-economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri.

He said that the Philippines' potential mining wealth is estimated at 840 billion US dollars, which equals 10 times the sum of the country's gross domestic product and 15 times the country's external debts.

"The growth of the mining industry is critical in inducing greater economic growth, attracting more investments, creating more jobs and reducing poverty, particularly in the rural areas," said Neri, who is also director-general of the National Economic Development Authority. He said that the mining industry is critical in stabilizing the country's macroeconomy and that the sector is expected to increase tax collection, reduce creditor risk perceptions and improve credit rating for the country.

The mining sector is also expected to generate a substantial increase in exports and the country's precarious level of foreign exchange reserves, as well as strengthen and stabilize its own currency, peso, said the secretary.

He pointed out that developing the mining industry will draw large amounts of foreign investment, with one single mining site expected to draw between 850 million US dollars and 1.2 billion US dollars, "an almost impossible amount to raise from local investors".

The national de-development agenda of the Philippine Government identifies mining as one of the microeconomic thrusts to create jobs, one of the key targets to achieve the 10-point agenda of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.

According to local Press reports quoting Philippine officials, the Philippine Government is eager to develop cooperation with China in the fields of tourism, mining, agriculture and infrastructures, which are believed to have huge potentials.

MNA/Xinhua

Seven die in road accident in Peru

LIMA, 23 Aug — At least seven people were killed and 20 others injured Saturday in a crash between a bus and a truck in the Peruvian Andes.

The vehicles collided head on in the Huari sector on the road between the departments of Cerro de Pasco and Junin, 300 kilometres east of this capital. The cause of this accident is still under investigation. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Zimbabwe publishes law to ban foreign rights groups

HARARE, 22 Aug — Zimbabwe has published a proposed law that would ban foreign and foreign-funded human rights groups, state media reported on Saturday.

The bill could be debated in the near future in Parliament, where President Robert Mugabe's ruling ZANU-PF Party enjoys a comfortable majority, before passing into law.

Mugabe, who has repeatedly accused some non-governmental organizations (NGOs) of working with Western countries to undermine him, indicated last month his government would introduce a bill to "ensure rationalization of the macro-management of all NGOs".

The state-owned Herald said all NGOs would be required to register with a state council which would be made up of nine state-appointed members and five from the NGOs.

The council would have the power to investigate the activities of NGOs and cancel their registration licences.

"No foreign NGO shall be registered if its sole or principal objects involve or include issues of governance," the Herald quoted the bill as saying.

MNA/Reuters

ပညာရေးဖြင့် ခေတ်မီပွဲပြီးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

Hu pledges to promote Party building

BEIJING, 23 Aug— The key to successfully handling affairs in China lies in the Communist Party of China and the party will concentrate on improving its governing capability, combating corruption and guarding against risks, top party leader Hu Jintao said here Sunday.

This is meant to enhance the party's creativeness, cohesive forces and fighting power so that the party always maintains its position as the firm leading nucleus in building socialism with Chinese characteristics, said Hu, General Secretary of the Party Central Committee.

At a grand gathering to mark the birth centenary of late leader Deng Xiaoping, Hu called on party officials to pay close attention to the fundamental interests of the people and exercise their power for the benefit of the people.

The Party Central Committee will make unremitting efforts to promote party building, establish and improve an anti-graft system that fits the socialist market economic system and lays equal emphasis on education, supervision and punishment.

"We will unswervingly push forward the fight against corruption," he said. — MNA/Xinhua

China to adhere to independent foreign policy of peace

BEIJING, 23 Aug— China will stick to its independent foreign policy of peace and expand exchange and cooperation with other countries on the basis of equality and mutual benefit, Chinese President Hu Jintao said here Sunday.

The development of China needs a peaceful international environment and such development is conducive to world peace and development, Hu said, adding that China will "stick to the path of peaceful development".

China will always be a firm force in maintaining world peace and promoting common development, the President said at a grand gathering to mark the birth centenary of late leader Deng Xiaoping, held in the Great Hall of the People.

At the same time, China will always put its state sovereignty and national security in the first place, and steadfastly safeguard the nation's political, economic, cultural and defence security, he said.

The Chinese people will work with the people of other countries in the world to promote global multipolarization and the democratization of international relations, push economic globalization toward common prosperity, oppose hegemonism and power politics, fight terrorism in all forms, and devote to the establishment of a new, just and rational international political and economic order, he said. — MNA/Xinhua



Australian scientists are using the collective intelligence found in insect swarms, like these worker bees, to develop the next generation of hi-tech military hardware. — INTERNET

China's senior official calls for further studies on Deng's theory

BEIJING, 23 Aug— The study, research and publicity of Deng Xiaoping Theory is of great significance for promoting the construction of a socialist society with Chinese characteristics, a senior official of the Communist Party of China (CPC) said here Saturday.

Li Changchun, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, made the remarks at a symposium on the life and thoughts of late Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping to mark his 100th birth anniversary.

Li urged more valuable studies of Deng's theory be made to better equip the Chinese people and CPC members with his theory and the important thoughts of "Three Represents" which refers to the development trend of China's advanced productive forces, the orientation of China's advanced culture, and the fundamental interests of the

overwhelming majority of the people in China.

The symposium was presided over by Liu Yunshan, member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and member of the Secretariat of the CPC Central Committee.

Deng Xiaoping Theory is the "precious spiritual treasure Deng left us," Li said. In the past decade, experts and scholars have made in-depth studies on Deng's theory, combining Marxism, Leninism and Mao Zedong thought, to deepen the understanding of his theory, Li said. — MNA/Xinhua

Some 200 feared dead as flood sweeps through N Nigeria

LAGOS, 23 Aug — Some 200 people are feared dead and more than 1,000 houses submerged Saturday in the northeastern Nigerian state of Gombe as a result of an early morning downpour, Nigeria's state media reported.

No fewer than 3,000 people were rendered homeless by the flood, triggered by a three-hour rain, which started at about 7.30 am (0630 GMT), the official News Agency of Nigeria said.

Areas worst hit were Yarwa-Gana, Burundi, Jekadafari, Yalenguruza, Bega, Bolari, Chencheniya and Tudun Wada wards, the report said, adding that sympathizers were seen trooping to the areas to provide assistance to the victims. Governor Danjuma Goje, who visited the affected areas to sympathize with victims, ordered the immediate purchase and distribution of relief materials to the affected people.

He further directed the relevant ministries and agencies to provide estimate of the goods and houses washed away to enable the government to provide more assistance to the victims. — MNA/Xinhua

Zanzibar sets long imprisonment for gays

DAR-ES-SALAAM, 22 Aug— The law on homosexuality which sets up to 25 years' imprisonment for gays in Zanzibar, an Indian Ocean island in Tanzania, has taken effect after the presidential endorsement, according to a statement available here Saturday.

The law stipulated that those men who have been convicted of having homosexual sex in Zanzibar will be sentenced up to 25 years' imprisonment, while punishment for women found guilty of homosexual sex is seven years in prison. The new law was passed unanimously by the island's Parliament in April and signed into law by the island's President last week, the office of Zanzibar's attorney-general said in the statement.

MNA/Xinhua

မြန်မာ့ရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာနတွင်အသုံးပြုရန်လိုအပ်သော ပစ္စည်းများဝယ်ယူရန်တင်ဒါခေါ်ယူခြင်း

၁။ မြန်မာ့ရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာနမြန်မာ့အသံနှင့်ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား၊ မြန်မာ့ရေးနှင့် ပြည်သူ့ဆက်ဆံရေးဦးစီးဌာန၊ ပုံနှိပ်ရေးနှင့် စာအုပ်ထုတ်ဝေရေးလုပ်ငန်း၊ သတင်းနှင့်စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်းနှင့် မြန်မာ့ရုပ်ရှင် လုပ်ငန်းတို့တွင် အသုံးပြုရန် လိုအပ်သော အောက်ဖော်ပြပါပစ္စည်းများကို ဝယ်ယူလိုပါသည်-

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| (က) မြန်မာ့အသံနှင့်ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား | |
| (1) Spares for 9 Base Station TV TX | (1) Set |
| (2) Spares for Computer & Networking | (1) Set |
| (3) အသံလွှင့်လုပ်ငန်းသုံး Tape များ | (8) Items |
| (4) ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားလုပ်ငန်းသုံး Tape များ | (3) Items |
| (5) ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားလုပ်ငန်းသုံးစက်ပစ္စည်းများ | (3) Items |
| (6) 10. WTV TX Complete Set | (4) Sets |
| (7) အသံလွှင့်လုပ်ငန်းသုံးစက်ပစ္စည်းများ | (12) Items |
| (8) Radio Studio Digitalization Equipment for Studio (E) | (1) Set |
| (9) Plain Paper Copier A3 | (2) Nos |
| (10) Copy Printer (2 Paper Tray) | (1) No |
| (11) Digital Photo Copier (18. Copier A3. Size) | (1) No |

(ခ) မြန်မာ့ရေးနှင့်ပြည်သူ့ဆက်ဆံရေးဦးစီးဌာန

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| (1) Camera (28 to 90 mm Wide Zoom Lens with Case) | (20) Nos |
| (2) Flash Gun | (20) Nos |
| (3) TV Receiver (29") (Multi Colour) | (10) Nos |
| (4) TV Receiver (21") (Multi Colour) | (10) Nos |
| (5) Radio Cassette Recorder (130-Watts) | (10) Nos |
| (6) Radio Cassette Player (23 Watts) (240.V) | (10) Nos |
| (7) Video Compact Disc Player | (65) Nos |
| (8) Generating Set (2 KVA) | (24) Nos |
| (9) Air Conditioner (1 HP)(Window Type) | (10) Nos |

(ဂ) ပုံနှိပ်ရေးနှင့်စာအုပ်ထုတ်ဝေရေးလုပ်ငန်း

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| (1) Wire Stitching Machine | (4) Nos |
| (2) Air Conditioner (1.5 HP)(Window Type) | (7) Nos |
| (3) Battery Charger | (1) Nos |
| (4) Clip on Amperer Meter (1 to 1000A) | (1) Nos |
| (5) Plain Paper Copier | (2) Nos |

(ဃ) သတင်းနှင့်စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်း

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| (1) Computer e-Mac | (14) Nos |
| (2) Computer Pentium IV | (3) Nos |
| (3) Laser Printer A4 | (7) Nos |
| (4) Laser Printer A3 | (10) Nos |
| (5) Dot Matric Printer A3 | (5) Nos |
| (6) Scanner A3 | (5) Nos |
| (7) Cutting Machine | (3) Nos |
| (8) Generator | (1) No |

(င) မြန်မာ့ရုပ်ရှင်လုပ်ငန်း

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| (1) TV Receiver-21" (Multi Colour/Hifi) & Video Cassette Recorder (Hifi) | (12) Sets |
| (2) 35 mm Fuji Colour Negative Film (400') (200) Rolls | |
- ၂။ တင်ဒါပေးသူ၏ (၃-၉-၂၀၀၄) ရက် (၁၆-၃၀) နာရီတွင်ပိတ်သိမ်းပါမည်။
၃။ တင်ဒါပုံစံနှင့် အသေးစိတ်အချက်အလက်များကို အောက်ပါလိပ်စာတွင် လာရောက် ဝယ်ယူနိုင်ပါသည်-

ပြည်တွင်း/ပြည်ပပစ္စည်းများဝယ်ယူရေးနှင့်ထုတ်ဝေရေးဓနကော်မတီ

မြန်မာ့ရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

အမှတ် ၂၂၈၊ သိမ်ဖြူလမ်း၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့

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ကျေးရွာတိုင်း ကိုယ်အားကိုးစာကြည့်တိုက်ရှိသင့်သည်



ကျေးရွာတိုင်း ကိုယ်အားကိုးစာကြည့်တိုက်များအတွက် သုတ/ရသ စာအုပ်များလွှဲဒါနနိုင်ပါသည်။

မြန်မာ့ရေးနှင့် ပြည်သူ့ဆက်ဆံရေးဦးစီးဌာန

SPORTS

Gold for Ainslie, US pair win 470 in sailing

ATHENS, 23 Aug—Two generations of sailors shared the Olympic regatta spotlight on Saturday when Britain's Ben Ainslie won the Finn gold and Americans Paul Foerster and Kevin Burnham reached the pinnacle after years of trying. Ainslie tasted the Saronic Gulf's salty water when he was capsized by his main rivals after securing the gold, but was all smiles as the Finn title followed his success in the lighter Laser dinghy in Sydney four years ago.

Ainslie has proved matchless in the Finn and the triple world champion needed to keep only his nerve in the final race of 11 to beat off silver medallist Rafael Trujillo from Spain and Poland's Mateusz Kusznierewicz.

His triumph sealed Britain's second sailing gold of the Athens Games, well on the way to matching their three from Sydney where the island nation ruled the waves. Burnham, oldest competitor in the men's 470 fleet at the age of 47, and Foerster, 40, defied their years to triumph in the men's double-handed dinghy. — MNA/Reuters



New Zealand's Ben Fouhy (L) and Steven Fergusson compete in heat one of the men's K2 1000 metres Kayak Flatwater Racing during the Athens 2004 Olympic Games, 23 August, 2004. Fouhy and Fergusson came second in their heat. — INTERNET

Italy beat China in men's foil team

ATHENS, 23 Aug—Simone Vanni was hailed as the hero of Italy's fencing foil team in their narrow 45-42 win over China to capture the gold medal at the Olympics on Saturday. He scored 20 points to help give Italy their third fencing gold at the Athens Games after Aldo Montano took the men's individual sabre title and Valentina Vezzali won the women's individual foil.

Vanni relished the challenge of holding the team together when team mates Salvatore Sanzo and Andrea Cassara were giving away points. Vanni received a warning from the referee at one point for feigning injury, but the Italian insisted he was hurt.

"I had a cramp in my thigh and I called the doctor because I didn't think I could go on. It went away but I was destroyed by the time I finished," said Vanni.

Italy looked a certainty going into the last round leading 40-34, especially as Sanzo soon made it 42-36.

But to the astonishment of everyone in the packed hall, Zhaozhi Dong then collected six points in succession to level the scores.

Sanzo, the individual silver medallist, was stirred into action though and secured the gold.

Russia beat the United States, surprise conquerors of second seeds Germany in the quarterfinals, for the second time in three days in a bronze medal play-off.

On Thursday, the Russians came from behind to win the sabre bronze 45-44. This time it was more comfortable as Russia won 45-38. — MNA/Reuters

Henin-Hardenne wins women's singles gold

ATHENS, 23 Aug—Justine Henin-Hardenne (Belgium) won the women's tennis singles gold medal at the Olympics on Saturday.

Amelie Mauresmo (France) took the silver, and Alicia Molik (Australia) the bronze.

MNA/Reuters

Chilean pair win country's first gold

ATHENS, 23 Aug—Nicolas Massu and Fernando Gonzalez won Chile's first gold medal at an Olympics in a five-set tennis marathon that ended at 2.37 am (2337 GMT) on Sunday.

The Chileans beat Germany's Nicolas Kiefer and Rainer Schuettler 6-2, 4-6, 3-6, 7-6, 6-4 after three hours and 43 minutes on court, having started the match on Saturday evening.

"It's a wonderful thing for Chile. I want to dedicate this to all the people... my family, my friends," said Gonzalez. "I will have this medal my whole life and today will stay with me forever."

For Gonzalez the victory

was something of a superhuman feat. He had already spent three hours and 25 minutes on court earlier on Saturday beating Taylor Dent (U.S.) 6-4, 2-6, 16-14 for the bronze medal in the men's singles.

After a total of seven hours and eight minutes on court he sank to the ground after the German team sent the ball long beyond the baseline to hand the Chileans victory.

"This is hugely emotional ... in both matches I thought

everything was getting out of reach," Gonzalez said.

"It was a huge day like yesterday. One minute before playing the (bronze medal match) singles I was still sad from losing (on Friday in the last four) but now it is completely different.

"After losing on Friday, I never felt such sadness in my life, but I couldn't tell anyone because I had to play this final today and stand with Nicolas on the court. — MNA/Reuters

Kluft crowned queen of heptathlon

ATHENS, 23 Aug—Carolina Kluft was crowned the queen of heptathlon on Saturday after blowing away the field to add Olympic gold to the world title she won last year.

The 21-year-old Swede totally dominated the seven-discipline, two-day event and her final winning total of 6,952 points was a mammoth 517 clear of her nearest rival.

Austra Skujyte of Lithuania took silver with a personal best 6,435 points while Briton Kelly Sotherton was third, an agonising 11 points adrift on 6,424 as her front-running victory in the final 800 metres heat came up just short.

But the day was all about Kluft, who is still learning many of the skills that combine to make the toughest event of the women's athletics programme yet continues to destroy her more experienced rivals.

MNA/Reuters

Asanidze denies Dimas record gold

ATHENS, 23 Aug—George Asanidze gave Georgia their first weightlifting gold medal on Saturday, denying Greek strongman Pyrrhos Dimas a place in Olympic history.

In a riveting contest, Asanidze combined 177.5kg in the snatch with 205 kg in the clean and jerk for a total of 382.5 kg to take the 85 kg title.

Andrei Rybakou of Belarus took the silver with 380kg but was not part of the evening's drama having competed in the B group earlier in the day.

While Dimas was denied a record fourth weightlifting gold he would not be denied a medal, taking the bronze with 377.5kg.

After failing on his final attempt, the 33-year-old national hero slipped off his weightlifting shoes and left

them on the stage in a symbolic act of retirement before exiting to thundering applause from the sellout crowd.

MNA/Reuters



Georgia's George Asanidze competes during the men's 85 kg weightlifting competition of the Olympic Games at Nikaia Olympic Weightlifting Hall in Athens. Asanidze won the gold medal. — INTERNET

Russian gatecrashers get two months in jail

ATHENS, 23 Aug—Two Russians looking for a cheap place to sleep were sentenced to two months in jail on Saturday after attempting to break into the athletes' Olympic village. But they were released on appeal the same day.

Military officials said on Saturday that the men, one of whom had a brother on the Russian Olympic team who gave him his Games accreditation before leaving Athens, managed to pass two police checkpoints.

But they failed to reach the 2,292-apartment athletes' village after soldiers at a third checkpoint spotted the difference. "They got two months in jail but filed an appeal and were released," an army source told Reuters. "They were looking for an inexpensive place to sleep."

The athletes' village is one of the most secure Olympic venues with access roads blocked to non-permit holders and hundreds of security personnel patrolling the compound.

MNA/Reuters

Sadova dashes Greek discus hopes

ATHENS, 23 Aug—Russia's Natalya Sadova dashed hopes of a first Greek Olympic discus gold on Saturday as she won the women's event in front of a vociferous sell-out crowd in Athens.

Anastasia Kelesidou, a perpetual bridesmaid, looked set to win the title for Greece at last after blasting out an effort of 66.68 metres in the third round.

But Sadova, the 2001 world champion, responded with 67.02 with her penultimate throw and Kelesidou had to settle for silver.

The bronze went to world champion and favourite Irina Yatchenko of Belarus (66.17), who was hoping to win aged 39. Sadova, 32, was sportingly cheered by the crowd as she set off on a lap of honour, soon followed by the silver medallist.

MNA/Reuters

S Korea take third archery gold

ATHENS, 23 Aug—South Korea's trio of record-breaking archers made up for poor solo performances at the Olympics to win the men's team gold medal on Saturday, giving their country three of the four archery titles.

In a 27-arrow final contested in blazing heat, the Koreans comfortably beat Taiwan 251-245, firing an impressive 12 bullseyes for maximum 10-point scores compared to their rival's six.

Members of the all-conquering women's team rushed onto the archery range at the Panathinaiko Stadium, the marble home of the first modern Games in 1896, after the medals ceremony to congratulate their compatriots.

The teammates celebrated their three-win repeat of four years ago by joining together to hoist their two most senior archery officials in the air.

Ukraine took the bronze medal after beating the United States 237-235 in the third place match. Taiwan's silver medal was only their country's second medal of the Games and followed the bronze won by their women's team on Friday. — MNA/Reuters



South Korea's archery team toss their coach into the air after a gold medal win in the men's team archery competition at the Athens 2004 Olympic Games, on 21 August, 2004. Defending champions South Korea won the Olympic gold medal after comfortably beating Taiwan in the final, giving their country three of the four archery titles. — INTERNET

MRTV -3
24-8-2004 (Tuesday)
(Programme Schedule)
Morning Transmission
(9:00 - 10:00)

- 9:00 Signature Tune
Greeting
9:02 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
9:06 100 Shuttle Traditional
Weaving Industry
9:10 **Headline News**
9:12 Ancient Architectural
heritage of Taungthaman Kyauktawgyi Pagoda
9:15 **National News**
9:20 Arts of Myanmar
Traditional Tapestry
9:25 Three Types of
Dances
9:30 **National News**
9:35 Beauty of the Woman
of Myanmar (Pre-War Period)
9:40 Song "If It Rains"
9:45 **National News**
9:50 Reminiscence in the
Glow of Sunset
9:58 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and
See Myanmar"

24-8-2004 (Tuesday)
Evening Transmission
(15:30 - 17:30)

- 15:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
15:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanmar
Panorama & Myanmar
Sentiment"
15:36 100 Shuttle Traditional
Weaving Industry
15:40 **Headline News**
15:42 Ancient Architectural
heritage of

- Taungthaman Kyauktawgyi Pagoda
15:45 **National News**
15:50 Arts of Myanmar
Traditional Tapestry
15:55 Three Types of
Dances
16:00 **National News**
16:05 Beauty of the Woman
of Myanmar (Pre-War Period)
16:10 Song "If It Rains"
16:15 **National News**
16:20 Reminiscence in the
Glow of Sunset
16:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
16:30 **National News**
16:35 Three Dimensional
Gems studded Painting
16:40 Art in Glass Bottles
16:45 **National News**
16:50 Sri-Kestra Museum
(Pyu Cultural Site)
16:55 An Exculcating Male
Dance
16:58 Myanmar Green Tea
17:00 **National News**
17:05 Thin Straw Pulp Paper
17:10 Songs On Screen
"Through My Eyes"
17:15 **National News**
17:20 Tobacco Pipe of
Ywa Lut
17:28 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and
See Myanmar"

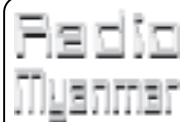
24-8-2004 (Tuesday)
Evening Transmission
(19:30 - 23:30)

- 19:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
19:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
19:35 Shan Traditional
Hsoun Offering Ceremony
19:40 **Headline News**
19:42 Unique Style of
Kachin Dress
19:45 **National News**
19:50 Pottery, A Home Industry
19:55 Scenic Beauty of

- Tiddim & Cultural
Dance
19:58 Cultural Museum
(Keng Tong)
20:00 **National News**
20:05 Myanmar Traditional
Musical Instruments
(Brass Instruments
Cymbal) (Kyay-Naung)
20:10 Song "We'll Greet
You In Mon Language"
20:12 Akha Weaving
Training School
20:15 **National News**
20:20 Pride of Place in
Bagan (The Ananda
Temple)
20:25 Myanmar Modern
Song "Flowers
Lover"
20:30 **National News**
20:35 Paintings decorated
by art of goldsmith
20:40 Kindness to Pet
Animals
20:45 **National News**
20:50 Typical Traditional
Customs of Mor
Shan
20:55 Sandawchain
21:00 **National News**
21:05 Mosaic Painting of
Myanmar
21:10 Myanmar Modern
Song "Shadow of
Love"
21:12 Lei Gaing Monastery
with wooden
Statuettes
21:15 **National News**
21:20 Sweet and Juicy
Pomelo
21:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanmar
Panorama & Myanmar
Sentiment"
21:35 100 Shuttle Traditional
Weaving Industry
21:40 **Headline News**
21:42 Ancient Architectural
heritage of
Taungthaman Kyauktawgyi
Pagoda
21:45 **National News**
21:50 Arts of Myanmar

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Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and
See Myanmar"

Rainfall on 23-8-2004
 — 1.22 inches at
 Yangon Airport,
 — 0.39 inch at Kaba-
 Aye,
 — 0.59 inch at central
 Yangon.



Tuesday, August 24

Tune in today:

- 8:30 am Brief news
8:35 am Music: Miss you
finally
8:40 am Perspectives
8:45 am Music: Why
8:55 am National news/
Slogan
9:00 am Music: Book of
love
9:05 am International
News
9:10 am Music: You are
my babe
1:30 pm News/Slogan
1:40 pm Lunch time
music
-Ghost town
-Down town train
-Ma Ma said
-Now and forever
9:00 pm English Speaking
Course Level-1
Unit (27)
9:15 pm Article/Music
9:25 pm Weekly sports
reel
9:35 pm Music for your
listening pleasure
-Careless whisper
-Anything for
you
9:45 pm News/Slogan
10:00 pm PEL

Acknowledgement of gratitude

We would like to express our profound gratitude to friends and relatives far and near for the condolence and assistance extended to us in person, by phone and by mail for the passing away of Thiripyanchi U Kyi Maung (age 86) on 19 August, 2004.

Bereaved family

Asleep in Jesus
Saw Kyaw Khaing Tun (a) Mc Roland
(a) Po Sweet (Age 47)

Son of (Rev. Tun Gon Gyi -Gha Maggie Than, son-in-law of U Saw Michael Mya (a) U Saw Maung Maung Mya-Naw Carol Mya, younger brother of Naw Angelyna Gyi (UNICEF), beloved father of Naw Lwai Moo Paw (Linfield College, USA), Naw Day Moo Paw (BARS final year, Myanmar Institute of Theology), beloved husband of Naw Mya Mya, passed away on 23-8-2004. Funeral service will be held at No 6, U Aung Gyaw Road, East Gyogon, Insein at 9 am, on 25-8-2004 (Wednesday), after which funeral cortege will leave for Yay Way Christian Cemetery for entombment.

Bereaved family

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas


WEATHER

Monday, 23 August 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Shan and Kayah States, lower Sagaing and Magway Divisions and rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Kachin State, upper Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions, scattered in Yangon Division, Chin and Kayin States and widespread in the remaining areas with locally heavyfalls in Ayeyawady Division. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Pyapon 5.67 inches and Patheingyi (3.43) inches, Putao (2.99) inches and Kawthong (2.95) inches.

Maximum temperature on 22-8-2004 was 87°F. Minimum temperature on 23-8-2004 was 69°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 23-8-2004 was 100%. Total sunshine hours on 22-8-2004 was (1.9) hours approx. Rainfall on 23-8-2004 was (1.22 inches) at Yangon Airport, (0.39 inch) at Kaba-Aye, (0.59) inch at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was (93.46 inches) at Yangon Airport, (91.02 inches) at Kaba-Aye and (91.65 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 12 mph from Southwest at 15:25 hours MST on 22-8-2004. **Bay inference:** Monsoon is generally moderate in the Bay of Bengal. **Forecast valid until evening of 24-8-2004:** Weather will be partly cloudy in Kayah State, lower Sagaing and Magway Divisions and rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Mandalay Division, Chin and Shan States, scattered in Kachin State, upper Sagaing and Bago Divisions widespread in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is 80%. **State of the sea:** Sea will be moderate in Myanmar areas. **Outlook for subsequent two days:** Moderate monsoon. **Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 24-8-2004:** One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 80%. **Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 24-8-2004:** Partly cloudy.



Tuesday, August 24

View on today:

- 7:00 am
1. Recitation of Parittas
by Mingun Sayadaw
7:25 am
2. To be healthy exercise
7:30 am
3. Morning news
7:40 am
4. Nice and sweet song
7:50 am
5. တရားနိဗ္ဗာန်
8:00 am
6. Songs of yesteryears
8:10 am
7. အရေပြေ
8:20 am
8. မင်းလှရေလှောင်တံ

- 8:30 am
9. International news
8:45 am
10. Grammar Made Easy
4:00 pm
1. Martial song
4:15 pm
2. Songs to uphold
National Spirit
4:30 pm
3. English for Everyday
Use
4:40 pm
4. အစားသင့်တော်သော ပညာရေး
ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ
- ပုဒ်မာန် (တော့ဆေးအထူးပြု)
(တော့ဆေး)
4:55 pm
5. Dance of national
races
5:10 pm
6. ခံစားနားဆင် စားစာတံခွန်
5:25 pm
7. မြန်မာစာ၊ မြန်မာစာတေး

- 5:35 pm
8. Sing and enjoy
6:10 pm
9. နိုင်ငံခြားတက္ကသိုလ်တစ်ခု
"ဗဟိုကော်မရှင်" (အပိုင်း-၁၈)
6:30 pm
10. Evening news
7:00 pm
11. Weather report
7:05 pm
12. သားငါးဖွံ့ဖြိုး ပြည့်အစုံ
7:15 pm
13. The mirror images of
the musical oldies
7:30 pm
14. ရွေးကောက်ပွဲသတိပေး
အလှူစင်
8:00 pm
15. News
16. International news
17. Weather report
18. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတိုလမ်း
"တစ်ခုချင်းစာ" (အပိုင်း-၁၆)
19. The next day's
programme

Commander inspects progress of Vegetable and Poultry Farming Special Zone

YANGON, 23 Aug — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe this afternoon inspected Yangon Division Vegetable and Poultry Farming Special Zone near Nyaungnapin Village in Hmawby Township.

Departmental officials reported on land preparation, cultivation of vegetables, raising of broilers and layers, production of egg and fish breeding.

Chairman of the Supervisory Committee for the Special Zone Commissioner U Hla Soe of Yangon Division General

Administration Department and officials reported progress of facilitating the special zone. Private entrepreneurs reported on requirements.

Speaking on the occasion, the commander said that the special zone is being established with a view to ensuring sufficiency of vegetables for city dwellers and exporting surplus products. The Head of State has given guidance to produce not only agricultural produce but also horticultural ones to meet the local food sufficiency and to export them for rapid growth of the State economy. The entrepreneurs are also to apply modern agricultural

methods in their works. Myanmar Agriculture Service sets up a technological unit to transfer the agricultural technologies to the growers. And, divisional departmental officials should provide assistance to growers and breeders for boosting production.

Next, the commander fulfilled the requirements and inspected progress of special zones. A total of 6,075 acres of land have been put under vegetable in the special zone. Over 1.2 million of broilers and layers have been bred and over 1 million of broilers have been sold. Over 1.36 million fish are being bred in the 568 acres of fish ponds. — MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe inspects poultry farming at Yangon Division Vegetables Cultivation and Poultry Farming Special Zone in Hmawby Township. — YANGON COMMAND

Symposium on Preservation of Cultural Heritage commences

YANGON, 23 Aug — The Symposium on Preservation of Cultural Heritage, co-organized by ASEAN-COCI Myanmar and Aus-Heritage of Australia, was opened at the multi-purpose hall of the National Museum on Pyay Road, here, this morning.

Present were Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung, Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa, Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein, Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu, departmental heads, ambassadors of ASEAN countries and diplomats, officials of the ASEAN-COCI Myanmar, the Chairman of Aus-Heritage, scholars and resource persons from home and abroad, observers and guests.

First, Minister Maj-Gen Kyi Aung gave an opening



Minister Maj-Gen Kyi Aung addresses opening ceremony of Symposium on Preservation of Cultural Heritage. — MNA

address. Director of Department of Cultural Institute Daw Nanda Hmun explained cultural preservation of Myanmar. Chairman of Aus-Heritage Mr Vinod Daniel briefed them on the purpose of

holding the symposium.

Later, the ministers, the deputy ministers and officials had documentary photo taken. After the opening ceremony, the resource persons read papers concerning preservation of

cultural heritage and answered the queries raised by those present. The symposium will be held up to 24 August. The workshop on museum preservation will be held on 25 August.

MNA



Military and marching song competitions to mark 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day to be held

YANGON, 23 Aug — As a gesture of hailing the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, which falls on 27 March 2005, the subcommittee for holding the military and marching song competition of the work committee for poem and arts competitions chaired by Deputy Minister for Culture Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung announced that military and marching song competitions will be held.

There will be only one category, professional level, for the military marching song competition while the military song competition is divided into two categories, level 1 and level 2. First,

second, and third prizes as well as consolation ones will be awarded in every level. Rules and regulations of the competition are as follows:

In military marching song competition, songs must be composed and based on the twelve objectives of the State, the objectives of the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day and the twelve fine traditions of the Tatmadaw.

Composers and vocalists are not permitted to compete at level 2 of the military song competition nor those who stood first second or third at level 2 of the last year's military song

competition. They are to enter the level 1. Only one song is allowed for individuals or groups. Entry songs must be in accord with military songs composing methods.

Military songs must be in melody and modes as well as in own tune. The time taken for the song must be between 4 and 6 minutes. There will be a preliminary contact for entry songs with strong vocal and suitable music.

Only a song must be recorded on the entry cassette or reel. A suitable title may be given. Words of the entry song together with its typed

copies and an original of its music notes must be attached to the cassette or reel. The brief autograph of the entrant and the singers together with three passport size colour photos must be sent. Those tentatively selected will be informed.

The tentatively selected songs must be re-recorded and are to compete for final. Entry songs should be sent to U Ko Ko Htwe, Secretary, Sub-committee for the military and marching song competitions, Myanmar Radio and Television, Pyay Road, Yangon, not later than 31st December, 2004.

MNA

Efficient use of electricity

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

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

Efficient use of fuel

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