

# The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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11th Waxing of Wakhaung 1366 ME

Thursday, 26 August, 2004

## The Union of Myanmar

### The State Peace and Development Council

## The Law Amending the Myanmar Aircraft Act

(The State Peace and Development Council Law No 6 / 2004)

The 10th Waxing Day of Wakhaung, 1366 ME

(25th August, 2004 )

The State Peace and Development Council hereby enacts the following Law: -

1. This Law shall be called **the Law Amending the Myanmar Aircraft Act**.
2. The expression contained in section 4 of the Myanmar Aircraft Act "for carrying out the Convention relating to the regulation of Aerial Navigation, signed at Paris, October 13, 1919, with Additional Protocol, signed at Paris, May 1, 1920, and any amendment which may be made thereto under the provisions of Article 34 thereof " shall be substituted by the expression "for carrying out the provisions of the Convention on International Civil Aviation, signed at Chicago, on 7 December, 1944, and any amendment which may be made thereto under the provisions of Article 94, thereof ". In the marginal note of the said section, the expression "Convention of 1919" shall be substituted by the expression "Convention of 1944."
3. After the expression "class of aircraft" contained in section 5, sub-section (1) of the Myanmar Aircraft Act the expression "and the safety and the security of Civil Aviation" shall be inserted.
4. After section 5, sub-section 2 (ab) of the Myanmar Aircraft Act, sub-section 2 (ac) shall be inserted as follows:  
“(ac) the economic regulation of civil aviation and air transport services, including the approval, disapproval or revision of tariff of operators of air transport services, the officers or authorities who may exercise powers in this behalf, the procedure to be followed, and the factors to be taken into account by such officers or authorities, appeals to the Government against orders of such officers or authorities and all other matters connected with such tariff ”.
5. After section 5 of the Myanmar Aircraft Act, section 5A shall be inserted as follows:  
“5A.(a) The Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council may confer on the Ministry of Transport the power to make rules prescribed in section 5.

*Conferring power  
to make rules.*

(See page 2)

### Four political objectives

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

### Four economic objectives

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

### Four social objectives

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

## Prime Minister views liver transplant operation

YANGON, 25 Aug — Myanmar surgeons conducted a liver transplant operation for the first time in history, and Chairman of National Health Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt viewed the operation at New General Hospital (Yangon) at 6 pm today.

Accompanied by officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, Prime Minister General

Khin Nyunt arrived at New General Hospital (Yangon) on Bogyoke Aung San Street where Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, Deputy Minister Dr Mya Oo, Deputy Commander of Yangon Command Col Wai Lwin, departmental heads, the medical superintendent, specialists physicians and doctors welcomed him.

The Prime Minister viewed the liver transplant operation being conducted

for the first time in the nation. Myanmar surgical specialists led by Professor Dr Norman Hla conducted the operation.

Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, Deputy Minister Dr Mya Oo and specialists surgeons briefed the Prime Minister on matters relating to the operation. Later, the Prime Minister fulfilled the requirements and left the hospital.

MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt cordially chats with surgeons.— MNA



Surgeons led by Prof Dr Norman Hla perform liver transplant operation. — MNA

**The Prime Minister viewed the liver transplant operation being conducted for the first time in the nation. Myanmar surgical specialists led by Professor Dr Norman Hla conducted the operation.**

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## PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 26 August, 2004

### Let's use more and more CNG-powered vehicles

In the world today, the price of fuel is skyrocketing day after day and, as Myanmar has to import petrol and diesel annually, it is necessary to use them effectively.

Therefore, systematic measures for efficient use of fuel are being taken all over the nation. If each vehicle in the nation reduces the use of petrol a gallon per month, millions of dollars will be saved.

At the time when oil prices are going up all over the world, inland natural gas production in Myanmar has been on the increase. Therefore, it is necessary to review the system of fuel use in the nation.

A coordination meeting for extended use of compressed natural gas (CNG) as fuel in place of diesel or petrol in automobiles was held at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Industry-2 on 24 August in Yangon. Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win attended the meeting and delivered an address on the occasion.

In his address, the Secretary-1 said that nowadays, even the industrialized nations are using more and more gas-powered vehicles and, therefore, it was time for Myanmar to speed up use of petrol- or diesel-substitute compressed natural gas in cars.

In 1986, Myanmar carried out a test on the automobiles using compressed natural gas and now a total of 587 gas-used automobiles run in Insein, Hmawby, Yenangyaung and Minbu regions. The benefits of using compressed natural gas are effective use of locally produced gas, prevention of air pollution, saving of petrol and diesel and cheaper transport charges.

Gas-powered vehicles have been running safely in Myanmar since its introduction and owners of the vehicles prefer gas-fired engines to diesel or petrol engines. If all the vehicles in all bus lines use gas-powered engines, bus fares will be cheaper as there can be no limit for the sale of gas.

Now, the Ministry of Industry-2 and the Ministry of Energy, in cooperation with other relevant ministries, are taking measures to substitute gas engines in place of diesel engines. As the first phase, 200 automobiles in Myingyan and 1,000 buses and 1,000 automobiles in Yangon have been reinstalled with gas engines.

We would like to urge the Ministry of Energy and relevant ministries to try their best to install gas-fired engines in more and more passenger buses and lorries to reduce the use of diesel and petrol.

### All this needs to be known

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

### Kachin State OWA holds meeting

YANGON, 24 Aug — A work co-ordination meeting of the Kachin State Organization for Women's Affairs was held at 2 pm today at the meeting hall of the Kachin State General Administration Department. It was attended by Kachin State Peace and Development Council Chairman Northern Command Commander Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe's wife patron of Kachin State OWA Daw Tin Tin Nwe, Kachin State OWA President Daw Maran Jarfa and others. — MNA

### People's Desire

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

### The Union of Myanmar The State Peace and Development Council The Law Amending the Myanmar Aircraft Act

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(from page 1)

- (b) Under the power conferred by sub-section (a), the Ministry of Transport may, with the approval of the Government, make such rules as may be necessary. *Power of Ministry of Transport to make rules.*
- (c) For the implementation of the provision of this Act, the Ministry of Transport may issue necessary notifications, orders, notices on requirements and directives and the Department of Civil Aviation may issue necessary orders, notices on requirement and directives. *Power to issue notifications, orders, notices and directives.*
6. After section 9 of the Myanmar Aircraft Act, section 9A shall be inserted as follows:
- “9 A. Whoever wilfully fails to comply with any notifications, orders, notices and directives issued under sub-section (c) of section 5 A, shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to one month or with fine which may extend to kyats 20,000, or with both.” *Penalty for failure to comply with notifications, orders, notices and directives.*
7. In the Myanmar Aircraft Act:
- (a) after the expression “section 5,” contained in section 10, the expression “sub-section (b) of section 5 A,” shall be inserted.
- (b) the expression “one thousand kyats” contained in section 10 shall be substituted by the expression “kyats 50,000” and the expression “one thousand kyats” contained in section 11 shall be substituted by the expression “kyats 100,000.”

(Sd) Than Shwe  
Senior General  
Chairman

The State Peace and Development Council

### Wellwishers invited for sinking tubewells

YANGON, 25 Aug — The development affairs committees under the Ministry for Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs are taking measures to ensure adequate supply of safe drinking water in water-scarce rural areas in all states and divisions.

In this process, tube-wells are being drilled in such areas. Therefore, wellwishers are invited to make donations for a tube-well with 2 inches in width and 200 feet in depth at K 250,000, a tube-well with four inches in width and 400 feet in depth at K 500,000, and a tube-well with four inches in width and 200 feet in depth at K 500,000. It is traditionally believed and accepted that for their donation of water, wellwishers will be endowed with ten rewards without needing to ask for them: being agile, being clean, being popular, being free from starvation, having companions, living longer life, being attractive, having great wealth, having great strength, and having great wisdom. Therefore, wellwishers are requested to make contact with the Director-General at either telephone numbers 01-245420 or 01-253088; the Deputy Director-General at 01-240118; the Deputy Director-General (Engineering) at 01-291967; the Director (Sagaing Division DAC) at 071-21012; the Director (Magway Division DAC) at 063-23164; and the Director (Mandalay Division DAC) at 02-54657. — MNA

### Appointment of Ambassador agreed on

YANGON, 26 Aug — The Government of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the proposed appointment of Mr Pieter Jozef Théophile Marres as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the Union of Myanmar, in succession to Mr Gerard Johan Hendrik Christiaan Kramer.

Mr Pieter Jozef Théophile Marres was born in 1946. He obtained a degree in economics from the University of Amsterdam in 1972. He joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1976 and worked there in various ranks. He was the ambassador of Netherlands to Ethiopia from 1997 to 2000, and the Ambassador in Special Service for Ethiopia and Eritrea from 2000 to 2001. He has served as Inspector of the Foreign Service since 2001.

Mr Pieter Jozef Théophile Marres will be concurrently accredited as the Ambassador of the Netherlands to the Union of Myanmar, with residence in Bangkok. He is married. — MNA

### Delegation leaves for Germany

YANGON, 25 Aug — A 35-member delegation led by Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce & Industry

Vice-President U Aung Lwin left here by air on 22 August evening to attend SPOGA-Köln Furniture Fair (Germany) from 22 August to 8 September. The delegation will also study technical advancement in wood-based industries and seek market in Germany.

The delegation was seen off at Yangon International Airport by UMFCFI Patron U Htein Win, President U Win Myint, Vice-President U Zaw Min Win, General Secretary U Sein Win Hlaing and Central Executive Committee members.



The delegation seen before departure for Germany. — UMFCFI

MNA



# Iraq militants release footage of Italian hostage, demand troop pullout

DOHA, 24 Aug—A group in Iraq released video footage of an Italian journalist it said it was holding and gave Rome 48 hours to announce it was pulling its troops out of Iraq.

The tape, aired by the Arabic satellite news channel Al-Jazeera, showed the hostage and an Italian television station confirmed he was Enzo Baldoni, correspondent of the *Diario della Settimana* weekly, who had been missing since Thursday.

The hostage, whose remarks were translated into Arabic, said: "I am Enzo Baldoni from Italy. I am 56 and a journalist. I (also) work in the social field as a volunteer with the Red Cross. I help others. I came to Iraq to

write a chapter of my new book about the resistance."

"In a statement, the group said that it cannot guarantee the Italian's safety ... if Italy does not respond within 48 hours with a decision to withdraw its troops from Iraqi territories," the Qatar-based

TV said.

The Italian government swiftly responded that it would maintain its 3,000 troops in Iraq despite the ultimatum.

A statement from Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi's office said it was committed to gaining the release of Baldoni, but insisted it would maintain its presence in Iraq.

Berlusconi's government, a staunch US ally, has already suffered one lengthy hostage crisis after four Italians working for a private security firm were kidnapped last April.

One was shot dead within days, but the three others were freed in June during an operation by coalition forces.—*Internet*



Supporters of radical Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr shoot their guns in the air as they hoist a picture of al-Sadr to honour Majid Kassim who was killed in the fighting in Najaf, during a traditional celebration of fallen soldiers in the Shiite stronghold of Sadr City in Baghdad on 24 Aug, 2004. —INTERNET

## Terror suspects preparing attack in Britain

NEW YORK, 24 Aug—American and British investigators have strong evidence that terror suspects recently collared in Pakistan and England, linked to the latest terror alert, were preparing to attack Great Britain.

But they have little proof that the suspects were preparing to hit targets in the US, *Newsweek* reports in its upcoming issue.

Intelligence reports, it says, allege that Dhiren Barot, a suspected British al-Qaeda fixer also known as Esa Al-Hindi, visited Pakistan last winter and may have met other al-Qaeda operatives.

During such meetings, investigators fear, Barot, one of the eight men charged in London last week with ter-

rorist conspiracy, may have shared information from surveillances of financial buildings in New York, New Jersey and Washington, DC, which authorities believe Barot and two associates cased before 9/11.

But most of the evidence so far, *Newsweek* says, indicates that Barot and his alleged cohorts were actively preparing to attack only British targets. US security officials say they must assume that plotting could be underway by al-Qaeda sleeper cells in the US — perhaps using the surveillance reports written by the Barot group.

But if terrorists connected to the accused British conspirators are preparing an attack in the US, authorities

have no idea who — or where — they are, it adds.

MNA/PTI

## Chinese FM discusses bilateral ties with US, Russian counterparts

BEIJING, 25 Aug — Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing talked over phone with his American, French and Russian counterparts and discussed bilateral ties, including upcoming high-level visits as well as the conflict and humanitarian situation in Sudan, the state media reported Tuesday.

Li discussed President Vladimir Putin's upcoming visit to China with the Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and said China will make good preparations for the success of the trip.

During talks with his French counterpart, Michel Barnier, the two sides agreed to continue to promote Sino-French cooperation in the fields of economy, trade and science.

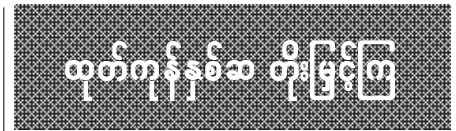
In Li's phone talks with Powell, the latter briefed the former on the latest development of the case of Chinese businesswoman Zhao Yan, who was beaten by US border security agencies.

"Powell reiterated that the US side will promptly and properly handle the case," the official *Xinhua* news agency reported.

China had demanded a thorough probe and punishment to the guilty in the case.

Li also exchanged views with his three counterparts on the Darfur crisis in Sudan. All parties agreed that their delegates to the United Nations will keep contacts and coordinate with each other on the issue, the report said.

MNA/PTI



## Nepal appeals again for release of nationals believed abducted in Iraq

DUBAI, 24 Aug—The Nepalese government issued a further appeal for the release of 12 nationals believed to have been abducted in Iraq, stressing that Nepal was not part of the US-led coalition in the war-torn country.

"The people who were abducted in Iraq were looking to make a living ... Holding them will not serve any cause. We have no other presence or participation in Iraq, be it military or otherwise," Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Prakash Sharan Mahat said on Dubai-based Al-Arabiya television. "I urge the abductors of these innocent people to release them," he said.

The Himalayan kingdom's foreign ministry said Monday it had no independent information on the alleged abduction but that its diplomats in the Middle East were studying pictures published Sunday on an Islamist website.

It said Mahat had spoken to Doha-based Al-Jazeera television to stress that Nepal was not part of the coalition in Iraq.

Nepal, whose army is battling a bloody Maoist uprising, declined US requests to send troops to Iraq, although Nepalese Gurkhas serving with the British armed forces have been posted in the Middle Eastern country.—*Internet*

## Legal net widens in Iraq prison abuse scandal

MANNHEIM, 24 Aug—A US prosecutor acknowledged that charges were being prepared against senior US military intelligence officers and other staff over abuses committed against inmates at Iraq's notorious Abu Ghraib Prison.

As the legal net widened to include up to 28 suspects, one of seven military police officers already accused over the scandal said he had reached a deal with prosecutors to plead guilty to some of the charges.

Details of the new suspects came as a US military

prosecutor, Major Michael Holly, tried to stop immunity being granted to a number of intelligence officers over fears it would compromise the case being built against them.

Holly referred in particular to US Colonel Thomas Pappas, who was in charge of the military intelligence unit that worked at Abu Ghraib, outside Baghdad, and the man responsible for interrogation there, Lieutenant Colonel Steven Jordan.

"We are still trying to identify the culpability of Colonel Jordan and Colonel Pappas," Holly told a pre-

trial hearing in Mannheim, southern Germany, the first legal step in court martial proceedings against four of the seven.

"You are telling me that there is thought to criminally prosecute these individuals and that, as such, they should be given immunity," mused James Pohl, the US military judge presiding over the two days of hearings.

Holly also said that two lower ranking military intelligence personnel, named only as specialists Krol and Cruz, would soon be charged as well.

Internet

## Cyprus has no intention to block Turkey's EU bid

NICOSIA, 24 Aug — Cyprus President Tassos Papadopoulos said Monday that Cyprus has no intention to block Turkey's European Union (EU) bid, the semi-official *Cyprus News Agency* reported.

"We do not wish to exercise veto, but if Turkey wants to be a candidate state it must agree to act under the conditions and regulations of the *acquis communautaire*," the President said at the Larnaca Airport before heading for Athens to attend the closing ceremony of the 2004 summer Olympic Games. "I do not think anyone can expect us to passively watch this policy being promoted without having the right to ask to link a Cyprus settlement with Turkey's accession prospects," the President said. If Turkey secures a timetable to open the accession negotiations, "this will be a positive element and will help promote a just and viable solution to the Cyprus problem," Papadopoulos said.—*MNA/Xinhua*



US and Iraqi soldiers stand near the wreckage of a destroyed vehicle at the scene of a suicide car bomb explosion in central Baghdad on 24 Aug, 2004. —INTERNET

# Captors of Lebanese hostage in Iraq announce his release

BEIRUT, 24 Aug—The kidnappers of a Lebanese national held in Iraq for more than a week announced his release in a videotape broadcast by a private television station here.

Mohammad Raad, 27, was freed “in response to an appeal from the Committee of Muslim Scholars”, Iraq’s leading Sunni clerics’ organization, the kidnappers

said in the footage broadcast by LBC television.

They added that they had also listened to appeals from “Lebanese officials who insisted that the mujahadeen

had no reason for targeting Lebanese people”, they said.

Reiterating their accusations that Raad had worked for US-led troops in Iraq, they called on the Lebanese

people to “stop their fellow citizens collaborating with the occupation forces”.

From Bednayeel in eastern Lebanon, Raad was held by a group calling itself the Islamic Movement of Holy Warriors in Iraq — Seif al-Islam Brigades.

Raad appears in the video seated on a chair holding an identity card with three hooded men standing behind him in front of a banner bearing the group’s name.

“We wish to inform our brothers in Lebanon that the men of the resistance consider that all those who collaborate with the occupiers or help them in any way are part of the occupation force themselves, whatever their ethnic origin, religious affiliation or nationality,” the kidnappers said.

Internet



Shiite people shout anti-American slogans during a demonstration in Budgam, 15 kilometres (9 miles) southwest of Srinagar, India, on 24 Aug. 2004. The demonstration was to protest against the fighting in Shiite holy city of Najaf in Iraq, where US and Iraqi forces were battling militants. —INTERNET

## Russia, Belarus to prolong introduction of single currency

MOSCOW, 24 Aug—Russia and Belarus agreed on Monday to prolong introduction of single currency in their nations for one year — from January 1, 2005 to January 1, 2006.

“We have suggested a new deadline, and we hope that by that time, all doubts will be over,” Russian President Vladimir Putin told a joint conference with his Belarusian counterpart Alexander Lukashenko after their talks, according to Russian news agencies.

“If it succeeds, it will be good; if not, we will go on working,” said Putin, who is now on vacation in the Black Sea resort of Sochi.

Lukashenko, on his part, said he understood and accepted Putin’s advice. “We proved politically unprepared for the introduction of a common currency as of January 1, 2005,” Lukashenko was quoted as saying.

Russia and Belarus have vowed to create a Russian-Belarusian Union State since the collapse of Soviet Union. In 1996, Lukashenko and Putin’s predecessor Boris Yeltsin signed the ini-

tial union treaty. In 2000, the two countries signed an agreement on the introduction of a single currency for their Union State and the establishment of a common monetary emission centre.

Under the accord, ruble, the national currency of Russia, will become the common currency of the Russia-Belarus Union State from January 1, 2005.

MNA/Xinhua

## Hangovers cost \$5b annually

LONDON, 24 Aug— Hangovers are costing British economy 2.8 billion pounds (five billion US dollars) a year, research by employment agency Reed said Monday.

Workers spend an average of 2.5 days hanging over the job, with people living in the south and northeast of England the most likely to turn up “half cut”, Reed found.

For some, the office is a no-go area and nationally an average 2.3 days are taken off sick due to boozing. One-in-three people admit taking five days off.

More than half of those polled said longer pub opening hours would hit output, Reed said.

Drinking affects different industries to varying degrees, the survey claims. Workers in the media sector are the most likely to arrive feeling a bit tired and emotional. By contrast, manufacturers have the most abstemious staff, it says.

Reed estimates that some 10 million working days are lost due to people hiding under the duvet. That number rises to 29 million if you take into account those people who have struggled in, but then spend the day sweating and dodging jobs. This underlines the concerns voiced about British Government plans to relax licensing hours from the middle of next year.

While supporters say it will lead to less drunkenness and a more restrained approach to alcohol, critics claim it will promote longer binge-drinking sessions as well as loutish behaviour. Among 18 to 25-year-olds, 55 per cent of those questioned said they thought the change to licensing laws was likely to damage a workforce’s output.

MNA/Xinhua

## Reform in UN should address concerns of developing nations

BEIJING, 24 Aug— The role of United Nations in global affairs is irreplaceable and reform in the world body should address the concerns and legal interests of developing nations, a senior Chinese official has said.

“United Nations is irreplaceable as an important venue for pushing forward democratization and legalization in international relations,” Chinese State Councillor Tang Jiaxuan said here.

The UN is an inter-governmental organization with the most extensive universality, representativeness and authoritativeness, Tang said adding that the organization is the best stage for implementing multilateralism.

Tang, who met president-elect of the 59th Session of the UN General Assembly Jean Ping here said the reform of the United Nations should be conducive to enhance the role played by the organization and its capability to cope with threat and challenges.

The reform should also take into consideration rational concern and legal interests of developing countries and promote UN to increase input in the area of development, he said.

During the meeting Tang also discussed the Taiwan issue, Xinhua news agency reported.

While restating China’s principled stance on Taiwan issue, Tang emphasized that the Chinese people “absolutely oppose” certain countries’ proposal to allow Taiwan to join the United Nations for such move violates widely recognized legal principles, he said.

MNA/PTI

ဝတ်မှုမ်းအား ခေါ်ကျော်လွှား

## Lawyer tries to subpoena US Defence Chief over Iraq prison abuses

MANNHEIM, 24 Aug—A lawyer for a US soldier accused of abusing prisoners in Iraq requested that a military judge subpoena US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld to testify in his court martial.

Lawyer Paul Bergrin, representing Sergeant Javal Davis, said that Rumsfeld had signed off on a military document in 2002 authorising severe interrogation techniques on prisoners in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

He claimed the methods, including the hooding of inmates, 20 hour interrogations and long isolation periods, were later employed on Iraqis being held in the notorious Abu Ghraib Prison on the outskirts of Baghdad.

“It also includes nudity and inducing stress, and as an example it includes dogs,” Bergrin told a pre-trial hearing in Mannheim, southern Germany. He claimed that an initial sentence added to the document, presumably by Rumsfeld, read: “However I stand for eight to 10 hours a day, why should the stress positions be limited to four hours?”

“These are approved techniques by Donald Rumsfeld,” Bergrin said. “It is impossible to believe that seven rogue MPs (military police officers) did this by coincidence.”

Rumsfeld has been intensely embarrassed by the scandal, in which Iraqi prisoners were photographed stripped naked, piled on top of each other, cowering from dogs or with electrodes attached to parts of their bodies. —Internet

## At least five killed in bombs targeting Iraq ministers

BAGHDAD, 24 Aug—Two ministers in Iraq’s US-backed interim government escaped bomb attacks, in which at least five people were killed and six wounded in Baghdad, a bodyguard and an Environment Minister Mishkat al-Moumin escaped a suicide bombing at around 8.00 am (0400 GMT) in the southern part of the capital, said guard Shamil Kamel.

Just 30 minutes later, in Al-Khudra district of eastern Baghdad, a roadside bomb blew up as Education Minister Sami al-Mudhaffar was driving past, his office told AFP.

The first attack happened as Moumin left a highly fortified zone in Qadisiya where many Iraqi ministers live, when a driver tried to smash a car packed with explosives

into her vehicle, Kamel said.

Two other vehicles in the convoy blocked Moumin’s car off before the bomber detonated the car at around 8:00 am (0400 GMT) without harming her, he added.

“Four people were killed along with the suicide bomber,” said US Captain David Minascher at the scene, refusing to give any further details.

Kamel said the four dead were all bodyguards and another guard was injured.

Three passers-by were also wounded, said a doctor at the Yarmuk hospital.

Four cars were completely burnt out, with shattered glass and chunks of shrapnel strewn on the road in the residential area, said an AFP photographer.

Internet



An Iraqi tribal leader holds up his rifle following clashes between Shiite militiamen and coalition forces in Iraq’s second largest city of Basra on 24 Aug. 2004. Scores of Shiite militiamen took to the streets, brandishing assault rifles and rocket-propelled grenades and demanding US-led forces pull out of Najaf. —INTERNET



# US soldier killed, two wounded in attack in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 25 Aug—One US soldier was killed and two others were wounded when guerillas fired a rocket-propelled grenade at a US convoy in Baghdad, the US military said in a statement on Tuesday.

The attack took place at 6.45 pm (1445 GMT) on Monday, when a US military patrol was attacked by guerillas, according to the statement.

All three soldiers were first wounded and transferred to hospital, where one of them died of his wounds, the state-

ment added.

In line with the most recent death toll from the Pentagon, some 720 US soldiers have been killed in action since the start of US-led war on Iraq in March 2003.

MNA/Xinhua

## Afghan President visits Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 25 Aug — The visiting Afghan President Hamid Karzai and Pakistani President General Pervez Musharraf Monday resolved to further enhance the relationship between two neighbouring countries, the official *Associated Press of Pakistan* (APP) reported here.

The two leaders held an exclusive meeting ahead of formal talks between the two sides, due to take place Monday evening.

They reiterated the two countries' common commitment to fighting terrorism in the interests of sustainable socio-economic development of the region.

Musharraf welcomed the Afghan leader to Pakistan and expressed the hope that his interaction with the host leadership would be helpful in further broadening the bilateral ties.

He assured Karzai of Pakistan's continued cooperation in the reconstruction of Afghanistan.

Later, the two presidents held their respective sides at formal talks, the APP said.

MNA/Xinhua

## China ready to further its partnership with Africa

BEIJING, 25 Aug—China is ready to push forward the new type of partnership featuring long-term stability, equality, mutual benefit and all-round cooperation with African countries, said Chinese top legislator Wu Bangguo here Monday.

Wu, chairman of the National People's Congress (NPC) Standing Committee, met with Guy Nzouba Ndama, president of the National Assembly of the Republic of Gabon, and his party.

It is an important component of China's independent foreign policy of peace to strengthen and develop friendly cooperation with African countries, including Gabon, Wu said.

Wu said China and Gabon have always supported the other since the establishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries 30 years ago, adding that the two nations share identical or similar views on major international issues, he added.

The sustained development of Sino-Gabonese relations reflected common aspiration of the two peoples, he said.

In recent years, the frequent high-level exchanges and rapid development of economic and trade cooperation have brought tangible benefits to the two peoples, he said.

The Chinese side appre-

ciated and thanked the firm support by Gabonese Government on such key issues as the Taiwan and human rights issues, he stressed.

China values friendly relations with Gabon and is willing to push forward exchanges and cooperation with Gabon in various fields including legislation, Wu said.

Ndama highly spoke the friendly relations between China and Gabon. Chinese President Hu Jintao visited Gabon last February and Gabonese President Omar Bongo will visit China early next month. All these high-level exchanges were significant for the growth of bilateral relations, Ndama said.

Gabon has always paid attention to China's development and believed that the mode of development in China can be learned by Gabon, he said.

The Gabonese National Assembly also hopes to further strengthen exchanges with China's NPC so as to deepen friendship of the two countries and two peoples, Ndama said.

MNA/Xinhua

## Dhaka launches massive food assistance programme

DHAKA, 25 Aug—The government of Bangladesh launched Tuesday a massive flood assistance programme for over 20 million in 39 flood-hit districts for three to four months under its Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF) scheme.

The VGF programme was finalized at a high-level meeting on Saturday chaired by Minister for Food and Disaster Management Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf. *The Daily Star* quoted official sources as saying, Some 4,300,000 VGF cards will be issued to as many families for distribution of 10 kilos of rice against each per month.

MNA/Xinhua



Iraqi civilians flee the area of fighting with some of their belongings in the besieged city of Najaf, southern Iraq, on 24 Aug, 2004. —INTERNET

## Wen Jiabao says UN's role should be strengthened

BEIJING, 25 Aug — Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao said here Tuesday that the role of the United Nations, as a major multi-lateral venue, should be strengthened instead of being weakened.

Wen made the remarks at a meeting with Jean Ping, president-elect of the 59th Session of the UN General Assembly and Gabonese Minister of State and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and Francophone.

Wen said multi-lateralism is the only way to cope with the threats and challenges of all kinds in the world while the international situation undergoes profound changes.

China has always held that the United Nations should play a key role in international issues and it will, as always, support

the work of the UN General Assembly and its president, noted Wen. Jean Ping arrived in Beijing Sunday morning for a six-day visit. He said that China, the biggest developing country and one of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, has important influence on international issues. He hoped that China will continue to support the United Nations and the UN General Assembly so as to make greater contribution to safeguarding world peace and promoting common development.

MNA/Xinhua

## Deng Xiaoping bridged China with the world

LUSAKA, 25 Aug—The late Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping bridged China with the rest of the world, Zambia's first president Kenneth Kaunda told *Xinhua* recently in an exclusive interview.

"Deng Xiaoping will be remembered as one of the greatest Chinese leaders. His reform and opening-up policy is regarded as a bridge connecting China with the rest of the world," said Kaunda, Zambia's first president from 1964 to 1991 following independence from Britain.

While recalling his association with former Chinese leaders Mao Zedong, Zhou Enlai and Deng Xiaoping, Kaunda said that while Mao liberated the Chinese people

Deng enriched them and opened China to the world.

"They are all great men. The Chinese people should be proud of having such leaders," Kaunda said.

Kaunda said Deng was a great patriot. "The reform and opening-up led by him not only changed China, but also changed the whole world." Deng attached great importance to education which, Kaunda said, has been of great significance to China's future.

He said Deng was a man

of vision. He remembered that during his meeting with Deng in April 1980, the Chinese leader said: "It cannot be called socialism while the economy remains stagnant. It cannot be called socialism while people's living standards remain very low."

Kaunda highly lauded the friendship between China and Zambia saying he coined the phrase "China is our all-weather friend" when he visited China in 1967, a time when China itself was in difficulties.

MNA/Xinhua

## HK welcomes Pan-PRD companies to establish ventures

HONG KONG, 25 Aug—Hong Kong Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology John Tsang said Tuesday that Hong Kong welcomes companies from Pan-PRD (Pearl River Delta) Region to establish high-value added manufacturing ventures, and trade and serve ventures in Hong Kong.

Tsang said at a Pan-PRD regional cooperation symposium that cooperation between Hong Kong, Macao and the nine provinces and autonomous regions of the Pan-PRD region should be implemented and their respective advantages given into full play under a principle of "mutual benefit and advantage complement."

To seek chances to be brought about by the regional cooperation, the drafting of a unified regional infrastructure construction plan, especially the communications construction plan is highly necessary for speeding up regional development, adding that creating a fair and open market environment is also important.

Tsang said the regional cooperation could help Hong Kong businessmen to establish

new manufacturing bases in the other parts of the region, beside its neighbouring Guangdong Province, in an effort to reduce product cost.

Related government departments of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region will host various kinds of trade and investment promotion symposiums and activities to introduce Hong Kong brand products to the Chinese Mainland and the act will serve as a springboard for the Chinese Mainland enterprises to invest abroad, the official said.

Tsang also suggested further regional cooperation in the tourism sector, in a bid to encourage the exchange of visits of people from Hong Kong and other places in the region and attract more overseas tourists to the region. —MNA/Xinhua



Armed Iraqi militiamen deploy near the office of their leader, radical Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr, following clashes with coalition and local forces in Iraq's second largest city of Basra, on 24 Aug, 2004. —INTERNET



*An Iraqi woman passes the wreckage of a destroyed car following clashes between US forces and Iraqi militiamen in Baghdad on 20 August, 2004.*



*An Iraqi baby was hit by shrapnel during clashes between al-Mahdi army militants loyal to Moqtada al-Sadr and US and Iraqi forces in the Sadr city, Baghdad, Iraq, on 23 August, 2004.*



*An Iraqi boy cries after having lost his mother when their vehicle was caught in the cross fire during clashes between Iraqi militiamen and US forces in Sadr city, Baghdad, Iraq, on 23 August, 2004.*

## Images of Iraq



*A car burns in the Old City of Najaf during clashes between militiamen loyal to radical Iraqi Shiite cleric Moqtada Sadr and US-led forces on 23 August, 2004.*



*An Iraqi man looks at the damaged home after a rocket hit the roof during clashes between al-Mahdi army militants loyal to Moqtada al-Sadr and US and Iraqi forces in the Sadr city, Baghdad, Iraq, on 23 August, 2004.*



*Two children look down an alleyway towards their house which was badly damaged when two home-made bombs targetting the office of Ibrahim Hammudi, the head of the municipal council of Baghdad's Karkh district, went off on 22 August, 2004.*



*An Iraqi civilian stands close to a car destroyed during fighting between Mahdi fighters loyal to Moqtada al-Sadr and US and Iraqi forces in the besieged city of Najaf, on 23 August, 2004.*





*e-Library built in Kyauktan Township, Yangon Division.—MNA*



*Magway in Magway Division gets e-library.—MNA*

## Dissemination of knowledge through Libraries



*A library opened in Mau Village in Hlegu Township, Yangon Division.  
IPRD*



*A library was opened in Ngapeinn Village in Kyauktaga Township, Bago Division to disseminate knowledge to local people. —IPRD*



*People living in Myinmu Village, Pindaya Township, Shan State (South) gain knowledge through a library opened in the village.—IPRD*



*Opening ceremony of a library in Nyaungbintha village in Myaungmya District, Ayeyawady Division.—MNA*

## Thaphanseik river water pumping station ...

(from page 16)

As the target was set to put 1,000 acres of land under monsoon paddy in 2004 with the use of water from the station, a total of 246 acres of monsoon paddy—12 acres at the pump-1, 189 acres at the pump-2, 13 acres at the pump-3 and 32 acres of monsoon paddy with the use of water from the main canal—have been cultivated. Efforts are being made for meeting the target.

Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party went to Teaching Hospital Project of Magway Institute of Medicine. Deputy Director U San Lin of Myanmar Industrial Construction Services reported on progress of building the hospital and the institute. Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave instructions on timely completion of the tasks with meeting the set standard.

The Teaching Hospital of the Institute is built on 42 acres of land and can accommodate 200 beds. It will be of a two-storey reinforced concrete building. The project has started since 9 January 2003. At present, construction tasks have been completed by 55 per cent and efforts are being made for completion of the tasks by 2005.

Magway Institute of Medicine is built on 96.66 acres of land. The buildings of the institute are under construction.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspected construction of the Teaching Hospital and gave necessary instructions. He also inspected progress of buildings at the Institute.

At noon, Lt-Gen Ye Myint met officers, other ranks and families of Magway Station at Aung Naing Hein Hall of the local Light Infantry Division. He gave instructions on conducting cultivation tasks on a manageable scale and perennial crops to be grown at regiments and units for their staff welfare and carrying out the five rural development tasks. Later, he cordially conversed with Tatmadaw families.

MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt being reported matters on the liver transplant operation by specialists. (News on page 1) — MNA

## Myanmar fully committed to ...

(from page 16)

At this workshop we will be looking into what the Union of Myanmar has endeavoured during the past decade and achieved; how much we can adhere to and follow the ICPD-POA; and how much we have to do in the coming ten years to achieve the goals and targets set out in ICPD-POA.

It is planned to present four papers on *Achievements in Education sector, Reproductive Health sector, Gender and Data, research and analysis* at this workshop. I would like to urge all participants to discuss freely and openly on what has been presented and to give suggestions and opinions.

Myanmar is fully committed to the ICPD Programme of Action and is determined to continue playing an active role in population-related programmes while strengthening its collaboration and cooperation with all nations and United Nations Agencies such as UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO, etc: and also with relevant local and international NGOs. To conclude, allow me to express our hope that all nations of the world, working in conjunction with the United Nations, will be able to meet the goals set out at the ICPD-Programme of Action and create a better future of the world in the next 10 years.

Next, UNFPA Resident Representative Mr Najib Assifi spoke, after which the ceremony ended.

After the ceremony, the minister, deputy ministers, the president of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association and those present on the occasion viewed photos on activities of the Tenth Anniversary of International Conference on Population and Development displayed there.—MNA

## Government, people cooperate to speed up opening of libraries

YANGON, 25 Aug — In implementing “the uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation” which is one of the four social objectives laid down by the State, the Information and Public Relations Department of the Ministry of Information has been opening libraries so as to widely disseminate knowledge to the people. The department has opened the libraries including 98 e-libraries in 373 townships in the entire nation.

In addition, staff of the department made field trips to border areas and rural regions to open mobile libraries over 10,000 times a year. Nowadays, over 5,000 libraries have been opened in 13,478 village-tracts throughout the country.

Efforts are being made for opening more libraries in the remaining villages in 2005-2006 with the assistance of the government and wellwishers.

On 17 August, the coordination meeting to open self-reliant libraries was held at the Ministry of Information. At the meeting, private literary and publishing houses donated over 14,000 copies of periodicals and various kinds of books worth K 5.4 million. The wellwishers will donate more books, it is learnt.

The self-reliant village libraries may be established in the respective regions with the donations of wellwishers. As the department, located at 22/24, Pansodan Street, Yangon, manages to provide necessary assistance to them, those wishing to open the library may contact the department or district and township IPRDs for taking the assistance.

At present, wellwishers at home and abroad have donated various kinds of books in the 62 times of donation ceremony. So, the department has accepted 500,000 books and periodicals worth over K 63.4 million and sent them to township and self-reliant village libraries.—MNA

## Delegation arrives back from China

YANGON, 25 Aug — The Myanmar cultural delegation led by Deputy Minister for Culture Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung arrived back here by air this evening after attending the opening ceremony of the 6th Asian Art Festival held in China from 18 to 25 August for cultural exchange and cooperation between Myanmar and PRC and promotion of friendly relations between the peoples of the two countries. The delegation was welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung, heads of departments, officials and staff of the Chinese Embassy.

Members of the delegation Director-General of the Department of Fine Arts U Kyaw Win, Director of Department of Cultural Institute Daw Nu Mra Zan, Professor of University of Culture (Yangon) Daw Khin Kyi Pya, Director of Archaeology Department U Hla Gyi Maung Maung and Head of Section of the Culture Minister's Office U Tun Tun Lwin also arrived back.—MNA



Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung welcomes back the Myanmar delegation. — CULTURE

## Entries invited to Armed Forces Day commemorative novel, short story, article competitions

YANGON, 25 Aug — In commemoration of the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, the Working Committee for Organizing Literary and Photo Contest today announced to hold the novel, short story and article competitions. The entries in the novel and short story are to reflect Tatmadaw's 12 fine traditions and the competitors can name their titles as they like. Words of the novel contest must be between 50,000 and 70,000 and the short story, between 4,000 and 10,000.

The articles must be between 3,000 and 5,000 words. Under the title of the articles is “Fine Traditions of the Tatmadaw in National Politics”.

The entrants are to submit two copies together with the admission that it is own creation, two licence-size photos and the brief biography to U Ko Ko Htwe, Secretary of the Working Committee, Myanmar Radio and Television, on Pyay Road, not later than 15 January 2004. Every contestant can submit one entry for the novel, short story and article contests. Handsome prizes will be presented to the winners.

MNA

## Heroin seized in Kyukok (Pangsai)

YANGON, 25 Aug — A combined team comprising members of the local intelligence unit, the special anti-drug squad, and Myanmar Police Force, acting on information, stopped and searched a passenger bus with number plate KaKa/5731 bound for Kyukok (Pangsai) from Monekoe, near Phaikaung village on 13 August. The search led to the arrest of Ma Yan Sui Tan, daughter of U Yan Yon Kan of Manhai, China, and Ma Han Lin Li, daughter of U Han Chao Te of Mongga village, Mangsi, China, as the authorities discovered 230 bars of heroin weighing 2.07 kilograms from them. Action is being taken against the drug dealers by the police station concerned under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. — MNA

**Don't  
smoke**



## Commander-in-Chief (Air) meets Chief of Royal Air Force of Malaysia

YANGON, 25 Aug—Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein met Chief of Royal Air Force of Malaysia General Datuk Nik Ismail Bin Nik Mohamed and party, currently here on a goodwill visit, at Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyintha this afternoon. Also present together with Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein were Commander of Mingaladon Airbase Brig-Gen Thein Myint and senior officers of the Ministry of Defence. Visiting Chief of Royal Air Force of Malaysia General Datuk Nik Ismail Bin Nik Mohamed was accompanied by Defence Adviser of Malaysian Embassy Col Hj Abba Bin Hj Mat and officials. Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein hosted a dinner in honour of Chief of Royal Air Force of Malaysia General Datuk Nik Ismail Bin Nik Mohamed and party at Karaweik Palace. The dinner was attended by Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear-Admiral Soe Thein, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Commander of Mingaladon Air Base Brig-Gen Thein Myint and their wives, senior officers of the Ministry of Defence, visiting Chief of Royal Air Force of Malaysia General Datuk Nik Ismail Bin Nik Mohamed and wife and party, Ambassador of Malaysia Dato' Cheah Sam Kip, Defence Adviser of Malaysian Embassy Col Hj Abbas Bin Hj Mat and officials.—MNA



Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein meets the Chief of Royal Air Force of Malaysia. — MNA

### Chief of Royal Air Force of Malaysia arrives

YANGON, 25 Aug — A goodwill delegation led by Chief of Royal Air Force of Malaysia General Datuk Nik Ismail Bin Nik Mohamed of Malaysia arrived here by air at 11.15 am today to pay a goodwill visit here.

The Malaysian delegation was welcomed at Yangon International Airport by Commander of Mingaladon Airbase Brig-Gen Thein Myint and wife, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, Defence Adviser Col Hj Abbas Bin Hj Mat and officials of the Malaysian Embassy.

MNA



Mingaladon Airbase Commander Brig-Gen Thein Myint welcomes the Malaysian delegation on its arrival at Yangon International Airport. — MNA

### Preparations under way to host ASEAN SOM on Agriculture and Forestry

YANGON, 25 Aug — Leading Committee to host 26th ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry and the meeting between ASEAN and three East Asia dialogue partners held a meeting at Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation here this morning.

Chairman of the committee Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin gave a speech. Director-General of Agricultural Planning Department U Tin Htut Oo explained plans to host meetings in Myanmar.

Chairmen of the committees and subcommittees reported to the meeting on sector-wise accomplishments, followed by a general round of discussions. Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin attended to the needs.

Also present were Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein, Deputy Minister for A&I Brig-Gen Khin Maung, Deputy Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo and others. — MNA

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

### ASEAN Universities Network Educational Forum continues

YANGON, 25 Aug — The 6th ASEAN Universities Network Educational Forum continued at Diamond Jubilee Hall here this morning, and students from universities in Thailand, Singapore and Philippines took part in the discussions.

Ms Apichanant Sangrungrueng and Mr Donrawee Waranon of Chulalongkorn University of Thailand, Mr Yan Jun Wong of National University of Singapore, and Ms Arianne T Jimenez of De La Salle University of the Philippines read papers on ASEAN in the knowledge Age: Building ASEAN Studies Learning Societies.

University teachers and students of the Forum nations gave suggestions.

In the afternoon, the participants of the Forum visited Sein-lan So-pyi Park on Inya Road. Pro-Rector of Yangon University Dr Pe Maung Than and officials conducted them round it.

They visited Yangon University where Dr Pe Maung Than explained its salient points.

Their visit also included Universities Science Research Department, e-Education Centre and Universities' Library of Yangon University.

MNA



Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein hosts a dinner to the Malaysian delegation. — MNA

## Co-ordination meeting of Ministry of Industry-2 held

YANGON, 25 Aug — Work coordination meeting for 2004 of the Ministry of Industry-2 was held this morning at the hall of the ministry on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road here.

In the opening address, Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin urged the officials concerned to speed up the production as the year 2004-2005 has been designated as the year for development of the industrial sector. He also called for those present to make efforts to exceed the targets in late 2004.

Managing directors of the industries and services under the ministry reported on measures being undertaken to meet the production targets.

At the meeting, the minister presented cash assistance for production and for the children of the staff who passed the matriculation examination for 2004 with flying colours through officials concerned.—MNA



Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin delivers an address at the meeting. — INDUSTRY-2

## Ministry of Transport holds coord meeting



Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe addresses coordination meeting of Ministry of Transport for 2004.—TRANSPORT

YANGON, 25 Aug — A coordination meeting of the Ministry of Transport 2004 was held at the lecture hall of the Institute of Marine Technology on Bayintnaung Street here yesterday morning. It was attended by Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe, Deputy Ministers U Pe Than and Col Nyan Tun Aung, Officer on Special Duty Brig-Gen Myo Tin, heads of department, deputy directors-general, general managers, those in-charge of states and divisions and officers.

After the minister had made a speech on the occasion, those in-charge of states and divisions presented reports on measures taken by respective states and divisions. Next, directors-general, managing directors, the rector of Myanmar Maritime University and the principal of Institute of Marine Technology reported on progress in implementing the projects, income and expense, utilization of fuel and power.

Afterwards, General Manager U Cho Than Maung gave advice on weaknesses found in supervising airports, ports, airplanes and watercraft in the first-day session of the meeting. The second-day session of the meeting was held this morning. In response to the reports, Deputy Ministers U Pe Than and Col Nyan Tun Aung gave supplementary reports. Regarding reviews on reports, the minister instructed officials to strive for earning more income and to meet the target, to implement the projects for timely completion. — MNA

## Myanmar Academy of Medical Science holds Biannual Plenary Meeting

YANGON, 25 Aug—The Myanmar Academy of Medical Science held its Biannual Plenary Meeting 2004 at the Institute of Nursing (Yangon) on Bogyoke Aung San Street in Lanmadaw Township here this morning.

It was attended by Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, heads of departments under the ministry, members of the MAMS, medical superintendents, resident representatives of UN agencies and social organizations and distinguished guests.

The minister in his speech said that having entered four and a half years, the Myanmar Academy of Medical Science initiated by Head of State Senior General Than Shwe was established with the aim of enabling the retired medical experts and those medical experts still in service to participate in the tasks for transforming the nation into a modern and developed one and raising the nation's medical standard by effectively exerting their vast medical knowledge and invaluable experiences.

Since its birth, the MAMS has been able to make remarkable contributions towards measures for uplift of the nation's medical science as well as health care concerns.

As such, it is indispensable to accelerate health care services for the entire people in the Union including hilly regions and border areas. The government has been fulfilling medical requirements of all States and Divisions by establishing more and more rural health care centres, sub-rural health care centres and hospitals as well as upgrading old hospitals.

Myanmar is getting vaccines of polio, measles, BCG and tetanus through the international community and WHO and vaccine of hepatitis B through WHO and GAVI. To meet the local demand, the Department of Medical Research has produced hepatitis B vaccine since ten years ago. Moreover, the Hepatitis B Vaccine Factory in Ywathagy near Yangon has launched its production process, so the nation will be able to produce enough hepatitis B vaccine at home in the next two years.

It is also crucial to produce more competent medical experts at all levels so as to accomplish health care activities. In order to hit this target, 14 medical institutions, other three medical training centres and other training courses in divisions and districts have been opened alongside institutes of medicine, dental institutes and nursing institutes across the nation. Master degrees, PhD

and doctorate degrees courses open along with bachelor degrees courses and post-graduate diplomas courses.

The government sent a great number of qualified ones abroad for further medical studies. Since three years ago, Myanmar made its medical history by performing renal transplant, and health, vessel, brain and liver operations, and curing hepatitis B.

Furthermore, the nation started medical operations to separate a conjoined twin in 1960. In 2003, Siamese twin sisters Moe Ma Ma Aung and Moe Pa Pa Aung were successfully separated in Mandalay.

It is encouraging to note that the MAMS in groups or individually takes part in health care services being carried out by the government. Besides, the MAMS attended the seminars jointly organized by the Ministry of Health and WHO.

Next, Professor Dr Thein Swe presided over the meeting and delivered a speech on the occasion. Vice-Chairman 1 Professor Dr Ko Lay and Vice-Chairman 2 Professor Dr U Tha Hla Shwe read the report of the executive committee of the MAMS. Members of the MAMS gave advice, made suggestions and raised queries. Secretary of the executive committee Professor Dr Maung Maung Wint replied to the queries.

Afterwards, the Symposium on Township Health System followed. U Aung Kyaing gave talks on Township

**Since three years ago, Myanmar has created its medical history by performing renal transplant, and health, vessel, brain and liver operations, and curing hepatitis B.**

**Furthermore, the nation started medical operations to separate a conjoined twin in 1960. In 2003, Siamese twin sisters Moe Ma Ma Aung and Moe Pa Pa Aung were successfully separated in Mandalay.**

Health System: Objectives & Concept; Dr Nilar Tin and Dr Win Myint, on Township Health System in Myanmar; Dr Khin Saw Naing, on Human Resources For Township Health System Development; and Dr Daw Romar Hein, on Non-Governmental Sector in Township Health System. — MNA



Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint addresses Biannual Plenary Meeting of Myanmar Academy of Medical Science.—MNA



## Leadership failure at Abu Ghraib blamed for prison abuse

NEW YORK, 25 Aug— Leadership failure at the highest levels of the Pentagon, Joint Chiefs of Staff and US military command in Iraq contributed to an environment in which detainees were abused at Abu Ghraib Prison and other facilities, a new report has concluded.

The report conducted by a high-level outside panel reviewing US military detention operations has faulted top defence leaders, including the military's Joint Staff and Lieutenant-General Ricardo Sanchez, the former top commander in Iraq for inadequately supervising interrogation techniques at several prisons in Iraq, Cuba and Afghanistan, a media report said Tuesday.

It does not explicitly blame Defence Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld for the misconduct or for ordering policies that condoned or encouraged it. But the panel implicitly faults Rumsfeld, as well as his top civilian and military aides, for not exercising sufficient oversight over interrogation practices at detention centres, defence officials told the *New York Times*.

The military's Joint Staff, which is responsible for allocating military

resources among the various combatant commanders, is criticized for not recognizing that military police at Abu Ghraib were overwhelmed by an influx of detainees, while the ratio of prisoners to guards was much lower at the detention centre at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

The report, the *Times* said, also criticizes Sanchez, for not paying close enough attention to worsening conditions at Abu Ghraib, delegating oversight of prison operations to subordinates.

The report also blamed Brigadier-General Janis Karpinski, commander of the 800th Military Police Brigade at Abu Ghraib, for faulty leadership, the paper said. Karpinski was suspended in May.

In contrast to the half dozen military inquiries into aspects of the Abu Ghraib scandal, including the roles of the military police and military intelligence

officials, the four-member panel led by James R Schlesinger, a former defence secretary, was appointed by Rumsfeld to identify gaps in the reviews and offer a critique of senior officials' roles.

The Schlesinger panel's report and a high-level Army probe into the role of military intelligence officials in the misconduct, which is also set to be released this week, are expected to offer new details that may explain the causes of a scandal that came to the military's attention last January, but only became public in April with the disclosure of photographs of prisoner abuse, the *Times* said.

The broad outlines of the Schlesinger panel's work were described to the *Times* by two defence officials who had portions of it summarized for them by associates.

MNA/PTI

## Two Russian passenger airliners crash

MOSCOW, 25 Aug— Two Russian passenger airliners with a total of more than 80 people on board crashed almost simultaneously late on Tuesday and no survivors were reported so far, Russian news agencies said.

A TU-134 jet carrying 34 passengers and eight crewmembers crashed near the village of Buchalki in the Tula Region south of Moscow. *Interfax* said that the plane took off at Moscow's Domodedovo Airport and headed for Volgograd at 22:32 Moscow Time (1832 GMT). Communication with the aircraft was lost on 22:59 Moscow Time (1859 GMT).

ITAR-TASS initially said that the type of the crashed in Tula plane was TU-154 and it was carrying eight crewmembers and 54 passengers. The rescuers

have found the plane's tail and were searching for other pieces and flight recorders, as well as possible survivors, *Interfax* said, quoting an on-duty official of the regional administration.

Witnesses saw an explosion on board the plane just before it crashed, according to *Interfax*.

The second crashed plane, however, has not been found. ITAR-TASS quoted a Russia's aviation committee official as saying that the second plane, a TU-154 airliner, with 44 people on board crashed near the city of Rostov-on-Don south of

Moscow.

*Interfax* quoted the Emergency Ministry as saying contacts with the TU-154 flying from Moscow to the Black Sea resort of Sochi were lost at 22:59 Moscow Time (1859 GMT) when it was expected to be 140 kilometres from the city.

The Siberian Airlines confirmed to *Interfax* that the plane heading from Moscow's Domodedovo Airport to Sochi disappeared from radar screens at about 23:00 Moscow Time (1900 GMT). The plane was in operation from 1982.

MNA/Xinhua

## Uganda asked to evacuate residents for possible volcanic eruption

KAMPALA, 25 Aug— The Ugandan Government has been asked to intervene and evacuate people on the Ugandan side of Mount Elgon on the border with Kenya which threatens fresh volcanic eruptions, local media reported on Tuesday.

The call was made by Aggrey Awori, member of Parliament for Samia Bugwe North, after geologists in Kenya warned of imminent volcanic eruptions on Mount

Elgon which has been dormant for about a century.

Awori told the Ugandan Parliament on Monday that geological reports had indicated there would be a volcanic eruption very soon.

He said gases had already been experienced like it happened in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in January 2002.

Meanwhile, the reports of imminent eruption sent a wave of panic through the

60,000-strong community living at the foot of the mountain in western Kenya, according to reports reaching here.

A team that accompanied Kenya's Mount Elgon District commissioner James Ole Serian also warned people living in a five-kilometre radius from the cave to leave their homes and move to safer areas.

MNA/Xinhua

## UN warns of new pollution in Barents Sea

UNITED NATIONS, 25 Aug— Expanded oil and gas operations could further pollute the Arctic region's Barents Sea, which is being over-fished and endangered by massive nuclear waste storage, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) warned on Tuesday.

In a report, the UN agency noted the absence of long-term planning to tackle the over-fishing of cod and haddock, as well as the problems arising from the intentional introduction of the Red King Crab, which may lead to a reduction of non-commercial species.

Other threats to the unique Barents Sea Arctic ecosystem include a projected six-fold increase in oil and gas transportation, possibly raising oil transport from the Arctic Shelf to 40 million tons a year, the report said.

"The increased exploration activities for petroleum resources in the Barents Sea, the offshore developments and the shipping of oil and gas along the coasts represent significant potential threats to this vulnerable

arctic ecosystem," UNEP chief Klaus Toepfer was quoted as saying.

Further compounding these problems are the presence of the world's largest radioactive waste storage system in the Murmansk region, northwestern Russia, the report said.

It recommended that new regulations for different sectors should be devised, adopted and enforced and that the affected countries should adhere rigorously to international environmental agreements.

The expert team producing the report was established by UNEP's Global International Waters Assessment and chaired by the Russian Academy of Science and the Murmansk Marine Biological Institute.

MNA/Xinhua

## Thousands of passengers stranded after BA cancels flights

LONDON, 25 Aug— Thousands of British Airways (BA) passengers were left stranded at Heathrow Airport Tuesday after staff shortages and technical problems forced the airline to cancel 22 flights to and from destinations in Britain and Europe.

This is the second day that the Europe's second largest airline has been forced to cancel flights. Twenty-five flights to the United States and European destinations were grounded on Monday.

The airline said there would also be delays to short-haul flights and urged all passengers to consult its web site before travelling to Heathrow Airport.

The airline's problems began Monday afternoon when it cancelled flights to

Philadelphia, Chicago and New York in the United States because of technical problems with its aircraft.

Those cancellations, combined with existing staff shortages, had a domino effect leading to the cancellation of another 22 flights and several more delays.

The airline estimated that around 5,000 passengers have been affected so far and at least another 2,500 would be affected Tuesday.

BA said it was making arrangements to put short-

haul passengers on alternative flights.

Some were accommodated on later flights, some were provided with overnight hotel accommodation and seats on flights on Tuesday, while others had to re-book.

Last weekend the airline struck a pay deal with unions representing check-in staff and baggage handlers narrowly averting a strike planned for the August 28-30 Bank Holiday weekend.

MNA/Xinhua



This combo picture shows Japanese auto giant Honda Motor's prototype model of a scooter powered by fuel cell battery in Tokyo on 24 Aug, 2004. — INTERNET

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## Senate Republicans propose revamping intelligence agencies

WASHINGTON, 25 Aug—US Senate Intelligence Committee Chairman and Republican Senator Pat Roberts has presented a controversial plan which envisages stripping the CIA and the Pentagon of many of their intelligence duties and putting some of them under a new director of national intelligence.

The plan for revamping intelligence agencies, announced Sunday by Roberts on CBS's "Face the Nation", was endorsed by eight other Republicans in the committee but opposed by the White House. It was conditionally welcomed by a spokesman for Democratic presidential candidate Senator John F Kerry.

The Roberts plan envisages the CIA's three main directorates to be torn from the agency and turned into separate entities reporting to separate directors. The Pentagon would lose control of three of the largest operations as well, including the supersecret National Security Agency, which intercepts electronic signals worldwide.

Roberts said, "I am trying to build a consensus around something that is very different and very bold."

The White House said politely that it would study the proposal but a senior intelligence official, who appeared to be reflecting the White House view, said the plan "makes no sense" and would cause more problems than it solves. "Rather than bringing intelligence disciplines together, it

smashes them apart. This proposal is unworkable and would hamper rather than enhance the nation's intelligence operations."

Rand Beers, the Kerry campaign's national security adviser, said in a statement that the proposal "is very similar to the reforms offered by John Kerry but needs to become bipartisan to be fully successful."

The Roberts plan, outlined in a paper released Sunday, would create new agencies of the CIA's main directorates: Operations, which collects intelligence and directs covert activities; Intelligence, which analyses information; and Science and Technology.

At the Pentagon, the Roberts plan would put both the National Security Agency and the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency under the direction of a national intelligence director. The human intelligence programme within the Defence Intelligence Agency would also be removed from the Pentagon.

MNA/PTI



A life-sized fiberglass cow, part of 'Cow Parade' 2000. A shadowy group of militant Stockholmers carried out their threat to 'execute' a fiberglass life-size cow after their demand that 'Cow Parade', an outdoor art exhibit, be dismantled was not met, organizers said.—INTERNET

## China's record soybean output anticipated

HARBIN, 25 Aug—Soybean output in China's northernmost Heilongjiang Province, the country's leading soybean producer, is estimated at record 7.65 million tons this year, according to local agronomists.

Soybean acreage has reached about 3.4 million hectares this year, the highest in 30 years, noted the Heilongjiang Provincial Academy of Agricultural Sciences. Heilongjiang boasts one-third of both national total soybean sown acreage and output.

Soybean agro-experts with the academy attributed this year's rosy soybean output prospects to a number of factors, including substantial measures taken by central and provincial governments to support soybean production, rising market prices for the crop, per-hectare soybean output increases thanks to application of new technologies, as well as farmers' growing enthusiasm for growing soybean.

MNA/Xinhua

## Iodine deficiency hinders brain development of Thai children

BANGKOK, 25 Aug—Higher prevalence of iodine deficiency could hinder the brain development of Thai children, a study showed.

Although progress has been made in eliminating severe iodine-deficiency disorders such as goitre, recent research has shown a higher prevalence of non-severe deficiency, said the study by the Network for the Sustained Elimination of Iodine Deficiency.

This suggests that the status of iodine nutrition in the population has not improved and may have become worse since 2000.

As a result, the study also found a

declining tendency of Intelligence Quotient (IQ) among Thai children.

The reason is that the kingdom mistook the success in reducing goitre cases as the overall indicator in eliminating other disorders attributed to iodine deficiency, Dr Saengsom Srinawatana, director of the Health Department's Nutrition Division, was quoted by local newspaper *The Nation* as saying on Monday.

MNA/Xinhua

## US, Russia to further cooperation in war on terrorism

WASHINGTON, 24 Aug—US President George W Bush and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin have pledged to continue bilateral cooperation in the war on terrorism, White House spokesman Scott McClellan said on Monday.

In a 15-minute telephone call, Bush and Putin stressed the importance of continued US-Russia cooperation in the war on terrorism, McClellan told a news briefing at Bush's ranch in Crawford, Texas.

MNA/Xinhua



Olympic exhibition : Girls perform on floor exercise podium with rhythmic ribbons at the exhibition gala at the Olympic Indoor Hall during the Athens 2004 Olympics Games. —INTERNET

## WHO lauds Malaysia's efforts to check bird flu

KUALA LUMPUR, 25 Aug—The World Health Organization (WHO) Monday commended the Malaysian Government's prompt action to check the outbreak of bird flu in its northern state of Kelantan.

The Malaysian Government took very prompt and decisive action to deal with avian influenza, WHO

Regional Director for the Western Pacific Shigeru Omi told reporters after attending the opening of the ASEAN Consultation on Impact of the ASEAN Free Trade Area on Tobacco Trade and Health here.

The Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), now grouping 10 states in the region, was set up in 1967 to boost regional cooperation. He said Malaysia had done a good job in view of its experience from previous cases such as the Nipah Virus when animals were culled and other stringent preventive measures were also taken during outbreaks of the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) in the region.

Omi also said there was no need for panic as WHO would continue to monitor the situation.

"Currently we have to assume that this virus will pop up again somewhere because research indicated that the virus is already circulating widely among poultry," he said. "We cannot cull all of them (animals). What is important is that we have to take preventive measures to deal with it," he added.

He said the virus was circulating among poultry farms but there was still the chance for the virus to gain the ability to transmit itself to humans.

MNA/Xinhua

## HK to launch cervical cancer screening exhibition

HONG KONG, 24 Aug—To increase Hong Kong's public awareness of cervical screening and women's participation in the Cervical Screening Programme, a roving exhibition will be held from August 24 to December.

Organized by the Hong Kong Centre for Health Protection, the exhibition will include a display on prevention and screening of cervical cancer, games, a VCD show and the distribution of booklets and pamphlets.

In Hong Kong, cervical cancer ranks as the fifth commonest cancer and the eighth leading cause of cancer deaths among women. In 2001, there were 438 new cases and 128 cervical cancer deaths.

The Cervical Screening Programme was launched by the centre on March 8 in collaboration with other service providers in the public and private sectors.—MNA/Xinhua

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မာတင်သုတိုင်း ခေတ်မီဖွံ့ဖြိုး

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ကျေးရွာကိုး ကိုယ်အားကိုးကိုးကြည့်တိုက်ရိုက်များသတင်းနှင့် ပြန်ကြားရေးနှင့် ပြည်သူ့ဆက်ဆံရေး ဦးစီးဌာနနှင့် ဆက်သွယ်ပါ။

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## SPORTS

## Gatlin takes 100 metres gold

ATHENS, 24 Aug—American Justin Gatlin raced to victory in the closest Olympic 100 metres final ever on Sunday in an atmosphere of feverish excitement.

Gatlin flew across the line in 9.85 seconds, one-hundredth of a second ahead of Portuguese Francis Obikwelu with defending champion Maurice Greene a further hundredth of a second back in third place. "I've been dreaming about this since I started racing," said an elated Gatlin after completing a victory lap of the Olympic stadium with a laurel wreath on his head.

"I've lived for this moment. It was a very great race, the competition was stellar."

The pre-race atmosphere resembled the build-up to one of the old classic heavyweight title fights at Madison Square Garden with the eight finalists waving and gesturing in turn to the capacity crowd who had been clapping rhythmically to the theme tune from "Zorba the Greek".

Gatlin, 22, was slowest out of the blocks but powered back into contention, lunging over the line just ahead of Nigerian-born Obikwelu.

Greene, seeking to become only the second man to retain the Olympic title after Carl Lewis, was gracious in defeat. "I hope they (the fans) enjoyed the show we put on today. It was a great race."

At the other end of the scale, world silver medallist Mizuki Noguchi conquered the demanding marathon course from the town which gave the 42.195-kilometre event its name to the Panathinaiko marble amphitheatre in the centre of Athens where the modern Olympic Games were revived in 1896. Noguchi moved ahead in the second half of the race on a series of taxing inclines to win in two hours 26 minutes 20 seconds.—MNA/Reuters



Argentina's Fabricio Coloccini (R) fights for the ball with Italy's Angelo Palombo (L) during the second half of their semifinal soccer match in Athens, on 24 Aug, 2004, for the Athens 2004 Olympic Games. Argentina defeated Italy 3-0. —INTERNET



Paraguay's Jose Cardozo, centre, scores his team's first goal against Iraq in the men's semifinal soccer match during the 2004 Olympic Games at the Kaftanzoglio Stadium in the north port city of Thessaloniki, Greece, on Tuesday, 24 Aug, 2004. —INTERNET

## Paraguay to face Argentina in final

THESSALONIKI, 25 Aug—Paraguay ended Iraq's run in Olympic soccer tournament by winning the semi-final match 3-1 at the 28th Olympic Games on Tuesday.

It was Jose Cardozo's double goals that helped Paraguay seal the victory and Fredy Bareiro added the third gold for the winners.

Iraq scored a late consolation through Razzaq Farhan in the 83rd minute into the game.

Paraguay had dominated the first half, subduing the less experienced Iraqis to control midfield thanks to tireless work from Edgar Barreto and Julio Cesar Encisco.

Cardozo opened the scoring on 17th minutes with a low shot into the net.

Cardozo added his second 16 minutes

later with another powerful shot, while the Iraqi defenders seemed to be hesitating at what the referee would do on a seemingly-offsided Paraguayan player.

Paraguay's forward Fredy Bareiro scored the third goal for his side in the 68th minute when he hammered back a ball bouncing back from the post.

The Iraqi team finally found a chance when Farhan Razzaq fired home a cross from Mohammed Emad in the 83rd minute, only for consolation.

MNA/Xinhua

## Historic highboard win for Newbery

ATHENS, 24 Aug—Chantelle Newbery became the first Australian to win an Olympic diving title in 80 years when she claimed the women's platform gold with an ultimately clearcut victory in the final on Sunday.

Newbery, who had shared bronze with Irina Lashko in the three-metre synchronized event, went into the final in third place after Saturday's four semifinal dives but took the lead in the third round of the five-dive final and went on to win comfortably.

It was the second Olympic diving gold ever for Australia, whose first was won by Richmond Eve in the men's plain high diving event in 1924. "I'm pretty excited to have come home with a gold medal," Newbery said.

China's Lao Lishi, world silver medallist, dropped from first to fourth in the second round but pulled back in the final round from third to take the silver.

Australia's Loudy Tourky, world championship bronze medallist in 2001, led after the second round but dropped to third with a badly executed arm-stand dive.

MNA/Reuters

## Argentina routs Italy 3-0 to enter final

ATHENS, 25 Aug—Argentina marched into the final with an unbeaten record by routing Italy 3-0 at the men's soccer tournament of the Athens Olympic Games on Tuesday.

"It was a great match. I am very happy we've reached the final," said Argentinean midfielder Cristian Gonzalez after the semifinal, adding that Carlos Tevez was "very important for us. I hope he will do well at the final match, too."

Striker Tevez capitalized an Italian defensive blunder in the 16th minute when he opened the account for the South Americans, his seventh goal in the tournament.

Some 20 minutes later, Tevez found the net again from a loose ball off the hands of Italian goalie Ivan Pelizzoli. Yet, the goal was called offside.

The Italians tried hard for an equalizer, but not enough to pierce through the Argentinean defence.

In the 69th minute, midfielder Lius Gonzalez fired home another to make it 2-0.

And here came Tevez, with a tag of "New Maradona", again in the 84th minute when he dribbled ahead for a pinpoint cross to a chasing Mariano Gonzalez who easily sealed the match with a tap into the net.

Earlier in the 58th minute, Italy caused a little stir in front of the Argentine goalmouth when midfielder Giampiero Pinzi sent his header off the bar.—MNA/Xinhua

## Greek Tampakos is lord of the rings

ATHENS, 24 Aug — Greece's Dimosthenis Tampakos flexed his bulging muscles and rode a wave of national euphoria to claim the men's Olympics rings gold on Sunday.

The Greek managed to control the intense pressure heaped on him by the home fans to give a near flawless exhibition of strength and stamina in the strongman's event.

Tampakos's win gave Greece an Olympic rings champion for the first time since the 1896 Games after he edged out Bulgaria's Jordan Jovtchev by 0.012 of a point.

The first competitor to go up on the rings, Tampakos's dismount was greeted by a deafening roar and hail of flashing lightbulbs from around the Indoor Hall.

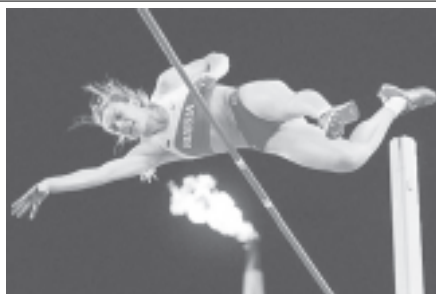
After nailing his landing, Tampakos stood, fists clenched by his side and waited for his score. It was 9.862.

Then Tampakos had to wait anxiously on the sidelines as his main rival Jordan Jovtchev was up next.

The judges kept their end of the deal in maintaining the carnival atmosphere when they awarded Jovtchev 9.850.

As the flag-waving Greeks chanted their hero's name, none of the remaining six competitors could match the leading duo.

The 34-year-old Yuri Chechi, the 1996 champion, completed an emotional comeback to the international stage and finished third.—MNA/Reuters



Russia's Yelena Isinbayeva breaks the world record in the women's pole vault final at the Olympic Stadium during the Olympic Games athletics competitions in Athens. —INTERNET

## Olsson lands men's triple jump gold

ATHENS, 24 Aug— Skipping Swede Christian Olsson added Olympic gold to his world championship title with a convincing victory in the men's triple jump on Sunday.

The 24-year-old Olsson, a strong favourite before the final, leapt 17.79 metres, a Swedish outdoor record, with his second effort to claim a comfortable victory.

Marian Oprea of Romania took the silver with 17.55 and Danila Burkenya of Russia snatched the bronze with 17.48, one centimetre clear of Cuban Yoandri Betanzos. After a final marred by some chaotic judging, Olsson grabbed a Swedish flag and indulged in a joyous lap of honour. His gold came minutes after compatriot Stefan Holm had won the high jump gold and merely added to the ecstasy of the noisy Swedish contingent in the packed Olympic stadium.

After a fine opening effort of 17.69, Olsson surpassed the 17.72 he jumped in Paris at last year's world championships with his second effort and his 24-centimetre winning margin amply illustrated his superiority over the field.

The Swede passed on his final jump but four of his five hop-skip-and-jump efforts into the pit were greater than the second-placed Romanian's best. Oprea, 22, recorded his 17.55 with his first jump. Burkenya did not impress with his first three efforts but reeled off three fine jumps of 17.45, 17.48 and 17.47 to sneak the bronze from 2003 world championships silver medallist Betanzos, who had leapt 17.47 with his second jump.—MNA/Reuters

## Romanian Ponor takes Olympic beam title in Athens

ATHENS, 24 Aug—Romanian charming Catalina Ponor, the 2004 European champion on both beam and floor, won the Olympic beam gold here on Monday evening.

Ponor, 17, who led her compatriots to clinch the women's team title on August 17, gifted the third gymnastics gold for Romania with 9.787 points.

Ponor, in shining black, made several intricate movements and beautiful poses in her routine, winning huge applause from the spectators.

"I feel so great today. And I hope I can do better in next year's World Championships," Ponor said.

American top female gymnast, Carly Patterson, who was just crowned as all-around champion at the Olympics, got the silver with 9.775 points.

Patterson, 16, who also finished second in the qualification, could hardly beat the lovely Romanian champion even though her routine was almost as wonderful as Ponor.

Another Romanian gymnast Alexandra Georgiana Eremia, who won the silver on beam at the 2004 European Championships, finished third with 9.700 points.

Courtney Kupets, also of the United States, who finished fifth with 9.375 points, said that "I have already got two medals at the Athens Olympics, so I am not that disappointed tonight".

Kupets won the silver in women's team and bronze in uneven bars in Athens.—MNA/Xinhua



**MRTV -3**
**26-8-2004 (Thursday)  
(Programme Schedule)  
Morning Transmission  
(9:00 - 10:00)**

- 9:00 Signature Tune  
Greeting  
9:02 Song of Myanmar  
Beauty & Scenic  
Sights "Mingalabar"  
9:06 New Vogue Flower  
Arrangement  
**9:10 National News**  
9:12 Myanmar Traditional  
Gold Leaf Works  
**9:15 National News**  
9:20 Welcome To Shwe-  
myaing (Mawla-  
myine)  
9:25 Royal Rose  
**9:30 National News**  
9:35 Nipa Palm Forest  
9:40 Song "The Outstand-  
ing Ones"  
**9:45 National News**  
9:50 Myanmar Spirulina  
(Ye Kharr Lake)  
9:58 Song of Myanmar  
Beauty & Scenic  
Sights "Come and  
See Myanmar"

**26-8-2004 (Thursday)  
Evening Transmission  
(15:30 - 17:30)**

- 15:30 Signature Tune  
Greeting  
15:32 Song of Myanmar  
Beauty & Scenic  
Sights "Myanma  
Panorama & Myan-  
ma Sentiment"  
15:36 New Vogue Flower  
Arrangement  
**15:40 National News**  
15:42 Myanmar Traditional

- Gold Leaf Works  
**15:45 National News**  
15:50 Welcome To Shwe-  
myaing (Mawla-  
myine)  
15:55 Royal Rose  
**16:00 National News**  
16:05 Nipa Palm Forest  
16:10 Song "The Outstand-  
ing Ones"

- 16:15 National News**  
16:20 Myanmar Spirulina  
(Ye Kharr Lake)  
16:25 Song of Myanmar  
Beauty & Scenic  
Sights "Mingalabar"

- 16:30 National News**  
16:35 Myanmar Orchestra  
(Thichinkhant)  
16:40 Manufacturing of  
Home Furniture and  
Accessories (Part-I)

- 16:45 National News**  
16:50 Myanmar Beauty &  
Myanma Nature  
Photo Contest  
16:55 The Rakhine Dance,  
The Pride of Yoma

- 17:00 National News**  
17:05 Glazed Earthen Pot  
17:10 Myanmar Modern  
Songs "Glory of  
Myanmar"

- 17:12 Visiting Artist, a  
Century Ago  
**17:15 National News**  
17:20 National Races Vil-  
lage (Chin, Mon,  
Rakhine)

- 17:25 Song of Myanmar  
Beauty & Scenic  
Sights "Come and  
See Myanmar"

**26-8-2004 (Thursday)  
Evening Transmission  
(19:30 - 23:30)**

- 19:30 Signature Tune  
Greeting  
19:32 Song of Myanmar  
Beauty & Scenic  
Sights "Mingalabar"  
19:36 Beautiful Taninthayi

- 19:40 National News**  
19:42 Myanmar Profile  
"Fast Food"  
**19:45 National News**  
19:50 Everything you want  
to know about star  
tortoise, but dare not  
ask?  
19:55 Traditional Rice  
Cakes and Gram Pret-  
zel

- 20:00 National News**  
20:05 Pickled Herbal Tea  
Leaves of Myanmar  
20:10 Song "Golden Land,  
Myanmar"

- 20:15 National News**  
20:20 Popa Mountain Park  
20:25 Myanmar Modern  
Song "Flower Alike"

- 20:30 National News**  
20:35 Central Agricultural  
Research Institute  
20:40 A Birth place of New  
Artists

- 20:45 National News**  
20:50 Chin Cultural Mu-  
seum  
20:55 Smart Beautiful Cart

- 21:00 National News**  
21:05 National Races Vil-  
lage (Kachin, Kayah,  
Kayin)  
21:10 Myanmar Modern  
Songs "Rain, Please  
Tell My Lover"

- 21:15 National News**  
21:20 Myanmar's Ancient  
City Bagan  
21:25 Song of Myanmar  
Beauty & Scenic  
Sights "Myanma  
Panorama & Myan-  
ma Sentiment"

- 21:35 New Vogue Flower  
Arrangement  
**21:40 National News**  
21:42 Myanmar Traditional  
Gold Leaf Works

- 21:45 National News**  
21:50 Welcome To Shwe-  
myaing (Mawla-  
myine)  
21:55 Royal Rose

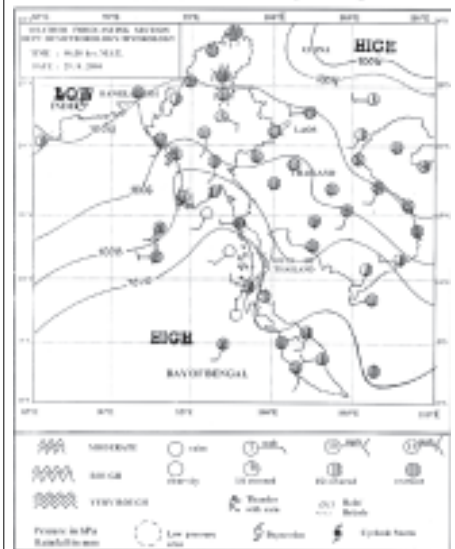
- 21:55 Royal Rose

- 22:00 National News**  
22:05 Nipa Palm Forest  
22:10 Song "The Outstand-  
ing Ones"  
**22:15 National News**  
22:20 Myanmar Spirulina  
(Ye Kharr Lake)  
22:25 Songs On Screen  
"Past Merit"  
**22:30 National News**  
22:35 Myanmar Orchestra  
(Thichinkhant)  
22:40 Manufacturing of  
Home Furniture and  
Accessories (Part-I)  
**22:45 National News**  
22:50 Myanmar Beauty &  
Myanma Nature  
Photo Contest  
22:55 The Rakhine Dance,  
The Pride of Yoma  
**23:00 National News**  
23:05 Glazed Earthen Pot  
23:10 Myanmar Modern  
Songs "Glory of  
Myanmar"  
23:12 Visiting Artist, a  
Century Ago  
**23:15 National News**  
23:20 National Races Vil-  
lage (Chin, Mon,  
Rakhine)  
23:25 Song of Myanmar  
Beauty & Scenic  
Sights "Come and  
See Myanmar"

**Rainfall on 25-8-2004**

- 0.28 inch at Yangon Airport,
  - 0.20 inch at Kaba-Aye,
  - 0.68 inch at central Yangon.
- Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was
- 93.74 inches at Yangon Airport,
  - 91.26 inches at Kaba-Aye and
  - 92.81 inches at central Yangon.

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas

**WEATHER**

Wednesday, 25 August 2004

**Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:** During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kayah State, lower Sagaing Division, rain has been isolated in Mandalay Division, scattered in Shan, Chin, Rakhine States and upper Sagaing, Magway and Taninthayi Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfalls in Kachin State and Bago Division. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Mogaung 4.17 inches, Shwekyin 3.31 inches and Myitkyina 2.95 inches.

Maximum temperature on 24-8-2004 was 84°F. Minimum temperature on 25-8-2004 was 69°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 25-8-2004 was 88%. Total sunshine hours on 24-8-2004 was 1.7 hours approx.

Rainfall on 25-8-2004 was 0.28 inch at Yangon Airport, 0.20 inch at Kaba-Aye, 0.68 inch at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 93.74 inches at Yangon Airport, 91.26 inches at Kaba-Aye and 92.81 inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 9 mph from Southwest at 12:10 hours MST on 24-8-2004.

**Bay inference:** Monsoon is weak to moderate in the Bay of Bengal.

**Forecast valid until evening of 26-8-2004:** Weather will be partly cloudy in lower Sagaing and Magway Divisions and rain will be isolated in Shan, Kayah States and Mandalay Division scattered in Kachin, Chin, Rakhine and Kayin States, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is 80%.

**State of the sea:** Sea will be moderate in Myanmar waters.

**Outlook for subsequent two days:** Moderate monsoon.

**Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 26-8-2004:** One or two rain with sunny period. Degree of certainty is 80%.

**Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 26-8-2004:** Possibility of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is 40%.

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**Thursday, August 26  
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  
**7:55 am**  
5. Dance of national  
races  
**8:05 am**  
6. Dance variety  
**8:15 am**  
7. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ  
**8:20 am**  
8. သုံးဆယ့်ရှစ်လှည့်စာ

- 8:30 am**  
9. International news  
**8:45 am**  
10. Let's Go  
**4:00 pm**  
1. Martial song  
**4:15 pm**  
2. Songs to uphold  
National Spirit  
**4:30 pm**  
3. English for Everyday  
Use  
**4:45 pm**  
4. Musical programme  
**5:00 pm**  
5. အဆေးသင်တန်းတို့၏ ပညာရေး  
ရရှိခြင်းကြားသင့်ခန်းစာ  
-ပထမနှစ် (သိပ္ပံအထူးပြုအားလုံး)  
(မတူစေခ)

- 5:15 pm**  
6. Cute little dancers  
**5:30 pm**  
7. လက်ဝဲကမ်းလေးကတော့  
**5:45 pm**  
8. "ချစ်သောချစ် ချစ်သောချစ်"  
ရာဇာဓိပတိ: နိုင်နန်းစေ  
ဒါရိုက်တာ-မင်းနွဲ့နွဲ့

- 6:00 pm**  
9. Musical programme  
**6:15 pm**  
10. မြန်မာစာ မြန်မာစာ  
**6:30 pm**  
11. Evening news  
**7:00 pm**  
12. Weather report  
**7:05 pm**  
13. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတိုလမ်းညွှန်  
"လူ့စွန့်လူ့ကောင်း" (အပိုင်း-၅)  
**7:30 pm**  
14. Musical programme  
**7:45 pm**  
15. နိုင်ငံအခြား သစ်တောစွန့်ဖြင့်  
မိန်းကန်းစေခ  
**8:00 pm**  
16. News  
17. International news  
18. Weather report  
19. Myanmar movie:  
"ဆန်ရေ" (အပိုင်း-၁)  
ညွှန်ခင်း: လွင်လွင်, မြင့်မြင့်နီနီ,  
စမ်းစမ်းအေး, နိုင်နန်းစေ  
ဒါရိုက်တာ-ကြည်နိုးထွန်း  
20. The next day's  
programme


**Thursday, August 26  
Tune in today:**

- 8.30 am** Brief news  
**8.35 am** Music: After the  
love has gone  
**8.40 am** Perspectives  
**8.45 am** Music: What  
about me  
**8.50 am** National news/  
Slogan  
**9.00 am** Music:  
Absolutely  
**9.05 am** International  
news  
**9.10 am** Music: Endless  
love  
**9.15 am** News/Slogan  
**1.30 pm** Lunch time  
music  
**1.40 pm** -Whatever it  
takes  
-Got the feeling  
-Say a little  
prayer  
-Tell me how to  
make you smile  
**9.00 pm** Aspects of  
Myanmar  
-Bridge over  
Taung Thaman  
Lake  
**9.10 pm** Article  
**9.20 pm** Pourri  
-China produces  
robot to operate  
3,500 metres  
under water-  
NASA satellite  
may find ice on  
the hottest planet  
Favourite songs  
chosen by music  
lovers  
-From this  
moment on  
-The girl from  
yesterday  
-Take a bow  
**9.45 pm** News/Slogan  
**10.00 pm** PEL

## Thaphanseik river water pumping station, building of Magway Institute of Medicine, Teaching Hospital inspected

YANGON, 25 Aug — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and departmental officials, arrived at Magway Airport on 23 August morning.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party were welcomed there by Chairman of Magway Division Peace and Development Council Col Zaw Min, Col Aung Than Htut of Magway Station, senior military officers and departmental officials.

Accompanied by the commander and officials, Lt-Gen Ye Myint proceeded to Thaphanseik river water pumping project.

In the briefing hall, Deputy Director U Tin Maung Aye Htoo of Water Resource Utilization Department reported on



*Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects construction of Teaching Hospital project of Magway Institute of Medicine. — MNA*

installation of pumps at the station, completion of civil tasks, connection of power lines and completion of the sub-power stations, water supply and cultivation of monsoon paddy.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint instructed officials to make efforts for extended cultivation of paddy and for reclamation of highlands.

Next, he inspected water pumping at the pump-1, and cultivation of model paddy plot between pumps 1 and 2. Lt-Gen Ye Myint

heard reports on target for cultivation of monsoon in 2004 and completion of tasks and gave instructions on extension of cultivable lands.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Ye Myint met local farmers and attended to their needs. Then, he saw over ploughing of farmlands with the use of water from the pump-2 in Padigon Village, Thaphanseik Village-tract. Next, he inspected pumping tasks at the station-3.

The main canal and

tributary canals have been dug according to the project. And, connecting of 7.05 miles long 11 kv power lines, installation of 27 pumps, construction of one 1,000 kva sub-power

station and two 500 kva sub-power stations and building of pumping works has been completed. Thaphanseik river water pumping station was built with the aims of supplying

water to 1,000 acres of farmland and 6,200 acres of cotton and edible oil in Thaphanseik region and greening seven miles radius of Magway.

(See page 8)

**Thaphanseik river water pumping station was built with the aims of supplying water to 1,000 acres of farmland and 6,200 acres of cotton and edible oil in Thaphanseik region and greening seven miles radius of Magway.**

## Myanmar fully committed to ICPD programme of Action and determined to continue playing active role in population-related programmes 10th anniversary of Int'l Conf on Population, Development

YANGON, 25 Aug—With the sponsorship of the Ministry of Immigration and Population and UNFPA, the Dissemination Workshop on the occasion of the Commemoration of the Tenth Anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development was opened at the Myanmar Ballroom of Traders Hotel on Sule Pagoda Road here this morning with an address by Minister for Immigration and Population Maj-Gen Sein Htwa.

Also present on the occasion were Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, the deputy ministers, heads of departments, President of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and CEC members, the vice-presidents of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation and members, Patron of Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Association Supervisory Committee Daw Khin Thet Htay and members, resident representatives of UNFPA and UN

agencies and officials, social organizations and guests. Minister Maj-Gen Sein Htwa made an opening speech. He said: The International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) held in Cairo in 1994 was a milestone in the history of population and development as well as the history of women's rights. The ICPD-Programme of Action was adopted by 179 countries by consensus and is a forward-looking 20-year plan focusing

on individuals' needs and rights, rather than on achieving demographic targets. It prescribed the steps that will not only save millions of women's lives but also empower societies to achieve a better future in the next ten years. It is now at the midway point—10 years towards the conference's goals.

Concrete goals of the ICPD centered on providing universal education with special attention to



*MMCWA President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe views documentary photos on ICPD. — 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-mega-watt power station can supply.

### Efficient use of fuel

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

closing the gender gap in primary and secondary education; gender equity and equality and empowerment of women; reducing infant, child and maternal mortality; and ensuring universal access by 2015 to reproductive health care, assisted childbirth and prevention of sexually transmitted infections including HIV/AIDS. National activities will undoubtedly vary among countries. However a common objective in all countries is to: *assess achievements; identify challenges, constraints and opportunities; formulate lessons learned; and strategize on how best to accelerate the implementation of the ICPD POA.*

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