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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

Senior General Than Shwe sends felicitations to Vietnam

YANGON, 2 Sept — On the occasion of the 59th Anniversary of the National Day of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, which falls on 2 September 2004, Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Tran Duc Luong, President of the SRV. — MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye greets Commander-in-Chief of Royal Thai Army General Chaisit Shinawatra at VIP Lounge of the airport. — MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife see off visiting Royal Thai Army Commander-in-Chief and wife

YANGON, 1 Sept — Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of De-

fence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San saw off Thai

goodwill delegation led by Commander-in-Chief of Royal Thai Army General Chaisit Shinawatra and Madame Veena Shinawatra

who will visit Bagan Ancient Cultural Region and Mandalay, at Yangon International Airport this morning.

State Peace and Development Council Member General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence and wife Daw Khin Lay Thet, State Peace and Development Council Members Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein and their wives, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and wife, Vice-Chief of Military Intelligence Maj-Gen Kyaw Win, senior military officers and Thai Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Suphot Dhirakaosal and officials also saw off the Thai General and delegation at the airport.

At 7.30 am, the Thai goodwill delegation led by Commander-in-Chief of Royal Thai Army General Chaisit Shinawatra and wife arrived at Yangon International Airport where they

were cordially greeted by Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife at the VIP Lounge. Afterwards, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye presented an album and video tape of the goodwill visit to the Thai General. Next, the Thai General and party, accompanied by Brig-Gen Kyaw Han of the Ministry of Defence and Thai Military Attaché Col Kasam Nakpun, left for Bagan Ancient Cultural Region by special flight of Royal Thai Army and they were seen off by Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife and members. — MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye sees off Commander-in-Chief of Royal Thai Army General Chaisit Shinawatra and party at Yangon International Airport before their departure for Bagan, Mandalay. — MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 2 September, 2004

Strive for national interests

The Government, with the cooperation and participation of the entire national people, has been striving for peace and all-round development of the Union of Myanmar. There are three main prerequisites for the development of a nation: community peace and prevalence of law and order, strong national economy, and national solidarity.

Only with community peace and prevalence of law and order will the administrative machinery at different levels be effective, systematic measures can be taken for national development. As regional economic development surely contributes to the national economic development, departmental personnel at all levels and local people will have to work in concert for the economic development of their respective regions. And only with the national spirit, patriotic spirit, national unity and Union Spirit will all the national people be able to work in the interests of the Union and in their own.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, during his trip to Bago Division on 29 August, met members of Yedashe Township Peace and Development Council, departmental personnel and members of social organizations at the Aung San Hall of Yedashe Basic Education High School.

In his address at the meeting, the Prime Minister said that as the national development depends on that of rural areas and townships, it is necessary for township-level departmental personnel to take a leading role and cooperate with social organizations, townsenders and all the local people in carrying out the development work of their respective regions.

The Government has been systematically implementing a number of national development plans including the five rural development tasks for the harmonious development of all the regions in the Union.

Now, peace is prevailing all over the nation and the entire national people are striving energetically for socio-economic development in their respective regions. It is necessary for the entire people living in the Union to make collective efforts in the interests of the country under the leadership of the Government.

Book Charity to be held on 7 September

YANGON, 1 Sept — A meeting to coordinate measures for opening self-reliant libraries at various villages under the aegis of the Information & Public Relations Department will be held in conjunction with the ceremony to donate books and printed materials at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Information at 2 pm on 7 September 2004.

Those wishing to donate printed materials for the libraries can contact the IPRD through Tel: 01-252457, 252458, 371339, 379769, 379771 and 252451. — MNA

Literary Charity

The second ceremony to donate cash, books and periodicals for self-reliant village libraries will be held as follows:

Date — 7 September 2004

Time — 2 pm

Venue — Ministry of Information (Meeting Hall)
All are invited to participate in Book Charity.

Ministry of Information
Information & Public Relations Department

22/24 Pansodan Road, Yangon.

Tel: 371339, 379769, 379771, 252451

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

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye sends felicitations to Vietnam

YANGON, 2 Sept — On the occasion of the 59th Anniversary of the National Day of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, which falls on 2 September 2004, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to Madame Truong My Hoa, Vice-President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. — MNA

PM General Khin Nyunt sends felicitations to Vietnam

YANGON, 2 Sept — On the occasion of the 59th Anniversary of the National Day of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, which falls on 2 September 2004, General Khin Nyunt, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to Mr Phan Van Khai, Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. — MNA

FM U Win Aung sends felicitations to Vietnam

YANGON, 2 Sept — On the occasion of the 59th Anniversary of the National Day of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, which falls on 2 September 2004, U Win Aung, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to Mr Nguyen Dy Nien, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. — MNA

Myanmar delegation arrives back from PRC

YANGON, 1 Sept — The Myanmar delegation led by Col Soe Win, Managing Director of the News and Periodicals Enterprise under the Ministry of Information, arrived back here by air this afternoon after attending the 2nd China-ASEAN Seminar on Mass Media Cooperation held in Nanning and Beijing of the People's Republic of China from 26 to 31 August.

The Myanmar delegation was welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein, departmental heads of the ministry, Director (News) of NPE U Win Tin, Director (Admin) U Soe Win, Chief Editor of the *Myanma Alin* daily U Ye Myint Pe, Deputy Director (Hlines) U Swe Thant Ko, Deputy Director (Admin) U Mya Hlone, officials, and the families of the members of the delegation.

Together with NPE Managing Director Col Soe Win, U Maung Maung Aye, Chief Editor of the *New Light of Myanmar* daily, and U Ye Tun, Assistant Director (Programme) of Myanmar Radio and Television, also arrived back on the same flight. — MNA

Senior CPC official meets participants to China-ASEAN media seminar

BEIJING, 1 Sept — Li Changchun, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, said here Tuesday that media cooperation between China and ASEAN members would enhance mutual understanding and friendship in the region. While meeting with some participants to the second China-ASEAN (Association of South-East Asian Nations) Media Cooperation Seminar, which was held from August 26 to 27 in Nanning, capital of the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, Li said that China and ASEAN nations are good neighbours and share similar cultures. With principles of treating neighbours well and taking neighbours partners as well as good-neighbourly foreign policy, he said, China attaches great importance to cultivate friendly cooperation with ASEAN nation. China is willing to shape a strategic partnership toward peace and common prosperity with ASEAN nations on the basis of the Five Principles of Peace and Co-existence and the ASEAN Treaty of Amity and Cooperation, Li said.

He said media play an important role in realizing mutual understanding and promoting friendly cooperation. And he hopes media become bridges and links between China and ASEAN nations for their strategic partnership, which might contribute to world peace and prosperity. Pratap Parameswaran, culture programme coordinator of the ASEAN Secretariat, praised China's efforts to enhance media cooperation with ASEAN nations. He said the ASEAN is willing to push forward the strategic partnership with China through friendly and sufficient cooperation. — MNA/Xinhua



The Myanmar delegation being welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein. — MNA

Wellwishers invited for tube-wells

YANGON, 1 Sept — The Development Affairs Committees under the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs are making concerted efforts in sinking tube-wells in order to get sufficient fresh water in rural areas in States and Divisions where water is scarce. One 200 feet deep two-inch diameter tube-well costs K 250,000; one 400 feet deep two-inch diameter tube-well costs K 500,000; and one 200 feet deep four-inch diameter tube-well costs K 500,000. Those wishing to donate cash for the tube-well sinking projects for rural areas may contact the Director-General (Tel: 01-245420 & 253088), the Deputy Director-General (Tel: 01-240118), the Director (Engineering) (Tel: 01-291967), the Directors (Sagaing Division DAC) (Tel: 071-21012), the Director (Magway Division DAC) (Tel: 063-23164) and the Director (Mandalay Division DAC) (Tel: 02-54657). — MNA



Let's render helpful hands to establishment of self-reliant libraries at every village

As of 31 August 2004, altogether 6,750 self-reliant libraries have been opened nationwide

Books and periodicals can be donated at District/Township Information & Public Relations Departments

Nepal in shock at hostage execution claim in Iraq

LELE, 1 Sept—Nepal was thrown into shock and disbelief after Islamic militants in Iraq claimed through a grisly video to have killed 12 labourers who had left the cash-strapped Himalayan kingdom to earn money.

Hundreds of tearful villagers crowded around the humble home in Lele village of Ramesh Khadka, 19, who was among those allegedly murdered.

"We were expecting their safe return. This is very shocking. This is completely unexpected," said Sudarshan

Khadka, Ramesh Khadka's brother.

"My brother went there just to earn a living. He had nothing to do with the Americans. We are helpless against fanatics," the 23-year-old told AFP in this village 20 kilometers (12 miles) south of the capital Kathmandu.

Khadka's father Jit Bahadur Khadka wept hysterically upon hearing the report of his son's death from a representative of a labour agency, witnesses said.

A statement posted on a website by the Army of Ansar al-Sunna was accompanied by pictures of what

was claimed to be the bodies of the hostages. One of them was apparently beheaded while the rest were shot.

The government said it had no independent information on the alleged killings but that Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba would hold an emergency cabinet meeting late Tuesday to discuss the situation.

"We express deep sorrow over the reports of the killing of these 12 innocent Nepalese," Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Prakash Sharat Mahat told reporters in Kathmandu.

He pointed the finger at employment agencies, accusing them of putting economically desperate Nepalese in harm's way in search of profits. —Internet



Sheikh Karim Feraj al-Bakhati (L), a tribal leader from Baghdad's impoverished Sadr City slum, speaks during a three-hour long meeting with Iraqi government officials, on 31 Aug, 2004. — INTERNET

Poor, homeless rally against Bush in New York

NEW YORK, 31 Aug—Several thousand protesters staged demonstrations and marches against the Bush administration's economic policies on Monday.

An estimated 1,000 people rallied on behalf of the homeless opposite the United Nations headquarters, and several thousand others marched to within two blocks of the Madison Square Garden convention arena in a demonstration accusing Republicans of ignoring the poor and those living with HIV and AIDS.

The protests came as Republicans began their convention to nominate President George W Bush for a second four-year term. He faces Democratic candidate Senator John Kerry of Massachusetts in the November 2 presidential election.

At the rally near UN headquarters, protesters watched by at least 100 police officers in riot gear carried signs with slogans saying "The Poor Will Be Heard" and "Housing is a Human Right."

"All we have is our voice and a deep commitment to ending poverty in this country. We hope to build a multiracial movement for poor people in America to help raise the standard of living for all of us," said Cheri Honkala, a formerly homeless mother who belongs to the Poor People's Economic Human Rights Campaign.

Despite not having a permit to march, Honkala led the rally out of Dag Hammarskjold Plaza and into the street for two-mile march to a protest area near Madison Square Garden, escorted by police on foot, bicycles, motorcycles and cars.

Honkala's group has been touring New Jersey and New York in recent weeks with a shanty town dubbed "Bushville" made of nylon tarps, wood and mattresses. The group dismantled the structure on Monday after completing their tour, which aimed to draw attention to America's poor, homeless and people without health care.

An estimated 850,000 people are homeless in the United States on any given night, according to advocates for the homeless.

About 45 million people were without health care insurance for part of 2003, according to a US Census Bureau report published last week.

The report showed that since Bush took office in 2001, 4.3 million people have fallen below the poverty line. That brought the number of people living in poverty in 2003 to 35.9 million, or 12.5 per cent of the population. —MNA/Reuters

Indian DM says huge export potential for "ALH"

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, 31 Aug—India's Defence Minister Pranab Mukherjee on Monday said there was a huge export potential for the country's indigenously developed Advanced Light Helicopter.

Mukherjee, after a familiarization sortie in the helicopter, told reporters that the ALH was recently demonstrated in Chile and they were impressed by its performance.

The ALH, with its manoeuvrability, speed and au-

tomation was most modern and up to date. The helicopter was being inducted into the Air Force and other branches, he said.

The ALH, named 'Dhruv' (Pole Star), is a multi-role, multi-mission, new genera-

tion helicopter in the 5.5 ton weight class. It had military capability and was being used for airborne assault, logistic support, casualty evacuation, reconnaissance and training, an official release here said.

MNA/PTI

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975 US troops killed since beginning of military operations in Iraq last year

BAGHDAD, 1 Sept—As of Tuesday, 31 August, 975 US service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq in March 2003, according to the Defence Department. Of those, 729 died as a result of hostile action and 246 died of non-hostile causes.

The British military has reported 64 deaths; Italy, 18; Spain, 11; Poland, 10; Bulgaria, six; Ukraine, six; Slovakia, three; Thailand, two; and Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia and the Netherlands have reported one death each.

Since 1 May, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 837 US soldiers have died — 620 as a result of hostile action and 217 of non-hostile causes, according to the military's numbers Tuesday.

Since the start of US military operations in Iraq, 6,916 US service members have been wounded in hostile action, according to the Defence Department's weekly tally. —Internet

US troops wounded in Iraq near 7,000

WASHINGTON, 1 Sept—The number of American troops wounded in Iraq since the US-led invasion in March 2003 is approaching 7,000, according to figures published Tuesday by the Pentagon. The death toll for US military personnel is 975, plus three Defence Department civilians.

The wounded total has approximately doubled since mid-April, when casualties and deaths mounted rapidly as the insurgency intensified. The death toll over that period has grown by about 300.

The Pentagon, which generally updates its casualty count each week, said the number of wounded stands at 6,916, up 226 from a week earlier. In the two months since the United States handed over political sovereignty to an interim Iraq government, the

wounded total has grown by about 1,500.

The vast majority of casualties have been Marines and Army soldiers, although the Pentagon announced on Tuesday the 13th member of the Air Force to die in Iraq. Airman 1st Class Carl L Anderson Jr., 21, of Georgetown, SC, was killed by a roadside bomb on Sunday near the northern city of Mosul. He was assigned to the 3rd Logistics Readiness Squadron based at Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska. —Internet

Australia seeks greater educational ties with India

KOLKATA, 31 Aug—Australia, an emerging destination for Indian students looking for higher education opportunities abroad, is looking for greater educational ties with this country while expecting about 37 per cent increase in student inflow from here to Down Under during 2004-2005.

"During the past three years, links in education and

training have become one of the strongest and most distinctive features of the relationship between Australia and India. We are looking for greater ties in the field of education," Tony Burchill, counsellor commercial of the Australian Government, said here on Monday. He said the number of Indian students going to Australia for higher studies was expected to in-

crease by about 27 per cent to 20,000 during 2004-2005.

"From less than 500 Indian students at the start of the 1990's we expect that by the end of 2004-2005 there will be about 20,000," he said.

Australia, having 39 universities, offered quality education at cheaper costs compared to the US and European nations, Burchill said. —MNA/PTI



Police officers deploy in the Sadr City neighbourhood of Baghdad for the first time after three weeks of clashes as a truce was declared between US soldiers and militiamen loyal to rebel Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr, Baghdad, Iraq, on 31 Aug, 2004. — INTERNET

Medic says he saw guards beat Iraq inmates

CAMP PENDLETON, 1 Sept— A Navy medic who served at a Marine detention facility in Iraq testified Tuesday during a court-martial that he witnessed guards beating newly arrived inmates to intimidate them.

Petty Officer Carlton Blay said he saw defendant Sgt Gary Pittman and other Marine reservists punch and slap between 10 and 15 detainees, but not an Iraqi inmate whose death is the focus of the trial. The detainees did not resist the blows, which were strong enough to cause some to groan or stagger, Blay said.

Force was used to "create a sense of dominance" and let the detainees know who was in charge at the makeshift Marine lockup, he said.

Blay's testimony came in the second week of the trial of camp guard Pittman, a federal prison guard in New York in his civilian life. His court-martial is believed to

be the first stemming from the death of a prisoner in Iraq.

Last week, another Marine guard testified that he saw Blay hit Nagem Hatab, the 52-year-old inmate who was found dead at the camp in June 2003. Blay, however, denied hitting the man or seeing other guards do so.

Blay testified under im-

munity from military prosecutors. Prosecutor Maj. Leon Francis noted in court Tuesday that Blay also sought immunity from federal criminal prosecution. It was unclear whether the request was granted.

Tuesday marked the first day of testimony from defence witnesses in the trial of Pittman, who allegedly karate-kicked Hatab in the chest a day before he died.

Internet

စက်မှုဥစ္စာအား ခေတ်တော်တွင်

Marine from Austin dies in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 1 Sept—The Department of Defence says a Marine from Austin has been killed in Iraq. Authorities say Lance Corporal Nickalous N Aldrich, 21, died Friday from a non-hostile vehicle accident in the Al Anbar Province. Aldrich was assigned to the Second Battalion, Fourth Marine Regiment, First Marine Division of the First Marine Expeditionary Force at Camp Pendleton, California.—*Internet*

France races to save Iraq hostages

AMMAN, 1 Sept—A 24-hour deadline set by kidnappers of two French journalists in Iraq expired late on Tuesday with no word on their fate after a day of frantic efforts by France to drum up Arab support to free them.

The kidnappers holding reporters Christian Chesnot and Georges Malbrunot have demanded France scrap a ban on Muslim headscarves in schools.

The killing of 12 Nepali hostages by a separate group of Iraqi militants highlighted the gravity of their plight.

Arabic television station Al Jazeera quoted a statement on Monday evening from the Islamic Army in Iraq saying they had extended a previous deadline to France by 24 hours to repeal its ban on Muslim headscarves in schools.

However, a senior Arab League official said on Tuesday that contacts in Iraq had said the deadline would pass on Wednesday rather than Tuesday. Al Jazeera's 4 pm EDT news bulletin, 24 hours after it broadcast the statement, passed with no report of any new statement or news on the fate of the reporters.

President Jacques Chirac, refusing to back down over the headscarf ban, led a broad diplomatic push to appeal to the militants holding Malbrunot and Chesnot, shown on Arab television on Monday fearing for their lives.

"I am renewing my solemn call for their release," said Chirac, on a visit to Russia.

Foreign Minister Michel Barnier, racing through Middle East capitals, secured pledges of help in Jordan after visiting Cairo as France called in its many favours in the Arab world.

Barnier, who said France was working tirelessly and sometimes in secret to free the hostages, later returned to Egypt, to the city of Alexandria.

The kidnappings stunned France, which opposed the US-led invasion of Iraq and also objected to pre-war sanctions.

Internet

China launches science satellite

JIUQUAN (Gansu), 31 Aug— China on Sunday launched a recoverable science experimental satellite into a preset orbit, atop a Long March 2C carrier rocket from a launch centre in northwest China.

Space officials said the satellite was launched at 3.50 pm from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in Gansu Province, northwest China and the satellite is orbiting normally.

They said that it is the 19th recoverable science experimental satellite China has launched.

The satellite would remain in orbit for a few days before returning to Earth, and

the satellite is mainly for space scientific research, land surveying, mapping and other scientific experiments, said the officials.

The Long March 2C carrier rocket used in the launch was developed by a Beijing-based rocket carrier research institute affiliated to the China Aerospace Science and Technology Corp.

The launch is the 78th by the country's Long March

carrier rockets since 1970, and the 36th consecutive successful launch since October 1996.

The Xi'an Satellite Monitor and Control Centre, based in the capital city of northwest China's Shaanxi Province, will monitor and control the orbiting of the satellite and recover its re-entry module as scheduled, the officials said.

MNA/Reuters



Armed Mahdi Army militiamen wait at a position in Basra, Iraq, on 31 Aug, 2004.

INTERNET

Philippines, US hold anti-drug exercises

MANILA, 31 Aug— The US and Philippine troops and anti-drug personnel have started a month-long training on anti narcoterrorism in the northern province of Benguet and the southern city of Davao.

Baker Piston 04-2, starting on Monday, is the first joint exercise to tackle narcoterrorism in the country, the Philippine *Daily Inquirer* reported Tuesday.

"The war on drugs is a fight for everyone and a better-trained police officer and agent only makes our communities safer against the intimidation and fears brought on by drugs," the Philippine military said in a Press statement.

Ten American narcotics experts and 100 participants from the Armed Forces, Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency and the Philippine National Police will take part in the training, the report said.

The participants are expected to learn the methods of drug seizure, including the gathering, identification and preservation of pieces of evidence in the war against drugs using state-of-the-art technology like geographical positioning systems, which is a technology dependent on satellites to help

locate persons, structures or remote areas.

"Baker Piston 04-2 is designed to enhance the inter-operability between the military, federal and civil agencies," the military statement said.

"It will improve their abilities to identify and preserve evidence, evacuate casualties, gather intelligence and instruct others to fight narcotics," it added.

The Philippines is considered one of the major transshipment points of methamphetamine hydrochloride (shabu) and marijuana in Southeast Asia and also one of the three largest producers of shabu, said a United Nations world drug report. Shabu from the Philippines goes to Australia and the United States.

According to a recent United Nations report, Thailand, Cambodia and the Philippines are the major sources of marijuana in the region. The Cordillera is the country's major source of marijuana.—*MNA/Xinhua*

Japan may seek change in US forces deal

TOKYO, 31 Aug—Japan's Defence Ministers said on Sunday Japan may have to consider negotiating changes in the agreement that governs the status of US forces in Japan following a dispute over the management of a US helicopter crash in the southern prefecture of Okinawa earlier this month. "If the Status of Forces Agreement has been used arbitrarily, we have to discuss ways of preventing this from happening," Shigeru Ishiba said on a programme broadcast by public

television. "If the discussions make no progress, the issue of revision will arise," he added. Japan lodged a protest with the US Embassy last week after the United States flew CH-53D Sea Stallion helicopters over its territory without having provided a full explanation for an August 13 crash involving the same model of helicopter.

The aircraft crashed into a university in Okinawa, damaging buildings, but causing no injuries. Japanese police were initially kept

out of a probe into the crash.

The US Embassy on Saturday announced that all CH-53D flights within Japan had been suspended until a safety review is completed. The Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) defines the status of the 48,000 US military personnel based in Japan. Its terms are often criticized by Japanese angered by crimes committed by US servicemen, particularly the 1996 rape of a 12-year-old girl by three US military personnel.

MNA/Reuters



Iraqi National Guard troops inspect tanker trucks impounded in an operation against the smuggling of fuel, in Basra on 31 Aug, 2004. — *INTERNET*

Iraqi police arrest Iranian journalist in Najaf

TEHRAN, 1 Sept—An Iranian photojournalist working for the semi-official *Fars* news agency has been arrested by Iraqi police in the holy Shiite city of Najaf, the *ISNA* students news agency said on Monday.

"Hasan Qaedi, who wanted to cover Najaf developments, was arrested by Iraqi police on Thursday," *ISNA* quoted one of the *Fars* news agency's editors as saying.

Iranian journalists have faced problems with the authorities in Iraq in the past weeks. Four Iranian reporters were arrested by Baghdad police on August 9. They were released last week.

Foreign Ministry officials were not immediately available for comment.

Iran, which fought a bloody 1980-1988 war with Iraq, has been angered by the kidnapping this month of one of its diplomats in Iraq and arrest of its journalists by Iraqi police.

The diplomat was kidnapped by a group calling itself Islamic Army in Iraq.

Iraq's interim Deputy Prime Minis-

ter Barham Salih arrived in Iran on Saturday as part of efforts to patch up relations strained by accusations of Iranian meddling in Iraq.

Shi'ite Muslim Iran has given cautious backing to Iraq's interim government but has been angered by comments by some Iraqi officials that it played a role in the Shi'ite uprising centred on Najaf.

"Iran is an important neighbour and Baghdad opposes inflicting any damage on relations between our two countries," *ISNA* news agency quoted Salih as saying during his meeting with Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi.

Salih's visit is aimed at paving the ground for Iraq's interim Prime Minister Iyad Allawi to travel to Iran.

MNA/Reuters

Abdullah urges people to chart course of nation's destiny

KUALA LUMPUR, 31 Aug—Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi on Monday evening urged the Malaysians to share ideas and views so that they could together chart the course of the nation's destiny.

"Malaysia is our country, our right, the symbol of our integrity and sovereignty. Only we have the right to decide the fall and rise, develop or backwardness of this country," the Prime Minister said in his message released on the eve of the country's 47th National Day.

Malaysia achieved its independence on 31 August, 1957, and Tunku Abdul Rahman became its first Prime Minister after the independence.

"Imagine what can be achieved by this country if everyone of us pool all the potentials in ourselves," he said.

Advising Malaysians to always remember the services and sacrifices of the nation's independence fighters, he invited the people from all walks of life to rise to pursue the tasks left behind by the

nation's forefathers.

"Our country is small, not only in terms of size but also in terms of resources, including human resource. As such, to stand on par with developed countries, we need to develop and utilize the human resource available in the country to the optimum," he said.

Abdullah called on all citizens in Malaysia to play their roles and make their contributions to the country.

"It's better we ask ourselves: As a Malaysian, have I done my duty as a citizen to at least make Malaysia as a nation we can all be proud of?"

He said the Malaysians should always strive for excellence and emerge the best so that the world would respect and look up to them.

Abdullah said, "As Malaysians, let us, without

feeling inferior, without feeling marginalized, regardless of race and religion, rise to become statesmen in our own land." "All of us are the same, we are all Malaysians. There is no individual in this country recognized as 'more Malaysian' than others," he said.

Abdullah urged the people, irrespective of race and religion, to unite to face the trials and tribulations to develop the country for the common interests of Malaysians and the future of this beloved nation. Malaysia, situated close to the equator, occupies two distinct regions, Peninsular Malaysia and Sabah and Sarawak on the northwestern coast of Borneo. It is a multi-racial country with a population of some 25 million, consisting of the Malays, Chinese and Indians. — MNA/Xinhua



Garbage burns in the streets, in an attempt to get rid of it, after weeks of sporadic fighting between US soldiers and militiamen loyal to rebel Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr made it impossible for workers to collect the garbage, in Sadr City, Baghdad, Iraq, on 31 Aug, 2004. Aides of al-Sadr on Monday called on his followers across Iraq to observe a unilateral ceasefire, bringing relative calm to the slums. — INTERENT

Democrats attack Bush's policy

WASHINGTON, 31 Aug—US Senator John Edwards, vice-presidential candidate of the Democratic Party, attacked the policy of President George W Bush on Monday.

Citing the Abu Ghraib Prison abuse in Iraq, Edwards said the Bush Administration set the climate for the scandal by sending US troops into battle without a plan to win the peace.

"The President called it a miscalculation," Edwards said while campaigning at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, referring to an interview Bush gave to *The New York Times* last week in which the President said he miscalculated the conditions in Iraq after US troops went in.

"You can call it anything you want, but the truth is, it was a failure of leadership," Edwards said. Republicans opened the Republican Na-

tional Convention in New York City on Monday, during which the party's delegates would nominate Bush and Vice-President Dick Cheney as the party's candidates for president and vice-president in the general election.

Republicans were trying to use the GOP convention to describe Bush as a strong and steadfast leader in the war against terrorism.

Edwards seized on a comment Bush made in an interview broadcast on NBC's "Today" show on Monday when he said the war on terrorism would never be won. Edwards said that comment was actually a declaration of defeat.

"This is no time to declare defeat — it won't be easy and it won't be quick, but we have a comprehensive long-term plan to make America safer," Edwards said.

Edwards also listed other mistakes the Bush Administration had made in the last four years, including going to war without strong allies and reluctance to reform intelligence agencies.

"I don't need to tell you or the American people about all that's gone wrong in the last four years," he said. "You know." Bush's campaign dismissed Edwards' criticism as "baseless."

MNA/Xinhua

US soldier killed, two wounded in roadside bomb attack in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 31 Aug—One US soldier was killed and two others were wounded when their convoy was attacked by a roadside bomb in northern Iraq, the US military said on Monday.

The incident happened Sunday south of Mosul, 360 kilometres northwest of Baghdad, the military said in a statement.

"The injured soldiers were evacuated to the US Army combat support hospital in Mosul where one was released and the other is in stable condition," the statement said.

As of 27 August, 968 US service members have died since the beginning of US-led military operations in Iraq in March 2003, according to the Defence Department.

MNA/Xinhua

US airstrike kills four Iraqis near Samarra

BAGHDAD, 31 Aug—The US forces on Monday carried out an airstrike near the flashpoint city of Samarra, north of Baghdad, killing four Iraqis and wounding five others, police and medical sources said.

A source from the general hospital in the city said two children and a woman were among the dead.

The airstrike was launched at about 12.30 pm (0830 GMT) on a farm, destroying a house and damaging several cars in an area called al-Mutasim District, some 15 kilometres east of Samarra, the police of the city said. Samarra, some 110 kilometres north of the capital, has been a hotbed of Sunni Muslim insurgency since the US occupation of Iraq in April 2003. — MNA/Xinhua

Sadr orders followers to ceasefire across Iraq

BAGHDAD, 31 Aug—Radical Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr on Monday ordered his followers to end clashes with US and Iraqi forces across Iraq, one of his aides said.

"Leader Sadr has ordered the halt of all military operations in Iraq and we are considering to join the political process," said Sheikh Naim al-Qaabi in Baghdad.

Sadr's Mehdi Army militia fought hard against the US-backed Iraqi forces in the holy city of Najaf for nearly three weeks and the violence had spread to other Shiite areas in Iraq.

The bloody standoff in Najaf only came to an end on Friday under a peace deal brokered by Iraq's most revered Shiite leader Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani. — MNA/Xinhua



Women walk with bags to carry provisions after rebel Shiite Cleric Moqtada al-Sadr's aides announced an unilateral ceasefire, in Sadr City, Baghdad, Iraq, on 31 Aug, 2004 bringing relative calm to the area. A portrait of al-Sadr is seen adorning a fence on the right. — INTERNET

US oil prices edge up on Iraq exports woes

LONDON, 31 Aug—US oil prices rose on Monday as Iraq's oil exports continued at more than 30 per cent below normal after sabotage attacks on pipelines.

US light crude climbed 29 cents to 43.47 US dollars a barrel, following a string of losses last week that took oil more than 6 US dollars below the record peak at 49.40 US dollars struck on 20 August.

Brent crude trade on London's International Petroleum Exchange was shut for a public holiday.

Iraqi oil exports ran at a reduced 1.4 million barrels per day (bpd) on Monday, compared with two million bpd a week ago, and an Iraqi oil official said work to repair sabotaged pipelines would take five days.

Firefighters on Sunday battled to put out a blaze in the South Rumaila oilfield after spilt oil and gas from damaged pipelines ignited.

Turmoil in Iraq and frequent attacks on oil infrastructure have been a major factor in underpinning the sharp rally in crude prices this year.

But last week US oil slid more than 6 US dollars after its failure to break through the 50 US mark triggered a stretch of profit taking. US Commodity Futures Trading Commission data on Friday showed that many speculators had taken their profits from the rally.

Despite last week's slide that knocked

US crude down 13 per cent from its peak, prices are still 33 per cent higher than at the end of 2003 as producers pump close to full tilt to match soaring demand.

The head of the OPEC producers' cartel said on Monday that the group, which controls more than half of world exports, aimed to increase spare output capacity by about one million bpd in the next few months in an effort to bring down sky-high prices.

The Organization of the Petroleum-Exporting Countries is estimated to be pumping close to 30 million bpd, its highest level since 1979, in an effort to dampen this year's price rally.

"In response to expected demand growth in the near future, member countries have plans in place to further increase production capacity by around one million bpd towards the end of this year and into 2005," OPEC president Purnomo Yusgiantoro said in a written statement handed to reporters in Jakarta.

"In addition, plans for additional capacity expansions are available and could be enacted soon. However, this capacity would, typically, become available around 18 months after commencement of this process." — MNA/Reuters

Shots fired at US diplomatic car in Saudi Arabia

JEDDAH, 31 Aug—Gunmen opened fire on Monday at a US diplomatic car near the US consulate in the Red Sea port city of Jeddah in Saudi Arabia but there were no injuries, a Western diplomat said.

The diplomat told Reuters that the occupants of the car escaped unhurt.

"The preliminary information received an hour ago indicates that shots were fired at a US consulate car. Everyone in that car is in good health," the diplomat told Reuters.

He did not give any details about the car's occupants or their number.

Security sources told Reuters that an unidentified gunman opened fire at the car carrying one passenger plus the driver, both of whom escaped unhurt.

There were no further details but militants loyal to Saudi-born Osama bin

Laden have been waging a 15-month campaign of suicide bombings and attacks against Western citizens and oil sites.

Some 90 police officers and civilians, many of them foreigners, have been killed.

MNA/Reuters

Mubarak to meet Russian FM over Mideast issues

CAIRO, 31 Aug—Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak will meet on Saturday with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov over the Middle East situation, Egypt's official MENA news agency reported Monday.

During his stay here, Lavrov is expected to hold talks with his Egyptian counterpart Ahmed Abul Gheit on ways to expand bilateral relations, and the two sides will also discuss the latest regional and international developments, especially in Palestine, Sudan and Iraq, the report said.

Earlier on Monday, the Russian Foreign Ministry announced in a statement that Lavrov would kick off his maiden Middle East tour on September 3 in a bid to help resolve problems in the region. — MNA/Xinhua



A US armoured vehicle patrols Baghdad's Shiite slum of Sadr City. Rebel cleric Moqtada Sadr, the most serious threat yet to the authority of Iraq interim government, ordered his militiamen to silence their guns, as a deadline passed for two French hostages. — INTERNET

မြန်မာနိုင်ငံတော် သမ္မတမြန်မာနိုင်ငံတော်

Saboteurs hit Iraq internal oil pipeline

BAGHDAD, 31 Aug—Saboteurs blew up an internal oil pipeline on the edge of Baghdad on Monday, the latest in a series of attacks on the country's internal and export pipeline network, witnesses said.

Reuters Television footage showed firefighters working on putting out the pipeline fire in the southeast New Baghdad District. A US soldier on the scene said the oil pipeline was attacked earlier in the morning.

US oil prices rose on Monday as Iraq's oil exports continued at more than 30 per cent below normal after sabotage attacks on pipelines.

MNA/Reuters



A security officer, left, speaks with a visitor outside of the French Embassy in Baghdad, Iraq, on 31 Aug, 2004. — INTERNET

Vietnam spends more on fertilizer imports

HANOI, 31 Aug—Vietnam imported over 2.3 million tons of fertilizers, totalling 426 million US dollars in the first eight months of this year, down 4.5 per cent in volume but up 21.6 per cent in value over the same period last year.

Of the volume, 976,000 tons were urea with import turnovers of 187 million dollars, down 15.7 per cent in volume but up 7.2 per cent in value, said the General Statistics Office on Monday.

Although Vietnam's fertilizer production increased 13.9 per cent to roughly 1.1 million tons between January and August, the country still heavily depended on imports with increasing prices. To cope with the hike, the Ministry of Trade has recently proposed the government slash the value-added tax on fertilizers to zero from current 5 per cent.

The local demand for fertilizers is estimated at 7.3 million tons this year, including some 2.2 million tons of urea, 500,000 tons of sulphate ammonium (SA), 700,000 tons of potassium, 700,000 tons of diammonium phosphate (DAP), two million tons of nitrogen-phosphate-potassium (NPK) fertilizer, and 1.2 million tons of phosphate.

"To meet the demand, Vietnam will have to import some 3.8 million tons of fertilizers. Nearly 70 per cent of all fertilizers to be imported to the country this year will come from China, and the

remainder mainly from Indonesia, Russia and the Middle East," Nguyen Hac Thuy, general secretary of the Vietnam Fertilizer Association, told Xinhua.

To lessen its reliance on imports, Vietnam will build four major fertilizers plants with combined annual capacity of 1.79 million tons between 2005 and 2010, namely an 800,000-ton urea plant in southern Ca Mau Province, a 560,000-ton urea plant in the northern region, a 330,000-ton DAP in northern Hai Phong City, and a 100,000-ton SA plant.

MNA/Xinhua

Thailand, Laos to open online border control centre

BANGKOK, 31 Aug—Thailand and Laos have planned to establish an online computer system to regulate and monitor cross border movements and reduce the flow of illegal drugs, the Thai News Agency reported Sunday.

The two sides agreed on the scheme at a bilateral meeting on Saturday, head of the Thai delegation Charnwut Watchapug, who is also head of Border Immigration, was quoted by the news agency as saying. The two countries have made joint efforts to promote tourism which resulted in a rising

number of tourists crossing the Thai-Lao border each year.

Local immigration officials have requested more staff to improve services to tourists and the public at the border crossings, Charnwut Watchapug said.

MNA/Xinhua

Chile to serve as bridge between Asia, MERCOSUR

BUENOS AIRES, 31 Aug—Chile will serve as a bridge between the economies of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum (APEC) and those of the Common Market of the South (MERCOSUR), Chilean President Ricardo Lagos said on Monday.

Lagos said the APEC economic leaders' meeting scheduled for November 20-21 will open new possibilities and ties for the interaction between the two blocs.

He said the gathering "will configure a network of simultaneous possibilities for this region of the world as seldom seen before." "MERCOSUR seems to have reached a greater presence and solidity" and Chile will contribute to forming a bridge between the bloc and the rest of the Asia-Pacific economies, he said.

MNA/Reuters

Fast development in border regions



Developing Tachilek in eastern Shan State. — MNA



The Government is paying serious attention to border area development. Photo shows the development of Panwa in Kachin State. — PBNRDA



With peace prevailing throughout the country, people living in border areas are now able to run their business with peace of mind. The photo shows magnificent Mongla market built in Mongla region. — MYANMARALIN

Goal set for eliminating ...

(from page 16)

In addition, under the guidelines laid down by the Head of State, plans and projects are being implemented to ensure adequate provisions of rice paddy and other essential crops in all regions and townships of the country.

But more than that, not only is everything being done systematically to make sure that there is sufficient production of food, but the health sector in concert is educating the public to learn about nutrition and the consumption of food that is healthful.

Specialists and scientists in medicine and health today agree that nutrition and health are interrelated. In developing countries over 50% of the mortality of children below the age of 5 years is due to nutrition deficiency. They also concur that nutrition deficiency and anaemia in expectant mothers lead to complications in childbirth and other related diseases that are life threatening. Anaemic mothers also often give birth to children who are underweight.

Therefore, efforts are now underway to raise the standard of nutrition in the country, to eliminate nutrition deficiency and encourage the cultivation of good eating habits as well to prevent diseases related to over eating. In accordance with these aims those responsible in the health sector are now implementing various initiatives such as the administration of vitamins to supplement the diet of those who are undernourished; to produce nutritious food for consumption and to provide much needed information on the importance and need for nutritious food.

In the developing countries at one time, children suffered from blindness due mainly to lack of vitamin A and these children who turned blind because of lack of vitamin A, soon died within one or two years due to many other complications. So the world community of nations introduced a systematic programme for regular administration of vitamin A as supplement. Today, thousands of children worldwide are protected from the danger of losing their eye sight and life. On our part, Myanmar, has been carrying out a systematic programme for administering vitamin A capsules to children once every 6 months with the goals of protecting our children from the dangers of vitamin A deficiency, building up their resistance and immunity against infectious diseases of all kinds and bringing



National Health Committee Chairman Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt gives vitamin A tablet to a child of under five at the launching ceremony of Nutrition Promotion Week.— MNA

Hence, today there are now little or no cases of children losing their eye sight due to lack of vitamin A in Myanmar. However, the vitamin A supplement campaign will have to be continued as part of the programme for bringing down the under-5 years child mortality rate. At one time also, a widespread systematic campaign had to be launched in Myanmar against iodine deficiency that caused the disease known as goiter. Today, 86% of households in the country are now taking the necessary iodine salts.

percent success rate.

Hence, today there are now little or no cases of children losing their eye sight due to lack of vitamin A in Myanmar. However, the vitamin A supplement campaign will have to be continued as part of the programme for bringing down the under-5 years child mortality rate.

At one time also, a widespread systematic campaign

within arm reach. But I would like to remind all those responsible that the success we have achieved so far must be sustained for the long term by accelerating the necessary programmes that are now being undertaken.

Furthermore, the progress made in raising the level of nutrition can be maintained only if corresponding efforts are made in disseminating knowledge and information about the importance of nutrition for health. Parents must come to understand the need for and benefits of vitamin A supplements so that they will want to give their children the necessary vitamins. They must be made aware of the dangers of iodine deficiency too, so that of their own accord they will want iodine salts of safe standards to be part of their diet. So, it is important to continually disseminate information on the role of nutrition for good health, the need to cultivate good eating habits and the consumption of healthful food.

They must be convinced that avoiding certain kinds of food can lead to undernourishment and that there must be a healthy balance to the different kinds of food in our diet. It is also important to avoid the other extreme of overeating which is another form of malnutrition. It is therefore necessary to keep the people informed and aware of the importance of proper nutrition for health and make such information accessible to the people.

The problems of malnutrition consisting of undernourishment on the one hand and over-nourishment on the other are due principally to the underlying economic and social conditions in a society. The nutrition that children receive depends on the education and general knowledge of the mother how and what she feeds her child, her habitual behaviour, cleanliness of the surroundings and the prevalence of disease. Hence, the reason why the nutrition campaign, immunization campaign, disease elimination campaign, the programmes for pollution free environment, for maternal and child welfare, school health and dissemination of knowledge on health are all being stepped up and implemented in concert.

Myanmar, being a member of the World Health Organization and the World Food Programme has closely collaborated with UN organizations, other international organizations and with member countries both from within and without the region to enhance implementation of the nutrition programme.

The National Nutrition Week Movement of 2003 was a resounding success due to the enthusiastic participation of the people and the support of government departments and voluntary social organizations. It was able to instill among the masses knowledge on the dangers of iodine deficiency and the benefit of iodine salt and thereby encouraging good dietary habits. It has also succeeded in the Vitamin A supplement campaign for children and has also made iron supplements available for expectant mothers.

(See page 9)



NHC Vice-Chairman Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein gives vitamin A tablet to a child of under five at the ceremony to launch Nutrition Promotion Week.— MNA

Myanmar, being a member of the WHO and the World Food Programme has closely collaborated with UN organizations, other international organizations and with member countries both from within and without the region to enhance implementation of the nutrition programme. The National Nutrition Week Movement of 2003 was a resounding success due to the enthusiastic participation of the people and the support of government departments and voluntary social organizations.

ing down the incidence of disease and the rate of infant mortality.

Suitable doses of vitamin A supplements are systematically administered to the children countrywide during the National Nutrition Week campaign and also during period of the National Immunization Campaign together with the oral Polio vaccine. Due to these efforts it can be said that overall there has been nearly a hundred

had to be launched in Myanmar against iodine deficiency that caused the disease known as goiter. Today, 86% of households in the country are now taking the necessary iodine salts.

As the rate of consumption of iodine salt rose, the incidence of the disease, goiter also fell significantly and it can therefore be said that the goal set for eliminating iodine deficiency as a health problem by the year 2005 is

Goal set for eliminating ...

(from page 8)

These are the positive results of all the efforts that have been made, and we believe it will contribute greatly towards the success of the present Nutrition Week Movement the objective of which is the total elimination of iodine insufficiency in 2005 and the advancement of the comprehensive Vitamin A supplement campaign. In addition, in this year's Nutrition Week movement iron tablets will be distributed to expectant mothers and there will be a competition for the cooking and preparation of the most nutritious food for children below 5 years of age. We believe fervently that all these endeavours will greatly aid the Millennium Development Goals which include a decrease in the rate of children below the age of five suffering from malnutrition and a decrease in the maternal mortality rate.

The Myanmar Government having found the rural folk and those in the isolated border areas greatly in need of health care and health education drew up systematic plans and programmes for development projects in the border and rural areas which are now in process. The government, at great expense to the Budget has given priority to health care projects in the

rural areas and remote border regions. Consequently the maternal and child mortality rate in these areas have been significantly reduced. Furthermore, the government together with philanthropic citizens has made available pure drinking water in the rural areas where water is scarce.

Then dams, reservoirs and canals were constructed in regions that were not self-sufficient in food; this has thus enabled them to cultivate crops year round—in summer, rains and the cool season. With cultivation water available the whole year, these regions are now able to cultivate paddy and other diverse crops which has thus raised productivity and increased food sufficiency.

These developments can be attributed to the close co-operation among the government and the people, the representatives of UN organizations and other voluntary welfare organizations. It should be especially noted that the mutual good will that exists between the government and the people and their close cooperation and participation are vital factors in the successes so far achieved in development.

In conclusion I wish to express my heartfelt thanks to government departments who so ably carried out their



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt views round the exhibition to mark the Nutrition Week. — MNA

responsibilities for the promotion of the health of the people, particularly in promoting the nutrition of mothers and children and to the voluntary welfare associations, UN organizations and national race entrepreneurs who gave so generously of their help and support. And may I express the sincere wish that beginning from this Nutrition Week, may the world soon develop into a world of sufficient nutrition for all.

After the opening ceremony, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party viewed the booths displayed at the International Business Centre to mark Nutrition Promotion

Week. Afterwards, the Prime Minister and party and guests fed vitamin-A tablets to children under five. Next, they also distributed ferrous sulphate tablets to expectant mothers.

The opening ceremony was also attended by National Health Committee Vice-Chairman Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen

Thein Sein, ministers, deputy ministers, the committee members, ambassadors of the ASEAN member countries, resident representatives of the UNICEF and other UN agencies, chairmen and officials of the social organizations, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, members of the Leading

Committee for Organizing the Nutrition Promotion Week, members of the Central Committee for Elimination of Myanmar Iodine Deficiency, directors-general, deputy directors-general, rectors, pro-rectors and superintendents under the Ministry of Health, resident representatives of NGOs and guests.

MNA

Minister for Industry-2 leaves for Thailand

YANGON, 1 Sept — A Myanmar delegation led by Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin left here by air this morning to hold discussions on bilateral industrial cooperation and visit factories in Thailand at the invitation of the Thai Minister of Industry. The Minister and party were seen off at Yangon International Airport by Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board Dr Than Nyun, officials of the Ministry of Industry-2, Thai Ambassador Mr Suphot Dhirakaosal and families of the delegation members.

The Minister was accompanied by Adviser to the Ministry of Industry-2 U Than Htut, Director of Myanmar Automobile and Diesel Engine Industries U Thwin Myint Maung, Director U Win Tint of Myanmar Machine Tool and Electrical Industries and General Manager U Pe Than Hlaing. — MNA

Thai Public Relations delegation arrives

YANGON, 1 Sept — A six-member delegation of Public Relations Department of Thailand arrived here by air this morning.

They were welcomed at Yangon International Airport by Director (Admin) U Phone Myint of Myanmar Radio and Television of the Ministry of Information and officials. At 10.30 am, the Thai delegation called on Director-General U Khin Maung Htay of MRTV at the meeting hall of MRTV on Pyay Road, here. The director-general extended greetings and explained facts about MRTV. The guest viewed functions of MRTV. In the afternoon, they visited the Defence Services Museum on Shwedagon Pagoda Road and the National Museum on Pyay Road. In the evening, they visited Myanmar Gems Emporium on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road. — MNA



The Thai delegation seen at Yangon International Airport. — MNA

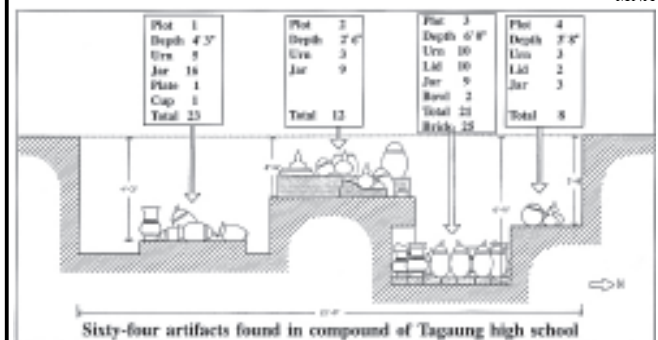
Artifacts of Pyu Period found

YANGON, 1 Sep—Based on the facts described in religious treatises, Myanmar historical treatises and records and artifacts excavated by the Archaeology Department, the staff of the department and archaeological researchers carried on their research work.

During August, they found 23 urns and goglets in plot No 1 and 12 urns and goglets in plot No 2 as a whole at the southeast corner of Basic Education High School in Tagaung. The news appeared in the 19 August issues of Myanmar Alin, Kyemon and the New Light of Myanmar dailies.

The group comprising Deputy Director U Aye Maung of AD (Upper Myanmar), U Pandita Nanda (U Min Han), Tampawady U Win Maung, U Tin Win Oo and guardian U Aye Lwin also discovered 21 urns and goglets in plot No 3 and eight urns and goglets in plot No 4. Altogether 64 urns and goglets have been unearthed so far. Some bricks with lines made by fingers were also found under the urns in the plot No 3. The evidences have proved that like Pyu ancient cities such as Hanlin, Beikthano and Srikhetra, Tagaung was also a civilized region with high culture of Pyus. The artifacts are of invaluable historical value for the archaeological researchers.

MNA



The site where 64 Pyu Period artifacts were excavated. — CULTURE

Those who daren't show their face — 60

Pauk Sa

Because of certain circumstances, I cannot help refuting the slanders of the VOA concerning its interview with a man of letters or a writer-cum-poet and a journalist, two big cheese of their profession. The VOA aired an interview with them on 7 August 2004.

In the interview, the man of letters said that according to his experience, the four-8 unrest is much like that of the 1300 peasant uprising in essence; that the unrest did not fail, but has achieved success to a certain degree; that as evolution or revolution never ends, the main success of the unrest is that it was able to do what was presumed impossible in the past; and that because of the four-8 democracy movement, many unexpected things will occur in the future.

I cannot understand him, as he, a writer-cum-poet of peace, who says that he has no enemy, but only friends, is praising the four-eight anarchy he has never witnessed. I dare say that his intention of comparing the 1300 uprising and the four-8 unrest is not sincere. Because the 1300 uprising is a national movement to oppose the colonialists for the national independence, while the four-8 anarchic disturbance is a work of leftist and rightist aboveground and underground organizations, expatriates including colonialist minions and persons, who were dismissed from the Burma Socialist Programme Party or their job, to take advantage of the growing public discontent over the then existing BSPP government to grab power through short cut. Whether the unrest is analyzed from the historical point of view or logical point of view, the truth cannot be hidden. But, so pitiful is the writer-cum-poet that he is not able to see things in an objective way, instead always adhering to the old and outdated ways. Thus, he is facing opposition from his own disciples, and I hope that all the people of Myanmar are tired of reading about it in the journals.

In an interview, aired on 5 and 6 August 2004, U Win Naing, a corrupt politician, also said that the four-8 unrest ended in a failure. But what the man of letters, the so-called man of peace, said in the interview is like trying to incite the people for the eruption of another anarchy that will lead the nation to a bloodbath and losing her independence again, and making her reduce to ash.

I dare say that his intention of comparing the 1300 uprising and the four-8 unrest is not sincere. Because the 1300 uprising is a national movement to oppose the colonialists for the national independence, while the four-8 anarchic disturbance is a work of leftist and rightist aboveground and underground organizations, expatriates including colonialist minions and persons, who were dismissed from the Burma Socialist Programme Party or their job, to take advantage of the growing public discontent over the then existing BSPP government to grab power through short cut.

Instead of speaking about peace and national re-consolidation, he is trying to incite the people to violence and to cause instability and civil commotion. So I would like to say that he is a blood-thirsty man of peace. But I try to understand him as a person who knows nothing about the nation's objective condition, but being deceived by his own community and some foreign radio stations.

Everybody knows that bullying, killing, torching, beheading and looting were a common scene during the unrest. And Myanmar had never faced such a terrible situation in any part of her past history. The unrest created a terrible situation that is totally against the nature and

culture of civilized Myanmar people. Sadly, the words of the writer-cum-poet are in support of the anarchy.

Now, I will present a brief account of the VOA's interview with an experienced journalist and a private tuition teacher. He is worse than the writer-cum-poet. During the interview, the journalist said that the unrest can be compared with the civil commotion of Paris, as people of all ages from very young students to elderly persons took part in it; that the State power fell into the people's hand as the law enforcement operations and administrative machinery came to a stop; that it was wrong to make useless demands instead of strengthening the power that was already in the hands of the people; that not with the Tatmadaw's sole decision but only with the comprehensive agreement and participation, will the success be achieved in finding the way out of the present situation; and that a true national convention is required for this end.

The anarchic unrest was not created by the people. In reality, they were the victims of the unrest. They were staging peaceful demonstrations just to show their discontent over the then BSPP government. When the political opportunists, colonialist minions and expatriates were trying to use the public demonstrations for political gains as an arena for power struggles, the people stopped staging demonstrations.

The man of letters said that the unrest is similar to the 1300 uprising, while the journalist is comparing it with the crisis in Paris. The problem is that the views of the two persons are in contradiction to one another. But they have one similarity, and that is — they both fail to see the global changes and the objective development in the political, economic and social fields of Myanmar. It is because that they both are under the influence of the words of their own community and the foreign radio stations and satellite TV programmes. (I assume that the journalist will watch the satellite TV programmes). So, they are making wrong assumptions.

The anarchic unrest was not created by the people. In reality, they were the victims of the unrest. They were staging peaceful demonstrations just to show their discontent over the then BSPP government. When the political opportunists, colonialist minions and expatriates were trying to use the public demonstrations for political gains as an arena for power struggles, the people stopped staging demonstrations.

The old journalist does not acknowledge the nation-building undertakings of the Tatmadaw Government that have left behind all the evil things of the past in the past and is striving to improve the present situation and for a better future. He is under the influence of others, and with pessimistic view, the old journalist said that as the present National Convention is not a genuine one, a true national convention must be held to find a way to solve the problems.

Now, the Tatmadaw Government has reconvened the National Convention, that was adjourned for a period for certain reasons. The Government has invited the delegates from all walks of life and all the national races. But when the Government made negotiations with the legal political parties, some are still insisting on impossible demands. Thus, the people of Myanmar see the VOA and the two persons it used in the political conspiracy to make gains as the ones who daren't show their face in public.

(Translation: TMT)

(Kyemon + Myanma Alin: 1-9-2004)

Efficient use of electricity

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

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

Efficient use of fuel

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

POEM:

Messenger poets

*Delicate to the degree beyond compare
Poems are like nectar
Sweet, fragrant and cool

*Their force unmatched to everything
With energy and power
Greater than swords and spears

* On this earth
Differ the places from each other
And power of poems
Appreciable by every man
As genuine culture and human essence
They are being loved and honoured
Gathering in neighbouring Malaysia
Are a host of poets
Attending the 'World Poetry Reading'
Standing as Southeast Asia's pride

* All poets numbering over fifty
Of over thirty countries
Reading out poems with pleasure
From all four directions of world
Come the poetry readers
Taking part in the ceremony
Held on a grand scale

* Every nation has its own style
And own strength and beauty
But beauty does not matter
What matters is friendship
One loves another's poem
Though styles differ
Poets as messengers
Trying to enhance
Mutual love between nations
Like blossoming lotus under moon light
The poetry flowers
Contributing to world peace

Myinmu Maung Naing Moe (Trs)

(In commemoration of the 'World Poetry Reading' held from 16 to 22 August 2004)

USDA members urged to apply...

(from page 16)

These tasks are to be carried out as far as possible, he added.

He said significant achievements can be seen in all sectors such as agricultural, livestock breeding, industrial and transport sectors.

In the education sector, basic education schools, uni-versities and colleges and science and technological and medical institutions were opened and educated persons needed for the State are being produced. Similarly,

laid emphasis on development of border areas that lagged behind in development for various reasons.

Practical implementation of regional development tasks contributes towards the progress of local people. By doing so, the association can win more understanding and support of the people. As the winning of public confidence, the people will rely on the efforts of the association and cooperate with it.

In carrying out regional development undertakings, the association is

term interest of the respective regions. As the work depends on the people's willingness, they should be organized to actively take part in it and to have the self-reliant spirit for regional development. Concerning the sectors that have bright prospects, efforts will have to be made in cooperation with the departments concerned to implement them.

Members of the association will have to apply various means to organize the people of the regions that are not possible

association members should try to reinforce their strength by providing necessary assistance to the grassroots.

At present, sound economic and social foundations have been laid in the nation. At present, dedicated efforts are being made to materialize a new administrative system of the nation. Of the four political objectives, the two objectives — Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order; and National re-consolidation



Lt-Gen Soe Win addresses the opening ceremony of the instructor course No 4.— MNA



hospitals and dispensaries are opened in order to carry out health care services widely.

He said the government

cooperating with the local people or with the departments concerned, and the undertakings are for short-term as well as long-

for the departments to reach. Only with hard work, the members will be able to know the true situation of the grassroots. The

— have already been restored. And the seven-point future policy programme has already been laid down to implement the other two — Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution; and Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution. A modern and developed discipline-flourishing nation will emerge only when the seven-point future policy programme can be implemented successfully.

In this regard, the USDAs at different levels

are energetically talking part in the work to materialize the programme. All the members should implement the task with goodwill, unity and energy as they are connected with the nation's future.

In conclusion, he urged all members to understand and value the loftiness and vitality of their national tasks; to take pride of the fruits produced by their efforts; to effectively make use of the favourable conditions created by the Head of State; to be able to have the power to differentiate between good

and bad and the nation-building task and destructive perpetration; and to effectively make use of the prevailing situation to organize the people. The USDA is a sole national organization serving the interest of the entire nation. It will stand firm as the vanguard of the nation. Thus, the trainees will have to make further studies to enhance their knowledge and to organize the people of the entire nation to take part in building a new nation.

The Secretary-1 cordially greeted the trainees.—MNA

At present, dedicated efforts are being made to materialize a new administrative system of the nation. Of the four political objectives, the two objectives — Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order; and National reconsolidation — have already been restored. And the seven-point future policy programme has already been laid down to implement the other two — Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution; and Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution.

Construction Minister inspects Pathein, Pamawady bridges

YANGON, 1 Sept — Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing and Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Myint Thein and officials of Public Works went on inspection tour of Pathein bridge construction project on 31 August.

On arrival at Pathein bridge construction project site, Deputy Superintending Engineer U Khin Maung Win of bridge construction project welcomed them and presented reports to them on progress of constructing the bridge, future tasks and availability of construction materials. In response to the reports, the minister gave

instructions on measures to be taken for construction of the bridge in time and meeting set standard, minimizing loss and wastage and worksite safety.

Next, Senior Engineer of Pathein District U Myint Thein presented reports on damaged roads and bridges in Pathein District due to heavy rains and floods during August.

The minister instructed officials to repair roads and bridges as quick as possible.

Pathein bridge situated on Pathein-Shwemyintin-Wayachaung road is being built across Ngawun river. The main bridge will be of steel cable suspension one. The approach bridge will be of reinforced concrete bored pile. The upper structure is

of reinforced concrete. The bridge will be 2,140 feet long and 28 feet wide and each pedestrian will be four feet wide. Its clearance is 840 feet wide and 33 feet high. It can withstand 75 tons of load.

Upon completion, one can easily go to Chaungtha and Ngahsaung beaches.

The minister and party went to Pamawady bridge (Myinkaseik) at milepost No 22/2 of Pathein-Myaungmya road.

At the briefing hall, Senior Engineer In-Charge Daw Si Than presented reports on progress in constructing Myaungmya bridge.

Pamawady bridge is located on Pathein-Myaungmya road which is built across Pamawady

river. The main bridge is 540 feet long and of steel cable suspension. The approach bridge is built of reinforced concrete.

Total length of the bridge is 1,260 feet. The main bridge is 16 feet and 4 inches wide.

The approach bridge is 20 feet wide and each pedestrian is 3 feet wide. It can withstand 60 tons of loads.

On completion, the distance between Myaungmya and Pathein would be only 32 miles instead of 65.

The bridge will contribute much towards development of education, health, social and economy of local people residing along Myaungmya-Pathein road.

MNA

Environment conservation course opens

YANGON, 1 Sept —Three-day course on environment conservation for Kandawgyi Gardens and Zoological Gardens (Yangon) organized by the Work Committee for All-round upgrading of Environs of Kandawgyi Gardens and Zoological Gardens (Yangon) was opened this morning at Kandawgyi Gardens.

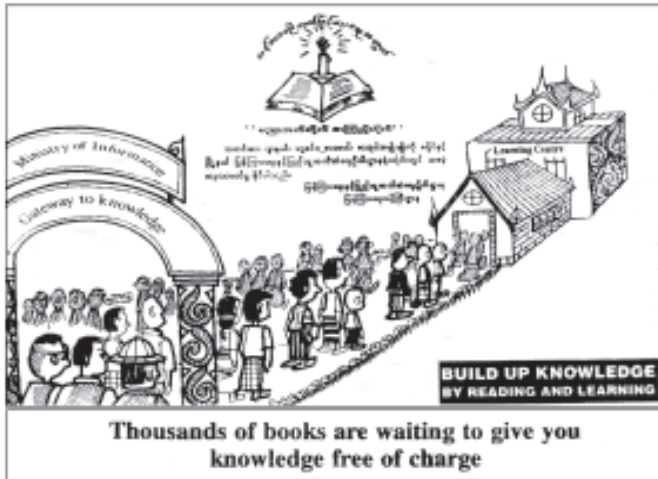
A total of 76 trainees are attending the course.

The course aimed to disseminate knowledge on conservation and to disseminate conservation methods through the trainees, said Chairman of the work committee Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe in his opening address.

After the opening ceremony, Maj-Gen Myint Swe inspected sale of farm equipment, seeds, pesticides and books on agricultural technology at the shop of Myanmar Agriculture Service and arrangements for agriculture museum at Education Zone in the gardens.

Next, Maj-Gen Myint Swe and party inspected the progress of beautifying tasks being implemented by Yangon City Development Committee in the relaxation zone and construction of the elephant plaza. — MNA

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INVITATION TO SEALED TENDER

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

Sr.No.	Tender No.	Description	Quantity
1.	13(T)2/MR(CTM) 2004-2005	Trolley High- 40 inch Width- 20 inch Length- 30 inch	50-Sets

Closing Date:- 30.9.2004 (Thursday) (12.00) Hours.

2. Tender documents are available at the office of the Deputy General Manager (Supply), Myanma Railways, Corner of 51st Street and Merchant Street, Botataung, Yangon starting from 31.8.2004 during the office hours.
3. For further details please call: 291982, 201555 Ext-602, 605, 612

Deputy General Manager
Supply Department, Myanma Railways, Botataung,
Yangon

INVITATION TO TENDER

(TENDER NO. 8(T) MPE/HSD(7)/2004-2005)

1. Sealed Tenders are invited by the Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise, the Ministry of Energy for the supply of **6,000 ± 10% Metric Tons H.S.D (Gas Oil Regular 0.5%)**.
2. Tender closing Date: 16-9-2004 at (12:00) noon.
3. Tender Documents and detail information are available at the Department of Finance, Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise, No. (23), Min-Ye-Kyaw-Zwa Road, Yangon, during office hours commencing (2-9-2004) on payment of one hundred (100) FEC per set.
4. Only bid from tenderer who has purchased tender documents officially from Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise will be accepted for evaluation.

Managing Director,
Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise

Deaths of suspected hepatitis E reported in Darfur

GENEVA, 31 Aug — A total of 2,431 cases and 41 deaths of suspected hepatitis E was reported from health clinics in the Darfur region of Sudan from May 22 to August 20, the World Health Organization (WHO) said Monday.

The most affected area is west Darfur which has 66 per cent of the total reported cases, WHO said in a Press release.

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is continuing to work with federal and state ministries of health and non-governmental organizations to increase the quality and quantity of

water supply.

Field investigations conducted by Epicentre and EPIET (European Programme for Intervention Epidemiology Training) are underway to assess the epidemiology of hepatitis E and to focus on the most appropriate prevention and control measures.

This outbreak is a consequence of the inadequate and unsafe water supply and poor sanitary conditions the Darfur population has experienced during the crisis since February 2003 which, according to the United Nations, is the worst humanitarian crisis now.—MNA/Xinhua

Nigeria to enact law against cyber crime

LAGOS, 31 Aug — The Nigerian legislature has begun preliminary investigations on the nature and depth of cyber crime in the West African country with a view to passing appropriate laws, a government official said here Monday.

The proposed law would stem the tide of cyber crime to save the image of Nigeria, which had been battered by credit card scam and fake web site cases, Chris Nwandu of Nigeria's Senate communications committee said.

Millions of computer users

around the world receive e-mails from Nigerian tricksters with promises of juicy contract deals. Such promises always end up in the inducement of the unsuspecting foreigners into paying money for unfulfilled deals.

The senator pointed out the law would create a cyber crime commission to specially enforce the cyber crime law. In addition, the government would consider the acquisition of advanced cryptography to detect cyber crime, he added.

MNA/Xinhua

Illegal immigrants rescued off southern Italian island

ROME, 31 Aug — The Italian Coast Guard Monday rescued 139 would-be immigrants packed aboard a boat off the southern Italian island of Lampedusa, local media reported on Monday.

According to the report the 12-metre-long boat was intercepted and towed to shore after its passengers had been helped aboard three police and Coast Guard vessels that had rushed to the scene.

Most of the immigrants said they were Palestinians and some from Bangladesh but they did not have identity

cards. Lampedusa, closer to the coast of Tunisia than to the Italian mainland, is often in the headlines because of the large number of immigrant arrivals. The problem was highlighted last week when 275 immigrants, including 89 children, arrived in Lampedusa.

Tunisia and Italy have agreed to set up joint land, sea and air patrols, as well as reception centres in Libya, to stem the tide of migrants from the north African country, a major staging post for immigrants trying to reach Europe.

MNA/Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV SEA BRIGHT VOY NO (647)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SEA BRIGHT Voy No (647) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2-9-2004 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11.20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER

Phone : 256908/378316/376797

Uganda vigilant against locust threat

KAMPALA, 31 Aug — The Ugandan Government is alert to fight a locust threat after a report said that a swarm of locusts from the Saharan region is heading for Uganda, local media reported on Monday.

Ugandan Prime Minister Apolo Nsubambi has instructed the Agriculture Ministry to secure emergency means to contain the impending catastrophe.

He asked the ministry to contact the Desert Locust Control Organization of East Africa for help.

MNA/Xinhua

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Wu Mu Tin
M.A., H.Q.P., D.B.L.
For SCANIA CV
AKTIEBOLAG
P.O. Box 60, Yangon
Dated: 2 September 2004.

Angolan border police arrest 163 illegal immigrants

LUANDA, 31 Aug — Angolan National Border Protection Police have arrested and repatriated at least 163 illegal immigrants from the Democratic Republic of the Congo who entered into the Angolan territory illegally in the last 12 months.

The information was announced by Angola's Eastern Lunda-Sul Province's provincial commander of the Border Police, Domingos Manuel, while assessing the activities carried out by his unit from August 2003 up to this month, according to Angolan news agency Angop on Monday.

"The foreigners who tried to enter illegally were arrested and repatriated through the Services for Foreign Migration (SME)," he said.

MNA/Xinhua

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Dated: 2 September 2004

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Study shows most heart attacks easily predictable

MUNICH, 31 Aug — Virtually the entire risk of heart attack can be predicted and the impact of factors causing attacks is the same whether you live in a rich country or a poor one, a global study released on Sunday showed.

Results of the study of more than 29,000 people in 52 countries, released at a meeting of the European Cardiology Society, showed that two factors alone — an abnormal ratio of bad to good cholesterol and smoking — were responsible for two-thirds of the global risk of heart attack.

Other risk factors were high blood pressure, diabetes, abdominal obesity, stress, a lack of daily consumption of fruits and vegetables, and lack of daily exercise.

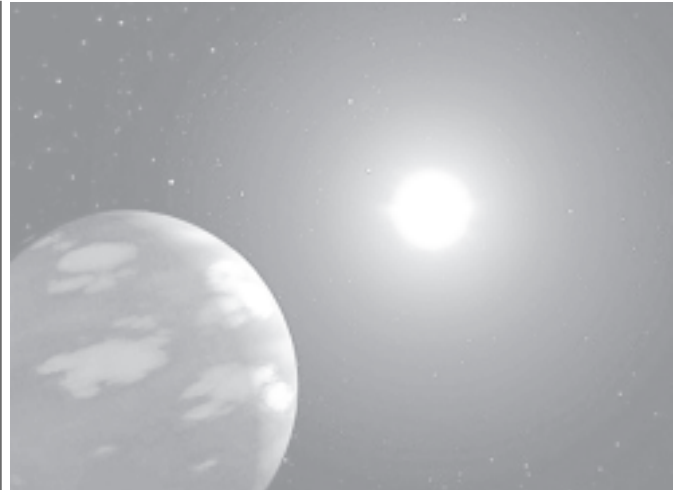
Drinking small amounts of alcohol regularly was found to reduce risk slightly.

"This convincingly shows that 90 per cent of the global risk of heart disease is predictable," researcher Salim Yusuf, a professor of medicine at McMaster University in Ontario, Canada, told a news conference.

"This is good news. It means we can do something about it." The findings contradict current thinking which suggests that only around half of the risk of heart disease is accounted for by known factors. They also imply that creating awareness of heart-attack risk factors may be easier than earlier thought.

"The impact of risk factors is the same in every ethnic group and every region of the world," Yusuf said, adding that this meant the message of preventing heart disease could be quite simple and fairly uniform across the world.

The study showed that smokers had a threefold risk of heart attack compared to non-smokers. Non-smokers who ate fruits and vegetables regularly, exercised three times a week and drank a little alcohol cut their risk by more than 80 per cent. — MNA/Reuters



This artist's concept released by NASA/JPL represents the newly discovered Neptune-sized extrasolar planet circling the star Gliese 436.

INTERNET

Americans learning "fusion" yoga

WASHINGTON, 31 Aug— Yoga continues to attract many in the United States with practitioners not only learning the discipline but also combining yogic exercises with Eastern martial arts and conventional exercises, calling it "fusion" yoga, according to a media report.

A report in the *Washington Post* said traditional Yoga has been "reincarnated as fusion fitness". Yoga is increasingly being offered under different names and under different styles to suit even sportspersons, including weightlifters.

"The classes sound like yoga but in one exercise, each practitioner is squeezing a grapefruit-size blue rubber ball between his or her thighs", the *Post* said.

Styles are offered under various names, including YogaButt; Yoga-Pilates-Resist-a-Ball; YogaBar for weightlifters; Water Art Yo-Tai Pilates, combining submerged yoga with tai chi and Pilates; Hot Yoga done in a 105-degree room; and Body Bar Buddha Bar, described as body-sculpting.

Twelve hundred modified-yoga teachers also met recently in the Washington area and demonstrated some of their techniques.

The *Post* said that the growing army of yoga-inspired workouts were changing the "ancient discipline of yoga".

Yoga has also become a multimillion-dollar market with clothing lines, books, videos, music, lessons and accessories. "It is yogis gone wild at the gym," the paper said. Trendy yoga clothing is now available with labels such as LL Bean, Old Navy, Nordstrom, Land's End and Gap. Also in the market are meditative music, books and videos.

Yoga researcher Trisha Lamb, associate director of the International Association of Yoga Therapists, in Manton, California, estimated that people were spending "20 billion US dollars a year on yoga". According to booksellers Barnes & Noble, five or six new yoga books are published practically every month.

The *Washington Post* puts the number of practising American yogis last year at 15 million, 28.5 per cent more than the year before. — MNA/PTI

No new bird flu case detected in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, 31 Aug— Malaysia's Veterinary Services Department Sunday confirmed that all local chickens, ducks and eggs are safe for consumption as no new case of bird flu has been detected in the country.

In a statement issued here, the department said that the first round of inspection to detect existence of avian flu within a 10-kilometre radius of Baru Pasir Pekan Village in Tumpat, north state of Kelantan, where two cockerels tested positive for the virus two weeks ago, had been completed.

"Initial test results on the samples were negative and no HPAI (Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza) virus was detected," the statement said.

The department said monitoring and inspection on poultry and pet birds nationwide would be continued.

After the occurrence of the bird flu case in the Kelantan village, a total of 352 poultry livestock like chickens, ducks and pet birds within one-kilometre radius around the village were exterminated to prevent the spread of the virus.

A 10-kilometre radius quarantine has also been imposed as a precautionary measure to check the bird flu. Some 2,000 samples from poultry livestock in the area have been tested and proven negative.

MNA/Xinhua



Bungie Studios, the Microsoft-owned creator of Halo and Halo 2, recently offered journalists from around the world a sneak peek of the new game, scheduled for release on 9 Nov. —INTERNET

AIDS researchers call for 10-15b euros for vaccine

ZURICH, 31 Aug— AIDS researchers need some 10-15 billion euros over the next decade in order to fully develop potential vaccines for the disease as HIV infection rates continue to climb, delegates at a conference said on Monday.

Delegates at the AIDS Vaccine '04 conference held in Lausanne this week called for more political and financial commitment towards developing AIDS vaccines.

"Due to an alarming increase in the number of HIV infections, whereby it is anticipated that an additional 45 million new infections will occur by 2010, there is an urgent need for a preventative vaccine," conference chairman Giuseppe Pantaleo said in a statement.

Delegates also acknowledged the need for research to be more collaborative and better organized in order that more vaccine candidates can be taken to the final stage of testing, the clinical Phase III trial. Some 800 researchers attended the conference, co-organized by the Lausanne University Hospital and EuroVacc — a Swiss-registered foundation whose aim is to develop a vaccine against the HIV virus which causes AIDS.

MNA/Reuters

Rolls-Royce still sees 1,000 Phantom sales in 2004

MUNICH, 31 Aug— Rolls-Royce is sticking to its goal of selling 1,000 Phantom luxury limousines this year even though it had sold only 358 in the first seven months, the head of the BMW division told a newspaper.

"We are still well on the way there," Karl-Heinz Kalbfell was quoted on Monday as telling *Automobilwoche*, noting many customers tend to buy late in the year when bonuses arrive. But he stressed that the division would not sacrifice margin

for the sake of sales. "We have the same targets here as do other BMW group brands," he said.

He said the brand may be able to sell 1,200 units in 2005, while 2006 sales could benefit from a long version of the car and a cabrio model.

"The positive echo to the 100 EX cabrio shown in Geneva shows me that we should make an offer here quickly ... I am fighting to make this car as quickly as possible because we can reach the most customers with this car," he said. —MNA/Reuters

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SPORTS

Ronaldinho doubtful for Bolivia match

RIO DE JANEIRO, 31 Aug—Brazil striker Ronaldinho is doubtful for Sunday's World Cup qualifier at home to Bolivia because of an ankle injury, team doctor Jose Luis Runco said on Monday.

Ronaldinho, who missed Barcelona's opening match of the Spanish league season against Racing Santander at the weekend, would be examined when he arrived in Brazil on Tuesday, Runco told the Estado news agency.

"I'm aware of the problem and tomorrow (Tuesday) we'll talk and see how he's reacting to treatment," Runco said.

Ronaldinho also missed Brazil's previous two World Cup qualifiers in June against Argentina and Chile because of injury.—MNA/Reuters

Inamoto signs for West Bromwich Albion

LONDON, 1 Sept—Japan midfielder Junichi Inamoto has joined West Bromwich Albion from Gamba Osaka, the Premier League club said on Tuesday.

The 24-year-old, who recently ended two years on loan at Premier League rivals Fulham after an earlier stint at Arsenal, has signed a contract for two and a half years with the club taking out an option for another year, West Brom said on their official web site.

He is West Brom's second signing this week following the transfer from Cardiff City of Wales striker Robbie Earnshaw, who signed on Monday for a club record fee of 3.0 million pound (5.39 million US dollars).

West Brom are currently 15th in the Premier League with three points after three draws and a defeat from their opening four matches.

"We're delighted to have signed Junichi," manager Gary Megson told the club web site.—MNA/Reuters

Robson sacked as Newcastle manager

NEWCASTLE (England), 31 Aug—Bobby Robson's five-year reign as Newcastle United manager ended on Monday when he paid the price for his side's poor start to the season and growing dressing room unrest.

Newcastle sacked the 71-year-old former England manager after Saturday's 4-2 defeat at Aston Villa left them 16th in the Premier League standings without a win from four games.

"After a disappointing start to the Premier League season, the directors of Newcastle United have informed Sir Bobby Robson they have decided that he is to be replaced as team manager," a club statement said.

"There is no hesitation by the club in recording its sincere appreciation for the way in which Sir Bobby has handled team affairs during that five-year spell which has seen a significant turnaround in the club's fortunes," said the statement on Newcastle's official web site.

Newcastle's defeat at Villa Park, for which talismanic captain Alan Shearer was dropped to the bench, continued an eventful start to the season at St. James' Park.

England defender Jonathan Woodgate was sold to Real Madrid, England midfielder Kieron Dyer refused to play for Newcastle in certain positions and Wales striker Craig Bellamy threatened to leave if the club signed Wayne Rooney.—MNA/Reuters



Scoville Jenkins of the United States congratulates Andy Roddick of the United States after Roddick defeated him at the US Open tennis tournament in New York on Tuesday, 31 Aug, 2004. — INTERNET

Manchester United held 0-0 by Everton

LONDON, 31 Aug—Manchester United were denied three times by the woodwork as they were held on Monday to a 0-0 home draw by Everton, the club whose England striker Wayne Rooney they hope to sign before Tuesday's transfer deadline.

United, whose latest offer for Rooney of an estimated 25 million pounds is being considered by Everton, climbed to ninth in the Premier League standings with five points from four games.

Everton are seventh on seven points.

Forwards Cristiano Ronaldo, Paul Scholes and Alan Smith, who had scored in United's two previous league games, all hit the

woodwork in the second half.

Everton's former England goalkeeper Nigel Martyn tipped shots over the bar from Frenchman Louis Saha and Paul Scholes.

The visitors might have had a penalty when United defender Mikael Silvestre cleared the ball with his arm.

Their manager David Moyes said he was delighted with a point at a difficult ground after picking up three in a tiring 2-1 home win over West Bromwich Albion on Saturday.

"I got told it was a hand ball. Maybe I'm not the first manager to come here and say they don't get penalty kicks...but you've got to maybe earn more than that when you come to Old Trafford," he said.

"We don't have the same standard of players as Manchester United...so we have to do the best we can...and we came here and made it hard to beat, and obviously to get a point from here is not an easy thing," Moyes told Sky Sports News.

Rooney, odds on to become a United player by Tuesday, was not playing having been out of action since limping off with a broken foot during England's Euro 2004 quarterfinal loss to hosts Portugal in June.

In a later match, Portsmouth's Nigeria striker Aiyegbeni Yakubu scored a hat-trick as his side won their first game of the season with a 4-3 victory against Fulham.

The home side had started the pulsating match scoring three goals within nine minutes of each other in the first half hour before Fulham fought back to 3-2 before the

break courtesy of goals from Andy Cole and Portugal international Luis Boa Morte.

Yakubu scored two of the first half goals, the first a penalty after Ricardo Fuller was brought down by Boa Morte in the 21st minute, two minutes after Eyal Berkovic had opened the scoring following up a Yakubu shot.

The Nigerian scored his second after a Fuller flick-on put him free and he slotted his left foot shot past Edwin van der Sar in the 28th minute.

Fulham, however, refused to buckle and got back into the match when Cole headed in a Boa Morte cross in the 39th minute before the pair combined again two minutes later, this time Boa Morte converting after Cole had made the final pass.

Yakubu completed his hat-trick after some lax marking inside the box in the 72nd minute, before defender Carlos Bocanegra scored his first goal for Fulham when he headed in a Boa Morte free kick three minutes later.

Yakubu could have scored a fourth in the final 10 minutes when he was free against van der Sar, who saved brilliantly at close range.

Both sides had several chances to score in the second half due to some atrocious defending though Portsmouth goalkeeper Shaka Hislop and van der Sar were outstanding.

Portsmouth are now 11th on four points, while Fulham dropped to 13th due to goal difference, also on four points.

MNA/Reuters



Mexican team Pumas' player Lozano, left, goes for a high ball against Real Madrid's Francisco Pavon during a friendly soccer match in Real's Santiago Bernabeu Stadium in Madrid on Tuesday, 31 Aug, 2004. Pumas won 1-0. — INTERNET

Bolivian players injured in bus crash

LA PAZ, 31 Aug—Two players from Bolivian first division club Real Potosi were still in hospital on Monday after the team were involved in a bus crash on their journey home from a match at the weekend.

Four other players injured in the accident, which has raised question marks over conditions at some of the country's cash-strapped professional clubs, were discharged on Monday, medical sources said.

The team were travelling back to the mining town of Potosi after a shock 6-2 win away to The Strongest in La Paz when their vehicle lurched off the road in the middle of the night and ended up on its side, players said. Potosi is 460 kilometres south of La Paz but the journey takes between 12 and 15 hours over treacherous and mainly unpaved mountain roads.

Forward Roberto Correa and midfielder Dayler Gutierrez were still in hospital in Potosi on Monday, the team's doctor told reporters, though neither had broken bones.

"The Real Potosi players received a costly bill for travelling by land to their games," said the newspaper La Razon in an editorial.—MNA/Reuters

Juve sign Ibrahimovic in 16 million euro deal

MILAN, 1 Sept—Sweden striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic has joined Serie A club Juventus from Dutch champions Ajax Amsterdam in a 16-million-euro deal.

Juventus said on Tuesday in a statement to the Milan stock exchange that Ibrahimovic had signed a four-year contract with the Italian team.

The 22-year-old has scored 35 goals in 74 league appearances since joining Ajax in 2001.

Ibrahimovic was part of Sweden's Euro 2004 team and scored a goal past Juventus goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon in the 1-1 draw with Italy which eventually led to the Italians' elimination from the tournament.

Ibrahimovic will have to compete with France's David Trezeguet and Italy's Alessandro Del Piero for a place in the Juve attack.

The Turin club have recovered some of the cash spent on the Swedish forward by selling striker Fabrizio Miccoli to Fiorentina in a co-ownership deal that will effectively cost the Florence club seven million euros.

Juventus also completed on Tuesday the signing of Italy captain and central defender Fabio Cannavaro from Inter Milan for 10 million euros.—MNA/Reuters



England's Wayne Rooney shoots to score against Iceland during their friendly international soccer game at the City of Manchester Stadium, Manchester, England, in this 5 June, 2004 photo. Manchester United finalized the deal to acquire the 18-year-old striker from Everton at the transfer deadline date. The six-year deal is worth \$48.3 million; with agent fees, the total soars to \$54 million. — INTERNET

MRTV-3**2-9-2004 (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 Ancient Buddha Images Carved On Stone Walls (Akauk Mountain)
9:10 **Headline News**
9:12 Enjoy our Shan Food
9:15 **National News**
9:20 May Fitness be with you
9:25 Kayah Dance
9:30 **National News**
9:35 Fabulous Bagan (IV)
9:40 Myanmar Modern Song "Lovely Dusk"
9:42 A Gift to Mark a visit to Myitkyina (Kachin-Snack)
- 9:45 **National News**
9:50 Myanmar Women's Fashion Show
9:58 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

**2-9-2004 (Thursday)
Evening Transmission
(15:30 - 17:30)**

- 15:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
15:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
15:36 Ancient Buddha Images Carved On Stone Walls (Akauk Mountain)
15:40 **Headline News**
15:42 Enjoy our Shan Food
15:45 **National News**
15:50 May Fitness be with you
15:55 Kayah Dance
16:00 **National News**
16:05 Fabulous Bagan (IV)
16:10 Myanmar Modern Song "Lovely Dusk"
16:12 A Gift to Mark a visit to Myitkyina (Kachin-

- Snack)
16:15 **National News**
16:20 Myanmar Women's Fashion Show
16:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanma Panorama & Myanma Sentiment"
16:30 **National News**
16:35 Music for Your Ears (A Sweet Sounding Musical Piece)
16:40 Dried Snakehead
16:45 **National News**
16:50 The Birth Place of Lacquerware Technicians
16:55 A Romantic Duet
17:00 **National News**
17:05 Let's Play "Chinlone"
17:10 Songs On Screen "Creating of a love-like song"
17:12 The Great Bell of King Sintga
17:15 **National News**
17:20 Road to Mingun
17:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

**Evening Transmission
(19:30 - 23:30)**

- 19:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
19:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanma Panorama & Myanma Sentiment"
19:36 ICT Development & Software Sector
19:40 **Headline News**
19:42 Treasure Farmland
19:45 **National News**
19:50 Fabulous Bagan (III)
19:55 Dance of the Maidens
20:00 **National News**
20:05 Toddy Palm Arts
20:10 Myanmar Modern Song "Aristocratic Beauty"
20:15 **National News**
20:20 Traditional Bamboo Utensils of Myanmar
20:25 Myanmar Modern Song "Beautiful Shan Land, Hospitable People"
20:30 **National News**
20:36 Myanmar Art of Marionette
20:40 Pickled Fish from

**Dr. Rose Tha Gwe @ Daw Hnin Si
Age-95**

The youngest daughter of U Tha Gwe-Daw Hlaing, beloved wife of Lt-Col Beng Chiang (Retd.) @ Dr Thein Htike, beloved mother of Daw Lè Lè Win (G.M The Grand Mee Ya Hta Executive Residences S.P.A)- U Soe Win, U Maung Maung (Frontier Drilling (Asia) Pte. Ltd)-Daw Thet Zaw, beloved grandmother of Win Moe Htike (Bintai Kindenko Myanmar) and Ma Thet Htoo Zaw, peacefully passed away on Tuesday 31-8-2004 at the residence at No.18 (E) Chawdwingone, Kaba Aye Pagoda Rd. Funeral service will be held at 10:00 am on 2-9-2004, at Judson Church and funeral will take place at Yay Way Mortuary at 12:00 noon.

Bereaved Family

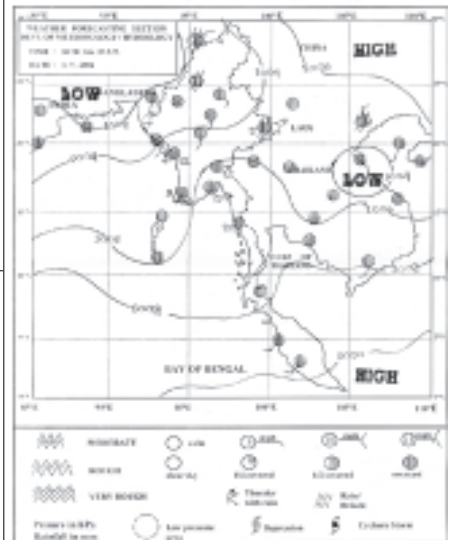
- Shwe Kyin
20:45 **National News**
20:50 The Pindaya Natural Cave
20:55 A Dance to the Harvest
20:58 Wall-Hung Giant Lobsters
21:00 **National News**
21:05 Traditional Folk Weaving Works
21:10 Myanmar Modern Song "Blessed Myanmar"
21:15 **National News**
21:20 Promoting Tourism Through Music
21:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
21:36 Ancient Buddha Images Carved On Stone Walls (Akauk Mountain)
21:40 **Headline News**
21:42 Enjoy our Shan Food
21:45 **National News**
21:50 May Fitness be with you
21:55 Kayah Dance
22:00 **National News**
22:05 Fabulous Bagan (IV)
22:10 Myanmar Modern Song "Lovely Dusk"

- 22:12 A Gift to Mark a visit to Myitkyina (Kachin-Snack)
22:15 **National News**
22:20 Myanmar Women's Fashion Show
22:25 Myanmar Modern Song "Shadow of Love"
22:30 **National News**
22:35 Music for Your Ears (A Sweet Sounding Musical Piece)
22:40 Dried Snakehead
22:45 **National News**
22:50 The Birth Place of Lacquerware Technicians
22:55 A Romantic Duet
23:00 **National News**
23:05 Let's Play "Chinlone"
23:10 Songs On Screen "Creating of a love-like song"
23:12 The Great Bell of King Sintga
23:15 **National News**
23:20 Road to Mingun
23:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

Rainfall on 1-9-2004

- 0.15 inch at Yangon Airport,
 - 0.67 inch at Kaba-Aye and
 - (0.27) inch at central Yangon.
- Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was
- 96.69 inches at Yangon Airport,
 - 93.82 inches at Kaba-Aye and
 - 95.47 inches at central Yangon.

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas

**WEATHER****Tuesday, 1 September 2004**

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Chin State, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Kayah State and Magway Division, scattered in Kachin, Rakhine and Kayin States, Sagaing, Mandalay, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was Namhsam (2.68) inches.

Maximum temperature on 31-8-2004 was 88°F. Minimum temperature on 1-9-2004 was 69°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 1-9-2004 was 93%. Total sunshine hours on 31-8-2004 was 1.5 hours approx.

Rainfall on 1-9-2004 was 0.15 inch at Yangon Airport, 0.67 inch at Kaba-Aye and (0.27) inch at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 96.69 inches at Yangon Airport, 93.82 inches at Kaba-Aye and 95.47 inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 14 mph from Northwest at 15:05 hours MST on 31-8-2004.

Bay inference: Monsoon is weak in North and Central Bay and moderate elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal. **Special Features:** According to the observations at (09:30) hrs MST today, yesterday's tropical depression over Gulf of Tokin crossed northern Vietnam coast near Hanoi and weakened.

Forecast valid until evening of 2-9-2004: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Kayah State, Magway, lower Sagaing Divisions, scattered in Kachin, Chin, Shan States, Mandalay, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar water.

Outlook for subsequent two days: General decrease of rain in the Whole country.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 2-9-2004: Sunny period with one or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 80%.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 2-9-2004: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 60%.

**Thursday, September 2****View on today:**

- 7:00 am
1. ကျေးဇူးတင် မင်းကုန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃမဟာ နာယကအဖွဲ့အစည်းတော်ဆောင်ရွက်ပါ အဘိဓမ္မာဟောပြောချက်အဘိဓမ္မာဟော သဒ္ဓမ္မစေတီက တိပိဋကဓမ္မ ဘာဏ္ဍာဝါရီကဆရာတော် သန္တ ဗိမ္ဗာသာရာသီသင်္ဂါယနာပြုတော်
- 7:15 am
2. တိပိဋကဓမ္မ ဘာဏ္ဍာဝါရီက အဂ္ဂမဟာသဟိုတိက သန္တသီရိနာ အဝိသ (ယောဆရာတော်) ဟောကြားတော်မူအပ်သော ဥပသန္တပိဋတော်
- 7:25 am
3. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am
4. Morning news
- 7:40 am
5. မင်းကုန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၏ ဆရာရွာစံတော်မူနေ့ (ဒုတိယသင်္ဂါယနာ) (အပိုင်း-၁)
- 8:00 am
6. Nice and sweet song

- 8:10 am
7. Dance of national races
- 8:20 am
8. Dance variety
- 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. အဆေးသင်တန်းသို့လ် ပညာရေး ရရှိခြင်းသင်တန်းသင်ခန်းစာ -ဒုတိယပိုင်း (သရုပ်အသွယ်ပြုချက်) (သရုပ်)
- 5:15 pm
6. Cute little dancers
- 5:30 pm
7. မြန်မာစား၊ မြန်မာကား
- 5:45 pm
8. "မေတ္တာမရှိ၊ မတိပိဋသင်" နေ့ရလင်း မောင်မောင်မြင့်၊ ရုပ်ရှင်နားအိမ်ရယ်၊ မိုးမော်၊ နိုင်ဆွယ်

- ဒါရိုက်တာ-မောင်မောင်မြင့်
- 6:05 pm
9. Musical programme
- 6:15 pm
10. နိုင်ငံအခန်း သစ်တောစွမ်းမြင့် နိမိတ်လန်းစေရမည်
- 6:30 pm
11. Evening news
- 7:00 pm
12. Weather report
- 7:05 pm
13. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတိုလင်းလွှဲ "လူမှုနိမိတ်လန်း" (အပိုင်း-၇)
- 7:35 pm
14. Musical programme
- 7:45 pm
15. ဓမ္မစာအုပ်ကြီး ကမ္ဘာ့ဓမ္မဘာသာ ထိပ်သီးညီလာခံ အထွတ်ကြိုတင် ပြင်ဆင်မှုများ
- 8:00 pm
16. News
17. International news
18. Weather report
19. Myanmar video feature:
"စွမ်းမြင့်တရား၏ဆန္ဒအတိုင်း" (အပိုင်း-၁)
ပိုင်စောရဲထွန်း၊ မျိုးသန္တာထွန်း၊ လှအောင်တင်
ဒါရိုက်တာ-မောင်မြင့်ဦး
20. The next day's programme



- Thursday, September 2**
Tune in today:
- 8:30 am Brief news
8:35 am Music: My heart will go on
8:40 am Perspectives
8:45 am Music: What's up
8:50 am National news/Slogan
9:00 am Music: Jenny
9:05 am International news
9:10 am Music: Just a little bit of love
9:15 am News/Slogan
9:20 am Lunch time music -Cert la vie
-Romeo and Juliet
-Do you wanna dance
Aspects of Myanmar
Pindaya
Article
Pourri
Two-child policy raised in Philippines
Estimates of Amazon's green house gas too low
Amazon still Lungs of the world
9:30 pm Favourite songs chosen by music lovers
-From this moment on
-The girl from yesterday
-Take a bow
News/Slogan
9:45 pm
10:00 pm PEL

Goal set for eliminating iodine deficiency as health problem by 2005 is within reach Myanmar closely collaborates with UN organizations, international organizations and member countries both from within and without the region to enhance implementation of nutrition programme Nutrition Promotion Week 2004 launched at IBC



National Health Committee Chairman Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt addresses the launching of Nutrition Promotion Week. —MNA

YANGON, 1 Sept — The Nutrition Promotion Week 2004, organized by the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Mines, UNICEF and WHO, was launched at International Business Centre on Pyay Road at 8 am today, with an address by Chairman of National Health Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

Speaking on the occasion, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt said that the Government is firmly convinced that in the process of reconstructing the Union of Myanmar as a developed and modern nation that stands equal to the nations of the world, the health and education of its citizens who make up the principal human resources, is of primary importance. It has therefore firmly laid down as one of its objectives, the uplift of health and education of the entire nation and has set the achievement of these objectives as a national task.

In enhancing the health of the nation, we have been making concerted efforts for the prevention and cure of diseases and to raise the standard of health in order to lower the mortality rate and increase the life span of the people. But in raising the standard of health of the nation,

nutrition plays an important role. That is why the Government has systematically drawn up plans and programmes to raise the standard of nutrition of the nation in all its aspects. In order to raise the standard of nutrition of the people, the government, while fulfilling the basic need to provide sufficient food, is simultaneously carrying out the important task of educating the people on the kind of food and diet that is nutritious as well as healthful.

At present it is systematically implementing plans in the agriculture sector to increase paddy yield which is the staple crop, to provide sufficient edible oil for domestic consumption and to increase yield of export crops, so that there will be sufficient food not only for domestic consumption but also for fulfilling regional and world needs. Myanmar has a long coastline together with many rivers, creeks and natural lakes endowed with a plentiful supply of fish and sea food. It has therefore made full use of these natural conditions to boost production in the fishery sector with projects for fish breeding and fanning and thus ensure adequate food supplies for the people.

(See page 8)



USDA members urged to apply various means to organize people of regions not possible for departments to reach USDA instructor course No 4 on Myanma Development and Studies opened

YANGON, 1 Sept — Myanma Development and Studies Instructor Course No 4 sponsored by the Union Solidarity and Development Association was opened at Pyidaungsu Hall of USDA Training School in Hmawby Township this morning, with an address by member of the Panel of Patrons of the USDA (Central) Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win. Also present were members of the Secretariat of the USDA, CEC members, officials of the USDA Headquarters, the Principal of USDA Training School, course instructors and trainees from states and divisions.

In his address, member of the Panel of Patrons of the USDA (Central) Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win said that courses are being conducted with the aim of turning out instructors who will take charge in state, division and district Myanma Development and Studies Instructor Courses. Altogether 459 trainees were trained in course Nos 1, 2 and 3. A total of 200 trainees will be trained at the present course.

He said the number of trainees at state, division and district levels is now over 80 per cent. Heads of departments themselves will give lectures on national development, better infrastructures built in various regions day and night and better environment and opportunities, he added. Continuing, he said, in carrying out the tasks for development of every sector of the State, concerted efforts are to be made for development of urban areas as well as rural areas.

Organizational matters and rural development tasks are to be undertaken simultaneously, he said.

The association's current community welfare tasks are five rural development tasks—narrowing the development gap between urban and rural areas, raising the

quality of life of rural people, economic development in rural regions, supply of pure water, ensuring better rural roads and uplift of education standard and health care services—and supply of electricity in the rural areas.

(See page 11)



Member of the Panel of Patrons of USDA (Central) State Peace and Development Council Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win cordially converses with trainees of the USDA course.— MNA