Secretary-1 receives Professor of Georgetown University

**Yangon, 7 Aug** — Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt received visiting Professor David I. Steinberg of Georgetown University of the United States of America at Zeyathiri Beikman Hall on Konmyintha here at 5 pm today.

Present at the call together with the Secretary-1 were Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Win and Director-General of the Protocol Department Thura U Aung Htet. — MNA

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**Government striving for equitable development among all parts of the Union, home to national races**

**Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Soe Win inspect development tasks in Kachin State**

**Yangon, 7 Aug** — Members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann, Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win and members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, accompanied by ministers, deputy ministers, senior military officers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and departmental heads, arrived in Myitkyina, Kachin State, by air on 3 August afternoon.

They were welcomed there by Chairman of Kachin State Peace and Development Council Commander of Northern Command Maj-Gen Maung Maung Sae, Brig-Gen Bo Kyi of Myitkyina Station, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen San Tun, senior military officers, local authorities and officials. Accompanied by Commander Maj-Gen Maung Maung Sae, Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Soe Win and party proceeded to Phakant by helicopter. They were welcomed there by Tactical Operations Commander Col Tin Shin and local authorities.

At Oo-ru Yadana Yeikha, they cordially met departmental personnel and national races.

In meeting with local authorities, departmental officials, and townselders, Lt-Gen Ye Myint explained the aim of their inspection tour of Kachin State.

Next, Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann delivered an address. He said that Phakant region was a village in Kamaing Township in the past and it has been changed step by step. Phakant Township has met progress of organizational set up as well as economic development. He urged those present to accelerate development momentum in harmony. Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party went to Hoping by helicopter.

At Oo-ru Yadana Hall, the Secretary-2 met with departmental officials. Chairman of Phakant Township Jade Production Supervisory Committee Tactical Operations Commander Col Tin Shin reported on jade blocks and mining works, Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Ohn Myint, on permits to mine jade given to private entrepreneurs, the blocks being jointly undertaken by the Government and entrepreneurs and formation of supervisory committees at different levels in the jade mining tasks.

Next, Chairman of Phakant Township Peace and Development Council U San Lwin reported on development tasks in the township. (See page 8)

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**Secretary-1 General Khin Nyunt receives Professor David I. Steinberg of Georgetown University of the United States of America at Zeyathiri Beikman Hall on Konmyintha here at 5 pm today.**

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3,4,5,6,12,13,14

**Circulation**

24,443

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**Four political objectives**

* Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
* National reconciliation
* 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 nation

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**Nibbanasacchikiriya ca, to realize the Nirvana; this is the way to auspiciousness.**
Towards successful observance of 11th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions

The first work coordination meeting for organizing the 11th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions was held at the National Museum on the morning of 2 August and it was attended by Patron of the Organizing Leading Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council General Khin Nyunt.

This year’s competitions will be held with the following objectives:

— to vitalize patriotism and nationalism in all citizens
— to preserve and safeguard Myanmar cultural heritage
— to perpetuate genuine Myanmar music, dance and traditional fine arts
— to preserve Myanmar national character
— to nurture spiritual development of the youths
— to prevent influence of alien cultures

In his address at the meeting, the Secretary-1 said that the results of Myanmar traditional cultural performing arts competitions, which have been held every year since 1993, are that Myanmar traditional fine arts has attracted the attention of Myanmar youths and that the number of budding artists who will preserve and will raise the standard of true Myanmar fine arts and that of youths who adhere to genuine Myanmar mode of dress and behaviour have been on the increase.

It is very important for a race or a nation to preserve and safeguard its cultural heritage and national character, otherwise it is very likely to be in danger of extinction.

Nowadays, with rapid development in science, information and communication technologies, the whole world is overwhelmed with material development. And some economic and technological powers, with the use of their powerful media, have been trying to inject their traditions, customs and social values into the cultures of developing nations. Therefore, most of the nations with long history of culture, including those in the East, have placed emphasis on the revitalization of their culture, patriotic spirit and nationalism among their people.

Myanmar has a long tradition of preserving and safeguarding its culture and it is towards this end that Myanmar traditional performing arts competitions are held every year. Therefore, we would like to call upon all those responsible to make the 11th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions a complete success.

Rural housing projects being implemented

*YANGON, 7 Aug —* Under the supervision of the Development Affairs Department, township development affairs committee has been implementing the low-cost rural housing projects in Natatalin Township in Bago Division and Aunglan in Magway Division with the aim of raising the living standard of the rural people. — MNA

Entrance examinations for traditional practitioner course on 7 Sept

*YANGON, 7 Aug —* The entrance examinations for traditional practitioner one-year course No (3) Yangon and No (5) Mandalay of Traditional Medicine Department under the Ministry of Health will be held on 7 September this year.

The list of those who are permitted to sit for the exams will be announced at Yangon Traditional Medicine Department and Mandalay Institute of Traditional Medicine on 14 August. — MNA

Minister Col Thein Nyunt inspects construction of low-cost houses in Moguung. — MNA

**Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Thein Zaw** being seen off at the airport. — MNA

POEM

One land, not divided by water

* Rivers big and small, intertwined with creeks
Like fingers interspersed, Islands appear
Road building was not too successful
In the Delta area
For ages it remained a dream
The hurdles could not be passed
Sail, motor or just plain boat
Had to be used by Ayeyawady people.

* It was like a maze of waterways
That twisted and turned river wise
The tides swelled and ebbed at pleasure
Scary and dangerous it was
Put up sails or use, or fix motors
Big boats moved uneasily
Had to twist and turn
Time is lost and distance added
Could not help but avoid all boat
For years and years.

* Ferries big, ferries small
Z-craft and the small boat
Travelling and providing transport
Ferrywork was non-stop
But nowadays bridges big and small
Like network on various routes
Undaunted by the small creek
Even crossed the big rivers
Roads and bridges.

* The deep wetlands
Many are reclaimed
Up its standard you exceed a bit
The big bound emerges.
First the rocks, then pave with tar
The road emerges distinctly
The Government’s goodwill
With people’s strength added
One land, not divided
Islands joined as if single land
Travels across rivers and creeks.

* Has the landmass shrunk one thinks
Even when the rains are too plentiful
There’s travel day and night
In the heat and rain
The car routes enter hitter, thither
There’s travel day and night
With anxiety, there’s no forgetting
They’re Union Citizens.

**Kyaw Saw Han (Tvs)**
Iraqi TV head quits, says US losing propaganda war

**London, 7 Aug** — The postwar director of US-backed Iraqi Television has quit, saying the United States is losing the propaganda war to countries like Iran and to the fugitive Saddam Hussein.

Three months after being flown to Baghdad on board a US plane to relaunch Iraqi television and radio, former exile Ahmad Rikabi is disillusioned and back in London for the foreseeable future.

"Saddam Hussein is doing better at marketing himself, through Al Jazeera and Al Arabiya Gulf channels," Rikabi said, referring to the audio tapes believed to be from the former Iraqi leader which have been supplied to those stations and broadcast across the region.

He said that as the United States failed to invest in Iraqi stations or to retain local staff, channels such as Iran's Al Alam and Qatar's Al Jazeera were gaining popularity in Iraq.

The people of Iraq, including the Sunni Muslims, are not about to turn against their liberators, but they are being incited to do so. These channels contribute to tension within Iraq. You need television at their level," he told Reuters.

Rikabi uttered the first words broadcast on Iraqi national airwaves after the fall of Saddam Hussein on April 9.

"Welcome to the new Iraq. Welcome to an Iraq without Saddam, Uday or Qusay," Rikabi's emotional voice said in a radio broadcast over a transmitter erected by US soldiers at Baghdad airport.

One of the first acts of the new director was to broadcast the Shi'a call to prayer, along with the Sunni one—a symbol of equality after decades of discrimination against the Shi'a majority by the former ruling Baath Party.

Rikabi helped recruit a team that got transmission up to 16 hours a day, operating out of a convention centre in Baghdad that included a fortified bedroom once reserved for Saddam.

But many of the staff have now left. Rikabi said, adding that locals were being paid too little. SAIC, a California-based company contracted to relaunch the television station, said it had no comment on Rikabi's remarks.

"The United States needs to listen to Iraqis more, and not just in the media sector," Rikabi said. — MNA/Reuters

Uzbekistan seeks closer Russian gas, trade ties

**Samarkand (Uzbekistan)**, 7 Aug — Uzbekistan's President Islam Karimov on Wednesday vowed to step up trade with Russia, especially in natural gas, after acknowledging that Soviet trade policies had brought little success.

"We suffered from a certain euphoria, not just in Uzbekistan but in other countries of the former Soviet Union, when we turned our attention to distant lands which we thought would fill the vacuum after the fall of the Soviet Union," he said after meeting Russian President Vladimir Putin.

"But what have we got out of it in the long run? These days we recognize that we have made many mistakes as a result of our euphoria." Karimov was hosting Putin, in Uzbekistan on a lightning stopover on his way back from Malaysia, in one of the Central Asian state's most ancient Silk Road cities. The two had earlier toured its stunning mosques, squares and monuments.

Uzbek-Russian relations have been strained in recent years, with Uzbek pulling out of various groupings uniting Russia and former Soviet states. — MNA/Reuters

Iraqi civilian killed in accident blast

**Baghdad, 7 Aug** — An accidental blast in Baghdad killed an Iraqi civilian on Wednesday morning against a backdrop that anti-American explosions were rampant in postwar Iraq.

The Iraqi worker known as Ziad Mohammed was reportedly burned to death after his fellow ignited dangerous goods at a petrochemical shop in the Bab al-Minaam neighbourhood.

Several others were wounded in the accident and US troops sealed off the area for investigation.

Large explosions were once the war-battered country as what the US officials believed remnants of former regime of Saddam Hussein and foreign terrorist organizations campaigned against US forces. Iraqis were often compromised in the guerilla attacks.

On Sunday, an Iraqi driver was seriously wounded when his car hit an explosive device on the road to the Baghdad International Airport. The bomb was evidently planted to damage US vehicles on the road, which had witnessed plenty of deadly attacks.

Forest fires under control in Spain

*Madrid, 7 Aug* — Fires which have destroyed thousands of hectares of forests in Spain have been put under control, the Spanish Environment Ministry said Tuesday.

However, those in Extremadura, Sierra de la Tesla, Avila and Salamanca regions remain active, though controlled, posing no risk to people, said the ministry.

Dozens of people have returned home, but hundreds of others have been evacuated from their houses as a precaution in the fire affected areas.

The ministry said it focused on the six "more active hot spots located in the regions of Burgos, Vizcaya, Avila, Salamanca, Badajoz and Caceres.

**EU beekeepers warned against exotic new parasite**

**Brussels, 7 Aug** — Europe's beekeepers received a stern warning on Tuesday to guard against the arrival of an exotic new pest which could wipe out entire bee colonies if it gains a foothold on the continent.

The small hive beetle has not yet been seen in Europe, according to the EU's Executive Commission.

"It's a developing parasite and nobody knows exactly where it is in the world. We don't believe that it is yet in Europe," said a Commission spokeswoman. "It has a very destructive impact on bees and destroys the whole stock," she told reporters.

Also known by its Latin name Aethina Tumida, the beetle is native to sub-Saharan Africa but has spread to South Africa, the United States and Australia in the last few years.

The larvae of the beetles, which are roughly a third the size of a honey bee, can spread within hives by the transfer of infected soil, or by flying more than three miles to new hives. — MNA/Reuters

**Grenade sets US humvee ablaze in central Baghdad**

**Baghdad, 7 Aug** — Iraqi guerrillas fired a rocket-propelled grenade that set ablaze a US military vehicle in central Baghdad on Thursday, inflicting US casualties, witnesses said.

They said the Humvee was driving near the Palm Hotel when guerrillas fired the grenade. Four soldiers were inside the vehicle when it hit, the witnesses said.

A US force engaged the attackers, exchanging intense small arms fire.

There was no immediate comment on the incident from the US military in Baghdad. — Internet

**Two US soldiers killed in Iraq**

**Baghdad, 7 Aug** — Two American soldiers have been shot dead in a gun battle in the Iraqi capital, Baghdad.

The incident, involving the First Armoured Division, took place late on Wednesday evening in the al-Rashid district of the city, according to the US military.

The latest attack brings to 55 the number of US soldiers killed by hostile fire since the war in Iraq amid ongoing supply concerns. London benchmark Brent crude traded 10 cents down at $29.85 a barrel after a high of $30.59, while US light crude slipped 32 cents to $31.90 a barrel from a peak of $32.80. — Reuters

Oil prices pulled back from sharp gains on 6 Aug, 2003 as US data showed crude stocks rose in the world’s biggest fuel consumer, though markets remain near their highest since the war in Iraq amid ongoing supply concerns. London benchmark Brent crude traded 10 cents down at $29.85 a barrel after a high of $30.59, while US light crude slipped 32 cents to $31.90 a barrel from a peak of $32.80. — Reuters

**The New Light of Myanmar** Friday, 8 August, 2003
Blair under fire over “addiction to spin”

LONDON, 7 Aug — Critics of British Prime Minister Tony Blair have long accused him of an addiction to “spin” but an apparent shir of a dead scientist has put his government in the dock as never before.

Blair’s reputation for putting head lines first and the failure to find any weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, the reason he gave for war, have seen his public trust ratings plunge. Critics say he has raised media management to a point where nobody believes him any more.

Now Blair’s spokesman has admitted he compared David Kelly — a government scientist who killed himself after being named as the source of a report that Blair had hyped Iraq’s weapons threat — to fictional fantasist “Walter Mitty”.

Politicians from all sides say relations between them and the media must change. “It is time to abandon the whole culture of spin and off-the-record briefings,” Menzies Campbell of the opposition Liberal Democrat Party said.

“We need a new atmosphere of openness and transparency if the political system is to regain public trust.”

Arcane rules governing media and ministers blunted political reporting in Britain long before Blair took power. “Lobby” journalists — so-called because they have privileged access to the members’ lobby outside the House of Commons, where ministers and parliamentarians loiter — have for decades operated in a culture marked by secret nods and winks.

Much of what they hear is unattributable and can only be used as such, a regime that has survived all modern governments. Journalists the world over will use them, he said, were strictly off-the-record and not his view. Critics say that is precisely the problem. — MNA/Reuters

Italian Govt steps up anti-pollution measures at sea

ROME, 7 Aug — The fight against marine pollution received a much-needed boost in Italy on Wednesday when a new ministerial decree regulating waste-disposal at sea came into effect.

Over the years, Italy has launched numerous programmes aimed at cleaning up the Mediterranean — a vital national resource in terms of both tourism and fishing, but pollution continues to threaten marine wildlife, even if much of the damage lurks below the surface.

In last year’s annual marine clean-up scheme, Italian environmental association Legambiente reported it has hauled 112,000 kilos of rubbish from seaboards off the Italian coastline in the previous twelve months.

According to Legambiente, a little over half the litter was composed of scrap metal, 25 per cent of plastic, 7 per cent was fishing net and ropes, 5 per cent made of glass and 5 per cent of wood.

MNA/Xinhua

US contractors more wary after death in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 7 Aug — US contractors working in Iraq said on Tuesday they would examine even more closely the security of their employees there after an American civilian contractor was killed by an anti-tank mine.

“We are monitoring the situation very, very carefully. We are taking every precaution. This is a dangerous place to work in,” said Alison Abbott, spokeswoman for Bechtel, a California engineering firm working in Iraq for the US Government.

The civilian killed on Tuesday near Saddam Hussein’s hometown of Tikrit worked for engineering firm Kellogg Brown & Root under a contract with the US military. It was believed to be the first US civilian contractor killed in Iraq since Saddam was toppled.

For lead contractors working on projects in Iraq, either for the US military or the United States Agency for International Development, security is the No. 1 issue and the main stumbling block in getting their work done.

Ambushes in recent weeks have killed a British journalist, a Sri Lankan technician with the International Committee of the Red Cross, an Iraqi driver for the United Nations, and an Iraqi translator working with US troops.

“These Baathists, as they get increasingly desperate, are targeting our successes, and they are targeting soft targets,” said one US defence official, adding there had also been a spate of attacks on Iraqis working with the US military.

All the major private contractors hire their own security and live under 24-hour protection, described by one contractor as a “real budget breaker”.

North Carolina company Research Triangle International, said Tuesday’s death brought its security plans under even greater scrutiny.

“We always take a look at all of our procedures any time anything like this happens,” said Sally Johnson, vice-president of corporate affairs for the company, which has a contract to promote Iraqi participation in reconstruction.

Creative Associates, which has a contract to get Iraq’s schools back on their feet, said staff members were always accompanied by a guard and an Arabic speaker.

MNA/Reuters

Mars ready for close-up, best view in 60,000 years

WASHINGTON, 7 August — Mars is getting ready for its close-up, with the red planet nearest to Earth this month as it has in almost 60,000 years.

Its closest pass will come on August 27 at 5:51 am EDT (0951 GMT), when Mars will be less than 34.65 million miles away.

The last time it came nearer was around September 12 in 57,617 B.C. when Mars came about 25,000 miles closer, at a distance of 34.62 million miles from Earth. “If Neanderthals had telescopes, they would have seen it a little bit better than we will on August 27,” said astronomer Geoff Chester of the US Naval Observatory in Washington.

MNA/Reuters

Forecast thunderstorms add to Canada wildfire fear

KAMLOOPS (British Columbia), 7 Aug — Crews battling fierce forest fires in the parched mountains of British Columbia managed to hold their own against the flames on Tuesday, but they kept a nervous eye on the sky for forecast high winds and lightning strikes.

The progress against three fires near Kamloops, about 170 miles northeast of Vancouver, has allowed some evacuated residents to return home, but an estimated 4,000 are still displaced and some have no houses or jobs to go back to.

Large fires are also burning in southwestern Alberta, as well as at Montana and Washington State, not far from the Canadian border, as the entire region swelters through a dry summer.

MNA/Reuters

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MNA/Reuters

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MNA/Reuters
New dangers face US troops in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 7 Aug — As the search goes on for Saddam Hussein, much of the attention in Washington has been focused on other concerns, such as the political future of Secretary of State Colin Powell and a new danger facing US troops in Iraq.

American troops and Iraqi police abandoned this outpost after a rocket attack.

For American convoys, ambushes in Iraq are routine. So are the sweeps to wipe out guerrillas. Buildings suspected of being hideouts are destroyed.

In the US, much of the political talk briefly shifted from Iraq to the future of Colin Powell.

Yesterday, there were reports the American Secretary of State plans to step down after the next election.

Today, Mr Powell and others denied that.

US soldier falls to his death in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 7 Aug — A US soldier fell off a roof to his death in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul, the military said.

“A soldier from the 101st Airborne Division was killed when he fell from a roof of a fixed site at 7:30 pm (1530 GMT) August 5 in Mosul,” according to a statement released in Baghdad. “The soldier was evacuated to 23rd combat support hospital and was pronounced dead at approximately 8:15 pm,” it added.

At least 57 American troops have now died in non-combat incidents since US President George W Bush declared major combat operations in Iraq over on 1 May, while 53 US soldiers have been killed in guerilla-style attacks.

Russia wants new UN resolution on Iraq

MOSCOW, 7 Aug— Russia on Thursday threw its weight behind a French call for a new United Nations resolution on post-war Iraq, saying such a move would help secure greater international support for efforts to rebuild the country.

Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov, echoing comments made by France’s defence minister last Monday, told Russian journalists a new UN resolution was required that would also open the way to establishing a new political leadership in Iraq.

“The quicker such a resolution is taken by the UN Security Council, the greater the chances of the international community showing assistance to the Iraqi people in overcoming the present difficult crisis,” Ivanov, whose comments were confirmed by the Foreign Ministry, said.— Internet

Bangladesh to launch bus service to eastern India

DHAKA, 7 Aug — The Bangladeshi Government has given green signal for the launching of the Dhaka-Agartala bus service.

The clearance was given Monday night at the weekly Cabinet meeting held with Prime Minister Khaleda Zia to commission the 140-kilometre bus service between Dhaka and Agartala, the capital of eastern India’s Tripura State, meeting sources told Xinhua Tuesday.

“The Cabinet gave the final approval and the bus service can even start tomorrow,” the source said.

Bangladesh-India Joint Economic Commission (JEC) meeting held in Dhaka in the middle of last month agreed to launch the bus service on August 9, but the commissioning of the service was not approved by the government of the country.

WHO urges to create environment to encourage smokers to quit

GENEVA, 7 Aug — The World Health Organization (WHO) on Wednesday urged governments to include smoking cessation and treatment services as part of comprehensive tobacco control programmes.

WHO said over 1.3 billion people currently smoke and more than 70 per cent of them are in low or middle income countries. Unless adult smokers are encouraged to quit, current statistics show that it will not be possible to reduce deaths from tobacco over the next 30 to 50 years.

“However, the public health sector in many countries is not investing in smoking cessation services, and in most countries only limited steps have been taken to provide treatment, train healthcare providers, and release financial resources,” said Dr Vera da Costa e Silva, WHO’s director for tobacco control.

Because of tobacco’s addictive ness, many smokers will need support to quit. Surveys show that about one-third of smokers try to quit every year, those who try to stop using willpower alone have only a 1 to 3 per cent chance of long-term success.

UNSG urges int’l community to do more for nuclear disarmament

UNITED NATIONS, 7 Aug— United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan on Wednesday called on the international community to accelerate nuclear disarmament in order to eventually rid the world of such deadly weapons.

“Since the days when atomic bombs destroyed Hiroshima and Nagasaki and brought unbearable suffering to the citizens of both (Japanese) cities, it has been an ardent aspiration of humankind to see nuclear weapons completely abolished from the Earth,” Annan said in a message to the 58th anniversary of the world’s first atomic bomb attack.

“Although some would say it is an achievement that no nuclear weapons has been used since 1945, tens of thousands of such weapons — the exact number is unknown — remain in arsenals around the world,” he said. “The progress made after the end of the Cold War in reducing those arsenals must be accelerated and solidified,” he stressed.

Moreover, Annan continued, there were other worrisome trends in recent years, such as the acquisition of nuclear weapons by non-nuclear states, and efforts to modernize existing arsenals and to create new types of nuclear weapons.

Annan emphasized that the international community must do more to demonstrate the seriousness of its commitment to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

On August 6, 1945, an American bomber dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima, killing 66,000 people and injuring 69,000. Three days later, another atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki, leaving 39,000 persons dead and 25,000 more injured.

One day after the atomic bombing of Nagasaki, the then Japanese Government agreed to surrender under the terms of the Allies.

World’s first cloned horse born in Italy

ROME, 7 Aug — The world’s first cloned horse was born in Italy this spring and it was also the first case of a mammal giving birth to its own clone, according to a report to appear in the upcoming edition of Nature magazine.

The birth, which took place May 28, was the result of a project headed by Claudio Lercari, the man who cloned bull Galileo and said it was possible to clone the record-breaking Italian trotter Vareme. The project was carried out at the laboratory for reproduction technology at the Cremona Consortium for Livestock Raising in northern Italy.

The filly is named Prometea and weighed a normal 36 kilos at birth. Mother and daughter are exactly identical as confirmed by DNA testing.

A cloned calf, front takes a rest after lunch at a ranch, near Urumqi, in northwest China’s Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region on 6 August, 2003. A total of six cloned calves are kept alive here since the first one was born in late May.

Two US Air Force Black Hawk helicopters patrol over central and northern area of Iraq on 6 August, 2003. — Internet

A cloned calf, front takes a rest after lunch at a ranch, near Urumqi, in northwest China’s Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region on 6 August, 2003. A total of six cloned calves are kept alive here since the first one was born in late May.

Internet
Air Canada posts loss on SARS, Iraq War

MONTREAL, 7 Aug — Air Canada posted a deep loss in the second quarter, as SARS kept passengers away from its Toronto hub and a slowing economy and the war in Iraq hit overall ticket sales, the company said on Thursday.

Air Canada, the largest airline in Canada and No 11 in the world, said it lost C$56 million ($404 million), or C$4.70 a share, in the quarter compared to a slim profit of C$230 million, or 23 Canadian cents a share, in the same quarter of last year.

The Montreal-based airline, operating under bankruptcy protection, said deep cost cuts and a tentative travel recovery toward the end of the quarter meant it had reduced its operating loss to C$400 million a day in June, from over C$55 million a day in April.

But Chief Executive Robert Milton said he did not foresee a meaningful recovery before the third quarter of 2004.

“Given two consecutive outbreaks in Toronto, our main hub, in addition to our extensive presence in Asia, Air Canada has been hit harder by SARS than any other airline worldwide with the exception of certain Asian Pacific carriers,” Milton said.

“The effect of the second Toronto outbreak in late May was devastating, with travelers avoiding Toronto as both a destination and connecting point.”

The airline said operating revenues fell to C$1.95 billion from C$2.55 billion, while the passenger load factor fell to 72.8 percent in the quarter, from 76 percent last year. Revenue per available seat mile fell to 15.9 Canadian cents per passenger mile, from 17.3 Canadian cents in the second quarter of last year. SARS, or severe acute respiratory syndrome, killed more than 800 people worldwide, including 42 in the Toronto area — the only place outside Asia where people died of SARS. — Internet

Turkey-Syria-Iraq railway reopens

ANKARA, 7 Aug — The railway linking Turkey, Syria and Iraq, which was closed last February due to the US-led Iraq war, was reopened as of August 1, 2003.

The Turkey Directorate General of State Railways (TCDD) said in a statement on Wednesday that a protocol for reopening the railway was signed between TCDD and Iraqi Railways on July 30, 2003.

According to the protocol TCDD’s trains will travel to Iraq via Syria four days a week.

UNICEF recommends breastfeeding to save more lives

GENEVA, 7 Aug — As part of the celebration of World Breastfeeding Week 2003, UNICEF, the UN Children’s Fund, on Wednesday called for continued commitment to protect, promote and support breastfeeding.

The theme of this year’s breastfeeding celebration is “Peace and Justice”, with an emphasis on the enormous benefits of breastfeeding even in the most perilous settings.

UNICEF said that even in the midst of war, breastfeeding is a vital avenue to health, nutrition, survival and protection for every young child.

“Breastfed children are the most likely to survive when supply lines are cut, when electricity fails, when homes are destroyed or when epidemics occur,” said UNICEF Executive Director Carol Bellamy.

Breastmilk alone is the ideal nourishment for infants for the first six months of life as it contains all the nutrients, antibodies, hormones, immune factors and antioxidants an infant needs to thrive.

It protects babies from diarrhoea and acute respiratory infections and stimulates their immune systems.

UNICEF data on child survival presented recently in The Lancet medical journal showed that optimal breastfeeding could save more infant lives than almost any other single measure.

Every year more than 10 million children die from mainly preventable causes, including diarrhoea, pneumonia, measles, malaria and HIV/AIDS. Every baby was exclusively breastfed from birth to six months, and continued for a few months thereafter, an estimated 1.5 million lives would be saved each year.

Malaysian police detain over 300 drug offenders

KUALA LUMPUR, 7 Aug — Malaysian police detained 317 suspected drug addicts and traffickers in a nationwide operation on Tuesday, a police chief announced here on Wednesday.

The public relations officer in the Police Head- quarters, Superintendent Jamshah Mustapa, told re- porters in a Press briefing that his men also seized 118.7 grammes of heroin, 467.8 grammes of ganja, 27 ecstasy pills and 414.2 li- tres of cough syrup in the raids carried out in various parts of the country.

The Malaysia National Drugs Council Tuesday de- clared 2003 as the “Year of Total War Against Drugs.” Malaysia’s Dan- gerous Drugs Act carries stiff punishment for a drug offender who faces fines of up to 5,000 ringgit (1,315 US dollars) or up to two years in jail.

It is estimated that there are some 200,000 drug addicts in Malaysia which has a target of freeing the country of drug addiction by 2015.

In another develop- ment, the police and law enforcement officers from the Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Ministry seized 3,840 pirated and pornographic videos compact discs (VCDs) in Tuesday’s operation.

Scientists to crack the mystery of twinning in Umri

HYDERABAD, 7 Aug — Top geneticists have turned their search light on the genetic material (DNA) of the people of Umri, a sleepy village near Allahabad, to crack the mystery of why they produce the largest number of twins in the world.

The entire village has become genetically ’prized’ laboratory as there is no place in the world where so many twins are living in one place. Scientists of the Center for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) here told to reporters that “It is really a genetic gold mine,” says CCMB director Lalji Singh. Out of Umri’s 800 population, nearly 120 were born twins, he said. “We actually counted 40 pairs,” says Chandak, also of the CCMB.

Two weeks ago, Chandak and Singh collected blood samples of the twins and their parents for analysis of their DNA. Their team found one family with ten children four of whom were born twins all girls—which Singh describes as “a very rare event.”

Identical twins emerge from a single fertilized egg and non-identical twins are born if the woman carried two eggs fertili- zed simultaneously. Scientists are not sure if twinning is entirely a ‘chance’ phenomenon and the CCMB study will find out if there is a genetic basis for it and if DNA rearrangement during the embryonic development is responsible.

According to Singh, because of the high rate of inbreeding in Umri, the study might be able to discover the gene (or genes) responsible for twinning, if there is one.

The CCMB studies will go one step further and try to find out the genetic basis for the difference in the behaviour of twins and susceptibility to diseases. — MNA/PTI

The paddle steamer ‘Dresden’, built in 1926, sits at its dock in Dresden, eastern Germany, on 6 August, 2003, as parts of the river bed are dry due to the hot weather in Germany. Despite the very low level of the Elbe, boat cruises are continuing their usual schedule. — Internet

A US soldier watches a street from his gun position atop a Humvee vehicle in Baghdad.

In the 100 days since US President George W Bush declared major combat in Iraq over, more than 50 American soldiers have been killed and many wounded as a result of guerrilla operations while plans for Iraq’s reconstruction have been going slowly.

UNICEF recommends breastfeeding to save more lives

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University entrance for 2003-2004 academic year

YANGON, 7 Aug — Those who passed the 2003 academic year entrance exam are personally to draw the mark certificate, comprehensive personal record, and university entrance manual at the application centres to apply for university entrance.

National Workshop on Development...

(Yangon, 7 Aug) — (from page 16) Allow me to say briefly about the development of information and communication technology in Myanmar. As a member of ASEAN, Myanmar signed the e-ASEAN Framework Agreement in November 2000, and at the same time, the national level task force was established for the implementation of ICT development.

With the concerted efforts of the Government and private entrepreneurs, Myanmar Information and Communication Technology Park was set up with the objective of providing necessary communication infrastructure for IT companies. This park provides modern communication services to local and foreign IT firms for e-commerce, e-learning and other IT-related works.

This workshop is attended by 50 participants from both government departments and private sectors. The topics to be discussed are very imperative and beneficial, he said.

After Mr Matthias Bruckner had read the message sent by Mr Ravi Ratnayake, Director of the UNESCO, the opening ceremony came to an end.

Later, the workshop was held at 9 am. On the occasion, Professor Mr KJ Joseph, Consultant of the UNESCO, put into discussions the importance of the information and communication technology for the development of Myanmar and the trade and investment policies and their linkage with the use and production of IT goods.

A & I Minister inspects dam projects in Myinmu, TadaU townships

YANGON, 7 Aug — Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin yesterday arrived at the Cotton Ginning Factory of the Myanma Cotton and Sericulture Enterprise and inspected cotton production process, making bales of cotton and storage of cotton seeds.

Next, he also inspected mixed-cropping of groundnuts and pigeon pea in Chauk U Township. He met with farmers and officials and urged them to use agricultural methods for boosting per-acre yield of crops.

Minister receives Sri Lankan Ambassador

YANGON, 7 Aug — Minister for Religious Affairs U Aung Khin met with Ambassador of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka to Myanmar U D.M. Ranaratna at his office on Kaba-Aye Pagoda Road here this afternoon.

Also present at the call were Director-General of the Religious Affairs Department Dr Myo Myint, Director-General of the Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana U San Lwin, Pro-Rector of the Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings Ltd continued at Myanma Gems Mart on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road today. A total of 574 gem merchants—502 locals and 72 foreigners—visited the sale so far today.

With the entertainment of the Myanmar orchestra as main programme, musical instruments and performances of the ethnic races of the states and divisions will be staged at the exhibition every day.

Time bomb exposed in Monywa

YANGON, 7 Aug — The authorities concerned received information in advance that the anti-government organisations abroad, ABSDF insurgent group under the name of students abroad and the remnants of the Burma Communist Party had been constantly committing terrorist acts by sending bombers into the nation to cause panic among the people and by detonating bombs to kill innocent people.

They exploded three time bombs in Monywa on 4 August. Acting on the information given by a civilian, the authorities at about 11 am today exposed a time bomb planted near the embankment at Yonggy Ward in Monywa. The authorities concerned are in hot pursuit of the bombers to find out the terrorists who committed destructive acts and cannot bear to see the State’s stability and progress.
To be worthy of the inheritance

Chairman. I saw many vehicles and the university students who looked so fresh and smart along the entrance road to the university. Later the university came into my view. I took a seat at the meeting hall installed with advanced equipment. At the meeting, the rector said personnel of the departments and organizations were invited to the meeting to discuss means to participate in the national development task which is included in the curriculum of the varsity discussed. At the meeting I came to understand the goodwill of the State leaders and the responsibility of the regional people to be worthy of the heritage to be handed down by the government.

During the reign of Myanmar kings, Maubin was just a large village called Yewady, with a population of 1,178 and 588 households. After the Second Anglo-Myanmar War, the British declared that the Maubin region was annexed to the lower Myanmar. He said that the British power became more obvious after annexing the lower Myanmar, that the victory had ensured a bright future for the British as its benefits would offset the losses incurred on their side during the First Anglo-Myanmar War; that the war had weakened Myanmar’s military strength; that as Bago could be governed at less cost, the colonials would enjoy trade development and a large number of natural productivity.

**Government striving for ...**

Township

After hearing the reports, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Soe Win fulfilled their requirements and gave a speech. He said that the infrastructure concerning economic, transport, education and health sectors are being undertaken in States and Divisions. Plans are being implemented to carry out agricultural and livestock breeding task to ensure food sufficiency of the people. He added all the people should work hard not only for the population at present but also for future.

He said that as a result of their endeavours, the entire nation including Phakant region has been gaining development momentum. Therefore, local people and service personnel are to cooperate with the Government to carry out development tasks conscientiously.

Next, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Soe Win presented exercise books for the students at basic education schools in Maubin.

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presented exercise books for students at basic education schools in Hoping to officials. Similarly, Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thwin presented Basic Education High School in Hoping. Next, Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party viewed round Hoping. Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party went to Mogau by helicopter and inspected projects of Namkaung Creek Bridge (Mogau) construction project. Deputy Superintendent Engineer U Soe Thet of Bridge Construction Project Special Group-15 reported on bridge construction works. Deputy Minister for Construction Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thwin gave a supplementary report.

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan saw over the bridge construction.

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan inspects the Sub-printing House in Maubin—(Translation: TMT)

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**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 every day by each household amounts to saving power that is equal to the capacity a 20-megawatt power station can supply.

**Efficient use of fuel**

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

**All this needs to be known**

- Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
- Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
- Do not be softened whenever appealed

At Mogau Hall, they met officials, service personnel and local people. Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave a speech and presented cash assistance to officials of MCA, WCWA and cash for construction of Kyunbintha School. Next, Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann gave necessary instructions and attended to their needs.

Accompanied by the commander, the ministers, the deputy minister and officials, the Secretary-2 arrived in Mohin in which they were welcomed by Col Win Htay of Mogau Station and local authorities.

On arrival at the site of Government Technical Institute in Mohin, Managing Director U Than Shwe of Ever Green Fine Arts Co reported on progress of construction tasks. (See page 9)
Government striving for...

(from page 8)

The Secretary-2 inspected construction of the buildings.

Afterwards, they proceeded to Mohnyin Degree College construction site, and inspected progress of construction works.

The Secretary-2 and party met local authorities, departmental personnel, members of social organizations and townsfolk. At the meeting, the Secretary-2 dealt with success achieved in basic education sector of the township, construction of Mohnyin Degree College and Government Technical Institute, and assistance being provided by the government for development of the nation. He presented exercise books to the basic education schools in the township and cash assistance to Township Working Committee for Women’s Affairs and Maternal and Child Welfare Association.

Deputy Minister for Education Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung, who accompanied the Secretary-2, inspected the buildings and multimedia classrooms of No 1 BEHS in Mohnyin and met the principal and teachers. Likewise, Deputy Minister Dr Mya Oo inspected Township People’s Hospital and comforted the patients.

The Secretary-2 and party arrived at Myitkyina in the evening. Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann and the Secretary-2 and party on 4 August morning visited Myitkyina Dhamma Rakkhita Wuntho Monastery in the town and paid reverence to the Sayadaws. They presented offerings, rice and edible oil to members of the Sangha.

In the evening, the Secretary-2 held a meeting with local authorities, departmental heads, the development boards of social organizations and townfolk at the City Hall of Myitkyina. At the meeting, Lt-Gen Ye Myint explained the purpose of the tour of the group led by Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann and the Secretary-2. Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann delivered a speech, saying that Kachin State is making progress due to united and collective efforts of administrative bodies, service personnel and local residents under the leadership of the government, and prevalence of peace and tranquility in the region. He added that resulting from mutual understanding and trust between the government and ex-armed groups, Kachin State has steadfastly carried out development projects. Afterwards, the second session followed at the same venue. Commander Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe reported on the area of Kachin State, cultivation of paddy, beans and pulses, edible oil crops, tea, rubber, coffee and Thitseint Bellaric myrobolan, water supply projects, livestock breeding tasks, measures for industrial development, progress in constructing roads and bridges, upgrading of Myitkyina and Putao airports, renovation of Bhamo Airport, and progress of communication and health sectors.

Next, the Secretary-2 said that they have assessed the progress of the state through witness accounts and data. The state will meet greater success in future, he added. The success is the result of self-reliant efforts, he noted. Economic, social, health and transport infrastructures had been constructed in a short time. Enjoying the skills and experiences, continued efforts are to be made to speed up the development momentum.

He said that with a view to producing intellectuals and intelligentsia, universities and colleges have been established in respective development regions. Systematic measures have been taken for development of human resources and upgradation of health care services in Myitkyina and Bhamo as development regions in Kachin State.

Since time immemorial, the national races have been living together in respective regions, cementing amicable friendship. In addition to Kachin ethnic people, such other races as Shan and Bamar have been residing together in Kachin State.

The government has been striving for ensuring equitable development among parts of the Union, home to the national races. And the government will make continued endeavours to maintain the already-achieved development regions in Kachin State.

In the morning, they visited State People’s Hospital in Myitkyina and left necessary instructions.

Then, Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann and Lt-Gen Ye Myint also met with officers and other ranks and their families at Myitkyina Station. He said that the visit of the Secretary-2 will make continued endeavours to maintain the already-achieved development momentum, he said.

The Secretary-2 presented exercise books to the students of the basic education schools in Myitkyina Township and cash assistance to Township MCWA and WCWA through officials.

Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Brig-Gen Khin Maung on 4 August inspected planting of Macadamia trees in Myitkyina Government Computer College and arrangements for supply of water Nankwe Creek for agricultural purpose. —MNA
Once, they were a little more than villages lying lazily and idly along the remote corners of the nation usually frequented by multi-coloured insurgents. And due to the poor transport and lack of regional peace and security, these little towns at the border were sometimes almost inaccessible in the past.

Gun fires echoed the towns and their surrounding areas for nearly half a century as the armed factions under extreme racial and ideological beliefs were waging battles against the successive governments, with the deceitful slogan to liberate the ethnic groups and also fighting against each other endlessly for regional and economic superiority.

Sadly, the main economy of the areas, where these border towns are located, then was the illegal business including drug trafficking, gunrunning and contraband smuggling controlled by the insurgent groups.

But now, the story of the border areas and towns is totally different from the past. As the present Government’s national development and modernization drive has reached practically all parts of the nation, no region is left unattended. Besides, the national development and modernization drive has been reinforced with the 24-zone development project and the five rural development tasks to ensure that every part of the nation enjoys progress in multiple sectors whether it is lying in the far-flung area, the mountaneous region, the coastal region, the central region or the border area.

In addition, the main driving force that helps facilitate and accelerate the national development and modernization drive is the restoration of peace and stability in all the four corners of the nation, resulting from the Government’s successful endeavours in making peace with the 17 major armed groups in the jungles.

Because of the peace, stability, security and progress the whole nation is seeing at present, there emerge the amazing border towns bustling with business, thriving with prosperity and rising up with development under the rule of law and effective administration machinery.

As they are lying at the border with the neighbour countries, the development in the transport and other related infrastructures and the regional peace and stability have made them important trading centres and tourist entry points where peoples of the two neighbours meet.

Now, all the thundering sound of the guns and bombs is silent at the border towns that are enjoying a roaring success in many sectors and standing as a model and an example for others to follow.

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The Objectives of the 11th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions

— to vitalize patriotism and nationalism in all citizens
— to preserve and safeguard Myanmar cultural heritage
— to perpetuate genuine Myanmar music, dance and traditional fine arts
— to preserve Myanmar national character
— to nurture spiritual development of the youths
— to prevent influence of alien cultures

Inlet & Exhaust Valve Plant

The inlet & exhaust valve plant, constructed by Ministry of Industry-2 in Indawgyi Industrial Zone of Bago Division, produces a total of 46,000 inlets and exhaust valves per year as import substitute goods to be used in truck diesel engines, jeep petrol engines, tractor diesel engines, water pumps and diesel engines used in power stations.— Industry-2
Implementation of projects for socio-economic development of all regions in the country

The Government has been striving for enabling the nation to keep abreast the world's nations in terms of development. In the process, it has laid down national development projects and region-wise development plans and work is well under way for bringing about harmonious development in economic, health and education sectors across the nation and narrowing the development gap among all parts of the nation.

Shan State General Hospital undertaken by the Ministry of Health in Kengtung, Shan State (East). — MNA

No 3 Paper Mill (Paleik) of the Ministry of Industry-1 in Mandalay Division.

The Zaungtu Diversion Weir in Bago Township seen on 3-7-2003. — MN

Progress in construction of Mone Creek Dam Hydel Power Project being implemented in Magway Division.

Progress of work in construction of Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine). COAL-CONSTRUCTION

Coal-fired power plant construction project (Tikyit) in Pinlaung.
The Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Construction
Extension of Invitation for Quotation
The Project Management Unit, Public Works, Ministry of Construction has invited Quotation for PATHEIN BRIDGE.
On behalf of the Ministry of Construction of the Union of Myanmar, Project Management Unit gives notice that the date for completion and return of the Quotation has been extended to 31st August, 2003 instead of 15th August, 2003.
Managing Director
Public Works

TRADE MARK CAUTION
SAME DEUTZ-FAHR S.P.A., of 14 Viale E. Cassani, 24047 TREVIGLIANO, province of Bergamo, Italy, is the Owner of the following Trade Marks:

SAME
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in respect of “Tractors, motors for tractors, parts and accessories for said goods (International Class 12)”. Fraudulent imitation or unauthorised use of said Trade Mark will be dealt with according to law.
Win Mu Tin,
For SAME
DEUTZ-FAHR S.P.A.,
P.O. Box 60, Yangon.
Dated: 8 August 2003

US warns of weapons, bombs hidden in electronics
Washington, 7 Aug — US officials on Tuesday warned airports to step up scrutiny of passengers' electronic items amid renewed militant threats, but said there were no plans to raise the national threat level.
Secretary of Homeland Security Tom Ridge also said it did not appear that a deadly explosion on Tuesday in the Indonesian capital that killed 14 people was linked to threats against the United States broadcast by al-Qaeda figure Ayman al-Zawahri over the weekend.
“There is no indication that the attack in Jakarta was in any way related to al-Zawahri’s statement,” Ridge told a news conference.
The tape warned on Sunday that the United States would pay “a dear price” for harm inflicted on Muslims, in references to a naval base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and that the “real battle” had not yet begun.
MENA/Reuters

CLAiMS DAY NOTICE
MV GISIANG VOY NO (319)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV GISIANG Voy No (319) are hereby notified that the vessel will arrive on 8-8-2003 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T. (1) 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.
SHEPIING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: P D Z LINES
Phone: 256908/378116/376797

ARRIVAL/CLAiMS DAY NOTICE
MV “MAGWAY” VOY NO 275/N
Consignees of cargo carried on MV “MAGWAY” Voy No 275/N are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived at Yangon port on 7-8-2003 and will be berthing on about 8-8-2003 and will be discharged into the premises of Myanmar Port Authority 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 11:30 am and 12 noon to 4 pm into 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.
CONTAINER FEEDER SERVICE
MYANMA FIVE STAR LINE
Phone: 293147, 296507, 295754

Ankleton (Alabama), 7 Aug — Facing protests from environmentalists and fearful residents, the US Army agreed on Tuesday to delay for two days the burning of hundreds of Cold War-era chemical weapons at a facility in Alabama.
The Army, complying with an international treaty, had been expected to begin burning the first of its M-55 rockets containing the deadly nerve agent sarin on Wednesday at its one-billion-US-dollar chemical weapons disposal facility in Anniston. The effort, which comes as the United States is searching Iraq for evidence of weapons of mass destruction, triggered widespread protest in the area and prompted environmentalists to ask a federal judge for an injunction barring the incineration. — MNA/Reuters

Drive with care
Nepal, China to strengthen trans-Himalayan tourism cooperation

KATHMANDU, 7 Aug — Nepali Minister of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation Sarbhendra Nath Shukla said here Wednesday that Nepal and China will strengthen their friendship, especially in the field of the trans-Himalayan tourism cooperation.

“We have a common understanding that tourism can bring benefit and wealth for the people of our two countries. Therefore, we hope our cooperation in this regard will enter into a new stage,” Shukla told a visiting Chinese delegation.

The 28-member delegation led by Lobzang Gyaltse, vice-chairman of the people’s government of the Tibet Autonomous Region of China, arrived here Tuesday for a 12-day visit from August 5 to 16 at the invitation of the Nepali Government.

Shukla said during the meeting, “Nepal has become a doorway for the tourist destin- ations in the Tibet Autonomous Region of China, because there are more than 50,000 tourists entering from Nepal in recent years.”

The minister also made some concrete suggestions on the development of bilateral cooperation in the tourism sector, including opening of routes for tourism promotion between Nepal and the Tibet Autonomous Region of China.

Speaking on the occasion, Gyaltse said both sides expressed strong sense and sincerity toward bilateral tourism coopera- tion. He regarded the Nepali minister’s sug- gestions as “constructive and far-sighted”.

“we hope the good thinking will turn into exercisable reality, so that we can implement several cooperation projects in the future,” Gyaltse said.

He added that China’s western develop- ment strategy has provided a great opportu- nity for the development of tourism industry in the Tibet Autonomous Region, and also for the cooperation between China and Nepal in this field.

Japan eyes dual vocational training for jobless youth

Tokyo, 7 Aug— Japan’s Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare plans to create a system of dual vocational education to reduce the rate of unemployment among young people, ministry officials said Tuesday.

Under the envisioned sys- tem planned to be introduced in fiscal 2004, young jobless people will go to vocational school while receiving prac- tical training in companies for a year, the officials said.

After working at the com- panies part-time for two to three years, the workers will be hired as full-time employ- ees, they said.

The ministry plans to pro- vide subsidies to companies that will accept trainees un- der the planned programme and to increase subsidies when they employ them as part-timers or full-time workers.

The ministry intends to offer the programme to job- less high-school graduates and young people unable to find regular jobs, according to the officials.

The planned system is a Japanese version of Germa- ny’s dual vocational training system based on its centu- ries-old tradition of appren- ticeship training in crafts- men’s shops and in trade.

The ministry hopes the system will reduce the un- employment rate of more than 10 per cent among peo- ple aged 15 to 24 by the year 2005.

Better US policies urged on animal-borne diseases

WASHINGTON, 7 Aug—The United States, seeking to defend against diseases ranging from West Nile virus to SARS to mad cow disease, needs a more coherent policy on animal-borne diseases, health experts said on Tuesday.

“Our national policy to- ward animal-borne diseases is the equivalent of trying to run a zoo without a zookeeper,” said Shelley Hearne, Executive Director of Trust for America’s Health. “The US agencies are responsible for monitoring and guarding against ani- mal-borne disease.”

Hearne said that the federal government should focus on prevention and should be prepared to quickly respond to new outbreaks of animal-borne diseases.

“TFAH’s study found that as many as seven Cabi- net-level agencies, hundreds of state and local public health and environmental health and veterinary organizations, and thou- sands of health workers played crucial roles in man- aging recent outbreaks of animal-borne diseases,” the group added in a statement.

Yet diseases are coming from animals at a furious rate as people clear forests and jungles, coming more into contact with new spe- cies and altering migration routes. With jet travel, a dis- ease can spread in hours.

Scientists believe severe acute respiratory syndrome, for example, passed to peo- ple from civets eaten as a delicacy in southern China.

SARS has infected more than 8,000 people world- wide and killed 800 and health officials fear it could re- surge with a vengeance in the autumn.

The quirky US public health system was lucky that SARS killed no Ameri- cans, Hearne said. “The speed that we responded, the information from lab tests to communications outreach to getting our own health de- tectives into China... was really extraordinary.”

Hearne told reporters in a telephone briefing. “But we have to remember... that we did not get tested here. We did not have superspreaders (patients who spread SARS to dozens of others for unknown reasons) step onto our shores here.”

Nepal seeks closer ties with Asia

NAIROBI, 7 Aug — Kenya is seeking closer ties with Asia to reduce its over-reliance on the West, the Daily Nation said here Wednesday.

The newspaper quoted Kenyan Assistant Minister for Planning and National Develop- ment Musakari Kombo as saying that the dependence on the West was a threat to the Kenyan Government’s efforts to revive the economy.

Speaking at the just ended Asian-African Sub-Regional Conference in Bandung, Indo- nesia, Kombo said “Kenya recently realized how vulnerable this over-reliance can be.”

He added that the diversification would be attained through closer trade relations, opening up of communication channels and sharing experiences.

“We are seeking collaboration from coun- tries of Asia to support the new Kenyan regime to revive the economy,” he said.

Serious oil spill reported on Huangpu River

SHANGHAI, 7 Aug— An unidentified small boat hit a cargo ship which moored in the Huangpu River near the Wujing Power Plant early Tuesday morning, damaging the ship’s cabin and causing 85 tons of fuel to spill into the river.

The small boat, deemed to be at fault, disappeared under cover of darkness shortly after the accident.

The Shanghai Maritime Affairs Admin- istration was informed about 4 a.m. Tuesday of the accident, which left an oil slick 200 metres long by 20 metres wide. A total of 17 vessels have been dispatched to the site of the oil spill. About 20 tons of oil-bearing water has been collected and the oil spill has been kept to a restricted area.

But some of the spilled oil has been carried to the riverside, and several plots of wetland at the upper reaches of the river have already been polluted.

“It will take about two weeks to fully clear away the oil,” said an expert from the administration. The Huangpu River flows eastward through the heart of Shanghai, China’s most important industrial and commercial centre, and empties into the East China Sea.

Serious animal-borne disease threats, health study warns

Johannesburg, 7 Aug— South Africa’s Aspen Pharmacare will launch what it said was the continent’s first locally manufactured “AIDS” drug on Tuesday it would make the announcement together with the country’s Trade Minister Alec Erwin.

“A strategic announcement will be made regarding Aspen’s launch of Africa’s first locally manufactured anti-retroviral (ARV) for the treatment of HIV/AIDS,” the firm said in a statement.
**Improved Lokomotiv Moscow gear up for Champions League**

**Moscow, 7 Aug —** Russian champions Lokomotiv Moscow showed improved form for the start of their European campaign by posting their third straight victory in domestic competition on Wednesday.

Captain Dmitry Lskov scored with a nicely-taken free kick in the 15th minute to give the railway side a 1-0 win over Premier League strugglers Chernomorets Novorossiisk.

The win lifted Lokomotiv into fourth place with 32 points from 21 games as they moved within nine points of Premier League leaders and city rivals CSKA, and face the winners of the Shakhtar Donetsk-Sheriff Tiraspol match in the Champions League third qualifying round next week.

Chernomorets continued their slide in the opposite direction as they suffered their sixth consecutive defeat, which left the Black Sea side in 14th place, just one spot above the relegation zone.

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**Veron signs four-year deal with Chelsea**

**London, 7 Aug —** Argentine international playmaker Juan Sebastian Veron signed a four-year deal with Chelsea on Wednesday evening after Manchester United had agreed to the sale of the midfielder earlier in the day.

The 28-year-old tied up the 15-million-pound (24-million-US-dollar) move after a medical just hours after England midfielder Joe Cole had completed a 6.6-million-pound transfer to the west London club from West Ham United.

The 28-year-old tied up the 15-million-pound (24-million-US-dollar) move after a medical just hours after England midfielder Joe Cole had completed a 6.6-million-pound transfer to the west London club from West Ham United.

Veron’s agent Fernando Hidalgo was quoted as saying by Sky Sports television: “He is happy. It has been a club decision, and he has accepted it.

“He is ready to do the best he can with this new opportunity at Chelsea.”

United’s decision to sell Veron came a week after manager Alex Ferguson expressed confidence in the Argentine on the club’s pre-season tour of the United States and suggested he did not expect the player to be sold.

But once the move became imminent, Ferguson admitted that the deal was both a footballing and financial decision despite the fact that Veron had cost 28 million pounds when he joined United from Italian club Lazio in 2001.

“The overall package, in terms of what we are saving on his salary and what we are getting from Chelsea makes it too important for us,” Ferguson told United’s MUTV channel.

“But I don’t think we needed that (money). It’s more to do with the number of midfielders we already have.”

In sealing the deal on Wednesday, the Argentine is eligible to register for the Champions League third qualifying round before Thursday’s 1000 GMT deadline.

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**WBA title fight rescheduled to September**

**Camberria, 7 Aug —** World Boxing Association (WBA) super-middleweight title fight between Australian Anthony Mundine and American Antwun Echols has been rescheduled for September 3, Mundine’s camp said on Tuesday.

The fight was originally scheduled on August 6 but Mundine suffered a viral infection and was in bed on the orders of Medical officer Lou Lewis said that Mundine would be able to resume training early next week.

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**Wolves sign Cameroon goalkeeper Kameni on loan**

**London, 7 Aug —** Cameroon goalkeeper Carlos Kameni signed for newly-promoted English Premier League side Wolverhampton Wanderers on Wednesday, the club said on its web site.

The 19-year-old Cameroon international will be moving from French club Le Havre on a one-year loan with an option to buy as long as he receives a work permit or a French passport.

Kameni shone during Cameroon’s Confederations Cup run to the final against France in June. The African champions defeated Brazil, Turkey and Colombia without Kameni letting in a goal, only to lose the final when a French golden goal slipped past seven minutes into extra time.

“The.make to it the national team at the age of just 19 shows that Carlos has got talent and the right temperament,” Wolves manager Dave Jones said on the web site.

A week ago Wolves pulled out of a deal to bring Kameni to the club but Wednesday’s signing comes amid continued efforts to strengthen the defence before the start of their Premier League season — their first in top-flight soccer for 19 years. They have also signed Sheffield United’s Jody Craddock, Arsenal’s Oleg Luzhny and Nigerian international Isaac Okonkwo.

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**Cole completes move to Chelsea**

**London, 7 Aug —** England midfielder Joe Cole has completed his 6.6-million-pound (£42.3-million-US-dollar) move to Chelsea from West Ham United, the Premier League club said on Wednesday.

The signing of the 21-year-old, who has passed a medical and agreed personal terms at Stamford Bridge, takes the London club’s spending to almost 44 million pounds since Russian billionaire Roman Abramovich took over over early last month.

Cole, who progressed through the youth ranks at West Ham and has gone on to win 10 England caps, said he did not expect to walk straight into Chelsea’s side.

“I’m looking to learn off the players we have got here. First and foremost, the challenge is to get into the side when you come to a club like this, but I’m ready for that and I’ll always give 100 per cent every game,” Cole told Chelsea TV.

“With the way we’ve been playing, I used to come to Chelsea to watch, I used to sit in The Shed a lot,” he said.

“I used to love watching good players — used to love watching Dennis Wise and before that Kerry Dixon. I just love my football.”

“I used to love watching good players — used to love watching Dennis Wise and before that Kerry Dixon. I just love my football.”

I settled at West Ham because I felt most comfortable there. I had an enjoyable time there but now my career has come full turn and I’m back at Chelsea. It’s such a great club to be at.”

Chelsea will have Cole available for their Champions League campaign after completing the signing ahead of Thursday’s UEFA deadline.

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**Marcelo Salas not to join Chilean team touring China**

**Santiago, 7 Aug —** River Plate striker Marcelo Salas of Chile will not join the Chilean national soccer team which will play against China on August 20, it was officially informed on Tuesday.

This decision did not come as a surprises, though, since River Plate’s coach Manuel Pellegrini had announced a few hours in advance that he did not agree to release his player for such a long trip, because Salas is not in good physical conditions. On Olmos’ list, half of the team is made by foreign-based players. But many of those who play in Argentina, including Salas, are out.

The presence of Argentinia’s Racing’s Pablo Galdames, and the surprising call of Marco Gonzales of the University of Chile, Miguel Riffio, of Colo Colo, and Arturo Norabuenas, of the Catholic University, stand out.

Manchester United’s Rad Van Nistelrooy, center, shoots towards the goal in front of footballer Ricardo and chased by Sporting’s Hugo, right, during their friendly match on 6 August, 2003, during the inauguration of Sporting’s new Alvadade XXI stadium in Lisbon. The new stadium will be one of the venues recently built to host the Euro 2004 European soccer championship games to be held in Portugal.

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**Boca Juniors out to end El Tri’s World Cup hopes**

MEXICO CITY, 6 Aug — Mexico’s World Cup hopes could be ended by the Argentine powerhouse Boca Juniors in a friendly match the teams play here Wednesday.

It is the third meeting between the teams, which met in the 2001 Copa Libertadores and in an international friendly in 1999.

A week ago Wolves pulled out of a deal to bring Kameni to the club but Wednesday’s signing comes amid continued efforts to strengthen the defence before the start of their Premier League season — their first in top-flight soccer for 19 years. They have also signed Sheffield United’s Jody Craddock, Arsenal’s Oleg Luzhny and Nigerian international Isaac Okonkwo.

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**Andy Roddick from the US leaps to return a shot during his second round match against Juan Ignacio Chela from Argentina at the Tennis Masters Canada Series in Montreal, on 6 August, 2003. Roddick is the tournament’s sixth seed.—Internet**

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**The overall package, in terms of what we are saving on his salary and what we are getting from Chelsea makes it too important for us,” Ferguson told United’s MUTV channel.**

**But I don’t think we needed that (money). It’s more to do with the number of midfielders we already have.”**

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**Updated Chelsea TV.**

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**I used to love watching good players — used to love watching Dennis Wise and before that Kerry Dixon. I just love my football.”**

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**I used to love watching good players — used to love watching Dennis Wise and before that Kerry Dixon. I just love my football.”**
7:00 am  Breakfast and newspaper reading
7:30 am  Morning exercise
7:45 am  A healthy exercise
8:05 am  Meditation
8:15 am  The Mirror Image of The Musical oldies
8:30 am  Classical Music
8:45 am  English For Everyday Use
4:00 pm  Martial song
4:10 pm  Song to uphold National Spirit
4:25 pm  Practice In Reading
4:40 pm  Musical Programme
4:50 pm  Supplementary Programme
5:35 pm  "Mingalabar" & Myanmarese National Song

1:55 pm  Myanmarese National Carnet
3:55 pm  "Mingalabar" & Myanmarese National Song

8:30 am  Musical news
8:45 am  English For Everyday Use
9:00 am  Breakfast and newspaper reading
9:30 am  Morning exercise
10:05 am  A healthy exercise
10:15 am  Meditation
10:25 am  The Mirror Image of The Musical oldies
10:35 am  Classical Music
10:45 am  English For Everyday Use
11:00 am  Breakfast and newspaper reading
11:30 am  Morning exercise
11:40 am  A healthy exercise
11:50 am  Meditation
12:05 am  The Mirror Image of The Musical oldies
12:15 am  Classical Music
12:25 am  English For Everyday Use
12:30 am  Breakfast and newspaper reading
12:45 am  Morning exercise
12:55 am  A healthy exercise
1:05 am  Meditation
1:15 am  The Mirror Image of The Musical oldies
1:25 am  Classical Music
1:35 am  English For Everyday Use
1:45 am  Breakfast and newspaper reading
1:55 am  Morning exercise
2:05 am  A healthy exercise
2:15 am  Meditation
2:25 am  The Mirror Image of The Musical oldies
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3:55 am  English For Everyday Use

**Applications invited to MMU, MAEU**

**YANGON, 7 Aug —** The Myanmar Maritime University under the Ministry of Transport will be opened on 1 December 2003 for 2003-2004 academic year. At the university, five-year courses for BE (Naval Architecture), BE (Marine Engineering), BE (Port & Harbours Engineering), BE (River & Ocean Engineering), BE (Marine Electrical Systems & Electronics) and BSc (Hons) (Nautical Science) will be conducted.

The Myanmar Aerospace Engineering University under the Ministry of Science and Technology for 2003-2004 academic year will be opened on 1 December 2003. Five-year courses for BE (Aerospace-Propulsion & Flight Vehicles), BE (Aerospace Avionics), BE (Aerospace-Electrical Systems and Instrumentation) and BE (Aerospace-Fuel & Propellant Engineering) will be conducted at the university. The three under-graduate diploma courses—Diploma in Engineer & Airframe Technology Diploma in Avionics Technology and Diploma in Electrical & Instrumentation Technology—will be opened at the Myanmar Aerospace Engineering University beginning 1 December 2003. Each course will last two years.

Those who got 381 marks and above in the 2003 matriculation examination may submit applications. The applicants must be those who passed the examination with the combinations—Myanmar, English, Maths, Physics, Chemistry and Economics, Myanmar English, Maths, Physics, Chemistry and History; those who passed the examination with combinations not only this year but also the previous years.

The applicants must be citizens and pass health test. The personal interview must be taken. The applications together with the copy of the mark certificate issued by Myanmar Board of Examinations must be sent to the University Entrance Application Scrutinizing Committee (Higher Education Department, Lower Myanmar) during the period of 12 August to 1 September. The original mark certificate is to be brought to the entrance examination.

Those who passed the 2003 matriculation examination can take out applications from the examination supervisors (BEHS school heads).

Those who passed the matriculation examination before 2003 may take out the applications from the examination supervisors (BEHS school heads) to attend the diploma courses.

Candidates may apply for other universities at the same time. For more information, anyone may dial 503147 or 525612 of Higher Education Department (Lower Myanmar), Thaton Road, Kamayut; 539473 or 539475 of MMU, Hsinmalais, Kamayut; or 064-22201 or 064-22202 of MAEU, Minkita.

**YANGON Division Police Force holds work coord meeting**

**YANGON, 7 Aug —** The Yangon Division Police Force held its first four-monthly work coordination meeting for 2003 at the meeting hall of the office of the police commander of Yangon Division this morning. Yangon Division Peace and Development Chairman Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe addressed the meeting.

In his speech, the commander said it is significant that the holding of the coordination meeting coincides with the time when crime reduction tasks are being accelerated. Crime reduction is the prime task of the members of the police force. The endeavours of the police to ensure a decline in crime will contribute to the prevalence of stability and peace in Yangon City. Owing to these efforts, there has been slight decrease in the outbreak of ten major crimes. Moreover, there is also a sharp fall in theft. It is therefore necessary to review the weak points and strong points by drawing examples from these achievements. Furthermore, it is also needed to reinforce the traffic rules and regulations. Traffic police force and the police force to join hands in the task to control accidents. The stronger the law enforcement, the firmer the tranquility and stability and the more secure the life of the public will be. It should be noted that only the peaceful, economical life can guarantee the national economic development.

Therefore, the crime reduction is vital, he said. Next, Yangon Division Judge U Aung Nwe and Division Law Officer U Han Nyunt reported on judicial matters.

Commander of Yangon Division Police Force Col Aung Daing also reported on instructions given by the Minister for Home Affairs, the Deputy Minister for Home Affairs and the Director-General of the Myanmar Police Force and tasks to be implemented. Police officers of district and township police forces also took part in discussions. Deputy Police Commander Police Lt-Col Win Myint discussed tasks for crime reduction and punitive actions.

Present on the occasion were Secretary of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Kyaw Tint and members, Yangon Division Judge U Aung Nwe, Division Law Officer U Han Nyunt, local authorities, and district and township police officers.

**National Workshop on Development of Enabling Policies for Trade and Investment in the IT Sector opened**

**YANGON, 7 Aug —** The National Workshop on Development of Enabling Policies for Trade and Investment in the IT Sector opened at the Traders Hotel on Sule Pagoda Road this morning, with an address by Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone. Present on the occasion were Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Ministers at the State Peace and Development Council Chairman’s Office Brig-Gen Aung Min Thun, responsible personnel of the UN Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific, ESCAP on “WTO Agreement, Trade and Investment Opportunities for Myanmar”, and “Human Resource Development for E-commerce” in Yangon last year. This is the third workshop of such kind and it is hoped that it will also bring the fruitful outcome. I would like to point out that scientific innovations of our time have provided us with communication and information technology and it has become very much advanced these days. The ICT continues to be a driver of growth and productivity and we should seize the benefit of ICT to build up knowledge economy.

Therefore, I want to urge the participants to learn and exchange your views with the resource persons and make good use of this opportunity for your benefit and also for the realization of the objective of the workshop. (See page 7)