General Khin Nyunt attends coord meeting of Myanmar Privatization Commission

YANGON, 13 Aug—The coordination meeting 2/2003 of Myanmar Privatization Commission was held at Zeyathiri Beikman Hall on Konmyinttha here at 5 pm today, attended by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council General Khin Nyunt.

Also present on the occasion were Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, ministers, the attorney-general, the auditor-general, deputy ministers, the vice-mayor, members of the commission, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads and officials.

Chairman of Myanmar Privatization Commission General Khin Nyunt made an opening speech. He said the State is giving encouragement to the development of private sector while the market-oriented economic system is being materialized. Head of State Senior General Than Shwe has given guidance to make arrangements for private entrepreneurs to hand over the factories and industries currently run by the ministries if they could make a profit.

The Secretary-1 continued to say that in line with the guidance of the Head of State, the commission has to carry out the tasks with a view to developing the private sector. Nowadays, some private entrepreneurs are seen successfully handling heavy industries. So, it is needed to hold coordination meeting to hand over the industries run by ministries to private entrepreneurs.

Afterwards, the minutes of the meeting 1/2003 of the commission was confirmed.

Project Scrutinizing and Progress Reporting Department Director-General U Tin Hlaing briefed on tasks being implemented with regard to the decisions of the meeting 1/2003 of the commission. Chairman General Khin Nyunt and commission members approved them.

Then, the ministers, deputy ministers and the departmental heads reported on the conditions of the ministry-controlled industries which are proposed to be privatized.

The meeting came to a close with concluding remarks by the chairman.

Government wants to see people to be prosperous

Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann meets departmental officials in Bago Division

YANGON, 13 Aug—Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann together with Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Huan, the deputy ministers, senior military officers and officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office arrived in Bago at 7.15 am on 10 August.

Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann and party were welcomed by Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Brig-Gen Ko Ko, Commander of No 77 LID Brig-Gen Than Htay and officials.

Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann and party, accompanied by the commander left Bago for Kanyutkwin in Pyu Township where they were welcomed by District and departmental officials. They visited Ngahtagyi Pagoda in Kanyutkwin.

Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann and party attended a ceremony to present offerings to members of the Sangha in Pyu and Kanyutkwin. Also present were members of the Sangha of monasteries in Pyu and Kanyutkwin, departmental officials, members of social organizations and local people.

First, the congregation received the Five Precepts from (See page 9)
Three crops a year, the way to increased income

It hardly need be emphasized that the agriculture sector is the main pillar of the national economy that can raise the living standard of the farmers and will enable the entire people to be able to live well above the subsistence level. This being so, the Government has embodied the development of agriculture in its national objectives and is essaying to implement it successfully. The construction of reservoirs, dams, sluice gates and river water pumping stations is a step taken in that direction.

Now, farmers in various states and divisions have completed the task of ploughing and started the cultivation of monsoon paddy. It is important for the farmers to try to meet the per-acre yield set by using quality strains, making systematic use of organic and inorganic fertilizers and applying appropriate cultivation methods.

Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, accompanied by division-level officials, visited Hlegu Township of Yangon North District and met with local farmers. The commander exhorted the farmers to try to complete each and every stage of monsoon paddy cultivation at the right time and to be able to grow summer paddy and other crops all the year round.

Up to now, out of the 1,168,000 acres in Yangon Division targeted to put under monsoon paddy, 1,137,129 acres have been cultivated. Efforts are being made to complete the cultivation on the remaining acres of farmland.

Only if the cultivation of monsoon paddy is completed at the right time, will the task of growing such cold-season crops as beans and pulses, oil crops and summer paddy be carried out in time. It is important for the farmers to be able to grow two or three crops a year in order that their income will increase and their living standard become higher.

Measures are also being taken to grow all kinds of crops within 30-mile radius from Yangon International Airport all the year round so that the environs of the capital city are always lush and green.

We would like to call upon all the farmers and all those responsible to work in concert to realize the development of agriculture, one of the four economic objectives, and try to be able to grow two or three crops a year to ensure self-sufficiency in food supplies.

Religious buildings refurbished at Thimayon Monastery

Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, accompanied by division-level officials, visited Hlegu Township of Yangon North District and met with local farmers. The commander exhorted the farmers to try to complete each and every stage of monsoon paddy cultivation at the right time and to be able to grow summer paddy and other crops all the year round.

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Opium refinery exposed in Kutkai Township

A combined team comprising members of a local military column and special anti-drug squad and local national races, acting on a tip-off that there was an opium refinery between Namhsaungkye and Nampyin Villages (Map Reference SO-5519) in Kutkai Township, Shan State (North) from 31 July to 1 August, raided the refinery.

Seizures made during the raid were six huts, 62,452 kilos of heroin, 36.4 kilos of raw opium, 661.5 litres of lye solution, 135 kilos of ether, 2,844 litres of chloroform, 202.5 litres of hydrochloric acid, 972 litres of acetic anhydride, 2,975 kilos of ammonium chloride, 500 kilos of sodium carbonate, 500 grams of potassium chloride, 3.6 kilos of sodium metal, four bags of charcoal, four arms, one vehicle, one motorcycle and 13 items used in refining the narcotic drugs.

In connection with the case, action is being taken under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
**Dead British scientist accused of overplaying risk to justify war on Iraq**

**LONDON, 13 Aug** — Top British arms expert David Kelly believed Iraq posed only a minimal military threat and accused the government of overplaying the risk to justify war, a BBC reporter told an inquiry into his suicide Tuesday.

Kelly slashed his wrist last month after being named as the source for a BBC reporter that a British government dossier on Iraq’s weapons was “sexed up” at the behest of Prime Minister Tony Blair’s communications chief, Alastair Campbell.

Andrew Gilligan, the BBC defence correspondent whose May 29 report plunged Blair’s government into crisis, told the judicial inquiry that Kelly told him most British intelligence experts were unhappy with the weapons dossier.

But he faced tough questions over discrepancies between his account of his interview with Kelly and the scientist’s own recollection. The inquiry also heard that an internal BBC memo spoke of Gilligan’s “flawed reporting.”

“(Saddam Hussein’s weapons) programme was small. He couldn’t have killed many very many people even if everything had gone right for him,” said Gilligan, reading notes from his talk with Kelly.

Another section of Gilligan’s notes had Kelly referring to “no usable weapons” in Iraq. Nearly five months after US and British forces invaded Iraq to topple Saddam no weapons of mass destruction have been found, prompting Blair’s public trust ratings to plunge.

A poll this week showed 41 percent blame the government for Kelly’s death and 68 percent believe it was dishonest.

**Iraq oil not seen flowing to Ceyhan until Thursday**

**ISTANBUL, 13 Aug** — Iraq is unlikely to start pumping oil to Turkey’s Ceyhan terminal before Thursday due to communication problems along the Iraq-Turkey pipeline, a senior Turkish energy ministry official told Dow Jones Newswires Tuesday.

“They can’t start pumping Wednesday due to the communication problems between Ceyhan and Kirkuk,” the official said. The earliest may be on Thursday.

The official said communication between Ceyhan and Kirkuk, two ends of the Iraq-Turkey oil pipeline, has been cut off due to the war damage, and a new satellite network is expected to become operational Thursday. — Internet

**Abducted girl rescued in eastern India**

**JAMSHEDPUR, 13 Aug** — Police Saturday rescued seven-year-old girl Shweta Kumari, abducted Friday in Bihar’s Patna City in eastern India, from a house in neighbouring Jharkhand State.

The girl, whose abduction had been allegedly masterminded by her step-mother, was rescued unharmed from a house in Gitilpi Village by a joint team of Bihar and neighbouring Jharkhand State.

“A group of eight criminals travelling in a van had taken shelter at a lodge in Chakradharpur Town of Jharkhand’s West Singhbhum District, the joint police team raided it and arrested the driver of the van Sunil Yadav, a resident of Patna.

Yadav’s inter rogation led them the house where the girl was kept hostage, police said.

Besides Yadav, three more were arrested by the joint team comprising the special task force of Bihar police constituted after the girl was abducted at gunpoint by criminals on motor-cycle from outside her house.

A Patna report said 12 people, including six relatives of Sweta, were arrested Saturday in connection with the kidnapping.

It was the second kidnapping in the Bihar capital within a fortnight after the abduction of Bhutan Parmar eight-year-old son of a bank officer and nephew of Sugarcane Minister Raghvendra Pratap Singh.

**Marine dies hours after return from Iraq**

**WAARE, 13 Aug** — After eight months in Kuwait and Iraq, Marine Master Gunner Sgt Dale Racicot just wanted to see his wife and two daughters.

Giddly with excitement, they headed for the airport Friday in Racicot’s cherished “Marine Corps green” pickup truck to start what his daughter, Keri Magnerelli, called “a reunion of a lifetime.”

Back home three hours later, Racicot collapsed onto his dining room floor.

“He looked at me and said, ‘I love you all,’ and that was the last thing he said.”

In Kuwait, Racicot headed a six-member intelligence team that analyzed statements from Iraqi prisoners of war. It was not immediately known if the stress of the job contributed to the heart attack. — Internet

**Chinese armed police hold anti-terrorism exercise**

**BEIJING, 13 Aug** — China’s armed police held an anti-terrorism exercise on the southern outskirts of Beijing Monday morning.

Monday’s drill was the first test of the armed police’s capability to handle emergencies and combat terrorism.

A total of 1,500 armed police officers and soldiers participated in the drill, which started at 8.30 am and lasted for two hours. State-of-the-art equipment — including armored anti-riot vehicles, hydralic-wall-breaking devices, treestop reconnaissance and attack aircraft, and the computerized battle simulation systems — was employed in the drill.

The special task force of the armed police was given an opportunity to demonstrate their skills in hand-to-hand combat, shooting, climbing, bomb detection and reconnaissance, but the key aims of the drill were to protect “a VIP target” from an attack by gunmen and to rescue a large group of hostages from terrorists.

It took just 20 minutes for the armed police to infiltrate into a “cinema under the terrorist control”, take out all “hostile targets” and save nearly 1,000 “hostages” without any casualties.

Since the September 11 terrorist attacks on the United States in 2001, the Chinese Government has increased its anti-terrorism capabilities, while the Chinese Army and armed police have taken high responsibility for protecting leading targets, fighting terrorism and coping with other major contingencies.

**Forest fires continue in Corsica**

**PARIS, 13 Aug** — Two forest fires continued Monday in the French Mediterranean island of Corsica, destroying 700 hectares of trees already.

The two fires, one in the Tolla Region and the other on the Plateau of Cuscione, started Saturday afternoon and kept progressing over the weekend. More than 100 fire-fighters were mobilized but the fires were hard to quench because of strong winds and poor visibility, French televisions reported. No one was killed or injured by this new rash of fire. Record high temperatures and summer-long drought have caused dozens of forest fires in France since the beginning of this summer. — MNA/Xinhua
Sanchez says troops in Iraq to serve a year

BAGHDAD, 13 Aug— All troops in Iraq should expect to serve for at least a year, with brief rest breaks in the region and possibly a few days at home, the commander of US forces said Tuesday. That came as news to some soldiers.

It’s a one-year rotation, Lt. Gen Ricardo Sanchez told The Associated Press in an interview. “Every soldier has been told that they’ll be deployed for a year, and then at the end of the year we’ll be working to send them home.”

But some of the 148,000 soldiers in Iraq said nobody told them how long they would remain in the country, where guerrillas attack Americans daily and high temperatures often top 120 degrees.

Pfc. Jeff Ross, 20, of Dallas, screwed up his face — red from the heat — when asked how long he would be in Iraq. “Don’t know. No idea,” he said.

Spc. Jeff Ross, perched atop a bridge overlooking Baghdad’s dangerous Airport

Australia Airlines to increase Bali flights

JAKARTA, 13 Aug — The Australian Airlines plans to add its flights to Bali of Indonesia to five times weekly from four times earlier, the economic daily Bisnis Indonesia reported Monday.

“We will add the fifth flight between Sydney and Bali through Melbourne,” Acting Australian Airlines CEO Andrea Staines was quoted as saying here.

She said since Australian Airlines started to serve the Bali in June tourists have welcomed its four times flights weekly and its tickets always been sold out long time before the flight.

The plan to add flight frequency was encouraged by the consumers’ demand, she said adding that the schedule change would be effective on 26 October, on the occasion of its first anniversary.

US soldier killed in Iraq bomb blast

BAGHDAD, 13 Aug—A US soldier was killed and two more were wounded in a bomb blast outside the flashpoint town of Ramadi, 110 kilometres (70 miles) west of the Iraqi capital, a military spokesperson said.

“This morning, a soldier was in a convoy that came across a chain of improvised explosive devices. There was an explosion. One soldier was killed and two wounded. One of them has been returned to duty,” said Specialist Nicole Thompson.

At least 58 US soldiers have now been killed in guerrilla-style attacks since the White House declared major combat operations in Iraq over on May 1. — Internet

Guerillas wound 3 GIs in northern Iraq

AIN LAIL, 13 Aug—Guerillas wounded three American soldiers in northern Iraq, and a US raid on a remote village near the Iranian border failed to capture a top fugitive suspected of plotting attacks on coalition forces.

The Vanguard Helidopgies, which transports Iraq’s ethnic and religious groups.

In al-Shaumayd, just north of Tikrit, guerilla-la rocket-propelled grenades and detonated at least one homemade bomb, wound- ing three American soldiers, US military spokesman LtCol Bill MacDonald said. All three were in stable condition, he said.

Meanwhile, the current president of the US-picked Governing Council said the in- tern government postponed the appointment of Cabinet ministers by three weeks.

Ibrahim al-Jaafari, who is serving as council president during August, said a 25-member committee has been formed to look into how to proceed with selecting a constitutional assembly. The members in- clude judges, academicians and lawyers

China’s industrial production up 16.5% in July

BEIJING, 13 Aug— China’s large and medium-sized enterprises scored a combined industrial added value of 341 billion Yuan (41 billion US dollars) in July, up 16.5 per cent over the same month of last year.

According to a monthly report released here Monday by the National Statistics Bureau, China’s industrial production con- tinued its growth momentum in July. The electronics, transportation equipment and steel industries contributed 6.4 percentage points to the growth.

The output of steel products reached 19.8 million tonnes, up 25.1 per cent year-on-year, and electricity output reached 169.9 billion kilowatt hour, up 15.2 per cent compared with the same month of last year.

Statistics also indicate that China’s heavy industry kept rapid growth while its light industry slowed down a bit in July.

In the first seven months of this year, China’s industrial added value amounted to about 2.17 trillion Yuan (2,630 billion US dollars), up 16.4 per cent year-on-year.

Kenya blamed for doctor shortage in hospitals

NAIROBI, 13 Aug — The Kenya Medical Association (KMA) has decried the current acute shortage of doctors in the country’s public hospitals, the East African Standard said here on Monday.

Out of the over 4,000 trained doctors in the country, KMA chairman James Nyikal said, currently only 1,000 are in government service, majority of who are based at the Kenyatta National Hospital in Nairobi.

The KMA chief said that all public hospitals in the country are grossly understaffed and the shortage is seriously affecting the quality of health services.

“I challenge the Ministry of Health to address the shortage urgently before the issue goes out of hand,” he said.

As the issue continues to bite, Nyikal said, the country is facing a reemergence of several diseases with a national prevalence rate of 13 per cent for AIDS, 25 per cent for tuberculosis, over 15 per cent for malaria and the immunization rate for communicable diseases has gone by over 40 per cent.
Egypt says council cannot be recognized

CAIRO, 13 Aug — The legitimacy of the United States backed Iraqi Governing Council (IGC) cannot be recognized, Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Maher said Monday.

"It is not possible to recognize the legitimacy of the current governing council of Iraq," Maher told reporters after a meeting attended by foreign ministers of Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Syria.

He said recognition of the council depended on many facts, including its legitimacy, powers, relationship with the US occupation authorities and the United Nations role.

But Maher pointed out: "We are ready to deal with its members as we deal with the rest of the Iraqi political forces".

The meeting of Arab foreign ministers last week in Cairo gave no support to the Governing Council. Maher claimed that he was only reiterating a position drawn up at the meeting.

The 25-member council, which was founded on July 13 in Baghdad, has been seen as a step toward ending the US occupation of the oil-rich Gulf country.

The council will have the power to appoint ministers, approve the national budget and select members of a committee to draft a new constitution. But top US State Department civilian administrator in Iraq, Paul Bremer, has a final say.

Berlin rules out military involvement in Iraq

BERLIN, 13 Aug — The German Government denied on Monday that it might send troops to Iraq in case there is a UN mandate.

Germany’s "clear and unequivocal" stance of not getting involved militarily in Iraq has not been changed, government spokesman Thomas Stroe said.

The comment came after a German newspaper cited Defence Minister Peter Struck as saying that his country would include sending troops to Iraq as part of a NATO mission if there is a UN mandate.

"If the relevant UN mandates are in place and if NATO is asked to take on more responsibility, then we would have no reason to oppose an engagement by NATO in Iraq," Struck said in an interview with the Frankfurter Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung newspaper.

Russia ready to discuss new UN resolution on Iraq

MOSCOW, 13 Aug — Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Yury Fedotov on Tuesday expressed his country’s readiness for constructive discussions on the UN Security Council’s new draft resolution on Iraq.

The UN Security Council’s “ongoing consultations on the possible contents of a future draft resolution are proceeding normally. Russia, for its part, is ready to make its contribution to these discussions,” Fedotov was quoted by Interfax as saying.

His comments came after the United Nations said that Washington was to present a new draft resolution on Iraq this week to the Security Council for vote.

“This future resolution will be solely aimed at outlining the UN’s role in Iraq. It will most likely be a technical document that will approve the recommendations voiced by UN Secretary General Kofi Annan some time ago calling for a wide-ranging UN mission in Iraq,” Fedotov noted.

Russia, one of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, strongly opposed the US-led war against Iraq. It has called for a greater UN role in postwar Iraq.

Thailand’s petroleum use up 4.9% in first six months of 2003

BANGKOK, 13 Aug — A clear indication of Thailand’s strengthening economy was given on Tuesday with the release of new figures by PTT Public Company Limited (PTT), the formerly state-owned petroleum organization, showing the country’s national petroleum use has risen by 4.9 per cent in the first half of the year.

Pongpayak Sathienpakarn, vice-president of the PTT’s Corporate Relations Department, said Monday that from January to June this year, demand for oil and natural gas stood at an average of 1,039 million barrels per day, up 4.9 per cent over the figures of the same period of 2002, according to a Thai News Agency report. During the first six months of the year, oil usage averaged 647,500 barrels per day, up 4.2 per cent, with diesel usage up 8.1 per cent, and benzene usage up 5.2 per cent, Pongpayak said.

Natural gas usage, meanwhile, averaged 391,500 barrels a day, up 6 per cent over that of the same period last year.

Pongpayak revealed that during this period, Thailand procured 1,405 million barrels of petroleum each day, up 7.2 per cent over 2002. Of this, 905,400 barrels came from abroad, up 5.9 per cent, while 500,300 were sourced domestically, a 9.7 per cent increase.

The Thai Government announced that it was drawing up national energy strategies, aimed at transforming Thailand from an oil importer to an oil exporter within the next two years.

Indonesia, France discuss joint military exercise

JAKARTA, 13 Aug — Indonesia and France mulled holding a joint military exercise to deepen cooperation between the two countries during a meeting between officers from both countries held here on Tuesday.

"Indonesia and France have established cooperation in education and defense, particularly their navies," Indonesian Defence Ministry spokesman Azis said as saying by the official Antara news agency.

He made the remarks after attending a meeting between the ministry’s secretariat general Vice Marshal Suprachadi and visiting commander of French Fleet on the Indian Ocean Vice Admiral Wilmot Roussel.

"Especially for the Navy cooperation, France proposed to hold a joint exercise to stabilize the long-established cooperation," Azis said.

Vietnam ready to discuss new UN resolution on Chua Hang site

HANOI, 13 Aug — Vietnam’s Mekong delta Dien Giang Province’s tourism industry will suspend the operation of tourist ships at the Chua Hang site after a ship capsized in the area on Sunday.

Son said on Monday.

Survivors said that while the ship was on its way to the Phu Tu island, it was capsized by a strong whirlwind, throwing all 30 people on board into the sea at noon.

The site of the sunken ship is just two kilometres away from the seashore, but the rough sea made rescue efforts difficult.

Russia, one of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, strongly opposed the US-led war against Iraq. It has called for a greater UN role in postwar Iraq.
US military families push to bring Iraq troops home

WASHINGTON, 13 Aug — A group of about 600 US military families, upset about the living conditions of soldiers in Iraq, are launching a campaign asking their relatives to urge members of Congress and President George W Bush to bring the troops home.

“We’re growing more and more disturbed about the conditions that are developing. Our concerns are both for our troops and the people in Iraq,” said Nancy Lessin, a founder of Families Speak Out, formed last fall to oppose the war in Iraq.

Susan Schuman, whose son Justin is in the Massachusetts National Guard deployed to South Iraq, said, “I share a small room in a former Iraqi police barracks with five other men. They are rationed to 2 litres of water a day and it’s 125 degrees (52 degrees Celsius), and you’re not allowed to change anything but MREs (Meals Ready to Eat),” she told Reuters, adding that uncertainty about when the troops would come home was “most disturbing.

Organizers hope to take advantage of Congress’ summer recess to voice their concerns to lawmakers in their home states. “The idea is not to confront but say ‘what is going on?’” said Dennis O’Neil, a member of Veterans for Peace, another group involved in the campaign. “This war was supposed to be quick.”

Lessin, whose stepson is a Marine who was in the Gulf until late May, told Reuters the group plans a campaign of protests and demonstrations starting on Wednesday and aims to raise public awareness of the number of soldiers killed and wounded in Iraq.

Another US soldier was killed and two were injured on Tuesday in a bomb attack west of Baghdad. The latest casualties brought the number of troops killed in gozella attacks since the beginning of May.

A spokesman for US Central Command said that as of Monday, 167 US soldiers had died and 1,006 soldiers were injured as a result of hostile action in Iraq. He told Reuters that 91 other soldiers had died from non-hostile actions and 277 others were wounded.

“I think we are very close to agreement. Some of the language is still under discussion, but everyone wants to have a result,” said one Council diplomat, predicting a vote would take place this week.

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan and US Secretary of State Colin Powell have both called for quick action on a resolution. The Council’s five permanent members — the United States, China, Russia, Britain and France — have been informally debating the precise wording of a draft text put forward by Washington last Friday. Their ambassadors met face-to-face behind closed doors on Tuesday for the first time, to try to work out their differences, and planned to meet again on Wednesday.

Once an agreement is reached among the five, the draft would be circulated to all 15 Council members, in preparation for a vote, diplomats said.

The council has the power to appoint interim diplomats abroad, adopt policies and approve budgets, but Iraq’s US administrator Paul Bremer can veto its decisions.

IMF says Indonesia’s economy to grow as targeted

JAKARTA, 13 Aug — Indonesia’s economy can still grow by 3.5-4 per cent this year in line with the initial projection, an executive of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has said.

“We still think that growth within the range of 3.5-4 per cent this year, which is the government target, is achievable. It is still early to say, but we still think it is achievable.” IMF Asia Pacific senior adviser Daniel Citrin was quoted Tuesday by the Jakarta Post as saying.

Citren is currently leading an IMF team to review the country’s latest economic programme, which could lead to another loan tranche disbursement of 480 million US dollars — one of the IMF’s last two disbursements before the existing five billion US dollars assistance programme ends this year.

Citren did not explain the reasons behind his upbeat appraisal, but he was the latest to have voiced support for Indonesia’s economic resilience, despite a series of internal and external shocks over the last few years.

The IMF’s optimistic remarks should provide further comfort for investors and market players in doing business here in the country, as its appraisal usually becomes the benchmark upon which other international economic institutions base their own assessments.

Citren also concurred with a projection by the central bank on inflation, that a full-year inflation of around 6 to 7 per cent was feasible, below the initial estimate of 8 to 9 per cent.

Indian External Affairs Minister to visit Sri Lanka

NEW DELHI, 13 Aug — Indian External Affairs Minister Yashwant Sinha will undertake a two-day visit to Sri Lanka from August 17 with the focus expected to be on giving a further thrust to bilateral economic ties.

Sinha will be in Colombo to attend the meeting of the Joint Commission and hold wide-ranging discussions with his Sri Lankan counterpart Tyrone Fernando on a host of bilateral issues besides important regional and international developments.

He is likely to be appraised of the developments in the Sri Lankan peace process. Addressing the Consultative Committee of Ministers of Parliament attached to his ministry Monday on India’s relations with South and its extended neighbourhood, Sinha described India’s relations with Sri Lanka as “excellent”.

On Indo-Pakistani relations, Sinha spoke about the follow-up to Prime Minister’s peace initiative, step-by-step movement and people-to-people exchanges — MNA/PTI

Iraqi Council authorizes six airlines to fly to Basra

BAGHDAD, 13 Aug — Iraq’s Governing Council has granted permission for six international airlines to fly passengers and cargo to and from Basra Airport which was reopened in a few weeks.

The Council said in a statement on Monday night it had asked Gulf Air, Royal Jordanian, Emirates, Qatar Airways, SAS and LOT Polish Airlines to prepare for a resumption of flights to Basra “at the end of this month or shortly afterwards”.

International flights to Basra have been suspended since the 1991 Gulf War.

The statement said the reopening of the airport would represent “a huge step towards normalization of ties between Iraq and the international community”. MNA/Reuters

Iraq Basra refinery restarts after power restored

BASRA, IRAQ, 13 Aug — The Basra refinery, the largest in southern Iraq, has started up again after a power cut forced it to shut down at the weekend, the director of the refinery’s engineering unit told Reuters on Tuesday.

“Yesterday after 2 p.m. (1000 GMT) the electricity returned. We began the start-up of the refinery process about an hour after that,” Jamal Samman told Reuters at the refinery, which has a capacity of about 140,000 barrels per day.

“But we are still only in the early stages of start-up.”

Basra and the surrounding districts of southern Iraq have been plagued by power cuts and fuel shortages which sparked violent protests over the weekend. The refinery has had to shut down several times in recent weeks, most recently on Sunday, due to lack of electricity.

Indonesia's tourism booming

Three Iraqi men ride a horse drawn cart under black smoke from a burning crude oil pipeline, on 12 August, 2003, in Al-Taji, 20kms north of Baghdad, Iraq. Flames shot 60 metres (200 feet) in the air from a burst oil pipeline in a chemical production region north of Baghdad on 12 August, 2003, and American forces at the scene fired warning shots to keep journalists from approaching. — Indonesian

Ethiopia, South Korea boost cultural cooperation

Addis Ababa, 13 Aug — Ethiopia and the South Korea signed an agreement here on Tuesday providing for a three-year implementation modality of a cultural accord between the two countries.

The agreement is believed to enable the implementation of detailed activities of cooperation in the educational, cultural, art, tourism and mass media areas.

Ethiopian Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture Tesho Toga and South Korea Ambassador to Ethiopia Kim Sang Yoon signed the agreement.

According to the agreement, Ethiopian professionals would receive training in the South Korea in the fields of water technology and agriculture while students from the South Korea would be trained in the fields of language and culture in Ethiopia. — MNA/Xinhua

UN envoys near accord on Iraqi council resolution

UNITED NATIONS, 13 Aug — The five major powers on the UN Security Council near agreement on Tuesday on a US-drafted resolution to welcome Baghdad’s new Governing Council and formally authorize the United Nations assistance mission in Iraq, diplomats said.

“I think we are very close to agreement. Some of the language is still under discussion, but everyone wants to have a result,” said one Council diplomat, predicting a vote would take place this week.

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan and US Secretary of State Colin Powell have both called for quick action on a resolution. The Council’s five permanent members — the United States, China, Russia, Britain and France — have been informally debating the precise wording of a draft text put forward by Washington last Friday. Their ambassadors met face-to-face behind closed doors on Tuesday for the first time, to try to work out their differences, and planned to meet again on Wednesday.

Once an agreement is reached among the five, the draft would be circulated to all 15 Council members, in preparation for a vote, diplomats said.

The council has the power to appoint interim diplomats abroad, adopt policies and approve budgets, but Iraq’s US administrator Paul Bremer can veto its decisions.

View of morning light on the Jin Shan section of the Great Wall on the outskirts of Beijing on 12 August, 2003. China’s first regulation to protect the Great Wall came into effect on 1 August, banning tourists from exploring undeveloped sections of it. The ancient wall, which was first built in the Qin dynasty (221-206 BC) and rebuilt in the Ming dynasty (1368-1644), has come under threat from the large number of tourists and hikers who visit it each year. — Internet
**Industrial development-26**

**High-class firebricks for industrial use**

Aung (Setthu)

Nowadays in industrial field, different kinds of kilns used in such factories as cement factories, smelting factories, paper mills, glass factories, enarmal and ceremil ware factories, glass making factories and brick factories are built of firebricks. These firebricks are the ones for industrial use that are not the same as the ordinary ones and they can endure heat, chemicals and fire.

In Myanmar, Myanmar Ceramics Industries Co built the firebrick factory in Sawbwaingyin in 1954. The factory became a state-owned one in 1968, and in 1995-96, it was moved to Danyingon. At that time, the factory produced the bricks that could bear 1200 °C. So, they were used at the boilers of rice mills and saw mills, smelting factories and brick factories. The bricks that could bear high temperature were imported for large factories. With a view to saving foreign exchange, the high-class firebricks factory project was implemented in 1997-98 to produce 900 tons of basic bricks and alumina bricks per year.

The original high-class firebrick factory was opened at Danyingon in 1997-98 to produce 900 tons of high-class firebricks per year. The bricks are shaped in Dry Press machine and heated in Shuttle kiln.

Myanma Ceramics Industries implemented the project to extend the factory in 2001. The extended factory was opened on 15-9-2002. Machinery for the extended factory were also imported from Daimaru Co Ltd of Japan. The project spent K 286.485 million including foreign currency equivalent to K 15.18 million. The factory produces 900 tons of high-class firebricks per year.

The Kyaukse high-class firebrick factory lies on Kyaukse-Kyaukseikpin Village road about six miles to the east of Kyaukse Township in Mandalay Division. On completion, it will mainly produce basic bricks and high alumina bricks (natural bricks).

The Kyaukse high-class firebrick factory project was implemented in 2001. The extended factory was opened on 15-9-2002. Machinery for the extended factory were also imported from Daimaru Co Ltd of Japan. The project spent K 286.485 million including foreign currency equivalent to K 15.18 million. The factory produces 900 tons of high-class firebricks per year. The bricks are shaped in Dry Press machine and heated in Shuttle kiln.

**Land of plenty and high hopes**

As the Yoma mountain range running from north to south posed as a natural barrier dividing Rakhine State from the rest of the nation in the past, the sea route was the only means of transport for the people of the region to visit other places of the Union on business or other purposes. Another factor driving the state to depend deeply on the coastal sea lane and the inland waterways for transport within the region was the many natural watercourses flowing from north to south and east to west in Rakhine State. Although they are serving as inland waterways till now, the absence of bridges on them in the past had made road transport almost impossible in the state.

But now, the whole picture of the Rakhine State has totally changed from that of the past. New waterways are emerging in the state, stretching miles and miles to all directions, serving as the regional transport network and also linking it with the rest of the nation. Numerous bridges, including the Kissapanadi, a gigantic structure spanning the Kissapanadi River, have also been built to help ensure a smooth and secure transport in the region in particular and in the whole Union in general. Cars are now carrying passengers and goods on the Union Highway linking Yangon, the capital of the nation, and Sittway, the regional capital. And another Union Highway reaching Thandwe in Rakhine State from the national capital is under construction. Many of its sectors have been completed, and cars are running on them. Thus, the sector of road transport has taken the role of the waterways of the state at present.

One of the advantages of the state is the favourable natural conditions it has had to raise sea prawn breeding, which has bright prospects to become the nation’s main foreign change earning business. A number of local enterprises have set up sea prawn farms with the ardent assistance of the State, and plans are under way to extend the business in all appropriate places.

As Rakhine State is facing the Bay of Bengal in the west, it receives a lot of rain annually, thereby making the land luxuriant with evergreen forests, where various species of hardwood trees, shrubs and plants can be found. Thus, the land has high potentials to capture the hearts of nature-loving tourists. So far, the international tourists have already been captivated by the two beautiful beaches, the Ngapali Beach in Thandwe Township, the Kanthaya in Gwa Township. And because of its rich natural resources and high potentials and the hard work of the local people and the assistance the State is providing with goodwill, Rakhine State has become the land of plenty and high hopes.
The taste of peace

Tin Than Oo

It was a scene I would never forget.

It was about 25 years ago. A cloud of thick black smoke was rising in waves above a mountain, the beauty of which was breathtaking. The temperature was bone-chilling as it was in winter. Even though we tried to keep ourselves warm by the fire, our backs were usually covered with a thin layer of ice. The mist had disappeared only at about 10 in the morning: and only at that moment, the enchanting beauty of the place came into view.

The Emsooboum rose high up into the sky, and clear and blue like the colour of a massive stone of sapphire, with its crest capped with snow and mist in a cone shape. Flanked by Chinnyn range with snow-covered peaks in the north and the high Maykaw range in the south, the view of the Emsooboum looked so marvellous.

Unfortunately, the magnificent beauty of nature which looked like the masterpiece of an artist, was tarnished by those who were not able to solve the political conflicts resulting from the 16 mile stretch of the area. The beauty of nature was tarnished by those elements.

No one would have felt the bitterness of the battles I had experienced since the mid-1970s. And it would not be easy for a person who had not witnessed the sufferings of the ethnic races to have full consideration for them. Even if he has a sympathetic mind, profound sense of the consideration would not be the same.

At that time, we did not dream of a bridge like Bala Min Htn Bridge linking Myitkyina and Waingmaw to emerge. The boats ferrying passengers and cargo between Waingmaw jetty and Khaicho jetty were in no position to comply according to the timetable. Every day, Myitkyina became silent and idle when the time passed six in the evening. Electricity supply was not regular even between six and nine in the evening. It was difficult for the passenger aircraft to run regular flights to the area. The trains from Mandalay arrived in Myitkyina only after travelling for about three days.

After completion of my officer’s course at the Defence Services Academy, I was assigned to Myitkyina. Our group while leaving Mandalay for Myitkyina by train came face to face with the evil consequences of the interna- tional strife even on our journey. The Mayan Railway Sta- tion on our way to Myitkyina was on fire. We then faced endless battles, the pitiful state of the local populace and the distasteful experiences, with no future prospects in sight.

We had to wait for about 12 days to make a trunk call from Myitkyina. But it was not sure whether we could manage it or not. And even if we could manage, we would have to shout for the person at the other end of the line to hear. Telegraphic messages took about one month to reach the destination. For mails, it was three months, and without shoes for about six months.

At that time, the news reports about the battles were not released even once a year. So, there were many unknown heroes who sacrificed their lives. Supreme sacri- fices for the national cause. What we desired was peace, and nothing, but peace.

When efforts failed to bring peace to the region there were many who shed tears. The brethren sadly waved to each other saying, “Good-bye! Lets meet again.”

Earnest efforts were made to achieve peace.

Uncountable drops of blood were sacrificed to set up a new life, and the sweat that was sacrificed by the Tatmadawmen and the people could form another water course that might rival the Mayka.

“How joyful will it be if peace is achieved!” and “How can we achieve peace?” I often thought about it.

I tried to find the answer to the questions for many times. The persons who desired peace most were the armed personnel of both sides and the victims of the civil strife. I was thinking of shooting a film at the confluence, Waingmaw, Waaung and even in Panwa. Myitkyina was totally different from the past, and so significant that it was like the difference between the two opposite colours, black and white.

Only the persons who have been choked with exhaustion know well the taste of a drop of water.

The ones who have never perspired will not know the value of a cup of water.

The only persons who have experienced the war will know the taste of peace.

We value peace. We love the taste of peace. We can- not let peace to be destroyed or interfered. We cannot let the recurrence of the sufferings of the victims, who are the local people. And we cannot let peace, which has been secured with great difficulty, lose again.

The ones who have been tortured with thick pine forest. Once, the battles in the area ignited a raging fire that burnt down the forest up to about 16 miles stretch of the area. This particular scene was stuck to my mind forever.

Yes, it was no other thing than that view. The mass of black smoke coming out wave after wave from the burn- ing pine forest almost covered the whole of the snow- capped Emsooboum. At night, the raging fire made it very ugly.

The battles seemed endless then. And the armed con- flicts were not waged between only two sides. Sometimes, the fire fights were among the three different par- ties. Countless number of people died in the battles. The dead and wounded on both sides in 1978 was countable by the thousand. Hundreds of local people were also killed in the crossfire in the battle.

Let alone the waging of the battles, even the daily life for everybody was hard. A Tatmadawman, a villager of a BCP insurgents, everyone faced very difficult situation. Large stretches of forests were razed by the fires. Let alone man, even the domestic animals killed by the land mines were in a great number. One would believe the incidents only if he had witnessed the situation then.

I had seen many such scenes in front of me. The batt- les that took place in the area had caused many soldiers and civilians amputated or blind. Once, I was without meals for 17 days. During the battles I was hit 11 times at the uniform or the belt or the hamlet or the gun. But luckily, only the single bullet had scratched my skin. When I woke my leg, it got traced through traditional means.

In the past, it was no easy matter to travel to the confluence that was only 28 miles from Myitkyina. I had a camera. So, I tried a number of times to get there to take pictures, but in vain, because the situation then at the place was dangerous.

At last, the camera was lost in the water together with my knapsack while I was crossing the Ngawchankha, a tributary of the Mayka. I had to live with a single uni- form for about three months, and without shoes for about six months.

And at that time, the news reports about the battles were not released even once a year. So, there were many unknown heroes who sacrificed their lives. Supreme sacri- fices for the national cause. What we desired was peace, and nothing, but peace.

When efforts failed to bring peace to the region there were many who shed tears. The brethren sadly waved to each other saying, “Good-bye! Lets meet again.”

Earnest efforts were made to achieve peace.

Uncountable drops of blood were sacrificed to set up a new life, and the sweat that was sacrificed by the Tatmadawmen and the people could form another water course that might rival the Mayka.

“How joyful will it be if peace is achieved!” and “How can we achieve peace?”, I often thought about it.

I tried to find the answer to the questions for many times. The persons who desired peace most were the armed personnel of both sides and the victims of the civil strife. Who were the local people. But as for the onlookers, they could continue to smile as long as they had not suffered.

We were very happy when peace was achieved.

I was thinking of shooting a film at the confluence, Waingmaw, Waaung and even in Panwa. Myitkyina was totally different from the past, and so significant that it was like the difference between the two opposite colours, black and white.

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Government wants to see…

Ywalekyuang Sayadaw in Kanyukwin Bhadanta Silasar (Dhammaçaçarya). Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann presented offertories to the Sayadaw. The commander, the ministers, the deputy ministers and senior military officers presented offertories to the members of the Sangha.

The Sayadaw delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits gained. Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann paid homage to elderly people and presented gifts to them.

Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann met departmental officials, members of social organizations and town elders at the Thiri Townselders’ Hall in Kanyukwin. The Sayadaw expressed the government’s implementation of national and regional development projects.

In his address, Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann said that the government is making arrangements for full utilization of resources in cooperation with the people and the Tatmadaw in building a peaceful, modern and developed nation. It is also endeavouring for development of political, economic, transport and communications, education and health sectors simultaneously, he said.

Based on internal strength, the government is building development tasks overcoming the obstacles without relying on any external assistance, he added.

Only when there is peace, stability and prevalence of law and order can development tasks be fully undertaken. That was when emphasis was placed on ensuring peace and stability in the Union.

Fruitful results have been achieved today due to unity and cooperation of the State, government, the armed forces personnel and the people, he said. Some big nations in collaboration with some organizations have set the interest of the people are planning to plunge the country and the people into trouble, he pointed out.

Based on success achieved, continued efforts are to be made for perpetuation of sovereignty, national solidarity and raising the living standard of the people, he said.

The ministers and the deputy ministers presented cash assistance and sports equipment for social organizations in Kanyukwin to officials.

After the meeting, Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann cordially met party and party inspected Lokayuktiyin, Library. Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan explained the government’s implementation of national and regional development projects. Then Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann signed in the visitors’ book.

Next, Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann and party went to Kanyukwin Basic Education High School where they were welcomed by Headmaster U Myint Soe and teachers. Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann and party inspected teaching, classrooms and laboratory.

Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann met the headmaster and teachers. Deputy Minister for Education Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung explained teaching of subjects prescribed.

Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann urged the teachers to nurture the students to become the ones with moral, discipline and knowledge and signed in the visitors’ book.

Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann and party went to Kanyukwin station hospital and comforted the patients.

Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo presented offertories to the monks and presented gifts to the Sayadaw through the Sayadaw.

Thura Shwe Mann offered provisions to Sayadaw U Khemacara at the Thureindayama Dhamma Hall, Kankalay Tawya monastery, Ottwin.

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Thursday, 14 August, 2003

Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann offers provisions to Sayadaw U Khemacara at the Thureindayama Dhamma Hall, Kankalay Tawya monastery, Ottwin. — MNA

At 6.15 pm, Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann and party met with local authorities, departmental officials and employees, social organizations and town elders at the Thiri Yadana Hall of Ottwin Township Peace and Development Council.

At the meeting, Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann cordially conversed with local authorities, officials of social organizations and departmental officials, explaining the government’s measures to make for prevalence of peace and stability and the enforcement of law and order, and the need to work hard in the interests of the region and the State.

Later, the commander, ministers and deputy ministers presented cash assistance to officials concerned for social organizations in Ottwin Township.

Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann and party then cordially greeted those present on the occasion.

Afterwards, they left Ottwin for Toungoo by car.

At 7.45 am on 11 August, Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann and party left for Toungoo Station by car. They inspected letting officers and rangers of Toungoo Station and their families at the Ayechanpyye Hall of Southern Command in Toungoo.

At the meeting hall of Southern Command at 8.30
Government wants to see…

The government wants to see…

from page 9

the more without losing any sight. With the concerted efforts of the people and employees, the government will strive for the achievement of a peaceful, modern, and developed nation.

Until the present, the government has been working to accomplish its objectives.

Narcotics drugs seized in Phakant, Muse, Taunggyi, and Magway

Yangon, 13 August — A combined team comprising members of local intelligence and Myanmar Police Force and special anti-drug squad, acting on information, searched Kyaw Zin Tun, son of U Chit Tun, of No 225, Nawangon Ward, Monyin, at Haungtaw Village Ferry in Phakant Township, on 19 July and seized 206 stimulant tablets.

Similarly, a combined team, acting on a tip-off, stopped and searched a motorcycle being ridden by Yan Ar Tet, son of U Yan, of Namegangadaung Village in Muse Township, and Ma Ar Chin, daughter of U Aik Te near Namsangodaung Village in Muse Township in Shan State (North) on 3 August and seized 10 kilos of heroin weighing 3.5 kilos.

On 7 August, a combined team searched the house No 758, on Shwe Thaunggyar Road, Yadanath Ward, in Taunggyi and arrested Khun Tun Kyaw together with 5,225 stimulant tablets.

In connection with the cases, action is being taken against them under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

Second Bi-regional partners ...

In addition, with increasing inputs from UN and other partners in the recent months, some activities have been set to reduce HIV/AIDS related harm among users of drug users in Myanmar. The National Strategic Plan (2001-2004) of NAP and the Joint Plan of Action (2003-2006) developed by UN and all other partners.

As a member of AASEAN, Myanmar has also endorsed the ASEAN Workplan on HIV/AIDS II (2002-2005), in which HIV prevention, treatment and care among drug users is a major component as well. Myanmar is trying to create an enabling environment in Myanmar and to reduce drug users will be accessible to information, care and support any ways. In these areas, local authorities, community members, health and related sectors and the national NGOs work to achieve the objectives of our programmes.

Next, the WHO resident representative made an address. After the opening ceremony, those present viewed books and photos of activities on preventive measures and medical treatments on narcotic drugs and AIDS carried out by the Ministry of Health and social organizations. Afterwards, the meeting was held. Indonesian delegate Elsbro Waisso and Myanmar representative Col Sit Aye presided over the meeting. The delegations presented undertaken by the respective national and international organisations. That was followed by a general round of discussion.

The meeting continues tomorrow.

Government wants to see…

The government wants to see…

from page 9

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Implementation of projects for socio-economic development of all regions in the country

The nation’s geographical conditions, favourable climate, richness in land and water resources are the advantages for the economic development. To put these resources to use, necessary infrastructures are required. Hence, the Head of State has given guidance to build and renovate roads, railroads, airports, ports, etc extensively. In the past, transport networks to link upper and lower Myanmar were lying from south to north on the eastern part of Ayeyawady River. Now, thanks to the appropriate strategy, roads and railroads are constructed extensively to link the eastern part of the country with the western part as well as the southern part with the northern part. The Shwel River Bridge linking Katha Township of Sagaing Division and Mabein Township of Shan State was opened on 9 March 2003. The bridge is the strategic one on Mandalay-Tagaung-Shwege-Bhamo-Myitkyina Union Highway. — PHOTO: MNA

The government is building economic and social infrastructures as many as possible for the development of all the regions of the Union and creation of economic and social opportunities in the respective regions harmoniously. Being an agro-based country, agricultural development contributes to progress of economic life of the State and enhances socio-economic life of rural people, the majority of the population of the country. That is why the government is building dams and reservoirs, the basic requirement of agriculture. Kawliya Dam, 130 feet high and 900 feet long, which was opened on 22 March 2003 in DaikU Township, Bago Division, can irrigate 24,500 acres of farmland. — PHOTO: MNA

At a time when the Government is implementing human resource development programmes in basic education sector as well as in higher education sector with greater momentum with the objective of promoting national education, a magnificent lecture hall emerged on 31 December 2002. Photo shows four-storey new lecture hall of Yangon Institute of Economics. PHOTO: MNA
Union. fires was a priority for the ter said agreeing to a proto-
paper Monday in Italian daily news-ment of a European task force
will push for the establish-
Agriculture Minister Gianni
12
THE  NEW  LIGHT  OF  MYANMAR   Thursday, 14 August, 2003
 processing equipment”
culcating machines and data-
apparatus; cash registers, cal-
mechanisms for coin-operated
recording discs; automatic
ages; magnetic data carriers,
cording, transmission or re-
pervision); life-saving and
of “Scientific, nau-
Reg. No. 1077/1987
in respect of “Scientific, nau-
tical, surveying, electric, pho-
tographic, cinematographic,
optical, weighing, measur-
ning, signalling, checking (su-
pervision); life-saving and
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struments; apparatus for re-
cording, transmission or re-
production of sound or im-
age; magnetic data carriers,
recording discs; automatic
downing machines and
machinists for coin-operated
apparatus; cash registers, cal-
culating machines and data
processing equipment”
fraudulent imitation or unau-
the said
Trademark will be dealt with
account to law.
Win Min Tin,
M.A. G.P., D.B.L.
for YOKOGAWA
ELECTRIC
CORPORATION
P.O. Box 60, Yangon;
Dated: 14 August 2003
Italian minister
to push for European anti-fire
task force
Rome, 13 Aug — Italian Agriculture Minister Gianni
Alemanno said Monday he will push for the establish-
ment of a European task force to fight fires.
In an interview published Monday in Italian daily news-
paper La Stampa, the min-
er said agreeing to a proto-
about mutual help with fires was a priority for the
Italian six-month rotating presidency of the
European Union.

World specialists to debate protected
areas on earth
JOHANNESBURG, 13 Aug—
“Protected areas are essential
for safeguarding our future”, said
former South African
President Nelson Mandela and
Her Majesty Queen Noor-
Patrons of the 5th IUCN
World Parks Congress, who
will open the major forum in
the South African coastality
of Durban on 8 September.
The theme of the 5th IUCN
World Parks Con-
gress—“Benefits Beyond
Boundaries”—reinforces
the meeting’s focus on address-
ing people’s needs and pro-
viding a stream of economic,
political, and environmental
benefits to societies world-
wide.
Without an effective net-
work of protected areas all
these benefits—clean air and
water, fertile soils, inspir-
ing landscapes and unique wild-
life—will be lost, according
to the congress organizer.
In one month, 2,500 pro-
tected area specialists and rep-
resentatives from govern-
ments, local and indigenous
communities, and the private
sector will assemble in Dur-
ban.
The fate of parks will be
decided upon as these people
will wrap up their dreams and
hopes and aspirations, but also
the deciding power of their
backing organizations.
The Durban congress will be
a milestone for catalyzing a
renewed commitment to
protected areas and spurring
global action.
The congress will develop
the Durban Accord and Ac-
tion Plan which will address
key challenges to the pro-
tected area system and guide
its development in the next
decade.
The congress will present the
best — both latest and tradi-
tional — knowledge on
protected areas and biodiver-
sity conservation, including
the 2003 United Nations List of
Protected Areas, jointly produced
by UNEP World Conservation
Union and the IUCN World Com-
mission on Protected Areas.

South Africa gets preferential
market access to Russia
JOHANNESBURG, 13 Aug—South Africa started to have preferential market access to
the Russian Federation from Monday, the government announced in its coastal city
of Cape Town.
Trade and Industry De-
partment Deputy Director
General Tshediso Matona
said that trade between South
Africa and the Russian Fed-
eration is expected to increase
significantly with the imple-
mentation of a preferential
trade agreement.
"I am very pleased to an-
nounce that all the procedural
requirements have now been
fulfilled for the Russian Fed-
eration Generalized System of
Preferences (GSP) to enter into
force with immediate effect," he
did in a statement.
The improved market ac-
cess was expected to boost
exports to the Russian Fed-
eration at its development in the next
decade.
Russia unilaterally de-
cided to put South Africa’s
market access into the
Russian market on a par with
that of other developing countries.
The “South Africa-Russia Trade and
Economic agreement is therefore very ap-
preciable of the decisions of the
Russian Government," Matona said.
The point is that eligible products
will in future be exported to the Russian Federation at lower rates of import duties.
This will certainly have a positive bearing on the abil-
ity of our exporters to com-
pete in the Russian market," Matona said.

Global airline body predicts
brighter skies for air traffic
OTTAWA, 13 Aug — Global airline passenger traffic
will stabilize this year before rebounding 4.4 per cent
next year and 6.3 per cent in 2005, the Montreal-based
International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) said
in a Press release Monday.
The ICAO cited a gradual resolution of passenger con-
fidence, improved security, an improving global economy
and a stable operating envi-
ronment as the forces behind
its forecast.
“Traffic development of both North American and Eu-
eropean carriers is stabilizing,
with an expected zero growth
in 2003 before recovery gets
fully underway in 2004 and
2005,” ICAO said.
ICAO figures show that
the average annual increase
in passenger miles performed
(PMP) was 4.7 per cent
between 1991 and 2001. Pas-
seger traffic fell 2.9 per cent
in 2001. A slowing world
economy, the terrorist attacks
on 11 September, 2001, the
war in Iraq and severe acute
respiratory syndrome (SARS)
all contributed to an airline
industry’s decline over the
past two years, said the or-
ganization, which represents
some 188 member states and
districts. Dozens of operators
have been grounded by credi-
tor protection and consolida-
tion during commercial ava-
tion’s darkest period.
Traffic was expected to
remain at 1.76 billion PMP
for the second year running
in 2003 before rising to
1.87 billion PMP next year
and 1.98 billion PMP in 2005.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV SEA BRIGHT VOY NO (539)
Consignee of cargo carried on MV SEA BRIGHT
Voy No (539) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving
on 14-8-05 and cargo will be discharged into the premises
of AWPT 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.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANNA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES
(PTE) LTD.
Phone: 256908/378316/376797

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
US study says herbal remedy fails cholesterol test

**Chicago, 13 Aug** — An herbal remedy derived from the mucuna pruriens tree and used in India to relieve heart symptoms actually raised cholesterol levels instead of lowering them as advertised, researchers said on Tuesday.

After eight weeks of taking the remedy, guggul adults who took the strongest dosage of 6,000 milligrams per day saw their low-density lipoprotein cholesterol level — so-called bad cholesterol that can clog arteries — increase by as much as 5 percent.

Cholesterol levels declined in nearly one out of five taking the supplement.

Besides producing the opposite impact on cholesterol levels as desired, a small number of participants developed a rash, University of Pennsylvania researcher Philippe Szapary wrote in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

Sabinsa Corp, the New Jersey-based company that makes Gugulipid, the supplement used in the study and advertised as a cholesterol fighter, challenged the results as incomplete. In a statement, the company said the study did not examine the impact on other indicators such as triglycerides, another harmful substance, and C-reactive proteins, a measure of damaging inflammation. “We all know measuring cholesterol is not sufficient to determine whether you’re a candidate for heart problems,” said Steven Denton of the American Herbal Products Association, a trade group. “If you are going to be medicating with a drug or a diet, you should check your cholesterol.” — MNA/Reuters

China supports efforts to safeguard peace in South Asia

**Beijing, 13 Aug** — Chinese President Hu Jintao said here Tuesday that China hopes South Asia will maintain peace and stability and supports all efforts to ease tensions and safeguard peace.

He said in a meeting with Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe that China sincerely wishes all countries in the region would deal with each other peacefully and treat each other equally, while seeking common development.

As a close neighbour of South Asia, China was ready to work with all countries, including Sri Lanka, to promote peace, stability and development in the region, he said.

Hu particularly welcomed the development of peace process in Sri Lanka and expressed appreciation and support for attempts by the Sri Lanka Government to promote the process. “China hopes the process will continue,” Hu said.

Wickremesinghe thanked China for its support in safeguarding Sri Lanka’s sovereignty and territorial integrity, as well as the political and economic assistance given by China during its difficult period.

Hu said China-Sri Lanka relations had withstood changes in the international arena thanks to the efforts made by leaders of the two countries and such a relationship would be enriched for generations to come.

The two countries had supported each other’s domestic construction and coordinated closely in international affairs, he said.

He appreciated the firm support given by the Sri Lankan Government on Taiwan and other issues. Wickremesinghe said the friendly cooperation with China was the policy of all Sri Lankan governments.

Sri Lanka acknowledged the government of the People’s Republic of China as the sole legitimate government representing the whole of China, and would maintain its stance, he said. — MNA/Xinhua

Canada earmarks C$1b in climate change funds

**Ottawa, 13 Aug** — Canada earmarked one billion Canadian dollars (725 million US dollars) in incentives for homeowners, businesses and governments on Tuesday as part of its Kyoto Protocol commitment to curb emissions of greenhouse gases.

The announcement accounts for half the two billion Canadian dollars Ottawa pledged in February’s budget for a five-year spending initiative to reduce emissions blamed for global warming, after Parliament ratified the international agreement in December.

Ottawa has committed Canada to cutting emissions of greenhouse gases to 6 per cent below 1990 levels by 2012.

In 2001, they were 18.5 per cent above 1990 levels.

Among the spending initiatives are:

* 131.4 million US dollars to entice homeowners to make energy efficient upgrades by offering an average 1,000 Canadian dollars rebate per home, as well as programmes to promote environmentally friendly modes of transport.
* 902.9 million US dollars to encourage business to cut emissions using technologies in the buildings and transportation sectors, as well as work with the financial sector to invest in tree plantations. This includes 100 million Canadian dollars to help build ethanol factories over the next three years, with the aim of having 35 per cent of the gasoline supply contain 10 per cent ethanol by 2010.
* 250 million US dollars for a programme that aims to develop new technologies to help to reduce emissions over the longer-term.

“Action on climate change means cleaner air, a healthier environment and a more innovative and efficient economy for Canada,” Environment Minister David Anderson said at the announcement at the University of Ottawa’s engineering school. — MNA/Reuters

Western Canadians forced to flee fire a second time

**Calgary (Alberta), 13 Aug** — More than 1,000 people in western Canada were forced to evacuate their homes for a second time on Tuesday, just days after returning to them, as one of the biggest of the wildfires in the region expanded.

Officials said that the 79-square-mile Lost Creek fire flared up again on Monday and advanced to within 1.5 miles of the town of Blairmore, Alberta, which is home to about 2,000 people.

This prompted an evacuation order for 1,100 people in Blairmore to be reissued, said John Irwin, mayor of Crownest Municipal, in southwestern Alberta.

Strong winds were whipping the blaze, which has been devastating the heavily treed Crownest Pass region in the Rocky Mountains for more than two weeks.

More than 800 firefighters are trying to hold back the flames and have so far been successful in preventing any loss of life or damage to buildings. — MNA/Reuters

Deutsche Bank sues insurance to tear down damaged building

**New York, 13 Aug** — Deutsche Bank filed a lawsuit Monday in a bid to force two insurance companies to pay for demolition of its badly damaged office tower near ground zero.

The insurance companies, Allianz of Germany and AXA of France, have argued that the 41-storey building was not so badly damaged in the September 11 terror attacks on the nearby World Trade Center and the building could be repaired.

The 29-year-old building suffered a 15-storey gash in its facade when the twin towers collapsed. The bank building, exposed to the elements, became infected with mold.

The bank said in a lawsuit filed in State Supreme Court in Manhattan that tornado force winds from the fallen 110-storey towers distributed asbestos and other contaminants through the building, making it impossible to safely repair it.

Deutsche Bank asked the court to declare that the building cannot be repaired and to order Allianz and AXA to cover their portion of the costs associated with its replacement. However, Sabia Schwarzer, an Allianz spokeswoman, said the insurance company believes no proof has been offered to show the building cannot be repaired.

All of the surrounding buildings have been repaired and are populated again,” she said. Last week Deutsche Bank threatened to go to court Monday if the two insurers do not agree by Sunday to let the building be torn down.

The bank said it had spent 33 million dollars over 10 months studying structural and contamination issues and taken tens of thousands of samples from the building before deciding the building had become too contaminated to reoccupy. — MNA/Xinhua

Workers start to erect a giant soccer ball in front of the Brandenburg gate in Berlin on 12 August, 2003. The ball, that will be finished in September 2003, will be moved to some German cities to promote the World Soccer Championships in Germany in 2006. — INTERNET
**Juventus profit falls as Zidane bonus slips away**

**LONDON, 13 Aug** — Italian champions Juventus saw profits fall by almost two-thirds in their last financial year as the impact of Zinedine Zidane’s worldwide record 66-million-US dollars transfer to Real Madrid slipped out of the accounts.

The club said in a statement on Tuesday that it booked earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA) of 16.3 million euros in the year to June 30 from a core loss of 12.8 million euros the year before.

Juventus, Italy’s most successful team after winning 27 domestic league titles, said revenues rose 22.9 per cent to 215.4 million euros, thanks to higher sponsorship fees, television rights and Champions League winnings.

The Serie A club lost an all-Italian Champions League final 3-2 on penalties to AC Milan earlier this year after being eliminated following the second group stage the previous season.

Juventus said it was not using a new government decree that allows clubs to spread the cost of expensive signings over 10 years instead of three, the so-called ‘Save Soccer’ rule.

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**Real look to cut squad to fund signing of new defender**

**London, 13 Aug** — Real Madrid are aiming to sign a new centre back to complete their squad but want to release several players including World Cup winners Steve McManaman and Pedro Munitis before going through with any move.

New coach Carlos Queiroz said that the team’s performances on their recent tour of the Far East had not caused him to change his opinion that the club needed to sign another defender.

“After seeing what happened on tour there are plenty of reasons why we should sign a new centre back,” the former Manchester United assistant coach told sports daily Marca on Tuesday.

The recruitment of a new defender has been a priority since former captain Fernando Hierro was released at the end of last season and the signing of his replacement Gabriel Milito fell through after the Argentine failed a medical.

Real’s only purchase so far has been English captain David Beckham, who signed for a fee of up to 35 million euros (39.74 million US dollars) from Manchester United in late June.

But Real’s sporting director Jorge Valdano told reporters that the team were “looking to leave Real immediately”, but McNamara has remained tight-lipped over his future.

The former Liverpool and England player, who has one season left on his contract at Real, is reported in the British media to have attracted interest from both Everton and Manchester City.

He has always resisted pressure to leave the club, but this season his prospects of playing are so slim that he may have to reconsider his future.

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**Manchester United sign other Ronaldo**

**LONDON, 13 Aug** — Portuguese teenage striker Cristiano Ronaldo signed for Manchester United for 12.24 million pounds (19.64 million US dollars) from Sporting Lisbon on Tuesday.

The English Premier League champions said the Madeira-born 18-year-old, whose full name is Cristiano Ronaldo dos Santos Aveiro, had signed a five-year contract.

“I am very happy to be signing for the best team in the world, and especially proud to be the first Portuguese player to join Manchester United” the English club quoted Ronaldo as saying.

“I look forward to helping the team achieve even more successes in the years to come,” said Ronaldo, who has played for Portugal at under-15, under-16 and under-17 level.

United manager Alex Ferguson said: “We have been negotiating for Cristiano for quite some time, but the interest in him from other clubs accelerated in the last few weeks so we had to move quickly to get him.

“It was only through our association with Sporting that they honoured our agreement of months ago.”

Valdano told reporters when the team returned to Madrid on Monday.

“I don’t want to be too hard on the players who didn’t play on the tour, but they know what their situation is and we have to look for solutions so that the squad is reduced to the size we want.”

Midfielders McManaman and Munitis both went with Real to Asia but did not play in any of the four exhibition matches and the club has made it clear that neither player features in their plans for the forthcoming season.

Munitis representative Javier Gonzalez told Radio Marca on Monday that the player “was looking to leave Real immediately”, but McNamara has remained tight-lipped over his future.

The former Liverpool and England player, who has one season left on his contract at Real, is reported in the British media to have attracted interest from both Everton and Manchester City.

He has always resisted pressure to leave the club, but this season his prospects of playing are so slim that he may have to reconsider his future. — MNA/Reuters
OBITUARY
Mrs. Rosie Thera Dass
(Age 80)

Beloved wife of late Mr LMA Dass, loving mother of Sr Agatha of St Francis Xavier, LSP-India, Mrs Philomena of St Joseph G Cardozo
(Age 83)

Beloved son of J R Cardozo and Mrs Benigna Cardozo, everloving husband of Mrs Rosalee Nu Nu Prue, father of Jacqueline Tarja, son of Aung Kyaw Oo (Danalis Myanmar Co Ltd), Shirley, Ian Bryan, Bah Rina, Angela, Jonnoyo (Tokyo) and Desmond, grandson of Kayalar Oo, Aung Myo Oo, Daniel, Alison, Thu Thar Marlar Myo, Taw Taw Marlar Myo, Min Min Soe, Nyi Nyi Myint, Thar Marlar Myo, Ne Pun, Oo, Zai N Tu, Kevin, Aini Chan and Taw Tawan, grandchild of Mr Thante Zaw Hein, Chun Su, Phe Fyo Hla, Ye Hmaw passed away peacefully at his residence at No 1053 (B), Sabalayone East, Yawma, Insein on 13-8-2003.

Bural will take place at Yayway Catholic Cemetery on 14-8-2003.

BEREAVED and missed by Family Members

WEATHER

Wednesday, 13 August, 2003

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hrs MST:

During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in lower Sagaing and Magway Divisions, rain of thunder showers have been isolated in Chi State, scattered in Kayin, Kayah States, Mandaly, Ayeyawady and upper Sagain and widespread in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfalls in Tanintharyi Division, Rakhine and Mon States. Isolated amount of rainfall recorded were Dala (3.67mm), Gwa (3.61mm), Ye (3.46mm) and Thaung (2.80mm).

Maximum temperature on 14-8-2003 was 31.4°C (88°F). Minimum temperature on 13-8-2003 was 22.5°C (72°F). Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 14-8-2003 was 68%.

Total sunshine hours on 12-8-2003 was 1.5 hours approx.

Forcast valid until evening of 14-8-2003: Rain or drunm will be widespread over Ayeyawady, Yangon and Tanintharyi Divisions, scattered in Kachin, Shan, Kayah States, upper Sagaing and Bago Divisions.

Thundershowers will occur in Tanintharyi Division, Rakhine and Mon States. (95%) State of the sea; seas will be moderate to rough. Outlook for next two days is partly cloudy in Lower Sagaing and Magway Divisions, rain of thunder showers in Tanintharyi Division, Rakhine and Mon States, scattered in Kayin, Kayah States, Ayeyawady and upper Sagaing and widespread in the remaining areas. Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 14-8-2003: One or two rains or thundershowers. Degree of certainty for central and Northern Mindar area for 14-8-2003: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Flood Bulletin

Issued at 11:00 hrs MST on 13-8-2003

According to the (06:30hrs) M.S.T observation today, water level of Shoong River, Mawlamyine at 11:30 am, position may remain above its danger level of (1070cm) during the next (48) hrs commencing noon today.
Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than tours Bago Division

YANGON, 13 Aug — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Col-Gen Ohn Myint and Commander Brig-Gen Ko Ko met with local authorities, departmental officials and members of social organizations at the office of DaikU Township Peace and Development Council on 12 August morning. At the meeting, officials reported on the area and organizational set-up of the township, utilization of land resources, average annual rainfall in the region, cultivation of projected crops, accomplishments in cultivating ten major crops, meat and fish sector, progress in ensuring food sufficiency, and the township’s GDP in 2003-2004 financial year. Chairman of Bago District Peace and Development Council Li-Col Ohn Myint and Commander Brig-Gen Ko Ko gave supplementary reports.

With regard to the reports, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than gave instructions on strenuous endeavours to be made for harmonious development of agricultural sector, and meat and fish sector for the development of the State, extended cultivation of suitable crops out of the ten major ones, meeting the targeted per acre yield, extended cultivation of pepper and Thitseint trees, and extended livestock breeding on the areas where cultivation is not suitable. He called on administrative bodies, departments, social organizations and townswomen to make collective efforts in unity for prevalence of law and order in the region.

Together with Secretary of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Aung Min and departmental officials, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspected the 100-acre monsoon paddy quality strain pilot farm in 2003-2004 near Gadok Ywama in DaikU Township. Officials reported on condition of pilot and model paddy plots. (See page 10)

Musical Instruments Exhibition continues

YANGON, 13 Aug — Myanmar Traditional Musical Instruments Exhibition continued today for the fifth day at the multi-purpose hall of National Museum on Pyay Road. It comprises nine booths. At the central booth, seven golden gongs, Myanmar traditional double-headed drums, and drum circle (Myanmar orchestra) were displayed. At the string instruments booth of the exhibition, three-string Rakhine harp, 100-year-old Mon violin, Kayin harp, Mon string instrument, Byat harp dating back over 150 years, three-string Kayan violin and 16-string Myanmarharp were on display with brief accounts.

Today, musical performances including skills demonstrations were staged. Course instructors from the Music Department of the University of Culture (Yangon) and artists from the Production Department of the Fine Arts Department, the Ministry of Culture, presented entertainment programmes. There will be entertainment programmes tomorrow.

Today, some 700 music enthusiasts visited the exhibition which continues up to 22 August. — MNA

Second Bi-regional Partners Meeting on Harm Reduction Among Injection Drug Users commenced

YANGON, 13 Aug — The opening of the Second Bi-regional Partners Meeting on Harm Reduction Among Injection Drug Users, organized by the Ministry of Health of the Union of Myanmar and the World Health Organization, was held at the Traders Hotel on Sule Pagoda Road here this morning.

Present on the occasion were Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, Deputy Ministers for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Rehabilitation U Hlaing Win, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo, Director-General of Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen Khin Yoe, Resident Representatives of WHO Headquarters, WHO South-East Asia and Western Pacific Offices, delegates of Cambodia, Nepal, the People’s Republic of China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and India, and NGOs, heads of departments under the ministry, social organizations and distinguished guests.

The minister delivered a speech. In his speech, he said that he would like to highlight some salient points on preventing drug abuse and HIV transmission in Myanmar. Although there are limited resources, like several other countries in the region, to combat growing problems of some infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria, and different forms of narcotic abuse, Myanmar has determined to achieve the goal of narcotic elimination in 15 years even with our own resources. Now we are in the fifth year of elimination programme and have achieved visible improvements in reducing narcotic production and trafficking, expanding crop substitution programmes, and promoting detoxification and rehabilitation of addicted persons. In addition to the increasing health expenditure of the government, these programmes have also been supported by UN agencies, NGOs and some governments. Along with increasing pace of programme implementation in all strategic areas, “Drug Free Zones” have been declared in some special regions where national groups are actively participating in the drug control and rehabilitation programmes.

These drug control programmes are dramatically moving forward through a multisectoral approach led by the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control (CCDAC). UNODC, Myanmar Anti-Narcotics Association (MANA) and some international NGOs are also working in collaboration with CCDAC to prevent and control drug use problems by all possible means.

(See page 10)

The Myanmar Traditional Musical Instruments Exhibition at the National Museum on Pyay Road continues to attract visitors. — MNA

Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint addresses the second Bi-regional Partners Meeting on Harm Reduction Among Injection Drug Users. — MNA