However much the external elements put pressure on Myanmar, people will have to exert efforts to the best of their abilities in the interests of the nation and the people through diligence and unity.

The government has implemented the border areas and national races development project for equitable development of all parts of the nation. As a result, the development of Pansan, Mongla, Lawkai and Panwa of border areas have been on a par with that of Yangon City.

With the development of border areas, the national races groups have gained peace and to prevent the situations undermining peace. If we view the international situation, many lives have lost and people have got into great trouble due to discriminations such as instigations, exalitations, pressures and sanctions based on ideology, human rights, religious and racial affairs.

Some people, relying on others, have hoped that the country would become prosperous when their country is in the hands of saviours. But, in reality, their dream has not come true and they encounter great troubles such as war, diseases and famine. These are lessons to be taken, he said. At present, some western countries, especially the US government, purposely maltreated Myanmar people by imposing economic sanctions to get the people into trouble. He said that we will never accept a situation in which the Union of Myanmar has to lose its sovereignty having to seek shelter under the umbrella of other nations.

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To face the challenges

With the science and technological advancement, education tops all the development sectors. In this advancing world, the education sector provides students with ability that could survive among future challenges.

Addressing the opening of the special refresher course No 53 for teachers held at the Nawarath Hall in the Central Institute of Civil Service (Phaunggyi), Hlegu Township, Yangon Division the other day, General Khin Nyunt, Chairman of the Myanmar Education Committee and also Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council, said Myanmar lagged behind in terms of development. He said efforts were therefore needed to keep abreast of the international community.

He added that it was incumbent on teachers to organize students and teach them that if they fail to do so or are unable to do so, the country would continue to lag behind in development. Only then would the youths of the new generation be aware of the attempts to destroy the country.

The economic and social development will raise the standards of education and health, and then it will widen the scope of knowledge of the public. Only with the endeavours based on the stability can genuine and discipline-flourishing democracy materialize.

All the citizens are responsible to ensure the perpetuation of the genuine and discipline-flourishing democracy, with better political, economical and social prospects.

This being the case, teachers are to nurture the students who are the source of all the national forces, in shaping the future of our nation and people as desired.

The education sector plays a pivotal role in making the Union of Myanmar stand tall, keeping the patriotism, nationalistic spirit, unfailing spirit and Union spirit alive and dynamic.

Thus, teachers are duty-bound to nurture students and turn them into good citizens capable of braveing future challenges. Therefore, while promoting the education sector, teachers, hand in hand with the national races, are also to fend off the danger of destructive elements and henchmen.

Prizes presented to outstanding students in Kyaukse and Myittha

YANGON, 20 Aug — The Myanmar Medical Association (YANGON) in Lammaw Township this morning, with an address by Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint. Also present on the occasion were Deputy Minister Dr Mya Oo, departmental heads, officials, MMA members, resident representatives of UN agencies and guests.

In his address, the minister said that as is known to all the political, economic and social projects are being implemented to build up a modern developed nation. Social objects includes uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation, he added.

The MMA made up of medical experts plays a vital role in promotion of medical science. Under the close supervision of the National Health Committee, the respective departments and NGOs made collective efforts in community health care services. The MMA played a leading role in these activities, he said.

MMA member Professor Dr Aung Than Ba Tu chaired the meeting. MMA Chairman Dr U Ko Ko and Vice-Chairman 1 Professor Dr U Ko Lay read reports of the executive committee, followed by a general round discussion.

Next, MMA member Professor Dr Myint Myint Khin presented the report on delphi study. Those present discussed the report. Secretary of the MMA Dr Maung Maung Wint replied to the discussions. The meeting chairman made concluding remarks. — MNA
Annan’s statement on attack at UNHQ in Baghdad

Userto Nastereo, 20 Aug — Following is a statement issued by UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan on the attack at the United Nations Headquarters in Baghdad on Tuesday.

Annan broke off his vacation in Finland and was expected to be back in New York on Wednesday. The United Nations has about 1,200 international humanitarian and political staffs in Iraq, 600 of them in Baghdad.

“All of us at the United Nations are shocked and dismayed by today’s attack, in which many of our colleagues have been injured and an unknown number have lost their lives — Iraqis as well as international staff. Nothing can excuse the act of unprovoked and murderous violence against men and women who went to Iraq for one purpose only: to help the Iraqi people recover their independence and sovereignty, and to rebuild their country as fast as possible, under leaders of their own choosing.

“I hope and pray that those injured, including our special representative Sergio Vieira de Mello who has been working so hard to make a new, just, and democratic society, will be swiftly brought to safety and be able to make a full recovery. I grieve deeply for those who have died, and express my most heartfelt sympathy to their loved ones. I also hope to see those who have perpetrated this outrage brought to justice. Most of all, I hope to see Iraq restored as soon as possible to peace, security and full independence. The United Nations will make every effort to bring that about.”

MNA/Reuters

De Mello used phone from rubble

Brasilia (Brazil), 20 Aug — The UN special representative to Iraq, Sergio Vieira de Mello, used his mobile phone to summon help from the rubble of a bomb blast that wrecked his office in Baghdad on Tuesday, a Brazilian news agency reported.

De Mello, a Brazilian, was among dozens wounded in the blast that destroyed his office. At least 20 people were killed and dozens wounded.

There was no word yet at UN Headquarters in New York on the extent of his injuries.

The Agencia Estadão news agency, quoting Brazilian-Colleded UN agencies, reported.

MNA/Reuters

Russia lifts economic sanctions against Iraq

Moscow, 20 Aug — President Vladimir Putin has signed a decree to lift economic sanctions against Iraq in his country, in accordance with the UN Security Council Resolution No. 1483, the Kremlin Press service said Monday.

The decree requires nation-wide recognition on the resolution passed on May 22, 2003, which annuls all bans on trade with Iraq and on extending financial or economic resources to that country, Interfax reported.

The decree notes that prohibitions related to the sale or delivery of weapons and related equipment to Iraq, except for those arms and related materials required by the United Nations, should still be kept effective in line with Resolution No. 1483 and other corresponding resolutions.

It also decides to freeze funds or other financial assets or economic resources owned by the previous Iraqi regime and transfer them to the Development Fund for Iraq, said ITAR-TASS.

Iraqi cultural property and other items of archaeological, historical, cultural, rare scientific, and religious importance, which were illegally removed from the territory since the adoption of resolution 661, should be returned safely to the country, the decree urged.

MNA/Xinhua

Finalists set for Iraqi trade bank business

New York, 20 Aug — Five consortiums led by US banks, along with a lone British bank, have made the final round as applicants to head the newly-established Trade Bank of Iraq, The Wall Street Journal reported on Tuesday.

A selection panel will hear presentations from the six finalists on Tuesday and Wednesday in Bahrain, and US officials expect to make their decision within days, the report said, citing Peter McPherson, the head adviser to the US Treasury in Baghdad.

Bids from three groups of banks have been rejected, the report said. The final consortiums are led by US firms Bank of America Corp, Bank One Corp, Citigroup Inc, JP Morgan Chase & Co, and Wachovia Corp.

Britain’s HSBC Holdings Plc is the only bank under consideration as a single entity.

The winner will manage Iraq’s trade bank, which will make it possible for Iraqi agencies and oil concerns to buy big-ticket items from other countries using letters of credit.

US estimates indicate business at the bank could swell considerably, from 100 million US dollars a month initially to as much as 500 million US dollars a month when the country’s oil sector recovers, the newspaper said.

MNA/Reuters

UNGA urged to stick to multilateralism, focus on development

Brunno, 19 Aug — Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing and day chaired the 58th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) to stick to multilateralism and focus on development issues.

Li made the call while meeting here with Julian Robert Harte, president-elect of the 58th Session of the UN General Assembly and Minister of External Affairs, International Trade and Civil Aviation of Saint Lucia.

Li said that the General Assembly should enhance the role of the United Nations, maintain the authority of the UN Security Council and safeguard the tenets and principles of the UN Charter to meet opportunities and challenges.

MNA/Xinhua
Car chaos adds to daily woes in lawless Baghdad

Baghdad, 20 Aug — Sweat pours down Captain Hamid Kadhim’s face as he pleads with an obstinate driver not to head the wrong way down a crammed and baking Baghdad street.

“If you don’t respect me, go ahead. If you respect me, turn round,” the traffic police officer tells the driver, hoping persuasion may produce the obedience that has gone once did.

The driver ignores him and accelerates past with a rude flick of the hand.

“There is no law any more, no authority, no respect,” mutters Kadhim as he backs up to confront the next offender. Since the fall of Saddam Hussein, unprecedented chaos has reigned in Baghdad, as cars, keys and goats — common in poorer suburbs — often move faster than the queues of cars in gridlocked streets.

Traffic lights seldom work due to power cuts. And drivers are more likely to wield guns than the police.

“Somebody was going down the wrong side last week, so I told him to stop,” said policeman Haider Sadiq, who spends his days battling vantly to control wild traffic flows round Kahramana Square in central Baghdad.

“First he tried to hit me with his car. Then he pulled a gun out. So I decided to let him pass.” Many Iraqis hanker for a return of the discipline Saddam Hussein’s well-armed police kept on the streets.

Most of the nation’s 5,000 or so traffic police now have no guns — lost in looting and chaos during and after the war.

Their cars and motorcycles have similarly disappeared, making it impossible to chase offenders. Even if they were caught, there are not sufficient functioning courts to try them.

Adding to the chaos, false driving licences are cheap to buy. And the US occupants’ lifting of import controls has led to a flood of cars over the borders from Jordan and Kuwait. Many of which bear no licence plates since none are being issued.

Colonel Nihad Ali Hussein, in charge of traffic police for half of Baghdad, said the imports had swollen the number of private vehicles in Baghdad from 550,000 to perhaps 700,000 in the city’s population of five million.

White tiger operated on for broken tooth

Harbin, 20 Aug — Chinese doctors with a hospital based in Harbin, the capital city of the northernmost Heilongjiang Province, removed a broken tooth from a two-year-old white tiger on Saturday.

Zhang Zhongfeng, a veterinarian with the Harbin Siberian Tiger Park, said the Bengali tiger kept in the park had suffered from a broken tooth since August 12 and had lost appetite for food.

“At first, I couldn’t figure out what was wrong with the tiger. But later when I opened its mouth, I found one tooth on the left side of his mouth was half missing and the gum around the broken tooth was swollen and bleeding,” said Zhang. The keeper soon discovered the half of the tooth in the tiger shed. Park workers believed that the tiger might have broken the tooth while biting the iron cage.

Gong Yu, head of the zoology department at the No. 211 Hospital of the Chinese People’s Liberation Army (PLA), and his team removed the broken tooth and added fillings in the gum. A false tooth will be put in soon, said Gong. Around 100 tigers are kept at the park, situated in the suburbs of Harbin, including nine Bengali tigers.

270 artists to take part in First Beijing Art Biennial

Beijing, 20 Aug — The First Beijing International Art Biennial, China 2003, will be held here from September 10 to October 20, and 270 artists from more than 40 countries will showcase their works, the organizing committee said here Monday.

The art biennial, jointly sponsored by the China Federation of Literary and Art Circles, the People’s Government of Beijing Municipality and Chinese Artists Association, will focus on the cutting edge of world cultural development.

Jin Shangyi, chairman of the Chinese Artists Association, believed that the Beijing art biennial would be different from other art biennials as it features paintings and sculptures and works of contemporary outstanding and mature artists in the mainstream. Through careful discussions, the organization committee chose more than 400 pieces of paintings and sculpture, 150 from Chinese artists and 200 from foreign artists, Jin said.

WFP approves $1b food contracts for Iraq

United Nations, 20 Aug — The United Nations has approved more than one billion US dollars worth of food contracts for Iraq in the past week after consultations with the US-British occupying coalition and Iraqi experts, said the UN office of the oil-for-food programme Monday.

The World Food Programme (WFP) will work with contractors to expedite 439.4 million dollars of the approved items which range from rice and milk powder to vegetable ghee and sugar, the office said.

The WFP will also manage 292.4 million dollars of food-handling items including machinery and spare parts and crop fertilization supplies.

Another 136 contracts valued at 212 million US dollars and 17 food handling contracts worth 13 million US dollars, though approved, have not yet been funded. They will be paid from funds in the oil-for-food programme’s escrow account.

Private sector in S China sees dramatic growth in foreign trade

Guangzhou, 20 Aug — The private sector in Guangdong Province, south China, reported year-on-year growth of 170 per cent in foreign trade during the first seven months of this year, 10.74 billion US dollars. Customs figures showed.

The figure, including 5.11 billion US dollars in exports and 5.62 billion US dollars in imports, represents 7.2 per cent of the province’s total for the seven month period, or up 3.8 percentage points over last year.

Guangdong, which borders Hong Kong, has become China’s No. 1 economic giant as it absorbed huge investment from Hong Kong and other parts of the world during the past two decades.

Blair reacted quickly to naming of Iraq expert

London, 20 Aug — British Prime Minister Tony Blair called an immediate meeting of his top advisers on hearing that a senior weapons expert had named himself as a possible source for a damning BBC report on Iraq, an inquiry heard on Monday.

The revelation, made by Blair’s chief of staff Jonathan Powell, suggests how keen Blair was to rebut the BBC story, which accused the government of exaggerating Iraq’s weapons threat to justify its case for war. Weapons expert David Kelly told the Ministry of Defence on June 30 that he might have been the source for the BBC report, broadcast by defence correspondent Andrew Gilligan.

The ministry passed the information to Downing Street days later, prompting Blair to act quickly. He called a meeting of top aides on July 7 to discuss how Kelly’s admission could be used to rebut Gilligan’s report.

“Senior officials” thought this was an important development, Powell told the inquiry on Monday. “On the face of it, it would have meant the Andrew Gilligan story was indeed elaborated.”

The inquiry, under judge Lord Hutton, is examining the events leading to the death of Kelly, who killed himself in July after being thrust into the public spotlight over his role in the affair.

The inquiry is a key test for Blair. His public trust ratings have plunged over the handling of Kelly’s death and the failure to find banned weapons in Iraq.

A poll last week showed 41 per cent of the British public blame the government for Iraq expert Kelly’s death and 68 per cent think the government was dishonest over the Iraq war. The threat from biological and chemical weapons was the main reason London gave for waging a war most Britons opposed.

Blair and Defence Secretary Geoff Hoon are both due to testify to Hutton. Powell told the inquiry that Blair was interested in knowing what Kelly would say if he appeared before Parliament’s Foreign Affairs Committee.
Iraqi sabotage threatens oil income, stokes prices

London, 20 Aug — Iraq’s inability to restore its pre-war oil capacity may derail US plans to recoup billions of dollars spent on the invasion and keep world crude prices high for the rest of the year, industry officials and analysts said on Monday.

Pipeline bombings in the north and theft of power cables in the south have caused Iraqi exports to fall by more than 500,000 barrels per day (BPD) over the past few weeks, helping to keep oil prices simmering close to their highest level since the Iraq war.

In ousted Iraqi officials and oil market analysts now believe US hopes of restoring two-thirds of pre-war capacity by the end of the year will be impossible without a dramatic improvement in security.

“If things are stable for two or three months straight, then we could reach our target. If they stay the same, it can’t happen,” a senior Iraqi Oil Ministry official told Reuters.

Two fires on the Iraq-Turkey pipeline closed Baghdad’s main northern export route last weekend, just before the link was set to start shipping big volumes to world markets after a five-month closure.

In southern Iraq, with two-thirds of the country’s oil capacity, power failures caused by massive theft of power cables has export rates from the Mina al-Bakr Port last week.

Under a US investment plan approved last month, Baghdad had hoped to export 600-650,000 BPD by the end of the year, versus a pre-war capacity above two million.

Now, exports are closer than 500,000 BPD and the outlook is uncertain.

Leo Drolas of the Centre for Global Energy Studies said the uncertainty suited other members of the Organization of the Petroleum-Exporting Countries, which benefit from Baghdad’s misfortune by pumping extra volumes of oil at high prices.

“Iraq is helping keep prices around 28-29 US dollars, which suits producers such as Saudi Arabia, but affects oil demand growth in the long-term,” he said.

OPEC’s export basket price stood at 28-29 US dollars a barrel on Friday, above the top end of its 17-28 US-dollar target range.

This could trigger an output hike by the cartel, although some OPEC officials believe no more oil is required. While OPEC benefits, the problems are adding to Washington’s already astronomical Iraq bills.

Nonmilitary targets face new threat

Baghdad, 20 Aug — The massive truck bomb that devastated UN headquarters here today signaled a dramatic escalation in terrorism against international and nonmilitary targets in Iraq as well as the deadliest challenge yet to US-led forces occupying the country.

The attack, by unknown assailants, was the second fatality bombing of a foreign nonmilitary facility here in less than two weeks. A smaller car bomb exploded outside the Jordanian Embassy Aug 7, killing at least 17 people and wounding scores more.

Suspected saboteurs, apparently broadening their targets to damage efforts to rebuild the country, also blew up a water main in Baghdad on Sunday, depriving hundreds of thousands of water for almost two days. They also set bombs along an oil pipeline to Turkey, halting exports after they started.

There have been dozens of scattered attacks against US military patrols and convoys in the past several months, but most have been small-scale mine explosions that left one or two soldiers dead beside their burned Humvees on remote highways.

Today’s bombing, although not directly aimed at US-led forces, poses a challenge for the Americans nonetheless. First, the UN headquarters is guarded by US troops, largely because the Bush administration did not want UN peacekeeping or other forces involved here after the war.

Second, the thousands of US-led troops — a presence that has provoked increasing resentment from Iraqis who complain of heavy-handed raids and mistaken shootings of unarmed civilians — has not been enough to protect the capital against terrorism or to discover who might be behind it.

A US soldier stands guard in front of one of the main power stations in the Iraqi capital Baghdad on 15 August. 2003. Leading Republican Sen. John McCain said on 19 August that the United States needs additional troops in Iraq to deal with increasingly more sophisticated attacks against US forces and strategic targets. — Internet

ASEAN’s largest solar electricity plant to open in Thailand

Bangkok, 20 Aug — Thailand is set to harness its year-round sunshine to provide electricity for the northern province of Mae Hong Son, which would be the largest solar powered station in the association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

The Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand (EGAT) is now pushing forward with a 200 million baht (4.76 million US dollars) project to establish a solar powered generating plant there, according to Thai News Agency Tuesday.

Energy Minister Prommin Lertsurarak was quoted by the agency as saying that with the opening of the generating plant a clear indication of the government’s policy to not only provide electricity to people living in remote locations, but also to conserve the use of clean energy.

While conceding that the production costs for solar powered electricity were five times higher than those for ordinary electricity, he said that the construction costs for the station were considerably lower than the billions of baht which would otherwise have to be spent on bringing in electricity from nearby provinces.

EGAT governor Sithiorn Ratthanapanas said that the solar powered electricity plant would both help conserve the environment and meet the growing demands of tourists in the province.

In the first phase, the plant would generate 500 kilowatts, but in the future the plant would be able to generate 1,750 kilowatts, he said. — MNA/Xinhua

China launches crackdown on fake, inferior construction products

Beijing, 20 Aug — China on Monday launched a nationwide crackdown on inferior construction products, including steel, cement, low-voltage electrical equipment, wires, cables and decoration materials. The crackdown campaign, jointly launched by the State Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine in cooperation with eight other central government departments including the Ministry of Commerce, will last until June next year, said Pu Changcheng, deputy director of the administration.

Outstanding problems regarding construction materials produced by medium-sized and small firms have cropped up in the past few years despite rapid structural and quality improvements in the construction materials sector as a whole, said the official.

Indonesia prepares LNG package to Japan

Jakarta, 20 Aug — The government prepared a liquefied natural gas (LNG) sale package to Japan in order that the country added the commodity purchase from Indonesia to the economic daily of Bisnis Indonesia reported Tuesday.

Quoting state oil firm Pertamina president Direc
tor Barihi Hakim, the newspaper reported that an Indonesian team had finalized the proposal of the LNG sale and it would soon send the proposal to Japanese consumers. — MNA/Xinhua
Experts suggest outsiders in Iraq blast

BAGHDAD, 20 Aug — The devastating bombing of UN headquarters here Tuesday is the latest in a series of recent attacks that may be the work of foreign terrorists bent on wrecking efforts to rebuild the country, some experts say.

There are a variety of groups believed to be operating in Iraq, including supporters of Saddam Hussein, and no one can know for certain who was involved in attacking the UN hotel.

But the nature and targets of the recent attacks, which have brought Iraqis and humanitarian workers, don’t seem to fit with the ideology of nationalist Iraqi resistance groups who seem more focused on attacking US forces.

Veteran inspectors “are now and have been working to help the Iraqi people,” said political risk analyst Linda Jamison of the Centre for Strategic and International Studies. “These terrorists don’t want anything but a body count.”

Most of those killed in the suicide truck bombing at the UN’s Baghdad headquarters were Iraqis and UN officials, including the chief UN official in Iraq, Sergio Vieira de Mello. It was similar to the August 7 bombing of the Jordanian Embassy in Baghdad that killed 19 people — all Iraqis. The bomb that blew up outside the UN building was twice as large as the one at the Jordanian embassy.

Both attacks bore the hallmarks of previously foreign teams in Iraq, officials said.

The tough, debonair Brazilian, fluent in English, French, Spanish and his native Portuguese, has handled some of the world’s most sensitive assignments, from Kosovo in the Balkans to East Timor in the Pacific.

He was the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights since September, when he replaced former Irish President Mary Robinson, and then was sent to Iraq by Annan after the controversial US-British invasion to oust Saddam Hussein and eliminate his alleged weapons of mass destruction.

Vieira de Mello was also the first choice of the United States and Britain. He had listed the Iraq appointment for just four months so he could hold on to his human rights post.

Eckhard said he had a whole list of successes as a senior UN official in hot spots. Treading a diplomatic and political minefield, UN officials say, he quickly established his presence and won the respect of US Iraq administrator Paul Bremer despite tension between Washington and the UN Secretariat over the war.

In an address to the UN Security Council in July, he made what now appears a prescient remark, saying: “The United Nations presence in Iraq remains vulnerable to any who would seek to target our organization.” Vieira de Mello, born in Rio de Janeiro, has worked for the United Nations for more than three decades, starting as a junior.

Chief UN envoy in Baghdad killed in blast

UN Special Representative in Iraq Sergio Vieira de Mello gestures while addressing the media in a news conference at the UN offices in Baghdad, Iraq in this 24 June, 2003 file photo. De Mello was killed with 19 other UN staff and Iraqis in a truck bombing on 19 August, 2003 at the UN office in Baghdad. Internet

Khamenei says Iran must not yield to US atomic pressure

TEHRAN, 20 Aug — Iran should never yield to US pressure over its nuclear programme, Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said in a speech late on Monday.

The United States has accused Iran of using its domestic nuclear energy programme as a smokescreen for steps to build atomic weapons.

Khamenei said Iran’s nuclear programme was geared to peaceful ends and was not intended to develop weapons.

The head of Iran’s state television, a close ally of Khamenei, also touched on the “situation in the region” which would bar UN inspections of Iran’s nuclear facilities.

Khamenei’s comments underscored growing signs of resistance to signing the Additional Protocol among the nation’s conservative leadership.

The head of Iran’s state broadcaster, a close ally of Khamenei, said on Sunday that the Islamic Republic should resist Western demands over its nuclear programme.

Some conservatives have advocated pulling out of the NPT altogether — a move which would bar UN inspections from the country and force Iran’s nuclear programme underground.

Khamenei’s remarks came amid reports in newspapers and radio that a new round of talks were being considered.

UN Special Representative in Iraq Sergio Vieira de Mello gestures while addressing the media in a news conference at the UN office in Baghdad, Iraq in this 24 June, 2003 file photo. De Mello was killed with 19 other UN staff and Iraqis in a truck bombing on 19 August, 2003 at the UN office in Baghdad. Internet

Egypt and Oman call for greater UN role in Iraq

ALEXANDRIA (Egypt), 20 Aug — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Oman’s Sultan Qaboos called for a greater role for the United Nations in Iraq just before a bomb blast rocked the UN headquarters in Baghdad.

The two leaders discussed “the situation in Iraq and ways to make the UN role more effective and its participation in reconstruction,” Egypt’s official news agency MENA reported Tuesday.

President Mubarak and Sultan Qaboos also touched on the “situation in the Palestinian territories in light of Israel’s unwillingness to apply the roadmap peace initiative,” the agency added.

The two leaders, who will resume their talks in the northern port city of Alexandria on Wednesday, discussed ways to “renew a common Arab front and improve the performance of the Arab League,” said MENA.

Mubarak’s meeting with Qaboos follows similar talks last week in Cairo with Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah in which the two leaders discussed Iraq, the Middle East and reform of the Arab League.

Russian, Iranian officials discuss nuclear programme

MOSCOW, 20 Aug — Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov and his Iranian counterpart Kamal Kharazi discussed the disputed Bushehr nuclear programme by telephone Monday, Russian Foreign Ministry said.

Ivanov confirmed to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA),” said a Russian Foreign Ministry release posted on its web site. “The ministers agreed to continue discussing this issue during upcoming bilateral talks between experts in Tehran,” the release added. Ivanov and Kharazi also discussed the settlement of the situation in Iraq and exchanged views on the status of the Caspian Sea.

Danish donates medicine to Zanzibar

DAKS-SALAM, 20 Aug — The Danish Government donated about 700,000 US dollars of medicine and drugs through the Danish International Development Agency to the Zanzibar Government on Monday.

Zanzibar Deputy Secretary of Health and Social Welfare Ministry Uledi Mwita said at the ceremony that the donation is part of a 14-month agreement between the two countries.

He stressed that the medicine and drugs will be distributed in different medical centres in Unguja and Pemba. The deputy secretary also stressed that new drugs for cure of malaria are expected to be introduced in a short time, after completing its arrangements.

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MINA/Xinhua

MINA/Xinhua

MINA/Xinhua
Successful livestock breeding of the South-West Command

Ayeyawady Division, which has developed in a short time, has prospects for further developments in future. In the agriculture sector, the division has been cultivating over one-fourth of paddy cultivation in the country and it becomes a region in which extended cultivation of monsoon and summer paddy is being carried out most. Moreover, extended cultivation of beans and pulses, edible oil crops and jute are being carried out in the division.

In the livestock breeding sector, there are over 60,000 acres of fish ponds, over 35,000 acres of prawn ponds in the division and duck, pig and chicken are bred on a commercial scale.

On 18 July, the staff of Kyemon daily visited chicken farm and pig farm of South-West Command and pig farm of Ayeyawady Division War Veterans Organization.

In-charges of the farm of South-West Command Captain Kyaw Zeya said that the farm started its business on 27 November 2002 with four cocks and 16 hens of domestic strain. In the first six months, the number of cock and hen up to 52 and 80 respectively. In the second six months, the total number of cock and hen was 560—240 cocks and 320 hens. Therefore in the second six months the number of cock and hen of the farm reached 692.

The chickens are released freely in day time except a roosting time and they are fed twice a day — 7 am and 5 pm. Success has been achieved in breeding domestic strain chicken and the number of the chicken has exceeded the target set by the commander.

Moreover, bull and cow of Frichshan-62 strain from Australia are also bred at the farm. The cows produce nine or ten viss of milk a day and it is also a successful business.

The incharge also explained that a boar and 9 sow have been bred starting from 4 October 2002 at the pig farm of Ayeyawady Division WVO. The first time, the nine sows produced 94 piglets and in the second time, a sow produced nine piglets. At the quality strain pig farm, it is learnt that a boar and 9 sows of eight-month old can produce 72 piglets in four months and a sow can give birth twice a year.

Under the domestic strain chicken breeding plan, a family of each unit has to raise a cock and four hens. Moreover, fish breeding tasks are also being carried out at the units and regiments under the Command. There is also a feedstuff factory for livestock breeding work at the command. It is learnt that livestock breeding tasks of South-West Command are being carried out with the objectives of reducing cost in producing feedstuff, producing quality feedstuff and reproducing quality strain pigs and achieving success in pig breeding.

Research technology course opens

YANGON, 20 Aug — The research technology course of Medical Research Department (Lower Myanmar) of the Ministry of Health was opened at the department on Wingaba Road in Dagon Township, this morning, with an address by Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint.

In his address Minister Dr Kyaw Myint said the research technology course is a support task for dissemination of research technology and it is an important step for research.

He stressed the importance of research work and spoke of the need to apply the findings of the research works in practical life.

Manuscripts invited to Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Literary Award

YANGON, 20 Aug — The Scrutinizing Committee for Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Literary Award (Translation) for the year 2002, sponsored by Printing and Publishing Enterprise of the Ministry of Information, has invited manuscripts for the competition. To take part in the translation competition, a book named “Being Digital” written by Nicholas Negroponte has been prescribed and it is available at the price of K120 in Sarpay Beikman Book Stall on Merchant Street and its branch at the corner of Anawrahta Street and Theinbyu Street.

Those wishing to participate in the competition are to translate it into Myanmar Language and send to Sarpay Beikman not later than 20 September, 2003.

Rules and regulations for the competition can be bought at K 30 at the editorial division of Sarpay Beikman Office No.529/531 on Merchant Street in Yangon. Those who live in other states and divisions can get both rules and regulations and the book at K 120 by post. It is required to send two copies of manuscripts with two passport size photos by 20 September, 2003.

Present were Deputy Minister for Health Dr Ma Oo, officials of Directorate of Medical Services, the directors general and rectors, medical superintendents, researchers, scholars and trainees.

The three-week course is being attended by 73 trainees. — MNA

JITEC examination will be held

YANGON, 20 Aug — The Japan Information Technology Engineer Examination (JITEC), conducted by Myanmar Computer Federation for the development of IT, will be held on 30 November 2003. The subject of the examination is same as Japan-Myanmar Cross Certification Computer Exam Text. Those wishing to sit for the exam may contact the office of Myanmar Computer Federation (MCF) in MICP on the campus of Hlone University and the office of Myanmar Computer Scientists Association, phone 707503 or 652276. — MNA

Lectures on performing arts given in Mindat

YANGON, 20 Aug — Musicians and singers gave lectures on performing arts in Mindat, Mindat District in Chin State (South) from 9-18 August for the 11st Performing Arts Competition. Nine experts in the field of performing arts gave lectures on singing, dancing, song writing and playing the musical instruments in the region. — MNA
The world does not accept any form of foreign interference

Teikgathu Myat Thu

(Continued from yesterday)

Soon after Myanmar regained independence, an official and the chain of the US Defence Minister arrived in Yangon. Members of the US team stayed at Washington Park, the US diplomatic residence, on University Avenue. Lt-Col Seagrave (a doctor) of the team stayed in Yen Seik, a short while, and went to Nampham in northern Shan State. As a US missionary doctor, he set up a hospital in Nampham. In 1949, a Kachin military officer Naw Sai went underground and took up arms against the government. Dr Seagrave had helped to protect, instigating and assisting Naw Sai. The AFPFL government arrested Seagrave, and sent him to prison.

The Americans began to get involved in subversive acts to incite unrest and break up the Union, and in the armed opposition movements in Myanmar, and were giving trouble to the country. The incident of Dr Seagrave is seen as a proof of the conspiracies. The ones who brought war across the border to northern and eastern Shan State were the CIA agents.

At that time, the Chinese communists led by Mao Zedong conquered all over China and founded the People's Republic of China on 1 October 1949. The Kuomintang nationalist government with the assistance of America and Britain fell as it was defeated. The Kuomintang leader Chiang Kai-shhek and his followers fled to Formosa Island. Some members of the No 8 Kuomintang Army, the No 25 Kuomintang Army and No 93 Army Division fled Yunnan Province to Myanmar. The CIA, that arrangements for the troops to transgress the Myanmar territory.

The communists were called the Reds at the time. The newspapers and periodicals called the communists of China “Red China” and the Kuomintang troops which were defeated and had to run away from China “White (Nationalist) Chinese”. First, the Kuomintang troops were stationed at Mongyan in Tachilek region. Later, they seized some towns in the Tachilek region and set up a foothold there. The Kuomintang troops had a total strength of 12,000. The American CIA made arrangements for them to take a foothold in Myanmar to launch surprise attacks against the People’s Republic of China. They were as signed duties to gather military information in Yunnan Province. The Kuomintang troops attacked Yunnan for two times, but they were totally crushed.

At the Myanmar Parliament, the members of the parliament from Shan State lodged complaint to the parliament about the Kuomintang intrusion. Thus, the Tatmadaw had to drive out the Kuomintang intruders. The people in the whole nation were opposing the No 8 Army Division fled Yunnan Province to Myanmar. The CIA, that arrangements for the troops to transgress the Myanmar territory.

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People’s Desire

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

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

Efficient use of fuel

* Saving one gallon of fuel per car per month will save the nation one US dollar
* Thus, a total of 455,822,000 dollars in Myanmar can save US $5.5 million in a year
* The amount, US $ 5.5 million, can build a major bridge across Ayeyawady River

All this needs to be known

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

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

Brazil declares 3 days of mourning for de Mello

BRASILIA (Brazil), 20 Aug — Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva declared three days of mourning to honour Sergio Vieira de Mello, the top UN envoy in Iraq, who was killed by a bomb blast in Baghdad on Tuesday.

Lula, as the President is known, called for a minute of silence upon learning of the death of Vieira de Mello, a Brazilian, while meeting with his Chilean counterpart Ricardo Lagos. Lula also stated that he would take advantage of this moment to send his condolences to the family of the late ambassador Sergio Vieira de Mello and inform the Press that the Brazilian Government is going to declare three days of mourning, “Lula told reporters.”

221 UN civil staff killed since 1992

UNITED NATIONS, 20 Aug — Prior to Tuesday’s truck bombing of UN headquarters in Baghdad, 221 UN civil staff had been killed since 1992 in aircraft accidents and violent acts including shootings and bombings, officials said.

Fifty-seven of these were internationally re cruited. Of the 221, 159 were killed locally, according to UN statistics.

Thirty-nine of the dead were civilian staff assigned to UN peacekeeping operations, the United Nations said.

Tuesday’s attack on the UN Headquarters building in Baghdad, which killed at least 300 UN staff worked, was the most devastating attack ever on a UN facility, killing some 9 UN staff and dozens of Iraqis.

The UN Staff Union’s committee on security called for a full investigation of the bombing, saying the world body needed “to determine why adequate security was not in place to prevent such a horrifying act.”

The staff committee called on Secretary-General Kofi Annan to suspend all UN activities in Iraq and with draw all staff “until such time as measures are taken to improve security.”

By Reuters

Brazil declares 3 days of mourning for de Mello.
However much the external... (from page 1) 

rural development tasks, in addition to the development of border areas and national races. Furthermore, the government is fulfilling the basic needs for development such as administration, education, health, transport, communication, agriculture, and livestock breeding sectors in the 43 remaining regions under special projects. And, the highland reclama-
tion project is being implemented for conservation of the environment, reduction of poverty, and bridge construction which is a major requirement for flourishing of Union national races. Furthermore, the highland reclama-
tion lands and highlands in border areas have now realized the grievances of the gov-
ernment as the government is implementing the goal of progress of border areas with full goodwill. After realizing this, their attitudes towards the government have changed and suspicion existed in the past will disappear, he said and urged the people to rely on the government like parents.

He added, “People who were dogged in border areas in future programs. He called for Work Council, sub-committees and local committees to work in harmony for successful im-
plementation of the goal set.”

Minister Col Thien Nyunt
Minister Col Tin Hlaing

New school building handed over in Taungtha

YANGON, 20 Aug — Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung attended the ceremony to hand over the new Basic Education Primary School building located in Taungtha Township, Mandalay Division, yesterday morn-
ing. First, Taungtha Township Office U Zaw Sein formally handed over the new school building. Next, the minister and officials viewed the school building.

Afterwards, on behalf of the villagers, U Thaung Sein spoke words of thanks and handed over the documents related to the new school building to Township Education Officer U Zaw Weik. Then, the minister inspected the tube-well well

done by well-dwellers in Aungchantha Village.

Next, the minister offered provisions to Sayadaw U Sobhita of Ywa’l Monastery of Aungchantha Village and the prize presentation to the BEHS in Taungtha Township where he made a speech.

Afterwards, the minister presented prizes to outstanding students of Taungtha Township and presented them to the BEHS in Taungtha Township where he made a speech.

The minister proceeded to Yonpin Village Middle School where he attended the ceremony to hand over the new middle school building to the Ministry of Education.

Next, the minister formally opened the new building of Taungtha Township Maternal and Child Health Association donated by well-dwellers. The minister attended the 8th prize presentation ceremony for outstanding students held at the city hall in Taungtha and presented prizes to outstanding students, the headmasters and teacher.

Later, the minister presented K 1 million K 20,000 each for the 50 hard up students of Taungtha Township who are attending university, college and institutes.

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Thursday, 21 August, 2003 9

Minister Col Thien Nyunt

Minister Col Tin Hlaing

To put an ultimate end to poppy cultivation and produc-
tion with the introduction of the energy sec-
tional conservation. Those who bear grudge upon others are trying to see the prosperity and af-

The Ministry of Progress and officials themselves are

ing schools and 13 domestic science vocational training centres for women were opened in border areas and two nationalities re-

tional development degree colleges were opened in Yangon and Mandalay. The colleges have produced youth who have given two titles, he noted.

In the health sector, projects are being imple-

ment the aim of bridging

ring the gap of health standard between urban and rural re-
dered for conservation of the environment, reduction of poverty of national races liv-
ing in border areas and uplift-
ing of their living standard.

Therefore, these projects have resulted in narrowing the development gap among the national races. The people are co-
operating with the govern-
ment for flourishing of Union Spirit and national solidarity and perpetuation of the Union.

In the border areas develop-
ment project, the govern-
ment gives priority to road and bridge construction which is a major requirement for

area development tasks, spending a huge sum of

Money is a major requirement for the development of border areas and national races.

The State is implementing the 15-

year plan as a national duty and has made remarkable progress. The New Destiny Project aimed to eradicate narcotics is being implemented.

Due to lack of knowledge and vocational education, young women of far-flung border areas were easily mis-
ed into working in the other country by human-traffickers and were confronted with vio-

Therefore, a total of 13 do-

mental training for girls for schools were given for girls in various border areas with the aim of enabling women to earn their living.

Some big nations of the west bloc who would not like to see the prosperity and af-

The Ministry of Progress and officials themselves are

Agriculture and Irrigation

Next, Deputy Minister for Agri-

mining of drugs and achieve-
The State is taking measures to ensure national mainten-

The Ministry of Progress

surveys, 41 farms, 41 veterinary

were built. In agricultural sec-
tor, 31 agriculture offices, 115

agricultural stations, 40 dams,

were built. In communication sec-
tor, 97 TV relay stations were

in eight border towns for de-

ector. So, a total of 186 towns

and villages have enjoyed fruitful results, he said.

In line with the objective

drug eradication. The State for the national consoli-

The State, in line with the national leadership, is taking measures to eradicate narcotics as well. It is therefore necessary for all to allocate the manpower under their influence, dis-

rural areas and future pro-
mogin meaningless activities. Moreover, they are trying to bridge the wicker fence to
damage integrity of the na-

regional development, expenditure, measures undertaken for human re-

The Ministry of Progress and

they have been able to

Loving kindness is getting

(barbaric acts, assassination

It is therefore needed to

is a major requirement for

New school building handed over in Taungtha

Minister Col Thien Nyunt

Minister Col Tin Hlaing

and officials themselves are

MNA
Monghsu Gems Land

Once, it was only a mountainous area covered with forests and various species of plants, nothing more than a usual place found everywhere in Shan State. But now, it has become famous as the Monghsu Gems Land in the heart of Shan State, where local entrepreneurs and people are mining precious stones lying in the layers of soil beneath the earth’s surface.

In the past, business in Mongshu area was based on agriculture, and it was not totally safe and secure, because of the armed insurgency that broke out in Shan State based on racial, factional and ideological prejudices. Only the officers and their men of the Tatmadaw columns that were patrolling the area for regional peace and security were able to study and notice its potential riches then. But when the Government has restored peace and stability in Shan State, with its goodwill and sincere efforts as the focal point to win the trust and understanding of the ethnic armed groups that have come back to the legal fold, business has started to flourish in almost every area of the state.

In addition to its marvellous natural scenes including waterfalls, lakes, rivers, gorges, mountains, forest and highland plains, the many areas of Shan Sate are rich in natural resources, and the Mongshu is one among them.

Located in Lwe-hsaung-tauk region in southern Shan State not so far from Taunggyi, the largest city in the whole Shan State, Mongshu yields a large volume of quality ruby stones and other precious gems annually.

As the Government has been granting permission and giving encouragement to the local entrepreneurs to run private businesses in accord with the market-oriented economy, a number of local companies are now mining gems in Mongshu area.

The arrival of the companies at Mongshu has helped develop the area in many ways as other related businesses such as restaurants, hotels and housing projects and other development undertakings have also emerged, thereby generating job opportunities for the locals.

As gems are precious, so do the sincerity of the entrepreneurs mining the precious stones in the area is also important. In this regard, the dignitaries of the State during their visits to the area urged them to run their business within the framework of the law to serve their interest and the State’s.

Anyhow, finding of the Monghsu Gems Land is an extra bonanza for the nation that is on the correct tract to achieving progress and prosperity in all sectors.

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Gems mining has helped develop Mongshu from a small town into a business thriving centre in southern Shan State.
Implementation of projects for socio-economic development of all regions in the country

Universities and colleges have been opened in states and divisions for the youths living there to have the opportunity to pursue education in their own regions easily. The photo shows the front view of Bago Degree College.

***Photo: MNA***

The photo shows the aerial view of Minhla Dam which was opened on 31-5-2003 in Okpo Township, Bago Division. The dam with the height of 132 feet and length of 3,044 feet was built to store about 44,000 acre-ft of water from Minhla Creek.

***Photo: MNA***

As a result of upgrading Kawthoung Airport and the airport building, jet planes carrying passengers can now use it.

***Photo: MNA***
Study suggests humans wore clothes 70,000 years ago

WASHINGTON, 20 Aug — Adam and Eve may have put on fig leaves while still in the Garden of Eden but a study that looked at the most intimate of pests — body lice — suggests that humans started wearing clothes 70,000 years ago, scientists said on Monday.

The genetic study of lice strongly suggests they — and clothing — arose soon after modern homo sapiens began moving out of Africa and into the cooler regions of Europe.

Lice provide a unique insight into the development of clothing, according to the researchers, working in Germany. Only humans carry this particular species of louse, which lays its eggs in clothing and spreads typhus, among other diseases.

“It seems fairly obvious that when humans made frequent use of clothing,” molecular anthropologist Mark Stoneking said in a telephone interview.

Stoneking and colleagues Ralf Kittler and Manfred Kayser, all of the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig, Germany, report their findings in this week’s issue of the journal Current Biology.

Experts are eager to know when people first started to wear clothes. But while stones, tools and other evidence of human behavior survive for millenniums, clothing does not.

Study says elderly’s mental decline often missed

CHICAGO, 20 Aug — Doctors accustomed to diagnosing physical ailments too often miss symptoms of mental decline that may be early signs of dementia in the elderly, researchers said on Monday.

“As a result, these patients do not have the benefits of early medical treatment or the opportunity to make legal and financial decisions while they are still able,” psychiatrist Sanford Finkel of the University of Chicago Medical School told the Congress of the International Psychogeriatric Association.

His study of 2,150 people in Illinois aged 65 or older, under way since 2000, found as many as 28 per cent of participants showed symptoms of cognitive impairment. Yet their physicians noted the symptoms in the medical records of only 6 per cent of patients and only 2 per cent were prescribed drugs.

In addition, doctors diagnosed only one-quarter of the 25 per cent of participants with symptoms of depression. “These statistics represent a major public health problem and have serious implications for our aging population,” Finkel said. — MNA/Reuters
Britain urged to test immigrants for HIV

LONDON, 20 Aug— Britain should test would-be immigrants for HIV to stem a rise in the number of cases being imported from Africa, campaigners for stricter border controls said on Monday.

Immigrant support groups rejected the calls and the opposition Liberal Democrats, the third force in British politics, said testing would be unethical and unworkable.

In addition on the issue, the Times newspaper—owned by Australian-born media magnate Rupert Murdoch — threw its weight behind testing.

"On the contrary, it is the import of HIV and AIDS into this country through immigration that plays straight into the hands of racists,'" the paper said. It said it was no surprise that African immigrants with no access to expensive anti-retroviral drugs should try to come to Britain to seek treatment.

The government is reviewing its policy on health checks for immigrants while the opposition Conservative Party said it would introduce tests if elected.

Figures from the government’s Health Protection Agency (HPA) show 90 per cent of all people diagnosed with HIV in Britain but who contracted it abroad contracted it in Africa.

Some 2.338 people diagnosed in Britain last year contracted HIV through a heterosexual relationship in Africa, the HPA said. The vast majority are thought to be African immigrants.

That figure was the highest since records began, up from just 506 a decade ago.

"This disparity is due to two factors, the very high prevalences in many African countries and the historic links between Britain and Africa," the HPA said.

Some immigration experts say the government should follow Australia’s lead and test immigrants to see if they are HIV positive. If they are, they should be barred from entering the country, they say.

Rice prices likely to rise in world market

BANGKOK, 20 Aug— Thai rice exports are expected to benefit in terms of prices from the expected insufficient supply in the world market next year.

Pasi Pumchuti, the ministry’s deputy spokesman, was quoted by Thai News Agency as saying Monday the ASAE N Nations Food Security Reserve Board met recently and concluded the rice output was on the decline in the global market with stocks likely to drop by 20 per cent late this year, the lowest since 1987.

According to the board’s estimate, the supply of the rice outputs would not meet the demand next year, resulting in rice prices in the world market edging up. He said the situation would benefit Thailand’s rice exports as prices would rise in tandem with those in the global market.

He conceded Vietnam was a remarkable rival in the global market share of rice. The country targeted to export 3.9 million tons of rice next year.

Using mobile phone reduces driving capability

BANGKOK, 20 Aug— Using mobile phones while driving a car undermines drivers’ capability and makes them run a higher risk of experiencing accidents, according to a research conducted by Thai Kasetsart University.

The research involved the simulation of driving by 57 people from all walks of life such as taxi drivers, salesmen, engineers, students, and government officials. Each of them spent 1-2 hours on the test.

It found the drivers ran the risk of experiencing accidents because their concentration on driving weakened as they had to pay an attention to conversation on the phone.

The research was also made with questionnaires of 1,160 city residents on the issues of laws on prohibition of hand-free equipment while driving.

Wireless gear hinders rescue operations in US

WASHINGTON, 20 Aug— An explosive growth of the mobile phone industry has crowded and tangled the airwaves of the United States, with wireless company signals increasingly interfering with emergency radio frequencies, The Washington Post reported Monday.

Emergency departments, such as police and firefighting departments, across the country have reported unsettling stories of officers failing in calling for backup, dispatchers in relaying suspect descriptions and firefighters requesting ambulances because of radio “dead spots” believed to be caused by wireless phone interference, the report quoted public safety agencies as saying.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has vowed to find a solution, even if it has to reorganize a large swath of the radio spectrum, potentially costing hundreds of millions of dollars and taking years to complete, industry officials said.

Paris hails successful 2003 Seine beach, vows better for 2004

Paris, 20 Aug— With three million visitors attracted to the artificial beach over the Seine River this year, the City Hall of Paris on Monday hailed the success of its initiative and vowed to do better next summer.

About three million people, up from 2.3 million in 2002, went to the man-made beach on the right bank of the Seine River, announced on Monday the city hall.

The operation was launched for the first time, visited by the mayor, to make the HPA said. The vast majority are thought to be African immigrants.

That figure was the highest since records began, up from just 506 a decade ago.

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Half of Nicaraguans get no electricity

MANAGUA, 20 Aug— Only half of Nicaraguans get electricity supply, which is a serious problem facing the nation, Raul Solzranzo, president of the National Energy Commission, said on Monday.

Solorzano was quoted by the Press as saying in a statement that 54 per cent of Nicaraguans have to use wood either because of the high cost of electricity, or because they are not provided with the service.

"Half of the Nicaraguans cannot even afford a gas-stove, or an electric kitchen, so they resort to wood, which then leads to the destruction of forests," Solorzano said.

He noted that to increase electricity service coverage to 70 per cent of the people, Nicaragua has to invest 10 million US dollars per year for seven years.

With a 60-per-cent power coverage, Nicaragua is found at the bottom of the electricity coverage list of Central American nations.

Scottish FA wants tougher punishment for pitch invaders

Glasgow, 20 Aug — The Scottish Football Association wants tougher legal action taken against troublesome fans after two Premier League matches were marred by pitch invasions at the weekend.

An Aberdeen supporter appeared in court on Monday after being wrestled to the ground by police for aiming a kick at Rangers’ Dutch defender Fernando Ricksen during a bad-tempered league encounter at Pittodrie on Saturday.

On Sunday a Hibernian supporter had to be restrained by police after he tried to confront referee Stuart Dougal during the Edinburgh derby with Hearts at Easter Road.

Both fans are likely to be banned by their clubs but SFA chief executive David Taylor wants tougher action taken against offenders by the legal system.

“It’s important for us that the civil authorities — the courts — take a similarly strong view,” Taylor told reporters on Monday.

“It’s no use having people who go on to football parks, and we’ve had a number of incidents of streakers coming on to Hampden Park and then getting fines which are frankly paltry.

While the SFA have condemned both incidents, which they will also investigate, they say there is little that can be done to stop people invading the playing area in future.

SOUTH AMERICAN SOCCER ROUND-UP

Rio de Janeiro, 20 Aug — Chilean champions Cobreloa crashed to a shock 4-1 defeat against modest San Felipe at the weekend while Colombian striker Faustino Asprilla began yet another comeback, this time with his hometown club Tulua.

“The Cock”Quiñones made his debut for Cristal after his surprise move from their arch-rivals Alianza Lima.

Provincial club Alianza Atlético top the second stage with seven points from three games after they beat Universitario, who are coached by Peru’s 1978 World Cup goalkeeper Ramon Quiruga, with goals in each half from Pedro Garcia and Alex Borrero.

Deportivo Wanka, another provincial side, are second after two goals from Rodolfo Minan brought them a 2-1 win over Estudiantes de Medicina.

Chile

Champions Cobreloa, who have made an indifferent start to the Clausura championship with only four points from four games, crashed to a humiliating 4-1 defeat at San Felipe, who had not previously won.

John Ahumada and David Candia set San Felipe on their way with two goals in a five-minute spell midway through the first half.

Argentine Juan Cruz Real added a third in the 36th minute and completed the scoring three minutes from time after Juan Carlos Madrid had pulled a goal back for the Desert Forces.

Cobreloa were without four players who are in China with the national team for Wednesday’s friendly. Universidad de Concepcioncriticised their good run by coming from behind to win 2-1 against Huachipato in a game that produced three red cards — Daniel Campos and Luis Pena for the home team and Diego Guell for the visitors.

Hector Mancillo put Huachipato ahead in the 23rd minute but in the second half Ricardo Viveros equalised from a penalty and Luis Figueroa scored the winner.

Argentina Marcelo Espina and Uruguayan Silvio Fernandez scored second-half goals to give Colo Colo, the country’s most popular club, a 2-1 win over Palestino.

Argentina: Argentine-born Ariel Graziani scored his 17th goal of the championship to give Barcenas a 2-1 win at Tecnico Universitario and lift them to third place ahead of army club El Nacional, who went down to a late Carlos Quiñonez goal at Deportivo Cuerna.

The championship took a break because of the number of players involved in the national team’s tour to Iran and Italy. One outstanding match was played from the previous weekend with Villa Empoli winning 4-1 at Bella Vista for their first win of the second stage.

Paraguay

Corro Porteno beat Tacuary 2-1 to overtake Libertad at the top of the second stage. Libertad were held to a goalless draw by Olimpia.

Venezuela

Defending champions Caracas FC won 2-1 at Carabobo to go top of the Apertura, the first stage of the championship, thanks to goals by David McIntosh and Rafael velazquez. Jonathan Laurens replied for the home team.

INJURED HARGEAVES OUT OF ENGLAND SQUAD

Malaysia, 20 Aug — Bayern Munich midfielder Owen Hargreaves has pulled out of the England squad for Wednesday’s friendly against Columbia due to a groin injury, an English Football Association spokesman said.

Hargreaves was injured playing for his club at the weekend and he flew back to Germany on Monday after being assessed by England’s medical staff.

Batistuta signs for Qatar’s Al Arabi

Doha, 20 Aug — Former Argentine international Gabriel Batistuta formally signed a two-year contract worth eight million US dollars with Qatar’s Al Arabi Sports Club on Sunday.

The 34-year-old will be paid five million US dollars in the first year and three million US dollars in the second year to train Qatari footballers and play for the club, said a source close to Al Arabi.

Batistuta, Argentina’s leading goalscorer with 56 goals in 78 appearances, said he took the Al Arabi offer because Qatar had fascin-ated him on his first visit during the finals of the Emirat Cup in 2002.

Argentinean soccer star Gabriel Batistuta speaks to the press after his arrival in Doha with his family. The 34-year old Batistuta, nicknamed Batigol, is the latest ageing top-level player to join the lucrative route to football in the tiny Gulf state having signed a two-year contract with Qatar club Al-Arabi worth a reported 8 million USD —Reuters
Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:
During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kayin State and Magway Division. Rain or thunderstorms have been isolated in Kayah State, scattered in Shan, Rakhine States, Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago and Ayeyawady Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with locally heavy falls in Tanintharyi Division. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Myek (4.00 inches), Dwayne (3.70 inches), Kawthoung (2.60 inches) and Yangon (0.04 inches) (22.00-08:00).

Maximum temperature on 19-20/03 was 31.0°C (88°F). Minimum temperature on 20-21/03 was 21.5°C (71°F). Relative humidity at 09:00 hrs MST on 20-21/03 was 96%. Total sunshine hours on 19-20/03 was 5.5 hours approx. Rainfall on 20-21/03 was 5.0 mm at Yangon Airport, 16 mm at Kaba-Aye and 15 mm at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1.1-20/03 was 1525 mm (60.04 inches) at Yangon Airport, 1736 mm (68.35 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 1763 mm (69.41 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 9 mph from the South-West (at 17:00) hours MST on 20-21/03.

Bay inference: Monsoon is generally moderate in the Bay of Bengal. Forecast valid until evening of 21-03/03: Rain or thunderstorms will be widespread across Rachine, Rakhine, Mon, Kayin and Shan States, Tanintharyi, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions and scattered in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along Mon-Tanintharyi Coast. Surfaces wind speed in squalls may reach (55-40) mph. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in all Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Increase of rain in lower Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 21-03/03: One or two rains or thunderstorms. Degree of certainty is (100%). Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 21-03/03: One or two rains or thunderstorms. Degree of certainty is (80%).
Four political objectives
- Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
- National reconsolidation
- Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
- Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

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

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

Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects agricultural tasks in Meiktila District, Taungyechaung Dam construction in Kyaukpadaung Township

YANGON, 20 Aug — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of the Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint and departmental officials, on 19 August inspected agricultural work in Meiktila District and Taungyechaung Dam construction in Kyaukpadaung Township.

First, they arrived at paddy field No 58 near Thepekegon Village in Thazi Township, Meiktila District and urged the officials concerned to improve the irrigation system and viewed the thriving monsoon paddy. They next proceeded to Intaingtha Village in Meiktila District and saw over the site chosen to construct a dam there.

They next went to Samon Dam where an official of the Irrigation Department reported on progress of earth work and diversion tunnel construction.

After hearing reports, Lt-Gen Ye Myint attended to the needs for timely completion of the dam. He next inspected the earth work of the dam construction.

Later, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party arrived at Kyetmauktaung Dam in the evening and also saw over agricultural work in the environs. — MNA

Digital auto telephone exchange opened in Kengtung

YANGON, 20 Aug — The EPABX digital auto telephone exchange opening ceremony, jointly conducted by Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications, the Development Affairs Department and MICC Co, was held at Myoma Market in Kengtung on 15 August.

It was attended by Chairman of Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Kyaw. Next, Chairman U Aung Koe and officials of the company presented the commemorative pennant and gifts to the commander, the deputy commander and officials. The EPABX digital auto telephone exchange has 30 lines and a total of 350 telephone extensions. The local people can call easily to all parts of the country and to any region of the world. — MNA

Performing arts & magic competitions continue in Mandalay

YANGON, 20 Aug — The third performing arts and magic competitions organized by the Directorate of Public Relations and Psychological Warfare under the Ministry of Defence continued for the 2nd day at No 3 Mobile Public Relations Unit in Mandalay this morning. Today, singing contest for modern songs took place. — MNA

Large trucks carrying Myanmar goods for export seen at the 105th Mile Terminal in Muse, a rapidly developing town at the Myanmar’s border with China. — MNA