Lt-Gen Ye Myint oversaw the Thittaukgon diversion weir project in Myittha Township, Kyaukse District. — MNA

Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects Thittaukgon diversion weir in Myittha Township, Kyaukse District

YANGON, 22 Aug — Member of the State Peace and Development Council, Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence on 21 August morning met with members of the agriculture supervisory committees of Myingyan and NyaungU Districts at the guest house in NyaungU and gave instructions on agricultural undertakings and attended to the needs.

Also present at the meeting were Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and departments concerned, local authorities, members of the agriculture supervisory committees and others.

First, Lt-Gen Ye Myint made a speech. He said that dams and river water pumping projects needed for agricultural purpose were implemented to ensure rice sufficiency in and river water pumping projects needed for agricultural supervisory committees and others.

Concerned, local authorities, members of the agriculture supervisory committees of Myingyan and NyaungU Districts at the guest house in NyaungU and gave instructions on agricultural undertakings and attended to the needs.

Next, Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint reported on work being carried out for cultivation of paddy in accord with the target in Myingyan and NyaungU townships with the use of river water, work to be carried out for full water supply of river water pumping projects since some river water pumping projects are of scanty water.

Next, the local authorities and members of the agriculture supervisory committees reported on cultivation of paddy as well as on water supply for agricultural purpose, he noted. The respective chairmen of Town- ship Peace and Development Councils are to coordinate and cooperate with the departmental officials to meet the target of paddy production in the region, he stressed.

Coord meeting to convene 10th Global Conference of Women Entrepreneurs held

YANGON, 22 Aug — A coordination meeting to convene the 10th Global Conference of Women Entrepreneurs in Yangon, Myanmar, from 25 to 28 September, 2003, was held this afternoon at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

It was attended by Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Soe, Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing, Mini- ster at the State Peace and Development Council Chair- man’s Office Brig-Gen Abel, Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htu, Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs and for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, directors-general of related departments and the working committee members.

The working committee members presented the draft proposal, activities and work done. Discussions were made and the ministers gave advice to be able to convene the conference successfully.

The meeting ended with the conclusion remarks by Chairman of the meeting Brig-Gen Pyi Soe. — MNA

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

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

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

Prepared assistance to the people of border areas of the State Peace and Development Council

Lt-Gen Ye Myint oversees the Thittaukgon diversion weir project in Myittha Township, Kyaukse District. — MNA

Lt-Gen Ye Myint oversees the Thittaukgon diversion weir project in Myittha Township, Kyaukse District. — MNA

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Raise momentum of border area development tasks while warding off dangers to national unity

Since its assumption of responsibilities of the State, the Tatmadaw Government, with the intention of reconsolidating the national unity, has given top priority to development tasks of border areas where national races live. Almost all the armed groups of national races having returned to the legal fold and working in concert with the Government, the tasks for regional peace, stability and development have been put on the fast track.

The work coordination meeting No 4/2003 of the Work Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races was held at the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs of Chairman of the Work Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council General Khin Nyunt attended it and delivered an address on the occasion.

The Secretary-1, in his speech, said that we should take lessons from some countries and people that have been going through all the evils of war, disease and poverty as they have banked on others in the belief that their dream would come true and their country would become prosperous only with the help of savours.

No one can deny the fact that development of border areas will surely contribute towards national unity, perpetuation of the state and elimination of narcotic drugs.

Up to now, the Government has spent K 24,411 million on the construction of roads and bridges and K 3,221 million on education towards national unity.

MAI celebrates its 10th year

As part of its 10th Anniver-
sary celebrations, MAI held a contest to offer the public the chance to fly for free on board two joy flights around Yangon on 30 August 2003. Due to over-whelm-
ing response to the contest, a special draw was held this afternoon at the Trader’s Hotel, to select the 200 lucky winners to experience the free flights. The draw was carried out by celebrities Tun Eindra Bo and Zaw Win Hlut and others. The draws were witnessed by re-

MAI was formed in August 1993 and celebrates its 10th year of operations this year. A wide range of activities have been planned for the months of August and September 2003. Other activities planned include special promotional air-
fares, donation to charities and a gala dinner at the end of September 2003. The de-
tails of these up-coming events will be announced in due course.

F & R Minister receives foreign guests

Minister for Finance and Rev-
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tails of these up-coming events will be announced in due course.
United States blamed for lax security in Iraq

PARIS, 22 Aug—Russia joined countries assailing the United States for failing to provide security in Iraq, but Washington said it would not send more of its own troops, instead renewing calls for other nations to help in Iraqi reconstruction.

Following a devastating bomb attack on UN headquarters in Baghdad, Russia’s deputy foreign minister, Yuri Fedotov, said Thursday that US and British troops were “obliged to maintain order” under a UN Security Council resolution recognizing them as the occupying power.

The United Nations rejected a US claim that it was responsible for providing its own security and said it was the responsibility of all countries.

“If we, and others, are to be able to contribute effectively to the recovery of Iraq, it is essential that an environment of security be created in Iraq,” said UN Secretary General Kofi Annan.

Annan’s personal representative to Iraq, Sergio Vieira de Mello, was among the 23 people reported killed in the bombing attack.

Japan, which had been expected to be an important contributor to the Iraq reconstruction effort, appeared to be backing away from a promise to send up to 1,000 troops by November because of the absence of security.

“If you look at the current situation, common sense says we cannot send them right away,” said Shigeru Ishiba, the director general of the Japanese Defense Agency. “Even the United Nations, which only provided humanitarian aid and did not use force, has been targeted for attack.”

German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer said there was no question of his government sending troops to Iraq. He told Suddeutsche Zeitung that under UN resolutions, the United States and Britain were meant to provide security and stabilization.

“We would have wished for a central, UN-mandated, but some of our partners were of another opinion. We have to accept that,” he said. In Bangkok, Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra said Thailand may also cancel its plan to send more than 400 troops to help rebuild Iraq.

The Spanish government, too, came under pressure to withdraw its troops in Iraq following the death of a Spanish naval captain in the bombing.

The Socialist party opposition leader, Manuel Chaves called for a parliamen- tary debate “leading to the exit” of Spanish forces. “Many Spaniards are concerned about the armed forces are doing as an occupation force in Iraq,” he said. But the US State Department spokesman, Richard Boucher, said the United States would continue to press other nations to contribute troops and aid workers to stabilization and reconstruction efforts in Iraq.

Boucher said 27 nationals already had sent nearly 22,000 troops to Iraq, and that discussions were taking place with 14 other countries about possible troop deployments.

Despite the bombing, a contingent of 96 Philippine soldiers, police officers and health workers left for a six-month humanitarian mission in Iraq that will include building engineering projects, medical assistance and training for the Iraqi police.

In Tegucigalpa, Honduras, US Sec- retary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld in- sisted that the size of the 147,000-mem- ber force in Iraq was “appropriate” and said the emphasis should be on building up the Iraqi police and army to provide security. Iranian President Mohammed Khatami castigated the United States for increasing rather than diminishing terrorism.

He said Vieira de Mello was the victim of “misguided behavior” by the United States that “set the ground for further terrorist attacks.” “Attacking Iraq triggered a spread of terrorism and violence in the world, carrying a hefty cost for the Iraqis and the Americans,” he said.

De Mello to be buried in France after Brazil wake

BRASILIA (Brazil), 22 Aug — The body of the UN special envoy to Iraq, Sergio Vieira de Mello, who was killed in a bomb attack in Baghdad, will be brought back to his native Brazil for a wake before burial in France, Brazil’s Foreign Ministry said.

A Brazilian Air Force plane was flying to Geneva, Switzerland, to pick up Vieira de Mello’s widow, Annie, and two sons and then on to Baghdad to collect his body, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said late on Wednesday.

The plane was to bring the body to Rio de Janeiro, where the slain envoy grew up and where his mother and sister still live. A wake will be held there for Brazilians to pay their last respects. — MNA/Reuters

Warning notes found at Palestinian Hotel in Baghdad

ANKARA, 22 Aug—Warning papers were found Wednesday near a luxurious hotel in central Baghdad, threatening attacks against coalition forces “wherever they are”.

The leaflets were found on the ground at the Palestinian Hotel in the morning, hours after a deadly bombing hit the UN headquar- ters in the capital that left 24 dead and hundred injured. The notes were printed in both Ara- bic and English, according to guards at the hotel, which hosts foreign diplomats and media workers and is guarded by the coalition forces.

“We found the notes all around the hotel, and we handed them over to the administration,” a guard at the entrance who gave his name as Ayed told Xinhua.

“The administration does not want its guests to know about these warning notes,” another guard who preferred not to mention his name.

Sources said that warning cards had been spread around big hotels one week before the UN headquarters bombing, which occurred at 16:40 (1200 GMT) on Tuesday.

Also on Wednesday, a member of the Iraq Governing Council (IGC) said the Council had received intelligence on August 14 that a truck bombing was imminent in the capital.

“The intelligence specifically said that the target would be either Iraqi political parties or other parties including the UN,” said Ahmed Chalabi, without confirming whether the US troops had intensified the security at the headquarters.

India, 13 other countries make new farm proposal at WTO

NEW DELHI, 22 Aug—Rejecting the EU-US joint farm proposals, India along with China and 12 other developing countries Wednesday proposed an alternative frame- work for agriculture negotiations under the World Trade Organization.

The proposals contemplate a drastic re- duction in domestic support, reduction in export subsidies and their eventual elimina- tion and sharp disciplining of export credits, India’s Commerce and Industry Minister Arun Jaitley told reporters.

On farm tariffs, the framework has made two separate proposals for developed and developing countries, Jaitley said adding the tariff cut for developing countries would be based on Uruguay Round tariff reduction, Swiss Formula and zero duty in respect to other tariff lines.

Apart from India and China, the 12 other countries, which have signed the joint pro- posal in Geneva Wednesday afternoon are Brazil, Argentia, Columbia, Costa Rica, Chile, Bolivia Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Thai- land, South Africa and Guatemala.

These countries accounts for 60 per cent of the world population and they globally produce 60 per cent rice, 35 per cent wheat and 57 per cent sugarcane.

The new proposal has been put forth as the EU and the US had sought to impose market access commitments that were completely in disregard with the concerns and interests of the developing countries in agricultural field, Jaitley said. The alternative formula sug- gested by developing countries proposes Uru- guay Round approach to tariff reduction by developing countries and steeper reduction by developed countries using, among other things, the Swiss formula. — MNA/PTI

US says terrorism now top threat in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 23 Aug — Terrorism is now the biggest threat to US-led efforts to stabilize Iraq, but adding more American troops to the fight is not the answer, the com- mand of US forces in Iraq said Thursday.

Gen. John Abizaid, chief of US Central Command, told a Pentagon news conference that elements of a small terrorist organization called Ansar al-Islam had migrated south into the Baghdad area and that foreign extremists are infiltrating Iraq from Syria to further destabilize it.

Abizaid said terrorists are now firmly established in the Iraqi capital and pose a growing danger. “Clearly, it is emerging as the number one security threat,” he said. “And we are applying a lot of time, energy and resources to identify, understand it and deal with it.” — Internet
Annan vows to continue UN presence in Iraq

**UNITED NATIONS, 22 Aug** — United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan vowed Wednesday that the world body will continue to stay in Iraq to help the country rebuild its future, despite Tuesday’s deadly bombing attack on the UN office in Baghdad.

“We will carry on our work. As I have indicated, we shall not be deterred,” Annan told reporters upon his arrival at the UN Headquarters in New York.

“The stability of Iraq is in the interests, not just of the Iraqis, but of the entire region, and of the international community, the entire world,” he stressed. “It is the responsibility of all of us and we are going to keep it at until we succeed.”

Annan returned to New York on Wednesday morning from Sweden, where he was on vacation, following the massive truck bombing attack on Baghdad’s three-story Canal Hotel housing the UN office.

There was conflicting information on the death toll from the attack.

The UN put the toll at 17, of them seven identified, but reports from Baghdad put it at 20. — MNA/Xinhua

More UN dead found in Iraq, world debates response

**BAGHDAD, 22 Aug** — Rescuers hauled more bodies from the ruins of the United Nations headquarters in Baghdad on Thursday, raising to 23 the number killed in a devastating truck bomb attack, as the world debated how to respond.

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan and Secretary of State Colin Powell were to meet later in the day in New York to discuss a UN resolution that could provide greater security in Iraq sites. The top UN envoy in Iraq, Sergio Vieira de Mello, was among those killed. His spokesman, Salim Lone, said 23 people were confirmed dead and at least one still unaccounted for.

“We hope until the bitter end to find someone, but it does not look good at this stage,” Lone said.

More than 100 rescue workers and US soldiers picked through the rubble, but there was little hope of finding any more survivors from Tuesday’s suspected suicide bombing.

Asked how long people buried in the rubble could have stayed alive, US official David Roath told reporters at the scene: “In this heat, not very long.” No group has claimed responsibility for the bombing. Iraq’s US governor, Paul Bremer, a counterterrorism expert, says the prime suspects are Saddam Hussein loyalists and groups linked to Osama bin Laden al Qaeda network. — Internet

Training programme for Chinese medical workers to be launched

**BEIJING, 22 Aug** — The World Health Organization (WHO) is cooperating closely with Chinese authorities to try to close in on the source of severe acute respiratory syndrome virus (SARS), China Daily reported Thursday.

It also wants to strengthen training in China to help medical workers prevent infectious diseases, WHO official said Wednesday.

The WHO and China’s Ministry of Health will jointly launch the preven tion programme this September. The first part of the training, to be held in Beijing, will involve around 100 medical workers from across China. Further training courses will be held across the country, involving several thousand medical workers.

SARS caused a disaster for many hospitals in the country, which registered 5,077 cases that resulted in 348 deaths in 24 provinces and regions. A joint team of specialists from the Chinese Government, the WHO and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization has finished its week-long SARS investigation in south China’s Guangdong Province.

The investigation remains a work in progress. The mission’s objective is to determine what further studies are needed to explore the potential for an animal carrier, said one of the team leaders. — MNA/Xinhua

Dutch councils to help unemployed young

**BRUSSELS, 22 Aug** — Dutch local councils have written to the Dutch Parliament asking for more money to combat youth unemployment.

The economic recession in the country has caused sharp increases in unemployment among young people, Radio Netherlands reported Wednesday.

The government has demanded schools, companies and councils to work together more closely to prevent job losses among young people.

However, municipalities in the Netherlands said that the government has not allocated any money to implement the plans. Instead municipal budgets have been cut severely. — MNA/Xinhua

UN mulls how to boost security in Iraq

**UNITED NATIONS, 22 Aug** — Security concerns in Iraq must be addressed with the deadly attacks being launched by insurgents, but quick action is unlikely given differences over the contentious issue, UN diplomats said Wednesday.

One possibility is a new UN resolution to enlist more foreign troops to bolster the UN-led military presence in Iraq. The issue will be at the top of the agenda Thursday when Secretary of State Colin Powell meets UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan at UN headquarters.

The idea surfaced last month after France, Germany and India refused a US request to provide troops for the US-led force in Iraq unless there is a broader UN mandate. These countries and others, including Turkey and Russia, have made clear they do not want their forces serving under US command.

Annan said Wednesday that the United Nations is determined to remain in Iraq and that an international force is “under discussion,” he said. “But I do not see UN blue helmets going into Iraq at this stage.”

He also said he didn’t foresee quick action on the issue. A council diplomat familiar with the US ideas and speaking on condition of anonymity, said the Bush administration appeared to be reviving its proposal for more international troops but without relinquishing any control over the military and security operation in Iraq.

Unless Washington agrees to cede some control of Iraq to the United Nations, diplomats said the possibility of a robust multinational force appeared unlikely to pick up any new proponents.

Even Bremer speaks about the need to improve security but, how can we achieve it?” asked Russia’s deputy UN ambassador Gennady Gatilov. “I don’t think that we have an immediate answer to this issue now.”

“The first thing that comes to my mind” is that the US-led Coalition Provisional Authority should take “additional steps” to provide security, he said.

Privately, several council diplomats expressed concern that the United States would try to take advantage of the emotional mood following Tuesday’s bombing that killed at least 20 people to push for troop contributions.

Despite unusual condemnation of the bombing and support for a continued UN presence in the country, Iraq remains a very sensi tive and difficult issue five months after the bitterly divided Security Council refused to back the US-led war.

Powell talked to Annan Wednesday and contacted other foreign ministers this week about a new resolution including Jack Straw of Britain, Dominique de Villepin of France, Joshchka Fischer of Germany and Franco Frattini of Italy, a US official said in Washing ton. Straw was also expected to meet Annan at UN headquarters late Thursday. — Internet

Turkey sends search and rescue team to Baghdad

**ANKARA, 22 Aug** — Turkey on Wednesday sent a 10-member team to Baghdad to carry out search and rescue activities in the bomb-devastated UN headquarters in Iraq, reported the Anatolia news agency.

The team, comprised of nine search and rescue technicians and one doctor, was formed by the Interior Ministry Civilian Defence General Directorate. It has two sniffer dogs and one doctor, was formed by the Interior Ministry Civilian Defence General Artilla Ozdemir, speaking before the departure of the team, said the US Embassy conveyed Tuesday to the Turkish Foreign Ministry its request for sending an experienced search and rescue team to Baghdad.

The team got ready in a very short time and it was not clear how long the teams would stay in Baghdad, Ozdemir said.

Ozdemir added that they had not received any definite information on how many people were still trapped under the debris, and the necessary information will be obtained after the team arrives at the site. — MNA/Xinhua

Relatives of UN staff arrive in Ankara on a chartered plane on 20 August, 2003. The United Nations said on Wednesday it had begun a ‘partial evacuation’ of its Baghdad staff to the Jordanian capital, following increased security concerns after a truck bomb killed the top UN envoy in Iraq. — Internet
Iraqi guerrillas target ‘traitors’ working for US

KUWAIT, 22 Aug — Guerrillas followed an Iraqi translator home and put a bullet through his head because he worked for US occupiers, the American army said on Thursday.

The killers left a note by the corpse threatening to attack more Iraqis “collaborators” after Tuesday’s killing near the town of Samarra, north of the capital Baghdad.

“This was cold-blooded execution. They view all these Iraqis working with us as traitors,” said Major Bryan Luke of the US army’s 4th Infantry Division.

Iraqi guerrillas have killed 62 US soldiers since hostilities declared over on 1 May, but are also targeting locals working with the 132,000 American troops here.

Translators are particularly at risk because they are often helping the US soldiers with intelligence about suspected former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

In Tuesday’s attack, some half a dozen men followed the interpreter in a car on his way home near Samarra, opening fire into his vehicle from behind with a machinegun, Luke said.

“After stopping his car, they walked up and put a bullet in the back of his head with a note saying ‘We are going to kill collaborators’, he added at 4th division’s headquarters in Tikrit, Saddam’s hometown north of Samarra.

The translator said he wanted to help reconstruct a new Iraq, free of Saddam’s men, but added: “They pay me to real good, compared to what I used to get. “The US military offers some Iraqi workers protection. ‘We give them weapons and escorts sometimes,”" Luke said.

Military officers attended the wake of the interpreter killed near Samarra “to show our respects in accord with local customs,” he added.

Woman found alive after listed as dead in UN blast

U N I T E D  N AT I O N S ,  22 Aug — A woman from the Philippines listed among the dead in a Baghdad attack on Tuesday has been found alive in a Baghdad hospital, UN officials said on Thursday.

Marilyn Manuel has been taken off the list of those confirmed dead in Tuesday’s attack, which killed at least 24 people and injured at least 100 others, the officials said.

Those so far confirmed dead include:

— Sergio Vieira de Mello of Brazil, the head of the UN mission in Iraq and one of the world’s most experienced diplomats.

— Nada Younes of Egypt, Vieira de Mello’s chief of staff.

— Renam Al-Farra of Jordan, an employee of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

— Raulillo Buenviajes of the Philippines, working for the UN humanitarian coordination office.

— Arthur Helton, a prominent New York immigration lawyer and senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, in the UN building

and staff from Baghdad after the bombing of the UN office.

Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Asashita said Wednesday he had recived a request by theushi United Nations’ executive arm said Wednesday it was recalling some staff from Baghdad after the bombing of the UN office, a move which observers believe could delay EU plans to fund reconstruction in Iraq.

The European Commission said three of its officials, who had their offices in the UN building, were in Baghdad on Wednesday and said its high-level delegation’s talks on Thursday would focus on humanitarian aid, with talks on reconstruction to be held in Brussels.

The EU executive had hoped to have an overview of Iraq’s need for reconstruction aid from the international community ahead of a donor conference in Spain later this year, but the bombing may have delayed this plan.

“Obviously, our need assessment process will be affected by what has happened,” Mann told reporters in Brussels.

Three other EU executive’s officials, responsible for emergency humanitarian aid programme in Iraq, will remain in Baghdad.

“These people are staying there, obviously keeping a low profile,” Mann said. — MNA/Xinhua

Kuwaiti Emir, PM meet Iraqi delegation

K U W A I T  C I T Y ,  22 Aug — Kuwaiti Emir Sheikh Jaber Al- Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jabersi Al-Sabah on Wednesday received the visiting Iraq Governing Council delegation, the official KUNA news agency reported.

The two sides exchanged viewpoints on a number of issues of mutual concern, including the current situation in Iraq, KUNA said. The newly-appointed Prime Minister stressed his country’s keenness on establishing good relations with Iraq based on mutual trust and the respect of international and Arab resolutions and norms. — MNA/Xinhua

Saudi Arabia welcomes visit of IGC delegation

K U W A I T  C I T Y ,  22 Aug — Saudi Arabia’s Wednesday welcomed a request by the Iraqi Governing Council (IGC) delegation to visit the kingdom, the official KUNA news agency reported.

The Saudi agreement of the request in line with the Arab stance and accords with the decision of the UN Security Council issued Thursday over the establishment of the US-formed interim authority in Iraq, an official source at the Saudi Foreign Ministry quoted by KUNA as saying.

J a p a n  s t i l l  k e e n  o n  I r a n  o i l f i e l d  d e a l

T O K Y O ,  22 Aug — Japan is still keen to strike a deal with Iran to develop a giant oilfield, but remains concerned about Teheran’s nuclear programme, a Japanese Foreign Ministry official said on Thursday.

A Japanese Government-backed consortium missed a June 30 deadline with Iran to seal the two-billion-US-dollar deal to develop Azadegan, one of the world’s largest untapped oilfields, following pressure from the United States to back away from it. Tokyo has lost the exclusive rights to the project. But Japan does not intend to withdraw from negotiations with Iran, the Foreign Ministry official said, reiterating that Tokyo was weighing concerns about Teheran’s nuclear programme.

What’s been saying is that both are important,” the ministry official said, adding that negotiations were still ongoing. He declined to say when a deal might be reached. — MNA/Xinhua

unidentified body on a stretcher as it waits for its removal.

Visitors watch a huge cushion at the Fourth Changchun International Agriculture and Food Fair in Changchun, capital of northeast China’s Jilin Province, on 21 August, 2003. More than 2,000 kinds of agricultural products and foods were shown at the week-long fair, which attracted 1.59 million visitors and closed on Thursday. — XINHUA

Intelligence about suspected Coalition forces operating in the town of Samarra, north of the capital Baghdad.
China stands firmly behind UN in all endeavours

BEIJING, 22 Aug — Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing said on Wednesday that China will, as always, stand firmly behind the United Nations in all its endeavours.

In a condolence message to UN Secretary-General Koofi Annan on the car bomb explosion at UN headquarters in Baghdad, Li said: “I am shocked to learn the car bomb blast targeting the UN headquarters in Iraq, which caused heavy casualties, and I am especially distressed at the death of Secretary-General’s Special Representative for Iraq Sergio Vieira de Mello.”

“The Chinese Government strongly condemns this act of terrorist violence against UN staff,” Li said. He, on behalf of the Chinese Government as well as in his own name, extended the “deepest condolences” to the families of those victims and “most sincere sympathy” to the wounded. “UN staff are emissaries of peace. They are performing a lofty mission in Iraq, which has won admiration and acclaim for the United Nations,” Li said. “It is the shared aspiration of the international community that peace and stability will quickly be restored to Iraq and that the country will soon embark on the road of reconstruction and development,” the Chinese Foreign Minister said.

“The United Nations has made tremendous hard efforts to reorganise the UN mission in Iraq, and will continue to play an important role. Mr. Vieira de Mello has made outstanding contributions to promote the sovereignty of Iraq and enable the Iraqi people rebuild their homeland, which is widely respected by all parties,” he said.

“The United Nations is where people of the whole world place their hope for peace and development. I am convinced that no terrorist or violent attacks will ever stop the UN’s march forward,” the Chinese Foreign Minister added.

China is widely respected by all parties,” he said. “It is the shared aspiration of the international community that peace and stability will quickly be restored to Iraq and that the country will soon embark on the road of reconstruction and development,” the Chinese Foreign Minister said.

“The United Nations has made tremendous hard efforts to reorganise the UN mission in Iraq, and will continue to play an important role. Mr. Vieira de Mello has made outstanding contributions to promote the sovereignty of Iraq and enable the Iraqi people rebuild their homeland, which is widely respected by all parties,” he said.

“The United Nations is where people of the whole world place their hope for peace and development. I am convinced that no terrorist or violent attacks will ever stop the UN’s march forward,” the Chinese Foreign Minister added.

Tourist arrivals in Cambodia decrease in 2003

Phnom Penh, 22 Aug — Tourist arrivals in Cambodia decreased by 16.89 per cent in first six months of this year compared with the same period last year, according to figures obtained from the Tourism Ministry on Wednesday.

The figures showed that the total number of arrivals by land, boat and the country’s two international airports was 311,948 during the first half of 2003, while in 2002, the number was 375,349.

Tourists from the Asian and Oceanic region dropped 10.71 per cent to 114,620 compared with the same period last year. European tourists fell 9.98 per cent, while the US tourists to Cambodia increased by 30.59 per cent in the first half of 2003.

Indonesia targets $4.8b from tourist industry

JAKARTA, 22 Aug — The Indonesian Government targets 4.8-billion-US-dollar income from 4.8-million tourist arrivals in 2004, Minister said on Wednesday.

State Ministry for Culture and Tourism I Gede Ardika told Press conference here that the Marriott Hotel bombing on August 5 did not give significant impact on the tourist industry. The minister said the Jakarta bombing gave different impact on tourism from that of Bali bombings, because tourists visit Bali just for holidays while they come to Jakarta to do business.

US soldier hurt in bomb in southeast Afghanistan

BAGRAM (Afghanistan), 22 Aug — A US soldier was slightly wounded by a bomb while on patrol in southeastern Afghanistan, a US military spokesman said on Thursday.

The device exploded near the US base at Shikin in Paktika Province close to the border with Pakistan on Wednesday evening. Lieutenant-Colonel Douglas Lefforge told a news briefing at the US headquarters at Bagram to the north of Kabul.

A 12,500-strong US-led military coalition remains in Afghanistan pursuing remnants of the Taliban and the al-Qaeda network more than two months after the United States attacked the country following the September 11 attacks in 2001. Coalition bases have come under frequent rocket attacks from the overthrow of the fundamentalist Taleban in late 2001. However, the past 10 days has seen an upsurge in violence across Afghanistan in which more than 90 people have been killed, many in attacks blamed on Taleban guerrillas.

Afghan officials charge have been operating many in attacks blamed on Taleban guerillas since the US-led coalition launched its anti-Taleban military campaign in late 2001.

However, the past 10 days has seen an upsurge in violence across Afghanistan in which more than 90 people have been killed, many in attacks blamed on Taleban guerrillas. Afghan officials charge have been operating many in attacks blamed on Taleban guerillas since the US-led coalition launched its anti-Taleban military campaign in late 2001.
Asian satellite market shows no sign of revival in near future

HONG KONG, 22 Aug — The satellite market can hardly have an obvious improve-ment in 2003 before the economy grows again in Asia, said the chief executive officer of the Asia Satellite Telecommunications Holdings, Peter Jackson, on Thursday.

The report of the 2003 interim results of the Asia Satellite Telecommunications Holdings Limited, Asia’s premier satellite opera-tor, shows that the turnover for the first half of 2003 stood at 456 million Hong Kong dollars ($58.46 million US dollars), a decline of 5.5 per cent compared with 479 million Hong Kong dollars in the same period of last year.

Jackson said that the market has been as difficult as anticipated and the softness in the worldwide transponder markets continued in the first half of 2003. This was re-flected in pricing pressure, lower demand for transponder capacity and the decline in revenue. However, when looking a little further ahead, Jackson believed that the rationale for using satellites remains robust, and that the growth of television, radio and Internet content distribution, corporate net-works and remote communication will flour-ish as markets recover.

What’s more, said Jackson, satellites are able to provide much better service than cable systems in terms of application, and this is particularly relevant to the fragmented and disparate Asia-Pacific Region.

According to him, the company’s in-orbit satellites, AsiaSat 2 and AsiaSat 3S, and their systems, continued to perform well and experienced no disruptions. AsiaSat 3S continues to serve as the satellite platform for one of the largest television viewships in the world.

Furthermore, AsiaSat 4 was success-fully launched in the United States in April this year, and it commenced commercial service in July. — MNA/Xinhua

Australian scientists say ozone hole over Antarctica grows

CANBERRA, 22 Aug — Australian scientists have found the ozone hole over Antarctica appears to be growing large, warning the public against greater risk of sunburn.

The Australian Antarcti-c Division (AAD), the ad-ministrator of the country’s activities in Antarctica, said in a news release Thursday that this year’s ozone hole would be similar to the larg-est-ever observed in 2000, which is three times the size of Australia.

Ozone is a protective layer that lies around Earth rather like a veil and shields the human beings from the ultraviolet-B radiation of the sun’s rays.

But years of ozone de-pletion has resulted in a hole over Antarctica. And scien-tists say synthetic gases, such as chlorofluorocarbons, which are commonly used as propellants in spray cans and refrigerants, have con-tributed to the stratospheric changes. Parliamentary Secre-tary for the Antarctic Sharnan Stove urged people to take precautions against sunburn in the months to come.

Stone said the “disap- pointing” forecast of a large ozone hole is based on a joint study by scientists from the AAD and the Bureau of Me-teorology at Davis station in Antarctica — MNA/Xinhua

Cuba receives 16 students from US

Havana, 22 Aug — A group of 16 young students from the United States arrived in Cuba to study at the Latin American School of Medicine (ELAM).

With the coming of this new group on Wednesday, the number of US students in ELAM has grown to 60. The institution has about 7,000 students from 24 Latin American, Caribbean and African countries.

Founded in 1999, the ELAM is based on President Fidel Castro’s idea of training doctors for coun-tries affected by Hurricane Mitch in 1998. This scheme has now been extended to more countries.

Three years ago, Castro offered 750 scholarships to study medicine for young US students with economic difficulties, and in April 2001, the first eight students arrived from the United States.

The first 1,400 students will graduate in 2005, and according to their agree-ment with the school, they will go back and work in their home countries.

MNA/Xinhua

Thai PM to visit Philippines for more bilateral cooperation

MANILA, 22 Aug — Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra will make a two-day official visit to Manila on September 7-8 to strengthen bilateral security and economic cooperation, the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs said Thursday.

During his meeting with Philippine Presi-dent Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, Thaksin will discuss key security and economic issues.

Manila will seek closer cooperation with Bangkok on anti-terrorism and anti-illegal drug trade, said local officials.

Thaksin will give a lecture on his own economic management style referred to as “Thaksinomics” that helped Thailand recover from the 1997 Asian financial crisis, and on his government’s anti-drug campaign.

Thaksin has been heard about phones that overheated, melted and in some cases exploded, he said. “In all cases it was caused by a replacement battery which was not a Nokia accessory. The manufacturers violated security requirements which should prevent it from heating up after short circuiting, for instance, after it was dropped.”

He could not name any of the battery manufacturers. — MNA/Xinhua

Dutch woman hurt after her mobile bursts in flames

AMSTERDAM, 22 Aug — A 33-year-old Dutch woman sustained slight face and neck burns after her mobile phone burst into flames, the Amsterdam police said on Thursday.

The incident, which occurred on Tuesday, happened after the woman dropped her phone into a music store in central Amsterdam. It caught fire when she picked it up and switched it back on, a police spokesman said.

She was treated for superficial burns by an ambulance team that rushed to the scene.

“The battery got hot and then the phone burst into flames. It was a Nokia,” he said. “We later heard she had used a replacement battery,” he said Jan Willem van Hofwegen of Flame Music store.

A Nokia spokesman in Helsinki said similar incidents have happened in the past and were always related to faulty batteries from independent electronics manufacturers.

In the UK, he said, “we’ve heard about phones that overheated, melted and in some cases exploded,”

“One Country, Two Systems” successfully implemented in HK

HONG KONG, 22 Aug — The principle of “One Country, Two Systems” had been successfully implemented in Hong Kong, Hong Kong’s Secretary for Constitutional Affairs Stephen Lam told a visiting delegation of the Alliance for the Reunification of China from Taiwan Thursday.

“One Country, Two Systems” principle had maintained Hong Kong-Taiwan rela-tions. For instance, Taiwan airlines could continue their flights between Hong Kong and Taiwan after Hong Kong returned to the Motherland in 1997, Taiwan business-men could set up factories in the Chinese Mainland and list their companies in Hong Kong.

Last week, views were expressed in Taiwan that there were signs of Hong Kong receding in political and economic developments since Hong Kong’s return to the Motherland, and that this was a result of the imple-mentation of “One Country, Two Systems”.

Lam told the Taiwan delegation, “This is plainly not the case.”

On constitutional de-velopment, Lam cited the ex-ample that the proportion of directly elected seats in the Legislative Council had been increasing progressively in accordance with the Basic Law. The number of directly elected seats had increased from 20 in the first term to 24 in the second term.

It would be further in-creased to 30 in 2004, ac-counting for half of the number of Legislative Coun-cil seats.

The Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA) recently concluded between Hong Kong and the Mainland would enable a variety of Hong Kong prod-ucts to enter the Mainland market duty-free, and would make room for Hong Kong’s service industries and pro-essionals to develop the Mainland market.

“One Country, Two Systems” provides the im-portant foundation which enables Hong Kong to enjoy this special status,” Lam con-cluded.

The Alliance for the Reunification of China set up in 1998 with the aim of promoting the peaceful reunification of China.

MNA/Xinhua

Members of the Xiaohongyan (Small Wild Goose) Art Troupe from north China’s Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region dance in front of the ruins of St Paul Church in Macau on 21 August, 2003. At the invitation of Macau Civil Affairs Bureau, the troupe will present its well-known “cup and bowl dance” at the art performance of children in the coming weekend. — Xinhua

The new light of myanmar saturday, 23 august, 2003 7
What will be the outcome of the lapsed US sanctions on Myanmar? — 2

Rang Moe San

According to modern political economics, the constitution of the industrialized capitalist countries was formed with feudalism and capitalism combined. Because of the feudalism that permits unlimited land ownership, the feudal lords had the power to freely control and restrict the land. On the other hand, free market economic system and capitalist democracy flourished due to the capitalism. And because of the feudalism-and-capitalism combined constitution, the economy developed and advanced at a high speed during the times when capitalism got the upper hand, and when the feudalism was the lord of the economy fell and difficulties and hardships occurred.

The period, beginning from the end of the 15th Century when capitalism started to emerge in England, to 1973-74, can be called the period of capitalism that witnessed an upward trend. But since 1973-74, the capital-ism began to deteriorate, while the feudalism had been on the gradual rise. At present there have been increasing consumption of the capitalist countries, and the production is slowing down. (For example, production volume when compared with the previous year is at -3 per cent, while the rate of population growth is at 3 per cent). Capitalists are not to invest and jobless rate and inflation rate are increasing. The root cause of this trend is that there has been an unlimited requirement for shelter, food and jobs in the world because of the unlimited growth in the global population. Such a great area of the world remains underdeveloped, and when the area changed, there has been an on-going rise in the land prices, and the private land owners are enjoying an era of prosperity. But the entrepreneurs (capitalists) who have to make investments are facing hardships due to deterioration on all fronts. Every year, some of the companies have gone bankrupt. The members of the parliaments and the governments from those countries have become the representatives or governments of the feudal lords.

According to modern political economics, the historical duty of the productivity of the capitalism is to develop the production capacity of the human labour to unlimitedness, physically; that from that point, theoretically, there must be an abundant array of investments, an increase in the wages and a decrease in the consumer prices, if the capitalists are not to perpetuate the production equipment and the production relations without the revolution and reform in the human community, that because of the need to develop the market for their products, the capitalists send out their forces around the world, because of their growing power of manipulation and control of the global market production and consumption have been intensified, and there have been the multi-racial-busy. And that the capitalists have helped develop and improve production equipment rapidly, facilitate trade and civilize all the races including backward races.

The true characteristics of capitalism are that there must be an abundant array of investments, an increase in the wages and a decrease in the consumer prices, and the jobless rate must be almost at the zero level. However, the true characteristics of the capitalism have already vanished in America and the west bloc nations. Because the governments of America and its allies representing the feudalists are restricting and de-stroying the development and progress of the feudal lords and the feudalism that can lead the human community to advancement of mankind.

* Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
* Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
* Oppose those relying on external support, acting as stooges, holding negative views
* Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation
* Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
* Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy

Efficient use of electricity

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

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

Efficient use of fuel

- Saving one gallon of fuel per car per month will save the nation one US dollar
- Thus, a total of $455,822 US dollar in Myanmar can save US$ 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 youth
- to prevent influence of alien cultures

People’s Desire

- Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
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Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions

- to nurture spiritual development of the youths
- to prevent influence of alien cultures

The system that can lead the human community to advancement, and instead representing the system of monopoly of the feudalism, blackmailing other countries of the world through military means and imposing economic sanctions on them. Especially the one-sided extensive sanctions on Myanmar will have adverse effects not only on the targeted country, but also on the economic enterprises and the region. The sanctions will also hamper flourishing of an international market, the efforts of the industrial powers to frees themselves from economic hardships and the advancement of mankind.

(Translation: TMT)
Prizes presented to ...

YANGON, 22 Aug — Under the sponsorship of the Ministry of Culture, Myanmar Traditional Musical Instruments Exhibition continued from 10 am to 5 pm for the last day at the multi-purpose hall of National Museum on Pyay Road today. At the exhibition, Myanmar traditional musical instruments were displayed systematically.

Faculty members from Music Department of the University of Culture (Yangon) and artists of the Fine Arts Department (Production) under the Ministry of Culture performed entertainment with the practical playing of traditional musical instruments. A total of over 750 monks and people including the students of No (2) Basic Education Primary School of Kamayut Township and foreigners visited the exhibition. — MNA

Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe inspect progress in the extension of the runway of Heho Airport. — TRANSPORT

Heho Airport upgrading project inspected

YANGON, 22 Aug — Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe inspected tasks for upgrading of Heho Airport this morning.

Together with Director-General of the Civil Aviation Department U Win Maung and officials, the minister heard the report at the VIP lounge presented by Managing Director of Asia World Co Ltd U Tun Myint. On tasks for upgrading the existing runway to an 8,500 feet long and 100 feet wide one for Fokker (F-28) aircraft and progress of extending the apron. The officials gave supplementary reports.

The minister and party inspected extension of the runway and attended to the needs. Afterwards, they inspected progress in extending the entrance road to the airport and the site chosen for construction of a new runway. — MNA

Agricultural work ...

YANGON, 22 Aug — Met local farmers and attended to their requirements. The output of Yadana Aung strain paddy is 65 buckets per acre in average. In this rainy season, a total of 3,663.45 acres of land have put under paddy cultivation.

The commander also looked into the farmer U Aung Maung’s plantations of Yadana Aung strain paddy, giving instructions to officials and fulfilling the requirements. — MNA

Visitors view with interest the exhibits displayed at the Myanmar Traditional Musical Instruments at the National Museum. — MNA

Drug pusher sentenced

YANGON, 22 Aug — Acting on information, a combined team comprising members of the local intelligence unit, the Mandalay Anti-drug Squad and the local police station searched Tun Shin (a) Ko Ko Oo’s house in Myoheik Ward-5, Chamyathaz Township, Mandalay, and discovered 8,000 stimulant tablets from the inside of his backpack on 4 May 2003.

The Mandalay Police Station filed a lawsuit against Tun Shin (a) Ko Ko Oo, son of U Than Maung living in Manawharwai Street in Chanmyathazi, under the Sections 15/19(A) of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. Later, the case was handed over to the Mandalay District Court, which passed a sentence of unlimited years’ imprisonment on the drug dealer under Sections 15/19(A)/23 on 11 July. — MNA

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**Heroin, raw opium seized in Mandalay**

YANGON, 22 Aug — Members of local intelligence unit, acting on information between 73th Street and 74th Street in Chanmyathazi Township, Mandalay. The authorities arrested Toe San (a) Tu Hsan, son of U Gyan Maw Yaw of Ward-8 in Lashtio, Khin Maung Aye, daughter of U Mya Chit, togetherness with six kilos of heroin. The confession of the three under interrogation also led to the arrest of Bauk Aung, son of U Hw Tu of Ward No-4, Kukai.

Similarly, a combined team comprising members of local intelligence unit and railway police force of Mandalay Railway Station searched the suspicious packets at the station and seized 14.13 kilos of ownerless raw opium put in a plastic bucket. Action is being taken against the drug traffickers under the narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances law by the police stations concerned. — MNA

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**HKT Minister receives ambassadors**

YANGON, 22 Aug — Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Thein Zaw received Ambassador of Panama to Myanmar Mr Ricardo Antonio Aragon Montezuma, who presented his credentials as Ambassador of Sri Lanka to Myanmar Mr D M M Kanaraja at 1 pm today at his office.

Also present at the call were Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu, Director-General of Directorate of Hotels and Tourism U Khin Maung Latt, Managing Director of Hotels and Tourism Service U Hlay Aung and officials. — MNA

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**Seizure of ownerless raw opium weighing 14.13 kilos from the inside of a plastic container.** — MNA

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YANGON, 22 Aug — At the briefing hall, officials of the lake water pumping project reported on arrangements being made to ensure water supply for 1550 acres of crops, progress in cultivation of 1,200 acres of paddy and cultivation of cotton and pulses and beans.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave instructions on full cultivation of paddy in accord with the target and ensuring of better water supply.

Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint, the commander and party inspected extension and renovation of the main canal by car.

Next, they inspected the sluice gate of Thitaukgon main canal, and the extended canal. Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected water inflow to the diversion weir.

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The future oil bowl

Thiha Tin

Running a business on a commercial scale has become the vital part in this modern age as competition is becoming tougher in the markets. The method of increasing the production, while reducing the cost and improving the quality is the most effective way in penetrating markets and making more profits.

With this view in mind, the Government of Myanmar has been setting up industrial zones to promote the productivity, encouraging businessmen to form consortiums to work as a single effective force and enhance the competitive power, and inviting local entrepreneurs to reclaim large stretches of virgin and fallow lands and wetlands to raise production in agriculture, aqua culture and livestock breeding.

And in accord with the economic objective — Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well — the Government is giving priority to the advancement of the agricultural sector, helping peasants and local entrepreneurs increase sown acreage and per acre yield, apply mechanized farming, get cultivation loans, use chemical and natural fertilizers and utilize advanced techniques and equipment.

The whole of the Union of Myanmar is blessed with favourable natural conditions to cultivate various species of crops for food, industrial use and other purposes. Like all the states and divisions of the Union, Taninthayi Division is getting on very well in extending its agricultural sector, helping peasants and local entrepreneurs increase sown acreage and per acre yield.

Lying in the southernmost part of the nation, Taninthayi Division is the future oil bowl of the State, where large stretches of virgin and fallow lands are being reclaimed, and up to now, the entrepreneurs and farmers have grown the edible oil crops on a commercial scale on roundabout 100,000 acres of land.

It can be said that, normally, the per consumption rate of edible oil is a little bit high among the Myanmar people, and in this regard, cultivation of oil-bearing crops has been an important task for the country since the past. However, none of the previous successive governments were able to extend the crops as the present Government does. In addition to Magway Division, the present oil bowl of the nation, the groundnut, one of the principal sources of cooking oil, has been grown on commercial scale in other states and divisions including Bago Division, Mandalay Division, Sagaing Division and some parts of Shan State.

As the plan to put 500,000 acres of land under oil palm going on well, soon, we will be able to see Taninthayi Division emerging as the future oil bowl of the State.

Automobile Spare Parts Factory, prerequisite for industrial development

Article by Swe Thant Ko, photos by Htwe Kyi

The government is making all-out efforts to enable the nation to keep abreast with the global nations. With a view to upgrading the nation into an industrialized one, the Ministry of Industry-2 established the Automobile Spare Parts Factory in Indagaw Industrial Zone. The industrial zone is situated on Yangon-Bago Highway in Hlegu Township, and not very far from Yagon. The plants of the industrial zones were set up during the period from 2001 to 2003.

The automobile spare parts factory is formed with the disc wheel plant, the metal bearing plant, the radiator plant, the inlet & exhaust plant and the sub-station. The disc wheel plant produces discs for X 2000 jeep, discs for TE 2000 jeep, discs for tractor rear and tractor front, and discs for trailers at the rate of 24,500 units per year.

The metal bearing plant produces VAX metal bearings, DS 70 metal bearings, Z 50 metal bearings, and KND 5B metal bearings at the rate of 120,000 units per year.

The radiator plant produces radiators for X 2000 jeeps, radiators for TE truck 6.5 ton and radiators for Z 50 tractors at the rate of 10,000 units per year. Likewise, the inlet & exhaust plant produces X 2000 inlets, X 2000 exhausts, Z 50 tractor inlets and exhausts, DS 70 inlets and exhausts, inlets and exhausts for Kubota engines at the rate of 46,000 units per year.

The ball bearing plant produces 26 kinds of items at the rate of 600,000 units per year.

The foundation plant produces steel at the rate of 500 tons per year and cast iron, 1500 tons per year.

In cooperation with the Angelique Co of India and the Complant Co of China, the industrial zone is running the sub-station for ensuring industrial development of the nation.

(Translation: TS)
Implementation of projects for socio-economic development of all regions in the country

Efforts are being made to upgrade the roads in Shan State to become all weather ones for ensuring smooth transportation. The photo shows the upgrading tasks carried out on Meiktila-Taunggyi-Kengtung-Tachilek road section. — PHOTO: MNA

Myer University in Myer, Taninthayi Division: In this 21st century education plays a vital role in national development. The more highly-qualified human resources turn out the brighter the future of the State will be. With this end in view, the government is building educational infrastructures all over the country for the students, enabling them to pursue higher education in their own regions with peace of mind. — PHOTO: MNA

Ywathit River Water Pumping Project in Ngazun Township, Myinyan District, Mandalay Division: Water is important for the existence of human beings, producing food and manufacturing goods. Therefore, the government is trying its best in tapping water resources underground and above-ground. PHOTO: MNA
the highest level since 1970, in demand," the costs in response to a decline parked more than 600 air-
decades due to flight cuts

other services and layoffs including the terrorist attacks

as a series of outside blows

earlier and 10 per cent lower
6 per cent in July from a year

of forests and registering
fires in more than 20 years,

of Myanma Port Authority where it will lie at the consign-

MNA/Xinhua

US airliners fullest in three decades due to flight cuts

WASHINGTON, 22 Aug — US airliners were crowded with passengers during the past two months as many airlines reduced flights in order to slash costs.

"US airliners in the past two months were the most crowded in 30 years, mainly because the carriers have parked more than 600 aircraft in an effort to reduce costs in response to a decline in demand," the Washington Post reported Wednesday.

The report quoted the Air Transport Association as saying that planes of the biggest carriers were on average 82 per cent full in July, the highest level since 1970,

when the agency began re-
cording the statistic.

In June, aircraft were 80 per cent full on average, said the report.

Seating capacity of the top 10 US carriers was down 6 per cent in July from a year earlier and 10 per cent lower than July 2000.

Major US airlines have adopted a retreatment stra-
egy in order to survive in a tough business environment over the past few years due to management problems within the industry, as well as a series of outside blows including the terrorist attacks in September 2001 and the weak economic recovery.

Heat wave kills 1,300 in Portugal

LISBON, 22 Aug — About 1,300 people died from a persistent heat wave that swept across Portugal between late July and 12

August, the Portuguese Health Ministry said on Wednesday.

The heat wave was the worst and longest recorded in Portugal. With tempera-
tures hovering around 40 degrees Celsius (104 Fahrenheit), the heat wave left many old people hospitalized, the ministry said in a report.

Besides causing diffic-
ulties to people’s daily life, the heat wave also fanned the country’s worst forest fires in more than 20 years, burning 215,000 hectares of forest and registering damage totaling one billion euros. — MNA/Xinhua

Musharraf, Putin vow to strengthen bilateral relations

ISLAMABAD, 22 Aug — Pakistani President General Pervez Musharraf and Russian President Vladimir Putin Wednesday expressed their resolve to further consoli-

date and enhance the bilateral relationship.

Both leaders agreed that the strengthening of relations between Russia and Pakistan was mutually beneficial and would have a positive im-
pact on regional peace and security.

In the telephone conversation, President Putin for his ear-
lier message of felicitations on the occasion of his 60th birthday.

The best time to plant a tree was twenty years ago.

The second best time is now.
Rare Austro-Hungarian architecture found in N China city

TIANJIN, 22 Aug—A renovation project in north China’s port city of Tianjin has revealed a long-forgotten building believed to be a club dating back to the Austro-Hungarian Empire in the early 20th century.

The elegant four-storey red brick building was designed with spire roofs, and tall pillars adorned with sculptures. The square windows of each floor were decorated with paintings and a brick terrace faced the gate. Workers discovered the old architecture during a face-lift of the houses along the banks of a lake, which runs through the city. The building is near the Austro-Hungarian consulate, which was set up in 1902.

When Tianjin was the only settlement of the empire in China.

Historians and architects confirmed the building was an Austro-Hungarian club after investigating the site and researching historical records. According to experts, the club had been used as a hotel and residential apartments for decades but the garden and surroundings had gradually disappeared.

Safe Motherhood Africa Conference opens in Zambia


Zambian Health Minister Brian Chituwo, who officiated the conference, said the training was usually in response to natural disasters, changing disease patterns and epidemics. “These challenges will ensure skilled health workers are able to deliver an affordable basic health care package as close to the community as possible as well as manage epidemics and emergencies,” Chituwo said.

He said the importance of training cannot be underestimated as it strives to improve the performance of health service providers.

The three-day conference has drawn together numerous experiences and expertise of people in Africa and around the world on conducting training to improve the performance of health workers.

Australia Bank subsidiary launches new fund for Asia market

HONG KONG, 22 Aug—First State Investments, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia, launched its First State Asian Bridge Fund to local investors here Wednesday.

The fund will invest 50 per cent of its assets in Asian equities and 50 per cent in Asian Bond markets.

Amy Cho, head of sales of the company, said, “We chose to focus on Asia because we see enormous growth potential in this region. In the current low growth environment, we believe the First State Asian Bridge Fund is a good choice for risk averse investors to meet their security and income needs while providing the potential for capital growth.”

Ryanair to start two new daily Britain-Spain flight routes

LONDON, 22 Aug—Europe’s largest low-cost airline Ryanair announced Wednesday to start two new daily flight routes from Britain’s midland city of Birmingham to Spain.

The company said it would add Barcelona and Murcia to its Dublin services from Birmingham International Airport. The Dublin services will increase from three to five a day. The move follows the arrival of the new British airport.

A nomad poses with his camel. The ‘One Voice’ animal rights group has logged a lawsuit against a circus after a camel it owned died of dehydration during a record-breaking heatwave that hit France.

Ryans satisfied with economic growth trend of members

DAR ES SALAAM, 22 Aug—The Southern African Development Community (SADC) has expressed satisfaction with regional economic development trend, a statement issued by SADC secretariat said here on Wednesday.

The statement said in the year of 2002, SADC economies achieved on an average growth rate of 3.2 per cent, and Angola, Mozambique and Tanzania are the top three countries in gross domestic product (GDP) growth in the region with 13.8 per cent, 8 per cent and 6.2 per cent respectively.

The average growth rate, the statement said, compared positively to 2.7 per cent achieved in 2001, makes southern Africa the only region on the continent to have accelerated in growth.

However, the economic growth in SADC member states were severely affected by oil and other primary commodity prices.

The statement also pointed out that political instability continued to impact negatively in the growth rate of the region. Countries affected by conflict exhibited lower such as Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), and in some cases negative GDP growth rates, high inflation rates and higher rates of people’s impoverishment.

A Chinese nurse holds a one-year-old child who was born with three legs and abandoned by her family in Beijing, China, on 21 August 2003. Found by Beijing police in March and handed over to a welfare authority, the child is being evaluated for possible surgery to remove the limb whose growth is distorting her lower limb.

HK official to attend Fujian-HK Week

HONG KONG, 22 Aug—Hong Kong’s Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology John Tsang will lead a delegation to Fujian Province in the Chinese mainland from August 21 to 25 to foster business ties, a government Press release said Wednesday.

The delegation comprises representatives from major Hong Kong Chambers of Commerce and Trade Organizations. During his stay, Tsang will meet with senior Fujian officials and trade association representatives.

He will give three addresses, one on Fujian-Hong Kong business and trade relations on August 22, the other on business support services and Hong Kong’s investment environment on August 25. Later that day he will attend the Fujian-Hong Kong Week opening ceremony.
**Germany beaten 1-0 by Italy**

**STUTTGART (Germany), 22 Aug—** Italy outclassed Germany 1-0 in an absorbing international friendly on Wednesday as the visitors’ awesome strike force overcame their injury-depleted hosts.

There had been keen interest in how a weakened German defence would deal with the combined talents of three of the world’s great strikers, Juvetina’s Alessandro del Piero, AS Roma’s Francesco Totti and Inter Milan’s Christian Vieri.

It was a tightly coordinated passing movement between del Piero and Totti running rings around the German back four which put Vieri through to hammer home from just inside the box at the 17th minute. Totti and Vieri combined again in the 23rd minute but Danish referee Kim Milton Nielsen ruled that the goal by del Piero was offside.

The Germans, missing eight key players including midfield creative forces Michael Ballack and Sebastian Deisder, had a weak first half and found it difficult to hold on to the ball.

However, they were transformed in the second half with better organization at the back after Hertha Berlin’s Marko Rehmer was brought on for Christian Werners and Dortmund’s Sebastian Kehl came on to replace Carsten Ramele. — MNA/Xinhua

**Two Koreas hand in hand as university games open**

**TAEGU (South Korea), 22 Aug—** Putting aside political tensions on the peninsula, North and South Korea marched side by side at the opening of the world university games in the South on Thursday.

A total of 322 athletes from both countries, technically still at war since the end of the 1950-53 Korean conflict, walked behind one flag showing a borderless Korea during an emotionally charged ceremony in Taegu, in the southeast of the country.

The North Korean team only arrived on Wednesday after initially threatening to boycott the games in protest at demonstrations in Seoul last Friday when activists burned the North Korean flag and a poster of its leader, Kim Jong-il.

Pyongyang reversed its threat on Tuesday after accepting an apology from South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun.

Inter-Korean relations have been strained since last year when US officials said North Korea had told them it had developed a nuclear weapons programme.

Diplomats from North and South Korea, the United States, China, Russia and Japan are due to discuss the nuclear issue in Beijing from August 27 to 29.

North and South Korea also marched together at the 2000 Sydney Olympics, the 2002 Asian Games in Pusan and the Winter Asian Games in Japan earlier this year.

Female North Korean fencer Kim Hyeyoung and South Korean volleyball player Choi Tae-ung held the united Korean flag — the same blue and white design used for the Berlin Olympics.

**Mendieta joins Middlesbrough on loan deal**

**MIDDLESBROUGH (England), 22 Aug—** Spanish international midfielder Gaizka Mendieta has joined Middlesbrough on a one-year loan from Lazio, the English Premier League club said on Thursday.

“We’re absolutely delighted to have signed Gaizka,” said Middlesbrough manager Steve McClaren. “We have worked extremely hard and beaten a lot of other clubs to bring to Middlesbrough a truly top quality player.” — MNA/Reuters

**US scoop gold as Russia, China disappoint**

**ANAHEIM (California), 22 Aug—** The United States rode a wave of emotion and fervent home support to capture their first ever gold medal in the women’s team event at the world championships on Wednesday.

The Americans’ hopes appeared to be in disarray this week when celebrated trio Courtney Kupets, Ashley Postell and Anna Hatch — all three world championship medallists — withdrew through injury and illness.

But a makeshift quintet, inspired by late stand-in Chellsie Memmel and with an average age of 16, did their absent friends proud in Anaheim by posting a total score of 112.573 points.

Russia — seven-times world team winners and champions for the last five competitions dating back to 1994 — had to be content with silver from their haul of 110.833.

Australia claimed the bronze, their first ever team medal at a world championships, in dramatic fashion, pushing China into fourth place by 0.076 of a point after the Chinese endured a nightmare last two rotations.

They had 0.2 points deducted from their total — a move which ultimately cost them bronze — as Derwen was penalized for warming up on the podium prior to her balance beam routine.

Then Kang Xin and Zhang Nan were marked down for poor floor routines in the last rotation, allowing Australia to capitalize.

There was more drama provided by perennial favourites Russia. Led by multiple world and Olympic champion Svetlana Khorkina, they had a miserable night and a total of 108.985 was enough only for sixth place — the first time Russia had failed to medal since 1995.

Their bid had got off to the worst possible start as Alexandra Chevchenkova missed a landing during her floor routine and hurtled off the podium. She stopped just short of the runway for the vault, and an award of 7.757 was a blow from which Russia, and a below-par Khorkina, could not recover.

Russia were not the only team to commit some basic errors, with the asymmetric bars proving an achilles heel for China and Romania on the second rotation.

**Curtis, Garcia share lead in Ohio**

**AESNO (Ohio), 22 Aug—** British Open champion Ben Curtis and Spain’s Sergio Garcia fired six-under-par 66s for a share of the first-round lead at the WGC-NEC Invitational on Thursday.

Northern Ireland’s Darren Clarke and world number one Tiger Woods are just one shot back in a tie for third.

Behind them, Davis Love III, David Toms, Chris Riley and Scott Verplank are all grouped together in fifth place on 66.

Curtis, who stunned the golf world with his British Open victory had Royal St George’s last month, had three birdies on the front side and three on the back.

Garcia’s round was more adventurous, however, with five birdies, an eagle and a bogey. Woods won this event over three consecutive years — 1999-2001 — when it was held here at Firestone Country Club. — MNA/Reuters

**Ferguson says Keane to be used as emergency defender**

**MANCHESTER, 22 Aug—** Roy Keane will be used as an emergency central defender by Manchester United this season, Alex Ferguson has said.

The United manager intends to use Keane along with fellow midfielder Djemba-Djemba in his back-line after failing to sign defensive cover during the close season.

“Defensively we could still have a problem. We’ve got a good back four of Gary Neville, Mikael Silvestre, Rio and John O’Shea,” Ferguson told the club’s official magazine.

“Then I think Djemba-Djemba can play at right back as I’ve seen him perform there before and he did very, very well. Roy can also play centre half.” — MNA/Reuters

**Lindsay Davenport of Laguna Beach, Calif returns a shot to Magui Serna, of Spain, in their quarterfinal round singles match at the Pilot Pen tennis tournament in New Haven, Conn, on 22 August, 2003. Davenport defeated Serna in straight sets, 6-0,7-5. — Internet**

**Gavrila becomes first Russian in women’s gymnastics history**

**ANAPA, 22 Aug—** Russia’s Alexandra Raisman became the first Russian gymnast to win an individual world’s title in the women’s gymnastics competition on Wednesday.

Raisman, who had previously only captured a silver medal at the world championships, was the first Russian gymnast to win an individual world’s title since 1995 when Olga Korbut became the first woman to win a world’s title in the floor exercise.

A total of 108.985 was enough only for sixth place — the first time Russia had failed to medal since 1995.

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Commander inspects agricultural farms in Shan State (North)

Yangon, 22 Aug — Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing and Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Hla Myint inspected the 12-acre pilot field of the 1,000-acre poppy-substitute Hsinshweli high-yield strain monsoon paddy project in Lashio on 20 August.

Officials reported on the agricultural methods being used. The commander gave instructions on boosting production and inspection at the project site.

The commander also inspected the 50-acre mixed-cropping of Taitsin and soya bean and harvesting of the 120-acre groundnut plantation and left necessary instructions.

The commander proceeded to the 10-acre Hsinshweli high-yield monsoon groundnut plot being undertaken by the local battalion. Officials reported on harvesting of the crops, per acre yield, and plans under way for harvesting the cold season crops. The commander gave instructions on minimizing loss and wastage, cultivation of cold season crops and boosting per acre yield. He next inspected the harvesting of the model groundnut field.

Agricultural work inspected in Pathein District

Yangon, 22 Aug — Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Chairman South-West Command Commander Maj-Gen Hla Oo, accompanied by division-level departmental officials, arrived at Kyaingthaung village-tract, Yaykyi township, Pathein District, yesterday morning.

At the paddy harvest ceremony held at a pandal near the rice field of farmer U Pho Seik, the commander gave instructions on the employment of correct cultivation methods and the use of quality strain and fertilizers for high yield of paddy. Next, U Tun Than, Managing Director of the Myanmar Agriculture Service, reported on requirements for boosting the production of paddy.

U Hla Myo, Manager of the MAS of Ayeyawady Division, also reported on cultivation and harvest of monsoon paddy. Later, the commander inspected the harvesting of Yadana Aung strain paddy and the ploughing of rice fields in the farmland of U Pho Seik. He also cordially presented (See page 9). MNA

Commerce Minister receives Mexican Ambassador

Yangon, 22 Aug — Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone received Ambassador of Mexico to Myanmar Mr Andres Carral Cuevas at his office at 12.30 pm today.

Next, the minister inspected the harvesting of model groundnut field.

Roads and bridges inspected in Mandalay Division and Kachin State

Yangon, 22 Aug — Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, together with Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Myint Thein and officials, inspected the Mandalay-Mogok road section on 19 August morning.

Next, the minister inspected the 125 feet long Baungyi Bridge being constructed by Public Works on the road section in Madaya Township and gave necessary instructions.

The minister arrived at Shweilt Bridge (NgaO) after inspecting the repair of Mandalay-Mogok road section and Mandalay-Thathekkyin-Tagaung-Katharor road section.

The minister inspected the repair of Ngat-O-Shweug road section and arrived at Shweug in the evening.

On 20 August morning, the minister inspected the completion of construction of Paungnet Bridge at its entrance to Shweug, and upgrading of Shweug-Bhamo road section and extension of hill roads.

Afterwards, the minister arrived at Shakhithlam Camp at second defile of Ayeyawady River on the road. The minister gave instructions to the officials on clearance of the drains and maintenance of the machinery.

Next, the minister inspected the completion of construction of Sinkan Bridge. An official reported on works being undertaken and arrangements for future tasks. The minister gave instructions on efforts to be made for timely completion of the bridge and work site safety. The minister also inspected the upgrading of Sinkhan-Bhamaroad section and arrived at Bhamo in the evening.

Yesterday morning, the minister and party inspected the repair of Bhamo-Myitkyina road section and site chosen for construction of 340 feet long two-way Taban River bailey suspension bridge.

Afterwards, the minister and party inspected the upgrading of Momauk-Waingmaw-Myitkyina road section and arrived at Myitkyina through Ba La Minthina Bridge.

Prizes presented to outstanding students in Myingyan

Yangon, 22 Aug — Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung on 20 August morning attended the ceremony to present cash and gold foils donated by wellwishers for the all-round renovation of the pagoda to the Sangha in Mandalay Division. At the ceremony, the minister presented offerents to members of the Sangha.

Rural dispensary opened in Kayah State

Yangon, 22 Aug — A rural dispensary was opened in Khemaphyu Village, Phhasaung Township, Bawlakhe District, Kayah State on 3 August.

Officials from Phhasaung Station, Departmental staff and members of social organizations attended the opening ceremony. MNA

Wellwishers presented K 10 million and gold foils for the all-round renovation of the pagoda to the Sangha.

Next, the minister and wife presented K 1,107,370, donated by wellwishers for offering ‘soon’ to members of the Sangha who are sitting for Pali Pathanyay Examination, to the Upahtamaka ‘soon’ offering association of Myingyan Township.

Myingyan Township Sangha Nayaka Committee Secretary Dazaunggyitaik Dhammadiipa Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Cakkinda delivered a sermon.

Afterwards, the minister attended the cash donation ceremony for construction of the statue of Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abydhuaja Maha Ratthi Guru Abydhuaja Agga Maha Suddhamma (See page 9)