State Peace and Development Council
Chairman Senior General Than Shwe sends message of sympathy to Republic of India

YANGON, 26 Aug — Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar has sent a message of sympathy to His Excellency Dr. A P Abdul Kalam, President of the Republic of India on the loss of life and property which was caused by terrorist act in Mumbai, India. — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt sends message of sympathy to Republic of India

YANGON, 26 Aug — General Khin Nyunt, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar has sent a message of sympathy to His Excellency Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee, Prime Minister of the Republic of India on the loss of life and property which was caused by terrorist act in Mumbai, India. — MNA

Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw and Indian Minister Mr Arun Shourie sign the MoU. — MNA

Indian Minister meets ministers, signs MoU

YANGON, 26 Aug — Visiting Indian Minister of Communication and Information Technology Mr Arun Shourie and party, met Minister for Communications and Information Technology Park (MICT-Park) in Hline Township. Chairman of e-National Task Force CPT Brig-Gen Thein Zaw and director of MICT DC and officials attended the meeting.

Next, Brig-Gen Thein Zaw extended greetings. Next, Myanmar and Indian ministers and officials discussed matters on bilateral cooperation in communications and information technology.

Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw and Mr Arun Shourie signed the MoU and exchanged the documents. Afterwards, the Indian delegation viewed the MICT Park and Bagan Teleport.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt sends message of sympathy to Republic of India

YANGON, 26 Aug — General Khin Nyunt, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar has sent a message of sympathy to Republic of India on the loss of life and property which was caused by terrorist act in Mumbai, India. — MNA

Four political objectives
* Stability of the State, community peace and tranquility, 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

Union of Myanmar State Peace and Development Council
Appointment of Auditor-General

By Order,
Sd/ Khin Nyunt
General
Secretary-1
State Peace and Development Council

Order No 5/2003
13th Waning of Wakhaung, 1365 ME
(25th August 2003)

Permission granted for retirement

The State Peace and Development Council has permitted the following persons to retire from duties with effect from today:

1. Brig-Gen Tin Aye
2. U Than Oo

Deputy Chief Justice
Auditee-General

By Order,
Sd/ Khin Nyunt
General
Secretary-1
State Peace and Development Council

Indian Minister meets ministers, signs MoU

YANGON, 26 Aug — Visiting Indian Minister of Communication and Information Technology Mr Arun Shourie and party, met Minister for Communications and Information Technology Park (MICT-Park) in Hline Township. Chairman of e-National Task Force CPT Brig-Gen Thein Zaw and director of MICT DC and officials attended the signing ceremony of Memorandum of Understanding on communications and information technology at Myanmar Information and Communication Technology Park (MICT-Park) in Hline Township. Chairman of e-National Task Force CPT Brig-Gen Thein Zaw and members, directors of MICT DC and officials of CPT ministry also attended the ceremony.

First, Brig-Gen Thein Zaw extended greetings. Next, Myanmar and Indian ministers and officials discussed matters on bilateral cooperation in communications and information technology.

Next, Brig-Gen Thein Zaw and Mr Arun Shourie signed the MoU and exchanged the documents. Afterwards, the Indian delegation viewed the MICT Park and Bagan Teleport. In the evening, Brig-Gen Thein Zaw hosted a dinner in honour of the Indian delegation at Karaweik Palace. — MNA

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The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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

Puja ca pujaneyyanam, to honour those worthy of honour; this is the way to auspiciousness.
Expedite development projects of border areas

Significant success has been achieved in implementing the projects for development of the 24 development regions and the five rural development tasks. These projects are being implemented harmoniously for ensuring equitable development of various regions in the country.

Thanks to efforts for raising the living standard of national races living in border areas, development gap among them is on the decrease. The local national races are also actively participating in the Government’s endeavours for regional development.

Emphasis is being laid on better transport in implementing the border area development projects. New roads are being built, the old ones renovated and many bridges big and small are constructed. At present, 42 major bridges, 656 small bridges and 16 suspension bridges have been built and many more are under construction.

Measures are also being taken for total eradication of narcotic drugs by means of establishing agricultural and other business undertakings in border areas. Fallow and virgin land have been reclaimed and highland cultivation is being introduced in these regions. Quality strains of crops are being provided and agricultural methods are being conducted for local farmers. Altogether 115 tractor stations, agriculture offices and farming camps have been opened to render assistance to farmers.

To promote the health conditions of the people living in border areas, effective health care services have been provided to them at 52 hospitals, 82 dispensaries, 28 rural health care centres and 41 rural health care branches.

No effort is spared in producing highly qualified human resources in border areas. National race youths are pursuing their education at 19 National Race Youth Development Training Schools and 13 Domestic Science Training Schools and some are at two National Race Youth Development Degree Colleges being opened in Yangon and Mandalay.

From 1989 to 1 July 2003, the Government has spent K. 45762.87 million and US$ 500 million on the projects for socio-economic development in border areas.

Border area development contributes not only to national unity and perpetuation of the Union but also to regional and national development and thus, officials concerned and national race leaders are urged to carry on striving for development of border areas.

UMFCCI Chairman meets Myanmar Economic & Management Institute

President of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Win Myint and General Secretary U Sein Win Hlaing meet Chairmen of Myanmar Economic & Management Institute and The Business Study Committee for Greater Mekong Sub-Region of Japan Mr Tomoo Takahara this afternoon at UMFCCI.

At the meeting, they cordially discussed matters relating to holding the meeting of Myanmar-Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry Business Co-operation Committee in Tokyo in March, 2004, holding of business management meeting in Yangon in 2004, and cash donations by Japan Buddhist associations for the renovation of pagodas in Bagan.

U-17 Inter-District Football Tournament held

Yangon, 26 Aug — The final match of the 2003 Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman’s Shield U-17 Inter-District Football Tournament was held in conjunction with the prize presentation ceremony at the stadium of Dagon Myothit (South) Township in Yangon East District, at 3 pm today, attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe.

Also present on the occasion were Region of No 2 Military Region Brig-Gen Myo Myint and the military region commanders, Secretary of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Kyaw Tint and members. Head of Yangon Division Sports and Physical Education Department U Hla Win, Chairman of Yangon Division Football Sub-Committees Brig-Gen Myint Swe (Retd), the Charmen of the District and Township Peace and Development Councils, footballers and sports enthusiasts.

In the final match, Yangon North District team beat Yangon East District team 1-0.

This was followed by the prize presentation ceremony. Chairman of Yangon Division Football Sub-Committees Brig-Gen Myint Swe (Retd) presented prizes to the footballers of Yangon East District team, which stood second. Next, U Zaw Min of Ye Mon Construction presented K 50,000 to the team.

Afterwards, Secretary of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Kyaw Tint presented prizes to the footballers of Yangon North District team, which emerged champion. Next, U Zaw Min of Ye Mon Construction presented K 50,000 to the team.

Transport Minister meets chairmen of airlines

Minister Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe presents the championship shield to Yangon North District team.— YANGON COMMAND

Mr Tomoo Takahara — MNA

Executive Director U Win Myint and the military region commanders, Secretary U Sein Win Hlaing meet Mr Tomoo Takahara. — MNA

Kaung Myat Golf Open C’ship on 4 Sept

In the first event together with professional golfers and those under 18 are not allowed.

The championship is mainly sponsored by Rothmans of Pall Mall Myanmar Pte Ltd together with K M Golf Centre, Air Mandalay, Grand Slam (Munsing Wear), Canon, Wilson, UPG Paints and Sedona Hotel (Mandalay). Sun Far Travel & Tour, K M Golf Centre and Wilson will present prizes to hole-in-one winners.

Golfers are to enlist at the golf course office Ph-02-21060, 02-268389 and 09-80-21536 by 4 pm on 2 September.

Kaung Myat Golf Open C’ship on 4 Sept

YANGON, 26 Aug — Kaung Myat Golf Open Championship, organized by Myanmar Golf Federation and Myanmar PGA, will be held at Yayatan Taung Golf Course in Mandalay from 4 to 7 September on a grand scale.

Only amateur golfers (men) with 0 to 12 handicap are allowed to take part in the event together with professional golfers and those under 18 are not allowed.

The championship is mainly sponsored by Rothmans of Pall Mall Myanmar Pte Ltd together with K M Golf Centre, Air Mandalay, Grand Slam (Munsing Wear), Canon, Wilson, UPG Paints and Sedona Hotel (Mandalay). Sun Far Travel & Tour, K M Golf Centre and Wilson will present prizes to hole-in-one winners.

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MNA
Most Britons think Blair dupes them on Iraqi weapons

LONDON, 26 Aug — More than two thirds of Britons believe, from what they have heard so far in the Hutton inquiry into the death of arms expert David Kelly, that they were deceived by the government about Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, a poll showed Sunday.

Sixty-seven per cent of British voters say they felt Downing Street embellished the evidence over Iraq weapons, including 62 per cent of Labour voters, according to an poll for the right-wong Sunday Telegraph newspaper.

The findings are a severe blow to Britsh Prime Minister Tony Blair as he is pre-paring to give evidence before Lord Hutton on the Kely affair on Thursday.

Blair, who will consult ministers and officials Sunday at Chequers, is expected to de-fend himself against accusations that he ordered Kely to be “outed” and put political expediency before his duty of care to a senior government official.

Kely, a former UN weapons inspector in Iraq, was the source of BBC reports in May claiming Downing Street had “sexed up” evidence over Iraq weapons. He died with a slit wrist on July 18, days after his name was leaked to the media, sparking the consequence of the Kelly inquiry, while 52 per cent of Labour voters said that they have now lost trust in the longest-serving Labour Prime Minister.

More than half of those polled said that British Defence Secretary Geoff Hoon should resign as a result of Kelly’s death, and 50 per cent said Blair’s Director of Communications and Strategy, Alastair Campbell, should go.

Documents released Saturday night by the Hutton inquiry also reveal that Kely had faced arrest earlier this year. One series of e-mails show Ministry of Defence officials discussed a request from the police to inter-view Kely about a leaked document to the BBC in March about the lack of known al-Qaeda links to Iraq.

The police investigation was separate to the Defence Ministry’s later inquiry into the source of BBC report in May about the government’s exaggeration of its case for Iraq war. — MNA/Xinhua

Third group makes Iraq UN blast claim

CAIRO, 26 Aug — A third group has claimed responsibility for the deadly bombing of UN headquarters in Baghdad, posting the claim on a Web site known as a clearinghouse for Islamic political thought.

The statement — also posted Sunday on the site of the London-based Saudi dissident Saad Al-Fagih’s Movement for Islamic Reform in Arabia.

Al-Fagih deleted the posting Monday, but it reappeared on the site page, which is similar to a chat room. He said he would continue to remove it, and that he regularly deletes postings deemed offensive or which lacked authenticity.

He said the language was clearly that of Muslim extremists but it was impossible to discover where it originated.

“We carried out two operations, one in Afghanis-tan and the other in Iraq,” said he statement, dated Aug, 19, the day of the UN attack.

It described an assassina-tion attempt last year on Afghan President Hamid Karzai and the UN headquar-ters bombing, which killed at least 23 people including top UN envoy Sergio Vieira de Mello. With little evidence that Abu Hafs al-Masri Brigades exists as a group, Islamic terrorism expert Rohan Gunaratna told The Associated Press he believed the statement was a hoax.

Internet

Explosive device detonated in front of British troops in Iraq

SORTS, 26 Aug — An explosive device was detonated Sunday in front of British military vehicles on patrol duty in Iraq, the Bulgarian News Agency reported Monday.

The blast smashed the windows of one of the Bulgarian military vehicles, but no casualties occurred in the accident, the report quoted the Chief of General Staff of the Bulgarian Armed Forces, General Nikola Kolev, as saying.

An investigation was launched imme-diately but failed to identify the type of the explosive device and the way it was planted.

There is no safe place on the territory of Iraq and the risks on Iraqi territory should not be underestimated, Bulgarian President Georgi Parvanov said recently.

MNA/Xinhua

Winds aid Canadian fire fight, Chretien to visit area

KELOWNA (British Columbia), 26 Aug — Calmer winds on Sunday aided exhausted crews fighting a forest fire that has destroyed more than 200 homes and forced 26,000 of Kelowna, British Columbia, residents to flee.

Prime Minister Jean Chretien was scheduled to visit the Kelowna area, and was expected to announce federal financial help for the western Canadian province, suffering its worst forest fire season in at least 50 years.

The 48,400 acre Okanagan Mountain fire on Kelowna’s southern edge continued to grow, but has not repeated the firestorm runs it made late on Thursday and Friday, when an estimated 26,000 people were forced to flee their homes.

Officials said the nearly 500 firefighters who have come from around the province were exhausted, but morale had recov-ered from Friday when the flames destroyed 244 homes, including three owned by local firemen.

MNA/Reuters

Study says red wine molecule shown to extend life

BOSTON, 26 Aug — Researchers have known for years that cutting calories can prolong life in everything from yeast cells to mammals. But an easier way to live longer may be as simple as turning a cork screw.

Molecules found in red wine, peanuts and other products of the plant world have for the first time been shown to mimic the life-extending effects of calorie restriction, a finding that could help researchers develop drugs that lengthen life and prevent or treat aging-related diseases.

Researchers said Sunday that one of the molecules, a compound known as resveratrol, was studied in a study to extend the life span of yeast cells by up to 80 per cent. Resveratrol exists naturally in grapes and red wine.

David Sinclair, an assistant professor of pathology at Harvard Medical School and co-author of the study, said he and his fellow researchers hope the molecules will prove to prolong life not just in yeast but in multi-cellular organisms like worms, fruit flies and humans.

Sinclair, whose study appears in Sunday’s advanced online edition of the journal Nature, said tests on worms and flies were already yielding “encouraging” results. — MNA/Reuters

New York holds firefighting exercise at UN building

UNITED NATIONS, 26 Aug — The New York Fire Department (NYFD) held an emergency drill Sunday at the United Nations Headquarters building in New York, five days after a deadly truck bombing at the UN office in Baghdad. More than 40 units and 1,500 people took part in the exercise.

The scenario simu-lated a report of smoke at the UN building and a basement fire with hazardous materials. Fire fighters from the FDNY worked in cooperation with UN emergency personnel to coor-dinate the exercise. An FDNY official said the exercise was planned before the Baghdad blast. — MNA/Xinhua
Congressional deficit estimate may exceed a half-trillion

WASHINGTON, 26 Aug — The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office is likely to forecast a federal budget deficit for next year that is even larger than the Bush administration has predicted, Congressional officials said today.

Though the budget office is keeping its forecast secret until Tuesday morning, analysts from both political parties used back-of-the-envelope calculations today to suggest that next year’s shortfall could easily exceed $500 billion.

The White House budget office predicted last month that the deficit in 2004 would reach $475 billion, and its estimate did not include any continued military costs for the American forces in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Congressional Budget Office has already alerted lawmakers that it will try two different approaches in estimating those costs, which are currently running at about $4.9 billion a month, just under $60 billion a year.

The first method will assume no special war costs at all, because existing laws make no allowance for spending in Iraq beyond this fiscal year.

Nobody suggests that this approach is realistic, but it complies with the Congressional Budget Office’s legal requirement to base estimates on existing laws.

The budget office will also prepare estimates assuming that this year’s war costs will continue annually for each of the next 10 years.

That would be more realistic for 2004, and Republican officials said it could easily push the estimated deficit in 2004 to more than $500 billion.

But most analysts consider this approach unrealistic for the outlook in the longer term, because costs associated with Iraq and Afghanistan may decline significantly after 2004.

It is hard to predict that decline, however.

“People from both political parties are going to look at this and say it isn’t accurate,” said Sean Spicer, a spokesman for the Republican majority on the House Budget Committee.

The Congressional Budget Office has already noted that about $30 billion of the $180 billion that had been appropriated for this year was essentially delayed and pushed into 2004.

The effect is to reduce the expected deficit for this year by about $30 billion, but increase it by $30 billion for next year. So the growth in the deficit will appear larger, year to year.

Potentially more important than the deficit projections for this year and next is what the Congressional Budget Office says about long-term spending trends and economic growth.

Republicans, who have become increasingly nervous about the record deficits, hope that spending could push down significantly after 2004. It is likely to rack up its long-term estimate of productivity growth in the United States.

By assuming higher productivity growth than in the past, analysts can also assume slightly higher economic growth and higher tax revenues.

People close to the budget agency suggest that the productivity increase will be significant, but not overwhelming.

But Republicans on the House Budget Committee are also bracing for bad news on the short-term economic outlook, expecting the budget office to assume slower economic growth in the months ahead because it made its most recent estimates without considering a flurry of encouraging new data released in the past month.

Asian, Europe young leaders symposium opens in Vietnam

HANOI, 26 Aug — The seventh Asia-Europe Young Leaders Symposium, with the participation of over 100 representatives from 26 Asian and European countries opened in Vietnam’s Ho Chi Minh City on Monday.

The seventh Asia-Europe Young Leaders Symposium is part of the cooperation programme drawn out by the Asia-Europe Summit (ASEM), which aims to enhance mutual understanding between the two continents.

This five-day symposium plays an important role for young Asian and European leaders to exchange views and ideas between the two continents.

The seventh symposium opens in the context of Vietnam’s successful hosting of ASEM four in the past five years.

The symposium is expected to contribute to the development and prosperity of both continents.

The symposium’s agenda includes 10 main working sessions.

Brazilian plane with slain UN envoy leaves for Geneva

RIO DE JANEIRO, 26 Aug — An airplane carrying the body of Sergio Vieira de Mello, the top UN envoy killed in a bomb blast in Baghdad, left here Sunday for Geneva, a day after a memorial ceremony in his hometown.

The coffin of Vieira de Mello, covered with a Brazilian national flag and a UN flag, was escorted by Brazilian police to a Rio de Janeiro air base, where the plane departed for the northeastern Brazilian city of Recife to make a brief stop before heading to Geneva.

China’s biggest solar power controlling system built in Xinjiang

UNUHG, 26 Aug — China’s biggest solar power controlling system has been successfully approved and manufactured in northwest China’s Urumqi City, the capital of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region.

The system has been approved for trial operation with the Ministry of Railways. The solar power plant will be used in the BeTa Mountain area in Xinjiang in September.

The controlling system will be put into operation for Xinjiang’s biggest solar energy power plant. Its main function will be to control solar energy battery covering an area of 3,000 square metres.

The investment in the solar power plant amounts to 15 million yuan (around 1.8 million US dollars). Once construction is complete, it will supply electricity to a hospital, school and more than 200 households.

Turkey angry over killing of Turkmen in northern Iraq

ANKARA, 26 Aug — Turkey put the blame of the death of 10 Turkmen recently in northern Iraqi city of Kirkuk on the United States and the Iraqi Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), the Turkish daily Hurriyet (Freedom) reported on Sunday.

Prime Minister Tayip Erdogan said Saturday “We are closely following the issue and our Foreign Ministry also receives information frequently from our consulate.”

Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul said that Ankara had warned Paul Bremer, the US civilian administrator in Iraq, on the matter. Bulent Ecevit, former Turkish prime minister and leader of the Democratic Leftist Party, proposed to send troops to the region. Fighting broke out amid deep tensions in Kirkuk between its Kurdish majority and Turkmen minorities, which has left dozens of people dead on both sides in recent days.

Annual Indo-Tibet barter trade picks up momentum

PITTAKASAGAR (Uttaranchal), 26 Aug — The annual Indo-Tibet barter trade at Tatkola area in Tibet is gradually picking up momentum with 100 Indian businessmen going there for barter trading through barter, official sources said.

Though, statistics for the volume of trade were not available with district authorities, reports pouring here from across the border suggested that Indian traders were mainly bartering items like raw silk, wool, utensils, jaggery, clothes, spices and bicycles among other things.

China to make nine-year compulsory education available to all

BEIJING, 26 Aug — China has vowed to provide nine years of compulsory education for all children by 2008, said a senior education official Saturday.

Official statistics show that 90 per cent of children already receive nine years of education, but false reports by some institutions cast doubt on the figures, said Wo Qidi, Vice-Minister of Education, at the ongoing Chinese Women’s Ninth National Congress in Beijing.

Iraqi workers carry the sand bags inside the International Committee of the Red Cross and ICRC office for making it more secure in Baghdad, Iraq, Monday on 25 August, 2003. ICRC said on Sunday it was reducing the number of its personnel working in Baghdad after receiving warnings that the organization might be a terror target.

Internet
Aid organizations vow to stay on in Iraq despite security concerns

PARIS, 26 Aug— Despite last week’s murderous bombing of United Nations headquarters in Baghdad, most European aid organizations in Iraq have vowed to stay on, even if only in reduced numbers — while continuing to express concerns for their safety.

In the wake of the bombing, which left 23 mainly UN employees dead including top envoy Sergio Vieira de Mello, both the UN and the Red Cross said that they would reduce international staff by as much as half because of three key threats.

But even before the deadly blast, aid workers had been targeted, with a Sri Lankan Red Cross worker and an Iraqi UN worker killed last month.

China develops world’s first artificial sternum

BEIJING, 26 Aug— The Shanghai Thoracic Hospital has succeeded in developing the world’s first artificial human chest bones, by using harvested rib cells to repair the bony framework by a process of repairing broken thoracic walls.

According to the Beijing Daily, the artificial chest bones, or sternums, have so far only been used on dogs, but experiments have proved successful. The sternums will be put into trial clinical use in one year’s time, according to doctors cited by the newspaper.

To make artificial sternums, doctors first separated a small amount of rib cells from patients for breeding, and then transplanted them into pig bones the cells of which had been removed.

The human rib cells survived and grew on the pig bones, functioned as a culture medium, and absorbed the pig bones, which are de-composable. Finally a chest bone fully consisting of the patient’s cells came into being, according to Tan Qiang, who was in charge of the experiment.— MNA/Xinhua

Indonesia on alert over possible return of SARS

JAKARTA, 26 Aug— Indonesia is on alert over the possible return of the deadly severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) in the region in November, at the Jakarta Post reported on Monday.

“The WHO (World Health Organization) has warned us and other countries that SARS might return in November because the previous outbreak began at that time,” head of Surveillance Epidemiology at the Ministry of Health Azimal Mendozsa said.

In November of last year, SARS began to break out across the world but after about eight months the number of cases declined. It infected 7,452 people and claimed 813 lives worldwide.

“Maintaining precautionary measures at 29 entry points around the country.” said Azimal, referring to screening procedures implemented at airports, seaports, and other points of entry.

Special attention will be given to the Soekarno-Hatta Airport in Jakarta, Hang Nadim Airport in Batam, Ngurah Rai Airport in the Bali capital of Denpasar and Polonia Airport in Medan, North Sumatra. “We are concentrating on people who are coming into the country because last time there was no chain of infection of SARS within the country,” he said.

The most likely source of infection would come from those travelling from SARS-affected countries and displaying SARS symptoms, such as fever and sore throat.

“Isolation rooms, set up to handle SARS, are ready in 30 hospitals across the country. Four more hospitals will follow,” Azimal said.

While no one needs to disrupt their reconstruction efforts. — Internet

Iran and Turkey slam US-led coalition over instability in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 26 Aug — Iraq’s neighbours, Iran and Turkey, on told the US-led coalition that ousted Saddam Hussein and now occupies the volatile nation that it must do a lot more to restore law and order there.

The warnings came as the remains of top UN envoy to Iraq, Sergio Vieira de Mello, killed last week in a suicide bomb attack in Baghdad, arrived in Geneva ahead of his burial in the Swiss city.

And a delegation of Iraq’s interim Governing Council arrived in Jordan on the latest leg of a so-far failed tour to try to persuade reluctant Arab states to formally recognise the body appointed by the occupying forces.

Iran’s warning to the US-led coalition came in response to an assassination bid on Iraq’s Grand Ayatollah Seyed Mohammed Saad al-Hakim, one of the country’s four leading Shiites, who form the majority in both Iraq and Iran.

“Such criminal acts risk giving a pretext to the occupying forces to impose their suppressive policies on the defenseless people of Iraq and will lead to insecurity in the near-term country at a time when the Iraqi people are in dire need of unity and solidarity,” IRNA news agency quoted him as saying.— Internet

275 US soldiers killed since the beginning of military operations in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 26 Aug— As of Monday, 25 August, 275 US soldiers have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq, according to the Department of Defence. Another death was subsequently reported in Iraq on Monday that had not yet been added to the total.

The British government has reported 48 deaths. Denmark’s military has reported one death.

As of May 1, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 137 US soldiers have died in Iraq, according to the latest Department of Defence figures.

The latest deaths reported by the US military:

— On Monday, the US military reported one soldier had died of a non-hostile gunshot wound. The soldier has not been re-identified.

The latest identifications reported by the US military:

Pfc. Michael S. Adams, 20, of Spartanburg, S.C., died on 21 August, in Baghdad. Adams was participating in an Army exercise when a bullet ricocheted and ignited a fire in a building. Adams was assigned to 1st Battalion, 35th Armor Regiment in Baumholder, Germany.

Spc. Stephen M. Scott, 21, of Lawton, Okla, died on 23 August in Baghdad as a result of non-combat injuries. He was assigned to the 3rd Armoured Cavalry Regiment in Fort Carson, Colo. — Internet

Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, condemned Sunday’s bomb attack in the holy city of Najaf and said it was part of a plot against Islam and Shiites, who form the majority in both Iraq and Iran.

“Such criminal acts risk giving a pretext to the occupying forces to impose their suppressive policies on the defenseless people of Iraq and will lead to insecurity in the near-term country at a time when the Iraqi people are in dire need of unity and solidarity,” IRNA news agency quoted him as saying.— Internet

China still needs fund for “AIDS” drugs

LUSAKA, 26 Aug— Zambian Health Minister Brian Chituwo has said Zambia still needs about 200 million US dollars to meet the total budget of 500 million dollars to buy Anti Retro-Viral Drugs (ARVs), local newspaper Times of Zambia reported Monday.

Chituwo was quoted as saying here Sunday so far the ARVs purchased for 10,000 people had been distributed to all the nine provinces on a pilot basis to run for five years.

MNA/Xinhua

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Various Muslim groups march to show their support to the United Nations after Tuesday’s bombing of the headquarters, on 23 August, 2003, in Baghdad, Iraq. Secretary-General Koofi Annan appointed Lopes da Silva as acting head of the UN mission on Friday following the death of his top envoy, Sergio Vieira de Mello, in the bombing of the UN headquarters in Baghdad.— Internet

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“Such criminal acts risk giving a pretext to the occupying forces to impose their suppressive policies on the defenseless people of Iraq and will lead to insecurity in the near-term country at a time when the Iraqi people are in dire need of unity and solidarity,” IRNA news agency quoted him as saying.— Internet

China still needs fund for “AIDS” drugs

LUSAKA, 26 Aug— Zambian Health Minister Brian Chituwo has said Zambia still needs about 200 million US dollars to meet the total budget of 500 million dollars to buy Anti Retro-Viral Drugs (ARVs), local newspaper Times of Zambia reported Monday.

Chituwo was quoted as saying here Sunday so far the ARVs purchased for 10,000 people had been distributed to all the nine provinces on a pilot basis to run for five years.

MNA/Xinhua
Iraq postpones trade fair until next year

BAGHDAD, 26 Aug— Iraq has postponed to next April a trade fair aimed at attracting foreign companies to help rebuild the country, a senior official said on Monday, but he blamed a shortage of hotel rooms rather than security concerns.

Fahadridin Rashan, a US-appointed Trade Ministry official, said the fair had been postponed from December 1 because some hotels — such as the Rashid Hotel in central Baghdad — were now being used by the US military.

The bombing of UN headquarters in Baghdad last week that killed 24 people has raised fears for the security of foreigners in Iraq but Rashan did not link that to the decision to postpone the fair which used to be held in November each year.

“We need more time to prepare for the fair and we need to prepare hotels that can accommodate participants as we are expecting more people to take part,” Rashan told reporters.

He said the delay would not hinder plans to revive Iraq’s shattered economy and reconstitute the country after the US-led war that ousted Saddam Hussein’s government in April.

Rashan said foreign companies were being invited to organize the fair for the first time since it was inaugurated nearly three decades ago. The delay would give enough time for more companies and countries to take part in the fair.

A booming market for Western business before the 1990 Gulf War, Iraq has the world’s largest oil reserves after Saudi Arabia. US firms have so far won the lion’s share of reconstruction contracts but companies in the Middle East and Europe are also lining up to step in.

A tender for mobile phone licences has already sparked accusations of bias towards companies after the US-led authority said it would exclude partly-state owned companies from bidding, effectively ruling out most Arab firms.

UN sanctions on Iraq were lifted in May this year. The sanctions banned Iraq from trading freely with the rest of the world, but under an oil-for-food deal the UN allowed Iraq to sell oil to buy food, medicine and humanitarian essentials.

At the last Baghdad trade fair, held in November 2002 when Saddam was still in power, 1,200 firms from 49 Arab and European countries took part. No US or British firms participated. — MNA/Reuters

UN ends rescue search in bombed site in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 26 Aug— The search for bodies buried at the bombed site of UN headquarters in Baghdad is over as a group linked to al-Qaeda terrorist network claimed responsibility for the attack.

UN officials handed over the newly-discovered seven bodies of Iraqi victims to their relatives, as the rescue team wrapped up the seven-day operation of clearing and searching through the rubble.

However they admitted that more people were missing.

Investigators said they still have a lot of work to do at the site even though the rescue mission was complete.

A total of 23 people were confirmed killed in the suicide truck bombing last Tuesday, including the top UN envoy Sergio Vieira de Mello, whose body had been unloaded in Geneva and is to buried there. — MNA/Xinhua

Chinese enterprises association established in Nigeria

LAGOS, 26 Aug—The China Industry and Commerce Enterprises Association (CICEA) was officially established in Nigeria’s commercial capital Lagos on Sunday, as bilateral economic cooperation and trade between China and Nigeria has been growing by leaps and bounds in recent years.

CICEA’s President Qian Guolin said the CICEA “aims to improve relations between Lagos-based Chinese enterprises and business people. More than 200 people attended the opening ceremony, including a representative of the Lagos State Governor.

The most populous African country with a population of over 126 million, Nigeria is the largest market with huge potential. And Lagos is the largest transit seaport in the west African region.” — MNA/Xinhua

A neighbourly protest near Bush’s Texas ranch

CRAWFORD (Texas), 26 Aug—Many of President George W Bush’s neighbours in this small Texas town support his decision to send troops to invade Iraq, but one has made it his mission to provide a forum for opposing the war.

John Wolf, a 49-year-old area resident who owns a 70-acre ranch a few miles from the President’s Prairie Chapel ranch, which had its grand opening in April — about a month after US missiles started flying over Iraq.

The neighbours “were surprised at first when we moved in and were unsure what we would look like to have opposition to the President in the area,” Wolf told reporters.

“Our vision was to be able to offer some beauty to the

Vietnam marks anniversary of Guilin Teenager School

HANOI, 26 Aug—Vietnam held a ceremony to mark the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Guilin Teenager School in Guilin City, China, on Sunday.

Addressing the ceremony, Nguyen Duc Hat, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee and vice director of the Office of the Party Committee, highly appreciated the role of Guilin Teenager School in the cause of national construction and defence.

He said the school was a good model, making contributions to educating and training talents and future generations of revolutionaries for the state.

Over the past 50 years, all of the school’s pupils have matured and done work in different fields, making active contributions to the cause of the national construction and defence, he said.

From the model of the school, Vietnam should draw significant experiences and lessons in theory and practice to better implement its education and training work, Hat noted. The Guilin Teenager School established in the autumn of 1953 selected more than 1,000 children of war-of-resistance cadres, and children of leading cadres, aged seven to 15.

At the ceremony, Vietnamese Minister of Education and Training Nguyen Minh Hien handed the Friendship Order for Guilin City to Lin Guanhua, vice chairman of the People’s Congress of Guilin City.

MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam to build electronic National Assembly

HANOI, 26 Aug—The Vietnamese National Assembly (NA) on Thursday approved an overall plan to apply information technology in its bodies between now and 2014.

Under the plan, at least 70 per cent of top officials of the NA and its bodies as well as deputies responsible for specific tasks will be able to exploit information on the Internet and use email services by 2006.

Besides, 100 per cent of cadres and specialists at offices will have general knowledge of information technology.

By 2014, local area networks will be set up to serve NA deputies in 61 cities and provinces.

The plan’s ultimate goal is to establish a computer-based information system, which is linked to that of ministries and offices of the NA and central agencies nationwide, to serve operations of the NA and people can access part of the NA’s electronic information network.

The plan is estimated to cost 90 billion Vietnamese dong (5.8 million US dollars) — MNA/Xinhua

A girl performs during the Notting Hill Carnival in London, Britain, on 24 Aug. 2003. The two-day Notting Hill Carnival, Europe’s largest street party which has been celebrated for 38 years, kicked off on Sunday in a burst of vibrant colour and rhythmic Caribbean music. —Xinhua

British soldiers guard the port area on 24 Aug. 2003, in Basra, 600kms south of Baghdad, Iraq. Three British soldiers were killed Saturday during a gun battle in the southern Iraqi port city of Basra and one was seriously wounded. British military spokesman Capt Hugh Hallard said the military still had no details on the attack, but termed it a gun battle operation. Witnesses said an unknown number of men in a pickup truck shot up the British four-wheel drive vehicle in the city centre. — Internet

Notting Hill Carnival, Europe’s largest street party, which has been celebrated for 38 years, kicked off on Sunday in a burst of vibrant colour and rhythmic Caribbean music. —Xinhua

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“Our vision was to be able to offer some beauty to the
Nigeria embarks on one of world’s largest gum arabic projects

ABUJA, 26 Aug — As part of its desert control programme and measures to reduce dependence on federal allocation, the Jigawa State Government in north Nigeria has embarked on an extensive gum arabic production project.

Briefing newsmen at the weekend in the capital Abuja, Deputy Governor of Jigawa State Ibrahim Hassan-Hadejia said the 400-million-dollar project would yield up to 600 million US dollars annually.

“When completed,” he said, “the project, one of the largest in the world, would surpass a similar one in the Sudan, hitherto the biggest supplier of the commodity in the world.”

According to the deputy governor, the United States, the largest market for gum arabic, is now focusing its attention on Nigeria. He said the Jigawa government had joined hands with a US company to set up a gum arabic research centre for the production of seedlings. Established at a cost of one million dollars, the centre would produce 17 million seedlings annually, he said, adding that it had already produced seven million seedlings this year.

Kenya optimistic on promised job opportunities

NAIROBI, 26 Aug — The Kenyan Government is optimistic on fulfilling its promised job opportunities in the country, local newspaper Kenya Times reported Monday.

Chirau Mkwakwere, Kenyan Minister for Labour, was quoted as saying that there is possibility of creating more than the promised 500,000 jobs in the country.

“We have set in motion programmes which we believe are going to create more than the 500,000 jobs we promised Kenyans last year (during the general elections),” he said.

The government will largely depend on the rural electrification programme to create part of the job opportunities, for many job opportunities could be created in rural areas if electricity is available, Mkwakwere said.

Meanwhile, the Labour Minister disclosed that the Kenyan Government is in the process of dispatching labour officers to every district to collect data on job opportunities, which then will be forwarded to the government for analysis. “It is only after analyzing the data that the government will issue policy guidelines to fulfil the 500,000 opportunities,” he said. — MNA/Xinhua

Uganda to introduce policy on disability, elderly

KAMPALA, 26 Aug — The Ugandan Government will soon introduce a policy on the establishment of national disability and elderly councils.

Ugandan Minister of State for Disability and the Elderly Florence Nanyika was quoted Monday by The New Vision newspaper as saying that the government came up with vital policies and legislation including the affirmatory action policy that ensures that vulnerable groups are represented in Parliament.

“The government doubtlessly appreciates the importance of vulnerable groups and their potential in contributing to national development,” she said.

Nanyika made the remarks when she was recently presiding over Platinum Jubilee celebrations of Nkokonjeru Providence Home, where caretakers for the need by offering residential care for AIDS orphans, training skills and education. She said the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development was working on the Social Sector Development Investment Plan, to provide a framework for the implementation of the policy.

Uganda sets up nat’l planning committee to deal with measles

KAMPALA, 26 Aug — The Ugandan Government has set up a national planning committee to handle the forthcoming immunization against measles programme set for October 15 to 19, 2003 throughout the East African country.

This was announced on Sunday by the head of the exercise and Minister of State for Primary Health Care Dr Alex Kamugisha, according to a report from Radio Uganda on Sunday night.

Kamugisha said they plan to immunize between 10 to 12 million children which is almost half the population.

He said the committee will soon give out details of the exercise aimed at eradicating measles in Uganda. He urged district councils to fully endorse the programme and mobilize parents and schools to fully participate in it. — MNA/Xinhua

Japan conducts SARS drills

OKYO, 26 Aug — Japan’s Health Ministry conducted joint drills Monday with the Tokyo metropolitan government and its neighbouring Chiba prefectural government to prepare for a possible outbreak of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) in Japan.

The drills were conducted based on the scenario that two people had returned from overseas business trip with symptoms of illness, such as coughing and a high fever, and that one of them had tested positive for the virus. More than 100 people, including doctors and employees from public health centres, took part in rehearsing the drills, which lasted nine hours, said officials of the Health, Labour and Welfare Ministry.

The drills involved transporting the patient to a hospital, disinfecting a hotel, interviewing people who may have been in physical contact with the infected person, and informing the government about the case.

The ministry will instruct local governments to conduct SARS drills by November if they have not done so already, as some experts have warned of another SARS outbreak in winter, the officials said.

MNA/Xinhua

Dutch Customs seize four tons of cocaine on ship

AMSTERDAM, 26 Aug — Dutch Customs have seized four tons of cocaine worth about 200 million euros stashed in a hidden compartment in the fuel tank of a Venezuelan tug boat at a port, officials said on Monday.

Customs found the drugs — one of the Netherlands’ biggest seizures of cocaine — after three days of searching, following a tip off by the Dutch criminal investigation bureau, a spokeswoman for the Dutch public prosecution service said.

“The find was more or less an accident as the ship had to stop at flushing due to engine trouble. Its final destination was Antwerp,” she said.

The 10 crew members, from Colombia, Ecuador, Panama and Venezuela, were arrested and the Venezuelan captain admitted he knew of the illicit cargo.

The haul was found last week but was revealed for the first time on Monday. The cocaine has since been incinerated, she said. — MNA/Reuters

Four killed in west Japan traffic accident

OKYO, 26 Aug — Four teenage boys died Monday after their car hit a concrete wall and was engulfed by fire on National Route 309 in the town of Shimishi, west Japan’s Nara Prefecture.

According to Japan’s national police agency, all four were apparently aged 17 or 18 and from the same town and one was a high school student. The car belonged to an 18-year-old boy among the deceased.

The police suspect the car hit a curbstone at first and then smashed into the concrete wall at entrance to a tunnel on a gently curving stretch.

The crash took place around 1:30am (0430GMT) and firefighters broke through its roof to bring out the bodies, the agency said.

MNA/Xinhua
Farewell to armed struggle line

Myint Soe (Na-ta-la)

(1) I contributed an article on Sisuwun-Tapan battle last month. Later on, I recalled the events of Burma Communist Party (BCP) I have known. The first armed group I had heard of before I joined the army was BCP. They were not called BCP but dubbed “the communists and insurgents” in our region. Before the Ayeayawady Division became the white region indicating that the region was free from insurgents, BCP members Khin Aung, Tin Maung, Chit Seti, Ngarn Sayin and So Min were notorious in our region. Dahkholgyi (a) Bo Aung Pe was captured dead during 6041 offensive involving four methods of cutting supplies and others.

My son has become an army officer. Here is his address. Make contact with him. I have heard that the son of your boss U Thein Huy sustained injury and arrived in Mingaladon. Go and meet him if you have time”. It was Ko Nyo Win, former BCP member, father of a Taunggon villager. Starting from KG, he was a brigade commander under BCP. He said he had been forcibly recruited by BCP in the eastern part of Thatwin. He recalled that he was among the insurgents in attacking the old camp in front of us. During the attack, he said, a hand grenade was dropped near him. He said when he looked back his friend next to him was without his head. He said that after the battle he fled and joined the army. Some are repentant and follow the correct path but some not.

(2) Ko Nyo Win recalled the words of a peace group member, who was a brigade commander under BCP. He said that up to 34 years after returning to the legal fold, his mood had not changed. He added that whenever he saw the bridges he thought of destroying them. But later all was clear, he said. It will take time to become a new man. Similarly, a period of time is really needed to go to peace. Many obstacles and difficulties will have to be overcome. It takes more time than expected in some cases. A saying from the Middle East goes “there can be war if there is one side but there needs two sides to achieve peace”. Unprecedented success has been achieved in forging the national reconciliation in the time of the present government. It was a great success in our region where there were insurgents in the past if three or four insurgents returned to the legal fold. There had been no incident of insurgents returning to the legal fold in groups.

In the time of the present government, altogether 17 armed groups returned to the legal fold and made peace with the government. The task of the government was to bring about the national reconciliation in forging the national reconciliation. Recently, the fifth ceremony to offer provisions to 1000 members of the Sangoa was held at Sonnathamyine Swemyo-Daw in Myainggyingu Special Region, Kayin State. The ceremony was to mark the 55th birthday of Myainggyingu Sayadaw Bhuddant Suji and peace of the region. How nice it would be if many Sonnathamyines emerge in all parts of Kayin State. There were such rays of hope. The government did not leave KNU in fostering peace. It welcomed the overture, and coordinated with the KNU. But the KNU turned their back on peace. In January 1997 after issuing Metharawhta Announcement, however, the KNU members led by U Saw Tha Mu He, the KNU members led by Phado Aung San, the KNU members led by U Saw Pheri Moe and the KNU members led by U Ko Gyi returned to the legal fold. They are now making strenuous efforts for development of Haungthayaw, Ahtin/ Kyakdond, Phayagon, Kyundawgon and Pyasakhan regions. How nice it would be if leaders of the KNU and the KNU members become those who are making efforts together with the government for development of Kayin State. Peace will prevail in Kayin State.

(5) At present, the KNU in cahoots with NCCUB, ABIDF, NLD (LA), DPIN, FTU and others have been perpetrating atrocities and sabotages, and followed the policy of BCP. No one accepts the policy and acts of BCP. People loathe the acts of BCP. The KNU will have to review their practical acts if they really wish to develop and modernize their state. The government has been implementing rural development projects, projects for development of border areas and special regions development projects to bring about harmonious development across the nation. How could it bring about harmonious and equitable development in the regions where there was no peace yet? Neither war nor demand is needed for peace. Just enter through the open door. But make sure that there are no strings attached. There will be many Sonnathamyines in all parts of Kayin State for those who are in favour of peace.

(Translation: TS) Kyemon: 22-8-2003
Transport Minister receives guests

**YANGON, 26 Aug —** Transport Minister Major-General Hla Myint Swe received Japanese Shadow Play Troupe this morning at the latter’s office. Also presented at the call were Deputy Minister U Pe Than, Rector of Myanmar Maritime University U Thein Tun and Pro-Rector U Charlie Than. MNA

Instructor course on narcotic drugs, HIV/AIDS, ATS, and tobacco opened

**YANGON, 26 Aug —** Jointly conducted by the Ministry of Education and the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control (CCDAC), an instructor course of the No 2 Basic Education Department on the danger of narcotic drugs, HIV/AIDS, ATS, and the danger of tobacco for high- and middle-school teachers from Aungmyethazan, Cha-nayzathazan and Mahaungzwe townships of Mandalay, was opened at the Ayethida Hall of the No 8 BEHS, in Mandalay yesterday.

Deputy Minister for Education Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung delivered an address on the occasion. Present on the occasion were Deputy Commander of Central Command Brig-Gen Nay Win, Secretary of Mandala Division Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Tin Ohn and members. Director-General of the Higher Education Department (Upper Myanmar) Dr Thein Myint, Director-General of the No 2 BED Lt-Col Win Hein, rectors, departmental heads, and officials from social organizations.

After the address delivered by the deputy minister, the director-general of the No 2 BED explained matters related to the course. Students of No 11 Aungmyethazan Township BMS presented an entertainment.

Next, the deputy minister and officials viewed round the educational booths on drug abuse control. On display at the exhibition were directives given by the Head of State on total elimination of narcotic drugs, documentary photos on drug control activities, prize-winning paintings drawn by students, poems and essays, and photos, news and articles on HIV/AIDS.

A total of 126 teachers for from three townships will attend the course, which will last till 26 August. They will also give lectures to 77,217 high- and middle-school students from 27 August and 1 September.

The drug abuse awareness exhibition will be kept open till 1 September for students of basic education schools in Mandalay. MNA

Japanese shadow play troupe continues entertainment programmes

**YANGON, 26 Aug —** The ten-member Japanese shadow play troupe staged its performances for the second day at the National Theatre here this evening to mark the 50th anniversary of the ASEAN-Japan Exchange Year (2003).

Departmental personnel, officials of the Japanese Embassy in Myanmar, students and guests enjoyed the entertainment.

Mochimochi No Ki shadow play troupe led by Mr Yasuaki Yamasaki presented entertainment programmes at the National Theatre — MNA

Heats of Hsanzooh contest for XXII SEA Games conducted

**YANGON, 26 Aug —** Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Min Kyaw Zin, received Chairman of the MIBM and JMBCC of Japan Mr Tomo Takahara at his office at 2 pm today. Also present at the call were Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, Director-General of the Religious Affairs Department Dr Myo Myint, Director-General of the Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Buddhist Teachings U Tun and Pro-Rector U Charlie Than. MNA

Religious Affairs Minister receives Japanese guest

**YANGON, 26 Aug —** Mind General Hla Myint Swe received Chairman of the MIBM and JMBCC of Japan Mr Tomo Takahara at his office at 2 pm today. Also present at the call were Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, Director-General of the Religious Affairs Department Dr Myo Myint, Director-General of the Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Buddhist Teachings U Tun and Pro-Rector U Charlie Than. MNA

Vocational training courses open

**YANGON, 26 Aug —** The opening of basic domestic training course No 34/2003 and advanced tailoring course No 23/2003 of the Domestic Science Vocational Training Centre for Women (Lashe) of the Education and Training Department under the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs took place at the training centre in Lashe yesterday morning, with an address by Deputy Commander of North-East Command Brig-Gen Hla Myint.

Present on the occasion were the wife of the commander, commanding officers of regiments and units, departmental heads, members of social organizations and trainees.

Likewise, the opening of basic domestic training course No 23/2003 and advanced tailoring course No 6/2003 of the Domestic Science Vocational Training Centre for Women in Haka were held at the training centre yesterday morning, with an address by Chairman of Chin State Peace and Development Council Col Tin Hla. MNA

MWJA CEC meets

**YANGON, 26 Aug —** Central Executive Committee Meeting 8/2003 of the Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association was held this afternoon at Sarpay Beikman Building here with an opening address by MWJA Chairman U Hla Myint (Ko Hsaung).

MWJA Joint Secretary U Khin Swe acted as a master of ceremonies. MWJA Secretary U Hla Tun (Hla Tun-Tunwaty) reported on the resolutions passed at the previous meeting and work progress. Next, a general round of discussions followed.

It was also attended by MWJA Vice-Chairmen U Tin Kha (Tekkatho-Tin Kha), U Thaung Maung (Than Maung) and U Myint Thein (Myint Thein Aung) and CEC members. MNA

MWJA CEC meets
Homalin Airport

Homalin airport was opened on 3 August 2003 in Homalin, Khamti District, Sagaing Division. Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win (now the Secretary-1) attended the opening ceremony and made a speech.

In accord with the guidance of Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe and arrangement of Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, the airport was built by military engineers of Military Engineering Units of the Ministry of Defence after receiving orders from the Department for Civil Aviation.

In the past, Homalin airport was the 2900 feet long gravelled runway at which small aircraft like Twin Otter could land and take off. Since modern aircraft could not use the airport, people living in Homalin, Leshi and Hkamti had to use waterway of the Chindwin River and YeU-Thetkaikyin-Paunggywin-Homalin-Khamti road to travel from one region to another. Travelling by land took time in the rainy season since the motor roads were gravel and earth ones.

Nowadays, with the emergence of modern Homalin Airport, local people and service personnel are enjoying the fruits of better transport.

With the aim of promoting the air transport sector, measures are being taken to build new airports, upgrade and extend runways and renovate the airport buildings.

There were only 21 airports in 1988 and there are now 26 airports including Homalin Airport.

There were six airports at which F-28 Fokker jets could land and take off in the past. There are now 17 airports at which F-28 Fokker jets can land and take off. Nowadays, modern airports in Myitkyina, Kengtung, Tachilek, Kawthoung, Myeik, Sittway and At, at which jet planes can land and take off, have emerged in addition to Yangon International Airport and Mandalay International Airport.

Out of Monywa, Homalin, Hkamti and Kalay airports, Kalay airport has made the jet planes serviceable, and Monywa airport is being upgraded. Hkamti Airport and Homalin Airport will contribute much to better transport in upper Chindwin where there was poor transport in the past.

As the runway of Homalin Airport has been upgraded into the 9000 feet long, 200 feet wide and 26 inches thick (concrete) one, aircraft of domestic airlines can use the airport. The 12,000 feet long and 200 feet wide runway will be completed soon and therefore, Boeing 747-400 aircraft with the weight of 873,000 pounds can land and take off at the airport.

The one-storey building at the airport is the 90 feet long and 53 feet wide and thus one hundred passengers of each arrivals and departure can use the airport simultaneously. There is also a 50 feet high control tower.

According to the geographical conditions of Sagaing Division, Homalin airport is the vital location in the division serving the transport service of towns along the Chindwin River and Naga region.

People from Homalin, Hkamti, Leshi and Lahe of the upper reaches of the Chindwin River can now travel easily from one place to another. In the past, the journey from Monywa to Homalin took three days and two nights by waterway and one night by land. But now, to reach Homalin from Mandalay, it takes only over an hour by air.

Thanks to the better transport across the country, people can now travel from one region to another with peace of mind.

Moreover, the better transport contributes much towards social development and boosting trade. It is sure that Homalin airport will help raise the economic and social standards of local people living in Sagaing Division.

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

To provide effective health care services to rural people is one of the five rural development tasks. The government is carrying out the tasks in rural areas including border regions. The photo shows station hospital which was opened on 7 August 2003 in Honam Village in Maungmali Township, Liolem District, Shan State (South).  
PHOTO: THWIN AYE (KYMENON)

With a view to promoting the transport sector, the government is building one bridge after another across the country. Langkho Bridge linking Langkho and Mongpan is situated at Darzeik village, Langkho Township, Shan State (South). The project for the construction of 290 feet long bridge started on 1 August 2001 and was completed on 30 April 2003.  
PHOTO: THWIN AYE (KYMENON)

With the aim of completing construction of carriages and wagons at home and building carriages of high standards, Carriage and Wagon Workshop in Myitngete of Myanma Railways is producing spare parts for engines and carriages and producing wagons and carriages. The photo shows the staff at work at Carriage and Wagon Workshop in Myitngete.  
PHOTO: KAYAN SOE MYINT (KYMENON)

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PHOTO: KAYAN SOE MYINT (KYMENON)
Guangzhou, 26 Aug — South China’s Guangdong Province has issued sea warnings as Typhoon Krovanh arrived at Quanzhou Town of Xuzhou County, Zhanjiang City, around 15 am on Tuesday after passing by Wenchang of the Hainan Island to the south.

The Guangdong Provincial Meteorological Observatory said that when the typhoon landed, the maximum wind force was monitored at 33 metres per second, and the lowest air pressure was 965 per 100 pascal. By 7 am, it was centred at 20.4 degrees north Latitude and 110.5 degrees east Longitude inside Xuzhou County.

Meteorological experts predicted that Krovanh would continue to move northwestward and enter Beibu Gulf after sweeping through the Leizhou Peninsula in southern Guangdong by noon. It might also reach the border of Guangxi Province and Vietnam, they said.

Krovanh brought strong winds to the central and western areas of Guangdong as well as heavy rains in Zhanjiang City and some other areas of southwestern Guangdong, said the observatory.

According to the forecast, there will be more torrential rains in the southwestern areas of Guangdong, and more strong waves in Leizhou Peninsula, the Qiongzhou Strait, sea waters to the west of Guangdong and around the estuary of the Pearl River. — MNA/Xinhua

**Typhoon Krovanh reaches south China’s Guangdong**

**More Hong Kong families living in extreme poverty**

Hong Kong, 26 Aug — The number of Hong Kong families living in extreme poverty has more than doubled and nearly 196,000 households earned less than 4,000 Hong Kong dollars a month in the second quarter this year, up 11 per cent from the same period last year and compared with 91,400 before mid-1997, government statistics show.

Hong Kong’s once-booming economy began to deteriorate in late 1997 when the Asian financial crisis hit and has never fully recovered.

Nevertheless, the territory remains one of the most expensive cities in the world. The rent for even a mediocre 600-square-foot flat can reach 6,000 Hong Kong dollars a month. — MNA/Reuters

**Hurricane Ignacio hits coast of Mexico**

Mexico City, 26 Aug — Hurricane Ignacio Sunday hits Mexico’s Baja California Peninsula, forcing the evacuation of low-lying areas and the closure of all ports.

The storm was heading north at seven kilometres per hour and moving closer to La Paz on the peninsula. Evacuation of about 6,000 residents in the state has begun and federal authorities have closed all ports on the lower peninsula by Sunday afternoon.

The California Sur State Governor Leonel Cota urged all residents to evacuate for their own good. “Under no pretext should we allow residents to remain in high-risk zones.”

The hurricane’s eye remained over the Gulf of California Sunday afternoon and was expected to reach the southeastern tip of the peninsula overnight.

The Mexican Government has issued a tropical storm warning for mainland coastal areas from Altata to Topolobampo and announced a tropical storm watch north of Topolobampo to Huatabampito.

A hurricane warning was in effect for the peninsula from south of San Evaristo on the east coast and south of Bahia Magdalena on the west coast.

According to US forecasters, Ignacio had maximum sustained winds of 165 kilometres per hour with higher gusts, and hurricane force winds extending outward up to 135 kilometres from the centre. — MNA/Xinhua

**ARRIVAL/CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV “BAGO” VOY NO BG748/N**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV “BAGO” Voy No BG748/N are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived at Yangon port on 26-8-2003 and will be berthing on/about 27-8-2003 and cargoes will be discharged into the premises of Myanmar Port Authority where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily between 8 am to 11:30 and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

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

**CONTAINER FEEDER SERVICE MYANMA FIVE STAR LINE**

Phone: 2931472/296507/295754

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV “BUDI TEGUI” VOY NO (065)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV “BUDI TEGUI” Voy No (065) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27-8-2003 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T (1) where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: MS ADVANCE CONTAINER LINE**

Phone: 256908/3783163/76797

**LIMA, 26 Aug — Brazil and Peru vowed here on Sunday to strengthen cooperation in the political and economic fields between the two countries.**

The pledge came after visiting Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and Peruvian President Alejandro Toledo held talks.

Lula, who arrived here Sunday for a two-day visit, stressed the importance of cooperation in the political and economic fields between the two countries in the long-term, saying it could push forward the integration in South America.

It is Lula’s first visit to Peru since he took office early this year. Lula will also visit Venezuela. — MNA/Xinhua

**Brazil, Peru vow to strengthen bilateral ties**
Thailand tightens control of foreign workers

BANGKOK, 26 Aug — Thailand’s Labour Ministry is now circulating a draft on stricter management of foreign workers, local Press reported on Monday.

The draft, focusing on the eradication of foreign hawkers and tightened rules for employment of foreigners, had won the Cabinet’s approval and is now being reviewed by the Council of State.

The new directive will eradicate legal loopholes and will provide for serious action to be taken against illegal immigrant workers,” Em- ployment Department Deputy Director Orawan Pongpa-nang was quoted by The Au- noon newspaper on Monday.

She said foreign peddlers would be the main focus of the draft, for “peddling” was an occupation reserved for Thais.

There were a certain number of foreigners, mostly Indians and Arabs, operating as hawkers openly in Thai- land.

Most of them entered the country illegally, Orawan said, adding that “I think we will arrest and gradually de- port them.”

Besides, the new draft also proposed a minimum invest- ment of two million baht (47,620 US dollars) for foreign- ers to register a company in the kingdom.

At the same time, most of the companies will be allowed to hire no more than 10 for- eigners on the basis of the per capita investment requirement of two million baht for for- eigners.

“Companies that want to hire more than 10 foreigners must pay tax of at least three million baht (71,430 dollars) a year,” said Orawan.

Foreign singers are also a target of the draft on control of alien employees.

The proposed capital re-quirement would mean that foreign singers have to work at large hotels and restaurants.

“The issuance of a growing concentration of poverty in the region and countries have seen poverty levels stagnate since 1997,” said the commission’s executive secretary, Jose Antonio Ocampo, at a news conference.

For 2003, the commission forecasts 225 000 people, or 43.4 per cent of the population, lived below the pov- erty line last year in the region where several countries have been rocked by political un- rest and financial woes, the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in a report on social conditions in the region.

The commission defines a household as poor when its income just meets the mini- mum required to cover basic consumption needs. Of the 220 million, 95 million were unable to meet their basic needs.

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Champions Porto lose first points with 1-1 draw away

LISBON, 26 Aug — Champions Porto suffered their first setback of the season on Sunday when they drew 1-1 away to newly-promoted Estrela Amadora, leaving Sporting and Maritimo unchallenged at the top of the Portuguese Premier League.

Sporting lead the standings on goal difference from Maritimo. The only teams unbeaten after two league matches, they both have maximum six points.

The champions went ahead in the 61st minute on Sunday, newly-signed South African striker Benny McCarthy hammering a 30-metre freekick into the right corner of the Amadora net. However a mistake by Porto goalkeeper Vitor Baia allowed Amadora to level in the 76th minute. Baiacleared the ball to substitute Julio Cesar outside area and the Brazilian striker equalized with a shot over Baia’s head.

A penalty paved the way for Benfica’s 2-0 win over Vitória Guimarães on Saturday, who played the entire second half with 10 men. Replacing the Guimarães goalkeeper, Brazilian striker Giga Santos deflected a shot with his hand and was shown the red card. Slovenian midfielder Zlatko Zahovic put Benfica ahead 1-0.

Benfica, who play Lazio on Wednesday in the second leg of their Champions League third-round qualifier, doubled the score with a goal by Hungarian striker Miklos Feher.

Spanish midfielder Tonito Gonzalez scored twice in Sporting’s 4-2 win over Belenenses on Saturday.

Sporting’s Brazilian midfielder Fabio Rochenmbak scored his first goal for his new club with a penalty in the 15th minute.

Santos replace Cruzeiro, who had led the competition since May 8, after the Foxes lost 1-0 to Goias as they continued a poor run which has seen them win once in the last six games.

Santos’ midfield was strengthened by the presence of 18-year-old prospect Diego after a move to English Premier League club Tottenham Hotspur fell through last week.

The news that they were keeping one of Brazil’s most exciting players appeared to lift the side and they raced to a 2-0 lead in only 22 minutes against the club that claims to be Brazil’s most popular with 25 million fans. Midfielder Elano volleyed the Fish in front after 13 minutes and Alex blasted in a 30-metre free kick nine minutes later as Fluminense goalkeeper Julio Cesar was caught napping.

Julio Cesar made amends as he deflected Diego and Robinho before halftime to keep the score down. Fluminense striker Edison reduced the deficit when he converted a 53rd minute penalty but the Vultures were unable to find an equalizer despite a vast improve-ment after the break.

“We’re perfectly capable of winning it,” he told reporters.

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Yangon South District holds Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions

YANGON, 26 Aug — The opening of the 11th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions of Yangon South District was held at Shwehmawwun Hall in Kyauktan this morning, attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe.

Also present on the occasion were military region commanders, Division Secretary-1 Lt-Col Kyaw Tin, and members, local authorities, members of the panel of judges, competitors, guests and artists.

Chairman of District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Sein Hlaing formally opened the competitions, and explained the purpose of the competitions. Afterwards, entertainment programmes followed.

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe presented gifts to the entertainers. Next, a total of 77 persons took part in amateur level competitions and seven, in professional level competitions. Lt-Col Sein Hlaing and officials presented prizes to the prize winners.

Minister U Win Aung sends message of sympathy to Republic of India

YANGON, 26 Aug — U Win Aung, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar has sent a message of sympathy to His Excellency Shri Yashwant Sinha, Minister of External Affairs of the Republic of India on the loss of life and property which was caused by terrorist act in Mumbai, India.

Minister inspects Ye Nwe Hydelpower Project in Bago Division

YANGON, 26 Aug — Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut arrived at Ye Nwe Hydropower Project being undertaken by No-4 Construction Group of the Hydropower Department near Myochaung village in Kyauktagya Township, Bago Division, on 23 August afternoon.

The minister inspected construction of tunnels and sluice gate and earth work. He gave instructions to the officials on timely completion of the project, stipulation of construction materials, systematic use of heavy machinery, cooperation of respective departments and ensuring work site safety, and attended to the needs.