Government is giving encouragement to development of fisheries sector

Innovative measures to be taken to penetrate into foreign markets

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win and Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein give instructions on work of Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries and Ministry of Industry-1

Officials attending the meeting of Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win and Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein with departmental heads of the Ministry of Industry-1 at the meeting hall of the ministry. (See page 9)
Performing arts competitions with lofty aims

The Government of the Union of Myanmar held down twelve political, economic and social objectives and has been translating them into action with the intention of bringing peace, development and modernity to the nation. One of the four social objectives is “Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character.”

The observance of Myanmar traditional cultural performing arts competitions is one of the measures taken to realize this objective. They have been held every year since 1993 and the eleventh competitions are going to take place soon. The eleventh Myanmar traditional cultural performing arts competitions of Yangon South District were held in Kyauktan Township and Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Myint Swe attended the opening ceremony and presented cash awards to the participants.

The competitions are drawing near and therefore final selection is being made in each and every district, state and division. There is enthusiastic participation at the professional level and so it is the amateur level. As a result, a large number of budding artists are to emerge. The yearly observance of Myanmar traditional cultural performing arts competitions have kindled interest in traditional culture and patriotic spirit among youths.

It is very important for those participating in the competitions to exhibit genuine Myanmar culture, especially true Myanmar choreography in dance competitions.

We would like to urge all the artists to take part in the competitions enthusiastically, trying their level best to show their talents, and make the eleventh competitions an unprecedented success.
Troops frustrated as casualties mount in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 28 Aug — Iraqi guerrillas killed two US soldiers and wounded five in two separate attacks Wednesday, as many GIs expressed rising frustration over the inability to strike back at an unseen enemy and anxiety over the rising death toll.

One soldier with the 3rd Armored Calvary Regiment died and three others were wounded when a roadside bomb struck their convoy around 7:10 a.m. in the town of Fallujah, about 40 miles west of Baghdad, a military spokesman said. A similar bomb struck a convoy in Baghdad less than 30 minutes later, killing a soldier with the 205th Military Intelligence Brigade and wounding another, the military said.

So far, 281 American soldiers have died in Iraq since the war began March 20. Since President Bush declared May 1 that major combat was over, 143 have died. Sixty-six US troops have been killed in action since the president’s declaration. Seventy-seven have died in nonhostile actions. More than 1,000 GIs have been wounded since the war began.

“We’re a lot more paranoid now,” said Spc Bob Heckman, 30, of Memphis, Tenn., a 1st Armoured Division soldier whose convoy was hit by an improvised explosive device last week, injuring three. “When we first got here, you’d hear about stuff over the radio, but then it was happening to other people. Now it’s beginning to happen to our people.”

Because of the continuing violence, the international food relief agency Oxfam said it was pulling out its foreign staff. The Red Cross also has announced that most of its staff will leave or be reassigned to areas outside Baghdad. The withdrawal of international aid workers will compound the problems the US-led Iraqi administration has in trying to restore basic services and defuse Iraqi anger at the American occupation.

Improvised explosive devices — IEDs, in military parlance — have become the weapon of choice for guerrillas who are fighting the US-led occupation of Iraq. Soldiers say the bombs can be practically anything from a couple of hand grenades tied together to more deadly devices consisting of artillery and mortar rounds.

The bombs can be hidden practically anywhere: in soda cans, piles of debris, dead animals and broken-down vehicles. Soldiers say the bombs have become more sophisticated in recent weeks. Instead of wire-detonated devices, anti-American guerrillas are using remote-controlled devices, and the explosives themselves are becoming more deadly, some soldiers say.

“They can now stand off and detonate them in a way they didn’t before,” said Sgt. Bob Haug, a National Guardsman from St Louis, with the 215th Military Police Company. “Now they’re starting to use the Claymore together and four at a time, too. They’re getting slick over here.”

Military officials report that explosion devices are being used increasingly in attacks on US troops along with hand-thrown propelled grenades and automatic weapons, which indicates tactical coordination and control. Even so, the officials blame the attacks on small bands of loyalsists to the former regime and criminal gangs operating without centralized command. — Internet

HK’s GDP growth forecast to be adjusted

HONG KONG, 28 Aug — Hong Kong’s economy has enjoyed a good rebound after the SARS outbreak, Hong Kong Financial Secretary Henry Tang said on Tuesday, adding that he expects the GDP growth forecast to be adjusted accordingly when it is released on Friday.

Speaking after returning from Fuzhou, capital of east China’s Fujian Province, Tang said Hong Kong’s economy is taking a turn for the better in the wake of the robust growth in the mainland’s economy and the implementation of CEPA (Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement).

The general improvement of the economic situation of Hong Kong’s trading partners also helps underpin Hong Kong’s economic recovery, he added. Noting that Hong Kong exports and re-exports have seen substantial growth, he is optimistic that Hong Kong’s re-exports of goods will continue to increase in the next one or two years.

A two-week international IT programme organized by the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) accepted on Tuesday Cuba’s proposal to turn the island into a collaborating centre to fight dengue fever in the region.

Dr Jose San Martin, PAHO consultant on the theme, said the regional sanitary organization welcomed Cuba’s initiative. Cuba’s offer was made during the two-week 8th International Course on Dengue Fever held in Havana’s Pedro Koury Tropical Medicine Institute.

In order to combat the disease in the region, the island will make available its laboratory network, whose capital and controlling strategies have been very efficient,” San Martin said. As part of the action to formalize the offer, Cuba has prepared a report on details of available infrastructure.

Colombian drug boss gets 30 years in prison

MIA MI, 28 Aug — Colombian drug boss Fabio Ochoa, a former leader of the notorious Medellin cocaine cartel, was sentenced on Tuesday to more than 30 years in prison for plotting to ship tons of cocaine to the United States.

Ochoa, 46, whose cartel dominated the global cocaine trade in the 1980s, was sentenced by US District Judge Michael Moore to 30 years and five months in prison plus five years probation, the Miami US Attorney’s Office said.

He could have been sentenced to life in prison. US prosecutors in Florida had indicted Ochoa and 42 others in 1999 of conspiring to ship up to 30 tons of cocaine a month into the United States from 1997 to 1999. He was found guilty in May.

Nigeria pledges support for “IT” programmes for children

ABUJA, 28 Aug — The Nigerian federal government has pledged support for information technology (IT) programmes for children, a senior official said here Monday.

Minister of Information and National Orientation Chukwuemeka Chikelu made the remarks at the opening of a two-week international IT programme organized by the ministry in collaboration with Digital Pears International (DPI), an non-governmental organization. The programme, whose participants come from primary and secondary schools in west African countries, is an effort to boost the knowledge of IT among young people. Earlier, Ibukun Odusote, coordinator of the programme, said the purpose of the annual event was to impart IT skills on children and teenagers between the ages of 8 and 17. “The programme introduces children to Internet web site creation,” she said, adding that participants would be able to create websites for other institutions at the end of the learning experience.

US warned of long costly stay in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 28 Aug — Five months after the fall of Baghdad the US administration admitted there would be a long and costly stay in Iraq while it considered making some concessions to the United Nations to get more international support.

Paul Bremer, the top US administrator in Iraq, said tens of billions of dollars would have to be spent rebuilding Iraq’s infrastructure, though he expressed optimism for the country’s future. Meeting Iraq’s electrical demand alone would require two billion dollars and 12 months of work, while providing clean water would cost 16 billion dollars over four years, Bremer told The Washington Post in an interview. Overall, he estimated reconstruction would cost “several tens of billions of dollars”.

The United States is also spending an estimated four billion dollars a month on the military occupation of Iraq. With a Congress report Tuesday already predicting a record 480 billion dollar US budget deficit in 2004, an unnamed State Department official told The Post the White House planned to seek a “huge” supplemental Congress spending bill for Iraq. Other officials said an “emergency” injection was also being considered to keep Iraq’s interim government from running out of cash.

President George W Bush warned the public on Tuesday that the United States would have to make a “substantial commitment of time and resources” to Iraq but that it had become the key battle in the US war on terrorism. The United Nations wants other nations to contribute troops and finance to the Iraq campaign. But other countries who opposed the Iraq war have demanded a greater UN role in Iraq. The US administration had dismissed such suggestions. — Internet

US soldier searches an Iraqi man during a raid on scores of houses in Khalis, a town about 70 kilometres (43 miles) north of Baghdad, Iraq, on 26 August, 2003. — Internet

AIDS.

Cuba to become centre for fighting dengue fever

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International Development signed an agreement here Tuesday to encourage and protect investment between Zimbabwe and OPEC.

Men a week ago, her uncle Khalid Tamimi said. He was told by telephone that her life would cost 50,000 US dollars.

The two parties.

Security still below zero in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 28 Aug — While Westerners were lounging around a Baghdad hotel on Tuesday night, one Iraqi was fatally shot in the forehead and another took a bullet in the leg just beyond the walls of the swimming pool. Such violence is not unusual but is likely to make Westerners in Baghdad even more nervous after a truck bomb killed at least 23 people at the UN headquarters last week.

Some international aid workers have already left Iraq, fearing their safety cannot be guaranteed. But most Iraqis — just as exposed to the lawlessness of postwar Baghdad — do not have the option of leaving a country still facing bombings, kidnappings and carjackings four months after the fall of Saddam Hussein.

Many still live in fear and say they see no signs that US-led occupation troops will impose enough security to make Iraqis feel safe.

Officials in the US-led administration running Iraq say Baghdad, while not as safe as other parts of the country, is stable. Iraqis tell a different story.

Seven-year-old Nour was kidnapped by five armed men a week ago, her uncle Khalid Tamimi said. He was told by telephone that her life would cost 50,000 US dollars.

The kidnappers eventually accepted 1,500 US dollars.

“She came home looking so thin, crying. Security is below zero in Iraq. If this was America, TV shows would have showed her picture to save her. Nobody cares about Iraq,” he said.

Most Iraqis say they do give Saddam Hussein credit for having maintained security.

US troops with little experience of police work are training Iraqi policemen to take control of the streets.

On the surface the US-Iraqi cooperation looks good — police stations gutted in the war have been revived and painted a soothing shade of blue.

They are guarded by American soldiers sitting behind sandbags and machineguns.

Zimbabwe, OPEC sign investment agreement

HARARE, 28 Aug — Zimbabwe and the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) Fund for International Development signed an agreement here Tuesday to encourage and protect investment between the two parties.

Zimbabwean Finance and Economic Development Minister Herbert Murerwa signed the agreement on behalf of the government while Director General of the OPEC Fund Seyyid Addala signed on behalf of his organization.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Murerwa said the agreement was another milestone toward the cementing of solidarity between OPEC countries and Zimbabwe.

The agreement, he said, would go a long way toward the stimulation of capital flows from private companies in the OPEC member countries to the private sector in Zimbabwe.

Murerwa said such investments would lead to technological transfer, the establishment of a foreign currency in the country and to the opening of new markets in the OPEC member countries for Zimbabwe’s private sector.

He immediately took the opportunity to urge the private sector in the country to seize the investment opportunities that would be unlocked by the operation of the agreement, saying “The benefits to accrue from the implementation of this agreement will be immeasurable.”

He said the government of Zimbabwe would undertake to ensure that transfers of capital, profits and dividends would be made in freely convertible currency.

Kenya Airways to start direct flights to Cape Town

NAIROBI, 28 Aug — Kenya’s national carrier, Kenya Airways (KQ), announced here Tuesday it will inaugurate non-stop flights to Cape Town in South Africa from October 1 this year.

The airline currently flies daily to Johannesburg and these additional flights will go a long way in further boosting trade and friendship, KQ Director for Corporate Communications Catherine Muigai said in a statement.

“The decision to remain dynamic and responsive to customers needs, constantly seeking new and innovative solutions to cater for their demands,” Muigai said.

Departing from Nairobi at 7:25 am (0425 GMT), the flights will take four hours to arrive in Cape Town at 12:10 pm (0810 GMT), the flights will take four hours to arrive in Cape Town at 12:10 pm (0810 GMT).

Kenya Airways said it would use a CargoLink 737 for the flights.

A US soldier stands over an detained Iraqi man during a raid on scores of houses in Khilis, a town about 70 kilometres (43 miles) north of Baghdad, Iraq, on 26 August, 2003. — INTEROB

Chinese, Iranian FMs hold talks

BEIJING, 28 Aug — Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing on Tuesday held talks with his Iranian counterpart Kamal Kharazi. They had an exchange of views over bilateral ties and regional and international issues of common concern.

Li said the Chinese and Iranian people cherish traditional friendship, and since the Islamic Republic of Iran was founded, the two nations’ friendly and cooperative ties have been constantly developed, with exchange of high-level visits increasing, trade and economic cooperation fruitful and international cooperation enhanced.

He said China is pleased at the progress.

Kharazi said the bilateral relations have developed rapidly in recent years, and their good political relations have laid a sound basis for the progress of the two countries’ economic and cultural ties. Iran is satisfied with the development of bilateral ties, hoping they will further enhance cooperation to safeguard regional stability, he said.

Moreover, Kharazi said Iran and China have great potential for development in trade and economy, and the two nations should further strengthen cooperation in this area. The Iranian Foreign Minister has been visiting China since Sunday as Li’s guest. — MNA/Xinhua

Internet

Harrison Ford blasts US policy on Iraq

MADONN, 28 Aug — At a safe distance from his homeland, veteran Hollywood actor Harrison Ford launched a broadside Wednesday at US policy on Iraq, his country’s gun laws — and the film industry for producing “video games” for teenagers.

“I am very disturbed about the direction American foreign policy is going,” said Ford, with US post-war casualties having exceeded those during the actual conflict.

“I think something needs to be done to help alleviate the conditions which have created a disenfranchised and angry faction in the Middle East.

“I don’t think military intervention is the correct solution. I regret what we as a country have done so far,” said Chicago-born Ford, 62.

The veteran star is in Madrid to promote his latest release “Hollywood Homicide,” a story of two moonlighting Los Angeles policemen, and receive a commorative pin from Spanish football outfit Atletico Madrid, city rivals of Real, the club having tied up a sponsorship agreement with Colombia films.

Ford also slammed the film industry for its view relying on hi-tech wizardry at the expense of thrilling plots — though he himself was involved in the early days of the trend with “Star Wars” in the 1970s.

“I think American films right now are suffering from an excess of scale. Lots of movies we’re seeing now are more akin to video games than stories about human life and relationships,” said Ford, while noting “12 to 20-year-olds are maybe the largest economic force in the US movie business.”

He asked if his feelings were linked to his veteran status and a longing for the good old days. Ford countered: “I’m not a very nostalgic person — but I enjoy a good story.”

He defended Star Wars, which created a disenfranchised and angry faction in the Middle East.

Films such as “Star Wars” in the 1970s.

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— MNA/Xinhua

Internet

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Turkey supports Turkmen for bigger role in Iraq’s politics

ANKARA, 28 Aug—Turkish Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul on Tuesday voiced support for Iraq’s Turkmen efforts to get represented effectively in future political structure of Iraq, the Anatolia news agency reported.

The Turkmen people forming the third biggest section after Arabs and Kurds have been expending great efforts to undertake an active role in economic, social and cultural life during the rebuilding process of Iraq, Gul told a meeting of the ruling Justice and Development Party.

Gul noted that the Turkmen in Iraq as a bridge of friendship and cooperation between Ankara and Baghdad.

“We have been carrying out a series of works to assist them in undertaking an effective role in Iraq,” he said, adding that Turkey encourages its businessmen and investors “to develop joint projects with Turkmen in Iraq.”

“Turkey has undertaken restoration of Turkmen schools, health facilities and cultural assets which were damaged in the war within the framework of the humanitarian aid to Iraq. We have been expending efforts to meet their main requirements. The Turkish Red Crescent has been sending humanitarian aid to the region,” Gul said.— MNA/Xinhua

Poland, Macedonia to strengthen military cooperation

WARSAW, 28 Aug—Macedonian Defence Minister Vlado Buckovski expressed the hope here Tuesday that his country and Poland will boost their military cooperation.

Speaking at a news conference during his official visit here, Buckovski said his country would like to carry out military cooperation with Poland.

He also expressed his appreciation for Poland’s involvement in peacekeeping missions in the Balkan region.

During his visit, Buckovski held talks with his Polish counterpart, Jerzy Szmajdzinski, on cooperation between the two countries in training military personnel and upgrading weapons and on other issues such as holding dialogues.— MNA/Xinhua

Major storm leaves thousands in dark in US capital

WASHINGTON, 28 Aug—Utility crews scrambled to restore power to 125,000 customers in the US capital and surrounding regions on Wednesday, the day after a severe storm uprooted trees, tore down power lines and wreaked havoc with evening rush hour traffic.

A spokesman for local utility Pepco said the storm, which struck at 4 pm (2000 GMT) on Tuesday afternoon, had cut electricity to 141,000 customers in Washington and neighbouring Maryland counties at its height.

Just two weeks ago, large portions of the northeastern United States and Canada lost power in a major blackout that raised questions about the stability of the regional power grid.

About 119,000 remained without power on Wednesday, he said.

“We are hoping to have the majority back up tomorrow but it could drag into Friday,” Pepco’s David Morehead told Reuters. "We are operating in a hostile zone and they always have to be ready.”

The 547th is the only DC Guard unit deployed in Iraq. It has 150 officers and enlisted personnel. It was also the only DC Guard unit sent to Iraq in the first Gulf War.

About 1,000 members of the DC Guard are now on active duty.—Internet

Pakistan-India may exchange lists of items under SAFTA

ISLAMABAD, 28 Aug—Pakistan and India may exchange additional lists of items for tariff concessions under South Asia Preferential Trade Arrangement in October this year to enhance volume of bilateral trade as the SAARC countries geared up to finalize the much awaited South Asia Free Trade Area.

The decision of adding more items to the lists for concessions was taken following the request from the SAARC Secretariat to the governments of two countries, a Pakistani official here said.

The lists would be exchanged by officials of the two countries following efforts to finalize the draft of SAFTA, in Kathmandu in October to allow free trade among member countries, Pakistan daily Dawn quoted officials here as saying. The SAARC summit is scheduled to be held in Islamabad early next year.

Recently Pakistan announced its willingness to give tariff concessions on 74 items under SAFTA. The list was expected to be expanded. India has already granted most favoured nation (MFN) status to Pakistan even though Islamabad has not reciprocated it so far.

In recent months, Pakistan has shown considerable haste in finalizing its list of items for tariff concessions for India under SAFTA as New Delhi linked to progress in SAFTA and SAFTA to the holding of SAARC summit in Islamabad early next year. Under SAFTA, Pakistan has so far given concessions on around 240 items at sixth digit level to India, while Islamabad received concessions on around 370 items at sixth digit level from New Delhi under the same arrangement.

“There is still room for giving duty concession to India under SAFTA on 440 more items at sixth digit level,” the officials said. At present there are only 686 items at sixth digit level on the positive list for trading with India. Of these, only 240 items are allowed for duty concession to India under SAFTA, they said.— MNA/PTI

Lions’ roars terrorize German town

BERLIN, 28 Aug—A mysterious crate labelled “Wild Animals” and blasting out lions’ roars in a German town had locals running scared and animal lovers up in arms before it was revealed as an advertising stunt, police said on Tuesday.

“The crate was right in the town centre and people thought there were real lions inside,” said a spokesman for police in the southwestern town of Darmstadt. “It was loud. A lot of people were really scared.”

Police came to investigate after two women complained about the treatment of the animals apparently locked in the crate.

Gingerly approaching the crate, they ventured a look through a slit in its side but instead of discovering caged beasts angrily stalking the container, they saw a promotional video for Land Rover vehicles intercut with shots of roaring lions.

MNA/Reuters

DC National Guard soldier killed in Iraq

WASHINGTON 28 Aug—A soldier in the District of Columbia National Guard died in an attack while on patrol in Iraq, officials said Wednesday.

Specialist Darryl Dent, 21, was killed Tuesday, by a makeshift explosive device while on convoy duty near the town of Hamariyah. Two of his colleagues in the DC National Guard’s 547th Transportation Company were wounded in the attack. They were not identified.

“Once they were assigned to this mission they knew that they were in harm’s way,” said Brig. General Erold R. Schwartz, deputy commander of the D.C. National Guard.

“They are operating in a hostile zone and they always have to be ready.”

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Embattled Blair faces dead UK scientist inquiry

LONDON, 28 Aug—Prime Minister Tony Blair faces a critical test Thursday as he takes the stand at an inquiry into the death of a top British weapons expert who got entangled in a furious dispute over the reasons for waging war in Iraq.

Details of Blair’s personal involvement in the scientist’s public exposure have slowly come to light.

Defense Secretary Geoff Hoon told the inquiry Wednesday the fatal decision to thwart David Kelly into the limelight days before he killed himself was taken with Blair’s approval.

Kelly was found with a slashed wrist last month after being revealed as the suspected source behind a BBC reporter’s claim that the government hyped its September dossier, has sent Blair’s trust ratings plummeting.

Those questioned thought his government had deceived the public. Thursday’s tense interrogation could go a long way to dictating his political future, a fact his political opponents have leaped upon.—Internet

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US hands over control of Iraqi town to Bulgaria

US Colonel Matthew Lopez handed over the control to the Bulgarian commander of the troops, Petko Marinov, the Bulgarian News Agency quoted Nikolai Svinarov, the Bulgarian Defence Minister, confirmed Tuesday.

Bulgaria will send an additional team to Iraq to perform administrative regulatory functions, the report quoted government spokesman Dimiter Tsonov as saying Monday.

As a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, the Balkan state openly threw its support behind the United States and Britain for the war on Iraq early this year.

Bulgaria has sent a 500-strong peacekeeping force to Iraq in August to contribute to the country’s post-war reconstruction.

People flock to China’s southern island to watch Mars’ close-up

Sanya (Hainan Province), 28 Aug — Hundreds of Chinese astronomy-lovers gathered at a hilltop park in southern China’s island province of Hainan to get a glimpse of Mars’ closest approach Wednesday night.

“The clear sky is so great as if it were preparing specially for the observation of the Red Planet at the closest distance,” said Liu Tianlin, who was on his special trip to the island province to watch the closest encounter between the Earth and Mars, since the last 60,000 years.

Liu and his friends, among hundreds of other Mars chasers, had already set up their telescope in the Luhuitou Park in Sanya decided to stay up to witness the spectacle.

As of August 27, the Red Planet will be some 5.76 million kilometres from Earth, a distance that will not be so close between the Earth and Mars again until 2287, according to Guangdong Astronomers Society.

The society said Sanya would be the optimal designation to watch Mars in China as it is the country’s southernmost city.

Though people living in southern China have a better view of Mars, people in cities like Nanjing, capital of eastern China’s Jiangsu Province, also find it hard to miss the Red Planet.

Chinese Premier meets Ecuadorian President

BEIJING, 28 Aug — Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao met here Wednesday with President Lucio Gutierrez Borbua of the Republic of Ecuador.

Wen spoke highly of Sino-Ecuadorian relations, saying that since the two countries set up diplomatic ties there have been frequent high-level exchanges and fruitful economic and trade cooperation between them.

The bilateral trade volume in 2002 was an increase of 20 times compared with the years before 1980, when diplomatic ties were established. In addition, economic and technological cooperation has developed from being restricted to traditional industries to new- and hi-tech industries. Projects aided by China in Ecuador have resulted in good economic and social benefits.

He said that both China and Ecuador are developing countries. They need to further reinforce their cooperation in international affairs as well as in developing their domestic economies.

The Chinese side attaches great importance to Sino-Ecuadorian relations and is willing to step up friendly cooperation in various fields in accordance with the principles of equality and mutual benefit.

He also introduced to the guest China’s economic conditions and expressed appreciation for the Ecuadorian Government’s adherence to the “one-China” policy.

Gutierrez said that the Ecuadorian Government upholds the “one-China” policy. Over the past more than 20 years since diplomatic ties were set up between the two countries, there have been fruitful achievements in political, economic and trade cooperation. The Ecuadorian people treasure their friendship with the Chinese people, he added.

He expressed the wish that more Chinese enterprises would participate in Ecuador’s economic construction, and constantly expand the fields of economic and trade cooperation, so as to bring more benefits to the two peoples.

Xinjiang promotes Silk Road tourism

BEIJING, 28 Aug — China’s Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region receives over 100 million tourists annually from home and abroad, promoting the Silk Road as a tourist attraction.

The ancient Silk Road links Xinjiang with eight nations. In 2002, Xinjiang reaped tourism revenue of 9.2 billion yuan (1.1 billion US dollars), making up 5.8 per cent of the regional gross domestic product (GDP), said Nayma Yasin, director of Xinjiang Tourism Bureau.

The Silk Road was an important route for Buddhism to enter China. Xinjiang was a rich land for Buddhism to develop, with many relics still remaining, said Ma Shichang, an expert with Beijing University.

The Silk Road was also a friendly road, linking West and East economically, politically and culturally. Developing the Silk Road would enhance mutual understanding and friendship and promote more cultural and economic exchanges, Nayma said at a tourism promotion in Beijing Wednesday.
The company reported an after-tax loss of 17.6 million Cyprus pounds (about 35.2 million US dollars) for the first six months of 2003, compared to 3.4 million Cyprus pounds (about 6.8 million US dollars) in the same period last year. The Cyprus Airways Group reported total revenues of 74.2 million Cyprus pounds (about 148.4 million US dollars) compared to 79.3 million Cyprus pounds (about 158.6 million US dollars) for the first six months of 2002.

Operational costs, which included cost of sales and administration expenses, reached 97 million Cyprus pounds (194 million US dollars) in the first six months of the year, compared to 84 million Cyprus pounds (168 million US dollars) for the corresponding period last year. “Despite the group’s efforts to mitigate these negative developments, which affected all airline companies, the number of passengers carried by the group in the first six months of 2003 decreased by 4 per cent, whereas the passenger traffic to and from Cyprus decreased by 6 per cent,” said a statement issued by Cyprus Airways.

“These are probably the worst results ever,” an airline source said, “it’s been a very difficult year.”

MNA/Xinhua

American plane crashes, pilot killed, villager injured

KOLKATA, 28 Aug — A single seater American aircraft crashed at a village near here Wednesday night half an hour after take off for Singapore killing the pilot and injuring a villager.

The plane belonging to a private operator Southern Cross Aviation exploded midair in a ball of fire at Swetpuar Village in eastern Indian state West Bengal’s North 24 Parganas District within half an hour of taking off from Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose International Airport here for Singapore enroute Phuket in Thailand, according to Chayan Mukherjee, Inspector General (Fire service).

Captain Dokeke De Graaf, pilot of the ill-fated SXA 180 aircraft, took off at around 8.30pm (1500GMT) but sought permission for emergency landing after his plane developed some technical snag.

MNA/PTI

At least three dead in Chicago workplace shooting

CHICAGO, 28 Aug — A gunman described as a disgruntled employee shot to death at least two people on Wednesday and shot four others before he was killed either by police or by his own hand, police and hospital officials said.

The police discovered mounds of post that had accumulated over two-and-a-half years filling the rooms and basement of the 36-year-old’s house after locals complained about missing deliveries. The man resigned from his job.

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MNA/Reuters

Cuba to support creation of anti-“AIDS” centre in Africa

HAVANA, 28 Aug — Cuba will help establish a regional HIV-AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases prevention centre in Africa, which has been hit hard by the diseases, it was reported on Wednesday.

Cuban specialists will be in charge of opening and organizing the centre which will focus on personnel training to cope with the accelerated spread of AIDS in the continent.

Cuban expert Yoire Ferrer explained that the programme will start by the end of the year, with Cuba giving advice for six months.

Among the 42 million AIDS-infected people in the world, nearly 29.4 million live in sub-Saharan Africa and they lack adequate treatment due to poverty and poor medical service in the region.

Cuba, on the other hand, enjoys the lowest number of HIV-AIDS cases in Latin America as it attaches importance to education, together with advanced medical care.

The guarantee of adequate treatment, reintegration of the affected people into the society and extensive prevention work are some of Cuba’s achievements in the fight against AIDS.

MNA/Xinhua

Indian exporters should target Africa, LatAm, China

NEW DELHI, 28 Aug — Underlining the market potential in Africa, Latin America and China, the Exim Bank on Wednesday said India’s export target can be achieved by increasing trade with these regions where its share currently stood at a meagre 0.62 per cent.

Africa, Latin America and China’s imports together stood at about 760 billion US dollars in 2001, accounting for about 12 per cent of global imports, whereas India’s export to the regions was only 0.62 per cent, according to the Bank’s latest study titled “Strategy for Quantum Jump in Exports: Focus on Africa, Latin America and China.”

Outlining an analytical approach for achieving significant increase in India’s exports over the medium term, the report said the country could aim to achieve by 2007, a target import share of 10 per cent in Africa, 2 per cent in Latin America and 5 per cent in China.

The report estimates that if these targets can be achieved, then India’s cumulative exports to these regions will increase to 24 billion US dollars by 2007 from the current level of 4.7 billion US dollars in 2001, an Exim Bank release said here.

Exim Bank Managing Director and CEO TC Venkatsubramanian said India should look at the Third World market for its exports as 40 per cent of the imports of developing countries come from other developing countries.

MNA/PTI

Timeline points to possible human error in N America’s blackout

WASHINGTON, 28 Aug — All signs from a nearly completed timeline point to human errors in the early stages in the biggest blackout striking eight states in northeastern United States and parts of Canada two weeks ago, investigators said.

The retracing of the 600-mile electrical storm track started at 1 pm on 14 August, The New York Times reported on Wednesday. Three hours passed before local problems reached a crisis that the grid operators could not handle, costing billions of dollars and darkened the homes of millions of people.

An expert from the federal government taking part in the investigation said all the data pointed to mistakes by people in the event’s earliest stages, the Times report said.

The crucial missteps appear to have occurred in the handling of an hour-long sequence of line failures and plant shut-downs preceding the full-blown blackout, which started around 4:10 pm on 14 August, the official said.

“They are the mistakes that led to the whole thing. It’s the mistakes that allowed the clock to start ticking,” said Donald M Benjamin, vice-president of the North American Electric Reliability Council, the industry group created after the 1965 blackout to maintain electricity flows.

“Pretty well,” said Donald M Benjamin, vice-president of the North American Electric Reliability Council, the industry group created after the 1965 blackout to maintain electricity flows.

MNA/PTI

The Objectives of the 11th Myanmar

Traditional Cultural Performing Arts

Competitions

— to vitalize patriotism and nationalism in all citizens
— to preserve and safeguard Myanmar cultural heritage
— to perpetuate genuine Myanmar music, dance and traditional fine arts
— to preserve Myanmar national character
— to nurture spiritual development of the youths
— to prevent influence of alien cultures
It was in 1984. I was transferred to the Defence Services (Army) School in PyinOoLwin from an infantry regiment. I was not looking forward to this combat duty. I had hoped to be a teacher at the School. My duty was to teach the instructors who were to upgrade education qualification of the Tatmadawmen. The Defence Services (Army) School provided 10-week teaship courses to raise the qualifications of instructors. The School organized personnel with educational qualifications and taught foreign languages in addition to the duties of the nation races.

My duty at the School was much lighter when compared with that at the infantry regiment. I did not need to discharge military operation duties in the former, in fact, I was in the bulletin-free area. The School kept a mini-museum, and a library with rare books. There were a lot of books on Marxism, so rare that even the persons who were claiming themselves to be the reddest of the Reds would not have seen them. However, it would be unmatched when compared with the library at the Defence Services (Army) School.

Nothing unusual my friend. We have access to a library would not be ciphers at all. So, I claimed myself to be the reddest of the Reds, if I have access to a library with rare books. There were a lot of books on educational qualifications and taught foreign languages in the School.

In the past, the area was the scene of frequent incidents. The ethnic races of the regions had all along the way. But we said prayers on the way to Hsenwi in the dark, we happened to meet with the Tatmadaw column that were nearby encountering with the U Khun Sa’s group. Actors Nay Htet Lin and Nay Lin Oo, and Make-up A-kyiaing were included in our team. They said prayers non-stop.

Only after restoration of peace in the area, I shot a film at Kaungkha region located west of the Loi-hsan-hsit range in purple colour under the rays of the setting sun. On the green plain in the east, we found it hard to breathe; so we didn’t get a sound sleep. We continued our journey to Hsenwi in the dark, we happened to meet with the Tatmadaw column that were nearby encountering with the U Khun Sa’s group. Actors Nay Htet Lin and Nay Lin Oo, and Make-up A-kyiaing were included in our team. They said prayers non-stop.

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Government is giving …
(from page 1)
takes it as a new prawn. In conformity with the guidance, tasks are to be carried out with added momentum, he said.

The Secretary-1 dealt with development of prawn industry and rural livestock breeding and exporting quality marine products.

The Secretary-1 and the Secretary-2 proceeded to the Ministry of Industry-1, where they were welcomed by Minister U Aung Thaung. They met with Deputy Minister for Industry-1 Brig-Gen Thein Tun and Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Win and departmental heads at the meeting hall. The minister reported on organizational set-up and implementation of the projects under the ministry, and the condition of the factories that were handed over to other ministries or privatized, completion of 47 new projects, 20 factory construction projects under implementation, arrangements for implementation of the projects of the ministry and production sector of the ministry.

Managing Director of Myanmar Textile Industries U Oo Thein Maung, Managing Director of Myanmar Foodstuff Industries U Kyaw Myint, Managing Director of Myanmar Pharmacetical Industries U Myint Oo, Managing Director of Myanmar Ceramics Industries Col Soe Yee, Managing Director of Myanmar General and Maintenance Industries U Thak Tun and Managing Director of Myanmar Paper and Chemical Industries U Than Shwe reported on respective factories, organizational set-up and strength of the factories, production capacity and produced items, stockpiling of raw materials, and arrangements for constructing new factories. Director-General of Regional Industrial Coordination and Inspection Department U San Kyi reported on work being done and Director General of the Directorate of Industries U Tin Hlaing, on production capacity of the factories under the ministry, and financial statements including the ratio of income and expenditure.

The Secretary-1 said that the Ministry of Industry-1 plays a leading role in providing various kinds of personal items to the people. So, it has been carrying out undertakings to win satisfaction of the customers and enhancing the quality of the products.

The Government has been taking measures for the development of the entire industrial sector of the State by practically combining a State-owned industrial sector and another one, and the State-owned industrial sector and the private industrial sector, and success has been made, he added. The Government is ready to provide more assistance for the success in production sector of the ministry and widely producing import-substitute goods. For ensuring development of the State’s industrial sector, collective efforts are to be made for successful implementation of the projects in accord with the five objectives adopted by the Head of State.

Afterwards, the Secretary-2 delivered a speech, saying that he had a unique opportunity to observe the production processes of the factories under the ministry thanks to the reports of the minister for Industry-1 and respective officials. The ministry has to manufacture products for basic needs and medicines for the people and so continuous efforts are to be made for enhancement of the quality of the items and full distribution of the products to the people in line with the guidance of the Head of State.

Only then, will production of import-substitute goods meet success, he pointed out. The Ministry of Industry-1 plays a vital role in building up an industrial nation. The ministry’s products meet high standard and thus innovative measures are to be taken for penetration of the products into foreign markets, he said. The Secretary-1 and the Secretary-2 inspected the booth of the ministry.

Deputy Minister inspects information tasks

YANGON, 28 Aug — Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein, together with Managing Director of Printing and Publishing Enterprise U Myint Thein and officials, arrived at the hall of Sittway District Information and Public Relations Department in Sittway, Rakhine State, on 25 August afternoon.

The deputy minister met staff-officers of the ministry and personnel there and attended to the needs. The minister made a speech. He said information work is very subtle and important for the country. Cooperation is necessary among departments for the media to be active and effectively qualified. It is incumbent upon the ministry to widen the knowledge of the public on health, education, economic and social sectors and it is needed to successfully carry out the task with good will. The state and district Peace and Development Councils are to render assistance for the tasks on development, economy and social affairs being implemented to be successful. Afterwards he looked around the wall magazine and photos in the hall of Sittway District IPRD and gave necessary instructions. — MNA

Sittway sub-printing house…
(from page 16)

The sub-printing house, the daily issues can be sent to the townships and villages in Rakhine State within a day, and the local people can read current news like readers in Yangon.

So far, a total of seven sub-printing houses including the one in Sittway have opened in Mandalay, Magway, Taunggyi, Kyalwin and Mawlamyine. — MNA

Yangon City Modernization…
(from page 16)

Next, Director-General U Thaik Tun of the Forest Department reported on tasks being carried out in the education zone. Officials also reported on tasks being undertaken by their respective teams. Those present at the meeting also took part in the discussions. Later, the commander gave instructions to officials on timely implementation of their tasks.

After the meeting, the commander and party looked into the modernization tasks being implemented in the four zones and gave necessary instructions. At the Yangon Zoological Garden, the commander also inspected progress in land preparation work, construction of toilets and repairs of the Natural Historical Museum, and the fossilized remains of whale in the museum. Officials conducted the commander round the museum and presented reports. Afterwards, the commander gave instructions and left the zoological gardens. — MNA
Pyu Multi-purpose Dam Project in the offing

Article by Kyaw Kyaw (Myanmar Alin: 26-8-2003)

Agriculture is the mainstay of the State’s economy, and over 70 per cent of the nation’s population are engaged in it. A total of 43 per cent of the nation’s GDP and 33 per cent of export items are from the agricultural sector.

The Government has adopted proper and appropriate policies and has been rendering necessary assistance in all spheres, thus contributing towards remarkable development in the agricultural sector.

The distinct progress of the agricultural sector has resulted in the significant improvement in the living standard of the people in rural areas.

The emergence of the training school is fruitful results of cooperation of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and the Farmers School of Kannan in the Republic of Korea.

The training school was established on the 51.5-acre land in the Doekwin Farm, PyinOoLwin Township. The cornerstone-laying ceremony for construction of the training school was held on 11 September 2001 and the opening ceremony, on 22 June 2002.

The aims of the opening of the training school are — to develop agricultural methods; to improve the living standard of Myanmar farmers and arouse their interest in agricultural services; and to cause the farmers to cherish agriculture based on patriotic spirit and cooperation.

Prescribing the subjects of agricultural method, farming, agricultural services, the first priority is given to farmers, the second, to staff of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, and the third, to persons from private organizations and non-governmental organizations. Arrangements will be made to send the outstanding trainees to ROK for further studies.

Therefore, by nurturing the farmers, the agricultural sector and development projects of the nation will meet success.

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

The Ministry of Electric Power has been implementing hydropower projects, natural gas-fired power station projects and coal-fired power station projects to fulfill the nation’s power needs. Yeywa Hydropower project, the largest in Myanmar, will generate 3,550 million kilowatt hours of electricity per year. The photo shows the diversion Tunnels (Outlet) of Yeywa Hydropower Project.

The government has been building the infrastructures in Kyaukse region for nurturing human resources and enabling the students of Kyaukse region to pursue education with peace of mind. Government Technological College which was opened on 16 August 2003 in Kyaukse.

Myanmar Farm Equipment Factory of the Agricultural Mechanization Department in Kyaukse, Mandalay Division: It is targeted to produce 10,000 power tillers and 5,000 harvesters per year.
Vietnam nabs eight in record heroin bust

HANOI, 28 Aug — Vietnam has scored its biggest drug bust and arrested eight people accused of smuggling a record 466 kilos of heroin worth over 7.5 million US dollars.

A narcotics officer in Ho Chi Minh City told Reuters on Wednesday that the eight, arrested late last week, were related to the nation’s biggest drug ring.

“They have testified that they dealt with more than 1,400 packs (466 kilos) of heroin,” the officer said, adding that no trial date was set yet as investigations were still ongoing. State media said the eight — who include a policeman — smuggled the heroin from Laos into Vietnam’s province of Nghe An.

They had used the north-south highway to distribute the drug to south provinces since early 2003.

MNA/Reuters

China to foster ties with Kenya on education

NAIROBI, 28 Aug — China will foster ties with Kenya in the field of education, a senior Chinese official said here Tuesday.

“The Chinese Government considers China-Kenya educational exchanges and cooperation as a significant component of the two countries’ relations,” said Guo Chongli, Chinese Ambassador to Kenya.

He made the remarks at the send-off reception, held in the Chinese Embassy in Kenya, for Kenyan students on Chinese Government scholarship.

A total of eight Kenyan students have won this year’s Chinese Government scholarship and are leaving for China soon.

“I believe that more and more Kenyan students will gain opportunity to study in China in the future,” Guo said — MNA/Xinhua

UN says food security still fragile in Zambia

LUSAKA, 28 Aug — The food security situation in Zambia is still fragile despite a bumper harvest in last farming season, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) said here Tuesday.

Speaking at the launch of the 2003 Zambia National Human Development Report, UNDP resident representative Olubanke King-Akerele said the bumper harvest recorded during the 2002/2003 farming season has produced food surplus in most areas of Zambia except Southern Province.

King-Akerele, however, said: “The UN and its partners are not making any illusion that the emergency is over. Achievements of the last 12 months remain fragile, especially in regard to HIV/AIDS and adverse weather.” — MNA/Xinhua

Romanian President confident of Romanian-Chinese economic ties

BUCAREST, 28 Aug — Romanian President Ion Iliescu said Tuesday that he has confidence in the future development of economic and trade relations between his country and China.

Speaking upon his arrival at the airport after a week-long visit to China, Iliescu said there exists significant potential for the further expansion of economic and trade relations between the two countries.

He has seen an economically-booming China and said Romania has to play an important role in international affairs. The President hoped to boost Romanian-Chinese cooperation in the fields of science, information technology and ecology. He also called for more Chinese investment in Romania.

During his visit, Chinese telecommunications manufacturer China ZTE Corporation signed a 94-million-US-dollar contract Wednesday with Romania’s P0Telecom, to help Romania build a nationwide telecom network.

MNA/Xinhua

TRADE MARK CAUTION
The CPAC Roof Tile Co., Ltd., a company incorporated in Thailand, of No. 1 Siam Cement Road, Bangsue Sub-district, Bangsue District, Bangkok Metropolis, Thailand, is the Owner of the Trade Marks:

Reg. No. 3883/2000
Reg. No. 3884/2000
Reg. No. 3885/2000
Reg. No. 3886/2000
Reg. No. 3887/2000
Reg. No. 3888/2000
Reg. No. 3889/2000

In respect of “Roof covering (not of metal), roofing (not of metal), roof flashing (not of metal) and roofing tiles (not of metal)”

Fraudulent imitation or unauthorised use of the said Trade Marks will be dealt with according to law.

Win Mu Tin, M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L., for The CPAC Roof Tile Co., Ltd. P.O. Box 60, Yangon.
Dated: 29 August 2003

Police arrested 3,000 books are waiting to give you knowledge free of charge

ADVERTISEMENTS
Guangdong launches new campaign to crack down on smuggling

GUANGZHOU, 28 Aug — South China’s Guangdong Province launched a new campaign on 18 August (scheduled to last until the beginning of 2004) to crack down on the rampant smuggling activities across the province.

Huang Huahua, the province’s governor, revealed this here in the province’s capital Tuesday. He said the new campaign will mainly focus on smuggling activities in the Pearl River delta and in Beibu Gulf, in the vicinity of the city of Zhanjiang.

Huang said the smuggling of CDs and cars is still on the rise, while violence against anti-smuggling law enforcement officers have been recorded during recent months.

“We still face a tough challenge in the fight against the smugglers,” he said at an anti-smuggling work meeting which closed here Tuesday.

With a coastline of 3,368 kilometres, Guangdong has always had a big smuggling problem.

MNA/Reuters

MRC report reveals changing water flows in Mekong River Basin

PENSIAN PENG, 28 Aug — Water flow in the Mekong River Basin has changed significantly, with more water flowing through the river during the dry season and less during the wet season, according to a report of the Mekong River Commission (MRC) Secretariat issued here on Wednesday.

The report, the State of the Basin Report 2003, is the first major report to be released in six years on the state of water and related resources of Lower Mekong River Basin. According to the report, long-term observations over several decades show that more water has been flowing through the river during the dry season, and less during the wet season. “This effect may be linked to numerous small irrigation reservoirs being built over a period of time all over the river basin,” the report said.

“Our research shows that many developments may be having more impact on the river basin than one or two large ones,” said Joern Kristensen, chief executive officer of the MRC Secretariat. “To ensure that people have enough food to eat, regional cooperation to manage the impacts of change has become more important than ever before.”

He said, “the MRC has been getting the right kind of data and this is a crucial first step for successful cooperation. We hope the report will become a valuable resource document for governments, development banks and agencies focussing on development in the Lower Mekong Basin.” The State of the Basin Report 2003 was produced by the MRC as part of its ongoing work of reviewing the condition of the river basin.—MNA/Xinhua

12th Asian Shipowners Forum ends in HK

HONG KONG, 28 Aug — The 12th Asian Shipowners Forum (ASF) ended here Tuesday afternoon, with 93 delegates from 12 Asian countries and regions having an in-depth discussion on a wide range of issues, said the forum’s Chairman K H Koo.

A joint statement issued at the conclusion of the forum noted that the ASF reaffirmed the importance for the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in setting up global standards to regulate international shipping.

Criminal activities such as maritime piracy and armed robbery pose a severe threat to the safety and security of ships, the ASF strongly urges all littoral states, whose waters are infested with pirates, to cooperate more closely to achieve a more practical and effective approach, such as multilateral surveillance patrols, in eliminating any threats and dangers in this regard.

The two-day forum welcomed the increased cooperation between training institutions and shipowners in the training of seafarers in Asia, which will greatly assist in the continued promotion of supply and employment of Asian seafarers.

Recognizing that all seafarers should be entitled to take shore leave, the forum urges all administrations to accept the new Seafarers Identity Document to facilitate entry for pur-

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After “Columbia” tragedy, NASA considers space rescue

WASHINGTON, 28 Aug — Could the Columbia disaster have been avoided? After the fatal accident, NASA came up with a possible scenario to rescue the crew with another shuttle.

If shuttle controllers knew by the seventh day of the mission there was catastrophic damage to Columbia’s left wing, they could have rushed shuttle Atlantis into orbit and evacuated Columbia’s crew before the supply of breathable air ran out, investigators said in their report on Tuesday.

As part of the independent probe into the February 1 disintegration of the shuttle over Texas that killed seven astronauts, investigators asked the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to explore ways to repair the ship in flight or evacuate the crew members.

The repair option was considered too high risk, but the rescue would have been possible.

NASA told the Columbia Accident Investigation Board.

The Columbia crew could have survived in orbit until February 15, even though their scheduled landing day was February 1. If controllers had early notice the shuttle’s wing was severely damaged, Atlantis could have been made ready for a space rendezvous, the report said.

The Atlantis, which was set for a March launch, could have been ready for a rescue launch during the period from February 10 to February 15, and weather records show a launch was possible at that time.

MNA/Reuters

Stargazers ready for close encounter with Mars

SYDNEY, 28 August — The last time Mars came this close to Earth, our ancestors were living in caves and struggling to make basic tools out of rocks.

A mere 60,000 years later, thousands of people around the world will use a vast array of high-tech digital and optical equipment on Wednesday to observe the “red planet” as it passes.

From the Polynesian shores of Tahiti to outback Australia and Japan amateur and professional stargazers began aiming their telescopes towards the eastern sky for a close encounter with Mars.

At 0951 GMT Mars will pass just 34.65 million miles close to Earth, making it the closest encounter between the two planets since the Stone Age.

“Mars will be the brightest object in the sky except for the moon and its reddish colour will make it easy to find,” said Nick Lomb, Sydney Observatory’s curator of astronomy.

“Telescopes, even small ones, will allow you to see detail on Mars, including a polar cap and other surface features.”

The last time Mars came nearer was around September 12 in 57,617 BC when Mars was about 34.62 million miles from Earth. If you miss it this time you’ll have to wait 264 years for another such close encounter.

The US-based Planetary Society has declared August 27 “Mars Day.” Its web site details global events from official viewings from observatories in Sydney and Beijing to desert star parties in places like Jordan.

Some of the best viewing will be in the southern hemisphere, especially from isolated South Pacific islands like Tahiti, thought to be the closest point on Earth to Mars, and outback Australia, where a lack of pollution from city lights means Mars will shine bright red in the night sky.

Mars will appear to be about the same size as a mid-sized crater on the moon to those looking with the naked eye.

— MNA/Reuters

Visitors observe the planet Mars through a reflector telescope at the Buenos Aires’ Planetary, Argentina, on 26 August, 2003, Mars is getting ready for its close-up, with the red planet coming as near to Earth this month as it has in almost 60,000 years, a similar approaching will occur again in the year 2287.—INTERNET
Beckham the hero as Real win Super Cup

MADRID, 28 Aug — David Beckham marked his home debut for Real Madrid with a spectacular headed goal as the reigning Spanish champions beat Real Mallorca 3-0 to win the Super Cup 4-2 on aggregate.

Real opened the scoring in the final minute of the first half when Raul slid in to convert a cross from Roberto Carlos. Ronaldo made it 2-0 eight minutes after the break, the Brazilian running on to a pass from Luis Figo and slipping his shot past Leo Franco, before Beckham capped a much-improved performance with a fine header.

Casillas after 69 minutes and the Spanish international keeper was grateful to his side who packed the midfield.

The opening goal came when he skipped a chance in the 11th minute. United started brightly but their attack was doused down by the visiting side who packed the midfield.

United and Arsenal are the only sides to have won their first three games of the season. The London side lead the table by two points from three games and have scored seven. Arsenal dominated the early stages at Highbury, but Villa held on until 12 minutes into the second half when England centre back Sol Campbell headed home following a corner. France striker Thierry Henry scored a second in injury time.

The England captain, playing his first game for the club, had been in Sunday’s 2-1 defeat in the first leg. Victory for Real in the traditional cur- tain-raiser against the winners of the King’s Cup earned them the first trophy of the new Spanish season and settled the question of Beckham’s ability to fit into the Real side.

Beckham had played poorly in his first two appearances for Real in Spain but he immediately looked more comfortable in his customary right-sided midfield position. The England man received a huge cheer from the crowd for his first touch and he went close to an opening goal with his first free kick from the left of the area after just seven minutes. He squandered two more good opportuni- ties from dead ball situations in the first half but he was a far more active participant than he had been in Sunday’s 2-1 defeat in the first leg.

Zinedine Zidane was Real’s other out- perform, the French midfielder running with the midfield with his customary elan.

The opening goal came when he skipped his way into the box and powered in a shot that Franco could only palm away. Roberto Carlos, doubling up on the left, was first on to the rebound and his cross gave United a simple chance. Zidane also started the move that led to Real’s second goal, finding Figo in space on the right to set up Ronaldo, and the Frenchman’s swift break from defence led to Beckham’s first official goal for the club.

Mallorca had gone close on three occasions but were thwarted each time by Iker Casillas. The Real keeper did well to tip over a free kick from Arnold Bruggink just before the hour mark.

Ariel Ibagaza forced a similar save from Casillas after 69 minutes and the Spanish international keeper was grateful to his crossbar for keeping out Fernando Nino’s header.

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Arsenal go top on goal difference from United

LONDON, 28 Aug — Arsenal sneaked ahead of Manchester United at the top of the Premier League on Wednesday with a 2-0 defeat of Aston Villa while the champions scored just once in a win over bottom side Wolverhampton Wanderers.

Sweden’s Fredrik Ljungberg then hit the bar with a chipped shot but a goal would not come. Arsenal’s frustration bubbled over at the break when Pires was involved in a fierce argument with Villa defender Olof Mellberg which continued in the tunnel. Twelve minutes into the second half Campbell, sent off in Arsenal’s opening game against Everton, made the most of a mistake in the Villa defence at a corner and headed home from close range.

Villa were always in the game until Henry, put through after good work by substitute Dennis Bergkamp, slid home an injury-time goal from a tight angle.

United, who had scored six goals in two games, against Wolves, who had let in nine, appeared to have an easy game on their hands and dominated the first 15 minutes.

But United, with Roy Keane playing at centre back alongside O’Shea for the first time, failed to build on their lead in a scrappy first-half performance.

Indeed Wolves, with former United fa- vorites Paul Ince and Denis Irwin in their ranks, should have scored near the break when Camara, signed from Sedan earlier this month, had two good chances. He hit the better chance past United keeper Tim Howard — but also just past the right post — when free in front of goal. Wolves, thanks to a well-marshalled defence, matched United after the break and Camara had two more good chances, hitting an overhead kick just over the bar.

Even though Benfica had been unable to breach Lazio’s defence or veteran goalkeeper Angelo Peruzzi, Benfica, returning to Euro- pean competition after a two-season absence, squandered a chance in the 11th minute when a header by Hungarian striker Miklos Feher flew wide of the right post.

Peruzzi also made a fine save from a Feher shot in the 22nd minute. Benfica pressed further in the second half but failed to breach Lazio’s smothering defence.

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** cashier payment **

**新陈代谢**

** View today: Friday, August 29 **

** Recitation of Paritah by Missionary Sayaw D U Omatahara **

7:25 am

2. Go for the healthy exercise

7:30 am

3. Morning news

7:40 am

4. Nice and sweet song

7:55 am

5. (Missing Heart)

8:20 am

6. The mirror images of the trees

8:30 am

7. National news

8:40 am

8. English for Everyday Use

** WEATHER **

** Thursday, August 28, 2003 **

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in lower Sagain Division and rain or thunderstorms have been isolated in Kayah State, Mandalay and Maymyo Divisions, scattered in Shan and Chin States, upper Sagain and Taingthaiy Cins, and widespread in the remaining areas. Isolated heavy rainfall has been reported in Kayah State. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was in (40) inches, Mawlamine (2.68) inches and Tanwe (2.64) inches. Minimum temperature on 28-8-2003 was 19.6°C (67°F). Rainfall above humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 28-8-2003 was 106%. Total sunshine hours on 27-8-2003 was 1.5 hours. Approximate rainfall on 28-8-2003 was 31 mm at Yangon Airport, 21 mm at Kaba-Aye and 15 mm at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2003 was 1720 mm (67.2 inches) at Yangon Airport, 1787 mm (70.34 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 1895 mm (74.61 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon Airport was 22 mph and at Kaba-Aye was 85 mph (MST) on 25-8-2003.

** Bay Information: Monsoon is moderate to strong in the Bay. **

** Free Forecast valid until evening of 29-8-2003: **

Rain or thunderstorms will be isolated in Kayah State, lower Sagain and Taingthaiy Divisions, scattered in Kachin, Shan and Chin States, upper Sagain and Taingthaiy Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (80%). State of the sea: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are at times at the Gulf of Mooma. Deltac, off and along Rakhein Coast. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 40 mph. Sea will be moderate elsewhere. Onshore winds will be from two days. Moderate monsoon. Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 28-9-2003: Some rain. Degree of certainty is (50%). Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 29-8-2003: Likelihood of isolated rain or thunderstorms. Degree of certainty is (60%). Flood bulletin (Issued at 11:00 hr MST on 28-8-2003): According to the (60-30) flood outlook, the water level on Yangon River will reach 118.5cm. It may remain above its danger level of (107)cm during the (107)cm to (118.5)cm period.
Sittway sub-printing house opened in Rakhine State

Local people can now read dailies within day of issue

Yangon City Modernization Committee meets

Construction of No 2 Thanlyin bridge inspected

Sittway, Rakhine State, on 26 August morning.
It was attended by Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Maj-Gen Maung Oo, Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein, Brig-Gen Myint Aung of Kyauktaw Station, Managing Director of the Printing and Publishing Enterprise U Myint Thein, local authorities, departmental heads, members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association, Town Council, and Child Welfare Association, Red Cross Society and Auxiliary Fire Brigade, townsenders and others.

The commander and the deputy minister formally opened the signboard of the sub-printing house.

The commander delivered a speech on the occasion, saying that it was an auspicious day for Rakhine State. It has been for years, local people in Rakhine State had to wait for flights to read dailies.

Now, local people can read current news like reader in Yangon and Mandalay, he added. At a time when the Government is striving for all-round development of the nation, it is important for the people to keep abreast with nation-building tasks of the Government.

In the process, the ministry has to make media coverage of current affairs through TV, radio and newspapers, he said.

He said that there have been great changes in communication technologies, but the information sector remains unchanged.

In accordance with the guidance of the Head of State and under the close supervision of the Ministry of Information, a total of seven sub-printing houses have been opened to date.

Thanks to the goodwill of the State leaders and the building of a modern developed nation and with rapid development of the country, the townships and villages in Rakhine State can now read Myanma Alin and Kyemon dailies within the day of issue, thereby contributing towards the development of economic, social, education and health sectors of rural people, he noted.

On behalf of the people in Rakhine State, the commander expressed thanks to the State leaders for their (See page 9)