Bahusaccañ ca, to have immensity of knowledge; this is the way to auspiciousness.

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**With regard to the transport field, Pakokku Airport project will be completed soon.**

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Equitable rural area development through concerted efforts

In the past, Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Divisions located in the arid zone of Myanmar faced scarcity of water, forest degradation and difficulty in cultivation. Nowadays, the 13-District Greening Project is being implemented in accord with the guidance of the Head of State, and thanks to the project, the regions become green. Establishment of reserved forests and conservation of protected public forests will help change the climate in the region. Greening of the arid zone will surely contribute towards agricultural development.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, on 5 August, met with township-level departmental personnel, towncelders and members of social organizations at the hall of Yesagyo Township Peace and Development Council in Magway Division.

On the occasion, the Prime Minister heard reports presented by officials concerned. After fulfilling the requirements in education, health, agriculture, livestock breeding and rural development tasks, he said that he has been visiting the township and providing assistance to it time and again since the start of the Pakhangyi-Pakhanngane region development project, that thanks to a number of water-pumping stations, regional agriculture is developing significantly and that but agriculture should be extended with the aim of ensuring food sufficiency of the region.

For boosting per acre yield and ensuring food sufficiency in the region, Myanma Agriculture Service is to develop a high-yield paddy strain that suits to the dry region and to lead farmers for agricultural progress. Edible oil crops and beans and pulses grow well in the region, and thus efforts are to be made to cultivate the crops with might and main. The Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries is also to provide assistance including setting up of model farms for the region to conduct livestock breeding business that suits to its climate and geographical conditions.

As urban areas are gaining progress with great momentum, rural development tasks are to be carried out with integrated efforts of volunteer organizations and departments under the leadership of the Government.

To achieve progress in the whole township, township level officials are urged to tour right down to the grassroots levels and provide assistance for the development of villages lying in the far corners of the region.

Kayah State gets TV retransmission station

Yangon, 6 Aug — Under the arrangement of TV transmission programme, construction of the TV retransmission station was completed in Ywathit, Kayah State, on 3-8-2004. After holding the opening ceremony on Wednesday morning, the TV retransmission station commenced its transmission on broadcasting of TV Myanmar programmes through wave 7 and 10 watt. — MNA

World Breastfeeding Week (1st to 7th August 2004)

Exclusive Breastfeeding: the Gold Standard
Safe, Sound, Sustainable
Ministry of Health

People’s Desire

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

POEM:

Knot the Closest Tie through Breast-Feeding

* All expectant and new mothers
Be proud to breast-feed your babies and toddlers
Because it’s believed to the way-best
To ensure their life-long health.
* Some scientists said breast-fed kids
Get more insulin from their mothers’ milk
With a lesser chance to get ‘diabetes’
Or any other related disease.
* A new born baby is an addition to the family
For mothers to bring it up properly
Childhood molding is utterly necessary
Through a lasting relationship
Gained from breast-feeding.
* Holding the baby in both arms
Cuddled and being fed in her bosom
With its secured and warm feelings running high
A mother creates the closest tie with her beloved child.
* For the babies growing on breast-feeding
Those precious moments have a special meaning
Forever to cherish and treasure
Full of tender love, fondling and pleasures.
* A period of nine months, a little less or more
Many favourite things a pregnant mother has to forgo
For the tiny one inside.
* Looking after herself with great care
Daily praying for the arrival
Of a baby proper and well.
* To the pregnancy-care and sacrifice willingly made
Add a new extension she can take:
To breast-feed and get the advantage
Of a mother-child relationship so great.

Aye Aye

Cash donated to primary school

Yangon, 6 Aug — Wellwisher U Kyaw Naing of Dihline Foodstuff Industry of Hlinethaya Township here donated K 100,000 for providing stipends and cash assistance to students of Thekkayang village basic education primary School in Dedaye Township on 30 July.

Township Peace and Development Council Chairman U Huin Lin accepted the cash donation. — MNA

Beach football matches held

Yangon, 6 Aug — The beach football tournament for six delta regions of Toe River for the Dadeyo Township Peace and Development Council Chairman’s trophy was held at Toe village on 1 August. Local authorities, personnel of social organizations and students were present on the occasion. Hu Club team and Tamar Takaw team played 2-2 draw. The local populace were interested in the beach football tournament which never took place there. — MNA

Wellwisher U Kyaw Paw of Mingalar Sawanbk Co hands over cash donation of K 10 million to Minister Maj-Gen Sein Htwa. — MNA

K 10m donated to relief of flood victims in Kachin State

Yangon, 6 Aug — U Kyaw Paw (Mingalar Sawanbk Co Ltd) of 44, Bayinnyang Road, Thangangyin Township, donated K 10 million for relief of flood victims in Kachin State to Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa at the Ministry of SWRRB in Mayangon Township this morning.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint, Officer on Special Duty Brig-Gen Thura Sein Thaung, departmental heads and officials. Wellwisher U Kyaw Paw explained the purpose of the donations and presented donations to the Minister. Next, the Minister gave a certificate of honour to the wellwisher. — MNA

Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Win signs the book of condolences. — MNA

Deputy Foreign Minister signs Book of Condolences for late Philippine Senate President and FM

Yangon, 6 Aug — Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win signed the Book of Condolences at the Embassy of the Republic of the Philippines in Bahan Township at 2.30 pm today, in memory of the late Mr Arturo M Tolentino, Former President of the Philippine Senate and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Philippines. — MNA

Rice Year poster contest to be held

Yangon, 6 Aug — The International Rice Year Observance Work Committee will organize the Rice Year poster contest with the theme “Rice is Life”. The contest is divided into five categories namely the age 6-9 group, the age 9-12 group, the age 13-16 group, the age 16-20 group and the age 20 and above group. The first to fourth groups are to draw the poster at a designated place within 4 hours and the fifth group can draw at home and submit their works not later than 24 August. Entry forms can be obtained at Myanmar Traditional Artists & Artesans Association (Central) at eastern wing of Bogyoke Market, here.

The poster size for the first to fourth groups must be 15 inches by 20 inches and that of the fifth group is 20 inches by 30 inches. Handsome prizes will be given. — MNA

The opening ceremony of the beach football tournament for six delta regions of Toe River for the Dadeyo Township Peace and Development Council Chairman’s trophy in progress. — MNA
An Iraqi police officer stands guard near wreckage of vehicles destroyed in a car bomb attack on a police station in the town of Mishawil, south of Baghdad, 5 Aug, 2004. Guerrillas detonated a car bomb and sprayed gunfire at a police station in a town south of Baghdad on Thursday, killing at least six people and wounding 24 in the latest attack on Iraq's fledgling security forces. — Internet

Majority of Poles oppose Iraq policy, says poll

WARSAW (Poland), 5 Aug — A new opinion poll out Thursday puts public opposition to Poland’s military presence in Iraq at 73 percent.

The poll, conducted by the Public Opinion Research Centre among a representative sample of 920 adults in the second week of July, suggested 67 percent of Poles favored an immediate withdrawal of the country’s 2,400 troops.

Opposition to the war in Iraq has hardened since the last such poll in June when opposition to the war was 7 percentage points lower.

The Polish government has one of Washington’s staunchest allies in the military campaign in Iraq.

Public opinion, however, has consistently been at variance with government policy. Most opinion polls have shown public opposition to the war at between 60 percent and 80 percent since the invasion of Iraq last year.

The government says it will not withdraw its forces until the job is done. — Internet

921 US troops killed since beginning of military operations in Iraq last year

BAGHDAD, 5 Aug — As of Thursday, 5 August, 921 US service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq in March 2003, according to the Defense Department. Of those, 684 died as a result of hostile action and 237 died of non-hostile causes.

The British military has reported 61 deaths; Italy, 18, Spain, eight; Poland, seven; Bulgaria, six; Ukraine, four; Slovakia, three; Thailand, two; and Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia and the Netherlands have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 783 US soldiers have died — 575 as a result of hostile action and 208 of non-hostile causes, according to the Defense Department on Thursday.

The latest deaths reported by US Central Command — A 13th Corps Support Command soldier was killed and five were wounded in Balad when their convoy was attacked Thursday with a rocket-propelled grenade and small arms fire near Najaf. — Internet

Wen Jiabao says sound Sino-US ties conducive to world peace

BEIJING, 5 Aug — Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao said here Wednesday that the sound growth of Sino-US ties is conducive to world peace, stability and development.

Wen made the remarks in his opening remarks at a strategic and cooperative dialogue with US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice here Wednesday.

The State Department said Rice, on a five-day visit to China, was to meet Premier Wen and President Hu Jintao at the prime minister’s official residence for discussions on a range of issues, including the Middle East and South Korea.

Wen said that US companies have invested $100 billion in China since 1979 and today, China is a major trading partner.

China is an important shareholder of the United Nations, he said.

China’s relations with the United States are moving in the right direction, he said, referring to the recent visit to China by US Secretary of State Colin Powell.

The US China Business Council has forecast that US-China trade could hit $300 billion this year.

China is the United States’ third largest trading partner after Japan and Canada.

Mr. Zall said that the United States would continue to work towards a comprehensive strategic partnership with China.

It is time to consider how to promote the strategic partnership further, he said.

— MNA/Xinhua

90-year-old Chinese woman set to run marathon

HANGzhou, 5 Aug — Ms Fu Jufang, 90, from Hangzhou, is to become the oldest woman to complete a marathon in Hangzhou on Saturday, the China National Tourism Administration said Thursday.

Ms Fu, who was born in 1914, was once a national sprint champion and has run marathons in Hangzhou, Shanghai and Beijing.

Ms Fu said her parents had taught her to be positive and to work hard, and she would continue to run to promote a good lifestyle.

— MNA

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Wen made the remarks in an interview with US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, who arrived here Wednesday evening, the Xinhua News Agency reported.

Wen said that so long as both sides handle bilateral relations with a strategic and long-term view, respect each other, seek common ground, leave differences aside and maintain dialogue and exchange, the two countries can cooperate peacefully and coexist in a wide range of areas.

Wen briefed the guests on China’s economic situation and development. The development of China is a major contribution to global peace and prosperity and also creates conditions for the expansion of Sino-US economic relations, he said. — MNA/Xinhua
Multinational troops, Shiite militia battle in southern Iraq

Najaf, 5 Aug—At least 17 people were killed and a US helicopter was shot down in the fiercest fighting between multinational troops and Shiite Muslim militiamen in Iraq since a truce was brokered in June.

Clashes persisted throughout the day, and officials reported more than 100 people wounded in the Shiite south and the Baghdad slum stronghold of radical militia leader Moqtada Sadr.

By late night, US jets were still intermittently shell ing militia positions in the cemetery in Najaf, but ground fighting had ceased in the Shiite holy city, said an AFP correspondent. Earlier, planes were heard roaring over the capital.

A helicopter attacked to the 11th Marine Expeditionary unit was forced down in the Najaf region in the morning, a US military spokes man in Baghdad said, adding that the crew was recovered alive.

The incident took place just hours after the fighting first started overnight between Iraqi police and Sadr’s Mehdi Army militia.

Near Najaf, a US soldier was killed and five were wounded when their convoy was attacked with rocket-propelled grenades and gunfire. The soldiers had been redeployed to the area from north of Baghdad, the military said.

The death brought to more than 60 the number of US troops killed in action in Iraq since the 2003 US-led invasion, based on Pentagon statistics.

Sadr’s general hospital, attacked by rockets in the morning — killing a doctor and seriously wounding four other staff members — said nine people died in the fighting and another 34 were admitted with injuries.

In Baghdad’s Sadr City, five people were killed and 58 wounded in fighting between US forces and the Mehdi Army, the health ministry said.

On Saturday, US-led multinational forces arrested Sheikh Mithal al-Hassani, Sadr’s representative in Karbala, another Shiite holy city south of Baghdad. It was the US arrest of one of Sadr’s key deputies that helped to trigger the firebrand cleric’s first standoff with the coalition in the spring.

Further north, in Mahmawil, at least nine people were killed and more than 20 wounded when gunmen opened fire and a suicide bomber blew up a minibus outside an Iraqi police station, police and an interior ministry spokesman said.

The attack came just over a week after 70 people were killed in a massive suicide blast outside a police station in Baquba, north of Baghdad.

Malaysia says not sending troops to Iraq

KUALA LUMPUR, 5 Aug — Malaysia will not send troops to Iraq for now, Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said on Wednesday.

“It is better for us to wait for a while and to see how the situation is,” he told a news conference.

“At the moment, we are not sending and we are consid ering the proposal put forward by the Saudi Foreign Ministe r,” said Abdullah, who also heads the 57-nation Organiza tion of the Islamic Conference.

Saudi Arabia proposed last month that Arab and Islamic troops replace US and allied forces trying to restore peace in war-torn Iraq.

The Arab League has said Arab troops should not go to Iraq while the country remains under de facto foreign occupation and without a clear UN mandate.

Violence has left thousands dead since invading forces toppled President Saddam Hussein last year. Guerrillas regularly attack foreign and Iraqi police and the oil industry.

Singapore tests vessel-identifying system for maritime security

SINGAPORE, 5 Aug—Singapore, an important hub port in Asia, is testing a new electronic system to identify, monitor and track smaller vessels to keep port safe from terrorist attacks.

This was revealed by Sin gapore’s Transport Minister Yeo Cheow Tong while ad dress ing an international maritime and port security conference here on Wednesday.

Yeo said that Singa pore’s Maritime and Port Authority (MPA) is now testing a low-cost system for identifying smaller vessels not covered by the International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) code, which has been put into practice since July 1, this year.

Shiite militia declares war on British troops in Iraq

BASRA, 5 Aug—Militiamen loyal to Shiite Muslim radical leader Moqtada Sadr declared holy war against British forces based in Iraq’s main southern city of Basra after four of their comrades were arrested.

Three Mehdi Army militiamen were later killed during a 15-minute gunfight with British troops on Al-Gama bridge in northern Basra, said Sheikh Saad al-Basri, Sadr’s representative in the overwhelmingly Shiite city.

The area is a bastion of Sadr support in the city.

Three other militiamen were wounded in the exchange and two British landrovers damaged, Basri said.

“We will wage jihad (holy war) and war against the foreign troops, not against police and Iraqi forces,” he vowed earlier.

“However, if they (the Iraqi personnel) fight on the side of the occupiers, we will strike them harshly,” Basri accused British forces of arresting four Sadr supporters in order to “create in Basra, the state of crisis that exists in Najaf”.

A British military spokesman in Basra could not confirm the Mehdi casualties but said troops had been attacked on three separate occasions with small arms fire, causing no multinational casualties or damage to equipment. The army did confirm four militia mem bers had been arrested Wednesday as part of “a routine security check and are being held to assist with inquiries”.

An AFP photographer saw British troops deployed in armoured vehicles and tanks around Sadr’s main offices and elsewhere in the city.

Police chief General Mokammed Kareem al-Ali said officials at Sadr’s office had rejected his attempts to defuse the tension through negotiations. In Amara, north of Basra, a number of mortar rounds were fired at a British position in the city, but there were no casualties, a British spokesman said.

Basra deputy governor Salam Audeh, who represents Sadr on a provincial council, accused foreign troops of reopening on a June truce that ended Sadr’s uprising earlier this year.

The British military also confirmed that two projectiles were fired at a multinational base camp in Sibah, south of Basra on the Kuwait border. One hit the camp and the other fell short.

Neither caused any casualties, it said.

Clinton raps Bush over Iraq: ‘number five’ security threat

TORONTO, 6 Aug—Former US President Bill Clinton said the Bush administration had damaged the US anti-terror campaign by toppling Saddam Hussein in Iraq — which he branded Washington’s “number five” security threat.

Clinton, in Canada to promote his memoirs, said in a television interview that the Iraq war had drained vital resources from the US battle against al-Qaeda.

“He rapped his successors in the White House for not pouring enough men and funds into the battle to catch Osama bin Laden, and al-Qaeda and Taliban holdouts along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border.

“Why did we put our number one security threat in the hands of the Pakistanis with us playing the supporting role and put all our military resources into Iraq which was I think at best our number five security threat?” Clinton said in an interview with CBC television.

“How did we get to the point where we have 130,000 troops in Iraq and 15,000 in Afghanistan?” — Internet
Britain, US face new allegations of prisoner abuses

LONDON, 5 Aug— Britain and the United States are facing fresh allegations of prisoner abuses at Guantanamo Bay after three former British detainees claimed that they were repeatedly abused during their detention at the US naval base in Cuba, the Guardian newspaper reported Wednesday.

Details of the experiences of Ruhel Ahmed, Shafiq Rasul and Asif Iqbal were disclosed by the paper on Wednesday and would be formally released in the United States later in the day.

The allegations have been contained in a new dossier detailing repeated beatings and humiliation suffered by the three detainees who were captured in Afghanistan, then held at Guantanamo Bay for two years, before being released in March without charge. Ahmed claimed in the 115-page dossier that shortly after his capture in November 2001, a British SAS special forces soldier interrogated him for three hours while an American colleague pointed a gun at him and threatened to shoot him.

The three men also alleged that they were repeatedly beaten, shackled in painful positions during interrogations and subjected to sleep deprivation.

In an echo of the abuse scandal at Abu Ghraib Jail in Baghdad which shamed the US Government, the three Britons said they were photographed naked and subjected to anal searches unnecessarily, after being shackled for hours.

The three also alleged complicity by Britain in their treatment, challenging the claim by the British Foreign Office that none of the British detainees alleged mistreatment to British officials who visited them at Guantanamo, or following their release.

Iqbal said a British Embassy official took down a two-page list of his tortures while the two others say they made their complaints orally. Nine Britons were imprisoned in Guantanamo without charge or access to a lawyer. Ahmed, Rasul and Iqbal were among five released detainees in March, who were questioned on arrival in Britain before being released.

The British Government is still in discussions with Washington over the detention of four other Britons at the US base.

Zarqawi group releases two Turkish hostages

DUBAI, 5 Aug— A militant group linked to al-Qaeda ally Abu Musab al-Zarqawi has released two Turkish drivers it was holding hostage in Iraq because their companies agreed to stop working there, Al Jazeera television said on Wednesday.

Due to the Turkish firm’s decision to stop sending supplies to US forces in Iraq, the Tawhid and Jihad Group has decided to free the two Turkish hostages,” said a videotaped statement from the group broadcast on the Arabic-language channel.

On Sunday, the haulage firms Kahramani and Oztur, which employ hostages Abdulrahman Demir and Said Unurlu, said they were preparing to open operations in Iraq to secure their release.

Chinese hybrid rice takes root in Ecuador

CRALEB, 5 Aug— Chinese hybrid rice has taken root half a world away in Ecuador, where the high-yield, top quality rice has been well received by local farmers and grain processors.

"It has won the hearts of many farmers and triggered a fever for Chinese hybrid rice among leading Ecuadorian food processors," said Xu Jingbo, a hybrid rice expert sent to Ecuador by Yahua Seeds Holding Co. in the central China Province of Hunan.

Xu, also an official with the provincial agricultural department, headed an eight-member expert panel to the equatorial country three years ago to carry out field tests under a Sino-Ecuador cooperation programme designed to promote hybrid rice growing there. The Yahua company and its Ecuadorian partner Reybanpac have been chosen to implement the programme.

The trial has been so successful that Xu estimates total acreage of the hybrid rice in Ecuador will top 660 hectares this year.

"We have developed Ecuador's first hybrid rice brand, the Mingy, based on three high-yield, top quality rice strains from China," said Xu. "It has been applauded by local consumers.

Meanwhile, Ecuador has ordered 40 tons of hybrid rice seeds from China over the past three years.

Iraq urges migrants abroad to wait to return

BAGHDAD, 5 Aug—Tens of thousands of Iraqis living abroad are keen to return home but are being urged to stay where they are for up to two years, until the security situation improves and they can be properly received.

Iraq's Minister of Displacement and Migration, who recently returned from a tour of European countries, the United States and Canada — where most Iraqis migrants live — said she had asked foreign governments to help in urging Iraqis to wait.

“We asked the countries to cooperate with us and not force the Iraqis to leave because right now we don’t have the capacity to receive those immigrants,” the minister, Pascale Warda, told a news conference on Wednesday.

“Many, many would like to come back very soon, but because of our situation, because of the lack of security, we are calling on them... to wait a little bit, maybe some months, maybe one year, hopefully not more than two years,” she said.

An estimated four million Iraqis live abroad, the bulk of them in Europe and North America, although there are also sizeable populations in Iran, Jordan, Syria and Turkey.

Since Saddam Hussein’s fall, with the country racked by crime and insecurity and as guerrillas keep up a near-16-month insurgency against US and Iraqi forces, there have been anecdotal reports of thousands of Iraqis fleeing the country.

In particular, doctors, scientists and other professionals are reported to have left after being targeted by criminals in robberies or kidnappings, provoking a brain drain.

The minister said many of those reports were overblown and said while many Iraqis were applying for passports, it was often just to visit relatives abroad, not to emigrate wholesale.

"Not that many people have left, not that big a number," she said. "Because of the security situation some are trying to do that... but it’s really not that big a number.”

Instead, the bigger problem was planning for the return of those living abroad, an issue that affects the labour, finance, education and human rights ministries as well as immigration.

Iraq to conduct general census

BAGHDAD, 5 Aug—The Iraqi Ministry of Planning and Developing Cooperation has allocated 60 million US dollars to achieve the general census in the country, which would be conducted within two months, local newspaper Al-Sharq Al-Awsat said reported Tuesday.

A source in the ministry was quoted as saying that for the purpose, a higher committee would be formed which represents a number of ministries, the municipality of Baghdad and the consultative council. It will also include a member representing the region of Kurdistan, with an operation room headed by the Central Department of Census, the source added.

The source said that the committee of preparing and updating the maps relating to the administrative units have finished the work assigned to it. An experimental census would be carried out in a number of regions to point out the problems and obstacles that could face the general census to be able to treat them. The census would include all the Iraqi governors, in addition to the Iraqis living abroad.

Three Iranian banks allowed to open branches in Iraq

TEHERAN, 5 Aug—Iraq’s Central Bank has authorized three Iranian banks to open branches in the war-ravaged country, the English-language Iran Daily reported Tuesday.

The daily, citing visiting Iraqi Deputy Foreign Minis- ter Hamed Al-Bayati, said that the Iranian banks would be allowed to operate in Iraq after depositing a certain sum with the provisional government.

Meanwhile, Al-Bayati expressed his hope that more Iranian banks would be authorized to open branches in his country, the daily said.

Teheran was one of the first governments to announce its readiness to participate in Iraq’s reconstruc- tion, Al-Bayati told the daily, adding that many Iran- ian companies are now ac- tively doing reconstruction work in his country.
An Iraqi man gestures toward battle damage in the city of Najaf in Iraq, on 3 August, 2004.

Iraqis look at a damaged car in the city of Najaf, Iraq, on 3 August, 2004.

Car bombing in Mosul, Iraq, killed at least two people and injured about 60 on 1 August, 2004.

Iraqis push parked vehicle away from the site of two car bombs that exploded in Baghdad on 1 August, 2004.

An Iraqi man looks at a damaged bus in the city of Najaf in southern Iraq, on 3 August, 2004.

Pool of blood seen at a checkpoint on the northern road heading to the city of Baquba, northeast Baghdad, where a suicide car bomb exploded on 3 August, 2004.

Iraqis crowd the area after an explosion in the parking lot in the Baghdad suburb of Al Doura on 1 August, 2004.

Images of Iraq

US Army soldiers and Iraqis gather at the scene of car bombing in Mosul, Iraq, on 1 August, 2004.
Infrastructures built for human resource development

New school building of Tachilek Basic Education Middle School in Shan State (East). — KYEMON

Sabaibyu building of Thayettan Basic Education Post Primary School in Madaya Township, Mandalay Division. — MNA

Thanks to the combined efforts of the government and the people, Mongkai in Shan State gets new school building for its Basic Education High School. — MNA

New school building of Basic Education Primary School No.7 in Ward 168, Dagon Myothit Seikkan Township, Yangon Division. — MNA

The three-storey school building of No.2 Basic Education High School in Wakema, Ayeyawady Division. — MNA
Government exerting efforts to ensure equitable development

(from page 1)

meeting departmental officials. On his way, he dropped into Yesagyo and Pauk townships in the morning to support regional development tasks especially to attend to the needs for raising the education and health sectors in the rural areas.

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe designated Pakokku as the capital of the region on the western bank of Ayeyawady River and gave guidance on upgrading Pakokku to a city possessing characteristics of a city. Accordingly, high-ranking officials have to make inspection tours of Pakokku and its environs occasionally with regard to the development undertakings.

As a result, Pakokku District has been facilitated with 50-bed, 25-bed and 16-bed hospitals and station hospitals including the 200-bed hospital numbering 15. With respect to the education sphere, a splendid university is in the process of being built in Pakokku and so are Pakokku Government Computer College and Pakokku Government Technological College. Pakokku is a region in which cotton thrives, so the government is implementing Pakokku Textile Plant Project and it will be opened soon. Regarding the agricultural sector, it has built dams and water pumping stations, and more irrigation facility projects are being implemented in the region. In Magway Division, a total of 26 dams have been constructed, nine under construction and 11 to be built. And 46 water pumping stations have been built, one in the process and six to be constructed. With regard to the transport field, Pakokku Airport Project will be completed soon, and on completion jumbo jets can use the facility. In its drive to ensure parallel progress of Magway Division and Chin State, the government has been taking measures for better transport of these two regions. With a view to upgrading the roads linking Pakokku and Chin State to all-weather facilities, the government is implementing Pakokku-Mindat-Yayzwa-Haka road. Kyauktaw Airport has been put into commission recently, so as to expand the scope of the air transport of Chin State. The government’s systematic measures and vigorous efforts mean ensuring equitable development of States and Divisions of the Union and proportionate improvement of the living standard of national races living in these regions.

Especially, it has placed great emphasis on building of roads, bridges, airports, universities, colleges, school buildings, hospitals, health care centres, dams, reservoirs and water pumping stations in all parts of the nation with a view to ensuring better transport, boosting contacts and relations between the regions in States and Divisions, uplifting the educational and health standards of the nation and strengthening the national economy. With the concept that only when all the national races living in States and Divisions enjoy equitable development, will there flourish Union Spirit and the spirit of national solidarity among them, the government has been paying attention to regional development projects. The entire people are therefore to be convinced of this concept and to perform their duties with zest and zeal for ensuring perpetual existence of the Union and strong economy of the nation, while living unitedly in accordance with the national policies of the government.

Departmental officials at all levels on their part are also to be well convinced of the concept and to make combined endeavours and coordinate for ensuring betterment of respective regions, raising the living standard of local people, and accomplishment of the policies and plans adopted by the State, while enlisting the participation and strength of respective social organizations and local residents. After the meeting, the Prime Minister cordially greeted those present.

On arrival at Pakokku Government Technological College, the General and party were welcomed by the principal, faculty members and students. Chairman of the Myanmar Education Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt heard a report by Minister for Science and Technology U Thaung on extension of the building and choosing the site for the construction project. The Prime Minister fulfilled the needs.

The Prime Minister and party headed for Pakokku runway project, where they were welcomed by Director-General of the Civil Aviation Department U Win Maung and officials. The Prime Minister inspected progress in constructing the main building of Pakokku Airport and the runway and left necessary instructions.

Next, they went to Pakokku Textile Plant Project of Myanma Textile Industries under the Ministry of Industry. 1. They looked into work progress and installation of weaving machines. The minister and officials conducted the Prime Minister round the project site. On the morning of 4 August at Bagan Guest House, the Prime Minister accepted two ancient Buddha images donated by wellwishers (U Aung Than Myint)-Daw Thein Thein of No 78/79, Paynnet Street, Min Htun Ward, Bagan. The two bronze images were cast in the early Bagan Period (11 AD) and Konbaung Period. The ancient cultural artefacts are of great historical value, and in order not to smuggled out of the country the wellwishers made a decision to donate them to the State. — MNA

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe designated Pakokku as the capital of the region on the western bank of Ayeyawady River and gave guidance on upgrading Pakokku to a city possessing characteristics of a city.
**Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than tours Pyapon Township**

Pyapon Basic Education High School No 2 gets new school building

**YANGON, 6 Aug** — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Soe Naung and party, attended the opening ceremony of extended two-storey building at Basic Education High School No 2 in Pyapon Township yesterday morning.

The commander formally opened the two-storey building. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than unveiled the stone plaque. Headmistress Daw Yin Yin Then handed over documents related to the building to Director (Academic) U Tun Kyi of No 1 Department of Basic Education.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than presented a computer for multimedia classrooms and K 300,000 to school fund to the headmistress. The new two-storey school building, 110 feet long and 30 feet wide, was built a cost of K 22 million. Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than said that he and the students also are to try their best in studying their lessons.

The new school building, 110 feet long and 30 feet wide, was built a cost of K 22 million. Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than attended the ceremony to offer Ws 20,000 to the Sayadaws. Member of the State Central Working Committee of the Sangha Nyayanaung Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Nana-vamsa, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than said that peace and stability are important role in building a peaceful, modern and developed nation. At present, peace and stability can be restored, and the government is making arrangements for strengthening economy and development of human resource.

In addition to development of urban areas, five rural development tasks are being carried out for uplift of living standard of rural people. The people are also to participate in the tasks laid down by the State. In the agricultural sector, suitable crops for the region including summer and monsoon paddy out of 10 main corps are to be put on extended areas. And, fisheries and poultry farming are to be extended. Departmental personnel and local authorities should serve interest of the people.

Afters, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than presented K 200,000 for development of Bogale Township and the commander, school stationery to the headmistress. The new two-storey building, 110 feet long and 30 feet wide, was built a cost of K 22 million.

**Li-Gen Khin Maung Than formally unveils the stone inscription of the new school building of Pyapon BEHS-2. — MNA**

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**Agri. livestock breeding tasks inspected**

**YANGON, 6 Aug** — Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairperson and Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, accompanied by Brig-Gen Kyaw Thu of Pygu Station, No 1 Military Region Commander Col Tun Kyi, Yangon Division PDC Secretary Li-Col Myint Kyi, departmental officials and local authorities, inspected agricultural and livestock breeding tasks and regional development measures in Taikkyi Township, Yangon North District, this morning.

Maj-Gen Myint Swe attended a ceremony to release fingerlings into paddy fields belonging to farmer Pu Pe Than of Kyunchaung village in the township. On the occasion, Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Brig-Gen Kyaw Thu and officials distributed fingerlings to be released into paddy fields to local farmers. Next, they put fingerlings into paddy fields. They also showed the activities to release 35,000 fingerlings of various species into 70-acre paddy field. Later, the commander and party inspected thrashing paddy fields along Yangon-Pyay Highway car.

In Aphyauk, the commander and party looked into the condition of embankments along the Ayeyawady River. They also inspected measures being taken to prevent the overflowing of water near Kyway Bagan Creek village, Taikkyi Township. Commander of Taikkyi Station Brig-Gen Hein Win reported on concerted efforts made by members of the local battalions and local people to lay sandbags for construction of embankment between Chaunggyi and Kyway Bagan Creek villages.

After the hearing reports, Maj-Gen Myint Swe gave instructions and fulfilled the requirements. — MNA

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**Preventing loss of State, private property in waterway accidents**

**YANGON, 6 Aug** — With a view to preventing loss of the State and private property in accidents of water craft which crash into bridges in rivers, a coordination meeting was held at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Transport on Merchant Street here this afternoon. The meeting was attended by Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe, Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung, Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min, Deputy Minister for Construction Brig-Gen Myint Thein, Deputy Minister for Transport U Pe Than and officials of various departments such as Public Works, Myanmar Timber Enterprise, Marine Administration Department, Myanmar Port Authority, Inland Water Transport and Directorate of Water resources and Improvement of River System First, Minister Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe gave a speech. Next, Deputy Minister for Transport U Pe Than reported on changing of waterways at river crossing bridges, survey of waterways and prevention of bank erosions near the bridges. Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min explained conditions of bridges built by Myanmar Railways. Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung discussed drift of bamboo rafts in rivers and inspection of bamboo rafts at check points before passing through under the bridges.

Deputy Minister for Construction Brig-Gen Myint Thein reported on inspection of durability of bridges and coordination for safely running of water craft. Next, Deputy Minister U Pe Than and officials took part in the discussions. — MNA
For Myanmar, which is in the process of transition into a democratic state, there should not be permanent enemy nor permanent friend. But she needs to carefully and rightly differentiate between friend and foe. Only then will she be able to set up a democratic state with the least risk.

The enemies of a developing nation engaged in the establishment of a democratic state are: the persons who wish to set up a socialist economy after abolishing the market economy; the sanctions that halt and destroy the process of establishing a multi-party democratic state; the instigation to break up the national consolidation; the enemies of democratic consolidation; and the enemies of the nation against all attempts to break up the national consolidation; and the enemies of the people, he must protect the nation to establish a democratic state in accord with the spirit of national solidarity. We all must be united, so that dissension may be avoided.

On the other hand, extending support and encouragement which are free from personal attachment, ideological prejudice and bias, for a nation in accord with the time and situation and its economy, politics, democratization task and modernization and progress, is the form of friendship for developing nations.

Nowadays, Myanmar is in progress in implementing the seven-point policy programme in her democratization task. The nation will set up a democracy system in accord with the policy programme without fail. Holding of the National Convention, which is the base of the policy programme, is under way in the nation, and the delegates are discussing the laying down of basic principles for the emergence of a constitution.

The Governments has dutifully invited the delegates of all the political parties, national races and the people from all walks of life, and other persons who should be invited to take part as the National Convention to enable the entire nation to unilaterally build a democratic state in accord with the policy programme, that conforms to the way of life of the people. It keeps the door open to the organizations that have not reached the road to national consolidation and democracy yet. Those organizations too should reconsider instead of dreaming to copy the western type of democracy, to march on the old and backward way of giving priority to an individual than the ideology, to adopt hero worshipping and to revenge.

The people have been suffering from the ill effects of economic sanctions and confrontations for 15 years. If one really stands for the people, he must protect the nation from economic sanctions that hurt the people. All the forces of the national races will have to unite in order to safeguard the nation against the enemies of the development and safeguard the nation against all attempts to break up the national consolidation.

Extending support and encouragement which are free from personal attachment, ideological prejudice and bias, for a nation in accord with the time and situation and its economy, politics, democratization task and modernization and progress, is the form of friendship for developing nations.

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

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

All this needs to be known
* Do not be frightened whenever flattered
* Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
* Do not be softened whenever flattered
* Do not be intimidated

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

2004-2005 Academic Year
School Health Week
(9th to 13th August 2004)

At All Basic Education Schools

EFCTASEAN Food Festival
(10 am to 2 pm) 7th August 2004
Kandawgyi Palace Hotel (Lake View)
YANGON, 6 Aug — The coordination meeting No 20/2004 of the National Convention Convening Commission, Work Committee and the National Convention Convening Management Committee was held at the meeting hall of NCCC in Kyakkausa Grounds, here, this afternoon, with an address by Chairman of NCCC Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Li-Gen Thein Sein. Also present were Vice-Chairman of NCCC Minister for Electric-Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut, Secretary Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and Commission members, NCCWC Secretary U Thaung Nyunt and members, Chairman of NCCMC Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung and Management Committee members.

Joint-Secretary-2 of the NCCC Director-General U Myint Thein of the Pyithu Hluttaw Office acted as master of ceremonies. First, Chairman of NCCC Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Li-Gen Thein Sein delivered an address, saying that the National Convention was adjourned on 9 July 2004 after completing one of its portions. And then, the National Convention Convening Work Committee continues to carry out the remaining tasks. As the Panel of Patrons of the National Convention strives to lay down basic principles after coordinating and combining proposals submitted by eight delegate groups to the National Convention, the Work Committee is to provide assistance to the Panel of Patrons if necessary.

Next, he said that the National Convention Convening Commission must compile a report as a record concerning performance of the National Convention up to till 9 July 2004. At the same time, it is necessary to look into requirements to extend buildings for the National Convention and to extend and repair them in a short time. He stressed the need to keep list of materials used during the period of the National Convention and make frequent inspections. He urged all to keep systematic accounts and data which cost in the National Convention and the audit group is to check the accounts and data in accord with the financial rules and regulations. In conclusion, he said the NCCC, the NCCWC and the NCCMC are to coordinate tasks of the National Convention in the future like today’s meeting.

Next, NCCC Secretary Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan reported on compilation of the report concerning the National Convention held from 17 May to 9 July 2004, records of the NC delegates and progress in repairing buildings at Nyaungshinmp Camp in Hmawby Township. Afterwards, Secretary of NCCC U Thaung Nyunt presented reports on tasks related to proposals submitted eight delegate groups, and NCCMC Chairman Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung on systematic maintenance of materials at the Nyaungshinmp Camp, assistance being provided to NC delegates warded at the hospital and keeping of cash donations for the National Convention. After hearing the reports, Li-Gen Thein Sein gave the concluding remarks. — MNA

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Oil fields in Magway Division inspected

YANGON, 6 Aug — Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay inspected Mann and Haungshinbun oil fields in Myitkyina Township, Magway Division, on 31 August. He met officials of Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise and MOGE. FEL Co. jointly engaged in oil exploration, and discussed matters on extended exploration of oil and gas.

At Yenangyoung Oil Field, the deputy minister also inspected the MOGE and the Gold Petrol Co jointly engaged in the oil exploration. The deputy minister dealt with extended production of oil and gas, and inspected Oil Well No 3230. He looked into No 1 Fertilizer Factory (Sale) under the Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise and left instructions on repairing of the oil refinery and fulfilled requirements. On 1 August, the deputy minister held discussions with officials of Chaung Oil Field and local authorities on extended exploration of oil, minimizing loss and wastage and security measures. Next, the deputy minister made inspection tours of Sabei and Thagyitaung oil fields and met the general managers and officials. He discussed oil exploration tasks and inspected drilling work. He also inspected seismic works near Gyoibyan village in Pakokku Township. Afterwards, he went to Letpanto and Kyauk-khwe oil field and inspected drilling of new wells. On 2 August, the deputy minister inspected seismic group 2 near Kaingdaw village in Myaung Township. Then, he headed for Thantkan and inspected storage of oil and left necessary instructions.

During his inspection tour, the deputy minister dealt with increased production of oil and gas, minimizing loss and wastage, measures for drilling of new oil wells, and timely completion of the projects and attended to the needs. — MNA
**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV SEA MERCHANT VOY NO (519)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SEA MERCHANT Voy No (519) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8-8-2004 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 subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11.30 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the vessel's arrival with a 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 AGENCY FOR: A/C ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES PTE LTD**

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**HP showcases Linux notebook computer**

**Los Angeles, 5 Aug — Hewlett-Packard on Tuesday showcased a new notebook personal computer that comes preloaded with Linux operating system, instead of Windows.**

At the LinuxWorld Expo and Conference in San Francisco, HP touted its Compaq nx5000 business notebook PC as the world's first pre-installed Linux notebook PC from a major hardware vendor.

HP said the notebook PC, powered by Intel's Centrino chip, comes with Red Hat's Fedora Core operating system, which can be used for networking, Internet access and basic operations. The notebook PC is also offered with Linux.**

**Primera introduces home CD printer**

**Los Angeles, 5 Aug — Primera Technology on Tuesday introduced a compact desktop printer that prints directly onto CD-Rs and DVD-Rs with waterproof thermal transfer ink.**

Primera Technology, a manufacturer of home CD/DVD disc duplication and printing equipment, said Signature Z1 CD/DVD printer is targeted at home and office markets.

The company said its Signature Z1 prints each of four quadrants of the disc by spin- ning it and then applying ink in each area, distinguishing it from other low-cost, high-speed thermal transfer disc printers that can print only a single line at a time on discs.

**Thai Govt to revive poultry industry hit by bird flu**

**Bangkok, 5 Aug — Tha**

Deputy Prime Minister Chatron Chaisaeng has or- dered related ministries to urgently revive the country's poultry industry hit by bird flu outbreak, local Press re- ported here on Wednesday.

At a weekly meeting of the national committee on bird flu eradication, Chatron said the country's poultry industry had already plumped by 62 per cent due to the two bird flu outbreaks in the past seven months. It is expected that poultry ex- port in Thailand will plummet by 70 per cent for the whole year.

The Takeover (10-8-2004)

The World Bank (WB) has just approved an emergency agriculture credit worth 5 million US dollars to Vietnam to help it control the avian in- fluenza epidemic.

The new loan from Vietnamese In- fluenza Eradication Project totaling 6.2 mil- lion dollars is to strengthen the country’s disease surveil- lance and diagnostic capac- ity and poultry industry’s in- frastructure, and safeguard human health by improving public information, said a news release issued by the WB in Vietnam on Wednesday.

“This recent epidemic clearly revealed the inadequacy of veterinary and ex- tension services to cope with avian flu health epidemic in this nature. The project will provide much-needed tech- nical advice to the govern- ment on the strategy it should follow to recover from the present crisis and for the future control of avian in- fluenza epidemics,” noted WB acting country director Martin Rama.

The project will benefit poultry farmers and traders who lost their poultry as the result of the avian influenza epidemic, and help protect other farmers against such losses in the future. Funding for the project includes the WB’s credit, 550,000 dol- lars of the food and Agricul- ture Organization in the form of technical assistance and training, and 650,000 dollars from the Vietnam- es Government.

**SBP offers Vietnam emergency credit to support anti-bird flu activities**

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**Study shows**

**Mediterranean diet halves risk of heart attacks**

**Rome, 5 Aug — The Mediterranean diet halves the risk of heart attacks, according to a new study released here on Wednesday.**

The four-year study of 11,000 heart patients in 170 Italian hospitals was conducted by the Italian Hospital Cardiologists’ Association (Anmco) along with Milan’s prestigious Mario Negri research institute.

According to Dr. Carlo Schweiger, president of Anmco’s Health Care Foundation, the Mediterranean diet, based on fish, vegetables, fruit, olive oil and a glass of wine at meals, halves the risk of heart attacks.

The research was the first in-depth study of the impact on heart disease of the widely acclaimed diet’s ability to cut down the risk of death from heart attacks.

**DHS to begin biometric exit**

**Pilot in US-Visit programme**

**Houston, 5 Aug — The US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) will pilot and evaluate automated biometric exit procedures for foreign visitors to ensure that they leave on schedule.**

The border management system introduced at 115 airports and 14 seaports earlier this year will be expanded to 11 more airports and two seaports, Asa Hutchinson, undersecre- tary for border and transportation security, said here.

According to the programme titled ‘US-Visit’, all foreign visitors are fingerprinted and photographed when they arrive at their US airports.

The fingerprints and photos are automatically checked against databases to ensure that docu- ments are legitimate and the visitor’s name does not appear on terrorist or law enforcement watch lists.

**S Africa’s motor market sales decline for 20-year year**

**Johannesburg, 5 Aug — New motor market sales**

S Africa’s motor market sales in South Africa, the contin- ent’s strongest economy, were up in July and expected to improve to a level last seen in 1993, according to the nation’s motor industry association.

Average vehicle sales last month, at 30,950 units, were 15 per cent per cent and 34,095 units sold in July 2003, the National Association of Automobile Manu- facturers of South Africa (NAAMSA) said Tuesday.

“Current indications are that the new vehicle market for the full year 2004 could reach sales in the highest level since 1993, and the third highest ever,” NAAMSA said in a statement.

The association believed the improvement could be attributed to various factors such as the continuing positive economic envi- ronment, consumer and business sentiment, improved new vehicle affordability, attrac- tive incentives and new product offerings.

In the new car category, sales were up 15.9 per cent on last year, and increased 2.8 per cent compared to June 2004. Sales of new light commercial vehicles, bakkies and minibus taxis reached 10,680 units, which was a 9.8 per cent increase over the 9,728 units sold in July 2003.

The truck and bus market for the year to July 2004 was up 36.5 per cent in the case of medium commercial vehicles and 22.1 per cent in the case of heavy trucks and buses, compared with last year’s figures.

NAAMSA said vehicle exports for June also reached 10,691 units, the highest number since November 2003, and were expected to continue improving in the coming months.

**Germany, Italy call for flexible stability pact**

**Berlin, 5 Aug — Germany and Italy on Wednesday called for a flexible in- terpretation of the Stability and Growth Pact to ensure the country’s debt and deficit, its in- vestment in future growth may be taken into consid- eration.**

German Finance Minister Hans Eichel said after meeting with his visit- ing Italian counterpart Domenico Siniscalco.

“Our upcoming budget should be more future-orien- tated,” said Eichel, adding that more money should be put on research, innovation and education.

While affirming the neces- sity of the pact, Eichel said it was up to EU minis- ters to decide how it should be applied. It was also up to the European Union to discuss the stability pact. Eichel said he would start discussions in the European Parliament on the Stability and Growth Pact.

**MNA/Xinhua**
Astronomers observe new type of cosmic explosion

LONDON, 6 Aug — A new type of cosmic explosion that occurred late last year could shed light on the death of massive stars, astronomers said on Wednesday.

It was more powerful than any seen previously, explosions marking the death of a huge star, but weaker than gamma-ray bursts (GRB), the mysterious and most brilliant blasts in the universe.

“I was stunned by my colleagues’ reaction — showed this event confirmed the existence of a new class of bursts, the GRB,” said Mario Livio of the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena, who reported the finding in the science journal Nature.

“It was like hitting the jackpot.”

Scientists had thought all gamma-ray bursts had a standard energy and the same intrinsic brightness until the discovery of the cosmic burst that occurred on December 17, 2002. It was 3.3 times brighter than the one on December 3, 2003 and is known by its date of birth, GRB 031203.

“With new events to realise it is not true. There are sub-energetic bursts that are less luminous with fainter emission, which means there is a not a standard energy,” said Soderberg in an interview.

“There is some charm until we can find two explosions that we didn’t realise before,” she adds.

The new blast occurred about 1.6 billion light years away. A light-year is about six trillion miles the distance that light travels in a year. It was also much closer than other gamma-ray bursts and about a thousand times weaker.

Astronomers do not know what causes gamma-ray bursts. They are thought to occur when stars collapse possibly to become a black hole, creating a huge gravitational pull from which nothing can escape.

“This last occurred last month, cosmologist Stephen Hawk- ing said he believes some material oozes out of black holes over billions of years through irregularities in their surface.”

Depression study suggests need for longer drug use

W COLUMBUS, 5 Aug — People with depression have an over-active brain circuit that can stay turned on even when they are not feeling down, US researchers reported on Wednesday.

The finding suggests that some depressed patients remain vulnerable all the time and need to stay on medication even after they get better, the researchers said.

Researchers at the National Institute of Mental Health de- liberately induced some symp- toms of depression in patients to image their brains using positron emission tomography or PET scans. They can do this by giving the patients a cocktail of aminoacids, said Dr. Alexan- der Neumeister, a researcher at Yale University in Con- necticut.

“Depression,” Neumeister said in a telephone interview, “is like having a bird that is always vibrating.”

NASA names supercomputer “KC” after Indian astronaut

HOUSTON, 5 Aug — NASA has dedicated its new Altix supercomputer “KC” to the memory of Indian-born astronaut Kalpana Chawla, one of the seven crew aboard the space shuttle Columbia which disintegrated midair in February last year.

Naming the new supercomputer “Kalpana” follows a tradition at NASA’s Ames Research Centre of calling its new supercomputers after pioneers in the supercomputer industry or individuals who have significantly contributed to research at the aircraft research laboratory.

“It is indeed an honour to name NASA’s new SGI Altix 3000 supercomputer after Kalpana Chawla,” said Ames Centre Direc- tor G. Scott Hubbard, adding “she was not only a member of the NASA family, but also a special member of our own Ames family. We all miss her and her many contributions to the agency.”

At Ames, Chawla had the challenging task of operating the aircraft surrounding a jet-supported, delta-wing aircraft during landing. During an interview in 1995, Chawla predicted that her exposure to a wide variety of computer systems at Ames would be espe- cially useful to her as an astronaut.

Of the dozens of experiments success- fully conducted by the Columbia crew, Chawla’s favourite was the Israeli Mediterr- anean Dust Experiment, which involved point- ing a camera at Earth to study the effects of dust on weather and the environment.

“Fittingly, the SGI Altix 3000 supercomputer that will be named ‘Kalpana’ is being used to develop substantially more capable simulation models to better assess the evolution and behaviour of the Earth’s climate system,” said Ghasssem Asrar, NASA’s Deputy Associate Administrator for Earth Sciences.

Environmental changes can produce emerging viruses

WASHINGTON, 5 Aug — Environmental changes, such as replacing forests with ranchland, combined with genetic mutations, can pro- duce viruses like SARS and HIV, according to a research from the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB).

Researchers reached this conclusion after studying viruses from two late-20th-Century outbreaks of Venezue- lan equine encephalitis (VEE) — a deadly illness that does not usually infect horses in Mexico and compared them to their near relatives.

“The medicines it prequalifies for prove- nance of the products bioequivalence with the originator medicines,” WHO said.

The finding suggests that some depressed patients re- main vulnerable all the time and need to stay on medication even after they get better, the researchers said.

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“Depression,” Neumeister said in a telephone interview, “is like having a bird that is always vibrating.”

The finding suggests that some depressed patients re- main vulnerable all the time and need to stay on medication even after they get better, the researchers said.

Researchers at the National Institute of Mental Health de- liberately induced some symp- toms of depression in patients to image their brains using positron emission tomography or PET scans. They can do this by giving the patients a cocktail of aminoacids, said Dr. Alexan- der Neumeister, a researcher at Yale University in Con- necticut.

“Depression,” Neumeister said in a telephone interview, “is like having a bird that is always vibrating.”

George Lucas opens animation studio in Singapore

LOS ANGELES, 5 Aug — George Lucas, creator of blockbuster films “Star Wars” and “Raiders of the Lost Ark,” and his most recent achievement, the opening of a digital animation studio in Singapore.

This is Lucas’ first overseas foray by his Lucasfilm production company. The studio, named Lucasmfilm Animation Singapore (LAS), will produce digital animated content including films, tel- evision and game for global audiences.

“I’ve been a fan of Asian animation and illustration all my life. Asian cinema has had a particularly big impact on a lot of my work,” Lucas said in a statement.

“By having a base in Sin- gapore, we can create a new style of animation that will blend East and West — and offer something not seen be- fore,” Lucas added. This Sin- gapore-based team will be headed by Gail Curey, vice- president and general man- ager of Lucasfilm Animation. Financing for LAS is a joint venture between Lucasfilm Ltd and Singapore’s Eco- nomic Development Board (EDB). — MNA/Eliah

Solar system may be unique after all

WASHINGTON, 5 Aug — Our solar system may be unique after all, despite the discovery of at least 120 other systems with planets, astronomers said on Wednes- day.

All the other solar sys- tems that have been found have big, gassy planets cir- c ling too close to their stars to allow them to be anything like Earth or its fellow plan- et s, the British and US-based researchers said.

If that is the case, Earth- like planets will be very rare, the astronomers write in the latest issue of the Monthly Notices of the Royal Astrono- mical Society.

“Perhaps these other extrasolar systems... contain only the giant planets,” said Mario Livio of the Space Telescope Science Institute in Baltimore.

Lucas and colleagues took a close look at what is known about the other plan- etary systems that have been discovered.

“Perhaps (our) solar system the orbits are very circular. Most of the giant planets observed in extrasolar sys- tems have very elliptical orbits,” Livio said in a tele- phone interview.

This could mean that as- tronomers have been wrong in assuming that all planets formed in basically the same way. Livio said most ex- perts thought that planets formed out of dust. “This dust coagulates and forms small rocks and the rocks combine and form small bod- ies and then those bodies form things like Earth,” he said.
Athens attracts record number of foreign volunteers

ATHENS, 5 Aug — The Athens Olympics have attracted the largest number of foreign volunteers in the history of the Games, officials said on Wednesday.

With 44,000 selected from a total 45,000 volunteers needed for the Games, organizers said some 4,500 were foreign nationals.

“This is the highest percentage ever recorded in a Olympic Games,” Volunteer Programme Director Dimitris Tziras said.

Failure to secure accommodation during the Games, or for a scheduled interview had witnessed the number of foreigners drop considerably.

Organizers of the August 13-29 Games launched the volunteer programme three years ago in a bid to attract Greeks living abroad.

Organizers sifted through 160,000 applications, conducting more than 20,000 interviews, Tziras said.

“Besides covering the needs of the Games, we also wanted to leave a legacy of volunteers in Greek society,” Tziras said. “We have succeeded in this.”

Some two thirds of all Athens Games volunteers are young.

Smiling and helpful volunteers were credited for the success of the Sydney 2000 Games, which were praised as the best ever.

Volunteers from as far afield as Japan and the United States have flocked to the Greek capital for the return of the Olympics to the site of its modern revival after 108 years.

“What better way to spend the summer than volunteer for the Games in Athens,” American volunteer Lopaka Luis Umalheibeii Purdy from Hawaii told reporters. “The Games have a larger goal of uniting the world.”

Tziras said organizers had not yet recorded any wave of last-minute change of heart among volunteers, with daily volunteer attendance around 95% in all Olympic venues that are operating.

Lizarazu still considering international future

PARIS, 5 Aug — France left back Bixente Lizarazu is considering extending his international career after talks with new coach Raymond Domenech.

The 34-year-old Olympique Marseille defender had said he was considering retiring from the national side after France suffered a shock elimination by Greece in the quarterfinals of the European championship in June.

“I was not going to take any decision today,” Lizarazu, capped 97 times, was quoted as saying by daily Le Parisien. “But I had to talk to the coach. It’s important to hear what he had to say.”

“Raymond Domenech presented me his plans for the international future of soccer’s world governing body FIFA, though Asian officials claimed there was nothing controversial about it.”

“If it was a red card he would be out but people do not want to see the top players miss the final.”

AFC director of communications Michelle Chau said.

“The decision was taken within the laws of the game and for the good of the game.” — MNA/Reuters

Aston Villa to sign Nantes midfielder Berson

NANTES (France), 6 Aug — Aston Villa are set to sign defensive midfielder Mathieu Berson from Nantes.

The French club said on Thursday they had reluctantly agreed to sell the 24-year-old who had been seeking a move to the English Premier League.

“Following numerous requests from Mathieu Berson to continue his career in England, Nantes football club has accepted his departure, with regret,” Nantes said in a statement.

The move has still to be finalized but a fee of 2.3 million euros has been agreed and Nantes said the money would be used to strengthen their squad.

Berson played 122 Ligue 1 matches for Nantes and scored seven goals. He won the French Cup with the club in 2000 and the league title the following year.

— MNA/Reuters

Sharapova advances at Montreal

OTTAWA, 6 Aug — Wimbledon champion Maria Sharapova got an easy win in her first match at the 1.3 million US dollars Montreal Cup on Wednesday, beating Kristina Brandi of Puerto Rico 6-1, 6-4.

The 17-year-old Sharapova, the first Russian player to win Wimbledon, was challenged briefly in the second set but was able to quickly recover and put away her dominating backhand and solid ground strokes.

Her companions and fourth seed Elena Dementieva and eight-seeded Nadia Petrova both lost the second-round matches at the event. Dementieva became the first major upset victim of the week, losing to Argentina's Gisela Dulko 6-1, 6-4, Dulko, 19, is a WTA rookie who already has pulled off several upsets. Petrova was also knocked out of the tournament, dropping a 6-4, 6-7, 7-5 decision to fellow Russian Elena Likhovtseva.

Third-seeded Anastasia Myskina of the French Open champion, moved on with an easy 6-0, 6-4 win over Aranza Parra Santonja of Spain. Other winners included fourth-seeded Paola Suarez of Argentina, number 10 seed Vera Zvonareva and Francesca Schiavone of Italy, the 11th seed, who all recorded straight set victories.

— MNA/Reuters

Senegal’s Diatta set for Lyon move

LYON (France), 6 Aug — Senegal defender Lamme Diatta will sign a two-year contract with Olympique Lyon next week, the French champions said on Thursday.

“Will be in Lyon at the start of the week to undergo the usual medical and to sign his contract,” Lyon said on its official website.

The 28-year-old was out of contract at Ligue 1 side Stade Rennes. Diatta will be reunited with Lyon coach Paul Le Guen, who signed him for Rennes in 1999.

Lyon said it had beaten off competition from several other clubs in Ligue 1 and the English Premier League to sign the versatile defender.

— MNA/Reuters

Sweden’s Jonsson joins Norwich City

LONDON, 6 Aug — Sweden midfielder Mattias Jonsson has joined newly-promoted Premier League team Norwich City on a two-year deal from Danish side Brondby for an undisclosed fee.

The 30-year-old played in all Sweden's matches at Euro 2004 and got the controversial late equalizer against Denmark that ensured both teams reached the last eight at Italy's expense.

"He's an attacking player with great pace and good experience. He had an exceptional Euro 2004 and will add quality to what we've got," said Norwich manager Nigel Worthington.

Norwich, who won the First Division championship last season, have an option to extend Jonsson's contract by another year, the English club said on their web site on Thursday. "It's a big opportunity to show the club and the fans what I am all about," said Jonsson. "I have a great feeling right now and I really looking forward to joining the team."

Jonsson, who has 41 caps, can play on either flank or as a centre forward and takes over the number nine shirt from Welshman Iwan Roberts who has left the club. — MNA/Reuters

Japanese Alex dealt lucky hand before Asian Cup final

BEIJING, 5 Aug — Japan midfielder Alex, looked in his last two games, is set to play in the Asian Cup final against hosts China thanks to a controversial decision by tournament organizers.

The Brazilian-born player will benefit after the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) decided not to carry over yellow cards picked up during the knockout stage to the final.

“The players were laughing about it in training this morning,” Japan media officer Ichirota Fukushi told Reuters.

They were wondering how Alex was still playing. Yellow cards are rescinded apparently.”

The AFC confirmed they had changed the rules regarding yellow cards since the last Asian Cup in Lebanon four years ago.

“The decision puts the AFC at odds with accepted practice at competitions run by tournament organizers.

“My heart goes out to Alex,” said France coach Raymond Domenech. "I was really looking forward to joining the team."
**Saturday, August 7**

**New on today:**
- 7:00 am: Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayada U Ommathara
- 7:25 am: To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am: Morning news
- 7:40 am: Nice and sweet song
- 7:55 am: Dance variety
- 8:10 am: Song
- 8:20 am: Song
- 8:30 am: International news
- 8:45 am: Song
- 9:00 am: Grammar Made Easy
- 11:00 am: Musical song
- 11:10 am: Annual programme
- 11:30 am: News

**11:40 am**
- 4 Games for children
- 12:05 pm: Round-up of the week’s TV local news
- 1:40 pm: Games for children
- 5:10 pm: Games for children
**11:45 am**
- 5 A recording
- 5:15 pm: A recording

**Sunday, August 8**

**Services**
- 8:30 am: Sunday service
- 9:00 am: Sunday service
- 9:30 am: Sunday service
- 10:00 am: Sunday service

**11:40 am**
- 4 Games for children
- 12:05 pm: Round-up of the week’s TV local news
- 1:40 pm: Games for children
- 5:10 pm: Games for children
- 5:25 pm: Games for children
- 5:30 pm: Musical Programme
- 5:35 pm: Games for children
- 6:10 pm: Games for children
- 6:15 pm: Games for children
- 6:20 pm: Games for children
- 6:25 pm: Games for children
- 6:30 pm: Musical Programme
- 6:35 pm: Games for children
- 6:40 pm: Games for children
- 7:00 pm: Games for children
- 7:05 pm: Weather report
- 7:10 pm: Discovery
- 7:15 pm: English for Everyday Use
- 7:20 pm: English for Everyday Use
- 8:00 pm: Myanmar News
- 8:10 pm: Myanmar News
- 8:15 pm: Myanmar News
- 8:20 pm: Myanmar News
- 8:25 pm: Myanmar News
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- 9:20 pm: Myanmar News
- 9:25 pm: Myanmar News
- 9:30 pm: Myanmar News
- 9:35 pm: Myanmar News
- 9:40 pm: Myanmar News
- 9:45 pm: Myanmar News
- 9:50 pm: Myanmar News
- 9:55 pm: Myanmar News
- 10:00 pm: Myanmar News

**Sunday, August 8**

**New on today:**
- 8:30 am: Brief news
- 8:35 am: Music: Woman in a Love
- 8:40 am: Perspectives
- 8:45 am: Music: Rock & roll music
- 8:50 am: National news/ Slogan
- 9:05 am: Music: Give me your love
- 9:10 am: International news
- 9:15 am: Music: Spotlight (on a star)
- 1:30 pm: News/Slogan
- 1:40 pm: Request
- 2:20 pm: Myanmar culture by Dr Khin Maung Nyunt
- 4:30 pm: Myanmar culture by Dr Khin Maung Nyunt
- 7:00 pm: Music: Women in a love
- 9:00 pm: ASEAN review
- 9:10 pm: Article
- 9:20 pm: Myanmar culture by Dr Khin Maung Nyunt
- 8:00 pm: Myanmar News
- 8:10 pm: Myanmar News
- 8:20 pm: Myanmar News
- 9:00 pm: Myanmar News
- 9:10 pm: Myanmar News
- 9:20 pm: Myanmar News
- 9:30 pm: Myanmar News
- 9:40 pm: Myanmar News
- 9:50 pm: Myanmar News

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Rainfall on 6-8-2004

- 1.34 inches at Yangon Airport, 0.87 inch at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 1811 mm (71.30 inches) at Yangon Airport and 1791 mm (70.51 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 1795 mm (70.67 inches) at central Yangon.

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**WEATHER**

**Friday, 6 August 2004**

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours

MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been cloudy in lower Sagaing Division, rain have been isolated in Chin and Kayah States, scattered to widespread in the remaining areas with locally heavy falls in Rakhine State and isolated heavy falls in Mon State and Tanintharyi Division. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Dawei (8.07 inches), Maungdaw (3.46 inches) and Kayah and Yaw (3.03 inches) each.

Minimum temperature on 5-8-2004 was 27.4°C (81°F).

Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 6-8-2004 was 96%. Total sunshine hours on 5-8-2004 was nil. Rainfall on 6-8-2004 was 34 mm (1.34 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 22 mm (0.87 inches) at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 1811 mm (71.30 inches) at Yangon Airport and 1791 mm (70.51 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 1795 mm (70.67 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 15 mph from Southeast at 10:25 hours MST on 5-8-2004.

Bay Influence: Monsun is strong in the Andaman Sea and moderate elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until end of 7-8-2004: Rain will be isolated in Chin and Kayah States, scattered in lower Sagaing Division, scattered in Kayah and Shan States, scattered in lower Sagaing Division and widespread in the remaining areas with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Mon State. Degree of certainty is (80%).

The state of the sea: Squalls with rough sea are likely attimes in the Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Tanintharyi Coast. Surface wind speed in squall may reach (40) mph. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Moderate monsoon.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 7-8-2004: Some rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 7-8-2004: Likelihood of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Weather outlook for first weekend of August 2004: During the coming weekend, rain will be widespread in Yangon Division and scattered in Mandalay Division.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Four political objectives</th>
<th>Four economic objectives</th>
<th>Four social objectives</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>* 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</td>
<td>* 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</td>
<td>* 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</td>
</tr>
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**PM discusses development of gem business**

Two gem stones of prime quality handed over to State

_**Yangon, 6 Aug** — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt held a meeting to discuss development of gem business in Myanmar this afternoon at the Ministry of Mines._

Present at the meeting were ministers, the Chief Justice, the Attorney-General, the deputy minister for Mines, members of the Leading Committee for Development of Gem Business in Myanmar, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and heads of department.

Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint reported to the meeting on State’s income from the gem enterprise, revenues from the gem exhibitions, income of the 2004 special jade and gem mining permits in accord with the law.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt looked into the requirements. In his discussions, he spoke of the need to strive to increase State revenues from the gem business, to develop the gem business of the nation in accord with the law and to take environmental conservation measures.

After the meeting, the Prime Minister presented two gem stones of significant quality to the State through Minister Brig-Gen Ohn Myint. An entrepreneur presented the two gem stones to the Prime Minister. Mined from Phakant gemland in Kachin State, the two precious stones are of prime quality. The gem stone contain a moving liquid inside it.

The two gem stones will be displayed at the Myanmar Gems Museum.

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**Secretary-1 inspects functions of Fair Sun Co Ltd in Shwepyitha Industrial Zone (3)**

_**Yangon, 6 Aug** — Chairman of the Industrial Development Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win inspected functions of Fair Sun Co Ltd in Shwepyitha Industrial Zone (3) this afternoon. He was accompanied by Deputy Minister for Industry-2 Lt-Col Khin Maung Kyaw, Deputy Minister for Science and Technology Dr Chan Nyein, officials of the SPDC office, No 4 Military Region Commander Col Yan Naung Oo and officials._

Fair Sun Co Ltd Managing Director Dr Pe Khin reported to the Secretary-1 and party on organizational set-up of the company, machinery installation for manufacturing of car parts, and arrangements for production of moulds and other parts. He reported that there are a foundry shop and a machine shop at the factory of the company. Iron products will be assembled with the use of the computerized numerical control system (CNC). And arrangements are under way to manufacture the parts through the system of direct numerical control (DNC) in addition to CNC system. He also reported on sample production of TE truck parts such as cover gear shift, tool and cutter, oil pump housing and spring bracket.

Next, the Secretary-1 and party inspected moulding with the use of CNC machine, installation of modern machinery and production of motor car parts and dust collector. Then, the Secretary-1 inspected construction progress of the foundry.

In meeting with officials, State Peace and Development Council Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win said that there are good prospects for private industry as the quality of iron products has improved and modern computerized machines are being used. The State has valued the innovations and technical competence of private entrepreneurs, he added. Fair Sun Co Ltd is manufacturing 12 kinds of parts for TE trucks. Besides, arrangements are being made to produce casting parts, machining parts and other motor car parts not only for local but also for foreign markets.