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

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

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

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

Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyang Kyang attend fifth Waso robes offering ceremony of Tatmadaw families at Five Nikaya Pitakat Thonbon Monastery

YANGON, 7 Aug — The fifth Waso robes offering ceremony of the families of Defence Services (Army, Navy and Air) of the Ministry of Defence to Five Nikaya Pitakat Thonbon Monastery in Dagon Myothit (South) Township was held at Pyilon Chantha Maha Ordination Hall of the monastery at 9.15 am today, attended by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyang Kyang.

Also present on the occasion were State Ovadacariya Pazundaung Myatheindan Monastery Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Sobhana, Vice-Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Bahan Aungmyebonsan Monastery Presiding Nayaka Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Pahindhabhivamsa and members of the Sangha, Tipitakadhara Tipitaka Kovidya Sayadaws, members of the State Central Working Committee of the Sangha, Sayadaws from State Pariyatti Sasana University (Yangon) and International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University, members of the Sangha from the monastery, Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commissioner-in-Chief of Defence Services Commissioner-in-Chief of Defence Services Commissioner-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, Daw Khin Than Nwe, widow of Lt-Gen Tin Oo, member of the State Peace and Development Council, General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence and wife, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council, Lt-Gen Soe Win and wife, Secretary-2 Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein and wife, members of the State Peace and Development Council.

Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyang Kyang offer eight requisites and Waso robes to a Sayadaw.— MNA

Senior General Than Shwe, wife Daw Kyang Kyang and Tatmadaw families share merits for offering of Waso robes to Sayadaws at Five Nikaya Pitakat Thonbon Monastery.— MNA

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Boost yield of crops through effective use of irrigation facilities

Once, local farmers residing in Myingyan District, Mandalay Division, had to rely on rains to grow their crops. Therefore, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance to implement the 13-District Greening Project that also covers Myingyan District in the arid zone of the country. Good results have come out from the project with the participation of local people, efforts are being made to continue the project.

The inauguration of the Taunggyay Dam built by Construction 7 of the Irrigation Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation on Taunggyay Creek near Tepine Village, Kyaukpaungda Township, Myingyan District, Mandalay Division, was held on 28 July, with an address by member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence.

On the occasion, Lt-Gen Ye Myint said that, under the guidance of Senior General Than Shwe, ways and means were sought in order to feed more water to Kyetmauktaung Dam, that according to the feasible study, water can be supplied to the dam by building two supporting dams, and that therefore the two dams namely Taunggyay Creek and Kyauktaga dams were built.

Taunggyay Creek Dam is located near Tepine Village, Kyaukpaungda Township, Mandalay Division and it was built with the aim of feeding water to Kyetmauktaung Dam that was built in 1966. The Government has so far built 41 dams in Mandalay Division since 1988 and irrigated areas are over 333,000 acres.

Altogether 15 dams namely Sunlun Dam, Taung Pinte and Myauk Pinte Dams in Myingyan Township; Kyauktalan Dam, Hsindewa (Thakakkul) Dam, Sunkun Dam, Taungtha Dam, Welaung Dam and Kyauktalan supporting Dam in Taungtha Township; Zedaw Dam in Natogyi Township; Myotya Dam, Phaukgadaw Dam and Naithadaw Dam in Ngaung Township; and Pinchaung Dam and Taunggyay supporting dam in Kyaukpaungda Township, have been built in Myingyan District and these facilities supply water to 38,303 acres of land.

At a time when the Government is striving for the development of the agriculture sector, farmers are urged to make earnest efforts for boosting the yield of crops through effective use of the irrigation facilities.

ASEAN Food Festival held

YANGON, 7 Aug—The ASEAN Food Festival organized by the Myanmar ASEAN Women’s Friendship Association to hail the 57th Anniversary of ASEAN which falls on 8 August 2004 was held at the Kandawgyi Palace Hotel here this morning.

Daw San Yone, wife of member of the Panel of Patrons of the Association Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, formally opened the festival.

Also present on the occasion were Daw Le Le Kyi, wife of minister of the Panel of Patrons of the Association Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tha, ministers’ wives who are honorary members, wives of officials of the ministry who are executives, the Philippine Ambassador to Myanmar, wives of ambassadors of ASEAN countries to Myanmar and families of diplomatic corps of Embassies in Yangon and UN agencies.

Win Hlaing, Khin Soe Hlay secure first prize each in cycling race

YANGON, 7 Aug — Under the leadership of the Ministry of Sports, the 160 km long Yangon-Bago-Yangon men’s open and 80 km long women’s open cycling race co-organized by Myanmar Cycling Federation and Shwe Than Lwin Co Ltd, was held at Youths Training Centre in Thwunna this morning, attended by Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thara Aye Myint. Chairman of Committee for Ensuring Success of Myanmar Sports Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin launched the opening of the race. The cyclists started the point in front of the Youths Training Centre in Thwunna and went to No 1 traffic island at the entrance to Bago along Weizaya Road through South Okkalapa and North Okkalapa townships and Mingaladon Garden City, along Pyay Road through Haukkayan, Hegyi Township and Indaung, and turned back and finished their route at Daewoo Garment Factory (Pyimabin) on Pyay Road.

At the prize presentation ceremony at Aung San Stadium, Leading Patron of the Myanmar Women’s Sports Federation Daw Aye Aye presented first, second and third prizes to Khin Soe Hlai of YCDC, Moe Sanda Oo of YCDC and Su Su Wai of Livestock and Fisheries respectively. The first prize winner clocked 3 hours, 58 minutes and 15.31 seconds for women’s 80 km event. Daw L. Khan Yi of MWSF and Daw Nan Munk Lao Hsai, wife of the President of MCF Chairman of Shwe Than Lwin Co Ltd, presented prizes to fourth, fifth and consolation prize winners. Next, member of the Leading Panel of Patrons of MWSF Daw Kyi Kyi Win presented first, second and third prizes to Win Hlaing (Yangon Division).

Win Hlaing, Khin Soe Hlay secure first prize each in cycling race

Member of the Leading Panel of Patrons of MWSF Daw Kyi Kyi Win presents the first prize to Win Hlaing (Yangon Division). — NLM

ASEAN Food Festival held

YANGON, 7 Aug—Hailing the International Literacy Day which falls on 8th September 2004, the article, essay and poster competitions to mark International Literacy Day and the United Nations Literacy Decade 2004, will be held. The entry must be titled “Education for All”. The entry must be between 3,000 and 4,000 words. The two copies of the entry must be expressed clearly only on one side of page in computer, typewriter or handwriting. The entry must be own creation. The creator must submit the brief biography and three 1.5” x 2” size colour licence photos. The entries are to be sent to Director U Myat Naing of Myanmar Education Research Bureau on Pyay Road in Kamayut Township, not later than 25 August. Essay and poster competitions will be held dividing into three categories. The trainees from the on-job training courses at Institutes of Education and Education Colleges may take part in the essay competition with the title of ‘Helping Illiterate’ to be held on 22 August. Basic Education High School students may take part with the title ‘Everybody must be literate’ on 14 August. Basic Education Middle School students may participate in the poster competition on 14 August. Those wishing to participate may inquire for detailed information to respective Institutes of Education, Education Colleges and Town-ship Education Officer’s Office. — NLM

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Cyclists with full enthusiasm take part in the race. — NLM

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Member of the Leading Panel of Patrons of MWSF Daw Kyi Kyi Win presents the first prize to Win Hlaing (Yangon Division). — NLM

Win Hlaing, Khin Soe Hlay secure first prize each in cycling race

Cyclists with full enthusiasm take part in the race. — NLM
922 US service members killed since beginning of military operations in Iraq

Baghdad, 6 Aug—As of Friday, Aug 6, 922 US service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq in March 2003, according to the Defense Department. Of those, 685 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. Technical since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 784 US soldiers have died 576 as a result of hostile action and 208 of non-hostile causes, according to the Defense, Department on Friday.

The source said the four were captured on Thursday while driving on a road between Baghdad and Ramadi, a volatile region west of the capital where resistance to the presence of foreigners in Iraq is particularly strong.

He had no information about who had taken them hostage or who they worked for, although relatives of two of the missing men said they were employed by Lebanon's al-Juburi transit company.

The head of the Lebanese Truckers' Association said the drivers were taking electric generators from Lebanon to Iraq, to sell to Iraqi traders. He said they had no links with US or any other foreign troops.

They were supposed to arrive in Baghdad last night," Chafic al-Assis told Reuters. "Our office in Baghdad called this morning to say they didn't show up.

A family in north Lebanon identified two of the truckers as Nasir al-Jundi and Tarek al-Jundi, and said they had left Lebanon on Sunday. Other Lebanese drivers in Iraq called the family on Friday to say they had not arrived.

Relatives appealed for their release, saying the two had gone to Iraq only to earn a living.

"We have asked the foreign ministry and those responsible in Lebanon to get them freed because all they were doing was bringing Iraq the basic things they need," said Abdulrahman al-Jundi, a member of the family. Assis said diplomats in Baghdad and Beirut were trying to find out who kidnapped the men.

A spokesman in Baghdad's interior ministry said the ministry was aware of the reports but had no further information.

There are now five Lebanese nationals missing in Iraq. Businessman Antoine Antoun was kidnapped along with a Syrian driver last Friday, according to his relatives in north Lebanon. Talks are ongoing to secure his release.

INTERNET

Ceasefire in Iraq splinters

Baghdad, 6 Aug—Fierce battles erupted Thursday between US forces and rebel Shiite fighters in several cities across Iraq slamming a 2-month-old cease-fire and threatening to ignite a fresh Shiite uprising.

The most intense fighting was reported in the holy city of Najaf, where insurgents loyal to rebel Shiite leader Moqtada Sadr shot down a US Marine helicopter in the worst fighting since a truce put an end to the Shiite insurgency there in early June.

The helicopter and its crew were rescued, according to US military officials, who declined to confirm reports that several Marines on board were injured. In a separate incident on the outskirts of Najaf, a US soldier was killed and five were injured when they were ambushed by rebel fighters, a military statement said.

"Fight the blasphemous, fight the Americans," Sadr said in a statement issued by his office in Najaf, fuels fears the Shiite rebellion seems poised to ignite in the middle of August.

Dispatching any troops from El Salvador would be a declaration of war against Iraq's Muslim people, prompting us to launch war against you and move the conflict inside El Salvador," said the hitherto unknown group Mohammed Atta Bri- gades — Al-Qeda of Jihad.

The authenticity of the statement could not be verified. The group is named after a former of the hijackers who carried out the Sept 11, 2001 attacks in the United States.

"No citizen will enjoy security in El Salvador as soon as any soldier arrives in Iraq — and do not hold us responsible for bloodshed in El Sal- vador as we have cautioned you against taking such a step," said the brief statement.

INTERNET

Four Lebanese drivers taken hostage in Iraq

Baghdad, 6 Aug—Four Lebanese truck drivers have been taken hostage in Iraq, a source in Beirut's Foreign Ministry said on Friday.

The helicopter came down near Karak, in a district neighbouring North Waziristan, a tribal area where security forces come under regular fire from militants.

INTERNET

Group tells El Salvador not to send troops to Iraq

Durres, 6 Aug—A group saying it has ties to Al-Qaeda vowed on Thursday to strike inside El Salvador if the country sends fresh troops to Iraq, according to a message posted on an Islamist Web site.

El Salvador's President Tony Saca said on Wednesday a new contingent of Salvadoran troops approved by the Legislature last month after heated debate — would leave for Iraq in the middle of August.

"Dispatching any troops from El Salvador would be a declaration of war against Iraq's Muslim people, prompting us to launch war against you and move the conflict inside El Salvador," said the hitherto unknown group Mohammed Atta Bri- gades — Al-Qeda of Jihad.

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INTERNET

Russia close to WTO deals with China, Japan

Moscow, 6 Aug—Russia plans to join the World Trade Organization (WTO) in early 2006 and is close to agreeing accession terms with several key trading partners, a top trade official said on Wednesday.

Russia wants to sign bilateral deals with all its trading partners this year. It cleared a major hurdle in May by reaching agreement with its biggest trading partner, the European Union, and deals with China and Japan look to be next on the cards.

In January-February 2006 Russia could really become a member of this organization," Andrei Kushnirenko, Russia's deputy head of trade negotia- tions, told journalists.

"At the moment the government's plans are to complete bilateral discussions with the main partners by the end of the year. These discussions will occupy much of next year, and towards the end of 2005 there will be a conference to dis- cuss Russia's membership.

Kushnirenko said Russia expected to strike a deal with

INTERNET

Pakistan Army helicopter crash kills at least four

Peshawar (Pakistan), 6 Aug—A Pakistan Army helicopter crashed in the country's northwest on Thursday, killing at least four people, the military spokesman said.

"It is an accident, but we are trying to find out details," Major-General Shaukat Sultan told Reuters.

The helicopter came down near Karak, in a district neighbouring North Waziristan, a tribal area where security forces come under regular fire from militants.

INTERNET

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Sunday, 8 August, 2004 3
Khatami accuses US of double standards in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 6 Aug — Iranian President Mohammad Khatami said the United States was using double standards in its war in Iraq and accused it of sparking international conflict.

Addressing the Azeri parliament on the second day of his visit to the former Soviet republic, Khatami defended both Iraq and Palestinian territories against the West.

"Unilateral international policies followed by double standards create difficulties among people, and this can be seen in Iraq and Palestine," Khatami said.

"The Islamic religion allows for peace and security in the region and a true dialogue for between the world's civilizations," he said.

Khatami was paying his first visit to an Iranian leader to the former Soviet republic since 1993, trying to build ties between two countries

In June, in a Brazilian oil field, two engineers were killed in the Caspian Sea and Azerbaijan’s closer relations with the United States.

Khatami is due to leave Azerbaijan on Saturday.

In recent months, the Pentagon has been ramping up its military assistance to Azerbaijan, which, like Iran, has a Caspian shoreline.

The US military has run joint exercises with the Azeri navy in the Caspian. The US is backing a major project to export Azeri oil from the Caspian Sea — home to some of the world’s biggest untapped oil and gas reserves — to international markets.

"But Iran is suspicious of US motives," he said, after President George W Bush announced the country as part of an "axis of evil" following the September 11 attacks.

Reservist says intelligence led Iraq abuse

HAGERSTOWN, 6 Aug — An Army reservist who saw naked detainees being humiliated at Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq says military intelligence officials led and directed the abuse.

The account by Kenneth A Davis, a former sergeant in the Maryland-based 372nd Military Police Company, contradicts the government’s position that only members of Davis’ unit were directly responsible for the abuse.

Davis, 33, former Friday that testimony given Thursday by Spc. Israel Rivera, an analyst with the 325th Military Intelligence Battalion, was "inaccurate." Rivera testified Thursday that military police forced detainees to crawl naked "low enough that their genitalia were rubbing on the floor, causing pain." Rivera said two members of his unit, Spc. Armin J Cruz and Spc. Roman Krol, participated in the abuse, and that he was disgusted by it.

Davis said it was Cruz and Krol who forced the men to crawl across the floor while demanding that they confess to raping a boy in the prison.

Davis said he doesn’t recall any military police joining in the abuse.

Indonesia tries to accelerate non-oil export growth

JAKARTA, 6 Aug — Indonesia’s non-oil export must stay above 4.5 billion US dollars per month in the next six months to achieve the targeted full year export growth of 7 per cent, an official said here Thursday.

National Agency for Export Development (Nafed) Chairwoman Diah Maulida said that much need to be done to boost non-oil export, which grew by a mere 2.2 per cent in the first half of 2004.

"Non-oil export in the January-June period stood at 24 billion US dollars, or grew by 2.21 per cent. It means that we need to do more to achieve the targeted growth of 7 per cent," she said in a seminar here.

Indonesia’s non-oil export valued at 47.4 billion dollars last year.

Marine killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 4 Aug — A Marine who grew up in Milford was killed in Iraq Wednesday, just two weeks before he was scheduled to return home.

News Center 5’s Amalia Barreda reported that Gunner Sgt. Eliu P. Fontecchio’s family and friends were preparing for his homecoming in just a few weeks, but are now preparing for his funeral.

Fontecchio was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, based at the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center in Twenty-nine Palms, Calif.

Last December, Fontecchio was said to agonize over breaking the news to his wife, Kinney, that he would be returning to Iraq for a second tour of duty.

Ministry says three Turks held hostage, two others missing in Iraq

ANKARA, 6 Aug — The Turkish Foreign Ministry said on Friday that three Turkish citizens are claimed to have been held hostage and two others are reported missing in Iraq.

All capabilities of the ministry and other relevant state institutions have been mobilized also with contribution of several Iraqi circles to find and rescue those Turkish citizens, the ministry said in a statement.

Meanwhile, it said that Turkey will strongly continue sending aid to meet humanitarian needs of Iraq’s people with whom it has ties that have roots deep in history.

"Turkey remained to be a risky country in terms of security despite efforts and activities. People there have been under threat for Iraq’s rebuilding and settlement of stability," the statement said.

Davis was scheduled to return home.

Brazilians suffers arrested in drugs scam

JAKARTA, 6 Aug — Indonesian Customs officers said on Thursday they caught three Brazilian men with six kilos of drugs stashed inside their surfboards.

They said the men, heading to the surfing paradise of Bali, were arrested at Jakarta’s International Airport on Saturday after their eight surfboards were X-rayed.

"The officers were suspicious over the bags and opened them to examine the belongings," said Yudi, a customs officer.

"They re-examined the bags and cut open the surfboards. Inside they found 12 bags weighing half a kilo each," he said in a news conference.

"We implored God’s mercy on these Turkish people and we offer our condolences to their families and relatives. The Turkish state will extend its helping hand to these families," the foreign ministry said.

"As a result of these meetings took place in the Foreign Ministry with representatives of Turkish companies making business in Iraq and relevant state institutions’ officials for betterment of safety conditions of their personnel in Iraq."

"As a result of these meetings, a series of additional security and logistic measures were determined regarding the areas of road security, safe transportation and secure storing and discharging places, alternative routes, personnel arrangement, cooperation with Iraqi authorities and insurance, as well as minimizing the removing of dangers and risks in Iraq. The Turkish government will support implementation of these measures," it said.

An armed Iraqi Shi’ite militia man, follower of the radical cleric Moqtada al-Sadr, mans a checkpoint in the eastern Baghdad suburb of Al Sadr city on 6 Aug, 2004. — Internet
Kerry hopes to cut troops in Iraq within year

KANSAS CITY, 7 Aug — Democratic presidential nominee John Kerry said on Friday he believes he could “significantly” cut American troop levels in Iraq within a year, drawing quick fire from the White House.

“I believe that within a year from now, we could significantly reduce American forces in Iraq, and that’s my plan,” Kerry said. “Believe me.”

Kerry made the comments in an interview with National Public Radio that aired on Friday, a day after it was conducted while he campaigned in Missouri.

White House Chief of Staff Andrew Card responded: “Those kinds of decisions should be based on what the military commanders in the field recommend, and I doubt Senator Kerry has the benefit of the commanders who are in the field.”

Travelling with President George W Bush in New Hampshire, Card told reporters: “The President’s not going to make political decisions based on what troop levels should be, but based on what commanders on the ground suggest.”

Continuing demands on the 130,000 US troops in Iraq due to the current bloody insurgency, he said the length of time many American soldiers must now serve there.

Kerry said in the NPR interview, “I’ll get other countries involved in the training of troops and training them more rapidly, the Iraqis themselves can take over a great deal more of their own security.” “But you need stability to be able to do that. How do you achieve the stability? You need to have more people involved in the process,” Kerry said.

“We have not administered this Administration do the statecraft, do the diplomacy necessary, and America’s paying a very high price, both in terms of the lives of our young and the money that’s coming out of the taxpayers’ pockets,” he said.

“I will do a better job of building those alliances and getting our troops home,” Kerry said. — MNA/Reuters

British soldier killed in accident in Iraq

LONDON, 6 Aug — The British Ministry of Defence (MoD) confirmed Thursday that a British soldier died in an accident in southern Iraq.

Private Christopher Gordon Rayment, aged 22, died in a tragic accident at Al Amarah on 4 August, 2004,” the MoD said in a statement.

According to the MoD, Rayment was serving with 1st Battalion The Princess of Wales’ Royal Regiment.

The MoD did not reveal any further details of Rayment’s death.

The incident brought the death toll of British troops in Iraq to 61 since Britain joined the US-led war against Iraq last March.

Britain, a staunchest US ally on Iraq, has nearly 10,000 troops in southern Iraq.

MNA/Xinhua

US troops in Kosovo could face misconduct charge

PRISTINA (Serbia and Montenegro), 6 Aug — The US Army said on Wednesday it was considering charging seven of its soldiers in Kosovo with misconduct after two civilians complained of mistreatment during a search operation.

A statement from the 21st Theatre Support Command in Germany said an investigation had been completed into “alleged misconduct regarding their actions in the execution of a cordon and search operation” in the eastern village of Vrbovac in April.

“Those allegations of conduct came from complaints made by two Kosovo civilians related to their treatment during the operation,” it added.

A spokesman said the case had been referred to Major-General Bennie E Williams to consider whether to press charges.

MNA/Reuters

Iraq abuse defence lawyers focus on command chain

FORT BRAGG (North Carolina), 6 Aug — Lawyers for the American woman soldier who was pictured holding a naked Iraqi prisoner on a leash probed at a hearing on Thursday for links between abuse at Abu Ghraib Prison and the military chain of command.

A military intelligence analyst said he witnessed two colleagues abusing prisoners, but a top military intelligence commander at Abu Ghraib in late 2003 said he never approved abusive tactics.

The testimony came on the third day of the hearing at a military court in Fort Bragg, North Carolina, to determine if Private First Class England, a pregnant 21-year-old military police officer, should stand trial for prisoner abuse.

England, a face who faces up to 38 years in prison if convicted, became the public face of a scandal that shocked the world and hampered the US war effort after the release of photographs of soldiers and inmates at Abu Ghraib.

Thursday’s testimony focused on the larger issue of prisoner abuse at Abu Ghraib as defence lawyers sought to bolster their contention that England was just following orders. They grilled military investigators about how much control the Military Intelligence unit had at Abu Ghraib.

Investigators said there was no evidence the US military chain of command ordered or sanctioned abuse.

But a series of witnesses testified to seeing prisoners naked and handcuffed, placed in awkward or humiliating positions, or worse.

Specialist Israel Rivera, an MI interrogator analyst, said that last October he witnessed mistreatment involving two MI personnel, bolstering the defence assertion that abuse in the cell blocks was not limited to Military Police.

MNA/Reuters

China construction industry’s production up in first half of ‘04

BEIJING, 6 Aug — Statistics from the National Statistics Bureau indicate that China’s construction industry has completed a production value of 1,099.7 billion yuan (about 122.24 billion US dollars) in the first half of 2004, up 27.5 per cent over the same period of the previous year.

But the increase margin of the six months was 3.8 per cent lower than this year’s first quarter, it said.

According to the bureau, the government’s macro-economic measures are gradually paying off. This means that construction companies are not building as much and as a result their production value growth slows slightly.

“Both the enterprises’ operational efficiency and profits are generally sound,” said the bureau.

Construction enterprises have signed contracts worth 2,607.8 billion yuan (about 315.7 billion US dollars) during the first half year, up 34.7 per cent year-on-year, it said.

MNA/Xinhua

Philippine Govt keeps ban on deployment of workers in Iraq

MANILA, 6 Aug— The Philippine Government has decided to maintain the ban on the deployment of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) in Iraq despite a loss of thousands of job opportunities and over 100 million US dollars of remittance.

Philippine Overseas Employment Agency chief Rosalinda Baldiz said Thursday that the ban would be retained due to an increase in the number of bombing incidents and abduction of foreign workers in Iraq.

Baldiz said that she made the decision after meeting with the government’s special envoy to the Middle East, Roy Cimatu, to assess the Iraqi security situation.

“As of this time, there is higher risk (for Filipino workers) because of the increase in bombings... including some churches,” Baldiz said.

“Based on the initial security assessment of (Cimatu), we do not see the possible lifting of the ban at this time,” she added, stressing that the government’s focus was on “security and protection of workers, not employment.”

MNA/Xinhua

Earthquake hits Tokyo

TOKYO, 6 Aug — An earthquake registering an estimated magnitude of 4.9 on the Richter Scale jolted Tokyo and its neighbouring Chiba Prefecture in east Japan early Friday morning, the Japan Meteorological Agency said.

The quake was strongly felt in Tokyo and Chiba. There were no immediate reports of casualties or damage from the 03.30 am (1830 GMT) jolt, which measured 3.4 on the Japanese seismic intensity scale of 7. Its focus was about 80 kilometres underground in Chiba Prefecture, the agency said.

MNA/Xinhua
US soldier killed in Najaf shootout

BAGHDAD, 6 Aug — Gunmen attacked a US military convoy near the holy Iraqi city of Najaf on Thursday, killing one US soldier and wounding five others, the US command said.

The soldiers belonged to the 13th Corps Support Command, based in Balad, north of Baghdad and redeployed to Najaf where fighting erupted overnight between militants loyal to radical Shi'ite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr, the military said in a statement.

Three of the wounded were evacuated to a military medical facility, and two others were treated for minor injuries, the statement added.

China willing to expand ICT cooperation with ASEAN nations

BANGKOK, 7 Aug — China is willing to expand information and communication technology (ICT) cooperation with ASEAN (the Association of South-East Asian Nations) nations to promote joint development in this field, a Chinese official said here on Friday.

At the 3rd China—ASEAN Information and Communication Seminar kicked off here on Friday, Chinese Information Technology Industry Minister Wang Xudong said China is willing to carry out broader cooperation with ASEAN countries in the fields of network construction, business operation and government management and consultation.

“China and ASEAN nations have enjoyed long-term friendly cooperation in the economic and trade field. In recent years, the exchanges and cooperation in ICT sectors among related countries have yielded positive results,” said Wang, referring to the signing of the memorandum of understanding on ICT cooperation between China and ASEAN in October 2003, which opened up a new chapter in mutually beneficial cooperation among countries in the region.

Thanks to the concerted efforts from all these countries, cooperation has been launched in the memorandum and have been carried out, said the minister.

Initiated by China, the building of a trunk communication network along the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) has received active response from ASEAN countries and the project was being pushed forward.

“As developing countries, China and ASEAN countries need to jointly promote information and communication development to adapt to the change of the global economic situation,” said the minister, adding China’s plan to train 500 telecom management personnel for ASEAN has got a good start.

Governmental officials, entrepreneurs and experts from China and ASEAN countries participated in the two-day seminar.

ASEAN groups Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Amman, Baghdad still differ over Iraq’s stationed planes

AMMAN, 6 Aug — Jordan and Iraq still differ over Iraqi planes stationed at Amman International Airport since 1991, a government source said Wednesday.

The source told reporters that the Iraqi planes issue, has been raised during Iraqi Prime Minister Ayad Allawi’s recent visit to Jordan, but no solution has been reached till now.

Jordan regarded the stationed planes as part of the Iraqi frozen assets and the storage fees should be dealt with through the United Nations, the source said.

Fierce clashes in Iraqi holy city of Najaf

Najaf, 6 Aug — United States and Iraqi security forces fought fierce battles with supporters of radical Shi'ite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr in the holy city of Najaf on Thursday, with Marines calling in helicopters for backup, witnesses said.

The clashes followed an attack by “a significant number of aggressors” believed to be members of Sadr’s Mehdi Army militia.

A US military statement said the police station was attacked by Iraqi policemen in Najaf late Thursday, with Marines calling in helicopters for backup.

Four Vietnamese drug traffickers sentenced to death

HCMC, 7 Aug — The Court of Appeal upheld the death sentences passed by the court of first instance on three drug-trafficking ringleaders in Vietnam’s Ho Chi Minh City, local newspaper Saigon Liberation reported Friday.

The court, on Thursday, also upheld the life imprisonment sentences on five other defendants and gave four others jail terms of 10-16 years, as the ring’s members trafficked over 22 kilos of heroin.

Ring leader Chu Duc Hai, who was sentenced to death, and a defendant, who received the life imprisonment sentence in the court of first instance, did not lodge their appeals. Hai and 16 accomplices trafficked the drug from January 2001 until their arrests in April 2002.

In Vietnam, possessing, trading or trafficking 600 grammes of heroin or 20 kilos of opium is punishable by death or life in prison.

By late 2003, the country had 189,000 drug addicts, of whom 30.5 per cent are from 13 northern mountainous provinces.

Egypt not to send troops to Iraq

CAIRO, 6 Aug — Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Abul Gheit reiterated Wednesday that his country would not send troops to Iraq.

“Egypt’s position on sending forces to Iraq is clear. It rejects sending any forces there,” Abul Gheit told reporters, in response to a Saudi proposal that Arab and Islamic forces replace the US-led coalition troops.

“What has been brought up about sending Arab and Islamic forces is merely a proposal, which the United States and Arab parties are still looking at,” he said.

Egypt, which has offered to train Iraqi police officers in Egypt, has made it clear that it has no plan to send troops to Iraq.

Saudi Foreign Minister Saud al-Faisal has recently floated a proposal on sending an Islamic peacekeeping force to Iraq to replace the coalition forces in Iraq.

Indonesia, Singapore sign an agreement on joint maritime patrol

JAKARTA, 6 Aug — Indonesia and Singapore signed Thursday agreement on joint maritime patrol to combat piracy on the waters between the two countries.

The signing ceremony took place in the southern Java town of Yogyakarta during the 22nd Indonesia—Singapore Joint Coordinating Committee Meeting.

Colonel D J Nachrowi from the Indonesian Military said after the signing ceremony that both countries agreed to open their security posts to all commercial ships threatened by sea pirates.

In case of emergency, commercial ships can contact the nearest security post for immediate action.

“In the future, we will expand the area of operations,” he was quoted by Detikcom online news service as saying.

Military commanders from both countries and Malaysia on July 20 launched joint patrol in the Straits of Malacca. The so-called Malindo Operation is a year-round operation to safeguard some 50,000 commercial ships passing the narrow strait every year.
Endeavours to supply electricity

People living in Myitkyina, Kachin State, are now enjoying electricity supplied by Kyeinkharankha hydro power station which is generating 25 kilowatt. — MNA

Zawgyi Hydroelectric Power Plant in Yaksawk Township, Shan State. — MNA

Mone Creek Hydel Power Project in Sedoktara Township, Magway Division. — MNA
Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing attend fifth Waso robes...

(From page 1)

Development Council and their wives, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy) and wife, the Commander-in-Chief (Air) and wife, the Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council, Commander of Yangon Command and wife, ministers and their wives, the Chief Justice, the Attorney-General, the Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing attend fifth Waso robes...

Adviser U Aung Maung acted as master of ceremonies. The ceremony was opened with three-time recitation of Namo Tassa. Next, on behalf of the Presiding Nayaka of the Monastery Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw of Myingyan Koehsaungtaik, Vice-Chairman Sayadaw Bhaddanta Silakkhandhabhivamsa attended. Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and Daw Khin Than Nwe, widow of Lt-Gen Tin Oo donated eight requisites, alms and Waso robes to the members of the Sangha. Next, General Thura Shwe Mann and wife, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win and wife, Secretary-2 Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein and wife, members of the State Peace and Development Council, the commander, the ministers, the Chief Justice, the Attorney-General, the Mayor and senior military present Waso robes and offertories to a Sayadaw. — MNA

Yagon Mayor and senior military officers and their wives, the Director-General of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads and families of Defence Services (Army, Navy and Air), the Chief Justice, the Attorney-General, the Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing offered eight requisites, Waso robes and provisions to the Vice-Chairman Sayadaw. Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein presented offertories to a Sayadaw. — MNA
Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing attend fifth Waso robes...

(From page 8)

Officers presented eight requisites, alms and Waso robes to the Sayadaws. Afterwards, Sayadaw Bhaddanta Silakkhandha-bhivamsa delivered a sermon. And, the Senior General and wife and the congregation shared merits gained. Later, the donation ceremony ended with three-time recitation of Buddha Sasanam Çiram Tītthu. After the ceremony, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe, wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and party offered ‘soon’ to the Sayadaws. Next, State Peace and development Council Chairman Defence Services Commander-in-Chief Senior General Than Shwe, wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and party donated ‘soon’ to members of the Sangha from the Five Nikaya Pitakat Thonbon Monastery. — MNA

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe, wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and party presented eight requisites, alms and Waso robes to the Sayadaws and members of the Sangha.

Myanmar, Thailand sign energy contracts ...

(From page 16)

It was attended by Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Chairman of Myanmar Investment Commission Minister for Science and Technology U Thaung, Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein, Thai Minister of Energy Mr Prommin Lertsuridej and officials. Officials of the two countries signed the production sharing contracts for exploitation of oil and natural gas at blocks M-3 and M-4 of Mottamma offshore being undertaken by Myassma Oil and Gas Enterprise and PTTEP International Ltd of Thailand and the MoU on cooperation in renewable energy and energy saving sectors between the Ministries of Energy of Myanmar and Thailand. Next, they exchanged documents. Afterwards, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi presented a notification on issuing permits and MIC Chairman Minister for Science and Technology U Thaung, permit of MIC to President of PTTEP Co Mr Maroot Mrigadat. At 2.30 pm, the two Energy Ministers opened the new office of PTTEP International Ltd at 8 1/2 mile, here. In the evening, the Thai minister left here by air. Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi and officials saw him off at the airport. — MNA
A historical milestone leading the nation to a new age — 7

— Aung Moe San —

The national unity dwindled in 1950 after regaining of independence due to the conflicts resulting from the colonistl instigation. The armed groups in the jungles also took sides in the racial conflicts. The colonialists were very happy to see their scheme worked. As the racial conflict grew larger, the racial hatred became intense. The people upholding the policy of racial prejudice even hated the persons who tried to end the conflict in a peaceful way. But thanks to the continued sacrifices to restore peace between the warring parties, based on their own experiences, they were able to consider and consolidate the national solidarity. Filled with remorse they came to understand the fact that re-consolidation benefits both parties while wars and killings only bring losses to them. The national races shed blood because of their own kin for failing to see the alien instigation. The value of the Tatmadaw Government that has striven to restore national consolidation to end conflicts and bloodshed must be recorded in history.

The Revolutionary Council Government invited leaders of underground political parties and formed the advisory council comprising 33 persons for internal unity in 1968. The committee was formed to give advice for restoring internal unity that would permanently benefit the political, economic and social affairs of the State and the cause of the national races. But there was difference of opinion among the members themselves, and former prime minister U Nu demanded to entrust power back to him. Thus, the endeavour to restore internal unity faced a dead end, because priority was given to party interests instead of internal unity. And it was the second lesson for the nation.

Another lesson was in 1988 when the then government of Dr Maung Maung made an offer to hold an election within six months. But the political leaders who took part in the incident and strike groups opposed it and continued to stage street demonstrations. They made demands to form an interim government, while exercising the policy of confrontations. It was like sowing the seeds of intransigence or refusing to negotiate.

It is time lessons were taken from those past events. Because the seven-point political programme, that is in conformity with the Myanmar society has been laid down, and the work to build a democratic nation has already started. We should not let lose the opportunity. We will have to sow the seeds of national consolidation and to build a democratic nation. Because the seven-point policy programme is a historical milestone leading the nation to enter a new age.

(Myauna Alin + Kyeton: 7-8-2004)
(Translation: TMT)

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 intimidated
- Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
- Do not be softened whenever approached

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
Ministry of Education

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now.
PM attends ceremony to honour Professor Dr Ashin Paññajota

Professor Dr Ashin Paññajota who has acquired MA from Banares Hindu University and PhD from Sanskrit University. — MNA

YANGON, 7 Aug.—Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attended a ceremony to honour Assistant Registrar of Sagaing Sitagu International Buddhist Academy Professor Dr Ashin Paññajota who acquired MA degree from Banares Hindu University and PhD from Sanskrit University in Varanasi, India, and who is the disciple of the Sitagu Sayadaw of Sagaing International Buddhist Academy. Sagaing Hill, was held at the Maha Theindawgyi Monastery in Pabedan Township, Yangon Division at 10 am. The ceremony was opened with the three time recitation of Buddha Sasanam Ciram Jittham. At the ceremony, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt performed rituals of golden and silver showers. Dr Ashin Paññajota was born of U Kyi Sein-Daw Mya Tin, of Myaungtika Village, Hmawby Township, Yangon Division, on 9th Waxing of Thadingyut 1330 Myamna Era (Thursday). He is the youngest son. He was novitiated by the Sayadaw of Thein Monastery in Myaungtika Village, Hmawby Township, as Wao, 1341 ME with the sponsorship of his parents. On 30 December 1990, he was ordained by Presiding Sayadaw of Kyakhtawya Sayadaw Sayadaw in Bago with the sponsorship of U Tin Nyein-Daw Saw Kyi of Thaton, Mon State. He studied Pali on Buddha literature under the Sayadaws led by Presiding Sayadaw of Kyakhtawya Sayadaw Monastery. Starting from 1996, he studied English under the Sayadaws including the Chancellor Sayadaw of Sagaing Sitagu International Buddhist Academy. With the assistance of the Sitagu Sayadaw, he was sent to Banares Hindu University and Sanskrit University in Varanasi, India, and Sanskrit University for further studies. He studied at these universities from 1998 to 2003 and obtained MA and PhD degrees. During his residing at Kyakhtawya Sayadaw Monastery, he was assigned duties as member of the Pathamapyan Exam Supervisory Committee and as lecturer for five years. At present, he is discharging Sasana duties as Assistant Registrar of Sagaing Sitagu International Buddhist Academy, giving lectures in English to members of the Sangha under the Ovada of the Sitagu Sayadaw. With the Sayadaws led by Presiding Sayadaw, he was sent to Banares Hindu University and Sanskrit University in Varanasi, India, and Sanskrit University for further studies. He studied at these universities from 1998 to 2003 and obtained MA and PhD degrees.

Sanitation tasks carried out in Yangon

YANGON, 7 Aug.—Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Yangon City Development Committee Chairman Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin inspected sanitation tasks for cleanliness and proper drainage being carried out by Tatmadawmen, policemen, YCDC staff and local people at respective districts, townships and wards in Yangon this morning. The commander and the mayor arrived at the junction of Kaba Aye Pagoda Road and Bahan 3rd lane here at 6.30 am. They inspected collection of garbage, dredging of the drains, weeding of shrubs and spraying of pesticides into drains in Bahan, Hlne, Hlinethaya, Shwepyitha, Thingangyun and Dagon Myothit (South) townships. During the inspection tour, the commander and the mayor gave instructions to respective administrative bodies and officials on systematic garbage collection system, ensuring proper drainage and proper flow of creeks. — MNA
Unsafe injections cause premature deaths

Beijing, 6 Aug — About 390,000 Chinese have died prematurely from unsafe injections, said a think tank of Yanhong, in-charge of the practice of grassroots clinics.

The experts said one million medical workers had been hurt by needle accidents annually, some of whom got HBV or HIV/AIDS.

China has 840,000 HIV carriers and 120 million HBV carriers. 10 per cent of the total population. Two thirds of the latter caught the virus before the age of five.

Ye Lei, national director of the United States Centre for Disease Control and Prevention Global AIDS Programme—China, believes that the best way to avoid unsafe injections is to use Auto-disabled (AD) Syringes which can be self-destroyed after the injection.

Ye said AD Syringes, with a price only 0.01 US dollars higher than the current single-use ones, are cheap enough for rural communities.

However, the product is far from popular in the country. Despite 30 manufacturers with an annual capacity of 1.7 billion, the annual sales of AD Syringes linger at 100 million due to low domestic demand.

MNA/Xinhua

France demands alcohol warnings for pregnant women

Paris, 6 Aug — France’s government told drinks manufacturers on Thursday to add labels warning women against consuming alcohol during pregnancy, its latest move to alert the French to the dangers of drink.

The call comes amid a government crackdown on drunk driving and after a state prosecutor launched an inquest into whether the drinks sector can be held legally responsible for damage to foetuses caused by their mothers’ drinking.

“Drinking while pregnant is overly risky for the foetus, it is indeed the major cause of mental retardation,” Health Minister Philippe Douste-Blazy, an ex-doctor, told reporters.

The labels should recommend total abstinence for pregnant woman, he said.

Health warnings have been on bottles of alcohol sold in the United States for years, but until now France has insisted only that drinks advertising should carry such warnings. Philippe Delhaes, a paediatrician specializing in the effect of alcohol on the foetus, said about 1 per cent of babies born in France each year suffered from their mother’s drinking.

Reactions from the drinks industry were frosty. “Drinking during pregnancy is a serious problem which needs serious debate rather than just attempts to grab the headlines,” said Jerome Agostini, head of wine industry group CNIV. — MNA/Reuters

Tanzanian herbs may become new AIDS soothe

Dar-es-Salaam, 6 Aug — People, either suffering from HIV/AIDS directly or harassed by its menace, have long heard of the tried-and-true cocktail of chemicals, but they will soon get a new soother from another cocktail of natural herbs.

A compound extracted from a herb which grows in Tanzania may provide a promising cure for the fatal disease.

The substance, scientifically known as Thiarubrine, is isolated from plants used by chimpanzees for self-medication, local newspaper The Guardian Thursday quoted a researcher as saying.

Professor Mayunga Nkunya, chief academic officer from the University of Dar-es-Salaam, identified the herb as Aspilia mossambicensis (aka Asteraceae).

“Uptown now promising anti-HIV compounds have been isolated from plants,” said the professor. “Among them is Thiarubrine that has been obtained from Aspilia mossambicensis, a plant that is used by such chimpanzees for self-medication”.

Four other new anti-HIV compounds have just been isolated from a plant species called Chassaia parvifolia which also grows in Tanzania.

MNA/Xinhua

Elephants destroy Tanzanian farms

Dar-es-Salaam, 6 Aug — Herds of wild elephants have destroyed more than 50 hectares of paddy rice in some farms near a national park in central Tanzania, local Daily News reported Thursday.

The elephants roaming out of the Mikumi National Park invaded the farms, causing huge losses to the staple and cash crops of farmers in that region, the Daily Times newspaper said. “I have invested a lot of money and energy there in the fields only to find everything destroyed by elephants,” farmer Didisa Paul Edwini was quoted as saying.

There have been several reports in the past six months about elephants harassing and destroying farm crops.

MNA/Xinhua

World sugar price may jump 10% after WTO ruling

Bangkok/Sydney, 6 Aug — Sugar prices could soar 10 per cent under a World Trade Organization ruling against European subsidies that was being cheered by the major producing countries of Australia, Thailand and Brazil on Thursday.

The big three producers have accused the European Union of breaking trade rules with unfair sugar export subsidies and predicted the EU would have to sharply slash its exports if the preliminary ruling is made final. This is a significant win for Australia,” Warren Males of Queensland Sugar Ltd. told Reuters, echoing similar triumphant remarks from Thailand, the world’s second largest sugar exporter and Asia’s biggest. Thailand, which exports around seven million tons of sugar each year worth about 1.4 billion US dollars, “will gain from the ruling,” said a senior official at the Thai Sugar Mills Association. “The world sugar price is expected to increase by at least 10 per cent.”

Queensland Sugar, Australia’s monopoly raw sugar exporter, and the farmer group Canegrowers, said the impact on world prices would be significant, but it was too early to tell just how high prices would go. Canegrowers calculated the ruling would slash EU sugar exports by around two-thirds, to about 1.3 million tons a year, or sharply lower than the 4 million tons the EU shipped in 2004.

MNA/Reuters

Doctors fear asylum policy may raise HIV infections

London, 6 Aug — Britain’s policy of dispersing asylum seekers from London and southeast England to other parts of the country may lead to increased transmission of the HIV virus which causes AIDS, doctors said on Friday.

It is unclear how many asylum seekers infected with HIV have been affected by the policy, but many come from countries or regions which have high rates of HIV/AIDS.

“Doctors believe that dispersal is disruptive, may compromise HIV care, and may lead to increased transmission,” Simon Edwards, of Camden Primary Care Trust in London, said in a report in The British Medical Journal.

A survey of physicians working in sexual health clinics revealed that people are moved at short notice, without prior arrangement and sometime without community support. Of the 56 doctors questioned in the survey felt moving patients was inappropriate if they were starting or having treatment with anti-retroviral drugs, if multiple medical specialists were caring for them or if the patient had AIDS. Doctors in some clinics said patients were moved against medical advice.

Britain started a policy of dispersing asylum seekers from southeast England in April 2000 to spread the cost of asylum seekers from London and southeast England to other parts of the country. More than 100,000 asylum seekers have been moved under the policy, according to Edwards and his colleagues. An estimated 38 million adults and children worldwide are living with HIV/AIDS, sub-Saharan Africa, which has 25 million people infected with the virus, is the worst affected region. — MNA/Reuters
Acid rain reverse global warming process

**New Delhi, 7 Aug — Acid rain, considered hazardous until recently, helps in slowing the process of global warming, according to US scientists.**

The sulphate particles in the rain help in retarding the process of global warming, an international research published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences here has said.

In an experiment, Dr Vincent Gauci and his colleagues at an Open University in the US chose several wetlands in the country, Britain, Sweden and Canada and exposed them to various amounts of sulphate.

They decided to experiment in wetlands which provide fertile ground for the microbes that emit methane. Methanogenic microbes, which produce methane in large quantities, are inhibited by a type of bacteria that thrives on sulphate present in acid rain, the report said.

Microbes produce about 32 per cent of the methane put in the environment, they said adding “160m out of 500m tons of methane is produced by these microbes.”

The team, interested in gauging the emission level of methane, found that in

New study offers hope for Alzheimer's treatment

**Los Angeles, 6 Aug — Early treatment of brain lesions associated with Alzheimer’s disease can halt and even reverse the course of the disease, according to authors of a study published on Thursday.**

The study provided the best evidence so far that early treatment which targets lesions called beta-amyloid plaques could actually stop the disease’s progression, researchers said.

“I think the results of this study indicate we are on the right track,” said Frank LaFerla, associate professor of neurobiology and behavior at the University of California, Irvine and head of the research team.

“They provide hope that in five to 10 years there will be therapies available to target beta amyloid plaques and have an effect on treating this disease,” he said. The study was published in the August 5 issue of *Neuron*.

Alzheimer’s, which affects some 4.5 million Americans, is marked by the presence of two distinct types of brain lesions: beta-amyloid plaques and neurofibrillary tangles. Both accumulate in brain areas critical to learning and memory.

Many neuroscientists believe that the accumulation of amyloid plaques triggers the progression of the disease in a “cascade” process that leads to the tangles.

Earlier clinical trials had indicated that treating beta amyloid lesions could be effective in treating Alzheimer’s. But LaFerla said the UCI study found that treating the beta plaques could totally ‘shut down’ the “cascade” effect.

“We found that when we cleared amyloid plaques from the brains of mice, the downstream consequences of the disease were lessened and even removed, provided the disease had not progressed to an advanced stage,” LaFerla said.

Researchers used transgenic mice that LaFerla’s lab had previously developed. Because mice normally don’t get Alzheimer’s, a human disease, its genes were inserted into their genome, allowing the mice to develop the ailment. The researchers then injected anti-beta-amyloid antibodies into the hippocampus — one of most critical brain structures involved in learning and memory — of the mice and found that the amyloid plaques were cleared by three days.

The lesions caused by neurofibrillary tangles disappeared two days later. Thirty days later, the researchers found amyloid plaques re-emerged but the tangle lesions did not.

**MNA/Reuters**

Lava buried juicy evidence on Mars

**Washington, 6 Aug — A mysterious lava flow buried what Mars experts had hoped would be good evidence of a planet once covered with lakes and rivers, scientists said on Thursday.**

To add insult to injury, the area has spent millions of years being bombarded by meteors and pockmarked with rocks thrown up by nearby impacts. The first 90 days of the Spirit rover’s explorations are documented in a series of reports in Science on Friday, that show puzzling lava flows and evidence of ice ages that vaguely resemble those once seen on Earth. Spirit and its twin on the opposite side of the planet, Opportunity, have moved on to more exciting formations but scientists have learned they can trust many of their instincts about what they have seen on Mars.

Squyres landed in the 95-mile wide Gusev crater on January 3 and rolled though pockmarks and around boulders, collecting dust, drilling into rock and taking spectrometer measurements.

“Gusev crater is a place that we believe surely must have had liquid water on it at some point,” said principal science investigator Steven Squyres.

“When you see a hole in the ground with a major river flowing into it, it doesn’t take a rocket scientist to figure out there was water in it at some time.”

To their great disappointment, Squyres found little evidence of that water, instead finding that a thick layer of basalt and other volcanic rock flowed over much of the crater, burying the most juicy evidence. It is not clear where the lava would have come from. “We landed with hopes that we might be able to identify water-laying sediments. Instead the rocks we found were all layers of basalt,” said Squyres.

There are little craters all over the place. Lava has covered this region of Gusev crater and then they have been all bussed up by impacts.”

**MNA/Reuters**

Philippine conjoined twins separated in New York

**New York, 6 Aug — Two-year-old twins from the Philippines who were born joined at the head have been surgically separated, but the next few days are critical to their survival, doctors said on Thursday.**

Over four years ago, operations that began last October, twins Carl and Clarence Aguirre first had their blood vessels separated.

The intricate process culminated with their physical separation on Wednesday in a 12-hour operation.

Surgery to separate conjoined twins often takes place in a single marathon procedure. The Aguirre twins were separated using a new technique aimed at reducing complications.

**James Goodrich, Thailand, China agree to cooperate in ICT development**

**Bangkok, 7 Aug — Thailand has signed a deal with China which will allow the two countries work together to develop information and communications technology (ICT), following the signing of similar agreements with India, Japan and South Korea, the Thai News Agency reported Friday.**

The pact was announced Thursday by Thai ICT executive officer — Asia Pacific, John Mullen, chief executive officer — Pacific, DHL Express, said at the official opening ceremony that the new hub will strengthen Hong Kong’s position as a leading regional hub and logistics gateway to Chinese Mainland.

“Strategically located in Hong Kong, which is within a four-hour flying time to major cities in Asia Pacific, the new Central Asia Hub will significantly increase express shipment throughput between Hong Kong and Southern China,” he said. “Already, over 60 per cent of express cargo processed by the Central Asia Hub is intra-Asia Pacific trade. It clearly reflects the important role that Hong Kong plays as a conduit for international and intra-Asia Pacific trade.” Mullen said.

**DHL opens new Central Asia Hub in HK**

**Hong Kong, 6 Aug** — DHL, the world’s leading express and logistics company, Wednesday opened its new Central Asia Hub at the express cargo facility, at the Hong Kong International Airport.

John Mullen, chief executive officer — Pacific, DHL, said at the official opening ceremony that the new hub will strengthen Hong Kong’s position as a leading regional hub and logistics gateway to Chinese Mainland.

“Strategically located in Hong Kong, which is within a four-hour flying time to major cities in Asia Pacific, the new Central Asia Hub will significantly increase express shipment throughput between Hong Kong and Southern China,” he said. “Already, over 60 per cent of express cargo processed by the Central Asia Hub is intra-Asia Pacific trade. It clearly reflects the important role that Hong Kong plays as a conduit for international and intra-Asia Pacific trade.” Mullen said.

**MNA/Xinhua**

**British couple quits smoking for health of parrot**

**London, 6 Aug — A British couple booked themselves into a clinic to quit smoking after the vet said it was the only way to save their beloved sick parrot.**

Kevin Barnes and Sharon Wood said they could not afford to give up smoking, as the 19-year-old Amazonian Amazonian-orange-winged parrot J.J., the vet said, was “clearly suffering” because the taximeter threatened to stop them when they were asked if they had booked into one of these anti-smoking clinics and were determined to stop.

“They’ve given two weeks,” he said.

“It is really badly. It’s certainly going to improve his life expectancy,” he told Reuters.

“When you see a hole in the ground with a major river flowing into it, it doesn’t take a rocket scientist to figure out there was water in it at some time.”

To their great disappointment, Squyres found little evidence of that water, instead finding that a thick layer of basalt and other volcanic rock flowed over much of the crater, burying the most juicy evidence. It is not clear where the lava would have come from. “We landed with hopes that we might be able to identify water-laying sediments. Instead the rocks we found were all layers of basalt,” said Squyres.

“There are little craters all over the place. Lava has covered this region of Gusev crater and then they have been all bussed up by impacts.”

**MNA/Reuters**

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**MNA/Reuters**
**SPORTS**

Wenger warns Vieira about leaving Arsenal

LONDON, 7 Aug—Arsene Wenger said on Friday that his captain Patrick Vieira would be making a mistake if he left the English champions.

Vieira is still being linked with a move to Real Madrid, even though Arsenal have rejected an initial bid by the Spanish club.

“I believe every player who leaves Arsenal makes a mistake,” Wenger told reporters. “Frankly, I find change for the sake of change unacceptable, the basic desire of a player is to win and everything else is superfluous.”

Wenger said he did not want to have to convince the 28-year-old France midfielder to stay.

“I want him to stay because he’s convinced he wants to be part of this club,” Wenger said. “If a player comes to me and says he can’t win things and wants to leave, that’s fair enough.

“Why does Michael Schumacher stay at Ferrari? Because he knows he can win there.” — MNA/Reuters

Chelsea's Mutu to sign for Juventus

BOCHUM, 6 Aug—Romanian striker Adrian Mutu of Chelsea is set to sign a one-year loan deal with Italian club Juventus, his agent said on Thursday.

“Mutu left London today for Italy and he’ll sign tomorrow a deal with Juventus,” agent Gica Popescu told Reuters.

Popescu did not offer any financial details of the deal but said the club could be extended if both clubs agreed.

Mutu joined Chelsea for 15.8 million pounds (28.83 million US dollars) from Parma last August as part of Russian billionaire owner Roman Abramovich’s spending spree at the London club.

However after scoring four times in his first three games under former manager Claudio Ranieri, Mutu struggled with niggling injuries and a loss of form.

His chances of regular first team football this season look slim after new manager Jose Mourinho bolstered his striking options by signing Didier Drogba from Olympique Marseille and Mateja Kezman from PSV Eindhoven.

Mutu’s loan move to Juventus falls through

BOCHUM, 7 Aug—The proposed loan transfer of Romanian striker Adrian Mutu from Chelsea to Juventus has fallen through because the clubs failed to agree terms, the player’s agent said on Friday.

Mutu and his agent Giovanni Becali travelled to Turin on Thursday after Chelsea had agreed a one-year loan with the Italian giants but the deal then broke down.

“Chelsea asked to have the first option for a possible transfer of Mutu in the future but Juventus officials rejected the proposal,” Becali told Reuters on Friday by telephone from Turin.

“Mutu will return to England to complete his five-year contract with Chelsea.”

Mutu is Chelsea’s player for the next four years,” Becali said. — MNA/Reuters

Arsenal boost sponsorship deal with mm02

LONDON, 7 Aug—Premier League champions Arsenal have boosted their sponsorship deal with mm02 mobile phone company by one million pounds (1.83 million US dollars) a year.

Mm02, Britain’s fourth-largest mobile phone company, said on Friday that the terms of the deal had been improved and the contract was now worth more than three million pounds a year.

“It’s just over three million pounds,” said mm02 spokesman Simon Gardner. “The original contract signed two years ago was for two million a year for four years.”

He added that there was also a revenue sharing agreement between the two parties on text messaging.

Liverpool defender Vignal joins Rangers on loan

GLASGOW, 6 Aug—Liverpool defender Gregory Vignal joined Rangers on a one-year loan on Thursday as the Scottish side secured their seventh signing of the close season. Discussions were completed last week and I can confirm that Gregory has signed and will join us on a one-year loan deal,” Rangers said on their website.

The 23-year-old Frenchman joined Liverpool from Montpellier four years ago but has been loaned out to French side Rennes and Spain’s Espanyol over the past two seasons.

Rangers manager Alex McLeish has already signed defenders Jean-Alain Boumsong and Marvin Andrews, midfielders Alex Rae and Dragan Miadenovic and strikers Dado Prso and Nacho Novo as he rebuilds after finishing without a trophy last season.

Vignal could feature in Saturday’s Scottish Premier League opener at Aberdeen and the away first leg of Champions League final round qualifier against CSKA Moscow on Tuesday. — MNA/Reuters

Owen closing on new Liverpool contract

LIVERPOOL (England), 6 Aug—England striker Michael Owen could agree a new contract with Liverpool before the Premier League season starts on 14 August.

Owen’s current contract runs out at the end of the coming season, when he would be able to leave the club on a free transfer. “The speculation about a new contract started before we even had our first meeting so it feels like it’s been going on for six months,” Owen told reporters on Thursday.

“The reality is we have only had four or five meetings and that is normal during contract negotiations.

“There was a meeting in New York last week and another is planned for next week. We are in no rush.

“We are closer than we were, but we are not there yet because the contract has not been signed.”

Owen, 24, scored 19 goals last season for Liverpool, who start their season next week with a Champions League qualifying game against AK ZAK. — MNA/Reuters

Agassi beats Johansson at Cincinnati

WASHINGTON, 6 Aug—Tennis veteran Andre Agassi beats former Australian Open champion Thomas Johansson to reach the last 16 of the Masters Series in Cincinnati, Ohio on Wednesday.

The American registered a 6-1, 3-6, 6-1 success in a match delayed one hour by rain. It was only the second time that Agassi had won two successive matches since March and it earned him a third round match against Juan Ignacio Chela, the 17th seed from Argentina.

In the same half of the draw, defending champion Andy Roddick beat Germany’s Nicolas Kiefer for the third time in ten days. Halfway through the second set of his 6-4, 6-4 defeat, Kiefer launched a vicious slash at the net with his racket that gave Roddick a psychological boost.

The second-seeded American next plays Paradorn Srichaphan, the 15th seed from Thailand, a 6-3, 6-4 winner over Sjeng Schalken. In the final match of the day, fifth-seeded Brit Tim Henman rallied past Moroccan Hichem Arazi 4-6, 6-3, 7-5 to advance. — MNA/Xinhua

**CROSSWORD PUZZLE**

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**Late goal gives werder victory over Schalke 04**

BERLIN, 7 Aug—A late goal by substitute striker Nelson Valdez gave championsWerder Bremen a 1-0 home victory over Schalke 04 in Friday’s opening Bundesliga game of the season, which was delayed by a power shortage.

Valdez struck from close range with seven minutes left in a dull affair with few highlights. The match started over an hour late because of a cable problem caused by building works near the champions’ stadium.

German public television channel ARD, which was broadcasting the game live, showed a music programme while waiting for the match to start. Bayern Munich, eager to bounce back after failing to win the title last season, start their campaign at Hamburg SV on Saturday. — MNA/Reuters

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**THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR** Sunday, 8 August, 2004
WEATHER
Saturday, 7 August 2004
Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:
During the past 24 hours, weather has been cloudy in Kayah State, lower Sagain and Magway Divisions, rain or thundershowers has been isolated in Kachin State and scattered to widespread in the remaining areas with locally heavy falls in Rakhine State and upper Sagain Division. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Thandwe and Kata (3.69 inches) and Sitwe (3.18 inches).

Maximum temperature on 6-8-2004 was 29.0°C (84°F). Minimum temperature on 7-8-2004 was 21.4°C (70°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 7-8-2004 was 87%. Total sunshine hours on 6-8-2004 was (0.9) hour approx.

Rainfall on 7-8-2004 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kabaw and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 1811 mm (71.30 inches) at Yangon Airport and 1791 mm (70.51 inches) at Kabaw-Aye and 1795 mm (70.67 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kabaw-Aye) was 15 mph from West at 18:30 hours on 6-8-2004.

Bay inference: Monsoon is moderate to strong in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 8-8-2004: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Shan and Rakhine States, upper Sagain and Ayeawady Divisions, scattered in Kachin, Chin, Mon and Kayin States, Yangon, Bago and Tanintharyi Divisions and isolated in the remaining areas with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Rakhine State and upper Sagain Division. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Squalls with rough sea are likely at times in the off and along Rakhine Coast. Surface wind speed in squall may reach (35) to (40) mph. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Moderate monsoon.

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

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 8-8-2004: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).
YANGON, 7 Aug—Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt handed over two ancient Buddha images donated to him to the Ministry of Culture at the National Museum on Pyay Road this evening. Present were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers, the Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Yangon mayor, deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of departments and officials of the Ministry of Culture. On behalf of the Prime Minister, Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung explained about the handover of the ancient Buddha images. He said wellwishers presented two ancient religious cultural artifacts on 4 of this month. He said the Prime Minister also handed them over to the Ministry of Culture for public obeisance at the National Museum. The Buddha images were in hand of late U Aung Than Myint and wife Daw Thein Thein over 30 years ago and they were kept well in order not to be smuggled out of the country through unscrupulous persons. According to the wish of late U Aung Than Myint, wife Daw Thein Thein and family presented them to the Prime Minister. He said the Prime Minister handed them over to the ministry for public obeisance and preserving them forever. Next, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt handed the Buddha images to Minister Maj-Gen Kyi Aung. After the ceremony, the Prime Minister, the commander and the ministers paid obeisance to the images. The Prime Minister and party paid obeisance to a standing Pyinsalawha ancient Buddha image and other Buddha images of successive periods on the fourth floor of the National Museum.

The image was of great cultural value and the work of early Bagan period (11 AD) and the other was cast of bronze, dating back to Konbaung period.

Myanmar, Thailand sign energy contracts, MoU

YANGON, 7 Aug—Thai Energy Minister Mr Prommin Lertsuridej and delegation arrived here by air this morning at the invitation of Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi. They were welcomed at Yangon International Airport by Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi and officials.

The two ministers cordially discussed mutual cooperation in energy sector at Elephant Room of Inya Lake Hotel at 10.30 am. The signing ceremony of the production sharing contracts for oil and natural gas exploitation and MoU on cooperation in renewable energy and energy saving sectors was held at Mingala Hall of the Inya Lake Hotel here at 10.30 am. (See page 9)