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 reconsolidation
- Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
- Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

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

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

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Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services
Senior General Than Shwe sees off Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt
Prime Minister to visit Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia

YANGON, 9 Aug — At the invitation of Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, His Excellency Mr Phan Van Khai; Prime Minister of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, His Excellency Mr Bounnhang Vorachith; and Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, His Excellency Mr Samdech Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt and party left here by special flight at 7.30 am today to pay State Visits to these countries.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party were seen off at Yangon International Airport by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe, Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann, Secretary-2
(See page 8)

At the invitation of Prime Minister of Vietnam Mr Phan Van Khai, Prime Minister of LPDR Mr Bounnhang Vorachith and Prime Minister of Cambodia Mr Samdech Hun Sen, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt is to visit the three countries.

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

Established 1914
Train youths to be outstanding intellectuals and intelligentsia

The Government is making constant efforts for the progress of the nation, strong national economic life and higher living standard of the people.

Nowadays, such national development infrastructures as dams, river water pumping stations, roads and bridges, universities and colleges and basic education schools, hospitals and clinics, railway stations, sea ports and airports are emerging one after another.

All these are the dividends of the Government’s relentless efforts during the last 16 years. Yet, there is much to be done and so it is necessary for the Government and the people to continue working together till our national goal is achieved.

The Special Refresher Course No 2 for teachers of universities and colleges was opened in Pyin Oo Lwin Township, Mandalay Division on 3 August and Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attended the opening ceremony and delivered a speech. In his address on the occasion, General Khin Nyunt, also Chairman of the Myanmar Education Committee, said that there is still much for all those responsible in the education sector to do for the emergence of a constant learning society — the noble vision of the education sector, the main pillar for a modern and developed nation.

The Government is essaying not to be left behind in science and technologies, especially in information and communications technology. At the same time, it is also trying for peace, prosperity and development of the nation and the people and promoting constructive cooperation with international community.

Now is the most crucial time for all the national races living together through thick and thin in the Union for thousands of years as their representatives are now finding ways and means at the National Convention for the emergence of a genuine democratic state in the interests of the entire people.

At such a time like this, teachers from universities and colleges are required to do their bit for the successful realization of the seven-point future policy programme that will lead to the emergence of a peaceful, developed and discipline-flourishing democracy.

We would like to call on the teachers from universities and colleges to train their students to become outstanding intellectuals and intelligentsia, always bearing in mind that youths will be able to build and protect the nation only if they have wider horizons and higher qualifications.

Sangha Nayaka and Vinaya courses opened

Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe presents oﬀertories to a member of the Sangha at the opening ceremony of Sangha Nayaka and Vinaya Courses. — MNA

Minister receives guests from Singapore and PRC

Under the programme of School Health Week, a field trip group led by Dr Daw Lwin Lwin of Bahan Township Health Care Centre gave talks on prevention against DHF, grouped blood, measured height, and weighed body of the students at No 10 BEPS, Bocho 2 Ward, Bahan Township. — MNA

F&R Deputy Minister inspects MEB (Pauzanuang Branch) construction

Yangon, 9 Aug — The Sangha Nayaka and Vinaya courses of Yangon Division Sangha Nayaka Committee were opened this morning at Mingala Market Dhammayoan of Yangon Division Sangha Nayaka Committee in Bahan Township, attended by Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe. Present on the occasion were Yangon Division Sangha Nayaka Committee Chairman Agga Maha Saddhamha Jotikadaja Bhuddanta Kosalla, Chairman Sayadaw Bhuddanta Kosalla; Commander Col Myint Kyi, officials and wellwishers.

Similarly, Professor Mr Chen Yong Kuan, Secretary of the Party Committee and Vice President of China Harbours Engineering (Group) Co (HEC), and party together party at his office this afternoon. At the call, they discussed prospects for potential future investment together with the ministry on the ‘raw materials to finished products’ basis.

Malaria Clinical Management Meeting opened

Yangon, 9 Aug — An Invitational Consensus Meeting on Clinical Management of Malaria jointly organized by WHO and Vector Borne Disease Control Project of Health Department under the aegis of Myanmar Medical Academy was held at Medical Research Department (Lower Myanmar) here today. Present were Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo, Chairman of Myanmar Medical Academy Dr Ko Ko, officials of the Ministry of Health, WHO Resident Representative Dr Agostino Borra, Professor Dr Nicholas J White of Oxford University, and others.

Deputy Minister Dr Mya Oo spoke on the occasion. Participants took part in the discussions. The meeting continues tomorrow. — MNA
Australia's involvement in the Iraq war Sunday in a major blow to Prime Minister John Howard's re-election prospects.

The 43 eminent Australians including two former chiefs of defence and three ambassadors issued a scathing public statement accusing the government of deceit and rubber-stamping foreign policies decided by Washington.

With some commentators predicting that Howard this week will announce a September 18 election, the statement underscores the war as a major issue. Howard hopes for a fourth-three-year term as Prime Minister.

Australia and Britain were the only allies to send troops to support the US-led invasion of Iraq.

“We are concerned that Australia was committed to join the invasion of Iraq on the basis of false assumptions and the deception of the Australian people,” the statement said.

“Above all, it is wrong and dangerous for our elected representatives to mislead the Australian people.”

Howard’s decision to commit 2,000 troops to the Iraq invasion sparked the biggest peace protests in Australia since the Vietnam War.

Australia still has nearly 900 troops in and around Iraq, and their deployment is likely to become a key election issue, with Howard saying they must remain there as long as they are needed.— Internet

India, Pakistan elaborate upon demarcation of boundary in Sir Creek

NEW DELHI, 8 Aug — India and Pakistan Saturday “elaborated” upon their respective positions on demarcation of the international boundary in the Sir Creek area, a marshy land in Rann of Kutch, and agreed that early resolution of the issue would be in the interest of both countries.

“The talks were held in a frank and friendly atmosphere. The two sides elaborated upon their respective positions and had a detailed and useful exchange of views on the various issues involved,” a joint Press statement, released at the end of the two-day talks here, said.

“It was agreed that early resolution of the issue would be in the interest of both countries. The two sides agreed to continue the discussions,” it said.

The Indian delegation to the talks was led by Prithivish Nar. Surveyor-General of India and the Pakistan side was headed by Rear Admiral Ahsan ul Haq Chaudhry.

Sir Creek is one of the eight subjects in the composite dialogue process resumed earlier this year. It follows close on the heels of official level discussions on Suchan and promotion of friendly exchanges between the two countries.

Furthering the composite dialogue process, India’s federal Home Secretary Dhirendra Singh will leave for Pakistan on August 9 for two-day talks on combating terrorism and dealing with the menace of narcotic trade and growing drug cartels.

Singh will be accompanied by a delegation of officials from Home Ministry and Narcotics Department. During the parleys beginning August 10 he is expected to convey India’s concern over cross-border terrorism and infiltration as also infrastructural facilities being given to terrorist groups in Pakistan, official sources said.— MANAPTI

Megawati rejects Thai drug dealers’ clemency appeals

JAKARTA, 8 Aug — Indonesian President Megawati Soekarnoputri has denied appeals for clemency by two Thai nationals convicted for drug trafficking after a legal struggle of almost 10 years, a local newspaper reported Saturday.

The rejection of the appeals filed by Saelow Praset, 53, and Namsong Sirialak, 31, follows Thursday’s execution of Ayodya Prasad Chaubey, 67, reported The Jakarta Post.

Chaubey was arrested days after the Thais in February 1994 in the North Sumatra capital of Medan. The three were charged with smuggling 12.19 kilos of heroin into the country.— MNA/Xinhua
Iraq issues warrants for Chalabi, nephew

Baghdad, 9 Aug—Iraq has issued arrest warrants for Ahmad Chalabi, a former Government councilor with strong US ties, on counterfeiting charges, and for his nephew Salem Chalabi—head of the tribunal trying Saddam Hussein—on murder charges, Iraq’s chief investigating judge said Sunday.

The warrant was the latest strike against Ahmad Chalabi in his removal from the centres of power. A long-time Iraqi exile and opposition leader, he had been a favourite of many in the Pentagon but fell out with the Americans in the weeks before the US occupation ended in June.

Both men denied the charges, dismissing them as part of a political conspiracy against them and their family.

Salem Chalabi, named as a suspect in the June murder of Haitham Fadhil, director general of the finance ministry, called the accusation “ridiculous.” His uncle said the charges were “outrageous” and “manufactured lies”.

Ahmad Chalabi was made his own lawyer when he was left out of the new interim government that took power 28 June but has since worked to rebrand himself as a Shiite populist.

At the helm of the war crimes tribunal for Saddam, the Ivy League-educated Salem Chalabi remains a central figure in Iraq.

“They should be arrested and then questioned and... if there is enough evidence, they will be sent to trial,” Judge Zuhair al-Maliky said in Washington, the Bush administration had no comment about the charges against the Chalabis. “This is a matter for the Iraqi authorities to resolve and they are taking steps to do so,” said White House spokesman Tony Snow.

The warrants, issued Saturday, accused Ahmad Chalabi of counterfeiting old Iraqi dinars, which were re-used from circulation after the ouster of Saddam’s regime last year.

Iraqi police backed by US troops found counterfeit money along with old dinars during a raid on a Chalabi’s house in Baghdad in May.

The accusation is not Ahmad Chalabi’s first brush with legal problems. He is also wanted in Jordan for a 1992 conviction in absentia for fraud in a banking scandal. He was sentenced to 22 years in jail, but has denied all allegations.

The men were out of the country Sunday but promised to return to Iraq to face the allegations.—Internet

UN, China enhance exchanges on migration

Geneva, 8 Aug—The International Organization for Migration (IOM), a United Nations agency, said Friday that substantial progress has been made in its relations with China during a visit to China by IOM chief.

At the invitation of the Chinese Government, IOM Director-General Brunson McKinley made an official visit to China on Monday and Tuesday, said IOM spokesperson Niurka Pinoiro.

McKinley held talks with Chinese Government officials and discussed the regular labour migration, and the possibility of joint research projects, said Pinoiro.

They also discussed measures to control irregular migration, especially through information campaigns in areas where smugglers are active, and high-tech applications for identity documentation and movement management, she added.—MNA/Xinhua

Central Asian states, Russia hold largest drill

Alma Ata, 8 Aug—Members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization conducted their largest military manoeuvre since the Soviet collapse in 1991 from Tuesday to Friday in Kyrgyzstan to practise anti-terror combat cooperation, Kyrgyz media reported.

Friday saw the peak of the four-day joint exercises involving some 2,000 personnel from Russia, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, as well as Russian Air Force planes based near Kyrgyzstan’s capital Bishkek.

Militaries of three Central Asian countries and Russia practised suppressing an armed terrorist incursion in northern Kyrgyzstan as elite soldiers stormed a village to practice rooting out militants.

The exercises aimed to demonstrate the ability of countries in the Collective Security Treaty Organization, a group of six former Soviet republics, to repulse a terrorist incursion.

These countries tried “to resolve questions of political and military cooperation... in case of an attack on one country by illegal armed formations”, Kyrgyz Defence Minister Eisen Topoev told Kyrgyz public television.

The situation in Central Asia is stable, but we don’t rule out terrorist attacks in Afghanistan or any other countries in the region,” said Russian Defence Minister Sergei Ivanov. Similar exercises will be held in the region next year, he said.

Aircraft from a new Russian-led base in Kyrgyzstan took part in the exercises for the first time, and Ivanov said Moscow plans to invest in improving the infrastructure of the base in the city of Kant.—MNA/Xinhua

Clinton criticizes Bush for contracting out US security to Pakistan

Vancouver, 8 Aug—Former US President Bill Clinton has criticized the Bush Administration for “contracting out” US security in Pakistan by putting in its hands the hunt for Osama bin Laden, the key threat to the US, and for diverting military resources to Iraq campaign, which he described as “number five” security threat.

Clinton said the absence of peace process in the Middle East, the conflict between India and Pakistan and their ties to Talabani and North Korea and its nuclear programme all posed greater threats than Iraq.

“Who’s the threat from? Iraq? Saddam Hussein? No from bin Laden and al-Qaeda,” he said citing the recent terror alert against attacks on key institutions in US cities.

“Why did we put our number one security threat in the hands of Pakistanis with us playing the supporting role, and put all our military resources in Iraq, which I think at best was number five security threat,” Clinton, who was in Toronto to sign copies of his memoir My Life, told CBC television.

He claimed he would have taken the word of UN weapons inspector Hans Blix over his own intelligence agencies about there being no weapons of mass destruction in Iraq.

“I would, yes I would. It’s not a question of believing him over intelligence agencies but the intelligence was ambiguous on the point really,” he said.

Rapping George W Bush government for rushing into a war with Iraq, Clinton said it diverted attention from US “number one threat” — al-Qaeda and Osama bin Laden. He asked whether “it was wise to make all these commitments in Iraq and in effect contract our security out to the Pakistanis in Afghanistan and with bin Laden and al-Qaeda” — MNA/PPI

Russian guards seize ton of Afghan heroin in Tajikistan

Dushanbe, 8 Aug—Russian guards in Tajikistan have seized more than a ton of heroin from neighbouring Afghanistan in the biggest drugs haul intercepted on the border, the guards said on Friday.

Prosecutors also arrested the head of the Tajik drugs control agency on unspecified charges, although there was no immediate indication the two incidents were linked.

Afghan opiate drugs flew into Russia via vast but sparsely populated Central Asia and then on to Western Europe. In the West, the latest stash could have fetched up to 300 million US dollars.—MNA/Reuters

Iraqi diplomat reportedly kidnapped in Iraq

Baghdad, 9 Aug—Militants in Iraq said Sunday they took a top Iraqi diplomat hostage, according to a video shown on the Arab-language Al-Arabiya television station.

The video showed a bearded man identified as Faridoun Jihani speaking to the camera, though his voice was inaudible. The video also showed nine forms of Jihani’s identification, as well as his passport and a business card identifying him as the “consult for the Islamic Republic of Iran in Karbala,” a southern Iraqi city.

The kidnappers did not voice any threats to kill Jihani and made no demands, according to the report.

In Teheran, the Iranian Foreign Ministry said Jihani was missing, but it stopped short of confirming he was kidnapped.

Jihani “disappeared Wednesday night on the road from Baghdad to Karbala,” a Shiite holy city 50 miles south of the capital, the ministry said in a statement.

“Afghan jets and helicopters struck mountainside targets in northern Kyrgyzstan as elite soldiers stormed a village to practice rooting out militants.”
Kuwait donates fire fighting engines to Iraq

Kuwait City, 9 Aug — Kuwait donated eight fire fighting engines to Iraq in an effort to help maintain stability in the neighbouring country, the Kuwait News Agency reported Saturday.

Jasem Al- Mansouri, director-general of Kuwaiti Fire Brigades Department said delivering these engines was part of the international efforts, hoping to “see a prosperous national efforts, hoping to “see a prosperous

Way cleared for release of Indian hostages in Iraq

New Delhi, 8 Aug — India on Saturday night said way has “reportedly” been cleared for the release of three Indian hostages in Iraq and “all indications” at this juncture point to a positive outcome to the crisis.

“What we have learnt so far is that face-to-face negotiations have taken place between Sheikh Al-Dulaimi (the negotiator for the abductors) and senior representatives of the KGL company (employer of the three Indians) today, as a result of which the way has reportedly been cleared for the release of the hostages,” India’s junior minister for external affairs E Ahmed told reporters.

The Kuwaiti Humanitarian Operations Centre supervised the delivery of the engines to the US forces, who would later hand them over to the Iraqi Civil Defence Department.

Colonel Sajed Al-Buaijan, representative of the Kuwaiti Humanitarian Operations Centre said that the centre would continue its cooperation with the coalition forces to satisfy the humanitarian needs of the Iraqi people, especially food, health and education.

Since the establishment of the centre, it has been providing humanitarian aid to the Iraqi people as well as facilitating the transportation of aid by local or by international organizations.

Cambodia to speed up final ratification of WTO membership

Pnom Penh, 8 Aug — Cambodian Cabinet on Friday approved the membership of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and determined to finish the final ratification before the deadline expires in September this year.

Cambodia along with Nepal were welcomed by the fifth WTO ministerial conference held in Cancun, Mexico last September into its fold. Accession to the WTO must be ratified before the deadline expires in September this year.

The fifth tripartite meeting was decided to be held in Macao next year.

High-tech businesses number 13,000 in Beijing

Beijing, 8 Aug — High-tech businesses are helping to fuel economic development in China’s capital city, as their number has topped 13,000, said the Beijing Municipal Science and Technology Committee.

During the first half of this year, local high-tech industries added value amounted to 17 billion yuan (more than two billion US dollars), up 20 per cent on a yearly basis.

With the exception of aeronautical and astronomical fields, all other high-tech sectors in Beijing maintained a two-digit growth this year.

The industry garnered 20.3 billion yuan (2.44 billion US dollars) in software sales alone from January to June this year, up 35 per cent year-on-year.

Ancient pottery with plowing design unearthed

Lanzhou, 8 Aug — A 4,800-year-old piece of coloured pottery bearing designs of plowing was recently unearthed at Lintao County in northwest China’s Gansu Province.

Chinese archaeologists believe the pottery, which is 30-centimetre-tall and 34-centimetre in width, belongs to the Majiayao culture, a historical period in about 3300 B.C. to 2050 B.C. The picture on the pottery vividly portrays a scene of plowing in simple black lines. Beside the farmland is a river, painted in several zigzag lines.

Wang Zhi’an, President of the Gansu Provincial Majiayao Culture Society, said the design reflects the production and life of people in that period. It is rare in China to discover a picture depicting men plowing in fields.

Kuwaiti Fire Brigades Department donated eight advanced fire fighting engines, and stable Iraq soon.

Fighting loyal to radical Shite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr carry light arms during clashes with US forces and Iraqi National Guards at Sadir City in Baghdad, Iraq, on 7 Aug, 2004. — Internet

An American soldier atop an armoured vehicle along with Iraqi police stand guard in front of the Iraqi Olympic committee building after mortar rounds fell close to the compound in central Baghdad, Iraq, on 7 Aug, 2004. Five people were injured in the incident. — Internet
Bush warns Americans “still not safe”

KENNEBUNKPORT (Maine), 8 Aug — US President George W. Bush on Saturday warned Americans this week’s terrorist alert was another sign the country was still not safe but said he was taking steps to prevent future terrorist attacks.

Alert levels were raised earlier this week for specific locations in New York City, Washington and New Jersey after a top-level review of information that al Qaeda may be plotting to attack financial institutions including the New York Stock Exchange, the International Monetary Fund and World Bank.

“We’re doing everything we can in our power to confront the danger,” Bush said in his weekly radio address. “We’re making good progress in protecting our people and bringing our enemies to account.”

The Administration has been facing tough questions after it became known that some of the information that led to the elevated alert was three years old.

Bush said new information gleaned from arrests in Pakistan and other nations intelligence suggested that al Qaeda had recently updated information on those potential targets.

“We’re still not safe,” said Bush, who was spending the weekend at his family’s oceanfront compound in Maine to attend the wedding of his nephew, George P. Bush, the son of Florida Governor Jeb Bush.

“We’ll keep our focus, we’ll keep our resolve, and we will do our duty to best secure our country,” he said.

Under political pressure, Bush said this week he would name a national intelligence director to coordinate information collected domestically and abroad, a key recommendation by the commission that investigated the September 11, 2001 attacks.

Bush, initially cool to the idea of a new intelligence chief, overrode the advice of some top advisers in agreeing to appoint one, but decided to make the office independent of the White House, counter to commission’s proposal.

His opponent in the race for the White House, Massachusetts Democratic Senator John Kerry, has urged quick adoption of the commission’s recommendations and said Bush should call Congress back from its summer break to adopt the reforms.

Kerry vows to lift Bush restrictions on stem cells

LAMAR (Colorado), 8 Aug — Democratic challenger John Kerry on Saturday marked the third anniversary of President George W. Bush’s restrictions on stem-cell research by vowing to lift them for the sake of millions of Americans with debilitating diseases.

“To those who pray each day for cures that are now beyond our reach, I want you to know that help is on the way,” Kerry said in remarks taped for his party’s weekly radio address in the second week of a across-country campaign tour with running mate John Edwards.

“Come next January,” said Kerry, who hopes to be inaugurated as president at that time, “we’re going to create a new anniversary — one that will be cause for celebration. We’re going to lift the ban.”

Stem-cell research heated up as an election-year issue after the death of former president Ronald Reagan, who was stricken with Alzheimer’s disease. His son, Ron Reagan, made an emotional plea to expand such research at last month’s Democratic National Convention.

In August 2001, Bush restricted the use of federal funds for embryonic stem cell research by calling cell lines, that existed at that time. Critics complain more lines need to be opened to federally financed study.

Embryonic stem cells, taken from days-old human embryos, have the potential to form any kind of tissue in the body. Researchers hope to learn to use them to create tailor-made transplants to treat Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s and other ills.

Because an embryo must be destroyed to harvest the cells, some anti-abortion groups oppose their use.

Iraqi Shiite militiamen patrol during street battles with US Marines and Iraqi security forces in Najaf on 7 Aug, 2004. US Marines battled Shiite militiamen in Najaf for a third day on Saturday, as the death toll mounted in the worst bout of fighting in Iraq in four months. — INTERNET

Floods hit tourism in Bangladesh

DHAKA, 8 Aug — The floods are taking toll on Bangladeshi tourism sector as occupancy rate in hotels and guest houses drops sharply in last month, reported the Daily Star on Saturday.

The floods have caused 30 per cent drop on average in occupancy rate of hotels and guesthouses across the country, as foreign tourists do not take pleasure trips during floods, said Sadique Ahsan, president of Bangladesh Hotel and Guest House Owners Association.

According to unofficial statistics, some 5,000 foreign tourists visit Bangladesh a year who spend some 1,000 US dollars each during their trips. Besides, about 200,000 foreigners come to Bangladesh a year for business or other purposes.

Tour operators usually have little business during monsoon of the year, but they are now almost out of business due to floods, as they have to suspend all tours to Sundarbans, the largest mangrove forest in the world, and other sightseeing spots including Rangamati, Bandarban and Sylhet.

The outbreak of water-borne diseases and damaged infrastructure will surely discourage tourists to visit Bangladesh in the next season, said Faridul Haque, president of Bangladesh Tour Operators’ Association. — MNA/Xinhua

UN offers to help broker ceasefire in Iraq

UNITED NATIONS, 8 Aug — The United Nations offered its help on Saturday to try to stop some of the worst fighting seen in Iraq in about four months between Shiite militiamen and coalition forces.

The United Nations, which is helping Iraq prepare for a National Congress in mid-August, said in a statement that it is “ready to extend its facilitating role to the current crisis, if this would be helpful”.

The statement added that Annan said he was “extremely concerned at the widespread fighting that has broken out in Iraq over the last several days, especially in the holy city of Najaf.”

“He is particularly troubled by the high toll of dead and wounded, including civilian casualities.”

In the past three days, US Marines said they had killed 300 militiamen loyal to Iraqi Shiite cleric Moughtada al-Sadr in Najaf. But the cleric said only 36 militiamen had been killed.

The new UN chief envoy for Iraq, veteran Pakistani diplomat Asif Ali Zardari, will go to Baghdad this month along with a small team to re-establish a permanent UN presence.

The world body at one point had some 600 international staff working in Iraq following the US-led invasion. All were pulled out last year after a bomb attack on UN offices in Baghdad.

Hundreds of UN staff are working on Iraqi projects from neighbouring Jordan. — MNA/Reuters

Five killed in US small planes collision

WASHINGTON, 8 Aug — At least five people were killed when two small planes collided on Saturday morning in New Jersey, with one of them plunging into the back yard of a home, local Press report said.

The collision near Kinnelon involved two single engine light planes, a Cessna 150 and a Piper PA-28. Neither plane had filed a flight plan, so it was still not clear how many people were on board, the Associated Press quoted a spokesman with the Federal Aviation Administration as saying.

Nobody on the ground was injured, the spokesman said.

It was the second fatal accident involving small planes occurred in the United States in the past week. A small plane crashed into a house in suburban Austin, Texas on Tuesday, killing the six people aboard. Three people inside the two-storey home were not injured.

Iraqi shop owners walk through the burnt remains of commercial stalls left after a fire tore through the outdoor market during clashes between fighters loyal to radical Shiite cleric Moughtada al-Sadr and US forces along Iraqi National Guards in the holy Muslim city of Najaf, 100 miles (160 kilometres) south of Baghdad, Iraq on 7 Aug, 2004. — INTERNET

FLOODS HIT TOURISM IN BANGLADESH

Flooded streets in Dhaka, capital of Bangladesh. The government recently declared a state of emergency in the country as monsoon rains continue to claim the lives of many people. —AFP
Three-storey main building and two-storey buildings of Government Technical Institute in Mohnyin, Kachin State. — MNA

Maubin University in Ayeyawady Division. — MNA

Kalay University in Kalay, Sagaing Division.— MNA

Kengtung Degree College in Shan State (East). — MNA

Enabling locals to pursue higher education in own regions
Without losing sight of public interests,…

Increase. Export items do not mean only rice and various kinds of beans and pulses. It is not possible to depend only on two crops for rapid economic development of the State. Therefore he spoke of the need to make efforts for export of other crops.

The economy of the State will not develop if we are contented with the export of only rice and various kinds of beans and pulses. Other nations earn hundreds of millions of dollars through the export of fruits, flowers including orchid and vegetables such as roselle, water green and drumsticks. Foreign trade volume will increase by exporting a lot of new export items. It was during the time of the present government that beans and pulses could be exported. The State could export beans and pulses more than the maximum amount of the past. It was nearly ten times tonnage.

He said concerted efforts are to be made for more export of new items in cooperation with national entrepreneurs, merchants and farmers. If basic commodities such as chilies and onions are exported when they are only sufficient for local consumption, prices of commodities will rise and people might face with some difficulties, he pointed out.

He spoke of the need to make efforts for production of basic crops more than local consumption and only surplus of crops are to be exported. Agricultural sector has developed greatly under the present government, comparing with that of the past.

For sufficiency in local consumption, the government has provided assistance to national entrepreneurs and laid emphasis on cultivation of oil palm.

In accord with the guidance of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe, agricultural works on which the government relies are to be carried out. Only when more crops can be exported will the income of the country increase and can import goods necessary for the State. He said the government has laid down the policy and formulation is aimed at ensuring that the agricultural products meet both demands—domestic consumption and export.

— The lifting of restrictions is aimed at boosting production of agricultural crops.
— By doing so, export of crops will also increase. Export items do not mean only rice and various kinds of beans and pulses.

(See page 9)
Without losing sight of public…

(from page 8)

The seven-point future political programme of the State including the holding of the National Convention will be implemented step by step and the National Convention, the first step of the programme, is being successfully held.

It is imperative to have the three basic requirements in the process of transition to a modern, developed and democratic nation.

The first basic requirement is to ensure stability of the State and prevalence of law and order; the second to enhance the living standard of the people while fulfilling their food, clothing and shelter needs with the strong national economy, and the third to equip the people with knowledge and moral scruple.

Development of agricultural sector plays an important role in strengthening the national economy, the prerequisite for the emergence of a modern developed and democratic nation.

When it comes to ensuring the strong national economy, the people and entrepreneurs need to make integrated and well-coordinated efforts.

Nowadays, significant progress has been made in agriculture, fish and meat, forest and mining sectors, which are foreign exchange earners, as a result of the combined and concerted efforts of the government, cooperatives and the private sector.

The government has been able to improve the socioeconomic life of the people alongside the per capita income as the national economy is making progress. There is still much left to be done including the nurturing and producing outstanding intellectuals in ensuring the emergence of a modern developed industrial nation.

In such circumstances, priority will have to be given to development of agricultural sector while making strenuous efforts for national development.

In accordance with the geographical conditions and demand of foreign market, the government has designated ten major crops and work is under way for successful realization of the project.

In addition, special projects have been laid down and are being implemented for enabling the national people to engage in growing coffee, tea and pepper, the three lucrative crops, on a commercial scale.

Moreover, the government is placing emphasis on growing of long-staple cotton which is in high demand in foreign market and perennial crops such as oil palm, rubber and timber that are foreign exchange earners.

There arises a shortage of labour in many countries with the emergence of mills and factories and development of construction work.

Therefore, the entrepreneurs in cooperation with the government are to strive for the emergence of agricultural undertakings based on industry.

Likewise, it is required to expand the market as there has been an increase in production. At the same time, extended cultivation of crops which already have market is to be carried out.

At a time when the crops market is on growing demand, strenuous efforts are to be made for development of national economy while expanding foreign market by taking agriculture as base.

Next, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha reported on resolutions of business entrepreneurs’ coordination meeting (5/2004) on development of oil palm and rubber cultivation and land reclamation held in Magway Division regarding the cultivation of onion, sesame, cotton, oil palm and other crops; Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin on land allotments to national entrepreneurs and reclaimation, arrangements to disburse loans for cultivation and formation of Rice Cultivators Association and Rubber Cultivators Association and the other associations for cultivation of various crops; and Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun on financial procedures and rules and regulations on loan disbursements for the entrepreneurs.

National entrepreneurs at the meeting reported on lands reclaimed, collection of saplings and seeds and machinery for boosting cultivation and requirements. The ministers and officials also presented their reports on assistance to be rendered by their ministries concerned. In response to the reports, General Thura Shwe Mann said for the development of agricultural sector it is important that economic benefits for both growers and exporters should be equitable. So, it is required for them to make coordinated efforts for the sector, he said. Then, he stressed the need for business entrepreneurs themselves to undertake the cultivation for the benefits of production and trading sectors.

After the meeting, General Thura Shwe Mann cordially greeted the national entrepreneurs.

Excerpts…

(from page 8)

— It is not possible to depend only on two crops for rapid economic development of the State.

— The economy of the State will not develop if we are contented with the export of only rice and beans and pulses.

— Other nations earn hundreds of millions of dollars through the export of fruits, flowers including orchid and vegetables such as roselle, water green and drumsticks.

— Foreign trade volume will increase by exporting a lot of new export items. It was during the present government that beans and pulses could be exported.

— The State could export beans and pulses more than the maximum amount export of the past which was almost over ten times tonnage.

— Concerted efforts are to be made for more export of new items in cooperation with national entrepreneurs, merchants and farmers.

— If basic commodities such as chilies and onions are exported when they are only sufficient for local consumption, prices of commodities will rise and people might face some difficulties.

— Efforts are to be made for production of basic crops more than local consumption and only surplus of crops are to be exported.
TB, a leading killer of women

Dr Khin Swe Win

"Tuberculosis" - The very word evokes feelings of fear, anxiety, and disaster. For centuries this has been so. In the South-East Asia Region, home to 38% of the world's eight million new cases of TB every year, TB has meant death and prolonged suffering for millions of men, women and children. Nearly 700,000 people in the region die every year of TB. The disease has claimed lives of people during their most productive year. It has impoverished families and left many, especially women, abandoned and destitute.

TB kills more than all causes of maternal mortality put together.

It is customary to view women's health problems largely in the reproductive health area. High maternal mortalities have been the focus of attention (and rightly so) for a long time, especially in the developing countries. But what is increasingly coming to light is most alarming. Over 900 million women are infected with TB worldwide. One million women die every year of TB and another 2.5 million women get sick with the disease.

TB kills more than all causes of maternal mortality put together.

Women in their reproductive years have a higher risk of developing active TB than men of the same age. This means that it is during the most critical years of a woman's life, when women raise children, work and are generally economically productive than that at another time in life, that TB strikes.

What is particularly tragic is the fact that many women have little access to TB control services. It is estimated that in the world, among women injected with TB at any given time, at least one third die because they are undiagnosed or receive poor treatment. A joint study by the World Bank, WHO and Harvard University showed that TB caused an annual loss of 7.8 million healthy years of life among women, aged 15 to 44, while 3.6 million healthy years were lost to HIV and 2 million to malaria.

In the South-East Asia Region, TB is responsible for the death of almost half a million women each year. TB has been a neglected issue both in men and women but in women it seems much more evident. Women have to overcome several barriers before they can easily access health care. Their dual responsibilities at home and at work leave them little time to reach diagnostic and curative services. It is also believed that in the South-East Asia Region, more specific to care-seeking for TB, is lack of decision making power in women, as well as poor knowledge of TB especially of its signs and symptoms.

The social stigma attached to TB is also much more in women than in men. While men usually worry about loss of wages and capacity for work, women worry about social rejection from husbands, in-laws and the community in general. If single, TB also foils a woman's chances of finding a suitable match in marriage.

TB mortalities are higher in women than in men. The loss of a mother's life is not only tragic in itself, but it also seriously damages the very fabric of family life. Children specially suffer and are even at risk of contracting TB, due to close contact with their mothers.

The HIV/TB co-epidemic is yet another threat with grave implications women. HIV infection in women is rising in the developing countries. This means many more women will suffer and die of TB if health care are not made easily accessible to them. It is well documented thatDOTS allows women to be treated successfully and affordably near their homes.

It is therefore high time that TB control programmes were made gender specific. Empowering poor women with health knowledge and providing them with equitable access to resources on a sustainable basis is now essential.

In Myanmar, NGOs, such as Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association members and Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation members give health education to communities, are also involved in identification and referral of suspected patients to TB centres, provision of DOTS and follow-up TB patients until cure.

With the advent of DOTS, participation of NGOs, such as MMCWA, MWAF, Myanmar Medical Association, Red Cross Society, Union Solidarity and Development Association, etc., in stopping TB has taken on even greater importance. Being closer to communities including women they serve, and being more credible, dependable and more integrated in the services they provide, the committed and dedicated personnel of health services and NGOs will contribute towards the lowering of TB mortalities in women.
Ornithological Survey on northern parts of Yangon

Sein Sein Thein (Dagon University)

Last week, I and some of my candidates for M.Res degree in Dagon University were travelling to northern parts of Yangon (Hlegu to Bago Yoma mountain range and Thardukan Village near Shwe Pyi Thar township). The purpose of this trip was to identify the avian fauna present within or in close proximity within 2 km each side of the wetlands and to discuss the potential effects to avian fauna. The Ornithological Survey areas takes all of the intertidal mudflats of wetlands. The first chosen wetland is along the Nga Moe Yeik river and passes through (6) different Vegetation Communities. The potential impact of the wetland will vary depending on the type of habitat, it passes through the species present in that habitats. Species potentially of concern in this wetland are migratory birds, waterbirds and wading birds. We have found pelican on the riverbanks. Pelicans are the most obvious vertebrates in wetland because they have a large bodies and interesting behavior and then we found so many waterfowls near and far of our boat. They are fast flyers with a lack of manoeuvrability, tend to fly at night. They can breed in the low dune of the Nga Moe Yeik river. Hence there will not be any impact on the breeding or breeding habitat of this species. All types of water birds can breed in fertile manmade wetlands including rivers, lakes reservoirs, ponds, freshwater swamps, mudflats, rice-fields and sewage farm. The major uses and threats recorded at the wetlands were fishing agriculture and hunting. Thus, we recorded all species and their abundance, together with their activity and position on the mudflat and high tide roost sites. We provided twice monthly field surveys of the avian fauna of wetland and at low water and raising tide conditions. Altogether 142 species of birds were sighted in Hlegu township according to Myanmar Birds+Nature Society. The good understanding of bioinformatics will greatly help research works in Myanmar. Bioinformatics can be defined as the application of information technology to biology. An important function of bioinformatics is to store biological data in data base and provide computing tools to access and analyse this data. Many Computer programs have been written by or for biologists. The worldwide web (www) has been a real boon to biologists wanting to access bioinformatics resources. Storage of the results of experimental and observational data are important aspect of bioinformatics. Bioinformatic programmes and expertise are available from many universities and academic bioinformatics centre.

In addition, there are numerous other useful resources on the (www). Now we used distance learning from bioinformatics. Because the population of some water birds has decreased due to loss of habitats, changes in feeding habitats and over harvesting. Our research data will become new bioinformatics. It is very urgent to work out to know the relation between wetland and nutria, determining the effect of toxic compounds and emerging contaminants on the reproductive system of waterbirds and identifying the changes in the food web and feeding habits of waterbirds in wetland. In Myanmar, wetlands play an important role in sustaining diverse species of wildlife which induce avian fauna, marine and mammals by providing rich habitats and healthy environs. Fish and wildlife of wetland give a considerable contribution to human welfare in the form of food for rural people. Mangrove wetlands protect the storm and erosion on the coasts and esturies. Well managed productive ecosystems of wetland will contribute to better development of socio-economic status in our country. On a global scale, the international organizations are conserving their wetlands. Now we also conserve our wetlands by bioinformatics.
ITALIAN SWIMMERS HELP TO BREAK WORLD RECORDS

SAN FRANCISCO, 8 Aug — Italian National swimmer from the former prison island of Alcatraz to San Francisco with his hands and legs tied with thick rubber bands. He wore a black wet suit, pointed his hands forward and kicked with his legs.

By the time he arrived at Crissy Field near the Golden Gate Bridge, he looked pale and his eye were bloodshot.

Although currents between Alcatraz and San Francisco were said to be so strong and waters so cold that no prisoner could escape, others have made the swim.

Chris John club trainer Pedro Ordenes claims bold the record for most unshackled swims between Alcatraz and San Francisco.

“...This is one of the most difficult channels of water in the world to cross because of the currents,” he said.

MNA/Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV BOUGAIN VILLA VOY NO (064)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BOUGAIN VILLA Voy No (064) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10-8-2004 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S PREMIER SPECTRUM

Phone: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA MUTIARA VOY NO (127)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA MUTIARA Voy No (127) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10-8-2004 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER

Phone: 256908/378316/376797

Italian swimmers from Alcatraz with hands, feet bound

San Francisco, 8 Aug — Italian National swimmer from the former prison island of Alcatraz to San Francisco with his hands and legs tied with thick rubber bands. He wore a black wet suit, pointed his hands forward and kicked with his legs.

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MNA/Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KENTUNG VOY NO (27)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KENTUNG Voy No (27) arrived on 7-8-2004 are hereby notified that their cargo will be discharged into the premises of Myanmar Ports Port Authority where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

AGENCY DEPARTMENT

MYANMA FIVE STAR LINE.

Phone: 295279/295280/295281/295658/295659

US to upgrade radar system in Greenland

STOCKHOLM, 8 Aug — The United States and Denmark of Greenland, an autonomous territory of Denmark, signed agreements Friday at Ilulissat, a small village in southern Greenland, to upgrade the radar system at Thule, a Cold War US air base with a crucial role in US plans for a missile defence system.

Three agreements were signed by US Secretary of State Colin Powell, his Danish counterpart Per Stig Moeller and Josef Motzfeldt in charge of external affairs for Greenland.

One of the documents updated the 1951 agreement, the second provided for economic and technical cooperation and the third a guide to protecting the environment.

“Together we will meet the security challenges of the 21st Century, from missile defence to international terrorism,” Powell said at the signing ceremony.

The Thule base, about 1,500 kilometres south of the North Pole, was built between 1951 and 1953 under a defence treaty between the united States and Denmark signed on April 27, 1951.

As the United States is to formally launch its missile defence system in September this year, the radar system at Thule is too old to meet the requirements.

MNA/Xinhua

Expert says to be careful of unlicensed translators

BEIJING, 8 Aug — An expert from a national quality watchdog group who declined to disclose his name, has urged people to be careful of the Chinese translation services...

Georgia accuses Russian plane of violating air space

MOSCOW, 8 Aug — Georgian Foreign Ministry Friday lodged a protest with Russia against a Russian military aircraft’s violation of air space between Moscow and Tbilisi.

The Georgian Foreign Ministry said in a note that a Russian military plane flew over Tskhinvali, South Ossetia of Georgia, which marked another provocation between Moscow and Tbilisi.

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**EAC agree on preferential tour site rates**

**DAR-ES-SALAAM, 8 Aug**—The East African Community (EAC) has agreed to charge the nationals of member states preferential rates for visiting the tour sites in its three member countries.

The agreement was reached and announced in Arusha, northern Tanzania, where the EAC secretariat sits, local newspaper The Guardian reported on Saturday.

Tanzanians visiting EAC tour sites will now be charged 1,500 Tanzanian shillings (1.2 US dollars); Kenyans and Ugandans visiting the same sites will be charged 100 Kenyan shillings (about 1.25 dollars) and 5,000 Ugandan shillings (2.76 dollars), respectively.

To enjoy the preferential admission rates, the EAC nationals need to produce national identification cards, passports or other travel documents.

“The preferential treatment is a major development in the ongoing liberalization of the tourism sector in East Africa,” The Guardian quoted EAC Public Relations Officer Alfett Magaga as saying. — MNA/Xinhua

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**UN to hold conf on Small Island Developing States issues**

**APA (Samoa), 9 Aug**—The United Nations is to hold a high-level international conference in Mauritius next January focusing on issues of Small Island Developing States (SIDS), announced UN Undersecretary-General Anwarul K Chowdhury here on Saturday.

Chowdhury, also UN high representative for the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing states, said during the 35th Pacific Islands Forum summit meeting that the Mauritius meeting is set for January 10-14, 2005, with the last two days being the high-level segment.

The upcoming conference is for the 10-year review of the Barbados Programme of Action for the SIDS, said Chowdhury. He noted that issues like HIV/AIDS, security concerns, communications, trade opportunities and market access, climate change and renewable energy should receive special attention during the meeting.

Regarding to the outcomes of the international meeting, the Undersecretary-General said that many SIDS have expressed that they should be practical and respond to the real challenge of the sustainable development of the SIDS that seem to be growing each year.

“For that we need to prioritize the concrete actions to be undertaken in the coming years in favour of SIDS, and to set in place an effective implementation mechanism,”

Chowdhury said that the UN General Assembly has urged that representation to be at the highest possible level, and UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan has recently written to all heads of state and government requesting their participation in the meeting.

He told reporters at a news briefing that it is UN’s constant stance that issues of developing nations, especially that of small developing nations, should receive more global attention.

“Efforts by the industrial countries to provide assistance to the Small Island States are also supported by the United Nations,” said Chowdhury.

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**THAI kids spend more on snacks than on learning**

**BANGKOK, 8 Aug**—Thai youngsters spend three times more on snacks than on learning materials, local Press on Saturday quoted a research conclusion as saying.

On average, Thai youngsters spend 9,800 baht (about 231 US dollars) annually on snacks while only 3,000 baht (about 71 dollars) on learning, said the research conducted by Thailand Research Fund. The research calculations were based on 21 million Thais in the age range of 5-24 years.

The young people receive a yearly total of 35 billion baht (833 million US dollars) as pocket money, said the research findings presented to a seminar on Friday.

About 16 billion baht (380.95 million US dollars) of the pocket money went into shopping, an amount equivalent to 15.7 per cent of this year’s state budget, according to the research.

Heavy advertising and a society hard hit by consumerism were believed reasons behind the young Thai’s spending values, said Amornvich Nakhontap, a scholar of Chulalongkorn University’s faculty of education. The market share of children’s snacks is about 10 billion baht (238 million US dollars) in value, he said. — MNA/Xinhua

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**Italian Govt launches 10-year water system overhaul**

**ROME, 8 Aug**—The Italian Government on Friday launched a 10-year programme aimed at overhauling the nation’s water distribution and supply system.

Italian Environment Minister said that the state will spend over 30 billion euros on upgrading the system in the water sector. We have worked so that the infrastructure projects focus on sustainability.

Comparing to other countries, Italy has an abundant supply of fresh water. The Environment Ministry estimates that, potentially, three million litres of water are available for each Italian citizen per annum.

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**Macao’s hospitality industry logs 1.8m guests in first half year**

**MACAU, 9 Aug**—The hospitality industry of China’s Macao special administrative region recorded 1.87 million guests in the first six months, an increase of 52 per cent on the same period last year.

The Macao Statistics and Census Bureau said on Saturday that Macao’s 67 hotels and guesthouses recorded an average room occupancy rate of 74.9 per cent in June, up 25.2 per cent on the year-ago period.

China’s Mainland, Hong Kong and Taiwan contribute the main source of guests in Macao’s hotels, taking up 56.4 per cent, 32.6 per cent and 3.4 per cent of the total, respectively. — MNA/Xinhua

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**World’s hairiest man has ear hair removed to hear**

**BEIJING, 8 Aug**—The world’s hairiest man, Chinese singer Yu Zhenhuan, underwent ear surgery in Shanghai on Friday to remove hair that was impairing his hearing, the Xinhua news agency said on Friday.

Doctors said Yu had complained of constant earaches and nausea and had lost one-third of his hearing, Xinhua said.

Yu was recognized in 2002 as the world’s hairiest man by the Guinness Book of World Records. Xinhua said.

Yu’s body, save the palms of his hands and the soles of his feet, is covered with an average of 41 hairs per 0.16 square inch, a condition doctors term “avatism,” it said.

The 26-year-old Yu, a rock-and-roll singer, made his entertainment debut at the age of six in a movie about “a hairy child’s adventure”, the state news agency said. — MNA/Xinhua
Porto confirm sacking of coach Del Neri

LISBON, 9 Aug — European champions Porto have fired new coach Luiz Felipe Scolari, the Portuguese club said on Saturday following media reports that the Italian had been dismissed for repeated absences.

Del Neri and Porto officials met late on Friday and agreed to terminate his contract “for personal reasons”, the club said in a brief statement on its web site. No replacement was named.

Del Neri, formerly the coach at Italy’s Serie A club Chievo Verona, was hired in June to replace Jose Mourinho, who left to become manager at west London club Chelsea.

Porto officials were irritated by the amount of time Del Neri spent away from the club, according to the private TSF radio station and the A Bola newspaper’s web site.

He took two days off this week and was not at Friday’s training session alleging that he had to fly connections while returning to Portugal. Players and officials also were unhappy with his handling of the team. A Bola and TSF said.

Porto won the Champions League final in May with a 3-0 victory over Monaco and are the Portuguese champions.— MNA/Reuters

Greece sees no threats for Athens Olympics

ATHENS, 9 Aug — Greece declared itself the safest country on earth on Saturday as unprecedented security to guard the Athens Olympics went into full swing with under a week to go.

NATO ships paraded the turquoise waters of the Aegean, a communications and surveillance blimp hovered over Athens, and most of the 70,000 strong security force called in to protect the August 13-29 Games moved into position.

“Greece is the most secure country in the world,” Defence Minister Ioannis Lamperoupolos declared. “We have no feeling that we are threatened by anyone.

Most of Greece’s Air Force was on standby and dozens of Patriot defence missiles, creating an air shield above the capital, were armed and locked.

And with the first of seven luxury cruise ships that will host VIPs and Olympic officials already docked at the port of Piraeus, the most expensive Olympics security operation ever got underway, six days before the opening ceremony.

International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Jacques Rogge applauded Greece’s “magnificent” security efforts, four times bigger than Sydney spent for the 2000 Olympics.

But he warned there could never again be a 100-per-cent guarantee of security since September 11’s attacks.

“The world has changed a nucitea on a boat with the wrong weapons and you’re in trouble,” Rogge told the Belgian newspaper De Morgen. “Security tops the list. We’re doing everything to tackle it but nobody can guarantee 100 per cent security.”

Lamperoupolos said less than a week until the start of the first Summer Games since September 11’s attacks.

Intelligence services around the world were still not picking "up the slightest hint an event could happen." — MNA/Reuters

PSG lose as leading rivals win opening matches

PARIS, 9 Aug — Paris St Germain slumped to a 2-1 defeat at Stade Rennes on Saturday while champions Olympique Lyon, Monaco and Olympique Marseille made winning starts on the opening weekend of the Ligue 1 season.

Rennes shocked PSG, last season’s runners up, when Olivier Sorlin and Alexandre Frei scored two goals in two minutes midway through the first half.

The hosts came close to wrapping up the match with a third goal but striker Olivier Monterrho shot wide from the penalty spot after a foul from defender Yepes on Frei.

PSG pulled one back when Portuguese international Pedro Pauleta converted from the spot just before the break, but his side were unable to move up a gear in the second half as Rennes held on to seal all three points.

Monaco smashed a last-gasp win over Girondins Bordeaux when Laurent Battles scored four minutes into injury time. The visitors finished with ten men after defender Cyril Rool was sent off for a second bookable offence in the 71st minute.

A first-minute goal from new striker Ernesto Chevanton gave Monaco a 1-0 win at promoted St. Etienne as the principal team hoped to stake their claim as one of the title favourites despite losing a number of key players in the close season.

Uruguayan Chevanton, who has replaced Real Madrid’s Joaquin Morientes, outmanoeuvred two defenders to slot home from inside the box.

St. Etienne, back in the top flight after three seasons in the Second Division, fought hard to find an equaliser but coach Didier Deschamps side held on.

“We were a bit lucky to find the net so early,” Deschamps said. “But we managed to hang on afterwards and we controlled the match for most of the time.” — MNA/Reuters

FIFA to set up office in S Africa for 2010 World Cup

JOHANNESBURG, 9 Aug — World soccer’s governing body FIFA is to open an office in South Africa early next year to help the country prepare for the 2010 World Cup.

The FIFA emergency committee approved plans to establish a presence in the country to assist in running the tournament. South Africa’s interim 2010 organizing committee, which had been mandated to set up structures and hire personnel for a local organizing committee by the end of the year, now intends bringing its plans forward, officials said on Saturday.

FIFA said on Friday it would form a company, MATCH AG, to combine know-how in the key areas of management, accommodation, ticket sales and IT solutions with the South Africans.— MNA/Reuters

Romero held by police for child payment failure

BRASILIA (Brazil), 9 Aug — Former Brazil striker Romario was held by police in Rio de Janeiro on Saturday after failing to make child maintenance payments, his lawyer told a national radio station.

Romario, a gifted and temperamental player, who inspired Brazil to their fourth World Cup win in 1994, turned himself in at a Rio police station after his first wife pressed charges against him for failing to make payments to their two children.

Lawyer Michel Assel told Brazil’s CBM national radio network.

Romario’s manager Luis Moraes was unable to confirm to Reuters that the player had been arrested as was widely reported in the Brazilian media.

Romario was due to play a Brazilian championship game for his club Fluminense against Parana later on Saturday. — MNA/Reuters

Arsenal draw first blood against Man United

CARDIFF, 9 Aug — Arsenal drew first blood in their annual battle for supremacy with Manchester United when they won the Community Shield 3-1 at the Millennium Stadium on Sunday.

Second-half strikes by Gilberto, Jose Antonio Reyes and a Mikael Silvestre own goal gave the champions victory over the FA Cup winners in the English season’s traditional curtain-raiser.

Although both teams were missing key players, Arsenal deserved their win, United manager Alex Ferguson said. "We have been disrupted by injuries.

Reyes looks outstanding," Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger told reporter. "He has very quickly become a very important player. He is very brave and every game he plays stronger and stronger." 

Wenger admitted the constant speculation about whether Vieira would be joining Real Madrid had affected his preparations for the new season.

"We have been disrupted in our preparation but the situation has not made a difference to team morale," he said.

With the recent heat and humidity replaced by dappled, overcast conditions in Cardiff, both sides started with gusto in a first half that somehow remained goalless.

Arsenal forwards Thierry Henry and Dennis Bergkamp were denied by American goalkeeper Tim Howard while Jermaine Pennant wasted the best chance of the half when he side-footed wide of an empty United goal after Henty’s shot was saved.

United also showed plenty of attacking intent, new signing Alan Smith buzzing around to good effect.

Smith, striking his claims to partner the injured Ruud van Nistelrooy, blazed high over the bar with his best chance on 40 minutes.

The deadlock was broken after 49 minutes when Reyes, who had just shot into the side-netting when it was easier to score, sprinted clear of the United defence to round a stranded Lehmann to make it 1-1.

But Arsenal were not to be denied their first silverware of the season, moving in back on the front when Reyes, signed in January for around 17 million pounds (30.98 million US dollars) from Sevilla, fired home after Gilberto had scooped a pass across the area.

United knew it was not to be their day in the 79th minute when fullback Ashley Cole’s attempted cross cannoned off central defender Silvestre and inside Howard’s near post.

Although Arsenal will be happy with the victory they will not celebrate too loudly in the 79th minute when fullback Ashley Cole’s attempted cross cannoned off central defender Silvestre and inside Howard’s near post.

Henry and Dennis Bergkamp were denied by Howard on 19 minutes, but nobody can guarantee 100 per cent security efforts, four times bigger than Sydney spent for the 2000 Olympics.

But he warned there could never again be a 100-per-cent guarantee of security since September 11’s attacks.

"The world has changed a nucitea on a boat with the wrong weapons and you’re in trouble," Rogge told the Belgian newspaper De Morgen. "Security tops the list. We’re doing everything to tackle it but nobody can guarantee 100 per cent security." 

Lamperoupolos said less than a week until the start of the first Summer Games since September 11’s attacks.

Intelligence services around the world were still not picking "up the slightest hint an event could happen." — MNA/Reuters
Condolences

Our deepest sympathy and heartfelt condolences to Mr. Martin Pun, Chairman of Myanmar Business Coalition on AIDS and family on the passing away of his beloved mother, Mrs. Olive Pun (92 years) on the 6th of August.

Our thoughts are with you, MBCA family

Rainfall on 9-8-2004

- 0.04 inch at Yangon Airport,
- 0.12 inch at Kaba-Aye,
- 0.04 inch at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 1870 mm (73.62 inches) at Yangon Airport and 1860 mm (73.23 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 1854 mm (72.99 inches) at central Yangon.

WEATHER

Monday, 9 August 2004

Summary of observations at 09:00 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in lower Sagagon and Magway Divisions scattered in Kayah State, upper Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with locally heavy falls in Rakhine State, isolated heavy falls in Kayin State, Mandalay, Bago, Ayeeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Kyaukpyu (7.13 inches), Zamptung (4.06) inches, Dawei (3.94) inches, Hinthada (3.82) inches, Thandwe (3.62) inches, Hpa-an (3.46) inches, Sitway (2.64) inches and Pyinuma (2.58) inches.

Maximum temperature on 8-8-2004 was 26.0°C (79°F). Minimum temperature on 9-8-2004 was 18.8°C (66°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 9-8-2004 was 96%. Total sunshine hours on 8-8-2004 was nil. Rainfall on 9-8-2004 was 1 mm (0.04 inch) at Yangon Airport, 3 mm (0.12 inch) at Kaba-Aye, 1 mm (0.04 inch) at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 1670 mm (73.62 inches) at Yangon Airport and 1460 mm (73.23 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 1545 mm (72.99 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) 7 mph from West at 8 hrs, MST on 9-8-2004.

Bay inference: Monsun is vigorous in the Andaman Sea and strong in the Bay of Bengal. Forecast valid until evening of 10-8-2004: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in lower Sagagon Divisions scattered in Kayah State, Mandalay and Magway Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Rakhine, Kayin, Mon States, Ayeeyawady, Bago and Taninthayi Divisions. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Occasional squalls with rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35 to 40) mph. Outlook for subsequent two days: Strong monsoon.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 10-8-2004: Some rain ahead of the monsoon is certain (100%) Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 10-8-2004: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty (100%).

Flood Warning

Issued at (13:00 hrs MST on 9-8-2004) The water level of Bago River at Bago may rise 30 cm (about 1 ft) and reach the danger level (310) cm during the next (24) hours commencing noon today.

Earthquake Report

Issued at (13:00 hrs MST on 9-8-2004) The water level of Sittang River at Madub is about (1-4) above the danger level the water level may remain almost above the danger level during the next (3) days commencing noon today.

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Tuesday, 10 August, 2004
Without losing sight of public interests, the State always fulfills the requirements.
Government has provided assistance to national entrepreneurs and laid emphasis on cultivation of oil palm

GENERAL THURA SHWE MANN MEETS ENTREPRENEURS

Yangon, 9 Aug — A coordination meeting was held with entrepreneurs at the meeting hall of Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyntha here this afternoon to discuss development of oil palm industry and reclamation of farmland for agricultural purpose. Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann attended the meeting and delivered an address on the occasion.

Present at the meeting were State Peace and Development Council Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein; members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, Lt-Gen Maung Man; Minister of Defence Maj-Gen Hla Tun; Minister of Industry U Soe Tha; Minister of State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann; and representatives of the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Industry.

In his speech, General Thura Shwe Mann said today’s meeting will focus on cooperation between the State and national entrepreneurs in the drive for extended cultivation of crops which have ready market. The State, on its part, is rendering assistance through respective ministries for the improvement of the agricultural sector which is the main economy of the country.

Without letting itself lose sight of public interests, the State always fulfills the requirements. Apparent is the impetus given at the time of the Tatmadaw Government to private national entrepreneurs. Such kind of encouragement was unheard of in the past. The national entrepreneurs, on their part, should also render fully energetic cooperation in respect of the agricultural growth crucial for the country while placing emphasis on the benefits for the country, themselves and the general public.

To recall what Head of State Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance on agricultural growth, the major production industry of the State is agricultural production. Basically, agriculture still remains the economy of the country. The growth in agricultural production in the rainy season is of prime importance for the emergence of favourable economic conditions. It is therefore necessary for the ministries concerned to take the lead in the measure for earnest undertaking of farm works and agricultural production in all seriousness.

Excerpts from Head of State’s guidance on agricultural development
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Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein — MNA

In accord with the guidance of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe, agricultural works on which the government relies are to be carried out. Only when more crops can be exported will the income of the country increase and can import goods necessary for the State.

INSIDE
Article
Ornithological Survey on northern parts of Yangon (Page 11)

Perspectives
Train youths to be outstanding intellectuals and intelligentsia (Page 2)