Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt sends congratulations to Singaporean counterpart

YANGON, 13 Aug — General Khin Nyunt, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of congratulations to His Excellency Mr Lee Hsien Loong, on his assumption as Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore on 12 August 2004. — MNA

Nation to be transformed into a modern one through systematic combination of human and natural resources

YANGON, 13 Aug — The inauguration of the multimedia teaching centre of No 2 Basic Education High School in Kyimyindine Township, Yangon West District, took place at the school this morning, attended by Vice-Chairman of the Myanmar Education Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win. Also present on the occasion were Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Yangon City Development Committee Chairman Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Deputy Ministers for Education U Myo Nyunt and Col Aung Myo Min, officials, local authorities, the principal, teachers, old students, members of the school board of trustees, wellwishers, students and others. (See page 8)

At such knowledge age, measures are to be taken for enabling people to constantly fulfil their knowledge.

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

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Construction of Fish Garden inspected in Kandawgyi

YANGON, 13 Aug — Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein, accompanied by officials of the Fisheries Department, arrived at briefing hall of the construction site of Fresh Water Fish Garden of the ministry at Education Zone in the construction site of Yangon City Kandawgyi Garden and Zoological Gardens (Yangon) this morning. After hearing the reports, the minister gave instructions.

Next, the minister inspected building of ornamental garden pool in which crocodiles and tortoise will be displayed. He also oversaw the construction of small waterfalls in the Fish Garden. Later, he called for efforts to make the garden look attractive and educative. — MNA

Stimulant tablets seized

YANGON, 13 Aug — A combined team comprising members of local intelligence unit and Lashio Special Anti-Drug Squad, acting on information, searched the house of Hnin Hsa in Peinglaung village, Mongtin village-tract, Lashio Township on 5 July 2004. They seized WY brand 10,810 stimulant tablets packed with plastic sheet hidden in the box. Action was taken against him under Section 15/19 (A) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. — MNA

Goodwill volleyball matches to be held

YANGON, 13 Aug — The Athletes in Action volleyball team of Canada will play goodwill matches with Myanmar Volleyball Federation selected team on 14 August and with MVF youth selected team on 16 August at National Gymnasium-1 in Thawonwra here. Admission is free. — MNA

Open Golf C’ship of Myanmar Golf Tour 2004 continues

YANGON, 13 Aug — Shwesaryan Golf Resort in Mandalay this morning.

After the second day 18-hole round, Soe Kyaw Naing (Pan-West) maintained his lead in the professional golfers event with 139 strokes. His runners-up were Zaw Zaw Latt (Pan-West) with 142 strokes, Min Naing (Srixon) 143, and Myint Shwe (Wilson) and Aung Win (YCDC) with 149 each. In the men’s amateur event, Aung Aung Kyaw was still leading with 150 strokes. Their Zaw Myint and Htay Aung Htay shared the second place with 151 strokes each and Bo Bo and Maung Latt stood at the third place with 154 each.

Rothmans of Pall Mall Myanmar Pte Ltd sponsored the championship together with the co-sponsors — Air Mandalay, Tiger Beer, Alpine Drinking Water, Htoo Trading, KM Golf Centre, Maruman, Tour Stage, Srixon, Wilson, Grandslam (Munsing Wear), Accel International Co Ltd (Canon), Sedona Hotel (Mandalay), and Sun Far Travels & Tour. The championship continues tomorrow. — MNA

People’s Desire

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

Work proficiency course concludes

YANGON, 13 Aug — The Work Proficiency Course No 1/2004 for clerical staff of Myitkyina District General Administration Department concluded with ceremony at the department in Myitkyina, Kachin State, at 2 pm today.

The one-month course is attended by 164 trainees. — MNA

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ASEAN solidarity through Myanmar-Cambodia cooperation

Myanmar and Cambodia have shared cultural and religious identity throughout the course of history. Moreover, the two countries are paying serious attention to regional stability and development while enhancing friendship, mutual understanding and cooperation between them.

At the invitation of Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia Mr Samdech Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt, accompanied by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Chea Sim, Acting Head of State of Cambodia and Chairman of the Senate, at Senate House in Phnom Penh, the Kingdom of Cambodia.

On the occasion, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt said that as Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam and Myanmar were the last to join ASEAN, strenuous efforts were to be made to keep pace with senior members of ASEAN in terms of development, and that close and effective cooperation and coordination among CLMV countries were of vital importance to overcome the challenges.

Mr Samdech Chea Sim, Acting Head of State of Cambodia and Chairman of the Senate, said that the government of Cambodia and its people welcomed the goodwill visit of Myanmar Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, that Myanmar and Cambodia were the two countries that pulled themselves out of servitude and that in the drive to keep the momentum of development, steps should be taken hand in hand to bring forth mutual interests in the region and bring prosperity to the respective countries.

At the meeting held at the Office of the Council of Ministers in Phnom Penh, the Prime Ministers of the two countries cordially exchanged views on mutually beneficial issues, and international affairs.

The Cambodian Prime Minister said that both Myanmar and Cambodia will collectively exert efforts in the area of ASEAN integration and that Cambodia is committed to equal participation of all the Association members in the Asia-Europe Meeting, without making any discrimination against member countries.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt said that he was satisfied with the flourishing of bilateral close relations and cooperation between the two countries, that the meeting was beneficial for both countries and that he valued the support given by Cambodia, with understanding, for Myanmar’s developments, and thanked the country.

We firmly believe that Myanmar and Cambodia, hand in hand with other ASEAN member nations, will continue to strive for the regional prosperity and progress, and the ASEAN solidarity and firmness.

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago.
The second best time is now.

* Crush all internal and external destructive elements at the common enemy

We firmly believe that Myanmar and Cambodia, hand in hand with other ASEAN member nations, will continue to strive for the regional prosperity and progress, and the ASEAN solidarity and firmness.

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago.
The second best time is now.
929 US troops killed since beginning of military operations in Iraq

BAHRAM, 12 Aug.—As of Thursday, 12 August, 929 US service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq in March 2003, according to the Defence Department. Of those, 691 died as a result of hostile action and 238 died of non-hostile causes.

The British military has reported 63 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 each reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that the major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 794 US soldiers have died — 582 as a result of hostile action and 209 of non-hostile causes, according to the Defence Department.

The latest deaths reported by US Central Command:

Two Marines were killed when a helicopter crashed late Wednesday in Anbar Province.

Group warns El Salvador not to send troops to Iraq

DUBAI, 12 Aug.—The fate of Salvadoran troops in Iraq will be "hell" if their government goes ahead with plans to send fresh troops to the embattled country, a shadowy militant group warned on an Islamist website.

"If you send troops to Iraq, we will not be merciful and we will not refrain from responding. Your fate will be hell like what happened to Spain and other countries," said Jamaa al-Tawhidi al-Islamiyya, or Islamic Unification Group.

"We advise the people of El Salvador not to send their sons to Iraq as we only understand the language of car bomb blasts and bloody," the group said in a statement.

"Therefore, government and people of El Salvador, come back to your senses and do not follow the Americans and their allies," it said.

The group said the statement was a warning to El Salvador, Australia, Denmark, Italy and other countries with troops deployed in Iraq to pull out their forces.

The authenticity of the statement could not be verified.

Salvadoran President Antonio Saca said Monday he would not give in to threats against his country if it went ahead with plans to send a new contingent to Iraq on August 17 to relieve the 374 Salvadoran troops currently posted in the country.

Last week, a group calling itself the Mormon-based Atta-Al Qaeda Jihad Brigades issued a statement that threatened El Salvador if it sent new troops to Iraq.

Abdullah urges big firms to invest in agriculture

KUALA LUMPUR, 13 Aug.—Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi

Thursday urged government-related companies (GLC) and other big firms to get involved in the agriculture sector and help enhance agro-based industries.

"The involvement of GLC and the big firms can form the nucleus for the growth of the national agriculture industry," he said in an opening address at a conference on the "Direction of the Agriculture and Agro-based Industries Sector" here.

He said these companies could diversify their activities even though at present they had their main areas of interest.

Notwithstanding this, they would have to play a role in such traditional sectors as fisheries and livestock breeding and not focus only on the plantation and wood-based industries, he said.

Malaysia experiences losses of some US$1 billion (13.15 billion US dollars) a year in fish landings by failing to fully exploit its marine resources, according to the Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-based Industries.

Abdullah said GLC and big companies could form smart partnerships with small-scale entrepreneurs who could operate satellite farms for them.

Abdullah said the big companies could share their technology and expertise as well as fertilizers and seedlings with smallholders in developing their sector for their mutual benefit.

Speaking at a news conference later, Abdullah said he had also made the proposal recently at a meeting of the Board of Directors of Khazahan Nasional, the government investment company.

UN extends assistance mission in Iraq for another year

UNITED NATIONS, 13 Aug.—The United Nations Security Council adopted unanimously on Thursday a US-British draft resolution renewing the mandate of the UN Assistance Mission in Iraq for another 12 months.

Resolution 1557 provides for a review of the UN mission in 12 months or sooner if requested by the Iraqis.

Pakistani Ambassador to the UN Munir Akram told reporters after the vote that the adoption of the resolution was a "necessary decision".

"This is obviously an indication of the continued commitment of the United Nations and the Security Council to play a role in bringing peace and stability to Iraq," he said.

But he added that under Council Resolution 1546, it is up to UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan to decide when the UN mission would return to Iraq and what exact role the world body would play in Iraq.

The mission was established a year ago to help with Iraq's political and economic reconstruction. But all its international staff were withdrawn from the country in October after the UN office in Baghdad came under two bomb attacks. The first attack, taking place on August 19, killed 22 people, including mission chief Sergio Vieira de Mello.

Except sending small teams in for specific tasks, the United Nations now has no permanent presence in Iraq. Most of the mission is currently based in Jordan's capital, Amman, with others operating from Kuwait and making occasional visits to Iraq.—Internet

Iraqi Shiites take to the streets of the southern city of Basra to protest against ongoing conflict in Najaf on 12 August, 2004. US Marines backed by aircraft and tanks launched a major offensive to crush a Shi'ite militia resistance in Najaf, igniting mass street protests in at least two other cities.—INTERNET

64th British soldier killed in Iraq

BASRA, 12 Aug.—A British soldier has been killed in a bomb attack on an Army patrol in Basra — the second to die in Iraq this week. The dead soldier was named by a Scottish newspaper.

The Daily Record said the soldier was on his second tour of duty in Iraq.

Another soldier was seriously injured after the explosion which was detonated near the passing soldiers.

The Daily Record said Sergeant Kevin Stacey, 26, was now fighting for his life in a military hospital in Kuwait.

The soldiers were on routine exercise protecting fellow British soldiers in the southern city of Basra when they were hit around mid-morning local time.

Squadron leader Spike Wilkie described the bomb as an "improved explosive device".

On Monday, 20-year-old Private Lee O’Callaghan died after being shot in the chest during a gun battle between British forces and armed insurgents. Despite the two deaths, Squadron leader Wilson said there had been a period of relative calm recently. There have now been 64 British service personnel killed in Iraq.—INTERNET

Former Iraqi nuclear chief says Iraq ended nuclear aims in 1991

LOSONCE, 12 Aug.—Iraq destroyed its nuclear weapons programme in 1991 and never restarted it, the head of Iraq’s nuclear programme under former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein told the BBC in an interview.

“We had orders to hand over the equipment to the Republican Guards (after the 1991 Gulf War)... and they had orders to destroy the equipment that we handed over to them,” Jafar Dhaia Jafar told the BBC television’s “Newsnight” programme.

Everything was destroyed under the orders of Saddam, such that the programme could not be re-started at the time and that it never restarted, said Jafar, who ran Iraq’s nuclear programme for nearly 25 years.

During the interview, excerpts of which appeared in advance on the BBC web site, Jafar claimed that the British Government’s assertion that Iraq tried to purloin Plutonium from Niger was categorically false.

Jafar also told the BBC that he was approached by US intelligence to defect, but remained in Iraq until he fled just two days before Baghdad fell to coalition forces last year.

—MA/NAXinhua
Iran condemns US atrocities in Iraq

TEHERAN, 12 Aug—Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Hamid-Reza Asefi on Thursday condemned the “atrocities” committed by US troops in holy sites in Iraq, and expressed “extreme concern” and “disgust” over the latest US atrocities.

Asefi expressed hatred toward the sacrifice of the holy places as well as exacerbation of US attacks in Najaf and Najaf which seek “the total lack of morality” of the US troops and “the duplicity of those who spoke of democracy” was in contradiction with all international norms,” the official IRNA news agency reported. The spokesman condemned “the total lack of morality” of the US troops and “the duplicity of those who spoke of democracy” but were holding up any genuine return of sovereignty to the Iraqis. The US invaders have proved that they are not abiding by any humanitarian principles and their recent atrocities are unjustifiable. This has once again unveiled the mask from the face of the occupiers who disguise them selves as harbingers of democracy.” Asefi said.

The ICRC is deeply concerned about the ongoing violence in various parts of Iraq, such as Kut, Baghdad (Sadr City), Samara, Fallujah and Najaf,” the organization said in a statement on Thursday. On the eighth day of fierce battles in the city of Najaf, the Red Cross called on both sides to ensure civilian lives are spared and that another to link with Peru on Wednesday in a bid to speed up South American integration, “is expected to be inaugurated a new bridge, named “Friendship,” between Assis and Inapari, Peru.

Washington Post admits ‘Iraqi flaws’

WASHINGTON, 12 Aug—The war was fought on unsubstantiated data, a Senate report said. Several months after The New York Times said they did a poor job reporting on Iraq, editors of the Washington Post have admitted they underplayed stories questioning the Bush administration’s justifications for invading Iraq.

In a front page story published Thursday, the influential US daily said it ignored stories and information that questioned whether President George Bush really had evidence that Iraq was pursuing an illicit weapons of mass destruction programme.

“We didn’t do our job but we didn’t grovel, and I blame myself mightily for not pushing harder,” assistant managing editor Bob Woodward says in the story. “We should have warned readers we had information that the basis for this was shakier than many believed,” Woodward adds.

Pentagon correspondent Thomas Ricks is quoted as saying that “there was an attitude among editors: Look, we are going to war, why do we even worry about all this contrary stuff?”

Story that questioned the justifications behind the war and cast a doubt whether the US was doing the right thing by invading Iraq were relegated to the inside pages. Veteran reporter Walter Pincus put together a story questioning whether the Bush administration had proof that Saddam Hussein was hiding weapons of mass destruction.

Angola’s new oil project to produce 250,000 barrels per day

LUANDA, 12 Aug—The deep water oil project de-nominated “Kizomba A” in Angola, whose exploration began this week, will produce 250,000 barrels of oil per day. According to a statement on Wednesday from Angola’s state company SONANGOL and its associate, Esso Exploration Angola Limited, the project has recoverable resources estimated at one billion barrels of oil (crude production). Located about 370 kilometres from the capital of Luanda, the project includes, among other mechanisms, connections of submarine wells to one of the biggest ships of production, storage and unloading.

Brazil, Peru, Bolivia strengthen border infrastructure integration

LIMA, 12 Aug—Brazil opened a new bridge into Bolivia and set the cornerstone for another to link with Peru on Wednesday in a bid to speed up South American integration process.

Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva met his Bolivian and Peruvian counterparts Carlos Mesa and Alejandro Toledo along their shared borders in Assis, Brazil.

After Lula and Mesa inaugurated a new bridge, named “Friendship,” between Brasilia, Brazil, and Cobia, Bolivia, the Brazilian President and Toledo inaugurated the construction of a Brazilian-funded suspension bridge between Assis and Inapari, Peru.

The bridge, named “Integration,” is expected to be completed in one year and will become an important link between Peru and the South America’s largest country.

“The construction of a South American nation begins with the physical integration of the town,” Lula said at the ceremony. He called the border meeting as “historical unity” among the three South American nations.

Mesa said that the three countries will create, “shoulder to shoulder, a South American nation that we are all dreaming of”.

All three leaders lauded the bridges as a way to boost trade between the neighbour- ing nations. Analysts say the construction of border bridges is part of a proposal on the South American infrastructure integration, which will speed up South American integration process.

In addition, the three leaders signed pacts on strengthening technological cooperation in natural re- sources and the environment and easing the entry limits between the nations.

Employer of hostage truck drivers in Iraq says talks blocked

New Delhi, 12 Aug—The employer of three Indians, three Kenyans and an Egyptian held hostage in Iraq said that a curfew in the insurgent stronghold of Fallujah had blocked efforts to negotiate with the kidnappers.

“We did not hear anything from them (the abductors) on Thursday, said Rana Abu-Zaineh, spokeswoman for Kuwait Gulf Link Company Ltd (KGL), which employs the seven truck drivers.

“Our people are unable to reach out to the kidnappers, either directly or through anybody else because of curfew in Fallujah,” she told the Press Trust of India news agency.

On Sunday, KGL had announced it was withdrawing from talks with Iraqi tribal chief Sheikh Hisham al-Dulaimi, who was mediating between the company and the kidnappers, after accusing Dulaimi of “playing games.”

Indian foreign ministry sources said the hostages were on the verge of being released after protracted negotiations Sunday when Zaineh said the kidnappers had put forward an unspecified new demand.

The truck drivers were kidnapped on July 21 by a previously unknown group that threatened to kill them if KGL did not pull out of Iraq.

An Iraqi man walks among houses damaged during air strikes by American planes in the turbulent city of Fallujah, Iraq, on 12 Aug, 2004. The strikes killed four people and injured four others, hospital officials said.—AFP/KGL
165 killed, 600 wounded in 24 hours of clashes across Iraq

BAGHDAD, 13 Aug — Clashes flaring up across Iraq have left at least 165 people dead and about 600 wounded over the past 24 hours, the Iraqi Health Ministry said Thursday.

US bombing in the Shiite-dominated al-Sharkiya District of Kut, some 170 kilometres south of Baghdad, has killed 75 and wounded 148 others. Another 44 died and 164 were wounded in clashes between US forces and fighters loyal to firebrand cleric Moqtada al-Sadr in the Shiite stronghold of Sadr City in the capital, a ministry spokesman said.

Clashes pitting US forces and Sadr’s Mehdi Army in Iraq’s holy city of Najaf went into the second week, with a major US military offensive looming.

A total of 25 were killed and 153 wounded by now in Najaf, some 160 kilometres south of Baghdad, the ministry said.

In Amara, some 360 kilometres south of Baghdad, 14 were killed and 77 wounded, while clashes in another southern city of Dwaynaya left seven dead and 52 wounded. Resistance has flared up across the country’s Shiite districts recently, presenting the sternest task for Iraq’s interim government, which was also bogged down by an unabated hostage crisis.

US soldiers aim their guns as Iraqi civilians flee their homes for safety during a day of heavy gun battles in Najaf in southern Iraq on 12 Aug, 2004. — INSEAN.

US planes attack Sadr’s house in Najaf

NADIR (Iraq), 13 Aug — US warplanes bombed targets near the house of radical Iraqi cleric Moqtada al-Sadr in the holy city of Najaf on Thursday as US Marines battled militants in the area, witnesses said.

They said plumes of black smoke billowed as the combatants exchanged heavy fire.

There was no immediate word on whether the cleric was at the house.

The statement by President Ignacio Bunye said in a statement that it was still too early to discuss details of the Philippine’s role in the reconstruction efforts in Iraq.

“We have yet to receive a formal request from the United Nations on this,” he added, referring to the range and extent of a Philippine participation in rebuilding Iraq.

Foreign Secretary Delia Albert reportedly told reporters on Tuesday that the Philippines may send another humanitarian contingent to Iraq, but only under the auspices of the United Nations, and only after elections have been held to install a permanent government by January.

“We are preparing on our side to see how our participation will be,” Albert said.

However, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) clarified in a Wednesday statement that the possibility of sending another humanitarian contingent to Iraq is not being contemplated.

“There are no discussions on this matter at policy levels with other countries,” it said.

But, the DFA reaffirmed the willingness of the Philippines to join a United Nations-sponsored efforts to rebuild Iraq.

Philippine Govt rules out possibility of troop redeployment in Iraq

MANILA, 12 Aug — The Philippine Government Wednesday denied reports that it would soon send troops back to Iraq.

The Philippines pulled out its 51-strong troops from Iraq on July 19 for the safety re-lease of a kidnapped Filipino truck driver, Angelo de la Cruz, a month ahead its sched- ule time to withdraw.

China typhoon kills 63, 1,800 injured

BEIJING, 13 Aug — One of the worst typhoons to hit China in several years has killed 63 people and injured more than 1,800 as it battered southeastern Zhejiang Province, officials said on Friday.

Typhoon Rananim hit the coast late on Thursday, wreak- ing widespread damage in the rice-growing province and knocking down more than 18,300 buildings, said an of- ficial of the provincial me- teorological bureau.

“There are 63 people dead and more than 1,800 in- jured, ” the official said. “Of them 165 are seriously hurt,” he said.

The death toll was likely to rise as the typhoon roared inland into eastern Jiangsu Province, officials said. They said most of the casualties occurred when homes col- lapsed.

Officials had evacuated 400,000 people from coastal areas of Zhejiang Province to escape the typhoon that was forecast to be the worst since 1997 when a storm ripped into China, killing nearly 250 people and causing 19.8 bil- lion yuan (2.4 billion US dol- lars) in economic losses.

“The is the strongest ty- phon since 1997, ” said an official of the provincial civil affairs bureau.

“Lots of trees and elec- tricity pylons were toppled,” the Zhejiang govern- ment had requested aid from the central government to deal with the disaster, one local official said.

“The storm brought tor- rential rains and gale-force winds, with wind speeds ex- ceeding 100 miles per hour and made landfall at about 8 pm (1200 GMT) on Thurs- day near the town of Wenling. An estimated 63 fishing boats with a total of more than 60 crew on board were trapped at sea, the China Daily said.

Jordan ranks first in poverty reduction in Mideast

AMMAN, 12 Aug — Jordan was ranked first in poverty reduction efforts in the Middle East region, Jordanian TV quoted an UN report as saying Tuesday.

The United Nations Development Pro- gramme (UNDP) said in its Human Devel- opment Report 2004 that Jordan’s human poverty index “shows that the government is spending a much larger share of its finances in addressing poverty than many other high-income Arab countries.”

According to the UNDP report, Jordan was ranked at 90 among 177 countries in the Human Development Index (HDI), which is a measure of life expectancy, adult literacy and per capita income.

The report showed that Jordan this year registered its HDI to 0.750, a small rise from 0.743 last year.

UNDP Resident Representative Christine McNab told the Jordanian TV that Jordan is making “steady” progress in meeting its hu- man development goals, adding its invest- ments, particularly in education, made it the best among Arab countries.

“Jordan’s indicators for health and educa- tion show clearly the progress Jordan has made towards human development,” said McNab.

Iran will not abandon atomic technology drive

TEHERAN, 13 Aug — Iran declared on Wednesday that threats to send its nuclear particles found in Iran’s claim that it has low-grade enriched uranium for use in nuclear power re- actors. The statement by President Mohammad Khataami came after US officials ex- pressed growing confidence in recent days that interna- tional resolve was harden- ing to deal with Iran’s nu- clear programme and report- ed it to the United Nations Security Council for possible sanctions.

Iran has angered Bri- tain, Germany and France — who have sought to bro- ker a diplomatic solution to Tehran’s nuclear case — by re-starting parts of its nu- clear programme and refus- ing to abandon efforts to master uranium enrichment. Washington says Iran wants to enrich uranium to bomb-grade levels. Teheran

says it only wants to make low-grade enriched uranium for use in nuclear power re-actors. “We don’t want our case to be sent to the United Na- tions. We hope to resolve the issue through justifica- tions and explanations,” Khataami told reporters.

“But if anyone wants to deprive us of our right (to peaceful nuclear technol- ogy) we and our nation would be ready to pay the price,” he added.

Hardline lawmakers, who gained control of Parliament in February, have accused Khataami’s government of giving too many concessions in its nuclear talks with Euro- pean countries. On Wednesday, 238 of Parliament’s 290 members signed a draft bill which would oblige the government to continue its pursuit of peaceful nuclear technology.

Some lawmakers have threatened to force the gov- ernment by law to resume uranium enrichment, a move which would escalate Western concerns about Iran’s atomic ambitions.

Iran’s claim that it has no intention of building nu- clear arms was given a boost on Tuesday by reports that UN nuclear inspectors had traced highly enriched ura- nium particles found in Iran to equipment bought from Pakistan. — MNA/Reuters.

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“Jordan’s indicators for health and educa- tion show clearly the progress Jordan has made towards human development,” said McNab. — MNA/Reuters.
Images of Iraq

An Iraqi worker cleans the debris of a damaged gas station after it came under attack by mortar fire in Baghdad, on 9 August, 2004.

An Iraqi man grieves after losing his brother in a bomb explosion near Baquba, 40 miles north of Baghdad, on 11 August, 2004.

Guerrillas fire a mortar in the city of Najaf on 9 August, 2004.

American soldiers stand guard next to the damaged vehicle left at the site of a car bomb blast in Balad Ruz, some 100 kms northeast of Baghdad, Iraq, on 9 August, 2004. The blast killed at least seven police officers in an apparent attempt to assassinate a deputy governor.

Iraqi civilians flee to a safe area after US led troops raided the city of Najaf on 12 August, 2004.

A wounded Iraqi man is helped in Najaf after US led troops raided the city on 12 August, 2004.
Rail links strengthening friendship among national brethren and forging Union Spirit

Pyinthaya-Htiri section of Hsaikkhaung-Namhsan Railroad runs through the mountainous region of southern Shan State.—Myanma Alin

A railroad and a bridge built on Pakokku-Gangaw-Kalay railroad in Magway Division.—MNA

The inauguration of Mongseik-Kaunghsai section of Shwenyaung-Namhsan Rail Road in Shan State (South). — MNA
Nation to be transformed...
(from page 1)
The first session of the opening ceremony commenced in front of the school building. Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Deputy Minister Col Aung Myo Min and Chairman of the School Board of Trustees U Saw Than Chit Maung cut the ribbon to open the facility. The Secretary-1 unveiled the signboard of the facility.

After that, the Secretary-1 and party inspected language lab, computer room, computer aided instruction study room (reading and listening), electronic media (video lab), domestic science room, drawing room and pedagogical aids room.

Next, the second session followed. The headmaster reported on layout of the classrooms; and the chairman of the school board of trustees, on the drive for the emergence of the facility.

The Vice-Chairman of the MEC presented cash donations to the school through the principal.

The school board of trustees donated K 1.5 million to the school, the parent-teacher association, K 1 million; and U Aung Aung Tun-Daw Sandar Win, a computer valued at K 500,000 through the Secretary-1; member of the school board of trustees U Ko Ko Gyi, K 300,000, the shops in the school compound, K 264,000; and U Aung Naing and family, K 150,000 through the commander; and U Tha Sein (Silver Beach Restaurant)-Daw Aye Thina (Silver Beach Restaurant) and U Aung Kyaw-Daw Aye Thina (Silver Beach Restaurant) and U Aye Thaung of Bargaya Jetty Guava and Mangoes Brokerage House, K 100,000 each to the mayor and the deputy ministers.

The MEC Vice-Chairman in his speech said that the wellwishers’ goodwill led to the emergence of the multime-

MYANMAR GIRLS STRANDED IN THAILAND SENT BACK

YANGON, 13 Aug — Young Myanmar women were sent back to Myanmar under the joint coordinated agreement between the Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation and the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security of Thailand and under the joint cooperation of the Social Welfare Department and UNIAP. A total of 20 young women who went to Thailand illegally for work, in Tachilek.

The school board of trustees donated K 1.5 million to the school, the parent-teacher association, K 1 million; and U Aung Aung Tun-Daw Sandar Win, a computer valued at K 500,000 through the Secretary-1; member of the school board of trustees U Ko Ko Gyi, K 300,000, the shops in the school compound, K 264,000; and U Aung Naing and family, K 150,000 through the commander; and U Tha Sein (Silver Beach Restaurant)-Daw Aye Thina (Silver Beach Restaurant) and U Aung Kyaw-Daw Aye Thina (Silver Beach Restaurant) and U Aye Thaung of Bargaya Jetty Guava and Mangoes Brokerage House, K 100,000 each to the mayor and the deputy ministers.

The MEC Vice-Chairman in his speech said that the wellwishers’ goodwill led to the emergence of the multi-media classrooms of the school. He called for an effective and beneficial use of the electronic educational aids and computers. Only when the students work hard in their studies whereas the people provide assistance and teachers guide and nurture their students, will the students enjoy better life and the plan to produce highly-qualified human resources meet with progress.

At such knowledge age, measures are to be taken for enabling the people with a range of ages to constantly build up their knowledge. Intellectuals and intelligentsia are invaluable main human resources for the State. The nation is to be transformed into a modern one through systematic combination of human and natural resources.

After the inauguration, the Secretary-1 cordially greeted the present officials, members, of the school board of trustees, teachers and students.

MEC Vice-Chairman SPDC Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win unveils signboard of the multimedia classrooms of Kyimyindine BEHS-2. — MNA

YMEN, 13 Aug — Yangon Division Supervisory Committee for Ensuring Secure and Smooth Transport sought ways and means for better transport at a coordination meeting at Yangon Command Headquarters at 5.30 pm today. It was attended by Chairman of the Supervisory Committee Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, local authorities, members of the Supervisory Committee, rectors of the universities and colleges in Yangon, officials, chairman of private bus lines in Yangon and guests.

The commander dealt with steps to be taken by Supervisory Committee members for convenience of passengers and commuters.

The committee members reported on supervision of tasks for safety of the people; rectors, pro-rectors, principals and registrars, on requirements to be fulfilled by the Supervisory Committee for convenience of educational staff and students; and chairmen of private bus-lines, on enforcement of rules and regulations for bus drivers and conductors of private buses. Traffic accidents are now on the decrease due to traffic rules enforcement work. However, severe action still needs to be taken against violators. Slow-moving vehicles and pedestrians also are to abide by traffic rules. — MNA

Ways for ensuring secure & smooth transport sought

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Saturday, 14 August, 2004

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Daw Kyi Kyi Mya of MWAf speaking at the ceremony to send back 20 Myanmar young women who went to Thailand illegally for work in Tachilek. — SWD

Officials from Myanmar and Thailand hand over 20 Myanmar young women who went to Thailand illegally for work, in Tachilek. — SWD

The girls were eight from Tachilek, two each from Kengtung and Mongpyin, three from Mongphyat, one each from Mongyaw, Mongyan, Mongkhkt, Tangyan and Kyauke

Officially met and com-
forted them at the meeting hall of Tachilek District Peace and Development Council. Their belongings were also returned to them on the occasion. Arrangements were made to send them back to their parents on 10, 11 and 12 August, with the cooperation of the women’s affairs committees concerned, departments and UNIAP. — MNA
Industry-1 Minister meets entrepreneurs at Mandalay Industrial Zone

YANGON, 13 Aug — Chairman of Myanmar Industrial Development Committee in-charge of Mandalay Industrial Zone Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung this morning met members of the industrial zone supervisory committee, management committee and entrepreneurs at Kanaung Hall in Mandalay Industrial Zone, Pyayyaigapun Township.

Chairman of Factories Establishment Committee U Aung Naing Oo, Chairman of Automobile Assembling Committee U Myint Swe and Mandalay Power-tiller Manufacturing Manager U Khin Maung Yi reported on respective sectors. After fulfilling the requirements, Minister U Aung Thaung said that Mandalay, Monywa and Taunggyi-Ayethaya Industrial Zones are being upgraded with assistance being provided by the government. Foundry Plant, Press Shop, Forging Shop, Heat Treatment Shop and Machine Shop will be set up at these industrial zones. So, machinery, spare parts and engines will be manufactured. Therefore, industrialists are urged to actively participate in establishing of advanced industrial zones, he said.

At Kanaung Hall, the minister viewed engines manufactured at Mandalay industrial zone. Next, the minister went to the Industrial Zone Upgrading Project Office. Chan Hein Construction Manager U Zaw Hein reported on progress in building the foundry plant and the forging shop. The minister gave instructions on timely completion of civil tasks. Next, he inspected progress of construction tasks.

Afterwards, the minister viewed tasks of private factories. Later, the minister inspected the site for building Win Thaza Shop in the compound of Leather Factory in the township. — MNA

MWAF Working Committee meets

YANGON, 13 Aug — The coordination meeting of 1/2004 of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation Work Committee was held at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement in Mayagong Township this morning.

Present on the occasion were Patron of MWAF Work Committee Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, Chairman of Work Committee Deputy Minister for SWRR Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint, MWAF Vice-President Prof Dr Daw May Myat Yi, Secretary Social Welfare Department Director-General U Sit Myaing and heads of department.

First, President of the Work Committee Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint made a speech. Next, Prof Dr Daw May Myat Yi explained the tasks of the Work Committee to be carried out at present. Master of ceremonies Joint-Secretary of Work Committee Daw Khin Hu May read seven points put on record and explained matters related to reorganizing of MWAFWC. Afterwards, Member of Work Committee Prof Daw Khin Aye Win read and explained draft plan dealt with hosting the third meeting of ASEAN Women’s Affairs Committee in Myanmar. This was followed by a general round of discussions by Prof Dr Daw Khin Aye Win and those present at the meeting. Next, the meeting came to a close with the closing remarks by Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint. — MNA

Coordination meeting of NCC Work Committee, Panel of Chairmen held

YANGON, 13 Aug — The coordination meeting between the National Convention Convening Work Committee and members of the Panel of Chairmen of the Plenary Session of the National Convention was held at the meeting hall of the Work Committee at Kyaikkasan Ground, here, this morning, with an address by Chairman of the Work Committee Chief Justice U Aung Toe.

Also present were Vice-Chairman of the Work Committee Attorney-General U Aye Maung, Secretary U Thaung Nyunt and members, and members of the Panel of Chairmen of the Plenary Session. Joint-Secretary U Khin Maung Myint of the Work Committee acted as master of ceremonies.

Speaking on the occasion, Work Committee Chairman Chief Justice U Aung Toe said that with respect to the proposals submitted by eight delegate groups to the National Convention, the paper on findings of the Panel of Chairmen must be compiled before the plenary session of the National Convention is reconvened. In so doing, the office of the Work Committee will provide necessary assistance for the Panel of Chairmen, he said.

Next, those present took part in the discussions. Later, Work Committee Chairman Chief Justice U Aung Toe gave concluding remarks. — MNA

With respect to the proposals submitted by eight delegate groups to the National Convention, the paper on findings of the Panel of Chairmen must be compiled before the plenary session of the National Convention is reconvened.
For whom the US imposes sanctions on Myanmar garment and shoe exports?

Aung Moe San —

In imposing economic sanctions on Myanmar, America is focusing on garments and shoe exports. Some quarters holding negative views on Myanmar and the persons who have not yet known the ulterior motive of the US government are supporting the sanctions, because they wrongly think that the US government out of goodwill has committed itself to the flourishing of democracy in Myanmar. But America’s acts are not meant for democracy and development of the country, but to protect the interests of US entrepreneurs, and to enable congressmen and the president to win majority votes, with the support of entrepreneurs. As the per unit cost of garments and shoes manufactured by the US factories is much higher than that of the goods of the same kind produced in Myanmar, their goods cannot compete with those of Myanmar in the market.

Textile and garment factories are based in southern states of the US. Since the time of Kennedy, the successive presidents have been neglecting the policy of free trade and practising protectionism to win more votes in these states. The US has introduced the quota system for Asian countries exporting finished goods produced from their own raw materials, but abolishing the quota system for Latin American nations producing finished goods with the raw materials imported from the US. Fact is, US exported US $ 50-million worth of garments in 2001, when it started to introduce market economy. The next year, its export of garments increased to $ 952 million. Its target for 2003 was $ 2.4 billion. Thus, in April 2003, the US put pressure and made Vietnam sign an agreement limiting its export quota to $ 1.7 billion. The US Secretary of Trade of the Bush Administration said that as Vietnam is not a WTO member, it will face severe one-sided punishment unless it accepts the decision. Bush has already pledged very often to protect the interest of the voters of the South where the core of the textile industry is located, and not to make any concession concerning the trade issue.

In the 1960s, Japan became the target of US congressmen representing the textile and garment industry. Later, Hong Kong, Singapore and the Republic of Korea became targets. But now those countries have passed through the level of relying on textile and garment industry. Although its rivals are enjoying greater economic development that the textile industry of the US South, it is still existing with the help of quota system.

Today, the US is saying that its national security is being harmed by China. The US says that China has a clear advantage over the West in the market, that is the leader in the field of science and technology. America also sees China’s growing demand for her developing industries as threat to its energy sufficiency.

China imported 28-billion-dollar worth of goods from the US, while its exports to the country were valued at 152-billion dollars. The trade ratio between the two countries is five to one in China’s favour, as rich Americans can buy a lot of Chinese goods at reasonable prices, while Chinese are buying less US goods that are expensive. The consumers from a country like America that is practising the market economy can freely make a choice between cheaper and expensive quality goods. As labour cost is high in the US, it is difficult for its textile industry to compete with that of the developing countries, where labor is cheap. It would be more difficult for the US to compete with China. Even the economists cannot discover which causes the US goods to become too expensive, and China to produce goods at lower prices. Thus, the US is putting the blame on China to alleviate its own problems, while trying to destroy the fine traditions of free trade. The real cause of the problem is that individuals own large areas of land in capitalist countries, and the land prices are rising higher and higher. Thus, it is not strange that the cost of production at the industries built on expensive land is high. Thus, the US should abolish the system that permits individuals to own large stretches of land, but instead, the country is applying pressure on the trade partners to pursue its protectionist policy. On the other hand, China is practising the community-land-ownership system. Hence land prices are much cheaper in the country. Moreover cheap land prices have contributed to the production of goods at less cost. Thus, China has a clear advantage over the West in the market.

Now, America’s intention of focusing on garment and shoe exports in imposing economic sanctions on Myanmar has become quite clear. It has imposed economic sanctions only to rescue its textile industry from facing hardships; for the president and congressmen to win the support of entrepreneurs in the coming election; to win the support of groups that are opposing Myanmar Government; and to make the international community see the US as a country playing a leading role in the democracy cause of Myanmar. The act of imposing economic sanctions on Myanmar is like hitting three birds with one stone; in reality it is the US policy of protectionism. Thus, the US has imposed economic sanctions on Myanmar for its economic interest, while harming the interest of Myanmar people.

(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 every day by each household amounts to saving power that is equal to the capacity a 20-megawatt power station can supply.

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

NCC Management Committee Chairman Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung speaks at the meeting. — MNA

Meeting discusses …

(from page 16)

Chairman of National Convention Convening Management Committee Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung explained the systematic maintenance of buildings and facilities, and cooperation with the departments concerned to conduct repair of necessary sectors.

Chairman of Security Subcommittee Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Phone Swe briefed the meeting on his body’s functions and accomplishments.

Other participants including members of the NCCC, Secretary of the National Convention Convening Work Committee U Thaung Nyunt, Vice-Chairman of NCCC, Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu, Vice-Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa, officials of NCCC, NCCMC, subcommittees and guests also took part in a general round of discussions.

After attending to the needs, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan said that as he and other officials had already coordinated with departments and organizations concerned to facilitate the work, responsible personnel in the practical field and construction staff will have to effectively continue the work. — MNA

China imported 28-billion-dollar worth of goods from the US, while its exports to the country were valued at 152-billion dollars. The trade ratio between the two countries is five to one in China’s favour, as rich Americans can buy a lot of Chinese goods at reasonable prices, while Chinese are buying less US goods that are expensive.
**Vietnam lobbies US lawmakers on shrimp spat**

_**HANOI, 13 Aug—** Vietnam intensified its fight against threatened US anti-dumping duties on its shrimp exports when legislators in the Communist country sent a rare appeal letter to their American counterparts seeking support. Deputees from the National Assembly, Vietnam’s highest legislative body, drafted a letter to 25 members of the House of Representatives and Senate saying charges of unfair pricing brought by US shrimpers were not true._

“Vietnamese shrimp farmers and processing businesses have been operating on a free market basis and received no support or subsidies from the government,” state-run Vietnam News Agency said, quoting from the letter late on Wednesday.

The US Government last month imposed anti-dumping duties of up to 93.1 per cent on farm-raised shrimp from Vietnam, one of six countries accused of selling their products below-market prices. Vietnam has an estimated 3.5 million shrimp farmers. Development group ActionAid has said the duties, if confirmed in November, could devastate Vietnam’s economy. It sold some $500 million in US dollars worth of the shellfish to the United States in 2003.

Observers said Vietnam’s appeal to Capitol Hill showed it had learned from a similar trade spat last year, involving its catfish exports, on which duties of up to 64 per cent were imposed.

This time, Hanoi engaged a US law firm with experience in anti-dumping cases to defend its position. **MNA/Reuters**

**Philippines assures safety for tourists despite cholera outbreak**

_**MANILA, 13 Aug—** The Philippines remains a safe place for tourists to visit despite a new outbreak of cholera which has killed scores of people, the Philippine Health Department said Thursday._

“It is still safe for people to travel here since the outbreak is only confined to central Pangasinan (in the northern Philippines). The risk for tourists is very low even in the area where the epidemic has occurred,” Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit said in a statement.

Forty-seven people have died out of 4,403 acute gastroenteritis cases reported between May 28 to August 5, according to the department’s task force on acute gastroenteritis surveillance and outbreak response. The task force said the number of cases being admitted into the Pangasinan Provincial Hospital, where most of the cases are being treated, has started to go down.

But Dayrit warned the public to avoid consuming potentially contaminated food and drinks.

“A food and water-borne disease like cholera can easily be prevented. We need to take just some precautions such as choosing foods that were processed, cooking food thoroughly, eating cooked foods immediately and storing cooked food carefully,” Dayrit said. Cholera is a serious infection of the bowels caused by drinking infected water or eating infected food.

**MNA/Xinhua**

**Argentine ants create super colony in Australia**

_**MELBOURNE, 13 Aug—** Like some “B-grade” horror movie, a giant colony of Argentine ants stretching 62 miles has been discovered in the Australian city of Melbourne, threatening the local insect population._

In Argentina ant colonies span tens of metres and are highly aggressive towards one another, said Suhr, who has studied the giant Argentine ant colony. “Population numbers (in Argentina) never explode and they are no threat to other plants and animals,” Suhr said in a statement received on Thursday.

“In Melbourne, their genetic make-up and behaviour is really different. Here, Argentine ants no longer fight and have formed a supercolony extending at least 62 miles across the city.” Argentine ants have been discovered across Australia. **MNA/Reuters**

**New PM Lee urges Singaporeans to work together for bright future**

_Singapore, 13 Aug— Singapore’s new Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong on Thursday night urged the Singaporeans to work together with him for a bright future._

Addressing the swearing-in ceremony at the Istana, Lee outlined his vision for Singapore.

He promised to build an “open and inclusive” society where the Singaporeans are free to be unconventional or simply different, but at the same time they have a deep common purpose and identity.

“We are one nation, together, building a future for ourselves and our people. As we prosper, all communities will progress and no one will be left behind. We will look after the less educated and the elderly, who have helped build Singapore. And we must also have a place in our hearts and our lives for the disabled, who are our brothers and sisters too,” he said.

He also wants to build a “vibrant and competitive economy,” saying that is the way to create good jobs, and improve the lives of all Singapore citizens.

He admitted that today’s Singapore is more vibrant and open, more resilient and cohesive. Its in sync with the times, and ready for tomorrow’s challenges.

As the third premier after his father Lee Kuan Yew and Goh Chok Tong, Lee also called on the Singaporeans to adapt to the changing world.

“Our future is full of promise, but we must be prepared for the unexpected. In a globalized world, we must re-think our assumptions, take bold and fresh approaches and adapt nimbly to changing conditions.”

On the same occasion, Singapore’s President S. R. Nathan also said that looking ahead, the pace of change in the world will only increase.

“Our economic and security environment is already undergoing changes. The new realities in our economic landscape are already upon us — intense competition for capital, access to new technologies and new markets. External events can affect our peace and tranquillity suddenly and without warning. They will test our will and stress our basic vulnerabilities,” the President said.

He called on the Singaporeans, regardless of race, language and religion, to work together to make the country an outstanding and prosperous home.

The 52-year-old Lee, who holds degrees from Cambridge University in Britain and Harvard in the United States, military rank of brigadier-general and speaks four languages, has been groomed to lead since his appointment as Goh’s deputy in 1990. **MNA/Xinhua/Reuters**

**Beijing private cars exceed one million**

_Beijing, 13 Aug— Privately-owned cars in Beijing reached 1.04 million by the end of July, accounting for nearly half of the motor vehicles in the Chinese capital, Beijing Daily reported Thursday._

On the average, Beijing has one vehicle for every seven residents, according to the paper. In the first six months of 2004, Beijing reported 166,000 newly registered cars.

The capital has taken the lead in entering an auto era among all other major Chinese cities,” the paper said.

Although private cars have been blamed for traffic jams in Beijing, the municipal government has said repeatedly that it does not consider taking measures to restrict the number of private cars, according to the paper.

Currently, one out of four permanent residents in Beijing holds a driver’s licence. Statistics from the Beijing communications authorities show.

Beijing is now leading Shanghai and Guangzhou in the ownership rate of private cars, according to a survey AC Nielsen conducted in the three cities.

The survey shows that the amount of people who own a car in a city is largely decided by the price of cars. The average price per car in Beijing is 139,000 yuan (16,808 US dollars), Shanghai, 220,000 yuan, and Guangzhou, 190,000 yuan. **MNA/Xinhua**

**Cambodia to have TV programme for deaf**

_Person Pint, 13 Aug— Cambodia will have a new TV programme for deaf people soon, aiming to recognise deaf people as part of the community, local media reported on Thursday._

Under a two-year agreement signed by the Information Ministry and Krousar Thmey, a non-governmental organization (NGO) that works with deaf and blind children, two interpreters will use sign language to give summaries of local and international news on TV.

The programme will be once a week and for one-half hour. The special TV programme on the state-run TVK would likely begin in August or September, the Cambodia Daily quoted the Information Minister Khieu Kanharith as saying.

Cambodia now has seven TV stations in all but no programmes for deaf people.

Earlier this year, TVK launched a monthly show interviewing disabled people about their lives. **MNA/Xinhua**
Dolphins too have born socialites

Levraux, 12 Aug — Some people are born to be the life and soul of the party — and so it seems are some dolphins.

It is well established that dolphins, which are highly intelligent animals, form complex social groups or pods.

But new research summarised in New Scientist magazine on Wednesday said that some individual dolphins played the part of liaison between different pods, keeping them in close touch with each other.

Ecologist David Lusseau of the University of Aberdeen and physicist Mark Newman of the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, found the socialite role while studying dolphins in New Zealand.

When two of the animals disappeared for a while, pods that had previously socialised ceased doing so. When the dolphins reappeared, the groups got back together again.

The scientists said their findings could have implications for zoologists taking animals from the wild. Moving an individual could damage an entire group, they concluded.

Tropical storm ‘Charley’ threatens Jamaica, Caymans

Mount, 12 Aug — Tropical storm Charley marched toward Jamaica and the Cayman Islands on Wednesday and had Cuba in its sights as two tropical weather systems rumbled through the Caribbean Sea and Gulf of Mexico.

Tropical Storm Bonnie, weaker than Charley, chugged across the Gulf oil and gas fields and was expected to hit the Florida Panhandle near Panama City on Thursday.

Charley, with sustained winds of 65 mile per hour, nine per hour below the threshold for hurricane status, also put the Florida Keys on alert. Forecasters expected the system to move directly over Cuba near Havana on Thursday and to hit the lower Keys early Friday.

At 8 a.m. EDT (1200 GMT) on Wednesday, Charley was 115 miles south-east of Kingston, Jamaica, at Latitude 16.9 north and Longitude 75.4 west, the US National Hurricane Centre in Miami said.

The system was moving quickly, at 24 mile per hour, toward the west-northwest and was expected to stay on that track for about 24 hours before turning to the north.

A hurricane warning, alerting residents to storm conditions within 24 hours, was in effect for the Cayman Islands.

Jamaica was under a tropical storm warning and a hurricane watch, which warns of possible storm conditions in 36 hours.

The storm was expected to carry three to six inches of rain and dangerous waves to Jamaica and the Caymans on Wednesday. Forecasters said Charley could become a hurricane in a day or so.

The government of the Caymans Islands, a British territory and major offshore financial centre, told residents Grand Cayman, the largest island in the group, could get 9-12 foot waves, with an even heavier surf on two sparsely populated smaller islands.

Brazil plans 3 billion free condoms for AIDS fight

Brasilia (Brazil), 12 Aug — Brazil intends to distribute three billion free condoms every year, mainly to the poor and young, in a bid to prevent the spread of AIDS, the country’s AIDS director said on Wednesday.

The plan to offer universal, free access to condoms builds on the country’s recognised AIDS treatment programme, which provides a cocktail of free drugs for patients with the human immunodeficiency virus, or HIV, which causes AIDS.

But the effort also faces the potential opposition of the country’s Roman Catholic church, which has said free-condom distribution could encourage promiscuity.

“The contraceptive is mandatory in all non-stable sexual relationships,” said Pedro Chequer, who reassumed authority over Brazil’s AIDS programme last week after previously running it from 1996 to 2000.

Pentagon audit lambasts Halliburton’s accounting

WASHINGTON, 12 Aug — A new Pentagon audit has lambasted Halliburton’s accounting for billions of dollars of work in Iraq, as a Sunday deadline neared to withhold a major slice of payments to the Texas-based firm.

Halliburton’s accounting system has been disputed by Pentagon auditors for the past 18 months but the company has so far avoided any withheld payments for work done in Iraq by its unit Kellogg Brown and Root (KBR).

Halliburton said it could weather any such action by in turn withholding payments due to subcontractors, and it disputed the latest audit.

Dan Carlson, a spokesman for US Army Field Support Command in Rock Island, Illinois, said work orders with a future value of $2.8 billion US dollars could be affected by a 15 per cent withholding set to go into effect on Sunday if the billing dispute is not resolved with their client, KBR.

“We continue to work with all parties to resolve issues and continue our essential service to our troops in the field,” said Carlson.

He said the potential withholding could amount to about 60 million US dollars a month, according to current payment schedules, adding that 4.3 billion US dollars had already been paid to Halliburton so far under its logistics contract with the US military.

Halliburton, which was run by Vice-President Dick Cheney until 2000, is the US military’s biggest contractor in Iraq and its business there has the potential to earn up to 18 billion US dollars for the company, according to government estimates.

The August 4 audit by the Pentagon’s Defence Contract Audit Agency (DCAA), which has not been publicly released, found flaws in KBR’s system for estimating costs on its major logistics contract, a Pentagon spokeswoman said.

“The auditors’ opinion... is that KBR’s estimating system is inadequate,” the spokeswoman said.

The auditors said Halliburton should submit within 45 days a plan to fix its system or its cost estimates would be disapproved, meaning they would be subject to more in-depth audits, payments could be suspended or there could be a recommendation to stop the contract.

The auditors have also recommended the company provide detailed cost or pricing data for any bills over 100,000 US dollars.

Most Irish support smoking ban

DUBLIN, 12 Aug — Ireland’s smoking ban has won strong support since the country became the first in the world to outlaw the habit in the workplace in March, according to a government survey published on Wednesday.

The state-commissioned survey, which questioned 1,000 people, showed eight out of 10 people backed the law change, which banned lighting up in pubs and restaurants.

Seven out of 10 polled said they enjoyed going to the pub more since the ban came into force and half said they were more likely to have a bar meal.

The figures confirm the continued strong public support for working and socialising in smoke-free environments,” Health Minister Micheal Martin said in a statement.

The ban on smoking in all workplaces was introduced in an attempt to protect employees from passive smoking and its progress has been closely watched around the world.

Norway followed Ireland’s lead in June and 4,500 British doctors called last month for their government to do the same.

A girl cools off in a public fountain in Berlin, on 10 Aug, 2004. Germany’s capital is expecting temperatures above 32 degrees Celsius (88 F) over the next few days.

MNA/Reuters

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Scientists say T Rex had teen growth spurt

**CHICAGO, 12 Aug—** Tyrannosaurus Rex grew incredibly fast during a teenaged growth spurt that saw the dinosaur expand its bulk, but the fearsome beasts “lived fast and died young”, researchers said on Wednesday.

By counting the age rings on dinosaur bones, much like botanists count tree rings, paleontologists have concluded that T Rex grew from one ton to six tons in just four years before levelling off around age 18 and living out a brief adulthood of about 10 years.

“Almost every child asks: ‘How did dinosaurs get so big?’ That has remained one of the great mysteries in paleontology,” said Florida State University scientist Gregory Erickson, a research associate at The Field Museum in Chicago where the findings were announced. “Here we crack the code for one family of dinosaurs, the Tyrannosauridae.”

Erickson and his colleagues, who wrote about their research in the journal *Nature*, measured the circumference of fossil dinosaur femurs to determine the flesh load they carried. At the peak of its growth spurt, T Rex added 6 pounds to its frame each day, developing into an 11,000-pound bone-crushing giant. Thanks to the discovery in recent decades of more complete fossil skeletons of T Rex—such as the 67-million-year-old “Sue” on display at the Field Museum—paleontologists have learned much more about how dinosaurs moved, lived and died.

“Sue,” it turned out, was 28 years old when it died and had stopped growing eight years earlier. Sue’s gender is not known—it was named for Sue Hendrickson, the amateur dinosaur hunter who in 1990 found the fossil em- bedded in a South Dakota hillside.

Dr. Erickson discovered that T Rex had the fastest growth spurt of the largest dinosaurs. — MNA/Reuters

Allergy vaccine could hit market soon

**BRUSSELS, 12 Aug—** A Belgian researcher was quoted on Wednesday as saying a vaccine to tackle allergies could hit the market within two years following promising results from trials involving birch pollen.

Professor Paul Van Cauwenberge, who coordinates a European allergy and asthma research project, said researchers at the Medical University of Vienna have been able to protect a trial group of 124 people against the effects of birch pollen allergy.

They were injected with a genetically modified version of the pollen.

Van Cauwenberge is the coordinator of the Global Allergy and Asthma European Network (GA2LEN), of which the Medical University of Vienna is a partner.

“There is a good chance that this synthetic vaccine would result in a safe, healing vaccine.” Van Cauwenberge told Belgian daily *De Morgen* in an interview.

The vaccinated patients reacted like healthy people. If they were to re-inject them, researchers can confirm this: “There is a good chance that we, within a few years, would not only obtain a safe but also ‘healing’ vaccine.” Van Cauwenberge added. He said the vaccine could hit the market relatively soon. — MNA/Reuters

Spassky urges mercy for old chess rival Fischer

**TOKYO, 12 Aug—** Boris Spassky, an old rival of former world chess champion Bobby Fischer, has challenged US authorities to arrest him and put him in the same cell, along with a chess set, since both defied US sanctions, Fischer’s lawyer said on Wednesday.

Fischer, one of the chess world’s great eccentricities, was detained at Tokyo’s Narita Airport last month, when he tried to leave for Manila on a passport US officials say was invalid. The chess grandmas- ter was in Japan to promote his new book, which the Medical University of Vienna is a partner.

“Pardon me if I disrupt the American public’s peace, but I cannot understand your decision to arrest me.” Fischer’s lawyer said.

They were injected with a genetically modified version of the pollen.

Van Cauwenberge added. He said the vaccine could hit the market relatively soon. — MNA/Reuters

Pierson re-elected US movie academy president

**LOS ANGELES, 12 Aug—** Oscar-winning writer Frank Pierson was re-elected to his fourth term as president of the Oscar-awarding Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, it was announced Wednesday.

Four other incumbent officers were also returned to their posts in the elec- tion conducted Tuesday night at the regularly scheduled August meeting of the Academy’s Board of Governors, the academy announced.

According to the aca- demy’s by-laws, this will be the last consecutive term that Pierson can serve. Pierson, a governor representing the writers branch of the academy for the past six years, was first elected president in 2001.

Once a president of the Writers Guild, Pierson won an Academy Award for his original screenplay for “Dog Day Afternoon.” He was also nominated for Oscars for “Cat Ballou” and “Cool Hand Luke.”

Board members serve three-year terms, while academy officials complete one-year terms, with a maximum of four consecu- tive terms in any one office. — MNA/Xinhua

China thinks about sending philosophers into space

**BEIJING, 12 Aug—** China’s first astronaut, who is a crack fighter pilot, is planning to send engineers, scientists, teachers and even philosophers into space, a top official said on Wednesday.

“Going into space is not such a big mys- tery,” said Sun Lanyan, administrator of the China National Space Agency.

“In the future, they won’t just be pure pilots and astronauts. There will need to be an engineer or a scientist, too. We could even have some teachers or philosophers go up,” Yang Liwei, selected from a pack of Air Force pilots, became the first man in China to be launched into space last October as part of an ambitious manned space programme that is a major source of national pride.

The next manned launch, called Shenzhou VI, is scheduled for next year, Sun said. There was no decision yet whether it would carry one or two astronauts, he told a news conference on a satellite programme to monitor electric and magnetic activity around the Earth. — MNA/Reuters

Beijing bans illegal business operations around schools

**BEIJING, 12 Aug—** Beijing began clamping down on illegal business operations within 200 metres of campuses of primary and high schools and universities Tuesday, the Beijing Daily reported Tuesday.

Targets include illegal Internet cafes, computer game rooms, karaoke halls, beauty salons and saunas around campus, and local authorities will also punish those who sell cigarettes, adult products and porno- graphic books to juveniles or rent private rooms for students for illegal use.

“After the move, lasting till the end of Sep- tember, was launched to clear up the environment for the mental health of young people and regulate business operations around schools,” Deputy Mayor Fan Boyuan was cited in the newspaper.

China ordered local governments across the country early in February not to approve any Internet cafe operations in residen- tial areas or within 200 me- tres of primary and high schools, according to the General Administration for Industry and Commerce (GAIC). China’s market watchdog. — MNA/Xinhua

By counting the age rings on dinosaur bones, much like botanists count tree rings, paleontologists have concluded that T Rex grew from one ton to six tons in just four years before levelling off around age 18 and living out a brief adulthood of about 10 years. — MNA/Reuters
Brazzilian Ailton wins German Player of the Year award

BERLIN, 12 Aug — Brazilian striker Ailton has become the first foreigner to be voted German Player of the Year after his goals helped Werder Bremen win the Bundesliga and German Cup titles last season.

The 31-year-old, who was the German first division’s top scorer with 28 goals, won a vote by sport journalists for the soccer magazine Kicker to be released on Thursday.

Ailton, who has since joined Werder rivals Schalke 04, won 216 of the 712 votes cast.

VfB Stuttgart left back Philipp Lahm, one of few players to shine for the German national side at Euro 2004, came second with 172. Last year’s winner Michael Ballack was third with 63.

Werder’s Thomas Schaau was named coach of the year, ahead of Peter Neururer, who steered VfL Bochum to a commendable fifth place in the Bundesliga, and third-place Otto Rehhagel, architect of Greece’s Euro 2004 success.

Argentine President meets Maradona

BUENOS AIRES, 13 Aug — Former Argentina football great Diego Maradona met his country’s President Nestor Kirchner on Thursday in an attempt to gain permission to leave the country to continue his drug rehabilitation treatment.

Maradona’s family forced him to enter a private clinic on the outskirts of Buenos Aires in May for cocaine addiction treatment after he was rushed to intensive care in April with a swollen heart and breathing problems.

The 43-year-old, who captained his country to World Cup glory in 1986, wants to undergo treatment in Switzerland and then return to a spa in Cuba, where he has spent much of the last four years.

In May a judge overseeing Maradona’s case said the former footballer was in “no condition to decide” where he should have treatment while his family doctor said it was his “last chance” to kick his cocaine habit.

He can only leave Argentina with a judge’s authorization.

Maradona wanted Kirchner to pursue his case although presidential aides said the two did not even broach the subject during a 15-minute meeting, their first ever.

Maradona, who has shed 20 kilos to weigh in at 100 kilos, spent around 40 minutes in the famous Casa Rosada presidential palace and was accompanied by one of his daughters.

Family doctor Alfredo Caeo said his patient told him this week that he wanted to talk to the President “because people have no idea how I am doing. I am not crazy or incompetent.”

Maradona, who failed a drugs test at the 1994 World Cup finals, has suffered ill health since 2000 when he was admitted to the intensive care department of a Uruguayan hospital suffering from hypertension and an irregular heartbeat.

Maradona is regarded as one of the greatest footballers of all time. As captain of the Argentine football team that won the Mexico 1986 World Cup, he has been fighting against his cocaine addiction for years, with the verge of death a year after a severe heart attack and respiratory problems.

Caeo told local radio that Maradona does not wish to remain in Argentina and he “could request the President to speed up the process and to allow him to leave the country.”

Interior Minister Anibal Fernandez said on Wednesday that the President will meet Maradona, 43, on Thursday, but he denied the meeting has anything to do with the soccer star’s personal or legal situation.

Maradona is subject to a court warrant to stay in the clinic in the west Buenos Aires neighbourhoods for refusing to receive medical treatment, a situation which endangers his life.

Caeo said Maradona wants to continue with a long-term rehabilitation treatment in Switzerland.

Maradona was taken to the Swiss-German Clinic in Buenos Aires last April 18 with cardiac and respiratory problems, and was about to die when receiving attention at the intensive-care unit.

He abandoned the clinic but was taken back there later as his conditions worsened again. He has remained there since May 9.

Zidane retires from international football

PARIS, 13 Aug — France playmaker Zinedine Zidane announced on Thursday that he was ending his international career after a 10-year spell with Les Bleus.

“I’ve an important statement to make,” said the 32-year-old playmaker on his website. “My international career is over now.

“I called the coach yesterday to let him know I had made up my mind. I think it was the right time to say ‘stop’, he said.

“France coach Raymond Domenech confirmed the news as he unveiled his squad for next week’s friendly against Bosnia.

“Zidane will not play for France anymore. I’m sorry about it. I would have liked him to carry on. He thought he had to leave the place to young players,” said Domenech.

Zidane has had a long and successful career with France, winning the 1998 World Cup and the 2000 European Championship. His retirement closes a glorious chapter in French soccer history since only goalkeeper Fabien Barthez remains from the team that beat Brazil to become world champions in 1998.

Zidane’s announcement came after defenders Lilian Thuram and Bixente Lizarazu and captain Marcel Desailly had all called time on their international careers since the end of Euro 2004.

Maradona to request intervention of Argentine President

BUENOS AIRES, 12 Aug — Argentine soccer legend Diego Maradona could request Argentina’s President Nestor Kirchner to speed up the legal proceedings that could allow him to leave the country to undergo a drug-addiction treatment, doctor Alfredo Caeo said on Wednesday.

The former captain of the Argentine soccer team that won the Mexico 1986 World Cup, who has been fighting against his cocaine addiction for years, was on the verge of death a year after a severe heart attack and respiratory problems.

Caeo told local radio that Maradona does not wish to remain in Argentina and he “could request the President to speed up the process and to allow him to leave the country”.

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Bolton keen on Liverpool’s Diouf

LONDON, 12 Aug — Bolton Wanderers are interested in signing Senegal striker El Hadji Diouf from Premier League rivals Liverpool.

“We are talking to Liverpool about him (Diouf),” Bolton manager Sam Allardyce was quoted as saying on the Anfield club’s website. “The chairman is doing that on our behalf and I’ll be talking to him at some stage to see what the situation is.

“A change of club would benefit him because his future appears to be no longer with Liverpool.”

Diouf has not been given a squad number by the Anfield club for the new season which starts this weekend.

“Not getting a squad number means every intention has been shown by them that he is no longer wanted,” said Allardyce. “So to go and resurrect your career at 23 is a very important thing to do, and it’s very important to pick the right club.”

Bolton may move for Diouf if they win over PSV Eindhoven in the first leg of their Champions League third qualifying round tie on Wednesday.

PSV took an eighth-minute lead through Korean striker Ji Sung Park with a crisp shot from the edge of the penalty box.

The home team, cheered by a crowd of 56,000 turned the match around with a 20th-minute header from defender Milan Dedic and a superb Bosko Jankovic free kick 10 minutes later.

Red Star win 3-2 thriller against PSV Eindhoven

BELGRADE, 12 Aug — Two-set pieces and a swift break gave Red Star Belgrade a 3-2 win over PSV Eindhoven in the first leg of their Champions League third qualifying round tie on Wednesday.

PSV took an eighth-minute lead through Korean striker Ji Sung Park with a crisp shot from the edge of the penalty box.

The home team, cheered by a crowd of 56,000 turned the match around with a 20th-minute header from defender Milan Dedic and a superb Bosko Jankovic free kick 10 minutes later.

Red Star took a 3-1 lead on the hour when striker Marko Pantelic headed home a good cross by Milan Bisevac but John de Jong silenced the home fans in the 66th minute when he slotted in a rebound for PSV.

The return leg is in a fortnight’s time.
Rainfall on 13-8-2004
— 5.08 inches at Yangon Airport,
— 3.11 inches at Kaba-Aye and
— 2.44 inches at central Yangon.
Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 2085 mm
(82.08 inches) at Yangon Airport, 2018 mm
(79.45 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 1986 mm
(78.18 inches) at central Yangon.

WEATHER
Friday, 13 August
Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been cloudy in Kayah State, rain have been isolated in lower Sagaing Division and scattered to widespread in the remaining areas with locally heavy falls in Rakhine State, Bago and Yangon Division, isolated heavyfalls in Mon State. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Ann (7.09) inches, Muangtaw (6.93) inches, Kyauktada (6.30) inches, Yangon (Mingaladon) (5.08) inches, Yangon (Hlaing) (4.92) inches, Yangon (Khaykan) (4.69) inches, Thaton (4.02) inches, Kyaukpyu (3.94) inches, Thaikawady (3.74) inches and Bago (3.39) inches. Maximum temperature on 12-8-2004 was 31.0°C (87.8°F). Minimum temperature on 13-8-2004 was 19.5°C (67.1°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 13-8-2004 was 51%. Total sunshine hours on 12-8-2004 was (3.6) hours. Rainfall on 13-8-2004 was 129 mm (5.08 inches) at Yangon Airport, 79 mm (3.11 inches) at Kaba-Aye, 62 mm (2.44 inches) at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 2085 mm (82.08 inches) at Yangon Airport, 2018 mm (79.45 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 1986 mm (78.18 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 19 mph from Southwest at 06:30 hours MST on 13-8-2004.

Bay inference: Monsoon is moderate in the Andaman Sea and strong elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.
Forecast valid until evening of 14-8-2004: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Shan and Kayah States, Lower Sagaing and Magway Divisions, scattered in Kachin and Kayin States, upper Sagaing, Mandalay and Tanintharyi Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Rakhine State. Degree of certainty is (100%).

State of the sea: Occasional squalls with rough seas are likely at times Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coast. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40) mph. Seas Outlook for subsequent two days: General decrease of rain in Eastern part of Myanmar areas. Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 14-8-2004: Some rain or thundershowers will be isolated over coastal areas. Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 14-8-2004: Isolated rain or thunderstorms. Degree of certainty is (80%). Weather outlook for second weekend of August 2004: During the coming weekend, rain or thunderstorms will be widespread in Yangon Division and scattered in Mandalay Division and elsewhere. Flood Warning
(Issued at 12.00hrs MST on 13-8-2004)
The water level of Bago River at Bago may rise to 30 cm (about 1 ft) and reach the danger level (910 cm) during the next (48) hours commencing today.

Flood Bulletin
(Issued at 13.00hrs MST on 13-8-2004)
The water level of Bago River at Shwemawdaw is (5) cm above the danger level. The water level may remain above the danger level during the next (3)days commencing noon today.
Supervisory Committee for Utilization of Power and Fuel
Chairman inspects coal-fired power plant project in Pinlaung

YANGON, 13 Aug—
Chairman of Supervisory Committee for Utilization of Power and Fuel member of the State Peace and Development Council Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Kyaw Win together with Vice-Chief of AFT Maj-Gen Aung Kyi, Deputy Commander of Eastern Command Col Win Myint and senior military officers, on 11 August, arrived at the coal-fired power plant project being undertaken at Tikyit Village, Pinlaung Township, where they were welcomed by local authorities and departmental officials. At the meeting hall of the plant, Shan State Senior Electric Engineer U Kyaw Thaung reported on construction of the plant, work being carried out sector-wise, strength of staff and technicians, arrival of equipment to be installed at the plant and potential production of 60 megawatt of electricity upon completion of the project.

Chairman Lt-Gen Kyaw Win gave instructions on work site safety, minimizing loss and wastage, timely completion of the project and meeting the set standard. He also urged officials at different levels to make concerted efforts for successful realization of the project.

Next, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win inspected the coal mining plot, where Project Deputy Director of Shan Yoma Dragon Co U Aung Naing Soe reported on arrival of machinery and delivery of coal from the mining plot to the plant. Lt-Gen Kyaw Win fulfilled the requirement.

Yesterday afternoon, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win, the deputy commander and officials arrived at the Shweyinaye paddy pilot plantations at the entrance to Hopong, where they were welcomed by local authorities and departmental officials.

The meeting focused on security issues, repair and maintenance of buildings, landscaping, systematic keeping of facilities for delegates, and construction of new buildings.

Instructions given on were work site safety, minimizing loss and wastage, timely completion of the coal-fired power plant project and meeting the set standard.

Meetings discuss preparations for National Convention during adjournment

YANGON, 13 Aug — A meeting was held at Nyaunghnapin Camp in Hmawby Township, Yangon Division, today to discuss security of the Camp, the venue of the National Convention, maintenance and repair of facilities and buildings, designing and construction of new buildings, and landscaping.

Speaking at the meeting, Secretary of the National Convention Convening Commission Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan said that the first meeting to discuss security issues and building maintenance work during the adjournment of the National Convention was held on 16 July this year. The meeting focused on five matters — security issues, repair and maintenance of buildings, landscaping, systematic keeping of facilities for delegates, and construction of new buildings, he recounted.

Today’s meeting would also concentrate on the five matters, he said, inviting frank suggestions and discussions concerning the requirements. Collective efforts are needed for the success of the task, he noted.

(See page 10)