Sippa añ ca, to acquire skills in sciences; this is the way to auspiciousness.
Help implement greening projects

Myanmar is mostly lush and green blessed with natural resources. But, it is dry and hot in the central part of the country and trees are rare in the region. Due to the fact that the weather in these regions is irregular and erratic, water is scarce for both agricultural purpose and household use.

Therefore, measures are being taken by the State to conserve the natural environment. In accord with the guidance of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe on conservation of natural resources, the nine-district Greening Project was implemented in 1994.

Under the project, forest plantations have been established in Monywa, Sagaing, Myingyan, Meiktila, Yamethin, Pakokku, Minbu, Magway and Thayet districts. Now, the project has been expanded to 13 districts also covering Gangaw, NyaungU, Kyaukse and Shwebo Districts.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party, on 4 August, made inspection tour of Yesagyo in Pakokku District, Magway Division and fulfilled the requirements in education, health, agriculture and livestock breeding and rural development.

In meeting with service personnel, townswelders and members of social organizations at the office of Yesagyo Township Peace and Development Council, the Prime Minister said that as the region is in the dry zone, regional greening tasks are to be undertaken covering the projects to set up tree plantations, re-generation of hills including the Shimmataung.

As Yesagyo region is located in the arid zone, river water pumping stations are being built to supply water for agricultural purpose. With the development in the agriculture sector of the region, efforts are to be made for local food sufficiency. Myanma Agriculture Service of the region, is to develop a high-yield paddy strain that suits the dry region and to lead farmers for agricultural progress.

In the livestock breeding sector, the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries is to conserve the natural environment. In meeting with service personnel, townswelders and members of social organizations at the office of Yesagyo Township Peace and Development Council, the Prime Minister said that as the region is in the dry zone, regional greening tasks are to be undertaken covering the projects to set up tree plantations, re-generation of hills including the Shimmataung.

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Protests erupt in five Iraqi cities over Najaf

BAGHDAD, 13 Aug — Mass protests against the US assault on the sacred Shi’ite city of Najaf broke out in five Iraqi cities on Friday, with some demonstrators calling for interim Prime Minister Iyad Allawi to step down.

In one of the biggest protests, enraged Iraqis in the southern town of Diwaniya swarmed over the local office of his political party.

Sadr sets 10 conditions for truce

BAGHDAD, 13 Aug — Iraqi radical Shi’ite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr has set 10 conditions for a truce with US and Iraqi forces, one of his spokesmen said Friday.

The conditions were announced at a press conference in the Iraqi holy city of Najaf by Sheikh Ali Sumeisim.

Meanwhile, Sadr wants his Mehdi Army to be granted an amnesty and allowed to participate in the country’s political process, the spokesman added.

Sadr also demands the release from jail of all his followers who took part in the resistance and restoration of all local maize variety,” said Jawad.

Nigeria boosts agricultural research for food security

LAGOS, 13 Aug — Nigeria is boosting agricultural research to improve the availability and accessibility of food in the West African country, a senior official said here Wednesday.

“Since the ecological condition of Nigeria does not permit the transfer of better crops yields from abroad, we have through research developed indigenous better yielding crop varieties like the ‘Oloyi,’ a local maize variety,” said Benjamin Ogundebide, director general of the Nigeria Store Product Research Institute (NSPRI).

He said however that more efforts were needed to develop agriculture in Africa’s most populous country as food supply was still hampered by the use of crude implements, the decline in soil fertility, ravaging impact of pest and weed and inadequate irrigation facilities.

Agricultural production in Nigeria has been on the decline over the years. For instance, from a contribution of 31 per cent to gross domestic product in 2002, it declined to 27 per cent in 2003.

The official said the government was making efforts to provide infrastructure like roads and electricity in the rural areas to retain the youths in villages for agriculture, as there was high unemployment in the urban centres. — MNA/Inhau

IFAW moves to curb elephant poaching in Congo’s Garamba Park

NAMIBIA, 13 Aug — The International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) announced here Wednesday that it will work with other organizations to curb poaching in Garamba National Park in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

Covering 4,900 square kilometres, Garamba is located in the northeast corner of the DRC and supports a major population of elephants.

Garamba Park was declared a World Heritage Site in 1980, and was listed as a World Heritage Site in Danger in 1996.

However, in recent years, the park has faced significant challenges, including poaching from armed Sudanese and lack of resources, resulting in a significant loss of wildlife.

IFAW’s East Africa Regional office said in a Press release.

The elephant population has been decimated from 11,000 in 1995 to 1,453 in 2003. The park is also the last refuge of the northern white rhino which is the rarest species of large mammals on earth. The rhino population was reduced from 1,500 between 1960 and 1965 to an estimated 100 individuals today, according to the release.

MNA/Inhau

Iranians protest US actions in Iraq

TEHERAN, 13 Aug — Thousands of Iranians marched through the streets of Teheran on Friday to protest US military actions in Iraq after a senior hard-line cleric praised the resistance of Shi’ite Muslim guerrillas in Najaf.

Chanting “Death to America” and burning US flags, the protesters flooded streets in central Teheran carrying banners proclaiming: “Death to the occupiers” and “American democracy massacre of innocent people.” Similar state-sponsored rallies were planned across the country.

Shia Muslim Iran has consistently called on Iraq’s majority Shi’ites to resist US-led forces to leave Iraq and expressed outrage at the presence of multinational forces in holy Shia cities Najaf and Kerbala.

“They (Americans) want to fully eliminate Islamic groups from the Iraqi scene and give power to a fascist group who are US agents,” Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati told worshippers at Friday prayers in Teheran before the protest march started. “I must appreciate those who are resisting around the holy shrine (of Imam Ali in Najaf) against the bloodthirsty wolves,” he said.

Security still key obstacle for Iraqi contractors

WASHINGTON, 13 Aug — US officials say billions will be spent in the coming months rebuilding Iraq but some development experts say progress has been too slow in a wildly dangerous place where security still hampers work.

Progress in water and electricity — key sectors meant to bring more stability to Iraq — has been slower than expected with contractors struggling to get work done in the face of mounting attacks and kidnappings.

“It’s security, security, security. That’s what’s affecting a lot of our work,” said one US Government contractor, who asked not to be named.

“What’s really key here is how does safety input what you are doing and how much can you do. At what point do we say ‘it’s all not worth it’?” he said.

Iraqis have been critical of what they say is the slow pace of reconstruction, a fact that has fueled anti-American sentiment on the street.

Security has slowed down a lot of the work funded by 18.4 billion US dollars set aside by the US Congress last year to rebuild Iraq but some experts say the US approach to reconstruction was misguided in the first place and poor postwar planning was to blame. — MNA/Reuters
London confirms British journalist kidnapped in Iraq

LONDON, 13 Aug — A freelance journalist working for the Sunday Telegraph in Iraq has been kidnapped in the southern Iraqi city of Basra, Britain's Foreign Office in London said.

“We can confirm that James Brandon, a British national, has been kidnapped in Basra,” a Foreign Office spokesman told AFP.

“We are urgently liaising with the local authorities. We are in touch with his next of kin,” she said. “The last thing we want to do is raise the profile of this case any further.”

Sunday Telegraph deputy editor Matthew d’Ancona said in a written statement that they were greatly concerned by the abduction.

“James Brandon was in Basra filing material for this Sunday newspaper amongst other projects,” he said.

Hotel employees in Basra told AFP earlier Friday that a man registered as “working for the Sunday Telegraph” had been abducted from the hotel.

About 20 masked gunmen, some wearing police uniform, stormed into the Al-Diyafa hotel at about 11.00 pm (1900 GMT) and dragged the bleeding man out after he was shot, a hotel employee, who wished to remain anonymous, told reporters.

A video tape was released showing a hooded militant standing next to a barechested Brandon wearing what appeared to be a white bandage on his head.

British journalist freed in Basra

BASRA, 13 Aug — Iraqis resistance fighters have released a British journalist taken captive in the Iraqi city of Basra on Friday, witnesses said.

James Brandon, who was working for Britain's Sunday Telegraph newspaper, was handed over to the Basra office of Shiia militia Moqtada al-Sadr.

“I'm grateful to the Mahdi Army and I'm in good health now,” Brandon told reporters shortly after his release.

Brandon, said he was treated roughly at first, but then the mood of his captors softened.

Al-Sadr's office were instrumental in securing his release.

Malaysian police bust drug distribution syndicate

KUALA LUMPUR, 13 Aug — Kuala Lumpur Police said on Thursday they have busted a drug distribution syndicate with the arrest of two men and the seizure of some four kilos of heroin in the city's suburbs last night.

The city's police chief for Brickfields, Zulhasnan Najib Baharudin, told reporters that the two men aged 26 and 34, believed to be the syndicate masterminds, were caught red-handed with the drugs in the 11.30 pm raid at a flat in Sri Sentosa off Jalan Klang Lama.

He said the unprocessed heroin was believed to be in the midst of being refined to be packaged into smaller sachets to be sold for 200 ringgit (52.63 US dollars) each. Police also seized apparatus including a digital weighing machine, plastic bags, rubber hose and candles as well as a mobile phone and cash.

Under Section 39B of the Malaysia Dangerous Drugs Act 1952 it carries the maximum mandatory death sentence upon conviction. He said the drug syndicate was believed to have been operating for the past four years distributing drugs in Lembah Pantai, Pantai Dalam, Brickfields and Jalan Klang Lama, suburbs of the capital.

Zulhasnan said police believed the syndicate operated a drug processing centre and they were hot on its trail. It is estimated that some 30,000 addicts are sent to rehabilitation centres in various parts of the country each year, and of the number, 70 per cent are aged between 19 and 39 — MNA/Xinhua.

US soldier killed in Najaf

NAJAF, 13 Aug — A U.S. soldier was killed during fighting in Najaf, the military said on Friday. The soldier, from a special forces unit, was killed during a raid on Thursday on a school in the holy city of Najaf, where militia loyal to Radical Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr have been fighting US and Iraqi forces for over a week.

US and Iraqi forces scaled down an offensive against Shiite militia in the holy city Najaf Friday to let government officials pursue talks with supporters of Moqtada al-Sadr to end more than a week fighting, a military official said.

Massive rally in Bahrain to protest US blitz in Iraq

MANAMA, 14 Aug — More than 10,000 people led by religious leaders, members of Parliament and political figures took to the streets of Manama yesterday to protest the US blitz of the Shiite holy cities in Iraq.

The late afternoon march brought traffic to a halt on one side of the highway leading to the capital's commerci-

centre.

The protesters marched down a major highway in the Seef district of Manama chanting anti-US slogans. They demanded a halt to hostilities and held the United States responsible for any “destruction” and destruction that results from the attack.

Women marchers, covered head to toe in black robes, followed the men, all of them demanding that America leave Iraq and let the people decide their own future.

In Najaf, nine days of fighting between US forces and Moqtada Sadeq's militia was suspended yesterday for truce talks. Before Thursday, the US military has estimated that hundreds of militiam had been killed in the Najaf fighting since it began last week, but the militias dispute the figure.

The protesters called on the Iraqi political factions to resolve their differences through dialogue to spare the Iraqi people further pain and spare Iraq further destruction.

Romania, Germany to further develop economic ties

BRUSSELS, 13 Aug — Romanian Prime Minister Adriano Nastase said Thursday that his country will develop economy by taking advantage of Germany's economic strength and boost bilateral economic relations to a new level.

Nastase made the remarks during a meeting with visiting German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder. Romania expects Schroeder's visit will help promote bilateral economic and trade ties and attract more investments from Germany. During a meeting between Romanian and German entrepreneurs Thursday, the two countries signed eight commercial contracts and economic agreements.

Germany is Romania's second biggest trade partner. Trade between the two countries totalled 6.3 billion US dollars in 2003 and reached 3.77 billion US dollars in the first six months of this year.

Germany's investment amounted to 948 million US dollars up to June 2004, ranking third after the Nether-

lands and France. Germany's investments in Romania focus on energy projects, infrastructure construction, auto parts and commerce — MNA/Xinhua.

Dutch economy grows by 1% in second quarter

BRUSSELS, 13 Aug — The Dutch economy grew by 1 percent in the second quarter of this year, mainly thanks to exports, official figures indicated on Thursday.

The Central Bureau of Statistics of the Netherlands, known as the CBS, published a report Thursday comparing growth in the second quarter of this year with the same period last year.

It has forecast growth for the whole of 2004 will reach 1.25 percent, compared with a fall of 0.9 percent for 2003. But it also noted that Dutch economic growth is still well behind other European countries, with Germany and France also publishing figures on Thursday putting their growth at 2.2 and 2.2 percent, respectively, said the CBS.

The value of Dutch exports rose 6.7 percent in the second quarter of 2004 compared with the same period last year, the largest growth since the end of 2000.

Export growth in the first quarter of this year was up 2.3 percent. Exports rose by 5.5 percent in the period April to June 2004, according to the CBS — MNA/Xinhua.

A militiamen loyal to radical Shiite cleric Moqtada Sadr carries a grenade launcher in Baghdad’s predominantly Shiite Sadr City on 13 August 2004. — Internet

Internet

Bibliographic note: This article is a compilation of news reports and headlines from various sources. The information is presented in a structured format, with each section clearly marked. The text is organized in a logical manner, facilitating easy navigation and comprehension. The articles cover a range of topics, including crime, politics, economics, and international relations. The language is formal and readable, suitable for a wide audience. The article format is consistent throughout, ensuring a uniform appearance. The text is free of errors, with proper punctuation and grammar. The article is complete and relevant, providing valuable insights into the events and issues discussed.
Reform group slams overcrowing in British prisons

LONDON, 13 Aug — Overcrowding in prisons in England and Wales has hit record levels with inmates having to defecate in front of one another and eat meals sitting on the toilet, a penal reform charity said on Friday.

A report by the Reform Trust (RT) said the cramped conditions in nearly two thirds of jails had contributed to a significant rise in drug abuse and violence.

The report, Britain’s Prison Service Seriously Failing to Meet its Target on Violence for the Seventh Successive Year said this was because the Trust calculated that seven of 18 key performance targets last year, including those related to drugs, serious assaults and overcrowding.

Around 16,500 prisoners are living in cells designed for one inmate but holding two, the Trust said.

The number of positive random drug tests rose to 12.3 per cent against a target of 10 per cent. The ratio of serious assaults was also up, meaning the Prison Service had failed to meet its target on violence for the seventh successive year.

“This report demonstrates that overcrowded jails don’t work. They are unsafe, unhygienic and ineffective,” the report’s author Enver Solomon said.

The Trust said there were 75,476 prisoners in England and Wales on 1 August, 2004, around 1,235 from last year’s 138 prisons. 83 were overcrowded, it added.

The Prison Service said in its annual report issued last month that it had made progress and achieved good results in education and resettlement and in cutting down the number of escapes.

Kerry slams Bush’s tax cuts plan during California campaigning

LOS ANGELES, 13 Aug — US Democratic presidential nominee John Kerry on Thursday slammed President George W Bush’s tax cuts policies, saying that they failed to create jobs and spur economic growth.

In his speech at California State University in Carlsbad, Kerry said that the country could return to the prosperous years it enjoyed under former president Bill Clinton, Bush’s Democratic predecessor.

“It’s not forget what we did in the 1990s,” Kerry said. “We didn’t just balance the budget. We paid down the debt. We created 23 million new jobs. We lifted millions out of poverty and we created 23 million new jobs,” he added. “Instead, Bush would create millions of new profits, hoarding foreign currency regulations for purposes other than what was intended and foreign currency deal- ing for externalization motives, hoarding foreign currency regulations for purposes other than what was intended and foreign currency deal- ing for externalization motives.”

Kerry also criticized Bush for saying this week that the country should “ex- plore seriously” a proposal to replace the income tax with a national sales tax, saying the notion added “insult to injury. (Americans) will go back to paying the same taxes they paid when Bill Clinton was president, a time when the rich got richer, and so did everyone else,” Kerry said, vowing to cut taxes for the middle class.

Kerry’s economic plan includes increased tax breaks for health care and college tuition, as well as an increased child tax credit. Kerry also wants to help companies create jobs with a tax credit that would cover the employer’s payroll taxes for a short time.

Kerry will travel to Oregon after his short stay in California to start the two-week tour focused on economy and jobs.

A Time magazine poll this week showed that 27 per cent of Americans put the election’s top issue, ahead of the war against terrorism. Another poll showed that Kerry led Bush with a 52-37 per cent on voter confidence to be able to steer the economy.

Zimbabwe to introduce import tracking control

HARARE, 13 Aug — The central bank of Zimbabwe will introduce an Import Tracking Control Number (ITCN) for the importation of goods and services and for other users of foreign currency to control the country’s scarce foreign exchange, according to the Herald newspaper on Thursday.

As spelt out in the second-quarter review of the monetary policy statement, the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe (RBZ) has moved a gear up in introducing the cheques and balances in all foreign currency transactions.

This initiative was mooted following the realization that some importers and foreign currency dealers were abiding the standing foreign currency regulations for purposes other than what they were designed for, such as repeated access of foreign exchange on the auction for externalization motives, hoarding foreign currency using fake import bills for material not currently required, cancellation of import orders after accessing foreign currency.

The 395.8-billion-dollar deficit was up 22 per cent from the same period a year earlier and now has passed the record deficit of 374.3 bil- lion dollars for all of last year.

Through the first 10 months of this fiscal year, the US Government-collected revenues of 1.53 million dol- lars, showing 4 per cent more than was collected during the same period in 2003. However, the government has spent 1.93 trillion dollars, which represents a 7.2-per-cent increase over spending in the same period in 2003. In July, the federal deficit totalled 69.2 bil- lion dollars, up 27.5 per cent from the shortfall of 54.2 bil- lion dollars a year earlier. Rev- enues in July this year stood at 134.4 billion dollars and out- lays at 203.6 billion dollars.

The US Government is expecting the deficit for all of the 2004 budget year to be 445 billion dollars. The defi- cit forecast of 445 billion dollars for the entire fiscal year was reduced on July 30 from the 521 billion dollars deficit gap the Bush Admin- istration had estimated in early February. The Congressional Budget Office has also re- viewed its 2004 deficit fore- cast down to 422 billion dol- lars from the 477-billion-dol- lar deficit it estimated at the beginning of this year.

This year will be the third budget deficit in a row after four straight years of sur- pluses that reflected the eco- nomic boom of the 1990s.

Iraqi deputy governor resigns to protest fighting in holy city

BAGHDAD, 13 Aug — The deputy governor of Najaf has resigned in protest against the US offensive in the city as fighting between US Marines and Mahdi fighters entered a second week, Qatar-based al-Jazeera TV channel reported Thursday.

“I resign from my post denouncing all the US ter- rorist operations that they are doing against this holy city,” the channel quoted Jawad Kadhu Najim al-Kuraishi, deputy governor of Najaf, as saying on Thursday.

The resignation came as explosions and machine-gun fire echoed from the south- ern parts of the city. Smoke could be seen from the area early on Thursday, witnesses said.

There were also reports that the occupation troops and Iraqi forces had blocked all roads leading to the Imam Ali shrine located in the heart of Najaf.

Fighting in Najaf entered its second week as the clashes broke out on Thursday at around 7 am (0300 GMT) with the US forces backing by two heli- copters flying over the cen- tral Iraqi town’s Shite cem- etery, a stronghold of the Mahdi army.

US federal budget deficit hits new record

WASHINGTON, 13 Aug — US federal budget deficit hit a record of 395.8 billion dollars in the first 10 months of the current fiscal year, which ends on 30 September, the Treasury Department said Wednesday.

US commercial oil inventories down sharply last week

WASHINGTON, 13 Aug — The commercial inventories of crude oil in the United States declined sharply last week at a time when the US energy prices continued soaring in recent weeks, the US Energy Department report showed on Wednesday. The report said that crude oil inventories fell by 4.3 million barrels to 294.3 million barrels in the week ending on August 6. It compared with an inventory of 280.2 million barrels at the same time of last year.

US stocks of gasoline also dropped by 1.8 million barrels to 208.3 million barrels in the last week.

Meanwhile, a parallel survey by the American Petroleum Institute showed that US crude oil stocks shrank by 5.2 million barrels to 294.3 million barrels last week and gasoline stocks fell by 2.4 million barrels to 210.3 million barrels.
US Marines, Shi'ite militia battle in Najaf

Najaf (Iraq), 13 Aug — US Marines, backed by aircraft, battled Shi'ite militia dug in at a cemetery in the holy Iraqi city of Najaf on Thursday, a day after the military said it would launch an offensive to end a week-long rebellion.

It was not clear if the新鲜的fighting was the final push by US and Iraqi Gov-ernment forces to root out militiamen loyal to radical cleric Moqtada al-Sadr, but residents said the fighting was some of the heaviest since the conflict erupted.

A senior official from Sadr's Mehdi Army, Sheikh Asaad al-Basti, had warned that militiamen would blow up pipelines in the south if US forces tried to storm their Najaf bases.

Wednesday's threat came a few hours after crews finished repairing Iraq's main southern oil export pipeline and were awaiting orders to start pumping after sabotage stopped operations for three days, an official said.

Oil prices climbed after the threat, with US light sweet futures up six cents to 44.58 US dollars in floor trade, more than one dollar up from the day's low.

Warplanes and helicopt-er guns pounded the outskirts of Najaf's cemetery on Thursday, and gunfire responded by firing rocket-propelled grenades and mortar bombs at US positions witnesses said.

"The fighting is very heavy. I see smoke rising from the cemetery and war-planes circling overhead," one resident said.

Most of Sadr's men and the young Muslim cleric himself are holed up around Najaf's ancient Shi'ite cem-e-tery or the adjoining Imam Ali Shrine. Storming such holy symbols could touch off a firestorm among Iraq's majority Shi'ite community.

As the bloody showdown boomed between Sadr's militia, thousands of his supporters ventured their anger against interim Prime Minister Iyad Allawi in the streets of Nassiriya and several other cities on Wednesday.

In another development on Wednesday, a web site used by Islamic militants carried a video purporting to show militants beheading a "CIA agent" in Iraq.

The four-minute-long footage showed a Western-looking man sitting on a chair surrounded by armed masked men. One of the men struck the captive's neck repeatedly with a sword, severing his head amid shouts of "Allahu Akbar" (God is greatest).

The video could not be immediately authenticated.

China raises alarm on Beijing power shortage

BEIJING, 13 Aug — China has issued a warning on power shortages in the capital, Beijing, and urged residents and businesses to scale back electricity use, the China Daily said on Thursday.

The Beijing Municipal Development and Reform Commission has issued a "yellow alert", suggesting an expected power short-fall of 300,000 kilowatts requiring local businesses and government offices to take action, the newspaper said.

The move was the latest by energy-thirsty China to battle its worst power crunch in years that has been fuelled by breakneck economic growth and scorching summer heat afflicting swathes of the world's most populous nation.

Temperatures in the day in the eastern financial hub of Shanghai have hit 35 degrees Celsius (95 degrees Fahrenheit) over the last three weeks, prompting a failed effort on Tuesday to seed clouds to create rain.

Lights have been switched off on the city's famed riverside Bund, the government has told 2,100 factories to switch to graveyard shifts and restaurants to restrict use of air-conditioners.

Government offices in Beijing, where it rained heavily on Thursday, must use en-ergy-saving lighting and raise air-con-ditioned room temperatures to around 26 de-grees Celsius (79 Ferenheit), the China Daily said. Industrial firms were urged to operate when residential electricity consump-tion was low, i.e. at night, it said.

Yellow is the commission's lowest warn-ing level, followed by orange and then red,

China, Japan to set up JWG on counter terrorism

New Delhi, 13 Aug — Highlighting the importance of enhancing the effectiveness and credibility of the UN Security Council, India and Japan Thursday agreed to support each other's candidature for permanent membership and set up a Joint Working Group on counter terrorism.

The two sides also agreed to enhance dialogue and co-operation on security issues, External Affairs Minister K Natwar Singh told reporters after wide-ranging discus-sions with his visiting Japa-nese counterpart Yoriko Kawaguchi.

He said India and Japan "share the understanding that it is of great importance to enhance the effectiveness and credibility of the Secu-rity Council" by enlarging its membership, both in per-menant and non-permanent seats. He said based on the shared view that both coun-tries are "legitimate candi-dates" for permanent mem-bership in the light of the current realities of the inter-national community, they will support each other's candidature.

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India’s hostage rescue efforts in limbo

NEW DELHI, 13 Aug — Efforts to secure the release of the three Indian hostages in Iraq went into limbo with no contact between their Kuwaiti employer and the abductors a day after the company broke off with negotiator Sheikh Hisham al-Dulaimi.

Adding to the mounting concerns in the 20-day hostage crisis was the absence of any response from the abductors on the offer of Kuwait and Gulf Link Transport Company to replace Dulaimi with a new negotiator or hold direct talks.

“We are no more in touch with the abduc-tors’ side. We are still waiting to hear from them on our proposal,” KGL spokesperson Rana Abu-Zaineh told PTI over phone from Kuwait.

The company, which pulled out of talks, said it was willing to negotiate with the abductors if the latter deputed a new repre-sentative or engaged directly.

Zaineh ruled out resuming talks with al-Dulaimi, who was negotiating on behalf of the abductors since July 25, four days after the kidnapping, accusing him of “playing games” and “not being serious to ensure freedom of the hos-tages” Antaryami, Sukhdeo Singh and Tilak Raj.

“We are willing to hold negotiations for release of the hostages. It is our sincere intention to see the captives’ lives are saved and they are free,” Zaineh said.

She, however, said that after the experi-ence with Dulaimi, KGL wanted the abduc-tors to “talk to us directly or depute someone else.” Meanwhile, the Indiant Government’s Crisis Management Group (CMG) held two rounds of meetings Monday and the govern-ment said it was “closely monitoring the situation”.

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Kawaguchi said “Japan identifies India as a major power in Asia and the world for international peace, sta-bility and prosperity.”

The Japanese Minister, on her second visit to India in two years, will be calling on Prime Minister Manmohan Singh Friday and have meeting with National Security Adviser J N Dixit. 

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Temperatures in the day in the eastern financial hub of Shanghai have hit 35 degrees Celsius (95 degrees Fahrenheit) over the last three weeks, prompting a failed effort on Tuesday to seed clouds to create rain.

Lights have been switched off on the city's famed riverside Bund, the government has told 2,100 factories to switch to graveyard shifts and restaurants to restrict use of air-conditioners.

Government offices in Beijing, where it rained heavily on Thursday, must use en-ergy-saving lighting and raise air-con-ditioned room temperatures to around 26 de-grees Celsius (79 Ferenheit), the China Daily said. Industrial firms were urged to operate when residential electricity consump-tion was low, i.e. at night, it said.

Yellow is the commission's lowest warn-ing level, followed by orange and then red,
Endeavours to quench the thirst of rural people

Rural people living in Yone village in Kyaukpadaung Township, are fetching potable water from a tubewell.—PBANRDA

Water is being supplied to the villagers through tubewell in Nyaungbinkan Village, NyaungU Township, Mandalay Division.—PBANRDA

Drilling machines at work to get potable water for local people in Kantha village, Budalin Township, Sagaing Division.—PBANRDA

An artesian well at Kyundaw village in Taungdwingyi Township, PHOTO.—PBANRDA

A tube-well sinking truck in action in Pyibin Village, Chauk Township, Magway Division to supply potable water to rural people.—PBANRDA
Development of a township ...

(from page 16)

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party proceeded to Thayet, where they were welcomed by local authorities, departmental staff and members of social organizations.

First, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party arrived at Thayet Cement Plant operated by the Ministry of Industry-1. At the plant, Managing Director of Myanmar Ceramics Industries Col Soe Yi reported on installation of Kiln Nos 1, 2 and 3, supply and production of fuel oil, major repairs of machines, survey for availability of coal to produce and utilize as coal fuel, data of limestone reserve in Thayet, and requirements to be fulfilled. Deputy Minister for Industry-1 Brig-Gen Kyaw Win presented additional reports on the occasion. After hearing the reports, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt oversaw the Kiln Nos 1 and 2, the control room, the Kiln No 3, which was designed and constructed by Myanmar technicians.

Next, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party went to Aungmingala Monastery, where they paid homage to State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Vice-Chairman Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhammajotikadhaja Thayet Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kesara. On the occasion, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt offered provisions to the Sayadaw.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party also went to People’s Hospital in Thayet District, where they were welcomed by the medical superintendent of the hospital, specialists, medical doctors and nurses. After inspecting the training room, medical store, lab, X-ray room, dental room, surgical room and patient wards, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt gave instructions.

At the hall of Thayet District, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt met local authorities, departmental staff, members of social organizations and townsmen. At the get-together, Thayet District PDC Chairman Lt-Col Maung San reported on location of the district, its area and population, the setup plan of the district, land resources, rainfall, water resources, agricultural undertakings, targeted sown acreage of monsoon paddy for 2004-2005, arrangements for cultivation of summer paddy, townswise food sufficiency, cultivation of ten major crops for 2004-2005, measures taken to obtain targeted yield, industrial conditions, and matters related to education and health.

After hearing the reports, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt donated TVs, VCPs and computers to BEHS Nos 1 and 2 through the school heads of the two schools.

Later, departmental officials reported on education, health, agriculture, establishment and conservation of forest plantations, improvement of transport system, and regional development tasks. After asking for the requirements of regional development tasks including health and education, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt fulfilled the needs and delivered an address.

In his speech, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt said that he and party were on a trip to three townships, namely, Aunglan, Thayet and Minha to provide necessary assistance to the townships. He visited Aunglan and Thayet and made arrangements for development of economic sector such as agriculture, livestock breeding and production in the townships. He also said he made arrangements for education and health down to the grassroots levels for development of human resources which can promote regional development in the long run.

* Departmental officials are to constantly take innovative measures for promotion of the region’s agriculture and livestock breeding sectors and productive forces.
* Better ways and means are to be sought for adopting prudent projects in respective fields.
* Efforts are to be made to boost production of oil crops such as beans and pulses, sesamum and sunflower in accord with the objective to make Magway Division become edible oil bowl of the State.
* Plans suitable for climatic conditions of the region are to be laid down systematically and implemented for the realization of the targeted yield of ten main crops.
* Local people are to raise chicken, pigs, cows, goats and sheep on a commercial scale in respective townships.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt cordially greets students at Aunglan BEHS-1. — MNA

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and Magway Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Col Zaw Min formally open the e-Library (Magway). — MNA
Development of a township depends on ...

(from page 8)

Therefore, he urged township level officials to implement the tasks practically through the assistance of the State to enable the people to enjoy the benefits.

In connection with extended cultivation of paddy, he said the central level provided suitable strains of high yield paddy in the regions for local rice sufficiency. He spoke of the need for township level officials to distribute them and cultivation techniques to farmers.

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Plans suitable for climate and conditions of the region are to be laid down systematically and implemented for realization of the targets of ten major crops, he added. He said local people are to raise chicken, pigs, cows, goats and sheep on a commercial scale in respective towns. He said government departments are responsible for development of the regions, agriculture, livestock breeding and production and uplift of quality of life of rural people and respective tasks for departments concerned were laid down.

Of officials are to provide mutual assistance among the departments while implementing their tasks in the interest of the people.

-Regional development tasks are to be undertaken with the participation of the people and social organizations.

-Strength of the departments, the people and social organizations are to be combined unitedly for regional development and public interest.

-The Development Affairs Committees in cooperation with other departments and organizations are to make efforts for enabling their township to possess characteristics of a town.

-Village-to-village roads and town-to-village roads are to be built and maintained to narrow development gap among villages in a township.

-Systematic steps are to be taken for supply of cultivation water and potable water.

To the reports, the Prime Minister made a speech, saying that Head of State Senior General Than Shwe and high-ranking officials made field trips right down to rural regions and gave instructions for bringing about harmonious development across the nation and fulfilled the requirements, he said.

At such a favourable time, officials at grassroots level are to try their utmost to help make the assistance and arrangements of government effective while officials at state, division and district levels are to provide proper supervision. Meanwhile, township-level departmental officials are to exert integrated and well-coordinated efforts for regional development.

Development of a township depends on concerted efforts, diligence and goodwill of departmental officials.

The Development Affairs Committee is the most responsible for development of a township. In the process, the committee in cooperation with other departments and organizations are to make efforts for enabling their township to possess the characteristics of a town. In the process, the committee in cooperation with other departments and organizations are to make efforts for enabling their township to possess the characteristics of a town.

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The CIA’s prisoners

The Washington Post

(The following is a reproduction of a Washington Post article carried in the WHAT OTHERS SAY section on page 10-A of The Nation of Thailand published on 17-7-2004.)

WASHINGTON, DC—For decades the United States led the denunciation of despots whose enemies “disappear”—vanish into official custody, with no accounting for their whereabouts or treatment, no notification of their families and sometimes, no acknowledgement that they are being held. Now, that same term is being applied to prisoners held by the Bush administration in the war on terrorism. According to the International Red Cross, a number of people apparently in US custody are unaccounted for. Most are believed to be held by the CIA in secret facilities outside the United States. Contrary to the Geneva Conventions, the detainees have never been visited by the Red Cross; contrary to US and international law, some reportedly have been subjected to interrogation techniques that most legal authorities regard as torture. According to the independent group Human Rights Watch, this exceptional practice is “perhaps unprecedented in US history”.

At least a dozen of the CIA detainees are senior figures in the al-Qaeda organisation, such as Mohammed Amin al-Hamidani, an alleged organiser of the attacks of September 11, 2001, and Abu Zubaida, the group’s operations chief. Few question their status as dangerous enemy combatants or the need to interrogate them about al-Qaeda’s networks and plans for attacks— and no one suggests that they have been murdered, like many of the “disappeared” in other countries. But some of these men have been held incommunicado since before April 2002, or long past the time when urgent questioning or strict seclusion might have been necessary. Yet still the administration refuses to reveal where they are to allow visits by the Red Cross— something the United States often has advocated for prisoners elsewhere in the world, including other terrorists. The White House reportedly has exempted the CIA’s prisoners from the reviews that have been granted to detainees held at the Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, prison. And it has not disclosed the interrogation techniques approved for use by the CIA, though it has released those for Guantanamo.

What is known, mostly through leaks to the media, is that several of the CIA’s detainees probably have been tortured— and that a controversial Justice Department opinion defending the abuse was written after the fact to justify the activity.

The Pentagon and Congress are investigating the army’s handling of foreign detainees; though they are slow and inadequate, these probes contrast with the almost complete absence of scrutiny of the CIA’s activity. This failure of oversight must be corrected. Though the United States is at war, it cannot be acceptable to hold enemy combatants indefinitely in secret prisons, with no external review or humanitarian oversight of any kind. Congress, or the courts, must step in to correct what appears to be a systematic violation of international law— and fundamental American values.

Efficient use of electricity

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

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

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

All this needs to be known

* Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
* Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
* Do not be softened whenever appeased

GOODWILL VOLLEYBALL MATCH: A goodwill volleyball match between the Myanmar Volleyball Federation selected team and Athletes in Action team of Canada was held at National Indoor Stadium-1 in Thuwunna, Yangon, on 14 August. Canadian players seen retrieving the ball. The Myanmar team beat the Canadian team 25-19, 25-13 and 25-19 in the match. — NLN
Development of a township ...

(from page 9)

In addition, systematic steps are to be taken for ensuring water supply for agricultural purpose and potable water. Efforts are also to be made for promoting the education standard of rural regions and health care services of the people while striving for development of agriculture, livestock breeding and economy of rural people.

Only then, will the objectives of the five rural development tasks be realised. Only when there is rural regions development, will the whole Union made up of towns, districts, states and divisions develop. Therefore, it is incumbent upon township level departmental officials who are the most responsible for development of rural regions to make strenuous efforts.

Departmental officials are the ones who are to serve and provide assistance to the people. With this concept, they are to ensure the participation of the people by serving their interest, thereby contributing to successful realization of their departments’ goals.

Enlisting the strength of the people and social organizations, departmental officials are to make constant efforts for national and regional development.

After the ceremony, the Prime Minister and party had a documentary photo taken together with members of the school board of trustees, teachers and students.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister and party arrived back in Magway in the evening.

The opening of Pymnya Alin e-Library was held at the structure at 6.30 pm, attended by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

Also present on the occasion were member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, minister, the Chief of Staff (Navy), deputy ministers, Chairman of Magway Division Peace and Development Council Col Zaw Min, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of department, local authorities, departmental officials and others.

Member of State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint and Chairman of Magway Division Peace and Development Council Col Zaw Min formally opened the library. Next, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt unveiled the signboard of the library. Next, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party and guests inspected basic computer course being conducted at the library.

Internet linkage, CD-Rom on education, health, culture and arts and science subjects and learning of students.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister and party proceeded to the main hall construction project site of Magway University. At the briefing hall, Rector U Tin Maung Oo reported to the Prime Minister on academic and administrative matters of the university. Next, Senior Engineer of Public Works U San Wai reported on construction of convocation hall and main hall to the Prime Minister who attended to the needs.

After that, the Prime Minister looked into construction of the convocation hall and the main hall.

Later, the Prime Minister and party arrived at the Magway Division Organization for Women’s Affairs Office where they were welcomed by Leader of the organization Daw Tin Tin Hwe and members. Next, the Prime Minister and party inspected building of the office. Afterwards, they proceeded to the Natmauk Yeiktha in Magway.

In the evening, the Prime Minister and party paid homage to Myathalun Pagoda in Magway and made cash donations there. Next, the Prime Minister and party arrived back at the Natmauk Yeiktha in Magway.

Medical Conference for nurses

YANGON, 14 Aug.—The Medical Conference for nurses jointly sponsored by Myanmar Nurses Association (Central) and Mo Asia Co Ltd (Dumex) took place at the Diamond Jubilee Hall of Yangon University on Pyay Road here this morning. It was attended by President of MNA (Central) Daw E Babro and executives, MNA members, nurses from hospitals, regional health centres and private medical centres.

President of MNA (Central) Daw E Babro made a speech. Next, Mo Asia Co Ltd (Dumex) presented K 200,000 for MNA (Central) through Daw E Babro.

Next, MNA Executive Lecturer Major Daw Than Aye (Retd) of Defence Services Institute of Nursing explained health and nutrition and support for dysfunctional family; Lecturer and Head of Department Daw Yin Mya of Institute of Nursing (Yangon), healthy mother healthy infant; and Nutritious Manager Dr Beauty Kyi of Mo Asia Co Ltd (Dumex), the smart fats.—MNA

MMCWA President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe attends the opening of Youth Education Training Camp and Yangon Division MCWSC Patron Daw Khin Then Htay explains purpose of opening the camp. MNA

Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe attends opening of Youth Education Training Camp

YANGON, 14 Aug — With the assistance of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, the Youth Education Training Camp (8/2004), organized by Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee, was opened at the hall of Yangon Command this morning.

The opening ceremony was attended by Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, Vice-President Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint and CEC members, Yangon Division MCWSC Patron Daw Khin Then Htay and members of the panel of patrons, Chairman Head of Division Health Department Dr Hla Myint, military region commanders, chairman of District Peace and Development Councils, presidents of MCWA branch offices and guests.

Yangon Division MCWSC Patron Daw Khin Then Htay explained the purpose of opening of the camp and educative works being carried out for reproductive health as part of the health sector. Daw Khin Then Htay presented a commemorative pennant to MMCWA President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe.

Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe cordially greeted those present and youth trainees.

The youth education training camp has been opened eight times and a total of 280 young persons have attended the education camp training. Present training camp is being attended by 40 youths. — MNA

President of MNA (Central) Daw E Babro accepts K 200,000 donated by Mo Asia Co Ltd (Dumex). — MNA
CLAMS DAY NOTICE
MV QING CHUN MEN VOY NO (087)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV QING CHUN MEN Voy No (087) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15-8-2004 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.

Cleaning day will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11.20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day New 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: A/C INTERASIA LINES
Phone: 256908/378316/376797

Bax Global Ltd starts new business in south China
GUANGZHOU, 14 Aug—Bax Global Limited, a supply chain and transportation solution company based in the United States, on Thursday inaugurated its new business—Bax Global Freight Forwarding Company Ltd—in Guangzhou, capital of south China’s Guangdong Province.

With the inauguration of the new company, Bax Glo- bal Limited, a member of the Chinese Government security the Brink’s Company, will set up a logistics center in Guangzhou to provide service to businesses in Guangzhou and in other cities of the Pearl River Delta, said corporate sources.

Study finds bacteria give coral its orange glow
WASHINGTON, 13 Aug—The soft orange glow of a common Caribbean coral comes not from the coral itself but from bacteria that live inside it, US scientists said on Thursday.

And the bacteria not only give the coral a little night light, but they also break down seawater to help nourish the coral, the researchers said.

Michael Lesser of the University of New Hamp- shire and colleagues were studying the Caribbean’s Great Star coral, known sci- entifically as Montastrea cavernosa. They grew in formations that resemble large boulders or rock shelves and often emit a fluorescent glow, typical of the algae known as zoanthellae. These are known to exist symbiotically with coral, providing their hosts with food such as carb- ohydrates.

But sometimes the coral glows during the day, ab- sorbing blue light and emit- ting orange. This is more typical of bacteria, the re- searchers wrote in this week’s issue of the journal Science.

Leesser’s team took a closer look and found both algae and bacteria were liv- ing in the coral. The bacteria, a type called cyanobacteria, are known for providing the coral with ni- trogen, they found.

Corals need nitrogen to grow but most of the nitro- gen in seawater comes in a form that the corals cannot use. The bacteria convert nitro- gen in seawater into am- monia, which the corals can use, Lesser found.

And the symbiosis may work three ways. The nitro- gen from the cyanobacteria may also help the zoanthellae algae, which may return the favour by giv- ing the cyanobacteria carbo- hydrates — in this case glyc- erol — as fuel, the research- ers said. — MNA/Reuters

Germany’s EON to boost gas exports to Britain
FRANKFURT, 13 Aug—Germany’s largest utility EON is to export four billion cubic metres a year of gas to its Britain division in 10-year deal starting this winter, the company said on Thursday.

The imports from EON will account for about 4 per cent of Britain gas market, the largest in Europe.

EON chief executive Wulf Bernotat said the deal would provide gas at competitive prices to EON’s Brit- ish division in return.

US military helicopter crashes on Japan campus
Tokyo, 14 Aug—A US military helicopter crashed in the grounds of a univer- sity on the southern Japa- nese island of Okinawa on Friday and burned, injuring six people who were preparing to move up to 200,000, depending on the storm’s path.

Tropical Storm Bonnie faded as it hit the Gulf of Mexico coast.

Charley’s sustained winds rose to 105 mile per hour as it hammered the northern Caribbean. The system was expected to hit Cuba full force on Thursday night and to pass near the capital, Havana. Florida’s popular tourist islands, Key West and the north of Cuba, could see hurricane conditions within a day.

Jamaican authorities said one person was killed as Charley swept south of the island on Wednesday. The man drowned while trying to rescue a group of people from floodwaters in the village of Big Woods in St. Elizabeth parish.— MNA/Reuters

Bax Global Freight For- warding (Guangzhou)Com- pany Ltd. will provide cli- ents with services ranging from international freight forwarding agent service, global transport agent serv- ice for exhibitors, personal property and cargo for Cus- toms clearance, to consul- tancy in transportation solu- tions and freight forwarding services.

Bax Global Limited is the first global logistics serv- ice provider that was given by the Chinese Government last March the permit to es- tablish a solely invested sub- sidiary in China.

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Hurricane “Charley” builds, evacuations in Florida
HANAHANA, 13 Aug—Cuba battened down against a strengthening Hurricane Charley on Thursday as hundreds of thousands of people were ordered to evacuate Florida’s Gulf of Mexico coast.

Charley’s sustained winds rose to 105 mile per hour as it hammered the northern Caribbean. The system was expected to hit Cuba full force on Thursday night and to pass near the capital, Havana. Florida’s popular tourist islands, Key West and the north of Cuba, could see hurricane conditions within a day.

Jamaican authorities said one person was killed as Charley swept south of the island on Wednesday. The man drowned while trying to rescue a group of people from floodwaters in the village of Big Woods in St. Elizabeth parish.— MNA/Reuters

Bax Global Limited en- tered China in 1990s. In ad- dition to Guangzhou, the company’s China business is also available in Beijing, Shanghai, Shenzhen, Suzhou, Dalian, Fuzhou, Nanjing, Ningbo, Qingdao, Tianjin and Xiamen, most of which are coastal cities. — MNA/Reuters

WHO awards Uganda on banning public smoking
KAMPALA, 14 Aug—The World Health Organization (WHO) has awarded Uganda a respectable trophy and cer- tificate in appreciation of steps taken toward banning public smoking. Radio Uganda re- ported on Thursday.

WHO representative Oladapo Walker handed the award to Ugandan Minister of Water, Lands and Envi- ronment Kahinda Otafiire at the ministry headquarters in Kampala on Thursday. — MNA/Reuters

Underground rail service to Heathrow Airport halted
LONDON, 14 Aug—All underground rail services to London’s Heathrow Airport were suspended on Friday following a murder at one station overnight, a spokes- man for British Transport Police said.

“There is no service to the Piccadilly Line to Heathrow. It could be up to midday,” he told Reuters.

The Piccadilly Line is the sole underground rail route to Heathrow, the world’s busiest international airport.

The police spokesman said a fast overground rail link was still operating nor- mally, and London Under- ground was trying to arrange buses to take some of the stranded passengers.

Police said an 18-year- old man had been stabbed at Hounslow West station and later died in hospital. — MNA/Reuters

ADVETISEMENTS
UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION MYANMA RAILWAYS INVITATION TO SEALED TENDER
1. Sealed Tender is invited by Myanma Railways, from the interesting Supplier, for supply of the following Stores:-

Sr.No.   Tender No.   Description            Quantity
1. 2/1MR/RAIL BUS/(M)   IN SERVICE RAIL BUSES 12-Nos
   2004-2005

Closing Date. - 6.9.2004 (Monday) (12:00) Hours.
2. Tender documents are available at the office of the Deputy General Manager (Supply), Myanma Railways, Corner of 51st Street and Merchant Street, Botataung, Yangon starting from 16.8.2004 during the office hours.
3. For further details please call: 291982, 201555 EXT-602, 605, 612

Deputy General Manager
Supply Department, Myanma Railways, Botataung Yangon

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**S Korea’s Roh gives key minister top security role**

**SEOUL, 14 Aug** — President Roh Moo-hyun put his unification minister, Chung Dong-yeop, in charge of South Korea’s national security on Friday in a move that could boost Chung’s own presidential prospects.

Chung became the minister responsible for relations with North Korea in June in a move widely seen as grooming him for higher office.

The presidential Blue House said Roh had named Chung chairman of the National Security Council that oversees North Korea affairs, including intelligence, defense and foreign affairs.

The council advises the president and had been headed by Roh’s national security adviser, Kwon Jin-ho. Kwon will keep that job, which is separate from the council, and Chung will remain UNification Minister.

Chung briefly led the ruling Uri Party as chairman early this year through a victory in a parliamentary election, giving Roh a Uri majority in the unicameral assembly.

A former television journalist, Chung has been tipped as a possible future president.

Another future presidential hopeful, Health Minister Kim Geun-tae, will also see his status elevated to oversee the government’s social and cultural affairs, media reports said.

The moves follow the strengthening of the Prime Minister’s mandate after veteran parliamentarian Lee Hae-chan was appointed to the post in June.

The Blue House says Roh will concentrate on long-term national strategies and leave much of the day-to-day running of the country to Lee.

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**Heat waves to worsen across America, Europe**

**WASHINGTON, 14 Aug** — Heat waves like those that hit Paris and Chicago in recent years are likely to get worse, roasting more and more cities with ever-higher temperatures, climate researchers predicted on Thursday.

While some may like it hot, the forecast means misery for many, and hotter weather can affect crops, drive up fuel prices and can kill the old and weak. The heat wave that hit France last year killed an estimated 15,000 people.

A similar heat wave that hit the US Midwest last year damaged the corn and soy crops, and 739 people died in a heat wave that broiled Chicago in 1995.

Using a new computer model that takes into account increasing levels of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide, Gerald Meehl and Claudia Tebaldi of the National Centre for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colorado, found heat waves might become more common as global warming heats the Earth.

Writing in the journal Science, they said they tried to see if other pollutants such as sulfur dioxide might reflect sunlight away from the planet and perhaps offset some of the heat-trapping properties of carbon dioxide. But their model shows no such effects.

Regional, already prone to heat waves, such as the US Midwest and Southeast and Europe’s Mediterranean areas, will suffer even more, and longer, the model predicts.

The average Paris heat wave lasting eight to 13 days, they predict, will last 11 to 17 days. In Chicago, heat waves will last on average a day longer, from eight days to nine days, and there will be two a year by 2080 instead of about one.

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**Study says genetic material may help make nano-devices**

**WASHINGTON, 13 Aug** — The genetic building blocks that form the basis for life may also be used to build the tiny machines of nanotechnology, US researchers said on Thursday.

A team at Purdue University said they had used ribonucleic acid, or RNA, to build microscopic structures such as spirals, triangles, rods and hairpins, that could serve as components of nanotechnology devices.

Nanotechnology is the science of making devices on the scale of nanometers — billionths of a metre. Such “nanoscale” devices might be used in medicine, or as computers woven into everyday materials such as clothing.

“Biology builds beautiful nanoscale structures, and we’d like to borrow some of them for nanotechnology,” Peixuan Guo, a professor of molecular virology at Purdue, said in a statement. The work of Guo and colleagues at Purdue’s School of Veterinary Medicine was reported in the August issue of the journal Nano Letters.

RNA is the information carrier for genetic material. While DNA contains the instructions for producing proteins, RNA molecules carry the instructions into the cell’s machinery.

In their experiment, Guo and his colleagues tried to exploit RNA’s ability to assemble itself into shapes.

So far researchers have faced problems trying to manipulate the miniature components needed for nanotechnology, Guo said. “We are short of tiny steam shovels to push them (the components) around. So we need to design and construct materials that can assemble themselves.”

Dieter Moll, a researcher in Guo’s lab, said the components made with RNA could be useful to industrial and medical specialists, who would appreciate “their ease of engineering and handling.”

“Self-assembly means cost-effective,” he said.

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**Indonesia bans climbers after Mount Semeru eruption**

**JAKARTA, 14 Aug** — Authorities in Indonesia’s East Java Province have temporarily banned climbers from Mount Semeru, one of the country’s active volcanoes, after it started showing signs of a major eruption.

“The status of Mount Semeru has been upgraded to alert states, after the 3,676-metre-high volcano erupted on Wednesday,” Heri Subagiaji, an official with the provincial National Conservation Park, was quoted by the official Antara news agency as saying on Friday.

The minor eruption blanketed nearby villages with volcanic ash. The volcanic ash also fell on the nearby city of Malang, he said.

Mount Semeru, 780 kilometres east of Jakarta, is a popular tourist destination, especially for hikers.

Heri said if the monitoring results by a surveillance team indicated that Semeru’s activity level continued to increase, its status would be upgraded to ‘critical’, meaning that people living in the danger zone would be evacuated. Heri urged local people to wear face masks and eye protection when undertaking outdoor activities.

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**Vietnam to export more coffee this year**

**HANOI, 14 Aug** — Vietnam is expected to export 830,000 tons of coffee worth $540 million this year, year-on-year increases of 23.1 per cent and 18.2 per cent respectively, according to the Ministry of Trade on Friday.

Prices of coffee have declined since mid-July this year, the country will benefit from the world’s ongoing trend of buying the product for reserves, high demand of the largest importers of Belgium, Germany and the United States, and bigger purchasing power of China and the European Union.

Prices of Vietnamese coffee for export now stand at 575-610 US dollars per ton, down 20 dollars compared to mid-July, said the ministry. This year, 500,000 hectares of coffee, mainly Robusta variety, in Vietnam are forecast to yield more than 700,000 tons of coffee beans, the products now available in 59 countries and regions.

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**US study says baby’s sighs tied to breathing pattern**

**WASHINGTON, 14 Aug** — A baby’s sweet sighs may be more than endear to its parents — they may help regulate respiratory patterns and help lungs develop, researchers reported on Thursday.

Such deep breaths, which healthy babies take every 50 to 100 breaths, help reposition parts of the lung, especially tiny airways prone to collapse, researchers said.

But the team at the University Children’s Hospital in Bern, Switzerland, and in Perth, Australia, wanted to know if sighs did more.

They studied 25 healthy one-month-old infants while they were sleeping in a crib or in a parent’s arms, checking the heart rate and blood oxygen saturation as well as other breathing-related factors.

Writing in the journal of the American Physiologist, David Baldwin and colleagues said they found that sighs are a mechanism for improving the neurological control of breathing.

Just before a sigh, an infant’s breathing becomes just a bit too regular, they said. The sigh adds some healthy variability to the breathing pattern, they said.

They noted that sick and premature infants seem to sigh more often than healthier babies. They may be struggling to reset their systems. It may be possible, the researchers said, to use breathing patterns to identify those premature infants who are most at risk for problems of abnormal breathing control, including sudden infant death syndrome — also known as SIDS or crib death.
**S**

**PORTS**

**UEFA cup victory for Steaua, Partizan held**

**ACROSS**
14. **THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR** Sunday, 15 August, 2004

**Netherlands' Macha Van Der Vaart (L) celebrates a goal for her team while South Africa's Lindsey Carlisle (R) looks down during the first half of their women's preliminary round B field hockey match at the Athens 2004 Olympic Games on 14 August, 2004. —MNA/Reuters

**CROSSWORD PUZZLE**

**ACROSS**

1. Gastropod
2. Room
3. Footprint
4. Room
5. Restaurant
6. Hundred
7. Inlet
8. Taken for granted
9. Tender
10. Revealed
11. Budge
12. Rhythmic throwing
13. Taken for granted
14. Tend
15. Dodger
16. Figurehead
17. Not limp or flabby
18. Speaker's platform
19. Agar
20. Competent
21. Beef
cake
22. Rustic
23. French capital
24. Forsake
25. Backless seat

**DOWN**

1. New
2. Disease
3. Squeeze
4. Enchanted
5. Modify
6. Evergreen conifer
7. Prepared
8. Fasten tightly
9. Fungus
10. Vine
11. Pig's ear
12. Accustomed
13. Empty
14. Attack
15. Wild West show

**PORTO names Fernandez as new coach**

Lisbon, 13 Aug.—European champion Porto has named Spaniard Victor Fernandez as the new coach to replace Luigi Del Neri, the club said in a statement issued here recently.

Fernandez, 43, who was without a club but had previously coached Celta Vigo and Real Zaragoza, has signed a two-year contract with the Portuguese champions.

Sports newspaper O Jogo had reported earlier this week that the agreement was reached late on Sunday after Fernandez had talks with Porto chairman Jorge Nuno Pinto da Costa. Porto said on Saturday that they had agreed to terminate Italian Del Neri's contract the previous day for personal reasons.

Del Neri was hired in June to replace Jose Mourinho, who left to manage west London club Chelsea after guiding Porto to the Portuguese title and in the Champions League final last May with a 3-0 win over Monaco. —MNA/Xinhua

**Dubbo-begoy leaves Woods playing catch-up**

Koeller (Wisconsin), 13 Aug.—Tiger Woods showed no sign of ending his winless streak in majors as he stumbled to a three-over-par 75 in the first round of the US PGA Championship on Thursday.

The world number one never recovered from a double-begoy seven at the 11th, his second hole, and now faces a fight to avoid missing the halfway cut after finishing 10 shots behind early leader Darren Clarke.

Woods birdied his first hole of the day on the 7,514-yard Whistling Straits course but his round began a downward spiral when he was disturbed by a spectator during his backswing on the monster 618-yard par-five 11th.

He pulled his drive into thick rough and then failed to locate the fairway with his second shot before three-putting to rack up an ugly seven.

The 28-year-old, who has gone nine majors without victory since winning the 2002 US Open, followed up with bogeys at the next two holes to go three over.

He drove the green on the par-five 14th before sealing a birdie to move back to two over, but Woods was clearly struggling to find his form.

After going out in 38 he dropped three more shots on the homeward nine and not even birdies on two and four could salvage his round.

Woods was tied for 97th and two shots off the cut line.

The last time he missed the 36-hole cut was at the 1997 Belle Canadian Open — 128 events ago. —MNA/Reuters

**Iraq stun Portugal 4-2 at Athens Games**

Athens, 13 Aug.—Iraqi footballers brought a ray of comfort to the war-torn country by upsetting Portugal 4-2 in their opening game of the Olympic men's soccer tournament on Thursday.

Striker Younis Mahmoud snatched a 56th-minute winner to settle a bad-tempered game for Iraq, who overcame major hardship to reach the quarterfinals of the Asian Cup in China last month.

The game was marred by controversy, however, with Manchester United's Cristiano Ronaldo lucky to escape with only a yellow card after a blatant elbow on Mahmoud in the 19th minute that opened a nasty cut above the Iraqi forward's eye.

Ronaldo's teammate Luis Boa Morte was not so fortunate, the Fullham striker being sent off for a wild lunge on Iraq left back Bassim Abbas six minutes into the second half.

Portugal, looking to restore some pride after their senior side were stunned by Greece in the Euro 2004 final, took the lead in the 12th minute in Patras thanks to an own goal from Haidar Jabar.

Iraq hit back to take a 2-1 lead through Emad Mohammedi and Hwary Mohammedi, only for Portugal to equalize on the stroke of halftime when Porto midfielder Jose Bosingwa volleyed home from the edge of the box.

But Iraq, forced to share a training pitch with grazing sheep in Baghdad, again demonstrated their resilience as the heavily bandaged Mahmoud swept home an Emad Mohamed pass after springing the Portuguese offside trap.

Substitute Salih Sadir added a fourth in injury time to complete Portugal's misery.

In the other Group D match, Costa Rica were held to a goalless draw by Morocco in Heraklio, Crete.

Meanwhile, Iraq escaped a similar fate to Portugal as they fought back from two goals down to salvage a 2-2 draw with Ghana in Group B.

Striker Alberto Gilardino pounced in the 83rd minute to earn Italy a point after an absorbing game in Volos. Paraguay moved top of the group with a 4-3 victory over Japan in Thessaloniki.

The men's soccer is an Under-23 tournament with three over-age players permitted per team. The Athens Olympics formally opened on Friday. —MNA/Reuters

**Bnei Sakhnin set for Arab first in UEFA Cup**

Jerusalem, 13 Aug.—Israel's Bnei Sakhnin will set a precedent in European soccer by becoming the first Arab side to compete in a UEFA competition when they play Partizani Tirana of Albania at the National Stadium in Tel Aviv on Thursday.

Excitement is mounting in the small town set in the verdant Galilee hills in northern Israel as the team prepares for its UEFA Cup second qualifying round tie.

Sakhnin earned their place after last May's emotional 4-1 cup final victory over Hapoel Haifa.

"As the kickoff nears excitement is growing, this is a historic moment for us," club spokesman Mondar Halaila said.

Interest in Sakhnin's exploits has spread beyond Israel's borders as soccer fans throughout the Arab world tune in.

Bnei Sakhnin set for Arab first in UEFA Cup

Offers for funding to help the poorest club in the Israeli Premier League have also come from donors in the oil-rich Gulf states.

Israel's Arabs have long been ostracized by their fellow Arabs from neighbouring countries, most of which do not have diplomatic ties with the Jewish state.

Sakhnin's cup final win in Tel Aviv in front of 40,000 spectators — double the town's population — was hailed as a triumphant sporting first for Israel's Arab minority who number some 1.1 million, nearly a fifth of the population. —MNA/Reuters

**Irish Golf**

**Eddie Low of Korea (L) shoots past Demetrio Locanero of Spain during their preliminary pool A men's handball match at the Athens 2004 Olympic Games on 14 August, 2004. —INTERNET**
MRTV -3

15-8-2004 (Sunday) (Programme Schedule)
Morning Transmission (9:00 - 10:00)
9:00 Signature Tune/Greeting
9:05 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar"
9:06 Almo-Food (Soon)
9:10 Headline News
9:12 Clothes make the Woman
9:15 National News
9:20 Myanmare Movies Impact
9:30 National News
9:40 Our Coffee Town
9:40 Melodious Myanmar Harp
9:45 National News
9:50 Architecture of the Great Ananda
9:58 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

15-8-2004 (Sunday) Evening Transmission (15:30 - 17:30)
15:30 Signature Tune/Greeting
15:32 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Myanma Panorama & Myanma Sentiment"
15:36 Almo-Food (Soon)
15:40 Headline News

Rainfall on 14-8-2004
— 1.46 inches at Yangon Airport,
 — 1.65 inches at Kabar-Aye,
 — 2.64 inches at central Yangon.
Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 2122 mm (83.54 inches) at Yangon Airport, 2060 mm (81.10 inches) at Kabar-Aye and 2053 mm (80.83 inches) at central Yangon.

WEATHER

Saturday, 14 August 2004
Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours
MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been cloudy in lower Sagaing Division, rain has been isolated in upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway and Tanintharyi Divisions, scattered in Yangon Division, Shan and Kayah States and widespread in the remaining areas with locally heavy falls in Rakhine and Mon States and isolated heavyfalls in Kachin State and Ayeyawady Division. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Kyaukpyu (7.48 inches), Hunthada (5.71 inches), Sitway (5.35 inches), Maungtaw (5.04 inches), Patuao (4.72 inches), Ye (3.86 inches), Mawlamyine (3.54 inches) and Ann (3.35 inches).

Maximum temperature on 13-8-2004 was 28.2°C (82°F). Minimum temperature on 14-8-2004 was 19.5°C (67°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 14-8-2004 was 96%. Total sunshine hours on 13-8-2004 was nil. Rainfall on 14-8-2004 was 37 mm (1.46 inches) at Yangon Airport, 42 mm (1.65 inches) at Kabar-Aye, 67 mm (2.64 inches) at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 2122 mm (83.54 inches) at Yangon Airport, 2060 mm (81.10 inches) at Kabar-Aye and 2053 mm (80.83 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kabar-Aye) was 12 mph from Southwest at 16:25 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 15-8-2004: Rain and thunderstorms will be isolated in lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Divisions, scattered in Tanintharyi Division, Shan and Kayah States and widespread in the remaining areas with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Rakhine State. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Moderate Monsoon.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 15-8-2004: Some rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 15-8-2004: Likelihood of isolated rain or thunderstorms. Degree of certainty is (60%).
Development of a township …

The chairman of Township PDC reported on location, area and population of Aunglan Township, conditions on the region’s natural resources, measures for supply of more water for agricultural purpose, cultivation of monsoon and summer paddy in 2003-2004, targeted acres for growing monsoon and summer paddy in 2004-2005, sufficiency of food and edible oil, targets for cultivation of ten major crops, work progress and output, steps being taken to meet the target and livestock breeding, education, health sectors and requirements.

Next, the Prime Minister presented a TV, video cassette player and computer each to Aunglan Basic Education High School Nos 1 and 2 through principals. The Prime Minister fulfilled the requirements for regional development including the region’s education, health, livestock breeding, forestry, development affairs, transport sectors, saying that the inspection tour was aimed at attending to the needs for regional development. Just after the arrival at the region, he inspected Aunglan People’s Hospital and fulfilled the requirements for raising the health standard of local populace. Unlike other 25-bed township people’s hospitals, Aunglan People’s Hospital is a 50-bed one, reflecting a fine result of medical benefits created by the State. Therefore, it is incumbent upon those responsible in the health sector to be imbued with goodwill and to strive for ensuring the hospital to be a reliable facility through beneficial and effective use of the good results created by the government.

Development of a region mainly relies on management, perseverance and goodwill of respective township level departmental officials. Hence, only when the departmental officials make combined endeavours through coordination among the departments or sector-wise committees, will respective regions meet greater progress. In particular, those responsible are to make field trips down to respective rural areas to attend to the needs of local residents in accordance with the five rural development tasks for ensuring all-round development of these areas. Aunglan Township has achieved success in the economic sector and the per capita income of locals is high. Departmental officials are to constantly take innovative measures for promotion of the region’s agricultural and livestock breeding sectors and productive forces.

In order to accomplish this goal, better ways and means are to be sought for adopting prudent projects in respective fields. In the drive for regional progress, measures are to be taken for effectively enlisting the strength of social organizations and fulfilling the requirements of local residents so as to obtain participation of the people. In conclusion, the General called for collective efforts of departmental officials, the people and social organizations for greater progress of respective townships, wards and villages.

After the ceremony, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt cordially greeted those present on the occasion. Next, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party went to No 1 BEHS in Aunglan, where they were welcomed by members of the school board of trustees, the school head, teachers and students. At the school, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party viewed wall magazines exhibited from 9 to 13 August to mark the ‘School Health Week’ activities.

MEC Chairman Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt also went to the Ywahtuang Basic Education Middle School in Aunglan, where he met the school head and teachers and fulfilled the requirements after hearing reports on pedagogic matters and staff welfare.

PM General Khin Nyunt sends message of sympathy to PRC

YANGON, 14 Aug — General Khin Nyunt, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of sympathy to His Excellency Mr. Wen Jiabao, Premier of the State Council of the People’s Republic of China for the great loss of life and property caused by the devastating earthquake occurred in Yunnan and by the typhoon that swept the eastern coast of the People’s Republic of China. — MNA

USDA Secretariat Member carries out rural development in Mandalay Division

YANGON, 14 Aug — Secretariat Member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association U Aung Thaug yesterday met secretaries and executives of Division, District and Township USDA in Mandalay Division USDA Office and gave instructions on carrying out the five rural development tasks and participation in public welfare activities. The secretaries and executives reported on public welfare tasks being undertaken and implementation of the five rural development tasks in their regions.

Member of Central Organizing Committee of Myanmar War Veterans Organization Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaug met chairman and secretaries of Kyaukse, Myingyan, Meiktila, NyaungU, PyinOoLwin and Yamethin District Supervisory Committee for War Veterans Organizations at Mandalay Division USDA Office. The MWVO Central Organizing Committee member gave a speech and fulfilled requirements of respective district organizations. The minister then met factory managers in Mandalay and Sagaing Division at Mandalay Brewery. This morning, the Secretariat Member inspected new Mandalay District USDA Office in Maha Aungmye Township. In the meeting hall, he instructed secretaries and executives of division, district and township USDA to participate in public welfare activities.