Sippañ ca, to acquire skills in sciences; this is the way to auspiciousness.

Four political objectives

* Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
* National reconsolidation
* Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
* Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

Prime Minister receives Israeli Ambassador

YANGON, 16 Aug—Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt on behalf of the Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council, received Israeli Ambassador to the Union of Myanmar Mr Yaacov Avrahamy who had completed his tour of duty at the hall of Zeyathiri Beikman on Komnyahta here at 5 pm today. Also present on the occasion were Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Win, Director-General at the Prime Minister’s Office U Soe Tin and Director-General of Protocol Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Thura U Aung Htet.—MNA

Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt receives Israeli Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Yaacov Avrahamy at Zeyathiri Beikman Hall on 16-8-04. —MNA

Minister inspects reservoirs, river water pumping projects in Sagaing, Mandalay divisions

YANGON, 16 Aug—Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin, accompanied by officials, on 14 August inspected the construction of Salingyi Reservoir near Salingyi, Monywa District, Sagaing Division. The reservoir is being built by the Irrigation Department. Director-General of the Irrigation Department U Kyaw San Win reported to the minister on the two sites chosen for the new Phaungkata reservoir and condition for storage of water. Afterwards, the minister arrived Kyawzi river water pumping project in Taungtha Township, Mandalay Division, and inspected the pumping system there. Kyawzi river water pumping project was built to irrigate the farmlands in northwest of Taungtha Township. During his tour, the minister also inspected water supply of the No 2 pumping station of the pumping project in Taungtha Township. (See page 8)
Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt sends felicitations to Indonesia

YANGON, 17 Aug— On the occasion of the 59th anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of Indonesia which falls on 17 August 2004, a message of felicitations has been sent from General Khin Nyunt, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar to Her Excellency Madame Megawati Soekarnoputri, President of the Republic of Indonesia. — MNA

Myanmar-Canada volleyball friendly continues

YANGON, 16 Aug — Chairman of the Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint watched the second match of good-will volleyball match between the selected youth team of Myanmar Volleyball Federation and the ‘Athletes in Action’ team of Canada at the National Sports Stadium-1 (Thuwunna) on 16-8-2004.

Two athletes of Canadian Athletes in Action team trying to block the smash of Kyaw Thuya of the Myanmar youth team of Myanmar Volleyball Federation at the second Myanmar-Canada friendly match held at National Sports Stadium-1 (Thuwunna) on 16-8-2004.

Shwesaryan Open Golf C’ship concludes

YANGON, 16 Aug — Shwesaryan Open Golf Championship, organized by Myanmar PGA and Myanmar Golf Federation, entered its fourth day, final day, at Shwesaryan Golf Resort in Mandalay yesterday.

The tournament was organized by MOFA and Ministry of Culture of Myanmar.

MCDC Secretary Li-Col Maung Pu presents the trophy to Myo Min Aung. — MNA

WTO Valuation Workshop for Private Sector Batch-5 opened

YANGON, 16 Aug — With the sponsorship of the Customs Department and the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, the WTO Valuation Workshop for Private Sector Batch-5 was opened at the UMFCCI training centre on Bo Sun Pat Street here this morning.

WTO Valuation Workshop for Private Sector Batch 5 opened. — UMFCCI

.foreign Minister sends felicitations to Indonesia

YANGON, 17 Aug— On the occasion of the 59th anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of Indonesia which falls on 17 August 2004, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Dr N Hassan Wirajuda, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia. — MNA

Poet leaves to attend World Poetry Reading Activity

YANGON, 16 Aug — CEC member of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association Editor-in-Chief of Nangngangonye Publishing House U Ohn Maung (Myinmu Maung Naing) who was left here by air this afternoon to attend the 10th World Poetry Reading Activity to be held in KL, Malaysia from 16 to 22 August.

Famous poets from foreign and domestic were invited to that activity which was organized by MOFA and Ministry of Culture of Malaysia and Kuala Lumpur Mayor’s Office. He was accompanied by CEC member of MWJA advisor to Ministry of Culture U Myo Thant (Maung Hsu Shin) and was seen off at the airport by Chairman of MWJA U Hla Myaing (Ko Saung), Joint Secretary U Myint Kywe (Maung Myint Kywe) and family. — MNA

Strive for boosting yield of edible oil crops

The Union of Myanmar being an agricultural country, the Government has been fulfilling all the requirements for the development of agriculture by building dams and river water pumping stations and by providing quality strains and disseminating cultivation methods to the farmers. The farmers, on their part, are required to try to strengthen the national economy by extending the cultivation of marketable crops.

During his trip to Magway Division, Prime Minister General Kyin Nyunt visited Taundwingyi Township on 14 August and met members of the Township Peace and Development Council, departmental personnel, members of social organizations and town elders. In his address on the occasion, the Prime Minister touched on the development of agriculture and urged all in the Magway Division to make relentless efforts to extend the cultivation of edible oil crops, which can contribute to the national development and to the success of manufacturing industry.

The Government is providing all the necessary assistance to make Magway Division an oil pot of the nation so that it can meet fifty per cent of the domestic consumption. Township departmental personnel and farmers, on their part, are required to make concerted efforts to develop agricultural industry of their region and to boost the yield of edible oil crops by making the most of favourable conditions created by the Government. The more oil crops we can produce, the more we can reduce the import of edible oil. In this way, we can save foreign currency and use it for purchasing locomotives and other machinery necessary for building river-crossing bridges and establishing an industrialized nation.

We would like to call on the farmers in Magway Division to try their utmost to be able to extend the cultivation of edible oil crops by making effective use of the assistance offered and favourable environments created by the Government so that agriculture, their main industry, can contribute to the national development.

Poetry Reading Activity

ANGON, 17 Aug — U Win Aung, Minister of Culture, sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Dr N. Thant, the President of Indonesia which falls on 17 August 2004, a message of felicitations has been sent from General Khin Nyunt, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar to Her Excellency Madame Megawati Soekarnoputri, President of the Republic of Indonesia. — MNA

Famous poets from foreign and domestic were invited to that activity which was organized by MOFA and Ministry of Culture of Malaysia and Kuala Lumpur Mayor’s Office. He was accompanied by CEC member of MWJA advisor to Ministry of Culture U Myo Thant (Maung Hsu Shin) and was seen off at the airport by Chairman of MWJA U Hla Myaing (Ko Saung), Joint Secretary U Myint Kywe (Maung Myint Kywe) and family. — MNA

MCDC Secretary Li-Col Maung Pu presents the trophy to Myo Min Aung. — MNA

ANGON, 16 Aug — CEC member of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association Editor-in-Chief of Nangngangonye Publishing House U Ohn Maung (Myinmu Maung Naing) who was left here by air this afternoon to attend the 10th World Poetry Reading Activity to be held in KL, Malaysia from 16 to 22 August.

Famous poets from foreign and domestic were invited to that activity which was organized by MOFA and Ministry of Culture of Malaysia and Kuala Lumpur Mayor’s Office. He was accompanied by CEC member of MWJA advisor to Ministry of Culture U Myo Thant (Maung Hsu Shin) and was seen off at the airport by Chairman of MWJA U Hla Myaing (Ko Saung), Joint Secretary U Myint Kywe (Maung Myint Kywe) and family. — MNA

ANGON, 16 Aug — CEC member of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association Editor-in-Chief of Nangngangonye Publishing House U Ohn Maung (Myinmu Maung Naing) who was left here by air this afternoon to attend the 10th World Poetry Reading Activity to be held in KL, Malaysia from 16 to 22 August.

Famous poets from foreign and domestic were invited to that activity which was organized by MOFA and Ministry of Culture of Malaysia and Kuala Lumpur Mayor’s Office. He was accompanied by CEC member of MWJA advisor to Ministry of Culture U Myo Thant (Maung Hsu Shin) and was seen off at the airport by Chairman of MWJA U Hla Myaing (Ko Saung), Joint Secretary U Myint Kywe (Maung Myint Kywe) and family. — MNA

Two athletes of Canadian Athletes in Action team trying to block the smash of Kyaw Thuya of the Myanmar youth team of Myanmar Volleyball Federation at the second Myanmar-Canada friendly match held at National Sports Stadium-1 (Thuwunna) on 16-8-2004.

ANGON, 16 Aug — CEC member of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association Editor-in-Chief of Nangngangonye Publishing House U Ohn Maung (Myinmu Maung Naing) who was left here by air this afternoon to attend the 10th World Poetry Reading Activity to be held in KL, Malaysia from 16 to 22 August.

Famous poets from foreign and domestic were invited to that activity which was organized by MOFA and Ministry of Culture of Malaysia and Kuala Lumpur Mayor’s Office. He was accompanied by CEC member of MWJA advisor to Ministry of Culture U Myo Thant (Maung Hsu Shin) and was seen off at the airport by Chairman of MWJA U Hla Myaing (Ko Saung), Joint Secretary U Myint Kywe (Maung Myint Kywe) and family. — MNA

Two athletes of Canadian Athletes in Action team trying to block the smash of Kyaw Thuya of the Myanmar youth team of Myanmar Volleyball Federation at the second Myanmar-Canada friendly match held at National Sports Stadium-1 (Thuwunna) on 16-8-2004.

ANGON, 16 Aug — CEC member of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association Editor-in-Chief of Nangngangonye Publishing House U Ohn Maung (Myinmu Maung Naing) who was left here by air this afternoon to attend the 10th World Poetry Reading Activity to be held in KL, Malaysia from 16 to 22 August.

Famous poets from foreign and domestic were invited to that activity which was organized by MOFA and Ministry of Culture of Malaysia and Kuala Lumpur Mayor’s Office. He was accompanied by CEC member of MWJA advisor to Ministry of Culture U Myo Thant (Maung Hsu Shin) and was seen off at the airport by Chairman of MWJA U Hla Myaing (Ko Saung), Joint Secretary U Myint Kywe (Maung Myint Kywe) and family. — MNA

Two athletes of Canadian Athletes in Action team trying to block the smash of Kyaw Thuya of the Myanmar youth team of Myanmar Volleyball Federation at the second Myanmar-Canada friendly match held at National Sports Stadium-1 (Thuwunna) on 16-8-2004.

ANGON, 16 Aug — CEC member of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association Editor-in-Chief of Nangngangonye Publishing House U Ohn Maung (Myinmu Maung Naing) who was left here by air this afternoon to attend the 10th World Poetry Reading Activity to be held in KL, Malaysia from 16 to 22 August.

Famous poets from foreign and domestic were invited to that activity which was organized by MOFA and Ministry of Culture of Malaysia and Kuala Lumpur Mayor’s Office. He was accompanied by CEC member of MWJA advisor to Ministry of Culture U Myo Thant (Maung Hsu Shin) and was seen off at the airport by Chairman of MWJA U Hla Myaing (Ko Saung), Joint Secretary U Myint Kywe (Maung Myint Kywe) and family. — MNA

Two athletes of Canadian Athletes in Action team trying to block the smash of Kyaw Thuya of the Myanmar youth team of Myanmar Volleyball Federation at the second Myanmar-Canada friendly match held at National Sports Stadium-1 (Thuwunna) on 16-8-2004.
US bombing kills civilians, Chinook downed

FALEJSAJ, 15 Aug—Al Jazeera sources in Iraq have reported that a US Chinook helicopter crashed in the Amariya district of Fallujah as medical sources report more civilian casualties from an airstrike.

However, there has been no official confirmation from US military sources.

Hospital officials told Al Jazeera that five civilians were killed and six injured when US fighter jets bombed a home in the al-Akari district of Fallujah.

“The incident was defensive in nature and not offensive as our marines were being targeted and shot by small arms and RPGs,” said Lieutenant Colonel TV Johnson.

“We gave air support and carried out six different sorties during the day. Right now, it has stopped. We do it as and when needed,” he added. Two civilians were also killed in clashes between Iraqi resistance fighters and a US patrol west of Fallujah.—Internet

US soldier killed in Iraq

BAKRAAD, 15 Aug—A US soldier was killed early Sun-

day when an improvised bomb exploded in northern Bagh-
dad, the military announced.

The blast went off about 1.30 am, the military said in a statement. No other soldiers were wounded, it said.

The name of the deceased soldier was being withheld until the next of kin could be informed.

As of Friday, 930 US service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq in March 2003, according to the US Defense Department.—Internet

Iraqi leader seeks help from Germany, France

BERLIN, 15 Aug—Iraqi Prime Minister Iyad Allawi urged Germany and France to be more actively engaged in his country’s reconstruction, a German news magazine reported on Saturday.

In an interview with the German news magazine Der Spiegel to be published in its latest issue next week, Allawi expressed the hope that Germany and France, which both opposed the US-led Iraqi war last year, will forgive the debts owed to them by the Saddam regime.

Berlin and Paris have so far only agreed to a postponed payment of Iraq’s international debts, arguing that the country is potentially rich with crude oil.

Allawi said that he aimed to visit Germany soon at Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder’s invitation.

A German Government spokesman told DPA, the Ger-
man Press agency, that although Allawi has been invited to visit Germany, there is no concrete date for the visit.

Meanwhile, Iraqi President Ghazi Youvar will visit Ber-
lin on September 9 on his planned European tour, the spokesmen said.—MNA/Xinhua

Indonesia, hold talks on economy

JAKARTA, 15 Aug—The Indonesian Government will hold a high-level discussion with a visiting delegation from Germany on Monday to find ways to improve the investment climate in this country.

“Japan has always been an important partner for In-
donesia in so many ways—economy, trade, investment, and so on,” the spokesman of the Foreign Ministry Marty Natalegawa was quoted by the Jakarta Post daily on Saturday.

Investors have been complaining about various conditions that are detrimental to investment, including a lack of legal certainty, widespread corruption, inefficient bureaucracy and labour dis-
penses. For Japanese invest-
ors, who invest mostly in the manufacturing sector, tax-related issues have also become a problem.

Investment used to be one of the country’s main eco-
nomic drivers. How-
ever at present, it accounts for less than 15 per cent of growth in the country’s gross domestic product — an indi-
cator of economic growth — with domestic consumption contributing more than 75 per cent.

MNA/Xinhua

Megawati expresses hope for better relations with Singapore

JAKARTA, 15 Aug—The Indonesian President Megawati Soekarnoputri congrat-
ulated new Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and expressed hope that two governments would work to improve bilateral relations, said Indonesian Foreign Minister Hassan Wirajuda.

“President Megawati sent the letter yesterday (Thursday) and expressed the hope that the two coun-
tries could strengthen their ties,” The Jakarta Post daily Saturday quoted Wirajuda as saying.

The Minister said he had also congratulated new Singaporean Minister for Foreign Affairs George Yeo on his appointment to Lee’s Cabinet.

“Hopefully many pend-
ing issues between the neigh-
boring countries will be ad-
dressed soon,” Hassan said.

He said that Indonesia had several pending issues with Singapore, including an extradition treaty process and the planned establishment of joint bilateral commission.

“We are always optimis-
tic that Singapore will pay more attention to these issues and hope to see a new ap-
proach to settle them,” Hassan said.—MNA/Xinhua

Uprising halves Iraq oil exports

BAKRAAD, 15 Aug—Iraq’s oil exports are still running at half their normal rates as a Shiite uprising prevented the re-
opening a main export pipeline and shut the South Oil Company’s headquarters.

Exports have been around 900,000 barrels per day (bpd) for nearly a week, since the southern pipeline was attacked by saboteurs and while a US offensive against the followers of Moqtada al-Sadr extended to several Iraqi cities.

The unrest and a threat by followers of the Shi’ite cleric to attack the oil infrastructure in response to the US offen-
sive have kept Iraq from reopening the 48-inch pipeline and reaching its August export goal of 1.8 million bpd.

An Iraqi oil official said it was impossible to say how long the threat from the uprising would cripple oil sales, the country’s key revenue earner.

“The situation is very fluid and fragile — we can’t anticipate anything,” the official told Reuters. “What is cor-
rect now is that we are loading about 900,000 barrels of Basra Light. How long we can sustain that — only God knows.”

Flows from southern fields to Iraq’s two Gulf terminals, which now account for all of the country’s exports, were continuing through a second 42-inch pipeline.

The larger pipeline has been repaired, but authorities shut it on Saturday after receiving intelligence that the Mehdi Army militia loyal to Sadr might target it.—Internet

Cambodian party leader meets CPC delegation

PHNOM PENH, 15 Aug—Cambodian royalist FUNCINPEC Party’s Secretary-General Prince Norodom Sirivuddh met here Friday with the visiting Chinese delega-
tion headed by He Yong, member of the Secretariat of the Central Committee of the Community Party of China (CPC).

During the meeting, both sides briefed each other about their domestic political and economic condition and ex-
changed views on Sino-Cambodian ties and regional and international issues of common concern.

Prince Sirivuddh also thanked the CPC and the Chinese Government and people for their great and sincere support and assistance extended to Cambodia.

Prince Sirivuddh reaffirmed the stance of sticking to the “one-China” policy and supporting China’s cause of reunification.

He also deputy secretary of the CPC Central Commis-
sion for Discipline Inspection, highly appreciated Cambo-
dia for its firm adherence to the “one-China” policy and supporting China’s cause of reunification.
Iraq evicts reporters from Najaf

BAGHDAD, 15 Aug— Iraqi police ordered all journalists to leave the holy city of Najaf on Sunday, just as a new US offensive against militants hiding out in a revered shrine began.

The punishment that snared more than a dozen papers' phones was inflicted by the police in Najaf, Iraq's main Shiite shrine, to prevent the journalists reporting on the latest round of violence in the city from getting close to the site of recent clashes between government forces and the Mahdi Army, a militia linked to radical cleric Moqtada al-Sadr.

The Interior Ministry spokesman Adnan Abdulrahman denied anyone was threatened with arrest. The order, if it were enforced, would mean the only news coverage of the ongoing violence in Najaf, one of the most revered cities to Shiite Muslims, would be provided by reporters embedded with the US military.

In an interview with Aljazeera on Friday to move on short notice to evacuate thousands of villagers living downstream from two dams where water levels have risen alarmingly. Around 70,000 people in the northeast of Gujarat State were at risk from flooding due to greater water flow from the dams located on the Mahi river.

Ukraine captures its first recoverable and reusable spacecraft in polar orbit, the Service (IANS) reported Friday.

On Aug 15, the International Space Research Organization (ISRO) is completing preparations for the launch of the spacecraft to be used for conducting zero gravity experiments in a reusable capsule.

With it, India will join the elite club of six countries that have the technology and domain expertise. The six nations are US, France, Russia, China, Japan and the European Union (the European Space Agency).

“With the launch of the spacecraft, ISRO will be launching the space capsule Recovery Experiment (SRE) payload as a co-passenger with Cartosat-2 satellite in the second half of 2005 from the Sriharikota space centre.

The SRE spacecraft will be positioned in the polar orbit at about 600-kilometre altitude,” Nair said.

The spacecraft can also be recovered from sea using the floatation system.

FAO signs agreements with three Indian organizations

NEW YORK, 15 Aug— As part of its effort to help countries expand their technical and managerial potential in agriculture sector, the Food and Agriculture Organization has signed agreements with three Indian organizations that would enable them to take lead in improving food security and water management in the country’s drought-prone areas.

In the first project, FAO will join the AME Foundation, a local NGO, to improve water management and promote alternative farming practices to strengthen food security in the Deccan Plateau region of southern India. The other two proposals will be managed by the Bharathi Integrated Rural Development Society and the Acharya N G Ranga Agricultural University.

Under the agreements, FAO will provide technical and management support to three projects funded with $3.9 million euros from the Netherlands, while the plans will be implemented by the Indian partners. The agency recently reconsidered its method of technical assistance because many countries wish to expand their own technical and administrative capabilities.

As a result, FAO’s role in these projects has decreased so that project management responsibility rests with governments and other national institutions.

India to launch recoverable spacecraft in 2005

NEW DELHI, 15 Aug— India will join an elite club of six countries with the launch next month of its first recoverable and reusable spacecraft in polar orbit, the Indo-Asian News Service (IANS) reported Friday.

Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) is completing preparations for the launch of the spacecraft to be used for conducting zero gravity experiments in a reusable capsule.

With it, India will join the elite club of six countries that have the technology and domain expertise. The six nations are the US, France, Russia, China, Japan and the European Union (the European Space Agency).

“India will join an elite club of six countries with the launch next month of its first recoverable and reusable spacecraft in polar orbit, the Indo-Asian News Service (IANS) reported Friday. ISRO will be launching the space capsule Recovery Experiment (SRE) payload as a co-passenger with Cartosat-2 satellite in the second half of 2005 from the Sriharikota Space Centre at Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh State in southeast India.

“The SRE spacecraft will be positioned in the polar orbit at about 600-kilometre altitude,” Nair stated.

The spacecraft can also be recovered from sea using the floatation system.

Thousands more face threat in S Asia flood ordeal

Dutch soldiers search for weapons in the used clothing market in the Iraqi town of Samawa, on 14 Aug, 2004. — Internet

Mahdi Army digs in, hopes for peace deal

NAJAF, 15 Aug— In an exclusive interview with Aljazeera, a Moqtada al-Sadr spokesman says the Mahdi militia are prepared for any attack against Najaf, but are also ready to accept any peace initiative.

Ahmad al-Shibani stressed that any peace move initiated by the Iraqi government, which he branded as a proxy agent of the US occupation of Iraq, would be welcomed by al-Sadr. "We want to stop the bloodshed, maintain the honour and integrity of the Iraqi people, and bring this crisis to an end," he told Aljazeera.

His comments came a few hours after the Iraqi Ministry of the Interior stated that US occupation forces supported by Iraqi national guardsmen will "soon" begin a large-scale offensive on Najaf.

In further signs that an attack on Najaf is imminent, Iraqi police forces in the city forced journalists to immediately leave the area. Najaf sources told Aljazeera that some journalists refused to leave and are hiding out in the besieged city.

While US forces have stated that they will respect the sanctity of the holy shrine of the Imam Ali, Aljazeera is reporting that a single shell breached the outer sanctum of the shrine, hitting an outer wall and killing one Mahdi Army fighter.

Ukraine captures its first recoverable and reusable spacecraft in polar orbit, the Service (IANS) reported Friday.

ISRO will be launching the space capsule Recovery Experiment (SRE) payload as a co-passenger with Cartosat-2 satellite in the second half of 2005 from the Sriharikota Space Centre at Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh State in southeast India.

“The SRE spacecraft will be positioned in the polar orbit at about 600-kilometre altitude,” Nair stated.

The spacecraft can also be recovered from sea using the floatation system.

Internet

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Tuesday, 17 August, 2004

Iraq evicts reporters from Najaf

BAGHDAD, 15 Aug— Iraqi police ordered all journalists to leave the holy city of Najaf on Sunday, just as a new US offensive against militants hiding out in a revered shrine began.

The punishment that snared more than a dozen papers’ phones was inflicted by the police in Najaf, Iraq’s main Shiite shrine, to prevent the journalists reporting on the latest round of violence in the city from getting close to the site of recent clashes between government forces and the Mahdi Army, a militia linked to radical cleric Moqtada al-Sadr.

The Interior Ministry spokesman Adnan Abdulrahman denied anyone was threatened with arrest. The order, if it were enforced, would mean the only news coverage of the ongoing violence in Najaf, one of the most revered cities to Shiite Muslims, would be provided by reporters embedded with the US military.

In an interview with Aljazeera on Friday to move on short notice to evacuate thousands of villagers living downstream from two dams where water levels have risen alarmingly. Around 70,000 people in the northeast of Gujarat State were at risk from flooding due to greater water flow from the dams located on the Mahi river.

Ukraine captures its first recoverable and reusable spacecraft in polar orbit, the Service (IANS) reported Friday.

ISRO will be launching the space capsule Recovery Experiment (SRE) payload as a co-passenger with Cartosat-2 satellite in the second half of 2005 from the Sriharikota Space Centre at Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh State in southeast India.

“The SRE spacecraft will be positioned in the polar orbit at about 600-kilometre altitude,” Nair stated.

The spacecraft can also be recovered from sea using the floatation system.

Thousands more face threat in S Asia flood ordeal

Dutch soldiers search for weapons in the used clothing market in the Iraqi town of Samawa, on 14 Aug, 2004. — Internet

Mahdi Army digs in, hopes for peace deal

NAJAF, 15 Aug— In an exclusive interview with Aljazeera, a Moqtada al-Sadr spokesman says the Mahdi militia are prepared for any attack against Najaf, but are also ready to accept any peace initiative.

Ahmad al-Shibani stressed that any peace move initiated by the Iraqi government, which he branded as a proxy agent of the US occupation of Iraq, would be welcomed by al-Sadr. "We want to stop the bloodshed, maintain the honour and integrity of the Iraqi people, and bring this crisis to an end," he told Aljazeera.

His comments came a few hours after the Iraqi Ministry of the Interior stated that US occupation forces supported by Iraqi national guardsmen will ‘soon’ begin a large-scale offensive on Najaf.

In further signs that an attack on Najaf is imminent, Iraqi police forces in the city forced journalists to immediately leave the area. Najaf sources told Aljazeera that some journalists refused to leave and are hiding out in the besieged city.

While US forces have stated that they will respect the sanctity of the holy shrine of the Imam Ali, Aljazeera is reporting that a single shell breached the outer sanctum of the shrine, hitting an outer wall and killing one Mahdi Army fighter.

Ukraine captures its first recoverable and reusable spacecraft in polar orbit, the Service (IANS) reported Friday.

ISRO will be launching the space capsule Recovery Experiment (SRE) payload as a co-passenger with Cartosat-2 satellite in the second half of 2005 from the Sriharikota Space Centre at Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh State in southeast India.

“The SRE spacecraft will be positioned in the polar orbit at about 600-kilometre altitude,” Nair stated.

The spacecraft can also be recovered from sea using the floatation system.

Thousands more face threat in S Asia flood ordeal

Dutch soldiers search for weapons in the used clothing market in the Iraqi town of Samawa, on 14 Aug, 2004. — Internet

Mahdi Army digs in, hopes for peace deal

NAJAF, 15 Aug— In an exclusive interview with Aljazeera, a Moqtada al-Sadr spokesman says the Mahdi militia are prepared for any attack against Najaf, but are also ready to accept any peace initiative.

Ahmad al-Shibani stressed that any peace move initiated by the Iraqi government, which he branded as a proxy agent of the US occupation of Iraq, would be welcomed by al-Sadr. "We want to stop the bloodshed, maintain the honour and integrity of the Iraqi people, and bring this crisis to an end," he told Aljazeera.

His comments came a few hours after the Iraqi Ministry of the Interior stated that US occupation forces supported by Iraqi national guardsmen will ‘soon’ begin a large-scale offensive on Najaf.

In further signs that an attack on Najaf is imminent, Iraqi police forces in the city forced journalists to immediately leave the area. Najaf sources told Aljazeera that some journalists refused to leave and are hiding out in the besieged city.

While US forces have stated that they will respect the sanctity of the holy shrine of the Imam Ali, Aljazeera is reporting that a single shell breached the outer sanctum of the shrine, hitting an outer wall and killing one Mahdi Army fighter.

Ukraine captures its first recoverable and reusable spacecraft in polar orbit, the Service (IANS) reported Friday.

ISRO will be launching the space capsule Recovery Experiment (SRE) payload as a co-passenger with Cartosat-2 satellite in the second half of 2005 from the Sriharikota Space Centre at Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh State in southeast India.

“The SRE spacecraft will be positioned in the polar orbit at about 600-kilometre altitude,” Nair stated.

The spacecraft can also be recovered from sea using the floatation system.
Pakistan expresses concern over killings in Iraq

ISLAMABAD, 15 Aug—Pakistan Friday expressed its deep concern over the latest spate of killings in Iraq and demanded that the sanctity of holy places and shrines in Najaf, Karbala and other places to be respected.

“Pakistan is deeply concerned over the latest spate of killings in Iraq,” said Foreign Office spokesman Masood Khan.

“These killings must come to an end, sanctity of holy places and shrines in Najaf and Karbala and other places should be respected and Iraq should be steered towards peace, security and stability,” the spokesman said, stopping short of criticizing the operations of the US-led occupation forces in Iraq.

Pakistan, a major Muslim country with a population of 140 million, opposed the US invasion of Iraq and viewed it as illegitimate although Islamabad is a major ally of Washington in the war on terror.

US troops and Iraqi security forces backed by warplanes and helicopters Thursday launched a major assault on the Mehdi Army, followers of the radical Shiite leader and cleric Muqtada Al-Sadr, in the holy city of Najaf in a bid to end the fierce fighting there, leaving at least 160 dead.

According to the US Defence Department, about 2,200 US Marines, along with 500 to 1,000 soldiers and an undisclosed number of US-trained Iraqi troops, were involved in the offensive.

Sanctity of holy places and shrines in Najaf, Karbala and other places to be respected.

Later, talking to reporters, the spokesman said, stopping short of criticizing the operations of the US-led occupation forces in Iraq.

Malaysia travel business frets as skies hazy again

KUALA LUMPUR, 15 Aug—Malaysia’s travel industry expressed fears on Friday that the haze from Indonesian forest fires, which has driven away foreign tourists in the past, is posing a fresh threat to local businesses.

Malaysia sees its peak season for Arab tourists between now and September and tour operators said the recurrence of the acrid-smelling haze, after a brief respite last month, could hurt new bookings and arrivals.

Visibility in Kuala Lumpur was down to about three miles on Friday as dust particles from forest fires in Indonesia combined with the dense humidity and local air pollution to create the stifling haze that residents have come to dread. The fires are mainly due to illegal slash-and-burn cultivation on plantations on the islands of Sumatra and Kalimantan (Borneo).

“I’m afraid if this is prolonged, and the air quality gets any worse, we could start seeing some very undesirable things happening to our business,” said a local tour agent who handles mainly Arab and European travellers.

Canada’s trade surplus hits record

OTTAWA, 15 Aug—Canada’s trade surplus hit a record of 8.6 billion Canadian dollars (about 6.6 billion US dollars) in June as the country’s exports grew for a fifth consecutive month, Statistics Canada said Friday.

Merchandise exports hit a record high of slightly more than 39.0 billion Canadian dollars (about 29 billion US dollars) for June, eclipsing previous record levels achieved during the high-tech boom.

Exports increased by 4.4 per cent, while imports fell 3.7 per cent from their record high in May.

Canada’s exports increased to all of its principal trading regions, while every industry, except forestry products, registered gains.

Increasing global demand and a steady economic rebound for the first half of 2004 in the United States appear to be eroding any damaging effects that the strong Canadian dollar had over the exporting community, Statistics Canada said.

Bush declares Florida disaster area

WASHINGTON, 15 Aug—US President George W Bush on Friday declared the southeastern state of Florida a disaster area following Hurricane Charley as the state earlier in the day.

Bush declared “a major disaster exists” in Florida and ordered federal aid to supplement local recovery efforts in the areas struck by tropical storm Bonnie and Hurricane Charley beginning on August 11, the White House said in a statement.

The action makes federal funding available to affected individuals in the counties of Charlotte, Lee, Manatee and Sarasota, the statement said.

“Assistance can include grants for temporary housing and home repairs, low-cost loans to cover uninsured property losses, and other programmes to help individuals and business owners recover from the effects of the disaster, according to the statement.

Federal funding is also available to state and eligible local governments for debris removal and emergency protective measures, and hazard mitigation measures.

A stronger-than-expected hurricane struck coastal Florida on Friday, slamming the heavily-populated Gulf Coast with devastating storm surges and 230-kilometre-per-hour wind that snapped trees in half, ripped roofs off buildings and blacked out hundreds of thousands of people.

Nearly two million people were ordered to evacuate, with airports and theme parks hurriedly closed ahead of the strongest storm to hit Florida in a decade. Florida Governor Jeb Bush said preliminary estimate of damage could exceed 15 billion US dollars.

About 340,000 homes and businesses were without power in southwest Florida, and that number was expected to grow as Charley cut across the state, media reports said.

Australia’s political police face dangerous PNG mission

SYDNEY, 15 Aug—Australia signed an agreement on Friday with Papua New Guinea for a five-year, 900 million Australian-dollar (639-million US dollar) programme to bring peace to a nation where criminal gangs rule the capital and tribes are engaged in bloody wars.

As part of a new intervention policy in the South Pacific, the first of 210 Australian police land in Papua New Guinea in early September.

“This is going to be, for the police, quite dangerous work,” Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer said in Sydney on signing the treaty with PNG counterpart Sir Bobbie Nambali.

The assistance programme for the former Australian colony, which gained independence in 1975, will also see six Australians placed in government departments in an attempt to end endemic corruption in the resource-rich but under-developed nation.

Australia’s interventionist policy in the South Pacific stems from its fear that political and economic instability in its small island neighbours could create havens for drug traffickers, people smugglers and terror groups.

India for better ties with China, Pakistan

NEW DELHI, 16 Aug—“India is committed to strengthening and expanding its relations with China and the two countries shall carry forward the process of discussion to resolve the boundary question with political vision and a practical approach,” Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said here Sunday.

Addressing the nation on the occasion of the 58th Independence Day, the Prime Minister said that India is also committed to strengthening and expanding its relations with Pakistan.

Manmohan Singh said that the positive trends which India is committed to following forward the peace process with Pakistan but cross-border terrorism and violence would make this task “more difficult and complex”, adding that “we have always been in favour of a purposive bilateral dialogue with Pakistan to resolve all outstanding issues”.

“The edifice of peace that we wish to build must stand on the twin pillars of mutual trust and confidence,” said Singh.

Manmohan Singh said that the “assurance of peace and prosperity in our neighbourly countries whose priority, like that of India, will also have to be the improvement of the quality of life of their citizens and these countries are not only bound together by common borders but also by common destiny.”

US Army tanks of the 1st Cavalry Division drive down a street during an operation in Baghdad, on 15 August, 2004. Guerrillas fired mortars at a meeting where Iraqi leaders met to pick an interim national assembly on Sunday, killing at least two people.

"The New Light Of Myanmar" Tuesday, 17 August, 2004 5

MNA/Xinhua
Two US soldiers killed in separate attacks in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 15 Aug— Two US soldiers, including one Marine, have been killed in separate attacks in Iraq's western al-Anbar Province, the US military said Saturday.

The US military said in a statement that one US Marine was killed in action on Friday and another soldier died of fatal wounds sustained in separate incident.

Al-Anbar Province, which includes the restive cities of Ramadi and Fallujah, has been the bastion of unrest against the US occupation.

The latest casualties bring to 694 the number of US soldiers killed in Iraq since the beginning of the US-led invasion in March last year. — MNA/Xinhua

China holds first seminar for African Press officials

BEIJING, 16 Aug — The first seminar held by the Information Office of China's State Council for African Press officials opened here Saturday.

Press officials from 17 African countries will participate in the two-week seminar. They will exchange views with Chinese journalists and learn more about China's achievements.

This seminar is the first of its kind and a result of the cooperation between the governments of China and African countries. Besides Beijing, the participants will travel to Shanghai, Chongqing and Suzhou.

One hundred seminar participants, African diplomats, media representatives attended a reception here Saturday evening sponsored by the Information Office of State Council for the opening of the seminar. — MNA/Xinhua

Instability keeps Iran oil exports half normal rate

BAGHDAD, 16 Aug — Iraq's oil exports were still running at half their normal rate on Sunday as instability due to an anti-US uprising prevented the re-opening of a main pipeline feeding the country's terminals in the Gulf.

For nearly a week, the unrest has kept Iraq from hitting its August export goal of 1.8 million barrels per day (BPD).

An Iraqi oil official said it was impossible to say how long the threat from the rising violence could cripple oil sales, the country's key revenue earner.

"The situation is very fluid and fragile—we can't anticipate anything," the official told Reuters. "What is correct now is that we are loading about 900,000 barrels of Basra Light. How long we can sustain that—it only God knows."

Exports from Iraq's offshore terminals, which account for all its oil sales, have run at half normal levels of 1.8 million bpd since late Monday when saboteurs attacked a 48-inch pipeline that links southern oilfields to two offshore terminals. A 42-inch pipeline remains in operation.

The larger pipeline has been repaired, but authorities shut it on Saturday after receiving intelligence that the Mehdi Army militia loyal to Shi'ite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr might target it.

An official from the South Oil Co. confirmed on Sunday that the pipeline was still shut. The Mehdi Army has vowed to attack Iraq's oil infrastructure in response to a US offensive against the 30-year-old cleric and his followers, which is drawing closer to the Imam Ali shrine in the centre of Najaf.

US crude oil futures hit 46.65 US dollars a barrel on Friday, the latest peak in a series of record highs, underpinned by worries about sabotage in Iraq and fresh evidence of strong Chinese demand. Analysts see US oil heading for US$60 dollars.

One tanker, the Lucky Sailor, was loading some 888,000 barrels per day (BPD) of Basra Light crude from platform number four of the Basra Oil Terminal (BOT), formerly known as Mina al-Bakr, a shipping agent said.

Former British FM urges Blair to learn Iraq lessons

LONDON, 16 Aug — Former British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook on Sunday urged British Prime Minister Tony Blair to learn lessons from the US-led war against Iraq, saying that Blair should distance himself from the US Administration's preemptive strike doctrine.

Anti-war voters would see the prospect of military adventures diminishing and Blair would have understood that he could not take Britain to war again in such very divided circumstances, Cook told the BBC Breakfast with Frost programme.

"One good thing he could do at this (coming) Labour Party conference would be to rule out the doctrine of preemptive strike which (US President) George W. Bush invented to justify the attack on Iraq," Cook said.

"That places enormous stress on having the correct intelligence and one of the things we have learnt from Iraq is that you will never have intelligence good enough to justify war on its own," said Cook, who resigned from Blair's Cabinet as leader of the House of Commons days before the Iraq war in protest against the government's Iraq policy.

The argument that war could in any case be justified for humanitarian reasons would not sway the voters who thought the United States and Britain had opposed the wishes of the international community. Cook insisted. The popularity of Blair, the staunchest US ally on Iraq, has plummeted since the war due to his policy on Iraq and his government has been accused of exaggerating the threat posed by Iraq's alleged weapons of mass destruction to justify the Iraq war. — MNA/Xinhua

Musharraf extends Independence Day greetings to Kalam

ISLAMABAD, 16 Aug — Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf on Saturday greeted his Indian counterpart A P Abdul Kalam on the eve of the neighbouring country's Independence Day.

"On the anniversary of India's independence, it gives me great pleasure to convey to you and the people of India our felicitations and warm greetings," he said in his message to Kalam.

US embargo on human trafficking in Texas

HOUSTON, 15 Aug.— Thousands of people are brought into the United States against their will each year in acts of modern-day slavery, US Justice Department officials said recently as they announced new measures to end the practice.

"The simple truth is that some 16,000 people every year are brought into this country against their will," said Michael Shelby, US Attorney for the Southern District of Texas.

"Those people are held captive, they are beaten, they are assaulted, many times they are raped, they are threatened with death," the Justice Department said.

"The Justice Department has launched a new task force in Texas to ferret out criminals who force illegal immigrants to work in captive labour or prostitution, Attorney General for Civil Rights Alexander Acosta said.

Further, the department plans to set up similar task forces in more than a dozen locations across the country, he said.

Human trafficking “is real, it is hideous, it is nothing less than modern-day slavery,” Acosta told a news conference.

Shelby said the victims of human traffickers are reluctant to seek help because they are in the country illegally and they are often threatened by their captors.

Many cases are hard to track, they did not know if human trafficking crimes were on the rise.

According to a report on the Justice Department website, approximately 80 per cent of human trafficking victims are female. — MNA/Xinhua
Endeavours to uplift health and fitness of the entire nation.

Kyaunggon in Ayeyawady Division gets a new gymnasium to produce fit and healthy youths. —(PHOTO H'TAY AUNG-KYEMON)
Filling stations, refinery and oil field inspected in Mandalay, Magway Divisions

YANGON, 16 Aug — Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi accompanied by officials inspected the place chosen to open Compressed Natural Gas Filling Station, Paleik, Singaing, Mandalay Division on 14 August and designated the axis to connect natural gas pipelines.

During his presence, the managing director and director (Engineering Service) of Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise presented reports on situation of 14-inch diameter natural gas pipeline and petrol-run bus lines in TadaU, Kyaukze, Singaing, Myinttha and Kimektla in Mandalay. After the minister had opened Paleik CNGFilling Station and gave instructions on replacing petrol-run bus lines with natural gas-run ones from TadaU, Kyaukze, Myinttha and Kimektla for the first phase and bus lines for Mandalay to Kimektla for the second phase. He instructed officials to carry out work for speedy implementation to open CNG Filling Stations along the natural gas pipelines as soon as possible.

On his arrival at Filling Station No0621 and 0633 on 15 August, he inspected sale of fuel and gave necessary instructions to officials. He went on to No 2 Refinery (Chauk). At the briefing hall, the managing director of MOGE and the factory manager presented reports on production of oil. The minister gave instructions on minimising loss and wastage and cooperation to boost production and inspected production of crude oil and raw material for wax. Next, the minister went to Yenanchaung oil field and the managing director and general manager of the oil field presented reports on drilling of new wells and maintenance of old ones. In response to the reports, the minister laid down arrangements to be made for enabling production of oil exceeding the target.

Minister inspects reservoirs, river water pumping projects...

NGATHAYUK river water pumping project in NyaungU District and preparations for monsoon paddy cultivation.

Afterwards the minister proceeded to the construction site of the Ngathayuk Dam project about three miles northwest of Ngathayuk in NyaungU District, Mandalay Division and inspected the construction work being carried out with the use of machinery. He also saw over the earth work for the main dam and construction of control tower. The Ngathayuk Dam is being constructed by the Irrigation Department. Later, the minister went to the construction site of Kyaukkhu river water pumping project which is to supply irrigation water to farmlands around NyaungU Airport. In charge of the project reported to him on construction of the main pumping station, sub-pumping stations and channels to irrigate 3000 acres of farm land all the year round. The minister inspected the construction work and gave instructions on timely completion of work.

Wellwishers invited for sinking...

On 01-245420 or 01-253088; the deputy director-general (Engineering) at 01-291967; the director (Sagang Division DAC) at 071-21012; the director (Mawgyaw Division DAC) at 063-23164; and the director (Mandalay Division DAC) at 02-54657.

Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi inspects the shop to sell compressed natural gas—CNG at Paleik, Singaing Township on 14 August. — MNA

ASEAN, China meet for drug control

YANGON, 16 Aug — The third meeting of subdivision development working group of ASEAN and China Cooperative Operations in Response to Dangerous Drugs (ACCORD) was held at Grand Plaza Park Royal Hotel here this morning. Substitution development tasks implemented by each country and future plans were discussed at the meeting. The meeting was attended by representatives of ASEAN member countries, China and UNODC (Bangkok/Yangon), guests from foreign missions and departments, officials and observers.

PBRNDR Minister receives Japanese Ambassador

YANGON, 16 Aug — Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Than Swe received Japanese ambassador to Myanmar Mr Yuji Miyamoto at his office at noon today. Present on the occasion were Director-General Col Tun Hlaing of Department of Border Areas and National Races Development, Director-General Col Than Win of Education and Training Department and officials.

Greening tasks for Mandalay Airport environs inspected

YANGON, 16 Aug — Accompanied by Civil Aviation Department Director General U Win Maung, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe arrived at Mandalay International Airport by flight of Myanmar Airways this morning and inspected the growing of shady trees and flowering plants in the compound of the airport by car. Airport General Manager U Tun Hlaing and officials reported to the minister on kinds of trees planted and the number of trees and water supply for growing them. Next, the minister inspected the environment to the airport and growing of flowers in front of the archway. The minister also looked into the growing of flowering plants and the water tank and necessary instructions. At the VIP lounge of the airport, General Manager U Tun Hlaing reported to the minister on growing of trees and plants for greening the environs and other plans to be carried out. Director-General U Win Maung gave a supplementary report. The chairman of Kyaukse District Peace and Development Council also reported on water supply tasks for growing the trees and plants and Officer on Special Duty Col Thein Swe on nurturing of landscaping grass and growing of shady trees and seasonal flowers. The minister gave necessary instructions and fulfilled the needs.

Meeting on Human Resource Development for Public Health held

YANGON, 16 Aug — A ceremony to meet Human Resource Development for Public Health, organized by the Ministry of Health, took place at the meeting hall of the ministry on Bogyoke Aung San Street this morning. It was attended by Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo, directors-general, deputy directors-general, rectors, directors, the chairman of Myanmar Medical Science Academy, professors and officials.

First, the deputy minister made a speech on the occasion, saying that the Department of Health under the Ministry of Health always coordinated for human resource development for public health. In providing to the public health care services, there has been achievement of human resources development. Basic health infrastructure of a country depends upon that of township, district, state and division. So as to catch up with standard of functions of International and WHO and systems must be kept for development of human resources of public health and the meeting needs to be discussed by technicians, he added.

Afterwards, Deputy Director-General of Department of Health Dr Ye Myint presented reports on measures being taken for development of human resources of public health and those present took part in the discussions.

Next, the deputy minister made concluding remarks and the meeting went into recess.

Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe inspects cultivation of shady plants along the road to Mandalay International Airport. — TRANSPORT

Kyawzir river water pumping project was built to irrigate the farm lands northwest of Taungtha Township.
Ministry of Construction holds Four-monthly meeting

YANGON, 16 Aug — The first and second four-monthly meeting (2004) of the Ministry of Construction was held at the Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development. It was attended by Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, Deputy Ministers U Tin Swe and Brig-Gen Myint Thein, Public Works Managing Director U Nay Soe Naing, Construction Inspection Department Director Director General U Soe Tin, DISHD Director General Col Aung Win, departmental heads, superintending engineers of states and divisions, superintending engineers of various construction projects and engineers.

First, the minister addressed the opening ceremony. The superintending engineers of states and divisions reported on construction tasks to be carried out, acquisition and use of funds and use of machinery and construction materials. In response to the reports, the minister gave necessary instructions and attended to the needs.

Coord meeting held to organize People-to-people Exchange Programme: ASEAN Cultural Interaction at Grassroots, Phase III

YANGON, 16 Aug — The coordination meeting (2/2004) on organizing the People-to-people Exchange Programme: ASEAN Cultural Interaction at the Grassroots, Phase III, was held at the National Museum on Pyay Road here at 1 pm today. It was attended by Chairman of the Leading Committee for organizing the programme, Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung, Mandalay Mayor Brig-Gen Yan Thein, the leading committee members deputy ministers, departmental heads, members of subcommittees and officials. Minister Maj-Gen Kyi Aung explained matters related to holding the seminar on the People-to-people Exchange Programme: ASEAN Cultural Interaction at the Grassroots, Phase III, a project of ASEAN Culture and Information Committee in Myanmar. Next, officials of the subcommittees reported on their arrangements for the seminar.

The deputy ministers and officials took part in the discussions and the meeting concluded with the remarks by the minister.

6th ASEAN Universities Network Educational Forum commences

YANGON, 16 Aug — The 6th ASEAN Universities Network Educational Forum opened at Diamond Jubilee Hall here today. Present were Minister for Education UThan Aung, Deputy Ministers U Myo Nyunt and Col Aung Myo Min, officials, ASEAN Universities Network Executive Director Prof Dr Supachai Yavaprabhas and others. After the minister had made a speech, Prof Dr Supachai Yavaprabhas explained about the Forum. He presented souvenirs to the minister and officials. Afterwards, the minister, deputy ministers, the executive director of ASEAN and faculty members of ASEAN Universities Network and students posed for a documentary photo.

Teachers and students of member countries of ASEAN Universities Network attended the forum and would carry out seminars and field tour programmes commencing today until 27 August.

UMEHL holds 17th gem and jade sale

YANGON, 16 Aug — The Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings Ltd held its 17th gem and jade sale for 2004 at the Myanmar Gems Mart on Kaba Aye Pagoda road here this morning attended by Managing Director of UMEHL Maj-Gen Win Hlaing (Retd).

The managing director inspected uncut jade displayed on the ground floor and gems lots and jewellery displayed at the middle and upper floors where officials concerned conducted him round.

A 511-carat sapphire worth K 150 million displayed at the 17th gem and jade sale for 2004.

Next, the managing director greeted gem merchants who were observing jade and gem lots. Altogether 164 jade lots and 323 gem lots were sold through tender system and competitive bidding at the gem and jade sale.

IWT MD inspects waterway, running of vessels

YANGON, 16 Aug — Managing Director of Inland Water Transport U Soe Tin inspected current and waterways near Nawade Bridge in Pyay, running and berthing of vessels, the Township Manager’s Office in Aunglan. He inspected waterway of Ayeyawady Bridge (Magway) in Magway, current of Ayeyawady River, warning signs and a check point.

Gem merchants observes jade and gem lots at the 17th gem and jade sale for 2004.
Cultivating a kind heart

Khun Ni Si Jan

Without a kind heart one will not be able to serve the mankind’s interest, no matter how wise, strong or wealthy he is. Knowledge, wisdom and thought will cultivate a kind heart.

I have heard a tender group of words “cultivating a kind heart” (moral education) at a pre-elementary school named ‘Higashi Bessho’ in Ohta town, Japan. Under the arrangement of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Education, a delegation comprising 20 primary assistant teachers of Myanmar visited Japan for 23 days.

As soon as our bus arrived at the gate, Japanese children of the school welcomed us by waving their hands. And when we entered the school compound, they greeted us “Konchiwa” in Japanese and “Good Morning” in English. Both greetings have the same meaning. We shook hands with them all, while greeting them “Mingalaba”, “Konchiwa” and “Good Morning”. We all the teachers and we children had the same feeling: the feeling of pleasure.

The greetings were followed by the drill and fitness exercise of the school children. We visited the classrooms where the children were reciting poems, making dolls or singing songs. At a number of places of the school, we watched with pleasure many paintings, which were works of children, and toys and colourful pictures the children like.

“How do you feel visiting our children?” the principal asked us when we met with her at the parlor. “We are very happy”, we all responded. She said that the teaching methods of 16 pre-elementary schools in Ohta in Gunma Prefecture were different from one another, and that her school taught physical education, songs, poems, drawing and origami. Special attention has been paid to cultivating a kind heart (moral education) and physical education to strengthen their morale and cultivate moral and manners, she said, explaining the salient points of the school. She invited us to ask more questions.

“Cultivating a kind heart”. The words are very tender and have a deep and wide meaning. “What kind of education do you teach children, whose hearts are so pure and tender? And how do you teach them?” I asked her care of her and bring happiness to her; that the child then gave her a present, which was a photo of his grandpa and grandma walking happily hand in hand in a damson garden; and that when she saw the photo, grandma was able to control herself. The boy’s good deeds came out from his kind heart, she said. The principal was talking with us through an interpreter.

In return we spoke words of thanks to express our pleasure to visit the school and know about the good deeds of the boy. When we left the school, we saw the children waving at us.

It is beneficial for the human society to train a child to have a kind heart. A person will benefit the human society if he is trained to have a heart of gold since young. Children are sincere in every way, and sincerity helps the world become a pleasant place.

It is beneficial for the human society to train a child to have a kind heart. A person will benefit the human society if he is trained to have a heart of gold since young. Children are sincere in every way, and sincerity helps the world become a pleasant place. A child’s gift can uplift the spirit of an old woman who had a lot of experience in her life. It can make her realize the truth and also give her strength.

Every race and every nation has its own customs. Myanmar people by nature lead a simple life under the teachings of the Lord Buddha. The process of cultivating the heart (moral education) can be found everywhere in Myanmar. Parents as well as teachers are giving moral education to the children. The teachings of Lord Buddha nurture the people. Children are future leaders and the strength of the nation. We, teachers, have full responsibility to nurture and train them. They will become outstanding persons walking on the correct path only if we teach them out of love. Teachers are a pillar in building a modern and developed nation with the power of knowledge. So, teachers, let us strive for giving valuable and useful knowledge to children.


Poem

Worthy of choice

* Not interfering in others’ internal affairs
* Considerate, helpful
* For peace and positivity
* In words and deeds, always engaged

It is controversial in Japan for Japan to actively push efforts to “contribute to global peace” and “win trust from the world”, suggesting the continuation of current policy to expand Japan role in global affairs.

Addressing a ceremony at Tokyo to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II, the Premier said that the war inflicted “huge damage and suffering” to a lot of countries, especially the Asian nations.

“I will make my utmost efforts for Japan to actively contribute to global peace and win more trust from the world.” Koizumi said. The remarks implied his resolution to go on with the policy to promote peace for the Self-Defense Forces internationally.

Sending troops abroad is controversial in Japan considering its pacifist Constitution. But overseas operations as UN peace-keeping and anti-terrorism missions have been seen since 1990s. Around 500 Japanese troops are currently posted in southern Iraq.

The government report-edly would submit an amendment bill next year, calling to upgrade “international cooperation” from the “collaborative mission” to “basic mission”.

In addition, the Defence Agency is mulling on setting up special forces for such purpose.

Koizumi, as well as most of his Cabinet members, did not visit on the day the Yasukuni Shrine that honours Japanese war dead, including A-class WWII war criminals.

The Premium, who had vowed to visit the shrine every year, announced early this month his absence because this year’s visit was realized on July 1.
China, Brazil hail 30th anniversary of diplomatic ties
BEIJING, 16 Aug — The Chinese and Brazilian presidents exchanged congratulatory messages Sunday to mark the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

The two countries have had all-round and effective cooperation and made fruitful achievements in such fields as politics, economy and trade, science and technology, culture, and international affairs since the establishment of their diplomatic relations 30 years ago, especially the establishment of their strategic partnership, Chinese President Hu Jintao said in a letter to his Brazilian counterpart Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva.

“Your state visit to China in May this year achieved full success, furthering the relations to an all-round and deep development,” Hu said.

Under this aspect, Brazil is a major developing country, he said. Under the background of a multi-polar world and the acceleration of economic globalisation, strengthening and deepening Sino-Brazilian strategic cooperation will be beneficial to the two countries’ common development, safeguarding legal rights of the vast developing countries, furthering the establishment of a fair and reasonable international political and economic order.

China is willing to work with Brazil and the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries is an opportunity to bring the Sino-Brazilian strategic partnership to a new level and develop Sino-Brazilian ties into a good example of new-style relations between developing countries, Hu said.

In his letter to Hu, Brazilian President Lula said that under the basis of mutual respect, sovereignty and territorial integrity, non-interference of each other’s internal affairs, the Brazil-China relations had been strengthened evidently.

The political dialogue between the two countries may be rated as a good example of such dialogue and bilateral cooperation has progressed smoothly, Lula said.

Mutual understanding and common ground in international affairs have developed steadily, said the Brazilian President.

Lula recalled his state visit to China in May this year and reiterated the four guiding principles on the further development of bilateral relations reached with China.

He said the Brazilian Government has attached great importance to the harmonious development of friendly relations between the two governments and the two peoples.

Lula expressed his belief that the strategic partnership between Brazil and China would be strengthened further.

Also on Sunday, Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing and Brazilian Foreign Minister Celso Amorim exchanged congratulatory messages.

India, China to step up cooperation between police forces
BEIJING, 16 Aug — Opening up a new area of cooperation between India and China, police organizations of the two countries have started interacting on a regular basis, step up ties and safeguard national security.

Under this, a high-level Indian delegation led by Joint Secretary AK Jain has arrived here for talks with senior officials of the Chinese People’s Armed Police (PAP), an armed defence force which undertakes police duties.

This visit will open up a new area of cooperation between India and China, a product of enhancement, diversification and promotion of comprehensive relations between India and China, official sources said.

They said the visit of the Indian delegation was a return visit to that made by the Deputy Commander of the PAP, Lieutenant-General, Liang Hong in February this year.

Liang had led a seven-member Chinese police delegation to India for the first time and had successful exchange of views with his Indian counterparts, sources noted.

During his stay here, Jain is scheduled to meet with the Commander of the PAP and hold official talks with the deputy Commander of the PAP.

During their visit to Shanghai, China’s commercial capital, the Indian delegation is expected to familiarize with PAP’s role in safeguarding the major port there.

Their visit to Shenzhen would be basically to understand how the PAP has undertaken securing the country’s leading Special Economic Zone (SEZ), sources said.

India watching developments in Maldives
NEW DELHI, 16 Aug — India said Saturday it was watching developments in Maldives, where government has declared a state of emergency.

“We have learnt about it. We are naturally concerned. We are watching the developments,” the Press Trust of India quoted External Affairs Ministry spokesman Navtej Sarna as saying when asked about clamping of emergency in that nation.

He said India enjoyed close relations with Maldives.

The state radio in Male announced Friday the declaration of a state of emergency. The Maldivian Government said the step was taken to prevent deterioration of law and order.

India is among the first to recognize Maldives after its independence in 1965 and to establish diplomatic relations.

Bulgaria seizures heroin hidden in onion truck
SOFIA, 16 Aug — Bulgarian Customs seized 123 kilograms of heroin on Sunday hidden in a Turkish- registered truck loaded with onions and destined for Romania.

Customs officers detained the driver, a 28-year-old Turkish citizen, as he tried to cross the Turkey-Bulgaria border at the Kapiyan Andreiev checkpoint, state news agency BTA said.

The heroin had a street value of about 120,000 US dollars, the agency added.

Bulgaria, which borders Turkey, Greece, Macedonia, Serbia and Montenegro and Romania, lies on the Balkan route used by smugglers smuggling drugs from Asia to Western Europe. The impoverished Balkan state, which will join the European Union in 2007, usually seizures more than a ton of heroin annually.

Hu Jintao urges cadres to better people’s lives
NANCHONG (Sichuan), 16 Aug — Chinese President Hu Jintao has urged cadres across the country to do practical things of immediate concern to the general public and lead the people to create a better life.

Hu, also General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC), made the remarks during an inspection tour of southwest China’s Sichuan Province from August 13 to 15.

“The Party is built for the public and it exercises state power for the people,” Hu said.

“Chinese cadres must earnestly carry out all the Party’s policies to enrich the people under the guidance of Deng Xiaoping Theory and the important thoughts of ‘Three Represents’,” which says that the Communist Party of China always earnestly represents the development requirements of China’s advanced social productive forces, the progressive course of China’s advanced culture, and the fundamental interests of the over-welthing majority of the Chinese people.

Hu visited workshops, rural areas and farmers, and carried out investigations over topics such as implementation of scientific development concept and the building of the party.

While talking to local farmers, the President reassured them that the government would continue to discuss policies to boost grain production and increase farmers’ income without change and will be conducted in a better manner.

Meanwhile, Hu welcomed local cadres to make more efforts to assist agriculture and rural work.

The President specifically visited Baishu Village, in Yilong County, Nanchong, one of the old revolutionary base areas, where the farmers have suffered severe water shortages.

After Hu’s instruction to solve the problem at the beginning of this year and local government’s efforts for several months, the difficulty has been much improved.

“The people in the old revolutionary base areas once made great contributions to the victory of the Chinese revolution; we must give them wholehearted care to help them shake off poverty and lead a well-off life as soon as possible,” Hu said.

During the inspection, the President heard a work report from the provincial government and spoke highly of the achievements the province has made.

He called on all the people in Sichuan, birthplace of late Chinese senior leader Deng Xiaoping, to turn their deep emotion for Deng into a powerful spiritual drive to work harder to create a brand-new future for the province — MNA/Xinhua

Ukrainian soldier killed by mine in Iraq
KYIV, 16 Aug — A Ukrainian soldier in Iraq was killed by a mine on Sunday, the Defence Ministry said. “This morning, our soldiers were drawing water from a well near the capital Baghdad. Ukraine’s Defence Minister promised US counterpart Donald Rumsfeld on Friday that troops would stay in Iraq until local security forces were ready to take over their duties.

But the deployment has become a major political issue in the run-up to October presidential elections, with strong pressure from leftist parties to pull out.

By sending troops to Iraq, Kuchma hoped to repair ties with Washington, which were severely strained by reports of illegal weapons sales to Saddam Hussein.

Dutch soldier killed in Iraq, five badly wounded
AMSTERDAM, 16 Aug — A Dutch soldier was killed and five seriously wounded in a shooting incident on Saturday evening in Iraq, the Dutch Defence Ministry said.

The ministry said the five wounded, one from the military police and four from the Army, were out of danger and their condition was stable. Several other soldiers were slightly wounded. It’s not yet clear who carried out the attack.

After the shooting, rapid reaction forces and Apache helicopters were engaged, while a US Black Hawk helicopter helped with the medical evacuation.

Some time after the incident, the Dutch camp came under fire but no soldiers were hurt. The Dutch military police is investigating the attack.

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Tuesday, 17 August, 2004 11

Matt Hartley, South African vet, gives medicinal drugs in a Coke bottle to a 50 year-old chimpanzee in Abidjan zoo. — MNA/INTERNET

The ministry promised US counterpart Donald Rumsfeld on Friday that troops would stay in Iraq until local security forces were ready to take over their duties.
Five robbers shot dead by Malaysian police

KUALA LUMPUR, 15 Aug — Five robbers were shot dead by the police while trying to escape after robbing a jewellery shop in Endah Pa-
rade Shopping Complex in the suburbs of Kuala Lumpur on Friday.

Kuala Lumpur police chief Mustafa Abdullah told reporters here that the robbers were armed with a hand grenade and four pistols.

The robbers were gunned down in a shootout with the police while trying to flee in a car which was sitting at the taxi stand in front of the shop-
ing complex, the police chief said.

Mustafa said that in the incident, four of the robbers had walked into the shop before one of them fired a warning shot. MNA/Xinhua

Russia not against cooperation with US on air, missile defence

MOSCOW, 15 Aug — Russia is willing to cooperate with the US on develop-
ing missile defence systems providing their development remains under strict state control, Russian Defence Minister Sergei Ivanov said on Saturday.

“In theory, Russia has never ruled out the possibil-
ity of air and missile defence cooperation with the United States,” Ivanov said after his talks with US Defence Sec-
retary Donald Rumsfeld, who is visiting Russia’s sec-
don largest city of Saint Petersburg.

However, such coopera-
tion “must be maintained un-
der full, one hundred per cent state control,” Ivanov was quoted as saying by Russia’s Interfax news agency.

He noted that experts from both sides are studying possi-
bilities of cooperation in the high-tech field and “we would like them to do it even more quickly.”

Ivanov confirmed that stronger control over the transfer of man-portable sur-
face-to-air missiles is “one of the most promising areas of cooperation”.

The minister also re-
valed that he had talked with

Rumsfeld over the worldwide counter-terrorist campaign and the proliferation of weapon-
s of mass destruction.

Various regional prob-
lems, including the simmer-
ting tensions between the

neighbouring Georgia and its

renegade South Ossetia Re-
gion, were also discussed during the meeting, he said. MNA/Xinhua

![Image](https://via.placeholder.com/150)

Troops patrol Florida after storm kills 13

PUNTA GORDA (Florida), 15 Aug — National Guard troops in Punta Gorda patrolled devastated southwest Florida to prevent looting on Satur-
day as rescuers searched for victims of Hurricane Charley which killed at least 13 peo-
ple, shredded mobile homes and
damaged thousands of build-
ings.

“Our worst fears have come true,” said Florida Gov-

emor Jeb Bush, who saw “en-
tire communities totally flat-
tened.” Charley, the strong-
est hurricane to hit Florida in 12 years, moved on Friday with 145 mph (233 kph) winds, striking with more ferocity and farther south than ini-
tially forecast and taking many in the area by surprise.

Thirteen people were

killed, a spokeswoman for the Florida Division of Emer-
gency Management said. She had no
details.

Charley churned north-
est through the state and lashed the Carolinas on Sat-
day, but as a weaker tropi-
cal storm.

Its main impact was felt around the palm-lined coast near Punta Gorda, Port Char-
lotte and Fort Myers, and the death toll appeared likely to rise as search crews edged their way through pools and debris-clogged roads to reach dangerous unstable build-
ings. The Federal Emergency Management Agency esti-

mated 50,000 people were in shelters and 80 per cent of the buildings in Charlotte County were damaged. Many mobile homes were reduced to piles of twisted metal and smashed furniture.

“Right now, people are
deprived, they’re des-
couraged, they’re frustrated,” FEMA Director Mike Brown said. “We will get aid to you just as quickly and as rapidly as we can.”

The authorities declared a curfew from 9 pm (0100 GMT) until 6 am (1000 GMT) after looting broke out in the previous night. Thieves stole computers from a damaged Punta Gorda fire station, of-

ficials said.

Helmeted National Guardsmen in camouflage Humvees patrolled the streets.

Wayne Sadlle, emer-
gency management director for Charlotte County, said one of the biggest problems was persuading people to leave their damaged homes.

“We’re seeing a lot of what we probably saw with (Hurricane) Andrew, people just not wanting to leave, just not feeling comfortable leav-
ing, knowing that their home has been breached,” he said. MNA/Reuters

![Image](https://via.placeholder.com/150)

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV GEE HONG VOY NO (416)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV GEE HONG

VOY No (416) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16-8-2004 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expense and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be carried daily from 8 am to 11.20 am and noon to 4 pm on to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel. No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPIING AGENCY DEPARTMENT

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S EAGLE CORPORATION

Phone: 256908/378316/376797

![Image](https://via.placeholder.com/150)

VACANCIES

(For Local Service Only / Salary In Kyats)

Myanmar Mamee—Double Decker Ltd., an expanding local based company is currently looking for the suitable candidates who are keen to join the company to fill up the following vacancies.

(1) Production Executives
Age : 30 years old & above
Sex : Male
Academic Qualification: Mechanical Engineering Degree.

The eligible candidate should possess the following qualifications:
(1) 5-6 years of production experience in a manufacturing environment of food or drinks
(2) Good Knowledge of GMP, ISO 9000 & HACCP is an advantage
(3) Ability to lead and work under pressure.
(4) Good command of spoken & written English is preferred.

(2) Sales Supervisor
Age : 28 years & above.
Sex : Male/ Female.
Academic Qualification : University Graduate.

The eligible candidate should possess the following qualifications:
(1) 5-6 years of sales environment.
(2) Good & strong interpersonal skill, excellent public relationship & a team player.
(3) English proficiency is preferred.

The candidates are preferred to be local and they are appointed to station in their native towns in the following areas:
(1) Yangon
(2) Mandalay
(3) Taunggyi
(4) Mawlamyine
(5) Pyay
(6) Myitkyina
(7) Meiktila
(8) Magway
(9) Muse
(10) Pathein

Attractive remuneration and fringe benefit. Interested person may send a detailed resume indicating expected salary, qualification, education certificate, labour registration card and recent passport size photo within three weeks of this announcement. Only selected person will be called for interview.

Apply to: Human Resources Department,
Myanmar Mamee—Double Decker Ltd.,
No. 41, Trunk Road, Pyinmabin Industrial Complex,
Mingalardon Township.
No. 41, Trunk Road, Pyinmabin Industrial Complex,
Mingalardon Township.

![Image](https://via.placeholder.com/150)

FIVE ROBBERS SHOT DEAD BY MALAYSIAN POLICE

KUALA LUMPUR, 15 Aug — Five robbers were shot dead by the police while trying to escape after robbing a jewellery shop in Endah Pa-
rade Shopping Complex in the suburbs of Kuala Lumpur on Friday.

Kuala Lumpur police chief Mustafa Abdullah told reporters here that the robbers were armed with a hand grenade and four pistols.

The robbers were gunned down in a shootout with the police while trying to flee in a car which was sitting at the taxi stand in front of the shop-
ing complex, the police chief said.

Mustafa said that in the incident, four of the robbers had walked into the shop before one of them fired a warning shot. MNA/Xinhua

![Image](https://via.placeholder.com/150)
Project “HOPE” helps Chinese have healthy heart

A Ugandan woman appointed UN special adviser

KAMPALA, 15 Aug — A Ugandan woman has been appointed special adviser to United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan on gender issues and advancement of women, according to The New Vision newspaper on Friday.

Annan announced Mayanja’s appointment on Thursday in New York. “Mayanja is slated to become Annan’s Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, moving back to the UN from the Rome job that she has held since July 2000. She succeeds Assistant Secretary-General Angela King, who retired earlier this year,” a UN news was quoted as saying. — MNA/Xinhua

“New York Times” says reporter subpoenaed over leak

New York, 15 Aug — A New York Times reporter has been subpoenaed by a grand jury investigating the disclosure of a CIA undercover officer’s identity to syndicated columnist Robert Novak and other journalists, the newspaper reported on Friday.

The subpoena to Judith Miller was one of several issued to journalists in the investigation of whether Bush Administration officials illegally leaked the covert officer’s name. Arthur Sulzberger Jr., the Times’ publisher, said the paper would move to quash the subpoena, issued at the behest of special prosecutor Patrick Fitzgerald. He said the subpoena seeks to compel Miller to reveal confidential sources.

“Journalists should not have to face the prospect of imprisonment for divulging nothing more than aggressively seeking to report on the government’s actions,” he said.

Lawyers for the Times said the paper expects to receive a separate subpoena on its records and would fight it.

A federal judge on Monday rejected requests to quash subpoenas issued to Tim Russert of NBC’s “Meet the Press” and Matthew Cooper of Time magazine on the grounds they violate the reporters’ privileges under the Constitution’s First Amendment.

Times magazine was fined 1,000 US dollars a day, and Cooper was ordered “confined at a suitable place”, but the judge suspended both penalties pending appeal.

Hurricane Charley kills four in Cuba

HAVANA, 16 Aug — Four people were killed and five others injured as Hurricane Charley tore across Cuba, leaving 200,000 homeless, local authorities said Saturday.

Hurricane Charley crossed the coast just after midnight and took over two hours to sweep Cuba. It destroyed 16,000 houses and cut powers in several areas.

Violent winds battered the capital Havana, damaging buildings and bringing down 500 electricity cables. Technicians were trying to resume the supply of electricity and gas, the National Electricity Regulation chief, Victor Puentes, said.

The hurricane struck Mariel port and destroyed tens of vessels and school buildings. The province of Pinar del Rio in the western Caribbean country was not directly affected by the hurricane, but suffered a power blackout.

The hurricane damaged fruit plantations, including bananas and sugarcane, and vegetable production. Authorities sent brigades to assist the areas affected by Charley.

— MNA/Xinhua

World scientists to discuss hydatid disease control

NAIROBI, 15 Aug — Over 200 top international scientists from the world will gather in Kenya’s capital Nairobi next week for an annual congress to discuss hydatid disease prevention and control in Africa, the organizers said here on Friday.

Scientists from China, Germany, the United States, Switzerland, Britain, the Netherlands, Japan, France, Austria, Finland, Israel, Saudi, Morocco and some other countries will attend the 21st International Congress of Hydatidology in Nairobi on August 16-21, said statement from the African Medical Research Foundation which will co-host the meeting with Kenya Medical Research Institute. This is the first time that this congress is being held outside Africa, according to the statement.

“The congress discussion will focus mainly on the development of prevention, control and treatment of hydatid disease,” the statement said. Hydatid disease (hydrocystosis) is a serious parasitic disease caused by the larval stage of the dog tapeworm, likely leading to death in most cases if not treated.

It is found all over the world mainly in sheep and goat rearing regions. Turkana area, in northern part of Kenya, has one of the highest infection rates of hydatid disease in the world with over 2.5 percent of the population infected.

— MNA/Xinhua

Texas man launches ad campaign for new liver

HOUSTON, 15 Aug — A Texas man suffering from cancer has launched a media campaign including billboard advertisements to attract potential organ donors for a liver transplant he needs to save his life.

Two billboards reading: “I need a liver — Please help save my life” have gone up along Houston’s highways in recent days to find a donor for Todd Krampitz, 32, who was diagnosed with cancer in May.

Krampitz and his wife have bought newspaper advertisements and posted their story on a web site, with updates on his condition and possible donors.

“Todd’s only hope for survival is a liver transplant,” the web site says.

About 70 organ transplants are done every day in the United States, and another 16 people on waiting lists die each day because of a lack of available organs, according to the US Department of Health and Human Services.

There are about 17,471 patients waiting for liver transplants, according to Annie Moore, spokeswoman for United Network for Organ Sharing. Those patients are ranked in order of need, she said.

Krampitz was seeking a directed donor, who would specify that their liver would go directly to him.

Moore said the publicity around Krampitz’ case was welcomed by UNOS, which oversees organ donations for the US Government.

“It does bring increased awareness to the critical shortage of organs,” she said.

— MNA/Xinhua

Bus crash kills 34 in El Salvador

MEXICO CITY, 16 Aug — A bus fell into a ravine on Saturday in eastern El Salvador, killing 34 passengers and injuring 24 others, said reports reaching here from El Salvador.

The tragedy happened near the town of Carolina, east of San Miguel, reports said, quoting a spokesman for National Civil Police (PNC) of El Salvador.

— MNA/Xinhua

Hydatid disease (hydatidosis) is a parasitic disease caused by the larval stage of the dog tapeworm, likely leading to death in most cases if not treated. It is found all over the world mainly in sheep and goat rearing regions. Turkana area, in northern part of Kenya, has one of the highest infection rates of hydatid disease in the world with over 2.5 percent of the population infected.
Australia break US hold on relay

ATHENS, 16 Aug— Australia pulled off their first Olympic victory in the women’s 4x100 metres freestyle relay in nearly 20 years on Saturday, depriving the dominant Americans of a record-breaking fourth world record.

The Americans had an outright ban back onto the track just before the start of the race, having failed to meet the Olympic qualifying standards.

The women’s heat was an exciting and tense affair, with the US leading from the start. However, a huge error by one of the US swimmers allowed Australia to catch up and take the lead midway through the race.

In the final round, Australia hung on for dear life, with the US looking to make a desperate last-gasp effort. However, Australia held on for a thrilling victory, taking the gold medal.

Despite the drama, many believe that Australia’s victory was a just reward for their hard work and dedication. The team’s coach, Graeme Dix, said: “We knew we had it in us, but we had to be precise and execute our plans perfectly.”

China synchronized for double gold

ATHENS, 16 Aug— China enjoyed a golden start to the Olympic diving competition on Saturday when they won both the women’s three-metre springboard and the men’s 10-metre platform synchronized events in style.

The Chinese team’s performance was nothing short of spectacular, with both events being judged to be of the highest standard.

China’s gold medalist Minxu Wu and Jingjing Guo celebrated during the medal ceremony following their victory in the women’s synchronized three metres springboard final at the Athens 2004 Olympic Games on 14 August, 2004.

Wu and Guo are both considered to be some of the world’s best divers, and their success in the event was no surprise to anyone who has seen their previous performances.

China’s gold medalist Minxu Wu (left) and Jingjing Guo (right) perform one of their gold medal dives during the Women’s synchro springboard at the 2004 Summer Olympic Games in Athens, Greece, on Saturday, 14 Aug, 2004.
Tuesday, August 17
View on today:
7:00 am
1. Ascension Day
2. To be healthy exercise
3:00 pm
4. Wellcome & Sweet song
5:00 pm
5. MMR
8:00 am
6. Song of year's dream
8:20 am
7. MMR
8:30 am
8. International news
8:45 am
9. Grammar Made Easy
10. Grammar Made Easy
4:00 pm
1. Martial song
4:15 pm
2. Songs to uphold National Spirit
4:30 pm
3. English for Everyday Use
4:45 pm
4. Musical programme
5:00 pm
5. Frontline Report
6:00 pm
6. News
6:15 pm
7. "The Fire Rifle"
6:30 pm
8. National news
7:00 pm
9. National news
7:15 pm
10. National news
7:30 pm
11. Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights
11:00 pm
12. Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights
10:00 am
13. National News
13:00 pm
14. National News
1:30 pm
15. National News
2:00 pm
16. National News
2:30 pm
17. National News
3:00 pm
18. National News
3:30 pm
19. National News
4:00 pm
20. National News
4:30 pm
21. National News
5:00 pm
22. National News
5:30 pm
23. National News
6:00 pm
24. National News
6:30 pm
25. National News
7:00 pm
7:30 pm
27. National News
8:00 pm
28. National News
8:30 pm
29. National News
9:00 pm
30. National News

WEATHER

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Tuesday, 17 August, 2004

Rainfall on 16-8-2004
- 1.81 inches at Yangon Airport,
- 2.05 inches at Kaba-Aye,
- 1.61 inches at central Yangon. Total rainfall from 1-1-2004 was 2183 mm (85.94 inches) at Yangon Airport, 2140 mm (84.25 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 2122 mm (83.54 inches) at central Yangon.

Monday, 16 August 2004
Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: No showers or thunderstorms were reported during the past 24 hours. Convective activity over Kayah State and Mandalay District, and cloudy conditions over Magway Division and rain or thunderstorms have been isolated in Kayah State and Mandalay Division. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Mawlamyine (5.59 inches), Maubin (4.53 inches), Mudo (4.29 inches), Pathein (2.64 inches) and Hpa-an (2.48 inches).

Maximum temperature on 15-8-2004 was 28.0°C (82°F). Minimum temperature on 16-8-2004 was 18.8°C (66°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 16-8-2004 was 96%. Total sunshine hours on 15-8-2004 in Yangon was 10,002 hours.

Rainfall on 16-8-2004
Rainfall on 16-8-2004 was 46 mm (1.81 inches) at Yangon Airport, 52 mm (2.05 inches) at Kaba-Aye, 41 mm (1.61 inches) at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 2183 mm (85.94 inches) at Yangon Airport, 2140 mm (84.25 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 2122 mm (83.54 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 13 mph from Southwest at 12:50 hours MST on 15-8-2004.

Bay influence: Monsoon is strong in the Bay of Bengal. Forecast valid until evening of 17-8-2004: Rain or thunderstorms will be isolated in lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Divisions, scattered in Kayah and Kayin States, upper Sagaing, Bago and Tanintharyi Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Ayeyawady Division.

State of the sea: Occasional squalls with moderate to strong waves are likely off and along Myanmar coast, and intermittent squalls with face wind speed in squalls may reach (35) to (40) mph.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of increase of rain in eastern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 17-8-2004: Some rain or thunderstorms. Degree of certainty is (80%). Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 17-8-2004: Likelihood of isolated rain or thunderstorms. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 17-8-2004: Some rain or thunderstorms. Degree of certainty is (80%). Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 17-8-2004: Likelihood of isolated rain or thunderstorms. Degree of certainty is (60%).

(issued at 13:00 hrs MST on 16-8-2004)

The water level of Thawlin River at Hpa-an is (98) cm (about 3 ft) above the danger level. The level may remain above the danger level during the next (5) days commencing today.

The water level of Sittwe River at Toungoo is (11) cm (about half ft) and Madauk is 159 cm (about 5 ft) above the danger levels. The water levels may remain above the danger levels during the next (3) days commencing today.

The water level of Shwein River at Shweigyan is (52) cm (about 2 ft) above the danger level. The water levels may remain above the danger level during the next (3) days commencing today.

6:30 pm
8. National News
9. National News
10. National News

Wednesday, August 17 in today:
8:30 am
1. Brief news
8:45 am
2. Music: Together again
9:00 am
3. Music: Don’t look any further
9:15 am
4. National news
9:30 am
5. Music: What’s on your flava?
9:45 am
6. National news
9:00 pm
7. Music: When you’re looking like that
10:00 pm
8. News/Slogan
10:15 pm
9. Music: What’s on your flava?
10:30 pm
10. News/Slogan
10:45 pm
11. News/Slogan
11:00 pm
12. News/Slogan

Tuesday, August 17
View on today:
7:00 am
1. Ascension Day
2. To be healthy exercise
3:00 pm
4. Wellcome & Sweet song
5:00 pm
5. MMR
8:00 am
6. Song of year’s dream
8:20 am
7. MMR

Tuesday, August 17 in today:
8:30 am
1. Brief news
8:45 am
2. Music: Together again
9:00 am
3. Music: Don’t look any further
9:15 am
4. National news
9:30 am
5. Music: What’s on your flava?
9:45 am
6. National news
9:00 pm
7. Music: When you’re looking like that
10:00 pm
8. News/Slogan
10:15 pm
9. Music: What’s on your flava?
10:30 pm
10. News/Slogan
10:45 pm
11. News/Slogan
11:00 pm
12. News/Slogan
YANGON, 16 Aug — The ASEAN Economic Agreements Implementation Work Committee held its fifth meeting at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Commerce this afternoon.

The meeting was attended by Chairman of AEAIWC and Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, Vice-Chairman of AEAIWC and Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun, deputy ministers who are members of AEAIWC, the deputy chief justice, the governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar, departmental heads, officials of the National AFTA Unit and the heads, officials of the Myanmar, departmental departments and the Director-General and Managing Directors of the enterprises.

Present on the occasion were Deputy Ministers Brig-Gen Thein Tun and Brig-Gen Kyaw Win, the Directors-General and Managing Directors of the departments and the Directors and the General Managers.

Courses were being conducted to promote the efficiency of the staff and to develop the production enterprises, said the minister. The course was conducted to enhance their skill in the international relations, to understand their work and to speedily implement their tasks, he noted. Trainees were urged to enhance their knowledge and effectively apply at their work, he stressed.

Later, the Minister presented the prizes to the outstanding trainees and gave certificates to the leader of trainees. The eight-week course was attended by 29 trainees.—MNA

Courses were being conducted to promote the efficiency of the staff and to develop the production enterprises, said the minister. The course was conducted to enhance their skill in the international relations, to understand their work and to speedily implement their tasks, he noted.

Minister for Finance and Industry-1 U Aung Thaung delivers an address the English Proficiency Course No 2/2004 concluding ceremony. INDUSTRY-1

Conclusion of English Proficiency Course held

YANGON, 16 Aug—The English Proficiency Course No 2/2004 sponsored by the Ministry of Industry-1 concluded at the training hall of the ministry this morning with an address by Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung.

Present on the occasion were Deputy Ministers Brig-Gen Thein Tun and Brig-Gen Kyaw Win, the Directors-General and Managing Directors of the departments and the Directors and the General Managers.

Courses were being conducted to promote the efficiency of the staff and to develop the production enterprises, said the minister. The course was conducted to enhance their skill in the international relations, to understand their work and to speedily implement their tasks, he noted. Trainees were urged to enhance their knowledge and effectively apply at their work, he stressed.

Later, the Minister presented the prizes to the outstanding trainees and gave certificates to the leader of trainees. The eight-week course was attended by 29 trainees.—MNA

Courses were being conducted to promote the efficiency of the staff and to develop the production enterprises, said the minister. The course was conducted to enhance their skill in the international relations, to understand their work and to speedily implement their tasks, he noted.

Minister for Finance and Industry-1 U Aung Thaung delivers an address the English Proficiency Course No 2/2004 concluding ceremony. INDUSTRY-1

Conclusion of English Proficiency Course held

YANGON, 16 Aug—The English Proficiency Course No 2/2004 sponsored by the Ministry of Industry-1 concluded at the training hall of the ministry this morning with an address by Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung.

Present on the occasion were Deputy Ministers Brig-Gen Thein Tun and Brig-Gen Kyaw Win, the Directors-General and Managing Directors of the departments and the Directors and the General Managers.

Courses were being conducted to promote the efficiency of the staff and to develop the production enterprises, said the minister. The course was conducted to enhance their skill in the international relations, to understand their work and to speedily implement their tasks, he noted. Trainees were urged to enhance their knowledge and effectively apply at their work, he stressed.

Later, the Minister presented the prizes to the outstanding trainees and gave certificates to the leader of trainees. The eight-week course was attended by 29 trainees.—MNA

Courses were being conducted to promote the efficiency of the staff and to develop the production enterprises, said the minister. The course was conducted to enhance their skill in the international relations, to understand their work and to speedily implement their tasks, he noted.

Minister for Finance and Industry-1 U Aung Thaung delivers an address the English Proficiency Course No 2/2004 concluding ceremony. INDUSTRY-1

Conclusion of English Proficiency Course held

YANGON, 16 Aug—The English Proficiency Course No 2/2004 sponsored by the Ministry of Industry-1 concluded at the training hall of the ministry this morning with an address by Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung.

Present on the occasion were Deputy Ministers Brig-Gen Thein Tun and Brig-Gen Kyaw Win, the Directors-General and Managing Directors of the departments and the Directors and the General Managers.

Courses were being conducted to promote the efficiency of the staff and to develop the production enterprises, said the minister. The course was conducted to enhance their skill in the international relations, to understand their work and to speedily implement their tasks, he noted. Trainees were urged to enhance their knowledge and effectively apply at their work, he stressed.

Later, the Minister presented the prizes to the outstanding trainees and gave certificates to the leader of trainees. The eight-week course was attended by 29 trainees.—MNA

Courses were being conducted to promote the efficiency of the staff and to develop the production enterprises, said the minister. The course was conducted to enhance their skill in the international relations, to understand their work and to speedily implement their tasks, he noted.