Subhasita ca ya vaca, to have words well spoken; this is the way to auspiciousness.

YANGON, 20 Aug — Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Ferenc Madl, President of the Republic of Hungary, on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of Hungary, which falls on 20 August 2004. — MNA

Lt-Gen Tin Aye attends 17th Gem, Jade Sales of UMEHL

YANGON, 19 Aug — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Tin Aye of the Ministry of Defence attended the 17th Gem and Jade Sales 2004 of the Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings Ltd at the Myanmar Gems Mart on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road here this afternoon.

At 2.30 pm, Lt-Gen Tin Aye arrived at the Myanmar Gems Mart where Managing Director of UMEHL Maj-Gen Win Hlaing (Retd) and members of the Board of Directors, members of the sales committee and officials welcomed him.

In the auction hall, Lt-Gen Tin Aye viewed gem merchants at home and abroad purchasing gem and jade lots through competitive bidding.

MNA

CITES experts meeting concludes

YANGON, 19 Aug — The third-day session of the Third Meeting of the ASEAN Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna, jointly conducted by the Ministry of Forestry and ASEAN Secretariat, was held at Sedona Hotel here today.

Director-General of Forest Department U Soe Win Hlaing acted as chairman of the meeting and Ms Atty Annalizar A Vitug from the Philippines as vice-chairperson of the meeting. The experts attending the meeting discussed matters relating to the resolutions of the draft report of the 3rd Meeting of the ASEAN Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna.

In the afternoon, they visited Shwedagon Pagoda, Myanmar Gems Museum and Bogyoke Aung San Market.

Yesterday evening, Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung hosted a dinner to the experts at Sedona Hotel and presented souvenirs to them. — MNA

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
To strive for further development of livestock breeding sector

The Union of Myanmar, in its drive to establish an industrialized nation, has been giving special emphasis to the development of the agriculture, the livestock breeding and the forestry sector, all of which can earn necessary capital for the industrial nation. Moreover, the Government has been fulfilling all the requirements for the emergence of a modern and developed nation.

During his visit to Pathein, Ayeyawady Division in June this year, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance to responsible personnel regarding the development of the livestock breeding sector. He said that the agriculture sector, the livestock breeding sector and the forestry sector are important for the economic development of the country. Myanmar has favourable conditions geographically for development of these sectors, he said.

He called for concerted efforts for developing the livestock breeding sector remarkably by taking systematic measures. Myanmar is rich in terrestrial and aquatic resources and therefore the Head of State gave far-sighted guidance to strive for further development of the livestock breeding sector. It is required for the national entrepreneurs to bear the guidance of the Head of State in mind and do accordingly.

Now that livestock breeding entrepreneurs are well-versed in their trade and have introduced modern techniques for breeding pearls, they have to try not only to meet domestic consumption but also to earn foreign exchange by exporting the surplus.

In exporting marine products, it is very important to expand the market, to export them by sea as well as through the border trade and to produce quality products. Responsible personnel of the livestock breeding sector have to distribute pedigrees, to produce quality products. It is necessary for them to establish a model livestock breeding farm and encourage livestock breeding entrepreneurs in their respective townships by distributing pedigrees and disseminating breeding techniques.

Hence, we would like to call on the national entrepreneurs to make concerted efforts and to cooperate with the Government for further development of the agriculture, livestock breeding and forestry sectors.

Cash donations invited for Maha Rathabhi Samaggi Pagoda in Panglong

Yangon, 18 Aug — As the symbol of unity and consolidation of national brethren of the Union of Myanmar, the Maha Rathabhi Samaggi Pagoda has been built on Vikasini Hill in Panglong, Karen State. Wishes for the construction of the pagoda are needed to have more funds.

Cash donations for golden umbrella to be hoisted atop the pagoda and nine Buddha images with different mudras (hand postures) are to be received. A ceremony to make cash donations will be held at Vijaya Mingala Hall on Kaba Aye holkoo here at 1 pm on 24 August. — MNA

Don’t smoke

People’s Desire

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

Myanmar Gazette

Yangon, 19 Aug — The State Peace and Development Council has appointed the following persons as heads of service organizations shown against each on probation from the date they assume charge of their duties.

**Names**

1. (a) Police Brig-Gen Zaw Win
   - Deputy Director-General
   - Ministry of Home Affairs
   - Chief Inspector, Maubin University
   - Higher Education Dept (Lower Myanmar)
   - Ministry of Education
   - MNA

2. (b) U Saw Win
   - Pro-rector
   - Maubin University
   - Higher Education Dept
   - Ministry of Education
   - MNA

**Appointment of Ambassador agreed on**

Yangon, 20 Aug — The Government of the Union of Myanmar has appointed to the appointment of Mr Denis Comeau, as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Canada to the Union of Myanmar. Mr Denis Comeau is accredited to the Union of Myanmar, with resident in Bangkok, Thailand. — MNA

More US troops implicated...

(from page 16)

Seven US military police reservists from the 372nd Military Police Company were earlier accused of humiliating and in some cases beating and photo-graphing Iraqi detainees at the infamous prison near Baghdad. Some of those military police guards allege that they were simply acting under orders from military intelligence to “soften up” detainees for interrogation. Colonel Thomas Pappas, who was commandant of the 372nd Brigade, has already received a letter of reprimand for failing to ensure that his troops protected rights for prisoners guaranteed by the Geneva Conventions and US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and other top defense officials have promised to leave no stone unturned in several investigations into the US abuse of prisoners in Iraq and Afghanistan. General John Abizaid, head of the US Central Command, and Lieutenant-General Ricardo Sanchez, who was the top US military officer in Iraq at the time of the abuse, told Congress earlier that they had not found out about the abuse until this year when a military policeman revealed the problem to the prison. — MNA/Reuters

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

ADVERTISING DIVISION (Mandalay Branch) opens

Yangon, 18 Aug — The Advertising Division (Mandalay Branch) was opened on 15 August 2004 for those wishing to place their advertisements in Myanmar Alin, Kyemon and the New Light of Myanmar dailies published by the News and Periodicals Enterprise. Those who wish to put their advertisements or supplementary advertisement sheets may contact Mandalay Sub-Printing House between 20th and 21st Streets and 82nd and 83rd Streets in Aungmyaythazan Township, Mandalay, (Tel: 02-22729 or 02-39935). — MNA

NATIONAL ruled for failing to ensure..." says Iraq war was mistake

Washington, 19 Aug — Breaking ranks with the White House and hisRepublican leaders in Congress, Republi- can Doug Bereuter of Nebraska has said in a letter to constituents the US military action in Iraq was a mistake.

The Iraq war was a “costly mess” with no quick way out, wrote Bereuter, vice-chairman of the House Intelligence Committee and a senior member of the House International Relations Committee.

“I’ve reached the conclusion, retrospectively, now that the inadequate intelligence and faulty conclusions are being revealed to all things being connected to the mis- take to launch that military action especially with a broad and engaged international coalition,” he said in the letter dated August 6.

Republican leaders in Congress have supported Presi- dent George W. Bush’s decision to invade Iraq on grounds that it had weapons of mass destruction that posed a danger to the United States. No stockpiles of such weapons have been found.

But Bereuter, who has resigned his seat in the House of Representatives to become president of the Asia Foun- dation, expressed dismay over the decision to go to war. “The cost in casualties is already large and growing, and the immediate and long-term financial costs are un- credible,” he wrote, reflecting on his 2002 vote in favour of a resolution authorizing the use of force against Iraq.

“Our country’s reputation around the world has never been lower and our alliances are weakened,” he added.

“Now we are immersed in a dangerous, costly mess and there is no easy and quick way to end our responsi- bilities in Iraq without creating bigger future problems in the region and, in general, in the Muslim world.” — MNA/Reuters

Navigational stations launched for safety of vessels

Yangon, 18 Aug — The Ayeyawady and Chindwin Rivers are raging now because of the downpours. With a view to ensuring safety of vessels sailing under the bridges across these rivers, the Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems has launched navigational stations near the facilities so as to provide them with navigational facts and present situations of the wa- terway.

A navigational station each has been built at Shwekyetyet for Sagaing Bridge, on Lanlyaw Bridge for Anawrahta Bridge in Chunk, near Myathalon Pagoda for Magway Bridge, at Mya Vil- lage for Nawady Bridge in Pyay, at Sakkawt for Bo Myat Tun Bridge and at Ahlet Taloklat for Maubin Bridge along Ayeyawady River, and at Ahlon for Monywa Bridge and at Anyarwinya for Hanbushin Bridge along the Chindwin River.

It said the vessels moving downstream near the rivers are to get navigational facts from respective stations.
US consumer prices post first decline in eight months
WASHINGTON, 18 Aug—US consumer prices declined marginally in July, posting the first fall since last November, the Labour Department said in a report released Tuesday.

The US Consumer Price Index (CPI) — which increased 0.3 per cent in June and 0.6 per cent in May — dropped 0.1 per cent in July largely as a result of lower gasoline prices which fell by 4.2 per cent in July, the biggest decline in eight months, the report said.

Energy prices, which rose 2.6 per cent in June and 4.6 per cent in May, fell 1.9 per cent in July.

However, excluding energy and food prices, which often float widely from month to month, core consumer prices increased by 0.1 per cent in July. For the past seven months, US consumer prices have been rising at an annual rate of 4.1 per cent, higher than the 1.9 per cent increase of 2003.

Analysts forecast that the CPI will increase in August.

The announcement was in line with surging oil prices which hit record highs.

The CPI will increase in August by 0.1 per cent of 2003.

Consumer prices have been rising at an annual rate of 4.1 per cent in July. For the past seven months, US consumer prices have been rising at an annual rate of 4.1 per cent, higher than the 1.9 per cent increase of 2003.

The building was just a few hundred yards from a convention centre where a key national gathering of political, religious and civic leaders was entering its final day.

The four-day conference, held in the heavily fortified Green Zone enclave, was considered a top target for insurgents, and mortars had previously landed nearby on Sunday and Tuesday.

As of Tuesday, 943 US service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq in March 2003, according to the US Defence Department.

The commander of the Polish-led force in Iraq, Polish General Andrzej Eksiert, said the mortars were fired from a road two or three kilometres (miles) away.

The shells were fired at speed. We know the line of fire. The only thing that surprises me is the time of the attack because up to then the base was only attacked at night," he was quoted as saying by the PAP news agency.

"A rapid reaction force was sent outside the base in response to the attack," spokesman Zdzislaw Gnatowski told AFP. Polish news channel TVN24 showed footage of one soldier, his leg covered in blood, being evacuated by ambulance.

TVN24 said it was the biggest mortar attack to date on the Polish base at Balhyan. With 10 to 12 mortars being fired in a 10-minute period.

Poland, which controls a swathe of Iraq south of Baghdad, hopes to reduce the number of troops it has in the country from 2,500 to 1,500 soldiers in early 2005.

The US Army imposes 15% withholding on Halliburton
WASHINGTON, 18 Aug — The US military on Tuesday said it was “disappointed” by a decision to withhold 15% of future invoices from the US company Halliburton because of its failure to pay its taxes.

The announcement was at odds with information pending the notification of next of kin.

The US Army will withhold payment on 15 percent of future invoices of Halliburton due to an ongoing billing dispute, the company and the US military said on Tuesday.

Halliburton said it had notified the company on Monday that it believed the military had granted another extension on an earlier decision to suspend the withholding, which could potentially affect up to $2.8 billion US dollars in future work orders in Iraq.

Halliburton argued on Tuesday its Monday statements were accurate at the time based on clear oral assurances from senior Pentagon representatives.

Thesis said it was unclear whether the US military had granted another extension on an earlier decision to suspend the withholding, which could potentially affect up to $2.8 billion US dollars in future work orders in Iraq.

The US military had decided to grant another extension and said it was not aware of the final decision until early Tuesday.

The threat to dock payments has hung over the company for months because of a dispute over whether KBR properly documented bills for feeding and housing troops in Iraq and Kuwait. Two previous extensions were granted and another one had been expected by KBR when a deadline expired last Sunday.

The company currently operates in Brazil, China, the Philippines, Thailand, Bangladesh and Singapore while in Africa, it has only been in Angola and currently prospecting Uganda and Zambia.

Norwegian firm to boost Uganda’s fish industry
KAMPALA, 18 Aug — A Norwegian firm, Genomer, has pledged to boost Uganda’s fish resources, saying that the sector was 50 per cent under-exploited, reported local media on Tuesday.

"We are coming to Uganda to exploit its fish production potential which is under-utilized by 50 per cent. Our vision is to develop the tilapia species into a more productive, high-quality and highly demanded product for the domestic market," the company’s President Morten Høyum said.

Hoyum said they would promote a sustainable fish industry through delivery of superior tilapia type seeds and contemporary breeding technology.

The Norwegian company will begin its activities with a feasibility study in September whereas fish farming will kick off in October.

He added that they would cooperate with farmers who would build hatcheries where farm- ers would access fish fry.

The company currently operates in Brazil, China, the Philippines, Thailand, Bangladesh and Singapore while in Africa, it has only been in Angola and currently prospecting Uganda and Zambia.

WFP seeks $80m for needy people in Angola
LUANDA, 18 Aug — The World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations food aid organization, needs at least $8.15 million US dollars for the cereal supply operations in Angola until the end of this month, a spokesman of the UN agency was quoted by local media as saying on Tuesday.

Manuel Cristovao said on Monday that the WFP is sensitizing the donors in order to continue with the contributions, with a view to avoid the stoppage of the humanitarian and operations to the vulnerable people.

"If the WFP continues without receiving new contributions from the donors, the institution will be forced to suspend the cereal distribution to the vulnerable people as from next September," he said.

A Polish soldier stands guard near a helicopter in Camp Lima, some 100 kms south of Baghdad. — Internet

A Polish soldier stands guard near a helicopter in Camp Lima, some 100 kms south of Baghdad. — Internet
US soldier sues over extended service

WASHINGTON, 18 Aug — A California Army National Guard soldier sued the military in federal court Tuesday over a programme that could keep up to 20,000 Army personnel beyond their time of service.

It was the first lawsuit challenging extended military service following the September 11, 2001, attacks. The programme, known as “stop-loss,” also was enacted during the buildup to the 1991 Gulf War.

The soldier’s complaint comes as the Army struggles to find fresh units to serve in Iraq. Almost every combat unit has faced or will face duty there or in Afghanistan, and increased violence has forced the deployment of an additional 20,000 troops to the Iraq region.

The Army says its stop-loss programme is necessary for a cohesive military with seasoned personnel, although it has been criticized as contrary to the concept of an all-volunteer military force.

The soldier’s attorneys did not release his name, age or hometown to protect his family’s privacy.

“It’s not that John Doe is a coward by any means,” said the sergeant’s San Francisco attorney, Michael Sorgen. He said his client, who was also ordered to stay in Iraq last year beyond his enlisted commitment, suffers from post traumatic stress disorder, and his deployment has been put on hold.

According to the lawsuit, the soldier has more than a decade of service with the Marines, including combat in Iraq and Somalia. Last year, after returning from Iraq, he agreed to resign with a one-year commitment to the National Guard.

But he recently was notified that his service had been extended by as much as two years, and that he could soon be heading to Iraq for another combat tour, according to court documents. No court date has been set.

Group threatens to kill US journalist kidnapped in Iraq, says Al-Jazeera

DUBAI, 18 Aug — An armed group in Iraq has threatened to kill a kidnapped American journalist unless US forces withdraw from the Shiite holy city of Najaf within 48 hours, Al-Jazeera television reported, showing a video.

“An armed group calling itself ‘Martyrs Squad’ has announced that it is holding American journalist Micah Garen ... and threatened to kill the hostage after 48 hours if US forces do not withdraw from the city of Najaf,” it said.

The news channel aired a video in which the presumed hostage is shown with five hooded gunmen in the background, one of whom is reading a statement. However, the gunman is not heard speaking.

Najaf has been the site of a showdown between radical Shiite cleric Moqtada Sadr and US and US-backed Iraqi forces.

The US State Department said earlier Wednesday it was without news of Garen, who was kidnapped in the southern Iraqi city of Nasiriyah last weekend.

Poland, Hungary to compete for outsourcing contracts

CHECHNIA (Tamilnadu, India), 18 Aug — While majority of the business outsourcing contracts are awarded to Asian countries, two European nations — Poland and Hungary — are also high up in the league to bag outsourcing contracts.

“The majority of the outsourcing orders are being awarded to India, China, Malaysia, Singapore, Philippines and the Czech Republic. But Poland and Hungary, part of the European Union, are also high up in the outsourcing league,” according to a Indo-German Chamber report.

After a slow start, European countries were also bagging outsourcing contracts, it said.

The report referred to Forrester Research which said that Europe’s information and communications technology (ICT) outsourcing market amounted to over 95 billion US dollar in 2003, an increase of 7.4 per cent over the previous year.

The research also predicted that the European outsourcing market would grow to 117 billion US dollar in 2004 and 143 billion US dollar by 2005.

Yoga even reaches to American infants

WASHINGTON, 18 Aug — Babies as young as three weeks are being introduced to Yoga at an institute in the American capital, to help them “sleep longer, digest better and grow stronger” as well as to give them a soothing feeling.

In the class at Boundless Yoga Studio here, open for those between three weeks to two years of age, babies and toddlers, with adult assistance, practice Yoga poses along with their caregivers.

After a visit to the institution, The Washington Post reported how babies as young as nine months are practising “soothing Yoga poses”, based on a programme developed by Massachusetts Yoga instructor Helen Garabedian.

The author of “Itsy Bitsy Yoga Poses to Help Your Baby Sleep Longer, Digest Better and Grow Stronger”, Garabedian claims that yoga relaxes babies’ stress and anxiety.

The traditional “mom and baby” Yoga classes emphasise the mother’s Yoga practice and incorporate the baby only passively.

The new concept involves more than 75 poses focused strictly on the baby’s movement, soothing and enjoyment.

Caregivers act as helpers, guiding the babies’ arms and legs into poses.

“Some fitness-conscious parents are flocking to these classes, hoping an unusually early introduction to formalized movement will help keep their tots from becoming obesity statistics,” said the Post.

“My mantra,” said Garabedian, who started her programme five years ago, “is: fit teen equals fit adult.”

Hostages safe, says Kuwaiti employer

NEW DELHI, 18 Aug — The Kuwaiti employer of the three Indians held hostage by guerrillas in Iraq today said they were safe even as the transport company continued efforts to re-establish contact with the abductors.

Kuwait and Gulf Link (KGL) transport company spokesperson Rana Abu-Zaineh told PTI over phone from Kuwait that she again spoke to the family members of two of hostages — Antarayami and Sukhdev Singh — in the northern Indian states Himachal Pradesh and Punjab respectively and assured them that the company was “doing everything” to secure safe release of the captives.

“We are sure all the hostages are safe. We know this through our Iraqi friends and other sources,” she said as having told the family members who posed several questions regarding the welfare of the captives.

She, however, noted that the company had been unsuccess- fully making efforts to establish contact with the abductors — Islamic Secret Army — Holders of Black Banners and that the negotiations broke down on August 8.

Asked whether there could be any guess on how soon the hostages would be freed, Zaineh said it was impossible to predict as the “matter is not in our hands”.

“We are trying our best to end the matter as soon as possible and get our boys back,” she said.

The three Indian hostages — Antarayami, Sukhdev and Tilak Raj — along with three Keysyans and an Egyptian were kidnapped in war-ravaged Iraq on July 21.

British security forces said Wednesday that they had launched a major operation in the capital, Baghdad, focusing on the Mahdi army fighters loyal to radical Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr, who have been blamed for a series of attacks in the Iraqi city.

Police and soldiers had blocked off the northern part of the city near the headquarters of the Mahdi army, the state-owned Iraqi News Agency reported.

The move came a day after a group of armed men killed two British soldiers and a civilian in a gun battle near the US-led coalition's headquarters in the capital.

The group threatened to kill a kidnapped American journalist and demanded a US withdrawal from the Iraqi city of Najaf, but the US State Department dismissed the threat as a publicity stunt.

The group was demanding that the US authorities withdraw from Najaf, a predominantly Shiite city in central Iraq, within 48 hours.

Polish Prime MinisterJaroslaw Kaczynski and Hungarian Prime MinisterIstvan Jobbik were in the lead to bag outsourcing contracts, which are awarded to Asian countries, two European nations — Poland and Hungary — are also high up in the league to bag outsourcing contracts.

“The majority of the outsourcing orders are being awarded to India, China, Malaysia, Singapore, Philippines and the Czech Republic. But Poland and Hungary, part of the European Union, are also high up in the outsourcing league,” according to a Indo-German Chamber report.

Poland and Hungary are also high up in the league to bag outsourcing contracts.

The news channel aired a video in which the presumed hostage is shown with five hooded gunmen in the background, one of whom is reading a statement. However, the gunman is not heard speaking.

Najaf has been the site of a showdown between radical Shiite cleric Moqtada Sadr and US and US-backed Iraqi forces.

The US State Department said earlier Wednesday it was without news of Garen, who was kidnapped in the southern Iraqi city of Nasiriyah last weekend.
US forces kill two in Iraq jail riot

BAGHDAD, 19 Aug — US forces shot dead two prisoners during riot at the Abu Ghraib Prison yesterday, the worst violence for months at the notorious jail west of Baghdad.

Military police intervened first vocally, then with rubber bullets and finally with deadly force after more than 200 inmates were drawn into a massive brawl.

Five prisoners were wounded by other prisoners, and military officers said the intervention was necessary to prevent an inmate from being killed by the crowd.

Their rules of engagement allow US forces to respond with lethal force if necessary, officials said.

The fighting began in one of the prison’s two tent compounds when a group attacked a prisoner with a tetracole.

Several skirmishes have escalated ten-
sions at Abu Ghraib in the past, but the latest US response puts its activity at the jail under fresh scrutiny at a delicate time.

The US army is about to bring further charges in the prisoner abuse scandal, beginning disciplinary action against two dozen soldiers and civilian contractors’ staff involved in the interrogation of Iraqi detainees, Pentagon officials said yesterday.

In a report on the interrogation practices at the prison, which may be released as early as tomorrow, Major General George Fay recommends disciplinary proceedings against at least 24 personnel attached to the 209th Military Intelligence Brigade at the jail.

His findings follow months of insistence by the White House and Pentagon that the abuse at Abu Ghraib was confined to a handful of junior reservists.

Several US officers have quit because of the US military’s disciplinary procedures.

So far only seven members of a military police unit from Maryland have been charged — Internet

US Army soldiers fight from a fortified position in Najaf, Iraq, on 17 Aug 2004. Sporadic but heavy fighting continued overnight, with US forces attacking from tanks, Bradley fighting vehicles, and fortified positions, and guerrillas returning fire with mortars and small arms. — Internet

Annan ready to play “a facilitating role” in Najaf

UNITED NATIONS, 18 Aug — With anger in the Arab world rising over fighting between US-led forces and Shiite militia in the holy city of Najaf, Iran and Saudi Arabia have sought UN intervention to which Secretary General Kofi Annan has agreed to play “a facilitating role” to help end the violence.

Annan spoke to US Secretary of State Colin Powell, Iran’s Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi and his new envoy Asghar Jahangiri Qazi over the weekend, chief UN spokesman Fred Eckhard said, adding, the Secretary General is prepared to “play a facilitating role” provided it helps and all sides agree to it.

At the United Nations headquarters in New York, Eckhard and officials in Teheran confirmed that Kharrazi had sought intervention and to do whatever Annan could to defuse the situation, particularly in Najaf.

Kharrazi appealed for intervention to stop bloodshed during the telephone conversation with Annan and expressed “deep pain and sorrow” over the situation.

“The Secretary-General’s position on that is that he is prepared to play a facilitating role if it can help, and if all sides agree to it,” Eckhard said.

The Saudi Cabinet also called for a greater role for the United Nations to end bloodshed, the official Saudi Press Agency reported.

In an interview with BBC, Annan’s special envoy in Iraq Asghar Jahangiri Qazi said the UN does not “wish to impose” itself, Eckhard said.

The Mehdi militia of radical Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr are resisting the American-led forces and efforts to bring about ceasefire have failed. — MNA/PTI

Turkish haulage firm quits Iraq after abduction

ISTANBUL, 18 Aug — A leading Turkish transport firm said on Tuesday it had withdrawn its personnel from Iraq after the murder of one employee and the abduction of another.

Several Turkish firms have said they will pull out of Iraq and end their lucrative trade with the conflict-hit state following a wave of kidnappings and attacks on drivers and engineers in recent months.

Iraqi militants released a videotape earlier this month showing the shooting of Mehmet Yuce, a driver for the Bilintur transport firm, after he read out a statement urging Turkey to end its trade with Iraq.

Bilintur said it believed another of its employees had been taken hostage in Iraq.

“We have completed withdrawing our personnel from Iraq to avoid putting at risk the life of our employee Aytillah Gezen, whom we believe was abducted,” Bilintur said.

It was not clear how long Gezen had been missing. No one from Bilintur was immediately available for comment.

Family members said on Monday two other Turkish drivers carrying supplies to US forces had been taken hostage.

Their company has refused to release its name for fear its personnel could face further attacks.

Scores of foreign workers in Iraq have been kidnapped since April. Many have been released but others have been killed.

Turkey’s International Transporters’ Association halted its delivery of goods to US forces in Iraq, but another major haulage group has said it will continue doing business there.

Several Turkish trucks and trailers make around 700,000 trips to Iraq each year, earning Turkey billions of dollars in exports.

Some 1,500 vehicles were crossing into Iraq every day before the hostage crisis began in April, but that number has dropped off sharply in recent weeks and cargo, including food, has been languishing at Turkish ports and other transport hubs. — MNA/Reuters

Putin, Chirac, Schroeder to meet at end of August

MOSSOW, 19 Aug — Russian President Vladimir Putin will meet French President Jacques Chirac and German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder at the end of the month.

The summit will be held on August 30-31 in Russia’s Black Sea resort of Sochi and the three leaders will discuss “crucial international issues”, Interfax quoted Gromov as saying.

Russia, France and Germany — the main European countries which opposed the US-led war against Iraq — tried hard but failed to prevent the US-British coalition from staging military attacks on Iraq early last year.

During their summit meeting in April last year, held in St Petersburg, Putin, Schroeder and Chirac called for a central role for the United Nations in the post-war recon-

struction of Iraq. — MNA/Xinhua

ASEAN senior police officials meet to improve anti-crime fight

BANGLADESH, 19 Aug — Senior police officials from the 10 ASEAN countries on Wednesday continued their meet-

ing in northern Thailand to discuss further cooperation to crack down criminal activities in the region.

The ongoing meeting from Tuesday to Friday would mainly focus on how to improve information sharing and law enforcement cooperation among ASEAN member coun-

tries.

The fight against organized crime, including transnational criminals disrupting financial markets and undermining political security, was one of the key topics of the meeting.

Cooperation is lacking between states to fight crimes that have no boundary, particularly those perpetrated by organized criminal networks, Thai Deputy Prime Minister Chavalit Yongchaiyudh was quoted by newspaper The Nation as saying. The meeting, while strengthening coop-

eration among nations to tackle these problems, will also send the world a signal that ASEAN is serious about rooting out transnational criminals operating in the region, he said at the opening ceremony of the Conference of ASEAN Police Chiefs. — MNA/Xinhua

Seven dead, 34 injured in road accidents in Nepal

KATHMANDU, 19 Aug — At least seven persons died, 34 others were injured and a dozen went missing Tuesday afternoon in two separate road accidents in Nepal, The Kathmandu Post newspaper reported Wednesday.

Six passengers died and 25 others injured while a dozen remain missing when a passenger bus veered off the road and plunged 100 metres into the Trishuli River at Bhadandhaga area along the Pithivi Highway, some 250 kilometres southwest of Kathmandu, the independent English-language daily quoted Durga Karki, the bus driver, as saying.

“The accident occurred as the steering did not work,” Karki said.

MNA/Xinhua

Armed Iraqi militiamen, loyal to radical Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr, stand guard in a street in the southern city of Basra on 18 August, 2004. — INTERNET

An Iraqi man rides his bicycle past a burning Iraqi army vehicle following an attack in central Baghdad on 15 August, 2004.

Residents look for documents in a building after it was bombed by US warplanes in Samarra, Iraq, on 14 August, 2004.

Women mourn for their relatives who were killed when a mortar shell struck their house in the town of Baqouba, Iraq, on 16 August, 2004.
To produce qualified intellectuals and intelligentsia.
S Korea prepares for Typhoon “Mega”, floods

STOCK, 19 Aug — South Korea prepared for Typhoon Megi on Wednesday as heavy rainfall began to drench the southern part of the peninsula and worsening weather conditions shut airports and suspended ferries.

In neighbouring Japan, four people had been killed by Wednesday and two were missing after heavy rains struck western parts of the country, with more storms expected as Megi neared.

The Korean Meteorological Administration said Megi, which means catfish in Korean, was picking up speed and was expected to skirt the southern part of the peninsula before moving into the Sea of Japan early on Thursday.

No casualties were reported as of 5 p.m. (0800 GMT).

“So far we have some houses and rice paddies under water in the southern region”, an official at the Central Disaster and Safety Countermeasures Headquarters said by telephone. He said no damage assessment was available yet.

The meteorological administration said on its website (www.kma.go.kr) the center of Megi was 224 miles southwest of Cheju at 0600 GMT and moving northeast. Wind speeds were 70 miles per hour.

Flights to the southern island of Cheju and major cities such as Kwangju and Pohang were cancelled, the disaster headquarters said.

Oil loading operations at the huge LG-Calix Oil refinery in Ulsu were suspended on Wednesday and the southern port city was expected to remain closed until Thursday morning, industry sources said.

Typhoons hit the peninsula each summer and the weather service said heavy rains could also hit the eastern part of the country, which was pounded last year by Typhoon Haemoni, the strongest to hit the country in a century. That storm killed 129 people.

Yangon Division SC MCWA Patron Daw Khin Thet Hway speaking at closing ceremony of Youth Educational Training Camp 8/2004 — MNA

Youth Educational Training Camp folds

YANGON, 19 Aug — The camp folding cer-
emony of Youth Educational Training Camp No 8/2004, organized by Yangon Di-
vision Supervisory Committee for Maternal and Child Welfare Association (Central), was held at Yangon Command Head-
quarters this morning.

It was attended by Chairman of Yangon Divi-
sion Peace and Develop-
ment Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-
Gen Myint Swe.

Also present on the oc-
casion were members of Central Executive Commit-
tee of MMCWA, Patron of Yangon Division Supervi-
sory Committee for MCWA Daw Khin Thet Hway, military region com-
manders, Secretary of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Lt Col Myint Kyi, Chairman of Yangon Division Supervis-
ory Committee for MCWA Head of Division Health Department Dr Hla Myint and Committee members, district authori-
ties, chairpersons of MCWA and members and others.

Daw Khin Thet Hway gave a speech and pre-
sented certificates to the youth.

Next, the two youths expressed thanks.

Later, the ceremony came to an end with sing-
ing of a song composed by the youth. — MNA

Japan to devise cell phone-based system to track farm products

Tokyo, 19 Aug — Japan’s Farm Ministry will begin a project in fiscal 2005 to create a tracing system enabling consumers to know the history of farm products by means of mobile phones.

In the planned system, small integrated circuit tags will be attached to agricultural products and information stored on them, such as data on agricultural chemicals used, will be able to be read by mobile phone handsets.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries said Wednesday in a preliminary report that it plans to complete the system, which will cover half of agricultural products, in three years.

The Ministry, which consists of tiny IC chips, the ministry plans to use advanced bar codes capable of storing up to several hundred times more information than existing bar codes. According to the report, the ministry will seek a budget appropriation of some 1.6 billion yen (14.5 million US dollars) for the project in fiscal 2005 on the grounds of growing consumer interest in the safety of food products.

The ministry will invite proposals for the system by the private sector and farm out the development of proposed ideas to selected concerns. — MNA

Tata group’s $2b proposal in Bangladesh looking good

DHAKA, 19 Aug — Talks on a two billion dollar investment proposal by India’s Tata group in Bangladesh in steel, power and fertilizer sectors is progressing “positively” here, officials familiar with the talks said on Wednesday.

The talks are 100 per cent positive, an official for Tata group told PTI without elaborating.

The Bangla
government was apparently positive to the proposal which envisages establishment of a gas-
based power plant, steel mill and a fertilizer factory worth two billion dollars.

The proposal is said to be the biggest foreign investment offer the BOI ever received and is expected to create employment for some 8,000 people.

The Tata group submitted the proposal to the Dhaka Government last month. A meeting with Industries Minister Mobar Rahman Nizami, who heads a five-member committee which would summit its report to Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, was later scheduled.

The conglomerate seeks to produce 1,000 megawatts of electricity for the country, while the fertilizer factory in southeastern Chattagong port city will have one million metric tons production capacity, according to available information.

Tata group’s $2b proposal in Bangladesh looking good

Tata group’s $2b proposal in Bangladesh looking good

Singapore to ban eggs from Malaysia

SINGAPORE, 19 Aug — Singapore will suspend imports of eggs from neighbouring Malaysia, the government said Wednesday.

Japan suspended poultry imports from Malaysia early in August after Singapore discovered a suspected case of avian influenza in live ducks shipped from Malaysia.

“We hear that Singapore Customs is going to stop the import of eggs from Malaysia,” an official at a major supermarket chain in the city state told Reuters.

Singapor’s Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority (AVA) said it plans to hold a

news conference on Wednesday evening, but gave no other details.

The AVA said in a statement earlier this month that tests showed a suspected case of H5 bird flu — a type of bird flu not known to be dangerous to humans and different from the H5N1 type that swept large parts of Asia early this killing 24 people — in live ducks shipped from the state of Perak in Malaysia.

Fresh outbreaks of bird flu have been reported in recent weeks in Vietnam, Thailand, China and Indonesia. Vietnam has reported three deaths so far in the latest outbreak.

The ministry will invite proposals for the system by the private sector and farm out the development of proposed ideas to selected concerns. — MNA

SCO nations aim for economic integration

BEIJING, 19 Aug — The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), which involves six Asian and European nations, has vowed to accomplish a free flow of commodities, capital, technology and service in the next 20 years.

Zhang Deguang, SCO secretary-general, made the remarks Wednesday at a two-
day international seminar in Beijing attended by officials, experts and scholars from nearly 60 countries, including those from members states Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and China.

The seminar was sponsored by the China Institute for International Strategic Studies and Konrad Adenauer Foundation of Germany.

The SCO countries will cooperate on security issues especially concerning terrorism and extremism, acknowledged Zhang.

“The SCO will never grow into a military bloc nor resume military confronta-
tion as in the Cold War,” Zhang noted.

Zhang acknowledged the members states should cooperate in politics, economy, science and technology, culture, educa-
tion, energy, transportation and environmental pro-
tection.

The SCO secretariat is working to prepare for the SCO government heads meeting scheduled for next month in Bishkek, Kyrgyz capital, which is expected to issue substantial measures for economic cooperation.

The SCO, a regional cooperation body, was established in Shanghai on June 15, 2001.

The SCO secretariat is working to prepare for the SCO government heads meeting scheduled for next month in Bishkek, Kyrgyz capital, which is expected to issue substantial measures for economic cooperation.

The SCO, a regional cooperation body, was established in Shanghai on June 15, 2001.

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), which involves six Asian and European nations, has vowed to accomplish a free flow of commodities, capital, technology and service in the next 20 years.

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), which involves six Asian and European nations, has vowed to accomplish a free flow of commodities, capital, technology and service in the next 20 years.

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), which involves six Asian and European nations, has vowed to accomplish a free flow of commodities, capital, technology and service in the next 20 years.
South Africa for NAM action against unilateralism

DURBAN, 19 Aug—South Africa on Wednesday said the Non-Aligned Movement should take action to ensure the pre-eminence of the United Nations against the “imposition” of unilateralism.

“Now is the time for a heightened awareness of the threats to multilateralism through the imposition of unilateral action,” Science and Technology Minister of State for External Affairs, Inderjit Singh is representing India, one of the founders of NAM.

“The time has arrived for us to defend the principles of the NAM Movement and to reaffirm the Movement’s role in, and contribution to, contemporary multilateral affairs,” said Van der Merwe.

The central task facing us is to create the conditions for the renewal of the international community, the Minister said.

Scientists at NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California said Squyres said could help scientists “get a handle on what took place”. “So far we have intriguing clues hinting that this rock Clovis had interacted with liquid water,” Squyres said. “We need to understand whether it was cold or hot...or liquid gas.”

“Task of the (NAM) Movement and its twin, Spirit, was to climb into a deep crater it climbed into two months ago, scientists said on Tuesday.

A study shows fuel stations may pose child cancer risk

LONDON, 19 Aug—Lying near a fuel station may quadruple the risk of acute leukaemia in children, research published on Thursday showed.

French scientists who carried out a study of more than 500 infants found that a child whose home was near a fuel station or vehicle-repair garage was four times as likely to develop leukaemia as a child whose home was further away.

And the longer a child had lived nearby, the higher the risk of leukaemia seemed to take time to restore and enhance the partnership with the North to augment multilateralism, she said adding the political strength of NAM is needed “to strengthen our bargaining power in the relations between the developed countries and the South.”

China agrees to list Mexico as tourist destination

BEIJING, 19 Aug—A senior Chinese tourism official announced here on Tuesday that the Chinese Government had agreed to list Mexico as a tourist destination for Chinese citizens.

Gu Zhaoxi, deputy director of the National Tourism Administration, made the announcement at the closing ceremony of the first meeting of the China-Mexico permanent bi-national commission.

Gu said China has submitted to Mexico a draft memorandum of understanding of the plan concerning this issue. “We hope an official agreement can be signed in the near future.”

China and Mexico established full diplomatic relations in 1972. Mexico has become China’s second largest trade partner in Latin America and China has also become one of Mexico’s major trade partners in Asia.

With increased cooperation as well as information and personnel exchanges, the two countries’ tourism industry will surely be boosted,” Gu said.

On Monday, China and Mexico officially set up a permanent bi-national commission and held four sub-committee conferences on politics, trade and economy, science and technology, and education and culture. Senior officials from the two sides also formed four working groups to discuss issues of social development, communication.

MNA/Reuters

Diarrhoea attacks 176,000 Bangladeshis in flood-hit areas

DHAKA, 19 Aug—At least 176,000 people have been attacked by diarrhoea in the flood-hit areas of Bangladesh since July 12. During the period, death toll from the disease rose to 81, The Daily New Nation Wednesday quoted sources of the Health Directorate as saying.

The scarcity of safe drinking water had appeared to be a burning problem in the flood-hit areas causing outbreak of diarrhoea, dysentery and other waterborne diseases since mid July last.

The government so far has supplied about 70,000 water purifying tablets and 11 million packets of oral saline to the flood-affected areas.

Out of 4,053 medical teams, 3,277 had been working in the flood-affected areas since July 12.

Apart from this some 440 temporary health centres are engaged in providing emergency treatment to the patients in the flood-hit areas.

The current flood affected over 30 million people in the country. The death toll from flood-related incidents rose to 750 on Tuesday.

MNA/Xinhua

Mars hills, crater yield evidence of flowing water

LOS ANGELES, 19 Aug—The hills of Mars yielded more tantalizing clues about how water shaped the Red Planet in tests by NASA’s robotic geologist, Spirit, while its twin, Opportunity, observed the deep crater it climbed into two months ago, scientists said on Wednesday.

Scientists believe the bedrock was thrust up from below the lava-covered surface of the vast Gusev Crater, where Spirit landed January 3 and spent months crossing to arrive at a series of promontories dubbed the Columbia Hills.

For the past week, the rover has conducted a series of tests on a rock nicknamed Clovis that is perched on a spur above the outcrop, to see if the plain, chief scientist Steve Squyres said at a briefing on Wednesday.

A senior Chinese tourism official announced here Tuesday that the Chinese Government had agreed to list Mexico as a tourist destination for Chinese citizens.

Gu Zhaoxi, deputy director of the National Tourism Administration, made the announcement at the closing ceremony of the first meeting of the China-Mexico permanent bi-national commission.

Gu said China has submitted to Mexico a draft memorandum of understanding of the plan concerning this issue. “We hope an official agreement can be signed in the near future.”

China and Mexico established full diplomatic relations in 1972. Mexico has become China’s second largest trade partner in Latin America and China has also become one of Mexico’s major trade partners in Asia.

With increased cooperation as well as information and personnel exchanges, the two countries’ tourism industry will surely be boosted,” Gu said.

On Monday, China and Mexico officially set up a permanent bi-national commission and held four sub-committee conferences on politics, trade and economy, science and technology, and education and culture. Senior officials from the two sides also formed four working groups to discuss issues of social development, communication.

MNA/Reuters

HANOI, 19 Aug—Vietnamese police have detained an Australian woman of Vietnamese descent after she tried to board an Australia-bound flight with 440 grammes of heroin stuffed in a hair-sprayer bottle, a newspaper reported on Wednesday.

The woman was placed under police custody at Tan Son Nhat Airport in the capital city of HCM City.

HANOI, 19 Aug—Vietnamese police have detained an Australian woman of Vietnamese descent after she tried to board an Australia-bound flight with 440 grammes of heroin stuffed in a hair-sprayer bottle, a newspaper reported on Wednesday.

The woman was placed under police custody at Tan Son Nhat Airport in the capital city of HCM City.

HANOI, 19 Aug—Vietnamese police have detained an Australian woman of Vietnamese descent after she tried to board an Australia-bound flight with 440 grammes of heroin stuffed in a hair-sprayer bottle, a newspaper reported on Wednesday.

The woman was placed under police custody at Tan Son Nhat Airport in the capital city of HCM City.

HANOI, 19 Aug—Vietnamese police have detained an Australian woman of Vietnamese descent after she tried to board an Australia-bound flight with 440 grammes of heroin stuffed in a hair-sprayer bottle, a newspaper reported on Wednesday.

The woman was placed under police custody at Tan Son Nhat Airport in the capital city of HCM City.

HANOI, 19 Aug—Vietnamese police have detained an Australian woman of Vietnamese descent after she tried to board an Australia-bound flight with 440 grammes of heroin stuffed in a hair-sprayer bottle, a newspaper reported on Wednesday.

The woman was placed under police custody at Tan Son Nhat Airport in the capital city of HCM City.

HANOI, 19 Aug—Vietnamese police have detained an Australian woman of Vietnamese descent after she tried to board an Australia-bound flight with 440 grammes of heroin stuffed in a hair-sprayer bottle, a newspaper reported on Wednesday.

The woman was placed under police custody at Tan Son Nhat Airport in the capital city of HCM City.

HANOI, 19 Aug—Vietnamese police have detained an Australian woman of Vietnamese descent after she tried to board an Australia-bound flight with 440 grammes of heroin stuffed in a hair-sprayer bottle, a newspaper reported on Wednesday.

The woman was placed under police custody at Tan Son Nhat Airport in the capital city of HCM City.

HANOI, 19 Aug—Vietnamese police have detained an Australian woman of Vietnamese descent after she tried to board an Australia-bound flight with 440 grammes of heroin stuffed in a hair-sprayer bottle, a newspaper reported on Wednesday.

The woman was placed under police custody at Tan Son Nhat Airport in the capital city of HCM City.

HANOI, 19 Aug—Vietnamese police have detained an Australian woman of Vietnamese descent after she tried to board an Australia-bound flight with 440 grammes of heroin stuffed in a hair-sprayer bottle, a newspaper reported on Wednesday.

The woman was placed under police custody at Tan Son Nhat Airport in the capital city of HCM City.

HANOI, 19 Aug—Vietnamese police have detained an Australian woman of Vietnamese descent after she tried to board an Australia-bound flight with 440 grammes of heroin stuffed in a hair-sprayer bottle, a newspaper reported on Wednesday.

The woman was placed under police custody at Tan Son Nhat Airport in the capital city of HCM City.
Those who daren’t show their face — 58

Pauk Sa

Again, the internal and external destructive elements are trying to slander our nation. Because of the wicked mind and shortsighted vision, they do not wish to see the prosperity of the nation and people rising high among the world nations. But all the people of Myanmar loathe them, who are like the slaves of aliens.

The VOA at 6 pm on 30 July 2004 aired a news report about the Cultural Exhibition programme, funded by Myanmar Association (UK) at the Oriental City in London, and an interview with Win Naing, who made stupid lies. The brief account of the news report was that a small group of Myanmar expatriates, who announced themselves as democracy activists, staged a demonstration against the exhibition. Concerning the incident, the VOA contacted chairman of Myanmar Association (UK) U Nay Win, protest leader expatriate Dr Win Naing and the spokewoman of the Oriental City and interviewed them.

During the interview, U Nay Win said, ‘When the Myanmar Association held Thingyan festival at the Oriental City, its owner Mr Ronald Lean attended the festival and enjoyed Myanmar food.

As Mr Ronald Lean was interested in Myanmar food and culture, he said that he would permit the holding of a Myanmar cultural festival free of charge at the Oriental City. Thus, the Association rented a booth there to sell Myanmar food and Myanmar paintings and sculptures to raise funds for it. The booth was opened on 24 July, and with the entertainment programme of Harpist Ko Nay Wa, a programme was presented to enable foreigners to know more about Myanmar culture. Foreigners liked the programme very much, especially the skill demonstration of Myanmar traditional martial arts team who won their applause. The exhibition was aimed at promoting Myanmar culture.’

But the leaders of various associations of Myanmar expatriates were not pleased with this news. The words of Win Naing were aimed at tarnishing the image and dignity of Myanmar. He said as the name of the exhibition was ‘Introducing Golden Myanmar’, its goal was to let the global countries know to what extent Myanmar was enjoying prosperity; that it was an exhibiting introducing Myanmar to the global all the internal and external destructive elements are persuading the big countries of the West to apply political pressure and impose economic sanctions on Myanmar, and to stop providing all kinds of assistance and loans for her and to isolate her. Their destructive acts are meant to destabilize the socio-economy of the people and to make them face poverty. In addition, they are trying to float fabrications, saying that Myanmar’s political, economic and social sectors are experiencing a state of decline; and that 52 million people of Myanmar are facing poverty and starvation. Tsk, tsk, I pity all the destructive elements from inside and outside the country, for they are too much afraid of seeing people of global nations know all about the prevalence of peace and stability, socio-economic developments and prosperity in Myanmar, as it will lead to exposing all their lies and fabricated propaganda.

Now, I would like to present some of the nation’s developments with firm facts and figures. The Government has built 162 power stations and 172 major bridges during the period between 1988 and to this date. There are 18,600 miles of roads, up from 13,600 miles in 1988. In 1988, there were nearly 2,000 miles of railroads, and now there are nearly 3,000 miles. Today, there are 29 airports that can handle flights of Fokker-29 and Boeing 737 jets, up from 21 in 1988.

In 1988, there were 14 hydroelectric power stations, with a total generation capacity of 228 megawatts. Up to now, 28 new hydel power stations, with a total generation capacity of 162 megawatts, have been built. As six new gas-fired power stations have been built, the number of gas-fired power stations has reached 14 and their generation capacity, over 700 megawatts. Thus, the nation’s total generation capacity at present is about 1,100 megawatts. When the 12 hydel power stations under construction are completed, they will add another 2,600 megawatts to the nation’s total power generation capacity.

Nowadays, there are 776 hospitals in Myanmar, up from 617 in 1988. The number of institutions of higher learning has reached 156 at present from only 32 in 1988. In 1988, there were 772 high schools, 1,696 middle schools and 31,329 primary schools in the country. Now there are 1,894 high schools, 2,612 middle schools and 4,774 post primary schools and 31,225 primary schools. There are more developing areas including the industrial, economic, agricultural and border areas and national races sectors.

All the people of Myanmar are tired of hearing their repeated baseless lies and fabrications, and they have become ridiculous for the people. It is said that a famous and well known Myanmar poem says that a person who has abandoned his own parents is foolish like a stupid dog. So, I would like to say that Win Naing, who talked ill of the exhibition that helped raise the dignity of Myanmar and her people, is like the person in the poem. Every Myanmar will take pride of and is happy to know that a person who has abandoned his own parents is foolish like a stupid dog. So, I would like to say that Win Naing, who talked ill of the exhibition that helped raise the dignity of Myanmar and her people, is like the person in the poem.

Thus, the internal and external destructive elements including Win Naing are like persons who daren’t show their face in public. They are those who cast aspersions on the role of the military junta and ignoring the daily sufferings of the people. But the slanderous words of Win Naing were aimed to stop providing all kinds of assistance and loans for her and to isolate her. Their destructive acts are active both inside and outside the country, working in the internal and external destructive sectors.

All the people of Myanmar know that staging of a demonstration to enhance the dignity of the nation and her people is a shameless act betraying the national cause. So, internal and external destructionists including Win Naing are like the people who daren’t show their face in public.

(19-8-2004) (Translation: TMT)

Indian admiral asks Navy to remain alert

MUMBAI, 19 Aug—Asking the Indian Navy personnel to beware of enemies both outside and inside the country, Admiral Ann Prakash, Chief of Naval Staff, on Tuesday said Navy’s strength would be upgraded.

“The naval soldiers are like a ‘sword and shield’ of the country in the sea,” he said, adding, “their strength will be increased by commissioning more ships and submarines in the Indian Navy in the future.”

“The soldiers have to remain alert as the enemies are active both inside and outside of the country,” he added.

Admiral Prakash said addressing the officers and sailors of Western Naval Command after the ceremonial parade held in his honour on his maiden visit at Naval Air Station Kunjali-II here.

Admiral Prakash, who took over as Chief of Naval Staff on July 31, said the Indian Navy would contribute towards tackling piracy and smuggling in the sea besides guarding the coastal boundary of the country.

The naval chief lauded soldiers and officers of the Indian Navy for adjusting to new technology and weapons that are being included into the force in a short span.

“The seniors should impart this knowledge to the juniors to maintain continuity of the strength of the force,” he said.

The Indian Navy is committed to the security of the country, he said adding that soldiers should maintain good seamanship and airmanship as it was their foundation and follow the three principles of democracy, humanity and secularism. The Western Naval Command will have also the additional responsibility of the naval base coming up at Karwar, he added.

MNA/PTI
Investing most beneficially for the future

Education is more important today than ever before. It helps people acquire the skills they need for such everyday activities as reading a newspaper or managing their money. It also gives them the specialized training they may need to prepare for a job or career. There is considerable evidence that people who achieve higher levels of education earn higher wages.

Knowledge Age. To earn livelihood individually or to serve the interests of the nation and the people, education is indeed important.

As regards the development of the country, qualified intellectuals and intelligentsia are essential. Nowadays, it is of utmost importance for every nation to pay serious attention to human resource development.

The continuous efforts that have been exerted day and night for over 15 and nearly 16 years have led to fruitful results and benefits. But there still remains a lot to be done. There is still much for the Government to do hand in hand with the people. Information and communication technologies, research, ensuring constant learning society, education uplift and preserving national norms and characteristics. The Government applies strategies of formal education and non-formal education in uplift of education standard of the entire people.

ICT-based learning centres and resource centres have been opened from basic education schools right up to university level. Universities now have access to the e-library, the Internet and Intranet and can also employ video conferencing and web-based systems. Thus the way is now open for an e-Education system.

It is vital for today’s youth who are the custodians of the future to broaden their views and have firm foundations of knowledge, for only then will they be able to guide the nation to a better future.

Of all the investments made in various fields, investment in uplift of education standard of the people especially youths is the most beneficial. For, highly qualified intellectuals and intelligentsia are essential for the prosperity of the nation.

ICT-based learning centres and resource centres have been opened from basic education schools right up to university level. Universities now have access to the e-library, the Internet and Intranet and can also employ video conferencing and web-based systems. Thus the way is now open for an e-Education system.

In Myanmar, concerted efforts are being made to keep abreast of the education standard of the people with that of other nations. The 30-year long-term Education Promotion Plan has been implemented since 2001-2002 fiscal year. According to a senior education officer, the Education Promotion Plan covers human resource development, application of technologies, research, ensuring constant learning society, education uplift and preserving national norms and characteristics. The Government applies strategies of formal education and non-formal education in uplift of education standard of the entire people.

It would not be wrong to say that education is important because it helps people increase their knowledge and understanding of the society as well as the world. Education helps people acquire skills that make their lives better and serve the interests of the nation and the people.

It is widely acknowledged that today is the most worthy goal, there are still many things that need to be done by those responsible in the education sector.

Today the Government looking forward to the prosperous future, is doing its utmost to develop and open up the various fields of science and technology including that of ICT which is top priority internationally.

Studies in computer technology have been available in Myanmar for the last 20 to 25 years, but a lot of time was wasted, for it was narrowly confined to the academic world and not extended for research or practical application.

To remedy these shortcomings, vigorous efforts are to be made up for the lost time.

The Government Technical Institute in Mohinnin, Kachin State.

MICT Parks have been opened in Yangon and Mandalay cities. So, ICT-based services and modern communications networks are now accessible nationwide.
Road accident in S-W Iran kills 15, injures over 22

Tehrān, 19 Aug — Fifteen people were killed and over 22 others injured on Tuesday in a road accident involving a truck and a bus in the southeastern Iranian province of Sistan-Baluchestan, the official IRNA news agency reported on Wednesday.

The report said that the truck driver was to blame for the accident, for he veered his vehicle to the left side of the road and collided head-on with the bus.

Iran has one of the greatest rates of road accident in the world, and official statistics show that in every 24 minutes there is one person killed in road accidents. Transport experts blame most of the accidents on hazardous roads and reckless driving.

MNA/Xinhua

Laos strives to eliminate goitre by 2006

HANOI, 19 Aug — Laos has targeted to eliminating disorders caused by iodine deficiency, mostly goitres, by 2006 after reducing the percentage of its population suffering from the disorder to 5 per cent by the end of 2004 from 6 per cent in 2003 and 40 per cent in 1994.

To this end, the country has intensified information campaigns about the bad effects of iodine deficiency on humans and benefits of iodized salt among residents, especially rural and mountainous ones, according to reports reaching here from Laos on Tuesday.

To promote the use of iodized products such as salt and fish sauce among poor residents, the Lao Government has issued a policy to subsidize the production and distribution of the products to poor households nationwide.

The percentage of Lao households using iodized salt rose to 95 per cent in 2003 from 90 per cent in 2002 and 85 per cent in 2001.

MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam to issue new polymer banknote

Hanoi, 19 Aug — Vietnam will issue a new banknote made from polymer early next month to better protect the local currency, the State Bank of Vietnam said on Tuesday.

The issuance of the banknote with a face value of 100,000 Vietnamese dong (6.4 US dollars) will more effectively prevent the local currency from being counterfeited and, not affect the current monetary circulation, it noted.

The central bank said that it has stopped printing the paper-based notes, and expects to replace them with polymer-based notes within one year. The two kinds of notes are now used along with each other.

Earlier, two types of polymer-based banknote with the face values of 50,000 dong (3.2 US dollars) and 100,000 dong (6.4 US dollars) were put into circulation last December.

MNA/Xinhua

AIDS is a national concern.

THAILAND)
Free meteorological data web site launched in China

BEIJING, 19 Aug—China Tuesday launched a free meteorological data web site aiming to improve its on-line meteorology information sharing service.

The web site, operated by the China Meteorological Administration, is part of a scientific data sharing project initiated by the Ministry of Science and Technology.

The website provides data service on ground and upper air meteorological conditions, solar radiation, meteorological satellites and scientific experiments.

The free service is available to both research organizations and individuals who register at http://data.cma.gov.cn.

Dr. Zheng Guoguang, deputy director of the China Meteorological Administration, said that meteorological data is not only a foundation for research of the climate system, but also a necessity for scientific decisions on economic and social development, national defence, environmental protection and ecological development.

It is also indispensable in people's everyday life, Zheng said. Teng Mianzhen, an official with the Ministry of Science and Technology, said that the web site is expected to become an authoritative source of meteorological information and data.

Currently, major data providers for the web site include the Meteorological Information Centre, the National Satellite Meteorological Centre, the Chinese Academy of Meteorological Science and observatories in Tibet Autonomous Region and provinces of Hubei, Gansu, Heilongjiang and Jiangsu.

More meteorological research organizations will be incorporated into the network to provide information and data for the free service, Teng said. Earlier in July, the China Meteorological Administration set up a web site, www.spaceswatch.gov.cn, providing free services in space weather monitoring and warning to the public.

---

Arroyo pushes for education system reforms

MANILA, 19 Aug—Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo Wednesday pushed for reforms in education systems to upgrade the quality of education in the country and provide opportunities to the youth during her local school visit here.

The reform agenda includes the classrooms building programme, one scholar for every indentig family, computers for all schools, vocational and technical courses for job creation, and early child development programmes.

Arroyo explained at a public school in Las Pinas, Metro Manila, Arroyo said her government is planning to promote early child development programmes, build many school buildings every year, and provide emergency service for out-of-school youth, among others, as part of its education reform package in the next six years.

She also took up other education-related issues, including skills training as a necessary tool for jobs creation, livelihood programmes, putting up of day care centres, teachers' problems, improve.

---

Indonesia's economic growth slows in second quarter

JAKARTA, 19 Aug—The Indonesian economy grew at a slower rate in the second quarter, compared to the first quarter of the year as consumer spending weakened due to rising inflation, a local newspaper reported Wednesday.

The economic growth in the April-June period of this year was 4.32 per cent compared to the same period last year while year-on-year growth in the first quarter was 5.7 per cent, reported The Jakarta Post.

The rising inflationary pressures during the past three months due to weakening of the rupiah (the local unit has declined by nearly 10 per cent against the dollar) reduced consumer spending as purchasing power weakened. Inflation hit a 15-month high of 7.2 per cent in July, higher than the government's annual rate target of 6.5 per cent, due to soaring prices of food and other basic commodities.

Domestic consumption has been the main engine of economic growth during the past few years, accounting for more than 68 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP). Quoting latest data from the Central Statistics Agency (BPS), the daily said growth in household spending slowed to 5.26 per cent in the second quarter from 5.71 per cent in the first quarter.

Government spending in infrastructure, meanwhile, expanded by 6.08 per cent, but less than half the 12.75 per cent gain was in the previous quarter.

---

HK official optimistic about textile, clothes sector

HONG KONG, 19 Aug—Hong Kong will remain competitive in textiles and clothing manufacturing after the removal of import quotas by the World Trade Organization (WTO) next year, said a Hong Kong official on Tuesday.

John Tsang, Secretary for Commerce, Industry & Technology, said he does not think that local factories will move their facilities outside after the quota removal.

According to the WTO agreement on textile and clothing, quota restrictions imposed by all WTO members on their textile and clothing imports will be completely lifted on New Year's Day.

Tsang said the removal of the quota system marks an important milestone in the liberalization of international trade in textiles and clothing. He said while trade liberalization can broaden the scope for trade and facilitate market expansion by Hong Kong business people, it will not at the same time intensify market competition.

Tsang pledged the government will continue to offer the trade a business-friendly environment and improve services. For example, all existing quota-related regulatory measures will be lifted. A simple and reliable system will be kept to protect the interests of local producers.

He urged the trade to produce lower production costs and boost product quality to sharpen Hong Kong's competitiveness.

Tsang said the proposed regulatory framework for textiles after the quota removal has been worked out and regulations will be tabled at the Legislative Council in October.

"We will still continue to allow our manufacturers here to make use of the outward processing arrangement that helps them to deal with a lot of the more labour-intensive aspects of the manufacturing," he said.

---

The River Thames, which bisects the centre of London, is said to be some of the world's cleanest urban waterways, but that claim to fame is undermined by frequent spillage from the capital's sewage system. — Ian Neary

---

Indonesia's economic growth slowed in second quarter

Jakarta, 19 Aug—The Indonesian economy grew at a slower rate in the second quarter, compared to the first quarter of the year as consumer spending weakened due to rising inflation, a local newspaper reported Wednesday.

The economic growth in the April-June period of this year was 4.32 per cent compared to the same period last year while year-on-year growth in the first quarter was 5.7 per cent, reported The Jakarta Post.

The rising inflationary pressures during the past three months due to weakening of the rupiah (the local unit has declined by nearly 10 per cent against the dollar) reduced consumer spending as purchasing power weakened. Inflation hit a 15-month high of 7.2 per cent in July, higher than the government's annual rate target of 6.5 per cent, due to soaring prices of food and other basic commodities.

Domestic consumption has been the main engine of economic growth during the past few years, accounting for more than 68 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP). Quoting latest data from the Central Statistics Agency (BPS), the daily said growth in household spending slowed to 5.26 per cent in the second quarter from 5.71 per cent in the first quarter.

Government spending in infrastructure, meanwhile, expanded by 6.08 per cent, but less than half the 12.75 per cent gain was in the previous quarter.

---

HK official optimistic about textile, clothes sector

HONG KONG, 19 Aug—Hong Kong will remain competitive in textiles and clothing manufacturing after the removal of import quotas by the World Trade Organization (WTO) next year, said a Hong Kong official on Tuesday.

John Tsang, Secretary for Commerce, Industry & Technology, said he does not think that local factories will move their facilities outside after the quota removal.

According to the WTO agreement on textile and clothing, quota restrictions imposed by all WTO members on their textile and clothing imports will be completely lifted on New Year’s Day.

Tsang said the removal of the quota system marks an important milestone in the liberalization of international trade in textiles and clothing. He said while trade liberalization can broaden the scope for trade and facilitate market expansion by Hong Kong business people, it will not at the same time intensify market competition.

Tsang pledged the government will continue to offer the trade a business-friendly environment and improve services. For example, all existing quota-related regulatory measures will be lifted. A simple and reliable system will be kept to protect the rights and benefits of locally made products.

He urged the trade to produce lower production costs and boost product quality to sharpen Hong Kong's competitiveness.

Tsang said the proposed regulatory framework for textiles after the quota removal has been worked out and regulations will be tabled at the Legislative Council in October.

"We will still continue to allow our manufacturers here to make use of the outward processing arrangement that helps them to deal with a lot of the more labour-intensive aspects of the manufactur-

---

The new light of Myanmar Friday, 20 August, 2004 13

---
**Olympics-Fencing:**

Klochkova repeats golden double

*Author: MNA/Reuters*

**Olympics-Swimming:**

Klochkova repeats golden double

*Author: MNA/Reuters*

**Olympics-Swimming:**

Phelps wins second gold

*Author: MNA/Reuters*

**Olympic-Soccer-Men:**

Comic own goal puts Korea through

*Author: MNA/Reuters*

**Olympics-Soccer-Women:**

Austrian “Matildas” salvage late draw with US

*Author: MNA/Reuters*

**Olympics-Swimming:**

Phelps wins second gold

*Author: MNA/Reuters*

**Olympics-Swimming:**

Phelps wins second gold

*Author: MNA/Reuters*

**Olympics-Swimming:**

Phelps wins second gold

*Author: MNA/Reuters*

**Olympics-Fencing:**

Zagunis ends 100-year US gold famine

*Author: MNA/Reuters*

**Olympics-Swimming:**

Phelps wins second gold

*Author: MNA/Reuters*

**Olympics-Swimming:**

Phelps wins second gold

*Author: MNA/Reuters*

**Olympics-Swimming:**

Phelps wins second gold

*Author: MNA/Reuters*

**Olympics-Swimming:**

Phelps wins second gold

*Author: MNA/Reuters*

**Olympics-Swimming:**

Phelps wins second gold

*Author: MNA/Reuters*

**Olympics-Swimming:**

Phelps wins second gold

*Author: MNA/Reuters*

**Olympics-Swimming:**

Phelps wins second gold

*Author: MNA/Reuters*

**Olympics-Swimming:**

Phelps wins second gold

*Author: MNA/Reuters*

**Olympics-Swimming:**

Phelps wins second gold

*Author: MNA/Reuters*

**Olympics-Swimming:**

Phelps wins second gold

*Author: MNA/Reuters*

**Olympics-Swimming:**

Phelps wins second gold

*Author: MNA/Reuters*

**Olympics-Swimming:**

Phelps wins second gold

*Author: MNA/Reuters*

**Olympics-Swimming:**

Phelps wins second gold

*Author: MNA/Reuters*

**Olympics-Swimming:**

Phelps wins second gold

*Author: MNA/Reuters*

**Olympics-Swimming:**

Phelps wins second gold

*Author: MNA/Reuters*

**Olympics-Swimming:**

Phelps wins second gold

*Author: MNA/Reuters*

**Olympics-Swimming:**

Phelps wins second gold

*Author: MNA/Reuters*

**Olympics-Swimming:**

Phelps wins second gold

*Author: MNA/Reuters*

**Olympics-Swimming:**

Phelps wins second gold

*Author: MNA/Reuters*

**Olympics-Swimming:**

Phelps wins second gold

*Author: MNA/Reuters*

**Olympics-Swimming:**

Phelps wins second gold

*Author: MNA/Reuters*

**Olympics-Swimming:**

Phelps wins second gold

*Author: MNA/Reuters*

**Olympics-Swimming:**

Phelps wins second gold

*Author: MNA/Reuters*

**Olympics-Swimming:**

Phelps wins second gold

*Author: MNA/Reuters*

**Olympics-Swimming:**

Phelps wins second gold

*Author: MNA/Reuters*

**Olympics-Swimming:**

Phelps wins second gold

*Author: MNA/Reuters*

**Olympics-Swimming:**

Phelps wins second gold

*Author: MNA/Reuters*

**Olympics-Swimming:**

Phelps wins second gold

*Author: MNA/Reuters*

**Olympics-Swimming:**

Phelps wins second gold

*Author: MNA/Reuters*

**Olympics-Swimming:**

Phelps wins second gold

*Author: MNA/Reuters*

**Olympics-Swimming:**

Phelps wins second gold

*Author: MNA/Reuters*

**Olympics-Swimming:**

Phelps wins second gold

*Author: MNA/Reuters*

**Olympics-Swimming:**

Phelps wins second gold

*Author: MNA/Reuters*

**Olympics-Swimming:**

Phelps wins second gold

*Author: MNA/Reuters*

**Olympics-Swimming:**

Phelps wins second gold

*Author: MNA/Reuters*

**Olympics-Swimming:**

Phelps wins second gold

*Author: MNA/Reuters*

**Olympics-Swimming:**

Phelps wins second gold

*Author: MNA/Reuters*

**Olympics-Swimming:**

Phelps wins second gold

*Author: MNA/Reuters*

**Olympics-Swimming:**

Phelps wins second gold

*Author: MNA/Reuters*

**Olympics-Swimming:**

Phelps wins second gold

*Author: MNA/Reuters*

**Olympics-Swimming:**

Phelps wins second gold

*Author: MNA/Reuters*

**Olympics-Swimming:**

Phelps wins second gold

*Author: MNA/Reuters*

**Olympics-Swimming:**

Phelps wins second gold

*Author: MNA/Reuters*

**Olympics-Swimming:**

Phelps wins second gold

*Author: MNA/Reuters*

**Olympics-Swimming:**

Phelps wins second gold

*Author: MNA/Reuters*

**Olympics-Swimming:**

Phelps wins second gold

*Author: MNA/Reuters*

**Olympics-Swimming:**

Phelps wins second gold

*Author: MNA/Reuters*

**Olympics-Swimming:**

Phelps wins second gold

*Author: MNA/Reuters*

**Olympics-Swimming:**

Phelps wins second gold

*Author: MNA/Reuters*

**Olympics-Swimming:**

Phelps wins second gold

*Author: MNA/Reuters*

**Olympics-Swimming:**

Phelps wins second gold

*Author: MNA/Reuters*

**Olympics-Swimming:**

Phelps wins second gold

*Author: MNA/Reuters*

**Olympics-Swimming:**

Phelps wins second gold

*Author: MNA/Reuters*

**Olympics-Swimming:**

Phelps wins second gold

*Author: MNA/Reuters*

**Olympics-Swimming:**

Phelps wins second gold

*Author: MNA/Reuters*

**Olympics-Swimming:**

Phelps wins second gold

*Author: MNA/Reuters*

**Olympics-Swimming:**

Phelps wins second gold

*Author: MNA/Reuters*

**Olympics-Swimming:**

Phelps wins second gold

*Author: MNA/Reuters*

**Olympics-Swimming:**

Phelps wins second gold

*Author: MNA/Reuters*

**Olympics-Swimming:**

Phelps wins second gold

*Author: MNA/Reuters*

**Olympics-Swimming:**

Phelps wins second gold

*Author: MNA/Reuters*

**Olympics-Swimming:**

Phelps wins second gold

*Author: MNA/Reuters*

**Olympics-Swimming:**

Phelps wins second gold

*Author: MNA/Reuters*

**Olympics-Swimming:**

Phelps wins second gold

*Author: MNA/Reuters*

**Olympics-Swimming:**

Phelps wins second gold

*Author: MNA/Reuters*

**Olympics-Swimming:**

Phelps wins second gold

*Author: MNA/Reuters*

**Olympics-Swimming:**

Phelps wins second gold

*Author: MNA/Reuters*

**Olympics-Swimming:**

Phelps wins second gold

*Author: MNA/Reuters*

**Olympics-Swimming:**

Phelps wins second gold

*Author: MNA/Reuters*

**Olympics-Swimming:**

Phelps wins second gold

*Author: MNA/Reuters*

**Olympics-Swimming:**

Phelps wins second gold

*Author: MNA/Reuters*

**Olympics-Swimming:**

Phelps wins second gold

*Author: MNA/Reuters*

**Olympics-Swimming:**

Phelps wins second gold

*Author: MNA/Reuters*

**Olympics-Swimming:**

Phelps wins second gold

*Author: MNA/Reuters*

**Olympics-Swimming:**

Phelps wins second gold

*Author: MNA/Reuters*

**Olympics-Swimming:**

Phelps wins second gold

*Author: MNA/Reuters*

**Olympics-Swimming:**

Phelps wins second gold

*Author: MNA/Reuters*

**Olympics-Swimming:**

Phelps wins second gold

*Author: MNA/Reuters*

**Olympics-Swimming:**

Phelps wins second gold

*Author: MNA/Reuters*

**Olympics-Swimming:**

Phelps wins second gold

*Author: MNA/Reuters*

**Olympics-Swimming:**

Phelps wins second gold

*Author: MNA/Reuters*

**Olympics-Swimming:**

Phelps wins second gold

*Author: MNA/Reuters*

**Olympics-Swimming:**

Phelps wins second gold

*Author: MNA/Reuters*

**Olympics-Swimming:**

Phelps wins second gold

*Author: MNA/Reuters*

**Olympics-Swimming:**

Phelps wins second gold

*Author: MNA/Reuters*

**Olympics-Swimming:**

Phelps wins second gold

*Author: MNA/Reuters*

**Olympics-Swimming:**

Phelps wins second gold

*Author: MNA/ Reuters*
Friday, August 20
Tune in today:
8:30 am  Brief news
8:35 am  Music: Can't get you out of my mind
8:40 am  Perspectives
8:45 am  Music: -We take the chance
8:50 am  National news/Slogan
9:00 am  Music: -Baby I was made for you
9:05 am  International news
9:10 am  Music: Life affair
1:30 pm  News/Slogan
1:40 pm  Lunch time
music: -Girls and boys -All that she wants -Stop stop stop
9:00 pm  World of music
Songs from: China
9:15 pm  Article/Music
9:25 pm  Music at your request
-Too much -Me & I
-Close to you -Don’t go breaking my heart
9:45 pm  News/Slogan
10:00 pm PEL

Rainfall on 19-8-2004
-1.89 inches at Yangon Airport,
-2.13 inches at Kaba-Aye,
-1.85 inches at central Yangon.

WEATHER
Thursday, 19 August 2004
Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain has been scattered in Chin, Shan and Kayah States, lower Sagaing, Magway and Mandalay Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfalls in Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Pyapon 4.45 inches and Hmaubwi 3.54 inches.

Maximum temperature on 19-8-2004 was 81°F. Minimum temperature on 19-8-2004 was 67°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 19-8-2004 was 100%. Total sunshine hours on 18-8-2004 was nil. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 10 mph from South-west at 13:45 hours MST on 18-8-2004.

Bay influence: Monsoon is generally strong in the Bay of Bengal. Forecast valid until evening of 20-8-2004: Rain will be scattered in Kayah, Shan and Chin States, lower Sagaing, Magway and Mandalay Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Kachin State, upper Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Yangon Divisions. Degree of certainty is 80%. State of the sea: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coast. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) to (40) m/s. Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of decrease of rain in Northern Myanmar areas. Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 20-8-2004: Some rain. Degree of certainty is (100%). Forecast for Manda- lay and neighbouring area for 20-8-2004: Isolated rain. Degree of certainty is 80%.

Flood Bulletin
(issued at 13:00 hrs MST on 19-8-2004)
The water level of Sintoung River at Madauk is 132cm (about 4½ ft) above the danger level. Though the water level is falling steadily, it may remain above the danger level during the next five days commencing noon today.

The water level of Shwesgun River at Shwegein is 15cm (about half-ft) above the danger level. The water level may fall below the danger level during the next 24 hours commencing noon today.
Minister inspects fire engines

YANGON, 19 Aug—Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa inspected six TE fire engines innovated by engineers of the Fire Services Department, this morning at the department (Head Office).

Among the six fire engines, two are for YeU and KhinU Townships in Sagaing Division, one for Mindat Township in Chin State, two for Waingmaw and Tanai Townships in Kachin State and one for Kyaukhtyo (Kinnmon Sakha) in Kyaukto Township, Mon State.

The minister instructed the officials to send the fire engines to respective regions as soon as possible.

Present on the occasion were Officer on Special Duty of the ministry Brig-Gen Thura Sein Thaug, the director-general and officials of the department and representatives from respective townships.

SOM for preparing Summit of CLMV held

YANGON, 19 Aug—The First Senior Officials’ Meeting in Preparation for the Summit meeting of the Heads of Government of Cambodia, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Vietnam (CLMV) was held at the Hotel Nikko here yesterday. The meeting was attended by representatives from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam.

Director-General U Thaung Tun of the Political Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs presided over the meeting.

The representatives discussed the draft joint declaration to be released at the Vientiane Summit Meeting to be attended by the Prime Ministers of Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam.

The Joint Declaration will include strategy to expedite the process of the implementation of Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) and to set up an economic cooperation framework for the CLMV countries with a view to achieving prosperity in the sub-region through enhanced solidarity, mutual respect, closer friendship and active cooperation among the four countries. The CLMV Summit will be held in Vientiane, Lao PDR, in November this year.

Merchants purchase gem, jade lots through bargain

YANGON, 19 Aug — The 17th Gem and Jade Sale for the year 2004 of the Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings Ltd was launched today at the Myanmar Gems Mart on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road here. A total of 307 gem and jade lots — 230 gem lots and 77 jade lots — were purchased by the gem merchants through bargain and auction system till 5 pm. The sale continued in the evening.

Managing Director of UMEHL Maj-Gen Win Hlaing (Retd) opened the sale ceremony this morning and a total of 899 gem merchants at home and abroad attended it. Gem and jade lots were displayed from 16 August to yesterday.

More US troops implicated in Abu Ghraib abuse

WASHINGTON, 19 Aug—A new US Army report implicates 20 or more intelligence troops in the Abu Ghraib Prison scandal, defence officials said on Wednesday.

The investigation report, expected to be sent to Congress next week, recommends discipline against the military intelligence troops ranging from administrative reduction in rank and loss of pay to further investigation that could lead to military trials, one of the officials told Reuters.

The officials, who asked not to be identified, gave no further details, but said most of the troops implicated in the intelligence probe, launched by Army Major-General George Fay in April, were from the US 205th Military Intelligence Brigade that was assigned to Abu Ghraib when the abuses occurred.

“I think it will find that military police weren’t the only ones doing anything wrong,” said one defence official of the Abu Ghraib abuse and sexual humiliation of Iraqi prisoners which sparked fury in the Arab world and international condemnation.

(See page 2)