Rules on Armed Forces Day Commemorative Painting and Sculpture Contests announced

YANGON, 20 Aug — Hailing the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day which falls on 27 March 2005, the Painting and Sculpture Contests and Exhibition Organizing Sub-committee under the Poem and Arts Competitions Organizing Work Committee chaired by Deputy Minister for Culture Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung announced rules on the Arts and Sculpture Contests.

Six categories
The Painting Contest will be divided into six categories — the pre-primary level (school children from Pre-Primary School, the primary (junior) level (KG, first and second standards), the primary (senior) level (third and fourth standards), the middle school level (fifth to seventh standards), the high school level (eighth to tenth standards and technical and agricultural schools) and the open level (university, college, institute, State School of Fine Arts, amateur and professional contestants).

Sculpture Contest
Contestants can participate in only the open class of the Sculpture Contest. But, they may take part in the two events — the open class (plaster) and the open class (wood). All the contestants including amateurs, professionals and students may take part in both contests.

In the pre-primary and all basic education levels of the Painting Contest, the size of the entry must be 20" x 15" presented by any colour and system. The entry must be endorsed by respective principals with the name of contestant, standard, school, township, date of birth, father’s name, full address and two passport size photos. The entries are to be sent to the Education Planning and Training Department at 123, Natmauk Street, Bahan Township, not later than 1 March 2005.

The size of entries for the open class painting and sculpture contests is to be sent directly to the Secretary of the Painting and Sculpture Contests and Exhibition Organizing Sub-committee, Tatmadaw Convention Hall, U Wisara Road, not later than 3 March 2005.

All the entries must reflect 12 Objectives of the State, objectives of the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day and 12 fine traditions of the Tatmadaw.

Entries for the open class painting and sculpture contests are to be sent to the Secretary of Myanmar Traditional Artists and Artisans Association (Central) of 187, east wing of Bogyoke Market, Pahedan Township, not later than 1 March 2005 of the Secretaries of the Painting and Sculpture Contests and Exhibition Organizing Sub-committee, Tatmadaw Convention Hall, U Wisara Road, here, from 1 to 3 March 2005.

Other entries
Apart from the entries, other paintings and sculptures may be sent to be displayed at the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Exhibition. They must also reflect the 12 Objectives of the State, objectives of the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day and 12 fine traditions of the Tatmadaw.

In addition, the works may reflect the ancient Myanmar Tatmadaw, historic matters of the Tatmadaw which occurred in the periods of Pre-Independence and State Peace and Development Council, and its endeavours in safeguarding and developing the State. The other paintings and sculptures are to be sent directly to Tatmadaw Convention Hall on U Wisara Road from 1 to 3 March 2005.

Gem & Jade Sales conclude

YANGON, 20 Aug — The 17th Gem and Jade Sales 2004 of the Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings Ltd concluded at the Gem Mart on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road here yesterday evening.

In the evening, 15 lots of gems were sold. The sales took place from 16 to 19 August. 899 local and foreign merchants purchased 245 lots of gems and 77 lots of jade through tender system and competitive bidding. UMEHL Managing Director Maj-Gen Win Hlaing (Reid) and officials presented souvenirs to the merchants who bought the gems and jade at the highest bid. — MNA

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

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

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

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

Make continued efforts for harmonious development of the Union

The Union of Myanmar is a land where various national races have been living in unity and amity from time immemorial. And the Government is trying its best for the nation to be able to be on a par with other nations of the world, adhering to its national policy — non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty.

In its march towards a modern and developed nation, the Government is striving for the simultaneous development of agriculture and agro-based industries through a harmonious cooperation between the State and the private sector.

Nowadays, due to wealth, development and technological divide among the international community, developing nations like Myanmar have to be trying very hard to protect their national interests. Moreover, some industrialized nations, making use of international organizations, are imposing various kinds of pressures and sanctions on Myanmar. And destructive elements within and without the Union, with the support and assistance of those nations, are always trying to hamper the Government’s efforts for the development of the Union.

At such a time like this, all the national races of the Union, braving all obstacles, have to make relentless efforts to promote the interests of the nation as well as their own. They have to try to stand on their own feet among the nations of the world without being swayed by the influence of any one.

The Government is now implementing the development plan for border areas and national races, the 24-region development plan and the five rural development tasks for the harmonious development of all the regions in the Union. Moreover, it is building transport, education, health, economic and social infrastructures the length and breadth of the nation.

For our country to keep abreast of the development of other nations, all the national people of the Union have to make relentless efforts with strong determination. Only then will our goal be achieved. Now, with peace prevailing all over the Union and due to the cooperation between the Government, the people and the Tatmadaw, good strides are being made in each and every sector.

Therefore, we would like to call on the entire national people to continue working in concert with the Government till our national goal is achieved.

People’s Desire

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

Cash donations invited for Maha Ratthabhi Samaggi Pagoda in Panglong

**Yangon, 20 Aug** — As the symbol of unity and consolidation of national brethren of the Union of Myanmar, the Maha Ratthabhi Samaggi Pagoda has been built on Vikasini Hill in Panglong, Loilem District, Shan State (South). Wellwishers may make cash donations for golden umbrella to be hoisted atop the pagoda and nine Buddha Images with different mudras (hand postures). A ceremony to make cash donations will be held at Viyaya Mingalar Dhamma Thabn Hall on Kaba Aye Hill here at 1 pm on 24 August. — **MNA**

Swimming Championship ends

**Yangon, 20 Aug** — The prize presentation ceremony for the Commander-in-Chief (Navy)’s Shield Swimming Championship was held at the swimming pool of the Defence Services (Navy) of Ayeyawady Naval Region Command Headquarters this morning, attended by Commander of Naval Training Command Captain Maung Oo Lwin.

Also present were senior naval officers of the Commander-in-Chief (Navy)’s Office, units of Thanbyuzan Station and naval football, officers, Tatmadawomen and families.

After the final matches, Naval Dockyard Command team emerged champion in the team event and Aung Myo Hein of the same command won the Best Swimmer Award.

In the prize presentation ceremony, Captain Maung Oo Lwin (Navy), on behalf of the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), presented the championship shield to the Naval Dockyard Command team, and officials, other prizes to the respective winners. — **MNA**

Nautical stations

**Yangon, 20 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 waterways.

A navigational station each has been built at Shwekyetyet for Sagaing Bridge, on Lanywa Bank for Anawrahta Bridge in Chauk, near Myathalun Pagoda for Magway Bridge, at Mya Village for Nawady Bridge in Pyay, at Sakkawt for Bo Myat Tun Bridge and at Ahlet Taikkaw for Mawbin Bridge along Ayeyawady River, and at Ahsin for Manywa Bridge and at Ahlet Taikkaw for Honeybush Bridge along the Chindwin River.

It said the vessels moving downstream the rivers are to get navigational facts from respective stations.

Advertising Division

(Mandalay Branch) opens

**Yangon, 20 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 daily 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 Aungmyathazan Township, Mandalay. (Tel: 02-32729 or 02-39935). — **MNA**

ASEAN students, teachers tour Bago, Yangon

**Yangon, 19 Aug** — Faculty members and students from the member countries of ASEAN ASEAN University Network, attending the 6th ASEAN Universities Network Educational Forum, toured Bago and Yangon yesterday together with Director of Department of Higher Education (Lower Myanmar) U Win and Principal of Bago Degree College U Thein Win.

They arrived at Shwemawdaw Pagoda where U Soe Win of Trustees Office and Professor U Myint Sein of Bago Degree College explained to the students in brief of the pagoda to them. They proceeded to Kanbawzathadi Palace. Assistant Director U Sein Htaw of Archaeology Department explained to them reconstruction of the palace and they viewed around the palace site.

In the evening, they arrived at Myanmar Information and Communication Technology (MICT) Park and General Manager U Thaung Nyunt lectured on salient points of MICT Park. Next, they reached the office of the Myanmar Computer Federation where Director Dr Myint Myint Than explained facts about the federation and studied Myanmar-Japan e-Learning Centre.

This morning, they went on a study tour of Tokiwa pencil factory and Aphrodite cosmetics factory. After that, they arrived at FAME pharmaceutical factory where they were briefed on production process. They proceeded to Teak Farm Industries Factory and the Managing Director of the company explained the production process.

The 6th Forum was held at Diamond Jubilee Hall on Pyay road here this afternoon. Ma Khine Ngwe Htay, Zaw and Ma Ei Thet Thet Swe of Yangon Institute of Economics, Ms Nurul Rochayata of University of Indonesia and Ms Elizabeth Foong of Universiti Malaya reported on ASEAN in the Knowledge Age and Building ASEAN and-Asean Learning Societies and those present at the meeting discussed the topics. — **MNA**

MNA
947 US troops killed since beginning of military operations in Iraq

Baghdad, 19 Aug.—As of Thursday, 19 August, 947 US service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq in March 2003, according to the Defence Department. Of those, 706 died as a result of hostile action and 241 died of non-hostile causes.

The British military has reported 64 deaths; Italy, 18; Spain, 11; Poland, nine; Bulgaria, six; Ukraine, six; Slovakia, three; Thailand, two; and Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia and the Netherlands have reported one death each.

Since 1 May, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 809 US soldiers have died 597 as a result of hostile action and 212 of non-hostile causes.

The latest deaths reported by military: A Marine assigned to I Marine Expeditionary Force was killed in action Wednesday in Najaf. Another Marine died after a vehicle accident in Anbar Province.

A soldier was killed Wednesday by small arms fire in Sadr City, eastern Baghdad.

The latest identification reported by the military: Army Spc Brandton T Tinus, 20, Boise, Idaho, killed Tuesday in Baghdad, Iraq, in an explosion near his check-point: assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum, NY.

Iraqi south pipeline still shut, oil exports halved

Baghdad, 19 Aug.—Iraq’s main southern pipeline was still shut on Wednesday, restricting the country’s oil exports to half their normal flows, a South Oil Company official said.

“We could see the situation change by the end of the day, but nothing is certain. More employees turned up to work today and management ordered all staff to report to work tomorrow,” said the official, who declined to be named.

The pipeline, one of two linking southern fields to two offshore Gulf terminals, has been mostly shut since August 9, when saboteurs attacked it.

Crews repaired the 48-inch pipeline, which has a capacity of 1.5 million barrels per day (BPD), and operated it briefly before shutting it as security worsened due to an uprising led by anti-US cleric Moqtada al-Sadr, whose followers have vowed to attack the infrastructure. Exports are flowing through a second 42-inch pipeline at around one million barrels per day.

The instability and fighting in the city of Basra forced management of the state-owned South Oil Company to order headquarters employees not to report to work since last week.

The insurgency and fighting in the city of Basra forced management of the state-owned South Oil Company to order headquarters employees not to report to work since last week.

Iraqi President visits South Africa

New Delhi, 19 Aug.—Indian President A P Abdul Kalam will visit South Africa and Tanzania next month, the Indo-Asian News Service (IANS) reported Thursday.

“Kalam is likely to embark on his two-nation tour in the second week of next month, possibly September 10 or 11,” IANS quoted officials as saying.

This is Kalam’s second foreign trip since taking office more than two years ago. He has earlier visited United Arab Emirates, Sudan and Bulgaria. — MNA/Xinhua

Kerry to attack Bush troop withdrawal plan

CINCINNATI, 19 Aug.—Democrat John Kerry on Wednesday planned to attack President George W Bush’s plan to withdraw 70,000 American troops from Europe and Asia as an attempt to national security that could blunt the war on terror campaign aides said.

The Kerry campaign has attacked the redeployment plan as politically motivated and said it would undermine the US relationship with NATO. In his speech to the VFW, Kerry, a decorated Vietnam War Navy lieutenant, will dispute Bush’s claim to be “getting things done” for US veterans, the second time in recent weeks he has dismissed one of the Republican incumbent’s campaign slogans.

“The job will be done when there are no more homeless veterans on the streets of America,” he said in the excerpts. “The job will be done when more than 320,000 veterans are not awaiting appeals decisions.”

The four-term senator from Massachusetts also criticized Bush for his “go-it-alone” foreign policy. — MNA/Reuters

US Marine killed in action west of Baghdad

Baghdad, 19 Aug.—A US Marine was killed in action west of Baghdad in a restive Sunni Muslim area of Baghdad on Tuesday, a US military statement said.

The statement said the Marine, assigned to the Marine Expeditionary Force, was killed in Anbar Province “while conducting security and stability operations”.

The Anbar Province includes the cities of Fallujah and Ramadi where Sunni gasoline supplies have been disrupted by militias.

A soldier was killed Wednesday by small arms fire in Sadr City, eastern Baghdad.

US troubled by death threat against kidnapped journalist in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 19 Aug.—The United States expressed concern over the fate of a kidnapped US journalist whose captors in Iraq threatened to kill him unless US forces withdraw from the Shihe holy city of Najaf within 48 hours.

“We are obviously troubled and concerned by this development,” State Department spokesman Adam Ereli said.

US authorities are “doing everything possible” to determine the whereabouts of Micah Garen, who was abducted Saturday along with his Iraqi interpreter, Amir Doshe, in southern Iraq.

“Our objective is to bring about the safe release of this innocent victim of terror, and we’ll continue to do everything we can to bring that about,” he added.

On Wednesday, Qatar-based Al-Jazeera television reported that an armed group calling itself Martyrs Squat threatened to kill Garen unless US forces leave Najaf, where fierce fighting has taken place between US and Iraqi forces and a Shihe militia.

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, although he is not heard speaking.

Garen, 36, is the founder of Four Corners Media, a company with offices in New York and Colorado that produces documentary videos, photos and text. — Internet

Another Turk firm quits Iraq after plea

Baghdad, 19 Aug.—The parent company of a Turkish firm, which quit Iraq earlier in the week, has said it will also leave the war-torn country, following the pleas of one of its employees to save the life of Ayat Allah Gezmen who is employed by Bilincin services firm.

Earlier on Thursday, in a grainy videotape shown by Turkey’s private NTV television, Gezmen said his captors would kill him if Bilincin and its parent company Tepe, a construction firm, did not leave the country.

“For Tepe and Bilincin do not pull out of Iraq within 72 hours, I will be killed,” Gezmen was heard saying in Arabic and Turkish and pleaded for help from Turkish Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan. Gezmen was captured three weeks ago along with a colleague, Mehmet Yuce, who was shot dead. Armed fighters released a videotape of the killing earlier this month.

Gezmen’s employer, Bilincin, said this week it had already withdrawn from Iraq, pulling its 130 employees, in order to avoid putting his life at risk Turkish trucks and trailers make around 700,000 trips to Iraq each year, earning Turkey billions of dollars in exports. — Internet
US Baghdad Embassy shelled

BAGHDAD, 19 Aug—A mortar shell hit the roof of the US Embassy in Baghdad slightly wounding two American employees, an embassy spokesman said.

The spokesman said the building was hit between 0800 and 0530 (1300–1330 GMT) on Thursday. US ambassador John Negroponte was not in Iraq at the time of the attack.

“One of the injured was shaken. The other injured person required medical treatment but the injuries are not severe,” the spokesman said, adding the roof was slightly damaged in the attack.

The US Embassy in Baghdad, the largest US mission in the world, is in the heavily fortified Green Zone, which also houses the offices of the US-appointed Iraqi interim government. Iraqi resistance fighters have routinely launched mortar and missile attacks against the Green Zone.

Meanwhile, the Polish news agency PAP quoted a military spokesperson who said two Polish soldiers were killed and five injured in a road accident in Hilla after their patrol was fired on near their Babylon base on Thursday.

The US Department of Defence reported that one US soldier was killed on Wednesday. The latest toll brings to 953 the number of US fatalities in Iraq since the 20 March 2003 invasion of the country.

Sixty-five military personnel from other countries have also been killed since that date. — Internet

A fire engine rushes past the gate of Iraq South Oil Co after Shiite militants loyal to radical cleric Moqtada al-Sadr broke into the headquarters and set the company’s warehouses and offices on fire in the southern Iraqi city of Basra on 19 Aug, 2004. — Internet

Iran calls for meeting of Iraq’s neighbours to resolve crisis

TEHERAN, 19 Aug—The Iranian Foreign Minister has called for an urgent meeting of Iraq neighbours to help end the crisis there, the official IRNA agency said.

“The issue is Iraq’s neighbours’ contribution to a resolution of the Iraq crisis,” Kamal Kharazi was quoted as saying during a telephone conversation with his Jordanian counterpart, Marwan Moasher.

Kharazi described the situation as critical, saying that “Iraq’s neighbours must do something to end the violence and protect the country’s holy sites.

Four other countries neighbour Iraq, besides Iran and Jordan, Kuwait, Syria and Turkey. Their Foreign Ministers have had a number of meetings since the US-led invasion that toppled the regime of Saddam Hussein in March last year.

They last met in Cairo on July 21 to discuss the new Iraq interim government’s pleas for help in restoring security to the ravaged nation.

Kharazi warned US troops against entering the shrine of Imam Ali in Najaf, where US-led forces have been laying siege to Shiite leader Moqtada Sadr, as this would be seen as a provocation by Muslims.

Syria later backed the idea of a meeting on Iraq, with a foreign ministry official saying Damascus was “worried” about the situation in Najaf. — Internet

Mid east energy sector needs $84.5b for future expansions

ANG-DUSHI, 19 Aug—Middle East energy sector needs to invest $84.5 billion US dollars for future expansions, the official WAM news agency reported Wednesday, citing a study released by the Organization of Arab Petroleum-Exporting Countries (OAPEC).

Of the total projected investment up to the year of 2006, the gas industry will take the lion share, with 43 billion dollars to be invested in the sector, according to the study.

Projects for raising crude output capacity will need 21 billion dollars, in addition to 19 billion dollars and 1.5 billion dollars respectively going to petrochemical industries and the refining sector, the study estimated.

The study, published by the OAPEC quarterly journal Oil and Arab Cooperation, expects Arab and foreign commercial financial institutions to contribute 35 billion dollars, accounting for 42 percent of the total funds.

Of the projected investment from private financiers, 19 billion dollars will go to the gas industry, accounting for 55 percent of the total, the study showed. The study added that commercial financiers are also projected to extend 11.2 billion, 2.5 billion and 2 billion dollars to petrochemicals industries, the refining sector and projects for raising crude output capacity respectively. The study expects that Arab banks could play a major role in financing projects in Middle East energy sector, if they introduced sweeping structural reforms in the financial and monetary system.

The best-case scenario for active role, the study said, is for the Arab banking and financial players to merge among themselves to create big institutions capable of competing with major global players. — MNA/Xinhua

Russia urges US to comply with troops reduction commitments

MOSCOW, 19 Aug—Russia expressed hope on Tuesday that the US plans to restructuring its Armed Forces abroad would be in line with US commitments to reduce troops and armaments.

US President George W Bush announced Monday plans to withdraw 60,000 to 70,000 troops from bases in Europe and Asia over the next 10 years, as part of a global military realignment.

The US Government officials said some of the troops would be shifted to posts in Eastern Europe, and a significant part would be redeployed to bases in the Middle East.

“In this context, we continue to draw the attention of the American side to the fact that any plans in this field must completely conform to its armaments and Armed Forces reduction commitments,” Russian Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

We also expect that...no American military bases will be set up in the Baltic area or in Transcaucasia,” the ministry said.

Shandong to host Yellow River culture and art festival

JINAN, 19 Aug—The first Yellow River culture and art festival will be held this September in Jinan, capital of east China’s Shandong Province.

Sponsored by Shandong Yellow River economy administration and the provincial tourism bureau, the festival will be held to popularize the Yellow River culture and bring wider attention to Yellow River harnessing and protection, said an official with the organizing committee Wednesday.

With “Maintaining the healthy life of Yellow River” as the theme, the festival would include forums concerning the protection and harnessing of the river and business and trade talks. — MNA/Xinhua

Thai Princess urges for immediate action to combat climate change

BANGKOK, 20 Aug — Princess of Thailand on Thursday urged for immediate action from the international community to combat global climate change, warning the delay in actions will cause serious consequence.

The remarks were made at a sub-session of the Fifth Princess Chulabhorn International Science Congress in Bangkok.

Climate plays a central role in the maintenance and equilibrium of life on the earth, but its balance is increasingly being disturbed by the effects of human activity, especially industrialization, said Princess Chulabhorn in her speech.

A report of UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) shows that alarming changes have taken place in the rapid build up of green house gases in the atmosphere and in increases in global temperatures leading to a rise in sea levels.

The climate variation and change, resulted in unprecedented floods and droughts, posed great threat to sustainability and sustainable development of mankind.

A plume of smoke rises over the besieged city of Najaf, Iraq, on 19 Aug, 2004. — Internet

Hurricane “Charley” deaths rise to 20 in Florida

PUNTA GORDA, 19 Aug—The death toll from Hurricane Charley’s destructive rampage in Florida has risen to 20, and more than 439,000 remain without power in the state, government officials said on Wednesday.

Charley, the strongest storm to hit Florida in a dozen years, charged over southwest coast on Friday with winds of up to 145 miles per hour, demolishing mobile home parks and damaging tens of thousands of buildings.

The new death toll, which rose by one, was issued by the Florida Division of Emergency Management.

Local officials had initially expected a far worse death toll, particularly because of the widespread damage to many mobile home parks in badly hit Charlotte County.

Thousands of people were left homeless by the storm, and officials said 2,684 were still in shelters by Wednesday. Many others had found refuge with relatives and friends, or in hotels. — MNA/Reuters

Of the projected investment from private financiers, 19 billion dollars will go to the gas industry, accounting for 55 percent of the total, the study showed. The study added that commercial financiers are also projected to extend 11.2 billion, 2.5 billion and 2 billion dollars to petrochemicals industries, the refining sector and projects for raising crude output capacity respectively. The study expects that Arab banks could play a major role in financing projects in Middle East energy sector, if they introduced sweeping structural reforms in the financial and monetary system.

The best-case scenario for active role, the study said, is for the Arab banking and financial players to merge among themselves to create big institutions capable of competing with major global players. — MNA/Xinhua
Family of dead British soldier gives government a rap

London, 20 Aug — The mother and teenage sister of a British soldier killed in Iraq walked out of a meeting with Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott in disgust on Thursday after delivering a letter demanding the return of British troops. Tearful Rose Gentle and her daughter Maxine, 14, arrived at Downing Street to hand over a letter to Prime Minister Tony Blair expressing anger over the war.

Prescott is acting head of government while Blair is on holiday.

“It think that you should withdraw all of our soldiers from Iraq,” wrote Maxine who told reporters she felt angry and upset.

“After all, it is not our war, it’s America’s... My big brother meant the world to me... to you he was just another number clown,” said her letter to Blair.

Her brother Gordon, 19, died in Basra when his convoy was hit by a bomb in June, just before the formal handover of power to an interim Iraqi government from the US-led occupation.

The two, wearing T-shirts emblazoned with Gordon’s face, were unexpectedly invited to see Prescott.

Prescott said he would pass on the message to Blair, Rose said after the meeting.

“I walked out. He was talking a lot of rubbish,” she added. Rose, whose cause has been taken up by the Stop the War Coalition, said she felt “sick” when she received a letter of condolence from Blair a few days ago, seven weeks after losing her only son.

“It means nothing. I want to give him his letter back,” said Rose, adding she would pursue a meeting with the Prime Minister.

“I want him to explain why he is sending young boys over there, he should bring them home,” she said.

The Ministry of Defence says 65 British soldiers have been killed in Iraq since the start of the conflict in March 2003.

Blair’s trust ratings have slumped since the invasion, not least over questions about the justification he gave for taking the nation to war.

Photo exhibition on Deng Xiaoping’s life opens at UN HQ


Addressing an opening ceremony, acting permanent representative of the Chinese mission to the UN Zhang Yishan said China should proceed from its national strategy and interests in order to pursue peace and development.

The photo exhibition was held to mark the 100th birthday of Deng Xiaoping, the first leader of China’s modernization programme and the man who led China out of poverty and toward a modern, prosperous nation.

Sharing with all the nations, Deng’s life offers a glimpse into the noble characteristics of a great leader.

There are 40 photos reflecting various stages in Deng’s life, ranging from his youth to the age of 88. The exhibition includes three categories: Deng’s life, Deng’s contribution to world peace, and Deng’s contribution to China.

The opening ceremony was held in the UN headquarters with Chinese diplomats and representatives from many countries.

The exhibition will last until August 27.

Mexico demands US explain pepper-gun use at border

Mexico City, 19 Aug — Mexico asked the US Government on Tuesday to formally explain the use of pepper guns by Border Patrol agents against illegal Mexican migrants, the government news agency said.

The weapons, fire pepper-filled plastic bullets, have been used sporadically for at least two years but became a diplomatic issue when Mexican television aired a video showing US agents firing paintball game-style rifles at targets.

The video, shown this month, also contained images of a Mexican lifting his T-shirt to reveal welts and bruises on his chest, his T-shirt to reveal welts and bruises on his chest, and indeed for China that he made,” he added.

The presence of various diplomats and staff members of the United Nations here this evening is a reflection of their respect and admiration for China, for Deng Xiaoping, and indeed for China that he made,” he added.

The photo exhibition includes more than 40 photos reflecting various stages in Deng’s life. It offers a glimpse into the noble character and great achievement of the late Chinese leader.

The exhibition will last until August 27.

Handicapped orphans to receive free operations in Beijing

The Ministry of Communications and Public Information, under which nearly 800 handicapped orphans aged 0-18 in Beijing’s social administration of civil affairs, said there are 175 handicapped orphans aged 0-18 in Beijing’s social administration of civil affairs, said there are 175

Philippines import rises 18% in June

MNL, 20 Aug — The Philippines import recorded an 18-per-cent growth in June to 3,455 billion US dollars, compared to the same period last year, the National Statistics Office said Thursday.

According to the office, 1.4 billion dollars in the period, leading to a lower deficit of 1.204 billion dollars for the first half, over last year’s 1.344 billion dollars.

In June, electronic imports, which ranked the first among all categories, rose 6.7 per cent to 1.432 billion dollars and the second, mineral fuel, rose as much as 119.9 per cent to 517.54 million dollars, the office said.

The industrial machinery and equipment recorded a 20.2-per-cent growth to 146.13 million dollars, it added.

According to the statistics, Japan topped the sources of the Philippine imports, accounting for 17.6 per cent of the total import bill.
Sadr wants ceasefire before leaving shrine

BAKHUZI, 19 Aug — Anti-US cleric Moqtada al-Sadr and his followers are ready to leave the Imam Ali shrine in Najaf if American-led forces pull back from the holy Shi'ite site, an aide to Sadr said on Wednesday.

"Sayed Moqtada and his fighters are ready to throw down their weapons and leave for the sake of Iraq. But they should stop attacking him first and pull away from the shrine," Ali al-Yasaar, Sadr's political liaison officer, told Reuters.

"We are not afraid to show our commitment to the national interest. We do not insist on dealing with the people with force," he said.

Iraqi armed group threatens to kill kidnapped US journalist

BAGHDAD, 19 Aug — An armed group has threatened to kill a US journalist kidnapped in Iraq unless US forces withdraw from the Shi'ite holy city of Najaf within 48 hours, a channel reported Wednesday.

The channel aired a video showing the presumed hostage, holding a sign in English which read: "This is our position, we wish the American government do what we say or the hostage will be killed." The channel identified him as John Biehl, a US journalist.

According to the channel, the armed group calling itself "Martyrs Squad" announced that it is holding American journalist Micah Garen and threatened to kill him after 48 hours if US forces do not withdraw from Najaf.

"Najaf, together with some other holy cities in the country, has been the site of fierce clashes between militiamen loyal to radical Shi'ite cleric Moqtada Sadr and US forces for nearly two weeks, during which hundreds of Iraqis have reportedly been killed and thousands wounded with some casualties from the US-led multinational forces.

US still tries to locate kidnapped American in Iraq

WASHINGTON, Aug 20 — The US Embassy is still trying to locate the whereabouts of Micah Garen, the American citizen kidnapped in Nassiriya in southern Iraq last week, the State Department said Wednesday.

"I can tell you is that we are in contact with his family and fiancee. Our embassy is in contact with local authorities," State Department spokesperson Adam Ereli told the media.

More rain was forecast as Typhoon Megi, which has also buffeted South Korea, pushed north and threatened to make landfall in northern Japan as early as Friday.

Japan as early as Friday.

Seven dead, two missing as rain lashes Japan

TOKYO, 20 Aug — Heavy rains battered western Japan on Thursday as the death toll from landslides and flooding caused by a typhoon rose to at least seven, with two more missing.

More rain was forecast as Typhoon Megi, which has also buffeted South Korea, pushed north and threatened to make landfall in northern Japan as early as Friday.

Typhoon Megi, which means "catfish" in Korean, lashed the region with rain and high winds for the second straight day, with occasional gusts of up to 108 miles per hour.

Seven people died and 15 were missing as a typhoon toppled at least seven, with two more missing.
Ocean-going ships on the move

Sea-going vessel MV Kengtung of Myanmar Five Star Line under the Ministry of Transport. — MYANMA ALDN

MV Forceful Performer double engine tow-boat built for Casey Marine Pte. Ltd of Singapore. — MNA

MV Jaya Transporter vessel built for Jaya Marine Lines Pte. Ltd of Singapore. — MNA

Jaya Gold-2 vessel built for Singapore. — MNA
Mental Health Educative Instructors Course opened

YANGON, 20 Aug—Yangon Division Health Department and Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Association Supervisory Committee held the opening of Mental Health Educative Instructors Course at the department on West Race Course in Bahan Township this morning.

It was attended by Patron of the supervisory committee Daw Khin Thet Htay, members of the Panel of Patrons of the supervisory committee, Chairman Head of Yangon Division Health Department Dr Hla Myint, Head of Psychiatry Department of Yangon Institute of Medicine-1 Professor Dr Hla Hlay, Medical Superintendent of Psychiatric Hospital Dr Zaw Sein Lwin, Medical Superintendent of Rehabilitation Hospital Yangon Dr Khin Yin, Psychiatrist Dr Win Aung Myint, members of township MCWA, physicians, nurses, members of Red Cross Society, trainees and guests.

The patron of the Supervisory Committee dealt with tasks being carried out for nurturing mentally abnormal children in conformity with future plans adopted by Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association (Central), future tasks, and nurturing work. Professor Dr Hla Hlay, with the purpose of the course; and Dr Hla Myint, with work to be done for metal health. Afterwards, the patron presented K 100,000 for community based mental healthcare services being carried out in Dawbon Township to Dr Zaw Lwin Sein, who presented a certificate of honour to her. — MNA

New genetic link found to crib deaths

WASHINGTON, 20 Aug—A collection of genes involved in early development may help explain why Black babies are more at risk of sudden infant death syndrome than other US groups, researchers said on Thursday.

The gene mutations may also help explain why thousands of US infants still succumb each year to SIDS, also known as crib death or cot death, despite education campaigns that have cut the rate in half, the researchers said. Dr Debra Weese-Mayer, a professor of pediatrics at Rush University Medical Centre in Chicago, said the finding does not fully explain the unexpected deaths of 3,000 US infants a year, but helps explain some of the underlying biology. “For years everyone said SIDS was a mystery, but to me it is a puzzle and each of our studies fits in another piece,” Weese-Mayer said in a telephone interview.

“The is one more critical piece of information that tells us we are on the right path.” Writing in the September issue of Pediatric Research, Weese-Mayer and colleagues at the University of Pittsburgh and elsewhere said they compared genetic material from 92 SIDS cases to that of 92 healthy one-year-olds. — MNA/Reuters

Helicopter stunt pilots to snag stardust for NASA

PASADENA (California), 20 Aug—NASA has recruited two Hollywood helicopter stunt pilots for an especially tricky manoeuvre — snagging a capsule full of stardust as it parachutes back to Earth next month, mission managers said on Thursday.

The mid-air retrieval 4,000 feet above the Utah desert on September 8 is the planned odyssey of Genesis, a项目 that began three years ago with the launch of a space probe to blown toward Earth from the sun.

Scientists say the resulting cargo of solar ions, about 10 to 20 microgrammes of oxygen, nitrogen and other elements that collectively weigh about as much as a few grains of salt, will yield key insights about the formation of planets at the dawn of the solar system.

The novel scheme for snaring the reentry capsule, thus sparing the canister from a rocky landing that could damage the delicate instruments and samples inside, was unveiled for reporters on Thursday at NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena.

The return of the Genesis probe will mark the first bits of extraterrestrial matter retrieved from space by human means since the 1970s, when moon rocks were carried back to Earth by manned US Apollo and unmanned Soviet Lava missions, NASA said.

If successful, it also will make aviation history as the first man-made object captured by aircraft as it entered Earth’s atmosphere from space, said Roy Haggard, an aerospace research executive hired by NASA to design the Genesis retrieval project.

He said helicopters were used in thousands of missions to grab parachuted canisters of film shot by spy cameras over Vietnam and the Soviet Union during the Cold War.

But in recruiting personnel for Genesis, Haggard said all the experts kept pointing to stunt pilots as the best suited for the job.

In the end, he hired Cliff Fleming as his chief pilot for the Genesis project and backup Dan Rudert, both leading Hollywood stunt pilots who also fly firefighting missions for the government.

“‘Good jobs’ — full-time jobs with good health benefits that let families get ahead — are the ones disappearing the fastest. America can’t afford four more years of a plan that haven’t saved us a single dime or created a single job,” he said. The campaign Press release charged that families and businesses have shouldered enormous increases in premiums while “George Bush has done nothing to reduce health costs”.

Kerry blamed rising health costs for job losses
Environmental conservation and Bago Yoma Greening project

The Bago Yoma Greening Project that is going to be undertaken in accord with the guidance of the Head of the State will undoubtedly help ensure a balanced climate of Bago Division, serving as the main engine for the rice, fish and meat industries of the nation. Thriving forests in Bago Yoma bring rain to the region, and prevents soil erosion due to wind or water. They also serve as the shield against strong winds and prevent floods in the towns and cultivated fields in the plains during the monsoon. In the summer, they protect the crops against the dry winds, and help balance the temperature. Because of the trees, springs continue to flow in summer, and they provide water for creeks. Trees can absorb carbon dioxide, the main culprit of the greenhouse effect today's men are suffering from. They also provide a constant flow of forest products, food, medicines and animal fodder for the rural people. As the project will render protection for and conserve flora and fauna, it will help implement the United Nations Environment Programme.

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe has already given guidance to boost production of the agricultural, forestry, meat and fish and energy sectors. He also said that priority should be given to protection and conservation of forests from deforestation, regeneration of trees in forests, and ensuring of interactions between forest conservation and water storage at dams in implementing the 13 dry districts greening project, using of wood-substitute fuel, and establishment of village fuel wood plantations. As the Bago Yoma Greening Project covers systematic plantation of trees, protection and conservation of natural forests, extended use of wood-substitute fuels, establishment of community-owned forest plantations and model forest villages; extended education activities for public participation; implementation of the lumber-cheap fuel project; designation of natural teak reserves; forest research activities; and to make the whole Yoma lush and green again.

A separate project has been drawn for greening of Bago Yoma, as it lies in a densely populated region linking major cities — Magway, Meiktila, Pyay, Bago and Yangon. The Forest Department is going to implement the project in cooperation with the Taimadaw, the Myanmar Police Force, the administrative bodies, and the related organizations in accord with the law.

Under the project, job opportunities will be created for those conducting slash-and-burn cultivation in the Yoma, and landless forest products poachers, by inviting them to participate in the forest conservation task and, forest villages and community-owned forest plantations will be set up as a source of income for them. Moreover, special priority will be given to natural regeneration of valuable tree species or regeneration of barren plots, establishment of forest plantations at depleted areas and conservation and nurturing of the existing plantations for environmental development of the deforested parts of reserve forests and protected public forests.

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Although there is no significant decrease in the forest areas in Myanmar at present, the population growth, the enlargement of grazing grounds, the slash-and-burn cultivation and the felling of trees for various human needs will affect more of less, the areas covered by trees in the long run. Of the forests areas of Myanmar, Bago Yoma is more likely to face forest depletion because of its location in the densely populated area, better transport, fertile soil and richness in timber and bamboo of higher quality. It has become a dire need to regenerate the depleted areas to make the whole Yoma lush and green again.

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establishment of community-owned forest plantations and model forest villages; — extended education activities for public participation; — implementation of the lumber-cheap fuel project; — designation of natural teak reserves; — forest research activities; — Bago Yoma covers 19575.38 square miles of land area including 31 townships in eight districts of Bago Division, Magway Division, Mandalay Division and Yangon Division. The following table shows the areas covered by forests:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Division</th>
<th>Townships</th>
<th>Area (in acres)</th>
<th>Reserve forest area (in acres)</th>
<th>Protected public forest area (in acres)</th>
<th>Total (in acres)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bago</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>6638659</td>
<td>2898619</td>
<td>366506</td>
<td>3265125</td>
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<tr>
<td>Magway</td>
<td>5</td>
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<td>507099</td>
<td>37720</td>
<td>544819</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mandalay</td>
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<td>2279470</td>
<td>957911</td>
<td>957911</td>
<td>402226</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yangon</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>992975</td>
<td>253938</td>
<td>253938</td>
<td>723886</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>12528244</td>
<td>4620018</td>
<td>404226</td>
<td>5027244</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Translation: TMT) (Kyemon+Myanma Alin: 20-8-2004)
Progressive Zoning Approach to Foot and Mouth Disease Control in the Union of Myanmar

Dr. Maung Maung Kyin

The first Meeting of the Myanmar Zoning Working Group (MZWG) for FMD was held at the Traders Hotel, Yangon on 5-6 January 2004 sponsored by Office International des Epizooties (OIE). By the coordination and assistance of OIE which also means World Organization for Animal Health, the meeting was hosted by the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department (LBVD), Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries. It was attended by Director General, Deputy Director General, senior officials from headquarters and State/Divisional heads of LBVD.

The meeting was also attended by Dr. John Edwards, Regional coordinator of OIE regional Coordination Unit (OIE RCU). Dr. Masao Sasaki of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Dr. Carolyn Benigno (Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and Dr. Kachen Wongsathapornchai from South East Asia FMD Campaign (OIE RCU). At that time welcoming article for the meeting had been mentioned in the New Light of Myanmar newspaper. Now the second meeting of the MZWG is being held at Sedona Hotel in Mandalay from 20 to 22 August 2004. Responsible personnel of LBVD, Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, OIE RCU. Officials from regional JICA office and FAO will attend this meeting.

The delegates from People’s Republic of China and India will also attend the meeting for discussion in FMD control activities to cooperate at the border areas. It is noted that Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) is endemic in Myanmar and moderate to high in central and western parts (eg; Rakhine State, Sagaing, Magway, Mandalay, Bago, Ayeyawady and Yangon Divisions). The prevalence is low in Tanintharyi Division and mountainous regions where livestock densities are low and there are few inward movements. Only FMD virus type “O” and “Asia 1” are detected in the FMD outbreaks and type “A” is not well defined in the outbreaks. The working group of the meeting agreed on four FMD zoning options for further consideration.

Option A involves a two stage approach to the Rakhine State. Option B is to accelerate the Myanmar-Thailand-Malay (MTM) Peninsular Campaign for FMD freedom by extension to the north of the Tanintharyi Division. Low animal movement in the area and there were no official records of FMD outbreak after 2000. Even in 2000, that is a small outbreak in Myeik, and well controlled in a short period. Therefore this option was considered feasible to establish a FMD free zone in Tanintharyi Division.

Option C is the establishment of a buffer zone parallel to the Mekong River in Shan State. FMD control zone establishment in this area was not considered in this meeting.

Option D is to commence work in the major livestock areas of Central and Northern Myanmar and the first would be to develop a control zone in the lower two thirds of Sagaing Division, the source of animal movements to the other States and Divisions. This could later be extended to the south to include Magway and Mandalay Divisions. As FMD virus is highly infectious and transboundary nature of the disease, the outbreak occurs in every year in Myanmar. It can be infected to cloven hoofed animals such as cattle, buffaloes, pigs, sheep and goats. The highest incidence of the disease usually occurs during the onset of the monsoon and (May to August) and again in winter (October to December). The first is usually observed as a progression of disease involving large number of animals along a series of village tracts. FMD outbreaks also coincide with crop plantation and harvesting. The disease is also a trade barrier for exportation of livestock and livestock products. It causes significant economic losses. Therefore every country is trying to combat the disease and to create FMD free zones to avoid the disadvantages of FMD.

National FMD Control Plan has been prepared in line with OIE disease control standards by LBVD. One of the objectives of the National control plan is to increase income, food security and quality of life of rural communities, and contribute to national agricultural output and livestock production. To implement the plan is necessary to establish a feasible FMD control area (starting from one region) and gradually extend to neighbouring areas of the country. It is also necessary to integrate and participate in regional initiatives for improved FMD control. OIE Regional Coordination Unit assists in program management, negotiate to have external resources for

Efficient use of electricity

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

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

Efficient use of fuel

* Saving one gallon of fuel per car per month will save the nation one US dollar
* Thus, a total of 455,822 cars in Myanmar can save US $ 5.5 million in a year
* The amount, US $ 5.5 million, can build a major bridge across Ayeyawady River

Inland Water Transport Managing Director U Soe Tint presents sports gear for 33 athletes to the manager. — INT

Sports gear presented to women football team

YANGON, 20 Aug — A ceremony to present sport equipment to the women football team of the Ministry of Transport was held in the meeting hall of Inland Water Transport this afternoon. It was attended by Inland Water Transport Managing Director U Soe Tint, General Manager U Maung Maung Lwin and officials, team coaches and managers and football players. U Soe Tint spoke on the occasion and presented sport gear for 33 athletes to the manager. — MNA

Now the second meeting of the MZWG is going to be held at Sedona Hotel in Mandalay from 20 to 22 August 2004.

Blood collection for FMD surveillance.
1. Tender documents are available at the office of the Deputy General Manager (Supply), Myanmar Railways, Botataung Yangon starting from 19.8.2004 during the office hours.

2. Tender documents are available at the office of the Deputy General Manager (Supply), Myanmar Railways, Botataung Yangon starting from 19.8.2004 during the office hours.

3. For further details please call: 291982, 291994, 201555 Ext-602,613

Deputy General Manager
Supply Department, Myanmar Railways, Botataung Yangon

**DONATE BLOOD**

UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION
MYANMAR RAILWAYS

INVITATION TO SEALED TENDER
1. Sealed Tenders are invited by Myanmar Railways, for supply of the following materials which will be purchased in Myanmar Kyats:-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr. No</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Waste Cotton</td>
<td>(2000)-lb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Painting Materials</td>
<td>(1)-Lot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>CD Wire</td>
<td>(1)-Lot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>GI Pipe &amp; Accessories</td>
<td>(1)-Lot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Bolt &amp; Nut</td>
<td>(1)-Lot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Foam Rubber</td>
<td>(1)-Lot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Basin &amp; Camode</td>
<td>(1)-Lot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Emery Cloth &amp; Saw Blade</td>
<td>(1)-Lot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Battery 12V 200 &amp; 150 Ah (24)-Nos</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Bearing Spring 11D</td>
<td>(400)-Nos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Perspex Sheet 8' x 4' x 5' (1000)-Shl</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Closing Date - 1.9.2004 (Wednesday) (12:00) Hours.

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Supply Department, Myanmar Railways, Botataung Yangon

Group says illegal logging a threat to prized timber
KUALA LUMPUR, 20 Aug
— Trade in a valuable tropical timber used in everything from picture frames to billiard cues needs greater control to limit habitat destruction and prevent over-harvesting, an environment group said on Thursday.

TRAFFIC, a wildlife trade monitoring network, said illegal harvesting of Ramin trees was threatening the future trade of the species and damaging large areas home to other plants and animals.

Ramin's extensive harvested in Indonesia and Malaysia and some shipments go through Singapore. The timber is much sought after in the furniture trade because of its lightness, straight grain and blond colour. Despite its popularity, few consumers know its name.

"Our main concern with the legal Ramin trade is that production remains sustainable," said Chen Hin Keong, senior forest trade adviser for TRAFFIC in the Malaysian capital, Kuala Lumpur.

"Our concern is the wider concern about the logging industry," Chen said.

"Ramin is just symptomatic. What we would like to see is governments enforcing their own legal controls to protect and manage their forests. This is not happening consistently enough."

MNA/Reuters
The Meterological Office issued a “severe” weather warning for the area and said more local flooding was likely. But a spokesman said floodwaters would be “no-where near” the scale of Monday when torrents of rainwater surged through the Nordic Cornwall village, sweeping cars out to sea and forcing people to take refuge in trees and on rooftops. Several people remained “un-accounted for”, but authorities said they did not believe anyone had died and those considered missing may simply have been tourists who were safe but whose relatives had not managed to contact them.

However, they did not rule out the possibility of finding bodies trapped in cars still submerged underwater. Two police sniffer dogs were brought in to help in the search for bodies.

“Fortunately, we haven’t found anyone dead or injured but we haven’t recovered all of the cars yet, so we can’t be 100 per cent sure,” said a spokesman for Cornwall County Fire Brigade.

The British government is offering up to 11.20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now.

Britain gives $9.15m food aid to Kenya

Britain, 20 Aug — Britain has pledged $9.15 million US dollars to help Kenya deal with a drought-sparked food crisis, but warned the aid should be distributed “properly, equitably and transparently”.

Britain’s Ambassador to Kenya, High Commissioner Edward Clay, last month criticized the Kenyan government as arrogant, greedy and tolerant of “new corruption” since President Mwai Kibaki came to power in 2002 and pledged to tackle graft.

The United States, Japan and the European Union have warned Kenya they may freeze development loans due to corruption. On Wednesday, Britain’s Department for International Development offered the money in response to the country’s international appeal for donations to help stem massive crop failures that it has called a national disaster.

“The incidence of severe malnutrition throughout the country requires urgent action by all parties,” said Simon Bland, the head of Britain’s International Development office in Kenya.

“We strongly encourage other international donors to respond and urge the government to do what it can since it is its own contribution.”

Kenya needs 166,000 tons of food aid to feed about 2.5 million people.

Bland cautioned Kenya to distribute all of the duty-free maize it imports “properly, equitably and transparently”.

International aid only restarted late last year after a three-year hiatus due to graft that flourished under former president Daniel arap Moi’s 24-year rule.

Kenya last week named five companies to import two million 90-kilo bags of maize, a staple. Another two million bags are expected to come in through the private sector, all duty-free. — MNA/Reuters

A white-tail buck deer stands in the field of Rodney and Dianne Miller’s farm in Knox, Pa., on Aug. 5, 2003. Jeffrey Spencer, a deer breeder, was charged on Aug. 13, 2004, with stealing the massive buck worth perhaps hundreds of thousands of dollars from breeder Rodney Miller nearly five years ago. — Internet

More rain threatens England’s flooded village

BOSCASTLE (England), 20 Aug.— More rainshowers threatened to hamper clean-up efforts on Wednesday in southwest England’s flood-ravaged village of Boscastle as residents waited to return to their flooded homes.

The Meteorological Office issued a “severe” weather warning for the area and said more local flooding was likely. But a spokesman said floodwaters would be “no-where near” the scale of Monday when torrents of rainwater surged through the Nordic Cornwall village, sweeping cars out to sea and forcing people to take refuge in trees and on rooftops. Several people remained “un-accounted for”, but authorities said they did not believe anyone had died and those considered missing may simply have been tourists who were safe but whose relatives had not managed to contact them.

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The G-8 has agreed to extend the Highly Indebted Poor Countries debt relief programme through 2006, but poor countries say this is not enough to pull them out of poverty.

By taking up the issue of debt relief for Africa, the Non-Aligned Movement is setting out new diplomatic territory for itself. The group was formed in 1961 as a third way between the Cold War rivalry of Western and Communist blocs.

While some Asian members of the group have seen rapid economic growth, many of the 53 African nations which belong to it remain among the poorest countries in the world.

Developing nations push debt relief for Africa

DURBAN (South Africa), 20 Aug — The world’s developing nations vowed on Wednesday to push debt relief for Africa, saying rich countries and lenders must boost efforts to pull the world’s poorest continent out of its economic spiral.

The Non-Aligned Movement, whose 115 members form one of the largest international groups aside from the United Nations, said it would urge more aid and investment for Africa as well as more African input into decisions on its economic affairs.

“The Movement supports enhanced debt relief for Highly Indebted Poor Countries, but seeks quicker delivery of this debt relief,” said one ambassador from the Caribbean.

“Debt relief and Western market access for African goods are key components and will be included in the official declaration of the minister’s meeting,” the ambassador added.

African countries owe the International Monetary Fund, World Bank and Group of Eight (G-8) industrialized nations hundreds of billions of dollars and say debt repayments are crippling them.

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Developing nations push debt relief for Africa

DURBAN (South Africa), 20 Aug — The world’s developing nations vowed on Wednesday to push debt relief for Africa, saying rich countries and lenders must boost efforts to pull the world’s poorest continent out of its economic spiral.

The Non-Aligned Movement, whose 115 members form one of the largest international groups aside from the United Nations, said it would urge more aid and investment for Africa as well as more African input into decisions on its economic affairs.

“The Movement supports enhanced debt relief for Highly Indebted Poor Countries, but seeks quicker delivery of this debt relief,” said one ambassador from the Caribbean.

“Debt relief and Western market access for African goods are key components and will be included in the official declaration of the minister’s meeting,” the ambassador added.

African countries owe the International Monetary Fund, World Bank and Group of Eight (G-8) industrialized nations hundreds of billions of dollars and say debt repayments are crippling them.
*Last minute goal gives Belarus shock 2-1 win over Turkey*

**Istanbul, 19 Aug —** Belarus handed Turkey the worst possible warm-up result before the 2002 World Cup semifinals begin their next World Cup qualifying campaign against Georgia when they beat them 2-1 in a friendly on Wednesday.

Turkey took the lead when veteran Hakan Sukur latched onto an overhead kick from Tuncay Sanli and drove the ball past Belarus keeper Vasily Khomutovsky in the 14th minute.

While Turkey, who face Georgia on September 4, had the majority of possession, the visitors kept probing away in the second half and were rewarded when Vyacheslav Gli Everton goalskeeper Rustu Recher from close range in the 67th minute.

Belarus snatched the victory in the final minute when Recher ran out of his area to clear the ball only for Belarans to keep possession and substitute Denis Kovba then lobbed the ball into the empty goal. The sell-out crowd of 18,800 in the southwestern town of Denizli. — MNA/Reuters

*Beckham inspires England to 3-0 win over Ukraine*

**Newcastle (England), 19 Aug —** England's under-fire captain David Beckham enjoyed a morale-boosting, goal-scoring return to form after a disappointing Euro 2004 as his side crushed Ukraine 3-0 in a friendly on Wednesday.

An inspired Beckham put England on course for an emphatic win by striking his first goal for his country in open play for 18 months and then set up his Real Madrid teammate Michael Owen to score his 27th goal for his country in his 61st game. Manchester City midfielder Shaun Wright-Phillips, a second half substitute, sealed an emphatic victory in the 72nd minute with a brilliant individual goal on his England debut.

Beckham's goal and his assist were the highlights of an industrious performance from the midfielder that provided the platform for the most ideal of warm-ups for England's 2006 World Cup qualifying campaign that begins against Austria in Vienna on September 4. Beckham's overall display as well as his 14th goal in his 73rd internationals also helped ease the pressure on England coach Sven-Goran Eriksson.

Eriksson was heavily criticized by the British media after England bowed out in the quarter-finals of the European Championship in June and recently found himself at the centre of a sex scandal that rocked the Football Association.

Beckham gave England the lead in the 27th minute when he slid in to score after centre-back John Terry popped up on the right wing to fire in a speculative long-distance shot that caught out goalkeeper Oleksandr Shovkovskiy. The opening goal came against the run of play as the Ukrainians created two decent opportunities — one that was wasted by Ruslan Rotan and another that saw David James pull off a full-length save to deny Ukraine captain Andriy Shevchenko.

Beckham held up England's grip on the game when he created space on the right to send over a cross with his less favourite left that Owen confidently nodded past the helpless Shovkovskiy from five metres in the 50th minute.

Tottenham striker Jermain Defoe, who replaced the disappointing Alan Smith at halftime, had a glorious chance to open his England account but hit his shot wide when unmarked in the penalty area. Wright-Phillips, the adopted son of former England striker Ian Wright, continued his impressive possesion just inside his own half and skilfully raced towards goal before unleashing an angled, low shot from the edge of the box and inside the far post. — MNA/Reuters

*Real Madrid’s “Galacticos” to spend more time on sidelines*

**Mun, 18 Aug —** Real Madrid's “galacticos” will have to get used to spending more time on the bench this season according to coach Jose Antonio Camacho.

"In every game there will be one or two players who think they are going to play but won't because others will be doing their job well and will have earned their place in the side," Camacho told Spanish sports daily Marca on Wednesday.

"During the course of the season, there will be plenty of chances and there will be a role for everyone in the team," Camacho said who was not upset by the club's decision to recruit striker Michael Owen when he had called for reinforcements in defense, but made it clear that he expected his request to be met before the beginning of the season.

"Football is now a very different game," Camacho said. "It's going to make a worldwide impact so they sign players to achieve that. I'm convinced that the team has certain gaps that need to be filled and we are looking to make that happen."

Inter Milan and Italy defender Fabio Cannavaro is reported to top Real's list of potential new recruits, but the club have also been linked with Argentine centre back Fabricio Coloccini who is owned by AC Milan.

Real's opening Primera Liga match is at Real Mallorca on August 29. — MNA/Reuters

*Weary Japan beaten again by Argentina*

**Tokyo, 19 Aug —** Argentina maintained their mastery over newly-crowned Asian champions Japan with a comfortable 2-1 victory at Shizuoka Stadium Ecopa on Wednesday.

Beckham's Luciano Galletti and Mario Santana early and late in the first half put Argentina in control while Takayuki Suzuki pulled one back for Japan in the 73rd minute.

Argentina have won all seven internationals between the two countries since 1988. Argentina, runners-up in the recent Copa America, were without many of their top players and their coach Marcelo Bielsa, who was in Athens with the Olympic squad, but looked a class above the weary Asian champions.

They went 1-0 up after four minutes when Diego Placente and Santana caused confusion in the Japanese box and Santana's楣hit shot fell kindly for Galletti to convert.

Argentina dominated the first half and came close to a second goal after 37 minutes when Juan Roman Riquelme threaded a pass through to Placente who shot over the crossbar.

Three minutes later Riquelme found Santana in acres of space on the left of the penalty area and the midfieldal calmly shot past gokeeper Seigo Narazaki.

Japan could not muster a shot in the first half and Zico removed Asian Cup hero Yuki Nakazawa and fellow defender Makoto Tanaka and reverted to a flat back four. — MNA/Reuters

*Knillmann starts Germany reign with 3-1 Austria win*

**Vienna, 19 Aug —** A Kevin Kuranyi hat-trick against Austria gave Juergen Klinsmann a victorious start as Germany coach on Wednesday, but the 3-1 scoreline flattered his side, who struggled at times against their Alpine neighbours.

A combative Austrian tested Germany's defence with quick counters but the Germans had the lion's share of possession and eventually grabbed hold of an open but scrappy match.

That pressure paid off early on. Just 90 seconds into the match, Michael Ballack strolled through a gormless Austrian defence and laid the ball wide to Kuranyi, who shot past a wrong-footed Thomas Mandl.

Germany looked comfortable after taking the lead but their dominance lasted only eight minutes.

Austrian midfielder Martin Amerhauser found space on the corner of Germany's penalty area and the ball went wide to Kuranyi, who shot past a wrong-footed Thomas Mandl.

Kuranyi went on to score two more goals, the second of which was a penalty.

The equalizer helped Austria's defence regain their composure, and their midfield asserted themselves higher up the field, offering stiff resistance for the rest of the half and mainly restricting Germany to shots from outside the area.

Austria took that confidence into the second half, and the game swung from end to end until Kuranyi broke the deadlock by nodding in a limp cross from short range. — MNA/Reuters

*New-look France held to 1-1 draw by Bosnia*

**Reims (France), 19 Aug —** A new-look France side, shown by the retirements of several players after Euro 2004, were held to a disappointing 1-1 draw by Bosnia in an international friendly on Wednesday.

The French, who started the game with four uncapped players after the retirements of inspirational playmaker Zinedine Zidane and defenders Bixente Lizarazu, Marcel Desailly and Lilian Thuram, went in front of courtesy of a close-range shot from striker Peguy Luyindula in the seventh minute.

But Bosnia equalized on their first clear chance when midfielder Mirsad Beslic stroked home a cross from Elvir Balicjic seven minutes from the interval.

Arsenal striker Thierry Henry also had a penalty saved by Kenan Hasagic in the 18th minute and the Bosnian goakeeper proved his side’s best player, providing several dramatic saves in the first half.

— MNA/Reuters

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**Prague, 19 Aug —** The Czech national soccer team tied with Greece 0-0 in a friendly match here Wednesday evening.

This match was seen as the "retaliation" for the defeat that Czechs suffered against Greeks at the Euro 2004 in Portugal in July, in which the Czech team was knocked out in the semifinals.

The changes in the Czech team is that injured Pavel Nedved was replaced by Roman Tyce and David Rozehnal replaced Tomas Ujfaluhi at central defence. — MNA/Xinhua

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**WEATHER**

Friday, 20 August 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:
- During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Mandalay Division and rain has been scattered in Magway Divisions and Kayah State and widespread in the remaining areas with locally heavyfall in Ayeyawady Division and isolated heavyfalls in Mon State and Bago Division. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Myaungmya 4.13 inches, Pyapon 3.86 inches, Yay 3.46 inches and Pathein 3.11 inches.
- Maximum temperature on 19-8-2004 was 82°F. Minimum temperature on 20-8-2004 was 68°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 20-8-2004 was 100%. Total sunshine hours on 19-8-2004 was 0.2 hour approx. Rainfall on 20-8-2004 was 21mm (0.83 inch) at Yangon Airport, 18mm (0.71 inch) at Kaba-Aye, 18mm (0.71 inch) at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 2348mm (92.13 inches) at Yangon Airport, 2284mm (90.32 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 2284mm (89.92 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 10 mph from Southeast at 16.55 hours MST on 19-8-2004.
- Bay influence: Monsoon is strong in the Bay of Bengal. Forecast valid until evening of 21-8-2004: Rain will be isolated in lower Sagyin, Mandalay and Magway Divisions and scattered in Kayah and Shan States and widespread in the remaining areas with likelihood of isolated heayfall in Mon State, Ayeyawady and Yangon Divisions. Degree of certainty is 100%. 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) mph. Outlook for subsequent two days: Strong monsoon. Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 21-8-2004: Some rain. Degree of certainty is (100%). Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 21-8-2004: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 60%. Weather outlook for third weekend of August 2004: During the coming weekend, rain will be widespread in Yangon Division and isolated in Mandalay Division.

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**Rainfall on 20-8-2004**
- 0.1 inch at Yangon Airport,
- 0.1 inch at Kaba-Aye,
- 0.1 inch at Central Yangon.
Chinese goodwill delegation arrives

YANGON, 20 Aug — At the invitation of Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee, a five-member Chinese delegation led by Mr Xu Ruqi, President of Yangzhou Environment Resources Technical College of the People’s Republic of China, arrived here by air this morning. They were welcome at the Yangon International Airport by YCDC Vice-Chairman Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa and committee members, heads of division and officials. MNA

Arrangements of APT, Srilankan airlines explained

YANGON, 20 Aug — A ceremony to explain co-arrangements of APT Airlines and Srilanka Airlines for the convenience of passengers was held at Sedona Hotel on 7 August. Officials explained the arrangements of the two airlines. Next, officials of Srilanka Airlines answered the queries.— MNA

NAM FMs meet on renewed spirit of multilateralism

DURBAN (South Africa), 20 Aug — Amid increasing unilateralism, foreign ministers of the 116-member Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) join their hands here Thursday to press for a renewed spirit of multilateralism and equality between rich and poor nations.

The 14th Ministerial Conference of NAM, a “mid-term review” between the last heads of state and government summit in Malaysia last year and the next in Cuba in 2006, comes at a time when the threat of large-scale international terrorism made it clear that multilateral cooperation is the only way to grapple with transnational challenges of global peace and security, and when progress on the development goals, agreed to at major international conferences over the past years, needs to be accelerated.

The opening of the one-day conference, with the theme “Challenges for Multilateralism in the 21st Century,” will be highlighted by messages from Julian Hunte, president of the 58th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, and UN Assistant Secretary-General Tulianeni of the General Administration Department and the Prisons Department numbering over 250. — MNA

Mayors inspect repair works on damage roads

YANGON, 20 Aug — Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, accompanied by Head of Engineering Department (Roads/Bridges), inspected damaged of the roads due to heavy rainfalls in Yangon City and gave necessary instructions.

Police Lt-Col Yalian Hmon gives talks on prevention against trafficking in Women and Children.—MNA

Talks on prevention against trafficking in Women and Children held

YANGON, 20 Aug — The Working Group for Prevention against trafficking in Women and Children of the Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation conducted talks on prevention against trafficking in Women and Children at Aungmingala Hall of the Prisons Department in Insein Township here this morning.

State-owned Rolar Wheat Mill to be sold through competitive bidding

YANGON, 19 Aug — The State-owned Rolar Wheat Mill, No 807 on Bogyoke Aung San Street, Lammadaw Township, Yangon Division, will be sold through competitive bidding.

The summit was dominated by the issue of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq and the possibility of the United States-led attack on that country.

For further information, contacts are to be made to the Privatization Commission Office (Progress Appraisal & Progress Reporting Department, No 313, Bo Aung Kyaw Street, Yangon) Tel 245506, 245516, 245537. The floor price of the mill is K 408.905 million.—MNA

The mayor inspected sanitation and dredging of drains along the road in front of International School in Golden Valley, Bahan Township, tasks to repave Kanhawza Road and sanitation of drains for its proper flow of water. After leaving necessary instructions, the mayor attended to their needs.— MNA

The North Yama Creek Bridge linking Yontaw Village of Yinmabin Township and Aungchantha village of Salingyi Township in Salingyi Division. — MNA

Almost all major issues around the world will be considered by the participants. Specific topics to be discussed at the meeting include post conflict peace-building activities, terrorism, peaceful settlement of disputes, North-South dialogue, South-South cooperation, external debt, and food security.

A statement, called the Final Document, will be presented to prove original ownership. If the owners are the ones who sharing inheritance will have to present the prescribed proposals to the Privatization Commission Office not later than 20 September 2004. Priority will be given to the original owner if he or she is the Myanmar national and offers prices equal to that of others who submit the prescribed proposals. Sound evidences are to be presented to prove original ownership. If the owners are the ones who sharing inheritance will have to present the original letters of authority.

For further information, contacts are to be made to the Privatization Commission Office.