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

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

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

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

Daw Mya Mya San, wife of Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, shares merits for donation of Pali-Myanmar Dictionary to Ministry of Religious Affairs.— MNA

Daw Mya Mya San, wife of Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army), attended the ceremony and offered Tipitaka Pali-Myanmar dictionary volume 1 to the Vice-Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee and Sayadaws.

The minister and the deputy minister offered copies of Pali-Myanmar dictionary volume 1 and alms to members of the Sangha.

They also accepted 1,000 copies donated by U Kyaw Nyunt-Daw Than Myint and family.

Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kushtha delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits gained.

Those wishing to donate Pali-Myanmar dictionaries may dial telephone No 660843, 650007 or 660766.

Vice-Chairman of the SSSNC Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Pyay Zawtikayon Pali Tekkatho Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kandala Jot invested the congregation with the Five Precepts.

Ministry of Industry-1 holds coordination meeting

YANGON, 21 Aug — The Ministry of Industry-1 held the meeting to review works in the first four-monthly period and to coordinate implementation of the aims in the second four-monthly period at the training hall of the ministry this morning, with an address by Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung.

Also present were Deputy Ministers for Industry-1 Brig-Gen Thein Tun and Brig-Gen Kyaw Win, directors-general and managing directors of departments and enterprises, directors, general managers, factory managers and officials.

Speaking on the occasion, the minister said that the Ministry of Industry-1 carries out not only production tasks but also distribution ones. Especially, the ministry manages distribution of quality products to the people at a reasonable price at Win Thura Shops and mobile outlets. As such, factory managers are to supervise basic needs of their factories and manufacturing of quality products to meet the target. And then, service personnel are also to train themselves (from page 8)

Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung addresses coordination meeting of Ministry of Industry-1.— INDUSTRY-1

Perspectives
Save fuel and electricity for national development (Page 2)

Article
Ill effects of extreme US foreign policy (Page 10)

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

Sunday, 22 August, 2004

Save fuel and electricity for national development

The State Peace and Development Council is trying its utmost for equitable development of regions in the country. In carrying out development undertakings all over the country, the Government has been spending a large sum of money on these undertakings.

The State is making systematic arrangements in implementing development projects and paying serious attention to practising thrift. At such a time, all the people are to follow the rules of thriftiness methods because it is a good practice for national development.

As regards saving fuel, the State designated Sundays of the second and last weeks of every month as dry days starting from 29 September 2002. As a result, 16,000 gallons of petrol and about 7000 gallons of diesel can be saved in a month.

There are about 500,000 vehicles and motor cycles registered throughout the country. Saving of one gallon of fuel per vehicle per month will enable the nation to save about six million in FE and as a result, a major bridge across the Ayeyawady River can be built.

In using electricity, departments and all the people are to make sure that electricity supplied by the power plants built by the State is used effectively and systematically. Efficient use of electricity will benefit not only an individual but also the whole nation.

If there is enough daylight in offices of the respective departments, it is necessary to use the daylight as the main source of light and only in case of the possibility of not enough daylight one and all should take care that electricity is not wasted.

There are about 500,000 households using electricity in Yangon. Thus, saving a four-foot fluorescent lamp every day by each household amounts to saving power that is equal to the capacity a 20-megawatt power station can supply. The surplus electricity resulted from practising thrifty methods can be supplied to other regions and factories and workshops in the industrial zones where electricity is needed.

At a time when strenuous efforts are being made for national development, every person and the people will have to practise thrifty methods as a national duty and all are urged to save electricity and fuel as much as they can.

Cash donations invited

As the symbol of unity and national development, the Union of Myanmar, the Maha Rathabhi Samaggi Pagoda has been built on Vikasini Hill in Panglong, Loilem District, Shan State. The State is making systematic arrangements in implementing development projects and paying serious attention to practising thrift. At such a time, all the people are to follow the rules of thriftiness methods because it is a good practice for national development.

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At a time when strenuous efforts are being made for national development, every person and the people will have to practise thrifty methods as a national duty and all are urged to save electricity and fuel as much as they can.

All this needs to be known

* Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
* Do not be bolstered whenever flattened
* Do not be softened whenever appealed

Cash donated for building PhaungdawU Standing Buddha Image in Insein

Yangon, 21 Aug — The cash donation for all-round construction of PhaungdawU Standing Buddha Image in 3rd Lane, Myothit ward (A), Insein Township, here, was held at the Dhammayon of the image this morning.

Chairman of Insein Township Sangha Nayaka Committee Kwekhtit Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Pandita administered the Nine Precepts.

Member of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Ovadacarya of the Image Insein Ywama Pariyatti Monastery Administrator Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Tlokkhabhivamsa delivered an Ovadacarya. Next, officials offered alms to the Sayadaws.

In the donation ceremony, officials accepted K 5,649,130 donated by 53 wellwishers including K 100,000 by Sayadaw Bhaddanta Tlokkhabhivamsa; K 3,023,490 by Ward Peace and Development Councils of Insein Township; K 100,000 each by U Aung Myint-Daw Amar Swe, U Win Hlaing-Daw Khan Ni Tha, U Myo Thin-Ko, Zaw Ko Ko; U Myo Nyi Nyo-Daw Than Tha; U Sein Aye; U Maung Maung-Daw Nwe; U Maung Myint-Daw Tin Mar Mar; and U Hla Myint-Daw Tin Nyn. Next, certificates of honour were presented to the wellwishers. Later, Ovadacarya of the Image Insein Zaygon Pariyatti Monastery Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kusala delivered a sermon, followed by a sharing of merits gained.— MNA

Nautical stations launched for safety of vessels

Yangon, 21 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 nautical stations near the facilities so as to provide them with navigational facts and present situations of the waterways.

A nautical station each has been built at Shwekyetye for Sagaing Bridge, on Lanywa Bank for Anawrahta Bridge in Chaik, near Myahtalon Pagoda for Magway Bridge, at Mya Village for Nawady Bridge in Pyay, at Sakkawt for Bo Myat Tin Bridge and at Ahht Tlokkat for Maubin Bridge along Ayeyawady River, and at Ahlon for Monywa Bridge and at Amyintwa for Hsinbyushin Bridge along the Chindwin River.

It said the waterway downstream the rivers are to get navigational facts from respective stations.— MNA

ASEAN students, teachers visit Drug Elimination Museum

Yangon, 21 Aug — Faculty members and students from the member countries of ASEAN Universities Network, attending the 6th ASEAN Universities Network Educational Forum, visited the Drug Elimination Museum at the corner of Hanthawady Road and Kyundaw Street in Kamayut Township here this morning.

They were headed by Associate Professor of English Department at Yangon University Daw Lwin Lwin Soe.

Officials concerned welcomed and conducted them round the museum. With enthusiasm, they viewed round the booths of narcotic drug eradication activities carried out through the era since the time of Myanmar monarchs, the spread of opium to Asia, documentary photos of opium refineries seized by the Tatmadaw, anti-drug operations launched by the Tatmadaw, the destructions of seized narcotic drugs in the presence of diplomats, UN officials and mediamen, the survey on opium yield conducted jointly by Myanmar and USA, opium-substitute crop cultivations under New Destiny Project, rehabilitation programmes, educational campaigns, border areas and national races development works, etc.— MNA

ASEAN Dam, students visit Drug Elimination Museum

Yangon, 21 Aug — As the symbol of unity and national development, the Union of Myanmar, the Maha Rathabhi Samaggi Pagoda has been built on Vikasini Hill in Panglong, Loilum 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 Vijaya Mingalar Dhamma Thabin Hall on Kaba Aye Hill here at 1 pm on 24 August.— MNA

All this needs to be known

* Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
* Do not be bolstered whenever flattened
* Do not be softened whenever appealed

People’s Desire

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

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Myanmar Academy of Medical Science to hold meeting on 25 Aug

Yangon, 21 Aug — The biannual plenary meeting of the Myanmar Academy of Medical Science for 2004 will be held at the meeting hall of the Institute of Nursing (Yangon) on Bogyoke Aung San Street, Larnmadaw Township, here from 9 am to 1 pm on 25 August (Wednesday) Symposium on Township Health System will also be held and those wishing to attend it can get registered beginning 8 am.— MNA

The Myanmar golf team seen at Yangon International Airport before departure for Indonesia.— MNA

The Myanmar golf team seen at Yangon International Airport before departure for Indonesia.— MNA
Tension reigns in Iraqi city of Najaf

BAGHDAD, 21 Aug—Deadlock continues in the Iraqi holy city of Najaf, despite reports that Shia gunmen loyal to Moqtada Sadr had agreed to leave their stronghold.

An earlier announcement of a deal to end the two-week uprising has failed to halt fighting between the cleric’s Mehdi Army militia and US-led troops.

National security adviser Mouwaffaq al-Rubaie told the BBC government forces do not control the Imam Ali shrine.

A spokesman for Mr Sadr has reportedly said the uprising is not over.

The spokesman, contacted by Reuters news agency, said the rebels had not left the shrine, but were preparing to hand it over to Iraq’s top Shia authority.

949 US troops killed since beginning of military operations in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 21 Aug—As of Friday, 20 Aug, 949 US service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq in March 2003, according to the Defence Department. Of those, 708 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, 811 US soldiers have died — 599 as a result of hostile action and 212 of non-hostile causes.

The latest deaths reported by military:
— A Marine was killed in action Thursday in Anbar province.
— A US soldier was killed Thursday by a roadside bomb in Samarra.

The latest fatalities reported by the Department of Defence:
— Army Spc Jacob D Martin, 21, Norwich, Conn., died Wednesday in Sadr City when his patrol came under fire; assigned to 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas.
— Marine Lance Cpl Caleb J Powers, 21, Manfield, Wash, died Tuesday in Anbar province; assigned to 2nd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, Calif.
— Marine Lance Cpl Dustin R Fitzgerald, 22, Huber Heights, Ohio, died Wednesday in a non-hostile related vehicle incident in Anbar province; assigned to Battalion Landing Team 1/2, 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit, Camp Lejeune, NC.
— Marine Sgt Harvey E Parkerson III, 27, Yuca, Calif, killed Wednesday in Anbar province; assigned to Battalion Landing Team 1/4, 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

China willing to strengthen cooperation with INTERPOL

BEIJING, 20 Aug—Chinese State Councillor Zhou Yongkang said here Thursday that China hopes the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) will continue its efforts to help China retrieve criminals who have fled to other countries.

Zhou said in a meeting with INTERPOL Secretary-General Ronald K. Noble, who is currently visiting China at the invitation of the Chinese Ministry of Public Security, said: "Deng is not only a great leader of China, but also a prominent figure in the world."

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US foundation presents Deng Xiaoping statue to China

CHENGDU, 20 Aug — The Deng Xiaoping Foundation in the United States on Thursday handed a granite statue of late Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping to the Sichuan People’s Association for friendship with Foreign Countries in Chengdu, southwest China’s Sichuan Province.

US foundation presented the statue to Deng’s hometown, Guang’an in Sichuan.

The 3.7-metre-high statue portrays Deng in his hometown, Guang’an in Sichuan.

China has grottoes in many parts of the country, including cliffs and contain statues, frescos and architecture.

China has lost $2.7b in oil revenue since US invasion

BAGHDAD, 21 Aug—Iraq has lost 2.7 billion US dollars in revenue since the US invasion from sabotage attacks against oil export pipelines, Oil Minister Thamir al-Ghadhban said on Thursday.

Malaysia banned poultry exports on Wednesday after finding bird flu in a village near the Thai border.

The results (from tests of the bird) show they were HSNI, which is pathogenic, which is the dangerous one," Abi Musa Al Baqiri, the Agriculture Minister, told reporters.

International seminar on Chinese grottoes opens

LANZHOU, 21 Aug—More than 160 experts in seven countries gathered at a two-day seminar on Chinese grottoes, which opened Thursday at the Mogao Grottoes in northwest China’s Gansu Province.

During the seminar, participants will discuss the art of Chinese grottoes, archaeological research in grottoes, the art of Buddhism and the Sino-foreign exchanges in this respect.

The research scope of the seminar is extensive and covers the Dunhuang, Longmen, Yungang and Maijishan grottoes in China and grottoes in India and Central Asia.

Grottoes are man-made caves usually built on mountain cliffs and contain statues, frescos and architecture. The Chinese grotto has a history of more than 1,000 years and is a product of Buddhism and traditional Chinese culture.

China has grottoes in many parts of the country, including the Mogao Grottoes in northwest China’s Gansu Province, the Longmen Grottoes in central Henan Province and a host of grottoes along the route of the ancient Silk Road in western China.
Iran protests Iraq’s arrest of four Iranian news agency workers

Baghdad, 21 Aug.—(Bloomberg) — Iraq protested Iraq’s arrest of four people working for the Iranian news agency in the Iraqi capital, Baghdad, and demanded their immediate release, the Iranian Foreign Ministry said.

The arrests are an “illegal and unacceptable move,” IRNA cited the Foreign Ministry as saying yesterday in Tehran. Iran also asked Iraq for clarifications about an Iranian diplomat missing since last week, the ministry said.

Relations between the neighboring countries were strained this week after Iraq’s defence minister accused Iran of supplying arms to the militia of Shiite Muslim cleric Moqtada al-Sadr, which is fighting U.S.-led coalition forces in Najaf and the Baghdad district of Sadir City. Iraq denied the charges.

Iraq tried to defuse the tensions with Iraq’s Vice President Ibrahim al-Jaffari saying in an interview this week with IRNA that only the president and prime minister express the views of the government and not other ministers.

Iran invited Iraqi Prime Minister Ayad Allawi to visit Tehran, Iranian Foreign Minister Kamil Kharrari said on Tuesday.

India says UN system should not be bypassed or marginalized

Delhi, 20 Aug.— Asserting that the UN system should not be allowed to be bypassed or marginalized, India on Thursday called for reinforcing the centrality of the world body and strengthening of multilateralism.

“The unilateralist impulse, the tendency to ignore the principles and practice of multilateralism and the disregard for established principles of international law are a matter of concern,” Indian Junior Minister for External Affairs, Rao Inderjit Singh said.

Intervening in a discussion on “challenges to multilateralism” at the NAM (Non-Aligned Movement) ministerial meeting here, he said “we have to reinforce the centrality, validity and the utility of the UN system and not allow it to be bypassed or marginalized”.

He emphasised that the challenges before multilateralism was a critical issue that the NAM members should collectively reflect on.

Observing that NAM itself can be seen as a pole in a multipolar world with the collective strength and common view of the member states on a number of issues, he said, “if multipolarity is an objective, multilateralism is an instrument in that direction”. The minister noted that in the past few years the very role and relevance of the UN system and the efficacy of collective action has come under critical questioning.

He stressed that expansion of the UN Security Council, both permanent and non-permanent members, was needed to make it “more representative of the contemporary realities”.

Singh said for the majority of the membership of the UN as also for NAM members, “some trends in recent years are a matter of concern.”

“The Security Council was seen expanding its role and activities and the General Assembly was becoming less important.

Yet, it is in the General Assembly that all members have a voice and a vote,” he said while underlining the need for re-energising it.

Observing that the role played by the UN system on the promotional aspects has come down while the regulatory dimension has been ascendant, he said this was so on a number of issues like labour or technology.

“The UN system’s role is not seen as helping countries but of judging them. There is, at the same time, an imbalance between the security agenda and development agenda, with the later losing its importance,” Singh, who is leading the Indian delegation, said.

Even in the application of norms or standards, “often there is selectivity or double standards, based on political expediency,” he said adding countries were judged not on the basis of objective criteria or through the collective wisdom of the UNGA, but by a selective few, based on expediency.

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister to visit India

New Delhi, 20 Aug.— Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohamed Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah will pay a four-day visit to India August 23-26, the India-Asian News Service (IANS) reported Wednesday.

Al-Sabah is also chairman of the Supervisory Board of the Kuwaiti Fund for Arab Economic Development. The two countries will sign a clutch of agreements for strengthening bilateral cooperation in various fields during the Kuwaiti minister’s visit, IANS quoted diplomatic sources as saying.

Al-Sabah will hold talks with External Affairs Minister K. Natwar Singh and other Indian leaders. He is also expected to call on Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

Chinese Defence Minister meets Pakistani guest

Beijing, 21 Aug.— Chinese Defence Minister Cao Gangchuan met here Thursday with visiting Tarig Waseem Ghazi, commandant of Pakistan National College of Defence. Cao, also vice-chairman of the Central Military Commission and state councillor said China and Pakistan are good friends. The friendly cooperative relations of the two armies have kept good momentum in recent years, despite changes of the international situation. The Sino-Pakistani friendship was deep-rooted in the hearts of the two peoples.

Minister Cao was also received by Chinese President Hu Jintao.

US hostage urges US to end Iraq fighting, says Al Jazeera

Dubai, 20 Aug.— Micah Garen, an American held hostage in Iraq, appeared in a videotape and called on the United States to stop the bloodshed in the Iraqi city of Najaf, Al Jazeera television said Friday.

“He said he was asked to send a message to the American people to work to stop what he called ‘the Najaf massacre,’” the channel said, showing a videotape in which Garen appeared speaking to the camera.

Garen said he was in good health, the channel reported. Garen’s words could not be heard but he looked physically well.

Two Iraqis killed by Dutch soldiers in south Iraq

Brussels, 20 Aug.— Two Iraqis were killed by Dutch soldiers in southern Iraq city of A-Samawth on Thursday night, the Dutch Defence Ministry said on Friday.

The two Iraqis opened fire on a car on a Dutch patrol at about 11.45 pm local time. The soldiers returned fire and killed both men, and there were no injuries on the Dutch side, a spokesperson for the Dutch Defence Ministry said.

Last week, a Dutch soldier was killed when his patrol came under fire. The Netherlands sent around 1,300 soldiers to Iraq and they will stay in the war-torn country till March 2005.

US soldier killed in Baghdad’s Sadr city

Baghdad, 20 Aug.— An American soldier was shot dead on Wednesday while on patrol in the Baghdad suburb of Sadir City, the US military said.

Witnesses reported several US tanks rolling into Sadir City, a Shiite Muslim stronghold that has been the scene of daily clashes.

The soldier suffered a gunshot wound and was evacuated to a military hospital. The soldier was pronounced dead at the hospital, the military said.

At least 707 US service men and women have been killed in action in Iraq since the start of last year’s US-led invasion.
**US senators ask where $8.8b in Iraq funds went**

WASHINGTON, 20 Aug—At least 8.8 billion US dollars in Iraqi funds that was given to Iraqi ministries by the former US-led authority there cannot be accounted for, according to a draft US audit set for release soon.

The audit by the Coalition Provisional Authority’s own Inspector General blasts the CPA for “not providing adequate stewardship” of at least 8.8 billion US dollars from the Development Fund for Iraq that was given to Iraqi ministries. The audit was first reported on a website earlier this month by journalist and retired Colonel David Hackworth. An US official confirmed the contents of the leaked audit cited by Hackworth were accurate.

The development fund is made up of proceeds from Iraqi oil sales, frozen assets from foreign governments and surplus from the UN Oil for Food Programme. Its handling has already come under fire in a UN-authorized audit released last month.

Among the draft audit’s findings were that payrolls in Iraqi ministries under Coalition Provisional Authority control were paid for 74,000 guards even though the actual number could not be validated. In another, 8,206 guards were listed on a payroll but only 603 people doing the work could be counted.

Three Democratic senators — Ron Wyden of Oregon, Tom Harkin from Iowa and Byron Dorgan of North Dakota — demanded an explanation from Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld over the use of the funds by the CPA, which handed over authority to the Iraqis in June.

“The CPA apparently transferred this staggering sum of money with no written rules, guidelines for ensuring adequate manage-

rial, financial or contractual controls over the funds,” said the letter sent by the senators on Thursday.

“Such enormous discrepancies raise very serious questions about potential fraud, waste and abuse,” said the senators.

A spokesperson for the CPA Inspector General’s office confirmed “field work” had been completed on the audit but declined to give specifics. Auditors were awaiting comment from the Pentagon before releasing the final report, probably later this month.

The Pentagon did not immediately respond to questions.

**US army doctors had role in Abu Ghraib abuse**

LONDON, 20 Aug—US military doctors working in Iraq collaborated with interrogators in the abuse of prisoners at Abu Ghraib Prison outside Baghdad, an article in the British medical journal The Lancet said on Friday.

Professor Steven Miles, the report’s author, cites evidence that some doctors falsified death certificates to cover up killings and hid evidence of beatings.

“The medical system collaborated with designing and implementing psychologically and physically coercive interrogations,” the University of Minnesota professor said.

One detainee, who collapsed after a beating, was revived by medics so that the abuse could continue, Miles said.

“Army officials stated that a physician and a psychiatrists helped design, approve and monitor interrogations at Abu Ghraib,” he wrote in his study based on evidence from US congressional hearings, sworn statements of detainees and soldiers, medical journal accounts and aid agency information.

“Even though knowledge of torture and degrading treatment at the jail was widespread and known to medical staff, they did not report abuses before an official inquiry began in January 2004.

“Reports of abuse at the prison first came to light at the end of April when photographs of naked Iraqi detainees were broadcast by the BBC... Credible abuse evidence from US congressional hearings, sworn statements of detainees and soldiers, medical journal accounts and aid agency information.”

“Government documents show that the US military system failed to protect detainees’ human rights, sometimes collaborated with interrogators or abusive guards, and failed to properly report injuries and deaths caused by beatings,” he said.

**Virginia strives to stabilize petroleum market**

HANOI, 21 Aug—Vietnam will prioritize the development of large petroleum enterprises, readjust distribution networks, and issue stricter trade regulations to stabilize the country’s petroleum market.

The country will beef up the operation of businesses which are able to keep petroleum in stock for 7-10 days, and of the distribution systems nationwide, especially those in major cities and along national roads, according to the Ministry of Trade on Friday.

The ministry will issue more suitable mechanism and policies on trade rules, import tariffs, commission rates for agents, and punishment levels imposed on filling stations which commit trade frauds relating to measurement and product quality. Tokekeeper prices of petroleum products in the domestic market at a low level, the ministry may propose the government adjust prices of the products if the price of crude oil in the world market climbs to US$50 dollars per barrel.

Vietnam’s industry was hard hit by increasing prices of crude oil in the world market, because 80 per cent of materials for the industry depend on imports, which pushed up the production costs due to higher freighters, said a local economist.

Now, prices of petroleum products in Vietnam are standing at high levels, after the country decided to remove state subsidy for many kinds of products on June 19. As a result, the price of RON 90 gasoline rose by 17.2 per cent to 9,600 Vietnamese dong (VND) (0.64 dollars) per litre, of kerosene by 4.3 per cent to 4,800 VND (0.3 dollars), and of diesel oil by 4.3 per cent to 4,850 VND (0.3 dollars).

On 25 May, the country lowered import tariffs on 12 kinds of petroleum oil products to zero per cent from five per cent, and tariffs on 16 kinds of the products to 5-10 per cent from 10-20 per cent.

Vietnam, which imported 9.8 million tons of the products valued at 2.4 billion dollars, down 1.3 per cent in volume but up 19.5 per cent in value, imported nearly 6.5 million tons of the products worth more than 1.9 billion US dollars in the first seven months of this year, year-on-year rises of 7.8 per cent and 31.9 per cent, respectively.

The country, home to 10 major petroleum importers, 420 petroleum general agents and 8,500 agents and retail shops, consumes some 10 million tons of petroleum products each year.

**Philippines pursues development of indigenous energy resources**

MANILA, 21 Aug—The Philippine Government is pursuing the development of alternative energy resources in tandem with honest-to-goodness energy conservation efforts as a long-term strategy to lessen the country’s dependence on imported oil.

Several possible sources of alternative energy have already been identified, including solar power, natural gas, coco-cane, wind and geothermal power, Press Secretary and Presidential Spokesman Ignacio Bunye said in a statement.

Some of the country’s natural gas and geothermal resources are already fairly developed, but a lot of efforts have yet to be undertaken to fully tap solar energy and other alternative fuel resources, the statement said.
An Iraqi family walks past a deserted street as an American tank patrols the besieged city of Najaf, Iraq, on 17 August, 2004.

Images of Iraq

Iraqi fire fighters battle burning farmland after it was shelled by US forces in the restive town of Falluja, west of Baghdad, on 18 August, 2004.

Smoke and fire spread through a building under fire from US forces in Najaf, Iraq, on 18 August, 2004.

An Iraqi policeman inspects a charred car after mortars fell near the Bab al-Muadaam police station in central Baghdad killing four people and wounding 24 others on 17 August, 2004.

An Iraqi girl, carried by her uncle, grieves after losing her mother and sister during clashes between US forces and Iraqi militiamen in the eastern Baghdad’s suburb of al-Sadr on 17 August, 2004.

An Iraqi mother comforts her wounded son after he was hurt in a mortar attack which struck a market in Mosul, on 18 August, 2004.
River water pumping stations to benefit farmland
Heavy rain poses pollution risk to Britain’s beaches

London, 21 Aug — Heavy summer storms across Britain could cause a surge in untreated sewage pollution along the country’s beaches, but many swimmers remain oblivious to the risks, environmental experts warned on Friday.

The Marine Conservation Society called for signposts along the coast advising swimmers that water may be more polluted after periods of heavy rain because sewage is diverted to rivers and the sea to avoid treatment plants being overwhelmed.

“The water quality monitoring data from May onwards shows periodic surges in faecal pollution at beaches with normally very good water quality,” said the society’s Thomas Bell. — MNA/Reuters

Ranbaxy organizes Scientific Symposium on Cardiology

YANGON, 21 Aug — Ranbaxy Laboratories Limited organized a symposium titled “It is time to treat all diabetic patients with a Statin?” at the Traders Hotel on 15 August 2004.

Professor Saw Naing, Consultant Physician, Professor & Head, Department of Medicine, Institute of Medicine-1 presided over the symposium.

Professor Graham A Hitman, Professor of Molecular Medicine & Diabetology from Institute of Cell & Molecular Science, Barts & The London Queen Mary’s School of Medicine & Dentistry speaks on the occasion. — MNA

Ministry of Industry-1 holds …

(from page 1)

Ministry of Industry-1 holds …

to become qualified employees. In addition, they are to follow order and directives laid down by officials and to strive for gaining success in their respective sectors.

Next, managing directors of Myanmar General and Maintenance Industries, Myanmar Ceramics Industries, Myanmar Pharmaceutical Industries, Myanmar Foodstuff Industries, Myanmar Textile Industries and Myanmar Paper and Chemical Industries and the director-general of Regional Industrial Coordination and Inspection Department reported on tasks carried out by respective factories.

Afterwards, Director-General of Directorate of Industries U Kyaw Myint briefed the minister on tasks of the department and prize presentation for outstanding factory award, outstanding Win Thuzu Shop and drawing of financial statement.

Later, the minister presented outstanding factory first, second and third awards to Kyangin Cement Plant-2, Hmawby Asbestos Tile Factory and Shoe Factory-1. He then presented consolation prizes to Mandalay Soft Drinks Factory, Brick Factory-1 and No 3 Paper Mill (Paleika).

Then, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thein Tun and Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Win presented prizes to Win Thuzu Shops and awards for drawing of financial statements to the respective factories. Later, the minister gave the concluding remarks. — MNA

Iraqi PM pledges no attack on Najaf shrine

LONDON, 21 Aug — Iraqi Prime Minister Iyad Allawi pledged on Friday there would be no attack on Najaf’s Imam Ali Mosque and urged Moqtada al-Sadr and his militia at the shrine to grasp an “olive branch” for peace.

“We are not going to attack the mosque, we are not going to attack Moqtada al-Sadr in the mosque,” Allawi told BBC World Service radio at about 0800 GMT.

“The olive branch is still extended... We are not a warring people. On the contrary, we want a peaceful solution,” he added.

Allawi’s plea came just before a Sadr spokesman indicated the radical Cleric was preparing to hand control of the holy site at the heart of a Shiite uprising in Iraq.

Allawi urged Sadr to seek a political path for his grievances against the government and US-led occupiers.

“He can join the political process and he is welcome to do so. We don’t have any objections,” Allawi said.

“If he has any political problems with the government, with the multinational force, then he can be chosen as the leader of Iraq when the elections start in two or three months’ time. Then he can do whatever he likes, with nobody trying to quash him.”

Allawi accused Sadr’s militia of wiring up the shrine with explosives.

“The militias have been really on the rampage for the last week or so,” he said. “There are militia who are entrenched and embedded in the holy shrine. Some of them are criminals. They have wired up the holy shrine to blow it up.”

Allawi described the most recent assaults by US and Iraqi forces on Sadr’s militia as “cleansing operations”, taking place away from the shrines and intended to make Najaf safe for residents.

“The Iraqi police and military have successfully cleared most of the town of Najaf. The shrines are left,” he said. — MNA/Reuters

China gets $32m to fight “AIDS” after blood scandal

GENEVA, 21 Aug — China will receive 32 million US dollars to provide anti-retroviral drugs to people infected with HIV/AIDS mainly through botched blood-selling schemes, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria said on Thursday.

China, which was slow in acknowledging the epidemic, says it has 840,000 HIV/AIDS cases, but experts say at least one million poor farmers were infected in the central province of Henan alone as a result of the schemes. The fund’s first grant to China is for two years and is in addition to 13.4 million US dollars from the government, the Geneva-based organization said in a statement. Its contribution to China’s AIDS programme will total 98 million US dollars over five years, the fund said. “Seven provinces (Anhui, Hebei, Shandong, Henan, Hebei, Anhui and Shaanxi) targeted in the grant” proposal are in urgent need of a comprehensive prevention and care response due to a high HIV case burden fuelled by paid plasma donations in the early and mid 1990s,” the fund said.

Rural poor repeatedly sold plasma at blood collection points, where blood was pooled and plasma extracted before blood was returned to donors so as to avoid anemia, it said.

“Thus one infected donor would infect the entire pool of donors. In some of the more affected villages, in excess of 20 per cent of the people were infected,” the fund said.

The Global Fund was set up in 2002 as the brainchild of UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan but is not part of the United Nations bureaucracy. A public-private partnership, it has committed three billion US dollars to more than 300 programmes in 128 countries, of which 500 million US dollars has been disbursed. — MNA/Reuters

Teenager arrested under anti-terror laws in England

LONDON, 21 Aug — A 19-year-old man was arrested Thursday in Birmingham, central England under the Terrorism Act, police said. The man, who has not yet been named, was arrested at 0300 GMT and is currently being questioned by the police. Two other men, aged 24 and 26, were arrested on immigration charges at the same time. The nationalities of the three men were not immediately known. The arrest came a day after eight British terror suspects appeared in court charged with plotting attacks on financial targets in New York, New Jersey and Washington. An anti-terror police spokesman said the teenager’s arrest was not related to the eight. — MNA/Xinhua
Kerry vows to reverse job losses to overseas

CHARLOTTE (North Carolina), 21 Aug — Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry promised laid-off workers on Friday that the United States under his leadership would stop helping companies that send jobs overseas and instead give breaks to those that keep them in America.

Does any taxpayer in North Carolina truly believe it makes sense for you to be actually paying for, rewarding and subsidizing a company that decides to take a job to Mexico or oversea?” he asked a campaign rally in a state that has lost nearly 110,000 jobs under the Bush Administration, many of them abroad.

“Of course not. One of the first things we are going to do is stop having any American subsidize the loss of their own jobs. We are going to reward companies that stay here and create jobs in the United States,” he said.

Kerry, making a south- ern campaign swing to try to break the Republican stranglehold on the region, met laid-off workers at a community college retraining centre and held a campa- ign rally as he focused on economic issues he hopes will help him defeat President George W. Bush in the November 2 election.

Later, Kerry planned to fly to Florida — another pivotal electoral state — to survey damage from Hurri- cane Charley, as Bush did on Sunday.

The Massachusetts sena- tor is not expected to run well in the south, which Bush carried solidly in 2000.

But North Carolina, with home-state Senator John Edwards on the ticket as Kerry’s vice presidential running mate, is one of the few states he is given a chance to win.

Most polls show a competi- tive race with Bush gener- ally slightly ahead. Florida, which gave Bush the White House in 2000, is consid- ered a dead heat.

North Carolina, with a strong tradition of apparel, furniture and textile manu- facturing, like many other parts of the country has lost thousands of jobs to “glo- bal outsourcing” overseas.

Unemployment rate in North Carolina has risen to 5 per cent from 4.4 per cent since Bush took office. Manufacturing has been particularly hard hit, losing 158,800 jobs, according to the Bureau of Labour Sta- tistics.

The ambitious plan, expected to kick off in 2005, will focus on applying more scientific findings on nutrition and physi- cal training in educational establishments and families. Pupils at the age of 6-18 are to benefit most from the plan, under which 90 per cent of the investment will be spent on the Ministry of Education and Train- ing and schools.

The average height of Vietnamese people increased to 164.4 centimetres for men in 2001 from 158 centimetres in 1975. The respective figures for women were 153.8 centimetres and 149 centimetres.

The percentages of local people aged 18-22 meeting the height standards, 165 centimetres for male or 155 centimetres for female, are 39.1 and 31.9 per cent re- spectively, shows a recent statistics by the Ministry of Health.

On average, an urban youth is 158.5 centimetres high, while the rural counter- part’s height stands at 157.4 centimetres.

**Height of Vietnamese juveniles below WHO standard**

HANOI, 21 Aug — The height and weight of Vietnamese juveniles, especially those in the age bracket of 0-15, are lower than the world’s averages, local media reports said on Friday. Now 15-year-old local girls and boys are 151 cen- timetres and attracting investments. Under the World Health Organization’s standards, the figures must be 161.8 centimetres and 169 centimetres.

The height and weight gap between urban children and rural peers is very large. On average, a five-year-old child in the capital city of Hanoi is 5 centimetres higher than a rural peer, and the gap is widened to 15 centimetres when they reach the age of 15.

Also, a number of Vietnamese teenag- ers suffer from diet-related diseases such as goiter and iron deficiency. The percent- age of pupils suffering from goiter is 9.9 per cent in Hanoi and 16.4 per cent in the northern province of Thai Binh.

Improper diet of local juveniles is the main cause of the situation, said the re- ports, explaining that many of them were born healthy, but grow slowly due to short- age of some nutrients. Family meals meet only 84 per cent of their energy demand.

To deal with the situation, Vietnam will supply meals with proper diet with such nutrients as iodine, vitamin A and lysine to pupils at more schools nation- wide.

In a broader move, the country plans to pour 614.5 billion Vietnamese dong (39.3 million US dollars) to improve physi- cal health of its citizens and increase the height of youths by 3-4 centimetres by 2010.

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**Study says no proof that cannabis use induces schizophrenia**

AMSTERDAM, 21 Aug — There is no scientific proof that cannabis use induces schizophrenia, Dutch scientists say, questioning recent research and an argument the Dutch Government uses to crack down on marijuana-selling “coffee shops”.

In an article in this week’s Magazine for Psychiatry, a peer-reviewed journal, the three authors say that on the basis of currently available data “there is no justification for the proposed closure of coffee shops”.

Often the first symptoms of schizophrenia occur during adolescence, when people start to experiment with drugs, but the scientists believe cannabis use only has a negative effect on people already genetically predisposed to the mental illness.

“It is therefore advisable that youngsters with a family history of schizophrenia and patients with a schizophrenic disorder be discouraged from using cannabis,” the report said.

Subsequent Dutch governments have tightened rules on the sale of marijuana in government-regulated coffee shops, resulting in a significant reduction in the number of cannabis cafes.

A ban this year on alcohol in coffee shops will be followed by a ban on tobacco in 2005, outlawing all smoking on the premises.

There are around 780 coffee shops in the Netherlands of which 270 are in Amsterdam, according to 2002 figures.

**Indian Govt cuts duty on steel, loses 305 rupees**

NEW DELHI, 21 Aug — Close on the heels of slashing duties on petroleum products, the Indian Gov- ernment on Friday cut Cus- toms duty on steel produc- tions, sacrificing 3.05 bil- lion rupees in the current year, as part of fiscal meas- ures to contain inflation, now inching towards eight per cent.

The import duty on non- alloy steel other than seconds and defectives was reduced from 5 per cent to 2 per cent.

The duty on melting scraps for iron and steel other than stainless steel, which at present attract five per cent, has been abolished.

The notification on the duty cuts was tabled in Parliament on Friday.

Friday’s decision comes two days after the Government slashed Customs and excise duties on petrol, diesel, kerosene and LPG, which is estimated to cost 25 billion rupees in the remaining part of the current year.

However, the notification made it clear that additional duty of Customs (countervailing duty) would now be payable on import of such ships.

After a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Prices on Thursday, Finance Minister P Chidambaram said more fiscal measures would be taken for reining inflation.

**Russia to de-classify diamond statistics**

MOSCOW, 21 Aug — Russia, the world’s second largest producer of rough diamonds, will de-classify the statistical data pertaining to the production, export and import of diamonds by October this year.

So far, Russia has been sticking to the Soviet practice of keeping information about the industry under the wrap of secrecy.

“We have taken obligations to de-classify data before the plenary meeting of Kimberly Process in Ottawa in October,” a senior Finance Ministry official Sergei Vyazlov was quoted as saying by RIA Novosti.

Kimberly Process is an international organization to prevent the access of bloody diamonds from the war zones into the legal market.

Russia is to take over the Kimberly Process presidency from Canada next year for which it would have to declassify its diamond statistics.

Vyazlov said that later Russia could also declassify data about the diamond deposits of the country for the capitalization of Russian diamond mining companies and attracting investments.

**Donate blood**

Australia’s Juna Pittman starts her heat in the 400 metres hurdles event at the Athens 2004 Olympic Games on 21 Aug, 2004. —INTERNET
At present, the neo-colonialism and the unruly acts of the Whites are at their heights. In accord with a maxim, which goes “The end justifies the means”, they are even using terrorism as a just method. In the world there are only two kinds of terrorism — individual-led terrorism and State-led terrorism. The latter is being used by the Whites. Anyhow, the non-White countries should be aware of the Whites’ acts. But the rowdy acts of the Whites are not a strange thing. A tactic of the Whites is the use of one’s own men to attack him. As they are wealthy, they can easily deceive small countries with their financial power.

In Myanmar, the Tatmadaw Government, that has overcome those economic hardships, is giving priority to the national consolidation and advancement and progress of the production sector, or in other words, it is endeavouring to build a democratic nation. Thus, since the advent of the Tatmadaw Government, all the economic sectors including, agricultural, livestock breeding, industrial and trade spheres have been enjoying freedom and transparency, the people’s living standard improving, infrastructures developing at an unprecedented degree, the export market widening, and especially, there has been progress in economic cooperation with neighbouring countries and BIMSTEC nations in addition to the ASEAN+3 nations. The volume of imports as well as production has also been rising.

As for Myanmar, the economic sanctions of the US and its western allies are like the thorns and obstacles for its development and modernization drive. The sanctions are the pressures and interferences of the US and its western allies resulting from the activities of intransigence and confrontation of some political parties, demanding to copy a western democracy system at once, against the Tatmadaw Government, which is ensuing political freedom (democracy) based on its policy of strengthening the economic foundation. In other words, the sanctions are the US and its western allies’ continued materialization of the Cold War-like policy towards the southeastern Asian nations. It is in all, the US and its allies have included in the US Government’s unjust acts to put the Tatmadaw Government and its allies under their domain. But some western countries have come to realize the fact that foreign pressures and military invasions cannot help flourishing of democracy in a nation. The US reckoned that it could easily manipulate and shape the world as it likes during the post-Cold War period. But the reckoning is just a dream of extreme ideology. What is really happening in the world today proves that it is all in vain. The Kosovo crisis, the Gulf War, the war in Afghanistan and the war in Iraq stand as examples. Whether under the UN banner or not, the US cannot help build a new nation in any way. The fact serves as an answer to the post-Cold War dream of the US and its allies.

During the post-Cold War, the world has witnessed the fall of Berlin Wall on 9 November, which can be named ‘11/9 globalization’ and the collapse of the Twin Towers on 11 September, that can also be named ‘9/11 globalization’. Anyhow, peace and progress is every nation’s work at present. All will have to make efforts to end terrorism in every nation. Instead, the US and some of its allies are launching wars against others, with the use of force. They are brazenly interfering in the affairs of developing countries. In the end, they even go against the UN principles in waging aggressive wars against others. How can terrorism be ended at a time even when the US government and its allies themselves are using force and terrorist methods? At a Democratic party conference held in Boston, the US, recently, former US President Jimmy Carter criticized the Bush administration, saying that the dignity of the US had already collapsed; that the US is becoming more and more isolated, and now it is like the world’s enemy; and that America’s would not improve without the global trust. The US and its allies’ acts of domination over and discrimination against the developing countries and to interfere in their internal affairs have produced anti-White views.

The Whites in colonizing the non-Whites grabbed the right to do at will in addition to making economic gains. They shaped a colonized country and its race and community at will. For example, at the Bandung Conference held in 1955, they named the newly independent developing countries ‘Third World’, similar to the words ‘Third Estate’ used during the French Revolution. What the Whites really want to say is that the developing countries are not as civilized and prosperous as theirs. Once a professor of the West said, ‘The Whites of the West are still dominating the non-White countries. Thus, never in the world has the colonial system ended.’

The Whites see everything that does not agree with their view as an obstacle, and also believe that they have the right to insult or criticize it. They are going to make profits out of other’s unhappiness. The Whites accused nations of other countries as America’s, and also believe that they have the right to interfere in other nations’ sovereignty. At present, the neo-colonialism and the unruly acts of the Whites are at their heights. In accord with a maxim, which goes “The end justifies the means”, they are even using terrorism as a just method. In the world there are only two kinds of terrorism – individual-led terrorism and State-led terrorism. The latter is being used by the Whites. Anyhow, the non-White countries should be aware of the Whites’ acts. But the rowdy acts of the Whites are not a strange thing. A tactic of the Whites is the use of one’s own men to attack him. As they are wealthy, they can easily deceive small countries with their financial power. They give financial aid to the petty acts of the small countries to accept their views and ideologies. "Instead of harbouring racial hatred, all should strive for peace, equality, amity and mutual cooperation. Concerning the matter, Prime Minister Wen Jiabao of the People’s Republic of China delivered an address at a conference commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence which was held in Beijing on 28 June this year. He said that the diplomatic strategy China has been pursuing since 50 years ago has been based on the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence; that the agreement on the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence was signed and proclaimed at a Non-Aligned Summit attended by leaders of the countries including Myanmar, India, Egypt and China; that the late Chinese Prime Minister Chou En-lai was among the signatories. The Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence serve as the main foreign policy of the Non-Aligned countries during the Cold War between the East bloc led by the Soviet Union and the West bloc led by the US. The Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence are:

1. Mutual respect for each other’s territorial integrity and sovereignty;
2. Mutual non-aggression;
3. Mutual non-interference in each other’s internal affairs;
4. Equality and mutual benefit;
5. Peaceful co-existence.

Mr Wen said that the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence are still correct and firm and are being practised till entering the 21st Century; that they are worthy of being practised by all the countries till the end of the world; that the new security ideology of forming military alliances and reinforcing armaments and ammunition should be abolished totally; and that the Cold War policies should be discarded utterly, while substituting them with the option of mutual trust, mutual benefits, equality, and peaceful and friendly cooperation.

The Chinese Premier assured that China will never perform acts of threatening, dominating, intruding and bullying others and extending its territory. Thus, I would like to present the fact that the ill effects of the extreme US foreign policy have jeopardized the Americans as well as the international relations.

Myanma Alin+Kyemon:
(21-8-2004)
(Translation: TMT)

**Efficient use of electricity**

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

There are about 500,000 households using electricity in Yangon. Thus, saving a four-foot fluorescent lamp everyday by each household amounting to saving power that is equal to the capacity a 20-megawatt power station can supply.
US man charged with fraud over Monet sale

PROVIDENCE (Rhode Island), 21 Aug — A man who brokered the sale of a painting by master impressionist Claude Monet bilked the seller out of nearly two million dollars by misrepresenting the price, US prosecutors said on Thursday.

Rocco DeSimone, of Johnston, Rhode Island, was indicted by a federal grand jury this week on two counts of wire service fraud and one count of filing a false income tax return in connection with the 1999 sale of Monet’s “Canal in Zaandam.”

According to the indictment, DeSimone sold the painting for a New York woman, who said she wanted three million dollars for it. DeSimone told the seller he could only sell it for 2.7 million even though he had found a buyer willing to pay 4,650,000 million dollars, US Attorney Robert Clark said in a statement.

The indictment said DeSimone kept the difference. Prosecutors said that at the same time that he sold the Monet, DeSimone also sold two other paintings to the same purchaser: “Les Mouettes”, by Henri Matisse, for 650,000 million dollars, and “Jeune Fille Blonde”, by Pierre Auguste Renoir, for 3,000,000 million. The total sale price was 8.3 million dollars for the three paintings. If convicted, DeSimone faces up to five years in prison and a $250,000 million-dollar fine for each of the wire fraud charges and up to three years in prison and a $100,000 dollar fine for the tax-related charge.

The probe said top commanders shared responsibility for not fully paying attention to signs of abuse or to reports from the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Hungary’s ruling Socialist Party dumps PM

BUDAPEST, 21 Aug — Hungary’s ruling Socialist Party said Thursday that it accepted Prime Minister Peter Medgyessy’s resignation and has named a candidate for the post.

The party’s decision to dump Medgyessy came shortly after he threatened to step down following disputes with the junior coalition partner in the government, the Free Democrats, over a Cabinet reshuffle, in which Free Democrats-nominated Economy Minister Istvan Csalog was dismissed.

“The Socialist Party is committed to maintaining the coalition and to a successful government and therefore decided to use its right to nominate a prime minister,” Socialist Party President Laszlo Kovacs told a Press conference.

Kovacs said his party has named a new candidate for prime minister but will hold the candidate’s name until after a meeting with the Free Democrats over the weekend to discuss the matter.

Under the Hungarian law, the prime minister is nominated by the President on suggestions from the biggest party in Parliament and must be approved in Parliament by a simple majority.

Hungary’s MTI news agency reported that Peter Kiss, a former labour minister and currently director of the Prime Minister’s Office, is to succeed Medgyessy as prime minister.

Iraq’s Sistani leaves London hospital after operation

LONDON, 21 Aug — Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, Iraq’s most influential Shiite cleric, was discharged from a London hospital Thursday after heart surgery, but will stay in Britain for the time-being, his spokesman said.

Sistani’s health could turn out to be crucial to Iraq’s stability as he opposes the violent resistance led by young Shi’ite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr, who is defying orders from Iraq’s Prime Minister to disarm his militia in Najaf.

The 73-year-old cleric had an operation on his heart last week and underwent surgery on Monday.

“The Ayatollah has left hospital but is still under doctors’ supervision,” Sistani’s representative in London Murtada al-Kashmiri told Reuters, adding that he was recovering and would need further medical tests.

“He wants to return to Iraq as soon as possible but it depends on the doctors’ advice.”

East African nations to negotiate for ARVs as a bloc

DAAR-ES-SALAAM, 21 Aug — The three-member East African Community (EAC) has agreed to negotiate for a bloc for anti-HIV/AIDS drugs for local production of generic drugs for distribution in the region. ARVs are taken now as a life-prolonging drug for full-blown AIDS sufferers.

Yet due to the high price of anti-HIV/AIDS drugs, only one out of 10 people in the region living with HIV/AIDS can afford them.

Bulgarian archaeologist Georgi Kitov shows a 2,500-year-old (400-500 B.C.) golden mask, in the town of Shupka, 200 kilometers east of the capital Sofia. —INTERNET
Typhoon “Mega” death toll in north Japan hits 13

The storm, which hit the northern island of Hokkaido, also flooded areas of the southwestern island of Kyushu.

By CATHY JEREMIAH in Tokyo

Tokyo, 20 Aug — Typhoon Megi killed one person as it slammed ashore in northern Japan on Friday, bringing the death toll to at least 13 and cutting power to 150,000 homes before heading out into the Pacific.

The storm, which was a 68-year-old man riding a motorbike who was killed when he was struck by an advertising sign sent flying by the wind.

At least seven people, including several children, were cut by glass from broken windows.

“The winds have been really something, quite strong,” said a police spokesman in Yamagata, south of Aomori.

The strong winds pounded Aomori, a city at the centre of a famous fruit growing region at the northern tip of the island of Honshu, NHK television said.

At one point, around 1:30 a.m., 130,000 households in Aomori Prefecture lost power. The storm also snarled transportation, with some 24 flights cancelled and delays on local train lines.

At 0200 GMT, the storm was over the Pacific, about 31 miles southwest of Cape Erimo on the northernmost island of Hokkaido, and picking up speed.

Forecasts called for it to be downgraded to a tropical depression later in the day.

About 1.8 inches of rain an hour was recorded in parts of northern Japan, and there were occasional gusts of wind as high as 91 miles per hour.

Police said the latest victim was a 68-year-old man riding a motorbike who was killed when he was struck by an advertising sign sent flying by the wind.

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At 0200 GMT, the storm was over the Pacific, about 31 miles southwest of Cape Erimo on the northernmost island of Hokkaido, and picking up speed.

Forecasts called for it to be downgraded to a tropical depression later in the day.

About 1.8 inches of rain an hour was recorded in parts of northern Japan, and there were occasional gusts of wind as high as 91 miles per hour.

Police said the latest victim was a 68-year-old man riding a motorbike who was killed when he was struck by an advertising sign sent flying by the wind.

At least seven people, including several children, were cut by glass from broken windows.

“The winds have been really something, quite strong,” said a police spokesman in Yamagata, south of Aomori.

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Pacific women’s ministers call for gender equality

WELLINGTON, 21 Aug — Fiji’s Minister for Education Ro Teimumu Kepa stressed commitment to gender equality when opening the 2nd Pacific Women’s Ministers Meeting on Thursday in Nadi, Fiji, according to Pacnews on Friday.

Ro Teimumu urged ministers to place importance on the outcome of their meeting, saying it was a development that must be considered to integrate into the recently discussed Pacific Plan, adopted by Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Apia, Samoa, at their 35th annual summit.

“I am pleased that your governments have sent you here to discuss and deliberate on this very important area of the advancement of women and the attainment of gender equality,” she told over 100 delegates to the 2nd Ministerial Meeting.

Since Pacific ministers met in Noumea and linked the development and advancement of women with sustainable development, Ro Teimumu said the Ministerial Declaration was comprehensive and forward-looking and its call to action was clear — without women’s participation, development is not sustainable.

“The time has come. We need a fair share of resources, social and political upheavals and economic shocks but at a global level we have not shed away from making commitments,” the minister added.

MNA/Xinhua

Ex-chess champ Fischer’s marriage plans hit snag

TOKYO, 21 Aug — A Japanese chess great who plans to marry former world champion Bobby Fischer and help him deport arrestive home to the United States declared herself on Thursday to be a pawn seeking to become a queen.

Miyo Ko Watai appealed for help to wed her king after their plans to marry appeared checkmated by bureaucratic quibbling.

“I am a pawn, but in chess there is such a thing as a pawn promotion, where a pawn can become a queen,” said the soft-spoken 59-year-old, four times the women’s chess champion in Japan.

“He is my king and I want to become his queen so we can join together and win,” she told a news conference.

Fischer’s lawyer said the marriage plans had hit a legal snag.

Fischer, 61, one of the chess world’s greatest geniuses, has been wanted at home since 1992, when he violated US economic sanctions by going to Yugoslavia and winning 3 million US dollars for playing a chess match in which he beat old rival Boris Spassky.

Fischer’s grandmaster was detained at Tokyo’s Narita Airport last month when he tried to leave for Manila on a passport US officials say was invalid.

The strange story of the brilliant but unpredictable Fischer took a surprising twist on Monday when his lawyer, Masako Suzuki, said he had decided to marry Watai, acting head of the Japan Chess Association.

The marriage has yet to take place. Suzuki told the news conference, adding that officials at a local government office had not accepted a marriage application signed by the couple.

MNA/Reuters

Scientists say Malaysia turtle nesting sites at risk

KUALA LUMPUR, 20 Aug — Malaysia, once a major breeding ground, is in danger of losing its ocean-roaming leatherback turtles as humans eat their eggs, trap them into fishing nets and encroach on nesting sites, scientists said on Wednesday.

Fewer than 10 nests remained in Malaysia’s north-east state of Terengganu where a few decades ago there had been 10,000, the scientists said after a two-day international conference on how to save the animals.

“Many populations are in danger of extinction and could be gone in a few years if there is no urgent and effective action,” the scientists said in a statement.

Along with the risk to the huge leatherbacks, which grow to 9 feet long and weigh to 2,000 pounds, populations of other breeds such as the olive ridley and hawksbill turtles were also vulnerable, they said.

“Globally, the sea turtles are in serious trouble, particularly the leatherbacks and loggerheads,” said Theodore Groves, who teaches environmental economics at the University of California at San Diego.

The scientists, meeting near one of Malaysia’s few protected turtle nesting sites, released 400 baby turtles, no bigger than the palm of an adult human hand, into the sea.

But those who gathered to witness the release also had an impact on the turtles. An adult turtle making its way to the shore turned back in the face of lights and noise.

Malaysia only protects the eggs of the leatherback turtles so harvesting continued, said Dion Ysis Sharma, the national programme director for WWF Malaysia. Turtles that make it to sea may be harvested by other countries where the meat is a delicacy.

The scientists welcomed a decision by Terengganu authorities to turn 148 acres of coastline into a sanctuary for nesting turtles but said much more was needed — including five more sanctuaries and a new source of income for people who harvest turtle eggs.

Turtles take 10 to 30 years to reach maturity and return to where they were born to breed, so a beach was unlikely to be re-colonised if the turtles then disappeared, the scientists said.

MNA/Reuters

Brunei visit off for stressed Japanese princess

TOKYO, 21 Aug — Japan’s Crown Princess Masako will not be attending a September wedding in Brunei after all, media said on Friday, dashed hopes that she might emerge from months of seclusion stemming from a stress-related mental disorder.

There had been expectations that Masako, who the palace said last month was suffering from depression caused by having to adapt to royal life, would visit South-east Asian country for the marriage of Crown Prince Al-Muhtadee Billah on September 9. Her husband, Crown Prince Naruhito, will go alone instead, NHK national television said.

A spokesman for the Imperial Household Agency declined to confirm the report. “The Crown Princess appears to be taking things easy,” he said. “We haven’t heard of any great changes in her condition.

The 40-year-old princess has not taken part in any official duties since December.

MNA/Reuters

S Africa says poor nations must unite to reform UN

Durban (South Africa), 21 Aug — Developing countries must band together to force the powerful West to accept proposals from poverty-ridden developing countries to reform the United Nations, South African President Thabo Mbeki said on Thursday.

Mbeki told foreign ministers from the 115 member Non-Aligned Movement that poor countries should have made their voices heard at the United Nations during the World Summit, when they were hospital- ised for shingles, a condition often caused by stress.

“Many people say much of the stress is from pressure on her to produce a male heir and moves to prevent her from acting as a sort of ‘royal envoy’ overseas,” MNA/Reuters

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Sunday, 22 August, 2004 13

Lightning flashes northwest of the Lee Canyon Road turnoff northeast of Las Vegas, Nevada, during a thunderstorm over the Spring Mountains, on late 15 Aug, 2004. The chances of thunderstorms in Southern Nevada will continue for Tuesday and Wednesday, the National Weather Service said. —INTERNET

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MNA/Reuters

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MNA/Reuters
Chinese veteran Zhang pockets first badminton gold

ATHENS, 20 Aug—Zhang Ning, No 2 seed from China won the first gold for the Chinese badminton team by beating Mia Audina of the Netherlands 8-11, 11-6, 11-7 in the women’s singles final match of the Olympic badminton tournament.

Mia, the former Indonesian genius who crushed top seed Gorg Ruina in the semifinal with a humiliating 11-4, 11-2 win, regained her best form in the final set, pressuring Zhang Ning to make consecutive errors in the first set, and won the first set 11-8.

World champion Zhang Ning, however, did not feel distressed after losing the first set, and recollected all her efforts to fight back, finishing the second set 11-6 with a serve point.

In the third set, Mia, annoyed by two judgements of linesmen and a yellow card from the umpire, started to make more and more errors, handing over the Olympic gold to Zhang 7-11. Mia, No 4 seed in the tournament who was satisfied with the silver medal in Atlanta, admitted that she was a little disappointed right after the match.—MNA/Reuters

US rallies past Australia

ATHENS, 20 Aug—The Team Dream of the United States rallied past Australia 89-79 on Thursday to take its second straight win at the Athens Olympics men’s basketball tournament. The United States improved its record to 2-1 in preliminary Group B where Australia dropped to 1-2.

Trailing most of the first half and entering the fourth quarter 67-65 down, the United States rallied with a 22-5 run for an 87-72 lead one minute and 49 seconds from the end. Lebron James and Shawn Marion came from the bench to score six points apiece in the late run, which sealed the victory for the defending Olympic champion, with James capping it with an alley-oop dunk assisted by Stephen Marbury. Marion finished with 16 points and eight rebounds and James added eight points and five assists.

James, who was making his Olympic debut, was boosted by the come-from-behind victory of the sixth edition of the Dream Team of the United States.

Tiny Duncan led the United States with 18 points and 11 rebounds, Allen Iverson added 16 points. The Australians raced to a 31-21 lead after the first quarter on back of six three-pointers.

The United States, who suffered a stunning 92-73 defeat to Puerto Rico before edging past Greece 77-71 in the first two rounds of competition, opened the second quarter with an 8-2 run with LeBron James’ alley-oop dunk, assisted by Amare Stoudemire, pulling the Americans within 33-29.

The two sides exchanged runs late in the second quarter and Australia led 51-47 at the half time.—MNA/Xinhua

Golden day for Japan, South Korea

ATHENS, 20 Aug—Japanese swimmer Koukei Kitajima won his second Olympic gold medal and South Korea’s dominant women’s archers nulled gold and silver in Athens on Wednesday.

On a day when medals table leader China warned against complacency in the face of hard-charging Americans in areas of Chinese weakness like athletics, Chi- na’s vaunted table tennis and badminton players suffered upsets.

Kim Bo-jin, 21, beat US world record holder Brendan Hansen for the second time in four days to clinch the title ahead of her first qualifier in Crete on September 4. South Korea’s last friendly victory at Hampden came in a 1-0 win against Australia in March 1996 and they never looked likely to repeat that before a paltry 15,933 crowd at the 52,000-capacity Hampden.

Guozheng taking China’s third weightlifting gold, in the men’s 69kg.

But China was warned against gloating over their lead as the focus of the Games moved to the track.

Despite China’s best ever Olympics start, “the events ahead are the strong suits of the United States and Russia”, Chinese team spokesman He Huixian told reporters.

She had no sooner spoken than China’s top men’s doubles pair Kong Linghu and Wang Hao were upset in the third round of the table tennis by the Swedish duo of Jan-Ove Waldner and Jorgen Persson. Wang Hao advanced in the men’s singles.

Japan’s Anno wins first Olympic judo gold

ATHENS, 20 Aug—Japan’s triple world champion Noriko Anno beat Chinese judoka Liu Xia by ippon here on Friday to clinch the women’s 78kg title at the Athens Olympics.

This is the first Olympic gold for Anno who took the 78kg golds consecutively in the World Championships in Birmingham 1999, Munich 2001 and Osaka 2003.

Anno, 28, scored a yuko (5 points) with only 90 seconds to go, forcing Liu, 25, the 2002 (European) Super A Tournament winner in over 78kg category, to change the effective tactics of defence into risky attacking.

Less than 30 seconds to go, Liu, who is obviously taller than Anno, launched waves of attacks on Anno but the latter grasped one scoring chance to throw Liu to ground.

Liu landed on her back. “Ippon”, the referee gifted the Olympic gold to Anno, who cried at once on the mat.

Anno, who began the sport at the age of three, also thanked many people for their help in her career.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS
5 Governor
8 Predict
9 Citrus fruit
10 Senior councillors
11 Provide food
14 Consumed
16 Metal
17 Firework
18 Foot digit
20 Female dog
24 Ancient Greek
25 Hary
26 Introduction to opera
27 Intended

DOWN
1 Garbage
2 Classify in rank
3 TV series
4 Viewpoint
6 Refinement
7 Propounder of theorems
12 Place of residence
13 Example
14 Skill
15 Before
19 Eight note span
21 Facial hair
22 Resemblent
23 Bury
Sunday, August 22
Tune in today:
8:30 am  Int'l news
8:45 am  Say it in English
11:00 am  Musical programme
11:10 am  Round-up of the week's international news
11:40 pm  Weather
12:20 pm  Special programme
12:30 pm  LMV music
16:00 pm  Myanmar Traditional Handwork of Casting
16:10 Song "Artistic Beauty"
16:15 National News
16:20 Adventurous Journey (Part-II)
16:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Myanmar Panorama & Myanmar Sentiment"
16:30 National News
16:35 Bagan archæological Museum
16:40 Myanmar Jaggery
16:45 National News
16:50 Fabulous Glassware Dance
17:00 National News
17:05 Simple and Beautiful Rural Life
17:10 Myanmar Modern Song "Towards Mandalay Golden City"
17:15 National News
17:20 Popa Flat-topped Hill (Taung Ka Lat)
17:28 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

22-2-2004 (Sunday)
Evening Transmission
19:30 Signature Tune Greeting
19:32 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Myanmar Panorama & Myanmar Sentiment"
19:36 Exciting Adventurous Journey (Part-I)
19:40 Headline News
19:42 Marine Industries in Taung Kyok Township
19:45 National News
19:50 Floral Lovers Paradise (National Kandawgyi Gardens)
20:00 National News
20:05 Software evolves from IT
20:10 Song "A Country like that of a golden painting"
20:15 National News
20:20 Women's Contribution for Environment
20:25 Songs On Screen "Phenomena of Love"
20:30 National News
20:35 A Leisure Day in Ngapali
20:40 Tasty fried Nga-Poe from Padu Village
20:45 National News
20:50 Myanmar Movies Impact "Sky with no Shams"
21:00 National News
21:05 The Art of Making Paper Toys
21:10 Songs On Screen "Beautiful Angel"
21:15 National News
21:20 Exhibition Centre Introducing Hakkaborai National Park
21:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar"
21:36 Shan Market Day
21:40 Headline News
21:42 Mandalay and its popular snack
21:45 National News
21:50 A Trip to Nga La Land
21:55 Zawgyi (or) Magician of the forest Marionette Dance
22:00 National News
22:05 Myanmar Traditional Handwork of Casting
22:10 Song "Artistic Beauty"
22:15 National News
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WEATHER
Saturday, 21 August 2004
Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours
MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kayah State and rain has been isolated in Lower Sagon and Mandalay Divisions, scattered in Shan, Kayin, Mon States, Yangon Division and widespread in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfall in Tanintharyi Division. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Kawkhong 3.82 inches, Pyapon 2.36 inches and Ngabachang 2.28 inches.

Maximum temperature on 20-8-2004 was 82°F. Minimum temperature on 21-8-2004 was 69°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 21-8-2004 was 96%. Total sunshine hours on 20-8-2004 was nil. Rainfall on 21-8-2004 was 1mm (0.04 inch) at Yangon Airport, 4mm (0.15inch) at Kaba-Aye, 16mm (0.63 inch) at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 2341mm (92.17 inches) at Yangon Airport, 2298mm (90.47 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 2300mm (90.55 inches) at central Yangon.

Bay influence: Monsoon is generally strong in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 22-8-2004: Rain will be isolated in Lower Sagon, Mandaly and Magway Divisions, scattered in Shan, Kayah and Chin States and widespread in the remaining areas. 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: Likelihood of scanty rain in Northern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 22-8-2004: Some rain. Degree of certainty is (100%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 22-8-2004: Likelihood of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Flood bulletin
(Issued at 11:00 hrs MST on 21-8-2004)
The water level of Thanlwin River at Ha-an is 40 cm about 1.5 ft above the danger level. It may continue to fall below the danger level during the next 5 days commencing tomorrow.
**Sanitation works inspected**

YANGON, 21 Aug — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin this morning inspected sanitation works for keeping the city clean and pleasant and for ensuring proper drainage.

At Myawady Yeiktha Housing Estate of Yangon Station in Mingala Taungnyunt Township at 6 am, the commander and the mayor were welcomed by Deputy Commander Col Wai Lwin, military region commanders and officials.

They inspected sanitation works and dredging of drains being carried out by Tatmadawmen and families at Myawady housing estate in Mingala Taungnyunt Township and Nawarat housing estate in Dagon Township. The commander and the mayor gave instructions to lay emphasis on keeping the estates clean and pleasant.

Next, they saw over upgrading tasks at Kandawgyi Gardens and Zoo (Yangon), repaving of Dhammaayazedi Road, proper drainage along Golden Valley Road, repair of roads and pedestrian lanes in Yankin and Bahan Townships. On their inspection tours, they gave necessary instructions to officials. — MNA

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**Construction Minister attends coord meeting**

YANGON, 21 Aug — The coordination meeting of the Ministry of Construction was held at the meeting hall of the Head Office of Public Works on Shwedagon Pagoda Road this afternoon, with an address by Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Myint Thein, Managing Director of Public Works U Nay Soe Niang, Director-General of Construction Inspection Department U Soe Tint, Director-General of Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development Col Aung Win and officials. At the meeting, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Myint Thein made a speech. Afterwards, superintending engineers of States and Divisions reported on the construction of roads, bridges, buildings and airports. This was followed by a general round of discussions.

The meeting ended with the concluding remarks by the minister. — MNA

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**Activities for prevention of Dengue Haemorrhagic Fever launched**

YANGON, 21 Aug — With the sponsorship of Maternal and Child Welfare Association of the Defence Services Records Office, a ceremony to launch activities for prevention of Dengue Haemorrhagic Fever took place at the pandal in front of the Dhammaayazedi Pagoda of the office this morning, attended by Yangon Station Commander No 2 Military Region Commandant of DSRO Brig-Gen Myo Myint, President of the Maternal and Child Welfare Association Dr Daw Thi Thi Aye and members, officers and other ranks and their families numbering 548. The master of ceremonies explained matters related to prevention of DHF and demonstrated the spraying of insecticides.

Next, those present on the occasion carried out sanitation tasks such as cleaning the drains in the compound of the office for proper flow of water and spraying insecticides. Commander of Yangon Station Brig-Gen Myo Myint and officials viewed round the tasks. — MNA

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**Victorious athletes honoured in Pathein**

YANGON, 21 Aug — A ceremony to honour the sepak takraw team of South-West Command who secured championship shield in the Defence Services Commander-in-Chief’s Shield Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) Sepak Takraw Championship for 2004 was held at Ayeyawady Hall of the command in Pathein on 18 August afternoon.

Present were Deputy Commander of South-West Command Brig-Gen Tint Swe and staff officers, commanding officers of regiments and units and players. Team Manager Lt Soe Min Hlaing recounted experience of the team. Next, the team leader and the players handed over the championship shield to the Deputy Commander. Afterwards, the Deputy Commander presented certificates of honour to them.

Later, Brig-Gen Tint Swe gave a speech and the ceremony came to an end. — MNA

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**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

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