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

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Four political objectives
* Stability of the State, community peace and tranquility, 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

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The Myanmar society is being turned into a constant learning society. Basic education primary schools, post-primary schools, middle schools and high schools plus universities and colleges have been opened with a view to creating opportunities for all to pursue education.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt views shirts manufactured at Asian Garment Factory in Yangon Industrial Zone.— MNA

PM attends opening of new school buildings

YANGON, 22 Aug — Myanmar Education Committee Chairman Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt this morning attended the opening ceremonies of the new school buildings of No 3 Post-Primary School, Mingaladon Township, Pre-Primary School of the Yangon Industrial Zone and No 38 Basic Education Primary School.

Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, the ministers, the Yangon City Mayor, the deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental officials, members of social organizations, headmasters and teachers also attended the ceremonies.

First, the new school building for No 3 Post-Primary School donated by the Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development was formally opened at 9 am by Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Deputy Minister for Construction Brig-Gen Myint Thein and Deputy Minister for Education U Myo Nyunt.

Next, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party went to Pre-Primary School of the Yangon Industrial Zone in Mingaladon Township to attend the opening ceremony of it.

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Brig-Gen Myint Thein and Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint and Chairman of Zaykabar Co Lt Dr Khin Shwe inaugurated the school. Next, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party inspected it.

Afterwards, they proceeded to No 38 BEPS in Mingaladon Township.

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Deputy Minister for Construction Brig-Gen Myint Thein and Deputy Minister for Education U Myo Nyunt formally opened the school.

Next, a ceremony to hand over the new school buildings was followed in conjunction with cash donation ceremony at No 38 BEPS. First, Director-General of Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development Col Aung Win explained matters on the new school buildings.

(See page 8)

INSIDE Perspectives
Towards agricultural development
(Pages 2)
article High-yield Shweyinaye paddy strain — 2
(Page 7)
PM and wife offer Waso robes at Ahodawpyay Monastery
(Pages 16)

The newly-opened Pre-Primary School in Yangon Industrial Zone in Mingaladon Township.— MNA

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Towards agricultural development

Thanks to the united efforts of the State, the people and the Tatmadaw for realizing the goal of emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation, one can witness today that good foundations have emerged in all sectors.

These efforts have been made on self-reliance basis after enlisting the strength of intellectuals and intelligentsia at home.

The great fruitful results achieved in the country is rapid development in the agriculture sector.

Myanmar being an agro-based nation is striving for development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well. As regards raising the socio-economic life of people through the agriculture sector, Patron of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe said at the concluding ceremony of Myanmar and International Studies Course No 6 and Special Refresher Course No 7 of USDA that the Government built 162 dams and 265 water pumping stations and is building 28 more dams and 30 new water pumping stations, that the facilities will produce good results for the nation both at present and in the future, that the cultivated area, crop patterns have changed in the fields countable in acres in the million, and the way has been paved for double or triple cropping a year at the same plot and that there will create more job opportunities along with better economic life of the people since there has been a dramatic surge in harvest, storage, transport, milling and distribution of paddy and other crops produced.

Nowadays, efforts are being made to boost per acre yield of the ten major crops namely paddy, long staple cotton, sugarcane, mung, green gram, pigeon pea, groundnuts, sesame, sunflower and maize. To meet the targets set for the ten crops, plans suitable to the respective states, divisions and townships are to be laid down and implemented. As the State has trying its best to supply water for agricultural purpose, farmers are now having opportunities to grow double or mixed crops and their living standard becomes high. At such a time, departmental officials and farmers are urged to effectively use the good opportunities created by the State for the agricultural development of their own regions.

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

Union National Races Village to be place of public... (from page 16)

Ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and heads of department, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt at 4.30 pm arrived at the national races village where they were welcomed by Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt, Deputy Ministers Brig-Gen Than Tun and Col Tin Ngwe, departmental heads and officials. At the briefing hall, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt heard a report presented by Minister Col Thein Nyunt on extended growing of various kinds of mangrove, growing of mangrove species such as Madama (Ceriops decandra), Madama (Ceriops tagal), Byuskehsaung (Byaugura gymnorrhiza), Hnunhya (Braugura pyrifolia), Byuwa Kyatelein (Brauguirea cylindra), Byu Shhwewa (Brauguirea sexangular), Byuchedakou (Rhizophora macronuta), Byus Utalome (Rhizophora apiculata) and byubangadung (Kandang candel) obtained from Rakhein Coast, measures to be taken for construction of structures such as Keinnayi Keinnaya statues, Ngwawuang Dam, Phasi, Aukchin (Indian pied hornbill), Mingun Bell, Thanlin Bridge (Mawlamyine), large bowl, Kyangtaung waterfall, Shan open-end drum with a long body and others which mark regional symbols of the respective national races, display of traditional houses depicting the living style and traits of the national races, utensils and musical instruments, extended cultivation of rice and flow- er plants, and designing of the archway of the national races village to depict Union solidarity and strong nation- alistic fervour.

In response to the report he gave instructions. He said that arrangements are to be made for the national races village to become a pleasant and beautiful place where people can enjoy pleasure. He also said efforts are to be made for strengthening national solidarity spirit and the Union Spirit after enjoying traditional culture, cus- toms and arts of national races. He said the village must reflect unitedly living of the national races born in the Union and consolidation of national solidarity.

The Prime Minister suggested that decorations of game of Chinlon (caneball), a Myanmar traditional sport which reflect mutual assistance among Myanmar people and unity and are to be taken. He said arrangements are to be made to display the existence of topographical conditions, flowers, forests in Myanmar and conservation of envi- ronment of Myanmar people.

Next, the Prime Minister inspected construction projects at the village and left there. — MNA

Efficient use of electricity at ministries ... (from page 16)

Official of respective ministries reported on effi- cient use of electricity. Speaking on the occasion, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win said that consumption of power is being inspected weekly at ministry-wise. So, the ministries are to supervise efficient use of electricity. Tasks are to be carried out with the help of natural light. As a result of efficient use, power can be supplied around the clock to 290 villages out of 31 in Yangon City at present. In the past, only eight towns got electricity round the clock. Therefore, efficient use of electricity is to be practised systematically.

Next, he attended to sponsored by the Prime Minister, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win saw over supply and power consumption in townships of Yangon City by car.

Wellwishers invited for sinking tube-wells

YANGON, 22 Aug — The Development Affairs Committees under the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs are making concerted efforts in sinking tube-wells in order to get sufficient fresh water in rural areas in States and Divi- sions where water is scarce. One 200 feet deep two-inch diameter tube-well costs K 250,000; one 400 feet deep two-inch diameter tube-well costs K 500,000; and one 200 feet deep four- inch diameter tube-well costs K 500,000. Those wishing to donate cash for the tube-well sinking projects may contact the Department. — MVA

All this needs to be known

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

SNOOKER C’SHIP ENDS: The prize-distribution ceremony of the Myanmar Snooker (Sr-Jr) Championships jointly sponsored by the Myanmar Billiard Federation and Sein Wat Hhon Co was held at Sein Hnitt Mya hall of Asia Plaza Hotel in Yangon on 22 August, Myanmar Olympic Committee General Secretary Director-General of Sports and Physical Education Department U Thaung Hsu presents the first prize to Khin Zar Htoo (Shan State) at the ceremony. — NLM
**Roadside bomb kills two US soldiers in Iraq**

**Baghdad, 21 Aug** — Two US soldiers were killed and three injured by a roadside bomb near the Iraqi city of Samarra, some 100 km (60 miles) north of Baghdad, a spokesman for the US Army First Infantry division said on Saturday.

The spokesman said the attack took place at 5:55 pm (1355 GMT) on Friday during a military patrol. He said the condition of the three wounded soldiers was unknown.

The attack brought to 710 the number of US service men and women killed in action in Iraq since the US-led invasion last year. — Internet

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**US AC-130 gunships pound Najaf**

**Najaf, 21 Aug** — Eyewitnesses in Najaf are reporting that explosions have rocked the old section of the city, as US AC-130 gunships strike at al-Mahdi Army defences.

According to an Iraqi journalist based in Najaf, sporadic clashes between US occupation troops and Mahdi Army militia broke out several times on Saturday evening.

"The Mahdi Army is vowing to protect the old section of the city, as US AC-130 gunships pound Najaf" — Internet

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**Guerillas bomb oil pipeline in Iraq**

**Basra, 21 Aug** — Insurgents bombed Saturday an oil pipeline in southern Iraq that had not been in use for several days, setting it ablaze, security forces in the area said.

That attack took place at Berjiysia, 20 miles south-west of the southern city of Basra, said Lt Mohammed al-Mousawi of the Iraqi National Guard.

The pipeline, which connects the Rumaila oilfields with export storage tanks in the Faw peninsula, had been shut down for a week due to threats from insurgents, and it was unclear what effect the bombing would have on exports.

"The aim behind attack is to damage the pipeline in case it is turned on again," al-Mousawi said.

The bomb exploded near a pipeline valve, he said. National Guard troops discovered and defused a second bomb nearby, he said.

Insurgents have repeatedly sabotaged Iraq's crucial oil industry, its main source of income, in an effort to hamper reconstruction efforts here. The threats to the oil infrastructure have increased in recent weeks amid a violent uprising by Shiite militants in southern Iraq, where much of the oil industry is located. — Internet

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**US airstrike spread fear in Najaf**

**Najaf, 21 Aug** — US warplanes struck with such ferocity against radical Shi'ite militia in Najaf overnight that even the homing pigeons did not return afterwards to Iraq's holy city.

"I had 50 pigeons on the roof. It took me so long to train them. It is a family tradition started by my grand father," said Mahmoud Ali, 47.

"There was so much pounding that they flew away. They are all gone."

"At 4:15 AM gunships, armed with one howitzer, one 40 mm gun, and one rotating 25 mm high-speed cannon mounted on a 1,800 horses power per minute, sent up orange flashes as they fired through the night.

"Houses shook 2.5 miles away from the strike zone. There was no way to sleep. Bang, bang all night," said Ariz Hassan, 40. "Many stores are closed. I am living on bread."

Residents of the fragile houses of the Old City hid in basements. Fearing the worst, some had escaped to safer areas after firebrand cleric Moqtada al-Sadr ignored government demands to lay down his arms and disband his Mehdi Army militia.

The government has yet to carry out a threat to launch a major offensive to drive him and his men out of the sacred Imam Ali shrine where they are holed up.

Iraqs in Najaf, a holy place for millions of Shiites around the world, are bracing for another possible night of the thud of howitzers and use of the awesome firepower of the AC-130.

"My daughters cried all night. I told them it was nothing but they just kept crying," said Nasser Zichawi, 23, holding his three-year-old as nervous neighbours stood in the shadow of doorways. Many women and children have already left the Old City but the men have stayed behind to protect houses from thieves who in the course of the night searched for their children.

"Yes I am from the Mehdi Army. I will fight. I will fight. I will kill," said Abu Seif, 42, a father of six. — MNA/Reuters

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**India says Asia, Africa need to define new multilateralism**

**Delhi, 21 Aug** — Advocating a new strategic partnership between Africa and Asia, India on Friday highlighted the importance for the two continents to shape a multilateral order and jointly resolve to eliminate poverty, hunger, illiteracy and disease.

"We need to define a new multilateralism, one that is not hierarchical. We have to shape the multilateral order, not merely accept it as it is...we do not have the luxury of time to wait for the world to change. We have to change it ourselves," Junior Minister for External Affairs Rao Inderjit Singh stressed.

Addressing the ministerial meeting of the Asian-African sub-regional organizations, he said "all of us in Africa and Asia, some four billion people and over 80 countries, cannot say that we are being marginalized in the globalization process. Instead we ought to be defining it."

He said when the leaders meet at Bandung next year, a concise set of principles and a concrete plan of action should be evolved.

The minister suggested setting up a comprehensive database with two major sections: one that lists projects and programmes in Africa and Asia for which financial and other support is required and the other comprised projects and programmes for which financial and other support was being offered or was available.

He said the Asian Development Bank and the African Development Bank could evolve a mechanism to work together for the joint identification and funding of projects.

Singh said over the 50 years since the Bandung Conference in 1955, much has happened with the common struggle against colonialism, imperialism and racial oppression having succeeded.

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**SARAS takes off on its inaugural flight on Sunday**

**New Delhi, 21 Aug** — Aviation history will be created in India on Sunday when the first indigenous civil aircraft, SARAS, will take to the skies.

SARAS, a 14-seater light transport aircraft with rear mounted twin turboprop engines, has been designed and developed by National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL), Bangalore.

The aircraft, on its inaugural flight, would be piloted by Squadron Leader K K Venugopal and Wing Commander R S Makker as co-pilot who belong to the Aircraft and Systems Testing Establishment of the Indian Air Force, official sources said here.

The IAF has already issued a Letter of Interest for procuring six SARAS aircraft for training, troop transport, executive and casualty evacuation roles, they said, adding, a detailed project report would be shortly submitted to the IAF headquarters.
Iraq car bombing kills Polish soldier

WARSAW (POLAND), 21 Aug—A Polish soldier was killed and six more were injured in central Iraq on Saturday when a car bomb exploded as a military convoy passed by, military officials said.

The death brought to 10 the number of Polish soldiers killed so far in Iraq, where Poland commands a multinational security force.

The explosives-laden Chevrolet was detonated by radio as a coalition supply convoy, escorted by seven Polish military vehicles, was passing by, said Col. Zdzislaw Gnatowski, a spokesperson for the Polish army chief of staff in Warsaw.

The attack happened at 11.50 am local time, about six kilometres northeast of the city of Hillah, said Lt. Col Artur Domanski, a spokesperson for the Polish-led force in Iraq.

"The convoy of more than 10 trucks also came under machine gun fire," Domanski said in a statement. "Polish troops returned fire, killing some of the assailants.”

"The six injured soldiers were taken to hospitals in Karbala and Baghdad. Gnatowski said they were in stable condition."

Poland sent combat troops to fight in the US-led invasion of Iraq and now commands the multinational force of some 6,200 troops in south-central Iraq, including 2,400 of its own.

"Saturday's attack came two days after two Polish soldiers were killed when their cars crashed as they tried to escape an ambush in Hillah. —INTERNET"

French reporters vanish in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 22 Aug—Two veteran French journalists have gone missing in Iraq as concerns mount over the fate of an Italian reporter.

George Malbrunot of Le Figaro newspaper and Christian Chesnot of French radio have not been heard of since Thursday, the French foreign ministry said.

"We urge that the Najaf issue be solved by peaceful means because the method this government is using will win only crime," Grand Ayatollah Enzo Baldoni has been found dead, raising fears that the journalist has been kidnapped."

Mr Baldoni’s magazine, Diroo, said the interpreter’s body was found near Najaf, where militias have been battling US-led forces for weeks. "The last contact with Mr Baldoni had been on Thursday."

"One increasingly fears a kidnapping," Enrico Dragoli told Italian news agency Ansa.

A fourth Western journalist, French-American Micah Garen, is being held hostage along with his interpreter, but to a threat, but to a kill him has reportedly been lifted. "An aide to Shia cleric Moqada Sadr, who has been attempting to secure the reporter's release, said on Saturday that the two men could be released within days."

"The US military in Iraq would continue to have the current posture for some time," he said at a South Korean airbase on Friday without specifying the time period.

"But over the long term, our force capabilities must be strengthened, including Air Force capabilities," he said. —MNA/Reuters

S Korea, US end troop cut talks

SEOUL, 21 Aug—South Korea and the United States closed a round of defence talks in Seoul on Friday aimed at scheduling a reduction of US troops on the Korean peninsula without agreeing on the timeline of the realignment.

South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun said the defence posture in the country would continue for some time but its air defence power needed to be strengthened.

The United States has proposed to cut its 37,500 troops now deployed in the Korean Peninsula by a third by the end of 2005, but Seoul, concerned about a reduction in deterrence against Communist North Korea, has asked for a delay in the schedule.

"We have reached a consensus that there is a need to extend the timeline," South Korea’s Deputy Minister of Defence for Policy, Ahn Kwang-chan, told a news conference after the talks.

But we decided to continue discussions on the timeline of reduction of individual forces that are subject to the reduction." US Deputy Undersecretary of Defence Richard Lawless said a brigadier of 3,600 US troops redeployed in Iraq this month would be part of the reduction.

"And beyond that, we have not reached agreement on either the full scope of the timeline or the composition of the other forces to be redeployed from the peninsula," he said.

South Korea’s position would be considered in future talks, Lawless said.

The troop reduction is part of a global force realignment by the United States announced this week that would involve up to 70,000 troops from Europe and Asia within a decade.

Ahn repeated the position that no reduction of force would be considered in future. "We have agreed that no reduction of force will be considered in future," he said.

"The US military in Korea would continue to have the current posture for some time," he said at a South Korean airbase on Friday without specifying the time period.

"But over the long term, our force capabilities must be strengthened, including Air Force capabilities," he said. —MNA/Reuters

Cleric says Najaf crisis cannot be solved by violence

BEIRUT, 21 Aug—Lebanon’s top Shia Muslim cleric urged a peaceful end on Friday to the crisis in Najaf, warning that a US assault to crush rebels in the Iraqi holy city risked destabilizing the whole country.

"We urge that the Najaf issue be solved by peaceful means because the method this government is using will win only crime," Grand Ayatollah Mohammad Hussein Fadlallah said in his Friday sermon.

"The fact that the American forces and their allies can assault noble Najaf, and Muslims, is a serious issue."

US Marines are fighting Shia rebels holed up in the central city of Najaf, home to the Imam Ali Mosque, one of Shia Islam’s most revered shrines. US warplanes pounding rebels on Friday, after their leader, radical cleric Moqtada al-Sadr, rejected a final order from Iraq’s Prime Minister, to disarm and leave.

Fadlallah, who is widely respected among Shites the world over, stopped short of backing Sadr, but warned that the onus was on US troops to leave Iraq or risk a spreading conflict.

"The continued occupation of Iraq, even under Iraqi cover, will cause security tremors to spread in their different internal and external forms," Fadlallah said.

China’s social transition draws world’s interest

SHANGHAI, 22 Aug—China’s successful social transition experience is drawing wide attention of experts at the first World Forum on China Studies in Shanghai, where it is seen as inspiring to many other countries.

"The change of economic modes and the consequent social transition in China’s society since the 1980s, however, have produced a new model for China’s developing peers," Lu Lu said. "This has led to living in a state-controlled ideology for a long time. China’s society experienced a structural change when introducing the market economic system."

Manufacturers benefit from market trade when the government exerts smaller influence in certain fields, Lu said, stressing that “China’s social transition cannot be explained by the traditional Western theory.” Many experts believe that China’s experience in political, economic and social transition have already formed a unique “China mode”. Professor Lawrence I. Lau, president of the Chinese University of Hong Kong, said China’s policy from the late 1970s to the early 1990s made as many people as possible benefit from reform and opening up, guaranteeing social stability and steady economic growth. —MNA/Guobao

Nigeria braces for locusts, officials not alarmed

LAGOS, 21 Aug—Nigeria has seen small numbers of locusts in some northern areas, but authorities in Africa’s most populous country said they had already stocked up on pesticides to prevent them from damaging a bumper crop expected this year.

Massive swarms of desert locusts have already ravaged plants in Mauritania, Mali and Niger, and could be heading to Sudan’s Darfur region, but Nigeria is unlikely to suffer severely from the plague.

"They are in about four local government areas, but the situation is not that alarming,” said Ahmad Muhammadu Maccido, agriculture commissioner of the northwestern Sokoto State. "We have received reports that a large number of locusts would head our way very soon and we are prepared to deal with the situation. We have purchased pesticides to control the situation and there is nothing to worry about at the moment.""

Locusts traditionally scare the vast deserts of the Sahara and Sahel, often moving eastwards towards Arabia, but rarely enter Nigeria in serious numbers. A large swarm can devour a field of crops overnight and cause famine in areas without access to pesticides. —MNA/Reuters
Loud blasts heard in Iraq's Najaf

NAJAF, 21 Aug—Around four loud explosions echoed across the holy Iraqi city of Najaf early on Saturday, though their cause was not immediately clear, Reuters witnesses reported.

The explosions followed a relatively quiet night in Najaf, the southern city where a radical Shi'ite uprising has raged for more than two weeks.

The blasts followed a day of confusion in Najaf after the interim government said police had seized the Imam Ali mosque from militia loyal to firebrand cleric Moqtada al-Sadr.

The militia denied the claim and witnesses said late on Friday that Sadr's Mehdi Army still controlled the mosque, Iraq's holiest Shrine Muslim shrine.

The guerrillas' continued control of the mosque and the streets around it, in face of mounting pressure from surrounding US and Iraqi Government forces, poses the greatest challenge to Iraq's interim government since it took over from US occupiers at the end of June. A Sadr aide said on Friday that talks were under way to hand control of the mosque to Iraq's most influential Shi'ite cleric, Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, but this would be only a symbolic concession unless the militia left the shrine.

NAJAF

Najaf fighting kills 77 Iraqis in 24 hours

BAGHDAD, 21 Aug—At least 77 Iraqis have been killed and 70 wounded in fighting in the holy city of Najaf over the past 24 hours, Iraq's Health Ministry said on Friday.

The Ministry said 13 Iraqis were killed and 107 others wounded in Baghdad and one killed and another wounded in Basra in the same period. It said all the casualties were from fighting pitting Shi'ite militiamen loyal to firebrand cleric Moqtada al-Sadr against US and government forces.

Six of those killed in Najaf were police who died in a mortar attack, it said.

Thai troops to pull out from Iraq

BANGKOK, 21 Aug—All Thai troops in Iraq will next Friday pull out of the country and head to Kuwait, the spokesman for Thai Defence Ministry said here on Friday afternoon.

Having withdrawn from the Lima Camp in Karbala, the Thai troops of some 420 soldiers will stay at the Virginia Camp in Kuwait, the spokesman Palanggoon Ghalam told reporters.

The troops will stay in Kuwait until the United States military transport them back to Thailand on September 20, when their 6-month mission officially ends, said Palanggoon.

Thai soldiers in Najaf were able to take 12 people from a Nepali company prisoners—a statement purportedly from the Army of the Al-Sarar Sultan group said. It listed the names of the 12 men.

The authenticity of the statement could not be verified.

"We shall show their pictures soon so that they will be a lesson to others," the statement posted on Friday on a web site often used in recent months by groups fighting US forces in Iraq.

It said the Nepalese firm was operating in Iraq through a Jordanian company, but gave no further details.

The group, which has claimed many attacks since the US-led invasion last year, said in a statement posted on its web site on Wednesday that it had attacked five oil pipelines that feed into Baghdad's Dora refinery on 14 August.

No official link has been made between the group and the attacks it has claimed.

Scores of hostages have been taken. Some have been released but at least nine have been killed. The US military has said Ansar al-Sunnah could be one of a handful of groups carrying out attacks in Iraq.

US troops arrive an area following clashes with members of the Shi'ite militia of al-Mehdi army in southeast Baghdad's suburb of Kordahali, on 20 Aug. 2004—INTERNET

India confident of SAFTA becoming operational by Jan 2006

NEW DELHI, 21 Aug—Asserting that India's approach towards South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) is positive and constructive, New Delhi on Friday expressed confidence that South Asian Free Trade Area will become operational from January 1, 2006.

"For us, SAARC is a means by which our entire region can progress and prosper. I am confident that, as mandated by the 12th SAARC Summit, South Asia will see the free trade area from January 1, 2006," Junior Minister for Commerce E V S Elangovan said at a seminar organized by Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).

Noting that the most significant value adding government of India has brought to its neighbour-hood policy is the induction of a major dose of economic content, he said there is a need to build on this foundation.

"South Asia must sum-mit the resources of far-sighted statecraft to sus-tain the momentum gener-ated by the SAARC Sum-mit. SAARC must trans-form itself from an as-soociation sponsored by governments to one that is energized by the people. It must become 'people ori-ented', he said.

Pointing that India was conscious of the fact that limited tariff concessions under SAFTA, both in terms of scope and depth, had not resulted in boosting trade, he said there is a need to see how the world has moved forward in terms of regional integration in the last decade.

Speaking on the occasion, FICCI President Y K Modi suggested launching of an early harvest scheme whereby member states would agree to zero tariff on a mutually acceptable list of commodities to kickstart SAFTA effectively.

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The Ministry said 13 Iraqis were killed and 107 others wounded in Baghdad and one killed and another wounded in Basra in the same period. It said all the casualties were from fighting pitting Shi'ite militiamen loyal to firebrand cleric Moqtada al-Sadr against US and government forces.

Six of those killed in Najaf were police who died in a mortar attack, it said.

Thai soldiers in Najaf were able to take 12 people from a Nepali company prisoners—a statement purportedly from the Army of the Al-Sarar Sultan group said. It listed the names of the 12 men.

The authenticity of the statement could not be verified.

"We shall show their pictures soon so that they will be a lesson to others," the statement posted on Friday on a web site often used in recent months by groups fighting US forces in Iraq.

It said the Nepalese firm was operating in Iraq through a Jordanian company, but gave no further details.

The group, which has claimed many attacks since the US-led invasion last year, said in a statement posted on its web site on Wednesday that it had attacked five oil pipelines that feed into Baghdad's Dora refinery on 14 August.

No official link has been made between the group and the attacks it has claimed.

Scores of hostages have been taken. Some have been released but at least nine have been killed. The US military has said Ansar al-Sunnah could be one of a handful of groups carrying out attacks in Iraq.

India confident of SAFTA becoming operational by Jan 2006

NEW DELHI, 21 Aug—Asserting that India’s approach towards South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) is positive and constructive, New Delhi on Friday expressed confidence that South Asian Free Trade Area will become operational from January 1, 2006.

“For us, SAARC is a means by which our entire region can progress and prosper. I am confident that, as mandated by the 12th SAARC Summit, South Asia will see the free trade area from January 1, 2006,” Junior Minister for Commerce E V S Elangovan said at a seminar organized by Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).

Noting that the most significant value adding government of India has brought to its neighbour-hood policy is the induction of a major dose of economic content, he said there is a need to build on this foundation.

“South Asia must sum-mit the resources of far-sighted statecraft to sus-tain the momentum gener-ated by the SAARC Sum-mit. SAARC must trans-form itself from an as-soociation sponsored by governments to one that is energized by the people. It must become ‘people ori-ented’, he said.

Pointing that India was conscious of the fact that limited tariff concessions under SAFTA, both in terms of scope and depth, had not resulted in boosting trade, he said there is a need to see how the world has moved forward in terms of regional integration in the last decade.

Speaking on the occasion, FICCI President Y K Modi suggested launching of an early harvest scheme whereby member states would agree to zero tariff on a mutually acceptable list of commodities to kickstart SAFTA effectively.
**Central African Republic reaffirms one-China policy**

**BEIJING, 21 Aug —** The Central African Republic (CAR) reaffirmed its one-China policy and supports China’s reunification cause, according to the Joint Communique signed by China and the CAR during President Francois Bozize’s visit to China.

China appreciates and supports the CAR Government in its efforts to maintain domestic social and political stability and to resume economic development. China calls for more international support for the efforts.

China and the CAR would like to further strengthen cooperation in such fields as agriculture, infrastructure and human resources development, and to promote business cooperation between corporations of the two sides. The two sides agreed that peace and development remain the main theme of the times. The international society should strengthen consultation and maintain the diversity of the world.

China and the CAR reaffirmed China-Africa cooperative relations, and expressed their willingness to enhance cooperation within the framework of the China-Africa Cooperation Forum. — MNA/Xinhua

**US hostage calls on US to stop bloodshed in Najaf**

**DUBAI, 21 Aug —** A US hostage in Iraq Micah Garen, appearing on a videotape, has called on the United States to stop the bloodshed in the Iraqi city of Najaf, Al Jazeera television said on Friday.

“He said he was asked to send a message to the American people to request them to stop what he called ‘the Najaf massacre’... he added that is receiving good treatment,” the channel said, showing a videotape in which Garen appeared speaking to camera.

Garen said he was in good health, the channel reported. Garen’s words could not be heard but he looked physically well. He said he is being held by a group called the ‘Martyrs Brigades,’ the Qatar-based Arab satellite channel said.

Garen, who works for New York-based media production company Four Corners Media, was kidnapped last week in the southern Iraqi city of Nassiriya.

Militiamen allied to Iraqi Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr have been waging a bloody uprising in Najaf against US forces for nearly two weeks.

A Sadr aide from Nassiriya also called on the kidnappers to release Garen because of his reporting in “Iraq. “I call on them to release him... especially since this person is one of those who has told the truth about the barbaric way the occupation forces deal with the Iraqi people.”

Al-Khafaji told Al Jazeera.

Militants in Iraq have waged a campaign of kidnaping aimed at driving out individuals, companies and troops supporting US forces and the Iraqi interim administration.

Scores of hostages have been taken. Some have been released but nine have been killed.

— MNA/Xinhua

**China opens cartoon industry to private investors**

**NINGBO, 21 Aug —** China says that private investors will be encouraged to develop and create cartoon films and TV programmes in the country in the hopes of increasing growth in the industry.

In line with the “Opinions Regarding Development of Animation and Comic Industry for Film and TV Programmes in China,” the State Broadcasting and Radio Administration promised that trustworthy, privately-financed cartoon making agencies would be treated equally with state-backed animation and comic production organizations. — MNA/Xinhua

**US Army soldiers take cover from sniper fire during a raid in Najaf, Iraq on 20 Aug, 2004. — Internet**

**Sadr aide says Najaf shrine still held by guerrillas**

**NAJAF (Iraq), 21 Aug —** A top aide to rebel Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr told Reuters in Najaf on Friday reports that Iraq’s Interior Ministry had taken control of the city’s Imam Ali Mosque were false.

“The shrine is in the control of the Mehdi Army. The Mehdi Army will resist any attempt by the Iraqi police to control the shrine,” said Sheikh Ahmad al-Shebani, a senior commander in Sadr’s Mehdi Army militia.

“Procedures are under way to hand over control of the shrine to Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani,” he added, referring to Iraq’s most influential Shiite cleric.

— MNA/Reuters

**Global AIDS Fund says US turns up heat on donors**

**GENEVA, 21 Aug —** The Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria urged donors on Friday to pay up what they have pledged by the end of next month or risk seeing the United States cut short its contribution.

The United States, the biggest contributor, has already paid 360 million US dollars this year but announced on Thursday it would not give a further 120 million US dollars it has promised unless other donors also fulfilled their pledges.

Under US law, Washington can only finance one-third of the Geneva-based fund’s budget, meaning the size of its contribution is dependent on other countries’ donations.

Global Fund spokesman Jon Liden said Italy in particular needed to meet its pledge or the fund risked missing its 2004 fund-raising goal.

On Thursday, Randall Tobias, the US Global AIDS Coordinator, told donors to cough up by September 30 or Washington would withhold further funding. The date was an extension of an earlier July 31 deadline.

The Global Fund, set up in 2002 as the brainchild of UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, has so far committed over three billion US dollars to over 330 programmes worldwide.

It funds projects to combat AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis, three infectious diseases that kill nearly six million people each year.

— MNA/Reuters

**Two US Marines killed in Iraq fighting**

**BAKUHDAO, 21 Aug —** Two US Marines have died in action in separate incidents in a volatile region west of Baghdad, the US military said on Friday.

The military said in a statement a Marine assigned to the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force died of wounds suffered on Wednesday while another Marine was killed in action in Al-Anbar province.

Al-Anbar includes the restive Sunni Muslim cities of Fallujah and Ramadi west of Baghdad.

At least 708 US servicemen have been killed in action since the US-led invasion of Iraq last year. — MNA/Reuters

**Union says BA pay deal imminent, talks continue**

**LONDON, 21 Aug —** British Airways Plc and unions are close to agreement on a fresh pay deal for more than 10,000 staff that would avert a planned 24-hour strike next weekend, unions said.

The Transport & General Workers Union (TGWU) said talks may continue into the evening but it was confident a deal would be concluded on Friday.

“The feeling is there is not a huge amount that we need to get through,” TGWU spokeswman said.

More than 10,000 baggage handlers, check-in staff and other ground crew have threatened to strike on August 27, which would have thrown travel at Britain’s airports into chaos at the start of a long holiday weekend.

Unions have rejected the airline’s offer of a 1,000-pound (1,128-US-dollar) bonus for good attendance and an 8.5 per cent pay rise over three years.

Union officials said the success of negotiations hinged on a BA move to not link bonuses with attendance and to take into consideration staff who were forced to take long absences due to genuine illness.

A BA spokesman said the airline had stopped taking bookings for the long weekend as a precautionary measure but remained confident of averting the strike.

— MNA/Reuters
According to the Suttan, the Buddha was staying in Akanala village, where growers lived. One day He met with Kasibharadwaja, a land owner working with many a firm-hand. That morning, the land owner served his firm-hands with breakfast to mark the launch of ploughing season. At that time, the land owner had not been a Buddhist. Seeing the Buddha coming to their village, the land owner with some consideration told the Buddha that he earned his living by being the one who owns the distinct glory of the lotus bud in reverence and shape his palms like a lotus bud in reverence and worship to pay homage to his son.

Throughout the years after the attainment of the Buddhahood, the Lord Buddha placed emphasis on agriculture. Knowing that crops would be destroyed if the monks travelled crossing the plantations, He forbade travelling in the rainy season when paddy was cultivated, and urged His disciples to stay in their monasteries during the Lent. Travelling in the Lent without apparent reason would imply the breach of the Vinaya Rules. The Buddha also made the monks wear robes that were in the pattern of paddy fields in Magada District. ‘Amottaro pondhabhita lokan’, meaning ‘the monk whose quality is as good as a fertile farmland to cultivate the seeds of virtue’, is included in the Nine Attributes of the Sangha.

Moreover, the Buddha called himself peasant (Kasaka in Pali) in the Kasibharadwaja Suttan.

In the end, when the land owner saw the truth that the Buddha meant, he knelt in homage before the Buddha touching the feet of the Buddha, and praised that the Buddha was the one who really deserved reverence, who was capable of uncovering what was hidden, who could direct wanderers to the right path, who held a light in the dark and so on. Later, he professed a belief in the Buddha, the Dhamma and the Sangha. He also asked for permission to enter the Order under the Buddha. The land owner thus rose from the life of grower to the life of Arahat.

Agriculture, in the words of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe in his inspection tour of Ayeyawady Division on 4-6 March 1994, benefits not only the farmers but also the general public. Senior General Than Shwe in his inspection tour of Shan State and Upper Myanmar on 8-15 October 1994, also gave guidance that steps are to be taken effectively to conduct research on quality strain for each crop. Under the guidance of the Head of State, Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint is working hard leaving no stones unturned so as to ensure local food sufficiency.
PM attends opening of new school …

(from page 1)

He said Khayaybin Road was built up to No 3 Highway under the civil and regional project in accord with the guidance of the Head of State. Yangon International Airport Environs Development Project was being implemented by the Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development.

He reported on implementation of Khayaybin Yeikmon Housing Project and Sangyiwa Housing Project with the cooperation of ZaykabarCo and DHSHD. Moreover, the buildings of pre-primary schools and No 38 Basic Education Primary School have been built to upgrade their status.

He also thanked the donors. Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development Deputy Director General U Win Myint presented the documents related to the school building to Director General U Aye Kyu of No 3 Basic Education Department.

Next, cash and kind donated to No 38 BEPS. Donations included K 2.4 million for the teachers as 10-year cash assistance and a telephone worth K 500,000 and a set of TV and VCR and a refrigerator worth K 500,000; Shwepaukkan Industrial Zone Management Committee and U Kyaw Win (Shwe Thanlwin) K 500,000 each; U Maung Maung (Shwekaba) and U Maung Maung (Asia Express) K 300,000 each; U Ko Ko Htwe (Taw Win Construction) K 200,000 and Daw Aye Aye Mu (Parami Construction) K 100,000 to Minister Maj-Gen Kyi Aung. Afterwards, cash was donated to No 3 Basic Education Post-primary school including K 300,000 by U Kyaw Naing Oo (Naing Group Construction); K 200,000 each by U Chan Aye (Chan Construction), U Pyay Aung (Pyay Aung Construction), U Kyaw Win (Arthawady Construction), Daw Aye Aye Mu (Parami Construction), U Kyaw Hsan (Collected Triangle Construction), U Tin Thein (Aye Yeik Nyein Construction), U Maung Ngwe (Ngwe Win Aung Construction), U Aye Myint (Simma Construction), Daw Aye Aye Mu (Parami Construction), U Kyaw Maung (Maung Group Construction), U Ko Ko Htwe (Shwe Thanlwin) K 100,000 each; and U Than Maung accepted the donations.

On behalf of the school heads, Headmistress Daw Mu Mu Tint of Mingaladon Township No 3 Basic Education Post-primary School expressed thanks.

In the Myanmar Education Committee Chairman’s behalf, Minister U Than Aung expressed thanks, saying that it is a great pleasure that the Prime Minister, the commander, the ministers, the deputy ministers and departmental heads are here to attend the opening ceremonies of basic education schools and pre-primary schools. Nowadays, the government in cooperation with the public is striving its utmost to enhance the national education standard. While carrying out its main tasks, the Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development of the Ministry of Construction emphasizes equal development of infrastructures in education, health and social sectors for the people.

Today, development and upgrading tasks are being undertaken in Mingaladon region, a gate of Yangon City.
PM attends opening of ...
(from page 8)

And, arrangements were made to construct buildings for
the education sector and to donate cash assistance to teach-
ers and educational staff at the school.

Nowadays, the government is making efforts with
might and main for uplift of national education standard.
The Myanmar society is being turned into a sustainable
learning society. Basic education primary schools, post-
primary schools, middle schools and high schools includ-
ing universities and colleges have been opened with a
view to creating opportunities to pursue education.

The government has been joining hands with
wellwishers and social organizations to be able to increase
enrolment of the school-age children by 96.56 per cent
this year. In so doing, wellwishers donated over K 800
million for spending it on enrolment of school-age chil-
dren. Nowadays, there are 93.3 per cent of literate popu-
lation in the country. So, the literacy rate of our country
stands in the top position of Asia. It is the result of har-
monious efforts of the entire nationals. The education
sector is being enhanced in the entire nation including
hilly and plain regions, rural and urban regions. Later, he
thanked the DHSHD and wellwishers for the donations.

Next, the Prime Minister and party inspected class-
rooms and the new school building of BEPS No 38.
After the ceremony, the Prime Minister and party in-
spected Asian Garment Factory in Yangon Industrial Zone.
The Prime Minister and party viewed products of the fac-
tory.— MNA

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Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Deputy Minister for Construction Brig-Gen Myint Thein and Deputy
Minister for Education U Myo Nyunt formally open building of Basic Education Primary School No 38
in Mingaladon Township. — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects a classroom of Mingaladon BEPS-38.—MNA

The newly opened Basic Education Primary School No 38 in Mingaladon Township. — MNA
Tatmadaw families, wellwishers donate cash and kind to monasteries, nunneries

YANGON, 22 Aug —
Families of the Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) and wellwishers donated rice, edible oil, salt, medicines, and beans and pulses to three Pariyatti Monasteries in Pabedan and Seikkan townships, and Thananta Dhamma Palaka (Hindu) Organization in Pabedan township, Yangon North District, this afternoon. They also set up trust funds for the monasteries and the organization.

The donation ceremony was held at Maha Theindawgyi Pariyatti School in Pabedan township. State Peace and Development Council Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein attended the ceremony and offered provisions.

Present on the occasion were Maha Theindawgyi Pariyatti School Presiding Sayadaw Maha Gandhabhutta Kumara and member Sayadaws, Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, Joint-Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Hla Shwe, Captain Nyan Tun and Li-Col Chan Maung of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Air) handed over the provisions, donated by the families of the Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) to the three Pariyatti Schools and the Hindu Organization, to the Presiding Sayadaw.

On the occasion, Col Maung Pa handed over the provisions donated by Yangon City Development Council through the Presiding Sayadaw; member-1 Police Col Aung Daing, the provisions donated by Yangon Division Peace and Development Council; Deputy Director of the Religious Affairs Department U Hnin Myo, the provisions donated by the Ministry of Religious Affairs; a representative, edible oil and medicines donated by Myanmar Economic Holdings Ltd; medicines donated by the Traditional Medicine Department of the Ministry of Health.

The congregation led by Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein took the Five Precepts from Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumara. Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein offered provisions to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumara, and Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, senior military officers and the deputy mayor to member Sayadaws.

Next, Brig-Gen Hla Shwe, Captain Nyan Tun and Li-Col Chan Maung of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Air) handed over the provisions, donated by the families of the Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) to the three Pariyatti Schools and the Hindu Organization, to the Presiding Sayadaw.

At the beginning of the ceremony, acting managing director U Win Hein of Myanmar Salt and Marine Chemicals Enterprise, donated rice from the Sayadaw Union; 300 sorts of medicines donated by the Ministry of Health.

Senior military officers present donations of Tatmadaw families to a nun in Shweepytha Township.—MNA

Today’s donations in Pabedan Township were 98 bags of rice, 24 viss of edible oil, 400 viss of iodized salt, 48 tubes of tooth paste, 1,959 bottles of traditional medicine, 240 cakes of beauty soap, 240 cakes of Shwewa soap and K 2,632,090 for the funds.

Today’s donations in Kamayut Township were 103 bags of rice, 29 viss of edible oil, 59 viss of beans and pulses, 298 viss of salt, 60 boxes of toothpaste, 914 bottles of traditional medicines, K 4,640,653 for 3 schools, and K 2,086,178 for the Hindu Organization.
Tatmadaw families, wellwishers donate cash and kind to monasteries, nunneries

K 200,000 by Sri Sudhir Moe, K 150,000 by U Tin Win and family of Myanarpyitha KN Co; K 150,000 by KB Int’l Co Ltd, K 111,111 by All Myanmar Tamil Hindu Foundation; K 111,111 by Asia King Co Ltd, and K 101,000 by Myanmar Swiss Singapore Co Ltd.

Later, Li-Col Than Hlaing (Air) supplicated on the purpose of the donations. Next, Sayadaw Bhuddanta Paññadipa administered the Five Precepts. Senior Military Officers and Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa offered provisions to the Sayadaw.

Next, Vice-Adjutant-General Brig-Gen Hla Shwe, Cdr Aung San of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Navy) and wellwishers. Brig-Gen Hla Shwe, Cdr Myint Tun (Navy) and Li-Col Than Hlaing (Air) offered 128 bags of rice, 512 viss of salt, 512 viss of oil donated by Tatmadaw families to the Sayadaw.

The commander presented bags of rice donated by Yangon Division Peace and Development Council to the Sayadaw. Likewise, wellwishers offered alms to the Sayadaws.

Similarly, Tatmadaw families and people donated provisions to Thuseiktayon, Sasana Paragi and Phayathonezu monasteries in Kamayut Township, taking place at Thuseiktayon Pariyatti Monastery on Bahor Road this afternoon.

Present were Chairman Sayadaw of Kamayut Township Sangha Nayaka Committee Ohndaw Pariyatti Monastery Presiding Nayaka Bhuddanta Paññadipa, Presiding Nayaka of Thuseiktayon Pariyatti Monastery Bhuddanta Jagara, members of the Sangha, Vice-Adjutant-General Brig-Gen Hla Shwe, Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, local authorities and wellwishers.

Sayadaw Bhuddanta Paññadipa administered the Five Precepts. Senior Military Officers and Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa accepted K 2,632,090 donated by Tatmadaw families and wellwishers.

Today’s donations in Shwepyitha Township were 157 bags of rice, 81.20 viss of oil, 102.40 viss of gram, 512 viss of iodized salt, 512 cakes of soap, 512 cakes of beauty cakes, 102 tubes of tooth paste, 1,374 bottles of traditional medicine and K 1,666,090 to the funds.

Deputy FM back from South Africa

(YANGON, 22 Aug.) — The Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win arrived back here by air this morning after attending the XIV Non-Aligned Movement’s Ministerial Conference and Asian-African Sub-regional Organizations Conference (AASROC II) in Durban, Republic of South Africa.

They were welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by Heads of Department and officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The delegation members were Director-General U Nyan Lynn of Consular and Legal Department of Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Director of the Political Department U Maung Maung.
S Korean President confident on defence capability

SEOUL, 22 Aug— South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun said Friday that South Korea will have no problem with its defence capability in future despite a US decision to cut the number of its troops here, reported South Korean Yonhap news agency.

Washington said in June it would slash its troop level here by one-third from 37,500 by December next year, stoking security concerns among South Koreans. Moreover, 3,600 US troops have left South Korea for Iraq for year-long mission. They will not return to South Korea.

“We have no problem with our defence ability because the US troops here will retain the current system for a considerable period of time,” Roh said during a visit to an Air Force unit, whose location was not disclosed. “However, we should reinforce the combat capability of the Air Force and its overall capability under a long-term plan.”

Two die in light aircraft crash in Kent, England

LONDON, 22 Aug— Two men have died when their light aircraft crashed on the top of cliffs on the Isle of Shepey, Kent, southeast England, Sky news reported on Saturday. The men were confirmed dead.

And Coast Guards received several emergency calls from residents and passers-by who saw the air crash in a field by the cliff-edge. Emergency teams said the bodies were recovered by Coast Guards, and the men came down with the plane.

Kent Fire and Rescue Service said they attended the scene and found no fire, but that two men were confirmed dead.

India working on homegrown Advanced Jet Trainer

BANGALORE, 22 Aug— Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal S. Krishnaswamy on Friday said India has begun designing a homegrown Advanced Jet Trainer (AJT) and the country should stop importing foreign jet trainer aircraft.

“Should (import of Hawks) stop at 66 aircraft. After that, an indigenous AJT should fly,” Krishnaswamy said in his inaugural address at a national seminar on Military Airworthiness and Certification here.

“We have discussed with Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) and they are doing final design studies. Work is going on,” he later told reporters, adding, the twin engined AJT would be an upper progression of the Intermediate Jet Trainer (IJT), which India has already bought for stage II training of pilots. The IAF and HAL, he said, would approach the government once the design was finalized for the indigenous AJT, to fly at transonic speed (Mach 1), which is the speed of sound.

The AJT will have the same cockpit as that of the ENGLISH Hawks, he said.

India Minister of Rail Transportation

UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION
MYANMA RAILWAYS
INVITATION TO SEALED TENDER

1. Sealed Tender is invited by Myanma Railways, for supply of the following Offset Machine and Numbering Machine which will be purchased in Myanma Kyats:

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Closing Date.- 23.9.2004 (Thursday) (12:00) Hours.

2. Tender documents are available at the office of the Deputy General Manager (Supply), Myanma Railways, Corner of 51st Street and Merchant Street, Botataung, Yangon starting from 23.8.2004 during the office hours.

3. For further details please call: 291982.201555 Ext-602, 605, 612

Deputy General Manager

Supply Department, Myanma Railways, Botataung

Yangon

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BANGALORE, 22 Aug— Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal S. Krishnaswamy on Friday said India has begun designing a homegrown Advanced Jet Trainer (AJT) and the country should stop importing foreign jet trainer aircraft.

“Should (import of Hawks) stop at 66 aircraft. After that, an indigenous AJT should fly,” Krishnaswamy said in his inaugural address at a national seminar on Military Airworthiness and Certification here.

“We have discussed with Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) and they are doing final design studies. Work is going on,” he later told reporters, adding, the twin engined AJT would be an upper progression of the Intermediate Jet Trainer (IJT), which India has already bought for stage II training of pilots. The IAF and HAL, he said, would approach the government once the design was finalized for the indigenous AJT, to fly at transonic speed (Mach 1), which is the speed of sound.

The AJT will have the same cockpit as that of the ENGLISH Hawks, he said.

India Minister of Rail Transportation

UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION
MYANMA RAILWAYS
INVITATION TO SEALED TENDER

1. Sealed Tender is invited by Myanma Railways, for supply of the following Offset Machine and Numbering Machine which will be purchased in Myanma Kyats:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr.No</th>
<th>Tender No</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
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<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>9(T)2/MR(CRA)</td>
<td>Offset Machine</td>
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<tr>
<td>2004-2005</td>
<td>Numbering Machine</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Closing Date.- 23.9.2004 (Thursday) (12:00) Hours.

2. Tender documents are available at the office of the Deputy General Manager (Supply), Myanma Railways, Corner of 51st Street and Merchant Street, Botataung, Yangon starting from 23.8.2004 during the office hours.

3. For further details please call: 291982.201555 Ext-602, 605, 612

Deputy General Manager

Supply Department, Myanma Railways, Botataung

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Scientists say risk of water wars rising

STOCKHOLM, 21 Aug—The risk of wars being fought over water is rising because of exploitive global population growth and widespread complacency, scientists said on Friday.

“We have had oil wars,” said Professor William Mitsch. “That’s happened in our lifetime. Water wars are possible.”

Scientists at the World Water Week conference which began on Sunday in Stockholm said that ignorance and complacency were widespread in wealthier countries.

“I don’t know what will shake these regions out of complacency other than the fact there will be droughts, pestilence and wars that break out over water rights,” said Mitsch, professor of natural resources at Ohio State University.

Mitsch told Reuters potential flashpoints included the Middle East.

“Continuing on our present path will mean more conflict,” a report by International Water Management Institute (IWMI) said.

With the world’s population growing at exponential rates there was extreme pressure on water supplies to provide drinking water and food, said scientists at the Stockholm gathering.

“I would love it if we could all get along. But a lot of things are going to be different. We are going to the water crisis,” said Mitsch.

In 2052 we will have another two billion people to feed and 95 per cent of these will be in urban areas,” said Professor Jan Lundqvist of Stockholm International Water Institute.

The answer was sustained investment in infrastructure. An estimated 80 billion US dollars was invested each year in the water sector, but this needed to at least double, said Professor Frank Rijsberman, the IWMI’s director-general.

“I think if I look at the numbers I can’t immediately see a way out over the next few years,” said IWMI report co-author Dr David Molden.

“I think we will reach a critical point,” he added.

Los Angeles to contribute $350m to stem cell research

LOS ANGELES, 21 Aug—The US second largest city of Los Angeles endorsed an ambitious plan Wednesday to spend 350 million US dollars on stem cell research.

Mayor Jim Hahn and the City Council endorsed the November 2 ballot initiative to finance the research in California through low-interest and tax-free bonds.

Medical experts said that the California Stem Cell Re- search and Cures Initiative could lead to new treatments or cures for such diseases as diabetes, Alzheimer’s, cancer, Parkinson’s, HIV/AIDS, multiple sclerosis and spinal cord injuries.

However, some others raised ethical concerns over using stem cells from human embryos.

Following the testimony of several members of the public, council member Alex Padilla said one of the reasons he supported such a research is that his mother is a diabetes patient.

“I see her pain. I see her discomfort,” he said. “I dream of the day when she doesn’t have those pains, those ailments in her life.”

Hahn said more than 128 million Americans have diseases or injuries that could be cured by stem cell research.

He said the initiative will provide the much-needed fund to make the promise of new cures and treatments a reality. That will not only save lives, but also reduce health care costs in the long-term to boost local economy, especially in the biotech and medical research areas, he added.

Meanwhile, mayors of San Francisco, San Jose, Irvine, Santa Ana, West Hollywood and Sausalito announced their support for the initiative.

Antidepressant labels to reflect risk data

WASHINGTON, 21 Aug—The US Food and Drug Administration plans to update antidepressant labels to reflect studies that suggest a link between the drugs and suicide in youths, but remains cautious about the strength of such ties, according to new documents released on Friday.

The decision comes ahead of the release of a highly anticipated new analysis that FDA reviewers said supported earlier findings that certain antidepressants can increase the risk of suicide in some children and teenagers.

The new review from Columbia University showed “a statistically significant association of suicidal events with antidepressant drug treatment in short-term pediatric clinical trials for all indications,” said FDA reviewer Dr. Andrew Mosholder in his analysis of the data posted on the agency’s web site. Despite the new analysis, the FDA remained cautious.

“While there are some findings among these data suggestive of an increased risk of suicidality for some of these drugs, there remain some inconsistencies in the results,” the agency said in a separate statement.

Still, the FDA said it planned to issue new labelling for antidepressants that would “reflect the most recent information” and what studies undaunted, although the specific wording had not been determined.

Antidepressant use in younger patients is part of a larger controversy over prescribing children medicines when most drugs are approved based on clinical trials of adults. Only Eli Lilly and Co.’s Prozac is approved in the United States for children.

The FDA grants patent extensions to drugmakers who test products in children, but the companies are not required to make that data public.

The FDA has been reviewing antidepressant data for months but has yet to determine whether the widely used drugs raise the risk of suicide in children and adolescents, and whether regulatory action should be taken.

US poverty likely rose in 2003, income gap wider

WASHINGTON, 21 Aug—More Americans likely slid into poverty in 2003 and the gap between the rich and the poor widened, economists said on Thursday in a report that could fuel Democrat criticism of President George W. Bush.

The poverty line is set at an annual income of 9,573 US dollars or less for an individual, or 18,660 US dollars for a family of four with two children, according to the Census Bureau.

While the nation’s official poverty rate will not be released until next week, the left-leaning Centre for Economic and Policy Research estimated that America’s poverty rate will not be reduced until next week, the left-leaning Centre for Economic and Policy Research estimated that in 2003 the numbers I can’t immediately see a way out over the next few years,” said IWMI re-

Canada says G-7 not doing enough to help Africa

OTTAWA, 21 Aug—Leaders from the Group of Seven rich industrialized nations need to do more to aid poor African countries, Canadian Finance Minister Ralph Goodale said on Thursday.

“Quite frankly, I don’t believe we are doing as much as we should be doing, or as well as we should be doing it,” Goodale told reporters on a conference call from Mali, the final stop on a four-nation fact-finding tour for British Prime Minister Tony Blair’s Commission for Africa.

G-7 nations focused on aiding Africa in 2002 when Canada hosted the leaders’ summit, but other issues such as national security ‘over- took’ that agenda and the leaders let Africa drop down their list of priorities, Goodale said.

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Russia snaps down Germany for gold medal in women’s team epee

ATHENS, 21 Aug — Russia won the second consecutive gold medal as they triumphed in the women's team epee competition with a 34-28 win over world top-ranked Germany in the Athens Olympic Games. France took the bronze medal by beating Canada 45-37.

Brita Heidemann won only one point for Germany in the slowed-paced first four rounds, which resulted in a 8-1 lead to the advantage of the defending champions.

The 21-year-old scored a total of 19 points in her first Olympic appearance to make it 11-8 during the sixth round, and closed it to a two-point deficit at 28-26 with over a minute to go. Tatiana Logounova, who led Russia to two world championships in 2001 and 2003, hung on by making some counter-attacks to slow the exhausted Heidemann and regained the gold medal.

Germany bounced brilliantly with two come-back overtime victories on its way to the finals, but failed to make it happen again against the most-balanced Russian squad. — MNA/Zinhau

Luis Garcia, Alonso to sign for Liverpool after medicals

LIVERPOOL, (England), 21 Aug — Spanish duo Xabi Alonso and Luis Garcia will sign for Liverpool once they have passed their medicals, the Premier League club’s manager Rafael Benitez said on Friday.

“Alonso and Garcia are here for their medical examination,” Benitez told reporters.

“They can’t play on Saturday or on Tuesday in the Champions League but they’re here and I’m pleased to have two more options.”

Midfielder Alonso, 22, joins from Real Sociedad for around 10 million pounds with winger Luis Garcia, 26, arriving from Barcelona for about six million pounds (10.95 million US dollars), according to Spanish and British media reports.

Spanish media reported Liverpool were prepared to pay a nine-million-euro (11.09 million US dollars) buy-out clause on Luis Garcia’s contract to secure the move, which Benitez confirmed.

“His point of view, that we should be paid and we paid that,” Benitez said. “For us it was important to get this type of player because Barcelona didn’t want to lose him.”

Benitez was in charge of Luis Garcia during his time at Tenerife and the manager believes his adaptability is important to Liverpool’s strategy this season.

Malaga defender Josemi has also joined the club.

Benitez has ruled out the departure of any more players from his current squad although he says Liverpool are “waiting for some more signings if someone ‘good, nice and cheap’ is available.”

Liverpool, who drew 1-1 at Tottenham Hotspur in their first league match of the season last weekend, are at home to Manchester City on Saturday for Benitez’ first game at Anfield.

— MNA/Reuters

Abby Wambach gives USA 2-1 win over Japan

ATHENS, 21 Aug — Abby Wambach stroked home a 58th-minute winner to give the United States a 2-1 win over Japan on Friday, setting up a semifinal showdown with world champions Germany in the Olympic women’s soccer tournament.

The Germans came from behind to beat Nigeria by the same score in their quarterfinal.

Wambach had the simplest task to score her 17th goal in her last 18 games, the big forward walking ball the over the line after the United States players had sprung the offside trap.

The Japanese felt differently and their players complained vehemently that Shannon Boxx — who supplied the pass to Wambach — and the goallie were both offside.

Veteran midfielder Kristine Lilly took advantage of a bad error from Japan’s goalkeeper Nozomi Yamago to give the Americans a two-goal lead two minutes before halftime.

However, Emi Yamamoto headed an equalizer into the second half to give the US team a scare at a virtually empty stadium in Thessaloniki.

In Patras, substitute Conny Pohlers snatched an 81st minute winner for Germany to assure themselves of a place in the final.

The Swede led second placed Kelly Sotherton of Britain by 240 points and looked sure to win the gold medal after the remaining three events are competed on Saturday.

Dutch woman Karin Kuiken stayed at third with a 2000m (23.27s) to add to her 14.77m and 200m (23.27s) in the build-up.

Meanwhile, Formiga and Cristiane both scored twice as Brazil crushed Mexico 5-0. Brazil next face Sweden, who beat Australia’s “Matildas” 2-1.

— MNA/Reuters

World champion Kluft leads first day in heptathlon

ATHENS, 21 Aug — World champion Carolina Kluft took a comfortable lead after four events in the heptathlon at the Olympic Games on Friday.

Kluft, 21, winner of last year’s world championships, collected a total of 4,109 points after the day’s four events of the greatest comebacks of her career to fight back from 8-1 down in the final set and beat French Open champion Anastasia Myuskina in the Olympics women’s singles semifinal on Friday.

For the purist it contained too many errors, but Henin-Hardenne’s 5-7, 6-1, 6-0 victory over the Russian will go down as a classic.

Her reward is a match against world number two Amelie Mauresmo, whom she beat in the French Open final in May.

The Swede led second placed Kelly Sotherton of Britain by 240 points and looked sure to win the gold medal after the remaining three events are competed on Saturday.

Dutch woman Karin Kuiken stayed at third with a total of 3,777 points, 332 less than Kluft.

Defending champion Denise Lewis of Britain lied at a distant ninth with 3,688 points. — MNA/Zinhau

Henin sets gold standard in thrilling comeback

ATHENS, 21 Aug — Justine Henin-Hardenne staged one of the greatest comebacks of her career to fight back from 8-1 down in the final set and beat French Open champion Anastasia Myuskina in the Olympics women’s singles semifinal on Friday.

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Ferguson weighs up Ronaldo return for Norwich clash

MANCHESTER (England), 21 Aug — Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson will gauge the fitness of midfielders Cristiano Ronaldo and Quinton Fortune has a thigh strain and is doubtful for the game for them and they could have probably never played in the Premier League.

The Belgian has suffered a mystery viral illness for most of his time at United on Friday after Porto won their first league match of the season last weekend, are at home to Man-
23-8-2004 (Monday)  
Programme Schedule  
Morning Transmission (9:00 - 10:00)  
9:00 Signature Tune  
9:02 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights “Mingalabar”  
9:06 Shan Traditional Hoon Offering Ceremony  
9:10 Headline News  
9:12 Unique Style of Kachin Dress  
9:15 National News  
9:20 Poetry, A Home Industry  
9:25 Scenic Beauty of Tiddum & Cultural Dance  
9:28 Cultural Museum (Keng Tong)  
9:30 National News  
9:35 Myanmar Traditional Musical Instruments (Brass Instruments: Kya-Nuang)  
9:40 Song “We’ll Greet You In Mon Language”  
9:42 Akha Weaving Training School  
9:45 National News  
9:50 Pride of Place in Bagan (The Ananda Temple)  
9:55 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights “Come and See Myanmar”  
23-8-2004 (Monday) Evening Transmission (17:30 - 18:00)  
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17:32 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights “Mingalabar”  
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MRTV -3  
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THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR  
Monday, 23 August, 2004  

WEATHER  
Sunday, 22 August 2004  
Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Shan and Kayah States, and rain or thunder-showers has been isolated in Kayin State, lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Divisions and scattered to widespread in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Kawthong 2.76 inches and Yangon (Co Co Island) (2.40) inches. Maximum temperature on 21-8-2004 was 88°F. Minimum temperature on 22-8-2004 was 70°F. Relative humidity at 9:00 hrs MST on 22-8-2004 was 92%. Total sunshine hours on 21-8-2004 was 4.5 hours approx. Rainfall on 22-8-2004 was 2mm (0.07 inch) at Yangon Airport, 4mm (0.16 inch) at Kaba-Aye, 13mm (0.51 inch) at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 2343mm (92.24 inches) at Yangon Airport, 230mm (90.63 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 2313mm (91.06 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 10 mph from Southwest at 01.25 hours MST on 21-8-2004. Day inference: Monsoon is moderate to strong in the Bay of Bengal.  
Forecast valid until evening of 23-8-2004: Weather will be partly cloudy in Kayah State, lower Sagaing and Magway Divisions, rain or thunder-showers will be isolated in Kachin, Chin and Shan States, Mandalay and upper Sagaing Divisions, scattered in Bago and Taninthayi Divisions widespread in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is 80%. State of the sea; Sea will be moderate to rough Myanmar areas. Outlook for subsequent two days; Generally decrease of rain in upper Myanmar waters. Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 23-8-2004: One or two rain or thunder-showers. Degree of certainty is 80%. Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 23-8-2004: Likelihood of isolated rain or thunder-showers. Degree of certainty is 69%.
Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe attended the first Waso robes offering ceremony at Alodawpyay Dhammacārīya University in Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township this afternoon.

Also present on the occasion were Vice-Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Bahan Aungmyebonsan Monastery Presiding Nayaka Abhidhaja Maha Rathaa Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikha Bhaddanta Pathinābādīhivasamsa and members of the Sangha, Chancellor of the University Presiding Nayaka of Alodawpyay Monasteries Missionary at home and abroad Alodawpyay Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Maha Ganthavācaka Pandita Bhaddantu Ariyavamsa and members of the Sangha from Alodawpyay Monastery, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers, deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads and wellwishers.

The Vice-Chairman Sayadaw administered the Five Precepts. Next, members of the Sangha recited Parittas. Afterwards, the Prime Minister and wife donated Waso robes and alms to the Vice-Chairman Sayadaw. Similarly, the commander, the ministers, the deputy ministers and wellwishers offered Waso robes and provisions to members of the Sangha.

As a result of efficient use, power can be supplied round the clock to 29 townships out of 31 in Yangon City at present. Thrifty methods are to be practised systematically in electricity consumption.

Efficient use of electricity at ministries inspected

YANGON, 22 Aug — Chairman of the Supervisory Committee for Utilization of Power and Fuel Member of the State Peace and Development Council Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Kyaw Win, accompanied by Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut, Deputy Minister for Industry-1 Brig-Gen Thein Tun, Deputy Minister for Industry-2 Lt-Col Khin Maung Kyaw, Deputy Minister for Construction Brig-Gen Myint Thein, Deputy Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation Thura U Thaung Lwin, Deputy Minister for Transport Col Nyan Tun Aung, Deputy Minister for Livestock and Fisheries U Aung Thein, Chief Engineer U Tin Aung of the Ministry of Electric Power and officials, inspected utilization of power at the Ministry of Industry-1, the Ministry of Industry-2, the Ministers’ Office and the Ministry of Rail Transportation at night on 21 August.

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