Senior General Than Shwe sends felicitations to Ukraine

YANGON, 24 Aug — Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Leonid D Kuchma, President of Ukraine, on the occasion of the Independence Day of Ukraine, which falls on 24 August 2004.— MNA

PM General Khin Nyunt sends felicitations to Ukraine

YANGON, 24 Aug — General Khin Nyunt, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Viktor Yannukovych, Prime Minister of Ukraine, on the occasion of the Independence Day of Ukraine, which falls on 24 August 2004.— MNA

Secretary-1 attends presentation of modern teaching equipment for Kyimyindine BEHS-5

YANGON, 23 Aug — A ceremony to present modern teaching equipment for No 5 Basic Education High School in Kyimyindine Township was held at the school this morning, attended by Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win.

Also present were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister for Education U Than Aung, Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Yangon Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Deputy Minister for Education U Myo Nyunt, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of departments, officials, the headmaster, teachers, members of PTA, officials of the School Board of Trustees, members of social organizations, wellwishers and students.

Students of No 5 BEHS welcomed the Secretary-1 and party singing Myanmar Kyaung with the accompagnement of band trooper. Next, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister U Than Aung and Chairman of the School Board of Trustees U Chit Ko Ko formally opened the ceremony.

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win formally unveiled the signboard of multimedia classrooms. Next, the Secretary-1 and party inspected the newly opened multimedia classrooms and expressed their appreciation.

The Government launched a programme of enrollment for school-going-age children four years ago. In May 2004, the school enrollment rate reached 96.56 per cent.

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

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

National reconsolidation
* 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

Stability of the State, community peace and tranquility, prevalence of law and order
* 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

Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system
* 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

Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
* 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

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

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

**Strive to uplift the education standard**

In the time of the State Peace and Development Council, education promotion programmes are being implemented nationwide for promoting the education standard and for human resource development. Myanmar Education Committee Chairman Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, on 22 August, attended opening ceremonies of new school buildings of No 3 Post-Primary School in Mingaladon Township, Pre-Primary School of the Yangon Industrial Zone and No 38 Basic Education Primary School in Mingaladon Township.

On the occasion, Minister for Education U Than Aung, on behalf of the Chairman of MEC, delivered an address. He said that nowadays, the Government is making efforts with might and main for uplift of national education standard and is building Myanmar society to become a constant learning society. Nowadays, the Government, hand in hand with the people, is striving its utmost to promote the national education standard. In doing so, the Government is striving not only for development of the education sector but also for the development of health and social infrastructures.

The Government, in cooperation with wellwishers, has been constructing magnificent buildings in the education sector and assisting teachers and staff of the education sector with cash.

Thanks to these combined efforts, basic education schools, post-primary schools, middle schools and high schools emerged in respective regions of the country. Moreover, with the opening of universities and colleges, opportunities for pursuing higher education has been opened.

It is heartening to note that due to the united efforts of the Government, wellwishers and social organizations, enrolment of the school-age children has reached 96.56 per cent this year. In the process, wellwishers donated over K 800 million for spending it on enrolment of school-age children. Nowadays, there are 93.3 per cent of literate population in the country. So, the literacy rate of the country stands in the top position in Asia.

At a time when the Government is trying its best to promote the national education standard, wellwishers and the entire national people are urged to lend themselves to endeavours for uplift of education standard of the entire people.

---

**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

**Work co-ordination meeting held**

**Minister U Win Aung sends congratulations to Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines**

YANGON, 23 Aug — The Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs held its work co-ordination meeting at the meeting hall of the Development Affairs Department on Thanlyetsoon Road in Botataung Township here at 8 am today. Minister for PRANRDA Col Thein Nyunt attended the meeting and delivered an address. Also present were Deputy Ministers Brig-Gen Than Tun and Col Tin Ngwe, directors-general and managing directors of the ministry, directors, engineers and officials. In his address, the Minister stressed the need to accelerate the momentum achieved in developing border areas as well as in rural areas. — MNA

**Cash donations invited for Maha Rattha Samaggi Pagoda**

YANGON, 23 Aug — As the symbol of unity and consolidation of national brethren of the Union of Myanmar, the Maha Thabbi Samaggi Pagoda has been built on Vikasini Hill in Panglong, Loilem District, Shan State (South). Wellwishers may make cash donations for golden umbrella to be hoisted atop the pagoda and nine Buddha Images with 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

**Wellwishers invited for sinking tube-wells**

YANGON, 23 Aug — The Development Affairs Committees under the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs are making concerted efforts to sink tube-wells in order to get sufficient fresh water in rural areas in States and Divisions 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 Development Affairs. — MVA

---

**POEM:**

Myanmar’s Spirit

* On neighbours, untoward acts
We never commit, that’s us Myanmar.

* With friends and comrades in the region
On those joining hands, untoward acts.
We never commit, that’s us Myanmar.

* In international relations also
We always respect each other’s domain
Always careful not to commit unworthy acts
Not to interfere, and in matters of all descriptions, we do not shun
But always stand together, with true goodwill
Always get involved with due consideration
That’s how we always act, that’s us Myanmar.

Po Wa (Trs)

---

**Mid-Year Gem Empo in Oct**

YANGON, 22 Aug — The Mid-Year Myanmar Gems Emporium will be held in October. Those wishing to participate in it may contact the Myanmar Gems Enterprises from 1 August to 30 September 2004 to have their gems tested and the floor prices fixed. The MGE has been making arrangement in cooperation with respective enterprisers and departments for sales and export of gems of entrepreneurs in accordance with GTC Systems in the interests of the State and gems entrepreneurs. — MNA

---

**All this needs to be known**

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

---

**Work co-ordination meeting held**

**Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt delivers an address at the meeting. — PRANRDA**

---

**Nursery Market Festival continues**

**NYANGON, 23 Aug—** The Nursery Market Festival continued at Myayha Padetha Park in Bahan Township here today. It is aimed at providing necessary assistance to growers and attracting the public to be interested in agriculture, horticulture, livestock breeding and vegetable farming. Kitchen crops, fruits and saplings of herbal plants are being shown at the festival. Poultry farming and fish breeding are also exhibited there. — MNA

---

**Myanmar Academy of Medical Science to meet on 25 August**

**YANGON, 23 Aug—** The biannual plenary meeting of the Myanmar Academy of Medical Science for 2004 will be held at the Institute of Nursing (Yangon) on Bogoke Aung San Street, Lanmadaw 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 themselves registered beginning 8 am. — MNA

---

**POEM:**

Myanmar’s Spirit

* In international relations also
We always respect each other’s domain
Always careful not to commit unworthy acts
Not to interfere, and in matters of all descriptions, we do not shun
But always stand together, with true goodwill
Always get involved with due consideration
That’s how we always act, that’s us Myanmar.
Three US Marines killed in Iraq

Baghdad, 22 Aug—Three US Marines have been killed in action in Iraq’s volatile Anbar Province, the US military said in a statement on Sunday.

It said the Marines were killed on Saturday. It gave no further details. Anbar province includes the flashpoint town of Fallujah, a hotbed of anti-American guerillas.

Since the start of the war last year, 714 American troops have been killed in action. — Internet

Four US soldiers face hearing in Germany over Iraq prisoner abuse

Berlin, 22 Aug—Four US soldiers accused of abusing prisoners at a notorious jail in Iraq, including the suspected ringleader, face a military hearing in Germany on Monday, before their trial court martial.

The four, Corporal Charles Graner, Specialist Megan Ambuhl, Staff Sergeant Ivan Frederick and Specialist Javal Davis, are accused of assault, coercion and conspiracy to mistreat Abu Ghraib prison outside of Baghdad.

The humiliation of the inmates, shown in sourcenset style photographs taken by some of the suspects, caused outrage around the world earlier this year and has undermined the reputation of the United States, above all in Muslim countries.

The prisoners were photographed being forced to per- form sexual acts, piled naked in a pyramid, covering from dogs or with electrodes attached to them. — Internet

Poland wants to leave Iraq as soon as possible

Warsaw, 22 Aug—Poland wants to pull out of Iraq as soon as possible, Defence Minister Jerzy Szmajdzinski said as he arrived at a Polish military base in southern Iraq, the PAP news agency reported.

Szmajdzinski left Warsaw for Iraq overnight Saturday, on a mission to assess the political and military situation in the area under Polish command, his office said in a statement Sunday.

“We want to get out of Iraq as soon as possible, but first we have to build solid security conditions there,” the minis- ter was quoted as saying following a religious ceremony for a Polish soldier who was killed in a car bomb attack on Saturday.

The Defence Minister announced that he would travel to Iraq to see the situation for himself following the car bombing, the third of a string of attacks that have left three soldiers dead and more than a dozen wounded in the past week.

“Our contingent is carrying out its mission at a difficult time, marked by a power struggle, which explains the attacks and guerilla activities,” the Minister added.

A US Army soldier fires his rifle over a comrade during a gun battle with guerillas in Najaf, Iraq, on 21 Aug. 2004. — Internet

Egyptian officials to hold talks with Fatah

Cairo, 22 Aug—Two senior Egyptian officials will meet representatives from Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat’s Fatah faction during a visit to the Palestinian territories, an Egyptian newspaper said on Friday.

The semi-official Al-Ahram daily reported Foreign Minister Ahmed About Gheit and intelligence chief Omar Suleiman will also discuss Palestinian security re-organization with Arafat during the visit planned for the end of August.

Egypt fears anarchy could follow any Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and allow Islamist groups to take over the narrow wedge of land that is home to 1.3 million people.

“Aboul Gheit and Suleiman are due to meet officials from the Fatah organization during their visit... Arafat is expected to send a delegation of senior Fatah officials to Egypt in the beginning of the coming month,” the newspaper said.

Al-Ahram added the visits were in the framework “of talks between Egypt and the Palestinian factions to facilitate the possibil- ity of forming a plan of national action with full agreement by the end of September”.

Egypt reached an agreement last week with Palestinian militant group Hamas on guaranteeing Palestinian unity following a possible Israeli withdrawal from Gaza. About Gheit and Suleiman will also travel to Israel to meet Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to discuss the Israeli plan to with- draw from Gaza. — MNA/Reuters

China will not accept US hegemony in Asia

Washington, 22 Aug—China is unlikely to accept American hegemony in Asia and may even try to counter US global influence by joining other powers, a study paper said.

However, balancing Chine- nese power is more likely if “a larger state is involved in spearheading a balancing effort and if China seeks to achieve its goals by force, aggression and coercion,” according to a discussion paper that emerged out of a seminar conducted in No- vember by the National In- telligence Council.

In releasing the conclu- sions of the discussion, which was represented by all US intelligence agencies, including the CIA, the Coun- cil makes it clear that the paper, which was prepared by experts under the leader- ship of Professor John Ikenberry of Georgetown University, is intended for discussion and does not rep- resent the views of the US Government.

The paper does not iden- tify the “larger state” which can balance Chinese power regionally but the only larger states in the area apart from China are Japan, India and Russia. The paper focuses on the following subjects: The discussion group generally tended to support the thesis that China would not seek to emulate the erstwhile Soviet Union by attempting to con- struct its own global order.

China lacks the capacity for challenging unipolarity on a global scale; China is without a blue water Navy; regional ambitions are within reach but unaided global am- bitions are not; a true global challenge may prompt a uni- form American balancing re- sponse.

Another viewpoint dur- ing the discussion did not rule out the possibility of Chinese collaboration with other powers such as a united EU or Russia in an effort to create a rule-based inter- national order in contrast to a hegemonic United States.

However, the most likely outcome is that the ambi- tions of a rising China are highly likely to be regionally focussed.

The group identified three ways in which China may attempt to increase its influence over the next 20 years:

1. China remains an au- thoritarian state, increasingly articulating revisionist objec- tives and seeking to use its newfound power to achieve this. They is the scenario that “is most likely to prompt an American-supported re- gional alliance against China.”


3. UAE flies 145 Iraqi refugees home

ABU DHABI, 22 Aug—A total of 145 Iraqi refugees who had lived in Pakistan for years were flown home aboard two C-130 transport planes provided by the United Arab Emirates(UAE) Air Force, the official WAM news agency reported Saturday.

The report, citing UAE official sources, said the two planes lefting on an air base in Rawalpindi, a city near Pakistan’s capital Islamabad. Saturday morning were bound for the Iraqi capital of Baghdad.

The UAE had pledged to offer an urgent assistance to the refugees in coordina- tion with the Pakistan Government. The initiative was in response to appeals by the International Organiza- tion for Migration (IOM) and the Red Cross, which was a continuation of the trend set by the UAE Presi- dent Sheikh Zayed bin Sul- tan al-Nahayan to support international organizations, said the report.

In a statement to WAM, Al Shamsi, UAE Ambassa- dor to Pakistan, said the UAE President Sheikh Zayed’s gesture was aimed at allevi- ating the suffering of the Iraqi refugees and was part of UAE’s charity and humani- tarian bid to help Iraqi peo- ple restore their country’s infrastructure and provide health care.

Al Shamsi pointed out the returning of Iraqi refu- gees put an end to the suffer- ing of the Iraqis in Pakistan, some of whom had spent 17 years in exile.

Richard Oanigenz, the regional representative of IOM told WAM that UAE had played a key role by its prompt response to the request of the United Nations to solve the problem of the stranded Iraqis.

The humanitarian assist- ance provided by UAE and the dispatching of two trans- port aircraft were highly ap- preciated for the relief of the Iraqi people and their fami- lies, the ambassador was quoted as saying.

The Four US soldiers face hearing in Germany over Iraq prisoner abuse story.

A US Army soldier fires his rifle over a comrade during a gun battle with guerillas in Najaf, Iraq, on 21 Aug. 2004. — Internet

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR  Tuesday, 24 August, 2004  3
Aussies repeatedly warned Iraq war would provoke terrorism

Prime Minister John Howard had contradicted this advice he had received both verbally and in written reports when he told the public on the eve of the war that it would lessen the terrorist threat, “The Sydney Morning Herald” newspaper said.

The newspaper cited interviews with several serving and retired intelligence figures who are not named.

The opposition Labor Party said the report confirmed the need for a judicial inquiry into Australian intelligence agencies. Labor has pledged to hold such an investigation if it wins elections due this year.

Prime Minister John Howard has dismissed such an inquiry as unnecessary.

“The need for a judicial inquiry into Australian intelligence agency operations and the immediate release of prisoners — people from all countries — has been repeatedly confirmed by former counter-terrorism analyst was quoted as saying. “We believed it would inflame extremism and increases terrorist recruitment.”

Australia sent 2,000 troops to support US and British military forces in the Iraq invasion. — Internet

Indians among 200 people languishing in US detention centre

NEW YORK, 22 Aug — More than 200 immigrants, including a number of Indians, arrested in the aftermath of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, are languishing in Wackenhut Detention Centre here without being charged and many without access even to lawyers.

So desperate they became that at least 175 of them resorted to hunger strike on Monday last seeking better condition and an early conclusion of their cases.

The New York Daily News quoted an Indian immigrant Makhank Singh as saying in a telephone interview that confirmed the hunger strike. An immigrant from India, Singh, in his 30s, has a wife and two children who are American citizens.

He has been in the detention centre for six months.

“They bring us food and we send it back,” Singh was quoted as saying. The Wackenhut Prison, the report said, is a converted warehouse building with no windows in the middle of a warehouse district in Springfield Gardens, Queens.

It is drab and anonymous and out of the way, which works out well for keeping the men and women imprisoned in it “out of New York’s collective consciousness”, the report said.

But the detainees are determined to do whatever it takes to let everybody know about the prison and what goes on inside it. “We need people to know about our situation,” Singh told the paper.

“We must be heard, and we will starve if we have to.”

The report said the strikers’ demands are “nothing if not fair”. They are asking for the right to be treated humanely, the right to due process, and appropriate medical care, the review of their cases and the immediate release of all non-criminal prisoners so they can be reunited with their families.

Many of the Wackenhut prisoners — people from all over the world — have been deprived of freedom for years even though no terrorism-related or other criminal charges have been brought against any of them, it said.

Like Singh, many of the detainees — all of them confused for alleged immigration violations — are married to US citizens and have American children. Yet the government refuses to release information about their status or what their future might be — even though few, if any, of the immigrant detainees since 9/11 have yielded any useful results for President Bush’s “war on terror”, the report said. — MNA/PTI

Iraq confiscates containers, ships for smuggling oil

BAGHDAD, 22 Aug — The Department of the Southern Borders and Customs in Iraq announced that it had confiscated 100 tank- containers and 20 tankers that were used to smuggle oil, a local newspaper reported Saturday.

The tank-container, with the capacity of each reaches up to 36,000 litres and the ships were ready for smuggling oil out of the southern Iraqi borders and through the Gulf, the report said.

An unnamed source told the newspaper senior members of US military forces in the Iraq invasion last year.

“They were very, very aware of our views,” a former intelligence analyst was quoted as saying. “We believed it would inflame extremism and increases terrorist recruit- ment.”

An unnamed source told the newspaper senior members of the government were constantly being briefed on al- Qaeda and terrorism, including the impact of the Iraq war on the jihadi being carried out by al-Qaeda, in the months and weeks leading to the US-led invasion last year.

“And they are very, very aware of our views,” a former intelligence analyst was quoted as saying. “We believed it would inflame extremism and increases terrorist recruit- ment.”

The US military said it fired on sites south of the shrine, where militants were shooting from, and did not hit the compound wall. — Internet

Venezuelan vote audit confirms Chavez win

CARACAS (Venezuela), 22 Aug — An audit of Venezuela’s recall referendum has confirmed that President Hugo Chavez won fairly and rounded out an extraordinary victory to consolidate his political power, reports said.

International observers carried out additional checks after the opposition rejected the results and said electronic voting machines had been manipulated to give Chavez a victory in the August 15 vote. If he had lost, Chavez would have been removed from office.

MNA/Reuters

Fierce fighting continues in embattled Najaf

NAMAR, 22 Aug— Explosions and gunfire shook Najaf’s Old City on Sunday in a fierce battle between US forces and Shiite militiamen, as negotiations dragged on for the handover of the shrine that the fighters have used for their stronghold.

Late Sunday, US warplanes and helicopters attacked positions in the Old City for the second night with bombs and gunfire, witnesses said. Militant leaders said the Imam Ali Shrine compound’s outer walls were damaged in the attacks.

The US military said it fired on sites south of the shrine, where militants were shooting from, and did not hit the compound wall. — Internet

Khatami calls for emergency ICO summit on Iraq crisis

TEHRAN, 22 Aug — Iranian President Mohammad Khatami on Sunday called on the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) to hold an emergency summit to find solutions to the deepening Iraqi crisis, the official IRNA news agency reported.

Khatami told Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, the chairman of the OIC, over phone that the Iraqi interim government was in a difficult situation and the crisis in the holy city of Najaf was deepening.

“Immediate action must be taken to end the escalating violence in that city,” Khatami stressed. Iran has kept a close eye on the situation in its west neighbour since the down- fall of former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

Parliament (Majlis) Speaker Gholam Ali Haddad Adel on Thursday called on the OIC to pay attention to the conflicts in Iraq in a message to secretary general of the Parlia- mentary Union of the ICO. On Wednesday, Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi urged Iraq’s neighbours to convene an emer- gency meeting to discuss the current unrest in the war-ravaged country.

MNA/IRNA

US journalist in Iraq released

BAGHDAD, 22 Aug— US journalist Micah Garen, who was kidnapped in Iraq more than a week ago, was released in the southern city of Nasiriyah. Garen spoke to Al-Jazeera television late Sunday, confirming his release.

Garen was interviewed by telephone by the station moments after an aide to Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr said the American had been released.

Garen thanked al-Sadr’s representatives in Nasiriyah and everyone else who worked to secure his release.

Garen and his Iraqi translator, Amir Donushi, were walking through a market in Nasiriyah on 13 August when two armed men in civilian clothes seized them, police said. — Internet

N AMAR, 22 Aug— Explosions and gunfire shook Najaf’s Old City on Sunday in a fierce battle between US forces and Shiite militiamen, as negotiations dragged on for the handover of the shrine that the fighters have used for their stronghold.

Late Sunday, US warplanes and helicopters attacked positions in the Old City for the second night with bombs and gunfire, witnesses said. Militant leaders said the Imam Ali Shrine compound’s outer walls were damaged in the attacks.

The US military said it fired on sites south of the shrine, where militants were shooting from, and did not hit the compound wall. — Internet

Khatami calls for emergency ICO summit on Iraq crisis

TEHRAN, 22 Aug— Iranian President Mohammad Khatami on Sunday called on the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) to hold an emergency summit to find solutions to the deepening Iraqi crisis, the official IRNA news agency reported.

Khatami told Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, the chairman of the OIC, over phone that the Iraqi interim government was in a difficult situation and the crisis in the holy city of Najaf was deepening.

“Immediate action must be taken to end the escalating violence in that city,” Khatami stressed. Iran has kept a close eye on the situation in its west neighbour since the down- fall of former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

Parliament (Majlis) Speaker Gholam Ali Haddad Adel on Thursday called on the OIC to pay attention to the conflicts in Iraq in a message to secretary general of the Parlia- mentary Union of the ICO. On Wednesday, Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi urged Iraq’s neighbours to convene an emer- gency meeting to discuss the current unrest in the war-ravaged country.

MNA/IRNA

US journalist in Iraq released

BAGHDAD, 22 Aug— US journalist Micah Garen, who was kidnapped in Iraq more than a week ago, was released in the south- ern city of Nasiriyah. Garen spoke to Al-Jazeera television late Sunday, confirming his release.

Garen was interviewed by telephone by the station moments after an aide to Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr said the American had been released.

Garen thanked al-Sadr’s representatives in Nasiriyah and everyone else who worked to secure his release.

Garen and his Iraqi translator, Amir Donushi, were walking through a market in Nasiriyah on 13 August when two armed men in civilian clothes seized them, police said. — Internet

Iraq confiscates containers, ships for smuggling oil

BAGHDAD, 22 Aug— The Department of the Southern Borders and Customs in Iraq announced that it had confiscated 100 tank- containers and 20 tankers that were used to smuggle oil, a local newspaper reported Saturday.

The tank-container, with the capacity of each reaches up to 36,000 litres and the ships were ready for smuggling oil out of the southern Iraqi borders and through the Gulf, the report said.

An unnamed source told the newspaper senior members of US military forces in the Iraq invasion last year.

“They were very, very aware of our views,” a former intelligence analyst was quoted as saying. “We believed it would inflame extremism and increases terrorist recruit- ment.”

The Iraqi Customs police force is exert- ing an enormous effort all over the country to control the borders with a view to stop- ping the smuggling operations.

It also established several floating sea bases to control the movement of ships and boats and prevent smuggling operations through the Gulf. — MNA/Xinhua

Khatami calls for emergency ICO summit on Iraq crisis

TEHRAN, 22 Aug— Iranian President Mohammad Khatami on Sunday called on the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) to hold an emergency summit to find solutions to the deepening Iraqi crisis, the official IRNA news agency reported.

Khatami told Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, the chairman of the OIC, over phone that the Iraqi interim government was in a difficult situation and the crisis in the holy city of Najaf was deepening.

“Immediate action must be taken to end the escalating violence in that city,” Khatami stressed. Iran has kept a close eye on the situation in its west neighbour since the down- fall of former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

Parliament (Majlis) Speaker Gholam Ali Haddad Adel on Thursday called on the OIC to pay attention to the conflicts in Iraq in a message to secretary general of the Parlia- mentary Union of the ICO. On Wednesday, Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi urged Iraq’s neighbours to convene an emer- gency meeting to discuss the current unrest in the war-ravaged country.

MNA/IRNA
**US aircraft make new attack in Najaf**

**Najaf, 22 Aug** — US aircraft launched a fresh assault on Shiite rebels in the embattled Iraqi city of Najaf early on Sunday after talks on transferring control of the mosque at the center of a two-week siege ran into trouble.

In nearby Kufa, where Sadr has in the past led prayers at the mosque, witnesses said US forces had also clashed with militiamen on Saturday.

A top Sadr aide said talks between the fiery cleric’s representatives and Iraq’s top Shiite religious authorities were continuing with a view to handing the shrine over to the control of Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani.

Sistani, the most influential cleric in the majority Shiite country, is in London recovering from surgery.

But the aide, Ali Smeisim, said the talks had hit a snag over a request by Sadr’s side that Sistani send a delegation to take an inventory of precious items in the mosque to include jewellery, relics and car-pets — to head off any claim that Sadr’s men had stolen anything from the shrine.

The Imam Ali Mosque is the holiest Shiite shrine in Iraq.

“We were told by people in Sayed Sistani’s office that they cannot form the committee in the current circumstances. We told them that Sayed Sistani has representatives in Najaf... and we believe a committee can be formed,” Smeisim told reporters.

MNA/Reuters

---

**Sadr’s aide says talks underway to end Najaf crisis**

**Baghdad, 22 Aug** — Talks on the fate of Imam Ali mausoleum was underway on Saturday, a top aide to Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr said, as hopes of peaceful solution floundered in Najaf standoff.

“’As you see now I am going to the office of Ayatollah Sistani. Arrange-ments are being made so that you could see peace before you,’’ the aide, Sheikh Ahmad al-Shaibani, told reporters near the holy mausoleum in the city.

Meanwhile, final details of the transfer of the mausoleum to followers of Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani are being worked out, according to Shaibani. The keys were handed over to representa-tives of Iraq’s top Shiite cleric Sistani, who is in a London hospital for treatment of a heart problem, Shaibani said.

“We handed over the keys to Sistani’s office, but the actual handing over of the shrine has not happened yet,” he said.

Shaibani added that the Mehdi Army would guard the shrine even after handing it over to Sistani.

“The Mehdi Army will keep defending the shrine and Najaf,” Shaibani told reporters.

“The Americans will not be allowed into Najaf.”

MNA/Xinhua

---

**Thai lift ban on GMO planting, to regulate trials**

**Bangkok, 23 Aug** — Thailand has lifted a three-year ban on planting genetically modified organisms (GMOs) by allowing the crops to grow in open-field trials with non-GMO plants, Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra said on Saturday.

The decision, made by Thaksin at a Friday meeting on biotech policies, upset anti-GMO activists who said Thailand had been pressured by US seeds firms before the completion of negotiations on a bilateral free trade agreement.

“We are technologically capable of growing GMOs,” Thaksin said in his weekly radio address. “If we don’t start now, we will miss this scientific train and lose out in the world.

The debate surrounding biotech grains has intensified worldwide, with advocates saying they could lead to a more secure future for food, while opponents say they could produce new toxins and allergies, affecting the health of consumers.

Thaksin, who chaired the national biotechnology policy board on Friday, de-cided to allow the co-exist-ence of GM and non-GM crops in Thailand.

The decision, due for formal Cabinet approval on Tuesday, meant the government would later pass laws to regulate planting areas for GM crops, allow the import of GM seeds and order pro-ducts containing GMOs to have explicit labels, he said.

Planting of GM crops is now done in government laboratories for papayas, chilies, and eggplants, while imports of genetically modi-fied soybeans and maize for animal feedstock and other commercial uses are legal, biotech officials said.

The other two options proposed by the board but rejected by Thaksin were to ban GMOs completely or to freely promote them in Thai-land.

Anti-GMO advocates said by adopting the field-trial of genetically modified crops, Thailand was heading towards freely promot-ing GMOs as the govern-ment had no measures to pre-vent GM crops from cont-aminating non-GMOS.

“Look at the fields of GM papayas by the Agricul-tural Ministry that claims to have excellent security, lots of these papayas are also being grown by farmers in the surrounding areas,” said Witson Liancharoonro of state-funded BioThai, a biotech policy study group.

MNA/Reuters

---

**US warplanes bomb Fallujah again**

**Fallujah (Iraq), 22 Aug** — US warplanes attacked targets in Iraq’s Sunni Muslim city of Fallujah for a second time on Friday, wit-nesses said.

They said the planes fired three rockets into the indus-trial zone of the city. There was no immediate word on casualties. A similar raid overnight killed five people and wounded six, hospital sources said.

Fallujah is a hotbed for anti-US guerrillas.

MNA/Reuters

---

**Beijing reports progress in subway construction**

**Bruno, 23 Aug** — Construction continues on three new Beijing subway lines and authorities expect to complete the work in time for the 2008 Olympics.

Construction has begun on four of the 24 stops on the No 4 subway line, said the Beijing Urban Construction Group, the general contractor of the No 4 subway. The north-south No 4 line, which will have a total length of 28.16 kilometres, beginning at Majapu on the southern fourth ring road and end at Longbei Village in northern Beijing.

In the meantime, workers have completed 44 per cent of the civil engineering work for the No 5 subway.

Construction has also started with eight of the 22 stops on the east-west No 10 subway, said an official from the Beijing Municipal Rail Transport Construction and Management Corporation. Beijing now has 95 kilometres of urban rail transport in operation, of which, subways make up 54.15 kilometres. So far, the subway passenger volume accounts for 75 per cent of the city’s public transportation passenger volume, according to information from Beijing Subway Corporation.

MNA/Xinhua

---

**Paper says blind Palestinian girl suddenly gets her sight back**

**Gaza, 23 Aug** — An 18-year-old Palestinian girl of Shatti refugee camp west of Gaza City suddenly gained her sight back after she had been blind since she was six, local daily newspaper al Hayat al Jadwea reported Thursday.

According to the report, Ra’oufa Obeid has seen her-self on the mirror for the first time on Wednesday as she was blind for about 12 years.

Obeid, the blind girl with beautiful green eyes was shocked and did not believe that she could see again, weeping and laughing at the same time when she saw herself in front of mirror in her toilet at home, said the daily.

Local people said that Obeid had completely lost her sight when she was six to a sickness, adding that she has been seeing things black and was not able to distin-guish between things.

“I had faced many trou-bles in my life. I had a very dark 12 years of my life,” said Obeid, adding that she went into her toilet at home to wash her face and her head hit the water tap on the sink when she raised it.

After her head hit the water tap, she felt dizzy and after a while she saw her face for the first time when she looked at the mirror hunged on the wall over the sink, she said.

“I went to see so many optical doctors and no one was able to find the remedy and treat it,” Obeid told the daily.

She said that as soon as she saw herself, she ran to tell her mother who called the neighbours. All of them were happy to see Ra’oufa get her sight back.

MNA/Xinhua

---

**Don't smoke**
Doctors at a hospital in the town of Baquba, 60km northeast of Baghdad, treat an Iraqi wounded when a roadside bomb apparently targeting a US patrol went off early, killing two civilians travelling in a car and injured four others on 21 August, 2004.

Iraqi police search for colleagues who were killed when two mortar bombs hit the police headquarters in Najaf on 19 August, 2004.

An Iraqi man was injured when his vehicle was caught in the crossfire during clashes between Iraqi guerrillas and US forces in the Shiite stronghold of Sadr City, Baghdad, Iraq, on 23 August, 2004.

Debris fly from a building explosion during a US aerial assault on guerrilla targets in Najaf, Iraq, on 19 August 2004.
Study says risk of passive smoking underestimated

NEW DELHI, 23 Aug — As experts regret that ban on smoking in public places is not being implemented properly, a new study has found that passive smoking poses much greater risk of heart diseases than believed so far.

“Our results suggest that the relative risk of coronary heart diseases associated with high levels of passive exposure to smoke is greater than that estimated for partner smoking,” the study published in the British Medical Journal said.

Most studies on passive smoking have examined the risk of living with someone who smokes. Although this is an important component of exposure, it does not take account of additional exposure in workplaces and in public places, it said.

The team measured levels of cotinine, a by-product of nicotine which is a highly sensitive and specific marker of active and passive exposure to tobacco. It provides a more accurate measure of exposure from these sources.

The study, carried out by scientists at St. George’s Hospital Medical School and Royal Free UCL Medical School in Britain, monitored 4,729 men from 18 British towns over 20 years.

“High concentration of blood cotinine among non-smokers was associated with a 50-to 60-per-cent greater risk of heart diseases. It also concluded that risks associated with passive smoking were widespread among non-smokers. Meanwhile, activists here said ban on tobacco products imposed since May 1 had turned out to be a “facade” — People are seen smoking in the lobby of five star hotels. Same is true for many big restaurants where smoke freely in non-smoking area,” Bijon Mushra from the consumer rights organization “Consumers’ Voice” said. — MNA/PTI

Poll says “Hamlet” Shakespeare’s finest play

LONDON, 23 Aug — “Hamlet” has been voted the finest play of Shakespeare in a unique poll conducted by the Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC) among its actors and actresses.

The play beat “King Lear” into second place and “Antony and Cleopatra” came third. The other plays in the top ten were “Henry IV Part II”, “Twelfth Night”, “Macbeth”, “Othello”, “Titus Andronicus”, “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” and “The Tempest”.

Paul Scofield, 82-year-old veteran of stage and cinema, has been acclaimed for giving the greatest performance in a Shakespeare play for his legendary portrayal of King Lear. Paulina in “The Winter’s Tale” has been chosen as the most appealing Shakespeare character while Iago in “Othello” is chosen for the most unappealing Shakespeare character.

The 200 voters included Sir Ian McKellen, Sir Antony Sher, Janet Suzman, Ian Richardson, Sir Donald Sinden and Corin Redgrave.

“Hamlet” was also judged the Shakespeare play most relevant to today’s world and the one with the most memorable quotation — “if it be now. ‘tis not to come; if it be not to come, it will be now; if it be not now, yet will come; the readiness is all”.

Those who voted for “Hamlet”, which at 4,042 lines is the Bard’s longest play, said that they had chosen it for its unique understanding of the human nature and for the universality of its themes.

Barbara Leigh-Hunt, who has appeared in RSC productions of “Hamlet” and “King Lear”, said “Hamlet deals with the human condition — mentally, politically, ethically, in every way — without compare.”

Michael Boyd, RSC artistic director, said that “King Lear” was his favourite but “Hamlet” was “the greatest play that I have ever worked on”.

Toby Stephens, who is playing Hamlet in the RSC’s current production at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre in Stratford-upon-Avon, however, said, he viewed “King Lear”, once played by his late father Sir Robert Stephens, as marginally superior.

“To me, Lear’s madness often speaks more truth than sanity. The play shows remarkable insight into the human condition and the hypocrisy of the world,” he said.

Another surprise was the choice of best film adaptation of a Shakespeare play. The vote went to Akira Kurosawa’s “Throne of Blood”, a 1957 black and white version of “Macbeth”, in which Shakespeare’s original story is transposed to medieval Japan.

Baz Luhrmann’s 1996 modern dress production of “Romeo and Juliet”, starring Leonardo di Caprio and Claire Danes, finished second. — MNA/PTI

Indonesian worker, two Iraqis killed in Mosul ambush

MOSSUL, Iraq, 23 Aug — An Indonesian worker and two Iraqis were killed during an ambush in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul on Saturday in an attack which also wounded a Filipino, Iraqi police said.

Police said the two foreigners, contractors working for a foreign company, were attacked by guerrillas who cut off their vehicle and opened fire as the men drove towards their compound.

The Iraqis killed were a driver and a bodyguard. Several foreign contractors have been killed by guerrillas in Mosul, a hotbed of resistance to the US.

Besides attacking US and other foreign forces, guerrillas regularly target foreign contractors in an attempt to force companies to leave the country. — MNA/Reuters

Nepal urges release of Nepalis believed held in Iraq

KATHMANDU, 23 Aug— A Nepali minister on Sunday urged an Islamist group claiming to hold 12 Nepalis hostage in Iraq to release them although he said Kathmandu still had no official confirmation that they had been abducted.

Army of Ansar al-Sunna said in a statement on its web site on Friday that it had abducted the 12 Nepali workers on August 19-20 because of their cooperation with US forces in Iraq. “If they have been kidnapped then we ask that they be released. These people have no military activities and are just ordinary workers looking for jobs abroad,” Nepal’s Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Prakash Sharan Mahat told Arab satellite television Al Jazeera by telephone.

“We respect all Iraqis and there is no reason to kidnap them (Nepalis) because they went there only to find work,” he added. Nepal has banned its nationals from travelling to or working in Iraq but many Nepalis are known to have gone there from elsewhere in the Middle East. — MNA/Reuters

Syria, Jordan call for end of occupation in Iraq

DAMASCUS, 23 Aug — Syrian Prime Minister Muhammad Naji Ori and his visiting Jordanian counterpart Faisal al-Fayez met here Sunday and called for an end to the foreign occupation in Iraq, the official SANA news agency reported.

“Ending the occupation of Iraq and the withdrawal of foreign troops are the key factor of stability and security in Iraq,” Ori was quoted as saying.

Absence of security and stability in Iraq affected the neighbouring countries, Ori added, calling on the international community, as well as the Arab countries, to back and help the Iraqi people.

Fayez shared similar view with Ori, saying “as brothers and neighbours, we are interested in Iraq’s sovereignty, stability and the withdrawal of foreign occupation from the 25-year-long war-torn country.”

During their meeting, the two prime ministers also voiced support to the Palestinian people and urged Israel to withdraw from all occupied Arab lands, including Syria’s Golan Heights, said SANA.

Besides also reviewed bilateral cooperations in economic and cultural fields, particularly the establishment of a free trade zone, investment encouragement and avoidance of double taxation. — MNA/Xinhua

Clashes near Najaf kill 40 people

BAGHDAD, 23 Aug— At least 40 Iraqis were killed on Saturday in fierce clashes near the southern city of Najaf, where Shi’ite militias are involved in a standoff with US-led forces, the Interior Ministry said on Sunday. A ministry official said US troops had fought battles in the nearby town of Kufa, one of a number of cities where Shi’ite militias loyal to radical cleric Moqtada al-Sadr have risen up this month. The official added the dead where Mehdi Army fighters and civilians.

Mehdi Army rebels are holed up in the Imam Ali mosque in Najaf, defying government demands that they disband and leave the shrine. Negotiators in Najaf are trying to resolve the 16-day siege but efforts to hand over the mosque to the Shi’ite clerical establishment have run into trouble. — MNA/Reuters

Irak women make their way through a deserted street during clashes between Moqtada al-Sadr’s loyalists and US and Iraqi forces in the besieged city of Najaf on Saturday, 21 Aug, 2004.—INTERNET
Secretary-1 attends presentation of …

(from page 1)

study of Myanmar language for pleasure worth K 1.2 million by Managing Director U Aung San Myat of Machrox Co.

Next, Minister U Than Aung accepted K 150,000 donated by Chairman of Central Sanpya Fish Market, K 100,000 each by U Hnin Sein-Daw Mya Nyein (Aung Thein Timber Shop) and U Aung Kyi Sein (Dowun Inverter) and K 50,000 by Chairman of Kyimyindine Night Market Discipline Committee.

Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and Deputy Minister U Myo Nyunt also accepted the donations.

On behalf of the Ministry of Education, Minister U Than Aung thanked the Secretary-1 for his instructions and those who rendered assistance for the opening of multimedia classrooms.

He said multimedia classrooms have been opened in almost every basic education high school nationwide with the encouragement of dignitaries of the State and participation of teachers, wellwishers, members of the School Board of Trustees. He said the government provided assistance for upgrading of the multimedia classrooms. Opening of such classrooms reflects the government’s efforts and the ministry’s implementation for development of the education sector, he added.

He said the government launched a programme of enrollment for school-going-age children four years ago. In May 2004, the school enrollment rate reached 96.56 per cent. The government also created opportunities to learn basic and higher education in all the regions in the country. Now altogether 110,000 students are learning their studies in the border areas where there had been no school because of lack of peace in the past. In the education sector, achievement have been made not only in plain region but also in hilly regions, he added. He said it is the young who will build the future and he urged the students to try their best to become brilliant ones with the use of multimedia classrooms. Next, the Secretary-1 cordially greeted members of the School Board of Trustees, wellwishers and parents. The Secretary-1 and party posed for documentary photos together with the headmaster, teachers, members of the School Board of Trustees, wellwishers and students. — MNA

Provost Company-1 women’s & men’s teams emerge champions in Commander’s Shield Volleyball Tourney

YANGON, 23 Aug — The prize presentation ceremony of the Yangon Command Commander’s Shield Volleyball Tournament 2004 was held at the Hline Gymnasium in Hline Township, this morning, attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe.

Also present were Deputy Commander Col Wai Lwin, station commanders, military region commanders, commanding officers of regiments and units under the command, officers, other ranks and families.

No 1 Provost Company team beat Central Supply and Transport Depot team in the women’s event and No 1 Provost Company team beat Central Provost Unit team in the men’s event.

Chairman of Volleyball Sub-committee Commander of No 1 Provost Company Maj Win Myint Tun presented gifts to the umpires. Next, Daw Than Than Mya, wife of No 1 Military Region Commander Col Tun Kyi, and Daw Le Le Thwin, wife of Col Win Naung of Mingaladon Station, presented first, second and third prizes to winners in the women’s event. Brig-Gen Aung Khin Soe of Mingaladon Station and Mingaladon Station Commander Brig-Gen Min Tun presented prizes to the respective winners in the men’s event.

Chairman of Volleyball Sub-committee Commander of No 1 Provost Company Maj Win Myint Tun presented gifts to the umpires. Next, Daw Than Than Mya, wife of No 1 Military Region Commander Col Tun Kyi, and Daw Le Le Thwin, wife of Col Win Naung of Mingaladon Station, presented first, second and third prizes to winners in the women’s event. Brig-Gen Aung Khin Soe of Mingaladon Station and Mingaladon Station Commander Brig-Gen Min Tun presented prizes to the respective winners in the men’s event.

Dr Daw Thi Thi Aye, wife of No 2 Military Region Commander Brig-Gen Myo Myint, gave best player awards to winners. Similarly, Deputy Commander Col Wai Lwin presented best player awards to the men winners. Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe presented championship shields to No 1 Provost Company women’s team and No 1 Provost Company men’s team. — MNA

MEC Vice-Chairman Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win and party pose for documentary photo together with teachers and students at Kyimyindine BEHS No 5. — MNA

MEC Vice-Chairman Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win meets those attend the opening ceremony of multimedia classrooms at Kyimyindine BEHS No 5. — MNA

MEC Vice-Chairman Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win inspects multimedia classrooms at Kyimyindine BEHS-5. — MNA

Myanmar Education Committee Vice-Chairman State Peace and development Council Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win meets those attend the opening ceremony of multimedia classrooms at Kyimyindine BEHS No 5. — MNA

MEC Vice-Chairman Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win and party pose for documentary photo together with teachers and students at Kyimyindine BEHS No 5. — MNA

Secretary-1 attends presentation of …
YANGON, 23 Aug — The Youth Forum to mark the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD)+10, jointly organized by Myanmar Population and Child Welfare Association (MMCWA) and the United Nations Funds for Population Activities (UNFPA), was opened at the Sedona Hotel on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road here, this morning.

MMCWA President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe gave an opening address. Next, representatives of the youth presented souvenirs to the Minister and the Deputy Minister for Health, the Deputy Minister for Immigration and Population, the MMCWA President and the Resident Representative of UNFPA.

After the ceremony, the MMCWA President and guests viewed health educative materials and photos on activities displayed outside the hall. Also present were Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, Deputy Minister Dr Mya Oo, Deputy Minister for Immigration and Population U Maung Aung, Vice-Chairman of MMCWA Dr Kyi Soe, the Vice-Presidents of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation and members of Myanmar Red Cross Society, youths from State and Division MCWAs and 52 youth representatives of NGOs.

Next, the Youth Forum followed. President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, Vice-President Dr Kyi Soe, CEC members, departmental officials and youth representatives attended the ceremony. The Forum continued tomorrow. — MNA

Agriculture, Irrigation facilities in Yangon, Bago, Mohnirks inspected

YANGON, 23 Aug — Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin yesterday met trainees from the departments and enterprises under the ministry who will attend the diploma course and agricultural training course at the Central Agriculture Research and Training Division in Hlie Township. The minister instructed them to disseminate the agricultural methods and knowledge gained from the courses to local farmers. He inspected the agriculture and livestock breeding farms run by the trainees at CARTD. Managing-Director U Tun Thaan of Myanmar Agriculture Service reported on the tasks. The minister gave instructions.

The minister proceeded to the Agricultural Research Farm in Dakku Township and inspected thriving quality strain paddy on the test plot jointly run by Agricultural Research Department and Myanmar Agriculture Service. The researchers reported on test-growing of eight paddy strains received from International Rice Research Institute of the Philippines and educational tasks given to farmers.

The minister went to the Pankabintin quality strain farm and inspected production of natural fertilizers and met agriculturalists.

Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin proceeded to the site of Kabaung Multi-purpose Dam Project and Director-General of Irrigation Department U Kyaw San Win and Director of Construction Group 5 U Victor reported on progress of the project. On completion, the dam will be able to irrigate some 100,000 acres of farmland, prevent floods and generate hydroelectricity. The minister arrived at No 7 Sugar Mill (Otwin) and inspected preparations to run the mill in November. The Mill Manager reported on the plan to produce sugar and other preparatory works. — MNA

Course in basic diplomatic skills opened

YANGON, 23 Aug — The opening ceremony of the Certificate Course in Basic Diplomatic Skills (IBDS 11/2004), conducted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was held at Wunzin Myintazar Hall of the Ministry this morning, with an address delivered by U Win Aung, Minister for Foreign Affairs. Various subjects including International Conferenceing, International Etiquette, Protocol, International Correspondence, International Law, Geographical Techniques are included in the course. A total of 160 trainees are attending the 12-week course.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win, the Directors-General of the departments under the ministry, departmental officials, Myanmar ambassadors, senior diplomats, rector and professors of universities and institutes concerned and trainees. — MNA

Mayor inspects repair of roads

YANGON, 23 Aug — Accompanied by Head of Engineering Department (Roads/Bridges) U Bo Htay and officials of UN agencies, Yangon City Development Committee Chairman Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Linn, this morning and this afternoon inspected repair of roads, production process of items for road repair and work being carried out for proper flow of drains, and gives necessary instructions to officials concerned. The mayor and party inspected repair of roads, damage due to continuous downfalls along Sule Pagoda Road, Mahabandoola Street and Min Nanda Street in Dawbon Township by respective district and Township Development Affairs Committee. Next, the mayor and party proceeded to the tar mixture and stone crusher in Dawbon Township and observed the production of paving slabs. — MNA

Nutrition Development Week (1st to 7th September 2004)


THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Tuesday, 24 August, 2004 9
Iran denies developing missiles capable of reaching US

TEHERAN, 23 Aug — Iran on Sunday dismissed US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld’s allegation that Tehran may be working to develop missiles capable of reaching the United States, the official IRNA news agency reported.

The United States has accused Iran of supporting terrorism and seeking nuclear weapons, while Iran terms the United States as the enemy of all Islamic countries. As on the nuclear issue, Iran says its nuclear activity is solely for peaceful purposes, but the United States alleges Iran may also be in pursuit of nuclear weapons. — MNA/Xinhua

Venezuelan President reshuffles Cabinet

CARACAS, 23 Aug — Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez Sunday appointed new ministers of interior, justice and information, a Cabinet reshuffle after his victory in a recall referendum.

Information Minister Jesse Chacon will replace Lucas Rincon as interior minister and Andress Izarra, Press Secretary at Venezuela’s Embassy in Washington, will take the charge of the Information Ministry.

In a televised speech, the President pledged to fight corruption, intensify social programmes for the poor and promote reforms of Venezuela’s Supreme Court and the judiciary system.

Corelli author loses plot in summerhouse theft

LONDON, 23 Aug — Louis de Bernieres, author of the best-selling novel Captain Corelli’s Mandolin, will have to rewrite the first four chapters of his new novel because his computer was stolen from his summerhouse.

The author was still in the process of finalizing the novel titled The Independent, his computer was stolen from his summerhouse last week.

De Bernieres said he was hurt.

“Every computer has a mixture of military personnel and civilians, including five speakers who had been on a ‘recreational trip’ to Orichola, the island spokesman, said.

The Shinto shrine is a military version of the Shinto 360 airliner built by Shorts Brothers PLC of Northern Ireland, which is the European unit of Bombardier Aerospace. — MNA/Reuters

25 killed in Venezuelan military plane crash

CARACAS, 23 Aug — A Venezuelan Air Force plane carrying three crew members and 22 passengers reported on board, an aviation official said Saturday.

 Rescue workers located the wreckage of the twin-prop Short C-23 Sherpa near Mariara, in the foothills of mountains in Carabobo State, west of Caracas, and the box office.

Almost 6 million Ugandans suffer from mental health

KAMPALA, 23 Aug — Close to six million people in Uganda suffer from mental health related problems of trauma, stress, violence and others, Radio Uganda reported on Saturday.

State Minister for Education Beatrice Wabudeya disclosed this at the inauguration of the governing council of the school of psychiatric clinical officers.

Almost 6 million Ugandans suffer from mental health

KAMPALA, 23 Aug — The Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) Saturday said 25 hippos in Queen Elizabeth National Park in western Uganda have died from a strange disease.

Arthur Mugisha, executive director of the UWA was quoted by local media as saying that a team of veterinary doctors from the UWA, Makerere University, the Ministry of Agriculture and a European Union supported disease control programme was investigating the deaths.

Mugisha said strange diseases have massively killed wildlife such as the flamingos in Kenya and Tanzania, adding that the UWA was also last year thrown into panic when a strange disease attacked and killed only zebras in Lake Mburo National Park in southern Uganda.

25 killed in Venezuelan military plane crash

CARACAS, 23 Aug — A Venezuelan Air Force plane carrying three crew members and 22 passengers reported on board, an aviation official said Saturday.

 Rescue workers located the wreckage of the twin-prop Short C-23 Sherpa near Mariara, in the foothills of mountains in Carabobo State, west of Caracas, and the box office.

Almost 6 million Ugandans suffer from mental health

KAMPALA, 23 Aug — The Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) Saturday said 25 hippos in Queen Elizabeth National Park in western Uganda have died from a strange disease.

Arthur Mugisha, executive director of the UWA was quoted by local media as saying that a team of veterinary doctors from the UWA, Makerere University, the Ministry of Agriculture and a European Union supported disease control programme was investigating the deaths.

Mugisha said strange diseases have massively killed wildlife such as the flamingos in Kenya and Tanzania, adding that the UWA was also last year thrown into panic when a strange disease attacked and killed only zebras in Lake Mburo National Park in southern Uganda.

Local people protested last week after the US military refused to let Japanese police examine the wreckage to try to determine the cause of the crash. The city assembly at Ginowan, where the crash occurred, passed a resolution demanding the return to Japan of the nearby US air base.

An agreement on the management and operation of US forces in Japan means that US military personnel is only for investigations involving US military personnel.

Incidents such as the crash and crimes by US servicemen, including the 1995 rape of a 12-year-old Japanese girl by three US military personnel, have fuelled resentment towards the US presence in Okinawa.

Okinawa, a string of tropical islands 1,000 miles southwest of Tokyo, is home to about half of the 48,000 US military personnel in Japan. — MNA/Reuters
Philippines interested in attracting Chinese investment in mining

MANILA, 23 Aug — The Philippine Government Sunday expressed its interest in attracting Chinese investment to develop the country’s rich mining resources, describing China as “a potentially huge investor.”

“The national de-velopment agenda of the Philippine Government identifies mining as one of the macroeconomic thrusts to create jobs, one of the key targets to achieve the 10-point agenda of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.”

According to local Press reports quoting Philippine officials, the Philippine Government is eager to develop cooperation with China in the fields of tourism, mining, agriculture and infrastructures, which are believed to have huge potentials.

Seven die in road accident in Peru

LIMA, 23 Aug — At least seven people were killed and 20 others injured Saturday in a crash between a bus and a truck in the Peruvian Andes.

The vehicles collided head on in the Huari sector on the road between the departments of Cerro de Pasco and Junin, 300 kilometres east of this capital. The cause of this accident is still under investigation.
UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION
MYANMAR RAILWAYS

INVITATION TO SEALED TENDER

1. Sealed Tender is invited by Myanmar Railways, for supply of the following Spare Parts for Carriages and Wagons which will be purchased in Myanmar Kyats.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr.No</th>
<th>Tender No</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>12(T)/17(MR/ML)</td>
<td>Spare Parts for Electric Locomotives &amp; Diesel Hydraulic Locomotives</td>
<td>1-Lot</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Tender documents are available at the office of the Deputy General Manager (Supply), Myanmar Railways, Corner of 51st Street and Merchant Street, Botataung. Yangon starting from 13.8.2004 during the office hours.

3. For further details please call: 291982, 291994, 201555 Ext-602, 605, 612

Deputy General Manager
Supply Department, Myanmar Railways, Botataung, Yangon

---

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

KOVA MUTIARA VNO (131)

Consignes of cargo carried on KOVA MUTIARA VNO (131) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24-8-2004 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T. where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMAR PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER

---

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV YANGON STAR VNO (359)

Consignes of cargo carried on MV YANGON STAR VNO (359) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24-8-2004 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMAR PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CORPORATION

---

EU funds rehabilitation projects in northern Uganda

KAMPALA, 22 Aug — The European Union (EU) has launched 88 EU-funded projects worth over one billion Ugandan shillings (over 570,000,000 US dollars) in northern Uganda, reported The New Vision newspaper on Saturday. The projects included new airfields for Pader District that will facilitate trade with southern Sudan and eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Other projects included health centres, classes, boreholes, cattle crushes, protected water springs and culverts for bridges. — MNA/Reuters

---

TRADEMARK CAUTION NOTICE

AT & T CORP., a company organized under the laws of UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, and having its principal office at 32 Avenue of the Americas, New York, New York 10013-2412, U.S.A. is the owner and sole proprietor of the following Trademarks:-

Reg. No. 4598/1998

---

Zimbabwe bans poultry imports from S Africa over bird flu

LUZUKA, 22 Aug — The Zimbabwe Government has announced its decision to ban the import of poultry and poultry products from South Africa after an outbreak of avian influenza commonly known as bird flu in that country, the official Times of Zimbabwe newspaper reported Saturday. The Department of Veterinary and Livestock Development and the Poultry Association of Zimbabwe announced the ban in a joint statement released Friday. — MNA/Reuters

---

INVIATION FOR QUOTATION

1. For and on behalf of the Ministry of Construction of the Government of the Union of Myanmar sealed Quotations with deferred payment for three years as follows have been invited by the Project Management Unit, Public Works, Yangon, Myanmar for the detailed design (including the erection procedures), fabrication, supply of materials, erection equipment, and supervision of steel erection for MYANMAR-LAOS Friendship Suspension Bridge across MEIKONG River.

2. The particulars of MYANMAR-LAOS Friendship Suspension Bridge may be obtained for USD 4000 by request in writing or in person at the following address:

Project Management Unit
Public Works
No. 60, Shwedagon Pagoda Road.
11191 Yangon, Myanmar.

3. The Quotation should be submitted to the above address not later than 16.30 hours on 31st December, 2004 or earlier.

4. When this Quotation is accepted, the Contract will be made in the name of Public Works, Yangon, Myanmar.

Managing Director Public Works

---

---

---
Hu pledges to promote Party building

Beijing, 23 Aug — The key to successfully handling affairs in China lies in the Communist Party of China and the party will concentrate on improving its governing capability, combating corruption and guarding against risks, top party leader Hu Jintao said here Sunday.

This is meant to enhance the party’s creativeness, cohesive forces and fighting power so that the party always maintains its position as the firm leading nucleus in building socialism with Chinese characteristics, said Hu, General Secretary of the Party Central Committee.

At a grand gathering to mark the birth centenary of late leader Deng Xiaoping, Hu called on party officials to pay close attention to the fundamental interests of the people and exercise their power for the benefit of the people.

The Party Central Committee will make unremitting efforts to promote party building, establish and improve an environment that fits the socialist market economic system and systematize education, supervision and punishment.

“We will unwaveringly push forward the fight against corruption,” he said.

China to adhere to independent foreign policy of peace

Beijing, 23 Aug — China will stick to its independent foreign policy of peace and expand exchange and cooperation with other countries on the basis of equality and mutual benefit, Chinese President Hu Jintao said here Sunday.

The development of China needs a peaceful international environment and such development is conducive to world peace and development, Hu said, adding that China will “stick to the peaceful development policy”.

China will always be a firm force in maintaining world peace and promoting common development, the President said at a grand gathering to mark the birth centenary of late leader Deng Xiaoping, held in the Great Hall of the People.

At a seminar to commemorate the 100th birth anniversary of Deng, a Chinese people and CPC members with his theory and the important thoughts of “Three Represents”, which refers to the development trend of China’s advanced productive forces, the orientation of China’s advanced culture, and the fundamental interests of the people.

China’s senior official calls for further studies on Deng’s theory

Beijing, 23 Aug — The study, research and publicity of Deng Xiaoping Theory is of great significance for promoting the construction of a socialist country with Chinese characteristics, a senior official of the Communist Party of China (CPC) said here Saturday.

Li Changchun, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, made the remarks at a symposium on the life and thoughts of late Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping to mark his 100th birth anniversary.

Li urged more valuable studies of Deng’s theory be made to better equip the Chinese people and CPC members with his theory and the important thoughts of “Three Represents”, which refers to the development trend of China’s advanced productive forces, the orientation of China’s advanced culture, and the fundamental interests of the people.

Some 200 feared dead as flood sweeps through N Nigeria

LAGOS, 23 Aug — Some 200 people are feared dead and more than 1,000 houses submerged Saturday in the northeastern Nigerian state of Gombe as a result of an early morning downpour, Nigeria’s state media reported.

No fewer than 3,500 people were rendered homeless by the flood, triggered by a three-hour rain, which started at about 7.30 am (0630 GMT), the official News Agency of Nigeria said.

Areas worst hit were Warra-Gana, Burundi, Jekadafari, Yalenguruza, Bega, Bolari, Chencheni and Tudun Wada wards, the report said, adding that sympathizers were seen trooping to the areas to provide assistance to the victims. Governor Danjuma Goje, who visited the affected areas to sympathize with victims, ordered the immediate purchase and distribution of relief materials to the affected people.

Zanzibar sets long imprisonment for gays

DAR ES SALAAM, 22 Aug — The law on homosexuality which sets up to 25 years’ imprisonment for gays in Zanzibar, an Indian Ocean island in Tanzania, has taken effect after the presidential endorsement, according to a statement available here Saturday.

The law stipulated that those men who have been convicted of having homosexual sex in Zanzibar will be sentenced up to 25 years’ imprisonment, while punishment for women found guilty of homosexual sex is seven years in prison. The new law was passed unanimously by the island’s Parliament in April and signed into law by the island’s President last week, the office of Zanzibar’s attorney-general said in the statement.

Australian scientists are using the collective intelligence found in insect swarms, like these worker bees, to develop the next generation of hi-tech military hardware. — INTERNET

[Adaptations and edits for natural language processing]
**Gold for Ainslie, US pair win 470 in sailing**

**Athens, 23 Aug.—** Two generations of sailors shared the Olympic regatta spotlight on Saturday when Britain’s Ben Ainslie won the Finn gold and Americans Paul Foerster and Kevin Burnham reached the pinnacle after years of trying. Ainslie tasted the Saronic Gulf’s salty water when he was capsized by his main rivals after securing the gold, but he was all smiles as the Finn title followed his success in the lighter Laser dinghy in Sydney four years ago.

Ainslie has proved matchless in the Finn and the triple world champion needed to keep only his nerve in the final race of 11 to beat off silver medallist Rafael Trujillo from Spain and Poland’s Mateusz Kusznierewicz.

His triumph sealed Britain’s second sailing gold of the Athens Games, well on the way to matching their three from Sydney where the island nation ruled the waves. Burnham, oldest competitor in the men’s 470 fleet at the age of 47, and Foerster, 40, defied their years to triumph in the men’s double-handed dinghy. — MNA/Reuters

**Italian hero slips off his weightlifting shoes and leaves everything was getting out of reach,” Gonzalez said. “It was a huge day like yesterday. One minute before playing the (bronze medal match) singles I was still sad from losing (on Friday in the last four) but now it is completely different.” “After losing on Friday, I never felt such sadness in my life, but I couldn’t tell anyone because I had to play this final today and stand with Nicolas on the court.” — MNA/Reuters

**Italian hero slips off his weightlifting shoes and leaves everything was getting out of reach,” Gonzalez said. “It was a huge day like yesterday. One minute before playing the (bronze medal match) singles I was still sad from losing (on Friday in the last four) but now it is completely different.” “After losing on Friday, I never felt such sadness in my life, but I couldn’t tell anyone because I had to play this final today and stand with Nicolas on the court.” — MNA/Reuters

**Kluft crowned queen of heptathlon**

**Athens, 23 Aug.—** Carolina Kluft was crowned the queen of heptathlon on Saturday after blowing away the field to add Olympic gold to the world title she won last year.

The 21-year-old Swede totally dominated the seven-discipline, two-day event and her final winning total of 6,952 points was a mammoth 517 clear of her nearest rival. Kustaytute of Lithuania took silver with a personal best of 6,435 points while Briton Kelly Sotherton was third, an agonising 11 points adrift on 6,424 as her front-running victory in the final 800 metres heat came up just short.

But the day was all about Kluft, who is still learning many of the skills that combine to make the toughest event of the women’s athletics programme yet continues to destroy her more experienced rivals. — MNA/Reuters

**Asanidze denies Dimas record gold**

**Athens, 23 Aug.—** George Asanidze gave Georgia their first weightlifting gold medal on Saturday, denying Greek strongman Pyrros Dimas a place in Olympic history.

In a riveting contest, Asanidze combined 177.5kg in the snatch with 205kg in the clean and jerk for a total of 382.5kg to take the 85 kg title. Andrei Rybakou of Belarus took the silver with 308kg but was not part of the evening’s drama having competed in the B group earlier in the day.

While Dimas was denied a record fourth weightlifting gold he would not be denied a medal, taking the bronze with 377.5kg.

After failing on his final attempt, the 33-year-old national hero slipped off his weightlifting shoes and left them on the stage in a symbolic act of retirement before exiting to thunderous applause from the sellout crowd. — MNA/Reuters

**Russian gatecrashers get two months in jail**

**Athens, 23 Aug.—** Two Russians looking for a cheap place to sleep were sentenced to two months in jail on Saturday after attempting to break into the athletes’ Olympic village. But they were released on appeal the same day.

Military officials said on Saturday that the men, one of whom had a brother on the Russian Olympic team who gave him his Games accreditation before leaving Athens, managed to pass two police checkpoints.

But they failed to reach the 2.292-apartment athletes village after soldiers at a third checkpoint spotted the difference. “They got two months in jail but filed an appeal and were released,” an army source told Reuters. “They were looking for an inexpensive place to sleep.”

The athletes’ village is one of the most secure Olympic venues with access roads blocked to non-permit holders and hundreds of security personnel patrolling the compound.
RAINFALL ON 23-8-2004

- 1.22 inches at Yangon Airport,
  - 0.39 inch at Kaba-Aye,
  - 0.59 inch at central Yangon.

WEATHER

Monday, 23 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, lower Sagaing and Magway Divisions and rain or thunderstorms have been isolated in Kachin State, upper Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions, scattered in Yangon Division, Chin and Kayin States and widespread in the remaining areas with locally heavyfalls in Ayeyawady Division. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Pyapon 5.67 inches and Pathwin (3.41) inches, Patao (2.99) inches and Kawthoung (2.95) inches.

Maximum temperature on 22-8-2004 was 87°F. Minimum temperature on 23-8-2004 was 69°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 23-8-2004 was 100%. Total sunshine hours on 22-8-2004 was (1.9) hours approx. Rainfall on 23-8-2004 was (1.22) inches at Yangon Airport, (0.39) inch at Kaba-Aye, (0.59) inch at central Yangon. South-west monsoon wind speed on 22-8-2004 was 12 mph from South West at 15:25 hours MST on 22-8-2004. Bay influence: Monsoon is generally moderate 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 and rain or thunderstorms will be isolated in Mandalay Division, Chin and Shan States, scattered in Kachin State, upper Sagaing and Bago Divisions widespread in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is 80%. State of the sea: Sea will be moderate in Myanmar areas. Outlook for subsequent two days: Moderate mesocyclone. Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 24-8-2004: One or two rain or thunderstorms. Degree of certainty is 80%. Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 24-8-2004: Partly cloudy.
Symposium on Preservation of Cultural Heritage commences

**Yangon, 23 Aug.—The Symposium on Preservation of Cultural Heritage, co-organized by ASEAN-COCI Myanmar and Aus-Heritage of Australia, was opened at the multi-purpose hall of the National Museum on Pyay Road, here, this morning. Present were Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung, Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa, Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein, Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu, departmental heads, ambassadors of ASEAN countries and diplomats, officials of the ASEAN-COCI Myanmar, the Chairman of Aus-Heritage, scholars and resource persons from home and abroad, observers and guests. First, Minister Maj-Gen Kyi Aung gave an opening address.**

Chairman of Aus-Heritage Miss Vinod Daniel briefed them on the purpose of holding the symposium. Later, the ministers, the deputy ministers and officials had documentary photo taken. After the opening ceremony, the resource persons read papers concerning preservation of cultural heritage and answered the queries raised by those present. The symposium will be held up to 24 August. The workshop on museum preservation will be held on 25 August.

**Yangon, 23 Aug.—As a gesture of hailing the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, a four-foot fluorescent lamp everyday by each household amounts to saving power that is equal to the capacity a 20-mega-watt power station can supply.**

**Efficient use of electricity**

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

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

**Efficient use of fuel**

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

**Yangon, 23 Aug.—As a gesture of hailing the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, which falls on 27 March 2005, the subcommittee for holding the military and marching song competition of the work committee for poem and arts competitions chaired by Deputy Minister for Culture Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung announced that military and marching song competitions will be held. There will be only one category, professional level, for the military marching song competition while the military song competition is divided into two categories, level 1 and level 2. First, second, and third prizes as well as consolation ones will be awarded in every level. Rules and regulations of the competition are as follows:**

- In military marching song competition, songs must be composed and based on the twelve objectives of the State, the objectives of the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day and the twelve fine traditions of the Tamadaw.
- Composers and vocalists are not permitted to compete at level 2 of the military song competition.

Military songs must be in melody and modes as well as in own tune. The time taken for the song must be between 4 and 6 minutes. There will be a preliminary contact for entry songs with strong vocal and suitable music.

Only a song must be recorded on the entry cassette or reel. A suitable title may be given. Words of the entry song together with its typed copies and an original of its music notes must be attached to the cassette or reel. The brief autograph of the entrant and the singers together with three passport size colour photos must be sent. Those tentatively selected will be informed.

The tentatively selected songs must be re-recorded and are to compete for final. Entry songs should be sent to U Ko Ko Htwe, Secretary, Sub-committee for the military and marching song competitions, Myanmar Radio and Television, Pyay Road, Yangon, not later than 31st December, 2004.