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

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

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

PM receives Japanese Ambassador

YANGON, 27 Aug — On behalf of the State Peace and Development Council Chairman of the Union of Myanmar, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt received Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Yuji Miyamoto, who had completed his tour of duty, at Zeyathiri Beikman, Kommyinta at 4 pm today.

Also present at the call were Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Win, Director-General at the Prime Minister’s Office U Soe Tint and Director-General of Protocol Department Thura U Aung Htet. — MNA

Introducing Golden Myanmar Festival held in UK

YANGON, 27 Aug — Under the auspices of Permanent Patron of Myanmar Association (UK) Myanmar Ambassador Dr Kyaw Win, the Introducing Golden Myanmar Festival, organized by the Myanmar Association (UK), was held on a grand scale at the Oriental City Shopping Centre on Edgware Road in Colindale Quarter, London, from 24 July to 1 August with the aim of introducing traditional culture, nature, Myanmar foodstuff and handicraft of Myanmar to foreigners.

The Myanmar Association (UK) formed with Myanmar citizens in Britain, Myanmar-born foreigners and those with goodwill towards Myanmar and her citizens is a social organization.

Myanmar Ambassador Dr Kyaw Win, the Worshipful the Mayor of the London Borough of Brent Councillor Ahmad Shahzad and Proprietor of Oriental City Shopping Centre Mr Roland Lim in Myanmar national costumes made speeches and formally opened the festival and cut the ribbon to open the festival. Present were Myanmar citizens in UK, friends from ASEAN embassies, Britons and Anglo-Myanmarese who were born in Myanmar. Myanmar song, dance and skill demonstration of Myanmar martial arts were presented to the audience.

Later, those present were served with Myanmar food. During the festival, audience were entertained with video tapes on Myanmar traditional songs, dances and panorama and pamphlets on Myanmar were distributed free of charge. Myanmar food stalls, handicraft shops and one Myanmar-made ornament shop opened in the festival. On 1 August evening, the Introducing Golden Myanmar Festival concluded with songs and dance entertainment.

On behalf of the State Peace and Development Council Chairman, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives Japanese Ambassador Mr Yuji Miyamoto. — MNA

On the cover:

Myanmar Ambassador Dr Kyaw Win delivers an opening address. — MNA

Myanmar Ambassador Dr Kyaw Win and party pose for a group photo. — MNA

All this needs to be known

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

PERSPECTIVES

Let’s work in concert for regional development

The State Peace and Development Council has been striving for the harmonious progress of all regions of the Union through systematic implementation of development plans. Development of all regions depends on smooth and easy transport and, the better the transport, the more developed the economic, social, education and health sectors will be.

Regarding the transport sector, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe showed that transport plays a pivotal role in developing a nation, that social and economic development will be possible only with smooth and easy transport, that poor transportation will lead to infrequent contact between national races living in various regions and development gap. Therefore, in accordance with the guidance of the Head of state, motor roads, railroads and bridges are being built wherever necessary the length and breadth of the nation.

In Magway Division alone, a total of 14 bridges 180 feet and above long, including the Myanma bridge, the Bwetkyi bridge and the Yinchaung bridge constructed by Myanmar Railways, has been built.

The Shwechaung bridge constructed by Public Works under the Ministry of Construction was opened in Upper Minhla, Thayet District, Magway Division on 24 August. The bridge is 500 feet long and situated on the Pathein-Monwaya Highway. The construction of bridges has led to the parallel development of the regions on the east and west banks of the Ayeewady river.

The opening of the Shwechaung bridge can contribute to the development of Kamaa Township, Mindon Township, the western part of Minhla Township and the southern part of Ngaphe Township in Magway Division. More than 360,000 people in 154 villages in Kamaa Township, 178 villages in Mindon Township, 157 villages in Minhla Township and 121 villages in Ngaphe Township will be able to travel easily from one place to another and as a result trade in the region will develop.

All these are the results of the genuine goodwill and correct leadership of the Government. Local people will have to work in earnest at agriculture and production industry, making effective use of the favourable conditions created by the improvement of transport. Trade with the neighbouring country will also develop.

Due to the construction of new motor roads and bridges, all the national people will be able to travel from one place to another in the Union. We would like to call on the entire national brethren to work for the development of their respective regions in unity and with Union Spirit.
Bush admits Iraq ‘Miscalculations’ says NY times

WASHINGTON, 26 Aug — President Bush acknowledged for the first time on Thursday that he had miscalculated post-war conditions in Iraq, the New York Times reported. The paper quoted Bush as saying during a 30-minute interview that he made “a miscalculation of what the conditions would be” in post-war Iraq. But he insisted that the 17-month-long insurgency was the unintended by-product of a “swift victory” against Saddam Hussein’s military, the Times reported.

Bush said his strategy had been “flexible enough” to respond. “We’re adjusting to our conditions” in places like Najaf, the paper quoted him as saying.

The Times said Bush deflected further inquiries as to what had gone wrong with the occupation.

According to the Pentagon, 966 US troops have died since the invasion, 828 of them since April 30, 2003. An additional 6,690 service members have been wounded, most of them during the occupation.

Thai troops start pull-out from Iraq

BANGKOK, 26 Aug — Thailand’s small contingent of troops in Iraq has started leaving for neighbouring Kuwait and will finish their withdrawal within four days, senior military officials said, ending a controversial year-long posting.

The contingent of engineers and medics started pulling out Thursday from their camp near the central Shiite holy city of Karbala and is expected to return to Thailand by September 20.

The troops’ heavy equipment was moved out last month.

We started withdrawing on 26 August and the last batch of Thai troops will move out from Lima camp by the end of this month to wait for US transport planes to move them to Bangkok,” said Lieutenant General Kesarat Kanchanawat, the Supreme Command’s director of joint operations.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 828 US soldiers have died — 614 as a result of hostile action and 214 of non-hostile causes, according to the military’s numbers Thursday. — Internet

GOM recommends allocation of work to NRI Ministry

NEW DELHI, 25 Aug — After three months in office, the new Non-Resident Indians Affairs Ministry headed by Jagdish Tytler will be allocated work, including employment assistance to overseas Indians coming here, if the recommendations of a high-powered Group of Ministers (GOM) are implemented.

The GOM, headed by Defence Minister Pranab Mukherjee, which met earlier this month, has recommended that the new ministry be entrusted with work relating to scholarships and admissions of children of overseas Indians in the country.

Giving this information to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs, the Government has said the GOM has recommended that organization of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, external public diplomacy relating to overseas Indian affairs and representation in Foreign Investment Promotion Board should be among other areas to be looked after by the ministry.

Vietnam buys Chinese locomotives

HANOI, 27 Aug — Vietnam has just received 20 diesel-powered locomotives from China, raising the total number of the Chinese product it has to 40, the Vietnam Railway Corporation told Xinhua on Wednesday.

The 20 locomotives produced by Ziyang Diesel Locomotive Works in the Chinese province of Sichuan, which have a designed speed of 120 kilometres per hour, the fastest in Vietnam, are used to facilitate passenger transport on the North-South route. — MNA/Xinhua

US Army report blames more Americans for Iraq abuses

WASHINGTON, 26 Aug — US military intelligence soldiers and civilian contractors working with them were directly involved in the abuse of Iraqi prisoners at Abu Ghraib jail to a greater extent than previously acknowledged, an Army report released on Wednesday found.

The report, which focused on the role of military intelligence personnel and four contractors working with them, committed acts in 44 instances of prisoner abuse that could prompt criminal charges.

These 27 either directly abused prisoners or “requested, encouraged, condoned or solicited military police personnel to abuse detainees,” or violated rules on interrogations, according to a report by Army Major General George Fay and Lieutenant General Anthony Jones.

Colonel Thomas Pappas, who was the commander of the 205th Intelligence Brigade and also could face criminal charges.

Another eight — six soldiers and two contractors — were faulted for failing to report abuse. The report also found US forces improperly hid at least eight detainees from observers of the International Committee of the Red Cross, and criticized Lieutenant-General Ricardo Sanchez, the former top US commander in Iraq, for failing to address the problems at the Abu Ghraib Prison on the outskirts of Baghdad.

The Fay-Jones report came a day after a high-level panel headed by former Defence Secretary James Schlesinger found that top Pentagon civilian and military officials bore indirect responsibility for the abuse.

The Army report found “misconduct ranging from inhumane to sadistic by a small group of morally corrupt soldiers and civilians,” a lack of discipline on the part of military intelligence unit at Abu Ghraib and “a failure or lack of leadership” by the US military leadership in Iraq, headed by Sanchez.

— MNA/Reuters

Polish Embassy in Baghdad attacked

WARSAW, 26 Aug — Unknown assailants attacked Warsaw’s Embassy in Baghdad on Wednesday but no one was hurt, Poland’s Foreign Ministry said, confirming an earlier report from a Polish Government source.

“At around 1100 GMT the Polish Embassy in Baghdad was attacked from a moving vehicle — one or two shots were fired, either from a mortar or an RPG (rocket-propelled grenade) launcher,” Foreign Ministry spokesman Jaroslaw Drozd said.

“The shells hit a wall near a window, and there are no casualties. At the moment we cannot say who was responsible,” he added.

It contributed troops to Iraq in 2003 and commands a multinational division, including 2,500 of its own troops, in southern Iraq. Fourteen Poles, including civilians, have been killed in Iraq.

— MNA/Reuters

966 US troops killed since beginning of military operations in Iraq last year

BAGHDAD, 26 Aug — As of Thursday, 26 August, 966 US service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq in March 2003, according to the Defence Department. Of those, 723 died as a result of hostile action and 243 died of non-hostile causes.

The British military has reported 64 deaths: Italy, 18; Spain, 11; Poland, 10; Bulgaria, six; Ukraine, six; Slovakia, three; Thailand, two; and Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia and the Netherlands have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 828 US soldiers have died — 614 as a result of hostile action and 214 of non-hostile causes, according to the military’s numbers Thursday. — Internet

Vietnam buys Chinese locomotives

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An Iraqi boy passes near US armoured Bradley vehicles patrolling a street in eastern Baghdad’s Shiite suburb of al-Sadr City on 26 Aug, 2004. — Internet
Blair faces impeachment procedure over Iraq

ADAM PRICE of the Welsh nationalist Plaid Cymru party said 13 British MPs had publicly backed the bid to unseat Blair on the basis of misleading statements to parliament and the public about the threat posed by Iraq.

The group — including nine Scottish and Welsh nationalists, three Conservatives and a Liberal Democrat — has little chance of actually securing Blair’s ouster with a motion last invoked in 1848. But it could trigger a round of painful sparring for Blair at the start of a new political season, when the British leader was intent on playing down Iraq in order to gear up for a general election widely expected some time next year.

Price and Eifyn Llwyd, Plaid Cymru’s parliamentary leader, presented a 99-page report Thursday detailing what they called “compelling evidence of deliberate repeated distortion, seriously misleading statements and culpable negligence” by Blair.

“We find it rather offensive that (Blair) has the luxury of holding offices while he’s telling lies,” Llwyd told a press conference.

He said lawyers from Matrix Chambers, where Blair’s wife Cherie Blair practices law, were drawing up impeachment papers, which would be published in early September. — Internet

Abu Ghraib Prison report details use of dogs

WASHINGTON, 26 Aug — US Army investigators pulled no punches on Wednesday in releasing the latest stark report of American abuse against Iraqi detainees at infamous Abu Ghraib Prison near Baghdad.

Among details in the 143-page report, which forced five officers and 41 unidentified lower-ranking soldiers, civilian interrogators, military police and medics to confess for possible administrative or criminal punishment:

— Soldier No 01, a medic, failed to report seeing “a human pyramid of naked Iraqi prisoners, all with sandbags on their heads”, when she was called to provide medical treatment.

— Soldier No 08, a dog handler with the 16th Military Police Brigade “had an ongoing contest with Soldier 27, another dog handler, to scare detainees with their dogs in order to see who could make the detainees urinate and defecate first”.

— Soldier No 20, a medic, failed to report seeing a detainee struck in the leg with a stick where he had been shot. The detainee, it said, was kicked by Military Police. Charles Granter, currently involved in hearings in Mannheim, Germany, ahead of his scheduled court martial for abuse.

— Soldier No 25, an interrogator with the 321st Military Intelligence Battalion, “thought it was funny” to see detainees flee from dogs and failed to report prisoners handcuffed together in crotched positions.

— Soldier No 27, a dog handler from the 523rd Military Police Detachment, “led his dog into a cell with two juvenile detainees and let his dog go nuts. The two juveniles were yelling and screaming with the youngest one hiding behind the oldest”.

— Civilian No 05, a contract interrogator, kept yanking a prisoner to the ground using handcuffs and told a soldier who admonished him for abuse and drinking alcohol at the prison, “I have been doing this for 20 years and I do not need a 20-year-old telling me how to do my job.” — MNA/Reuters

44 Indians return from Iraq

NEW DELHI, 26 Aug — While the fate of three Indian drivers held hostage hangs in balance, 44 Indian workers have returned from Iraq, the Lok Sabha (Lower House of Indian Parliament) was informed Wednesday.

Those who have returned include 30 workers from a camp near Fallujah, 14 people stranded in northern Iraq and four persons employed by a South Korean firm. Junior Minister for External Affairs Rana Inderjit Singh said in a written reply.

The Indian mission in Baghdad has been instructed to help all countrymen desiring to return, he said adding the time taken to return to India depends on the route chosen by them, pace of settlement of dues by their employers and the security situation surrounding their workspace.

In the wake of the hostage crisis and the current security situation, government has issued an advisory telling citizens to defer their visit to the time being their visits to the war-torn nation.

Government has also stopped emigration clearance for Iraq and has sought the co-operation of Jordan and Kuwait governments to prevent Indians from crossing over into Iraq.

Kuwait to work for safe return of Indian hostages in Iraq

NEW DELHI, 26 Aug — Kuwait on Wednesday assured India that it would leave no stone unturned for the safe return of three Indian truck drivers held captive in Iraq since 21 July.

“Indian community working in Iraq are associated with humanitarian work. We are working very closely with our friends in Kenya, India and Iraq and will not leave any stone unturned for the safe return of Indians held captive in Iraq,” visiting Kuwait Foreign Minister Mohammed Al-Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah told reporters here after signing a landmark India-GCC Framework Agreement with Commerce and Industry Minister Kamal Nath.

He said ‘rumours’ that Indian workers coming to Kuwait were forced to work in areas they did not want to go were “completely baseless”.

The hostage issue did come up during talks Al-Sabah had with External Affairs Minister K Natwar Singh and “Kuwait has assured us that no stone would be left unturned to bring this matter to a positive resolution to ensure the safe return of not only the Indian hostages but other hostages also,” Foreign Office spokesman Navtej Sarna told reporters.

Al-Sabah told the Indian side that Kuwait would be trying its utmost to get to the bottom of this, the spokesman said.

Antanyami, Tulak Raj and Sukhdev Singh, employed by Kuwait and Gulf Link (KGL) transport company, were abducted last month in Iraq.

It has been holding for more than a month as soon as their Kuwaiti company says it will no longer operate in Iraq.

The seven — three Indians, three Kenyans and an Egyptian — are all lorry drivers working for the Kuwait Gulf Link Company (KGL) who were abducted on 21 July and threatened with execution if KGL did not end its work in Iraq.

“The leadership of the Secret Islamic Army announces it is demands firm quit Iraq,” the group calling itself the Islamic Army in Iraq executed Baldoni while his government vowed to stay active in the war against terrorism.

“There are no words for an inhuman act that... cancels centuries of civilization to bring us back to the Dark Ages,” Berlusconi said in a statement.

The Arabic-language network Al-Jazeera reported that a group calling itself the Islamic Army in Iraq executed Baldoni because the Italian government did not meet its demands to withdraw its troops from Iraq within 48 hours.

It was not known when and where the killing occurred.

Baldoni was married and had two sons.

MNA/PITI

Italian journalist slain in Iraq

ROME, 26 Aug — An Italian journalist held hostage in Iraq has been killed, the Italian government confirmed on Thursday.

Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi quickly condemned the execution of Enzo Baldoni while his government vowed to stay active in the war against terrorism.

“There are no words for an inhuman act that... cancels centuries of civilization to bring us back to the Dark Ages,” Berlusconi said in a statement.

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Baldoni was married and had two sons.

MNA/INTER

Group holding lorry drivers demands firm quit Iraq

BAGHDAD, 26 Aug — A group will release seven hostages it has been holding for more than a month as soon as their Kuwaiti company says it will no longer operate in Iraq.

The seven — three Indians, three Kenyans and an Egyptian — are all lorry drivers working for the Kuwait Gulf Link Company (KGL) who were abducted on 21 July and threatened with execution if KGL did not end its work in Iraq.

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MNA/INTER

Iraqi police and national guards secure the area around the home of Iraq’s top Shiite cleric Grand Ayatollah Ali Husseini al-Sistani after he arrived in the holy city of Najaf in southern Iraq on 26 Aug, 2004. — Internet
Najaf situation could be solved only by Iraqi government

LONDON, 26 Aug—An aide of Iraq’s most influential Shiite cleric Ali al-Sistani has said that the situation in Najaf city could be solved only by the Iraqi government alone, the BBC reported Wednesday.

The Mehdi Army of radical cleric Moqtada al-Sadr should leave the shrine in Najaf, the Imam Ali Mosque, and the US troops should not be involved in bringing the fighting to an end, Sayed Mohammed Musawi said in an interview with the BBC.

“Americans interfering in this will not help the situation at all,” Musawi said. “We all say that the Americans should be very far from the holy place. They should not involve themselves in this problem.”

Musawi also stressed that any raid by US troops on the holy city of Najaf to “rescue it from its ordeal.”

“Najaf is burning. Ayatollah al-Sistani is on his way back and calls on Iraqis from all provinces to join him in the holy city,” Khafaf was quoted as saying.

US forces have been advancing further on the holy Imam Ali Shrine, which Sadr’s supporters who oppose the US military presence in Iraq have taken over.

Negotiations about ending the conflict between Sadr’s militia and US troops have bogged down amid renewed fighting. — MNA/Xinhua

Argentina hopes to cooperate with China in oil exploration

BUENOS AIRES, 26 Aug—The Argentina Energy Corporation hoped Tuesday that Chinese companies would participate in joint exploration and production of Argentine oil and natural gas.

Luis Corsiglia, board director of the state-run Argentine energy giant, indicated the hope in an exclusive interview with Xinhua. The corporation will be established soon.

He said that Ezequiel Espinosa, the corporation’s president and board chairman, would visit China in mid-September and discuss the issue with leaders of Chinese companies.

Corsiglia said that with its abundant fund and advanced technology, China has the capacity to participate in Argentina’s oil and gas exploration and production.

Top UN envoy ends first visit to Iraq

UNITED NATIONS, 26 Aug—The top UN envoy for Iraq, Bashar al-Qazi, ended his first visit to Baghdad since his appointment last month after meeting with a long line of political leaders and prominent figures in civil society, a UN spokesman said Thursday.

It underscored the world body’s role in the political and humanitarian reconstruction of the war-torn country.

The UN envoy met with the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, and discussed fighting terrorism.

He is going to meet with officials from UN agencies in Geneva, before going to New York to meet senior UN officials early next month, a UN spokesman said Thursday.

It was the second time the UN diplomat had visited Iraq since his appointment last month.

A group called the Islamic Army in Iraq told Al Jazeera television it was holding Balad oil company that disappeared near Najaf several days ago.

It is in this same spirit that we ask you to be able to hold him in our arms again.

World’s oldest raised panda die

Beijing, 26 Aug—Peipei, the eldest raised panda in the world, died at the age of 33 at a zoo in eastern China’s Hangzhou City, according to a report from the Beijing News on Wednesday.

The zoo announced Tuesday that Peipei died on Wednesday. The zoo announced that Peipei, the eldest raised panda in the world, died at the age of 33.

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An Iraqi youth looks at the site of a blast in Salahiya near Baghdad, Iraq, on 22 August, 2004.

A man, injured when a roadside bomb exploded in western Baghdad, grimaces as doctors treat him for his wounds at a Baghdad hospital in Iraq, on 24 August, 2004.

Residents raise their hands as they walk through the Old City of Najaf during clashes between Iraqi Shiite cleric Moqtada Sadr’s Mehdi Army militia and US-led Iraqi forces on 24 August, 2004.

Iraqi civilians look at a crater left after a mortar attack hit the area near a shopping complex in Al-Mansour District, central Baghdad, Iraq, on 25 August, 2004.

An Iraqi youth, viewed through shattered walls, surveys the damage to his hotel room after it came under attack by mortar fire in central Baghdad, on 24 August, 2004.
Students now have an equal opportunity in pursuing higher education. Photo shows students learning their computer lessons in Panglong University, Loilem District, Shan State (South). — KYEMON

Government Computer College built in Loikaw, Kayah State. — KYEMON

Students seen learning their lessons at Computer College opened in Bhama, Kachin State. — SNA

No-1 Basic Education High School in Kyaukse in Mandalay Division is facilitated with modern teaching aids. — KYEMON

Students of Haka Basic Education High School No-1 in Chin State are learning their lessons through modern teaching aids. — KYEMON

Golden opportunity to pursue higher education in own regions

Students now have an equal opportunity in pursuing higher education. Photo shows students learning their computer lessons in Panglong University, Loilem District, Shan State (South). — KYEMON
Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt addresses coordination meeting to implement agreements between Myanmar and China and cooperation in all sectors.— MNA

Myanmar’s energy sector has great …

(from page 1)

Intelligence, deputy ministers, the Director-General of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of departments and officials.

In his address, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt said that a joint meeting held today is the second coordination meeting on further promoting the tasks for implementation of agreements between Myanmar and PRC and cooperation in all sectors; that there are a number of agreements signed between the two nations; and that as there have been exchanges of goodwill visits between the high-ranking officials including the State leaders of both nations, the two nations were able to sign agreements on mutual cooperation as a result.

The prime minister spoke of the need for the relevant ministries to accelerate their integrated and well-coordinated efforts for speedy implementation of the agreements. More agreements between the two nations and Memorandums of Understanding were signed during his goodwill visit to PRC in July 2004, he said.

All-out efforts are being made with added momentum for speedy implementation of the agreements and Memorandums of Understanding after the goodwill visits, he noted. While relentless efforts are being exerted with added momentum on our side, it is obvious that officials, technicians and businessmen from the PRC side have made frequent visits to Myanmar and met their Myanmar counterparts for implementation of the agreements, he added.

As there have been rapid changes and developments in the world, the demand of power, oil and natural gas in the global nations are on the constant increase. Myanmar possesses water resources that can generate hydro electric power and a large amount of petroleum and natural gas deposits. There are a lot of prospects to promote energy sector for neighbouring countries and for those in the region.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt called on the ministries concerned to make concerted efforts for speedy implementation of the agreements between the two countries and promotion of bilateral cooperation in all sectors.

Next, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung reported on work done by the respective ministries in connection with the directives of the Prime Minister at the first coordination meeting on implementation of agreements and cooperation in all sectors between Myanmar and PRC. The ministers and the deputy ministers reported on implementation of bilateral cooperation in the respective sectors regarding economic and technological cooperation and industrial development.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt took part in the discussions and delivered concluding remarks.

MNA

Measures for upgrading Kandawgyi Gardens, Yangon Zoo co-ordinated

YANGON, 27 Aug — The Work Committee for All-round Upgrading of Environments of Yangon City Kandawgyi Gardens and Zoo (Yangon) held the co-ordination meeting at the Agricultural Museum of Myanma Agriculture Service in Kandawgyi Gardens, here, this morning, with an address by Chairman of the Work Committee Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe.

All-round upgrading tasks are being carried out at four zones in the Gardens. Though some tasks have been completed some are being implemented, said the commander.

He added that construction tasks are to be undertaken with the use of modern designs without damaging natural resources. In so doing, upgrading tasks are to be implemented with meeting the set standard. Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa reported on building of bridges linking islands, timber walk way, rock garden and Mount Popa Tower in the relaxation zone.

Director-General U Soe Win Hlaing of Forest Department, Deputy Director-General U Hla Win of Fisheries Department, Chairman of Myanmar Hoteliers Association U Khin Shwe, Director U Kyaw Thein of Yangon Division Irrigation Department, Head of YCDC Engineering Department (Wa. & Sanitation) Dr Tun Than Tun, Managing Director Dr San Oo of Myanmar Electric Power Enterprise, Head of YCDC Engineering Department (Buildings) U Zaw Win, General Manager Lt-Col Yan Naing of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, Chairman U Win Naing of Pyi Sone Win Naing Co and Associate Professor U San Kyu of the Ministry of Science and Technology submitted reports on their respective sectors.

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe attended to their needs.

Next, the commander inspected progress of upgrading tasks in Kandawgyi Gardens.

MNA
Malaysian delegation visits Shwedagon Pagoda, Defence Services Museum

YANGON, 27 Aug — Malaysian delegation led by Chief of Royal Air Force of Malaysia Datuk Nik Ismail Bin Nik Mohamed, accompanied by Defence Adviser Col Hj Abbas Bin Hj Mat and officials, this morning visited Shwedagon Pagoda here.

Later, the Malaysian delegation visited Defence Services Museum where Maj Kyaw Kyaw Myint and responsible officials conducted them round the museum. Next, General Datuk Nik Ismail Bin Nik Mohamed signed in the visitors’ book. The Malaysian delegation offed at Yangon International Airport. — MNA

Coordination meeting for secure and smooth transportation held

YANGON, 27 Aug — Yangon Division Supervisory Committee for Ensuring Smooth and Secure Transport held the coordination meeting at All Bus-line Control Committee (Yangon Division) Head Office on Laydauntkan Road in Tamway Township this evening, attended by Chairman of the Supervisory Committee Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe.

The commander instructed them to facilitate line of smooth transportation for the people and carry out supervision for following of traffic rules.

Members of the supervisory committee, Police Lt-Col Aung Naing, officials of universities and colleges in Yangon and bus line chairmen reported on smooth transportation for convenient travelling of passengers and plying of buses in accord with the rules and regulations.

The commander gave necessary instructions and fulfilled the requirements. Also present were military region commanders, station commanders and officials. — MNA

Don’t smoke

Wellwishers invited for sinking tubewells

YANGON, 27 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 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 for rural areas may contact the Director General (Tel: 01-245420 & 253088), the Deputy Director-General (Tel: 01-240118), the Director (Engineering) (Tel: 01-291967), the Directors (Sagaing Division DAC) (Tel: 071-21012), the Director (Mawlay Division DAC) (Tel: 063-23164) and the Director (Mandalay Division DAC) (Tel: 02-54657).

Nursery Market Festival continues

YANGON, 27 Aug — The Nursery Market Festival continued at Myay Padetha Park in Bahan Township here today with the aim of 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

Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspecting Thin Creek Bridge on 25-8-2004 — MNA

Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspecting construction of Thayet-Minbla road on 25-8-2004. — MNA

Lt-Gen Ye Myint meets with Tatmadaw families at Maha Bandoola Hall in Thayet Township. — MNA
ASEAN solidarity and firmness

Aung Moe San

In addition to interfering in the affairs of Myanmar, the EU nations are trying to bully ASEAN to follow its instructions. At the same time, they are trying to cement the EU unity, extend its influence and manipulate the world as a superpower.

The countries concerned to extend mutual cooperation and understanding in regional and international affairs.

At his meeting with leaders of Vietnam, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt explained the seven-point future policy programme, and is in the process of building a democratic nation. The convening of the National Convention, the basic step of the seven-point future policy programme, is in progress at present. The Convention has already been completed successfully. But some EU nations are not satisfied with the present results. Their demands to follow their instructions amount to interfering in Myanmar’s internal affairs. Moreover, their demands are totally in contradiction to the ASEAN policy. The EU’s opposition to Myanmar’s participation at the meeting is to cause dissenion among the ASEAN nations. In addition, the EU is interfering in the affairs of the ASEAN’s right to make decisions by itself.

However, the positive response of the farsighted ASEAN leaders to the EU’s demands can be seen obviously during the Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt’s recent goodwill visit to three ASEAN nations. At the present moment, Myanmar has already laid down the seven-point future policy programme and is in the process of building a democratic nation. The convening of the National Convention, the basic step of the seven-point future policy programme, is in progress at present. The Convention has already been completed successfully. But some EU nations are not satisfied with the present results. Their demands to follow their instructions amount to interfering in Myanmar’s internal affairs. Moreover, their demands are totally in contradiction to the ASEAN policy. The EU’s opposition to Myanmar’s participation at the meeting is to cause dissenion among the ASEAN nations. In addition, the EU is interfering in the affairs of the ASEAN’s right to make decisions by itself.

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Efficient use of electricity

1. Use daylight as the main source of light
2. Use the least possible amount of electricity only if there is not enough natural light
3. Use the least possible amount of electricity required in production and service enterprises
4. 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

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

In addition to interfering in the affairs of Myanmar, the EU nations are trying to bully ASEAN to follow its instructions. At the same time, they are trying to cement the EU unity, extend its influence and manipulate the world as a superpower.

In May 2004, two small nations — Cyprus and Malta — eight East European countries joined the EU. Thus the number of member nations has extended to 25. As the EU has extended the number of member nations, it is going to make all efforts together with other member nations for ASEAN unity and regional development and peace and stability.

Prime Minister Mr Phan Van Khai said that Vietnam always remained on the side of Myanmar during its national liberation struggle, expressing satisfaction to see the current fruitful cooperation between the two countries. Vietnam supports Myanmar’s policies for peaceful development, adding that the two countries will strive for further strengthening of the ASEAN unity. Vietnam firmly believes that Myanmar will perform the ASEAN chairmanship duty well, as the nation is going to take over the duty in 2006, he noted, assuring Vietnam’s support for Myanmar to attend the Asia-Europe Meeting.

General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam Mr Nong Duc Manh expressed his belief that Myanmar’s democracy transition will surely meet its success, saying that only the Myanmar people have the right to determine the fate of their country.

Chairman of the National Assembly of SRV Mr Nguyen Van An said that Vietnam appreciates and has sympathy for Myanmar’s endeavours; and that it also endorses the five-point policy of the ASEAN to ensure the perpetuation of a nation’s sovereignty.

During his meeting with Laotian leaders, the Myanmar Prime Minister said that in addition to their similar experiences in history, Myanmar and Laos are enjoying bilateral fraternal relations. He expressed his belief that the two countries will cooperate and support each other in the regional and international issues.

Mr Bounnhang Vorachith expressed his belief that the two countries are enjoying fraternal relations and have mutual respect for each other. As there flourish close ties and mutual understanding between the two countries, the basic levels, the bilateral relations and mutual cooperation of the two countries will further develop.

Prime Minister Mr Bounnhang Vorachith expressed pleasure to see the Myanmar Government and the people making accelerated efforts for national peace and stability and development, under the guidance of Senior General Than Shwe.

At his meeting with leaders of Cambodia, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt said that Myanmar and Cambodia have similarities in history and culture and religion. Both countries will extend bilateral friendship and mutual cooperation, he said, thanking Cambodia for its appreciation and support for Myanmar. He pledged to join hands with Cambodia for unity and firmness of the ASEAN.

Acting Head of State and Chairman of the Senate Mr Sand ech Chea Sim said that both countries will strive for prosperity, while joining hands with each other to carry out matters of common interest and regional interest.

Mr Bounnhang Vorachith said, "Our firm stand is that all ASEAN nations must participate in the Asia-Europe Meeting on equal status, without making any discrimination among the member nations." The talks between the Myanmar Prime Minister and leaders of the three countries has indicated the ASEAN solidarity and firmness.

invitation of Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam His Excellency Mr Phan Van Khai, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, and Prime Minister Mr Bounnhang Vorachith and Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia His Excellency Mr Sandech Hun Sen. Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt of the Union of Myanmar paid a two-day goodwill visit to the three countries on 9 and 10 August. During the visit, the Myanmar Prime Minister reached bilateral agreements with the countries concerned to extend mutual cooperation and understanding in regional and international affairs.

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The journey of the 50-year-old EU was not a smooth road. It had walked a bumpy road for many years, while trying to remove doubts and hatred between member nations and to negotiate between the contracting economies. The agreements that were reached in the 1950s were met with the sudden emergence of the EU. The six countries — Belgium, the Netherlands, France, Italy, West Germany and Luxembourg — formed the European Coal and Steel Community in 1951. After theft, the Common Market was formed. During the early years of its formation the EEC faced constant disputes among the nations which wanted to join close relations with the US and the others that wanted to make themselves from the domain of the US and stand totally as a European nation. In 1973, it permitted Britain and Ireland as its new members. After collectively facing and overcoming oil and fuel crisis in the 1970s, the member nations of the EU became more consolidated. In 1975, the European Council was formed as the highest authority of the continent. The first parliamentary election of Europe was held in 1979, and later the EU started to move towards practising a single monetary system. After accepting Spain and Portugal, two economic giants of the continent, to join the body in 1983, plans were laid down to set up a single monetary system and a single European market. Thanks to the plan, the EU nations have been enjoying free flow of capital for services, enterprises and tourism industry since 1993. Thus, the EU has been moving towards a single market of Europe covering foreign affairs and security issues in addition to economy.

At the time when the EU is trying to extend its dominance over the global affairs, the issue of solidarity has become an essential need for the ASEAN, which should also be aware of the external instigation to cause dissenion within it. Moreover, the Asian nations should strive to consolidate their unity.
YANGON, 27 Aug — The Ministry of Health held its meeting (2004) at the Department of Medical Research, meeting (2004) at the Department of Medical Research. — MNA

NCC Commission, NCC Work Committee, NCC Management Committee meet

YANGON, 27 Aug — The National Convention Convening Commission, the National Convention Convening Work Committee and the National Convention Convening Management Committee held a meeting at the Commission Office in Kyaikkasan Grounds here today.

The Meeting Chairman Vice-Chairman of NCCC Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htun said that the Commission, the Work Committee and the Management Committee should carry out their work in accord with the schedule, speaking of the need to carry out necessary repair and renovation of the buildings at Nyaungnapin Camp, to systematically maintain and keep the facilities and to provide all necessary assistance for delegates receiving medical treatment at hospitals.

Secretary of the Commission Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hkun explained the developments in the repair and renovation of buildings of the camp in accord with the coordination made between officials and construction companies at a meeting held on 13 August, and the progress in implementing the tasks, covering landscaping and upgrading of other facilities, to ensure everything is perfect when the Convention resumes.

Work Committee Chairman Chief Justice U Aung Toe reported to the meeting on the progress of the NCCC in carrying out its work and the functions of the panel of alternative chairmen of the Convention; Management Committee Vice-Chairman Maj-Gen Than Huy of the Ministry of Defence, on developments of the building renovation and repair work, landscaping, and the health condition of the delegates undergoing treatment at hospitals. Other participants including Vice-Chairman of Work Committee Attorney-General U Aye Maung and members of the respective bodies also presented suggestions. Minister Maj-Gen Tin Htun gave the concluding remarks. Joint Secretary 2 of the Commission Director-General of Pyithu Hluttaw Office U Myint Thwin acted as master of ceremonies. — MNA

Health Ministry holds work coordination meeting

YANGON, 27 Aug — The Ministry of Health held its meeting (2004) at the Department of Medical Research, Ziwaka Road in Dagon Township this morning to coordinate community health care services.

It was attended by Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Maung, Deputy Minister Dr Mya Oo, departmental heads of departments under the ministry and officials.

Delivering an address on the occasion, the minister expressed his heartfelt pleasure for Myanmar reached a milestone in her medical science area by successfully performing a liver transplant. He was also encouraged by the success achieved in disease prevention and control, prevention and surveillance of infectious diseases to be able to avert outbreak of these diseases. Respective health departments are to carry out surveillance tasks constantly in border areas to prevent the diseases that occur most frequently in these regions. Implementation of the fly-proof latrine project has come across the target and the rhythm is thus to be maintained, he said. However, it is still needed for medical staff to make more field trips in taking measures for control, prevention and surveillance of infectious diseases.

He pledged that the ministry will continue to attend constantly to the needs in the health field. In conclusion, the minister elaborated on the functions of respective departments.

The deputy minister dealt with endeavours of the township health committee, importance of extended conduction of educative talks on health as well as cooperation of departments and the people in taking preventive measures against diseases.

Health Ministry holds work coordination meeting

Next, directors-general of the departments under the ministry, heads of State/Division health departments, rectors of institutes of medicines and universities, and medical superintendents of central level and State/Division level hospitals reported on progress of respective work.

After assessing the reports, the minister fulfilled the requirements and delivered closing remarks. — MNA

Armed Forces Day colour photo contest to be held

YANGON, 27 Aug — The Work Committee for the Organizing 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day 2005 Commemorative Literary and Colour Photo Competition will hold the Colour Photo Contest. Photo enthusiasts can send up to four entries for each title. The size of the print photo entry should measure 10" by 12" and above. As those who won first, second and third prizes in the previous contests will be categorized into separate groups, it means that there are many chances of winning prizes for those who have not yet won any prizes.

Data and caption regarding the photo should be provided on a separate sheet of paper and enclosed. If there are any models in the photo, their content will be needed.

The entry photo must be a never-before-published work and prize-winning work in local and foreign photo competitions. The entry photos taken by digital camera will not be considered. Winners standing first, second and third will be awarded in Yangon on 27 March 2005, when the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day will be observed.

Consolation prizes will also be presented to winners at the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day ceremonies to be held at the respective military commands and LiDs concerned. The entry photos should be sent to U Tun Min, Director, Information and Public Relations Department, No 2224, Pansodan Street, here, not later than 14 February 2005. — MNA

Myanmar successfully operates liver transplant

YANGON, 27 Aug — Myanmar has successfully carried out a liver transplant operation for the first time, signifying a step forward of the country’s medical sciences, hailed Friday’s official newspaper The New Light of Myanmar.

More than 30 hours after a donated 39 year-old female liver was transplanted to a male patient named Ko Khin Zaw Htet, 35, in the New Yangon General Hospital on Wednesday, the patient’s health condition has recovered and improved, according to surgeons. The over-13-hour operation, carried out by a team of surgeons led by Dr Norman Hla, was claimed by the paper as the first in Southeast Asia.

During the past decade, Myanmar had also successfully performed operations on renal transplant, crushed arm replanting and separating a conjoined twin. — MNA/Mying

UMFCCI officials meet guests

YANGON, 27 Aug — A 14-member delegation from Nepal led by Lalitpur Chamber of Commerce & Industry Mr Indra Bahadur Shrestha called on President of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce & Industry U Win Myint and officials at the UMFCCI head office here yesterday. They discussed matters on investment and bilateral trade affairs. — MNA

Symposium on diagnosis and management of fever with rash to be held

YANGON, 26 Aug — A Symposium on diagnosis and management of fever with rash will be held at the hall (A) of the Myanmare Medical Association in Mingala Taungnyunt Township here at 9 am on 4 September. — MNA

Surgeons perform liver transplant. — MNA

The Nepali delegation discusses with UMFCCI officials. — UMFCCI
Putin condones double crash victims, declares mourning

MOSCOW, 26 Aug — Russian President Vladimir Putin on Wednesdaycondoned the deaths of victims of two plane crashes and declared Thursday as a national day of mourning.

In televised remarks, Putin said he expected the high power investigation commission headed by Transport Minister Igor Levitin to give true and objective information to the public. Putin, who rushed to Moscow from holiday in Black Sea resort of Sochi, was speaking at the emergency Kremlin meeting on the crashes.

Russian Prosecutor General Vladimir Ustinov told Putin that terror attack is not ruled out, although other possibilities including human error were also being looked into. Both twin crashes in which at least 90 people were killed...MNA/PTI

Zambia to export AIDS drugs

LUSAKA, 26 Aug — The Zambian Government said it has dispatched a team of experts to assess reports that the country’s living standards have improved in recent months.

Health Minister Brian Chitwana quoted as saying when the neighbouring countries will benefit from the sell of the drugs, Zambia is expected to earn foreign exchange.

Chitwana assured Zambians that the ARVs which will be manufactured locally would be of good quality and meet international standards, and the World Health Organization will monitor the production of the drugs...MNA/Xinhua

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(Fort. Eccles & Lee Patent and Trademark Attorneys,
Hong Kong)
Dated: 28 August 2004

FAKTA

New Pakistani PM to take oath of office Saturday

ISLAMABAD, 26 Aug — Pakistan’s interim Prime Minister Shujaat Hussain resigned on Wednesday after a short stint of nearly two months, paving the way for President Pervez Musharraf’s choice Shankat Aziz to take the top post on Saturday.

Hussain announced his resignation in the 342-member National Assembly after which the federal Cabinet was dissolved, outgoing Information Minister Sheikh Rashid said.

He said election for the leader of the Assembly will be held on Friday in which Pakistan Muslim League-Q (PML-Q) and its allies enjoying comfortable majority would field Aziz. The President for the post will be filed tomorrow.

The new Prime Minister would take oath of office Saturday as he seeks a vote of confidence of the House on the same day, Rashid said.

Aziz, 55, was inducted as Finance Minister by Musharraf after the 1999military coup and held the post since that.

India signs landmark agreements with Kuwait

New Delhi, 26 Aug — India on Wednesday entered into a landmark agreement to usher in free trade with six Gulf countries including Kuwait with which it signed an extradition Treaty and two other accords to further strengthen bilateral cooperation.

Visiting Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammad Sabah Al Salem Al Sabah and his Indian counterpart K Natwar Singh inked an Agreement on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matter and a Memorandum of Understanding for setting up of Strategic Consultative Group. Kuwait is the third Gulf country after UAE and Bahrain with which India has signed an extradition treaty. The extradition treaty with Saudi Arabia is in advanced stage of negotiations and a similar agreement with Qatar is in initial stage.

On behalf of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) of which Kuwait is the current Chairman, Al-Sabah signed with Commerce and Industry Minister Kamal Nath the framework agreement for economic cooperation.

Al-Sabah, who is on a three-day visit, called on Indian President A P Abdul Kalam Wednesday. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Speaker of Lower House of Parliament Somnath Chatterjee hosted a dinner for Singh held delegation-level talks preceded by a detailed session on a wide range of issues that will be the focus of discussions and international issues including Iraq as well as UN and UN reforms. External Affairs Minister Singh also met with his man to leaders.

Zimbabwe’s President Mubbing Morgan Tsvangirai has announced his country is ready to settle the country’s debt with the World Bank and International Monetary Fund.

The announcement was made by Tsvangirai in a meeting with IMF and World Bank officials in Washington.

The Zimbabwean leader said the country’s economy was “rebuilt” and that the country was “recovered”.

He added that the country was “ready to pay off its debt”.

“The Zimbabwean government is ready to pay off its debt,” Tsvangirai said.

Zimbabwe’s economy has been in flux since the 2000 elections, which saw the introduction of the “mugabe” tax and a sharp increase in inflation.

The government has been criticized for its handling of the economy, and has faced international pressure to make changes.

Tsvangirai said the country was “ready to pay off its debt” and that it was “rebuilt” and “recovered”.

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China puts independent clause of AIDS prevention into law

BEIJING, 26 Aug — China for the first time put an independent clause on AIDS prevention in contagious disease prevention and control law, as the country’s AIDS prevention and control work is at a crucial stage.

The clause, which says “Governments at all levels must strengthen AIDS prevention and control work in a bid to curb further spread of the disease. Detailed measures could be stipulated by the State Council,” has been added to the amendment draft of the contagious disease prevention and control law, which has been submitted to the on-going 11th meeting of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress (NPC) for its third deliberation.

Hu Guangbao, deputy director of NPC’s Legal Committee, said the law’s amendment draft is expected to be passed at this meeting, as law makers’ opinions have been reflected in the draft during the last two deliberations.

The amendment draft of contagious disease prevention and control law has been discussed twice in April and June by members of the Standing Committee of the NPC.

During the first two deliberations, some lawmakers advised that the law should ensure the State Council to stipulate regulations on AIDS prevention and control, as the country has entered a crucial stage in which the epidemic may spread from high-risk groups to others.

Some lawmakers suggested that clause on eliminating discrimination against people with AIDS should be written into the law, because social bias against them has become serious.

Some suggested that clauses stating that blood collection organizations must guarantee the quality of blood products and stipulating punishment for illegal blood collection and selling should be put into the law’s amendment draft.

US judge admits some evidence against Michael Jackson

LOS ANGELES, 25 Aug — A US judge ruled Monday that more than three dozen items of evidence seized at superstar Michael Jackson’s Neverland ranch and a private investigator’s office could be admitted at trial on the child molestation case.

Jackson, 45, was indicted by a grand jury early this year with committing a lewd act upon a child, administering an intoxicating agent and conspiring to commit child abduction, false imprisonment and extortion.

The singer has pleaded not guilty and is free on three-million-dollar bail. The date of the trial is set on January 31, 2005. — MNA/Reuters

HK scientists invent shape memory fabric

HONG KONG, 26 Aug — Scientists at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU) have invented the world’s first cellulose-made shape memory fabric, announced PolyU here Tuesday.

The research team headed by Hu Jilian, principal investigator of the shape memory project and founder of the Shape Memory Textile Centre of PolyU, has made significant advances in developing versatile shape memory fabrics which can be broadly used in textile, medicine and cosmetics.

According to Hu, shape memory fabrics can readily recover their original shapes off with Sneddon.

Jackson’s defence lawyers are trying to suppress the evidence seized from Miller’s office, which were regarded crucial in the grand jury’s decision to indict Jackson early this year.

Three tapes, in which Jackson’s young accuser and his family reportedly praised Jackson and deny that Jackson acted inappropriately, are at the centre of the dispute. The prosecution and the grand jury believed that the accuser and his family were forced by Jackson to make the tapes.

Jackson, 45, was indicted by a grand jury early this year with committing a lewd act upon a child, administering an intoxicating agent and conspiring to commit child abduction, false imprisonment and extortion.

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Kazakhstan to create national space agency

ALMATY, 26 Aug — Kazakhstan has decided to set up a National Space Agency to boost the Central Asian country’s space industry.

The creation of the agency was brought up in a meeting on the 2005-2007 plan for the space industry, according to local media.

Kazakh Prime Minister Danyil Akhmetov said Wednesday the new agency will help coordinate the resources in the field and that the Education and Science Ministry would work out a plan for the formation of the agency in a month.

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Samuel to miss league debut with Real
MADRID, 27 Aug — Real Madrid centre-back Walter Samuel will miss the start of the Spanish league season after straining a knee ligament during his side’s Champions League third round qualifier against Wisla Krakow.

Club medical staff estimated the 26-year-old Argentine international, who sustained the injury to his right knee towards the end of Real’s 3-1 win over the Polish side on Wednesday, would be out of action for two to three weeks.

Samuel, who joined Real for 25 million euros (30.20 million US dollars) from AS Roma in May, was set to make his league debut in his side’s opening match of the season at Real Mallorca.

With new signing Jonathan Woodgate also out injured, Ivan Helguera is likely to have to drop back from midfield to join Francisco Pavon in the back four, while Guti should partner David Beckham in midfield.

William Gaillard, UEFA’s Director of Communications said after the two clubs were drawn in the same group in the opening phase of the competition, that if Abramovich had a controlling interest in both clubs it would have to decide which club could stay in the competition.

“We do a superficial check of all clubs to establish that no individual owns more than 51 per cent of two clubs. Where we think there might be a problem we examine the situation more thoroughly.

“ar Abramovich had a controlling interest in both Chelsea and CSKA Moscow they could not both take part in the competition. He would have to decide which club would take part.

“We have to have this transparency under competition laws of the European Union and will carry out the necessary checks immediately.”

UEFA is concerned because CSKA, a company in which Abramovich has a controlling interest, signed a $45-million-dollar sponsorship deal with CSKA Moscow last March.

Trying to unravel details of Russian deal-making might tax the sharpest of legal brains, but Gaillard insisted that if there were any doubt, then either Chelsea or CSKA Moscow would not take part in the competition.

“If we find that any individual owns more than 51 per cent of two clubs, our rules are very clear. They cannot both compete,” he said.

CSKA president Yevgeny Giner is a close friend of Abramovich, the former owner of Sibneft and still the company’s major shareholder.

Sibneft, Russia’s fifth largest oil company, pledged $49 million US dollars a year until 2006 to become CSKA’s title sponsor.

Abramovich was among Giner’s guests at his VIP box during two CSKA matches last March.

Aby Wambach (L) of the US celebrates with team mate Shannon Boxx (R) after scoring in their 2-1 victory against Brazil in the women’s soccer competition at the Athens 2004 Olympic Games on 26 Aug, 2004. The United States won the gold medal. Brazil took the silver and Germany took the bronze. — Internet

Aby Wambach powered home a header in the 22nd minute of extra time in Athens to give the US their second Olympic title after winning at the 1996 Atlanta Games.

For Hamm, widely regarded as the best ever female player, it was a fitting end to a glittering 17-year career, even though she made little impact on a disappointing game.

“They carried me tonight, that’s for sure,” said an exhausted Hamm, who insisted there would be no change of heart about her decision to retire.

“There are few times in your life where you get to write the final chapter the way you want things. I’m not going to be an athlete that says so and then comes back.

“I have been extremely blessed to finish my career this way. It’s a wonderful feeling.”

Earlier, world champions Germany edged past Sweden 1-0 in a repeat of the 2003 World Cup final to take a second successive bronze.

The Americans, who finished runners-up to Norway in Sydney four years ago, took the lead six minutes before halftime with a superb long-distance strike from Lindsay Tarpley.

Brazil striker Pretinha equalized in the 73rd minute, pouncing on a mistake from goalkeeper Briana Scurry to score from close range.

But Wambach settled American nerves in the second period of extra time, the big striker heading a Kristine Lilly corner into the roof of the net for her 18th goal in her last 28 games.

The 32-year-old Hamm, who helped the US win the World Cup in 1991 and 1999, never came close to scoring her 154th goal in 266 internationals.

But she was cheered every time she touched the ball by a ravenous crowd of 10,000 that included Olympic swimming champion Michael Phelps.

Earlier, midfielder Renate Lingor scored a 17th-minute winner for Germany against Sweden in an Olympic Group B match.

Germany were indebted to goalkeeper Silke Rottenberg, who provided an Oliver Kahn-type performance for the world champions, also bronze medallists in Sydney four years ago.

Rottenberg made several brave stops to deny Sweden at Karaiskaki Stadium, the home of Greek club Olympiakos.

“Don’t think Germany were better than us at all,” said disgusted Swedish striker Victo- ria Svensson. “I hate losing to Germany, I’m sick of it.” — MNA/Reuters

Deco set to replace Figo as Scolori names Portugal squad
LISBON, 27 Aug — Deco is likely to replace former captain Luis Figo in the Portuguese line-up after coach Luiz Felipe Scolori on Thursday named the Brazilian-born midfield in his 20-man squad for next month’s World Cup qualifiers.

Portugal play Latvia in Riga on September 4 and are at home to Estonia four days later in Group Three, which also includes Slovakia, Russia, Liechtenstein and Luxembourg.

The 31-year-old Figo, a former World Player of the Year, has announced he is taking an indefinite break from international football after leading his team to the final of Euro 2004, where Portugal lost to Greece.

Figo’s decision to take a break followed midfielders Rui Costa’s retirement from the international game, leaving Fernando Couto as the only survivor of the so-called "golden generation".

Couto was not named in the squad, however, due to injury. Scolori said:

Brazilian Scolori kept faith in goalkeepers Quim Silva and Ricardo Pereira, leaving out former number one Vitor Baia, who won the Champions League with Porto last season.

Defender Marco Caniera, who has joined Valencia on loan from German club Borussia Dortmund this season, earned a recall, along with forwards Luiz Boa Morte of English Premier League club Fulham and Porto’s Hugo Almeida.

Roma coach Prandelli ready to quit
MILAN, 27 Aug — AS Roma coach Cesare Prandelli is ready to stand down due to family reasons, the Serie A club said on Thursday.

Former Parma coach Prandelli took over at Roma in June after Fabio Capello left for Juventus but he missed some of the pre-season preparations due to his wife’s health problems.

“Cesare Prandelli this evening indicated to the club his desire to offer his resignation in order to best deal with the matters relating to his family,” Roma said in a statement.

The club said it would give him "the necessary time to calmly evaluate his future."

Prandelli did not travel with Roma to their pre-season friendly matches in the United States, Canada and Japan in July.

The Serie A season starts on September 12 while Roma begin their Champions League campaign against Dynamo Kiev three days later.

Everton reject Man United, Newcastle bids for Rooney
LONDON, 27 Aug — Everton have rejected bids from Premier League rivals Manchester United and Newcastle United for England striker Wayne Rooney, the club said on their web site on Thursday.

Manchester United earlier confirmed they had made a bid late on Wednesday, the day after Newcastle offered bribes of 30 million pounds (35.94 million US dollars) for the 18-year-old Rooney.

— MNA/Reuters
Rainfall on
27-8-2004
— 0.04 inch at Yangon Airport,
— 0.04 inch at Kaba-Aye,
— 0.12 inch at central Yangon.

WEATHER
Friday, 27 August 2004
Summary of observations recorded at 09:00 hours
MST; During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy at Yangon, rain for three hours has been isolated in lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Divisions and scattered to widespread in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfalls in Magway Division and locally heavyfalls in Rakhine State. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded were Siyath (5.7 inches), Kyaukphyu (6.49 inches), Maungdaw (4.10 inches), Thanrawady (2.87 inches) and Mibin (2.32 inches).

Maximum temperature on 26-8-2004 was 89°F. Minimum temperature on 27-8-2004 was 74°F. Relative humidity at 09:00 hrs MST on 27-8-2004 was 74%. Total sunshine hours on 26-8-2004 was 2.8 hours approx. Rainfall on 27-8-2004 was 0.04 inch at Yangon Airport, 0.04 inch at Kaba-Aye, 0.12 inch at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 94.41 inches at Yangon Airport, 92.09 inches at Kaba-Aye and 94.02 inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 15 mph from Southwest at 09:15 hours MST on 27-8-2004. Bay influence Monsun is strong in the Bay of Bengal. Forecast valid until evening of 28-8-2004: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Kayah State and lower Sagaing Division. scattered in Shan State, Mandalay and Magway Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Rakhine State. Degree of certainty is (100%).

Outlook for subsequent two days: Increase of rain in Eastern Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 28-8-2004: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 100%. Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 28-8-2004: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 60%. Weather outlook for last week and end of August 2004: During the coming weekend, rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Yangon Division and isolated in Mandalay Division.

Dr. Daw Khin Thin Yi (May Maung) Obstetrician & Gynecologist

Age 74

The only daughter of (Thakin Ba Maung - Daw Sein), beloved wife of Professor Dr. Mya Thaung (Advisor/Consultant Urologist to the Defence Service Military Academy/Military Hospital). She is the second mother of Major Zaw Win Aung (Retired Director, Director, Police Star Survey Co., Ltd.) - Daw Oo Oo Mya, Dr. Khin Maung Phyu (A&K Co., Ltd.) - Daw Mon Mon Mya, Li Co of certainty is 100%. Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 28-8-2004: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 60%. Weather outlook for last week and end of August 2004: During the coming weekend, rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Yangon Division and isolated in Mandalay Division.

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State Peace and Development Council Chairman
Senior General Than Shwe
accepts credentials of
Ambassador of Republic of Croatia

YANGON, 27 Aug — Mr Zeljko Cimbur, newly accredited Ambassador of the Republic of Croatia to the Union of Myanmar, presented his credentials to Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar at Zeyathiri Beikman, Konminton at 10.30 am today.

Also present on the occasion were State Peace and Development Council Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Win and Director-General Thura U Aung Htet of Protocol Department. — MNA

Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects upgrading of Kanma-Thayet-Minhla Road, thriving monsoon paddy

YANGON, 27 Aug — Mr Zeljko Cimbur, newly accredited Ambassador of the Republic of Croatia to the Union of Myanmar, presented his credentials to Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar at Zeyathiri Beikman, Konminton at 10.30 am today.

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