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

Due to heavy rains, some of the farm lands in Yangon Division were inundated. As the floods are receding, preparations should be made for cultivation of crops at the fields in time. Local authorities are going to render necessary assistance to farmers.

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

Dry Day inspection teams supervised

Dry Day Supervisory Committee Vice-Chairman Minister at the Prime Minister’s Office Maj-Gen Thein Swe and committee members supervise inspection teams on the Dry Day. — MNA

Rural development works inspected

YANGON, 29 Aug — Director-General of the Development Affairs Department under the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Myo Myint together with officials inspected development activities in various townships in Mandalay Division on 27 August morning.

First, the director-general and party arrived Pyawbwe and inspected growing of flowering plants along roads, paving of platforms and dredging of drains. Next, they went to Meiktila and inspected the water supply station No 1. Then, they proceeded to Kyaukse and inspected rural and township development works. They also inspected paving of tarred roads, growing of shade trees and flowering plants, and paving of platforms. — MNA

Nursery Market Festival continues

YANGON, 29 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.

Educative booklets and pamphlets on utilization of fertilizers and pesticides are also available there. — MNA

SNOOPER C'SHIP: The Rave Myanmar Snooker Championship, jointly sponsored by the Myanmar Billiard & Snooker Federation and Sean Wai Hon Co was held at Asia Plaza on 38th Street in Yangon on 28 August. Photo shows Aung San Oo (Mandalay) who stood first in the C’ship. — (n)
Report says Iraqi militants seize two French journalists

DOBAL, 28 Aug—Two French journalists have been taken hostage in Iraq by Islamic militants demanding the rescinding of a ban on the Islamic headscarf in French schools, the Arabic satellite news channel Al-Jazeera reported.

The kidnappers from the Islamic Army in Iraq, the same group which killed Italian journalist Enzo Baldoni after taking him hostage, gave Paris a 48-hour ultimatum to meet their demands, the Qatar-based television said citing “our own sources in Iraq.”

The channel identified the kidnapped Frenchmen as missing journalists Christian Chesnot of Radio France Internationale and Georges Malbrunot of Paris daily Le Figaro and said it had received video footage of the two newsmen.

The pair went missing on August 20 after leaving Baghdad for the Iraqi Shiite holy city of Najaf, where US forces were fighting Shiite Muslim militiamen.

The group is demanding that “France rescinds within 48 hours the law banning” Islamic headscarves in schools, describing the law as “an injustice and an attack on the Islamic religion and individual freedoms,” Al-Jazeera said.

The French foreign ministry in Paris was unable immediately to confirm the Al-Jazeera report.

Kidnappings of journalists and other foreigners have become common in Iraq as guerillas attempt to force countries to withdraw their troops from the war-ravaged country or extort money.

Baldoni’s captors had threatened to kill their hostages unless Italy withdrew its 3,000 troops from Iraq within 48 hours. — Internet

Guindon may be first US Air Force Iraq suicide

MERRIMACK, 28 Aug — The New Hampshire Air National Guard member who killed himself 18 Aug—one day after returning from a six-month tour in Iraq—may be the first suicide in the US Air Force or Air National Guard by someone who served in Iraq, Air Force officials told the Sunday News.

This is the first suicide we are aware of within a year of being deployed to Iraq,” said Gary Pomeroy, spokesman for the Air Force Surgeon General, speaking of the death of Tech Sgt David Guindon.

“The level to which this is connected to service over there (Iraq) has yet to be determined,” he noted.

No suicide note was found, Merrimack Deputy Police Chief Paul Stavenger said last week.

Authorities have learned information in connection with Guindon’s death, however, that may shed some light on the local man’s thoughts before he shot himself, Stavenger said.

“We’re holding that information close to heart until we feel comfortable the investigation is over,” Stavenger said.

Although he would not reveal the subject or the nature of the information, Stavenger said, “I can tell you very safely that we don’t know why (Guindon shot himself). We may never know why.”

The 46-year-old man, who was married and had a daughter, died in his Merrimack home, Stavenger said.

Guindon’s death is part of an increase in suicides among active Air Force personnel, according to data obtained from the US Air Force Surgeon General’s Office.

Although the country is at war, there is no proven correlation between suicides and combat, said Lt Col Rick Campise, who heads the Air Force’s suicide program.

“The ability to predict the level to which this is going to become common in Iraq as guerillas attempt to force countries to withdraw their troops from the war-ravaged country or extort money.

US warplanes and tanks later bombarded targets in the Sunni stronghold of Fallujah, and US forces exchanged gunfire with insurgents along the city’s eastern outskirts and the main highway running to neighboring Jordan, witnesses said.

The fighting inured at least 14 people, hospital officials said.

US Military personnel in Iraq

Najaf, 28 Aug— Iraq’s most revered Shi’ite leader persuaded a rebel cleric Thursday to accept a deal ending three weeks of fierce fighting in Najaf, after returning to the holy city amid bloody clashes that killed at least 74 people.

Iraqi Minister of State Kasim Daoud said the government had also agreed to the deal brokered by Sistani and would fund the reconstruction of Najaf.

“We are three-quarters toward the end of this crisis,” said Hamed al-Khafaf, senior aide to Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, who entered Najaf in a huge convoy of vehicles earlier Thursday for talks with radical Shi’ite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr.

The new violence came as residents of Najaf began digging out of the rubble and debris left by three weeks of fierce fighting between militias and US forces in the holy city.

The crisis ended Friday when the militants withdrew under a peace deal brokered by Iraq’s most senior Shi’ite cleric, Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani.

Iraqi police spread out across Najaf’s devastated Old City on Saturday, patrolling in vehicles and on foot and taking over checkpoints that until recently were manned by followers of rebel Shi’ite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr.

US forces pulled back from the neighborhood, the site of much of the fighting.

“It’s a joyful thing, the armed men have left Najaf and (neighboring) Kufa,” interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi told al-Iraqiya television Saturday.

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Iraqi government accepts Najaf peace agreement

Baghdad, 28 Aug—The interim government has accepted the peace agreement reached by top Shiite Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani and Moqtada al-Sadr to end the standoff in Najaf, Iraqi Minister of State Kasim Daoud said late Thursday.

“We have accepted the solution of peace that has been presented to us by the eminence Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani,” Daoud told a news conference.

Moqtada al-Sadr is free to go anywhere in Najaf, only as far as the city center probably he will stay in his house in Najaf, but he is as free as any

Iraqi citizen to do whatever he likes,” he said in English.

Sistani, Iraq’s most in-
fluential Shiite leader, reached a peace agreement with Sadr on Thursday to end the 22-day-old fighting in Najaf, only hours after he returned to the holy city from London where he received medical treatment.

Hamed al-Khafaf, a top aide to Sistani, said the peace agreement was a five-point plan asking Najaf and Kufa to be weapons-free cities, all foreign forces to withdraw from Najaf, and Iraq forces to take over security.

It urges the government to compensate victims of the clashes and a census to be taken to prepare for democratic elections in January.

Khafaf said Sistani had also asked the Iraqi Government to allow Shiite marchers to enter the Imam Ali shrine.

The US forces would leave Najaf once Sadr’s Mehdi Army withdrawal from the mosque area, he added.

The US military said the government would hand over security to Najaf Governor Adnan al-Zuhfa said Sistani’s request had been accepted and unarmed Shiites could enter the shrine.

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The US forces would leave Najaf once Sadr’s Mehdi Army withdrawal from the mosque area, he added.

Group warns Turkey over Iraq supplies

DUBAI, 28 Aug— An Islamist group has threatened to attack Turkish supplies to the US Army in Iraq if Turkey did not stop them, according to an Internet statement posted on Friday.

“We peacefully call on the Muslim Turkish Government and people to halt sending military equipment and aid to the invading forces via its border with Iraq... if they don’t respond to our demands then we will use special ways to stop the aid,” said the statement signed by the Islamic Tawhid Group.

It was not possible to verify the authenticity of the statement.

Earlier this month, a group calling itself the Jordanian wing of Islamic Tawhid threatened to kill officials and foreigners in Jordan unless Amman stops sending truckloads of supplies to the US Army in Iraq within a week.

Several Islamist groups have issued Internet statements in recent weeks threatening nations that have troops in Iraq.

Militants in Iraq have also kidnapped several foreigners who were delivering supplies to the US-led multinational force in Iraq or who were contractors with the military. Some hostages have been released unharmed but at least nine have been killed.

12 US soldiers wounded in separate Baghdad grenade attacks

Baghdad, 28 Aug—Twelve US soldiers were wounded in separate grenade attacks in central Baghdad on Friday, the US military said. Guerrillas lobbed eight hand grenades at US soldiers at around 10:00 a.m. (0600 GMT), wounding five US soldiers.

Another attack took place an hour later when guerrillas threw two hand grenades wounding five other soldiers. A third attack 45 minutes after that left two more soldiers wounded.

As the soldiers finished their patrol at around 1:00 p.m. another two hand grenades were thrown, but no soldiers were wounded, the US military said.

Eight people were arrested in connection with the attacks, the military said, without specifying the exact location of the incident.

Meanwhile, witnesses said fighting broke out on Friday in Baghdad’s Haifa Street neighbourhood, an area notorious as a haven for guerrillas, with US air and ground forces blocking streets and helicopters hovering overhead. Gunfire could be heard and columns of smoke were rising from the area, according to the witnesses.

Indonesia, Australia try to resolve missile spat

Jakarta, 28 Aug—Australia has briefed Indonesia on its plan to create the most lethal force of fighter jets in Southeast Asia, and Jakarta said on Friday it welcomed the effort to explain.

Australia announced on Thursday it would spend up to 450 million Australian dollars (391 million US dollars) to arm F/A-18 Horus see fighters and AP-3C Orion maritime patrol aircraft with air-to-surface missiles capable of hitting targets up to 400 kilometres away, which would be installed between 2007 and 2009.

Indonesia, Australia’s partner in anti-terror efforts which sits on its northern doorstep, had expressed concern about the plan and Canberra’s failure to promptly explain its rationale.

“To build confidence and trust, it is never a mistake that these kinds of things are communicated to related parties. Praise the Lord, after a 24-hour gap, a channel of communication has been provided today,” Indonesian foreign affairs spokesman Resmiyee Salleh told reporters on Friday.

“It is just natural for us to question to whom these weapons are directed to as the range is about 400 kilometres. We want to know the reason behind this, whether it is meant for shooting fish in open sea or what,” he said.

Many nations other than Indonesia are in the range of the missiles and a recent poll showed Australians think their biggest security threat comes from their northern neighbour.

Cyclists protest “no more Bush”

New York, 28 Aug—Thousands of cyclists brought traffic in midtown Manhattan to a virtual standstill on Friday in the first significant protest ahead of the Republican convention at which President George W. Bush will be nominated to run for a second White House term.

Thousands of cyclists swarmed down Broadway from Central Park in a parade stretching more than a mile on Friday evening—a time when the area is typically crowded with theatregoers and people out for dinner and drinks.

The protest lasted several hours, with many chanting “No more Bush,” and was the first sizable demonstration ahead of the August 30-September 2 convention. Many locals in the mostly Democratic city stopped to applaud the cyclists as they passed through a bustling Times Square.

At least 30 cyclists were detained and handcuffed at various locations along the route after small altercations between riders and motorists who were irritated at the congestion, according to Reuters witnesses.

The New York Police Department said it had no immediate information about arrests.

The event was mounted by a group called Critical Mass, which wants to boost the rights of cyclists in traffic-clogged city streets and holds rides in cities around the world on the last Friday of each month.

More demonstrations are expected in the coming days.

The biggest anti-Bush protest is set for Sunday, when more than 200,000 are expected to march to decry the Bush Administration’s economic policies, the war in Iraq and what they see as the erosion of civil liberties at home after the September 11, 2001 attacks.

The group organizing Sunday’s march was denied a permit to rally in Central Park on the grounds such a large crowd would damage the grass. An unprecedented security effort has been put in place to protect the Republican convention after Washington said the event and last month’s Democratic convention in Boston, were possible terrorist targets.

Meanwhile, witnesses said fighting broke out on Friday in Baghdad’s Haifa Street neighbourhood, an area notorious as a haven for guerrillas, with US air and ground forces blocking streets and helicopters hovering overhead. Gunfire could be heard and columns of smoke were rising from the area, according to the witnesses.

Thousands of Shiites in Najaf shrine after peace deal

Najaf (Iraq), 28 Aug — Thousands of chanting Iraqi Shiites entered a sacred shrine in Najaf on Friday where they were greeted by rebels. The supporters of revered cleric Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, who brokered the peace deal, kissed the outer wall of the sacred mosque before the militants allowed them in.

Sporadic shooting broke out nearby, but the cause was unclear.

The supporters of revered cleric Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, who brokered the peace deal, kissed the outer wall of the sacred mosque before the militants allowed them in. (Image 46x64 to 294x226)

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Kidnappers claim killing Italian hostage

Dubai, 28 Aug — The kidnappers of Italian journalist Enzo Baldoni, taken hostage in Iraq, have said they have killed him, the Arabic language television channel Al-Jazeera reported on Thursday.

The station made the announcement in a scrolling text newsflash. There was no way to immediately verify the report.

A group called the Islamic Army in Iraq told Al-Jazeera television earlier it was holding Baldoni, who disappeared near Najaf several days ago.

The kidnappers were calling for Italy to withdraw its 2,700 troops from Iraq, the third largest foreign military contingent in the country. That is something Italy has refused to do.

As well as a reporter for Italian newspapers, Baldoni was volunteering for the Red Cross while in Iraq, his daughter, Gabriella Baldoni, told Italian television on Wednesday.

“We are trying to save human lives in Najaf by helping a Red Cross convoy in a spirit of solidarity which has always understood his thinking and his actions,” she told RAI television.

Four other Italians have been taken hostage in Iraq since militants began employing the technique in April to pressure US allies and businesses to leave the country.

One of them, civilian security guard Fabrizio Quattrocchi, was shot dead. Three others were released unharmed.

China grants aid to ASEAN Summit

Hanoi, 28 Aug — China has agreed to provide Laos with 13 million yuan worth of grant aid to support the upcoming summit of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), a source from Laos said on Thursday.

An agreement of grant assistance was signed on August 25 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Laos between Sayyakan Soulivong, Foreign Affairs of Laos between Sayyakan Soulivong, and Zeidan Lamie, a relative of Shalaan by marriage, after Iraqi police met their demand to control. The new development indicated efforts to secure release of the hostages were moving in a “promising direction,” she said.

KGL says it has no presence in Iraq

New Delhi, 28 Aug — The Kuwaiti company KGL, employing three Indians held hostage in Iraq on Friday said it had no presence in the war-ravaged country and asked the abductors to believe it and release the captives.

Responding to the abductors’ statement Thursday night on dropping all demands but asking the company to end its operations in Iraq to ensure freedom of the hostages, KGL spokesperson Rana Abu-Zaineh said it was a “welcome” development and hoped for an early end to the over month-long crisis.

“We confirm we have no presence or operations in Iraq. They (abductors) should believe it and release the hostages,” Zaineh told PTI over phone from Kuwait while reacting to the latest statement of the Iraqi militant group ‘Islamic Secret Army - Holders of Black Banners’.

“It is for the abductors to believe us and we hope they will believe us,” said Zaineh. She also conveyed the same message to the abductors through the Dubai-based news channel. The new development indicated efforts to secure release of the hostages were moving in a “promising direction,” she said.

Visitor arrivals to Vietnam surge in first 8 months

Hanoi, 28 Aug — Vietnam is estimated to receive roughly 1.9 million foreign visitors in the first eight months of this year, a year-on-year rise of 33.1 per cent, the Vietnam National Administration of Tourism (VNAT) told Thanh Nien on Thursday.

The number of tourists surged the most by 48 per cent to over one million, followed by overseas Vietnamese returning home to visit relatives by 27.6 per cent to over one million, followed by overseas Vietnamese returning home to visit relatives by 27.6 per cent to 324,000, and business visitors by 17.7 per cent to nearly 333,000.

In the eight-month period, the highest numbers of international arrivals to Vietnam came from Chinese, the United States, and Taiwan, reaching 520,000, nearly 188,000 and 166,000 respectively. The number of tourists surged the most by 48 per cent to over one million, followed by overseas Vietnamese returning home to visit relatives by 27.6 per cent to over one million, followed by overseas Vietnamese returning home to visit relatives by 27.6 per cent to nearly 333,000.

In the eight-month period, the highest numbers of international arrivals to Vietnam came from Chinese, the United States, and Taiwan, reaching 520,000, nearly 188,000 and 166,000 respectively. Posting year-on-year increases of 39 per cent, 29.7 per cent and 43 per cent.

Vietnamese tourists to host 2.7-2.8 million international arrivals and export tourism revenues of 25 trillion Vietnam Dong (roughly 1.6 billion US Dollars this year, up 2.7-2.8 per cent and 25 per cent, respectively. It plans to host 3-3.5 million foreign visitors, and gain tourism revenues of more than 2 billion dollars next year.

Oman’s oil production up to 780,000 BPD in June

Muscat, 28 Aug — Oil production of Oman grew to 780,000 barrels per day (BPD) in June, 2004, compared to 777,000 BPD in May, major Arabian financial web site menafn.com reported Thursday.

The statistics released by the Oman Ministry of National Economy showed the total oil production of Oman fell slightly to reach 142.5 million barrels in the first half of 2003 from 150.7 million barrels in the same period of last year.

The average daily oil production was 783,000 BPD for the first half of 2004 from an average of 832,000 BPD during the same period of 2003.

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Militants free relative of Iraqi Minister

Dubai, 28 Aug — Militants who had kidnapped two relatives of Iraqi Defence Minister Hazim al-Shalaan have released one of them, Al Jazeera television reported on Friday.

It said the group calling itself the “Brides of God’s Anger” freed Saddam Hassan Zeidan Lamie, a relative of Shalaan by marriage, after Iraqi police met their demand to release Ali Smesim, an aide to rebel Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr.

There was no word on the other kidnapped man — a blood relative of Shalaan who was captured by the group.

The militants had earlier demanded in a videotaped Al Jazeera on Wednesday that US forces leave the holy city of Najaf, the scene of fierce clashes between Sadr’s supporters and US forces.

The footage had shown the two men kneeling in front of masked militants, but no audio could be heard.

Militants have kidnapped scores of people to drive out individuals, companies and troops supporting US-led forces and the new Iraqi interim administration.

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Iraqis inspect the remains of a car bomb after it exploded near a vehicle in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul on 26 August, 2004.

Iraqi oil workers wait for fire fighting force to arrive at the scene of eight burning pipelines, 40 km south of Basra in southern Iraq on 26 August, 2004.

An Iraqi man views the shattered ceiling of his house after a rocket landed on it in the al-Mansur district in Baghdad, on 29 August, 2004.

Iraqis check the damage following an overnight air strike in the flashpoint town of Fallujah, west of Baghdad on 29 August, 2004.

Iraqis pick up some of the belongings left next to a puddle of blood after a mortar barrage hit a building in the Iraqi city of Kufa, Iraq on 26 August, 2004.


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Iraqi oil workers wait for fire fighting force to arrive at the scene of eight burning pipelines, 40 km south of Basra in southern Iraq on 26 August, 2004.

Images of Iraq
Self-reliance library in Magyihtoo village in Myothit Township, Magway Division. —IPRD

The opening ceremony of a library in Phayeohnhinzu model village in Mawlamyinegyun Township, Ayeyawady Division. —IPRD

Shepyithit Library was opened in Mothsoegwin Village-tract in Myaungmya Township, Ayeyawady Division. —IPRD

Villagers of Zegon Sanypa Village, Shwepyitha Township, Yangon Division are now able to read books in the library opened in their village. —IPRD

A library opened for bookworms of Magyiton Village in Wetlet Township, Sagaing Division.—KYEMON
Use of machines...

(from page 1)

And, the Secretary-2 inspected cultivation of late-monsoon paddy of the command. The commander reported on arrangements being made for cultivation of monsoon and summer paddy, pulses and beans, edible oil crops, vegetables and crops on commercial scale on the farm-lands the whole year, greenness of Barlar region, turning of wetlands into proper monsoon paddy fields and reclaiming of flooded farmlands for carrying out cultivation because of heavy rainfall in Yangon Division this month.

The Secretary-2, the commander and party saw over nurturing of Chainut 60 and Shwenatha 9 strains by applying modern technology.

Next, they viewed agricultural machinery manufactured by Shwe Tun Co Ltd. Managing Director U Win Naing briefed them on matters relating to the products.

In the briefing hall, the commander reported on farm-lands of regiments and units in Barlar region and flooded areas.

Afterwards, the Secretary-2 met local farmers and heard reports on expense for cultivating one acres of monsoon and summer paddy and per-acre yield. He gave instructions on cultivation of high yield paddy, use of natural and chemical fertilizers and quality strain.

Chairman of Yangon North District Peace and Develop-ment Council Lt-Col Myat Min reported on cultivation matters.

Speaking on the occasion, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein said that due to heavy rains, some of the farm lands in Yangon Division were inundated. As the floods are reced-ing, preparations should be made for cultivation of crops at the fields in time. Local authorities are going to render nec-esary assistance to farmers, who are required to make ef-forts to meet the division’s monsoon paddy cultivation tar-get of 1.2 million acres. The State’s economic development depends on agriculture. As priority has been giving to intro-duction of mechanized farming, farmers will have to use more farm machinery to reduce cost and cut cultivation time. They also need to pay special attention to minimizing wastage. As building of an industrial nation is needed for national eco-nomic progress, industrial zones have been set up in various parts of the nation and the private sectors have been given encouragement in all sectors. The zones are manufacturing and distributing farm machinery, and the Agriculture and Irrigation Ministry and Industry-2 Ministry are also produc-ing farm machinery. Use of machines in the entire farming work will cut cultivation time and reduce labour and cost, leading to further improving the living standard of peas-ants. Thus, farmer should use more farm equipment.

Officials of the Myanmar Agriculture Service and farm-ers will have to make collective efforts for effective imple-menting the four methods namely application of correct methods, increasing of crop yield, utilization of quality strains and chemical and natural fertilizers, and extension of sown acreage. The State laid down the four political objectives, the four economic objectives and the four social objectives and is implementing them for emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation.

Secretary-2 Li-Gen Thein Sein inspects cultivation of late-monsoon paddy in Barlar region.— MNA
Provisions donated to monasteries …

(from page 16)

East District and South Okkalapa Township PDCs, member of Yangon City Development Committee Col Tin Soe, rice by the VCDC, Secretary U Myo Aung, rice by Myanmar Fisheries Federation, an official, rice by Township Union Solidarity and Development Committee, an official, edible oil and soap by the Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings Ltd, officials, iodized salt and soft salt boxes by Myanmar Salt and Marine Chemicals Enterprise under the Ministry of Mines and Yangon Division Salt Factory Entrepreneurs Association. Deputy Director-General Dr Myat Myat Ohn Khin, traditional medicines by the department and traditional medicine houses, and wellwishers, rice to the members of the Sangha.

Afterwards, Tatmadaw families presented K 170,000 to the monasteries; Yangon Division PDC, K 51,000; U Bo Hsi (Chairman of South Okkalapa Industrial Zone), K 1.3 million; South Okkalapa Industrial Zone, K 1,000,500; U Aung Myat (Mother Trading Co Ltd), Managing Director of Grade Nine Construction Co Ltd U Aik Lin, Naing Group Construction and Cherry Oo Watch Shop, and U Tin Win-Daw San San Win of Myanmar Pyi Thar Hei Co, K 300,000 each; traditional physician U Bo Gyi-Daw Htay Htay Nyunt and family, Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry President U Win Myint, Great Wall Traditional Embrocation House family, and Yangon East District and Township PDCs, K 200,000 each; Sandi Traditional Medicine (U Thein Maung)-Daw Par Par, K 120,000; U Tin Aung-Daw Hla Hla Hla Nwe of Win Yadana Travelling Agency, 108,000; Myanmar Rice Merchants Association; Myanmar Edible Oil Merchants Association, U Aung Mon-Daw Hla Mon (Myint Myat Paddy Trading), U Tin Hsan (ACE Construction), Dr Win Zaw (Lizstar Enterprise Co Ltd), Dr Moe Tin, U Ko Ko Lat-Daw Tin Tin May (Kyi Tha Association; Myanmar Edible Oil Merchants Association, U Aung Mon-Daw Hla Mon (Myint Myat Paddy Trading), U Tin Hsan (ACE Construction), Dr Win Zaw (Lizstar Enterprise Co Ltd), Dr Moe Tin, U Ko Ko Lat-Daw Tin Tin May (Kyi Tha

State Peace and Development Council Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein presents offertories to a Sayadaw at the ceremony to donate cash and kind to monasteries in South Okkalapa Township. — MNA

328 boxes of soft salt, 3,280 bars of Padomma soap and K 8,964,590 were donated by the department and traditional medicine houses, and wellwishers, rice bags.

It was also attended by the Chairman Sayadaw of Dagon Township Sangha Nayaka Committee and members of the Sangha, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister Maj-Gen Sein Htwa, Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, senior military officers, departmental heads, local authorities, officials, members of social and religious associations, wellwishers and guests. Chairman of Township Sangha Nayaka Committee Kaya Aye Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Revata administered the Five Precepts to the congregation. The Secretary-2, the commander, and the senior military officers presented alms to the Sayadaws. Vice-Adjudant-General Brig-Gen Hla Hla Shwe, Commodore Maw Thein and Lt-Col Chan Maung presented rice, edible oil and salt by family. A similar ceremony took place for Dagon Partyatti Monastery, Dekkhinayon Monastery and Kyaku Monastery in Dagon Township this afternoon at Kyaku Monastery on Shwedagon Pagoda Road, attended by the Secretary-2.

Jewellery Shop, Thingyangyun; Thiri Thudhamma Manuzatwarda U Sein Hla Win (Sein & Hsan Co), U Khin Zaw (Nine Tigers Car Tyres Production), U Pye Hlaing of Silver Shine Co Ltd, and Youthsasssa Hita Neikbanwaa Association, K 100,000 each; U Myo Aung-Daw Khin Yi Mon (Hsan Myint Myanmar Co), K 80,000; medical staff of South Okkalapa Township, K 59,000; U Than Maung-Daw Nwe Kyi and family of Chan Myo Store, K 54,000; Saya U Shwe Hnyaw-Daw Khan Yon (traditional physician), Kay Thi Pan U Kyi Soe (Kay Thi Pan Traditional Medicine), U Tun Shwe and family of Tun Shwe Wah traditional medicine house, Myanmar Sesamum Merchants Association, South Okkalapa Township Rice Merchants’ Association, U Zaw Aung and family of No 1045, Thumninga Street, Ward 4, Daw Tha Than and family of 806, Saga 19th Street, Ward 4, Daw Li Khaing and family of 1260, 3rd Street, Ward 6, U Myo Aye-Daw Hwe Hwe and family of 307, Thumninga Street, Ward 7, U Hnson Min-Daw Than Yee and family of 296, Thit Sar Street, Ward 10, Daw Hla Kyi and family of Thit Sar Street, Ward 10, Awaya Clinic family of Myinta Street, Ward 10, K 50,000 each. The Secretary-2, the commander, the deputy minister, and senior military officers accepted the donations. Lt-Col Ne Win supplicated on the donation to the Sayadaws. The Sayadaw of Ngwe Kya Yan Monastery delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits gained.

Today’s donations amounted to 433 rice bags, 160 vis of edible oil, 300 vis of gram, 1,640 vis of iodized salt, 6,364 different kinds of traditional medicine boxes.

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe accepts cash donation from a wellwisher at the ceremony to donate cash and kind to monasteries in Dagon Township. — MNA

Commander, Minister meet entrepreneurs, farmers, departmental officials in Sagaing Division

YANGON, 29 Aug—Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of the North-West Command Maj-Gen Thu Aye, together with Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Soe and officials, yesterday afternoon, arrived at the pest control centre in Ondaw village, Sagaing Township Sagaing Division and met entre-preneurs and farmers engaged in wheat cultivation and departmental officials.

The minister gave instructions and urged farmers and departmental officials to cooperate with entrepreneurs for region development, for acquisition of techniques and for boosting the per acre yield. Next, farmers who are engaged in wheat cultivation reported on cultivation and production of wheat in the division and measures being taken for extended cultivation of wheat to the commander who fulfilled requirements.

In the afternoon, the commander and party attended the work coordination meeting held at the Sagaing Peace Division and Development Council Office in Monywa. The commander made a speech on the occasion.

Afterwards, the minister gave necessary instructions to entrepreneurs, departmental officials and farmers. The minister together with Managing Director U Min Hla Aung of Myanmar Agricultural Produce Trading this morning met departmental personnel at the Divisional Manager’s Office in Monywa and gave necessary instructions.

In the afternoon, the minister and party arrived at Bawdhitataung Buddha Kyangdaw in Monywa where they met departmental personnel at the Divisional Manager’s Office in Monywa and gave necessary instructions.

Energy Deputy Minister leaves for Thailand

YANGON, 29 Aug—Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htun left here by air this morning to attend Conference on Biofuel to be held in Bangkok, Thailand. He was seen off at the airport by Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, heads of department and his families.

The deputy minister was accompanied by Director (Admin) of Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise U Thaung Myint. — MNA

Minister for SWRR Maj-Gen Sein Htwa accepts cash donation from a wellwisher at the ceremony to donate cash and kind to monasteries in Dagon Township. — MNA

Minister for SWRR Maj-Gen Sein Htwa administered the ceremonies followed by sharing of merits gained. A total of 122 bags of rice, over 40 vis of edible oil, 81 vis of pulses and beans, 415 vis of iodized salt, 81 tubes of tooth paste, 1934 boxes of traditional medicine and over K 3 million were donated today. MNA
Malnutrition literally means bad nutrition and it encompasses both under-nutrition and over-nutrition. In this sense, no country in the world is free from the problem of malnutrition. Under-nutrition and micronutrient deficiencies constitute major nutritional problems in the developing countries while obesity and diet-related chronic diseases prevail in the developed countries. With rapid economic development and associated lifestyle changes, including consumption of fatty foods and sedentary nature of work, obesity and diet-related diseases are emerging in some developing countries as a public health problem. In other words, these countries are bearing the double burden of under-nutrition and over-nutrition.

Just like other developing countries, Myanmar has been fighting against three micro nutrient problems, namely iodine deficiency disorder (IDD), vitamin A deficiency (VAD) and iron deficiency anaemia (IDA). The National Iodine campaign of 2005 aims to eliminate iodine deficiency disorders and vitamin A deficiency and, reduction of iron deficiency anaemia.

Iodine deficiency

Iodine deficiency is one of the common causes of preventable brain damage among children. A baby born to an iodine-deficient mother may be mentally retarded, deaf, dumb, stunted and unable to walk at all. Less severe cases may be exclusively breast fed at home and bad at school performance. In adults, iodine deficiency manifests itself as a swelling in front of the neck due to the enlargement of thyroid gland which is known by medical professionals as goitre and lay people as “big neck”. Iodine deficiency can adversely affect the socioeconomic status of families and communities by decreasing work capacity and productivity of people. Making salt fortified with iodine available for human and animal consumption throughout the country is known as universal salt iodization (USI). It has been proved to be an affordable and effective strategy for fighting iodine deficiency in a number of countries.

Some nursing mothers also restrain themselves from eating a variety of food for fear of causing harm to the baby. In fact, they need to eat a variety of nutritious food to keep themselves well nourished and to provide adequate nutrition for the baby through breast milk. Weakness, numbness, angular stomatitis, sore tongue etc are signs of malnutrition and deficiency of vitamins which result from absence of nutritious foods during pregnancy and lactation.

Myanmar has adopted the USI strategy with the aim of eliminating iodine deficiency by 2005. Proportion of households consuming iodized salt increased from 11% in 1994 to more than 80% in 2004. As a result, goitre rate dramatically dropped from 33% to 5.5% during the same period. Myanmar Iodine Deficiency Disorders Elimination Programme is aimed to achieve the objective of 90% iodized salt consumption rate in households by the year 2005. Myanmar Salt & Marine Chemicals Enterprise has also made plans to ensure that all salt contains adequate amount of iodine for providing full protection against brain damage due to iodine deficiency, salt is done by Myanmar Salt & Marine Chemicals Enterprise under the Ministry of Mines at the factory level and by midwives of the Ministry of Health at the household level. In the Nutrition Promotion Week, health staff will check the iodine content in salt at wholesale and retail shops with the help of persons from Yangon City Development Committee, Mandalay City Development Committee and Development Affairs Department.

Under-nutrition and micronutrient deficiencies constitute major nutritional problems in the developing countries while obesity and diet-related chronic diseases include diabetes, hypertension and coronary heart diseases prevail in the developed countries. With rapid economic development and associated lifestyle changes, including consumption of fatty foods and sedentary nature of work, obesity and diet-related diseases are emerging in some developing countries as a public health problem.

Vitamin-A deficiency

Vitamin A deficiency was one of the common causes of preventable blindness among children in the developing world. The deficiency also impairs the body defense system leading to increased susceptibility of infections and higher risks of death. During the last decade, regular Vitamin A supplementation programmes saved the sight and lives of thousands of children from many developing countries.

The Ministry of Health has been distributing high-potency vitamin A capsules to children between 6 months and 5 years of age since early 1980s. It is one of the regular functions of health staff to deliver vitamin A capsules in March and September every year. More than eight per cent of children all over the country receive vitamin A capsules through the routine distribution system. Coverage of vitamin A supplementation markedly increased when it was integrated with polio vaccination on the National Immunization Days of the years from 2000 through 2002. Vitamin A coverage was high in 2003 when supplementation was done during the Nutrition Promotion Week because of the support provided by local authorities, government departments, non-governmental organizations and the community itself.

Today, clinical vitamin A deficiency is no longer a public health problem. Blindness due to vitamin A deficiency has become very rare. But, regular vitamin A supplementation for children is needed to continue because it improves the immune function of the body. Children who regularly receive vitamin A supplementation can resist infection more powerfully and are less likely to die of communicable diseases. In order for all children to enjoy these benefits, parents and child caregivers are requested to bring their kids to the nearest health centre and let them receive vitamin A capsules.

Exclusive breastfeeding in the first six months of life assures adequate vitamin A supply for them, provided that mothers regularly consume vitamin A rich foods. Vitamin A content in breast milk significantly rises if the mother takes one capsule of high-potency vitamin A (200,000 international unit) within one month after childbirth. After six months of age, all children should be gradually introduced to vitamin A-rich foods including liver, eggs, dark green leafy vegetables, yellow fruits, roots and vegetables such as mango, papaya, yellow pumpkin, sweet potato and beet root.

Iron deficiency anaemia

Iron deficiency is the most common cause of nutritional anaemia. In 2001, the World Health Organization estimated that about 52% of pregnant women in the developing countries were anaemic. Children and women of reproductive age are also at risk. Anaemic women cannot work as hard as ordinary women, their children are born small, they are more prone to infectious diseases more frequently and more severely because their body defense mechanism is weak. They are slow in learning and thus, bad at school performance because of impaired cognitive development and poor concentration power.

Babies are usually born with significantly large stores of iron in the body. Iron deficiency anaemia is rare among exclusively breastfed babies during the first six months of age. So they do not need any iron supplementation during this period. Oral iron supplements may even enhance multiplication of pathogenic bacteria in the infant’s gut and cause gastrointestinal diseases. But after the sixth month of age, when body stores are depleted, babies should be given iron-rich foods such as meat, liver as well as iron-containing syrup to prevent anaemia.

Eating variety of nutritious foods

In every developing country, mothers and children are the most vulnerable to micronutrient deficiencies. Myanmar is not an exception. One of the reasons is that a number of nutritious foods are denied to them. Some pregnant women refusing to eat nutritious foods for fear of getting an excessive big baby which may die due to birth asphyxia. Some foods are avoided for fear of causing harm to the baby in the womb. In fact, these are wrong beliefs. Women need to eat a variety of foods as much as they can during pregnancy in order to keep themselves healthy and let their babies inside the womb grow normally.

Some nursing mothers also restrain themselves from eating a variety of food for fear of causing harm to the baby. In fact, they need to eat a variety of nutritious foods to keep themselves well nourished and to provide adequate nutrition for the baby through breast milk. Weakness, numbness, angular stomatitis, sore tongue etc are signs of malnutrition and deficiency of vitamins which result from absence of nutritious foods during pregnancy and lactation. Some nursing mothers who practice too much restriction of food from their own noses, may develop anaemia.

In conclusion, I would like to urge all families to consume iodized salt; all parents and child caregivers to bring their children to the health centres to receive vitamin A capsules and non-governmental organizations and the community to distribute vitamin A capsules to the children regularly; all babies under six months to be breastfed; all women of reproductive age to take iron tablets biweekly to prevent iron deficiency.

All this needs to be known

* Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
* Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
* Do not be softened whenever appeased
* Do not be denounced whenever criticized
* Do not be rewarded whenever praised
* Keep your word when you make a promise
China beefs up prevention and control of contagious disease

BEIJING, 29 Aug — China’s top legislature on Saturday passed the revised version of Law on the Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases, which requires that the government guarantee funds for infectious disease prevention. The revised law was passed at the 11th session of the 10th Standing Committee of National People’s Congress (NPC), which concluded Saturday morning. The law provides aid to major projects in areas that cannot support their own and to poor people infected with disease who cannot afford treatment, according to the law. Lack of adequate funds undermined contagious disease prevention and control capabilities of organizations entrusted with the tasks,” Vice-Minister of Health Gao Qiang once said. “Due to the lack of money, some patients could not receive timely, effective and formal treatment and became new sources of infection.” The law stipulates that governments of various levels should strengthen prevention and control of AIDS and take measures to prevent the spread of the disease. This is the first time that AIDS is specifically targeted in the law. The revised law also includes clauses that The blood donation centres and biological product companies to strictly abide by regulations of the state. This will guarantee the quality of blood and blood products. Statistics show that among the reported AIDS cases in China, 11 per cent were infected in the processes of having blood drawn or blood transmissions. According to estimates of experts, there are 840,000 people infected with AIDS’ HIV in China. The law also rules out discrimination against people infected with contagious diseases, people carrying the pathogen of a contagious disease and people who are suspected of having a contagious disease. In general, the law underscores prevention and early-warning of contagious diseases and isolation of patients of contagious disease. It puts greater responsibility on medical institutions to monitor the spread of contagious diseases and prevent infection inside hospitals. China has established a four-level disease prevention and control system starting from the county level up to the prefecture, province and state levels, with a staff of 288,000 people. By 2003, the incidence of contagious diseases in China had fallen to 182 in 100,000 people.

Philippines expects to enhance bilateral relations with China

MANILA, 29 Aug — The Philippines is expecting a very fruitful state visit of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to China, with the expected signing of agreements on tourism, energy, fisheries and infrastructure between the two countries. “China, Japan and the United States have a determining influence in the security situation — and economic evolution — of East Asia. This is the first of eight realities that currently shape the foreign policy of the Philippines,” said Philippine Press Secretary and Presidential Spokesman Ignacio Bunye in a joint interview by Xinhua and other Chinese media Friday. “The President thinks China is a very important neighbour and partner to the Philippines,” Bunye said. The destinies of China and the Philippines — geographically, politically, economically, and culturally — are so closely intertwined, he said. The hybrid rice technology borrowed from China is responsible for doubling, sometimes tripling, the Philippines’ potential corn production. “China is helping us with the North Rail project, once completed, it will not only facilitate the transport of people and goods but will also ultimately result in the decongestion of Metro Manila,” Bunye said. “Still to be capped in the huge tourist market, with the economic boom in China, an estimated 600 million, or roughly half of its 1.3 billion population, are potential tourists,” he added. Likewise, he said, the Philippines is expecting to discuss the problem of anti-drug trafficking cooperation with China and the country is working to push forward the signing of the early harvest agreement of the ASEAN (the Association of South-East Asian Nations)-China Free Trade Area. — MNA/Xinhua

India to raise issue of premium on crude oil with OPEC

NEW DELHI, 29 Aug — India’s Petroleum Minister Mani Shankar Aiyar said Friday India will raise the issue of OPEC countries charging a premium on crude oil it sells to developing countries at the oil cartel’s ministerial meeting next month. “One of the themes I intend to focus on in my address to the Organization of Petroleum-Exporting Countries (OPEC) on September 17 is the Asian premium,” the Press Trust of India quoted Aiyar as saying. OPEC charges one US dollar a barrel premium on supplies it makes to India when compared to the price at which it sells to the United States and Europe. There is solidarity among Asian countries, he said. OPEC has invited India to present the developing nation’s perspective on international oil prices at its meeting in Vienna next month. Aiyar will also voice concern at the runaway international oil prices, which have crossed the 21-year-old high. India is one of the fastest growing oil consumers in the world and imports 70 per cent of its crude oil needs. It imported 90.83 million tons in 2003-04 for 18.36 billion US dollars. — MNA/Xinhua

Boat capsizes in Vietnam

HANOI, 29 Aug— Fifteen people died or went missing after their boat capsized on Thursday on Cua Luc River in Vietnam’s northern border province of Quang Ninh, Vietnam News Agency reported on Friday. The accident happened when the wooden boat with 18 people on board was hit by a strong whirlwind accompanied by heavy rain. Only three of them have been rescued. MNA/Xinhua

59 companies join WWF HK Corporate Membership

HONG KONG, 29 Aug — World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Hong Kong presented Friday awards to 59 companies who have joined or renewed the WWF Corporate Membership to help protect Hong Kong’s natural environment. The Corporate Membership Programme was launched in 2000 to engage the business community in protecting the precious natural environment. Since its inception, the membership has grown from 35 to 59. Four categories of corporate membership are offered, namely the Double Diamond, Diamond, Gold and Silver Membership with different levels of contribution and support. Being committed to protecting natural environment, WWF as a platform of environment protection needs continuos support from the society. MNA/Xinhua

Senior PLA officer says China-Australia mily cooperation active

BRISBANE, 29 Aug — Liang Guanglie, Chief of General Staff of the Chinese People’s Liberation Army (PLA), Friday described the exchanges and cooperation between the two armies in recent years as active. Liang, also member of the Central Military Commission, held talks with visiting Australian Chief Commander of the Defence Forces Peter Cosgrove. He said the Chinese and Australian Armed Forces maintain frequent high-level visits and contacts over the past few years, with seven defence and strategic consultations held and active exchanges carried out in such fields as warship visits, training, logistics, and college education. China attaches great importance to friendly cooperation with Australia and is willing to make efforts to promote relations between the two countries and the two armies, Liang said.

Cosgrove said the relationship between the Australian Armed Forces and the Chinese PLA has developed well in recent years, expressing his hope for furthering exchanges and cooperation with China, which he called beneficial to both sides.

Cosgrove and his delegation arrived here Friday morning on an official goodwill visit to China at the invitation of Liang. — MNA/Xinhua

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China crushes 198 narcotics-making sites in 55 days

**BEIJING, 28 Aug —** One hundred and ninety-eight illegal narcotics labs were destroyed by the Chinese police from July 1 to August 24, with 263 drug-dealing gangs shut down, the *People’s Daily* quoted the Ministry of Public Security as saying.

A total of 5,565 suspects have been arrested and drugs weighing 5,041 kilogrammes have been confiscated during the period, the report said. During the January-June period, 20,049 suspects were arrested by the Chinese police with 4,931 kilogrammes of heroin, 1,941 kilogrammes of methamphetamine hydrochloride, also known as “ice”, and more than 220,000 amphetamine tablets, called “shaking head pills”, said the report. — MNA/Xinhua

US to test new air passenger screening system

**WASHINGTON, 28 Aug —** The US Government unveiled plans on Thursday for a revised computer-based programme using personal information to identify airline passengers who may pose a threat to air travel.

While the Transportation Security Administration said it had addressed controversial elements of passenger pre-screening, key aspects of the new plan, called Secure Flight, have yet to be worked out.

The new system, to begin tests this fall, will replace the Computer Assisted Passenger Pre-Screening programme which was suspended this summer after consumer protest, legal challenges and embarrassing revelations about how passenger data were obtained.

“We’re now keen to move forward,” David Stone, administrator of the Transportation Security Administration, told reporters.

The government hopes to finalize the programme during 2005. — MNA/Reuters

Centennial hospital donates funds to AIDS-hit area

**ZHENGZHOU, 28 Aug —** The centennial Henan Provincial People’s Hospital donated 500,000 yuan (60,240 US dollars), originally budgeted to pay for a celebration to commemorate the 100th anniversary of its founding, to AIDS-hit Shangcai County Thursday to boost local efforts in prevention and control of the epidemic.

“There won’t be any ceremonial commemoration activities. We’ve donated the 500,000 yuan that was originally budgeted as a special purpose fund for the celebration because we want to do something more concrete and practical,” said Li Junxia, president of the hospital.

The fund will help expand 10 village-run clinics and upgrade the overall medical facilities in the county, said Nie Yong, deputy head of Shangcai County in the southwestern part of the central China province.

The hospital has also sent several teams of doctors to rural areas this year to provide free medical consulting, examinations and treatment to the needy farmers in the province, and it launched academic exchanges with other hospitals to improve its overall strength.

Founded in 1904, the Henan Provincial People’s Hospital developed from a small mission hospital into a leading hospital with the best facilities, technologies and services in the province.

The largely agricultural Henan Province, China’s most populous, became the site of one of the country’s worst AIDS outbreaks. A large number of farmers there were infected after selling blood to illegal dealers and having HIV-infected blood pumped back into them, before 1995.

The poverty-stricken Shangcai County, with a population of one million, had suffered most from the epidemic, which affected about 700 children. — MNA/Xinhua

Belgium identifies remains of WW1 British soldier

**BRUSSELS, 28 Aug —** Belgium has identified the remains of a British soldier who was killed nearly 90 years ago on the World War I battlefield of Passchendaele.

The body was that of Private John Robert Thompson, a soldier in the 7th Battalion of the Gordon Highlanders, an official from the western town of Zonnebeke told *Reuter’s* on Friday.

Thompson’s body, along with the remains of two other unidentified soldiers, was discovered in a private garden six years ago. Belgian researchers were able to identify Thompson from his initials, carved on the blade of a knife, and by identifying his military unit. DNA from two of his relatives later confirmed his identity, the spokesman said.

Thompson was killed on October 4, 1917, during the battle of Passchendaele, also known as the Third Battle of Ypres. More than 500,000 Allied and German soldiers were killed or wounded during the battle, which lasted from July to November of that year, the spokesman said.

Thompson will be buried with military honours at a nearby cemetery in October. — MNA/Reuters

Singapore, Malaysia discuss sea marshals aboard

**SINGAPORE, 28 Aug —** Singapore and neighbouring Malaysia are now discussing the possibility of placing sea marshals on ships passing through the Straits of Malacca as part of their efforts to protect the world’s busiest waterway from piracy and terror attacks.

“Thats the talking are going on now and I think that we will see further development in this,” the Straits of Malacca is a narrow waterway separating Indonesia, Malaysia, and Singapore. About half of the world’s oil supplies move through the straits, as well as one quarter of the world’s overall trade. — MNA/Xinhua

German economy becomes poorer, living standards drop

**BERLIN, 28 Aug —** Poverty levels in Germany are increasing, and greater discontent in wealth distribution is expected in coming years, the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung newspaper reported on Friday.

The report cited a survey released by the Federal Statistics Office as saying that at the end of 2002, 11.1 per cent of Germans lived in relative poverty, earning less than half of average income compared with 9.4 per cent a year earlier.

Germans living in relative poverty have doubled in the past 10 years, the survey showed.

Referring to living standard surveys, Germany has also slipped into Europe’s under- average category, the report continued.

Germans were also among the least satisfied people in the European Union before the accession of the 10 new countries surveyed in the European Union between the accession of the 10 new member states, the survey found. — MNA/Xinhua

Cambodian PM receives more Chinese investors

**PHNOM PENH, 28 Aug —** Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen said on Friday that the royal government of Cambodia welcomes more Chinese companies to invest in Cambodia in order to further strengthen the traditional friendship between the two countries and to promote the development of the country.

Sen made the remarks during his meeting with visiting President of Chinese Tianshi Group Li Jinyuan.

The Premier highly praised the great achievements made by Chinese Government since it carried out the opening-up policy put forward by China’s late leader Deng Xiaoping. “I believe that China’s development has not only contributed to maintaining the peace and stability of the world and the region, but also promote the development and prosperity of its neighbouring countries,” Sen said that the relationship between Cambodia and China has developed and further strengthened in an all-round way in recent years. He expressed his warm welcome to more Chinese enterprises like Tianshi Group to invest in Cambodia, promising that the government will offer supports and facilities for them. — MNA/Xinhua
Philippines, Thailand cooperate in fuel additive development

MANILA, 28 Aug—The governments of Philippine and Thailand have been working together in developing the use of ethanol as a fuel additive, a local newspaper reported Friday.

Energy Secretary Vince Perez told the Philippine Star that the government would send a top level mission to Thailand next Sunday to discuss cooperation with Thai-land’s largest government-owned oil firm, the PTT. Currently, the Philippine Government is implementing the energy independ-ence programme in face of the surging oil prices, encouraging ethanol production to generate electricity, in which Thailand has successful practice. “Thailand is using 5-10 percent ethanol in its transport fuel,” Perez said. “We will try to work with them to help us in the application and/or commercializa-tion of ethanol here in the country”. According to the Philippine Star, the PTT has been a partner of the Philippine Government in various oil and gas projects. Earlier this year, it signed a memorandum of understanding for the exploration of oil and gas in the country. As an alternative energy resource produced from crops such as corn, grain sorghum, wheat, sugar and other agricultural feedstock, ethanol can be used as a transpor-tation fuel in three ways: as a blend to gaso-line, a component of reformulated gasoline, or a primary fuel with gasoline as blend. This drinkable fuel additive has been named by legendary car manufacturer Henry Ford as the “fuel of the future”. Senator Aquilino Pimentel earlier proposed a law seeking to establish a National Fuel Ethanol Programme to help alleviate the plight of the sugar industry and also “to generate em-ployment, enhance the technological and engineering position of the country and pro-vide a continuous flow of purchasing power to the rural areas”. MNA/Xinhua

Senior Chinese leader arrives South Korea for visit

SEOUL, 28 Aug —Jia Qinglin, chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), arrived here Thurs-day for an official goodwill visit to South Korea.

Lim Chae-jung, chairman of the Unification, Foreign Affairs and Trade Committee of South Korea National As-sembly, greeted Jia at the air-port. In a statement released upon his arrival, Jia said that China and South Korea, with a long-standing friendship be-tween the two peoples, have registered rapid progress in exchanges and cooperation in various fields since the estab-lishment of diplomatic ties 12 years ago. Jia, who was greeted by Kim One-ki, speaker of South Korea National Assem-bly, said that his on-going visit is meant to further enhance understanding and friendship and deep cooperation between the two countries.

During his four-day visit, Jia will meet with President Roh Moo-hyun, Speaker of the National Assembly Kim One-ki and Prime Minister Lee Hae-chan to exchange views on further developing the Sino-South Korean cooperative partnership and maintaining peace and stability on the Ko-rean Peninsula.

In the statement, Jia ex-pressed his belief that his visit will further increase mutual understanding and trust, broaden consensus and co-operation between the two countries. The CPPCC is China’s top advisory body, consisting of representatives of the Communist Party of China, non-Communist par-ties, persons without party affiliation, and representa-tives of people’s organiza-tions, national minorities and all social strata.

MNA/Xinhua

OPEC expects oil prices to fall to $30 per barrel

JAKARTA, 28 Aug—The Organization of Petroleum-Exporting Countries (OPEC) expects to see a fall in global oil prices to as much as 30 US dollars per barrel, OPEC President Purnomo Yusgiantoro has said.

“Oil prices have re-treated, but we want them to fall to about 30 dollars per barrel. That would be good enough,” Purnomo, who is also the Indonesian Minis-ter of Energy and Mineral Resources, was quoted Friday by the Jakarta Post as saying.

He said OPEC would first take an inventory of its spare oil capacity before making any decision on a possible hike in its official output ceiling at the cartel’s meeting on September 14 in Vienna, Austria.

That’s part of the agenda. If we consider that (raising output) needs to be done, we’ll take an inven-tory on how much spare ca-pacity we have from each member of OPEC, so we can raise OPEC quotas,” said Purnomo, ruling out the possibility of moving the meeting up to an earlier date.

He previously said that, if needed, OPEC would be ready to raise production by between one million and 1.5 million barrels per day (BDP).

Purnomo said OPEC members were producing more than the official quota in an effort to cool down an overheated mar-ket. Currently, the cartel’s oil production has reached 30 million BPD, consisting of a quota of 26 million, two million from Iraq, and two million in overprodu-ced.

OPEC lifted its official output limit by 500,000 BPD to 26 million BPD on 1 August. MNA/Xinhua

Terminal One of BCIA to reopen in September

BEIJING, 28 Aug—After 14 months of renovation, Beijing’s Capital Interna-tional Airport (BCIA) will reopen on September 20 af-ter being closed for five years.

The new terminal will be jointly operated by BCIA and China Southern Airlines (CSA) according to their co-operative agreement signed last year. From 20 September and on, all domestic flights of China Northern Airlines, Xijiang Airlines, Xiamen Airlines and CSA will move to the new terminal. Sichuan Airlines will also gradually transfer its flights to the new terminal.

The total construction area of the four-storey Ter-minal One is 78,841 square metres.

The first floor is for arrivals, the second for de-parture, and the third used for shops and restaurants. MNA/Xinhua

China offers 2010 Asian Games projects to HK

HONG KONG, 28 Aug — The southern Chinese city of Guangzhou invited businesses in nearby Hong Kong on Thursday to help it build facilities for the Asian Games in 2010.

“With the opportunities offered by the Asian Games in 2010 in Guangzhou, we would like to invite Hong Kong enterprises to invest, build, manage and operate competition sites, Asian Games villages, media centres, city projects and other infrastructure projects,” Guangzhou Mayor Zhang Guangning said at a forum in Hong Kong.

His comments come just a few weeks before Hong Kong holds elections to its Legislative Council. Pro-Beijing lawmakers dominate the legislature, but pro-democracy parties are tipped to make a strong showing at the September 12 polls.

Beijing has bestowed many economic gifts on this former British colony since taking over in 1997, particularly in the past year as the territory has fought its way back to prosperity.

Mr. Zhang said that Guangdong province, of which Guangzhou is capital, produced 30 million BPD, consisting of a quota of 26 million, two million from Iraq, and two million in overproduced.

OPEC lifted its official output limit by 500,000 BPD to 26 million BPD on 1 August. MNA/Xinhua

Major oil, natural gas findings reported in China’s Junggar Basin

URUMQI, 28 Aug — China National Petroleum Corporation Xinjiang Oilfields Company has announced major breakthrough in exploring and determining high-yield petroleum and natural gas flows for industrial use in four new prospecting wells in Xinjiang’s Junggar Basin.

Chen Xinfa, general manager of the Xinjiang Oilfields Company, told a sympo-sium on oil and gas prospecting strategy in Junggar Basin Thursday that the oil and gas flows were found with Shahan-No 31 well, Mo-No 10 well and Dixi-No 10 well, all located at the centre of Junggar Basin, and Xin-No 72 well in the basin’s northwest fringe.

According to Chen, Mu-No 7 well and Jiuyun-No. 1 Well in the eastern part of the basin, and Mo-No 12 well in the basin’s heart-land, and Guoquan-No. 1 on the southern fringe of the basin also showed the evidence of oil and gas flows. Situated in northern Xinjiang, Junggar Basinboasts 6.8 billion cubic metres of gas resources, 22.1 trillion cubic metres of gas resources, and 130,000 square kilometres area for prospecting.

Xinjiang Oilfields Company has, in the past four years, verified 261 million tons of geological oil reserve and another 14.59 bil-lion cubic metres of natural gas reserve in the basin. MNA/Xinhua
PSV Eindhoven go top despite 2-2 draw at NAC Breda

Amsterdam, 29 Aug—PSV Eindhoven moved to the top of the Dutch First Division on Saturday, despite a 2-2 draw at NAC Breda.

AZ Alkmaar clinched their first win, 2-1 at NEC Nijmegen, while Heerenveen went down 4-1 at Twente Enschede. PSV head the table with seven points from three matches, one above Feyenoord, who travel to fourth-placed Vitesse Arnhem on Sunday.

Manchester United make second bid for Rooney

London, 29 Aug—Manchester United have made a second bid for England striker Wayne Rooney in excess of 23.5 million pounds (42.23 million US dollars), the teenager's club Everton said on Saturday.

"Eveton had already rejected two bids for the 18-year-old, one by Premier League rivals Manchester United for 20 million pounds and two by Newcastel United, the second of which was for 23.5 million pounds. "Manchester United have made an offer for Wayne Rooney which is in excess of the second bid which was lodged by Newcastle United earlier this week," Everton's head of public relations Ian Ross told the club's web site.

Rooney, still sidelined after breaking a bone in his foot at the Euro 2004 tournament in Portugal, handed a transfer request to Everton manager David Moyes on Friday.

The transfer window closes on Tuesday.

Argentine wins men's soccer in Olympics in 52 years

Athens, 29 Aug—Argentina defeated nine-man Paraguay 1-0 in the final of the men's soccer tournament on Saturday to take their first Olympic gold medal in 52 years.

Carlos Tevez, from Boca Juniors, scored his eighth goal in the Olympics in the 86th minute for the win in the ill-tempered South American game.

Paraguay had Emilio Martinez sent off in the 66th minute for elbowing Andres D'Alessandro in the face and Diego Figueroa was dismissed for a second bookable offence seven minutes from time.

Argentina, runners-up in Athens eight years ago, had not won an Olympic gold in any sport since a rowing title at the 1952 Helsinki Games.

The Paraguay side did make a few counter attacks in the first half, but their forward were tightly marked once they drove the ball to the Argentine half, making their few shoot ing attempts uncomfortable.

The 1.68-metre tall Boca Junior Tevez, who seemed always ready to score, attracted quite a lot of attention from the Paraguayan side.

In the 59th minute, the Argentine had another excellent chance when Cesar Delgado missed a header to the wide post. Andres Gonzalez dashed up to tap it in the right direction, but was confiscated by the goalie.

Arsenal extends unbeaten run with 4-1 win

London, 29 Aug—Arsenal extended their record unbeaten run with a 4-1 win at Norwich City on Saturday.

Champions Arsenal are on top of the table and unbeaten in a record 44 league games, while Chelsea's fourth win from four was their best start to a top-flight season and left them second on goal difference.

United scraped their win by crushing Charlton Athletic 4-0 and Newcastle United lost 4-2 at Aston Villa.

Arsenal were good value for their win at Carrow Road after a flying start against the Premier League newcomers.

Goals from Spanish Jose Antonio Reyes and France's Thierry Henry and Robert Pires put Arsenal a 3-0 up at halftime, though they were lucky not to have defender Lauren dismissed after a late tackle on striker Darren Huckerby to the floor on the break.

Norwich withdrew in the 50th minute when Huckerby converted a penalty after being tripped by defender Justin Hoyte, but Arsenal were later in cruise control and completed the scoring through substitute Dennis Bergkamp in stoppage time.

"It's always difficult to keep the same focus when you're 3-0 up," Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger told Sky Sports News.

"They got back into it with the penalty and from then on, we kept the ball well but they had a few chances."

Chelsea makes four wins in four games

London, 29 Aug—Chelsea made it four wins from four Premier League games with a 2-1 victory over Southhampton, but Manchester United needed a stoppage-time equalizer to draw 1-1 with 10-man Blackburn Rovers on Saturday.

Southampton striker James Beattie scored at both ends at Stamford Bridge, putting his side ahead after just 12 seconds and following up with a 34th minute own goal before England midfielder Frank Lampard converted a 41st minute penalty. Action was continuing with the late kick-off at Carrow Road between promoted Norwich City and champions Arsenal, who were looking to extend a record-breaking 34-match unbeaten run in the league. — MNA/Reuters

Deportivo scramble draw with 10-man Espanyol

Madrid, 29 Aug—Titre hopefuls Deportivo Coruna needed a late Walter Pandiani header to claim a 1-1 draw with 10-man Espanyol on the opening day of the Spanish league season on Saturday.

Deportivo, who finished third last term and also reached the semi-finals of the Champions League, fell behind in the 23rd minute when Raul Tamudo tucked in a penalty after being brought down by goalkeeper Jose Molina.

Espanyol had midfielder Ivan de la Pena sent off with over half an hour to go but substitute Deportivo hardly threatened a comeback until Pandiani swooped to convert a Pedro Munitis cross from the left with 12 minutes to go.

Javier Irureta's side pushed forward for the remainder of the game but they failed to create a single clear chance in what was a disappointing start to their campaign.

Athletic Madrid, who missed out on a return to Europe when they were beaten by Villarreal in the Intertoto Cup in midweek, were immediately on their stride in the league with a smart 2-0 win at home to Malaga on Saturday.

After a series of near-misses, Atletico took the lead when Ariel Baga's shot came back off a post and rebounded in off Malaga keeper Juan Calatayud just before half-time. — MNA/Reuters

Answers for yesterday's crossword puzzle

HANSOM PRINTS
THEPULCH
MALIS TAT ED
LEAN CDIKR
ETDEVI L
THRENDY
JAMMED
FETISH
NI SAB LET
UKYSSHERE
EDNANI
TELE NA
FO SUPER
TCGHEMORY
S

Girondins Bordeaux claim 2-0 win over Sochaux

Paris, 29 Aug—Goals by Cyril Rool and Lilian Laslandes earned Girondins Bordeaux a deserved 2-0 victory over Sochaux in the early Ligue 1 game on Saturday.

The Aquitaine side pro- ventionally move to third in the standings with seven points from four matches.

The hosts opened the scoring after 38 minutes when former RC Lens left back Rool blasted home a perfect Camel Meriem cross. — MNA/Reuters

Arsenal's Jose Antonio Reyes celebrates his goal against Norwich at Norwich on 28 Aug, 2004. — INTERIM

Uruguay's Daniel Pereira, left, of Penarol battles for the ball with Alvaro Pintos, right, of CentralEspanol during the first division soccer match in Montevideo, Uruguay, on Saturday, 29 Aug, 2004. — INTERTIME

Arsenal were largely in control and com- pleted the scoring through substitute Dennis Bergkamp in stoppage time.

"It's always difficult to keep the same focus when you're 3-0 up," Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger told Sky Sports News.

"They got back into it with the penalty and from then on, we kept the ball well but they had a few chances."

Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson, who be- lieves his side would be as strong as the 1999 European Cup winners with the addition of Rooney, said: "We just have to keep working away."

"It's down to Everton to decide whether the boy comes to us or goes elsewhere," he added, after his side's 1-1 draw at Blackburn Rovers. "I believe (the squad) will be just as strong as we had in 1999. Both sides have really good talent, although it is difficult to compare players," Ferguson was quoted as saying in British newspapers on Saturday.

"But what I will have again is four top strikers to choose from. It will give us strength in depth," he said.

The transfer window closes on Tuesday.

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WEATHER

Sunday, 29 August 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers has been isolated in Sagaing and Ayeyawady Divisions, scattered in Kachin, Shan, Rakhine and Kayah States, Mandalay and Magway Divisions and widespread in the re-

8:45 am
7. Islands of Dhamma
8:50 am
8. မြန်မာ့ ယောဂုဏ်ဦးများ (Myanmar Dhamma)
9:00 am
9. Peaceful & Developed Dawei
10:00 am
10. Discovery
11:00 am
11. Myanmar Tablets
12:00 pm
12. Rendezvous
1:00 pm
13. Weather report
1:30 pm
14. Peaceful & Developed Dawei
2:00 pm
15. Myanmar Tablets
3:00 pm
16. Peaceful & Developed Dawei
4:00 pm
17. Myanmar Tablets
5:00 pm
18. Peaceful & Developed Dawei
6:00 pm
19. Myanmar Tablets
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27. Myanmar Tablets
3:00 am
28. Peaceful & Developed Dawei
4:00 am
29. Myanmar Tablets
5:00 am
30. Peaceful & Developed Dawei

Monday, August 30

View on today:
7:00 am
1. Recitation of Parittas by Miyazaki Say Daw U Ommatthara
7:15 am
2. A Pilgrimage to Dhammayangyi
7:30 am
3. Morning news
7:40 am
4. Burmese Dramas
8:15 am
5. Nice and Sweet Song
8:30 am
6. International news

8:45 am
7. Islands of Dhamma
8:50 am
8. မြန်မာ့ ယောဂုဏ်ဦးများ (Myanmar Dhamma)
9:00 am
9. Peaceful & Developed Dawei
10:00 am
10. Discovery
11:00 am
11. Myanmar Tablets
12:00 pm
12. Rendezvous
1:00 pm
13. Weather report
1:30 pm
14. Peaceful & Developed Dawei
2:00 pm
15. Myanmar Tablets
3:00 pm
16. Peaceful & Developed Dawei
4:00 pm
17. Myanmar Tablets
5:00 pm
18. Peaceful & Developed Dawei
6:00 pm
19. Myanmar Tablets
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27. Myanmar Tablets
3:00 am
28. Peaceful & Developed Dawei
4:00 am
29. Myanmar Tablets
5:00 am
30. Peaceful & Developed Dawei

Rainfall on 29-8-2004
— 1.10 inches at Yangon Airport,
  — 0.59 inch at Kaba-Aye,
  — 0.59 inch at central Yangon.
Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was
— 95.94 inches at Yangon Airport,
  — 92.91 inches at Kaba-Aye and
  — 95.12 inches at central Yangon.
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-megawatt 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

Philippines, Thailand to discuss developing alternative fuel

MANILA, 29 Aug — Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo said on Saturday that she would discuss with Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra jointly developing an alternative fuel during a meeting next week in Beijing.

Both Arroyo and Shinawatra will attend the Third International Conference of Asian Political Parties scheduled from September 3 to 4 in the Chinese capital.

"Thailand's Prime Minister Dr. Thaksin Shinawatra and I will talk about investment in ethanol," said Arroyo during a tour of an oil depot in Manila as the country is in the midst of an oil crisis caused by soaring oil prices.

Ethanol, also known asethyl alcohol, is a colourless, high-performing and environment friendly motor fuel made by fermenting and distilling starch and sugar crop like maize, sorghum, potato, wheat, sugar cane, corns as well as fruit and vegetable waste.

Arroyo cited Brazil for its successful production and use of ethanol, while expressing optimism that the Philippines will also be using petrol blended with at least 5 per cent of this natural additive.

The Philippine Government is promoting exploration and use of ethanol and other alternative fuel to lessen the country's reliance on imported oil. The Philippine Department of Energy admitted on Friday that the country is in the midst of an oil crisis and ordered government offices to reduce electricity and fuel consumption. The world oil price hit 38.54 US dollars per barrel this month, as was compared with 31.52 US dollars in the wake of Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in October 1990.

Arroyo Friday also ordered all members of her Cabinet to trim down their respective security convoys in line with the government's energy conservation and austerity programme.

She also praised the drivers of Jeepneys, the jeep-like small buses which are an important means of mass transportation in Philippine cities and towns, for keeping the fare rates unchanged despite soaring fuel prices.

MNA/Xinhua