

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Volume XII, Number 25

8th Waning of Kason 1366 ME

Tuesday, 11 May, 2004



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye inspects the Mone Creek Hydel-power Project. — MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye inspects dam projects in Pwintbyu Township

YANGON, 10 May — Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, accompanied by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, SPDC members Lt-Gen Ye Myint and Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Chairman of Mandalay Division PDC Commander of the Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint, the ministers, the deputy ministers, the chairman of Magway Division PDC and officials, on 8 May afternoon arrived at Kyeoohn-Kyeewa Dam project on Mone Creek in Pwintbyu Township, Magway Division.

At the briefing hall of the project, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin reported on the building of the dam which is under construction on Mone Creek.

Next, an official reported on progress of the construction task and future plans. After hearing reports, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye urged the officials concerned of the Irrigation Department to systematically implement the tasks not only for irrigation but also for generating hydel power.

He gave instructions on working based on better experience gained in implementation of Mone Creek Multi-purpose dam.

Afterwards, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and his entourage inspected the construction site of the dam project and construction of canals in a motorcade.

The Kyeoohn-Kyeewa Dam is 5 miles from Mone Creek Multi-purpose Dam project. On completion, the dam will gen-

erate 60 MW of hydro electricity and will supply irrigation water through the canals of the Mezali Diversion Weir.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party at 2.30 pm arrived at Mone Creek Multipurpose Dam project in Sedoktara Township by helicopter.

At the briefing hall, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin reported on progress of work in building the embankment and hydel power station, water storage capacity of the dam and others to Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party.

Next, Director-General of Irrigation Department U Kyaw San Win reported to Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party on construction process of the project and work progress.

After that, Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut reported on construction of hydel power plant at the dam and arrangements being made for test-running of the turbines beginning July.

In response to the reports, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye gave instructions, urging officials concerned to make strenuous efforts for timely completion of the remaining tasks to run the hydel power plant in time and keep systematic records on construction experiences for posterity.

Afterwards, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party inspected progress in construction of the main embankment and water storage by car.

Next, they inspected construction of surge tank.

Later, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party inspected construction of the power intake gate and progress in construction of No 1 spillway and No 2 spillway.

Next, they looked into construction of the diversion

tunnel and surge tank.

Next, they inspected construction of Mone Creek hydel power plant and installation of generators.

After that, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party inspected the panel room and the central control room.

Next, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye greeted engineers of the People's Republic of China who are engaged in construction of the hydel power plant and presented the fruit basket to them.

Mone Creek Dam is being constructed on Mone Creek about 2 miles north of Sedoktara. On completion, the dam will benefit a number of farmland and generate 25 megawatt of the electricity. The hydel power plant will be able to generate electricity in the coming July.

At 4.30 pm, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party arrived at Bu Village Dam project near Bu Village in Sedoktara Township 13 miles upstream Mone Creek dam by helicopter.

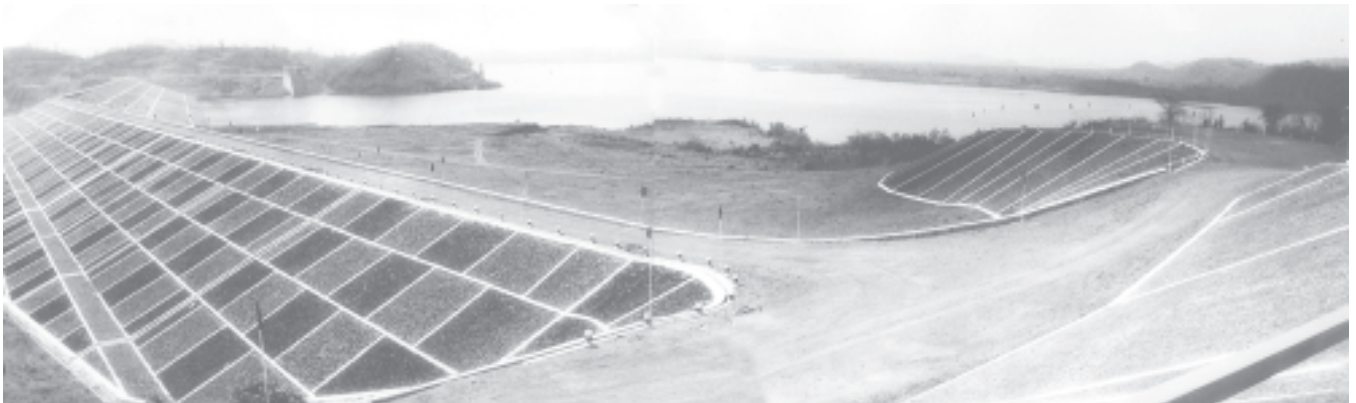
At the briefing hall, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin reported to Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party on arrangements being made for construction of Bu Village Dam which will benefit Mone Creek dam and Kyeoohn-Kyeewa dam and generating electricity.

Next, Director of Irrigation Department U Tin Aung Chit reported on design of construction of Bu Village Dam.

In response to the reports, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye gave necessary instructions.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party arrived in Bagan-NyaungU in the evening by helicopter.

Bu Village Dam will be able to generate 60 megawatt and help fill water to Mone Creek Dam. — MNA



Mone Creek Multi-purpose Dam Project in Sedoktara. — MNA

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 11 May, 2004

Make township-wise efforts for sufficient water supply

Myanmar being an agro-based country, the Government is striving for all-round development of economic sectors with agriculture as the base. Therefore, all the requirements are being fulfilled for the development of agriculture, especially for sufficient supply of water, the most fundamental requirement for agriculture.

Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party visited townships in Mandalay Division and Magway Division on 7 May and inspected the situation of cultivation, greening and water supply work.

In his meeting with responsible personnel at the Ywathaya river water pumping station in Kyaukse Township he urged them to conduct feasibility study in detail regarding the conditions of the present irrigated areas of the dams in Meiktila District, geographical conditions in the townships, the speed of current in the creeks, the pumping of water from Myitnge and Zawgyi rivers at low cost and seeking ways and means for ensuring high work efficiency.

The Meiktila plains cover a vast area and sufficient water supply is necessary for the cultivation of seasonal crops including paddy. Sufficient water supply will surely contribute to agriculture and the greening of the region, thus raising the living standard of the local people. Also in the Pakokku plains, cultivation of crops is being done by pumping water from the Ayeyawady river. The Water Resources Utilization Department is carrying out river water pumping projects in Pakokku, Yezagyo and Pauk townships.

Measures will have to be taken for the extension of irrigated areas in respective townships and districts with the use of dams and river water pumping stations. Preparations will also have to be made to extend the sown acreage in Pakokku District through the Shwesayay hydel power project to be constructed on the Chindwin river.

We would like to urge all those responsible to supply sufficient water for cultivation of seasonal crops including paddy and for the greening of Meiktila and Pakokku plains and the farmers to make all-out efforts for increasing the yield of beans and pulses, edible oil crops and long-staple cotton.

Mr Shigeru Oyama and U Min Min Aung present the donation to Maj-Gen Kyaw Win. — MNA



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



Minister Brig-Gen Pyi Sone speaks at the opening of the 8th Meeting of the Task Force on CEPT-AFTA Rules of Origin. — MNA

Meeting of the Task Force on CEPT-AFTA Rules of Origin commences

YANGON, 10 May — The opening ceremony of the 8th Meeting of the Task Force on CEPT-AFTA Rules of Origin was held at Traders' Hotel here this morning with an opening address by Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone.

It was also attended by Deputy Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Aung Tun, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu, Mr Noordin Azhari, Director, Bureau for Economic Integration, ASEAN Secretariat, delegates of the ASEAN member countries, the directors-general and officials of the departments under the Ministry of Commerce and guests. First, Minister Brig-Gen Pyi Sone delivered an opening address. In his address, he said: Myanmar becomes a member of ASEAN in July 1997, and as a member of ASEAN, we have signed series of agreements of ASEAN in various areas. In order to implement various agreements effectively, a Working Committee for the implementation of ASEAN Economic Agreements has been formed.

Rules of Origin is one of our major issues for the implementation not only in ASEAN Free Trade Area-AFTA, but also for other Economic Cooperation such as ASEAN-China, ASEAN-India, ASEAN-Japan and future possibility of ASEAN-Korea Free Trade Area as well. We are quite aware of the complex nature of the country of origin, especially in this present world, where technology has developed very fast for the manufacturing of products and their trade and investments are globalized. Therefore, definition of the country of origin is more confusing for the applications of preferential treatments.

Myanmar's major exports are agro-based, wood-based and marine-based primary products, which are mostly eligible with the criteria of wholly obtained products of Rules of Origin. However, we need to brainstorm in this area within our member countries to implement effective and efficient Free Trade Area. We are also aware that every member country has its own situation in the participation of regional borderless trade. Therefore, I would like to urge all the delegates attending Rules of Origin Task Force Meeting to discuss the issue in depth and also to give due consideration for the internal situation of each member country.

To meet the aims of the implementation of the ASEAN Economic Integration, it needs to narrow the economic development gap between the original ASEAN Member countries and the new entrants.

In this regard, ASEAN Integration System for Preferences is one way to generate the promotion of exports and to provide the opportunity for market access for new member countries, which tends to lead their economic development. With a view to enhancing economic integration, the eleven priority sectors are adopted and we are very proud that Myanmar is responsible to act as a coordinator for Agro-based and Fishery Sectors, he added. He also urged Myanmar delegates to actively participate and to exchange their experience with other delegates. Afterwards, Mr Noordin Azhari also made an address.

Later, the delegates took part in the discussion and the meeting came to an end in the afternoon. — MNA

Bangkok-Yangon new air route opened

YANGON, 10 May — Bangkok Airways launched its regular Bangkok-Yangon-Bangkok air route. The launching ceremony of the new air route was held at Yangon International Airport this afternoon. It was attended by Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe and Deputy Minister Col Nyan Tun Aung, Officer on Special Duty Brig-Gen Myo Tin, departmental heads, Bangkok Airways President Dr Prasert Prasarttong Osoth and officials, and guests from other airlines.

Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe and Dr Prasert Prasarttong Osoth formally opened the new Bangkok-Yangon-Bangkok air route. The newly-opened air route will be operated daily with Boeing 717-200 capable of carrying 125 passengers. — MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Minister Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe and Dr Prasert Prasarttong Osoth formally open Bangkok-Yangon-Bangkok air route. — MNA

Optical equipment, medicines donated

YANGON, 10 May — Vice-Chief of Military Intelligence Maj-Gen Kyaw Win attended a ceremony to donate a Slit Lamp set and optical equipments and medicines by Association for Japan Myanmar Mutual Cooperation (AJMMC) held at No-2 Military Hospital (500-bed) this afternoon.

Also present were Director of Medical Services Col Than Aung and

Tatmadaw officers and those from AJMMC. Vice-Chief of Military Intelligence accepted the donated Slit Lamp Set and optical equipments and medicines from the officials of AJMMC, Mr Shigeru Oyama and U Min Min Aung. Vice-Chief of Military Intelligence handed over the optic care products to Director of Medical Services Col Than Aung who spoke words of thanks. — MNA

Blair apologizes for British abuse of prisoners in Iraq

PARIS, 10 May—British Prime Minister Tony Blair apologized for British soldiers' mistreatment of prisoners in Iraq, in the first official admission of abuse by his forces since shocking pictures were published 10 days ago.

"We apologize deeply to anyone who has been mistreated by our soldiers. This is totally unacceptable," Blair, who was on a one-day visit to France, told public television station France 3.

"Those responsible will be punished according to the army disciplinary rules."

Blair said the majority of British soldiers did not act like those responsible for the abuses.

Defence Secretary Geoff Hoon is to make a statement to parliament on Monday about the situation in Iraq.

A Ministry of Defence spokeswoman told AFP she could not say whether the statement would also be about a Red Cross report voicing concern over Britons' treatment of Iraqi prisoners.

Britain and the United States, the two powers who jointly launched the war on Iraq, have been rocked by a deeply damaging abuse scandal which came to light with graphic images released in their national media of Iraqis being humiliated and mistreated.

US President George W Bush first apologized Thursday for the abuse and humiliation of Iraqi prisoners by US troops at Abu Ghraib prison near Baghdad, calling the ill treatment "a stain on our country's honor."

US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld followed on Friday—taking full responsibility for the abuse by American soldiers and apologizing during testimony to Congress.

Britain's Daily Mirror, in its April 30 issue, published photos which appear to show British soldiers beating and urinating on an Iraqi prisoner in a camp near Basra in British-controlled southern Iraq, but military experts later questioned the authenticity of the shots.

Blair at the time expressed indignation at the scene, were it to be true.

"Let me make it quite clear, if these things have actually been done, they are completely and utterly unacceptable," Blair said.

Internet

US announces first court martial for prison abuse

BAGHDAD, 10 May — US forces have announced their first court-martial in Baghdad after ordering a military policeman to stand trial this month for connection with abuse of Iraqi prisoners at Abu Ghraib prison, a senior military spokesman said Sunday.

24-year-old spc Jeremy C Sivits of Hyndman, Pennsylvania, a member of the 372nd Military Police Company, will stand trial in Baghdad on 19 May, Brig Gen Mark Kimmitt told a press conference.

Sivits has been charged with maltreat detainees, dereliction of duty for failing to protect detainees from abuse, cruelty and maltreatment of detainees, said Kimmitt, the US-led coalition's deputy director for operations.

Seven US soldiers including Sivits are facing criminal charges for alleged abuse of Iraqi prisoners. Sivits is the first for whom a trial date has been set. — Internet



Tires are set on fire as Iraqis block the entrance to the mostly Shiite populated 'Sadr city' district of Baghdad, Iraq, on 9 May, 2004, after US Army forces arrested several Iraqis in this district. — INTERNET

Iraq prisoner abuse bad for coalition

ROME, 10 May — Abuse of Iraqi prisoners by the US military casts a shadow over the entire US-led coalition in Iraq, the head of Italy's Lower House of Parliament said, raising questions about the future of Italy's troops there.

The incidents throw "an unsettling shadow over the entire mission in Iraq", Pier Ferdinando Casini told journalists on Sunday in Rome, where he was attending an official event.

"Coalition forces must clean up quickly and well, otherwise this could end up being a mortgage that weighs too heavily on those who have gone to Iraq for peace and to restore freedom to the people," he added.

Italy has some 2,700

troops based in Nassiriya in southern Iraq and its contingent is the third largest mission in the US-led coalition. The scandal over detainee abuse broke last week with the release of photographs showing US soldiers grinning as they posed with naked Iraqi prisoners shown in humiliating positions in Abu Ghraib, a US-run jail outside Baghdad.

Last Wednesday, Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi told reporters that the abuse was terrible but did not change the grounds for Italian troops being in Iraq. —MNA/Reuters

Bomb in Baghdad Hotel's bar wounds six

BAGHDAD, 10 May— A bomb went off Sunday night at a Baghdad hotel used by foreign contractors, ripping through the bar and wounding six people, including British and Nepalese, a hotel employee and police said.

The bomb struck the Four Seasons Hotel in central Baghdad and tore apart chairs and part of the ceiling in the bar, where the six injured were sitting, the employee said. He said the bomb was placed outside the hotel. Police Lt Col Ahmad Al-Alawi told al-Arabiyah television that two Britons, two Nepalese and two Iraqi guards were slightly wounded. Many Nepalese in Iraq serve as security guards for private companies. — Internet

China reports higher enrolment in institutions of higher learning

BEIJING, 10 May— The latest statistics from the Ministry of Education show that 17 percent of Chinese youths of college age entered institutions of higher learning last year, two percentage points higher than that of 2002.

The enrolment of China's institutions of higher learning has been expanding gradually over recent years, with the recruited number of students increasing to 3.4 million in 2002 from 1.08 million in 1998.

In 2003, a total of 3.8217 million students entered universities or colleges, a rise of 19.24 per cent year on year. The total number of students on campus was 11.0856 million last year, up 22.72 per cent over 2002.

China had 1,552 institutions of higher learning in 2003, and there were 720 institutions offering graduate degrees.

The number of graduate students was 651,300 in China last year. — MNA/Xinhua

Chinese-Romanian youth festival opens in Shanghai

SHANGHAI, 10 May— A Chinese-Romanian youth festival opened here Saturday in Shanghai to mark the 55th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

The Romanian youth delegation attending the festival consists of 58 members, including young statesmen, entrepreneurs, media workers, artists and representatives from non-governmental organizations.

During the seven-day festival, the young Romanian delegates will travel on the Huangpu River and visit remarkable buildings in Shanghai. They will also go to Beijing for more visits and exchange activities. Meanwhile, a series of artistic performances will be held along with a trade fair between Chinese and Romanian young entrepreneurs.

The gathering of Chinese and Romanian youth in this special year is of great significance to the development of friendly tradition between China and Romania, said Hu Wei, vice-chairman of the All China Youth

Federation (ACYF), at Saturday's ceremony to welcome the Romanian delegation.

For a long time, no matter how the international and domestic situation changed, China and Romania have always been in good relations with mutual understanding and support. Last year, Romanian President Ion Iliescu and Prime Minister Adrian Nastase visited China, giving China support in its anti-SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome) war, said Hu.

The exchange activities between young people, an important part of Sino-Romanian relations, plays the role of a bridge in promoting understanding and friendship between the two peoples and improving the relationship between the two countries.

This youth festival, held by the ACYF, would help to

further push forward the traditional friendship between China and Romania, develop new cooperative relationship and organize the younger generation to develop friendly relations, said Hu.

Victor Ponta, head of the Romanian delegation, is a member of the Romanian Cabinet and is in charge of affairs concerning Romania's entry into the European Union.

Ponta, 32, had visited China several years ago. He said Romania and China have a long history of youth exchanges and this festival would make the relationship between Romania and China even better.

The Romanian youth delegate said he hoped Romanian and Chinese youth could hold such activities every year.

MNA/Xinhua



A US military intelligence officer leads an Iraqi detainee to an interrogation room in the Abu Ghraib Prison on the outskirts of Baghdad, Iraq, on 8 May, 2004. — INTERNET

Canadian peace activists to welcome US Iraq deserters

VANCOUVER, 9 May—Peace activists have rebuilt an “underground railroad” into Canada, where thousands of Americans dodged the Vietnam war draft, to help US soldiers flee duty in Iraq.

Activists responded to a steady flow of US casualties in Iraq, a growing number of reservists heading to war zones and dark warnings that Congress might bring back the draft.

While the number of fugitives fleeing from US duty to Canada has only been a trickle, at least two US deserters have been taken in by Quaker families in Ontario.

Several other US soldiers are thought to be in Canada, after going AWOL from their units.

Sarah Bjorknas, 34, a library clerk from Vancouver, was recruited into the peace movement by a Utah academic worried the US government may heed some calls from Congress and reinstitute a draft.

Bjorknas is offering fleeing US soldiers sanctuary at her house on the east side of Vancouver. She describes the “railroad” as a loose network of people willing to offer sanctuary to US deserters.

The original underground railroad helped US blacks escape slavery to northern US states.

Two US soldiers who refused duty in Iraq have already made it across the border and have launched longshot bids

at political asylum.

Brandon Hughey, 19, of the US Army 1st Cavalry Division, fled to Canada one day before his unit was deployed to Iraq.

Jeremy Hinzman, 25, of the 82nd Airborne, left with his wife and son after the US army denied his request for conscientious objector status.

Hughey said he went AWOL because he did not believe the Bush administration’s justifications for the war.

“I decided to come to Canada because I was given an order to participate in a war that I believe to be illegal and a violation of human rights and international law,” he said.

“I believed the war was launched based on lies.”

“Other soldiers didn’t understand why we were in Iraq. They just wanted to go over there and kick some ass. They were just doing it because they were told to.”

Both men have plan to argue at hearings in coming months that they face prosecution tantamount to persecution in the United States because of their strong political beliefs.

Internet

ဝက်စွမ်းအား ခေတ်ကျော်လွှား

Spain troops could leave Iraq earlier than thought

MADRID, 9 May—Spanish troops could return home from Iraq sooner than expected, Defence Minister Jose Bono was quoted as saying on Sunday.

The withdrawal of around 1,000 Spanish troops remaining in Iraq was being speeded up and they would return home before 27 May, Spanish state radio quoted Bono as saying during a surprise visit to Spanish troops in Iraq.

Part of the Spanish force based in Diwaniya, in south-central Iraq, had begun the journey by road to Kuwait from where they would return to Spain, the radio said. The radio did not play any recording of Bono’s comments, but the web sites of El Pais and El Mundo newspapers carried similar reports. Spanish Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero had said all Spanish troops were expected to have left Iraq by May 27.

A Defence Ministry statement on Bono’s visit to Iraq said however that the Spanish troops were “preparing for their imminent return home, around May 27.” — Internet



US Army Military Police officer 1st Class George Croom with the 391st MPs, speaks with a female Iraqi detainee in the Abu Ghraib Prison on the outskirts of Baghdad, Iraq, on Sunday, 8 May, 2004. — INTERNET

Accused US soldier says MP’s job to keep prisoner awake

WASHINGTON, 10 May—Her job was to “make it hell” for Iraqi prisoners so they would talk, one of the six US soldiers accused of prisoner abuse was quoted as saying on Friday.

The *Washington Post* reported that Special Sabrina Harman told it in e-mail interviews that detainees were handed over to her military police unit at the Abu Ghraib Prison by military intelligence officers, or by civilian contractors who conducted interrogations.

She was assigned to break the detainees down for interrogation, Harman said in e-mails this week from Baghdad, the *Post* said on its web site. But she did not discuss specific charges against herself.

“They would bring in one to several prisoners at a time already hooded and cuffed,” Harman, a military police reservist, was quoted as saying. “The job of the MP was to keep them awake, to make it hell so they would talk.”

A Pentagon spokeswoman declined comment on the *Post* article, saying

the matter was under investigation.

The spokeswoman also declined comment on whether military intelligence officers or civilian contractors delivered prisoners to the Abu Ghraib Prison. The issue of who was in charge of the prison during the reported abuse was a prominent one in hearings on Capitol Hill on Friday.

A senior general, Air Force Lieutenant-General Lance Smith, said during one of the hearings that Abu Ghraib had been put under the control of military intelligence last November.

Representative Heather Wilson, a New Mexico Republican, told the hearing she thought it was contrary to Army regulations to put military police under the control of military intelligence.

Harman, 26, said that prisoners at Abu Ghraib were stripped, searched and then “made to stand or kneel for hours”. Sometimes they were forced to stand on boxes or hold boxes or to exercise to tire them out, she said.

“The person who brought them in would set the standards on whether or not to ‘be nice’”, she said.

The *Post* said Harman was one of the soldiers who posed for a photograph next to naked Iraqi detainees stacked in a pyramid.

The article said she had been charged with striking detainees and attaching wires to a prisoner’s hands while he stood on a box with his head covered. She is accused of telling him if he fell off the box, he would be electrocuted, the *Post* said.

MNA/Reuters

NZ troops in Iraq confined to barracks as fighting flares up

WELLINGTON, 10 May — New Zealand troops in Iraq’s second biggest city Basra are confined to barracks after fresh fighting broke out on Saturday between embattled rebel Iraqi cleric Moqtada al-Sadr and British forces, *The Dominion Post* reported Monday.

Defence spokesman Lieutenant Commander Andrew Lincoln was quoted as saying Sunday that all New Zealand troops were safe and well and would remain at their base until further notice.

At least two Iraqis were killed and three British soldiers wounded in Saturday’s fighting, a British military spokeswoman said.

The 61 NZ army engineers were sent to Iraq’s southern area of Basra to help rebuilding schools and water plants and other humanitarian aid.

Meanwhile the Green Party at the Parliament has urged the New Zealand government to pull its troops out of Iraq.

Green MP Keith Locke said in a statement Sunday that the government could no longer ignore the fighting and other incidents taking place in Basra.

“New Zealand’s good name internationally is being sullied by our troops being embedded in a British force that is being increasingly discredited by reports of brutality towards Iraqis,” Locke said.

More reports and photos of British soldiers mistreating prisoners were published in Britain Sunday.

Locke said the negatives about the troops remaining in Iraq now clearly outweighed the positives. — Internet

94 suffer from food poisoning in northern China

HOHHOT, 10 May—A total of 94 people suffering from food poisoning in a rural village in north China’s Inner Mongolia had been hospitalized by Saturday morning.

They joined 60-plus others in attending a feast at Zhenghao Village in Bainijing Township of the Dalad Banner in Inner Mongolia on Thursday.

Later, some diners began to show the symptom of nausea, vomiting, bellyache and high fever. By Friday noon, some 70 people were sent to hospital.

Medical experts of the People’s Hospital at Dalad Banner believed that the patients were infected by salmonella in polluted foodstuffs.

Over 20 patients still had high fever and were in serious condition at press time. No death was reported yet.

MNA/Xinhua



A US Marine convoy passes through Kharma, Iraq, on Sunday, 9 May, 2004. Fifteen detainees were transported in a truck to Kharma by US Marines after being released from the Abu Ghraib Prison. — INTERNET

Rumsfeld apology fails to calm Arab anger

DUBAI, 10 May — His apology was late and the damage done, said Arab and European commentators on Saturday, reacting to US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld.

"While he (Rumsfeld) has been in charge, murder, torture and humiliation were heaped on Iraqi detainees almost as a matter of course," the Saudi daily *Arab News* commented.

"Rumsfeld's apology came too late," said Jordanian analyst Hani Hourani. "I believe Rumsfeld should resign because the torture reflected a widespread policy adopted by the US Army in Iraq and maybe Afghanistan as well."

Rumsfeld took responsibility on Friday for abuse of Iraqi prisoners by US troops and offered his "deepest apology" to victims during US Senate hearings broadcast live in the Arab

world as well as the United States.

But Rumsfeld said he would not resign just to satisfy his political enemies.

Many Arabs and Europeans, however, said he should quit. Reinhard Buetikofer, chairman of Germany's Green Party, a junior partner in the government, said: "The minister who is responsible for such things must resign: Mr Rumsfeld".

Arabic newspapers, from Egypt's opposition *al-Wafd* to Saudi Arabia's semi-official *Okaz*, showed pictures of Rumsfeld looking troubled with his hands over his face.

The *Arab News* dismissed

Rumsfeld's order for a review of the case.

"Rumsfeld's suggestion that an independent inquiry be set up into what happened is a waste of time, and Iraqis simply do not have time to waste," it said.

"If he resigns without fuss, perhaps he may begin to redeem himself by making a tiny contribution to the restoration of America's good name in the world."

Underscoring emotions in the Arab world, *al-Wafd* had a picture of a dead Iraqi child with the caption: "The new Mongols massacre the children of Iraq before the eyes of the world."

MNA/Reuters

အာရှသို့ ပြန်ကြည့်

German FM urges punishment for Iraq prisoner abuse

BERLIN, 10 May — German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer said in comments published Saturday that those responsible for abusing Iraqi prisoners must be punished.

The torture of stripped and hooded Iraqi prisoners, as shown in photos circulated around the world, is "horrible and repulsive", the weekly *Der Spiegel* quoted Fischer as saying.

"Those responsible for the disgrace and mistreatment must be investigated and punished," Fischer said.

The minister made the remarks ahead of a visit on Monday to Washington to meet US Secretary of State Colin Powell and National

Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice. He declined to say whether he would raise the issue of human rights violation with US officials, despite mounting pressure in Berlin for him to comment on the scandal in Washington. Germany's human rights commissioner, Claudia Roth, said "the topic must be addressed loudly".

"It is not about interference, but about International Law," the commissioner added. — MNA/Xinhua



US soldiers secure the area on 8 May, 2004, where a Humvee was attacked by an improvised explosive device (IED) in a road in the southern part of Baghdad. — INTERNET

Chinese Vice-Premier on HIV/AIDS prevention

BEIJING, 10 May — *Xinhua* published the full text of a speech Vice-Premier and Minister of Health Wu Yi delivered last month at a national working conference on the prevention of HIV/AIDS.

In her speech, dated April 6, the official called for implementing central policies and arrangements on the prevention of the deadly disease, studying the situation and preventive measures, and looking for effective mechanism, to step up the efforts to control the disease timely and firmly curb the fast spreading of the disease in China.

HIV/AIDS is a major health and social problem in the world and its spread has also brought about severe impacts on economic and social development of the country, she said.

Since the first report of

AIDS patient in 1981, the number of HIV carriers and AIDS patients has reached 69 million, of whom 27 million have died. So far, 840,000 Chinese have been infected of HIV and 80,000 of them are AIDS patients, according to official figures.

China has Asia's second and world's 14th largest HIV/AIDS population. The majority of HIV carriers and AIDS patients in China are young people. Wu called for further efforts to create public awareness about the issue; curbing the spread of HIV via blood; cracking down on crimes that cause the spreading of HIV, such

as drug addiction and prostitution; monitoring the situation carefully; and implementing government policies and measures on treatment of HIV carriers and AIDS patients.

While the government has to be the leading force in the efforts to control HIV spreading, all walks of life should be mobilized to join hands in the efforts, the official said.

She called for studying international experience and combining it with China's own situation. The disease should be prevented in accordance with law and science, she stressed.

MNA/Xinhua

Chinese city maps public toilets for tourists

KUNMING, 10 May — A map of public toilets became a best-seller in the streets of Kunming City, southwest China, over the week-long May Day holiday.

The map, printed by a local survey and mapping institute at the request of tourists and locals alike, highlighted 325 public toilets in the city, all of which were within 20 metres from the city's main streets, said Wang Guiwu, head of the institute.

The map has also included a detailed schedule of inbound and outbound trains at Kunming Railway Station, and can be used as a roadmap for drivers as well because it has marked clearly all the major gas stations, parking lots, car washing services and repair centres in the city. For the convenience of tourists the map also provides some important tips, such as what numbers they should dial to get travel related services or to lodge a complaint.

A salesman at a newsstand in downtown Kunming said the map sold well over the week-long holiday. "About 50 copies were sold each day over the past week," he said, giving his surname as Huang.

MNA/Xinhua

Rare meteorite to fetch out of world price

SYDNEY, 10 May — It might only be the size of a house brick, but a rare meteorite unearthed by an Australian farmer is expected to sell for more than 73,000 US dollars.

The 11kg (22 pounds) chunk of space debris, formed billions of years ago in the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter, is mainly composed of iron and nickel and only one of eight known meteorites of its type in the world.

"It's unusual for meteorites of this composition to collide with the Earth, let alone survive. In that sense, it's a collector's piece," Lex Simshauser, an agent for the seller, told *Reuters* on Saturday.

"It certainly will be tens of thousands of

dollars, it could be hundreds, whether that's 100 or 200, who knows."

Museums, big corporates, or private collectors are the most likely purchasers of the meteorite, which was unearthed 25 years ago by a farmer ploughing his fields in Binya, New South Wales.

Would-be buyers looking for a chunk of meteorite to put on their mantelpiece would submit sealed bids to Simshauser by June 16.

MNA/Reuters



Iraqi children look at a burning pipeline on the road leading from Baghdad to the city of Karbala on 8 May, 2004. — INTERNET



Iraqi schoolgirls pass the damaged building after a US aircraft destroyed it, in Baghdad, Iraq, on 10 May 2004.



Iraqi men survey destroyed houses, following the clashes between US army and Iraqi guerillas in the southern city of Kufa, on 9 May 2004.

Images of Iraq



An Iraqi man stands in the rubble of his destroyed house in Kufa, near Najaf, on 7 May 2004. The house was damaged after US soldiers clashed with Iraqi guerillas in the city of Najaf.



Mohammed Abdel Gabar, 5, is comforted by his father Aziz, left, as he is treated from shrapnel wounds in the Al Hakim hospital in Najaf, Iraq, on 6 May 2004.



A wounded Iraqi girl is taken by her parents to the hospital in the city of Najaf, on 6 May 2004.



An Iraqi woman stands in front of a damaged house after a gunbattle between US forces and Iraqi guerillas, in the city of Kufa, on 7 May 2004.



Five-year-old Iraqi boy Mohammed Wahab lies in the hospital, after being wounded during the clashes between US army and Iraqi guerillas in Kufa, Iraq, on 9 May 2004.

New and fast developments throughout Myanmar



The 500-ton cement plant in Kyaukse Township, Mandalay Division.



The newly-constructed 200-bed General Hospital (Myeik) in Taninthayi Division.



Newly opened Saddan Yadana Bridge in Neikban Village, Kawa Township, Bago Division.



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye inspects Kyeohn Kyeewa Dam Project on Mone Creek in Pwintbyu Township. — MNA



Lt-Gen Aung Htwe inspects development works in Shan State

YANGON, 10 May — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Aung Htwe of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint and departmental personnel, inspected repair of Mon-pon-Namhsan-Kunhing-Takaw road section, which is 130 miles and 5 furlongs long carried out by No 5 Work Group with the use of heavy machinery on 8 May morning. Lt-Gen Aung Htwe heard reports on the digging of drains on both sides of the road, tasks being carried out and future tasks with the use of charts.

Next, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe gave instructions on extension of the road and timely completion of the road meeting the set standards and Commander Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint gave supplementary reports

on measures being taken for timely completion of the projects meeting the set standards, and the supply of heavy machinery, fuel oil and tar in time.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and party proceeded to Panglong, Shan State (South), where Maha Ratha Bhisu Maggi Pagoda, that resembles the Shwe Dagon Pagoda is being built. And there they heard reports on preparation for the construction of the pagoda, future tasks and requirements of work presented by Project Manager U Chit Than Win of Asia World Co, Ltd.

Later, Chairman of Taunggyi District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Myint Tin presented reports on the raising of trust funds for the pagoda to Lt-Gen Aung Htwe, who then attended to the needs and inspected construction of the pagoda. The construction of the pagoda is near completion. — MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye meets with officials in his inspection tour of Kyeohn Kyeewa Dam Project in Pwintbyu Township. — MNA

Annual academic courses to be opened

YANGON, 10 May—Four year B.Ed course, one-year junior teachership course, one-year B.Ed course, two-year B.Ed (Bridge) course, one-year teachership diploma course for 2004-05 academic

year will be opened in the university for development of national races as of 1 June and students wishing to attend the courses are to enrol at the university during the last week of May. — MNA

Minister Dr Kyaw Myint delivers a speech at the opening of Workshop on Tobacco Control and Poverty Alleviation.

HEALTH



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye presents a gift to Chinese experts at the Mone Creek Hydel-Power Plant. — MNA

Workshop on Tobacco Control and Poverty Alleviation commences

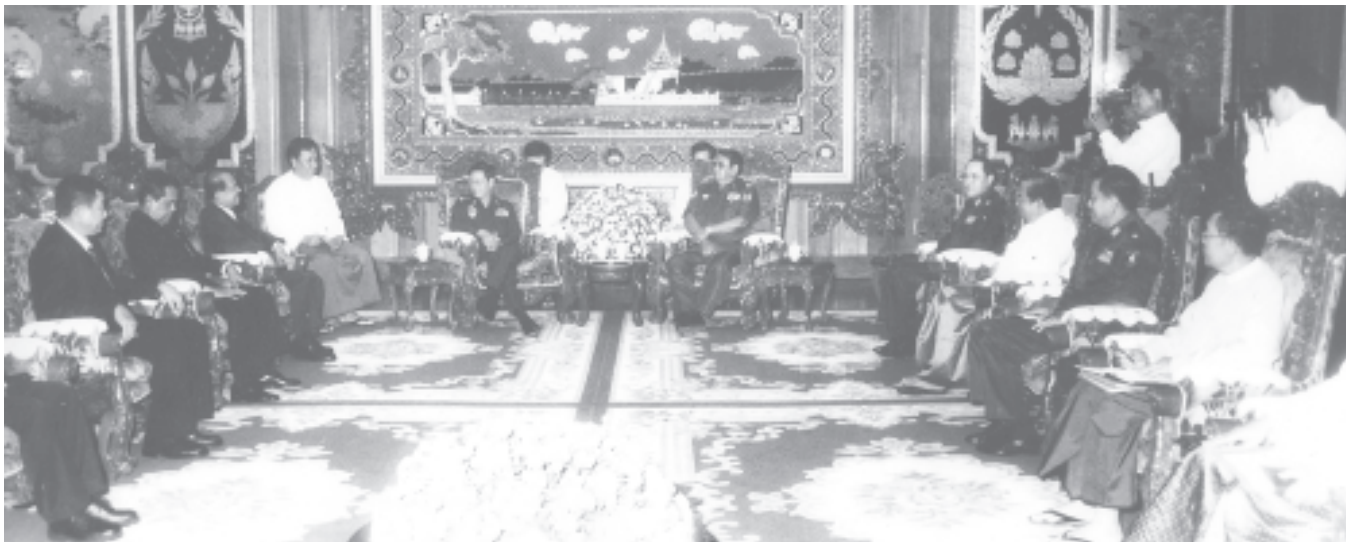
YANGON, 10 May—A workshop on Tobacco Control and Poverty Alleviation, jointly sponsored by the Health Department and World Health Organization was opened at Grand Plaza Parkroyal Hotel here this morning.

Present were Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, the directors-general and deputy directors-general of departments under the Ministry of Health, delegates from related ministries, social organizations, WHO Resident Repre-

sentative Dr Agositno Borra and officials.

Minister Dr Kyaw Myint delivered an address. He said the slogan of the World No Tobacco Day of this year is "Poverty and Tobacco Control". In commemoration of this year's World No Tobacco Day, the Ministry of Health had conducted a study on poverty alleviation and tobacco control. The findings of the study will be presented at the workshop, he said. He said Myanmar actively participated in anti-tobacco activi-

ties and ratified the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in April 2004 and it is very proud to become the 11th country to ratify the convention and continued efforts are to be made for reduction of tobacco morbidity and mortality in the country, he added. Next, WHO Resident Representative Dr Agositno Borra spoke on the occasion. WHO experts, delegates from ministries related to the Ministry of Health and social organizations took part in the discussions. — MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives President of Bangkok Airways Dr Prasert Prasarttong Osoth and party. — MNA

Seminar on Promotion...

(from page 16)

Education Promotion Plan have been successfully undertaken due to the collaborative effort of the State, parents, wellwishers and the community.

The Special Four-Year National Education Promotion Plan initiated 2000-2001 fiscal year has been accomplished successfully this year and the exhibition on the achievements of the Special Four-Year National Education Promotion Plan was held in the first week of May.

Therefore, the advancement achieved by the education sector can be seen nowadays.

Accessibility to education has been enhanced. In the basic education sector, child-centred approach has been adopted and vocational education programmes have been created for those who do not wish to pursue the higher education. In the higher education sector, institutes of vocational education have been established and post-graduate programmes provided.

Moreover, teacher-centred or one way system has been transformed to the education system which is based on Information and Communication Technology and interactive system. Multi-media classrooms, learning centres, resource centres which support the above-mentioned new system have been established so that the quality of teaching/learning has been promoted and the gap in accessibility to educational opportunities between urban and rural areas could be narrowed.

These events reveal the development of accessibility, quality and diversity of education in Myanmar.

Regarding one of the objectives of the basic education sector, it is seen that as all school age children

in school activities are being expanded year by year with greater momentum based on social mobilization, intake rate of kindergarten students has been increased up to 95.05 % by 2003 throughout the country and in project townships up to 98.93 %.

To provide access to the middle school education for those who have completed primary education, post-primary schools are being opened and in the 2003-2004 academic year there are 3829 post-primary schools where 238,800 grade five, six and seven students are now attending.

In the teacher education sector, on-job training courses, and post-graduate programmes are provided for the continuing education of teachers and for the fulfilment of teachership requirements.

At present, undergraduate, postgraduate, PGDT, PGDMA, MEd and PhD courses have been opened in two Institutes of Education and 20 Education Colleges, and it has been arranged to open Pre-service Teacher Education Competency Training-PTECT.

1152 schools having multi-media classrooms, over 350 schools having media -3 platform, about 1000 schools having media -2 platform and over 14000 schools having media-1 platform, totalling 16810 schools have increased in 2003-2004 academic year with the collaborative effort of the State and education wellwishers and community.

To improve access to education, 455 e-Education Learning Centres that provide education using Electronic Data Broadcasting System have been established and arrangements have been made to establish 164 more Learning Centres. Therefore, in the near future there will be 619

Prime Minister receives Bangkok Airways President

YANGON, 10 May—Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt received President of Bangkok Airways Dr Prasert

Prasarttong Osoth and party at Zeya Thiri Beikman on Konmyinthar here at 4 pm today. Also present were

Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe, Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win, Direc-

tor-General of the Government Office U Soe Tint and Director-General of the Protocol Department Thura U Aung Htet. —MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt views laboratory equipment. — MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt cordially greets teachers at the opening of Seminar on Promotion of National Education (Yangon). — MNA

Learning Centres. Out of the 619 Learning Centres, 548 are established in basic education schools. As the basic education system has been planned and implemented harmoniously

and systematically, its advancement can be seen clearly at the present moment with great pride.

I would like to urge participants of the seminar to sustain the existing suc-

cesses and good results, to give practical suggestions and to lay down the authentic and effective programmes for the successful promotion of education.

The Thirty-Year Long-

term National Education Development Plan which links with other plans and projects has been formulated and implemented for the development of qualified

(See page 11)

Lt-Gen Maung Bo inspects development of Paingkyon

YANGON, 10 May — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, Chairman of Kayin State Peace and Development Council Col Khin Kyu, senior military officers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and heads of department arrived at Paingkyon Police Station in Hlaingbwe Township on 6 May.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo met departmental officials and local people at the police station.

Member of Kayin State Peace and Development Council Commissioner U Kyaw Lin reported on location of Paingkyon, its territory, opening of departmental offices, construction of combined office, and regional conditions and Director of Kayin State Development Affairs Committee U Thet Hnin Oo on construction of housing, repairing of roads, measures taken for development of Paingkyon and others.

Next, Kayin State Electrical Engineer U Aung Kyaw Oo reported on Dagaing Creek Hydel

Power Project. On completion of the project, it generates 25 megawatts and produces 87.6 million kwh a year and supplies water to about 5,000 acres of land.

In meeting with local people, Lt-Gen Maung Bo spoke at length on upgrading Paingkyon to township level spending a large sum of money and working for regional development.

Paingkyon with the area of 765.21 sq-miles is situated between Hlaingbwe, Myawady and Kawkaik Townships. There are 16,028 houses and its population is 93,798.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party inspected the site for construction of Paingkyon Creek Bridge and construction of the combined office.

Paingkyon Creek Bridge linking Paingkyon lower and upper villages is 1,200 feet long and 12 feet wide.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party went to the site of Government Technological College (Hpa-an). Principal Daw Than Than Htay reported on academic matters and engineer U Ye Myint of Yuzana Construction Co Ltd on construction of Government Technological College (Hpa-an).

Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party then left there in the evening.

MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye hears a report on Bu Village Dam Project presented by Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin. (News on page 1) — MNA

Lt-Gen Maung Bo tours Kayin State

YANGON, 10 May — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council and Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, Chairman of Kayin State Peace and Development Council Col Khin Kyu, senior military officers, officials of the SPDC Office and departmental personnel, left Hpa-an on 7 May morning and arrived at Kyonphe village, where Zathabyin-Kyonphe-Khaya-Thanhle-

Kyakale earth road is being built by local people with the assistance provided by the Government.

At the construction site, Lt-Gen Maung Bo cordially greeted the local people and inspected the progress of constructing the earth road and the construction of Kyonphe Creek-crossing wooden bridge. On the bridge, Lt-Gen Maung Bo heard reports on progress made in construction of the earth road, tasks remained to be done, and reclamation of vacant and virgin lands. Officials of the Irrigation Department in Kayin State also

reported on the digging of a new canal. After hearing the reports, Lt-Gen Maung Bo gave instructions on timely completion of the projects.

Next, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party went to Kanna monastery in the village and paid homage to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Candima. He also offered provisions to the Sayadaw. Later, Lt-Gen Maung Bo met with local people. At the get-together, he said the emergence of roads linking one village with another will guarantee the regional development. On completion of the earth road, the health, education, social

and economic sectors of the villages will improve. He urged the villagers to render their cooperation for speedy completion of the project.

In the afternoon, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party arrived at Bakat Hydel Power Project being conducted by the Water Resources Utilization Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation in Bakap model village of Hpa-an Township.

At the project, Lt-Gen Maung Bo heard reports on the purpose of the project and tasks to be carried out, and gave instructions on effective use of irrigation water and the extended cultivation of summer paddy.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party also went to the construction site of Hpa-an Government Computer College of the Ministry of Science and Technology. At the construction site, Lt-Gen Maung Bo heard reports on progress of construction of the college and tasks left to be done, and gave instructions on timely completion of the project in accord with the set standard. Next, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party inspected round the construction site. Leaving the college in the evening, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party proceeded to Bilin Sugar Mill.

MNA



Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party inspect Paingkyon Creek Bridge Construction Project linking Paingkyon lower and upper villages. — MNA

MAS official leaves for China

YANGON, 10 May — Daw Nilar Maung, Deputy Supervisor at Plant Protection Division of Myanmar Agriculture Service under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, left here by air for Beijing on 9 May afternoon to attend the 15th International Plant Protection Congress (IPPC), which will be held in Beijing, People's Republic of China, from 11 to 16 May. —H



Daw Nilar Maung



Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party inspect Kyonphe Creek Bridge Construction Project in Hpa-an Township, Kayin State. — MNA

Seminar on Promotion...

(from page 9)

human resource who can relay the present momentum of the success of the educational plans to the future.

The successful implementation of educational plans plays a vital role in striving to keep abreast of international level. Furthermore, students and teachers are the key persons for the successful implementation of the plans.

All the participants are urged to perform actively to formulate effective and feasible programmes and to implement them successfully.

In conclusion, responsible personnel, teachers and

students urged to:

- Strive harmoniously to raise the national education standard to be at par with world standard;
- Develop qualified human resources to be in line with national aims; and
- Try to implement plans and future programmes successfully in order to realize the Thirty-Year Long-term National Education Development Plan and our vision.

After the ceremony, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt greeted teachers who were present on the occasion.

Next, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspected laboratory equipment displayed in front of the hall. — MNA

National level Sports Administrators Course opens

YANGON, 10 May— Vice-Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee, Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein attended the opening ceremony of national level Sports Administrators course (1/2004) in the friendly programme of International Olympic Committee at Youth Training Camp (Thuwunna) this morning. Presents were

members of Myanmar Olympic Committee, officials concerned and trainees.

Brig-Gen Aung Thein delivered an opening address after the individual greeting to the trainees and the ceremony ended. 22 trainees from ministries and SPED are attending the course. — MNA

Myanmar Tong Tah Trade Fair to be held

YANGON, 10 May—With the permission of the Ministry of Commerce, the Myanmar Tong Tah Trade Fair 2004 will be held on a grand scale at the Yangon Trade Centre on Upper Pazundaung road here from 19 to 23 May 2004.

In collaboration with Star Entertainment Co Ltd, the

trade fair will stage the demonstration on a wide range of items and present the entertainment.

During the trade fair, the Bagan Cybertech will provide free access to Internet.

Other displayed items at the trade fair will be the automobiles produced by the industrial zones. — MNA



Mone Creek Hydel Power Project in Sedoktara Township, Magway Division. — MNA

Coord meeting held for Third Central Body Meeting of MWJA

YANGON, 10 May — To successfully hold the Third Central Body Meeting of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association, a co-ordination meeting of the management committee and the committee for compiling resolutions and records was held at Pyidaungsu hall on Kyaikkahsan ground this morning.

It was attended by MWJA Chairman U Hla Myaing (Ko Hsaung), Vice-

Chairmen U Tin Kha (Takkatho Tin Kha), U Than Maung (Than Maung) and U Myint Thein (Myint Thein Aung), Secretary U Hla Tun (Hla Tun-Twantay), the joint-secretary, CEC members and observers.

At the meeting, arrangements for step-by-step work programmes that are to be carried out at the Central Body Meeting on May 11 and 12 were

discussed.

On 12 May at 7 pm, talks on AIDS will be given and academy award winning films will be shown to the members of the Central Body for their rest and recreation. On 13 May, delegate members of the Central Body from states and divisions will visit the Union National Races Village and Defence Services Museum.

MNA



Director-General of Myanmar Education Research Department U Myint Han gives literary talks in Ward 2, Mayangon Township, on 8 May. — H

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

All this needs to be known

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



Secretary of MWJA U Hla Tun (Hla Tun-Twantay) extends greetings at the meeting. MNA

Heroin, stimulant tablets seized in Laukkai

YANGON, 10 May — A combined team comprising members of Local Intelligence Unit and Special Anti-Drug Squad, Myanmar Police Force and Shan State (North) Special Region No 1 (Kokang), acting on information, searched the house of Soe Min Tun (a) Yan Kyin Phu of Myothit (East), Laukkai on 2 May and seized him with 5.43 kilos of heroin, 24,780 stimulant tablets.

In connection with the case, action was taken against Soe Min Tun (a) Yan Kyin Phu, son of U Thein Maung of Myothit (East),

Laukkai under Section of Psychotropic Substances Narcotic Drugs and Law. — MNA



Soe Min Tun (a) Yan Kyin Phu together with seized narcotic drugs. — MNA

မညာရေးပြင် ခေတ်မီပွဲပြီးတိုးတက်လာ ခိုင်ခံ့တော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

China greets Red Cross Society's centennial

BEIJING, 10 May—China celebrated its Red Cross Society's 100th anniversary here Saturday, with Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao sending greetings and Vice-Premier Wu Yi attending the celebration, along with many representatives from Red Cross societies in other countries.

Premier Wen said in his greetings that the Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) has made immeasurable contributions to society in the past 100 years and he hoped the RCSC would go on making efforts to realize the nation's revitalization and world peace as a whole.

Vice-Premier Wu said at the anniversary celebration that China will, as always, support the RCSC, and try to solve prob-

lems it faces and thus to provide broader room for RCSC.

Before the celebration, Wu met with Jean de Courten, vice-president of the International Committee of Red Cross and Markku Niskala, secretary-general of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, as well as representatives from other countries and regions including Hong Kong and Taiwan. — MNA/Xinhua

HK signs health agreement with England, Wales

HONG KONG, 10 May—The Centre for Health Protection of Hong Kong signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) here with the Health Protection Agency of England and Wales for stronger links between the two bodies to protect public health.

The MoU is the first agreement signed between the centre and an overseas health authority on the launch of collaborative initiatives in training, attachment programmes, contingency planning, research and development as well as other health protection projects.

Officiating at the signing ceremony Friday, Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food Yeoh Eng-kiong said the agreement is an epoch-

making event in Hong Kong's public health history.

Noting that the SARS epidemic had underlined the need to strengthen inter-agency collaboration, Yeoh said the institutional arrangements for the centre are designed on the basis of a collaborative approach to health protection.

"On the international front, the centre will build on the network the Department of Health has devel-

oped with international and overseas health agencies over the years," he said.

Director of Health Lam Ping-yan said that there will be increased interaction between the two health agencies in disease surveillance, emergency response, epidemiological investigation, hospital infection control and the use of information technology for the enhancement of disease control.

MNA/Xinhua

New bridge links mainland, HK completes

SHENZHEN, 10 May—A new railway bridge was completed in the assembly of its structure striding Shenzhen River Sunday morning to link Shenzhen City in southern Guangdong Province with the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

The new Luohu Bridge, 40-metre long and 224 tons in weight, is expected to be put into operation on June 13. Yin Daqiao, official in charge of the construction of the project, said that all the assembly work was done by Sunday morning. In the next stage, they will lay rails along the bridge and then connect electricity, signal and telecommunication lines, which would need another half month. A new pedestrian bridge will then be built, for people to more easily travel between Hong Kong and Shenzhen through Luohu Port.

While the new bridge takes shape in the area, the 100-year-old Luohu Bridge has been moved to the Hong Kong side for exhibition as a cultural relic. The century-old bridge has played a key role in connecting Shenzhen and Hong Kong since it was built. — MNA/Xinhua



A hummingbird drinks water with honey from a drinking-trough in Mexico City. Fossils of the world's oldest known modern hummingbird were unearthed in Germany, the first discovery of ancient skeletons of the tiny nectar-sucking bird outside the American continent, the journal Science said. — INTERNET

Golden Prague int'l television festival starts

PRAGUE, 10 May—Golden Prague, a five-day annual international festival of television films and programmes dedicated to classical, dance, jazz and world music, starts in Prague's Obecní dum house Saturday.

A total of 120 programmes made by 60 TV stations and producers from 31 countries will take part in the festival competition. The programmes include documentaries as well as recorded theatre performances and televised musical works, operas and ballets.

Founded in 1964, Golden Prague originally was only a TV drama festival. In 1974 musical element was added to its programmes. Since 1993 it has devoted exclusively to music documentaries and programmes.

MNA/Xinhua

Aroused horse bites Pole to death

WARSAW, 10 May—A sexually excited stallion bit a Polish man to death when he tried to calm the beast which had become uncontrollably aroused by a nearby mare, police said.

"The 24-year-old man, identified as Robert R., was bitten when he tried to calm his horse which had become unsettled by the presence of a mare in the vicinity," a duty officer in the Baltic port of Szczecin told Reuters.

The horse went wild and began straining and bucking while pulling a farm cart through the village. An autopsy would determine whether the direct cause of death was a severed jugular vein or damaged spine, the officer added. — MNA/Reuters

Pioneering French doctor dies at age 88

PARIS, 10 May—Alexandre Minkowski, a world-renowned doctor who pioneered infant health studies in France and fought in the resistance in World War II, has died in Paris at the age of 88.

French President Jacques Chirac paid homage on Saturday to a man he said was "one of the consciences of the 20th Century", a great doctor, scientist, and founder of French neonatal research.

"He was also a man of commitment, who was always on his feet, from the resistance to humanitarian help for children of the developing world," Chirac said in a statement.

French media also mourned a man *le Monde* daily said had left an indelible mark on his students, colleagues and friends.

Born in Paris on 5 December, 1915, Minkowski was a paediatrician, clinical doctor and researcher who built Paris' Port-Royal maternity hospital into a world-famous neonatal centre and

carried out studies into infant cot deaths.

As a Jew he was a victim of anti-Semitic persecution during the German occupation of France during World War II, and he joined the resistance movement in 1941.

That did not prevent him, however, from opposing Israel's war against Lebanon in June 1982. He also fought to protect children in war zones from Vietnam to Palestine.

Close to left-wing political figures like Pierre Mendes-France and Michel Rocard, Minkowski advised Medecins sans Frontieres (Doctors without Borders) founder Bernard Kouchner when he became minister for humanitarian action in 1988-91, and Brice Lalonde when he was environment minister. — MNA/Reuters

Vietnamese NA to approve bills, consider socioeconomic targets

HANOI, 10 May—The National Assembly (NA) of Vietnam, at its upcoming session, will focus on approving draft laws, and review recent socioeconomic development to boost it, the NA Office announced on Saturday.

At the fifth session, to last from 11 May to 16 June, the country's highest legislative body is expected to pass seven bills and two resolutions, including those on civil procedure codes, inspection, inland waterway transport, credit organizations and enterprise bankruptcy, the office's chairman Bui Ngoc Thanh said at a Press conference.

It will also make comments on six bills, including those on national security, electricity, competition, and publishing, he added.

In the first three days of

the session, the NA will review the realization of socioeconomic development in 2003 and in the first four months of 2004, and discuss many recent issues, including land use planning, recovery of poultry industry, management of goods prices, and facilitation of administrative reform.

Vietnam recorded gross domestic production (GDP) growth of 7 per cent in the first four months of this year, compared to 6.89 per cent in the same period last year. It targets GDP growth of 7.58 per cent in 2004. — MNA/Xinhua



Miss Canada 2004 Vanessa Fisher waves to media after her arrival to Quito on 9 May, 2004. Fisher is the first candidate that arrived to Ecuador to participate in the Miss Universe 2004 contest. — INTERNET

France to glimpse ancient glory of "capital of China"

NANCHANG, 10 May—People in France can enjoy the elegance and delicacy of Chinese porcelain from next week at an exhibition of the ancient craft works.

An exhibition of 60 ancient porcelain wares from Jingdezhen, dubbed "capital of china", will be staged in Paris as part of the Chinese Culture Year in France, said cultural authorities of the city in east China's Jiangxi Province. The 60 items feature porcelain varieties of Chinese dynasties of Song, Yuan, Ming and Qing.

It is the first time for ancient porcelain wares from Jingdezhen to be exhibited on the European continent.

MNA/Xinhua

အိမ်တိုင်းမှာသစ်ပင် ရွာစဉ်မှာတောတန်း
တစ်တောင်တစ်တောင်ဆက်
မြို့တက်မယ့်လမ်း။

SPORTS

Williams extends run to reach Berlin final

BERLIN, 10 May— Former world number one Venus Williams stayed on course for a third straight WTA tour title by overcoming Croatian Karolina Sprem 2-6, 6-3, 6-4 in a surprisingly tight German Open semifinal on Saturday.

Third seed Williams, who won in Warsaw last week and in Charleston the week before, extended her winning streak to 15 matches and will take on second seed Amelie Mauresmo in Sunday's final.

The powerful Frenchwoman produced a near-perfect display to crush Jennifer Capriati 6-2, 6-0 in the other semifinal.

The unseeded Sprem gave Williams a hard time and looked to be on her way to a major upset by opening up a 3-0 lead in the decisive set but the American then stepped up a gear to win an exciting contest which lasted just under two hours. By contrast, world number three Mauresmo took just 52 minutes to oust Capriati, the number six seed.

The 24-year-old Mauresmo made her breakthrough in Berlin in 1998, reaching the final as a qualifier, and won the title in 2001 with victory over Capriati in the final.

American Capriati accumulated unforced errors in a one-sided semifinal. The 28-year-old former world number one was making her ninth appearance in the German capital. —MNA/Reuters

Real slump to third defeat in a row

MADRID, 10 May — Real Madrid effectively handed the Primera Liga title to Valencia when they slumped to their third defeat in a row, a 3-2 loss at home to lowly Real Mallorca on Saturday.

The defeat means that Valencia require two points from their remaining three matches to clinch their second league title in three seasons.

Rafa Benitez' side, who reached the UEFA Cup final earlier this week, could celebrate the title well ahead of time if they win their tricky away match at Sevilla on Sunday.

Valencia lead the table on 74 points, Real follow on 70 and Barcelona, whose 17-match unbeaten run came to an end earlier on Saturday when they lost 1-0 at relegation-threatened Celta Vigo, are third on 69.

Real fell victim to an inspired performance by a former player — still part owned by the club — Samuel Eto'o, who scored two brilliant solo goals to help his side to a 3-1 lead at the break.

Although Luis Figo pulled a goal back from the penalty spot five minutes after the restart it could not save them from a humiliating home defeat, their fourth loss in five league games.

For Mallorca the win will almost certainly ensure they

remain in the top flight as they are now eight points clear of the relegation zone with most of their rivals still having three games to play.

Earlier, Barcelona were dealt their first defeat in 18 matches when they went down 1-0 loss at struggling Celta Vigo, Brazilian midfielder Edu scoring the winner when he curled a low shot inside the post from the edge of the area two minutes before the break.

The win lifted Celta out of the relegation zone but with all their immediate rivals still to play they could end up back in trouble before the weekend is out.

Real got off to a dreadful start when recently crowned African Player of the Year Eto'o put the islanders ahead in the 11th minute.

The Cameroon international raced on to a lofted through-ball, outpaced the Real defence, fended off centre-back Raul Bravo and then dinked the ball over Iker Casillas and into the net.

Real hit back almost immediately when centre-back Francisco Pavon got ahead of the Mallorca defence to

head in a David Beckham corner in the 16th minute.

But it did little to disguise their problems controlling the Mallorca attack.

The Real back four panicked every time Eto'o got the ball and it was little surprise when he grabbed his second nine minutes before the break.

Picking up the ball 10 metres inside the Real half, he left Figo in his wake, jinked inside Bravo and Pavon and coolly slotted past Casillas to make it 2-1.

MNA/Reuters

Real fans entitled to jeer team, says Ronaldo

MADRID, 10 May— Real Madrid striker Ronaldo said the club's fans had every right to jeer the team during their 3-2 defeat at home to Real Mallorca on Saturday.

It was Real's fourth defeat in five matches, an appalling run of form that has effectively handed the Primera Liga title to Valencia, who now need two points from their final three games to clinch their second title in three seasons.

"It has been a terrible end to the season," Brazilian international Ronaldo told reporters. "We are trying very hard but nothing is going right."

"I can assure the fans that we are suffering as a result of what is happening but they have every right to jeer and whistle us."

Valencia can clinch the championship at UEFA Cup hopefuls Sevilla on Sunday. Ronaldo said second-placed Real were resigned to battling it out with Barcelona for the runners-up spot. —MNA/Reuters



Manchester United's Louis Saha (C) is pulled down by Chelsea's John Terry. Chelsea bounced back from their Champions League heartbreak to claim second place in the English Premiership after a 1-1 draw with Manchester United on 8 May, 2004. —INTERNET

Werder seal title with stylish win at Bayern

BERLIN, 10 May— Werder Bremen sealed their fourth Bundesliga title with a stylish 3-1 victory at outgoing champions Bayern Munich on Saturday.

Three goals in the first 35 minutes set up Werder for a win that put them nine points above second-placed Bayern with two matches left and gave them their first league title since 1993.

"It was a fantastic way to crown a fantastic season," said Werder coach Thomas Schaaf.

A blunder by Oliver Kahn set up the visitors when the Bayern goalkeeper released the ball after a weak effort

from Brazilian striker Ailton on 19 minutes. Croatian striker Ivan Klasnic followed up to open the scoring.

French playmaker Johan Micoud flicked the ball over Kahn from inside the area to double the advantage on 26 minutes and Ailton inflicted further punishment on the home side with a superb strike from the edge of the box 10 minutes from the break.

Dutch striker Roy Makaay pulled one back with a volley from 10 metres in the 56th minute but Bayern, who paid a heavy price for nervous defending, were never in contention.

"I would like to congratulate Werder who had a great season and deserve to be champions," said Bayern coach Ottmar Hitzfeld, who has endured a frustrating run with early exits from the Champions League and the German Cup.

"Werder were not nervous and played great football today," Hitzfeld added. "We didn't."

Werder, who extended their unbeaten run to 23 league games, fittingly crowned a great run by outplaying their main rivals in Bayern's Olympic stadium, where 65,000 fans witnessed a one-sided affair.

The Bayern fans must have felt depressed when they took a look at their stadium's scoreboard 68 minutes into the game.

"Congratulations Werder," a giant message on it read, as if Bayern, used to dominating German soccer for decades and aware that all hope was gone, wanted to prove they could be gracious in defeat.

Bayern will end the season without a title while Werder will chase their first domestic double when they take on Second Division Alemannia Aachen in the German Cup final on May 29 in Berlin.

MNA/Reuters

PSG beat Rennes to keep pressure on Lyon

PARIS, 10 May— Paris St. Germain moved level on points with Ligue 1 leaders Olympique Lyon with a 1-0 win against Stade Rennes at the Parc des Princes on Saturday.

Defender Frederic Dehu nodded in on the hour from a Fabrice Fioresse cross to score the game's only goal.

PSG struggled for an hour until Dehu's goal and came close to score again when Yugoslav Danijel Ljubojahit the post two minutes after the opener.

The win allowed the Parisians to join defending champions Lyon on 70 points though PSG, who meet lowly Metz later on Saturday, have a better goal difference.

Monaco, who host Olympique Marseille on Sunday, are third on 68 points. —MNA/Reuters

Sutton strike gives Celtic Old Firm clean sweep

GLASGOW, 10 May— Striker Chris Sutton curled home a superb injury-time winner to give Scottish champions Celtic a sixth straight Glasgow derby win against Rangers for the first time since 1915 on Saturday.

Rangers appeared to have survived a frantic second half of sustained pressure to deny the home side before Sutton latched on to Henrik Larsson's lay-off to whip a deserved winner over goalkeeper Stefan Klos with seconds left on the clock.

Celtic extended their lead over Rangers to 16 points with two games left and gave Martin O'Neill's side a fifth win of the season over Rangers -- their first Old Firm clean sweep since Jock Stein's side managed it in 1971-72.

The champions will now be in high spirits when they go for a double against Dunfermline Athletic in the Scottish Cup final on May 22 at Hampden Park.

Celtic were certainly worth the three points after enjoying the better possession and pressure though the visitors did create the clearer openings in a lively first half.

Defender Stanislav Varga had a goal ruled out on two minutes after Swedish striker Larsson — playing in his final Glasgow derby after seven years — appeared to foul Frank de Boer from Alan Thompson's free kick.

MNA/Reuters



Liverpool's Dietmar Hamann (2nd L) and Sami Hyypia (R) jump for a header against Birmingham City's Matthew Upson (2nd R) as captain Kenny Cunningham looks on during their Premiership football match at St. Andrews in Birmingham on 8 May, 2004. —INTERNET

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

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife visit pagodas in Bagan

YANGON, 10 May — Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San, accompanied by State Peace and Development Council Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe, and party paid a visit to Alodawpyi Pagoda in Bagan

yesterday evening.

On the occasion, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win made cash donations to the pagoda through the pagoda board of trustees.

Next, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San, and party paid homage to Pagoda No 392. They also visited Hsinmyashin Pagoda. — MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San pay reverence to the Hsinmyashin Buddha Image. — MNA

Seminar on Promotion of National Education (Yangon) opened

YANGON, 10 May — Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt addressed the ceremony to open Seminar on Promotion of the National Education (Yangon) of the Basic Education Sector 2004 of the Ministry of Education held at the Diamond Jubilee Hall on Pyay Road here this morning.

Also present on the occasion were Vice-Chairman of MEC Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, MEC members ministers, the Attorney-General, deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of department, departmental heads under the

Ministry of Education, rectors and officials, advisers, the State and Division Education Officers, the Township Education Officers, the School Heads and teachers.

First, Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt made a speech. He said that at present, it can be seen vividly that as the change in depth with great momentum in the field of science and technology has driven nations all over the world to promote the education standard without fail, and each country is striving competitively to reform the

education sector to be in line with global changes.

As the Union of Myanmar also formulated the long-term National Education Development Plan which is in line with international changes in science and technology five or six years ago with the aim to develop the nation and its people, at present the education sector is, to some extent, improving.

Besides, the Union of Myanmar is giving emphasis on creating an education system which sustains the historical background of the nation and its people, traditional culture and customs,

the striking features of the nation made up of different national races, the national policy based on the national characters, and the political, economic and social objectives.

Thus, the National Education Development Plan has been formulated and implemented with the aims of creating an education system which promotes the development of the nation and its people leading on the correct national track, turns the students into qualified ones who are on a par with the global development in science and technology, and preserves the national

characters and Myanmar social values.

For intelligentsia, Sayagis and Sayamagis will need to review the National Education Development Plan and its projects and activities, and discuss future programmes, based on what has been said.

This is the seventh time since 1998 that the State has conducted annually such an education seminar where intelligentsia, administrators, Sayagis, Sayamagis and other education personnel gather, discuss and formulate future programme, and the National Development Plan has been imple-

mented yearly phase by phase.

The phase I, II and III Education Promotion Programmes for Basic Education Sector which has been carried out since 1998, the Special Four-Year National Education Promotion Plan which is integrated with the Education Promotion Programme Phase III and links the Basic Education Sector and Higher Education Sector, the Thirty-Year Long-term National Education Development Plan which has been implemented in the second year of the Special Four-Year National

(See page 9)



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt addresses the opening of the Seminar on Promotion of National Education (Yangon). — MNA

INSIDE**Perspectives**

Make township-wise efforts for sufficient water supply
(Page 2)

Circulation

22,378