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Senior General Than Shwe sends felicitations to Singapore

YANGON, 9 Aug — On the occasion of the 39th Anniversary of the National Day of the Republic of Singapore which falls on 9 August 2004, Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr S R Nathan, President of the Republic of Singapore. — *MNA*

PM inspects progress in construction of religious buildings in Bago Waso robes offering ceremony held at Kyakhatwaing Monastery

YANGON, 8 Aug — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attended the Waso robes offering ceremony of Kyakhatwaing Monastery in Bago this morning.

Present on the occasion were Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw of the Kyakhatwaing Monastery Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Bhaddanta Jotipala and members of the Sangha, Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Southern Command Maj-Gen Ko Ko, the ministers, the deputy ministers, senior military officers, departmental officials, social organizations and wellwishers.

At the ceremony, Sayadaw Bhaddanta Jotipala administered the Nine-Precepts to the congregation. Next, the Prime Minister supplicated on the religious affairs.

In his supplication, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt said that it was

a great pleasure to have the opportunity to pay respects to State Ovadacariya Sayadawas and members of the Sangha led by Upa Okkatha of Shwekyin Nikaya Joint Shwekyin Sasanapaing Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Kyakhatwaing Sayadaw.

not still satisfied with his outstanding performance in religious field and he was making earnest efforts in the interest of the State and the people regardless of his age.

With the sponsorship of the Sayadaw, Satdanyadana Bridge, Thirizeya Bridge, Pylon Chantha road and park were built at Nibban

Pylon Chantha road linking Khamebyin and Thanatpin-Kayan-Thongwa is now being upgraded from an earth road to a gravel one.

He expressed his pleasure to witness the active participation of disciples of the Sayadaw in making donations.

(See page 16)

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



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt offers eight requisites and alms to Kyakhatwaing Pariyatti Monastery Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw Bhaddanta Jotipala.— MNA

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It is known that the Waso robes offering ceremony was held in conjunction with the cash donation ceremony for paving Khamebyin-Nibban road and for presenting Sasaninkura Award, he said adding that he was pleased to see that the Sayadaw was

Village, the birth place of the Sayadaw. Those structures were opened at a ceremony on 29 April 2004 and he himself attended the ceremony, he said.

The Prime Minister added that he was pleased to learn that the four miles and five furlongs long

Although the Kyakhatwaing Sayadawgyi is at the age of 84, he has been making energetic efforts in discharging duties in the interests of the Sasana and the nation. It is most honourable considering such virtues as generous donations, diligence, wisdom and determination of the Sayadaw who has been making relentless efforts regardless of his age.

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

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 9 August, 2004

For perpetual existence of the Union

The Government is striving day in, day out for equitable development of regions in the Union and raising the living standard of all the national people residing in the country.

On 4 August, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt met with members of District and Township Peace and Development Councils, departmental personnel, townsenders and members of social organizations at Pyithaya Hall in Pakokku.

On the occasion, the Prime Minister heard reports presented by officials and fulfilled the requirements in regional development, education and health sectors. The Prime Minister said that Head of State Senior General Than Shwe designated Pakokku as the capital of the region on the western bank of Ayeyawady River and gave guidance on upgrading Pakokku to a city complete with characteristics of a city, and that accordingly, high-ranking officials have toured Pakokku and its surrounding areas occasionally to carry out development undertakings.

Altogether 15 hospitals including 50-bed, 25-bed, 16-bed, station hospitals plus the 200-bed hospital have been built in Pakokku District to provide health care services to local people.

In the education sector, a magnificent university is in the process of being built in Pakokku and so are Pakokku Government Computer College and Pakokku Government Technological College.

Pakokku is a region in which cotton thrives, so the government is implementing Pakokku Textile Factory Project and it will be opened soon. For agricultural development in the region, dams and water pumping stations have been built and more irrigation facility projects are being implemented in the region.

For better transport in the region, the Government is implementing Pakokku-Mindat-Matupi-Yayzwa-Haka road.

Kyaukhtu Airport, the gateway to Chin State, was commissioned into service recently and Pakokku airport is under construction and it is nearing completion.

With the concept that only then all the national races living in states and divisions enjoy equitable development, will there be flourishing of Union Spirit and the spirit of national solidarity among them, the Government has been paying serious attention to regional development projects.

The entire people are therefore to be convinced of this concept and to perform their duties with zest and zeal for ensuring perpetual existence of the Union and strong economy of the nation, while living unitedly in accordance with the national policies of the government.

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



USDA Secretariat member Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan delivers an address in meeting with rural people at Myitkyo village BEHS in Waw Township. — MNA

Information Minister tours Bago District

YANGON, 8 Aug — Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan carried out information and rural development tasks in villages in townships of Bago Division yesterday.

First, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan met heads and staff of Information and Public Relations Departments in Bago, Nyaunglebin, Kyauktaga, Shwekyin, DaikU, Thanatpin and Kawa townships of Bago District and instructed them to realize the aims of the Ministry of Information and 10 objectives of IPRD for 2004-2005, to place emphasis on opening of self-reliant libraries in all villages, to distribute newspapers to the villages, to enjoy TV programmes in rural area and to carry out tasks of the mobile library in every village of respective townships once a year.

At 10 am, the minister inspected Waw Township IPRD and gave necessary instructions.

In the afternoon, Member of the Secretariat Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan went to Myitkyo Village in Waw Township and met local people at Myitkyo Village BEHS. After hearing reports by local authorities, Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan delivered an address, saying that the government is striving day and night for development of the nation and the people. Nowadays, the government has fulfilled all the requirements in agriculture, livestock breeding, transport, education, health, power supply, etc which are essentials for the nation and the people. So, the people are to make concerted efforts for achieving success in five rural development tasks. And, the entire people should unitedly cooperate with the government in implementing the seven-point future programme of the State for ensuring emergence of a peace-

ful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation. At present, one portion of the National Convention, which is the first step of the seven-point future programme, has been convened successfully. However, internal and external elements are trying to disturb implementation of the programme including convening the National Convention with the use of various methods. But progress will be made if the government and the people exert concerted efforts. Therefore, cooperation of the entire people plays a very important role in building the nation. Next, the minister presented K 100,000 for the Myitkyo BEHS, school stationery and various kinds of books for the library to officials. Afterwards, Director-General U Chit Naing of IPRD presented K 50,000 for the school; U Aye Thein, on behalf of brothers and sisters of Ayey Min Thein (Mandalay) Construction Co, K 300,000; and Managing Director U Thein Myint of Ayey Min Thein (Mandalay) Construction Co and wife Daw Moe Sanda Tun, K 4.5 million for building Myitkyo Village library. Villagers donated the plot for the village library. Ayey Min Thein Co, a local company, will build the library. On completion, the Ministry of Information will provide books, furniture and staff to the library.

Next, the minister met local people at Myagon Village BEPS in Gwaygyi Village-tract and explained rural development tasks.

The Secretariat Member donated K 50,000 for finishing the school building and school stationery to officials. U Aye Thein of Ayey Min Thein (Mandalay) Construction Co and Managing Director U Thein Myint of the company and wife Daw Moe Sanda Tun donated K 50,000 each to the school funds. — MNA

Mid-Year Gem Empo in Oct

YANGON, 8 Aug — The Mid-Year Myanmar Gems Emporium will be held in October 2004. Those wishing to participate in it may contact the Myanmar Gems Enterprise from 1 August to 30 September 2004 to have their gems tested and the floor prices fixed. The MGE has been making arrangement in cooperation with respective enterprises and departments for sales and export of gems of entrepreneurs in accordance with GTC Systems in the interests of the State and gems entrepreneurs. — MNA

Dry Day inspection teams supervised

YANGON, 8 Aug — Vice-Chairman of the Dry Day Supervisory Committee Minister at the Prime Minister's Office Maj-Gen Thein Swe and the committee members Deputy Minister for Construction U Tint Swe, Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu, Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay, Vice Adjutant-General Brig-Gen Hla Shwe, Director-General of the Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen Khin Yi, Lt-Col Aung Thu of the Quartermaster-General's Office, Command of No 1 Provost Unit (Air) Major Hla Myint Oo, Commander of Yangon Division Wireless and Traffic Police Force Police Lt-Col Aung Naing and officials this morning and evening supervised the dry day inspection teams which were checking the use of vehicles of Tatmadaw and departments concerned at the main points of Yangon City.

The inspection teams checked dry day pass, driver's licence, wheel tax and wearing of uniforms and violation of traffic rules.

MNA



Minister Maj-Gen Thein Swe and party supervise the Dry Day inspection teams. — MNA



Dry Day pass, driver's licence, wheel tax, wearing of uniforms and violation traffic rules inspected.

Three US servicemen killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 7 Aug—Assailants in Iraq killed three US servicemen, one in the capital and two in the south of the troubled country, the US command said Saturday.

Two Marines from the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit were killed on Friday "as a result of enemy action" in Najaf province, south of the capital, the military said in a statement.

In western Baghdad, an guerilla fired a rocket-propelled grenade at a patrolling US vehicle, killing one soldier, the military said.

The names of those killed were withheld pending notification of next of kin.

Internet



American soldiers stand guard during clashes with al-Mahdi army fighters in a west Baghdad neighbourhood in Iraq on 6 Aug, 2004. —INTERNET

US soldier admitted abuse of Iraqis

FORT BRAGG (North Carolina), 7 Aug—The female US soldier, who outraged the Arab world by being photographed holding an Iraqi prisoner on a leash, admitted she "stepped on" inmates and said no one ordered her to abuse prisoners, a criminal investigator testified on Friday.

Private First Class Lynndie England, seen in a series of photographs that damaged the US image in Iraq, has said in the past she was following orders in the abuse scandal that prompted an apology from US President George W. Bush. Sergeant James Stewart, a military investigator, said he interviewed England on 5 May, showed her 23 pictures from Abu Ghraib and asked her questions about them.

When he asked her if she abused prisoners, "She said a couple times she had stepped on someone," Stewart said.

"She said she was never ordered to do that, and she didn't know if anyone told them to do it," he added, saying England told him they were trying to humiliate the prisoners. Later in the interview, England said Military Intelligence agents had told her to "keep it up; we were doing a good job".

President Bush pinned the blame for the Abu Ghraib abuse on a small group of soldiers, but England has said she was following orders, and her lawyers have sought to link the US military chain of command to the abuse.

The four-day military court hearing was called to determine whether England should stand trial. Stewart's was the first direct testimony that England

physically abused prisoners.

The pregnant, 21-year-old is charged with 19 counts of prisoner abuse, committing indecent acts and disobeying orders. She faces up to 38 years in prison if convicted.

She told Stewart that Special Charles Graner, another of the seven soldiers charged in the abuse at Abu Ghraib, is the father of her child, Stewart said.

In earlier testimony, a

US soldier testified that Abu Ghraib was "hell", a dangerous place staffed by poorly trained guards and short on basics like clothes and soap for prisoners; England's lawyers used the testimony to paint a disturbing picture of turmoil at the notorious jail near Baghdad. Sergeant Hydrue Joyner, a member of England's 372nd Military Police Company, said "the whole prison system was corrupt". —MNA/Reuters

TN Petro's SE Asia project to go on stream by early 2006

CHENNAI, 7 Aug—Tamilnadu Petroproducts Ltd (TN Petro), an undertaking based in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu, is setting up linear alkyl benzene (LAB) projects in Southeast Asia and Middle East.

The project in Southeast Asia is likely to go on stream by early 2006, A C Muthiah, chairman, TN Petro, told shareholders at the company's 19th annual general meeting here on Thursday.

"The company is aggressively working to chase opportunities to commission LAB projects in Southeast Asia and Middle East, the first of which is likely to go on stream by early 2006," he said.

In the face of weak monsoon and acute water shortage in the country, Muthiah said TN Petro is planning to set up a sea water desalination plant at Ennore Port in Tamil Nadu to augment water supply for uninterrupted running of these units.

During the last fiscal, the failure of monsoon and acute water shortage had affected the company's working. "The series of measures being implemented by the company will usher in good prospects for TN Petro," he said.

Muthiah said the rise in prices of raw materials such as kerosene, benzene, fuel oil and propylene besides overcapacity in LAB will continue to put pressure on its margins. Muthiah said during the quarter ended June, TN Petro has achieved capacity utilization in all its three divisions viz., linear alkyl benzene (LAB), epichlorohydrin (ECH) and caustic soda. —MNA/PTI

ထိုက်တိုင်နှစ်ဆ ထိုးမြင့်ကြ

Iraq shuts Al Jazeera Baghdad office for a month

BAGHDAD, 7 Aug—Iraq interim government ordered Qatar-based Al Jazeera satellite television network to close its Baghdad office for one month on Saturday, a move criticized as unjustifiable by the channel.

Prime Minister Iyad Allawi, confirming the decision at a news conference, said a commission had been monitoring Al Jazeera for the past four weeks to see whether it was inciting violence and hatred, and that the decision had been taken "to protect the people of Iraq."

"It's regrettable and we believe it's not justifiable," Al Jazeera spokesman Jihad Ballout said. "This latest decision runs contrary to all the promises made by Iraqi authorities concerning freedom of expression and freedom of the press."

Iraqi police officers went to the station's Baghdad office late on Saturday and ar-

gued with Jazeera staff before locking the newsroom.

Iraqi Interior Minister Falah al-Naqib said this week that Arabic satellite channels were encouraging kidnappings by showing images of hostages threatened with execution.

Another government official at the press conference said the station had "encouraged criminals and gangsters" in Iraq.

Al Jazeera's Ballout denied the charge.

"We are not a political organization that is for or against anybody. We display what happens on the ground as objectively as possible and in a balanced way," he said.

Ballout said the television would continue to cover events in Iraq despite the closure. "I'm not going to say it will be easy, but again a creative journalist will try to get a comprehensive and balanced story out there," he said.

In recent weeks several senior Iraqi officials have criticized Jazeera's coverage of the country.

Earlier this week, the station reported a videotaped statement from a militant group linked to al Qaeda ally Abu Musab al-Zarqawi saying it had released two Turkish drivers because their company agreed to stop working in Iraq.

Internet

Malaysian FM urges ASEAN members to set up studies centres

KUALA LUMPUR, 8 Aug—Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar of Malaysia Saturday urged ASEAN members to set up ASEAN Studies Centres in their respective countries to provide better understanding on the uniqueness of the grouping.

Such a centre to encourage research and studies on ASEAN (Association of South-East Asian Nations) was close to be materialized in a Malaysian university, the minister told a news conference in the sideline of the National Colloquium on ASEAN here.

ASEAN, now grouping all the 10 South-east Asian Nations with a combined population of 530 million people, was established in 1967 to boost peace and regional cooperation.

Syed Hamid said that the centre would cover areas like language as well as the sociological and cultural aspects of the member countries.

The minister hoped that other ASEAN members would take the cue from Malaysia to establish a similar centre in their respective countries.

"There is definitely a need for the people of ASEAN to have better knowledge about each other," he said.

The three-day colloquium, which began Friday, is attended by local officials and specialists on ASEAN matters.

Syed Hamid said that the participants at the colloquium had provided useful suggestions and input for Malaysia's preparations to host the 11th ASEAN Summit next year.

"We need to get feedback on how they see and view ASEAN. We need to identify the doable activities which Malaysia could promote during our chairmanship (of ASEAN next year)," he said.

Syed Hamid said that useful suggestions and input from the colloquium would be compiled in a report and later presented to the Cabinet for approval.

MNA/Xinhua



American troops take positions during clashes with al-Mahdi army fighters in a west Baghdad neighbourhood in Iraq on 6 Aug, 2004. —INTERNET

Turkish Co leaves Iraq after kidnapping

BAGHDAD, 7 Aug — A Turkish company decided to pull out of Iraq after television broadcast a video Saturday purportedly showing a kidnapped Turkish truck driver in Iraq pleading with colleagues to stay out of the country.

Meanwhile, Jordan said a businessman had escaped his Iraqi captors and returned home. In Lebanon, the father of two brothers kidnapped while taking electric generators to Iraq appealed for their release, saying they were not working for the Americans.

Insurgents have kidnapped more than 80 people in Iraq in their campaign to drive out coalition forces and hamper reconstruction. At least eight hostages have been killed. The abductions have prompted a number of companies to meet militant demands and quit Iraq.

The Turkish transport company Atahan Lojistik decided to pull out of Iraq after the video of its employee was shown in the video Saturday, according to a statement released by Hasan Tarhan, a partner in the company.

"Because of the events,

our company announces that we have stopped all activity within the borders of Iraq and that we declare that we shall not be taking part in an transportation," in Iraq, the statement read.

"All we hope is that our driver, Tahsin Top, is released as soon as possible and is safely returned to his country," it said.

In the video, shown on Turkish television, a visibly agitated man sits on the floor as two masked, black-clad men hold rifles to his head. A man sitting next to him reads a statement in Arabic.

A newscaster said the gunmen threatened to behead the man — identified as Tahsin Abdurrahman Top by NTV television — unless his company left Iraq within 48 hours.

Internet



Iraqi Shi'ite supporters of radical cleric Moqtada al-Sadr chant in the southern city of Basra, on 6 Aug. 2004. —INTERNET

Eight soldiers from US-led Afghan force wounded

KABUL, 7 Aug — Suspected Taliban militants wounded eight soldiers from US-led forces in Afghanistan on Friday in two separate attacks, firing rocket-propelled grenades on a convoy and setting off a bomb near a military vehicle.

A statement from the 18,000-strong US-led force in Afghanistan said the first attack took place near the Dai Chopan District of Zabul Province, scene of regular attacks by remnants of the

ousted militia.

Taliban and Islamic militant allies have waged a "jihad", or holy war, on foreign forces and the US-backed government in Kabul, and have stepped up at-

tacks in a bid to disrupt a presidential election due to be held in about two months' time.

Around 10 guerillas attacked a 10-vehicle military convoy with rocket-propelled grenades, wounding five troops from the US-led force. The soldiers fired back at the assailants, forcing them to flee.

Of the casualties, three have returned to duty and two are in stable condition. All received shrapnel wounds when their Humvee vehicle was hit.

In the second incident, also in Zabul Province, three troops from the US-led force were hurt when their Humvee was hit by a improvised bomb some 40 miles north of the provincial capital of Qalat. All three have returned to duty.

More than 900 people, including militants, have been killed in a wave of violence in Afghanistan during the past year.

The United States launched a war on the Taliban in late 2001 for sheltering al-Qaeda, suspected of carrying out the September 11 attacks that year.

MNA/Reuters

China Peaceful Reunification Forum held in HK

HONG KONG, 8 Aug — More than 200 scholars and celebrities from the Chinese Mainland and overseas attended the China Peaceful Reunification Forum held here on Friday.

Zhang Kehui, president of China Peaceful Reunification Association, said at the forum that the association was founded by 23 democratic parties and people's organization of the Chinese Mainland 16 years ago. Now it has developed all over the world with more than 130 similar organizations setting up in over 80 countries and regions.

Chinese people both at home and abroad are making concerted efforts to push forward the peaceful reunification of China, said Zhang, also vice-chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC).

"We firmly adhere to the basic principle of 'peaceful reunification of the Motherland and one country, two systems' and the eight-point proposal for developing the relations across the Taiwan Straits," said Zhang.

With the efforts of people on both sides of the Taiwan Straits, the exchange and cooperation between the two sides of Straits have been further deepened. This is the trend of developing relations across the Taiwan Straits, and it is favourable to the peaceful reunification of China and to the peace, prosperity and stability of the Asia-Pacific Region and the whole world, said Zhang.

MNA/Xinhua

ဝက်စွမ်းအား ခေတ်တော်လွှား

Annan says insecurity still hinders UN activity in Iraq

UNITED NATIONS, 7 Aug — UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said Friday that staff security remains the over-riding constraint for all UN activity in Iraq.

"The acting UN Security Coordinator assessed the risks to UN personnel in Iraq as being in the high to critical category," the UN chief said in his third report to the Security Council.

He said that in the absence of a significant improvement in the overall security situation, the world body must continue to incorporate into all plans and activities a set of special measures, which include enhanced Minimum Operating Security Standards (MOSS).

The measures should also include a strengthened security management structure, additional training for all staff members and a requirement for protection by dedicated Armed Forces.

Annan introduced the set of standards immediately after an independent panel of experts found in its report that the lack of awareness and security measures were the main cause for the deadly bombing almost a year ago in Baghdad which killed Annan's Special Representative and 21 other UN workers.

MNA/Xinhua

Bahrain to query US on alleged torture of detainee

MANAMA, 7 Aug — The Gulf kingdom of Bahrain said on Friday it would formally ask its close ally the United States to investigate allegations US troops tortured a Bahraini detainee at Guantanamo Bay.

Foreign Ministry official Youssef Mahmoud told the Bahrain News Agency his ministry had asked its embassy in Washington to query US officials about the condition of Juma al-Dossary after a report by the Bahrain Centre for Human Rights (BCHR).

The BCHR report, quoting three Britons recently freed from the US naval base in Cuba, said al-Dossary was repeatedly beaten by US soldiers, who slammed his face into the floor and broke his nose.

The Britons, young Muslims who were detained in Afghanistan in 2002, were the latest released detainees to allege abuse.

"The Bahrain Embassy in Washington has been instructed ... to send an official memorandum to the US Secretary of State to inquire about the reports ... on torturing a Bahraini national at the Guantanamo Prison," Mahmoud told the agency.

Dossary is believed to be mentally ill. There are six Bahrainis, including Dossary, held in Guan-

tanamo for more than two years without trial.

A group of international lawyers visited Bahrain, the headquarters for US Navy's Fifth Fleet, last month as part of a trip that took them to other Arab countries to prepare a lawsuit on behalf of the Guantanamo prisoners.

The inmates in Guantanamo are suspected of fighting with the Taliban in Afghanistan or supporting al-Qaeda. The United States has denied allegations that prisoners were beaten and abused. — MNA/Reuters

30 Iraqi civil officials conclude training in Jordan

AMMAN, 7 Aug — Thirty Iraqi civil officials from ten ministries have concluded a two-week training in Jordan, the official Petra news agency reported Friday.

The training, which was launched in February, is sponsored by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and financed by the European Commission. It consists of a series of 20 courses on various fields such as management, purchase and project management.

Earlier last month, some 75 Iraqi civil servicemen concluded the same courses.

More than 600 Iraqi civil officials were expected to go into the training as part of the IMF's programme to develop their capabilities.

MNA/Xinhua



American soldiers look at a plume of smoke rise during clashes with al-Mahdi army fighters in a west Baghdad neighbourhood in Iraq on 6 Aug. 2004. —INTERNET

Italian troops clash with Shiite militia in Iraq

NASSIRIYA (Iraq), 7 Aug— Italian forces clashed with Shiite militia fighters in the southern city of Nassiriya early on Friday and tensions were still high, an Italian military spokesman said.

In more than a dozen attacks that began shortly after midnight (2000 GMT Thursday), militia loyal to rebel Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr fired rocket-propelled grenades, mortars and light arms at Italian patrols, key installations such as a power plant and an Iraqi police base, the Italian Army said.

"It has been an extremely tense night and we are maintaining maximum alert,"

Captain Ettore Sarli, chief spokesman for Italian forces in Nassiriya, told *Reuters*.

"An Italian task force has control of the centre of Nassiriya and its bridges, and we are seeking mediation with the militia via the governor of the city," he said.

The militia claimed to have destroyed at least four Italian armoured trucks in the fighting. Sarli confirmed various attacks on Italian pa-

trols, but said there was no indication so far that four military vehicles had been destroyed.

Over the past 48 hours, fighters loyal to Sadr have clashed with US and British forces in the southern holy city of Najaf, in the Sadr City neighbourhood of Baghdad and in the southern city of Basra, all Shi'ite-dominated areas.

Sadr's militia, which is called the Mahdi Army, also claimed to have attacked British forces in the southern city of Amara, but that could not be independently confirmed.

Italian forces in and around Nassiriya, 235 miles south of Baghdad, have fought sporadically with militia loyal to Sadr over recent months. About 2,700 Italian troops are based in Iraq, the bulk just outside the city.

MNA/Reuters



Fighters loyal to radical Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr run through the street as they carry an RPG, and light weapons during clashes with US forces and Iraqi National guards at Sadr City in Baghdad, on 6 Aug, 2004. —INTERNET

US soldier killed in Baghdad attack

BAGHDAD, 8 Aug— One US soldier was killed when guerrillas attacked his patrol with rocket-propelled grenades in western Baghdad on Friday, a US military statement said on Saturday.

US forces battled fighters loyal to Shiite Muslim radical cleric Moqtada al-Sadr in two slums of Baghdad on Friday as well as the holy city of Najaf to the south.

The latest fatality brought to 686 the number of US soldiers and Marines killed in combat since US-led forces invaded Iraq in March 2003. —*MNA/Reuters*

Iraqi fighters attack British troops in Basra

BASRA (Iraq), 7 Aug— Clashes between British troops and fighters loyal to a radical Iraqi Muslim cleric broke out on Friday evening in the southern city of Basra, a *Reuters* witness said.

He said residents took shelter as British troops fought with members of the Mehdi militia in the centre of the city. Automatic weapons fire echoed from the area,

along with the sound of mortars or rockets, he said.

A British military spokeswoman said the clash occurred when a British foot patrol came under attack near the Basra office of radical Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr.

She said it was unclear if there were any casualties, adding the patrol later with-

drew from the area.

Battles have raged in several Iraqi cities in the past two days between fighters from Sadr's Mehdi army and foreign forces.

The fighting appears to have shattered a two-month-old ceasefire between US forces and the Mehdi militia.

MNA/Reuters

Iran says US paying for wrong policies in Middle East

TEHRAN, 7 Aug— The United States is paying the price for its mistaken Middle East policies with high oil prices and security scares at home, an influential Iranian cleric said on Friday.

Former Iranian president Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, the head of a top advisory body to Iran's most powerful figure, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, said Washington only had itself to blame.

"With what you do in Palestine and Iraq... how do you expect those who can, not to hit back at you?" he said in a Friday prayers sermon broadcast live on state radio.

"Eventually there will be dissatisfied, angry, righteous people as a result of such oppression, people who will use every opportunity to retaliate," Rafsanjani said.

He said record high oil prices had also been caused by US policies in the region. "They came to the Persian Gulf to become the king of oil and control it, but con-

trary to their expectations, oil prices doubled," Rafsanjani said. "Calm cannot be restored to the world like this, they must revise their policies."

Washington accuses Tehran of supporting terrorism and trying to build a nuclear arsenal. Iran denies the charges.

MNA/Reuters

Coal mine accident traps 15 in north China

TAIYUAN, 7 Aug— Fifteen miners were trapped in a coal mine accident in north China's Shanxi Province on Friday, said local sources.

The accident happened at 10 am in Xiaowangou Coal Mine in Hejin City when 20 miners were working underground. Five of them have been rescued by Press time, said the provincial bureau of supervision on coal mine production safety. The bureau was informed of the accident at 3:30 pm and immediately sent a rescue team to the scene. The cause and details of the accident are still unknown, according to the bureau. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Less trained doctors treat Blacks in US

WASHINGTON, 7 Aug— American doctors who treat Black patients may be less well trained than those caring for White patients and are more likely

to say they cannot provide all their patients with high-quality care, according to a study.

The researchers, from Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Centre in New York and the Centre for Studying Health System Change, a Washington-based policy research group, examined data from 150,391 routine doctor visits by Black and White Medicare patients to 4,365 primary care doctors, who had participated in a telephone survey during 2000 and 2001.

The researchers found that 25 per cent of physicians handled 80 per cent of the visits by Black Medicare patients.

Doctors treating Black patients are less likely to be Board-certified doctors treating White patients, the study report, published in *New England Journal of Medicine*, said. — *MNA/PTI*

FDI in India increases 71% in first quarter of 2004

NEW DELHI, 8 Aug— Foreign Direct Investment into India in the first quarter of 2004 increased by 71 per cent to 50.76 billion rupees as compared to 29.68 billion rupees in the same period last year.

The cumulative approval of FDI between 1991 and March 2004 was 2,924.53 billion rupees (78.26 billion US dollars) and total inflows were 1,492.15 billion rupees (36.62 billion US dollars), according to the annual report of Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

In rupee terms overall implementation rate was 51.02 per cent and in dollar terms it was 46.79 per cent.

The increase in FDI has kept pace with growth in industrial production, domestic investment and investment by Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs).

The Index for Industrial Production (IPP) grew 6.9 per cent in 2003-04 as compared to 5.7 per cent in 2002-03 and 2.7 per cent in 2001-02. — *MNA/PTI*

India's Finance Minister asks states to improve governance

NEW DELHI, 7 Aug— Indian Finance Minister P Chidambaram on Friday favoured a national model on the basis of best practices adopted by various states in different sectors to improve delivery system in the country.

"We are capable for much better governance. Yet we tend to fail in governing the country," Chidambaram said addressing the *India Today* conclave on 'State of the States' here.

Citing the excellence of delivery systems in certain states—education in Kerala, public distribution system in West Bengal, healthcare in

Tamil Nadu and food for work in Maharashtra—he said there are lessons to learn from these states and extrapolate this to evolve a national model to improve the overall delivery system in the country.

"There has not been any churning of the ranks of states in terms of overall development," he regretted, and added that states which were doing well continue to do so while laggards continue to remain at the bottom of the ladder.

But Chidambaram was happy to note that some churning was taking place in infrastructure development in backward states. — *MNA/PTI*



An Iraqi civilian asks for the right to pass while American soldiers made their way in to the wards of al Sheela hospital during a raid looking for wounded Mahdi army fighters in a west Baghdad neighbourhood in Iraq on 6 Aug, 2004. —INTERNET



Iraqi shop owners walk through the burnt remains of commercial stalls left after a fire tore through the outdoor market during clashes between fighters loyal to radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr and US forces in Najaf, Iraq, on 7 August, 2004.



Iraqi men look at a trail of blood on the hospital floor left by patients injured during the second day of clashes between al-Sadr militants and US forces in the city of Najaf, Iraq on 6 August, 2004.

Images of Iraq



An Iraqi hotel worker stands behind shattered glass after a Baghdad hotel came under attack by mortar fire overnight, on 6 August, 2004.



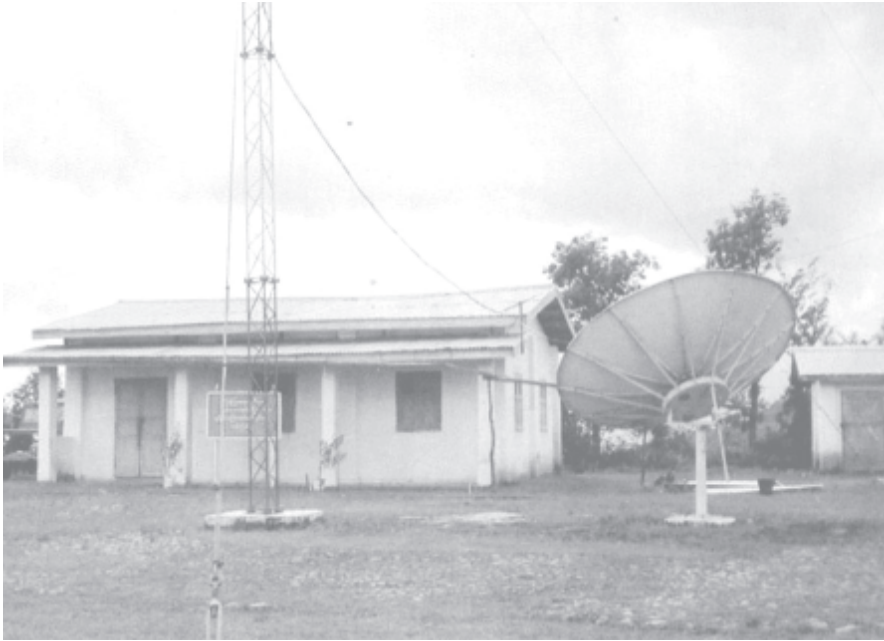
Doctors tend to Wassan Nassir, 14, who was hit twice by bullet fire during clashes between al Mahdi army fighters and US soldiers in the wards of al Sheala hospital, in a west Baghdad neighbourhood in Iraq on 6 August, 2004.



Smoke rises over Iraqi city of Najaf as battles rage between Shi'ite militiaman and their US Marine and Iraqi security forces foes on 6 August, 2004.



Iraqi civilians flee from their homes with their belongings to look for a safer place during the second day of clashes between US army and Iraqi National Guards with al-Mahdi army fighters loyal to radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr in the city of Najaf, Iraq, on 6 August, 2004.



Communication facilities built for the people

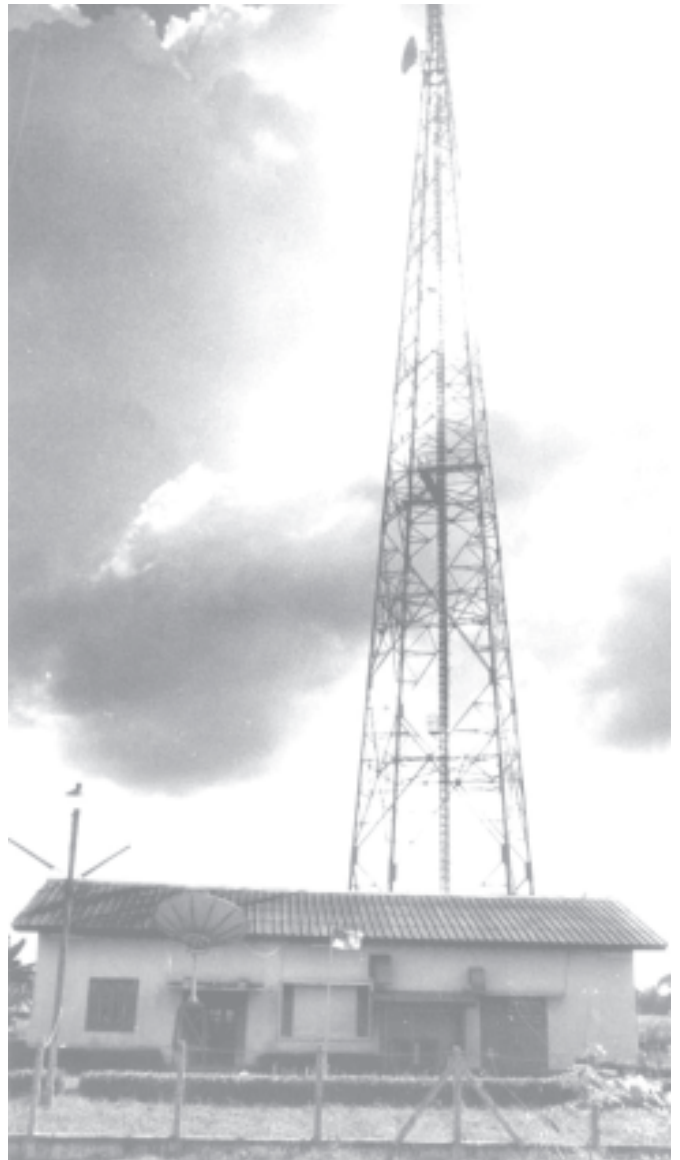
*TV retransmission
station built in
Konggyan region of
Shan State (North).*
KYEMON



*People living in Haka of Chin State are now
enjoying TV programmes broadcast from TV
retransmission station built in the region.*
KYEMON



*Microwave Station in Loikaw, Kayah State, serves the people
for their convenience in communication. — MNA*



*TV retransmission station in Kyaunggon, Ayeyawady Division helps raise
the knowledge of local people.—KHIN MAUNG WIN (KYEMON)*



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects progress in construction of Naungdawgyi Myathahlyaug reclining Buddha Image in Bago.— MNA

Prime Minister inspects progress in construction of religious buildings...

(from page 16)

The Prime Minister inspected the Palace and gave necessary instructions.

In the afternoon, the Prime Minister and party inspected building of Tampaloha Maha Muni Buddha Image near Yangon-Bago Union Highway in Bago.

At Dhamma Lankara Buddha Rakkhita Monastery, they donated provisions to

Sayadaw of the monastery Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Visuddha.

In the briefing hall of Tampable Maha Muni Buddha Image construction site, Chief Engineer (Architect) U Thant Zin of Public Works, Deputy Chief Engineer (Project) U Nyunt Maung Hsan and Myanmar handicraft technician U Ye Kyaw

reported on progress in building Gandakuti Tazaung and the archway.

The Prime Minister gave instructions on installation of Myanmar handicraft of the style in Hanthawady period and attended to the needs. Later, the Prime Minister inspected construction of the Buddha image and the Gandakuti Tazaung.

MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt offers provisions to Dhamma Lankara Buddha Rakkhita Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Visuddha.— MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt views the teak board bearing shape of royal palace dating back to AD 16th Century. — MNA

Wellwishers invited for sinking tube-wells

YANGON, 8 August— The Development Affairs Committees under the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs are making concerted efforts in sinking tube-wells in order to get sufficient fresh water in rural areas in States and Divisions where water is scarce.

One 200 feet deep two-inch diameter tube-well costs K 250,000; one 400 feet deep two-inch diameter tube-well costs K 500,000; and one 200 feet deep four-inch diameter tube-well costs K 500,000.

Those wishing to donate cash for the tube-well sinking projects for rural areas may contact the Director-General (Tel: 01-245420 & 253088), the Deputy Director-General (Tel: 01-240118), the Director (Engineering) (Tel: 01-291967), the Directors (Sagaing Division Development Affairs Committee) (Tel: 071-21012), the Director (Magway Division Development Affairs Committee) (Tel: 063-23164) and the Director (Mandalay Division Development Affairs Committee) (Tel: 02-54657).

MNA

Prime Minister attends merit-sharing ...

(from page 16)

K 1.08 million by Daw Kyin Shwe (Panpaungson Traditional Medicine House), U Hla Kyaw (Shwe Linyon Thingan), Maung Than Myint, family of U Haik Yon-Daw Htwe, U Tun Kyaw Oo-Daw Mya Mya Htay, U Tin Aung-Daw Yamin Myint and U Thein Han-Daw Khin Nyunt; and K 1 million by Dr Kyi Lwin-Daw Hla Hla Kyin (Chan Aye Clinic), U Win Soe-Daw Thida, U Aye Thein-Daw Yi Yi Myint and family of Shaing Hok.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, Commander Maj-Gen Ko Ko and the ministers accepted the donations. Next, Sayadaw Bhaddanta Jagara Bhivamsa delivered a sermon and the ceremony concluded with the three-time recitation of Buddha Sasanam Ciram Thithatu. The Prime Minister performed rituals of gold and silver showers. The Prime Minister inspected the scale model of Lopyae Aye Chantha Pagoda to be built in the compound of Sobhana Rama Shweminwun Sasana Yeiktha (Bago). Officials reported on the construction tasks. Later, the Prime Minister and party left there by car. — MNA



Sein Yadana Sankyaungdaw of Sobhana Rama Shweminwun Sasana Yeiktha.— MNA



Vice-Chairman Sayadaw Bhaddanta Paññindabhivamsa delivers a sermon and the congregation shares merits gained for rebuilding Gandakuti Tazaung at Kyaunggyi Taik in Kyimyindine Township. — MNA

Stakes driven to build Gandakuti Building for Ancient Buddha Image at Kyaunggyi Monastery in Kyimyindine Township

YANGON, 8 Aug — Under the auspices of Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing, the

Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Paññinda-bhivamsa, Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Pyay Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kundalajoti and members of the Sangha, Chairman of

Pakara Dhammayon of the monastery. Teingyar Htidaw Hoisting Team blew silver conch shells and beat gongs.

Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kundalajoti administered the Nine Precepts and members

the mayor and the deputy commander accepted K 1 million of Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing; K 2 million donated by Yangon Division Peace and Development Council; K 18 million by

Control Committee (Highway); and U Kyaw Min and family; K 500,000 each by Bandoola Transport Co Ltd; U Kyaw Htay-Daw Tin Tin Maw; U Nyunt Htay-Daw Nilar Shwe; U Myat Thin Aung-Daw Khin Myint Myint; and U Win Myint of UMFCCI; K 300,000 by U Aung Zaw Myint-Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin; K 200,000 each by U Hnin Sein-Daw Mya Nyein; Yangon North District All Bus Lines Control Committee; U Tin Hla-Daw Aye Aye Kyi; and wellwishers of Kyimyindine Township. Today's donations amounted to K 60,182,666.

Sayadaw Bhaddanta Paññindabhivamsa delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits.

Next, the commander, the ministers, the mayor and U Kyaing San Shwe drove stakes and sprinkled scented water on them. The commander put the gem casket in the centre of the foundation and laid the cornerstones. Likewise, the ministers, the mayor, U Kyaing San Shwe and officials laid cornerstones at the designated places. Next, they put the stone plaque at the foundation and sprinkled scented water on it.

Afterwards, they drove stakes for U Paññinda Kyaung of the monastery and performed the rituals of golden and silvery showers to mark successful completion of the ceremony. Later, they offered 'soon' to the Sayadaws.

MNA



U Kyaing San Shwe and wife Maj Daw Khin Win Sein present K 1 million for rebuilding Gandakuti Tazaung donated by Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing to Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe. MNA

Today's donations amounted to K 60,182,666 including K 1 million donated by Head of State Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing.

ceremony to drive stake and lay cornerstone of Gandakuti Building for Ancient Buddha Image at Kyaunggyi Monastery in Kyimyindine Township with the donation of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council and wellwishers was held at the monastery this morning.

Present on the occasion were Vice-Chairmen of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Bahan Aung-myebonsan Monastery Presiding Nayaka Abhi-dhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja

Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, No 3 Military Region Com-mander Col Tint Hsan, local authorities and wellwishers.

First, the ceremony was held at Maha Ponnyaw

of the Sangha recited Parittas.

On behalf of Senior General Than Shwe, wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and family, U Kyaing San Shwe and wife Maj Daw Khin Win Sein offered the stake, the gem casket, brick and provisions to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Paññinda-bhivamsa.

Next, the commander, the ministers, the mayor and wellwishers donated provisions to members of the Sangha. Afterwards, the commander, the ministers,

U Thein Win-Daw Ni (Shwe Thanlwin); K 10 million by U Chit Hmway-Daw Myint Myint Yi; K 7.5 million by U Maung Maung Tin and family; K 3 million by U Nyi Nyi Aung-Daw Moe Thuza; K 2 million by U Sein Tun; K 1.5 million by U Tin Sein-Daw Nan Kham Tit; K 1 million each by U Myat Cho Win and family; U Thu Daw-Daw Khin Sein; U Zaw Naing-Daw Wai Wai Hnin; All Bus Lines Control Committee (Yangon Division); All Bus Lines



YCDC Chairman Yangon City Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin drives stake for construction of Gandakuti prayers hall at Kyaunggyitaik in Kyimyindine Township. — MNA

The commander, the ministers, the mayor and U Kyaing San Shwe drove stakes and sprinkled scented water on them. Then, the commander put the gem casket in the centre of the foundation and laid the cornerstones. Likewise, the ministers, the mayor, U Kyaing San Shwe and officials laid cornerstones at the designated places. Next, they put the stone plaque at the foundation and sprinkled scented water on it. Afterwards, they drove stakes for U Paññinda Kyaung of the monastery and performed the rituals of golden and silver showers.

Extend transport network for development of border areas — 2

Myint Soe (Na-ta-la)

Roads and bridges are the strength of the nation. Aimed at increased friendly relations between one national race and another as well as between one region and another, and also at the improvement of socio-economic infrastructures in all aspects, roads and bridges are being constructed in border areas. The following are some of transport facilities which are under implementation at present.

Takaw-et-Weinkaung-Panhsan Road

It was in 1983 that I first visited Thanlwin (Takaw-et) jetty. At that time, the Tatmadaw columns found themselves engaged in fights against BCP in the forward areas such as Lwepanlon, Mongpat, Point-4695 Hill and Kyutansay 1/2 Point Hill on the eastern bank of the Thanlwin River. At the jetty, pontoons were the only vehicles to cross the river with. After the capture of Lwepanlon region by the Tatmadaw, an earth road had to be constructed from Takaw-et-Mankan-Hngatka-Panhsan to Lwepanlon for military operation purpose. Military vehicles loaded with food supplies to be provided for military outposts stationed on the eastern bank of the Thanlwin River had to cross the river by ferry boat.

As peace was something beyond the reach of that region at that time, local people had to eke out their living so that they could not miss their morning and evening meals. Walking valleys and mountain passes which were under regular fire from big .5 machineguns and taking cover with ridges and mounds, vendors ran risks to reach their destination villages where they would like to sell their products. Herdsmen had to drive back their buffalos and cows in the rain of falling bombs or shells.

Under such circumstances, hardly would anyone have free time to imagine how nice it would be if there appeared a bridge at Takaw-et jetty. They rather would be crossing their fingers that their raft, with which they crossed the Thanlwin River, would not drift away in the river as its rope broke. The jetty remained unchanged even in my second visit to the region in 1988. Pontoons were still the ferry to cross the river with.

By the time peace and stability reigned the whole region from May 1989, local national races had to enjoy the fruitful results of regional development apart from tranquillity. The construction of Takaw-et-Lwepanlon motor road continued to Weikkaung.

In 1993, Takaw-et-Weinkaung-Panhsan road, which is 82 miles and two furlongs in length, was constructed as earth road. In addition, Thanlwin Bailey Bridge (Takaw-et), which is of bailey type and 600 feet long, was also constructed from 1 April 1995 and was opened on 12 Feb-

Under the aegis of Kokang peace group, the road was constructed as an earth road in 1989-90 fiscal with the use of the border area development funds. It was upgraded to a gravel one by Shan State Regional Work Committee from 1993-94 fiscal and was completed in 1999-2000 fiscal. A large sum of funds were spent in the upgrading of the road to a gravel one.

ruary 1997. The opening of the bridge was full of essence, for it coincided with Union Day.

At the meeting held on 12 June 1997 by the Central Committee for Border Areas and National Races Development, Chairman of the Central Committee Senior-General Than Shwe gave guidance on construction of Takaw-et-Weinkaung-Panhsan road as tarred one so that it would take five hours to reach Panhsan from Tanyan.

In accord with the guidance, the construction of the road was started from 1998-99 fiscal and was completed at the end of 2000-2001 fiscal. The road was divided into three sections, each of which was 30 feet in width. Therefore, from Lashio to Panhsan it has now become a one-day trip. Despite the difficulties in adequate supply of stones needed for the tarring of the road, 34 miles and two furlongs of the road could be tarred up to the mid July 2004. To accomplish the project in this coming opening season,

Kokang is the first region in which the State implemented border area development tasks. The same thing can be said of Laukkai-Kongyan road, which is 42 miles from Kokang and was the first road ever to be constructed as part of Kokang region development.

measures have been taken since the rainy season to ensure adequate supply of stones. Under the supervision of engineers from Shan State (North) Development Affairs Committee, local people render active cooperation in the project.

To complete the tarring work as soon as possible as guided by the Head of State, Col Thein Nyunt, Minister for progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs, himself went to the project and inspected the construction work. He also coordinated and fulfilled the requirements: the use of machinery to keep momentum of the project and their spare parts, and further supply of stone crushes. Likewise, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Than Tun and Director-General Col Than Swe also paid constant visits to the project and gave instructions and supervision.

On completion of the project, it will take a matter of seven hours to reach Lashio from Wa region. In addition, Panhsan and Mandalay can be reachable in a day in any season. Furthermore, travelling can continue comfortably from Mandalay to other states and divisions as well. The road will become a link between one region and another, serving as a tool that strengthens national unity and promotes the socio-economic life of Wa brethren through frequent contacts.

Kalewa-Mawlaik Road

Located on the west bank of the Chindwin River, Kalewa and Mawlaik had a rough earth road straddling between them in the past. However, it was unreliable since it was a deadend road. As it was so, the Chindwin River had been the one and only watercourse to which Mawlaik-dwellers had to rely. Knowing that a motor road that can link Kalay and Kalewa towns from Mawlaik needed constructing, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe, in his tour of Sagaing Division in December 2002, gave guidance on construction of Kalewa-Mawlaik Road as an all-weather road. To construct the road as quickly as possible in line with the guidance, the Ministry of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs took charge of the project.

In the past, Kalewa-Mawlaik road was 12 feet wide, sitting between two hillocks. Some parts of the road were suitable only for carts and travellers on foot. Therefore, a new axis had to be found, and preliminary measures were taken for construction of a 18-foot-wide earth road and a 12-foot-wide gravel road.

The axis search was started on 21 March 2003, and the No 916 Field Battalion (Engineering) took charge of the construction of earth road. Altogether 36 miles of the road was completed on 21 March 2004. In addition, the extension of the road to a 40-foot-wide one was also completed in the first week of June 2004.

Kalewa-Mawlaik Road is 36 miles long. And 6 miles and four furlongs of the road have been completed as measures to lay gravels were taken by Sagaing Division Development Affairs Committee in cooperation with local battalions and units.

Apart from construction of roads, bridges are also being erected. Now, a total of 14 bridges which are less than 70 feet have been built. Public Works will take charge of constructing ten bridges, which are 100 feet and above, needed to build on the road.

Public Works also constructed river-crossing Myittha Bridge so that Kalewa-Mawlaik road will link to Kalewa-Monywa road and Kalay-Tamu road. Earth work for construction of a 690-foot-long embankment was also carried out to get a straight approach road to the bridge. When completed, Kalewa-Mawlaik gravel road will pull 34 villages sandwiched between the two towns out of the condition in which they have to rely on the one and only water-

course. Mawlaik will also have access to Kalewa, Kalay, Tamu and Monywa by land, which will result in swift flow of commodities and economic boom among them.

Laukkai-Kongyan Road

It is safe to say that Kokang is the first region in which the State implemented border area development tasks. The same thing can be said of Laukkai-Kongyan road, which is 42 miles from Kokang and was the first road ever to be constructed as part of Kokang region development. Under the aegis of Kokang peace group, the road was constructed as an earth road in 1989-90 fiscal with the use of the border area development funds. It was upgraded to a gravel one by Shan State Regional Work Committee from 1993-94 fiscal and was completed in 1999-2000 fiscal. A large sum of funds were spent in the upgrading of the road to a gravel one.

Under the Japan-Myanmar bilateral friendship programme, 6 miles and two furlongs of Laukkai-Tashwehtan section of 42 miles of Laukkai-Kongyan road were tarred under the supervision of Katahira & Engineers International of Japan. And that section was put into service on 6 December 2002. Measures are under way to tar the remaining section of the road.

Homein-Tahsuttein Road

While I was in Homein in 1996, the former axis of the road was Taonmu-Point 3775-Mayoyan-Namlin-Homein. Small motor boats were in trouble when the Thanlwin River swelled.

Chairman of the Work Committee for Border Areas and National Races Development and also Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, in his tour of the Eastern Command from 22 to 26 February 2000, pointed out that **Homein lies in a strategic place between the border area and the Thanlwin River, and therefore construction of gravel and earth roads should be carried out as necessary.**

According to his instructions, the Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs took steps to upgrade Homein-Tahsuttein road to a gravel one beginning 2000-2001 fiscal.

The axis chosen is straight and short, and is 35 miles long. With the funds of the border area development, the road was upgraded to a gravel. The road has had four small bridges and one 160-foot-long bridge on it.

Border areas are now flourishing thanks to border area development projects implemented since 1989. The Government, on its part, is repairing as well as building roads which are considered strategic in respective border areas. Similarly, local national people are also making concerted efforts to build roads in their own region, roads linking one town with another. As a result, there emerge a network of roads linking one region and the other.

These are the roads strewn with peace flowers, indicating stability and prosperity of the State. These are the bridges made of peace flowers, boosting friendly relations among national brethren and cultivating nationalistic fervour and Union Spirit. This being the case, why not march hand in hand in harmony to the peaceful, modern and developed nation by walking cross the roads and bridges strewn with flowers that have a fragrance of Union Spirit.

(Myanma Alin + Kyemon: 8-8-2004)

(Translation: KTY)

By the time peace and stability reigned the whole region from May 1989, local national races had to enjoy the fruitful results of regional development apart from tranquillity. The construction of Takaw-et-Lwepanlon motor road continued to Weikkaung. In 1993, the 82-mile Takaw-et-Weinkaung-Panhsan road was constructed as earth road. In addition, Thanlwin Bailey Bridge (Takaw-et), which is 600 feet long, was also built and opened on 12-2-1997.

Waso robes offering ceremony of State Peace and Development Council Office held

YANGON, 8 Aug — The Waso robes offering ceremony of staff of the State Peace and Development Council Office was held at Aletawya Sanpya Monastery on Dhammazedi Road in Bahan Township this morning, attended by Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

Also present on the occasion were Chairman of Yangon Division Sangha Nayaka Committee Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Kosalla, Sayadaws from Bahan and Kamayut Township Sangha Nayaka Committees, Presiding Nayaka of Aletawya Sanpya Monastery Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Ganthavaçaka Pandita Bhaddanta Gandhamalabhivamsa and members of



Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein presents Waso robes and offertories to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Gandamalabhivamsa. — MNA

the Sangha, Director-General Lt-Col Pe Nyein of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, advisers, staff families, guests and wellwishers.

The Aletawya Sanpya Monastery Sayadaw administered the Five

Precepts. Members of the Sangha recited Parittas.

Next, the Secretary-1 donated Waso robes and alms to the Sayadaw. Similarly, Director-General Lt-Col Pe Nyein, departmental heads, staff and wellwishers offered Waso robes and provisions

to members of the Sangha.

The Aletawya Sanpya Monastery Sayadaw delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits. After the ceremony, the Secretary-2, the Director-General, officials and staff offered 'soon' to the Sayadaws. — MNA

PM General Khin Nyunt sends felicitations to Singapore

YANGON, 9 Aug — On the occasion of the 39th Anniversary of the National Day of the Republic of Singapore which falls on 9 August 2004, General Khin Nyunt, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Goh Chok Tong, Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore. — MNA

FM U Win Aung sends felicitations to Singapore

YANGON, 9 Aug — On the occasion of the 39th Anniversary of the National Day of the Republic of Singapore which falls on 9 August 2004, U Win Aung, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Professor S Jayakumar, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Singapore. — MNA

Appointment of Ambassador agreed on

YANGON, 8 Aug — The Government of the Union of Myanmar has given agreement to the appointment of Mr Nobutake Odano as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the Union of Myanmar in succession to His Excellency Mr Yuji Miyamoto. Mr Odano was born in 1948. He passed the Higher Diplomatic Service Examination in 1969. He graduated from Keio University, Faculty of Economics, and joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1970. Since then, he had served in various capacities in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and at Japanese Embassies in the United Kingdom, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Union of Myanmar and the Republic of Korea and at Japanese Consulate-General in Sydney, Australia. Mr Odano has been serving as Chief of Protocol in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs since 2002. Mr Nobutake Odano is married.

MNA

Tatmadaw families, wellwishers present provisions to monasteries, nunneries in Dagon Myothit, Bahan Townships

YANGON, 8 Aug — Families of Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air Force) and wellwishers presented provisions to 16 monasteries and two nunneries in four Dagon Myothit Townships in Yangon East District at a ceremony held at Five Nikaya Pitakat Thonpon Sarhintaik in Dagon Myothit (South) this afternoon, attended by Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

Present were members of the Sangha led by Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw of Five Nikaya Pitakat Thonpon Sarhintaik, Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Kaljana, nuns, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, the Chief of Staff (Navy), senior officers of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Yangon East District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Maung Maung Shein, local authorities and wellwishers.

The Secretary-2, the commander, the minister and guests took the Eight Precepts from Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kaljana. The Secretary-2 and party presented offertories to the Sayadaws.

Next, Joint Adjutant-General Brig-Gen Hla Shwe, Chief of Staff (Navy) Captain Nyan Tun and Col



Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein presents offertories to a Sayadaw. — MNA

Air Staff Lt-Col Nay Win presented offertories to the Sayadaws. Officials of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council, YCDC, the Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings Ltd and departmental heads presented offertories to the Sayadaws.

The Secretary-2 accepted over K 4.2 million donated by wellwishers and the commander, the minister and officials also accepted K 16,633,090. Next, Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kaljana delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits.

Families of Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air Force), wellwishers donated 384 bags of rice, 148 viss of edible oil, 296 viss of gram, 1,459 viss of iodized salt, 270 tubes of tooth paste, 5,842 boxes of various kinds of traditional medicines and K 16,633,090.

Similarly, families of Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air Force) and wellwishers presented provisions to 23 monasteries and seven nunneries in Bahan Township and Hninzigon Home for the Aged at Mingala Market Dhammayon on Gyatawya Road, Bahan Township, this evening.

The Secretary-2 and party took the Eight Precepts from Vice-Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Aungmye Bonsankyaungtaik Sayadaw Bhaddanta Panindabhivamsa. The Secretary-2

and party and wellwishers presented offertories to the Sayadaws.

The commander, the minister and officials accepted cash donation for Sarhintaiks.

Sayadaw Bhaddanta Panindabhivamsa then delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits. Families of Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air Force), wellwishers donated 929 bags of rice, 363 viss of edible oil, 727 viss of gram, 3,639 viss of iodized salt, 728 tubes of tooth paste, 2,646 boxes of various kinds of traditional medicine and K 2,287,090 to monasteries and Hninzigon Home for the Aged. — MNA

Cash and kind donated to Myawady TV

YANGON, 8 Aug — Yangon Entertainment Co Ltd donated Audio Visual Mixer and cash to Myawady TV Unit and introduced on live broadcasting of English Premier League at Myanmar Ballroom of the Traders Hotel yesterday evening. It was attended by Col Nyo Win of the Ministry of Defence and Senior Military Officers, correspondents, mediamen and guests.

After General Manager U Thet Cho Oo of Yangon Entertainment Co Ltd had extended greetings, sports writer U Khin Maung Htwe explained facts about the English Premier League and so did U Kyi Tha (Pwekyaikkhin).

Next, Commandant Lt-Col Chit Swe accepted Audio Visual Mixer and K 300,000 donated to Myawady TV Unit by board of directors of Yangon Entertainment Co U Hla Win and expressed his thanks and officials replied to the queries raised by those present. — MNA

Shwesaryan Open Golf Championship to be held

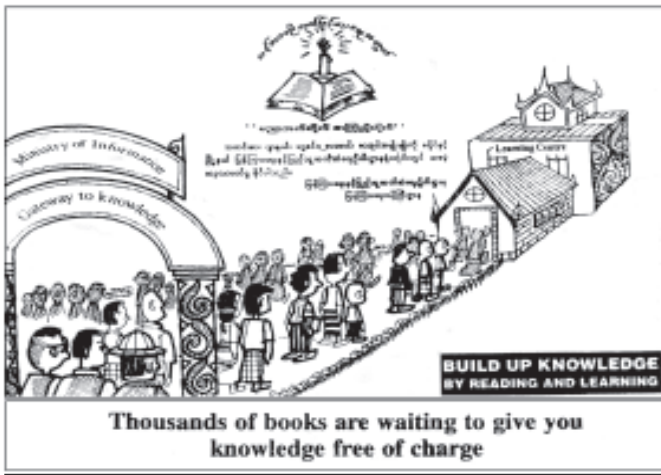
YANGON, 8 Aug — The first leg of Myanmar Golf Tour 2004, Shwesaryan Open Golf Championship tournament, organized by MPGA and Myanmar Golf Federation will be held on a grand scale in Shwesaryan Golf Resort from 12 to 15 August.

Before the first leg, Q-School for the golfers will be held in Shwesaryan Golf Resort, Mandalay on

9 and 10 August and Han Event Management has made arrangements on transport for the golfers.

The tournament was mainly sponsored by Rothmans of Pall Mall Myanmar Pte, Ltd and the co-sponsors were Air Mandalay, Tiger Beer, Alpine Drinking Water, Htoo Trading, KM Golf Centre, Maruman, Tour Stage, Srixon, Wilson, Grandsalm (Munsing Wear), Accel International Co Ltd (Canon), Sedona Hotel (Mandalay) and Sunfar Travels & Tours. — MNA

Drive safely



ADVERTISEMENTS

ပြည်တွင်းပြန်ကြည့်အားပေးပါ

Arroyo appreciates good relations with China

MANILA, 7 Aug—Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo on Friday expressed appreciation of the good relations between China and the Philippines, citing China's role in regional security and economic security.

The United States, Japan and China will continue to be a determining factor in regional security and economic security in Asia, Arroyo said at "The President's Night" at the Manila Overseas Press Club while answering questions from Press.

"And China, therefore, represents one of the most important neighbours for the Philippines, apart from having been an economic power in the world, globally,"

Arroyo said.

She said the Philippines appreciates the very good relations with China. "Since China joined the World Trade Organization, we have enjoyed a very robust increase in our exports, we have enjoyed a surplus in our bilateral trade with China."

"We have enjoyed also a tremendous amount of assistance of China, especially for agricultural modernization, our hybrid rice," she

added. Arroyo also cited the North Rail project, which China is financing, as one of the most important projects she ought to carry out in her full six-year term to decongest Metro Manila.

Arroyo said the relationship between China and the Philippines is very fruitful economically, in addition to the old political and cultural ties the Philippines has been enjoying in decades.

MNA/Xinhua

WITH DEEPEST CONDOLENCES

We express our earnest sympathy to

U Them Wai @ Mr. Serge Pun, Mr. Martin Pun and families for pass away of their mother,
Mrs. Olive Pun (a) Daw Ohn Hlaing on 6th August, 2004.

Board of Directors and Staffs
SPA / FMI Group of Companies

- Serge Pun & Associates (Myanmar) Ltd.
- First Myanmar Investment Co., Ltd.
- Yangon Land Co., Ltd.
- Yoma Bank Ltd.
- FMI Garden Development Ltd.
- FMI Syndication Ltd.
- Hlaing River Golf & Country Club Co., Ltd.
- Pun Hlaing Links (Thanlyin)
- Pun Hlaing Golf Club
- Pun Hlaing International Hospital Ltd.
- Grand Mee Ya Hia Executive Residences
- Wood Technologies Industries Ltd.

- Home Improvement Centre
- Shwe Thit Min Co., Ltd.
- SPA Motors
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- Myanmar V-Pile Co. Ltd.
- Chinthe Concrete Co., Ltd.
- First Myanmar Construction
- Myanmar Nissan Co., Ltd.
- SPA Marketing
- Mercantile Management Services

- Shine Laundry Ltd.
- Safe Security & Services
- SPA Nursery
- Eden Landscaping
- SPA Elevators
- SPA Design
- Stamford-City Business Institute
- SPA Media
- HICOM Co., Ltd.
- GITE Pest Control
- ACB Carbon Board Factory

ချိပ်ပိတ်ဈေးနှုန်းလွှာခေါ်ယူခြင်း

ရန်ကုန်မြို့တော် စည်ပင်သာယာရေးကော်မတီ၏ လုပ်ငန်းသုံးအတွက် လမ်းခင်းကတ္တရာ တန်(၂၀၀၀) ကို ပုံဖြင့် ဖြစ်စေ၊ 3-Ply Poly bag ဖြင့်ဖြစ်စေ ကော်မတီ၏ သို့လောင်ရုံများအရောက်ကျပ်ငြေ့ဖြင့် ဝယ်ယူရန် ချိပ်ပိတ် ဈေးနှုန်းလွှာများ မိတ်ခေါ်ပါသည်။
ဈေးနှုန်းလွှာပိတ်ရက်မှာ ၂၅-၈-၂၀၀၄ နေ့ (၁၆:၀၀) နာရီဖြစ်ပြီး ဈေးနှုန်းတင်သွင်းလွှာ ပုံစံတစ်စုံလျှင် ကျပ် ၁၀၀၀- (ကျပ်တစ်ထောင်တိတိ) နှုန်းဖြင့် ဘတ်ဂျက်နှင့်ငွေစာရင်းဌာန၊ ပစ္စည်းဝယ်ယူရေးဌာနမှတစ်ဆင့် ဝယ်ယူနိုင်ပါသည်။
အသေးစိတ်အချက်အလက်များကို ဖုန်းအမှတ်-၂၈၂၇၄၂၊ ၂၄၈၁၂၂၊ ၂၄၈၁၂၃ (၂၄၇) တို့သို့ ဆက်သွယ် မေးမြန်းနိုင်ပါသည်။

ဥက္ကဋ္ဌ
ပစ္စည်းဝယ်ယူရေးဈေးအဖွဲ့

ချိပ်ပိတ်ဈေးနှုန်းလွှာခေါ်ယူခြင်း

ရန်ကုန်မြို့တော် စည်ပင်သာယာရေးကော်မတီ၏ ရေပေးဝေရေးလုပ်ငန်းသုံးအတွက် လိုအပ်လျက်ရှိသော Electro Chlorinator (One Complete Set) ဝယ်ယူလိုပါသဖြင့် မိတ်ခေါ်ခံစားသည့် ပစ္စည်းဝယ်ယူရေးဌာနမှ ဖြစ်စေ၊ ကျပ်ငြေ့ဖြင့် ချိပ်ပိတ်ဈေးနှုန်းလွှာများ တင်သွင်းနိုင်ပါကြောင်း မိတ်ခေါ်အပ်ပါသည်။
ဈေးနှုန်းလွှာများကို ၂၅-၈-၂၀၀၄ နေ့ (၁၆:၀၀) နာရီအချိန် နောက်ဆုံးထား၍ တင်သွင်းရန်ဖြစ်ပြီး ဈေးနှုန်းတင်သွင်းလွှာပုံစံ တစ်စုံလျှင် ကျပ် ၁၀၀၀/- (ကျပ်တစ်ထောင်တိတိ) နှုန်းဖြင့် ဘတ်ဂျက်နှင့်ငွေစာရင်းဌာန၊ ပစ္စည်းဝယ်ယူရေးဈေးအဖွဲ့မှတစ်ဆင့် ဝယ်ယူနိုင်ပါသည်။ အသေးစိတ်သိရှိလိုပါက ဖုန်းအမှတ်-၂၇၆၀၈၆၊ ၂၈၂၇၄၂၊ ၂၄၈၁၂၂ လိုင်းခွဲ (၂၄၇) တို့သို့ ရုံးချိန်အတွင်း ဆက်သွယ်မေးမြန်းနိုင်ပါသည်။

ဥက္ကဋ္ဌ
ပစ္စည်းဝယ်ယူရေးဈေးအဖွဲ့

India's foreign trade policy to make exports competitive

NEW DELHI, 7 Aug—India's new foreign trade policy to be unveiled this month end will revise schemes to make India's exports competitive to achieve higher growth of over 16 per cent annually.

"We will revise schemes to make export incentives WTO compatible besides making Indian exports more competitive," Commerce Minister Kamal Nath told reporters here on Friday. —MNA/PTI

UN appeals for \$82m as aid to drought-affected Kenya

NEW YORK, 7 Aug—The UN has issued an international appeal for 82 million US dollars to provide immediate aid to 2.3 million drought-affected people in Kenya, warning that number could swell by another million if rains fail again this year.

"We are facing a crisis on a massive scale which will spiral out of control at great human cost if we do not act now," UN World Food Programme (WFP) Country Director Tesema Negash said. "For many Kenyans, two poor seasons in a row will spell disaster if they do not receive assistance on time."

Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki had last month appealed for international emergency assistance until at least the end of January for hard-hit people in the rural areas of Coast, Eastern, North East-

ern and Rift Valley provinces. This year's long rains were poor in much of eastern and southern Kenya and in some northern areas. A dry spell from late April to May came at a critical stage in the crop development.

Scattered showers in early June were too late for a significant recovery, resulting in near-total crop failures in many parts of Coast and Eastern provinces. Pasture and grazing are already poor in much of North Eastern Province and parts of Rift Valley. —MNA/PTI

The best time to plant a tree
was 20 years ago.
Second best time is now.

SPORTS

Daei double seals third place for Iran

BEIJING, 7 Aug— Ali Daei grabbed two late goals as Iran beat Bahrain 4-2 to finish third at the Asian Cup on Friday despite finishing with nine men in another bad-tempered game.

The 35-year-old striker scored twice in the last 10 minutes, once from the penalty spot, marking his final Asian Cup game by taking his tally to 97 goals in 129 internationals.

Tempers flared in injury time, however, as midfielder Mehdi Mahdavia was sent off for Iran along with Bahrain midfielder Talal Yusuf for their part in a 20-man brawl. Iran, who were decimated by three suspensions in the group stage, had already lost substitute Arash Borhani, dismissed for a wild tackle in the 72nd minute.

The three-times champions were also shown two red cards in the semifinals, when they were beaten on penalties by hosts China.

Ali Karimi again provided the spark for Iran against a valiant Bahrain side, who lost 4-3 to holders Japan in the semis.

Karimi scored one goal and earned an 80th-minute penalty for Iran, who won the Asian Cup in 1968, 1972 and 1976. —MNA/Reuters



Japan's national soccer team players celebrate after the Asian Cup final match in Beijing on 7 Aug, 2004. Japan beat bitter rivals China 3-1 to win the Asian Cup for the third time Saturday. The Japanese also won the Asian Cup in 1992 and 2000. —INTERNET

Anand wins Dortmund after four years

DORTMUND (Germany), 7 Aug— India's Viswanathan Anand once again proved that he was the king of the Rapid chess variation as he recorded an emphatic victory over Braingames champion Vladimir Kramnik of Russia to win the Dortmund Sparkassen chess tournament 2004 here.

Having drawn the two games under normal time control and the first of the tiebreaker stage, Anand gave no chances to Kramnik and attested to the statement that when it comes to rapid chess, the rest of the world still has a lot to learn. With this victory, Anand became the only unbeaten player in this year's edition and also ended his Dortmund woes.

It may be recalled here that Anand had finished joint second in the last edition of the event here after a bad start while in his outing previous to last year's, the Indian stalwart had finished at the bottom of the tables in

2001. Anand had won this event jointly in 2000 and 1996. Kramnik was no match when it came to rapid games even as the third highest rated in the world tried his best.

It was yet again the English attack that gave Anand the vital victory in the second rapid game. Kramnik tried a slightly unusual move order but the Indian was unimpressed.

The game took a decisive turn in the middle game after both players had castled on opposite flanks and Kramnik's kingside was severely weakened.

Anand was almost on autopilot once he gained the

upper hand. The tactics flew out of the position in tandem and Kramnik's position fell apart like a pack of cards. The Russian could not find a reason to continue beyond the 31st move.

In the first game of the tie-breaker, Anand drew comfortably as black. Kramnik played the Anti-Marshall that had already occurred in the event on more than a few occasions and drew in just 19 moves after some regulation exchanges leading to a balanced position. —MNA/PTI

US Olympic basketball team to play in Istanbul

ANKARA, 7 Aug— The US Olympic basketball team comprising NBA players is expected to come to Istanbul Saturday for two exhibitions matches against Turkey, Anatolia news agency reported on Friday.

Looking to re-establish the US as the world's dominant basketball power, the "Dream Team" will play their last two training matches against Turkey ahead of the Olympic Games in Athens, Greece. The Dream Team will travel from Belgrade to Istanbul after their Friday night's exhibition match against world champions Serbia and Montenegro.

MNA/Xinhua

Manchester United in poor shape for start of season

MANCHESTER (England), 7 Aug— Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson is concerned his team are "not in the best shape" with several key players missing before the start of the Champions League campaign and the Premier League kickoff.

United play Arsenal in the Community Shield on Sunday before facing Dinamo Bucharest in the first leg of their Champions League third round qualifying tie next Wednesday. They open their Premier League campaign at Chelsea on August 15.

"We're not in the best shape," Ferguson told reporters on Friday. "We have seven players out for the game on Wednesday, which is a blow, so hopefully we will get through Sunday's game without any more hiccups." Striker Ruud van Nistelrooy became the latest casualty with a hernia problem that requires surgery.

The Dutch international,

who scored 20 league goals for United last season, could be out for a month after sustaining the injury in a match against PSV Eindhoven on Tuesday.

"It is a blow and it was a shock for us," Ferguson said.

"It was his first game back and we have to think whether seven days was enough training for him before playing a match. It's very disappointing, and I'm just hopeful that with (Alan) Smith and (Louis) Saha as my partnership I have them both fit."

Brazilian Kleberson, Ole Gunnar Solskjaer and Liam Miller are all injured, while Cristiano Ronaldo and Gabriel Heinze are preparing for this month's Athens

Olympics with Portugal and Argentina respectively.

Defender Rio Ferdinand's eight-month suspension for failing to take a drugs test does not end until next month.

Ferguson hopes midfielders Paul Scholes and Darren Fletcher will be match-fit in time for the Champions League game and they will start against Arsenal at the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff.

Solskjaer will have another knee operation on Saturday and Ferguson was optimistic it would clear up the injury that forced the Norway striker to miss most of last season.

MNA/Reuters

Japan stun China to win Asian Cup

BEIJING, 8 Aug— Holders Japan overcame bitter rivals China 3-1 in a highly-charged final to win the Asian Cup for the third time on Saturday.

Chinese fans vented their fury at the final whistle after Japan scored twice in a controversial second half.

Koji Nakata had given Japan a 2-1 lead in the 65th minute with a hotly-disputed goal, the midfielder bundling in a Shunsuke Nakamura corner though replays showed he had used his hand.

Keiji Tamada added a fine solo goal in injury time to give the scoreline a flattering look for Japan after a tension-filled match laced with political and historical overtones.

The Japanese also won the Asian Cup in 1992 and 2000.

"It was important to keep calm in an atmosphere like this against the host team," said Japan coach Zico.

Mauresmo, Myskina go forward while Sharapova exits

OTTAWA, 7 Aug— Top seed Amelie Mauresmo of France and third seed Anastasia Myskina advanced to the quarterfinals of a 1.3 million-dollar WTA hardcourt tournament in Montreal Thursday while Russian Wimbledon champion Maria Sharapova was eliminated.

Mauresmo ousted Russia's Elena Bovina 6-2, 3-6, 6-2 to book a quarterfinal date against Croatia's Karolina Sprem, who defeated Sugiyama 6-3, 6-4, in another third-round match.

MNA/Xinhua

"Nobody thought we would win before the tournament but we have kept faith in ourselves and made it to the top."

Japan weathered an early storm from China before taking a 22nd-minute lead against the run of play following a questionable foul on Nakamura by defender Wei Xin.

Nakamura whipped in a dangerous free kick and Takashi Fukunishi headed in from close range after a knockdown from Takayuki Suzuki to silence a hostile crowd of 65,000.

However, China struck back in the 37th minute, midfielder Li Ming sweeping home a superb left-foot shot from 25 metres after good work from Yan Song.

Japan have been booed relentlessly at the Asian Cup and they were subjected to similar treatment, with their national anthem drowned out by a cacophony of booing before kickoff.

The Japanese players were jeered as they celebrated but more than 6,000 security staff — including riot police, armed troops and SWAT teams — were on call to prevent any violence.

However, there were isolated incidents outside the stadium following the match with one group of several hundred hurling bottles and burning Japanese flags.

China, who have never won the Asian Cup, finished runners-up for the second time after losing 2-0 to Saudi Arabia in the 1984 final. — MNA/Reuters

Answers for yesterday's crossword puzzle

Japan's Takashi Fukunishi (3rd L) tries to score against China during their Asian Cup final soccer match in Beijing on 7 Aug, 2004. Japan beat bitter rivals China 3-1 to win the Asian Cup for the third time Saturday.

INTERNET

MRTV -3
9-8-2004 (Monday)
(Programme Schedule)
Morning Transmission
(9:00 - 10:00)

- 9:00 Signature Tune
Greeting
- 9:02 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
- 9:06 The Gok Hteik Viaduct
- 9:10 Headline News**
- 9:12 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes "Brown
Mollusc Soup"
- 9:15 National News**
- 9:20 Dawei Traditional
Longyi Weaving Art
- 9:30 National News**
- 9:35 Travelogue "Yangon
to Bagan"
- 9:40 Song "Treasure
Land"
- 9:45 National News**
- 9:50 Butterfly Garden in
Yangon
- 9:58 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and
See Myanmar"

9-8-2004 (Monday)
Evening Transmission
(15:30 - 17:30)

- 15:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
- 15:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanmar
Panorama & Myan-
ma Sentiment"
- 15:36 The Gok Hteik Viaduct

- 15:40 Headline News**
- 15:42 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes "Brown
Mollusc Soup"
- 15:45 National News**
- 15:50 Dawei Traditional
Longyi Weaving Art
- 16:00 National News**
- 16:05 Travelogue "Yangon
to Bagan"
- 16:10 Song "Treasure
Land"
- 16:15 National News**
- 16:20 Butterfly Garden in
Yangon
- 16:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
- 16:30 National News**
- 16:35 Myanmar Musical
Orchestra (Bwe
Song)
- 16:40 Myanmar Tapestry
Artist
- 16:45 National News**
- 16:50 Lobsters Trading
- 16:55 Kayan Dance
- 16:58 Journey to Mogok
(The Ruby Land)
- 17:00 National News**
- 17:05 Finished Products of
Teak
- 17:10 Myanmar Modern
Song "Come, Visit
My Home"
- 17:12 Kayin Traditional
Vegetable Curry
(Tarlaba)
- 17:15 National News**
- 17:20 Intricate Art of Sil-
versmith
- 17:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and
See Myanmar"
- 9-8-2004 (Monday)**
Evening Transmission
(19:30 - 23:30)
- 19:30 Signature Tune

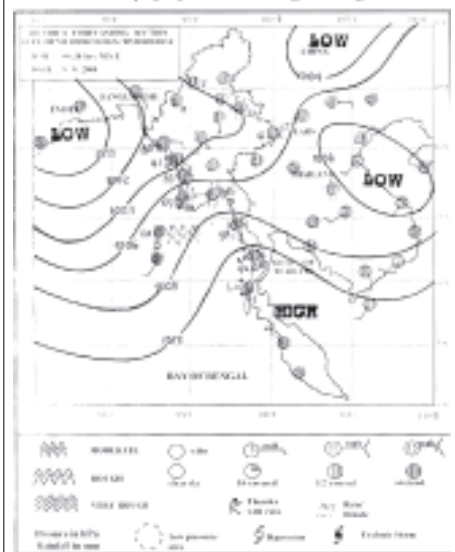
- Greeting
- 19:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
- 19:36 A Peaceful Place of
Mind
- 19:40 Headline News**
- 19:42 Mandalay, The
Golden City
- 19:45 National News**
- 19:50 Music Icon
- 20:00 National News**
- 20:05 Teak-Tissue Culture
- 20:10 Myanmar Modern
Song "Shadow of
Love"
- 20:12 Native home of the
Kham
- 20:15 National News**
- 20:20 Beautiful Pleasant
Beach Village
- 20:25 Myanmar Modern
Song "Cherry
Present"
- 20:30 National News**
- 20:35 The Art of Playing
Cane-Ball
- 20:40 Nan-Thae Model
Plantation (Inlay
Lake)
- 20:45 National News**
- 20:50 From Yangon to the
Peak of Mt. Victo-
ria
- 21:00 National News**
- 21:05 The World's Biggest
Book
- 21:08 Myanmar Modern
Song "Two, To-
gether"
- 21:12 Shwe Nan Daw
Kyaung
- 21:15 National News**
- 21:20 National Races Vil-
lage (Muse)
- 21:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanmar
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- 21:35 The Gok Hteik
Viaduct
- 21:40 Headline News**
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Tasty Dishes
"Brown Mollusc
Soup"
- 21:45 National News**
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Longyi Weaving
Art
- 21:55 Dance of the Kon-
baung Era
- 22:00 National News**
- 22:05 Travelogue "Yan-
gon to Bagan"
- 22:10 Song "Treasure
Land"
- 22:15 National News**
- 22:20 Butterfly Garden in
Yangon
- 22:25 Songs On Screen
"Flourishing"
- 22:30 National News**
- 22:35 Myanmar Musical
Orchestra (Bwe
Song)
- 22:40 Myanmar Tapestry
Artist
- 22:45 National News**
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Song "Come, Visit
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(Tarlaba)
- 23:15 National News**
- 23:20 Intricate Art of Sil-
versmith
- 23:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and
See Myanmar"

Rainfall on 8-8-2004

- 58 mm (2.28 inches) at Yangon Airport,
 - 66 mm (2.60 inches) at Kaba-Aye and
 - 58 mm (2.28 inches) at central Yangon.
- Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 1869 mm (73.58 inches) at Yangon Airport and 1857 mm (73.11 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 1853 mm (72.95 inches) at central Yangon.

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas

**WEATHER**

Sunday, 8 August 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Kachin, Kayah States, lower Sagaing and Magway Divisions, scattered in Shan, Kayin States, upper Sagaing, Mandalay and Bago Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with locally heavyfalls in Ayeyawady Division, isolated heavyfalls Rakhine State, Bago and Taninthayi Divisions. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Patheingyi (5.75) inches, Myaung Mya (4.25) inches, Dawei (4.13) inches, Zaungtu (3.19) inches, Sittwe (3.15) inches and Yay (2.91) inches.

Maximum temperature on 7-8-2004 was 30.0°C (86°F). Minimum temperature on 8-8-2004 was 18.6°C (66°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 8-8-2004 was 100%. Total sunshine hours on 7-8-2004 was (0.3) hours approx. Rainfall on 8-8-2004 was 58 mm (2.28 inches) at Yangon Airport, 66 mm (2.60 inches) at Kaba-Aye, 58 mm (2.28 inches) at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 1869 mm (73.58 inches) at Yangon Airport and 1857 mm (73.11 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 1853 mm (72.95 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 12 mph from West at 09:30 hours MST on 8-8-2004.

Bay inference: Monsoon is strong in the Bay of Bengal. **Forecast valid until evening of 9-8-2004:** Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Kayah State, lower Sagaing and Magway Divisions, scattered in Kachin State, upper Sagaing, Bago and Mandalay Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Rakhine, Mon and Kayin States, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Squalls with rough sea are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squall may reach (35) to (40) mph. **Outlook for subsequent two days:** Likelihood of decrease of rain in Northern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 9-8-2004: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%). **Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 9-8-2004:** Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Flood Bulletin

(Issued at 11:00 hrs MST on 8-8-2004)

The water level of Thanlwin River at Hpa-an is about the danger level. The water level may remain above the danger level during the next (3) days commencing noon today.


Monday, August 9
View on today:

- 7:00 am**
1. Parittas Recitation by
Mingun Sayadawgyi
- 7:25 am**
2. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am**
3. Morning news
- 7:40 am**
4. Nice and sweet song
- 7:55 am**
5. Song of national races
- 8:05 am**
6. Cute little dancers
- 8:15 am**
7. ဆွေးနွေးချင်းချင်းလှည့်ကစား
- 8:30 am**
8. International news
- 8:45 am**
9. Let's go

- 4:00 pm**
1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm**
2. Songs to uphold
National Spirit
- 4:30 pm**
3. Practice in reading
- 4:45 pm**
4. Musical programme
- 5:00 pm**
5. အစားအသောက်သုံးစွဲခြင်း
မှီခိုခြင်း သင်ကြားသင်ရိုးစာ
- ဒုတိယပုဒ် (ရုပ်စာအုပ်အရပ်ရပ်)
(ရုပ်စာအုပ်)
- 5:15 pm**
6. Dance variety
- 5:30 pm**
7. လက်ဆွဲကစားပေးကစားစား
- 5:40 pm**
8. Musical programme
(The Radio Myanmar
Modern Music Troupe)
- 5:50 pm**
9. Song and dance of
national races
- 6:00 pm**
10. တေးသရုပ်ဆောင်အစဉ်
- 6:10 pm**
11. Discovery
- 6:20 pm**
12. နိုင်ငံခြားကားတိုက်စာတိုက်တွဲ
"ဗမာ့ကဏ္ဍ" (အပိုင်း-၁၃)
- 6:30 pm**
13. Evening news
- 7:00 pm**
14. Weather report
- 7:05 pm**
15. Industrial Achievement
- 7:15 pm**
16. Musical programme
- 7:25 pm**
17. တေးဂီတသဘာဝစုံအသံအသွယ်
- 7:40 pm**
18. သင်္ချာသင်္ချာပညာပြပွဲ
ဥပဒေပြုကြီး (လွှဲကစား)
- 8:00 pm**
19. News
20. International news
21. Weather report
22. နိုင်ငံခြားကားတိုက်စာတိုက်တွဲ
"တစ်ရပ်ရပ်အစဉ်"
(အပိုင်း-၁၁)
23. The next day's
programme


Monday, August 9
Tune in today:

- 8:30 am** Brief news
- 8:35 am** Music: positive by
Some where
- 8:40 am** Perspectives
- 8:45 am** Music: Babay is
you
- 8:55 am** National news/
Slogan
- 9:05 am** Music: Some
times
- 9:10 am** International news
- 9:15 am** Music: I'm no
rock fever
- 1:30 pm** News/Slogan
- 1:40 pm** Lunch time music
-Love of a life
time
-A thousand miles
-Hello
- 9:00 pm** Spotlight on the
star
- 9:15 pm** Article
- 9:25 pm** Women's affairs
-Myanmar women
with high efficien-
cy
-Mawlamyine
- 9:45 pm** News/Slogan
- 10:00 pm** PEL



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects progress in building Tampaloha Maha Muni Buddha Image near Yangon-Bago Union Highway.—MNA

PM inspects progress ...

(from page 1)

A white elephant emerged at the Nibban Village in the time of King Bodawphaya. The name of the elephant was given as Nibbana Paccaya Nagaraja under the name of the village. Till now, there have been historic milestones regarding the white elephant at the village.

Although he is at the age of 84, the Sayadaw has been making energetic efforts in discharging Sasana duties and serving the interests of the State. It is most honourable considering such virtues as generous donations, diligence, wisdom and determination of the Sayadaw who has been making relentless efforts in the interest of Sasana and the State regardless of his age, he said and wished the Sayadaw to live over one hundred years to be able to continue to serve the interest of Sasana and the State.

Members of the Sangha recited Parittas. Next, the Prime Minister donated eight requisites and provisions to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Jotipala. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, the commander and the ministers donated Waso robes

and Waso flowers to the Sayadaws. Wellwisher Agga Maha Thiri Thudamma Theingi Daw Hse offered certificates and prizes to 327 monks who had passed Sasaninkura Pariyatti Exam of the monastery through the Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw. Next, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, the commander and the ministers accepted K 1.8 million for building Pylon Chantha Road donated by U Shein Win-Daw Khin Cho Oo; K 1.5 million by Daw Aye Mya Nwe; K 1 million each by U Kyin Wam-Daw Hla Thein; and U Min Han-Daw Aye Aye; K 504,000 by U Min Ko-Daw Soe Soe Han; K 500,000 each by U Myint Sein-Daw Hla Kyi and other wellwishers. Later, Sayadaw Bhaddanta Jotipala delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits. Afterwards, the Prime Minister cordially met those present.

The Prime Minister and party inspected building of Naungdawgyi Myathahlaung reclining Buddha Image in Bago. They paid homage to the Image.

Deputy Minister for Science and Technology U Nyi Hla Nge, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko and Myanmar handicraft technician U

Aye reported on building of the 243 feet long and 63 feet high Buddha image on 5 feet high Thalundaw, 75 per cent completion of construction works and 85 per cent completion of Myanmar handicraft works, arrangements for building Myataik, Gandakuti Tazaung and the archway.

The Prime Minister inspected progress of construction tasks and gave necessary instructions.

On arrival at Kanbawzathadi Palace, Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung reported to the Prime Minister on a teak board bearing shape of royal palace dating back to AD 16th century unearthed at the palace site and tasks to be carried out at the palace.

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The Naungdawgyi Myathahlaung reclining Buddha Image is 243 feet long and 63 feet high. Construction works have been completed 75%.

Prime Minister attends merit-sharing ceremony of Sein Yadana Sankyaungdaw of Shweminwun Sasana Yeiktha

YANGON, 8 Aug — A merit-sharing ceremony of Sein Yadana Sankyaungdaw of Sobhana Rama Shweminwun Sasana Yeiktha in Sathange Village, Thayagon Village-tract, Bago, was held in conjunction with the fifth cash donation ceremony at the Yeiktha this afternoon. Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attended the ceremonies and formally unveiled the stone inscription of the Sein Yadana Sankyaungdaw.

Also present on the occasion were member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence, Bago Division PDC Chairman Southern Command Commander Maj-Gen Ko Ko, ministers, deputy ministers, senior military officers, officials of the SPDC office, heads of department, chairmen and members of district and township PDCs, those of social organizations, wellwishers and lay persons.

First, the opening ceremony of Sein Yadana Sankyaungdaw building was held, and Deputy Minister

for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko and donors U Hok Swi and Daw Khin Sein opened the building by cutting a ribbon. The Prime Minister unveiled the stone inscription of the building. The Prime Minister and party next paid homage to the Buddha images kept in the Sein Yadana Sankyaungdaw and Sawbana Rama Shweminwun Sasana Yeiktha (Bago) Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw Maha Kammathanacariya Bhaddanta Sobhana.

Next, the merit-sharing and cash donation ceremony was held at Shan Maha Dhamma Beikman. It was graced by the presence of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Joint-Secretary Kalaywa Tawya Sathintat Aarama Dipati Agga Maha Pandita Dvipitaka Dhara Dvipitaka Kovidha Bhaddanta Jagara Bhivamsa, Maha Kammathanacariya Bhaddanta Sobhana and members of the Sangha. Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and the congregation recited Namō Tassa three times and received the Eight Precepts from Sayadaw Maha Kammathanacariya

Bhaddanta Sobhana. Afterwards, the Sayadaws and members of the Sangha recited parittas and delivered a sermon. The Prime Minister offered provisions to Wanbawdat Sasana Waipunla Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Visala.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, Commander Maj-Gen Ko Ko, the ministers and the wellwishers also presented offerings to the Sayadaws and members of the Sangha. Then, the fifth cash donation ceremony for the all-round construction of Sowbana Rama Shweminwun Sasana Yeiktha (Bago) followed. The donations included K 117.9 million by U Hok Swi-Daw Khin Sein and family of Hninsigon Street in Ahlon township, Yangon; K 18 million by U Tint Lwin-Daw Kyu Kyu Thin and family of Bayintnaung Shanlay Brokerage; K 8 million by Daw Hla Yi and family of Thanlwin Road in Kamayut Township; K 7.7 million by U Kyi Myo-Daw Kyi Kyi Lwin and family of Toetat Lin Co in Lammadaw Township; K 4.5 million each by U Phone Myint-Daw Lin Myint, Captain Htin Kyaw-Daw Kyi Mya, Daw Shaik Kyu and sons and Crown Sugar Brokerage; K 4 million by U Zeya Tin-Daw Win Yi; K 3.6 million each by U Ba Thwin (Retired Ambassador)-Daw Thein Tint and sons and Daw Aye Aye Myint (the Ministry of Foreign Affairs) and family; K 2.6 million by U Aung Kyaing-Daw Ohn Myint (Mya Thonelon Metals); K 2.5 million each by U Myo Myint-Daw Thein Win and family, U Aung Nyein-Daw Knin Than Soe (Shwelawin Mohinga), U Win Ko-Daw Thet Thet and Col Kyi Tun (Retd)-Daw Khin Hla Win and family; K 2 million each by Daw Than Than Hsint (Shwe Dried Shrimp Shop-Theingyi Market) and family, U Kyi Lwin-Daw Aye (Seagull), U Myint Thau-Daw Soe Soe Nwe and family, U Khin Maung Kyi-Daw Hsan Hsan Hla and family, U Myint Lwin Khaing-Daw Myint Myint Tin and family, Dr San Maung-Daw Win Maw Aung, U Kyaw Min-Daw Aye Aye Cho, U Maung Tin-Daw Bi, U Sin Chein Hin-Daw Khin Aye (Pwin Hsan Trading Co), U Sein-Daw Swan Ti, U Ni-Daw Kyin Hla, Daw San and family, U Win Myint-Daw Khin Win Mu, Ko Thein Myint-Ma Thwe Thwe Aung and family, U Win Aung Chit-Daw Khin Myo Myat Kyaw, Daw Kyin Hlaing and family and Dr Thant Sin-Dr Sein Sein; K 1.4 million by (U Aung Thein)-Daw Than Than Aung of Sidawwun Travel);

(See page 8)



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt views scale model of Lopyay Ayechantha Pagoda being built in Shweminwun Sasana Yeiktha (Bago).—MNA