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Development of motherland and perpetuity of nation and its people depend on efficiency of education sector Secretary-1 addresses closing of Special Refresher Course No 18 for basic education teachers

YANGON, 7 July — The concluding ceremony of Special Refresher Course No 18 for basic education teachers was held at the Yadana hall of the Central Instituted of Civil Service (Upper Myanmar) in PyinOoLwin Township in Mandalay Division yesterday afternoon, with an address by Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council General Khin Nyunt.

Also present on the occasion were Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint, the ministers, the chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board, the deputy ministers, the mayor of Mandalay, senior military officers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, local authorities, service personnel, Rector Col Aung San Win of CICS (Upper Myanmar), pro-rectors, heads of departments, course instructors and trainees.

First, Secretary-1 General Khin Nyunt delivered a speech. In his address he said that at a time when knowledge and technology dominate all development sectors, all the teachers in the education sector are responsible not only for brighter future of the students but also for carrying out the tasks for emergence of a modern developed nation.

Therefore, the role of education has become wider and more important. The teachers are to teach their students and to discharge duties to accomplish national objectives of the national education promotion programme.

He said efficiency of the education sector and building national strength through the education sector decide stronger future of the State. In other words, development of the motherland and perpetuation of the nation and its people depend on efficiency of the education sector.

This is why the government has laid down education promotion programmes and national education promotion plans to establish an education system that can promote development prospects and exploit the existing resources of the State for long-term national interest and is implementing them. The national education promotion plans are to be implemented for perpetuation of the national policy of non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty. In other words, the government is making efforts for establishing of stronger political, economic and social foundations through the education sector.

Students are to be taught to become not only proficient in education but also intellectuals and intelligentsia with high knowledge and efficiency in accord with the objectives of the national education promotion plans.



Secretary-1 General Khin Nyunt presents model trainee award to JAT U Soe Lin of Hsarsi BEHS No 1 in Magway Division.— MNA

They are also to be nurtured to become the ones with high qualifications, knowledge and creative power who can make decision by themselves. He said the teachers on their part are to actively train their pupils to be the ones who can choose their future career in accord with individual bent and prospects and better results of all-round development education system.

He said the student youths are to be trained for using advanced technology to catch up with education of international standard. He also stressed the importance of nurturing the students to preserve Myanmar social value, the norm of Myanmar living standard and Myanmar traditional customs.

He spoke of the need for the teachers to cultivate the students to possess spiritual maturity such as preservation of traditional culture, character and high morale and duties and codes of conduct toward the society.

He urged the teachers to teach the students to inculcate them with national solidarity spirit and the Union Spirit for perpetuation of the Union, preserving basic historical facts of the nation and its people and noble traditions of the history. He said now national development and to stand tall among the nations of the world mainly depend on own national strength.

(See page 10)

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

Daw Suu Kyi, the NLD party and Our Ray of Hope — 4

Can a constitution of state, which is as precious as life itself be drawn up by just two or three people? However, since this draft Constitution had been drawn up and our party leaders had accepted it, it obviously shows that they are not genuinely concerned in the future of the country, nor sincere in carrying out future national political tasks. And we had placed so much hope in them.

(Article on pages 8 and 9)

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Secretary-1 General Khin Nyunt addresses Special Refresher Course No 18 for Basic Education Teachers at CICS (Upper Myanmar) on 6 July.— MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 8 July, 2003

Stick to national stand and safeguard national interests

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe on one occasion said that, as there are already favourable conditions for agriculture and livestock breeding sectors, it is necessary to give priority to the development of these sectors. Ayeyawady Division occupies over one-fourth of all the arable land of the country which is put under paddy and is very fertile. So the division can help realize the national target for producing 1,200 million baskets of paddy if the per-acre yield of the division remarkably increases. Moreover, it is also required to take measures to boost the production of fish and prawn.

To be able to put the guidance of the Head of State into action, transport infrastructures have been built and irrigation facilities constructed in Ayeyawady Division for the development of the agriculture sector.

The Darka river-crossing bridge in Kanyidaunt Township of Ayeyawady Division, opened on 6 July, is one of the requirements of the State the Government has fulfilled.

Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann, who attended the opening ceremony of the bridge, said on the occasion that, at the time when the development of economic, transport, education and health sectors of the Union of Myanmar is gaining greater and greater momentum, it is sad to see those who are attempting to abort the successful realization of "Our Three Main National Causes"—non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty. He also added that the actions of these destructive elements are a danger to the interests of the State and the people.

The State has spent a total of K 79,394 million plus US \$ 147.907 million on new roads and bridges since 1988. Thirty-nine bridges built in Ayeyawady Division alone cost over K 19,420 million and more than US \$ 20 million.

At a time like this when the Government is endeavouring for the all-round development, all the entire people, in concert with departmental personnel, should unitedly lend themselves to the national development projects, always remaining vigilant against the dangers of all the destructive elements. And at the same time, they are required to stick to the national stand and safeguard the national interests.

Facilities for development of Ayeyawady Division

	Past	Present
1. Dam projects	4	11
2. River-water pumping projects	-	22
3. Motor roads	440 miles	1,328 miles
4. Over 180-foot-long bridges	-	39
5. Telephone exchanges	31	75
6. Rural communication stations	29	53
7. Basic education schools	5,189	5,997
8. Universities and colleges	2	9
9. Health sector		
(a) 200-bed hospitals	1	3
(b) 50-bed hospitals	-	2
(c) station hospitals	-	6
traditional medicine hospital	-	1
rural health care centres	-	12
regional dispensaries	-	2

Poppy seeds, buds presented by local farmers incinerated in Pinlaung

YANGON, 7 July —

The ceremony to hand over poppy seeds and to incinerate poppy seeds and poppy buds surrendered by opium growers was held at Pinlaung Township Peace and Development Council at 11 am on 5 July.

Present were Chairman of Shan State Drug Abuse Control Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, Leader of Shan State Drug Eradication and Regional Development Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, Vice-Chairman of Shan State DAC Shan State Police Commander Police Col Thura Tin Hla, senior military officers of Pinlaung Station, local authorities, departmental officials, local people and social organizations.

First, Commander Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint delivered an address. He said that the ceremonies to destroy poppy seeds have been held in Shan State (South) for three times. At today's ceremony, 56 baskets, 10 pyis and three tins of poppy seeds and 45 baskets of opium buds presented by the opium growers will be destroyed. In addition, seeds of opium-substitute crops as well as rice and salt will be presented to the growers. The Head of State and State-level officials has been making efforts to eradicate narcotic drugs in various ways.

As the State is implementing the New Destiny Project beginning April 2002, such opium-substitute crops as 380 baskets of paddy, 4,695 kilos of Yezin-3 hybrid maize, 230 baskets of soya-bean, 10 baskets of pigeon pea and 142.5 baskets of niger will be distributed to the farmers for the second time. The one pyi of poppy seeds can be cultivated on one acre of land. A total of 56 baskets, 10 pyis and three tins of poppy seeds will be destroyed at today's destruction ceremony. This intervention enabled the prevention of growing 600 acres of poppy that can produce 2.64 tons of heroin. In conclusion, the commander called on those present to actively participate in the elimination of poppy cultivation to be able to set up the opium free zone in Shan State (South) in accord with the New Destiny Project.

Speaking on the occasion, Brig-Gen Pyi Sone said that the State has set up the fund worth K 10 million for Shan State (South) to implement the

New Destiny Project in accord with the guidance of the Head of State. The fund will be used to distribute seeds of crops and vegetables to the local farmers. In addition, U Ye Tun Ning of South East Asia Enterprise, U Myat Thit of Nyaungwun Panthitsa Co and U Myint Lwin Oo of Lanmin Kantha Co will donate 1,200 baskets of rice and 8,000 viss of salt to the local farmers.

As the State distributes opium-substitute crops and makes efforts for elimination of poppy cultivation, the local farmers are to participate in the tasks. Progress in the elimination of poppy cultivation have been achieved in Shan State (South). Shan State will reach the New Destiny soon if efforts are made for elimination of the poppy plantations as well as thriving of opium-substitute crops.

Next, a farmer presented poppy seeds to the commander. Afterwards, Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, Police Col Thura Tin Hla, Pinlaung Station Commander Lt-Col Htin Kyaw and Chairman of Taunggyi District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Ye Tun Sein presented seeds of opium-substitute crops to the local farmers.

The commander, Managing Director U Ye Tun Naing of South East Asia Enterprise, Director U Myint Lwin Oo of Lamin Kantha Trading Co Ltd and Managing Director U Myat Thit of Nyaungwun Panthitsa Co Ltd presented 1,200 baskets of rice and 8,000 baskets of salt to the farmers. A local farmer spoke words of thanks.

Next, the commander, the minister and guests viewed the drug eradication booths. They inspected poppy seeds and poppy buds to be burnt.

Later, the commander, the minister and party pressed the button to incinerate the poppy seeds and buds. —MNA

Poem:

Prevent entry of SARS

Severe acute contagion
surprisingly outstanding
Pneumonia affecting your lungs
Strange disease
To be called SARS
The name emerged
To defend the global village
Prevention is being put in place
Alphabetically worked out as
S-A-R-S.
Respiratory tract suffers
Sudden and severe attack
Affected and breathing restricted
The disease strikes
Eventually there's no respite
Rarely as fate would have it
Some find adverse effect
And succumb.
Just as its spread is quick
You can't simply be scared and escape
For close nursing
Under careful scrutiny
Nurses don't shirk
Doctors show compassion
Goodwill comes first
Without regard for sacrificing life
That's human.
For picking out new disease
Analyst Urbani
Should be awarded
Outstanding title of Hero.
He sacrificed his life
To uncover SARS
Made it known to the world
It spread as fate would have it
Not even sparing him
The new disease SARS.
As Myanmar is prosperous
SARS cannot penetrate
Skilled doctors and physicians
Strive it prevent it
Educate, Screen and uncover
Alerted as National Cause
The Nation given priority
Join hands and prevent
Keep SARS away.
(As a tribute to Health workers and who collaborated
in the public working unstintingly strove without regard
to their safety to prevent the danger of the spread
of SARS.)

Kyaw Saw Han (Trs)

5,250 stimulant tablets seized

YANGON, 7 July — A combined team comprising members of Lashio Special Anti-drug Squad and local intelligence unit, acting on a tip-off, on 5 June evening searched Ma Nan Wai Lwin on Hsenwi Road in Region-5, Ward-8, Lashio, and discovered 5,250 stimulant tablets in her bag.

In connection with the case, action was being taken against Ma Nan Wai Lwin, daughter of U Mann San, of Nanslap Village, Hsenwi Township, under Section 15/19 (A) of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

MNA



Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone and guests inspect poppy seeds and dried poppy buds before the destruction ceremony. — COMMERCE

Looting slows pace of Iraq's biggest oil refinery

BAGHDAD (Iraq), 7 July—Rainpant looting is preventing Iraq's biggest oil refinery at Baiji from cranking out full supplies, with output running at only 70 per cent of prewar levels, a senior Iraqi oil official said.

Riad Ghassab, Director-General of the Northern Oil Refining Co, told *Reuters* on Saturday that pillaging of the facility's power lines is forcing the huge complex to shut down occasionally or pump below its 300,000 barrels per day (BPD) capacity.

"Our production before the war was 250,000 BPD. Now it is 70 per cent of that level," he said of the facility which supplies the Iraqi capital and the northern city of Mosul.

Looters are also playing havoc with the refinery's ability to route urgently needed products such as gasoline and diesel fuel to those key cities, he said.

"They are shooting holes in these pipelines," he said. "It is a big problem."

And one which is forcing oil-rich Iraq to import products such as liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) and gasoline.

"Iraq is importing a lot," said Ghassab, without elaborating.

Saboteurs attacked and damaged the main pipeline carrying crude oil to the refinery at Baiji, 90 miles north of Baghdad, at the end of last month.

Ghassab said the refinery is still receiving full volumes of crude through the pipeline, but he was uncertain about the state of repairs.

Iraq's sprawling oil pipeline network has been hit by a spate of attacks which have hampered the country's efforts to restore exports

needed to fund post-war reconstruction.

US military and Iraqi officials in the town of Baiji said Saddam Hussein's loyalists are still bent on sabotaging pipelines.

But Iraq's main oil refinery is not just fighting off vandals. It is suffering from years of neglect under United Nations sanctions.

Some of the units in the complex have not been overhauled for four years, Ghassab said.

The Oil Ministry is now working on a maintenance plan which could close down operations for about one month. But the Baiji refinery chief said a schedule for repairs had yet to be set.

MNA/Reuters

International agency office attacked in north Iraq

BAGHDAD, 7 July—A grenade was fired at the offices of an international organization in northern Iraq on Saturday, causing minor damage and slightly injuring a local guard, a UN spokesman said on Sunday. A security team is investigating the incident at the headquarters of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in the city of Mosul, said Hamid Abdeljaber, deputy spokesman for the UN mission in Iraq.

"The incident in Mosul could have some political background, but so far we consider it an isolated incident pending an investigation," he told reporters in Baghdad.

Abdeljaber said a rocket-propelled grenade penetrated the wall of the IOM compound, damaging two cars and causing slight injuries to a local guard for the Geneva-based organization which is working with displaced people in Iraq. "International and local staff were moved from the office to a more secure zone," Abdeljaber said.—*Internet*

ITN regrets death of British cameraman in Iraq

LONDON, 7 July — Britain's ITN television network said on Sunday it regretted the death of a cameraman shot in Iraq who was a former employee, and named him as Richard Wild, aged 24.

Wild, 24, was working as a freelance journalist in Iraq but had previously worked for Independent Television News.

"We are shocked and saddened to hear of the reported death of Richard Wild," ITN chief executive Stewart Purvis said in a statement.

"In the six months that Richard worked at ITN, he was regarded as a dedicated and popular member of the newsroom team,

particularly as he tracked all the material coming into ITN during the Iraq war."

A US military spokesman said on Saturday a British journalist had been killed in Baghdad. Sources in the Iraqi capital said he had been shot at close range near a museum in an area that includes a mixture of residences and shops.

Wild, born in Scotland, had himself served as a soldier. — *MNA/Reuters*



US soldiers with bayonet-fixed rifles guard the entrance to the former Presidential Palace which now houses the US Administration office in Baghdad, Iraq as protesters (unseen) gather on 5 July, 2003 demanding the release of former Parliament Speaker Dr Saadon Hamadi, who was arrested by the US forces on 25 June. —*INTERNET*

Greek Cabinet reshuffled

ATHENS, 7 July — Greek Prime Minister Costas Simitis reshuffled his Cabinet following a major changes of the leadership of the ruling Panhellenic Socialist Movement (PASOK).

The reshuffle affected only a few ministerial portfolios, George Floridis replaced Michalis Chrysochoidis as Minister of Public Order, Haris Kastanidis replaced George Paschalidis as Minister of Macedonia-Thrace, George Paschalidis replaced George Anomeritis as Minister of Merchant Marine and Alexandros Akrivakis replaced Stefanos Manikas as Minister of State.

The long expected reshuffle is regarded as an attempt by Simitis to make preparations for the next general elections due by next May.

The ruling party is trailing behind the opposition conservatives by 8 percentage points in opinion polls.

MNA/Xinhua

Iran says El Baradei trip shows desire to cooperate

TEHERAN, 7 July — Iran said on Sunday a visit by the UN's nuclear inspection agency this week

showed Tehran's desire to cooperate over its nuclear programme, which Washington says may be a covert bid to build atomic weapons.

International Atomic Energy Agency head Mohamed ElBaradei is due on Wednesday and will push for greater openness on Iran's nuclear plans, including more intrusive checks of facilities.

"Our invitation to ElBaradei to visit Iran is a sign of our serious desire

for cooperation with the IAEA," government spokesman Abdollah Ramazanzadeh told a news conference.

ElBaradei reiterated on Saturday that Iran should agree to tougher inspections of its facilities to create confidence its peaceful intentions. —*MNA/Reuters*

Ukraine to import sugar as farm crisis bites

LONDON, 7 July — Ukrainian Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich signed an order on Friday to import 200,000 tons of raw sugar by mid September, as the country struggles with an agricultural crisis.

Bad weather has ravaged crops and caused prices for staple food products such as sugar and grains to soar amid growing consumer anxiety.

Trades have been pinning their hopes on a big raw sugar purchase by Ukraine due to a lack of significant raw sugar buying on the world market.

Earlier this year, Ukraine's Parliament allowed refineries to import a total of 560,000 tons of raw sugar, including 360,000 tons at a duty of six euros per tons and 200,000 tons with a duty of 60 euros per ton. —*MNA/Reuters*

Vehicle imports through Huangpu Port doubled

GUANGZHOU, 7 July — Huangpu Port, one of China's major ports for vehicle import in Guangdong Province, saw the number of imported vehicles nearly doubled in the first five months of this year, in comparison with the same period last year, official statistics revealed.

The value of the total 9,516 imported vehicles stood at 210 million US dollars, surging 150 per cent year-on-year.

Car imports dominated the total imports by 56.1 per cent, or 5,334 units, during the period, and the largest single increase rate was seen in trucks, escalating 8.2 times from 60 last year to 489 units this year.

Japanese vehicles still take up the majority of the total imports, or 68.7 per cent, followed by vehicles made in South Korea and Germany, according to the statistics.

MNA/Xinhua



Two young men take a close look at different kinds of drugs during an anti-drug public information campaign held in Beijing, on 25 June, 2003. The campaign was aimed at informing the residents, especially the youngsters, how harm drug will do to human body and their lives and dissuading people from getting addicted to drugs. —*XINHUA PHOTO*

Female US soldiers in Iraq say they miss being women

MOSUL (Iraq), 7 July — As months go by without a date to leave Iraq, female soldiers in the US Army say they miss being mothers and women, and worry that their deployment could become permanent.

"Just thinking about my children is the hardest thing," said Staff Sergeant Denise Rayl from the 101st Airborne Division, the US-led coalition's most northern force, in Mosul, 240 kilometers (140 miles) from Baghdad.

"I have to stay busy. I can't sit down because if I do, I think of my kids. I don't think any of my soldiers can keep up with the work that I do, and they told me they can't," said the 37-year-old mother of two young boys from Denison, Texas. The problem, Rayl and her colleagues said, is

being away from home for so long.

"I think the problem is they have no one to come in behind us because everybody is gone, everybody else is deployed. We are stretched," Rayl said, referring to Army deployments particularly in Afghanistan.

Asked if she saw a light at the end of the tunnel of US operations in Iraq, the staff sergeant said: "I don't see any of it because of all the shootings and pockets of resistance."

"It is going to be a long-term commitment," she said.

Staff Sergeant Rachel Irizarry, 31, from Ripley, Mississippi, said she was ready to go home to be with her two young sons.

"My boys want me home. I'm just ready to go home. It's really hard," Irizarry said. "Everyday I think about them. It's a big sacrifice," she said, her eyes welling with tears.

For 20-year-old Private First Class Shawna Arquette, an aspiring singer from Rochester, New York, work in the army was the easy part but not being able to enjoy being a woman frustrated her.

"I miss wearing make-up, I miss doing my hair, I miss going to a club. I miss all that," said Arquette. She brought cosmetics and perfume but has never used them since arriving in Iraq in February.

"I've never used it once. There is no reason to. There is no point," she said. —Internet

Turkish reporters attacked by gunmen in Iraq

ANKARA, 7 July — Two correspondents of the Turkish semi-official *Anatolian* news agency were attacked by six gunmen in Iraq on Sunday morning, said the agency in a report.

The assailants stopped the car carrying correspondents Sami Tolga Adanali and Kenan Gurbuz by opening fire on it and forced them to lie down together with the Arab driver of Iraqi origin. The gunmen seized the car and took away two satellite phones, laptop computers, two cameras and apparatus, clothes, passports and money, the report said.

Following the attack, the reporters had to go on foot along the highway to the Turkish Embassy in Baghdad.

Sami Tolga Adanali gave an account of the incident, "At about 10:15 a.m. today, we and our Iraqi Arab driver and the host, four of us altogether, were attacked by six gunmen on the Kirkuk-Baghdad motorway while we were going to Baghdad."

"Four of them were carrying Kanas assassination weapons and the remaining two had Kalashnikov rifles. All of them wrapped their faces with head scarves and they were speaking Kurdish," Adanali added.

"We told the Iraqi driver to step up speed, not to stop," he said.

"They pointed their weapons at our car and started to fire. One bullet pierced the windshield, passed through it and hit the seat. Luckily, we were not wounded. After this, the Iraqi driver stopped the car."

MNA/Xinhua

US releases Turkish troops

WASHINGTON, 7 July — US officials have released 11 Turkish military personnel - including special forces soldiers - ending a diplomatic row between the two countries.

The Turks were arrested on Saturday in the northern Iraqi town of Sulaymaniyah and taken to Baghdad by the US Army.

They are to spend the night in a guest house in the Iraqi capital and will be taken back to Sulaymaniyah by helicopter on Monday. US officials have still not confirmed why they arrested the troops. The Turkish Prime Minister, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, spoke to the US Vice President, Dick Cheney, for about a half hour and US Secretary of State, Colin Powell, called Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul in a bid to quell the row over the soldiers' detention earlier on Sunday.

Mr Erdogan called the situation "a totally ugly incident" and ordered the immediate closure of Harbur gate - the vital roadway that links Turkey to Iraq, when news first spread of the arrests.

Speaking after his conversation with Mr Powell, Abdullah Gul said he believed the "tasteless and ugly event" would be over on Sunday night at the latest.

"I hope Turkey's friendship and alliance (with the US) won't be damaged," he added. In a written statement, the Turkish prime minister's office said Mr Erdogan asked Mr Cheney to immediately release the Turkish soldiers.

"It is expected that the special forces will be handed over to the Turkish side in

Sulaymaniyah" after the talks, the statement added.

The detention has deepened the Turkish public's mistrust of the United States.

About 250 demonstrators gathered outside the US embassy in the Turkish capital, Ankara, on Sunday to protest against the detention of soldiers shouting "Free our soldiers," "America out" and "We will not be America's servants". Supporters of the right wing Nationalist Action Party or MHP simultaneously staged anti-American protests in Istanbul.

Internet

US troops kill two Iraqi civilians

RAMADI (Iraq), 7 July — US troops shot dead two Iraqi civilians during clashes with Iraqi guerrillas in the town of Ramadi, west of Baghdad, witnesses said on Monday.

They said the US troops opened fire on Sunday night on a vehicle carrying the two civilians after an American convoy was ambushed by guerrillas.

"We heard a huge explosion last night at about 11.30 and then Iraqis fired at American troops in a vehicle.

The Americans sped away and were then involved in clashes up the road," one witness to Sunday's clash, Jibayir Makhilif, told Reuters.

MNA/Reuters

ဝက်ဟူဝင်းအား ခေါ်ကျော်သွား



US soldiers guard a traffic circle in Baghdad, Iraq, on 6 July, 2003. US troops have come under near daily attacks from increasingly bold insurgents. —INTERNET

European, Asian finance ministers meet

BALI (Indonesia), 7 July — European and Asian finance ministers met on the Indonesian resort island of Bali on Saturday to boost cooperation in trade, investment and finance as the world economy shows scattered signs of recovery.

The annual gathering of officials from the European Union, China, Japan and eight other Asian nations are expected to stress closer coordination in macro-economic policy between their regions, home to about a third of the world's population.

"European countries are entering into an integrated single market, while we have just started to strengthen our bond market. There will be talks on how to synergize these efforts," said Indonesia's Chief Economics Minister, Dorodjatun Kuntjoro Jakti.

But, as in previous ASEM ministerial forums, new policies of substance are unlikely by the end of the two days of talks, and much of the agenda centres on technical issues, such as pooling ideas on how to keep Asia's fledgling financial markets stable.

The Bali meeting comes less than two weeks after 11 Asia-Pacific nations launched a new one-billion-US dollar Asia Bond Fund, drawn from their huge central bank reserves, to speed development of a regional bond market.

That Thai initiative is seen as a catalyst for Asia to woo back some of its assets invested outside the region, especially in US bonds. But delegates in Bali said the weekend meeting would only touch lightly on ways to develop the fund.

"The Asian Bond Fund is not central to the meetings," one European delegate told Reuters.

Asia has around two-thirds of global foreign exchange reserves but its bond markets are less developed. Many Asian companies still rely on short-term bank loans for funding, raising the risk of volatility if banks cut credit lines.

In Asia's financial crisis of 1997/98, the banks did just that, and Asian policy makers are now under pressure to find ways to funnel savings directly into Asian investments, bypassing Western financial institutions, to nourish future growth.

"The bond market in Asia is still weak. If we really want to have a stronger financial system in Asia after the crisis, the Asian bond market must be further developed," said Kuntjoro Jakti.

At last year's ASEM meeting in Copenhagen, leaders agreed to set up a special task force of 10 experts to work on boosting cooperation between the EU and Asia in the areas of trade, investment and finance. —MNA/Reuters



Turkish protesters shout against the detention of 11 Turkish soldiers in Northern Iraq, in front of the US Embassy in Ankara on 6 July, 2003. Turkish Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan told reporters that he will speak to Vice President Dick Cheney on Sunday over the soldiers seized by US forces in Iraq and hopes the incident will not inflame tensions between the NATO allies. —INTERNET

US soldier guarding Baghdad University killed

BAGHDAD, 7 July—A gunman shot and killed a soldier who was guarding Baghdad University in the city's center Sunday, military officials said.

The soldier from the 352nd Civil Affairs Command had strayed from a larger group and was talking with a local resident when someone walked up from behind and shot him in the back of the head with a handgun, a witness told CNN.

The shooting took place around 12.30 pm (4.30 am EDT), a military spokeswoman said. According to US Central Command, the soldier died at a hospital.

It was the second such attack in two days, and the third in about a week, all three of which happened in Baghdad. Saturday, Richard Wild, a 24-year-old British journalist, was fatally shot in the back of the head; another US soldier was shot in the head about a week ago.

Prior to Sunday's incident, the United States blamed remnants of Saddam Hussein's government —

Baathists and Republican Guard members — for attacks that have killed 27 American and six British troops since President Bush declared the end of major combat operations on May 1.

US Joint Chiefs Chairman General. Richard Myers told "Fox News Sunday" that much of Iraq is fairly stable, but that there is a "triangle" of lawlessness where fighters opposed to the US presence are staging most of their attacks.

Ninety percent of the now 28 hostile deaths have occurred in the triangle formed by the predominantly Sunni Muslim cities of Baghdad, Tikrit and Ar Ramadi, Myers said.

"That's where our forces are working very hard to rout out the remnants of the Baathist party and other followers of Saddam Hussein that think somehow that they're coming back, which they aren't," Myers said.

"A lot of the country is relatively stable; there are still challenges at Baghdad and in that triangle," he said.

The military is still trying to assess whether the attacks on US military personnel are planned by Iraqis, or whether terrorists from other countries might be behind them, Myers said.

On Saturday, a US soldier was wounded and two Humvees were damaged when a grenade was tossed from an overpass at a US military police patrol in central Baghdad.

That attack came the same day seven US-trained Iraqi police recruits were killed when an "improvised explosive device" detonated in Ramadi, about 75 miles west of Baghdad, according to US authorities. At least 13 people were wounded in the blast, US military sources in Ramadi told CNN. The recruits had been close to graduating from their training program.—Internet



US soldiers frisk Iraqi students and employees of Baghdad University following the shooting of an American soldier on 6 July, 2003, in Baghdad, Iraq. The soldier was shot in the head as he waited in line to buy a soft drink at the university. —INTERNET

Drought hits Hebei province

SHIJIAZHUANG, 7 July — A serious drought has hit parts of north China's Hebei Province and is spreading to a wider area, according to the provincial flood and drought control centre.

In the first several months of this year, the rainfall in most areas of Hebei was close to or even higher than the average figure in the same period of the past several years except Tangshan and Qinhuangdao in northeast Hebei, which suffered a serious drought.

Since early June, the drought has spread to central and southern Hebei and become more serious. The rainfall in Baoding, Shijiazhuang, Cangzhou, Hengshui, Xingtai and Handan has kept below 25 millimetres, 50 per cent less than the same period of past years.

Rainfall from June 22 to 23 partly eased the drought in Tangshan and Qinhuangdao, but could not prevent its spread in central and southern Hebei.

About one-third of Hebei Province is currently struggling with drought. — MNA/Xinhua

HK public told to guard against influenza, red-eye syndrome

HONG KONG, 7 July—The Hong Kong public have been reminded to take precautionary measures to prevent influenza and red-eye syndrome.

A spokesman for the Department of Health said Friday that an upward trend in the consultation rates for influenza-like-illnesses was detected in June.

"We should be vigilant in light of the recent upward trend since influenza cases might rise during July and August, based on historical data," the spokesman added.

MNA/Xinhua

Locust plague threatens Gansu province

LANZHOU, 7 July—Locusts have gathered and appeared likely to cause damage to crops in China's north-western province of Gansu, experts have warned, urging vigilance against the local pests despite their weak flying and migrating ability.

In Jiuquan City and Lanzhou, the provincial capital, locusts were spotted and affected total areas of 3,400 hectares and 2,100 hectares respectively in the two cities, with a small portion being farmland and the rest wasteland and abandoned farmland, according to the provincial vegetation department.

In the most seriously-hit area, 130 locusts per square metre were found, the highest figure ever recorded in recent years, experts said.

MNA/Xinhua

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Blair reveals allies expected war in Iraq to last for 125 days

LONDON, 7 July—British Prime Minister Tony Blair has revealed for the first time that coalition forces believed the war against Iraq would last for 125 days, the *British Observer* newspaper reported Sunday.

In an interview with the paper, Blair, the staunchest ally of the United States, said he had spoken to Tommy Franks, the commander of US forces in Iraq, who had said the fighting was likely to take four months.

"When I was talking to General Franks the other day, he reminded me that under the original timetable for the conflict, it was going to take 125 days after the ground action began to complete the conflict," the paper quoted Blair as saying.

Blair also told the paper that the US-led military

intervention in Iraq is still within the "original timetable" of 125 days set out by its commanders.

"Well, we are still within 125 days now, so I think it is possible to exaggerate the problems and difficulties," Blair said, adding that Britain would retain a military presence in Iraq for as long as necessary.

"This was never going to be a situation where you could just go in, invade a country, topple the government and walk away afterwards," Blair said.

MNA/Xinhua

Violence in Iraq spreads beyond military

BAGHDAD, 7 July—A US soldier waiting to buy a soft drink at Baghdad University was shot and killed Sunday by an assailant who fired once from close range in the third such assault in nine days.

The style was coldly similar to the killing of a young British freelance cameraman, who was shot in the head outside a Baghdad museum on Saturday.

The point-blank shooting of the unarmed reporter and a grenade attack on a UN compound raised concern that Iraq worsening insurgency — until now targeting only coalition troops and Iraqis accused of US collaboration — will spread to Westerners in general.

US troops on patrol in Baghdad and other areas have been attacked several times a day, and Iraqi police and civilians perceived to be working with the occupying forces also have been targeted. In the most serious such attack, a bomb blast in the western town of Ramadi killed seven Iraqi police recruits as they graduated from a US-taught training course on Saturday. Dozens more were injured. —Internet



Members of the Chinese Communist Party deliver relief materials to residents in Wangjiaba, east China's Anhui Province, on 6 July, 2003. More than 200,000 people have been evacuated from the areas designated for storing or diverting flood from the Huaihe River in the province. —XINHUA PHOTO

Caribbean leaders condemn US suspension of aid

HAVANA, 7 July—Caribbean leaders Friday condemned the United States for suspending military aid to six countries in the region that refused to exempt Americans from the International Criminal Court (ICC).

The "punitive action" of the United States, cutting off millions of dollars used mainly to fight illegal traffic of drugs and migrants, will weaken US efforts to protect its own borders and security in the Caribbean, said a statement of the Caribbean Community Summit.

Two countries, Antigua and Barbuda and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, said they would lose one million US dollars and 0.3 million US dollars respectively.

In absence of American aid, Caribbean leaders proposed working on military assistance and training among member states.

The United States Tuesday announced the suspension of military aid to 35 countries that have refused to sign bilateral accords granting its citizens immunity from the international court.

The suspension affects six countries in the Caribbean, Trinidad and Tobago, Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Dominica and St Vincent and the Grenadines.

MNA/Xinhua

BBC defends journalists in feud with Blair

LONDON, 7 July — After a lengthy meeting on Sunday, BBC governors stepped into a row with the British Government and said they backed their journalists' reporting that a government dossier into Iraq's weapons was doctored.

The spat erupted after the public broadcaster, citing an anonymous intelligence source, reported that Prime Minister Tony Blair's top aide "sexed up" intelligence to strengthen the case for war.

Blair criticized the BBC over its report and told a Sunday newspaper that it was "about as serious an attack on my integrity as there possibly could be".

Governors of the BBC said on Sunday night they backed their journalists in the dispute, leaving little room for compromise between the two sides.

"We are wholly satisfied that BBC journalists and their managers sought to maintain impartiality and accuracy during this episode," the BBC said in a statement.

"The board reiterates that the BBC's overall coverage of the war, and the political issues surrounding it, has been entirely impartial," it said.

The BBC also said it rejected a claim from Blair's top aide and communication's chief Alastair Campbell that the BBC had an agenda against the war, which was opposed by a majority of Britons.

"We call on Mr Campbell to withdraw these allegations of bias against the BBC and its journalists," the broadcaster said.

The failure to find any weapons of mass destruction in Iraq — the primary Anglo-American justification for war — has undermined the government's credibility and dented Blair's popularity and poll ratings.

The British Broadcasting Corporation, however, denied it had ever accused Blair of lying, or of misleading Parliament.

"We have never accused the Prime Minister of lying. The real question for the BBC is, were we right to report what we actually said, when we said it? We believe the answer is yes," a BBC spokesperson said.

Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee, a majority of whom are from Blair's ruling Labour Party, will publish a report on allegations the dossier was "sexed-up" on Monday.

The committee is expected to exonerate Campbell, but it is unlikely the dispute between the government and the BBC will end there. —MNA/Reuters

Convoy attacks kill 2 US troops in Iraq, bringing total to 3 in 24 hours

BAGHDAD, 7 July — Two American soldiers were killed in separate attacks on their convoys late Sunday and early Monday morning in the Iraqi capital, the military said.

The first soldier died in a firefight late Sunday after two armed assailants opened fire, said Sgt Patrick Compton, a spokesman for the military.

The soldiers opened fire, killing one of the attackers and wounding the other. The wounded suspect was taken into custody. In the second incident, insurgents threw a homemade bomb at another US convoy early Monday morning, killing a soldier. Both of the dead American soldiers were from the Army's 1st Armoured Division, the Germany-based division which is charged with occupying Baghdad.

At least three US troops have been killed in Baghdad in a 24-hour period.

In a third incident, an assailant shot and killed a

US soldier waiting to buy a soft drink at Baghdad University at midday Sunday, firing once from close range. The style was coldly similar to the killing of a young British freelance cameraman, who was shot in the head outside a Baghdad museum on Saturday.

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Drug ring smashed in Germany

BERLIN, 7 July — A drug network has been cracked after a massive raid in Germany, police said recently.

Police raided several cities including Cologne on Thursday and arrested several suspects.

A police spokesman said the mastermind of the ring was a 51-year-old Cologne native, who was sentenced to seven years of prison in the 1980s for financing an illegal laboratory making synthetic cocaine. The group is accused of smuggling of several kilograms of cocaine from Holland into Germany for over a year. The cocaine was supposedly sold in Cologne, Duesseldorf and Dortmund in cafes and bars, police said. —MNA/Xinhua

Pakistan to reconsider ties with Israel

PARIS, 7 July — Visiting Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf said Friday that his country should "seriously reconsider its relations with Israel".

"It is naturally a very contentious issue in Pakistan," said Musharraf referring to the normalization of relations between his country, where there are powerful Islamic parties, and Israel. However, "Pakistan should examine what is happening on the international stage, analyze its relationship with Israel and review it on our national interest since the peace process is progressing", he said. The Pakistani President made this remark before wrapping up a three-day visit to France after stops in Britain, the United States and Germany. —MNA/Xinhua

Conjoined Iranian twins begin surgery in Singapore

Singapore, 7 July — An unprecedented, high-risk operation to separate adult Iranian twin sisters joined at the head began in Singapore on Sunday, a Raffles Hospital official said.

Law graduates Laleh and Ladan Bijani, 29, had undergone tests and counselling since November and say they are willing to risk death for the chance to lead separate lives.

The operation, led by neurosurgeon Dr Keith Goh, is expected to last at least 48 hours. Doctors say the operation is possible because

they have anatomically separate brains.

"The twins' pre-operation scan started this morning at 08.00 am (2400 GMT)," a hospital spokesman said.

Twins joined at the head occur only once in every two million live births, and successful separation is even rarer. —MNA/Reuters



US military police patrol stand guard on their duty near Khulani mosque in Baghdad, Iraq on 6 July, 2003. —INTERNET

Australian soundman dies from Iraq wounds

NEW YORK, 7 July — An Australian television soundman working for NBC News died in a German hospital on Sunday a week after he was wounded in Iraq, the network reported.

A statement said freelancer Jeremy Little, 27, who was wounded while embedded with the US Third Infantry Division in the town of Falluja, died "due to post-operative complications".

"Jeremy Little was a courageous journalist, working extremely hard in a dangerous war zone," NBC News President Neal Shapiro said.

"He served bravely for NBC and we mourn his loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family."

Little, from Sydney, suffered serious internal injuries on 29 June when a rocket-propelled grenade hit the US military vehicle

he was travelling in.

He was flown to Landstuhl Regional Medical Centre in Germany, where his injuries were initially thought not to be life-threatening.

His death followed the killing in Baghdad on Saturday of British freelance cameraman Richard Wild.

Little is the 17th member of the media to die in Iraq since the US-led invasion on 20 March. Some of the deaths were accidental or from natural causes.

MNA/Reuters

Drive safely



Surgeons (L to R) Dr Dennis Rohner, Dr Beat Hammer, Dr Ivan Ng, Dr Ben Carson, Prof. Walter Tan, and Dr Keith Goh rehearse an operation to separate conjoined twins Ladan and Laleh Bijani from Iran at Raffles Hospital in Singapore in this on 5 July, 2003 photo. The two adult Iranian sisters are undergoing an unprecedented 48 hour operation in Singapore on 6 July, 2003 to separate them at the head. —INTERNET

Bangladesh, Myanmar to promote mutual cooperation

DHAKA, 7 July — Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and visiting Myanmar Foreign Minister U Win Aung Sunday expressed identical views on mutual cooperation for the development of the two countries.

During a meeting between Khaleda Zia and the Myanmar envoy, they shared the common opinion that "the doors of a new era" would be opened up between the two neighbours if the agreements and memorandum of understandings (MOUs) reached between the two countries were implemented properly, according to the official *Bangladesh News Agency*.

U Win Aung, who arrived here on Saturday on a three-day visit to Bangladesh, recalled the visits of Myanmar Prime Minister, Senior General Than Shwe to Bangladesh and Khaleda Zia's return visit to Myanmar, saying that the two visits had contributed significantly to give further impetus to the bilateral relations, especially in the es-

tablishment of closer people-to-people links between the two countries.

Khaleda Zia visited Myanmar in March this year. During the visit the two countries had agreed to start the process of establishing direct road link between the two neighbours and also signed a number of agreements and MOUs for bolstering bilateral economic ties.

Khaleda Zia and U Win Aung said a number of steps had already been taken for hastening the process of further cementing bilateral relations. While Khaleda Zia raised the issue of Bangladesh's entry into ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), the Myanmar Foreign Minister said his country would lend full support to Bangladesh in getting ARF membership.

MNA/Xinhua

Bahrain jails man for five years for "terror" plot

MANAMA, 7 July — A Bahraini man was jailed on Sunday for five years for planning "terror acts" in the Gulf Arab state, the headquarters of the US Navy's Fifth Fleet.

Authorities did not say who the alleged plots were targeted at but Bahrain saw increased anti-US sentiment in the run-up to the war against Iraq.

"Jamal Balouchi was sentenced to five years in jail," his lawyer said. "The court's ruling was within our expectation but we will appeal against it," the lawyer told *Reuters*.

He said Balouchi, 32, had admitted possessing weapons for personal use. He declined to give further details.

Police arrested Balouchi and four other Bahrainis in February for allegedly planning terror attacks in the country. A court later acquitted three of the five. The fifth man still faces charges.

Bahrain, a key ally of Washington, witnessed many anti-US demonstrations in the run-up to the US-led war on Iraq, but there have been few attacks against Westerners in the country.

MNA/Reuters



Cheng Yulan, a police officer (R), has a heart-to-heart talk with several former drug addicts at Fuzhou Mandatory Drug Rehabilitation Station in this capital city of east China's Fujian Province, on 20 June, 2003. Since its founding in 1997, the drug rehabilitation station has received 6,211 drug addicts who came to be treated both physically and psychologically and learn knowledge of law in order to be off the bad habit and rehabilitate.

XINHUA PHOTO

Leading US Senators clash on Iraq probe

WASHINGTON, 7 July — The top Republican and Democrat on the Senate Armed Services Committee clashed on Sunday over whether to open another probe into alleged White House manipulation of intelligence to make the case for war against Iraq.

Michigan Senator Carl Levin told NBC's "Meet the Press" that new accusations by former U.S. Ambassador Joseph Wilson over claims Iraq bought uranium from Niger added fuel to an investigation he was opening with his own staff.

But the committee chairman, Virginia Republican Senator John Warner, said he favoured letting the Senate Intelligence Committee finish its probe before deciding whether his panel should dig further.

"We cannot sort out this morning, in one minute, this situation. It is being carefully reviewed and objectively reviewed by the Senate in the Intelligence Committee," Warner said. He said he did not see any compelling evidence that the administration twisted intelligence for its own purposes.

Controversy is raging in both Britain and the United States over charges that the governments of the two countries manipulated intelligence about weapons of mass destruction to justify the war. No evidence of such weapons has been found by the occupying forces in Iraq.

Wilson, Washington's envoy to Gabon from 1992 to 1995, told the *New York Times* and NBC that he travelled to Africa in 2002 at the request of the CIA to investigate a report about Iraq buying uranium from Niger.

Wilson said he had reported back that it was highly doubtful that any such transaction had ever taken place and

that the CIA would have passed on his assessment to Vice-President Dick Cheney.

Yet Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair both cited the report earlier this year to support their charges that former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein was trying to obtain nuclear weapons and to justify their invasion of Iraq in March.

The International Atomic Energy Agency later also dismissed the report as being based on forged documents.

"Based on my experience with the administration in the months leading up to the war, I have little choice but to conclude that some of the intelligence related to Iraq's nuclear weapons programme was twisted to exaggerate the Iraqi threat," Wilson wrote in Sunday's *New York Times*.

"Either the administration has information that it has not shared with the public or... they were using the selective use of facts and intelligence to bolster a decision that had already been made to go to war," Wilson said on "Meet the Press".

Levin said the new allegations were deeply troubling.

"I've instructed my staff on the Armed Services Committee to make a very in-depth inquiry into a number of issues, including this uranium issue," Levin said.

"But Ambassador Wilson's statement this morning adds a great deal of additional evidence to me because now it's personal evidence from the ambassador." — MNA/Reuters

Turk military condemns US over Iraq incident

ANKARA, 7 July — Turkey's military on Monday bitterly condemned the US army for seizing commandos in Iraq in an incident mirroring soured ties between the two NATO allies.

The arrest of 11 special forces officers on Friday and their release two days' later also highlighted deep Turkish military concerns about its role in northern Iraq and its influence at home.

Powerful Armed Forces Chief of General Staff Hilmi Ozkok said the incident was a "major crisis of trust" between Washington and Ankara. — Internet



US soldiers frisk Iraqi motorists at a mobile checkpoint in Kadhamiya north of the capital Baghdad, Iraq on 7 July, 2003 where hours earlier a US soldier was killed in an attack on a US convoy. US troops in Iraq have come under near daily attacks from increasingly bold insurgents. — INTERNET

US troops in action in Iraq, blast reported

BAGHDAD, 7 July — The US military said on Sunday its troops were involved in action in the Iraqi city of Ramadi where satellite television channel Al Jazeera reported a strong explosion in an area controlled by US forces. Arabic channel Al Jazeera said the blast hit the US military area at the eastern entrance of Ramadi, 60 miles west of Baghdad.

"I can confirm there's some type of action going on in Ramadi," a US military spokesman told *Reuters*, adding that security was on alert but he could give no further details.

MNA/Reuters

Former Iraqi ambassador to UN, US dies in New York

NEW YORK, 7 July — Nizar Hamdoon, a former Iraqi ambassador to the United Nations and the United States, has died in a New York hospital after a bout with cancer, friends and Arab diplomats said on Sunday. He was 59 years old.

Hamdoon, who also served as deputy foreign minister under the ousted Saddam Hussein government, travelled back and forth from Iraq over the past few years for treatment at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Centre and began

another round of chemotherapy in March. He had been in a coma for a week and died later on Friday, the diplomats said.

Baghdad. But his condition deteriorated rapidly.

US officials said Hamdoon's trips to the United States, even as the war against his country was a given, were granted for humanitarian reasons.

MNA/Reuters

Daw Suu Kyi, the NLD Party and Our Ray of Hope — 4

Maung Yin Hmaing

(Continued from yesterday)

Talking too much
15:00 hours May 6 2003.

Our group led by Auntie Suu left Yangon in two cars. However, the white Dyna light truck with U Sein Win at the wheel, carrying five passengers — Chairman of Taninthayi Division Organizing Committee U Hla Min, Head of Youth Organizers Aung Htoo, Youth Security member Kyaw Zin Win and Secretary of Bahan Township NLD Tun Myint — had left the city in advance at 3 o'clock in the morning.

My mind this time, unlike other trips, was not active and fresh, but heavy with foreboding. I was filled with anxiety as if I felt a premonition that something terrible might happen

know if it was true that no decision had been reached at the CEC consultative meeting, to revise the political, health and education policies included in the draft Constitution drawn by the NLD, due to objections raised by U Soe Myint and U Hla Pe.

I was astonished to hear the question. For, only after hearing his question did I come to know that our NLD party had drawn up its own draft Constitution. It was possible, but if so that would mean that all our hopes were just illusions. For how much assurance can the nation expect of a Constitution drafted by just two or three people of our party?

A Constitution of the State, or call it what you will, is the life of a nation. But the crucial

that democracy within the party will revive, when we are well aware that democracy practices had gradually lost ground and had now vanished altogether. I asked myself this question, but there was no answer except a bitterness in my heart.

In the evening, Auntie Suu and party from their accommodations at the Division Office, went to the house of the late U Nyi Pu, former patron of the Mandalay Division NLD, in Chanayethazan Township. Auntie Suu called on his widow Daw Hnin Yin, exchanged some pleasantries, and presented a package of chocolates as a gift to the lady.

At this point, I overheard a woman by-stander with "thanakha" on her face

Yangon, two more cars and over 20 people joined our group.

On arrival at the entrance to Sagaing Bridge on the Mandalay bank, a team led by Vice-Chairman of Sagaing Division Organizing Committee U Kyaw Thong and representative-elect of Indaw Township U Saw Hlaing were on hand to welcome our group. There were about 50 or so people in their group. But when I made inquiries I found that over half of them were not NLD party members but just some locals who had been recruited for the occasion to increase the number of the welcoming team. The team also had 13 motorcycles.

When the convoy passed the Sagaing Bridge, some motorcycles served as outriders while others flanked Auntie Suu's car on both sides. The riders switched on their headlights although it was broad daylight and continuously blasted their horns. Some waved party flags and yelled unintelligibly. I felt really frustrated. If I were in Auntie Suu's place I would have stopped the car at once, told them to behave properly, have some discipline and not make a public nuisance of themselves.

But it was not so. She remained silent. Thus the question: "Does Auntie Suu like travelling in an unruly and noisy manner?" Or "was she just travel weary and drowsy?" Because of our rowdy convoy, travellers on the road were obliged to stop and people all along the wayside came out of their homes to watch our convoy. Our group is past master at attracting and collecting crowds to look at Auntie Suu.

When we entered Sagaing, another cause for worry came into my mind yet again in case somebody should throw stones at us because our people were making a nuisance of themselves. At Sagaing we took a short rest at the Sagaing Division NLD Office at Ywahtaung Ward, Nansu Quarter. Auntie Suu did not get off the car.



Local people feel much uncomfortable on the road blocked by cars and crowds during the trip of Daw Suu Kyi. (at the entrance to Sagaing Bridge on 8-5-2003)

A car broke down, soon after we left Sagaing. It was none other than the car that Auntie Suu was in. Fortunately, it was just a minor engine breakdown. If it had been a tyre puncture then all kinds of accusations would have been made; such as that a nail had been purposely planted in the middle of the road to cause the mishap. The engine restarted after 15 minutes of minor repairs.

We passed through many villages along the road and reached Shwebo before noon. There was a short stopover at the house of an NLD member, U San Pe of No 10 Ward, Htu-htaung-ye Ward. Many people came out to watch us. Before very long a commotion broke out.

So, what had happened and who was involved? When we looked onto the matter, we came to know that the trouble started when two of our group, Khin Oo a member of our convoy and Hla Oo of Mandalay Division, had threatened a person who was taking a video film of Auntie Suu and

seized his video camera. What had prompted them to confiscate the camera? After all he was just videotaping our leader and he should have helped him by clearing people blocking the view.

Not long after, a township level official came to us and explained the matter. The cameraman was shooting the video film to be kept as a record at the Township Multi-Party Democracy General Election Commission Office. So, the video camera was handed back to the official. To put it in football jargon, it seems that Khin Oo and Hla Oo were off-side.

While in Shwebo, Auntie Suu gave a speech to the crowd, which had gathered to see us. One of the things she said was, "We will go on striving until at some time or other the people appeal to us to save them." Just then, an old lady wearing a turban stood up to exclaim, "Oh really!.. You have the nerve to say such a

thing! Oh! ... people do something please." In a large audience there are bound to be all kinds of people with different views.

We continued our journey after the speeches had been made. We left Shwebo at about 1 pm and arrived at KhinU just before the clock struck three in the afternoon. We made a short stopover at the house of Township NLD Chairman Dr Win Aung. As usual, there a crowd gathered round to watch us. But the crowd was much less than the one in Shwebo. She made speeches as usual. But I was feeling very unhappy.

Auntie Suu had said in her speeches that during the trip USDA members and government authorities had been taking photos and video films of the group and that this was not a good sign. She also told the crowd that she had heard that the local authorities and the USDA were intimidating NLD supporters and to please inform her if there should be any such attempts to (See page 9)



Daw Suu Kyi had loudly cried "People are to abide by discipline". But had not she seen reckless driving and riotous acts of local NLD members who broke road and traffic rules during her trip? (She was flanked by bikes during the trip from Sagaing Bridge to Shwebo on 8-5-2003)

on the way. I was saying silent prayers as we travelled, unknown to the others. We travelled the whole day, made stopovers at some places, and arrived at Mandalay after midnight. I breathed a sigh of relief.

May 7.

We were in Mandalay the whole day. Auntie Suu met with division organizers — U Bo Zan, U Ba Ba, U Thein Zan and U Tun Myaing — and discussed matters pertaining to the raising of party signboards and youth organizations during the trip to Kachin State. I had no knowledge of later news and developments, but after the discussions a member of the Mandalay Division NLD asked me a question. He wanted to

question is — Can a constitution of state, which is as precious as life itself be drawn up by just two or three people? However, since this draft Constitution had been drawn up and our party leaders had accepted it, it obviously shows that they are not genuinely concerned in the future of the country, nor sincere in carrying out future national political tasks. And we had placed so much hope in them.

Do we as party members, have no right to participate in discussions on such a vital matter? In my heart, there is so much I wish to say concerning this issue. Foremost is the question why persons like me, (or many others like me) are still clinging on to the NLD party with forlorn hope

remark to the person next to her; "Oh! How childish of Daw Suu Kyi? See, she gave the old lady some chocolates. Some health tonic or vitamins would have been more appropriate. How much would it have cost her? It's really ridiculous!" I do not know whether she was a party member or a local, but for me her words were worthy of note.

May 8.

We now embarked on the next stage of our journey to Sagaing Division and Kachin State from Mandalay. Before starting out however, ten Buddhist monks were invited to the Mandalay Division Office to recite parittas as protection against all kinds of danger. In addition to the three cars that had travelled from



Daw Suu Kyi had loudly cried "People are to abide by discipline". But had not she seen reckless driving and riotous acts of local NLD members who broke road and traffic rules during her trip? (She was flanked by bikes during the trip from Sagaing Bridge to Shwebo on 8-5-2003)

A new approach towards Burma just might work

David Oldfield

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Since the May 30 incident involving Aung San Suu Kyi and her National League for Democracy (NLD) party, momentum is building for renewed external pressure on Burma's ruling State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) to engage in dialogue with the NLD on political reconciliation.

The United States Senate and House of Representatives are both discussing bills that would tighten sanctions in order to encourage dialogue and a political solution, the EU is discussing similar economic measures, and Asean has broken its longstanding tradition of non-interference, demanding immediate release of Suu Kyi.

The United Nations has been trying to bring the SPDC and the NLD together for discussions, but for years now the two sides have remained at loggerheads. How long this deadlock will continue is anybody's guess, but perhaps it is time for a new approach based on political reality that could bring about sustained dialogue and eventually political reconciliation. What is the political reality in Burma? The answer is that the SPDC controls the government and all its institutions throughout most of the country, with the exceptions being a few remote areas that are difficult to access because of geography or because they are the strongholds of the few remaining insurgents. It may be true that the NLD won the elections in an overwhelming manner in 1990. The fact that the SPDC runs the country and that the military has ruled in Burma since 1962 cannot be ignored no matter what one's view is on the legitimacy of the current regime.

Why is a reconciliation approach based on political reality necessary? The current approaches to stimulate dialogue by the NLD, UN, and others start with the proposition that the NLD, as the standard-bearer for Western style democracy, has a given right to insist that its conditions for dialogue and eventual political reconciliation must be accepted by the SPDC, despite the latter having effective authority in the country. Implicitly, such an approach suggests that the government must be the one to concede ground to the NLD, but this defies political reality. The government holds all the cards whether the NLD, the UN, the US, and the EU like it or not. The current approach ignores the obvious interests and concerns of the military, and it is clearly not having any effect in moving the dialogue process forward. The SPDC is prepared to hold out on dialogue as long as the NLD's conditions for political reconciliation place the government in a disadvantageous position. Any rational person in such a situation as the SPDC, whether political or business, would do the same. One does not offer to negotiate from a weakened position when one has the upper hand.

What no one appears willing to consider is asking Aung San Suu Kyi and the NLD to make concessions on some of their conditions for dialogue and reconciliation, and this represents the foundation of an alternative approach for resuming dialogue.

The NLD has been equally stubborn in its demands and conditions for dialogue and political reconciliation. There are some rank-and-file NLD supporters in Burma who have become frustrated with Suu Kyi's unwillingness to compromise with the SPDC. They claim that while they support her, she is unbending and being unrealistic in her demands for political reconciliation.

Recall that a few years ago a faction emerged within the NLD that favoured conceding some of the party's demands in order to make progress in the dialogue with the SPDC. However, the NLD leaders alleged that these party supporters were either coerced or bought off by the government to undermine party unity. Does the current firm stance by the NLD truly represent the party supporters living throughout the country, or are some supporters more realistic and willing to concede ground to move the country forward?

Among the demands of the NLD leadership and the foreign governments who offer moral support is that the election results of 1990 must be recognised by the SPDC. The NLD's refusal to compromise on this point is clearly one of the major sticking points that prevents the two sides from having fruitful dialogue on a new course for Burma. It is naive to think that the SPDC is going to honour those elections results, and as long as the NLD insists on this among its demands, constructive dialogue is unlikely to occur. Other demands by NLD, such as the release of political prisoners and the promulgation of a constitution, pose less of a challenge in reaching an agreement with the military government. Do the 1990 elections still reflect the Burmese people's views? Perhaps, but a lot has changed since then, and the 13-year old election results might not be an accurate representation of people in 2003. For instance, most of the minority groups that were fighting the military have signed peace agreements with the government since the elections were held.

In short, a new approach to dialogue would entail two main elements.

First, the NLD, UN, and governments around the world must recognise the reality of the military's governing authority and its concerns about a future Burma instead of ignoring them. They do not have to agree with the military's concerns, but to ignore them and continue pressing the SPDC into accepting a weakened bargaining position is surely the road to nowhere in the dialogue

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OPINION

A new approach towards Burma just might work

Aung San Suu Kyi and the NLD should make concessions on some of their conditions for dialogue with the military

David Oldfield

Since the May 30 incident involving Aung San Suu Kyi and her National League for Democracy (NLD) party, momentum is building for renewed external pressure on Burma's ruling State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) to engage in dialogue with the NLD on political reconciliation. The United States Senate and House of Representatives are both discussing bills that would tighten sanctions in order to encourage dialogue and a political solution, the EU is discussing similar economic measures, and Asean has broken its longstanding tradition of non-interference, demanding immediate release of Suu Kyi. The United Nations has been trying to bring the SPDC and the NLD together for discussions, but for years now the two sides have remained at loggerheads. How long this deadlock will continue is anybody's guess, but perhaps it is time for a new approach based on political reality that could bring about sustained dialogue and eventually political reconciliation.

Why is a reconciliation approach based on political reality necessary? The current approaches to stimulate dialogue by the NLD, UN, and others start with the proposition that the NLD, as the standard-bearer for Western style democracy, has a given right to insist that its conditions for dialogue and eventual political reconciliation must be accepted by the SPDC, despite the latter having effective authority in the country. Implicitly, such an approach suggests that the government must be the one to concede ground to the NLD, but this defies political reality. The government holds all the cards whether the NLD, the UN, the US, and the EU like it or not. The current approach ignores the obvious interests and concerns of the military, and it is clearly not having any effect in moving the dialogue process forward. The SPDC is prepared to hold out on dialogue as long as the NLD's conditions for political reconciliation place the government in a disadvantageous position. Any rational person in such a situation as the SPDC, whether political or business, would do the same. One does not offer to negotiate from a weakened position when one has the upper hand.

process. The second element entails having the NLD make concessions on some of its demands to resume the dialogue and reconciliation process. This is necessary because the NLD does not have any leverage over the SPDC. The NLD's "all or nothing" stance defies what is likely necessary in Burma, and that is some kind of a transition period between the current political regime and a full democracy. The NLD softening its position could be the key to convincing the military that an agreeable future for Burma can be found, and it would perhaps stimulate the military to make some of its own concessions to alleviate the economic and political pressure from Western governments.

One suggestion is to agree that the results of the 1990 elections are out of date and instead try to resume meaningful discussions with the SPDC about how and when new elections can occur. Certainly some people will report that the military might ignore the results of any new elections, but how would that be any different or worse than the current political situation in the country? If successful elections are held in the future, the SPDC and NLD will have earned their places in paving the way for a new golden era in Burma. Both sides save face.

Will this alternative approach to initiating dialogue and political reconciliation break the impasse between the SPDC and the NLD? There is no guarantee, but in politics nothing is guaranteed. What we do know is that there are millions of people living in extreme poverty in Burma who cannot wait much longer for the two sides to make progress.

David Oldfield, PhD, is executive vice president of Brooker Policy Research Co, Ltd.

Daw Suu Kyi...

(from page 8)

But the words uttered from her mouth were so different! There is a saying, which goes, "Too much knowledge makes a person swagger". I think everybody knows the proverb. Is Auntie Suu under the illusion that there is no one in the country as courageous, as knowledgeable and as accomplished as she is and that therefore, the people will unthinkingly accept and believe everything that she says?

(To be continued)

By that time and at that point of the tour, my only wish was that if possible, Auntie Suu would not speak another word. I realized that "the more said the more blunders there would be." In reality, Auntie Suu has the capacity and aptitude to impart knowledge and education to the people.



Secretary-1 General Khin Nyunt inspects progress in construction of Traditional Medicine University (Mandalay) on 6 July. —MNA



Secretary-1 General Khin Nyunt inspects construction works of MICT Park (Mandalay) at Yadanabon Market in Mandalay—MNA

Secretary-1 inspects development undertakings in Mandalay

YANGON, 7 July—Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council General Khin Nyunt and party, accompanied by Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint, arrived at the construction project site of MICT Park (Mandalay) on the third floor of Yadanabon Market in Mandalay at 5 pm yesterday.

They were welcomed there by members of the Board of Directors of MICT Park (Mandalay) and officials.

First, the Secretary-1 and party inspected the seminar hall, the meeting hall of MICT Park (Mandalay) and progress in construction of the offices of IT companies.

At the briefing hall, Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint reported on the salient points of MICT Park (Mandalay) project and arrangements being made for the opening of the facility.

Next, Chairman of the Board of Directors Major

Than Aung reported on work being carried out for opening of MICT Park (Mandalay), arrangements for IT facilities, work progress and placement for the companies.

Afterwards, Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw gave a supplementary report.

Next, Secretary-1 General Khin Nyunt gave instructions on timely completion of the project.

Next, Secretary-1 and party inspected arrangements being made for opening of Billiards and Snooker

Hall by Relax Co on the second floor of the market, arrangements being made for opening of the restaurants and beauty parlours.

Deputy Managing Director of Relax Co U Nyi Nyi Htwe conducted the Secretary-1 and party round the place.

Next, the Secretary-1 and party proceeded to the construction site of Traditional Medicines University (Mandalay) where they were welcomed by Director-General of Traditional Medicines Department Dr Thein Swe, Rector of the university Dr Mya Moe and

officials. At the briefing hall, Managing Director of ACE Construction Group U Tint Hsan reported on progress in construction of the main hall, lecture hall-1 and lecture hall-2, electricity and water supply, archways and fencing, paving of the road and construction of car parkings and greening work to the Secretary-1 who gave necessary instructions.

After inspecting the construction work, the Secretary-1 and party arrived at the Nanmyo Guest House.

MNA

Development of motherland and perpetuation...

(from page 1)

The national development, the strong national economic life and higher living standard of the people will lead to restoring the long-lasting peace and stability for the people.

Nowadays, own national strength needed to be built in accord with own national objective and efforts will have to be exerted for the emergence of highly

qualified human resources who will play the leading role in nation-building endeavours.

The teachers who nurture the youths that will shape the future need to strive for cementing the national strength and the national force while nurturing the students in accord with the national requirements.

Likewise, the teachers are to nurture the students to be imbued with the national spirit and outstanding efficiency for constant emergence of highly qualified human resources capable of serving the interests of the nation and the people at present and in the long term.

In conclusion, the Secretary-1 urged the teachers to strive together with the entire national people in building the nation into a modern and developed one through the education sector, to make efforts to equip the students with patriotic spirit, nationalism, Union Spirit in accord with the fine traditions of Myanmar which have national pres-

tige and integrity through the education sector and to strive with the people in guarding against the danger of destructive elements who are jeopardizing peace and stability of the State, national development and perpetuation of the Union.

Next, the ceremony to present prizes and completion certificates to the trainees continued.

The Secretary-1 presented outstanding trainee awards to junior assistant teacher U Soe Lin of No 1 Basic Education Middle School in Hsarsi, Magway Division and JAT Daw San Yu Maw of TadaU Township BEHS in Mandalay Division; diligence awards to JAT U Tin Win of No 3 BEMS in Pakokku, Magway Division, JAT Daw Nyunt Shwe of No 11 BEHS in Aungmyethazan Township, Mandalay Division and JAT Daw Than Htay of Hsonedwin BEMS in Mahlaing Township, Mandalay Division; and model hostel awards and course completion certificates to the respective

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

Efficient use of electricity

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

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

Efficient use of fuel

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

Do not be frightened whenever intimidated.



Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi attends 21st ASEAN Energy Ministers' Meeting.—ENERGY

Minister for Energy attends AEMM

YANGON, 7 July — The Myanmar delegation led by Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi attended the 21st ASEAN Energy Ministers Meeting (AEMM) held on 3 July in Langkawi, Malaysia, and discussed promotion of cooperation in the energy sectors among the ASEAN member countries, production and consumption of crude oil and future plans.

The minister also met with the president of Petronas Sdn Bhd, Malaysia, and discussed work plans of Petronas in Myanmar. He met with staff of Myanmar Embassy and briefed them on favourable political and economic situation in Myanmar.

The minister and party arrived back here yesterday.

MNA

trainees. Afterwards, the trainees and instructors donated K 50,000 to the Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee. The Secretary-1

presented certificates of honour to the trainees. The Secretary-1 cordially greeted the trainees and left there.

MNA



Chief Justice U Aung Toe being welcomed at the reception to mark the birthday of King of Nepal by Charge d'Affaires of Nepalese Embassy Mr Harishchandra Ghimire on Monday.—MNA

Construction of hospitals, ...

(from page 16)

At 10.15 am, Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Soe Win and party left Hinthada for Patheingyi by car. At the entrance to Kyonpyaw, Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann and party cordially met with the welcoming party made up of local authorities, departmental officials, NGOs, officials.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than also met with officers, other ranks and their families at the local battalion.

Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Soe Win, and party arrived at Patheingyi in the afternoon, and inspected the construction site of Government technological college.

At the briefing hall, Principal of Patheingyi Government Technological College Daw Yi Yi Myint reported on the birth of the college and the population of students. Next, Managing Director of Arkar Oo Co Ltd U Myo Aung reported on progress in the construction of the college. In response to the reports, Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann gave instructions and inspected the construction site.

At 10 am yesterday morning, Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann and party attended a rice-offering ceremony at the Sasana Beikmandawgyi in Patheingyi. Eighteen member Sayadaws from Pariyatti Schools were also present on the occasion.

Ayeyawady Division Sangha Nayaka Committee Weluwin Monastery Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Nagavamsa invested the congregation with the Five Precepts.

Next, Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Soe Win, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, and party offered rice and provisions to at the Sayadaws. Kontha Monastery Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Vilasa delivered a sermon.

Later, Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann and party proceeded to the Patheingyi General Hospital, where they were welcomed by Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo, Head of Ayeyawady Division Health Department Dr Than Aung, Medical Super-

intendent Dr Khin Maung Tin, specialists, doctors and nurses. Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann and party inspected the hospital buildings and patient wards, and comforted the patients receiving medical treatment at the hospital.

At the briefing hall of the Ngawun bridge (Patheingyi) construction project, Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun reported to Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann and party that survey works were done at the most suitable places for the construction of the bridge; and that the place between Mayanchaung village and Kanni village was the best for the construction of the bridge.

Deputy Minister for Construction Brig-Gen Myint Thein reported on the plan to build Ngawun River Bridge (Patheingyi) and construction of approach roads.

Deputy Minister for Transport U Pe Than reported on depth and rising tide and ebb of Ngawun River and condition of the bank between Mayangyaung Village and Kanni Village.

Next, Commander Maj-Gen Htay Oo reported that on completion of Ngawun River Bridge (Patheingyi), the western regions of Ngawun River as well as Ngaputaw and Thabaung Townships and Gwa Township in Rakhine State will achieve progress. Visits of travellers to Ngwe Hsaung and Chaungtha Beach Resorts easily can contribute much towards regional development. Minister for Forestry U Aung Phone reported on arrangements for removal of the buildings of Myanma Timber Enterprise at the site of Ngawun River Bridge (Patheingyi). Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann gave necessary instructions and inspected the site for construction of the bridge.

On completion, living standard of over 300,000 local people who reside in 488 villages of 93 village-tracts of Patheingyi, Yekyi, Thabaung and Ngaputaw townships in western region of Ngawun River will develop.

The local people can send fisheries, rice and paddy, dried coconut and forest products to the market easily. They can go to western

Patheingyi region from Mawtinsun through Thabaung-Kyangan Road, Thandwe-Gwa-Yenantha-Thabaung Road, Patheingyi-Yangon Road and Patheingyi-Monywa Road. In addition, hotels and recreation business at Ngwe Hsaung and Chaungtha Beach Resorts will develop remarkably.

Next, Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann, the Secretary-2 and party inspected fish breeding tasks with the use of cage system being undertaken by Yuzana Co Ltd in Ngawun River. Chairman of Yuzana Co U Htay Myint reported on breeding of fish with cage system. Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann and party inspected breeding of river catfish in the cages and feeding tasks and sample fingerlings. Yuzana Co Ltd is gaining success in breeding of river catfish with the use of cage system and carrying out the breeding tasks to meet the target of 5,000 tons of river catfish in 2003-2004. They inspected machines and equipment to be used at 750-ton capacity Cold Storage to be opened soon and the Fish Feedstuff Factory which can produce 10 tons of feedstuff an hour, fish feedstuff and packaging of fish and prawn.

Yuzana Co Chairman U Htay Myint reported on construction works, agriculture and livestock breeding tasks, the cold storage factories and hotels of the company, earning of income from fish and prawn production and work experiences. Minister for

Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Thein gave a supplementary report. Chief of Staff (Navy) Rear-Admiral Soe Thein and officials reported on construction of cages for breeding fish. Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Soe Win and Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than gave supplementary reports. Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann said he was satisfied with fish breeding tasks with cage system. Next, they signed in the visitors' book of Yuzana Co Ltd. In the afternoon, Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann met officers, other ranks and families at the local battalion in Patheingyi. At the same time, the Secretary-2 and party went to Patheingyi University where they were welcomed by Deputy Minister for Education U Myo Nyunt, the rector, the pro-rector and professors.

At Kanthaya Hall, Deputy Minister U Myo Nyunt reported on arrangements being made for the national education promotion programme in the higher education sector. Rector U Cho reported on Patheingyi University that Patheingyi University was upgraded from an intermediate college. As the Patheingyi Intermediate College was opened on 7 July 1958, the university is 45 old years, nearly golden jubilee anniversary. He also reported on the area of the university, academic matters, strength of staff and number of students, research works, arrangements for conducting research works in cooperation with interna-

tional universities and institutions, construction works at the university and all-round development movements of students. At that time, Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann and party arrived at the briefing hall. Next, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Soe Win delivered an address. He said that he was glad to see teachers who are turning out new generation of the State. As Senior General Than Shwe

laid down the education promotion programmes for development of human resource, the teachers are to collectively participate in implementing it.

Next, Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann, the Secretary-2 and party cordially conversed with faculty members of the university. Later, they left Patheingyi at 4.30 pm and arrived back here at 7.30 pm.

MNA

Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann and Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Soe Win inspect 750-ton capacity Cold Storage of Yuzana Co Ltd.—MNA



Ministry of Mines offers Waso robes

YANGON, 7 July — The 12th Waso robes offering ceremony of the Ministry of Mines was held this morning at Thiriyadana Hall of the Ministry.

At the ceremony, Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint and wife, Deputy Minister U Myint Thein and wife and officials offered Waso robes and presented offertories to the monks of Maha

Theikpan Pariyatti Monastery, First Shwekyin Monastery and Dhamma Maidini Monastery. They also donated K 100,000 each to the monasteries.

Afterwards, Patron Sayadaw of Maha Theikpan Pariyatti Monastery Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Siri Dhamma delivered a sermon and the congregation shared merits gained.

MNA

Do not be frightened whenever intimidated

SARS prevention

- * There is no outbreak of SARS in Myanmar.
- * Preventive measures are being taken against the spread of SARS from other countries.
- * The people are urged to participate in the project.



The University of Traditional Medicine (Mandalay) Contraction Project.—MNA

**DON'T
SMOKE**

SMOKE

မညာရေးနှင့် ခေတ်မီပွဲများတိုးတက်လာ နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

Secretary-1 presents offertories at...

(from page 16)

The Mingun Sayadaw built the Kyaungtaik with the donations of the wellwishers and that of the government.

The Sayadaw built the Kyaungtaik with the objectives of providing four prerequisites to the members of the Sangha who learned Pitaka literature and giving lectures on Pitaka. Therefore learners study the Pitaka without any worry about the prerequisites and the Kyaungtaik produces Tipitakadhara title recipients yearly.

Mingun Dhamma Nada Sayadaw Bhaddanta Okkanthabhivamsa, Bhama Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Dr Bhaddanta Kumarabhivamsa in Mandalay, Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Kelasabhivamsa of Myataungtaik Thamada Sarchakyaung in Mandalay and Bhaddanta Vicittabhivamsa of Masoyein Taik in Mandalay and Bhaddanta Neyadhammabhivamsa also gave lectures.

The Secretary-1 said the Tipitaka Nikaya Kyaungtaik produced 546 Tipitakadhara and Pitaka title recipients. He pointed out some of significant measures for the Sasana undertaken by Mingun Sayadaw — including participation in the sixth Sangha Synod, compiling treatises on Buddhism, establishing Tipitaka Nikaya Kyaungtaik in Mingun Hill, giving lectures on Abhidhamma and Atthakatha, delivering sermons in different parts of the country, establishing the State Pariyatti Sasana Universities in Yangon and Mandalay, opening abbot training schools in states and divisions and establishing Jivatadana Sasana Special Hospital in Mandalay.

Moreover, he said, the Tipitaka Nikaya Missionary Committee carried out the following tasks — offering Shwethingan at the pagodas, construction of three-storey building in

Tipitaka Kyaungtaik in commemoration of golden and silver jubilees, making arrangements for construction of nine-story building in Yangon Tipitaka Kyaungtaik, tarring of nine-mile Sagaing-Mingun road and 2-mile Mingundhammanada road and publishing calendar and photos. In conclusion, the Secretary-1 wished the efforts and missionary works of the committee and Sangha organizations at different levels success.

Next, the Secretary-1 and party presented offertories to members of the Sangha.

Next, the cash donation ceremony followed.

Secretary-1 General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and family donated K 260,000 for members of the Sangha who passed the examinations.

Chairman of Tipitaka Nikaya Missionary Upatha Committee U Aye Pe (Retd Ambassador) accepted the donations.

Next, the Secretary-1 General Khin Nyunt, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing accepted K 56,510,000 including K 15 million each by Tipitaka Nikaya Missionary Upatha Committee led by Thiha Thudhama Manijotadhaja Hsinmin U Tin Shwe and TNMUC (Mandalay) led by U Thu Taw K1 million by Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council and K 2 million by residents of Maubin led by Daw Khin Mar Kyu, Daw Pyon May, Daw Phaw and Daw Hton.

Next, Patron of Tipitaka Nikaya Management Committee Pro-rector of International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University Sayadaw Vatansaka Sirawmani Agga Maha Pandita Dr Bhaddanta Kumarabhivamsa delivered a sermon and the Secretary-1 and party shared merits gained.

The ceremony ended with the three-time recitation of *Buddha Sasanam Ciram Tittathu*.—MNA



Secretary-1 General Khin Nyunt plants a Eugenia tree on Momeik Hill on 6-7-2003.—MNA

Do not be softened whenever appeased

Eighth 47-member Plenary Meeting concludes

YANGON, 7 July — The second-day session of the Eighth 47-member Plenary Meeting of the Fifth State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee continued today at Wizaya Mingala Dhammathabin on Kaba Aye Hill, here this morning.

Present on the occasion were member Sayadaws of the SSMNC, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, Deputy Director-General of

the Religious Affairs Department U Htin Myo, directors, and officials.

Religious matters related to Vinicchaya, education, and general affairs were put into discussions at the meeting.

U Min Din-Daw Win Win Aye (Yadana Win warehouse) and U Zaw Min Oo-Daw Win Win Htay (Aung Yadana Win warehouse) and families offered 'soon' to the Sayadaws.

MNA

No 1 Automobile Factory (Yangon) inspected

YANGON, 7 July — Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin, accompanied by Deputy Ministers Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and Lt-Col Khin Maung Kyaw and officials, went to the No 1 Automobile Factory (Yangon) operated by the Myanma Automobile and Diesel Engine Industries in Mayangon Township here this afternoon.

At the factory, the managing director U Soe Thein of the MADEI and General Manager of the factory U Hlaing Thein reported to the minister on the production of vehicles. After hearing reports, the minister gave instructions on innovative measures, quality products, work-site safety, and systematic use of electricity and fuel oil. — MNA

Paper-reading session on culture to be held

YANGON, 7 July — A paper-reading session on culture, organized by the Ministry of Culture will be held at the multi-purpose hall of the National Museum on Pyay Road here, on 11, 12 and 14 July.

On the occasion, altogether 12 papers will be submitted by resource persons from culture, literature and education fields. Any one may attend the paper-reading session.

MNA



Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects construction of Ayeyawady River Bridge (Yadanabon).—MNA

37.16 kilos of heroin seized in Muse

YANGON, 7 July — A combined team comprising members of the local intelligence unit and Myanmar Police Force, after getting information that narcotic drugs would be brought to the house of Kyan Haung Gyaung (a) Shaik Haw, son of U Kyan Yin Chwin, of No 1/233 in Zay Ward in Muse, awaited near the house. In the meantime, a Mark II with licence plates KaKa/8211 came to the house and then suddenly

drove away. So, the authorities chased the car and managed to seize it near Yahtaik Co beside Pyidaungsu road in Muse. They then arrested driver Kyan Hong Jong (a) Shaik Haw together with 37.16 kilos of heroin.

In connection with the case the police station concerned is taking action against him under Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

MNA



Kyan Hong Jong (a) Shaik Haw seized with 37.16 kilos of heroin in Muse on 26-6-2003.—MNA

Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects bridge construction tasks in Mandalay, Sagaing Divisions

YANGON, 7 July — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, inspected construction of Ayeyawady River Bridge (Yadanabon) to link Mandalay and Sagaing on 6 July morning.

Accompanied by Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint, Mandalay Mayor Brig-Gen Yan Thein and officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, Lt-Gen Ye Myint heard reports on driving of bore piles, monthly arrival of construction materials and requirement by engineers. Lt-Gen Ye Myint fulfilled the requirements.

Next, they inspected completion of driving bore piles.

On the bank of Sagaing, they were welcomed by Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing, Brig-Gen Tin Tun Aung of Sagaing Station and officials. Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspected construction of the approach road. Deputy Superintending Engineer U Hsan Win conducted them round the site. Next, Deputy Superintending Engineer U Hsan Win reported on construction of the approach road, driving of bore piles and arrival of construction materials. The commander gave a supplementary report. Lt-Gen Ye Myint attended to their needs.

On arrival at Panhsay Creek Bridge in TadaU Township, Deputy Superintending Engineer U Hsan Win reported on progress of works. Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspected construction site of the bridge.

Panhsay Bridge, a six-lane concrete bridge, is located on the bypass of Paleik and TadaU. At present, concrete floor has been placed on three lane site.

MNA

SPORTS

Swiss celebrate Federer's win

ZURICH, 7 July—Switzerland's sports minister along with the man who taught Roger Federer to play led his compatriots' tributes to the new Wimbledon champion after he became the first Swiss man to win a Grand Slam singles title.

Federer overpowered Australian Mark Philippoussis 7-6, 6-2, 7-6 in the final on Sunday, six years after his compatriot Martina Hingis clinched the women's crown.

Marc Rosset won the Olympic title in 1992 but Federer's success, the first in any Grand Slam event for a Swiss man, was celebrated as a far greater achievement.

Friends and fans cheered the win at the Old Boys' Tennis Club in Federer's hometown of Basel in northern Switzerland, where the champagne flowed at the end of the match and the bar announced beers on the house for everyone.

"Roger showed some tears at the prize ceremony and I must say that I have tears too," Seppli Kacovsky, Federer's first coach, told Swiss television.

"I think it's fantastic not just for Roger but for the Old Boys' Club and tennis as a

whole in Switzerland," he added, brandishing a bottle of champagne.

"This is unique what he has done. I thought he could win it from the quarterfinals and I am so pleased," he said.

Swiss Sports Minister Samuel Schmid, who travelled to Wimbledon for the show-down, compared Federer's victory to Swiss yacht Alinghi's surprise win in the America's Cup in March.

"After this superb result in tennis, this country has every right to be proud of these competitors who have positioned themselves in a global elite and won," Schmid said.

Niklaus von Vary, president of the Old Boys' club where Federer has been a member since childhood, said the club wanted to build a new court and name it after the 21-year-old, who they made their youngest-ever honorary member in 2001.—MNA/Reuters

Federer conquers mount Philippoussis

LONDON, 7 July — Roger Federer mesmerized man mountain Mark Philippoussis on Sunday to win his maiden Grand Slam crown and become the first Swiss men's singles champion in Wimbledon's 126-year history.

The magical 7-6, 6-2, 7-6 Centre Court performance ripped up the 21-year-old's tag of Grand Slam underachiever once and for all.

"It's just incredible... I don't know how this is possible," the fourth seed said, his voice breaking with emotion on the world's most famous tennis court.

"A lot of people have come from Basel, from home, for this. It is so nice to share this moment, thanks to everybody," he added before bursting into tears.

For Philippoussis the defeat was a painful one, but this was a tournament which has breathed new life into a career pockmarked by injury.

After three separate surgeries on his knee, the Australian had been told he may never play at the top level again.

"It's been a long trip back, but this is only the beginning," Philippoussis said. "I will definitely be back."

Federer's victory was so complete it immediately drew comparisons with seven-times champion's Pete Sampras' dominance of the All England Club turf.

It was Federer who ended Sampras' 31-match winning streak here in 2001 with a dramatic five-set win on Centre Court.

That match marked the end of the Sampras era and was the last time Federer reached a Grand Slam quarterfinal — his best performance before this week.

Sunday's final, however, may have marked the beginning of a Federer era at Wimbledon.

Champion in Halle before the Championships began, he is unbeaten on grass this year. His straight-sets defeat of bookmakers' favourite Andy Roddick in the semifinal was a thing of beauty.

"I'm so happy with the way I played. It was the best two matches maybe of my career," he said, wiping tears from his eyes.

Standing 6 feet 4 inches and with his white shirt stretched across his barrel-chest, Philippoussis had cut an imposing figure from the start.

He began in a powerful fashion designed to disquiet the softly-spoken Swiss.

But Federer was uncowed by the barrage of power. With a service action as smooth as any Swiss mechanism, he threw himself forward behind every delivery, angling volleys beyond his opponent's reach.

With tension mounting as the first set inched towards a tiebreak, a mobile phone in the stands broke the hushed atmosphere. Its ring tone — the morse code distress call of SOS — was apt given Philippoussis' bludgeoning serves.

In the event, though, it was the Australian who needed rescuing when his serve misfired in the 10th point of the tiebreak. Two points later, Federer clinched the opener when the Australian thumped a return wide and long after 43 minutes.—MNA/Reuters



Mexico's Irvin Rubirosa (L) and El Salvador's Gilberto Murgas chase the ball in the second half of their soccer friendly at the Home Depot Center in Carson, California, on 6 July, 2003. El Salvador won 2-1.—INTERNET

Woods coasts to five-shot win at Western Open

LEMONT (Illinois), 7 July—Tiger Woods recorded his fourth victory in 10 US starts this year, firing a three-under-par 69 to cruise to a five-stroke win at the 100th Western Open on Sunday.

The world number one finished 21-under on 267 to tie the 72-hole scoring record for the tournament. US PGA champion Rich Beem (67) was second on 272.

US Open winner Jim Furyk (65), US Masters champion Mike Weir of Canada (68) and Jerry Kelly (68) were joint third on 274. Australian Robert Allenby and Cliff Kresge shared sixth spot on 275, 13 under.

Woods began the round with a six-stroke lead after setting the 54-hole tournament scoring record of 198, 18 under.

He opened with birdies on the first two holes and picked up another shot at the 10th to surge 10 strokes clear.

But bogeys at the 14th and 18th, coupled with Beem playing holes 10 to 14 in five-under, reduced the eventual winning margin.

Woods won for the 38th time on the PGA Tour and it was the third Western Open title of his career. It also marked the fifth consecutive year he has won at least four times in one season. — MNA/Reuters

Kenya beat Cape Verde to qualify for Cup finals

JOHANNESBURG, 7 July—Teenage striker Dennis Oliech handed Kenya their first appearance in the African Nations Cup finals for 12 years when he scored to give his side a 1-0 win over Cape Verde on Saturday. Second-half substitute Oliech scored six minutes from time to make sure of Kenya's top place in Group Five to qualify for next January's bi-annual tournament in Tunisia.

"I knew the match would be tough but I am happy that we pulled through," said Kenya coach Jacob Mulee.

The Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt and Mali also booked their places in the 16-team tournament, to bring the list of qualifiers to nine.

The other seven places will be decided on Sunday.

Mali edged out Zimbabwe on goal difference in Group Six after both sides won their last matches by 2-0 score lines.

Striker Peter Ndlovu, of English First Division side Sheffield United, gave Zimbabwe a dream start in Harare against Eritrea with two goals in the first 20 minutes but his side were unable to add to the score line.

With 13 points, they can

still qualify as the best placed runners-up but must await the outcome of the Group Seven match in Libreville on Sunday, where Gabon host Sierra Leone.

Mali had to wait until the second half to overcome the ever-improving Sey-

chelles with goals from Sammy Traore and Greek-based midfielder Bassala Toure.

The Democratic Republic of Congo, with Newcastle United striker Tresor Lomana Lua Lua back in the side after suspension,

finished top of Group Nine after a goalless draw with Gaborone in Botswana.

Swaziland could have caught them but needed to win in Tripoli against Libya. Instead they were handed a 6-2 thrashing.

MNA/Reuters

Lunke chasing maiden tour win at US Women's Open

PORTLAND (Oregon), 7 July—American Hilary Lunke, who has never finished higher than 15th in two years as a professional, took a one-shot lead after the third round of the 3.1 million US dollars US Women's Open at Pumpkin Ridge on Saturday.

The 24-year-old fired a three-under 68 for a total of 208, five below par. Fellow countrywoman Angela Stanford, 25, who won her first LPGA title in Atlantic City last week, was in second place after birdying the last to record a 69.

World number one Annika Sorenstam, the US Open champion in 1995 and 1996,

climbed into a share of third place after posting a best-of-the-day 67.

The Swede, who won her fifth major last month (the LPGA Championship), was on 211 along with South Korean pair Jang Jeong and amateur Aree Song, 17, and Mhairi McKay of Britain.

MNA/Reuters



Kim Clijsters (L) of Belgium and Ai Sugiyama of Japan hold up their ladies doubles trophy at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships.—INTERNET

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Secretary-1 General Khin Nyunt unveils stone inscription to mark golden jubilee of Mingun Tipitakadhara and silver jubilee of Tipitaka Nikaya on Sagaing Hill on 6-7-2003.— MNA

Secretary-1 presents offertories at Tipitaka Nikaya golden and silver jubilee celebrations

YANGON, 7 July — Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council General Khin Nyunt, accompanied by the ministers, the chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board, the deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and departmental heads, arrived at TadaU Airport in Mandalay at 11.15 am yesterday.

They were welcomed there by Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Chairman of the Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint, Minister for Education U Than Aung, Mandalay Mayor Brig-Gen Yan Thein, Deputy Chief Justice of Supreme Court (Mandalay) U Khin Maung Latt and officials.

They proceeded to Momeik Hill in Sagaing Township by helicopter where Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing and officials welcomed them.

Celebration of golden jubilee of Tipitaka Title of Mingun Tipitaka Sayadaw and silver jubilee of Mingun Tipitaka Nikaya Monastery was held at the monastery on Momeik Hill in Sagaing Township yesterday afternoon and the Secretary-1 attended and offered donations. It was also attended by Sayadaws and members of the Sangha, Member

of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing, Chairman of the Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint, Minister for Education U Than Aung, Mandalay Mayor Brig-Gen Yan Thein, Deputy Chief Justice of Supreme Court (Mandalay) U Khin Maung Latt and officials, members of the division/district/township Peace and Development Councils, departmental staff, social organizations, laity and wellwishers.

First, the three-storey new building marking golden and silver jubilee celebration was opened.

Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing and Tipitaka Nikaya board of trustees (Yangon) Chairman U Aye Pe, retired Ambassador, formally opened the building.

Next, General Khin Nyunt unveiled the stone plaque and sprinkled scented water. The Secretary-1 and party planted Eugenia trees to hail the opening of three-storey monastery building. Next, the merit-sharing ceremony of Mingun Tipitakadhara Golden Jubilee Tipitaka Nikaya

Silver Jubilee was held at the Tipitaka Nikaya Monastery. The ceremony was first opened with the three-time recitation of *Namo Tassa*. The Secretary-1 and party and the congregation received the Five Precepts from Tipitaka Golden Jubilee Tipitakadhara Tipitaka Kovida Sayadaw Bhaddanta Silakkhanda Bhivamsa.

Tipitaka Nikaya Missionary Group retired ambassador U Aye Pe supplicated on the festival of Mingun Tipitakadhara Golden Jubilee Tipitaka Nikaya Silver Jubilee.

Afterwards, gold medalist Daw Thanda sang a song "Shweyatu Ngweyatu Puja". Secretary-1 General Khin Nyunt supplicated on religious matters.

He said he was glad to pay respects to the members of the Sangha. Mingun Tipitakadhara Sayadaw Bhaddanta Vicittasrabhivamsa passed the Tipitakadhara selection examination in 1315 ME and obtained Visitha Tipitakadhara Maha Tipitakakovidha Tipitakadhara Dhammabandagarika title for the first time. After the Sayadaw had received the title, he built Tipitakanikaya Kyaungtaik on Momeik hill of Mingun Hall on 9 July 1978. This ceremony was held to mark the 50th anniversary golden jubilee of obtaining the title and it was also the 25th anniversary silver jubilee of the Kyaungtaik.

(See page 13)



Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann and Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Soe Win inspect construction of Government Technological College in Patheingyi.— MNA

Construction of hospitals, universities, colleges inspected in Hinthada and Patheingyi

YANGON, 7 July — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann, Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win and member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, arrived at the 200-bed General Hospital in Hinthada on 4 July.

Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann and party were accompanied by Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Htay Oo, ministers, deputy ministers, the Chief-of-Staff (Navy), senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, and departmental personnel.

At the hospital, Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann and party were conducted round the patient wards and intensive care unit.

Medical Superintendent of the hospital Daw Wint Wint Toe reported to Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann and party on brief history of the hospital, the upgrading of the hospital to the present one, medical treatment, undertakings of the mobile medical treatment team comprising specialists, staff welfare programmes, tasks for keeping the hospital clean,

and the requirements.

Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo gave instructions on rendering warm welcome to patients and systematic use of hospital equipment.

Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann and party also went to the Hinthada University, where they were welcomed by the pro-rector, the professor, the associate professor, registrar, lecturers, and faculty members.

Pro-rector U Soe Myint reported on the location and area of the university, the upgrading of the school to university level, appointment of staff, subjects taught, the strength of students, courses being conducted for the human resource development, arrangements for research works, and the condition of school buildings.

Deputy Minister for Education U Myo Nyunt gave supplementary reports, and then Dr Mya Oo reported on cooperation between the Ministry of Health and the Ministry Education. Commander Maj-Gen Htay Oo also presented supplementary reports.

After hearing reports, Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann gave instructions and attended to the requirements for being able to conduct research works.

On the morning of 5 July, Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann visited the local battalion, where he cordially met with officers, other ranks and their families and gave instructions.

Meanwhile, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Soe Win, together with ministers, deputy ministers and departmental heads, inspected the Government Computer College of Hinthada.

Principal of the college Daw Nyein Nyein Lwin reported on the location and area of the college, the strength of teachers, available courses, and the population of students. After hearing the reports, the Secretary-2 gave instructions.

On arrival at the Governmental Technological College of Hinthada, Principal U Thet Htoo Han reported to the Secretary-2 on the birth of the college, available courses, and the population of students. Director-General of the Myanmar Science and Technology Research Department U Tin Htut made additional reports. In response to the reports, the Secretary-2 gave instructions to officials and watched the students pursuing education with the help of teaching aids and encouraged them.

(See page 11)