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Young Myanmar people enjoying opportunities as never before to uplift their standard of living and quality of life Myanmar considers its youths to be one of the greatest assets in the country

YANGON, 11 July — The ceremony to mark the 2003 World Population Day was held at International Business Centre on Pyay Road at 8 am today, with an address by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council General Khin Nyunt.

Secretary-1 General Khin Nyunt delivered an address. He said:

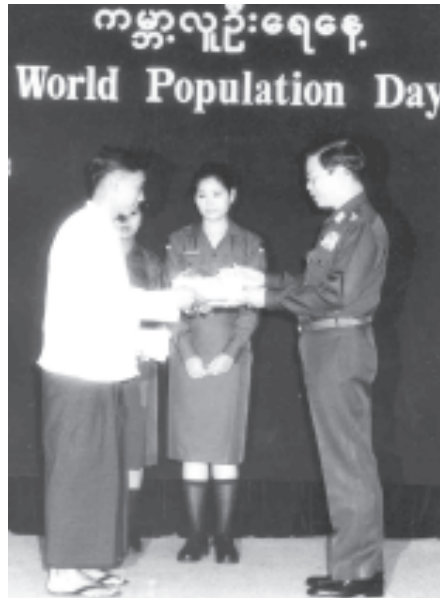
First of all, may I wish you a happy and healthy life filled with auspiciousness. It is a great pleasure for me to have this opportunity to address this auspicious gathering on the occasion of the Commemoration of the World Population Day which falls today. It is the fourteenth successive time Myanmar is observing the World Population Day, underlining our commitment to the goals, objectives and activities of the United Nations. Countries all over the world will also be marking the day with celebrations and special events to raise awareness of the population related issues facing the world today. This year we celebrate the World Population Day with the theme “1 billion adolescents: the right to health, information and services”.

It is most appropriate that we devote our attention to adolescents of the world. The population of the world is currently estimated at 6.3 billion. Out of this population, over 1 billion are young people between the ages of 15 and 24. Most of them live in the developing countries and teenage population is estimated at over 550 million.

Unfortunately, many of the adolescents in the world cannot enjoy the right to good health or get necessary information and services. Most adolescents and youths have limited knowledge about their bodies and are vulnerable to sexually transmitted infections, substance abuse, exploitation and violence.

In the world today, AIDS has become the most devastating disease yet faced by humanity striking on average 14,000 men, women and children daily. More than 60 million people have been infected and AIDS has already killed more than 20 million people. About 50 per cent of the HIV infections occurred among young people between the age of 15 and 24, many of whom suffered the disease before they are 20. But it needs not to be so. The spread of the disease can be reversed by educating, empowering and mobilizing young people. It is therefore incumbent upon the nations of the world to lay down national programmes aimed at preventing infection among young people.

Adolescents in the world, including those in the developed countries, face many economic and social ills. Use of narcotic drugs, committing of crimes, and perpetration of violence by youth gangs are some of the problems facing the nations of the world. Indeed, there had occurred instances in some western nations where teenag-



Secretary-1 General Khin Nyunt presents second prize to Maung Ye Aung Myat of Thingangyun Township in Poster Level-5 Contest.—MNA

ers had shot and killed many of their schoolmates and teachers. As such, the time has come for all nations to take measures individually and collectively to ensure that the youths have a chance for better life.

The current population of Myanmar stands at 52.4 million and the young population between the ages of 15 and 24 is estimated to be about 9 million. With the guidance and support of the Government and the noble teachings of Myanmar's rich culture and traditions, Myanmar adolescents and youths enjoy better quality of life and higher social values than many of their brothers and sisters in other parts of the world.

It is universally accepted that early marriage and early motherhood can severely curtail educational and employment opportunities and are likely to have a long term impact on the lives of young people and their children's quality of life. However, 82 million girls in the developing countries will be marrying before they are 18. Each year, 15 million girls aged 15 to 19 gave birth and 4 million undergo abortions, often in unsafe conditions.

(See page 8)

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

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Secretary-1 General Khin Nyunt addresses the ceremony to mark 2003 World Population Day.—MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 12 July, 2003

For perpetuation of the Union

The Union of Myanmar has a fine historical tradition with high cultural standard. Today, all are striving for the Union to keep abreast with the nations of the world.

At such a time, it is a must for the entire national people to preserve and safeguard the existing peace, tranquillity and prosperity. Efforts must be exerted for national development. To bring about the bright future of the State and its people, it is necessary for the Union to perpetuate as long as the world exists. Therefore, all the entire national people must strive for perpetuation of the Union.

A nation will last long only when it is built in accord with its norms and values based on historical needs. Throughout history, the national people of Myanmar have had the tradition of fighting against the aggressors and expansionists and also had the tradition of safeguarding the independence and sovereignty sacrificing their sweat and blood. Therefore, the Government is laying emphasis on national unity. It has chosen the right course for national development through the strength of national unity.

Nowadays, nation-building endeavours are being carried out with the might of national solidarity. Arrangements are being made in every sector for development of the Union.

Infrastructures such as dams and reservoirs, roads and bridges, and communication and power supply are being built in the interest of the people. In implementing these tasks, the Government had to overcome many difficulties such as capital constraint, machinery and equipment and time limits. Own national force is one of the most important factors in building the nation in line with the national objectives. Apart from the strength of the people, human resource development is essential for nation-building endeavours.

As the Government is making all-out efforts for the Union to become a peaceful, modern and developed one, the entire people of the respective regions of the Union, on their part, are to throw themselves into nation-building tasks.

We would like to urge the entire people to strive for perpetuation and development of the Union while keeping alive and dynamic patriotic spirit, national spirit and Union Spirit.

Glimpses of endeavours for socio-economic development



Newly renovated Yaw Mingyi Monastery in Mandalay. Religious edifices and ancient buildings which reflect the glory, prestige and national character of Myanmar people are renovated to rekindle patriotism and national spirit among the people especially youths. — MNA



The Government is building roads, bridges and dams in accordance with the regional and national requirements to ensure a proportionate development in all the areas of the nation. The Thanlwin River (Mawlamyine) Bridge is being built to help fulfil the transport requirement of Mon State and Tanintharyi Division. — MNA

Gamone Dam in Bago Division

by T.Htut

Nowadays, the Government is building clusters of irrigation facilities and implementing a large number of nation-building tasks in the whole country for emergence

of a modern and developed nation. With the leadership and support of the Government, all the people are harmoniously taking part in the national economic development



The newly opened Gamone Dam in Okpo Township, Bago Division is benefitting 15,000 acres of land. The dam is 4,400 feet long, 116 feet high. It is built on Gamone Creek. — MNA

drive that will help modernize the motherland. At this time, the government is giving priority to building dams, the main infrastructures not only for progress of the national economy but also for improvement of the people's living standard.

The government has built the four-mile long Thaphansek Dam, the longest in Southeast Asia, Zaungtu Hydel Power Dam, and is building other advanced major dams including, Paunglaung and Mone Creek dams with its own capital and technical power. These projects are the pride of the entire national people. One of the significant points is that the government is not only building large dams, but also small ones, which are not profitable in economic terms. In areas which are not possible to build large dams, clusters of small and medium dams are being built.

Especially in Bago Division in which many streams originate from the Bago Yoma mountain range running from north to south in the region, and which face water shortage in summer, many small and medium dams have been built to change and develop the socio-economic life of the farmers. The dams have also prevented floods, enabling farmers to grow crops in low-lying areas during monsoon and supplying water for summer paddy.

Up to now, the government has built 36 dams including Gamone Dam in Bago Division at a cost of altogether over K 20,000 million. The facilities are irrigating over 570,000 acres of crops. Eight more dams namely, Yenwe Dam in Kyauktaga Township; Minhla Dam in Okpo Township; Phu Dam in Pyu Township; Kaboung Dam in Ottwin Township; Phongyi Dam in Ottwin Township; Mokkha Dam in Minhla Township; and Thegon Dam in Thegon Township are under construction.

Bush knew Iraq info was false

WASHINGTON, 11 July — Senior administration officials tell CBS News the President's mistaken claim that Iraq tried to buy uranium from Africa was included in his State of the Union address — despite objections from the CIA.

Before the speech was delivered, the portions dealing with Iraq's weapons of mass destruction were checked with the CIA for accuracy, reports CBS News National Security Correspondent David Martin.

CIA officials warned members of the President's National Security Council staff the intelligence was not good enough to make the flat statement Iraq tried to buy uranium from Africa.

The White House officials responded that a paper issued by the British government contained the unequivocal assertion: "Iraq has... sought significant quantities of uranium from Africa." As long as the statement was attributed to British Intelligence, the White House officials argued, it would be factually accurate. The CIA officials dropped their objections and that's how it was delivered.

"The British government has learned that Saddam Hussein recently sought significant quantities of uranium from Africa," Mr Bush said.

The statement was technically correct, since it accurately reflected the British paper. But the bottom line is the White House knowingly included in a presidential address information its own CIA had explicitly warned might not be true.

Today at a press conference during the President's trip to Africa, Secretary of State Colin Powell portrayed it as an honest mistake.

"There was no effort or attempt on the part of the president or anyone else in the administration to mislead or to deceive the American people," said Powell.

But eight days after the State of the Union, when Powell addressed the UN,

he deliberately left out any reference to Iraqi attempts to buy uranium from Africa.

"I didn't use the uranium at that point because I didn't think that was sufficiently strong as evidence to present before the world," Powell said.

That is exactly what CIA officials told the White House before the State of the Union. The top CIA official, Director George Tenet, was not involved in those discussions and apparently never warned the President he was on thin ice.

Secretary Powell said today he read the State of the Union speech before it was delivered and understood it had been seen and cleared by the intelligence community. But intelligence officials say the director of the CIA never saw the final draft.

Internet

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10-25 attacks a day on US troops in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 12 July — US troops in Iraq face 10 to 25 attacks a day, partly because they are hunting for Baathists, "jihadists" and fighters crossing the border from Syria, General Tommy Franks, who ran the war against Baghdad, said on Thursday.

Franks, who stepped down recently as head of US Central Command and will soon retire, told the House Armed Services Committee that "on a given day, there will be somewhere between 10 and 25 violent incidents" in Iraq where 148,000 US troops are located.

He did not bend to Democratic attempts to label the current fighting conditions as guerrilla warfare, saying those types of operations would be supported by the people but that Iraqis did not support the violence. Also, while US forces were seeing "increasing sophistication," including the use of mortars in attacks, there did not appear to be coordinated efforts under a command, Franks said. "It doesn't fit my own personal definition." — Internet

S Africans demonstrate against Bush's visit

PRETORIA, 11 July — What seemed to be an odd assortment of people joined forces here on Wednesday to express strong opposition to the US Government and President George W Bush's visit to South Africa. The South African Press Association reported that about 1,000 people gathered under the banner of the Anti-War Coalition to march on the US Embassy here around lunch time. Hippies, men and women in traditional Muslim dress, and even some Americans turned up for the event.

Meanwhile, about 1,500 people braved a blustery winter's day in Cape Town on Wednesday to march to Parliament in protest against Bush's visit to South Africa. — MNA/Xinhua

Bush admits Iraq 'security problems'

WASHINGTON, 11 July — US President George W Bush has admitted there is still a security problem in Iraq which means his troops have to "remain tough".

His comments — a day after two US soldiers were killed in separate attacks — were more measured than earlier this month when he seemed to challenge Iraqi militants to "Bring them on".

America's war commander in Iraq, General Tommy Franks, said on Thursday that troops might have to remain on the ground for up to four years.

Efforts to create civilian authorities received a boost however when Britain's top representative in Iraq, John Sawyers, announced a governing council of Iraqis could be up and running within a week.

"There is no question that we have got a security issue in Iraq and we've got to deal with it person by person, we're going to have to remain tough," said Mr Bush in Botswana, on the latest stage of his southern Africa tour.

Mr Bush blamed the continuing attacks on US troops on "apologists for Saddam Hussein" and insisted the US was making "steady progress" in establishing security and rebuilding the country.

The Pentagon has reported the deaths of 65 American service personnel — many of them as a result of hostile fire — in Iraq since 1 May when Mr Bush declared that major combat was over. — Internet



A US Army soldier on top of a tank. A US tank fired a shell for the first time since the end of the US war on Iraq in clashes overnight with guerrilla fighters in the flashpoint town of Ramadi 100 kilometres (60 miles) west of Baghdad, a military spokesman said. — INTERNET

Democrats step up criticism of Bush on Iraq

WASHINGTON, 11 July — On Capitol Hill and on the campaign trail, Democrats are stepping up their criticism of President Bush on Iraq, sensing what they believe to be a vulnerability in the administration's rationale for the war that ousted Saddam Hussein from power.

Democrats also are raising questions about continued US casualties in Iraq, more than two months after Bush declared an end to major combat, and the continued occupation of the country. "Now clearly it's time for the president to step forward and tell the truth, that the war is continuing and so are the casualties," said Senator John Kerry of Massachusetts, one of nine Democrats seeking his party's 2004 presidential nomination.

In a critical speech, Kerry — who supported giving Bush the authority to go to war — criticized the administration for what he said was its neglect of diplomacy and planning.

"It's time for the president to tell the truth — that we lack sufficient forces to do the job of reconstruction in Iraq and withdraw in a reasonable period," he said. Other Democrats are raising similar complaints at hearings and news conferences. — Internet



Foreign Minister of the Netherlands Jaap de Hoop Scheffer (C front) pays a visit to the Dutch contingent of the international peacekeeping troops in a Kabul camp international Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in the capital of Afghanistan, on 10 July, 2003. There are some 600 Dutch soldiers in the 5,000-strong international security assistance force, which is currently under command by a joint German-Dutch corps since February this year. — XINHUA PHOTO

S African ruling parties alliance protest against US policy

PRETORIA, 11 July — Members of South Africa's ruling tripartite alliance held a demonstration in front of the US Embassy in Pretoria on Wednesday, accusing the US Government of "flagrant disregard for the basic principles of international law".

The protest by about 200 people of the South African Communist Party (SACP), the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) and the African National Congress was the city's third major one for the day. Visiting US President George W Bush met President Thabo Mbeki at the Union Buildings earlier on Wednesday. Later they had lunch at the Presidential Guest House. With alliance marchers already close to the embassy, police instructed more than 1,000 protesters under the banner of the Anti-War Coalition to leave, since they had exceeded the time allocated to them. — MNA/Xinhua

France not to send troops to Iraq unless within UN framework

PARIS, 11 July—France will not send any troops to Iraq unless within a framework of the United Nations peacekeeping mission, French Foreign Minister Dominique de Villepin said in an interview with *Le Figaro* to be published in its Thursday edition.

When asked "under what conditions will France send soldiers to Iraq," de Villepin answered, "It will be OK (for France) when the political transition in Iraq is placed under the responsibility of the United Nations."

"Any participation will be eventually envisioned only within the framework of a peace force of the United Nations, based on a detailed mandate of

the UN Security Council and therefore enjoying the support of the entirety of the international community," he said.

United States Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld on Wednesday said he was in favour of sending French and German troops to Iraq to help in the country's reconstruction phase.

"Our goal is to get a large number of international forces from a lot of

countries, including those two," said Rumsfeld, speaking at the Senate Armed Services Committee when answering a question by Senator Carl Levin asking directly about the involvement of French and German forces.

"We have made requests to something like 70, 80 or 90 countries," Rumsfeld told Levin.

MNA/Xinhua

BP, Shell confirm winning oil deal from Iraq

LONDON, 11 July—British Petroleum and Royal Dutch/Shell Group confirmed Wednesday that they had each won the right to purchase two million barrels of Iraqi crude oil put up for tender this week.

It was understood that Iraq's State Oil Marketing Organization put up eight million barrels of Basra light crude on sale and the US energy group Chevron Texaco Corp and Swiss trading firm Taurus also won bids for similar-sized lots of oil. Spokesmen for BP and Shell said the two companies planned to load the oil later this month and BP would ship its oil to the United States, while Shell refused to say where it expected to sell its crude.

The deal is believed to be the first sale of crude pumped in Iraq since the end of the Iraq war. BP and Shell both bid unsuccessfully in an earlier offer of Iraqi crude that had been in storage.

Iraq will start loading the crude Friday from the Gulf terminal of Mina al-Bakr, an Iraqi oil official in Baghdad was quoted as saying earlier.—MNA/Xinhua



US Army soldiers search a suspect and his vehicle outside of a bank, on 10 July, 2003, in Barcuba, 60 km (38 miles) northeast of Baghdad, Iraq. Insurgents launched a slew of fresh assaults on US soldiers, killing at least two servicemen and wounding a third in shootings and rocket propelled grenade attacks, the military said on Thursday.

INTERNET

Report says France badly prepared for bio-terrorist attacks

PARIS, 11 July—France is one of the "worst prepared" for bio-terrorist attacks as it never gives political priority to the fight against infectious diseases, said a report published Wednesday.

"In these years, the country (France) has posted a limited capacity in managing infectious diseases, which makes it the worst prepared to an eventual problem of massive epidemics," said professor Didier Raoult in a report to the government.

The professor on bacteriology-virology works at a university in the southern

French city of Marseilles and his report is presented to Ministers of Health and Research, Jean-Francois Mattei and Claudie Haignere.

"Only with a real political effort including inscribing it (the fight against bio-terrorism) as a national priority, with sufficient financial measures and with the willingness to re-organize

and coordinate the whole of efforts...will we be able to face the risks that will come," said the report.

The United States spends 3.6 billion dollars each year on research of infectious diseases, which is more than the total budget of medical research in France, noted the professor.

And, of the spending in

the United States, 1.2 billion dollars are solely for the fight against bio-terrorism, he added.

To catch up with the Americans in this field, the professor suggested that among many other measures, research centres on infectious diseases be set up in major French cities.

MNA/Xinhua

Chinese President meets Cambodian King

BEIJING, 11 July — The new Chinese leadership values Sino-Cambodian relations, and will work with Cambodia to promote bilateral traditional friendship and cooperation, said Chinese President Hu Jintao.

Hu spoke at a meeting with Cambodia's King Norodom Sihanouk and Queen Norodom Monineath Sihanouk on Thursday.

Hu said Sino-Cambodian friendship had withstood the test of changes in their domestic and international situations, and continuously developed.

He spoke highly of Sihanouk's outstanding contributions to the development of bilateral relations and was happy about Cambodia's stable political situation, national reconciliation and economic growth under Sihanouk's leadership.

China will, as always, support the Cambodian people's efforts for national peace, stability and development, said Hu.

MNA/Xinhua

India under no pressure to send troops to Iraq

NEW DELHI, 11 July—Indian External Affairs Minister Yashwant Sinha Wednesday asserted that India was under no pressure from the United States to send its troops to Iraq and said a decision on it would be taken keeping in mind the "best national interest" and "best interest" of the Iraqi people.

Sinha made it clear that India did not consider as a "key factor" spin-offs of troops deployment in Iraq in the form of a slice in reconstruction work in the war-ravaged country and that only a "very small" percentage of its oil supplies came from there.

Sinha disagreed with a suggestion that the country's entire political spectrum was against sending troops to Iraq. He said, "I don't think it is entirely correct to say that. The National Democratic Alliance has authorized the Prime Minister to take a decision in the best interest of the country." He admitted there was opposition in certain quarters to this. "We have not yet taken a decision on it," he added. Pointing out that the best interest of the country and the Iraqi people were broad considerations that would be kept in mind, the minister said there were other factors that would be taken in to account in the decision making.

MNA/Xinhua



A US Army soldier of the 652nd Engineer Company search a former Iraqi soldier as he waits to be paid back wages by the Iraq interim government, on 10 July, 2003, in Barcuba, 60 km (38 miles) northeast of Baghdad, Iraq. Insurgents launched a slew of fresh assaults on US soldiers, killing at least two servicemen and wounding a third in shootings and rocket propelled grenade attacks, the military said on Thursday.

INTERNET

Chalabi says US does not need more troops

ANKARA, 11 July — Iraqi political leader Ahmad Chalabi said on Wednesday Washington should not send more troops to the Arab state to fight increasingly violent attacks but must instead swiftly arm and train a police force.

US soldiers have come under attack almost every day since ousting former Iraqi president Saddam Hussein in April.

Twenty nine US soldiers have been killed by hostile fire since major combat was declared over on 1 May.

The US Administration there also faces rising sabotage and a growing sense that the resistance is organized.

After talks with Turkish officials in Ankara, Chalabi told *Reuters* the creation of an Iraqi governing council, a first step to handing control to civilians, could help stem the violence.

"Security in Iraq is not a function of the US sending more troops, it is a function of the creation of an Iraqi security force," said Chalabi.

"The US has complete control of the battlefield, the US military is unchallenged there.

However, they're not policemen."

MNA/Reuters

Fresh BBC claims reignite Iraq weapons row

LONDON, 11 July — The British Broadcasting Corporation said on Thursday senior figures "right at the top" of the London Government no longer believed weapons of mass destruction would be uncovered in Iraq.

The report looks set to deepen divisions over whether the war was justified, as well as reignite a row between the British Government and the state-funded BBC over Iraq coverage.

"They (senior ministers) do think there were weapons there... but the actual weapons, the tubs of evil stuff, the rusting missiles... belief that they will actually be available, that is trickling away very fast," BBC political editor Andrew Marr said on television news. "The best explanation going around at the moment is that some time shortly before the war Saddam Hussein destroyed them or hid them beyond discovery."

A Downing Street spokesman poured scorn on the BBC report, saying the Prime Minister stood by his earlier comments.

"The BBC talks about senior ministers, well Tony Blair said on Tuesday he believed the weapons would be found and it doesn't get much more senior than that," he said.

The issue of Iraqi weapons has sparked fierce debate on both sides of the Atlantic, but Blair, the main US ally in the war, has had to bear the brunt in recent weeks.

Opinion polls suggest the British public is no longer convinced of the case for war and members of Parliament from all parties want proof of weapons to justify the campaign.

The fresh BBC claims come just a week after a war of words broke out between the two sides over a BBC report that accused Blair's Press chief of "sexing up" a dossier on Iraqi weapons.

The claim was dismissed by a parliamentary committee on Monday, but with the broadcaster still refusing to apologise the latest report is likely to heighten tensions.

Speaking to a parliamentary committee on Tuesday, Blair denied misleading Britain over the case for war and said he was in no doubt evidence of banned weapons programmes would be found.

MNA/Reuters

NATO says pleas for postwar Iraq role too early

BRUSSELS, 11 July — NATO said on Wednesday there was no prospect of the alliance taking a leading role in postwar Iraq any time soon despite growing calls from US senators alarmed by the string of deadly attacks on American troops.

"There haven't been any formal talks and nor has there been any kind of formal request put forward to NATO for a bigger role in Iraq," a NATO official said. "I think it's a bit early."

US newspaper the *Baltimore Sun* reported earlier that with US costs and casualties mounting in Iraq, the Bush Administration was showing new interest in putting NATO in charge of the occupation.

It said a handover might be formally discussed by the autumn. "There is no US request to NATO to take on a wider role in Iraq nor is one imminent," another alliance official said. "But it's fair to say that the US and a number of other allies have said that NATO should be open to a wider role in the future."

MNA/Reuters

Unknown extremist group calls for holy war against US troops in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 11 July — An unknown group in Iraq has called for jihad, or holy war, against US occupying forces, issuing a death threat to all Iraqis working with the US-led authorities, according to a tract sent to AFP.

"We are calling for a jihad," read the text, reportedly handed out at a Baghdad mosque this week, vowing "a battle from hell that will terrify the Americans. We will attack with such force that they won't know what hit them."

"Whoever stands with them or works with them is a coward and traitor of Allah and his prophet. Each traitor that came with the enemy or opened the doors of Iraq to

the enemy will be killed," the English version of the text said.

It added that this applies to everyone who works hand in hand with Paul Bremer, the top US civil administrator in Iraq. "Be warned. We forbid you to work with the Americans."

The anonymous text also calls for a general strike and for imams to urge Iraqis to join a holy war.

Internet



An Iraqi policeman in civilian clothes spot checks passing cars looking for looters and any stolen goods on a street in Baghdad. Two US soldiers were killed overnight in separate attacks in Iraq. — Internet

Thai PM vows to clean up police force in 4-5 years

BANGKOK, 11 July — Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra has admitted that many police in the country are Mafia-types or closely associated with dark influential figures and pledged to clean up the force within four to five years, the *Bangkok Post* reported Thursday.

The Premier, himself a former policeman, was quoted as saying that though most policemen were good officers, many rogue officers were directly involved in illegal activities or lived off the generosity of influential figures. The malpractice was so deeply entrenched that it was taken for granted, he said, stressing that he would not tolerate police who make a living on the

wrong side of the law and would use four to five years to put the police back in line.

Thaksin's comments followed revelations by Chuwit Kamolvisit, owner of massage parlour chains, who is facing charges of directing a raid to a group of peddlers in central area of Bangkok, employing underage girls in his massage parlours and running a prostitution business. — MNA/Xinhua

Tianjin bonded zone becomes int'l logistic centre

TIANJIN, 11 July — The Tianjin Harbour Bonded Zone is emerging as a new international logistic centre in north China.

Workers building the Volkswagen Logistic Centre of Germany have sealed the roof, and the Okaya Logistic Centre of Japan, the largest of its kind in China, has commenced operations.

An official from the bonded zone says eight more multinational logistic companies set up operations in the zone during the first half of this year, gradually developing the zone into an international logistics centre covering all parts of China and northeast Asia.

Overseas logistic companies have brought advanced managerial concepts, technology

and market channels to China, all of which have accelerated the logistic development of Tianjin. Revenue from cargo entry and exit via the zone reached 4.78 billion US dollars in the first half of this year, up by 53 per cent. The annual cargo volume handled by the zone is expected to top 10 billion US dollars.

Since China joined the World Trade Organization, the Tianjin Harbour Bonded Zone has taken full advantage of its unique function, position and preferential policies granted by the government to accelerate its logistic development. — MNA/Xinhua

Yunnan takes measures to curb population growth

KUNMING, 11 July — The Government of southwest China's Yunnan Province announced a series of preferential policies Tuesday to reward rural households for their adherence to the one child policy.

The preferential policies will take effect in 34 designated counties, cities and districts on 1 August.

Under the new policies, one-child rural couples who voluntarily adhere to the one-child limit and receive one-child certificates will be awarded 1,000 yuan.

The parents of one-child families will be given an annual living subsidy of 500 yuan each when they reach the age of 60. One-child families will also receive free textbooks and stationery.

MNA/Xinhua



Iraqi police protest in Falluja on 10 July, 2003, threatening to resign unless the US forces that trained them leave town, saying the presence of American troops endangered their lives. One US soldier was shot dead and another was killed in a rocket-propelled grenade attack in Iraq, the US military said, but President Bush vowed Washington would press on with its mission here. — INTERNET

US mily scholars warn of wider Iraqi insurgency

PHILADELPHIA, 11 July — With guerilla-style attacks escalating in Iraq, the United States may have to begin turning over peacekeeping duties to an international force within a year, or risk a wider insurgency, military analysts warned on Wednesday.

A wave of attacks that has killed 29 US troops since US President George W Bush declared major combat operations over on 1 May, appears to stem from a resurgence of Iraqi nationalism among both Sunnis and Shiites in the face of US occupation, said scholars at the US Army War College.

"If US forces are still there a year from now, individuals who suggest the United States is there for bad motives will feel more comfortable stirring up problems," said W Andrew Terrill, research professor at the Carlisle, Pennsylvania-based War College's Strategic Studies Institute.

"Even the (Shiites) are saying you need to think about leaving, and

they're the ones we're getting along with at the moment," he added.

Terrill and fellow scholar Conrad Crane, director of the War College's Military History Institute, consider Iraq to be the largest effort at nation-building the US has undertaken since post-war Japan and Germany.

US troops, who some analysts say could remain in Iraq in some capacity for five to 10 years, could face new dangers once angered Iraqis realize US authorities would not counter a rebellion with Saddam-style repression.

"That may in fact embolden them," said Terrill, a former Pentagon intelligence officer. "If you have an expanding insurgency, it's going

to inhibit countries from contributing troops to an internationalization effort. You want to squeeze the commitments out of them while you can."

That means US authorities need to move quickly to either set up a national security system run by Iraqis or bring in international peacekeeping troops from other nations, possibly including Muslim countries like Pakistan and Bangladesh. "The world is coming to help: that's the message we have to send," said Crane, who believes US troops have too few civil affairs and military police officers for non-combat duties that could help defuse tensions.

MNA/Reuters

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Singapore sends police to train Iraqi policemen

SINGAPORE, 11 July — Singapore, known for its tough laws and orderly neighbourhoods, will send a police squad to Baghdad to train Iraqi policemen.

Thirty officers will stay in the Iraqi capital for three months to teach lessons in patrolling and guarding key administrative buildings, a police spokesman said on Wednesday. But to avoid danger, they will only travel from their hotel to a training school and back.

US authorities running Iraq in the wake of the war that deposed former leader Saddam Hussein are under pressure for not doing enough to restore order, particularly in Baghdad, following a string of increasingly bold attacks on occupying forces.

MNA/Reuters



A British trooper asks protesting port employees to move back during a demonstration on 10 July, 2003 at Basra port, 600 kilometers south of Baghdad, Iraq. The protesters, who were demanding to get their jobs back and the payment of their two-months salary, were later dispersed by the troopers. — INTERNET

Bremer, Iraq groups discuss interim council

BAGHDAD, 11 July — US Administrator Paul Bremer discussed details of a proposed transitional Iraqi governing council on Thursday with the country's leading political groups.

One of the seven groups involved in the talks, the Iraqi National Congress (INC), said the long awaited "governing council" would be announced soon to fill a power vacuum caused by the fall of Saddam Hussein on 9 April.

"We discussed details of the governing council and its powers and jurisdictions," Entitadh Qanbar, INC spokesman, told Reuters after the meeting in Baghdad.

The group of seven is made up of exiled groups who returned to Baghdad after the fall of Saddam on 19 April. Other than the INC it includes the Shiite Muslim Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq

(SCIRI) and al-Da'awa Party as well as the two main Kurdish parties. They are expected to form the backbone of the council that would have some executive power. The groups have demanded a swift handover of power to a fully fledged Iraqi Government, and some say the United States has reneged on promises to quickly form a US-supervised transitional authority.

"We have been pushing very hard for the council and the interim government to be formed as soon as possible and I believe that we will see an Iraqi Government emerging before the end of the month," Qanbar said.

MNA/Reuters

Iran still not ready for tighter nuclear checks

VIENNA, 11 July — The head of the UN nuclear watchdog has not yet persuaded Iran to accept tighter nuclear inspections, diplomats said on Thursday, but they said the UN appeared to be gaining the confidence of the Islamic republic.

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) chief Mohamed ElBaradei said in Teheran on Wednesday he had agreed with Iranian officials to send over an IAEA team next week to clarify Iranian concerns over tighter nuclear inspections.

"There is a misconception that the Additional Protocol is like the draconian measures we had in Iraq," said IAEA spokesman Mark Gwozdecky, referring to the UN Security Council resolutions that gave the IAEA full authority to comb Iraq for signs it was making nuclear weapons.

"But it doesn't give us absolute rights," Gwozdecky added.

The IAEA's Additional

Protocol created after the 1991 discovery of Iraq's secret atomic weapons programme, would give the IAEA access to more information about Iran's nuclear activities and the right to carry out more intrusive short-notice inspections.

Iran has so far refused to sign it, insisting that an international embargo on the sale of peaceful nuclear technology to Iran be lifted first.

Diplomats said ElBaradei was clearly not successful in getting Iran to do two things that could have been done while he was in Teheran — sign the protocol and grant permission to take environmental samples at the Kalaye Electric Company, where parts for uranium-enrichment centrifuges are manufactured.

Regarding the sampling, a Vienna-based diplomat said: "They didn't say yes and they didn't say no."

MNA/Reuters

BAGHDAD, 11 July — One US soldier in Iraq was shot dead and another was killed in a rocket-propelled grenade attack on Wednesday, the US military said on Thursday.

The latest deaths bring to 31 the number of US soldiers killed by hostile fire in Iraq since President George W Bush declared major combat over on 1 May. One soldier was killed when his convoy

came under small arms fire near Al Mahmudiyah, about 25 miles south of Baghdad, at around 6.30 pm (1430 GMT) on Wednesday, the military said. Around four hours later, assailants fired rocket-pro-



Iraqi workers repair electrical cables in a residential street in Baghdad. The Paris Club of creditor nations said it is ready to restructure Iraq's public debt of more than 21 billion dollars as soon as possible. — INTERNET

Two US soldiers killed in Iraq attacks

pelled grenades at a convoy north of Baghdad, killing a soldier from the US Army's Fourth Infantry Division and wounding another, US Central Command said in a statement. US officials have blamed isolated remnants of Saddam Hussein's security forces for the attacks on their troops. But some Iraqis say the attacks reflect more widespread opposition to the US-led occupation of their country. — MNA/Reuters

Megawati urges people to save electricity

JAKARTA, 11 July — Indonesian President Megawati Soekarnoputri called on people from all walks of life on Thursday to limit their electricity usage.

Speaking after dedicating a number of development projects from the location of the Tanjung Jati B hydroelectric power plant in Jepara, Central Java, Megawati also promised that the government would do its best to continue augmenting power capacity, despite the limited funds for the development of power plants.

"The public should

develop the habit of saving (electricity)," she said after officiating at the resumption of work for the development of the Tanjung Jati B project and 25 other power plants. On the occasion, the President also announced the start of work on the Eastern Flood Canal in Jakarta and three toll roads around Surabaya, capital of East Java Province.

MNA/Xinhua

German chancellor cancels vacation in Italy

BERLIN, 11 July — German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder has cancelled his planned vacation in Italy to protest against the anti-German remarks by Italian politicians, it was announced Wednesday. Schröder's decision came after Stefano Stefani, who is an Italian state secretary responsible for tourism, said in an interview with Italian Press that Germans are "stereotyped blondes with a hyper-nationalist pride".

"The (Schröder) family will spend its vacation at home in Hanover," said German Government spokesman Bela Anda. Schröder planned to spend holidays at the home of his friend and painter Bruno Bruni in central Italy beginning July 20. —MNA/Xinhua

Commander says attacks 'stepped up' against US

WASHINGTON, 11 July — The top military commander in Iraq on Thursday said that Saddam loyalists have "stepped up" their attacks against US forces in the past week and there "is absolutely no question in my mind" that American soldiers and their Iraqi supporters killed in recent ambushes were victims of "professional assassinations."

Lt Gen Ricardo Sanchez blamed pro-Saddam Fedayeen militias and Special Republican Guard soldiers for the attacks on US troops. His comments came after the deaths of two more soldiers in Iraq.

Sanchez told reporters it's a top priority for his forces to determine the status of Saddam and his two sons Uday and Qusay. Whether Saddam "is dead or alive is making an impact on the people of Iraq and the ability to cooperate with the coalition," he said.

Two US soldiers were killed Wednesday in separate attacks in Iraq as their convoys came under fire, one near Tikrit and one south of Baghdad near al-Mahmudiyah.

At least 79 US troops have died in Iraq since Bush announced an end to major fighting May 1. Of those, 32 have been killed by

hostile fire and 47 were victims of non-hostile fire or accidents.

Democrats have stepped up their criticism of President George W Bush over the lingering campaign's rising death toll and his rationale for going to war.

"Now clearly it's time for the president to step forward and tell the truth, that the war is continuing and so are the casualties," said Sen. John Kerry of Massachusetts, one of nine Democrats seeking their party's 2004 presidential nomination.

The Democratic National Committee prepared an ad assailing the president for using false intelligence in his State of the Union address last January to establish that Saddam was preparing nuclear weapons.

Internet



US Marines look on as Iraqis walk by with water and supplies, while patrolling a road on the outskirts of the city of Nasiriya in southern Iraq on 10 July, 2003.

INTERNET



Local police officers protest at the mayor's office in Fallujah, Iraq on 10 July, 2003. The officers made a 48-hour ultimatum that American soldiers leave the main police station, where they have been staying along with the local police. The Iraqi officers claimed that the soldiers' presence there is putting them in danger of attack from insurgents. —INTERNET

Blair 'oversold' Iraq threat

LONDON, 11 July, — A former head of Downing Street's in-house intelligence panel last night accused ministers of "overselling" the threat of global terrorism before the Iraq war by bombarding voters with repeated warnings of "imminent terrorist attacks on London" and Heathrow airport.

The charge - made by Sir Rodric Braithwaite, former head of the joint intelligence committee (JIC), on Channel 4 News - is separate from the row over two intelligence dossiers which has led to deadlock between No 10 and the BBC over its claims that they were "sexed up". The 71-year-old former diplomat, who ran the JIC in 1992-3, said: "I think the overselling came not so much at that [dossier] stage but in the spring when it looked as though the British people were not actually going to sign up to this project."

"And then the real overselling were the continual assessments of an imminent terrorist attack in London, advising housewives to lay in stocks of water and food, I mean all that stuff... tanks at Heathrow. I mean that, I call that overselling."

The prime minister has denied that the

widely reported tank exercise at Heathrow was calculated to rally public opinion at a time when anti-war sentiment was strong and rising. In a letter to the Financial Times Sir Rodric said: "Fishmongers sell fish, war-mongers sell war, both may sincerely believe in their product."

The sight of the Whitehall establishment turning on the government will alarm and anger ministers who have watched MI6 deflect attention from its own performance.

Downing Street accused the BBC of more inaccurate reporting in claiming that Whitehall is abandoning all hope of finding weapons of mass destruction (WMD) in occupied Iraq because they have been destroyed. Mr Blair believes the search group - soon to be 1,400 strong - will find "programmes" and "product," said No 10. —Internet

ADB appoints Jin Lique as vice-president

MANILA, 11 July — The Board of Directors of Asian Development Bank (ADB), acting on the recommendation of President Tadao Chino, has appointed Chinese Vice-Minister of Finance Jin Lique as ADB vice-president.

Jin succeeds Vice-President Myoung-Ho shin, of South Korea, who is retiring after five years of service and the appointment is to take effect from August 1, 2003, ADB said Thursday in a statement.

Jin, 53, is Chinese Vice-Minister of Finance mainly in charge of the budget for administrative expenses of education, science, culture and external economic affairs.

Currently the alternate governor for China at ADB, the World Bank Group and the Global Environment Facility, Jin has been active in international economic affairs for almost two decades, particularly since the Asian financial crisis in 1997.

He has worked on a number of bilateral and multilateral economic and finance forums, such as the China-US Joint Economic Committee, China-UK Economic and Finance Dialogue, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Finance Ministers' Meeting, the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Plus Three.

In addition, Jin is a member of the State Monetary Policy Committee and the Anti-Terrorism Committee of the People's Republic of China.

Jin holds a Master of Arts degree in English Literature from Beijing Foreign Studies University. He was also a Hubert Humphrey Fellow in the Economics Graduate Programme at Boston University from 1987 to 1988. He joined the Ministry of Finance in 1980 after completing his graduate programme from Beijing Foreign Languages Institute.

MNA/Xinhua

Iraq police tell US troops to stay away

BAGHDAD, 11 July — With daily shootings and rocket attacks against US soldiers claiming two more lives, even Iraqi policemen said Thursday they want to keep a safe distance from coalition troops for fear of getting caught in the crossfire.

Several dozen Iraqi police, most wearing new uniforms provided by the US military, marched on the mayor's office in Fallujah, a restive town west of Baghdad, insisting American soldiers stop using their station as a base. The Iraqis said they would quit their posts if the soldiers don't find a new home within 48 hours.

Fallujah has seen several deadly attacks on American and Iraqi forces since US troops killed 20 protesters in late April.

Attacks by pro-Saddam Hussein insurgents in recent weeks have threatened to drag Iraq's American and British occupiers into a military and political quagmire. The US military insists the resistance does not

amount to a full-fledged guerrilla war, and say they have no evidence it is being coordinated on a nationwide level.

Most of the attacks have taken place north and west of Baghdad called the "Sunni Triangle," a region known as a stronghold of Saddam supporters, although many residents deny that the former dictator, also a Sunni Muslim, still has followers among them. Fallujah, Ramadi and Baqouba are all within the triangle. The attacks, as well as sabotage against Iraqi infrastructure, have stymied efforts to return security and vital services to the country. At night gangs roam darkened streets, and killings and carjackings occur in broad daylight. —Internet

Indonesian vice-president approves recruitment of foreign teachers

JAKARTA, 11 July — Indonesian Vice-President Hamzah Haz said Thursday he did not object to the planned recruitment of foreign teachers proposed by the international intelligence college.

But he asked the school to consult first with the Indonesian Ulama Council (MUI).

His remarks followed a statement by a senior officer at the State Intelligence Board (BIN) that the State Intelligence Institute in

West Java and the International Intelligence School in Batam were considering a plan to use foreign teachers, including those of Israel's Mossad.

"We must be careful so that the government policy, which intends to improve quality, does not raise a new problem. Therefore it is important to coordinate and consult with MUI," he was quoted by Detikcom online news service as saying. —MNA/Xinhua

Laos expels three foreigners from country

HANOI, 11 July — An American, a French and a Belgian, who were sentenced 15 years imprisonment by a court in Laos, were expelled from the country on July 9, according to Laos' news agency KPL on Thursday.

On June 30, the three foreigners were judged by a tribunal in Xieng Khouang Province for obstructing authorities on duties, possessing illegal weapons and murdering.

On the same day, diplomats at the three embassies of the United States, France and Belgium paid fines in accordance with the court's verdict.

The expulsion of the foreigners followed Laos Government's humanitarian policy to preserve good relations among Laos and the United States, France and Belgium, based on the proposal of foreign ministers of the three countries.

MNA/Xinhua

Young Myanmar people...

(from page 1)

In the case of Myanmar, the age at marriage is generally high. Women who married in 1970s got married at age 19 and for those marriages in 1990s, the age of marriage is 22 years. The age at first birth has also risen. It has contributed in reducing the number of births occurring in the adolescent years when health risk to mothers and children are greater.

The proportions of both women and men never marrying have also been increasing continuously over time. About 98 per cent of men and 93 per cent of women aged 15 to 19 years, and 77 per cent of men and 65 per cent of women aged 20 to 24 are not married. Hence, the number of teenage girls marrying and childbearing, exposing them to health risks, is very low in our country.

Myanmar considers its youths to be one of the greatest assets in the country. The Government is therefore paying great attention to the all-round development of our adolescents.

While a comprehensive health programme including health education programmes for youths is promoted nation-wide, our education system is guiding our young people to the path of high moral standards as well as preparing them to meet the challenges of life. Today, young Myanmar people are enjoying opportunities as never before to uplift their standard of living and quality of life.

In this regard, I wish also to acknowledge the important role played by the United Nations agencies like the UNDP and UNFPA as well as the international

and national NGOs like the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association (MMCWA) in developing our young people.

Myanmar is fully aware that adolescents and young people are important in shaping the future of the nation.

Therefore, while endeavouring to promote its own nation-building development tasks, Myanmar will be enthusiastically co-operating with the nations of the world in promoting the development of young people, especially adolescents.

Myanmar is determined to continue playing an active role in population-related programmes while strengthening its collaboration and cooperation with all nations and United Nations Agencies such as UNDP, UNFPA, WHO etc; and also with relevant local and international NGOs.

In conclusion, let us all

aspire with the noble aim to promote the quality of life of the adolescents and young people and equip them with the necessary tools so that they will become leading citizens of the world.

Let us also aspire to implement the lofty aims of this year's World Population Day—"1 billion adolescents: the right to health, information and services".

Next, UNFPA Resident Representative Mr Najib M Assifi read out the message sent by UNFPA Executive Director Ms Thoraya Abaid.

The Secretary-1 presented prizes to winners in the Poster Open Level and Poster Open Level-5 Contests.

The Secretary-1 and party viewed the exhibition to mark the 2003 World Population Day at IBC.

Afterwards, Minister for

Immigration and Population Maj-Gen Sein Htwa, Deputy Minister U Maung Aung, President of MMCWA Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and UNFPA Resident Representative Mr Najib M Assifi presented prizes to the winners in the respective contests to mark the 2003 World Population Day.

Later, the ceremony ended with the entertainment with the World Population Day commemorative song on Adolescent Reproductive Health presented by MMCWA.

Also present on the occasion were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers, the Chief Justice, the Attorney-General, the Auditor-General, the mayor of Yangon City, deputy ministers, ambassadors and charges d'affaires of foreign missions, resident repre-

sentatives of UN agencies, representatives of NGOs, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, the director-general of Population Department, prize winning students and guests.

MNA



UNFPA Resident Representative Mr Najib M Assifi reads message of UNFPA Executive Director Ms Thoraya Abaid.— MNA

Lt-Gen Maung Bo attends...

(from page 16)

Col Cho Tun Aung presented K 4 million for the school trust fund to the chairman of the school board of trustees. The school board of trustees donated K 1.6 million to the school trust fund through No 1 Basic Education Department Director U Tun Kyi.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo delivered an address on the occasion, saying that the development of highly-qualified human resources is necessary for building up a peaceful, modern and developed nation. Myanmar's education standard is therefore to be on a par with international level and it is also required to create an educational field in which the intellectuals and intelligentsia can apply the advancing technologies in keeping with the time, he added.

In the process, the 30-year education promotion plan is being implemented. Since 1998, the education promotion plans have been adopted, and based on the e-Education the subjects of advanced technologies have been prescribed. In the first phase of the plan, arrangements have been made for opening of multimedia classrooms in basic education schools.

It is encouraging to note that so far, in Kayin State, altogether 30 BEHS have got third-level platform multimedia classrooms, 40 BEMs, second-level platform and the majority of BEPSs, first-level platform.

In the 21st Century or the knowledge age, all nations are focusing on education sector for their development. Thus, the goal "Build Modern Developed Nation Through Education" is being implemented for enabling the basic education schools to face challenges of the knowledge age. The opening of multimedia classrooms at basic education schools is a golden chance for the students to pursue and apply the broad education in an effective way. He called for effective use of the classrooms.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo expressed his thanks for respective organizations and wellwishers for their enthusiastic contributions towards the opening of the classrooms.

He said that education promotion task is a national duty which is to be implemented with perseverance and firm determination. Regarding the task, he called on the teachers to cooperate with local authorities, departments, respective officials, social organizations and the people as the plan can be successfully implemented through constant and continued efforts.

In conclusion, he urged the teachers to carry out tasks through the most effective use of the classrooms.

After the ceremony, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party posed for a documentary photo together with teachers, school board of trustees and students.

Then, they attended the cornerstone-laying ceremony for construction of the main building for Hpa-an University held at the compound of Hpa-an Degree College in Hpa-an. At the briefing hall, Higher Education Department Director-General U Saw Lwin reported on construction of the university and academic matters; and Yuzana Construction Group Chairman U Htay Myint, on models for construction of the university and arrangements for ensuring a fine facility in the period scheduled.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo fulfilled the requirements, saying that the government is implementing the 30-year plan (from 2001-2002 to 2030-2031) which covers basic and higher education. The plan is divided into six sectors — human resources development, application of technologies, research, constant learning society, education promotion and preservation of national standard and value. According to

the plan, the 12 objectives and 36 tasks are being realized, he said. The State has laid down the Myanmar's education goal — emergence of an education system that creates constant learning society capable of facing the challenge of the knowledge age.

Studying the higher education sector, one can notice a great difference between conditions before 1988 and those today. There were 32 universities and colleges before 1988 and there is an increase in the number of those up to 153. And there were 5,638 faculty members and now there are 10,176 members. There is an increase in the number of students from 134,325 before 1988 to 777,174 today, and teaching programmes from 59 to 149. Besides, Yangon University and Mandalay University have produced 57 PhD graduates.

Since 1998, the Ministry of Education has established the centre for development of human resources at each and every university or degree college with a view to meeting the number of technicians and experts needed for the nation. During the period from 1998 to 2003, a total of 74,295 trainees have attended 39 courses conducted by the centres. And e-Education system was launched on 1 January 2001. Now, all universities and colleges have got e-Education learning centre each. The very small aperture terminal (VSAT) system has been launched at every university and administrative and academic tasks are being carried out under on-line system. Furthermore, altogether 455 e-Education learning centres have been opened at universities, degree colleges and schools in all parts of the nation including Putao, Kawthoung, Maungtaung and Tachilek. The people regardless of age and sex are studying at the centres.

In education sector of Kayin State, there have emerged Hpa-an University, Government Technological College (Hpa-an), Government Computer College (Hpa-an) and Hpa-an Education College. Hpa-an Regional College was established in 1976-77. It was upgraded to Hpa-an College in 1981, to Hpa-an Degree College in 1999, and to Hpa-an University in 2003.

In education sector, the government has been creating opportunities on education and at the same time implementing projects for the development of human resources.

In conclusion, he called for active participation of the faculty members, teachers and students in the 30-year plan and education promotion plans adopted by the State.

Next, the cornerstone-laying ceremony was held. Lt-Gen Maung Bo placed the casket in the middle of the foundation. Commander Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, Chairman Col Cho Tun Aung and officials put the cornerstones and the stone plaque at the designated places and sprinkled scented water on them. After the ceremony, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party inspected the site chosen for construction of the main building and left necessary instructions. They also attended the similar ceremony for opening of the two-storey building of Kyondoe BEHS.

Present on the occasion were Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party, local authorities, departmental heads, teachers, school board trustees, local people and others.

Kawkaireik Township Education Officer U Aye Min reported on the purpose of construction of two-storey building of Kyondoe BEHS. Next, the cornerstone-laying ceremony was held. Lt-Gen Maung Bo, Commander Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung and Col Cho Tun Aung laid cornerstones at the designated places.

Afterwards, the ceremony to donate cash towards the funds for computers and printers of the multimedia teaching centre was held. Officials reported on progress of

Kawkaireik Township and Kyondoe regions, and economic, social, education, health and regional development matters. Secretary of the School Board of Trustees U Aung Myaing reported on efforts being made for opening the multimedia teaching centre at Kyondoe BEHS.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo donated one set of computer and a printer and K 500,000 and the commander, one set of VCD to Kawkaireik TEO U Aye Min.

Next, Col Cho Tun Aung presented a 21-inch colour TV set, K 500,000, 2,400 dozens of exercise books, 20 dozens of pencils and 20 dozens of ball-point pens to students of Kyondoe Station BEHS through Chairman of SBT U Phyu Ohn. Next, local authorities presented K 2 million, Daw Khin Yi of Kyondoe, K 500,000 and U Win Naing of Kyondoe, K 500,000 to Secretary U Aung Myaing of SBT.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Maung Bo explained implementation of long-term plans in the education sector being implemented for the development of human resource, efforts being made for uplift of the higher education sector or the basic one, organizing tasks being made for opening of the multimedia teaching centres in cooperation with the local people and wellwishers. He urged those present to maintain the multimedia teaching centres.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo and the commander planted Thitseint saplings (Terminalia Belerica) together with the local people on 40 acres of lands at 8-mile Village near Kawkaireik-Kyondoe Road. In the afternoon, they attended the opening of the new office of Kawkaireik Township War Veterans Organization.

Chairman of Kawkaireik District WVO Supervisory Committee Lt-Col Ko Ko Gyi and Chairman of Township WVO Organizaing Committee Capt Tun Yi (Retd) formally opened the new office. Lt-Gen Maung Bo formally unveiled the signboard of the office.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo went to the local battalion in Kawkaireik Township and inspected cultivation of vegetable patches of respective companies of the battalion.

At the town hall, Lt-Gen Maung Bo met with local authorities, local people, townselders and officials of the social organizations. Lt-Col Ko Ko Gyi reported on administration, economic and social matters of the township, accomplishments in 2003-2004 and future tasks.

Speaking on the occasion, Lt-Gen Maung Bo said that the infrastructures such as transportation, education, health, economic and social sectors are being undertaken for development of socio-economy of the Union including the border areas. Likewise, development of the regional economy in good conditions are to be maintained, he noted. Arrangements are being made for enabling the local national youths to pursue higher education and technology. Hpa-an Degree College has been upgraded to a university in addition to the existing colleges in the region.

The Government is paying attention to the equitable development of the regions in the entire nation because the State has been gaining progress of peace.

The local people and departmental personnel are to join hands with the State to ensure perpetuation of peace and tranquillity in the State. The people are also to maintain progress of the State and to harmoniously participate in peaceful, tranquil and developed task of the State realizing the Union Spirit. The departments concerned are also to organize the local people for creating of the economy and job opportunities of the local people.

After the meeting, Lt-Gen Maung Bo cordially conversed with those present. Next, they arrived at Kawkaireik Station Hall.— MNA



Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann inspects cultivation of Kyawzeya strain paddy at Khayon Agriculture Educative Farm in Kyaukmaraw Township.—MNA

Administrative bodies and...

(from page 16)

Next, Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann and party presented gifts to the aged persons and paid homage to them.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann and party proceeded to The-ein Taikkyang and paid homage to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Nimmala. They presented offertories to the Sayadaw.

After inspecting the village and the rural health care branch, Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann and party left the village and arrived back in Thaton.

At 9.45 am, they met with local authorities, departmental officials and social organizations at Thuwunna Hall in Thaton.

Thaton District Peace and Development Council Chairman Lt-Col Tin Aung reported on cultivation of monsoon paddy, other crops, pepper, Thitseint, breeding of pig, poultry, prawn and fish.

Next, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Soe Win made a speech. He said that they were there to inspect regional development and meet with administrative bodies of Thaton District, Thaton Township, ward and village Peace and Development Councils, service personnel and local people.

It was a great pleasure to witness the regional development and earnest efforts for cultivation of monsoon paddy and other crops. The local people are engaging in farming while the government has been

striving for better transport in Mon State including Yangon-Mawlamyine Highway. In the process, Theyu Creek Bridge, Kawsanaing Bridge, Yinnyein Bridge and Donthami Bridge have been upgraded.

For agriculture purpose, Wapa Dam and Zeikkaye Sluice Gate were constructed. Due to the facilities, altogether over 81,000 acres of farmlands can be prevented from floods.

As Kataik Dam and Kyonhtaw Sluice Gate are being constructed, it is sure that significant progress will be made in Mon State soon.

For enhancing education and health standards of people in Thaton District, steps are being taken for enrollment of all school-age children to enable them to pursue basic education as well as higher education.

The government has been making earnest efforts for upgrading of agriculture, livestock breeding, transport, education and health sectors.

Concerted efforts are being made since an old system is being changed into a new one.

Realizing the event, local authorities and department officials are to actively take part in nation-building endeavours. In making efforts in the interest of people, the respective officials are to avoid the acts that are detrimental to the administrative machinery of the State.

Efforts are to be made to become the administra-

tive bodies and departmental organizations on which the people can rely. At the same time, initiatives are to be introduced in striving for the interest of the State and the people.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann made a speech. He said that the government is implementing the national objectives for ensuring the emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation.

At the same time, it is building the Tatmadaw to enable it to become a modern and efficient one.

The two goals are inter-related in ensuring the nation to stand tall among world community.

The building of a modern and developed nation is not for Tatmadaw and the building of a modern Tatmadaw is not for Tatmadaw either.

It was for perpetuation of the State and security of the people.

Significant progress has been made the length and breadth of the nation since the government is striving together with the people after laying down the national objectives and policies. Peace and stability that could not be restored by the successive governments can now be built.

With the prevalence of peace and stability in the region, progress has been made with added momentum in border areas.

People in Thaton District are to make earnest efforts for development of their region while striving for peace and stability in the

region.

The local administrative bodies and departmental organizations representing the Government are to make efforts to become ones who can take a leading role in community welfare services and to win the respects of the public.

In taking measures skills and cetana are required as well as procedures are needed to be right.

In addition, in implementing the tasks rules and regulations are to be followed.

Regional and national development can be made with the combined efforts of the service personnel and the government.

The Secretary-2 presented exercise books for basic education schools in Thaton District to Mon State Education Officer U Aung Myo.

Next, Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann cordially met with those present.

Do not be frightened whenever intimidated.

At 11.15 am, Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann and party arrived at No 1 Tyre and Rubber Product Factory of the Ministry of Industry-2 in Thaton.

At the briefing hall, Managing Director U Oo Zun of Myanmar Tyre and Rubber Industries reported on operating of the factory to produce tyres beginning 1985, manufacturing of 24 kinds of tyres and three of bicycle tyres at present and investment of the factory.

Deputy Minister for Industry-2 Lt-Col Khin Maung Kyaw gave a supplementary report.

The Secretary-2 gave instructions on use of bicycle tyres for the Ministry of Industry-1-made bicycles,

development of rubber technology to be shared among the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and the Ministry of Industry-2 and the Ministry of Industry-1 and raw materials to be produced in local.

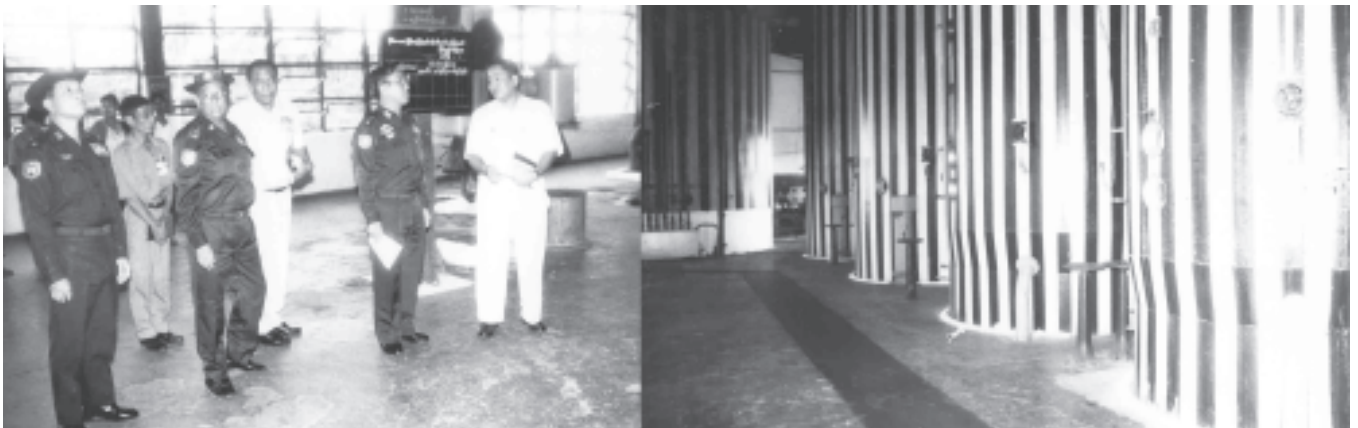
Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann heard reports on availability of raw materials and machinery and gave necessary instructions.

Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann and party inspected the tyre compound section, raw materials from local and abroad, production sections, items of car tyres and bicycle tyres produced by the factory and rubber equipment for the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and the Ministry of Mines.

(See page 13)



Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann and Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Soe Win present gifts to aged persons of The-ein Village in Paung Township.—MNA



Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Soe Win inspects No 14 Sugar Mill in Bilin.—MNA

Yekha Micro-Organism Blue Green Algae Pharmaceutical Factory

Aung (Setfmu)

The Micro-Organism Blue Green Algae (Spirulina) Pharmaceutical Factory (Yekha) that was opened on 6 June 2003 is the only facility of its kind in Myanmar. Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council General Khin Nyunt formally opened the factory. The factory produces various types of medicine that are derived from blue green algae that can be seen only with the aid of a microscope.

The factory run by the Myanmar Pharmaceutical Industries of the Ministry of Industry-1 is located at the place one mile west



Various types of Spirulina products of Myanmar.

of Sagaing-Mingun Road in Sagaing Division. It is about two and a half miles from Yekha camp. The operations of the factory cover Twindaung, Yekha, Twinma and Taungbyauk camps, the main sources of the blue green algae. The factory's compound including the four camps is 447.302 acres. The surface of the lakes which produce the Spirulina is round about 550 acres. The surface area of the Yekha lake is 125 acres and it is 22 feet deep. The area of the Yekha camp is 66.22 acres. The pH of the sulphate based water in the lake is 8.6.

The aim of opening the factory is to produce the

the auto clave, the mixer, the granulator, the tableting machine, tablet counting filling and capping machine, the capsule filling machine, the blister packaging machine, the boiler, the demineralization plant, quality control lab equipment, process control lab and other machines.

The Spirulina is processed through the German method to produce quality goods including Provimin tablets, Provimin capsules, Biomin caplets, Spirulina spray dried powder, Spirulina sun dried chips, Spirulina thanakha, Spirulina thanakha lotion, Spirulina noodle, Spirulina pasta, Spirulina shampoo, Spirulina cracker,

Spirulina toffee, Spirulina beer, Spirulina soap, Spirulina hair tonic oil and Spirulina juice. The bioreactor was used in breeding quality blue green algae.

The Yekha factory is running one eight-hour shift a day and 240 days a year. Depending on the increase in the demand, it will run up to two eight-hour shifts a day and 300 days a year. It has the capacity to produce two million bottles of medicines and cosmetics; two million packages of foodstuff; and 50 tons of supplementary feedstuff a year. The Sagaing Division

branch of the Myanmar Electric Power Enterprise is supplying electricity to the factory. The factory also has erected two generators for emergency use.

The manpower requirement of the factory is 61 officers, 850 technicians, and 287 ordinary workers totaling 1,198. The factory was built at a total estimated cost of K 1,853.521 million. Annually, it will contribute K 386 million to the national income.

As the government has built the Micro-Organism Blue Green Algae (Spirulina) Pharmaceutical Factory (Yekha), it is the duty of the experts in the micro-organism field and the technicians, who are the human resources, to help improve people's health, and increase the nation's foreign exchange income.

(Translation: TMT)

Myanma Alin: 29-6-2002.



Yekha Micro-Organism Blue Green Algae Pharmaceutical Factory.

international level Spirulina through the refining system and spray dryer that can dry the blue green algae within seconds and to effectively conduct the Spirulina culture and the quality control programme. The other objectives are to help uplift the health and fitness of the nation as the Spirulina is rich in protein, vitamins and minerals and to fulfill the local demand of Spirulina-based finished products and to export the products.

Industrial production of the blue green algae began on 11 January 1988. The factory's operations were extended to cover Yekha on 3 February 1993; and Twinma Taung and Taungbyauk camps on 15 September that year. The Micro-Organism Blue Green Algae (Spirulina) Pharmaceutical Factory (Yekha) Project began in March 2000.

The machines installed at the factory included refining machines, the spray dryer, the grinding machine,

Narcotic drugs seized in Mandalay

YANGON, 11 July — Acting on information tipped off by a garbage collector in Mandalay, local intelligence unit members seized 38,600 stimulant tablets, 0.11gm of crushed stimulant pill, 2 heroin blocks weighing 0.7 kilo and 0.4 kilo of opium oil from a garbage bag. Further investigation led to the search of the house No 61/50 between 71st and 72nd Streets and 32nd and 33rd Streets in Chanmya Thazi Township in Mandalay. Maung Win (a) Lishin San, owner of the drugs had fled and 2,625 stimulant tablets and K 794,500 realized from the sale of drugs were confiscated. Action is being taken against him by the local police station. — MNA



The seized stimulant tablets and narcotic drugs.

MNA

People's Desire

- * Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
- * Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation
- * Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
- * Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy

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

နိုင်ငံတော်အစိုးရဌာနပိုင်မော်တော်ယာဉ်များမသုံးစွဲရနေ့၊ လစဉ်လ၏ ဒုတိယပတ်တန်နွေနေ့နှင့်နောက်ဆုံးပတ်တန်နွေနေ့တို့သည် ရုံးလုပ်ငန်းအတွက် မဖြစ်မနေသွားလာရန် လိုအပ်သည်ကိုစွဲရပ်များမှအပ မော်တော်ယာဉ်များ မသုံးစွဲရနေ့ဖြစ်သည်။

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(၂၇-၇-၂၀၀၃) ရက်နေ့

Do not be bolstered whenever flattered.

Facilities for development of Mon State

Agriculture sector

1. Azin Dam in Mudon Township, Wapa Dam in Thaton Township, Bilin Kyaukphay diversion weir in Bilin Township, Shwenattaung Dam in Mawlamyine Township, Winphanon Dam in Mudon Township, Zeikkaye sluice gate in Thaton Township have been built. Kataik Dam in Paung Township and Kyonhtaw sluice gate in Thaton Township are under construction.

2. Altogether 48.6 miles of embankment and over 118 miles of drainage have been built to benefit 148,000 acres of cropland.

Transport sector

Thebyu Creek Bridge and Attaran River Bridge have been built and Thanlwin River (Mawlamyine) Bridge and Yay rail bridge are being built.

Education sector

	Past	At present
1. Basic education schools (BEHS, BEMS, BEPS, post primary)	1205	1353

2. University, college	1	4
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Health sector

1. Hospital	20	25
2. Doctor	121	183
3. Rural health centres	53	56

4. 200-bed Mon State Hospital was upgraded to 350-bed Modern Specialist Hospital. Seven 16-bed township hospitals were upgraded to 25-bed ones.

Special projects contribute much towards national development

(Article by Khin Maung Kyaw Din)

Evaluation of a country's development should be based on progress in serving the people's interests. Emergence of such infrastructures as new dams, sluice gates, river water pumping stations, factories, bridges, universities, colleges and hospitals are the signs of development. The Government is making all-out efforts for the emergence of these infrastructures with a view to raising the living standard of the entire people and benefiting the State.

Economic development plays a key role in national development and as such human resource development is vital for economic development. In other words, economic and human resource development, education, health, etc. are interrelated. Therefore, for the development of economy, education, health, transportation, etc., in the respective regions of the nation, the Government is implementing border area development projects and projects for development of 24 regions with might and main.

There are now many projects that are being implemented and to be implemented in accord with the guidance of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe.

River water pumping projects that will benefit rural people have been implemented since 1995 and up to the end of March, 2003, a total of 265 river water pumping stations have benefited 282,108 acres of farmland.

Water Utilizing Department will implement river water pumping projects in Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions in Upper Myanmar and Ayeyawady Division in Lower Myanmar. The projects to be implemented are Magyizaik River Water Pumping Ayadaw-2 Project that will benefit

20,000 acres of farmland in Ayadaw Township, Sagaing Division, and Hsintale River Water Pumping Project Ayadaw-3 that will benefit 40,000 acres of farmland. In Ngazun Township of Mandalay Division, Kyauktalone River Water Pumping Project to irrigate 2,500 acres of farmland, Ywathit River Water Pumping Project, 7,000 acres and Nganmya River Water Pumping Project, 3,000 acres are being implemented. Hseiknyan River Water Pumping Project in Myingyan Township and Auknyi River Water Pumping Project (Thugaungti) in NyaungU Township will benefit 10,000 acres and 6,000 acres of farmland respectively.

Myokwin (Dumbi) River Water Pumping Project being implemented in Hinthada Township of Ayeyawady Division will benefit 9,000 acres of farmland.

On completion of the above-mentioned River Water Pumping Projects, they will benefit 97,500 acres of farmland and it is targeted to build the project spending over

K 14,500 million including US\$ 23.05 million.

It is encouraging to see many more river water pumping projects—Natthadaw River Water Pumping Project in Ngazun Township, Mandalay Division, Hsimekon-1, 2, 3 and 4 River Water Pumping Projects in the north of Myingyan Township — which include in the special projects are being implemented.

The State is striving not only for rural area development but also for human resource development. In this regard, four technological universities, two universities of computer study, one Myanmar Aerospace and Engineering University, 24 Government Computer Colleges, 26 Government Technological Colleges and nine Government Technological Institutes were opened up to June 2003.

In 1988, there were only 11,713 students pursuing education in technological university, university of computer study and technological institute but now the number has reached 51,884. After 2002, altogether 12 universities and degree colleges have been opened under the Higher Education Department of the Ministry of Education.

The new universities are Yangon East University, Toungoo University, Yadanabon University, Yangon Institute of Economics (Ywathagyi), Yangon West University, Kyaukse University, Maubin University, Panglong University and Meiktila Institute of Economics. The degree colleges are Bharno Degree College, Monyin Degree College and Myingyan Degree College.

There were only 27 universities, degree colleges and colleges in 1988 and the number has risen to 64.

The number of students who were pursuing higher education in 1988 was only 134,325. Nowadays, the number has reached 777,174. In 1988, only 53 kinds of degrees and diplomas were conferred on graduates but now 150 kinds of degrees and diplomas are being conferred on the graduates. As more economic infrastructures and infrastructures for human resource development have increased in great numbers, the people are now witnessing rapid national development and at the same time their living standard has improved.

(Translation:BG)
(Myamma Alin:3-7-2003)



Lawkananda River Water Pumping Project in NyaungU District.

Geared for progress



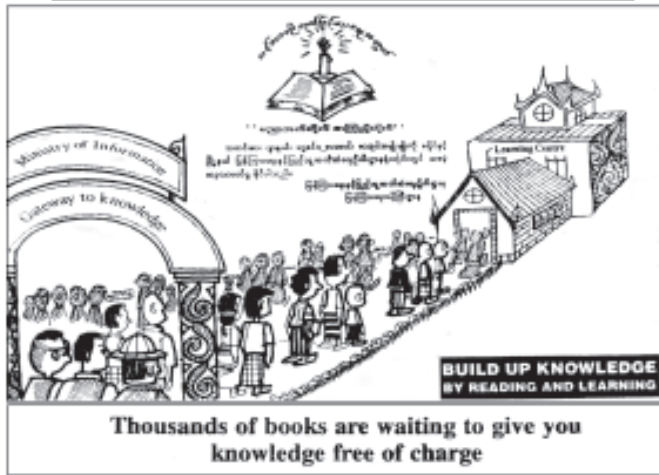
A tunnel being built at Mone Creek Hydel Power Project in Sedoktara Township.



A seagoing vessel and a cruise boat are under construction at Myanma Shipyards.



200-bed General Hospital in Kengtung, Shan State (East) seen magnificently at the opening on 20 May, 2003.



ADVERTISEMENT

ဆပ်ပြာစက်ရုံများအတွက် လိုအပ်သော စက်ပစ္စည်းများဝယ်ယူရန် တင်ဒါခေါ်ယူခြင်း

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မြန်မာ့ဆေးဝါးနှင့်အိမ်သုံးပစ္စည်းလုပ်ငန်း (ရှ်ချပ်) အမှတ်(၁) စက်မှုဝန်ကြီးဌာန

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ARRIVAL/CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV "MAGWAY" VOY NO 273/N

Consignees of cargo carried on MV "MAGWAY" Voy No 273/N are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived at Yangon port on 12-7-2003 and will be berthing on about 13-7-2003 and cargoes will be discharged into the premises of Myanma Port Authority where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the bye-laws and conditions of the port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily between 8 am to 11.30 am and 12 noon to 4 pm into Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

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IDG to invest \$100m in Vietnam

HANOI, 11 July — International Data Group (IDG), a global information technology giant, plans to pour 100 million US dollars into Vietnam from now to 2010, the visiting United States-based firm's Chairman Patrick J MacGovern has said.

According to MacGovern who is on a visit to Vietnam from July 7-14, IDG will invest 20 million dollars in issuing information technology-related publications, and organizing exhibitions and seminars.

"We will spend almost 80 million dollars on supporting 20-25 young Vietnamese information technology enterprises who have good technology concepts, but do not have enough resources to realize them," MacGovern was quoted Thursday by local Press reports as saying.

MNA/Xinhua

Singapore puts up more fences along northern coastlines

SINGAPORE, 11 July — Singapore has erected more fences along its northern coastlines to keep illegal immigrants out, according to local TV Channel NewsAsia report Tuesday.

The country's Coast Guard has acknowledged that it recently put up fences on Pulau Ubin, an island off northeastern coast of Singapore's main island, and given

out its explanation that the move is crucial to help keep illegal immigrants out.

The Coast Guard also stressed the need to put up more fences on Pulau Ubin to deal with the increasing illegal intrusions there, citing the first five months this year saw 14 cases of illegal landings by sea — about double the same period last year, and almost half were

on Pulau Ubin.

The Coast Guard made the comments in response to complaints by some nature lovers who said that the fence is a real eyesore and makes Pulau Ubin look like a prison island.

The Coast Guard pointed out that here are fences already existing on some parts of Singapore's northeastern coastlines.—MNA/Xinhua

Beijing unveils policies to expand convenience stores

BEIJING, 11 July — Beijing has unveiled new policies to encourage the establishment of neighbourhood convenience stores in an effort to ensure that there is at least one mini-supermarket or convenience store in every neighbourhood.

According to the policies issued on Wednesday by the Commerce Com-

mission in cooperation with the Beijing Finance Bureau, Beijing is encouraging the establishment of chain-supermarkets (about 500 square metres) and convenience stores (100 square metres) in residential neighbourhoods.

Liang Wei, director of the commission, said the commission also favours the establishment of standard

convenience stores in busy commercial districts of urban Beijing, such as the Wangfujing and Zhongguancun areas.

Enterprises will be given 50,000 yuan (6,097 US dollars) in subsidized loans for each convenience store or supermarket successfully set up in residential neighbourhoods.

MNA/Xinhua

မြန်မာ့မြန်မာ့အသံ

Four nations agree to strengthen cooperation in Mekong River Subregion

BANGKOK, 11 July — Anti-drug authorities from Thailand, China, Myanmar and Laos agreed at a meeting in Chiang Rai, 700 kilometres north from Bangkok, to strengthen cooperation in applying legal tools to suppress illegal drug production and smuggling in the Mekong River Subregion, the Bangkok Post reported Thursday.

According to the report, during the meeting which is aimed at finding ways to fight the trafficking in illegal drugs along the river that runs through the four nations, officials agreed to set up a network to coordinate mutual campaigns against drug traffickers and dealers.

The network covers parts

of the four nations along the Mekong River, including Jing Hong port in China, Ban Pong port in Myanmar, Huay Sai port in Laos, and Chiang Saen and Chiang Kong ports in Thailand.

Wang Qianrong, deputy director-general of China's Office of the National Narcotics Control Commission, was quoted as saying that as the methamphetamines and heroin were entering southern China through the Mekong River, the agreement on multilateral cooperation should intensify the fight against drugs in the region.

Welcoming the cooperation, Linthong Phetsavan, head of the permanent Secretariat of the Lao Com-

mission on Drug Control and Supervision, also said the joint efforts between the four nations would make it more difficult to smuggle drugs and precursors through this route by traffickers.

Rasamee Vistaves, deputy secretary-general of Thailand's Narcotics Control Board, noted the anti-drug cooperation was gaining momentum.

She revealed that Thailand had sent a list of wanted drug suspects to Myanmar, China and Laos, and major arrests had been made in China and Myanmar. She cited the seizure of 354 kilos of heroin in China last year and the arrests of 12 drug suspects in Myanmar.

MNA/Xinhua

Cambodian PM vows to do more to protect forests

PHNOM PENH, 11 July — The amount of Cambodia's forest coverage in recent years has actually increased due to great efforts made by government and the people, Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen has said.

In a speech marking Cambodia's National Forestry Day in southwestern part of Sihanoukville Wednesday, Prime Minister Hun Sen cited government data as saying that the coverage of forest in 2002 reached to 61.14 per cent, or about 11.1 million hectares of Cambodia's territory, while in 1997 it had 58.6 per cent, or about 10.63 million hectares,

according to local Press reports Thursday.

However, the Premier expressed his regret over the wrong decisions made by the first term royal government, involving forestry concessions to companies which were issued in large numbers and at cheap prices.

He said that the current government has done its best to take a lot of measures to recover and preserve the country's forestry.

"The government has reclaimed more than three million hectares of forest by cancelling concessions to 15 companies in recent years. Moreover, the government recently is ending concessions for two more logging companies which is about 499,700

hectares," he added.

The National Forestry Day was set up under the decree signed by King Norodom Sihanouk on August 8, 1952. So far, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries has achieved 11,125 hectares in plantations and planted 22 million trees with people's participation.

In addition, Cambodia has set up forest parks and protected zones for wild animals so as to preserve forest areas. Currently, protected forestry zones in the country cover more than three million hectares of land.

The Premier vowed to continue the policy on forestry reform and to crack down on illegal logging with firm resolve.—MNA/Xinhua

Chinese Premier greets African Union summit

BEIJING, 11 July — Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao has extended "warmest congratulations" on the opening of the second African Union (AU) summit in Maputo, Mozambique, on Thursday.

"The creation of the AU in July 2002 marks a new milestone of the African integration process," said Wen in a message dated Wednesday. "It is significant that you, the African leaders, are holding this summit to discuss the important issues of how to build up the AU and how to respond to the new situation and meet the global challenges."

He said the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), which serves as the AU's Programme of Action, reflects the strong desire of the African continent to seek greater

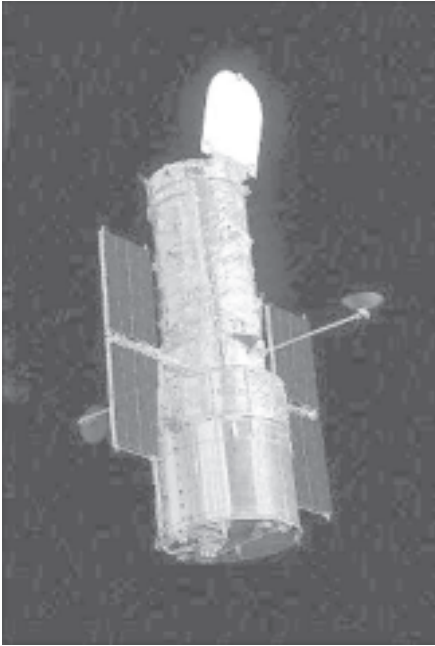
economic and social development. "I am sure the summit will inspire the continent to carry on the Pan-African spirit and push for still greater progress in the cause of peace and development in Africa," Wen said.

He said China and Africa enjoy profound friendship and extensive cooperation. With the improvement of the mechanism of the China-Africa Cooperation Forum and the implementation of the relevant follow-up activities, China-Africa friendship and mutually beneficial cooperation will grow stronger, he said.

The first ministerial conference of the forum was held in Beijing in October 2000; the second is scheduled for November 2003 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

MNA/Xinhua

ဟညာရူးပြင် ခေတ်မီပွဲပြီးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့



The Hubble Space Telescope Astronomers using the Hubble space telescope said they had discovered the oldest-known planet, a Jupiter-sized body billions of years older than the Earth orbiting a pair of burned-out stars.

INTERNET

Beijing marks World Population Day

BEIJING, 11 July — Special events were held Thursday at the Renmin University of China in Beijing to mark the 16th World Population Day.

July 11 is the 16th World Population Day with the theme of "One billion young people, we have good health, we long for respect and we have the right to participate".

About one billion of the world's population are aged 15 to 24, including nearly 200 million in China.

Statistics from Marie Stopes International, a non-profit international organization that promotes reproductive health, show half the abortion cases and HIV virus carriers in the world are young people. About 6,000 young people are HIV-affected every day and 10 girls receive unsafe abortions every ten minutes. For girls younger than 15, the mortality rate connected to reproduction and pregnancy is 25 times

higher than for women above the age of 25.

Young people are the most vulnerable of all age groups to emotional confusion and sexual diseases. The 2003 World Population Day will urge society to pay attention to young people's sexual health.

During the events, student volunteers of the Renmin University staged many lively programmes to spread sexual and reproductive knowledge among the young people. Students were asked questions such as: "What are the three major ways of HIV virus transmission?" "Name at least three contraception methods", and "Are oral contraceptives harmful to health?"

MNA/Xinhua

Study on HK/Pearl River west cross-boundary link underway

HONG KONG, 11 July — A joint study on the cross boundary link between Hong Kong and Pearl River West is underway and will be completed shortly, Hong Kong Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works Sarah Liao said on Wednesday.

He said at a Legislative Council meeting that the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) and Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) government have jointly commissioned the Institute of Comprehensive Transportation (ICT) to conduct the study on the

issue.

It has been reported that the initial design work of the Yamen to Gongbei section of the Guangdong West Coast Expressway, a project of "The Tenth Five-Year Highway Construction Plan of Guangdong Province," is underway expeditiously, and that the construction of this

section will commence soon.

After completion of the section concerned, it will be quicker and more convenient to travel between the western part of the Guangdong Province and Zhuhai, Shenzhen, and Hong Kong.

Liao said the Hong

Kong Government and the Guangdong provincial government have an established channel of communication on town planning issues affecting both regions under the Town Planning Panel of the Joint Working Group on sustainable development and environmental protection.

MNA/Xinhua

Astronomers see Pluto's atmosphere expands

WASHINGTON, 11 July — Winter's impending chill was supposed to put a damper on Pluto. So it was a surprise to astronomers when they got a glimpse of the oddball planet as it moved away from the sun — and saw its atmosphere expanding.

Many observers figured Pluto's atmosphere, made mostly of nitrogen, would contract as the planet moved away from the sun and toward its winter, a process that will take decades over the course of its 248-year orbit around the sun.

Instead the planet's temperature increased slightly and its atmosphere became slightly larger, ac-

cording to reports by James Elliot of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and others in this week's edition of the journal *Nature* released on Wednesday.

The scientists were able to gauge the changing size of the atmosphere when a bright star passed behind the planet in August 2002. They compared it to the atmosphere's size in 1988, the last time

astronomers got a good look at it.

The temperature on Pluto actually increased by a bit more than 1 degree Fahrenheit (1 degree Celsius) since its closest point to the sun in 1989, the scientists found. It is still extremely cold, with temperatures ranging to hundreds of degrees below zero F (and C).

The temperature rise

may be explained by the same kind of heat-lag found on Earth. Even though the sun is at its height at noon on a hot day on our planet, the warmest temperatures are frequently hours later. In Pluto's case, the lag can last for decades.

A commentary in *Nature* sounded hopeful about a planned NASA mission to Pluto. —MNA/Reuters

Separated Guatemalan twin suffers setback

LOS ANGELES, 11 July — A 23-month-old Guatemalan twin once joined at the head to her sister has suffered a neurological setback and remains at the Los Angeles hospital where the two were separated almost a year ago, a spokeswoman said on Wednesday.

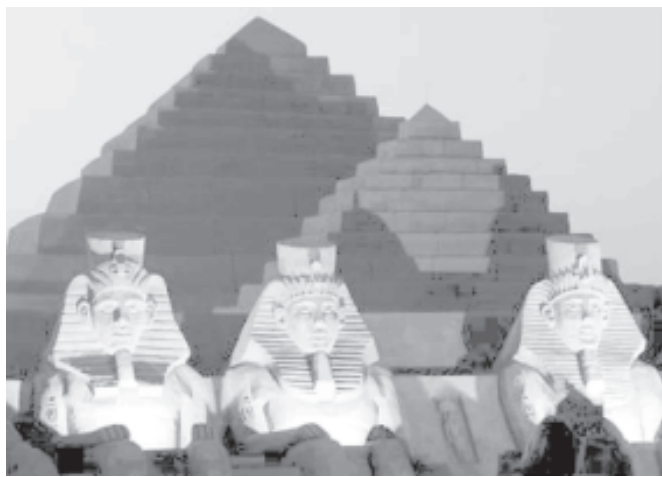
Maria Teresa Queij-Álvarez was about to be released from UCLA's Mattel Children's hospital last Thursday when she showed signs of fever and doctors decided to keep her for observation.

Dr Jorge Lazareff, director of paediatric neurosurgery at the hospital, attributed the twin's setback in developing cognitive and motor abilities to severe meningitis, an

infection of the brain, which she contracted in Guatemala in April, eight months after the separation surgery.

"I remain hopeful that she will recover from this setback," he said. Neurological development involves the central nervous system, including brain and spinal cord function.

MNA/Reuters



The ancient Egypt carved out of sand are illuminated during the opening ceremony of the sand sculpture festival 'Sand World' in Luebeck-Travemuende, northern Germany, on Thursday night, 10 July, 2003. More than 70 carvers from different countries have modelled sculptures featuring the micrales of the world. The show is to be seen until 7 September. —INTERNET

China plans to prevent border river pollution

HARBIN, 11 July — China plans to invest 21.5 billion yuan (about 2.6 billion US dollars) to reverse the gradual pollution of the Songhua River, one of the largest tributaries of the Heilong River on the Sino-Russian border.

The plan is focused mainly to protect drinking water resources for urban residents living in the proximity of the Songhua River, to accelerate urban sewerage programmes, to reduce industrial pollution, and to enforce monitoring and research of the local environment.

Under the plan, polluted water, trash, wastes and industrial pollutants flowing into the river, will be well treated, while protected water reserves will be established in the area.

Sewerage disposal projects in 15 major cities in the northernmost Heilongjiang Province, including the provincial capital Harbin, and such cities as Jiamusi, Qiqihar and Daqing along the river, have been listed in the 10th on-going national Five Year Plan (2001-2005).

MNA/Xinhua

Brazil needs to do more in reducing poverty

BRASILIA, 11 July — Brazil needs to do more in reducing poverty and its social problems, a report of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) said Wednesday.

In the report of the UNDP 2003 Human Development, Brazil, which ranks 65th among 175 countries, runs the risk of not reaching the goal of reducing from 9.9 per cent to 4.95 per cent the number of Brazilians living in extreme poverty on less than one US dollar a day.

The 367-page report provides an annual Human Development Index that ranks 175 countries, based on income per capita, life expectancy, literacy and primary school enrollment. —MNA/Xinhua

SPORTS

Irish investors increase stake in Manchester United

LONDON, 11 July— Manchester United's biggest shareholders, Irish racecourse magnates John Paul McManus and John Magnier, have increased their stake in the Premier League champions to 11.4 per cent, the club said on Wednesday.

McManus and Magnier's investment vehicle, The Cubic Expression company, now holds 29.6 million shares in the English Premier League champions.

"Manchester United has today been informed that The Cubic Expression Company has increased its holding in the company and now holds 29,612,396 ordinary shares representing approximately 11.4 per cent of the issued share capital of the company," United said in a statement to the London Stock Exchange.

Last week United's shares fell nearly 4 per cent after a newspaper report that the two Irish tycoons, close associates of team manager Alex Ferguson, might sell their stake.

MNA/Reuters

Teixeira elected Brazil soccer chief for fifth time

RIO DE JANEIRO, 11 July — Ricardo Teixeira was elected president of the Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF) for the fifth time in a row on Wednesday.

His latest victory comes two years after a Congressional investigation accused him of tax evasion and described his administration as "negligent".

"I want to thank everyone who voted," said Teixeira, who has been in charge of the CBF since 1989. "It was a totally democratic election." Teixeira, standing for the "Five-times world champions" party, beat Carlos Alberto Oliveira by 46 votes to one with two abstentions.

The presidents of Brazil's 27 regional

soccer federations and 22 of the country's biggest clubs were entitled to vote.

The election went ahead amid controversy with critics claiming that second and third division clubs should also be allowed to vote. Brazil have won the 1994 and 2002 World Cups since Teixeira, a member of FIFA's Executive Committee, took over and they also reached the final in 1998. They now have an unequalled five World Cup wins to their credit. The country is also set to host the 2014 World Cup after FIFA decided the tournament would be held in South America and the presidents of the continent's 10 national associations unanimously backed Brazil as their only candidate. —MNA/Reuters



Martina Navratilova of the Philadelphia Freedoms returns the ball during a World Team Tennis match against Hartford Fox-Force on 10 July, 2003, in Radnor, Pa. On Sunday, Navratilova won her 20th Wimbledon championship in mixed doubles at age 46.—INTERNET

Liverpool rule out foul play in Kewell deal

LIVERPOOL, 11 July— Chief executive Rick Parry has defended Liverpool's role in the controversial five-million-pound (8.17-million-US dollar) transfer of Harry Kewell from Leeds, denying that the club offered more for the Australian.

Leeds chairman John McKenzie hinted that Kewell and his agent Bernie Mandic benefitted from the transfer deal by persuading Liverpool to reduce a seven-million-pound offer allegedly agreed with Parry.

"It's puzzling," Parry told a news conference at Anfield on Thursday.

"As far as Liverpool are concerned the situation is crystal clear; the money has gone to Leeds and money has gone to Harry through his contract, but there is nothing else and suggestions to the contrary are wholly without foundation at all.

"I don't want to get into a slanging match with Professor McKenzie as the discussions have been cordial, but no we didn't make an offer of seven million pounds on the fourth of July. I don't know what Professor McKenzie means I just know the reality of the case."

Kewell and Mandic both denied on Thursday there had been a two-million-pound payment from Liverpool to either of them and Mandic said that he and Liverpool would welcome any sort of enquiry into the issue.

Kewell said he felt forced into considering a move as Leeds had not discussed the financial terms of a new contract to replace his existing one, which ran to July 2004.

"I'm sorry to say Leeds never offered me a contract and put figures down in front of me," said Kewell, contradicting claims made by the club in recent months.—MNA/Reuters

Kahn overcomes hearing problem, hopes for better season

BERLIN, 11 July— Bayern Munich captain Oliver Kahn temporarily went deaf in his left ear and had to visit hospital to have fluids drained but the goalkeeper said on Wednesday he was confident the problem had now been cleared up.

"I hope it's alright now," he said as he recuperated on the sidelines of his club's training camp in Leipzig. Kahn said he was not going to let the ear problem, or his private life, get in the way of

his football this season.

Kahn, who is also Germany's captain, has endured a turbulent year in which he made headlines for admitting having an affair with a barmaid while his wife was pregnant.

"Sport is the focus of my life," said the 34-year-old. "I did some things last year that were completely normal. But I underestimated the media attention my private life would attract. Naturally, I made mistakes."

Kahn said he fell into a bit of a hole after the 2002 World Cup, when Germany lost 2-0 to Brazil in the final after he spilled a shot that enabled Ronaldo to score the first of his two goals, and got off to a sluggish start last season.—MNA/Reuters

Frank de Boer agrees deal with Galatasaray

ISTANBUL, 11 July—Dutch defender Frank de Boer has reached a two-year agreement with Turkish side Galatasaray after quitting Barcelona last month, the Istanbul club said on its web site on Thursday.

Galatasaray chairman Ozhan Canaydin said the agreement came after two days of meetings in Amsterdam. No further details on the deal were immediately available.

The 33-year-old Dutch international left the Spanish club after failing to agree a deal to extend his contract, which expired at the end of the season. He had warned Barca in May that he would listen to offers from other clubs unless the Catalans made a quick decision over extending his contract.

MNA/Reuters

Brazilian goalie gets 180-day ban for attacking referee

RIO DE JANEIRO, 11 July —A Brazilian goalkeeper was banned for 180 days on Wednesday for attacking a referee during a Second Division match.

America-Belo Horizonte's Fabiano was grabbed by police and taken to a station for questioning immediately after the incident in the game away to Avai on July 1.

Brazilian football's stop disciplinary tribunal gave the goalkeeper an "intermediary" punishment on the grounds that he was a first-time offender.

"This was decisive for lightening the punishment," said Luis Zveitar, president of the tribunal, adding that the maximum penalty was 360 days.

The tribunal also decided

to open an investigation into the conduct of referee Marcos Tadeu Mafra, who was alleged by America to have insulted the goalkeeper.

Fabiano lost his cool after referee Mafra awarded a late penalty against his team and then booked him for dissent during the game in Florianopolis. Television pictures showed that Fabiano then pushed both hands in the referee's face. The official turned and ran away as Fabiano aimed punches and kicks at him.

Police intervened, grabbed the enraged player and held him in the changing rooms while the rest of the match was played out following a 10-minute delay. Avai missed the penalty and America won 1-0.

MNA/Reuters



Jose Luis Chilavert, goalkeeper of the Penarol soccer team, plays with the ball during a practice session in Montevideo, Uruguay, on 10 July, 2003.—INTERNET

Els survived roller-coaster to win 2002 British Open

LONDON, 11 July— Ernie Els emerged from a dramatic final round of fluctuating fortunes to win the 2002 British Open at Muirfield after a four-way playoff.

The big South African finally saw off the brave challenge of unheralded Frenchman Thomas Levet by holing a five-foot par putt at the fifth extra hole.

Levet's drive ended in a fairway bunker and Els found sand with his second shot but then produced a spectacular pitch and saved his par while the Frenchman had to settle for bogey.

It had looked at one stage as if Els was going to win his

first British Open, at the 11th attempt, quite easily.

He survived the driving wind and rain of Saturday's third round unscathed as many of his major rivals, including world number one Tiger Woods, fell by the wayside.

Woods slumped to a 10-over-par 81, the worst score of his professional career, while Els calmly shot a 72 to go into the final round two strokes clear of the field.

He extended his lead after 12 holes on the Sunday but a double-bogey at the short 16th left him needing a birdie at the par-five 17th to join Levet and Australians Stuart Appleby and Steve Elkington in the playoff.—MNA/Reuters



Maj-Gen Myint Swe and officials view students reciting Dhammacakka Sutta at Shwedagon Pagoda.—MNA

9,000 students recite Dhammacakka Sutta at Shwedagon Pagoda

YANGON, 11 July— Altogether 9,000 students recited fifth Dhammacakka Sutta recitation ceremony, organized by No 3 Basic Education Department (Yangon City), in conjunction with the gold plates donation ceremony for all-round renovation of Shwedagon Pagoda at the platform of the pagoda this morning, attended by Chair-

man of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe.

Altogether 9,000 students offered 9,000 lights and 9,000 flowers to the pagoda.

Today's donations amounted to cash and 62 gold plates worth K 28,180,364.—MNA



Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung addresses paper-reading session on history of Myanmar civilization and civilized Myanmar Race.—MNA

Ministry of Culture holds paper-reading session

YANGON, 11 July — A paper-reading session on the history of Myanmar civilization and the civilized and cultured Myanmar race was held under the sponsorship of Ministry of Culture at the National Museum this morning.

Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung delivered a speech, followed by the presentation of papers by academics in the field of history and archaeology, researchers, literati and officials. The papers were “Image of

Tagaung, an ancient city of Myanmar”; Reserach on excavation of Kambozathadi Palace of King Bayintnaung and archaeological evidence”; “Rural culture”; “Myanmar value systems of culture”; “Myanmar cultural traditions and customs”; “the role of teachers in cultured citizens”; “Study on Myanmar Festivals”; “Myanmar traditional games and sports”; “Modes of dress of Myanmar men and women of different periods”; “Birds in 550 life stories of Buddha”; “Glaze wares and kilns in Bagan”; “History of libraries and the role of National Museum”; and “Obliteration of culture”.

The resource persons also replied to queries raised by the participants.

Present were officials, faculties of the institutions of higher learning under the ministry and others. The paper-reading session continues on 12 and 14 July. — MNA

Myanmar delegation leaves for Malaysia

YANGON, 11 July — A Myanmar delegation led by Brig-Gen Abel, Minister at the State Peace and Development Council Chairman's Office, left here for Indonesia by air this afternoon to attend the Special Meeting of ASEAN Economic Ministers, which will be held in Jakarta, Indonesia, from 12 to 13 July.

They were seen off at Yangon International Airport by Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi and departmental officials.

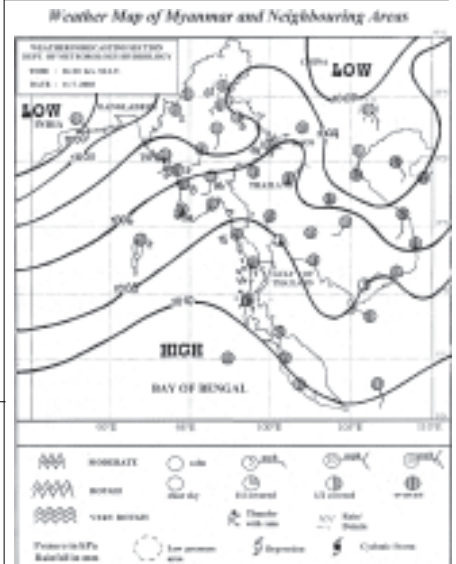
Brig-Gen Abel was accompanied by Director-General U Khin Maung Yi of the Directorate of Investment and Companies Administration under the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development. The Myanmar Consular to Malaysia will also attend the meeting as member of Myanmar delegation.

MNA

Matriculation exam ...

(from page 16)

air on 30.85 meter at 1.30 pm tomorrow on Myanma Radio Programme. Listed are such examination centres as Tanai, Machanbaw, Putao, Nagmon, Phakant and Sumprabum townships in Kachin State; Papun, Kya-in-seikkyi and Kamamaung in Kayin State; Kanpetlet, Matupi, Mintat and Paletwa in Chin State; Gwa, Kyeintali, An, Manaung and Zayatkonkhin in Rakhine State; Momeik, Namhsan (north), Monghsat, Mongkai, Kunlon, Mongton, Mongpyin, Maukmai, Mongyawng, Kehsi Mansan, Kunhing, Hopan, Mongkhat, Mongpan, Mongphyat, Mabein, Monghsu, and Manton in Shan State; Palaw, Bokpyin, and Pala in Taninthayi Division; Pauk, Htilin, Saw, Laungshi, Kyaukhtu, Sedoktara and Ngaphe in Magway Division; Nanyun in Sagaing Division and Coco Islands in Yangon Division. — MNA



WEATHER

Friday, 11 July, 2003

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been cloudy in lower Sagaing Division, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Magway Division, Kayah and Kayin States and scattered to widespread in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfalls in upper Sagaing Division. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Hkamti (3.15) inches, Myitkyina (2.80) inches and Kyauktaw (2.32) inches. Maximum temperature on 10-7-2003 was 31.0°C (88°F). Minimum temperature on 11-7-2003 was 22.6°C (73°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 11-7-2003 was 93%. Total sunshine hours on 10-7-2003 was (0.6) hours approx. Rainfall on 11-7-2003 was 5 mm at Yangon, nil at Kaba-Aye and nil at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2003 was 1076 mm (42.36 inches) at Yangon Airport, 1184 mm (46.61 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 1196 mm (47.09 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 10 mph from Southeast at (21:55) hours MST on 10-7-2003. **Bay inference:** Monsoon is moderate in the Bay of Bengal. **Forecast valid until evening of 12-7-2003:** Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Kachin, Rakhine, Shan, Mon and Kayin States, upper Sagaing, Ayeyawady, Bago, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and isolated to scattered in the remaining areas with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Mon State and Taninthayi Divisions. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters. **Outlook for subsequent two days:** Increase of rain are likely in lower Myanmar areas. **Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 12-7-2003:** One or two rain. Degree of certainty is (80%). **Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 12-7-2003:** Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%). **Weather outlook For first Weekend of July 2003:** During the coming weekend, rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Yangon Division and isolated in Mandalay Division.

Flood Bulletin

(Issued at 11:00 hr MST on 11.7.2003) According to the (06:30) hr MST observation today, the water levels of Chindwin River at Hkamti, Homalin, Mawlaik, Kalewa and Monywa are (1489) cm, (2961) cm (1364) cm, (1633) cm and (1004) cm respectively. It may remain above their respective danger levels of (1360) cm, (2900) cm, (1230) cm, (1550) cm and (1000) cm during the next (72) hours commencing noon today.

Administrative bodies and departmental organizations urged to win respect, trust and reliance of people

Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann inspects construction of Thanlwin Bridge

YANGON, 11 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, member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo, accompanied by Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, the ministers, the Deputy Minister for Health, senior military officers and heads of department, arrived at The-ein Village in Paung Township, Mon State, on 8 July morning.

They were welcomed there by the Chairman of Township Peace and Development Council and members, teachers and students.

Next, they met with teachers and students, village-elders at Affiliated The-ein Middle School of Thei-ein Village. Chairman of Paung Township Peace and Development Council U Mya Kyaing reported on households and population of The-ein Village, progress

in cultivation of monsoon paddy and other crops, condition of motor roads leading to Paung and Thaton.

Afterwards, Headmaster U Lwin Moe Naing of Affiliated The-ein Middle School reported on the strength of teachers and academic matters.

Next, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Soe Win made a speech. He said that they were there to inspect development of Mon State and Kayin State including rural development and fulfil the needs.

The majority of the people reside in rural areas and the government has been making efforts to bring about equitable development in all states and divisions to the most possible degree. They will make arrangements for development of The-ein Village.

Next, Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann gave necessary instructions on upgrading of the Affiliated Middle School and the Rural Health Care Branch.

Next, Secretary-2 Lt-



Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann and Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Soe Win inspect production of car tyres at No 1 Tyre and Rubber Product Factory.—MNA

Gen Soe Win presented 100 dozens of exercise books for students through Headmaster U Lwin Moe Naing. Next, Chairman of Village Peace and Development Council U Chaw spoke words of thanks.

(See page 9)

Lt-Gen Maung Bo attends cornerstone laying ceremony for construction of main building for Hpa-an University

YANGON, 11 July—The opening of the signboard saying "Build Modern Developed Nation Through Education" and multimedia classrooms of No 4 Basic Education High School in Hpa-an, Kayin State, took place at the school on 5 July morning.

Present on the occasion

were Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, Chairman of Kayin State Peace and Development Council Col Cho Tun Aung and members, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, principals, teachers, members of school board of trustees, social organizations, officials and others.

The outstanding students of the school formally

unveiled the signboard.

Next, the opening of the multimedia classrooms followed. Lt-Gen Maung Bo formally unveiled the signboard to mark the opening ceremony. Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party viewed the studies of the students at the classrooms. The students presented skill demonstrations.

The principal and the chairman of the school board of trustees reported on collective efforts made for opening of the classrooms. Lt-Gen Maung Bo presented books and video tapes on teaching aids to the principal.

(See page 8)

Matriculation exam results announced

YANGON, 12 July—The results of the matriculation examination held in March 2003 were simultaneously announced at respective examination centres of the respective schools in States/Divisions and townships at 6 am today.

In addition, the results from states and divisions except Yangon Division are posted at Insein Basic Education High School No 1, Yankin BEHS No 1, Kamayut BEHS No 3, Lanmadaw BEHS No 1, Dagon BEHS No 2 and Thingangyun BEHS No 1.—MNA

Exam results to be broadcast for remote areas

YANGON, 11 July—Out of the successful candidates in the 2003 matriculation examination, those of states and divisions which are difficult of access will be on the

(See page 15)



Fixing of iron frames at Thanlwin River Bridge (Mawlamyine) on Mawlamyine bank on 9-7-2003.—MNA



Lt-Gen Maung Bo sprinkles scented water on cornerstone of Hpa-an University.—MNA