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Secretary-1 inspects renovation of Kanbawzathadi palace site, rebuilding of ancient Naungdawgyi Myathahlaung Reclining Buddha image in Bago

YANGON, 14 July—State Peace and Development Council Secretary-1 General Khin Nyunt today inspected tasks for renovation of Kanbawzathadi palace site and rebuilding of ancient Naungdawgyi Myathahlaung Reclining Buddha image in Bago Township, visited Bago Degree College and gave necessary instructions to the officials.

The Secretary-1, accompanied by member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Tin Aye, the ministers, the deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and departmental heads, left here for Bago and arrived at the Winbawdat Bridge in Bago Township at 10.15 am.

The General and party were welcomed there by the State Peace and Development Council member Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, Bago Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Southern Command Commander Brig-Gen Ko Ko and senior military officers.

The Secretary-1 and party, together with Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and Commander Brig-Gen Ko Ko, arrived at the Kanbawzathadi Palace of King Bayintnaung in Nandawgyagon Ward in Bago where Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung and departmental officials welcomed them.

At the briefing hall there, the Secretary-1 was reported by Minister Maj-Gen Kyi Aung on greening and beautifying tasks of the palace site, arrangements for statues, sculptures and paintings to be kept at the Archaeological Museum to be built and preparations for displaying Mingala coach drawn by 16 horses in the king's time.

After attending to the needs and viewing completion of greening tasks and digging of the Kanbawzathadi lake and building there, the General visited the site for rebuilding of Naungdawgyi Myathahlaung Reclining Buddha image on Tatetha road in Mazin Ward, Bago.

At the briefing hall there, Deputy Minister for Science and Technology U Nyi Hla Nge and Engineer U Tun Shwe reported on completion of religious edifices and Myanmar handicraft technician U Ohn Tin on tasks completed and to be carried out.

Afterwards, the Secretary-1 was reported by Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko on collection of construction materials for the reclining image, 60 per cent completion of foundation and Myanmar handicraft tasks, and collection and use of cash donation.

The Secretary-1 gave necessary instructions to the officials for cooperation to see that the image is sublime. He looked into the tasks completed for the image and the young Bodhi tree at the east corner of the compound.

At 3 pm, the General and party visited Bago Degree College where Principal U Thein Win, heads/professors,



Secretary-1 General Khin Nyunt views progress in casting of the face of Tampalawha Maha Muni Bronze Buddha Image in Bago.—MNA

associate professors, lecturers, assistant lecturers, tutors and demonstrators welcomed them.

Then, Myanmar Education Committee Chairman General Khin Nyunt and party were reported by Deputy Minister for Education U Myo Nyunt on matters related to teaching/administration and staff affairs of the degree college.

The General attended to the needs and made a speech. He said in the education sector, the Government has laid down and implemented the national education promotion programmes to keep abreast of the countries in South-East Asia and then to reach the education of international standard, he said.

(See page 9)

Four political objectives

- * Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
- * National reconsolidation
- * Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
- * Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

Four economic objectives

- * Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well
- * Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system
- * Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad
- * The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples

Four social objectives

- * Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
- * Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
- * Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
- * Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation

Daw Suu Kyi, the NLD Party and Our Ray of Hope — 7

On the road at the village entrance were a group of people numbering about a hundred holding up placards with the words, "Oppose all traitors with negative outlook who rely on foreigners" and shouting "Down with traitors who rely on foreigners".

So, what did we do? All eight cars in the convoy stopped aslant and sideways on the road and shone our headlights full beam on the demonstrators.

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Circulation

24,126



Secretary-1 General Khin Nyunt meets the principal, professors and teachers of Bago Degree College in Bago.—MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 15 July, 2003

For speedy development of the Union

The State Peace and Development Council has been striving day and night for peace and development of the Union through the implementation of the border region development plan, 24-region development plan and five rural development tasks.

As the community peace and tranquillity is the key to the speedy development of all the regions across the nation, regional administrative organs and local people should work in concert for the prevalence of peace and stability.

In his meeting with the responsible personnel of Kayin State Peace and Development Council, Hpa-an District Peace and Development Council, Hpa-an Township Peace and Development Council, government departments and social organizations, member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann said that, as there is still the danger of the insurgents and the lack of security in Kayin State and some areas, development tasks cannot be carried out extensively and that the complete eradication of insurgency calls for the concerted efforts of the Tatmadaw and the local people.

However, the Government, on its part, has been extending itself to develop Kayin State as equally as the other states and divisions. To better the transport and communication in the state, new roads and bridges are being built. Moreover, the microwave station and the satellite communication station have also been opened. With 173 new basic education schools, there are now a total of 1322 schools in the basic education sector of the state. In addition, Hpa-an Degree College was upgraded to a university and Government Technological College, Government Computer College and Education College were also opened in April, 2003. Thus, basic education as well as higher education is within the reach of the youths in the state and more and more educated youths will be turned out.

To improve the health sector of the state, eight new hospitals have been opened and a total of 131 doctors newly appointed. Over K 2000 million has so far been spent on the development work of Kayin State under the special programmes of border area development plan. Therefore, the development level of the state is becoming higher and higher year after year. With the prevalence of total peace and stability and full cooperation of the local people, the state can become even more developed. This being so, we would like to urge all the national people and the members of the Tatmadaw to unitedly work for the speedy development of respective regions and the nation as a whole.

Minister for Information inspects IPRD's Office in Myeik

YANGON, 14 July—Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, accompanied by officials concerned, visited Myeik District Information and Public Relations Department in Myeik on 12 July evening and inspected wall posters, TV rooms and library. Officials of Myeik District IPRD, Myeik, Kyunsu, Taninthayi and Palaw Township IPRDs reported on work being carried out at their district and township offices.

In response to the reports, the minister fulfilled the needs. He said that tremendous efforts are to be made for increasing the number of readers and TV viewers, for opening of libraries on self-reliant basis



Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan inspects Myeik District Information and Public Relations Department in Myeik. —MNA

in the villages, for becoming the bright and dynamic media and for raising the staff welfare within the frame-

work of law. On 13 July evening, the minister inspected the site chosen for construction of the sub-print-

ing press in Myeik and gave necessary instructions to officials.—MNA

Efforts to establish national economic life through modernized agriculture

Article by Kyaw Sein



Aerial view of Minhla Dam opened on 31-5-2003 in Okpo Township, Bago Division.—MNA

Nowadays, the Government is making all-out efforts for the Union of Myanmar to stand tall among nations of the world and to possess stronger national economic life relying on its own national force for the development of the nation and the people. In this regard, it is implementing projects to realize the objective of becoming an agro-based national economic life relying on its own land and marine resources and own national force.

Dams and reservoirs are the good foundations not only for agricultural purpose but for supplying drinking water and they are the examples of the goodwill of the State towards the people.

Water resources are the most essential requirement

for agriculture and therefore the Government has been building dams and river-water pumping stations wherever necessary.

The meeting of the Special Projects Implementation Committee held on 1 June 1994 approved the implementation of Zawgyi Dam Project which is aimed at supplying water for agricultural purpose and generating electricity. With the approval of the committee, the project has been implemented near Indaw Village 28 miles north of Yaksauk Township, Taunggyi District in Shan State.

The 2550 feet long and 145 feet high facility with water storage capacity of 500,000 acre feet benefits 110,000 acres of farmland.

Two 6 megawatt generators now generate 30 kilowatt hours of electricity all year round. Zawgyi Dam was built in 1994-95 and completed in 1997-98 spending K 1,600 million. On 31 March 1997, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe commissioned the dam into service.

The Alaingni Dam is the earthen one with 5,700 feet in length and 52 feet in height. It was constructed on Alaingni Creek near Kyankhun Village in Bago Township and can irrigate 10,000 acres of farmland. The dam was commissioned into service on 31 January 2003.

Apart from the above-mentioned multi-purpose dams and reservoirs, other dams that benefit 5,000 acres of farmland and above have been built throughout the country. At a time when the State has been trying to provide all the necessary assistance and fulfil the requirements with the aim of establishing the national economic life based on agriculture, all are to strive hard for the realization of the aim of the State.

(Translation: BG)

(Kyemon: 6-7-2003)



The Alaingni Dam on Alaingni Creek near Kyankhun Village in Bago Township.—MNA

Chinese emperor's seal sold at record price

BEIJING, 14 July — The largest seal ever used by an emperor of the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911) and recently retrieved from overseas sold for six million yuan at a spring auction here on Saturday.

Bidding for the seals, which were said to have been used by Emperor Kang Xi, the fourth emperor of the Qing Dynasty, began at 1.6 million yuan, but soared to a final price of six million yuan, hitting a record high for the auction of an imperial seal.

A spokesperson for the auctioneer, Huachen, said the seal, with a carved surface measuring 9.5 centimetres square, was retrieved from a United States collector and sold to a Chinese buyer who declined to be identified.

Kang Xi's seals were first auctioned last spring in China at a price of 3.55 million yuan. Another set of 12 of the emperor's seals sold for 19 million Hong Kong dollars in a Hong Kong auction. A Chinese emperor's seals were regarded as a symbol of their power.

Records show that Emperor Kang Xi had 120 seals. Most of them were lost in Europe after allied forces looted Beijing in 1900.

MNA/Xinhua

More pressure on Tony Blair over Iraq

LONDON, 14 July—Critics kept up pressure on Prime Minister Tony Blair Sunday over disputed British intelligence used to bolster the case for war against Iraq.

Blair has stood by the claim that Iraq sought uranium in Africa in hopes of developing nuclear weapons, even as the White House backed off the accusation, which President repeated in his State of the Union speech before the US-led war.

Former Foreign Secretary Robin Cook who quit as leader of the House of Commons to protest the war said Blair should detail the intelligence that makes him continue to believe the claim is true.

"There is one simple question the government must answer," Cook told *The Sunday Times* newspaper. "Why did their evidence of a uranium deal not convince the CIA?"

"If it was not good enough to be in the president's address, it was not good enough to go in the prime minister's dossier," he added.

Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said in a letter made public Saturday that while the CIA had expressed concerns to Britain about

the Africa charge it did not specify what they were. He said British intelligence officials were confident of their information and decided to publish it in a dossier about alleged Iraqi weapons of mass destruction despite their ally's reservations.

Straw's letter indicated that close allies Britain and America had failed or declined to communicate fully about intelligence relating to the claim. Britain did not know until recently that the CIA had sent an envoy to Niger who investigated the uranium charge and discounted it, he added.

Straw also wrote that Britain based its charge in part on intelligence it did not share with the United States. Blair's office said Britain could not pass on the information because it came from a foreign source, but said it was not called into question by the revelation that documents suggesting Iraq had sought uranium in Africa were forged. — *Internet*

Rumsfeld warns more attacks against US forces in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 14 July—US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld warned Sunday that attacks against US forces in Iraq might rise during the next couple of weeks.

"I'm afraid we're going to have to expect this to go on. And there's even speculation that during the month of July, which is an anniversary for a lot of Baathist events, we could see an increase in the number of attacks," Rumsfeld said on NBC's "Meet the Press," referring to former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's political faction.

Since President Bush declared the end of major combat in Iraq on May 1, at least 80 US troops have been killed 32 of them by hostile action. The military is engaged in its fourth operation aimed at weeding out Iraqi insurgents since the overthrow of Saddam's regime. — *Internet*

Colombian police seize 4 tons of marijuana

BOGOTA, 14 July—Colombian police said on Saturday that 4 tons of marijuana was seized in the northeast of the country, near the border with Venezuela.

The Colombian secret police, or DAS, said the marijuana was hidden inside an old mine in mountains in the northern state of Norte de Santander, 550 kilometres from Bogota.

The DAS said the drug, suspected to belong to far-right paramilitaries, was bound for the United States. No arrests were reported. Colombia, located in the well-known "Silver Triangle" of drug production in South America, is the largest producer of cocaine and heroin in the world.

A report released by the United Nations in late June said Colombia-made cocaine reached three-fourths of the world's users. — *MNA/Xinhua*



Iraqis watch a live television broadcast of the press conference of the 25-member Iraqi Governing Council on 13 July, 2003 Baghdad, Iraq. The Governing Council brought together prominent Iraqis of all political and religious persuasions in a crucial first step on the nation's path to democracy. The multi-ethnic panel will have real political muscle, with the power to name ministers and approve the 2004 budget. — *INTERNET*

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New Iraqi Council opens "historic" first meeting

BAGHDAD, 14 July — A US-backed Iraqi Governing Council held its inaugural meeting in Baghdad on Sunday, heralded as a "historic" first step towards a democratic government in postwar Iraq.

The 25 council members opened the session in the former Military Industrialization Commission building in central Baghdad shortly before midday (0800 GMT), witnesses said. "We are witnessing history now, history in the making," Entifadh Qanbar, spokesman for the Iraqi National Congress political party. The council, filling a power vacuum after the fall of Saddam Hussein on April 9, roughly reflects Iraq's religious and ethnic make-up, with 13 Shiite Muslims, five Sunni Muslims, five Kurds, one Christian and one Turkmen. "The launch of the governing council will mean that Iraqis play a more central role in running their country," Bremer said in a statement to Iraqis on Saturday night.

"The formation of the governing council will also mark the start of the process leading to full, free and fair democratic elections in Iraq." — *MNA/Reuters*



From left, Samir Shakir Mahmoud, Abdel-Karim Mahoud al-Mohammedawi, Abdel-Aziz al-Hakim, Mohammed Bahr al-Ulloum, Jalal Talabani, Ahmad Chalabi, and Mouwafak al-Rabii sit in the hall for a news conference after their inaugural meeting on 13 July, 2003, in Baghdad, Iraq. The multi-ethnic panel will have real political muscle, with the power to name ministers and approve the 2004 budget. — *INTERNET*

Campaign begins to raise awareness of forest conservation

BEIJING, 14 July — Chinese forestry authorities began a publicity campaign here Saturday to encourage afforestation and the conservation of forests.

Sponsors of the campaign, including the State Administration of Forestry and five other government organs and institutions, will work with the country's major news media to educate the public about forestry conservation. The publicity, mainly through news coverage, will focus on nature reserves around China, the protection of highly-endangered giant pandas, and the construction of forest shelter belts in north China. The campaign as an annual event was initiated four years ago, as part of China's efforts to increase its forest coverage while guaranteeing the supply of timber for rapid economic growth and rising living standards.

Afforestation and the conservation of forests were of great significance to sustainable development, said Jia Qinglin, chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, the country's top advisory body.

China's forest coverage ratio stands at 16.55 per cent. The government is aiming to increase it to 26 per cent in 50 years. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Vajpayee concerned over declining interest in science in India

NEW DELHI, 14 July — Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee Saturday expressed concern over the declining interest in science among students and feared that in a few years' time top Indian research organizations would face a shortage of good science graduates.

"In the 1950s and 60s, the best students chose to go for science education. Today's bright students seem to be shying away from science. This issue needs to be addressed effectively, imaginatively and comprehensively," he said at an awarding ceremony here. He was presenting the prestigious Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Awards to 12 eminent scientists for their outstanding research contributions. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Democrats say Iraq story falls short

WASHINGTON, 14 July—The administration's explanation of how questionable intelligence about Iraq's alleged nuclear weapons programmes made it into President Bush's State of the Union address leaves numerous questions unanswered, two Democratic presidential candidates said Sunday.

Democratic presidential hopeful Senator John Kerry of Massachusetts said on CNN's "Late Edition with Wolf Blitzer" that Tenet's statement of responsibility leaves "a host of questions" unanswered.

"Making him the fall guy does not resolve the question or make go away the questions about the overall intelligence, and why the administration clearly had this political tug of war over the kind of information they were presenting America," Kerry said, "That is only go-

ing to be answered by the White House."

Another Democratic candidate, Senator Bob Graham of Florida, who was chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee during last year's debate about Iraq, said the uranium claim was part of a "pattern of deception" by the Bush administration.

"This is not a problem of George Tenet, it's a problem of George Bush," Graham said on NBC's "Meet the Press."

"Throughout his admin-

istration, from the first weeks, when there was energy policy developed essentially excluding the American people, through economic policy, environmental policy and now the war in Iraq and the war against terrorism, this has been a pattern of selective use of intelligence, of deception, of overstatement," Graham said.

Kerry said the issue will hurt confidence in US intelligence during a future crisis.

Internet



A US humvee waits at the police station in Fallujah, 64 kilometres (40 miles) west of Baghdad, Iraq, on 13 July, 2003. —INTERNET

Lawmakers demand answers on uranium claim

WASHINGTON, 14 July — Massachusetts and Rhode Island lawmakers who backed the war in Iraq have asked President Bush to explain the administration's allegation that Iraq was seeking to buy nuclear material from Africa.

"President Bush has many questions to answer about the use and misuse of intelligence on Iraq's weapons of mass destruction programmes," said Representative Edward Markey, D-Mass. "I believe that the credibility of this administration rests on the answers to the questions we have asked."

Bush claimed in his State of the Union address in January that Saddam Hussein tried to buy uranium in Africa. The allegation was abruptly dropped a month later when it was learned the information came from forged documents.

Senator John Kerry, D-Mass., a presidential candidate, has called for a full investigation into the issue. On Friday, he said the "finger-pointing" within the administration will "do nothing to make this country safer and will simply further erode the confidence of the American public and our allies around the world."

The House members asked Bush to back up other claims he made about Iraq in the speech, including whether Saddam Hussein had the materials needed to produce up to 500 tons of chemical weapons, and whether he had the munitions required to deliver them.

The letter was signed by 16 Democrats who voted for the House resolution authorizing the war, including Markey, Representative Marty Meehan, D-Mass, and Representative Patrick Kennedy, D-R.I.

Internet

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Attacks on US troops in Iraq may worsen

WASHINGTON, 14 July—Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld warned Sunday that attacks on US troops in Iraq may worsen this summer but he insisted that occupation forces there are making progress.

"I'm afraid we're going to have to expect this to go on and there's even speculation that during the month of July, which is an anniversary for a lot of Baathists events, we could see an increase in the number of attacks," Rumsfeld said on NBC's "Meet the Press."

Even though major fighting has ended, Rumsfeld cautioned "we're still in a war." He also said American forces, now totalling about 150,000, will likely remain in Iraq for the "foreseeable future."

"There's still a lot of people from the Baathist and Fedayeen Saddam regime types who are there, who are disadvantaged by the fact that their regime has been thrown out and would like to get back, but they're not going to succeed," he said.

As for whether the resistance is organized throughout the country, Rumsfeld said there's still a lot of debate in the intelligence community about that. However, "it's very

clear that it's coordinated in regions and areas, cities in the north particularly," he said.

Since President Bush declared May 1 that major combat was over, 31 US soldiers have been killed in Iraq and scores have been wounded in hit-and-run attacks.

Still, the defence secretary insisted that progress is being made on the ground with Iraqis signing up for the army and police forces, and schools and hospitals opening back up.

But, he said, the "more progress we make, I'm afraid, the more vicious the attacks will become" on American and coalition forces.

In a separate appearance on ABC's "This Week," Rumsfeld disputed claims from some congressional Democrats that the administration has understated the cost of the war and occupation of Iraq.

Internet

Italian President on importance of Italian-German ties

ROME, 14 July —Italian President Carlo Azeglio Ciampi said that the recent tensions between Italy and Germany should not be allowed to undermine the friendship and ties between the two countries, Italian media reported Saturday.

In an interview with German Sunday daily *Bild am Sonntag* that will hit newsstands Sunday, Ciampi said that "we cannot allow the painful polemics that have upset Italian-German relations to cast a shadow over our future cooperation".

MNA/Xinhua

Saudi Arabia appoints new security chief

RIYADH, 14 July—Saudi Arabia, which is boosting security after bombings in Riyadh killed 35 people in May, has appointed a new security chief, local newspapers reported on Saturday.

A royal decree promoted General Saeed bin Abdullah al-Qahtani, chief of police in Mecca, to the rank of lieutenant-general and then appointed him as the kingdom's chief of security, papers said.

The papers said Qahtani's predecessor, Lieutenant-General Asaad bin Abdul Karim al-Fareeh, had been appointed as a consultant in the office of Interior Minister Prince Nayef. Qahtani graduated from Saudi Arabia's King Fahd Security College in 1969 and has held several security posts, the papers said.

Saudi Arabia says it has arrested 124 suspected al-Qaeda militants since May 12 when suicide bombers attacked compounds housing foreigners in the capital Riyadh, killing 35 people, including nine Americans.

Stung by US charges of not doing enough to prevent suicide bombings, the kingdom has stepped up security and cracked down on militancy.—MNA/Reuters



US Army 1st Lt Matthew Daly from South Kingstown, RI looks over an old bolt-action rifle confiscated when he and men from the 4th Infantry Division, 1st Battalion 68th Armor Task Force launched a military operation in the village of Mashahdah, Iraq 45 kilometres north of Baghdad on 13 July, 2003. —INTERNET

Occupation tests Shiite patience in Iraq holy city

NAJAF (Iraq), 14 July— Iraq's holy Shiite city of Najaf seems to be giving US occupiers a chance, but many residents say patience could soon run out.

Unlike the unruly capital, this city about 125 miles south of Baghdad shows relatively few effects of the US-led invasion to topple Saddam Hussein.

The occupation forces — the US Marines here — remain largely out of sight. The streets teem after dark and the lights stay on at night.

But tension between the Shiites — persecuted by Saddam, suspicious of the United States — simmers below the surface.

Conversation around the outwardly peaceful Imam Ali Shrine, which Shiites believe is the burial site of Ali, the cousin of Prophet Mohammad and Islam's fourth caliph, quickly reveals hostility toward the occupation.

Some say the Americans are tolerated for now but are at the mercy of the powerful Shiite clergy, who the Americans have so far kept at arm's length.

"If the Iraqi people did not want the American troops, they would not be allowed to set one foot here," said Said Jafar Sadiq al-Mousawi, a sheikh from Kut on a pilgrimage to Najaf.

"If the occupation lasts for a long time and does not fulfil the people's demands, Hawza could be calling for a jihad (holy struggle)."

Hawza, the highest authority among Iraq's Shiite majority, has been based in Najaf for centuries.

US military sources say the "regime elements" in charge of Najaf mostly fled after the war, knowing that Saddam Hussein's predominantly Sunni government was hated by Shiites, long repressed in Iraq.

Hawza filled the void. Grand Ayatollah Ali Mohammed al-Sistani holds sway in the background, while at centre stage sits Ayatollah Mohammed Bakr al-Hakim, who has returned from 20 years of exile in Iran.

So far US leaders such as top civilian administrator Paul Bremer have yet to meet the ayatollahs.

Hakim has demanded a prompt end to the occupation and more authority for Iraqis to govern their own affairs. He told *Reuters* in a recent interview that "if the people lose their patience there will be a social uproar".

MNA/Reuters

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Iraq cannot commit to long-term oil supply deals

BAGHDAD, 14 July — Iraq is still in no position to discuss term oil contracts with customers because of lingering doubts over exports from oilfields, a senior Iraqi oil marketing official said on Sunday.

"We don't want to discuss term contracts with customers because we don't want to make any promises and then realize the availability of supplies is not enough," the official told *Reuters*.

"Right now we are not certain what the country can produce. We would like to pursue term contracts but we are not in a position to discuss them."

Oil revenues are crucial to Iraq's drive to rebuild and

attract investment after years of war, crippling sanctions and economic mismanagement under Saddam Hussein, who was toppled on April 9 by a US-led invasion.

The official, who asked to remain anonymous, said northern oil pipelines were still gripped by what he called political sabotage attacks so any exports from fields would have to come from the south, which he added were hit by economic sabotage.

"We are still not sure if the south can provide sustained supplies because there are problems there too. But if exports start they will come from the south," he said.

Iraq's vital export pipeline to Turkey in the north was hit by another sabotage blast a week ago while it was still undergoing repairs from previous attacks, raising further questions about Iraq's export troubles.

Iraq, which sits on the world's second largest oil reserves, made its first post-war oil sales using crude oil from storage. But its oil officials are working toward resuming exports from Iraqi oilfields for the long term.

Iraq awarded its second post-war crude oil tender to at least four companies last week, including a US oil major and a trading house.

MNA/Reuters



A US soldier from the 4th Infantry Division, 1st Battalion 68 Armor Task Force, guards hooded Iraqis after rounding them up in another military operation dubbed Operation Ivy Serpent at Mashahdah, 45 Kilometres north of Baghdad, Iraq on 13 July, 2003.

INTERNET

Blast near Iraqi police station kills one

BAGHDAD, 14 July — A blast occurred outside a police station in a Baghdad suburb on Sunday, killing at least one person and injuring another, a witness said.

A headless body lay at the scene of the explosion in the western suburb of Maysaloun, next to the wreckage of a car on its side with its roof ripped off.

US soldiers guarded the area. No information on the cause of the blast was immediately available.

The police station is sometimes visited by US soldiers, who have come under daily attacks in mainly Sunni Muslim central Iraq in recent weeks.

The blast occurred as a US-backed Iraqi governing council seen as a crucial step on Iraq's road to democracy met for the first time and immediately abolished all holidays honouring Saddam Hussein, toppled by US-led forces on April 9.

Washington hopes the attacks will decline if Iraqis feel the US and British occupying powers are transferring authority to local leaders.

MNA/Reuters

Luxury car release triggers brand duel in China

BEIJING, 14 July— German car manufacturer Audi formally released its new top-range A8 sedan for the Chinese market in Beijing on Sunday, sparking heated competition in China's imported luxury car market dominated by Mercedes-Benz and BMW.

The move coincided with the opening of Audi's first exhibition centre in Asia, just two kilometres from Tian'anmen Square.

Andreas Deges, executive director of Audi China under the VW (China) Investment Co., Ltd., said the introduction of A8 was a strategic move to strengthen its brand position in the Chinese market. A strong position would help promote sales and market share of the locally made A6 and A4 cars. As traditional car markets remained lackluster due to a slowdown in global economic recovery, the Chinese economy steamed ahead with annual automobile sales exceeded three million, growing by 40 per cent a year.

Jia Xinguang, chief analyst with the China Auto Industry Development Consultation Company, said as the Chinese market grew more diverse, stronger brand positioning was an effective way for international firms to improve market penetration and remain competitive in China.

Audi has already invested in local production of A6 and A4 in China. The introduction of A8 will give the company a full-range position with products for both medium and upper end customers. Deges said the Chinese market was maturing as market division became increasingly clearer. In order to strengthen its position in the increasingly globalized market, Audi had to introduce a full-range line of products into China. MNA/Xinhua

China to launch second North Pole scientific expedition

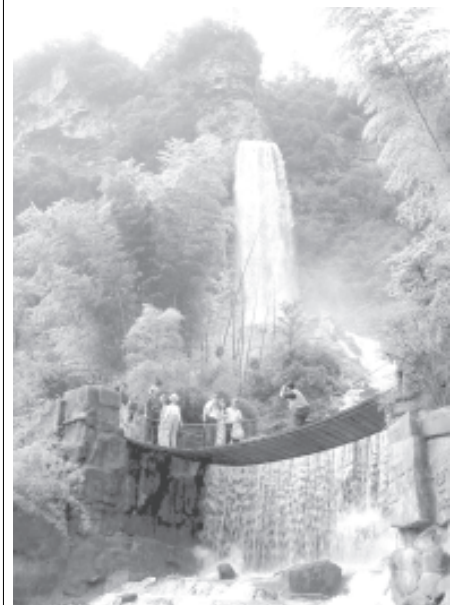
DALIAN, 14 July — China will launch its second scientific expedition to the North Pole on July 15 from Dalian, a port city in northeast China's Liaoning Province.

An ultra-modern icebreaker entitled *Snow Dragon*, which had made the Arctic journey in 1999, will carry 115 scientists from seven countries, including China, the United States and Finland, to the North Pole for a 74-day research expedition.

Zhang Zhanhai, the expedition's chief scientist, said on Saturday that his team would study the effect of the North Pole on the global climate, especially on China, and establish a comprehensive observation system for the Arctic region to provide first-hand material for China's polar region research.

China's first North Pole scientific expedition from July 1 to September 9, 1999, aimed to collect scientific resources on the ecological system in the Arctic waters, and the atmosphere, geology, fishing, and marine environment of the area.

Snow Dragon, which belongs to China's third generation of polar expedition icebreakers, is equipped with advanced guidance systems, automatic steering and experimental systems, including a 200-square-metre laboratory and ocean research instruments. — MNA/Xinhua



A group of tourists take photos on the hanging bridge with a waterfall in the background in Zhangjiajie, a famous tourist city in central China's Hunan Province, on 12 July, 2003. A total of 6,000 tourists visited the city Saturday, indicating the full resuscitation of tourism in the city. — XINHUA PHOTO

US envoy sparks Russian anger over Iraq comments

Moscow, 14 July — Washington's envoy to Moscow said on Saturday US forces could not guarantee the safety of Russia's Embassy in Baghdad, prompting an angry response from Moscow that blew a chill wind between the Cold War-era rivals.

In an interview with *Interfax* news agency, US Ambassador Alexander Vershbow said Washington did not see Russian staff working in the Iraqi capital as diplomats.

"There is no Iraqi government to grant diplomatic privileges and immunity for foreign diplomats in Iraq," Vershbow said.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Alexander Yakovenko fired straight back.

"All this contradicts International Law and diplomatic practice," he said in comments broadcast on state television. "Occupying powers must fulfil the obligations agreed to in Resolution 1483, which the United States voted for. We trust the United States will hear our concerns and fulfil their obligations before the international commu-

nity."

Russia's mission in Baghdad was the focus of several rows between Moscow and Washington during the war. Moscow protested against airstrikes near its mission and later accused US forces of firing on a diplomatic convoy leaving Iraq.

"We have no objections to Russian employees working in the building of the former Russian Embassy in Baghdad, but we do not see their presence as a diplomatic mission," Vershbow told *Interfax* news agency in a Russian-language interview.

"We cannot take responsibility for the safety of these employees...," he was quoted as saying.

Vershbow said the United States considered it "unwise" for diplomats

to set up missions in Baghdad before an official Iraqi government was established.

Political sources said US administrator Paul Bremer and top Iraqi politicians were finalizing plans for an Iraqi governing council on Saturday to fill the vacuum present since US and British forces ousted Saddam's government. Russia, whose economic ties with Iraq date back to the Cold War era of superpower rivalry between the United States and the Soviet Union, was one of few countries not to have closed its embassy during the Iraq war.

Russia said the mission has continued to function throughout the military campaign and its aftermath, untroubled by the collapse of Saddam's government in April. —MNA/Reuters

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Iraqi archers back in world competition

NEW YORK, 14 July — The first Iraqi athletes to visit the United States since the fall of Saddam Hussein, a team of seven archers, said on Saturday they had little hope of outshooting the competition but called the trip a dream come true.

The team of four men and three women archers, who arrived in New York late on Friday night, will compete in the week-long World Archery Championships that begin on Monday.

"It was a dream for me to participate in this international championship," one of the archers, Afrah Abas, 34, told a news conference through a translator.

The Iraqis and the US and Olympic officials who helped arrange the visit evaded questions about the war launched by the United States and Britain in March to oust Saddam.

MNA/Reuters



Fourth Infantry Division soldiers from the 1st Battalion 68th Armour Task Force detain and put sandbags over the heads of the men, 31 in total, of the village of Mashahdah, Iraq 45 kilometres north of Baghdad Sunday, on 13 July, 2003. —INTERNET

Britain denies US rift over Iraq intelligence

LONDON, 14 July — Britain tried to brush off reports on Sunday of a serious rift with Washington over its intelligence on Saddam Hussein's nuclear ambitions used by the two allies to justify invading Iraq.

The United States, which toppled Saddam with British support three months ago, said last week its claim that Iraq was trying to buy uranium from Niger was based on forged documents.

That embarrassing retreat left Prime Minister Tony Blair, already under fire from domestic critics and former UN weapons inspector Hans Blix, increasingly isolated as he refused to withdraw Britain's charge that Saddam sought uranium in Africa.

Foreign Secretary Jack

Straw said in a letter published on Saturday Britain stood by intelligence it had seen — but not passed on to its chief ally — supporting the Niger link and said US doubts had been "unsubstantiated by explanation". His comments triggered speculation of a split between the CIA and Britain's intelligence service, known as MI6, which have traditionally co-operated closely. "All this stuff about rifts and rows just doesn't hold water," a spokesman for Blair said,

insisting that the CIA had not called into question the intelligence Britain had relied on.

Blair flies to Washington on Thursday for talks with US President George W. Bush, leaving behind calls from a former minister for his resignation and a growing sense of betrayal within his ruling Labour Party, which grudgingly backed the war. Both Blair and Bush have faced accusations that they manipulated intelligence about weapons of mass destruction to make the case for military action.

MNA/Reuters

Arrested Canadian photographer dies in Teheran

OTTAWA, 14 July — A Canadian freelance photographer has died in Teheran after being arrested and taken to a hospital with what relatives said were serious head injuries, government officials in Ottawa said on Saturday.

Montreal-based Zahra Kazemi, 54, was detained on June 23 after taking pictures of Teheran's notorious Evin prison, where many dissidents are jailed. She was declared brain dead earlier this week. Her death appears likely to mar what had been relatively smooth relations between Canada and Iran.

Canadian officials said Foreign Minister Bill Graham had told Ottawa's Ambassador to Teheran to seek an immediate meeting with Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi to find out exactly what happened to Kazemi.

Friends and relatives — who insist Kazemi was

beaten into a coma — said the most important thing was to ensure her body was returned to Canada for an autopsy.

"This is all that counts right now... we demand that the Iranian Government allow the repatriation of her body," Kazemi's son Stephane Hachemi told reporters in Montreal. Hachemi told *Reuters* earlier in the week that Iranian doctors had diagnosed his mother as having a fractured skull. In Teheran, an official at the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance said Kazemi had died from "a brain attack", *IRNA* news agency said. "During the first stages of interrogation she said she was ill and was transferred to hospital where she had this attack," *IRNA* quoted foreign Press department director Mohammad Hossein Khoshvaght as saying.

MNA/Reuters

Uganda Vice-President calls upon local leaders to fight poverty

KAMPALA, 14 July — Ugandan Vice-President Gilbert Bukenya has called on local council leaders to play a central role in directing community initiatives toward the transfor-

mation of peasantry activities of production to commercial farming to fight poverty.

Bukenya made the call when he was addressing local council chairpersons,

councillors and extension staff of Kakiri sub-county in central Wakiso District, west of Kampala, reported Radio Uganda on Sunday night.

MNA/Xinhua



US soldiers from the 4th Infantry Division, 1st Battalion 68th Armour Task Force use a metal detector to search for weapons in a haystack during a military operation dubbed Operation Ivy Serpent at Mashahdah, 45 Kilometres north of Baghdad, Iraq on 13 July, 2003. —INTERNET

First US aircraft carrier named for living president commissioned

WASHINGTON, 14 July — Former US First Lady Nancy Reagan commissioned the US Navy's newest aircraft carrier, *USS Ronald Reagan*, at Norfolk Naval Station in Virginia on Saturday, the first named for a living president.

At a ceremony, Vice-President Dick Cheney said the US Navy today is in many ways a monument to Reagan's vision. "He came to the presidency with a clear understanding of the tools our Navy would need to protect the American people," Cheney said.

The aircraft carrier, nearly 1,100 feet long and standing 20 stories above the waterline, will be based in San Diego, be home to 6,000 sailors and carry more than 80 aircraft. —MNA/Xinhua

US mulls annual cash payout for all Iraqis

NEW YORK, 14 July — The United States is considering paying all Iraqis an annual dividend from a trust fund established with the country's oil revenues, US administrator Paul Bremer said on Sunday.

In an article in the *New York Times* marking the first meeting of Iraq's governing council in Baghdad, Bremer said the United States planned economic reforms for Iraq that entailed "a major shift of capital from the value-destroying state sector to private firms".

"We are also creating a social safety net for any resulting disruptions," he said, adding that every Iraqi should benefit from the country's oil wealth. "One possibility would be to pay social benefits from a trust financed by oil revenues," he said. "Another could be to pay an annual cash dividend directly to each citizen from that trust."

Bremer said the first meeting of the governing council was an impor-

tant step toward establishing a new Constitution and ending the US presence in the country.

The council, filling a power vacuum after the fall of Saddam Hussein on April 9, has 25 members roughly reflecting Iraq's religious and ethnic make-up.

"The council will immediately exercise real political power, appointing interim ministers and working with the coalition on policy and budgets," Bremer wrote.

He said the council would establish procedures to write a new Constitution. "Once it is ratified by the people, elections can be held and a sovereign Iraqi government will come into being," Bremer said.

"So the question of the coalition

will stay in Iraq depends in part on how quickly the Iraqi people can write and approve a Constitution."

Opinion polls have shown growing uneasiness in the United States over the US role in Iraq, where American soldiers face continuing guerilla attacks. More than 30 have been killed since President George W Bush declared major combat over on May 1.

"The combination of a broken infrastructure and acts of sabotage could mean a rough summer," Bremer said. "We will suffer casualties, as the bitter-enders resort to violence."

He said US forces were braced for "an increase in terrorism by non-Iraqis". "No one should doubt our determination to use our power in the face of violent acts." —MNA/Reuters



Iraqi women and children wait outside a compound as US soldiers from the 4th Infantry Division, 1st Battalion 68 Armour Task Force (unseen) round up all the males at the village of Mashadah, 45 kilometres north of Baghdad, Iraq during another military operation dubbed Operation Ivy Serpent on 13 July, 2003. —INTERNET

Firecracker sets off blasts at Russian navy arsenal

Moscow, 14 July— A stray firecracker set off a series of explosions at an arms dump for Russia's Pacific Fleet on Sunday, injuring 13 people and causing 2,000 more to evacuate their homes, media reports said.

Locals celebrating Fishermen's Day had been letting off firecrackers near the arsenal in the town of Tayezhnyi, about 30 miles from the far eastern port of Vladivostok, ITAR TASS news agency reported.

One accidentally flew into the arms store's ventilation system, starting a fire which triggered the explosions, Pacific Fleet spokesman Alexander Kosolapov said on RTR television.

The blasts scattered unexploded artillery shells around the area and shattered windows in nearby dachas, or country cottages, agencies said.

One ammunition depot and at least two cottages burned down and smaller explosions were continuing, *Interfax* said. Local officials were not available for comment.

MNA/Reuters

US launches Iraq crackdown ahead of key dates

BAGHDAD, 14 July—US forces in Iraq have launched an operation against militants suspected of planning attacks on upcoming anniversaries linked to Iraqi nationalism and Saddam Hussein, the US military said.

"Operation Ivy Serpent is a pre-emptive strike that aggressively focuses on non-compliant forces and former regime leaders," a military spokesman said.

The operation is the fourth conducted by the US military since the toppling of Saddam in April to crack down on armed resistance to the US occupation of Iraq.

US officers say they have intelligence information that assailants are planning at-

tacks to coincide with anniversaries including a July 14, 1958 coup against a British-backed monarchy; Saddam assuming the presidency on July 16, 1979; and a revolution staged by his Baath Party on July 17, 1968.

The spokesman said the operation, which began on Saturday night, was focused on an area to the north of Baghdad, around the towns of Samarra and Baiji. —Internet

FTAA negotiations end with differences unsolved

MEXICO CITY, 14 July—Negotiators ended four days of talks on the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) in El Salvador without sorting out their differences on delicate issues such as agricultural subsidies, reports from San Salvador, the Salvadorean capital, said on Saturday.

Sources close to the negotiations, which started Tuesday and ended on Friday night, said the involved parties had not been able to establish the theme of the FTAA ministerial meeting which is scheduled to be held in November at the US city of Miami.

In these talks, the differences between the United States and some Latin American countries became evident with respect to the issues such as agricultural subsidies and governmental procurement, the sources were quoted as saying on Saturday by the

media of San Salvador, where the 14th meeting of the Trade Negotiations Committee of the FTAA took place. The meeting failed to make any progress because, for the first time, there existed "an in-depth and very serious disagreement on the issues of concern for each country", Salvadorean Vice-Minister of Economy Eduardo Ayala told the Press.

Reports said the United States plans to take the issue of agricultural subsidies to World Trade Organization negotiations in an effort to

protect its producers, while Brazil and other countries want such non-trade barriers to be removed from the FTAA. —MNA/Xinhua

US firm says to give Diana Fund damages to charity

LONDON, 14 July — The US company suing a memorial fund for Britain's late Princess Diana said on Saturday any damages it receives will go to charities supported by the fund.

"When we have found out how much money we are going to be awarded by the court, we are then going to give it to charitable causes," said Franklin Mint spokesman Steven Locke. "In the past when we have given money connected to Diana we have always given it to charities that she supported in her lifetime," he added in an interview with BBC radio.

On Friday the Princess

of Wales Memorial Fund said it was freezing payments of about 10 million pounds (16 million US dollars) to more than 120 organizations as part of its fight against a lawsuit from souvenir company Franklin Mint.

The privately held Pennsylvania firm launched a 25-million-US-dollar "malicious prosecution" lawsuit last year to counter-sue the Diana fund after it tried but

failed to stop Franklin Mint using her name and image for souvenir items in the United States. "We don't understand why this year the Diana Fund is freezing this year's allocation because there is no legal or practical danger to this year's allocation," said Locke. "I can guarantee to you that none of the end charities will lose out as a result of our action," he added. —MNA/Reuters

Official says Uganda in population explosion

KAMPALA, 14 July — Ugandan Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development Gerald Sendaula has warned that the nation's population is growing at an alarming rate that exceeds the country's resource capacity.

Sendaula gave the warning at the World Population Day celebrations in western Masindi District on Friday, according to the *Sunday Monitor* newspaper to be published on Sunday.

"In the 2002 population census, we were 24.7 million people, but at the rate of 3.4-per-cent growth per year, we are now 25.3

million. Such a rapid increase needs a magical planner," Sendaula said.

He appealed to parents to produce fewer children they can sustain, saying that "I suggest three years child-spacing is beneficial. It does not only create good planning, but also benefits the mother and the children." —MNA/Xinhua



An Iraqi boy (R) gives his younger brother a bowl of icy water that he begged for from an icy beverage vendor in Baghdad, capital of Iraq, on 11 July, 2003. More and more Iraqi children have suffered from diarrhea due to polluted drinking water and food. —XINHUA PHOTO

Daw Suu Kyi, the NLD Party and Our Ray of Hope — 7

Maung Yin Hmaing

A Haven for Trouble Makers

When the party signboard raising ceremony ended our group headed by Auntie Suu continued on our way to Mogaung and arrived at Hopin at about five in the afternoon. We took a short tea break at the home of U N. Khun Zaw Mai at South Myoma Ward.

We left for Mogaung at about 5.30 pm and as we arrived at Man Ywet village at about 8.30 pm the first sight that met our eyes was most disquieting. On the road at the village entrance were a group of people numbering about a hundred holding up placards with the words, "Oppose all traitors with negative outlook who rely on foreigners" and shouting "Down with traitors who rely on foreigners".

So, what did we do? All eight cars in the convoy stopped aslant and sideways on the road and shone our headlights full beam on the demonstrators. Then we took video films and yelled back at the protestors at the top of our voices. The two opposing groups were making such a din with our headlights full on that some villagers came out to take a look. Seeing the villagers

three or four youths from our party tried to persuade the villagers to join and support us but there was no response. At this point another youth cut in and said in a loud voice to the villagers: "It is Daw Aung San Suu Kyi who fought on behalf of the peasants so that they would not be compelled to sell a quota of their rice produce to the State. She is now here with us. So you can speak freely. If you are reluctant to speak then you can just watch. This is what democracy means." It sounded like an advertisement.

What this youth said made Auntie Suu sound like the star of a travelling show. These guys are so ignorant that they do not realize how degrading their words are for a leader of a political party and how it puts her in such a poor light. Moreover, the fact that it was no longer obligatory for peasants in the country to sell a prescribed quota of the paddy produced to the government as in periods long past, but were able to sell to anyone at whatever price, had nothing to do with Auntie Suu. But here they were with their make-believe story claiming she was their benefactor. It is like

saying some supernatural power has filled the coconut with its juice — that's how plausible it sounded!

Soon curiosity got the better of the villagers who came closer to the convoy and started to peer into the cars. It was just plain curiosity, which should not have been taken for support. But as soon as the crowd got nearer our people got down from the cars and started to shout, "Long live Daw Aung San Suu Kyi." Naturally the people who had surrounded us automatically began to echo these cries.

Seeing this spectacle I felt some misgiving. How many in this crowd were some perceptive enough to know that this was a short-lived charade meant to dupe and exploit the people? How many would be able to reason and realize that they had unwittingly become victims of mob pressure? The thought also came to mind that politics was more or less a ruse of achieving one's ends by taking advantage of the personal fame of another.

We arrived at Mogaung half an hour after we departed from Man Ywet village. We were scheduled to hold a party township sign-



Daw Suu Kyi and party were welcomed by some NLD members in their tour. There are also the local people holding the signboards bearing People's Desire to protest

Daw Suu Kyi and party anywhere and any time.
(Man Ywet Village, Mogaung Township, on 12-5-2003)



Some NLD members provoke those who peacefully stage demonstrations against them holding the placards bearing People's Desire.

(Man Ywet Village, Mogaung Township, on 12-5-2003)



U Tin Oo reciting Aung Gatha at the unveiling ceremony of NLD signboard in Mohnyin Township.



Those who look on the ceremony to unveil the signboard of NLD in Mohnyin Township.

board raising ceremony at the residence of Mogaung township representative-elect U Tun Kyi. But we were able to conduct the ceremony only after 10 o'clock that night. It is unusual to hold such a ceremony late at night. So, it is no wonder, that someone had asked if we were indulging in subversive party politics as I recounted earlier. He is not to blame.

We stayed overnight at Mogaung that day. As I lay in bed I began to think about what had happened just before we left Mohnyin that morning. It is not that the event was all that odd. At about 9 in the morning the representative-elect of Mohnyin Township U Kyaw Maung arrived to see Auntie Suu.

Auntie Suu however refused to see him, but gave him a message to meet her only after the party office inauguration (signboard hoisting) ceremony to be held at U Tin Wei's house. Soon after our arrival at U Tin Wei's house for the ceremony, U Kyaw Maung also arrived in time for his appointment with Auntie Suu. At the time the ceremony had not yet begun.

But

U Kyaw Maung was not permitted to enter the house. A member of the Central NLD Youth who was then on security duty for the signboard raising ceremony Tun Zaw Zaw refused to let U Kyaw Maung in because he was not on the list of invited guests. But U Kyaw Maung was also very much aggrieved that he, who was a representative-elect of the party was being so shabbily treated by a nonentity such as Tun Zaw Zaw, so he tried to push his way in. There then followed a tug o' war. This was witnessed by all present.

Only after the ceremony did Auntie Suu summon U Kyaw Maung and met with him at U Pe Sein's house. It was then that U Kyaw Maung complained to Auntie Suu about how insolently he had been treated in public by Tun Zaw Zaw who was nothing more than a watchman, that he had suffered great indignity and embarrassment and that he would not be content until Auntie Suu took action and put it on record. Auntie Suu then cut him short and replied, "Yes, I'll

do that."

Later she raised queries of her own. She said, "Well, U Kyaw Maung after we had formed a parliamentary representative committee we instructed all representatives-elect to give the committee their mandate and instructed you as a representative-elect to do the same. We informed you through U Pe Sein, you know but you failed to do so. That is why the party has decided to withdraw your party responsibilities — is that clear?" and so on and so forth.

U Kyaw Maung tried to explain his difficulties; that he did not get the message sent through U Pe Sein and that he had always done his duty unwaveringly and courageously to the extent of being taken into custody and that all this should be taken into consideration. Moreover, he said, action should be taken against U Pe Sein who had been so negligent in his duty that he had failed to personally deliver such an important message from the party central committee.

He then went on to tell Auntie Suu that the present (See page-9)



Secretary-1 General Khin Nyunt and party inspect reconstruction of Naungdawgyi Myathahlaung Reclining Buddha Image in Bago. — MNA

Secretary-1 inspects renovation...

(from page 1)

As regards the basic education level, plans have been laid down and implemented to narrow down the gap in basic and high school education levels in states and divisions. And the information technology which is popular in the world has been introduced right from the basic education level.

With regard to the high school education sector, there were universities and colleges only in cities in states/divisions.

But, nowadays, universities and colleges have been opened in the remaining regions for the youths living in different states/divisions to have the opportunity to pursue education in their own regions easily. So, the number of universities and colleges

amounts to 154, up from 32 in the past, he pointed out. In Shan State, there are universities and degree colleges in Taunggyi, Lashio and Kengtung.

Panglong University, the Technological College and the Computer College have already been opened for the students living in 11 townships in Loilem District in Central Shan State, to be able to pursue higher education easily.

There was only Myitkyina University in Kachin State in the past. For the youths living in the Bhamo region to be able to pursue higher education in the region Bhamo Degree College has already been opened. Mohnyin Degree College is under construction and it will open soon.

He said although

there is a university in Dawei in lower Myanmar, transport is difficult in Taninthayi Division. So Myeik University has been opened for youths in Myeik, Kawthoung and Bokepyin Townships in order to pursue their higher education.

There is only Patheingyi University in Ayeyawady Division. Hinthada University was opened.

Moreover, Maubin University, government technological college and government computer college were opened for youths in Dedaye, Kyaiklat, Bogale and Pyapon regions, he said. He said the government designated 24 development regions for equal development in states and divisions and established universities, degree colleges, computer colleges and technological

colleges and hospitals and built roads and bridges spending a large sum of money for ensuring better transport.

He said the government has made arrangements for upgrading of colleges and degree colleges to universities if conditions permit.

Arrangements are being made for training of teach-

ers to be needed for the universities and for providing modern teaching aids, he said.

He said the government acknowledged the efforts made by the teachers in basic and higher education sectors in implementation of education promotion project.

The Secretary-1 called

on the teachers to work hard in unity for successful implementation of the government's educational objectives. The Secretary-1 observed training of students at language lab and computer training centre with the aid of modern equipment. The Secretary-1 and party arrived back here in the evening. — MNA

Do not be frightened whenever intimidated

Daw Suu Kyi...

(from page 8)

premises of the township party office where the signboard had just been raised was not a suitable place because its owner U Tin Wei had a bad reputation as a womanizer. This, he said, would reflect badly on the party and hurt its prestige. He made a suggestion that the party office and its signboard be moved to another more decent location.

Auntie Suu's response to U Kyaw Maung was to reject all he said and thoroughly browbeat him, labelling him as being egotistical, over-ambitious with no consideration for the harmony and unity of the party. She finally told him that she would put up his case to the central executive committee (CEC) to decide whether or not to reinstate him and that she would inform him of the

outcome. It was not only a knockout blow for U Kyaw Maung but also a kick in the face.

Like the rest of us Tun Zaw Zaw came to know of the exchange that took place between Auntie Suu and U Kyaw Maung and he was exultant. The expression on his face seemed to ask, "What now! U Kyaw Maung?" I could only sigh regretfully, "Oh dear! ... Tun Zaw Zaw."

To be quite frank, Tun Zaw Zaw was detested by many of us. One day when our party chairman Grand-uncle U Aung Shwe came up the stairs to the office, Tun Zaw Zaw was reading a large thick book on politics on the stairway just to impress others. When he saw Granduncle U Aung Shwe he should have shown some courtesy and stood up to greet him as chairman or at least out of respect for his age. But that fellow continued reading pretend-

ing he did not see Granduncle U Aung Shwe, who sarcastically said, "That's right Tun Zaw Zaw! Keep on reading. Since you have the potential to become Prime Minister someday it is important for you to read widely."

The sarcasm was lost on Tun Zaw Zaw, who took the words at face value and said to us, "Hey you guys, our chairman is not so bad in sizing somebody up." We all laughed derisively when he had left and muttered, "To hell with you, Wa-hit!" Wa-hit was his nickname.

There have been persons expelled from the party because of Tun Zaw Zaw's trouble making. Here, I would like to recount an event, which occurred last year. There is a Thabyu tree (*Dillenia indica*) in the backyard of Auntie Suu's house. As is well known a large Thit-pok tree (*Dalbergia kurzii*) in the Yangon

University campus has had a tradition as a romantic symbol for it has provided sanctuary for lovers and has witnessed many romances bloom. So also, the Thabyu tree in Auntie Suu's compound has also seen its share of love stories.

This is what happened one rainy morning last year. A fellow named Tun Lin Kyaw saw suspicious figures and movement under the Tha-byu tree. So, he went towards the tree to find out what it was. What he saw then was a love scene. Since it is more thrilling to peep at such a romantic scene only in the company of friends he called Min Lwin, Aung Htoo and Thet Tun to sneak a look as well.

The couple romancing under the tree was none other than Nyunt Shwe, who had been appointed secretary of Kyaikhto Township NLD party but was now actually living in

Auntie Suu's compound and acting as her driver, and Auntie Suu's housemaid. The secret watchers of course could not keep their secret quiet and began to broadcast the story of the couple's love affair. And soon, Tun Zaw Zaw, who may have been myopic but sharp of hearing, came to know about the affair and he reported it to Auntie Suu.

Three or four months later, Nyunt Shwe got into trouble. Auntie Suu summoned him and told him that although she regretted it because he had worked with her for over seven years and respected his political commitment she could no longer tolerate his weakness for the opposite sex, and that she was now obliged to take action against him in accordance with the rules and regulations of the party. As a consequence he would henceforth be prohibited from all access to her compound.

Some said Tun Zaw Zaw had a hand in the dismissal of Nyunt Shwe. Tun Zaw Zaw had nursed a grudge against Nyunt Shwe because once during a trip to Rakhine State, Nyunt Shwe while reversing the car had almost run over Tun Zaw Zaw, who was standing in the mist. Tun Zaw Zaw had at the time complained to Auntie Suu, saying that Nyunt Shwe had tried to kill him.

A thought came into my mind then. "When will my turn come?" Because we members of the Central NLD Youth had no significant political duties and those who could play up to Auntie Suu by making trouble for others usually won her favour. Right or wrong, anyone who could get in the first word and make mischief against others always won by a nose length. This then is the spot we are in.

(To be continued)

Translation: TMT



Kanbawzathadi Palace seen in Bago.— MNA



Secretary-1 General Khin Nyunt and party receive Five Precepts from Insein Ywama Pariyatti Monastery Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Nandavamsa. — MNA

Secretary-1 attends Waso robes offering ceremony of Insein Ywama Pariyatti Saththintak

YANGON, 14 July—A ceremony to offer Waso robes to members of the Sangha of Insein Ywama Pariyatti Saththintak in Insein Township, Yangon North District by the State Peace and Development Council and wellwishers was held at the monastery this morning.

Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council General Khin Nyunt attended the ceremony and presented Waso robes and offertories to members of the Sangha.

Also present on the occasion were members of the Sangha led by State Ovadacariya Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw of Insein Ywama Pariyatti Saththintak

Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Nandavamsa, member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers, deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of department, wellwishers and others.

Assistant Director U San Thin Hlaing of Religious Affairs Department acted as master of ceremonies.

The ceremony was opened with the three-time recitation of Namō Tassa.

Next, the Secretary-1

and congregation received the Five Precepts from State Ovadacariya Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw of Insein Ywama Pariyatti Saththintak Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Nandavamsa.

Next, members of the Sangha recited parittas.

Afterwards, the Secretary-1, member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers, deputy ministers and wellwishers presented Waso robes and offertories to members of the Sangha.

Next, State Central Working Committee of Sangha Presiding Sayadaw of Insein Ywama Pariyatti

Saththintak Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Tilokabhivamsa delivered a sermon and the Secretary-1 and party and wellwishers shared merits gained.

The ceremony ended with the three-time recitation of Buddha Sasanam Ciramittathu.

After the ceremony, Secretary-1 General Khin Nyunt, Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers and deputy ministers offered Waso robes to 647 members of the Sangha led by Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw of Insein Ywama Pariyatti Saththintak Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Nandavamsa.

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

Myanmar delegation arrives back from ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meeting

YANGON, 14 July — The Myanmar delegation led by Minister at the State Peace and Development Council Chairman's Office Brig-Gen Abel arrived back here by air this evening after attending the ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meeting held on 12 and 13 July in Jakarta, Indonesia. The minister and party were welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun, Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw and departmental officials.

On 12 July morning, Minister Brig-Gen Abel and party together with other ASEAN Economic Ministers attended the working dinner hosted by Minister of

Industry and Trade Ms Rini MS Soewandi of Indonesia.

At 2 pm, Minister Brig-Gen Abel and party attended the ASEAN Economic Ministers Special Meeting at the meeting hall of the Dharmawangsa Rosewood Hotels & Resorts.

At the meeting, ASEAN Business Advisory Council Chairman Mr Rudy J Resik explained the programmes for holding ASEAN Business and Investment Summit before the ASEAN Summit to be held in Bali Island during October and sought the instructions of the ASEAN Economic Ministers to be submitted to the Heads of ASEAN countries. The ASEAN Economic Ministers gave necessary instructions and designated

the date to report them to the 35th ASEAN Economic Ministers Regular Meeting to be held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, during the first week of September.

Next, Chairman of High Level Task Force on ASEAN Economic Integration Permanent Secretary of Thai Ministry of Commercial Mr Karun Kittisataporn presented the draft proposal of the High Level Task Force for the ASEAN Summit. The ASEAN Economic Ministers gave instructions on the dispute settlement mechanics, the rules of origin, matters related to custom, norms of the commodities, forbearance of trading service and the way to promote the trading among ASEAN countries.

The ministers left the meeting at 6.30 pm to attend the dinner hosted by the President of Indonesia at Bogor Botanical Garden. After the dinner, they had documentary photo taken.

On 13 July morning, the ministers discussed the matters in detail to be submitted to the ASEAN Summit to be held in Bali Island in October.

In addition, the meeting agreed to choose 11 sectors to be emphasized for practically improve the ASEAN Unity and six countries including Myanmar to be assigned the

co-ordinating duty. They also agreed to report the progress of works to the 35th Regular ASEAN Economic Ministers Meeting in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, during September. These sectors are Production of Wood-based Products and Automobile in Indonesia, Production of Rubber-based Products and Textile of Malaysia, Production of Agro-based Products and Fisheries of Myanmar, Production of Electronic Products of the Republic of Philippines, Production of e-ASEAN and Health Care Products of Singapore and Airlines and Tourism Service of Thailand. In the afternoon, Minister Abdul Rahman Taib of Brunei, Ms Rimi MS Soewandi of the host country and ASEAN Secretary-General Mr Ong Keng Yong released news at the press conference.

Members of the delegation Director-General U Maung Maung Yi of Directorate of Investment and Companies Administration and Minister-Counsellor U Kyaw Tin of the Myanmar Embassy in Indonesia attended the meeting together with Minister Brig-Gen Abel. Director-General U Maung Maung Yi of Directorate of Investment and Companies Administration arrived back here by air on the same flight. — MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Abel and party being welcomed back at the airport. — MNA

Facilities of Development of Taninthayi Division

Agricultural Sector

1. 93 dams and reservoirs with a total length of over 600,845 feet benefited over 7,500 acres of farmland in Dawei, Myeik and Kawthoung districts and prevented the inflow of salty water.
2. For drinking water, Yinwa dam has been constructed in Kawthoung Township and so has two small river water pumping projects in Dawei and Palaw Townships.
3. Farmland has been extended from 454,611 to 604,969 acres.
4. In the past, there was 193317 acres of farmland and now 266478 acres of farmland has been extended. Formerly, there was no cultivation of summer paddy and now 16,344 acres of farmland were put under summer paddy.
5. There are altogether 99,104 acres of oil palm including 76,568 acres owned by national entrepreneurs.
6. Altogether 101947 acres of rubber have been cultivated.

Meat and Fish Sector

	Past	At present
1. Total viss of fish production	122.613 million	347.079 million
2. Total fishing boats	3561	11209
3. Total offshore fishing boats	150	450
4. Ice factories, cold storages and fish powder factories have been established in Myeik Industrial Zone. — MNA		

Tasks to beautify Maubin under way

YANGON, 14 July — The Yale junction that leads to the Maubin University and the Government Technological College, is being upgraded with the construction

of flower islands for making Maubin pleasant. These tasks are being carried out under the close supervision of engineers and officials.

MNA

Progress in Mandalay, the nation's second capital



Many ancient edifices were renovated in Mandalay. The Shwekyauung Monastery seen after being renovated. — MNA



The ancient cultural heritage in Mandalay has been renovated to their original style. Yawmingyi Monastery is one of the ancient cultural heritage restored to its original style. — MNA

City modernization drive has been carried out in Mandalay. The ancient cultural heritage and edifices of Mandalay have been renovated for the new generation youth to understand the life under own monarchs and to vitalize their patriotism and nationalistic fervour.



THE 300-BED TEACHING HOSPITAL IN MANDALAY: As in Yangon, general and specialists hospitals have been built in Mandalay and now there emerge the 300-bed teaching hospital, the 300-bed Central Women's Hospital, the 300-bed Children's Hospital, Tuberculosis Hospital and Drug Rehabilitation and Mental Health Hospital in Mandalay.—MNA



In the transportation sector, a network of roads and bridges are being built the length and breadth of the country. At the same time airports, jetties, railway stations are also being constructed. The photo shows newly-built modern railway station in Mandalay.—MNA



While the ancient buildings are being renovated in Mandalay, the new buildings emerge one after another. In the time of the Tatmadaw Government, a University of Culture was constructed in Yangon and later Mandalay got a similar one. The photo shows University of Culture in Mandalay. — MNA



Mandalay City is one of the tourist attractions in Myanmar. Upgrading the city into a modern one is gaining momentum. The old ones are being renovated and the new ones built. The photo shows the escalator installed at Mandalay Hill for the convenience of pilgrims.— MNA

[illegible]

Cash and kind for Tatmadawmen

YANGON, 14 July — The Myanmar War Veterans Organization held a ceremony to donate cash to Tatmadawmen who shouldered duties at risks of their lives for the country and to provide stationery to the BEMS of Thayagon Village in Hmawby Township at the MWVO (head office) on Pyay Road in Mayangon Township this afternoon. It was attended by member of the State Peace and Development Council Chairman of the Central Organization Committee for MWVO Adjutant General Lt-Gen Thein Sein. Also present were Director of Resettlements of the Ministry of Defence Maj-Gen Aung Thein, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs

Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Deputy Minister for Labour Brig-Gen Win Sein and wellwishers.

Haji U Khin Maung Than, on behalf of the wellwishers, explained the purposes of the donations. Next, U Kyaw Soe donated K 500,000 to Headmistress Daw Yin Lwin for Thayagon village school. Haji U Tin Maung Than presented a hundred dozen of exercise books, 200 pencils and 100 pencil sharpeners to Township Education Officer U Mya Than. U Ohn Shwe donated K 300,000 and 300 dozens of exercise books for Tatmadawmen. Maj-Gen Aung Thein accepted the donations and spoke words of thanks. — MNA

Provisions donated to monasteries...

(from page 16)

paid obeisance to Buddha images on the pagoda platform.

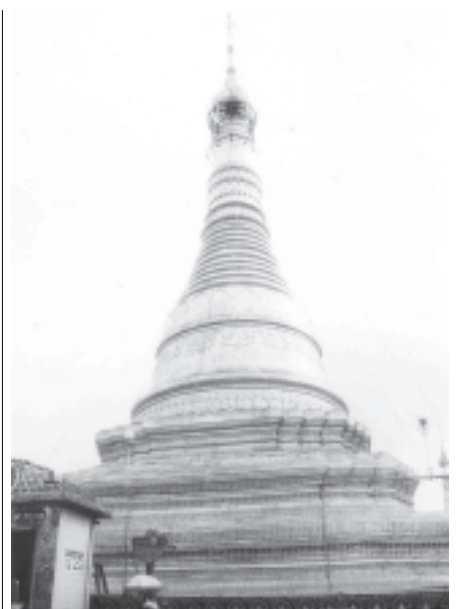
Lt-Gen Soe Win and party attended a ceremony to donate cash for construction of Maha Theikdhizaya Pagoda on Sandawadi hill near Sandhawut village in Myeik.

Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye reported on construction of the pagoda and donations received.

Lt-Gen Soe Win, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye accepted K 500,000 donated by Commander Brig-Gen Tha Aye and wife Daw Wai Wai Khaing, K 10.8 million by U Saw Jack, K 5 million each by Thahtaykyun Ho-

tel, International Fisheries Taninthayi Ltd and Pyi Phyo Tun International Co Ltd, K 3 million each by U Kyaw Lwin Moe (Lwin and Swan Co Ltd) of Yangon, Thida Fisheries Co Ltd and Htoo Htoo Toe Co Ltd, K 2.5 million each by Rice Merchants Association in Myeik, Maung Weik and family and Asia World Co Ltd, K 1.65 million by Coastal Region Command, K 1 million each by Htoo Co and U Maung Hla-Daw Shu Hlaing of Yangon and K 2 million by Kanbawza Oil Palm Co Ltd.

The 108-foot high Maha Theikdhizaya Pagoda, a replica of the Shwedagon Pagoda, is under construction. — MNA



Indian delegation arrives

YANGON, 14 July — Indian delegation led by Minister of Commerce and Industry of India Mr Arun Jaitley arrived here by air

this afternoon. They called on Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone at 3.30 pm at his office. Next, Brig-Gen Pyi Sone and Mr Arun

Jaitley signed MoU on establishment of Myanmar-India joint trade committee and exchanged documents at the meeting hall-1 of the ministry. The Indian delegation, accompanied by Indian Ambassador Mr Rajiv Kumar Bhatia, also met with Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung at his office on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road at 5 pm.

At 6 pm Myanmar-India Business Club gave the Indian delegation a reception at Summit Parkview Hotel. It was attended by Minister Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, the Indian Ambassador, the president of MIBC and members and responsible officials.

MNA



Indian Ministry of Commercial and Industry Mr Arun Jaitley and party being welcomed at the airport. — MNA



Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann and party paying homage to Laygyun Hsime Pagoda in Myeik. — MNA

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than on tour of Bago Division

(from page 16)

Local authorities are needed to give close supervision to farmers. It is targeted to cultivate 1,454,500 acres of paddy in 2003-2004 monsoon paddy.

To this day, a total of 816,541 acres of lands have been put into cultivation. It is also necessary to make efforts to exceed the targeted acreage at the end of monsoon paddy season.

Of 10 major crops, summer paddy, sugarcane, groundnut, sesame, sunflower, gram, padesein, pigeon pea, and maize are to be grown exceeding the target.

Measures are to be taken to extend the plantation of rubber and thiteseint trees.

Organizational tasks are to be given to farmers on the boosting of per acre yield, the employment of correct cultivation methods, the use of quality strains, and the combined use of organic and inorganic fertilizers.

It is also important to improve the livestock breeding industry. Arrangements have been made for the reclamation of 20,000 acres of land in Bago Division.

At present, 10,000 acres of land have been used for livestock breeding industry.

Plans are under way to extend 5,000 acres in eastern Bago and 5,000 and in western Bago.

Moreover, local and foreign broilers should be bred more and more. Previously, Bago Division topped the list in the breeding of ducks and eggs.

However, a slight decline is found in the production of duck eggs and duck breeding industry.

Ways and means should be sought for the resurrection of the duck industry.

The development in agricultural sector, livestock breeding sector and other economic sectors will help accelerate the pace of development of the State.

When it comes to all-round development of the State, the enforcement of law and order and the prevailing of tranquility are of great importance.

Economy, education, health, and transport are improving better and better even in remote areas.

The rise in the living standard of the people are the fruitful results of the prevalence of law, order and tranquility throughout the country.

Therefore, regional administrative bodies at different levels, social organizations, townsenders, are to cooperate in these tasks.

After the speech, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than cordially met with departmental officials.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party arrived at the guest house of No 77 LID in Bago Division and stopped over there.

This morning, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, accompanied by Commander Brig-Gen Ko Ko, No 77 LID Commander Brig-Gen Than Htay and officials, inspected cultivation of monsoon paddy on either side of Yangon-Mandalay Highway at the exit of Bago.

Next, they proceeded to the Model Farm of the Seed Farm of Myanma Agriculture Service in Mayin Village in Bago Township.

They were welcomed there by division level departmental officials and agricultural supervisory committee members.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspected making of EM Bokershi fertilizer for boosting per-acre yield of paddy near the farm and culture of azola. Azola culture can boost production of paddy.

At the briefing hall, officials reported the target and cultivation of monsoon paddy in Bago Division, use of quality strains, the target of summer paddy and reclamation of model plots for cultivating monsoon paddy in 2003-2004. The commander gave a supplementary report.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than gave instructions on extended cultivation of monsoon and summer paddy, supply of water to croplands with blocking creeks and brooks, use of quality strains and fertilizers and distribution of agricultural technology to the local farmers.

Next, they viewed cultivation of advanced quality strain of paddy in Mayin Village.

In Bago Division, cultivation of 2.4 million acres of

monsoon paddy will be combined with another 10,000 acres. A total of 1,182,632 acres of monsoon paddy have been cultivated up to 14 July. So far, 816,541 acres of land have been put under monsoon paddy against the target of 1,454,500 acres in Bago Division (East).

Though 1,015,000 acres of monsoon have been targeted in Bago District, another 5,000 acres of land have been extended. So far, 643,296 acres of land have been put under monsoon paddy in the district.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party went to the site of construction for four-lane Yedashe Bridge which will be 80 feet long and 60 feet wide across Yedashe Creek.

Bago Division Superintending Engineer U Kyaw Lwin reported on construction works. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than gave instructions on timely completion of the works meeting the set standard.

Public Works is building four-lane reinforced concrete Yedashe Creek Bridge between mile posts 50 and 98 on Bago-Nyaunglaybin section and reinforced concrete four-lane Tun Myat Gyi Bridge which will be 100 feet long.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party inspected 48 miles long Bago-Nyaunglaybin section of Yangon-Mandalay Union Highway being built by Shwe Thanlwin Highway Co Ltd.

At the briefing hall, Manager U Kyaw Swa of Shwe Thanlwin Highway Co Ltd reported on construction of 25 feet wide road, extension of 31 miles and four furlongs long road, repair of three bridges out of six, availability of gravel and fuel.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than gave necessary instructions and attended to their needs.

Later, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party arrived back in Bago at 9 am.

MNA

**Do not be frightened
whenever appeared**

Kyakhatwaing...

(from page 16)

Daw Se presented certificates and prizes to Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw of Kyakhatwaing Pariyatti Sathintak. Sayadaw Bhaddanta Jotipala delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits.

A similar ceremony of Dhamma Lankara Kyaungtaik at the Mandat in Tanpalawha Maha Muni Bronze Buddha Image near Bago Degree College.

The congregation received the Five Precepts from State Ovadacariya Bago Dhamma Lankara Kyaungtaik Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Saddhammajotikadhaja Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Visudha. Members of the Sangha recited *metta sutta*.

The Secretary-1 and party presented Waso robes and offertories to members of the Sangha. Sayadaw Bhaddanta Visudha delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits.

The Secretary-1 inspected casting of the sacred face and body of Tanpalawha Maha Muni Bronze Buddha Image which is 37 feet high and weighs 34.25 tons.

MNA

Sports gear donated to soccer teams in Shan State (North)

YANGON, 14 July — A ceremony was held at Lashio City hall on 12 July to donate sports gear for the youth football teams (Under-13, 17 and 21) which are undergoing

made to be in training in every state and division, and they are provided with sports gear two times a year. Next, the minister presented sports equipment worth K 520,000,



Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint presents sports gear to Deputy Commander of North-East Command Brig-Gen Hla Myint. —SPED

training in Shan State (North). It was attended by Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and development Council Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing, Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, Chairman of the state Sports and Physical Education Committee Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Hla Myint, departmental officials, members of social organizations and managers, coaches and athletes of the football teams.

The minister spoke on the occasion, saying that three teams are selected and

salaries for the coaches, video tapes on basic football training, gear for boxing worth K 390,000 to the deputy commander. Later, he inspected the construction site of the stadium in Muse.

The minister on 11 July met with the deputy principal, senior officers and cadets at Defence Services Academy in PyinOoLwin and donated sports gear worth over K 600,000.

The minister, during his tour, inspected sports grounds and stadiums in PyinOoLwin, Kyaukme, Thibaw, Lashio, Kutkai and Muse and met with departmental staff.

MNA

No 3 Fertilizer Factory inspected

YANGON, 14 July — Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi yesterday inspected production of fertilizer at No 3 Fertilizer Factory (Kyawzwa) in Angulan and attended to needs for sufficient supply natural gas and electricity.

He next attended the work coordination meeting for increased production of

fertilizer held at the factory. At the meeting, after hearing reports presented by officials concerned, Brig-Gen Lun Thi gave instructions on boosting of fertilizer production and exceeding targets and laid down future tasks.

The factory produces 470 tons of fertilizer per day.

MNA



Secretary-1 General Khin Nyunt views learning of students with modern teaching aids at Bago Degree College. (News on page 1)—MNA

JICA to hold photo competition

YANGON, 14 July — The Japan International Cooperation Agency will hold the 24th Photo Competition. The entry photos are to be ones which were taken after 1 January 2001. Photos which have not been sent to any other competitions will be accepted. The size of entry photo is 5"x7" and the only colour photos will be accepted. One entrant is allowed to send only one entry photo. Entries should be sent to the Myanmar Photographic Society on 35 Street, Kyauktada Township, Tel: 373167, not later than 10 August at 4 pm. —MNA

Myanmar delegation leaves for Russia

YANGON, 14 July — Myanmar delegation led by Director-General U Khin Maung Htay of Myanmar Radio and Television left here by air yesterday morning for Russia to cooperate with Russia on the communications and information issues of the two countries.

The delegation was seen off at the Yangon International Airport by Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein, Director-General of the Information and Public Relations Department U Chit Naing, Managing Director of News and Periodicals Enterprise U Tin Kha, Managing Director of Myanmar Motion Picture Enterprise U Bo Kyi, MRTV Deputy Director-General U Thein Aung, officials and families of the delegation.

The delegation includes Col Tin Oo of the Ministry of Defence, Chief Engineer U Tint Lwin of Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications and MRTV Deputy Chief Engineer U Myint Aung and Senior Engineer U Hlaing Moe. —MNA



Front view of Bago Degree College.—MNA

Extension of runway inspected at Bagan-NyaungU Airport

YANGON, 14 July — Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe, accompanied by Director-General of the Department for Civil Aviation U Win Maung and officials, arrived at Bagan-NyaungU Airport by MAI

yesterday morning.

U Win Maung and officials reported to the minister on progress of pre-engineering work, and earth work with the use of heavy machinery. The minister gave instructions on making efforts to accomplish the tasks in the open season. Next, the minister and party inspected the extension

of southern runway and heard reports and attended to the requirements.

The runway extension work of the airport is being carried out by engineers of the DCA. The length of the runway will be extended from 6,700 feet to 8,500 feet and the width from 100 feet to 150 feet. —MNA

Ministry of Cooperatives offers Waso robes to monks

YANGON, 14 July — Families of the Ministry of Cooperatives held the fifth Waso robes offering ceremony at the meeting hall of the ministry on Bogyoke Aung San Road here on 12 July morning.

Present on the occasion was attended by Mogok Vipassana Committee (Branch-77) Sayadaw Bhaddanta Saddhamma Kitisara and members of the Sangha, Minister for Cooperatives Lt-Gen Tin Ngwe, officials of the departments, enterprises, cooperative societies and banks and staff families. At the ceremony the minister and officials donated Waso robes and alms to the Sayadaws and members of the Sangha. Later, soon was offered to the monks. —MNA

Heroin seized in Bhamo Township

YANGON, 14 July — A combined team comprising members of the local intelligence unit and Bhamo Special Anti-Drug Squad, acting on information, searched suspect Maung Kha Aung at Kachingyaung junction of Si-in Village, Bhamo Township, on 20 June and seized 49.50 grams of heroin hidden in soapcases in his rucksack.

Action is being taken against Maung Kha Aung, son of Hla Naing, of Alinyaung Ward, Momaung under Sections 16/19 (A) of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law by Bhamo Police Station. —MNA



Maung Kha Aung seized with 49.50 grams of heroin. CCDAC

Regional development—seeing is believing

Maung Hlaing

It was in 1966 when I joined the then Telecommunications Department (South Burma). I was appointed as a telephone operator at Kyaunggon Exchange in Ayeyawady Division.

In those days, due to the poor transport, it took about 48 hours to reach Kyaunggon Township from my native town Wakema even though the latter was in the same division.

According to the nature of work, I had to go to the Patheingyi Headquarters (then Sub-Divisional Officer Telecommunications Office) from time to time. If I wanted to go to Patheingyi, I had to cross the Daka River in a boat to take the train to Patheingyi. In the rainy season, the river which was filled with water hyacinths hindered smooth transport although it was useful for transport in the division. So the Daka River made me disappointed and local people of Kyaunggon Township had no other choice but solely rely on it. To make matters worse, 1960s saw the internal insurgency.

Actually, better transportation is needed for

rapid transport of regional goods produced by exploiting marine and land resources in Ayeyawady Division. The local people witnessed that transport difficulty delayed production and progress of trading. The people also witnessed bitter experience and the division lacked progress as there was no peace and tranquility due to the insurgents in the region.

Before I worked in Kyaunggon, I noticed that a rail bridge was built. At that time, there was not heavy traffic in the areas. After emergence of the Yangon-Patheingyi Express Road, vehicles were waiting for long to pass the Daka River Bridge because it was too narrow for them to pass. Very often, there were traffic jams. The bridge was old because it was built 50 years ago.

Now, Ayeyawady Division has become a region free from insurgents and peaceful region with better transport. People can now travel by road. Roads and bridges linking townships have emerged as a network due to the leadership of the government and

active participation of the people in the division.

Today, the situation is quite different from that of the days of over three decades. In order to ensure smooth and secure transportation in Ayeyawady Division, river crossing bridges are being built. Daka River Bridge is one of the projects and the construction of the bridge started on 24-2-2001 and it completed on 15-5-2003. The bridge is 1400 feet long and 28 feet wide and has five-foot pedestrian lanes on both sides. Its clearance is 78 feet wide and 16 feet high. The bridge is of reinforced concrete type and it can bear 60-ton loads. The inauguration of the bridge was held on 6 July this year.

Before the construction of Daka River Bridge, local people of Kangyidaung and Kyaunggon townships relied on railway and waterway. Today, they can travel from their native areas to Yangon through Patheingyi-Yangon Highway within three and a half hours. Similarly, they can visit Patheingyi, Maubin and Pyapon in a short time.

Nowadays, the State

has spent K 79,394 million plus US\$ 147,907 million on construction of roads and bridges throughout the country.

As for Ayeyawady Division, a total of 39 major bridges were built at a cost of K 19,420 million and US\$ 20 million.

Transportation plays a vital role in the economy of any country big or small, developed or developing. The success achieved in this sector will facilitate the development of the production of goods and services. The living standard of all the national people will improve in proportion to the improvement in the transportation sector.

With the stability and better transport in Ayeyawady Division, greater development can be made in a short time as the region is fertile. There are many prospects for progress and it is a division on which the State relies for agricultural production and livestock breeding.

What is of greater significance is that we have, in just over a decade, witnessed what is unprecedented.



Daka River Bridge, Yangon-Patheingyi Highway, being illuminated with multi-coloured lights in the evening after the opening ceremony.— Photo-Hlaing Moe, Shwe-in-tha



- View today:**
Tuesday, July 15
- 7:00 am**
1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Ottamathara
 - 7:25 am**
2. To be healthy exercise
 - 7:30 am**
3. Morning news
 - 7:40 am**
4. Nice and sweet song
 - 7:50 am**
5. ကဗျာပန်းတင်

- 8:00 am**
6. Song of yester years
- 8:15 am**
7. သံလွင်တံတား (စာပေလွင်)
- 8:30 am**
8. International news
- 8:45 am**
9. Grammar made easy
- 4:00 pm**
1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm**
2. Song to uphold national spirit
- 4:30 pm**
3. English For Everyday Use
- 4:45 pm**
4. Musical programme
- 4:55 pm**
5. အထူးသတင်းစာအုပ်တိုက်မှ ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသတင်းစာ

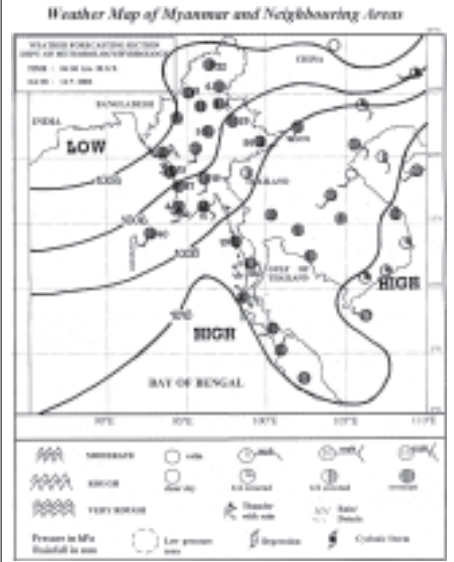
- ပထမနံပါတ် (အထူးပြုစုထား)**
5:10 pm
6. Dance of National races
- 5:25 pm**
7. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 5:40 pm**
8. "အနုပညာသိပ္ပံ လက်တစ်ကမ်းမှာ" နှိုင်းသူ၊ နှိုင်းကလေးလွင်၊ ကျော်မင်းကျော်၊ ကောင်းကျော်သိန်း၊ ယင်းစာ၊ ဒါရိုက်တာ-စောစောလွင်
- 5:50 pm**
9. ခံစားနားဆင်းတေးစာတိုက်
- 6:00 pm**
10. Sing and enjoy
- 6:30 pm**
11. Evening news
- 7:00 pm**
12. Weather report

- 7:05 pm**
13. The mirror images of the musical oldies
- 7:20 pm**
14. ယဉ်ကျေးမှုအမွေအနှစ်သက်သေ (အနုပညာအဖွဲ့ကြီး၏ နန်းတော်ရာတူးဖော်မှု)
- 7:30 pm**
14. Musical programme
- 7:45 pm**
15. စပါးကလေး ငါးကလေး လယ်ယာသားကြီး ပြည့်စုံဖူး
- 8:00 pm**
16. News
- 17. International news**
- 18. Weather report**
- 19. နိုင်ငံခြားတေးဂီတသံသွယ် "သမ္မာ" (အပိုင်း-၈)**
- 20. The next day programme**

(ရဟန်းဒါယကာမဏ္ဍိ)
ဒေါ်မြင့်မြင့်သန်း (B.Ed.H.G.P.)
အထွေထွေရာမ (ဗုဒ္ဓ)
အထက(၁) ကြည့်မြင်တိုင်
အထက(၁) ဗဟန်း
အသက် (၅၁) နှစ်

အမှတ် ၁၁၀၊ နေကြာလမ်း၊ ပုလဲမြို့နယ် (၃) ရပ်ကွက်၊ မင်္ဂလာဒုံမြို့နယ်၊ နေကြာလမ်း-ဒေါ်သန်းလွင်လမ်း၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့၊ ဗဟန်းမြို့နယ်၊ အမှတ် ၅၃၊ နတ်မောက်လမ်း၊ သွယ် (၁)၊ ဗိုလ်ချုပ်ရပ်ကွက်၊ နေကြာလမ်း (စတင်သုံးနှစ်)၊ မြန်မာ့အလင်းသတင်းစာတိုက်၏ ချစ်လှစွာသောနန်း၊ မြေယာရရှိသည့် (TTC VI-G) မေပယ်လွင်လမ်း (TTC III-F) တို့၏ ကျေးဇူးကြီးလှသောအခွင့်အလမ်းကြီးကြီးသန်းဝင်း (လထေ) -ဒေါ်နန်းစင် (အထက ၄ မင်္ဂလာဒုံ)၊ ဒေါ်မြင့်မြင့်သန်း (အလက-၈ မင်္ဂလာဒုံ)၊ ဦးဌေးဝင်းအောင်-ဒေါ်အေးအေးမွန် (ပျဉ်းမပင် မွေမြူရေး)၊ ဦးမျိုးဝင်းအောင် (Asia World Co., Ltd)-ဒေါ်စုစုစော၊ ဒု.အရာခံလွှဲလမ်းသိန်းဝင်းအောင် (စစ်တောင်းချုပ်ရုံး) -ဒေါ်သိန်းသိန်းအောင်၏ လေးစားအားထားလှသော အစ်မကြီးဖြစ်သူ ရဟန်းဒါယကာမဏ္ဍိ ဒေါ်မြင့်မြင့်သန်းသည် ၁၄-၇-၂၀၀၃ ရက် (တနင်္လာနေ့) နံနက် ၃ နာရီခန့်တွင် ဗဟန်းမြို့နယ်၊ သွယ် (၁) ကျေးရွာ၊ ကုဆေးခန်း၌ ကွယ်လွန်သွားပါသဖြင့် ၁၆-၇-၂၀၀၃ ရက် (ဗုဒ္ဓဟူးနေ့) ညနေ ၃ နာရီတွင် ရေဝေးအေးတိုက်မှ ရေဝေးသွားသန့်သို့ ဝိနည်းတော်ဖြင့် ဖိတ်ကြားပါမည်။
(နေအိမ်မှကားများ ဖွင့်လှစ် ၁ နာရီ ၃၀ မိနစ်တွင် ထွက်ခွာပါမည်)

မိတ်ကြားအပ်ပါသည်
ကွယ်လွန်သူအား ရှည်စွာ ၂၀-၇-၂၀၀၃ (တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့) နံနက် ၇ နာရီမှ ၁၀ နာရီအထိ ရက်လည်စွာမိတ်ကြား တရားတော်အားလှူဒါန်းခြင်းအတွက် ၅၃၊ နတ်မောက်လမ်း၊ သွယ် (၁)၊ ဗဟန်းမြို့နယ်၊ နေကြာလမ်း၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့နယ်၊ ဖိတ်ကြားအပ်ပါသည်။
ကျန်ရစ်သူမိသားစု။



WEATHER
Monday, 14th July, 2003
Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Kayah State and Magway Division, scattered to widespread in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfalls in upper Sagaing Division and Mon State. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Mudon (3.72) inches, Yangon (Kayan) (2.32) inches, Mawlamyine (2.20) inches and Kanbala (1.73) inches.
Maximum temperature on 13-7-2003 was 29.0°C (84°F). Minimum temperature on 14-7-2003 was 21.0°C (70°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 14-7-2003 was 96%. Total sunshine hours on 13-7-2003 was nil. Rainfall on 14-7-2003 was 8 mm at Yangon, 12 mm at Kaba-Aye and 20 mm at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2003 was 1104 mm (43.46 inches) at Yangon Airport, 1231 mm (48.46 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 1231 mm (48.46 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 9 mph from South at (10:20) hours MST on 13-7-2003.
Bay inference: Monsoon is moderate in the Bay of Bengal.
Forecast valid until evening of 15-7-2003: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Kayah State, lower Sagaing and Magway Divisions, scattered in Shan State and Mandalay Division and widespread in the remaining areas with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Rakhine and Mon States, Ayeyawady, Yangon and Tanintharyi Divisions. Degree of certainty is (100%). **State of the sea:** Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters. **Outlook for subsequent two days:** Strong monsoon. **Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 15-7-2003 :** Some rain. Degree of certainty is (100%). **Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 15-7-2003:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Flood Bulletin
(Issued at 11:00 hr MST on 14.7.2003)
According to the (06:30) hr MST observations today, the water levels of Chindwin River at Hkamti, Homalin, Mawlaik and Kalewa stations are (1461) cm, (2977) cm, (1336) cm and (1605) cm respectively. It may remain above their respective danger levels of (1360) cm, (2900) cm, (1230) cm and (1550) cm during the next (72) hours commencing noon today.

Kyakhatwaing Pariyatti Sarthintaik and Dhamma Lankara Kyaungtaik in Bago hold Waso robes offering ceremonies

Yangon, 14 July— Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council General Khin Nyunt attended Waso robes offering at the Kyakhatwaing Pariyatti Sarthintaik and Dhamma Lankara Kyaungtaik in Bago and presented Waso robes and offertories to the members of the Sangha today.

Present were Presiding Nayaka Sayadaws of monasteries, members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Southern Command Brig-Gen Ko Ko, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of departments, wellwishers, disciples and guests.

Waso robes offering ceremony was held at the Dhammayon of Kyakhatwaing Pariyatti Sarthintaik this afternoon. Joint Shwekyin Sasanabaing Agga Maha Pandita Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika State Ovadacariya Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw of Kyakhatwaing Pariyatti Sarthintaik Bhaddanta Jotipala delivered on Ovadakatha. Members of the Sangha recited parittas.

The Secretary-1 presented Waso robes to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Jotipala. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Commander Brig-Gen Ko Ko, the ministers and wellwishers presented Waso robes to the Sayadaw.

Wellwishers Agga Maha Thiri Thudhamma Theingi (See page 14)



Secretary-1 General Khin Nyunt offers Waso robes to Joint Sasanabaing of Shwekyin Nikaya Kyakhatwaing Pariyatti Monastery Presiding Nayaka Bhaddanta Jotipala.— MNA

Provisions donated to monasteries and nunneries in Myeik, Waso robes offering held

YANGON, 14 July— A ceremony to donate provisions to monasteries and nunneries in Myeik and to offer Waso robes for the second time was held at Buddha Sasana Beikman of Laykyunsimi Pagoda of Myeik yesterday, attended by member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann and Secretary-2 of the State Peace and

The Secretary-2, the commander and officials presented nun robes to the nuns.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo presented cash donated by the State Peace and Development Council for the use of religious affairs to Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye. Botaungtawya Kyaung Sayadaw Agga Maha Gandhavaçaka Pandita



Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann presents cash donations for Laykyunsimi Pagoda in Myeik to an official.— MNA

Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win.

Also present were members of the State Central Working Committee of the Sangha, Sayadaws of Division Sangha Nayaka Committee, Presiding Sayadaws of Sarthintaiks, Township Sangha Nayaka Sayadaws and members of the Sangha, member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo, Chairman of Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Coastal Region Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein, Chief of Staff (Navy) Rear-Admiral Soe Thein, Deputy Minister for Construction Brig-Gen Myint Thein, Deputy Minister for Education Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of departments, military officers of Coastal Region Command, departmental officials, members of social and religious associations, townselders and nuns.

The congregation received the Eight Precepts from member of the State Central Working Committee of the Sangha Maha Gandhavaçaka Pandita Kantha Kyaung Sayadaw Bhaddanta Vimala. Members of the Sangha recited Parittas.

The Secretary-2 supplicated on religious matters.

Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann presented Waso robes, provisions and offertories to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Vimala.

The Secretary-2, Lt-Gen Maung Bo, the commander, the ministers, the chief of staff (Navy), the deputy ministers, officials, townselders and wellwishers presented Waso robes and offertories to the members of the Sangha.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than on tour of Bago Division

YANGON, 14 July — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, accompanied by responsible personnel of the State Peace and Development Council Office, arrived at the Wanbawdat bridge at the border of Yangon Division and Bago Division yesterday afternoon.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party, accompanied by Bago Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Southern Command Commander Brig-Gen Ko Ko and No 77 LID Commander Brig-Gen Than Hay, arrived at Bago at 4.30 pm. At Thiri Oktha Hall, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than met with local authorities and departmental officials and gave instructions on regional development, enforcement of law and order, and regional tranquillity. Present on the occasion were Commander Brig-Gen Ko Ko, Brig-Gen Than Hay, local authorities, departmental heads, and officials.

Speaking on the occasion, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than said that as Myanmar being an agro-based country, efforts are being made to ensure all-round development in other economic sectors based on agriculture. For the development of the agriculture sector dams, and reservoirs are being built and river water pumping projects implemented. As Minhla Dam, the 37th dam in Bago Division, was opened, Bago Division is among those regions where the greatest number of dams have been constructed. The Government is making arrangements for ensuring rice surplus and sufficiency in edible oil, and boosting the production of export items such as beans and pulses and edible oil crops. Similarly, assistance has been rendered to the extended cultivation of new kinds of crops and vegetables.

Bago Division contributes to the economic development of the State. Similarly, Bago District contributes to the economic development of the division.

Apart from the dams, Zwebat and Shwehlay sluice gates are being built in the east of Bago Division. They will be completed soon, and the agricultural work of Bago Division will witness rapid development.

(See page 13)



Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than meets district and township level departmental officials at Thiri Oktha Hall in Bago.— MNA