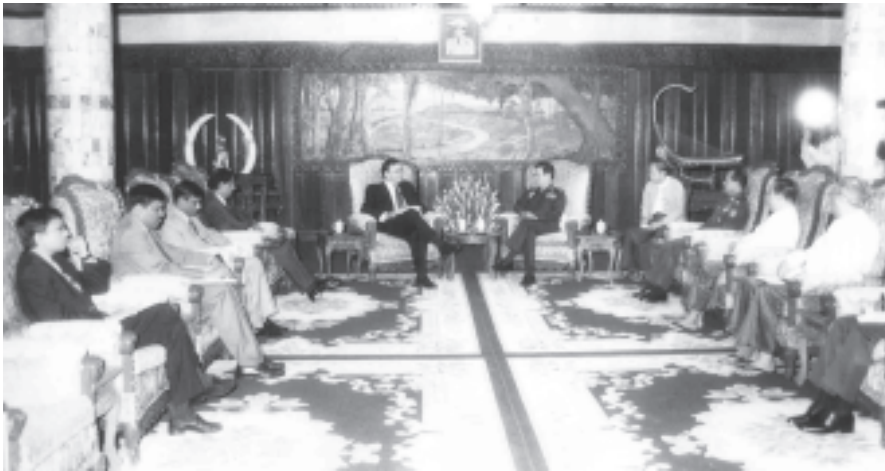


The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Wednesday, 16 July, 2003



Secretary-1 General Khin Nyunt receives Indian Minister Mr Arun Jaitley and party. — MNA

Secretary-1 receives Indian Minister of Commerce and Industry

YANGON, 15 July — Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council General Khin Nyunt received Minister of Commerce and Industry Mr Arun Jaitley and party from the Republic of India, who were recently here at Zeyathiri Beikman, Konmyintha this morning.

Present at the call were Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, Director-General of Protocol Department Thura U Aung Htet and Indian ambassador Mr Rajiv Kumar Bhatia and embassy staff. — MNA

Secretary-1 General Khin Nyunt attends “introduction of Kinetic Enterprise Portal”

YANGON, 15 July — A ceremony was held at the Myanmar Information and Communication Technology Park in Hline Township this afternoon to introduce ‘Kinetic Enterprise Portal’ for e-Government Enterprise Solution, a technological product of the Myanmar World Distribution Co Ltd, which is a member of the Myanmar Information and Communication Technology (MICT).

Chairman of Myanmar Computer Science Development Council Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council General Khin Nyunt attended the ceremony.

Present on the occasion were Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, the ministers, the deputy ministers, responsible personnel of the State Peace and

Development Council Office, departmental heads, members of the board of directors of MICT Development Co, officials from Myanmar Computer Federation, Myanmar Computer Scientist Association, Myanmar Computer Industry Association and Myanmar World Distribution Co Ltd and guests.

At first, a presentation was given on Content Information Management, Portal Interface, Search Technologies, Mobile Technologies and Security, which are components of “Kinetic” Portal. Managing Director of Myanmar World Distribution Co Ltd Daw Khin San Win and Director Dr Daw Khin Aye Win presented five sets of “Kinetic” Enterprise Portal to be used at Myanmar Maritime University, Myanmar

(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 —8

In assessing the large decrease in the number of party members of the NLD which has already been reduced to the condition of a chronically sick and poorly invalid, it has become our usual practice to lay the blame on “government pressure and oppression.” However, if we should carefully delve into the matter we will find that the source lies in a multitude of problems. It will be found that the main force that has driven the NLD into a tight corner where there is no room to turn, with no space to either advance or retreat, is not the pressures applied by the government. It originated from the handing over of the entire party to someone as if to pay back a loan.

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Secretary-1 General Khin Nyunt inspects Myanmar Information and Communication Technology Park. — MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 16 July, 2003

For emergence of proper fish and prawn market

After becoming a member of the Association of South-East Asian Nations, it became necessary for the Union of Myanmar to set up an organization that has to work together with the ASEAN Fisheries Federation. Therefore, Myanmar Fisheries Federation was constituted on 1 December, 1998, and it became a member of the ASEAN Fisheries Federation.

As Myanmar needs a modern building to host coordination meetings on fisheries and to conduct workshops for the development of fisheries, necessary steps have been taken. The cornerstone-laying ceremony for the head-office building of Myanmar Fisheries Federation was held at the chosen site on Bayint Naung Road in Insein Township on 12 July and Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council General Khin Nyunt attended the ceremony and delivered a speech.

In his address, the Secretary-1 said that, as Myanmar has great potential for development of fisheries sector, the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, entrepreneurs and technicians should make concerted efforts to promote public interests as well as their own through the systematic and effective tapping of water resources.

The fisheries sector is the most important one after the agriculture and forestry sectors. As Myanmar has a long coastline, there are a lot of opportunities for development of inshore and offshore fisheries. Head of State Senior General Than Shwe, during one of his tours in Ayeyawady Division, has given guidance on further development of the fisheries sector.

Therefore, responsible personnel of Myanmar Fisheries Federation, technicians and entrepreneurs, under the leadership of the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, will have to try their hardest for the development of the fisheries sector and the emergence of a proper market for fish and prawn.

Do not be frightened whenever intimidated



Myanmar ICT Park in Hline Township.

Construction of new factory, installation of machinery inspected in Yangon

YANGON, 15 July — Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung, accompanied by Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thein Tun and officials concerned arrived at No 1 Shoe Factory Branch (Phawtikan) of Myanmar General and Maintenance Industries on Lower Mingaladon Road in Insein Township this morning and

inspected installation of new machinery and test running in the newly-built factory. At first, the minister inspected condition of newly installed machinery—Compound Cooling & Cutter, Mixing Roller and Kneader Mixer and gave instructions on production for import-substitute, distributions of goods at reasonable price

according to public demand and quality control of the products.

Next, the minister inspected production process of rubber slipper, production of rubber soles, newly-built staff's foodstall and condition of roads and gave necessary instructions. At the briefing hall the minister urged officials concerned to

improve quality of products without being contented with present production. Afterwards, the minister inspected sale of goods of Industry-1 at Win Thu Zar shop.

Next, he also inspected digging of earth in Danyingon Factory, Insein Township and left necessary instructions.

MNA

Three Chinese culprits handed over

YANGON, 15 July — The three Chinese culprits—Law Yan (a) Yan Kyan Ko and wife Ah Yin (a) Yan Shu Lin, and their daughter-in-law Chaing Li (a) Li Li May—wanted for fraud were handed over to police force of Sip Saung Pannar Province of the People's Republic of China. The hand-over took place at No 218 Boundary Post of Myanmar-Chinese border, Mongla region, Shan State (East) at 10.30 am on 10 July. Present on the occasion were Head of

Kengtung District MPF, Shan State (East), Myanmar Police Lt-Col Kyi Nyunt, Head of Shan State Immigration and National Registration Department U Kyaw Kyaw and party on Myanmar side, and Deputy Head of Sip Saung Pannar Province Police Force of PRC Mr Kyan Wai Yee and party on Chinese side.

Police Lt-Col Kyi Nyunt made a speech and Mr Kyan Wai Yee spoke words of thanks. Next, Police Lt-Col Kyi Nyunt and Mr Kyan Wai Yee signed

the documentary on the handing over of the culprits. The three culprits illegally entered Myanmar in April 1999. They were arrested at the house in Weinkyauk Village, Hongleik Village-tract, Tachilek Township on 16-3-2003 together with one .38 pistol, one magazine, six rounds of ammunition, 45,000 bahts, 30 100-Austral notes (Argentina) and 90 500-Austral notes.

Law Yan (a) Yan Kyan Ko is serving 7 years' prison term under Section 13 (1) of Immigration

(Emergency) Act, Section 12 (A) of Shan Arms Law, Section 24 (1) of Foreign Currency Exchange Law and Section 21 of Myanmar Citizen Law; Ah Yin (a) Yan Shu Lin 3 years' prison term under Section 13 (1) of Immigration (Emergency) Act and Section 21 of Myanmar Citizen Law; and Chaing Li (a) Li Li May 3 years' prison term under Section 13 (1) of Immigration (Emergency) Act and Section 21 of Myanmar Citizen Law in Kengtung Prison. — MNA



The handing over of three Chinese culprits to the People's Republic of China in progress. — HOME AFFAIRS

Catching up with others in terms of ICT development

Tin Maung Than

Without the development in the information and communication technology, no nation in this world will be able to leapfrog for achieving advancement in multi-sectors in this Age in which the ICT is the dominant factor in all fields.

As the ICT has

conquered the distance and time, it has made the world a smaller place, where access to communication and information and all academic fields is much easier than in the past.

And all the countries of the world, the developed and the developing alike, are striving to gain superiority in the ICT sector. In this regard, Myanmar, realizing this very well, has made significant strides to develop her ICT.

Although it can be said that Myanmar is a late-comer in the field of information and communication technology, we are advancing in the ICT area at a high speed, and the number of users and service providers is increasing together with the development in the human resources thanks to the earnest endeavours of the government in cooperation with the people and local

entrepreneurs.

One of the nation's great leap forward in the field of ICT is the opening of Myanmar Information and Communication Technology Park in Yangon on 21 January 2002. Run by the Myanmar Information and Communication Technology Development Corporation the MICT has been serving as the nucleus in helping Myanmar become a software developer and exporter.

The nation opened the Second Annual Myanmar ICT Week on 21 January this year.

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe visited the MICT Park in Hline Township, Yangon, on 15 January, and inspected the operations of the Park and preparations to hold the Week.

During the inspection, Senior General Than Shwe pointed out, "If we continue to work in

conventional way, we will be hard to catch up with the developed nations in terms of ICT development.

He also expressed pleasure in seeing the successful establishment of the Bagan Cybertech IDC and Teleport and Myanmar ICT Park. "With diligence and dedication, efforts should be made to accelerate the ICT development momentum based on the structure and equipment in hand, he stressed. The Senior General then called for hard work to realize the objectives of the ASEAN Vision 2020.

In addition we are happy to learn that the e-Government is no longer a dream, but is fast becoming a reality, and the e-Education is now available all over the nation, providing equal education opportunities to students everywhere in the nation.

US loses 32nd soldier in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 15 July — The United States lost its 32nd soldier in postwar combat in Iraq on Monday, underscoring the difficulties it faces in quashing resistance as a Governing Council of local leaders began its work.

The US military is braced for a surge in attacks this week to coincide with anniversaries linked to ousted President Saddam Hussein, his Baath Party and Iraqi nationalism.

A group that said it was an Iraqi branch of the al Qaeda network claimed responsibility for attacks on US soldiers in an audio tape broadcast Sunday but its rhetoric sounded more typical of Saddam supporters than Islamic militants. A blast damaged an empty parked car used by the Tunisian ambassador Monday afternoon but caused no casualties. Witnesses said drive-by attackers had thrown a small bomb at the car but the US military said the cause was not yet clear.

The explosion happened a few hundred meters away from the compound housing the new Governing Council in Baghdad and close to other buildings used by the US-led occupying authorities. In the latest attack on US troops, assailants fired on a convoy in the central al-Mansour area of Baghdad, killing one soldier and wounding 10 others, the military said.

Witnesses said one vehicle was hit by a rocket-propelled grenade and another by machine-gun fire. Bloodstains on an armored Humvee vehicle and the crumpled cab of an army truck bore testament to the attack.

Dozens of US troops searched the area as helicopters hovered above. Soldiers searching an abandoned house in the area found a light machine gun probably used in the attack.

Thirty-two US soldiers have been killed in Iraq since President Bush declared major combat over on May 1. The growing death toll has intensified pressure on the Bush administration to defend itself against charges that it misled the public by using dubious intelligence to justify the war. Democrats and even some Republicans in the United States are raising questions about Bush's use of faulty intelligence when he said in his State of the Union speech last winter that Iraq was seeking uranium from Africa in its pursuit of weapons of mass destruction. — *Internet*

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Blast in Baghdad shakes hopes of return to normalcy

BAGHDAD, 15 July — A grenade exploded outside coalition headquarters in central Baghdad, rattling hopes that a new governing council would usher in a period of stability after three months of postwar chaos.

No casualties were reported in the blast, which one US military policeman at the scene said was a car bomb, while an Iraqi police captain posted close by said was a hit-and-run grenade attack. Iraqi police said the destroyed vehicle belonged to the Tunisian embassy.

It exploded by a tight security cordon around 500 metres (yards) from the Baghdad convention centre where top US overseer Paul Bremer was scheduled to hold a press conference around two hours later.

The attack came ahead of the July 16 anniversary of Saddam Hussein becoming president 24 years ago and amid US warnings of a possible attack as the date approaches along with the 35th anniversary of his Baath Party on July 17.

With violence in Iraq showing no sign of abating, a US soldier was killed and six others were wounded earlier Monday in a multiple rocket-propelled grenade (RPG) attack on their patrol in Baghdad, a US military spokesman said.

The attack occurred at around 6:00 am (0200 GMT) in the city's Al-Mansur area, Corporal Todd Pruden told AFP. In what appeared to be a separate incident on a highway just north of the capital, a US convoy also came under RPG attack. A US soldier at the scene told an AFP photographer that one US soldier and two Iraqis had been wounded. — *Internet*

Cuban plane fetches \$59,100 in Internet auction

KEY WEST (Florida), 15 July — A Soviet-era aircraft has fetched 59,100 US dollars in an Internet auction on Ebay, almost 10 times the amount first paid by the seller for the aging plane.

The winning bid in the 10-day auction that ended late Saturday night came from a pilot in Washington State, according to the seller, Matthew Overton, a 25-year-old pilot and auto mechanic in Greeley, Colorado.

Overton bought the Antonov-24 for 6,500 US dollars in June through a government auction in Key West. The proceeds of that first sale were to help pay off a 27-million-US-dollar court judgment against Havana for Ana Margarita Martinez, the ex-wife of a Cuban spy. The money from the online auction, which saw 96 bids for the aircraft, is Overton's alone. He plans to use it to pay off bills and become a flight instructor, he said during a celebration at a friend's house. — *MNA/Reuters*

Weapons of mass destruction in Iraq a US "lie", says ex-weapons inspector

UNITED NATIONS, 15 July — UN former weapons inspector Scott Ritter said that US statements about Iraq possessing weapons of mass destruction before launching war on Saddam Hussein regime were a "lie."

"The entire case the Bush administration made against Iraq is a lie," Ritter told reporters, also criticizing the media for being too willing to accept the weapons of mass destruction allegations as justification for war.

"What was the basis of the affirmation by US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld? He said there are weapons of mass destruction in Iraq — nobody asked him to prove it. The press just printed it. We have now to demand the proof," Ritter said.

"Is it going to be as obvious as the uranium? I don't know," said Ritter, in reference to a US claim Iraq had tried to buy nuclear material from Africa. — *Internet*

Italian researchers find way to control "AIDS" infection

ROME, 15 July — An Italian medical research group has come up with a new way of keeping HIV infection under control and protecting immune system cells that are usually ravaged by the virus, Italian media reported on Sunday.

The Rome-based team, including researchers Enrico Garaci, Stefano Aquaro, Caterina Lapenta and Filippo Berardelli found that HIV causes long-term high virus production in macrophages which then transport the infection to the immune system.

Garaci explained that the aim was to use a specific antibody to block nerve growth factor (NGF), which is produced by blood, lymph and connective tissue cells known as macrophages. By stopping NGF production, infected macrophages should eventually die off, preventing the infection spreading to other cells, the Italian researchers say.

MNA/Xinhua



A US Army military policeman directs traffic away from a destroyed car bearing diplomatic license plates after an explosion in central Baghdad on 14 July, 2003, just a few hundred yards from the compound housing Iraq newly formed Governing Council. Earlier, the United States lost its 32nd soldier in postwar combat in Iraq, underscoring the hardships Washington faces quashing Iraqi resentment as a new Governing Council begins work choosing a leader. — *INTERNET*

Bangladeshi PM urges ensuring passengers' safety

DHAKA, 15 July — Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia on Sunday directed the concerned authorities to modernize the existing shipping management to ensure passengers' safety.

Her directives came at a meeting with Shipping Minister Akbar Hossain and some senior ministers who were called to the prime minister's office in connection with the recent launch accident and loss of lives in river Meghna. Briefing reporters after the meeting, Principal Secretary to Prime Minister Kamal Siddiqui said that Khaleda Zia expressed her displeasure at the existing management of the movement of riverine vessels and directed to update the existing laws, rules and regulations related to shipping for the safety of passengers.

A total of 155 bodies have so far been found in southern Bhola and Barisal districts, about 50-70 kilometres away from the scene of the launch capsized three days ago as hope for locating the launch is fading despite use of sonar system. Launch *MV Nasreen* sank near Chandpur Town, 170 kilometres southeast of Dhaka on Tuesday mid-night after it was caught in cross current at the point of joining of three rivers—Meghna, Padma and Dakatia with about 1,000 passengers. Some 200 passengers were able to reach to safety by themselves or rescued by people. — *MNA/Xinhua*



Former Iraqi government employees shout slogans as they march towards the former Presidential Palace which now houses the US administration in Iraq Monday, on 14 July, 2003, in Baghdad. The protesters, who lost their jobs following the ouster of Iraqi ruler Saddam Hussein, are demanding that they be rehired. — *INTERNET*

World leaders reject Blair's move over military action

LONDON, 15 July — Tony Blair was rebuffed yesterday over attempts to give international backing to military action to topple certain leaders of failed states like Iraq.

A summit of 14 world leaders refused to endorse a joint statement which proposed waiving the legal ban on intervening in foreign states if governments failed to protect their citizens from repression or "state failure".

The original draft, revealed by *The Independent* on Sunday, said: "Where a population is suffering serious harm as a result of internal war, insurgency, repression or state failure, and the state in question is unwilling to halt or avert it, the principle of non-intervention yields to the international responsibility to protect." But the passage was cut from the final communiqué amid fears that it could have provided justification for the war in Iraq and give carte blanche to Western powers to intervene in countries around the world. The final document instead stressed "the crucial importance of international co-operation in responding to humanitarian crises". It said: "We are clear that the UN Security Council remains the sole body to

authorize global action in dealing with humanitarian crises of this kind."

The disputed passage was taken from a report by the Canada-based International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty. Instead, the leaders said it was "a valuable contribution to the ongoing and necessary debate within the UN on how better to deal with these new and emerging challenges."

Speaking at the end of a three-day Progressive Governance Summit in Surrey, Mr Blair refused yesterday to link proposals for reforming international law with the war in Iraq, but called for new international "rules" to govern intervention in failing states.

The argument over how to police the world's most unstable countries will dominate discussions about the future of the United Nations in the wake of the war in Iraq. Foreign Office officials have started work on proposals for reform, due to be launched by

Jack Straw, the Foreign Secretary, in the autumn, amid concern in Britain and America that the UN is unwieldy and unsuited to the challenges of the 21st century. Proposals being considered include expanding the permanent membership of the UN Security Council and streamlining the organisation's bureaucracy.

The leaders, including the South African President, Thabo Mbeki, the German Chancellor, Gerhard Schröder, New Zealand's Prime Minister, Helen Clark, and the Canadian Prime Minister, Jean Chrétien, said that "the global challenges of poverty, protecting the environment and human rights, promoting development and peace and combating terrorism require a step change in the confidence and capacities of our global institutions."

These must be based on respect for international law and founded on multilateralism."

Internet

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UN thinks Britain's Iraq proof based on fakes

VIENNA, 15 July — The United Nations nuclear watchdog believes Britain's evidence on Iraq trying to import uranium from Africa is all based on forged documents, a diplomat close to the agency said on Monday.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair said last year intelligence showed Iraq had banned weapons of mass destruction and was trying to import uranium from Niger to support its nuclear arms programme.

US President George W Bush included the allegation in his State of the Union address in January, citing the British findings. But the White House said last week the claim was based on forged documents and should have been left out of the speech.

British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw on Monday said its evidence was not linked to the forged documents. It came from a third country and the Americans had not seen it.

"This information on which we relied, which was completely separate from the now notorious forged documents, came from foreign intelligence sources," Straw told BBC Radio. — MNA/Reuters

Cambodian FM to attend ministerial meeting in Thailand

PHNOM PENH, 15 July — Cambodian Foreign Minister Hor Namhong will lead a delegation to attend a two-day ministerial meeting at the end of the month in Bangkok, Thailand.

The foreign ministers' meeting (FMM), scheduled for July 31 and August 1 to establish the group of four economic framework, will be attended by Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand.

The FMM will discuss on economic cooperation strategy between the four countries, not on border and labour issues as reported by some media, according to the Foreign Ministry's Press release on Monday.

MNA/Xinhua

Two Vietnamese executed for \$200m fraud

HANOI, 15 July — A Vietnamese businessman and a banker were executed on Friday for their role in fraudulently obtaining loans worth 200 million US dollars, state media reported on Monday.

Tang Minh Phung, 47, a businessman, and 60-year-old banker Pham Nhat Hong were shot dead by firing squad in southern Ho Chi Minh City after their appeals for clemency were rejected by President Tran Duc Luong in May, the *Vietnam News* daily said. — MNA/Reuters

India not to send troops to Iraq, ready to offer civilian aid

NEW DELHI, 15 July — The Indian government announced Monday it will not send troops to Iraq to join a stabilization force, ending months of dithering on the politically explosive issue.

The US embassy in New Delhi said the decision would not have any impact on India-US relations. The decision came after two hours of deliberations within the security cabinet headed by Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee.

The cabinet suggested though that troops could be deployed should the United Nations endorse such a force, Foreign Minister Yashwant Sinha said.

"Were there to be an explicit UN mandate for the purpose, the government of India could consider the deployment of our troops in Iraq," Sinha said after the cabinet meeting ended.

"The government of India has given careful thought to the question of sending Indian troops to Iraq. India remains ready to respond to the urgent needs of the Iraqi people for their stability, security, political progress and economic reconstruction," he said. — Internet

China's cable digital TV subscribers to hit 30 million by 2005

BEIJING, 15 July — China is expected to sign up 30 million cable digital television subscribers by 2005, according to a five-year plan drawn up by the State Administration of Radio, Film

and Television (SARFT).

Though the plan says that many cities in China will broadcast digital television in two years' time, it still needs to do more to sell the technology to consumers to fulfil its tar-



A woman and a child roll cooking gas containers back home after waiting hours in line to buy gas in Baghdad, Iraq on 14 July, 2003. Two and a half months after the end of the war, Iraqi's are still facing severe fuel and gas shortages. — INTERNET

get, reports Monday's *China Daily*. Under the plan, the nation is divided into three parts, in addition to the four municipalities of Beijing, Shanghai, Tianjin and Chongqing. The eastern zone includes

Guangdong, Fujian, Jiangsu, Zhejiang and Shandong, while the western zone includes Xinjiang, Tibet, Ningxia and Inner Mongolia, Qinghai, Gansu, Yunnan, and Guizhou.

MNA/Xinhua

ASEAN agrees to harmonize four policies

JAKARTA, 15 July — The informal meeting of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN's) economic ministers here on Sunday agreed to harmonize four policies, a minister said.

"We agree to harmonize policies of rules of origin, Customs procedures, dispute settlement and standards and conformance," head of the meeting Abdul Rahman Taib was quoted Monday by the daily *Bisnis Indonesia* as saying.

Pehin, who is also a Brunei Darussalam's Minister of Industry and Prime Resources, said all ministers agreed to harmonize the four policies as an effort to speed up the liberalization of ASEAN's trade and investment in line with the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA). — MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam imports more steel

HANOI, 15 July — Vietnam imported over 2.72 million tons of steel and iron worth 974 million US dollars in the first half of 2003, a year-on-year increase of 25.4 per cent in volume and 85.6 per cent in value, according to the Trade Ministry on Monday.

In the period, the country imported 988,000 tons of steel billets totalling 267 million dollars, up 15.2 per cent in volume and 64.2 per cent in value. The price of imported billets now stands at 270-275 dollars per ton, 40 dollars higher than that in June 2003.

MNA/Xinhua



Local residents stand near a shop with a bullet hole in Baghdad, Iraq, on 14 July, 2003, after an early morning confrontation between US troops and Iraqi insurgents. — INTERNET

China's "Silicon Valley" to go green

BEIJING, 15 July—Beijing's Zhongguancun Science and Technology Park, known as China's "Silicon Valley" for both domestic and overseas high-tech enterprises, is set to become more environmentally-friendly with a planned ecological office district (EOD).

According to the construction plans by the city's Haidian District, the EOD will feature low energy consumption, "smart" and environment-friendly buildings.

The construction style of the EOD was similar to that of Silicon Valley, California, concentrating on "green" buildings and using plants and rainwater, said Li Yongqian, general manager of Beijing Century Green City Construction Company. Rainwater will be collected from the floor and the roofs of the buildings in the EOD and channelled into an artificial lake to improve the environment. The treated rainwater will also be used to wash cars or irrigate flowers.

The pathways connecting the buildings will be raised so as to keep an integrated grassland.

MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam hosts e-Awareness Seminar for Asian Parliamentarians

HANOI, 15 July —The first-ever e-Awareness Seminar for Asian Parliamentarians (e-ASSAP) was opened on Monday. The two-day seminar aims to raise awareness of information and communications technology (ICT) as powerful tools of development among Asian parliamentarians and senior decision-makers managing parliamentary affairs.

Among the topics that are being discussed are ICT and society, which focuses on technology evolution and its impact on society; issues and challenges in ICT induction such as change management, technology, knowledge gap issues; ICT policy framework development; and the role of parliamentarians in ICT for development.

The seminar participants include parliamentarians from Brunei, Cambodia, China, East Timor, Indonesia, Lao, Malaysia, Mongolia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Thailand, and Vietnam. —MNA/Xinhua

Iraq ruling council asserts role

BAGHDAD, 15 July—Iraq's new national governing council ended its first full day of work with a decision to send a delegation to the United Nations Security Council.

The delegation would "assert and emphasise the role of the governing council as a legitimate Iraqi body during this transitional period", a statement issued by the council said. The council — comprised of 25 Iraqi nationals chosen by the US-led coalition occupying Iraq — had also been due to choose a leader but a spokesman said this would be decided later. As the council met in Baghdad there were at least two attacks against US forces there. One US soldier was killed and six injured in an ambush on their convoy in the al-Mansur district of the city.

Later an explosion — possibly from a grenade — destroyed a vehicle in a car park close to where the council met. There were no reports of injuries and the explosion was not reported to be large. The car was parked close to a military cordon set up by US forces around two buildings that hosted the governing council.

The BBC's Jonny Dymond says that the complex of buildings is a high profile target for anyone wishing to attack the coalition.

Also on Monday US President George W. Bush met United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan for the first time since the Iraq war. After the talks in Washington, President Bush said the operation to stabilize the country was making good progress.

He also defended pre-war US intelligence on Iraqi weapons as "darn good", rejecting charges that the threat posed by Saddam Hussein had been inflated.

Mr Annan, for his part, said he was pleased to see the establishment of a council in Iraq. He called on the international community to come together to help Iraq achieve stability. The United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) has warned that it is too early to send Iraqi asylum seekers home because of continuing insecurity. —Internet

President facing new challenges of credibility and casualties

WASHINGTON, 15 July—Americans are expressing rising dismay with US casualties in Iraq, declining confidence in the Bush administration — and growing doubt whether the war was worth fighting.

The administration faces trouble on credibility and casualties alike. Half the public thinks it "intentionally exaggerated" evidence that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction. And 52 percent, a majority for the first time, call the level of US casualties "unacceptable."

While 57 percent still say the war was worth fighting, that's fallen from 70 percent as the main fighting wound down at the end of April. Eighty percent now express concern about getting "bogged down in a long and costly peacekeeping mission"; 43 percent are "very concerned" about that outcome, up 11 points since last month.

Bush's own ratings have suffered in tandem with these concerns. His approval rating for handling the situation in Iraq has fallen by 17 points since the end of April, from 75 percent then to 58 percent now. —Internet

Over 1 million flood victims relocated in east China

BEIJING, 15 July — Some 1.04 million flood victims in east China's Anhui Province have been relocated, figures from local disaster relief departments revealed Sunday.

Of the total, about 985,000 have been evacuated from the worst-hit Huaihe River Valley, according to the Anhui Production and Disaster Relief Office. By July 13, the province has allocated 15,000 tents and relief fund of 65.2 million yuan (about 7.86 million US dollars) to boost the relocation and secure the basic life of evacuated victims.

Currently, around 653,400 people have sought refuge with their relatives and friends, 211,900 live in makeshift shanties, 123,000 find their accommodation in

public housing and the rest stay in specially-made tents. To prevent the spread of contagious diseases, 9,403 medical workers have been posted in the province along the Huaihe River and some 259,000 people have got medical treatment.

MNA/Xinhua



Chinese residents evacuate from their flooded house in Shouxian county, along the swollen Huaihe River in Anhui Province, on 12 July, 2003. Seasonal flooding across China has already killed at least 569 people this year and forced the evacuation of 2.3 million others. —INTERNET

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More Americans call the level of casualties in Iraq 'unacceptable'

WASHINGTON, 15 July—The number of Americans who say the United States is sustaining an "unacceptable" level of military casualties in Iraq has grown sharply, a trend that could signal limited patience for a long and violent occupation.

While 51 percent of Americans in a new ABCNEWS/Washington Post poll call the current level of US casualties "acceptable," that's down from 66 percent in early April, when Baghdad fell with little organized resistance. And the number calling casualties "unacceptable" has jumped by 16 points, to 44 percent.

While a yellow flag for policy-makers, rising concern about casualties hasn't greatly altered basic support for administration policy. Considering its costs vs benefits, 64 percent say the war was worth fighting, down modestly from 70 percent at the end of April.

Internet



US soldiers from the 3rd Infantry Division 3/7 Infantry Regiment, inspect a military truck moments after an early morning rocket-propelled grenade attack in al-Khadra'a west of Baghdad, Iraq, on 14 July, 2003. Insurgents have been attacking US vehicle convoys and launching mortar attacks on US bases in central Iraq. The soldier driving the truck was allegedly killed after the RPG hit the side door and six others were wounded in Monday's attack. —Internet

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

Most Britons believe Blair misled them on Iraq

LONDON, 15 July—Claims British Prime Minister Tony Blair made about banned Iraqi weapons continued to haunt him on Monday as a new poll published shortly before he visits the United States showed most Britons think he misled them.

Blair flies on Thursday to Washington — where his stock remains high — and then on for a week-long tour of the Far East with questions about his justification for taking part in the US-led war in Iraq bombarding him from all sides.

At home, the Premier has faced accusations that he overplayed intelligence about weapons of mass destruction to make the case for war. With no such weapons found months after the conflict ended, he is starting to suffer political damage.

Blair struck a defiant note at a news conference closing a summit of 14 centre-left world leaders outside London.

"We should be proud Saddam has gone, glad that he's gone... The world will be a more secure place as a result,"

he said. The British Government was forced on Monday to defend its claim that Iraq sought uranium from Niger to support a nuclear weapons programme, although Washington has abandoned the charge.

The White House said last week its claim was based on forged documents, a potentially embarrassing schism as Blair prepares to meet President George W Bush, who included the allegation in a January speech, citing British findings.

Britain included the accusation in a September 2002 dossier setting out the case for war in Iraq. "We stand entirely by the intelligence we gave and shared with the public," Blair said.

Foreign Secretary Jack Straw tried to paper over the cracks, saying Brit-

ain had received intelligence from a third country about Niger's uranium that the Americans had not seen.

"This information on which we relied, which was completely separate from the now notorious forged documents, came from foreign intelligence sources," Straw told BBC Radio.

"We believe in the veracity of the intelligence." But that is only one of many questions posed about Iraq's banned weapons and what Blair said about them before the war.

Former UN weapons inspector Hans Blix delivered the latest blow on Sunday, declaring that Britain committed a "fundamental mistake" when it said Saddam Hussein could deploy weapons of mass destruction at 45 minutes notice.—MNA/Reuters



Iraqi Governing Council decides to send delegation to UN

BAGHDAD, 15 July—The newly-established Iraqi Governing Council decided on Monday to dispatch a delegation to the UN Security Council.

The delegation would "assert and emphasize the role of the governing council as a legitimate Iraqi body during this transitional period", the Governing Council of Iraq said in a statement. The decision was made one day after the US-backed executive body held its inaugural meeting in a landmark step on the country's path to democracy and reconstruction.—MNA/Xinhua

Car blows up in Baghdad near home of new council

BAGHDAD, 15 July—Drive-by attackers threw an explosive device into a parked car in central Baghdad on Monday, setting the vehicle ablaze just a few hundred metres from the compound housing Iraq's Governing Council, witnesses said.

No one appeared to be injured in the blast which was also close to other buildings used by the country's US-led occupying powers. The car was used by the Tunisian Ambassador to Iraq whose driver had dropped him off at the Governing Council building, a policeman who had spoken to the driver told Reuters. The driver had then parked and gone to sit in the shade, he said.

The driver saw another vehicle cruise by and a passenger throw something at the car before it blew up, the policeman said. Another man on the scene gave a similar account.

"A taxi drove past the car and a passenger threw out an explosive device. Shortly after that, I heard a big bang and then the car was on fire," said Akil Kadhim, a soft drinks seller.

The blast went off around 4:30 pm (1230 GMT), said a spokesman for the US-led occupying military force in Iraq. There was no word of any casualties, he said.

Around 90 minutes after the incident, the blaze had been extinguished and the wreckage of the car, which bore diplomatic licence plates, was smouldering. A fire crew was on the scene and US soldiers were guarding the area.—MNA/Reuters



United Nations special representative for Iraq Sergio Vieira de Mello (R) chats with US administrator Paul Bremer during a Press Conference announcing the newly formed Iraqi Governing Council, at a Baghdad conference hall on 13 July, 2003. A US-backed Iraqi Governing Council held its inaugural meeting Sunday, stressing the start of a new era.

INTERNET

HK hosts int'l conference on revitalizing Asian tourism

HONG KONG, 15 July—An international conference on revitalizing Asian tourism, the largest international meeting held in Hong Kong following its removal from the list of SARS-affected areas, opened here Monday.

The International Cooperation for Tourism Development Under a New Paradigm Conference is jointly organized by Boao Forum for Asia and the World Tourism Organization, with the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) government as the host.

Secretary-General of the Boao Forum for Asia Long Yongtu, Secretary-General of the World Tourism Organization Francesco Frangialli and HKSAR Chief Executive Tung Chee Hwa officiated at the opening ceremony.

Long Yongtu said the

objective of the conference is to help recover people's confidence in Asian tourism and strengthen the cooperation in Asia and in the world.

It will help promote inter-governmental cooperation and facilitate the establishment of a cooperation mechanism on tourism at times of crisis with an aim of eliminating administrative obstacles affecting tourism developments, he said.

Frangialli also stressed the importance of crisis management and cooperation as effective ways to boost tourism after SARS.—MNA/Xinhua

A rich starry sky fills the view from an ancient gas-giant planet in the core of the globular star cluster M4, as imagined in this artist's concept. The planet, about 12.7 billion years old, orbits a helium white-dwarf star and the millisecond pulsar B1620-26, seen at lower left. The globular cluster is deficient in heavier elements from making planets, so the existence of such a world implies that planet formation may have been quite efficient in the early universe.—XINHUA PHOTO

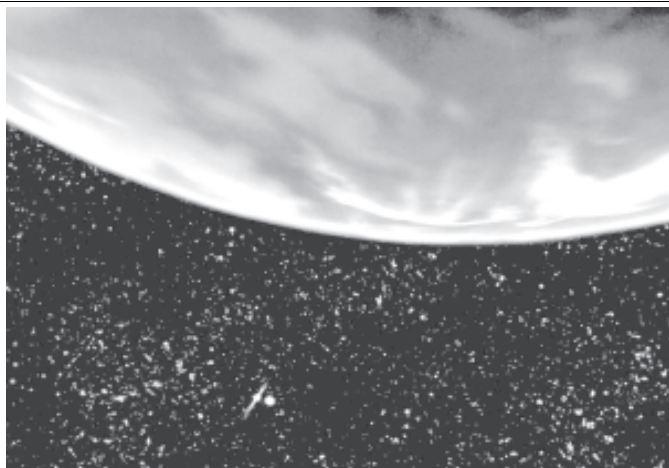
E China province reports increase in foreign investment

NANCHANG, 15 July—East China's Jiangxi Province approved 328 new foreign-funded enterprises in the first half of this year, up 43.43 per cent year-on-year, according to local statistics.

The province absorbed actual foreign investment totalling 969 million US dollars in the same period, up 97.8 per cent year-on-year, and 1.055 billion US dollars in contracted foreign investment, representing a rise of 79.9 per cent.

The average monthly influx of foreign investment in the first six months stood at 162 million US dollars, the source said, adding that most of the investment came in

during May and June. In June alone, the province lured 240 million US dollars in foreign direct investment, which exceeded the figure for the whole of 2000. In addition, the province further optimized the investment structure, with most of the investment focusing on large-scale projects, industrial projects and solely-funded projects, the source said, adding that many were launched in the province's industrial parks.—MNA/Xinhua



Xiamen port reports rise in container turnover

FUZHOU, 15 July—The port city of Xiamen in south China's Fujian Province achieved a cargo turnover of 16.16 million tons in the first half of this year, up 25 per cent year-on-year, according to the latest local statistics.

Xiamen Port handled 1.1 million standard containers in the same period, up 37 per cent year-on-year, or 53 per cent of the year's target.

The port has performed well in the first six months in terms of management and marketing, according to the city's Port Affairs Administrative Department. It has opened seven domestic and international shipping lines this year.

In addition, Xiamen Port has set up a mechanism of fair competition which effectively stimulated initiative among enterprises and invigorated market development.—MNA/Xinhua

Chinese, Egyptian companies sign textile contract

CAIRO, 15 July—Egypt's Cotton and Textile Industry Holding Company Limited and China's Huitong Polyester Technique Corporation Limited signed on Sunday a contract worth more than 14 million US dollars.

Under the deal, the Chinese company will provide advanced textile equipment, technology and training for its Egyptian counterpart, which is specialized in producing textile material.

Addressing the signing ceremony, Egyptian Minister of State for Public Business Sector Mokhtar Khatab said the signing of the contract was a step forward toward expanding cooperation between enterprises in the two countries.

MNA/Xinhua

Inspector disputes US claims on Iraq

VIENNA (Austria), 15 July — A top UN weapons hunter says it would have been "virtually impossible" for Iraq to revive a nuclear bomb programme with equipment recently dug up from a Baghdad backyard, as the Bush administration contends.

Jacques Baute said the long-term monitoring of Iraq's nuclear establishment planned by the UN Security Council would have stifled any attempt to build a huge uranium-enrichment plant for making bomb material. "This is a mistake people are making," Baute said. Such contentions ignore the fact that Iraq would have operated for years under international controls had the UN plan not been aborted by war, he said.

Baute also said in an interview with *The Associated Press* that it appears the unearthed cache of uranium enrichment parts, surrendered by an Iraqi scientist last month, lacked critical components, and its accompanying blueprints were marred by errors.

Baute, a French nuclear physicist, led the International Atomic Energy Agency inspection teams that — until the US-British invasion in March — crisscrossed Iraq in search of banned weapons. His assessment of the hidden equipment came as a furor grew in Washington over President Bush's use of an earlier allegation — that Baghdad sought uranium from Niger — to bolster the White House case for war.

Internet

Dead soldier's father blames Blair for Iraq war

LONDON, 15 July — The father of the youngest British soldier to die in Iraq launched a withering attack on Prime Minister Tony Blair on Monday, saying he sent his son to an unjustified death.

Blair is under intense political fire over claims his government "sexed up" intelligence to make the case for joining the US-led war on Iraq.

Andrew Kelly, of the British Army's crack Parachute Regiment, died in a shooting accident at an Army base in southern Iraq on May 6, just weeks after his 18th birthday.

His father Robert Kelly wrote to Blair on Monday in the most personal criticism yet at his decision to take Britain to war.

"My son died because the wrong decision was made," Kelly, 54, told *Reuters*. "If we hadn't declared war, my son would be alive today."

"I am not a pacifist and if my son had died fighting a war because someone threatened our country I would still feel proud of him and my

Prime Minister," said Kelly, now a restaurateur living in Cornwall, south-west England.

Robert Kelly served with the Royal Navy for 24 years and is a veteran of the 1982 Falklands conflict when Britain reclaimed the South Atlantic islands from Argentina.

His son, a keen skier and swimmer, dreamed of wearing the Paras' maroon beret even as a schoolboy. He always carried a copy of the poem "Maroon Machine", which extols the regiment's exploits.

He spoke to his mother two days before his death and told her not to worry. "Paras always go to heaven," he told her.

His father said in his letter to Blair that he was struggling to come to terms with his son's death, which the Defence Ministry said

was caused by a weapon accidentally being fired.

"I cannot begin to explain to you how I feel about the loss of my son, nor do I believe that you care or would understand," Kelly's letter reads.

"Your decision to go to war put my son in the firing line unnecessarily. I hold you personally responsible for my son's death as well as the other servicemen killed."

Blair has faced accusations he hyped intelligence about weapons of mass destruction to make the case for war.

An ICM poll for the *Daily Mirror* newspaper on Monday showed 66 per cent of those questioned believed Blair had misled them — either knowingly or unknowingly — before he sent troops into action in Iraq. — MNA/Reuters



US Army soldiers inspect a machine gun found during a search after a convoy of military vehicles was attacked in the central al-Mansour area of Baghdad on 14 July, 2003. Attackers fired rocket-propelled grenades and machine guns at US soldiers in Baghdad on Monday, killing one and wounding six, the US military said.

INTERNET



Iran makes giant new oil find

TEHRAN, 15 July — Iran has made a major new oil find containing estimated reserves of more than 38 billion barrels, making it one of the world's biggest undeveloped fields, a senior oil official was quoted as saying on Monday.

Abolhasan Khamoushi, general director of Iran's Oil Development and Engineering Company, told the *Kayhan* evening newspaper that the find, combining three neighbouring oilfields, had been discovered close to the southern port city of Bushehr.

An Oil Ministry spokeswoman confirmed to *Reuters* the accuracy of the report but could give no further details.

Khamoushi said the fields contained crude of high density and very low API, meaning the oil will be less valuable on world markets than some other regional grades.

He said preliminary studies indicated that the Ferdows field contained 30.6 billion barrels or crude, the Mound field 6.63 billion and the Zagheh field 1.3 billion.

Appraisal work is under way to ascertain the dimensions of the fields.

Commercially recoverable reserves are

certain to prove much less than the 38 billion barrels in place, but the find could still rival the world's two other leading undeveloped fields.

Kazakhstan's Kashagan, under development by a consortium led by Italy's ENI also is estimated to hold 38 billion barrels of which seven-nine billion are thought commercially recoverable.

Iran's Azadegan, discovered four years ago, holds about 26 billion barrels with recoverable reserves of nine billion. Tehran is looking for a foreign partner to invest in it but there is no deal in place yet for its development.

Saudi Arabia's Ghawar, brought onstream in 1951, is the world's biggest oilfield, still containing 70 billion barrels of recoverable reserves.

MNA/Reuters

Greek Olympic victors propose returning flame to Olympia

ATHENS, 15 July — Greek Olympic medallists on Sunday proposed that the international event's symbolic flame should be extinguished in Ancient Olympia, beginning in 2004.

"Ancient Olympia is the starting point and end point of the Olympic Games. Our proposal is that the holy flame should return to its place of birth immediately after the end of the games," said Panayotis Fassoulas, the president of the Association of Greek Olympic Victors.

"The flame would then be extinguished in the place where it is to be relit for the next event," said Fassoulas, a parliamentary deputy and

former basketball player.

"We are here to contribute to vindication of the values of the land of the Olympic Games, and to show the world that the games are an integral and powerful part of a chain of values that can hold the world in unity," he said. The Greek medallists were addressing a seminar in Ancient Olympia on values represented by the games.

MNA/Xinhua

Iran ranks 5th in oil trade between 1991-2001

TEHRAN, 15 July — Iran ranked the fifth in the world and the second among Mideast countries in terms of daily oil trade during 1991-2001, the official IRNA news agency reported on Monday.

According to figures re-

leased by Italy's National Hydrocarbon Company, Iran's daily exports averaged 2.5 million barrels of oil, oil products and gas liquids between 1991 and 2001. Iran took the fifth place in the world in exporting crude oil and oil

products, following Saudi Arabia, Russia, Norway and Venezuela. Saudi Arabia exported a daily average of 7.5 million barrels of oil and oil products between 1991 and 2001, the report said.

MNA/Xinhua

Iranian police seize 1.8 tons of drugs

TEHRAN, 15 July — Iranian anti-drug police have seized 1,800 kilos of illegal drugs throughout the country in recent days, the official IRNA news agency reported on Monday.

Anti-drug police conducted a series of raids in Hormuzgan, Khorassan, Sistan-Baluchistan, Kerman, Fars, Isfahan, Mazandaran and Tehran provinces and arrested 50 smugglers, IRNA quoted police sources as saying.

Iran, situated on the crossroads linking drug producing country Afghanistan and markets in Central Asia, Persian Gulf states, Western Europe and other regions, is the favourite route for drug smugglers.

According to official estimates, Iran's anti-drug campaign costs the country about 800 million US dollars annually. The International Narcotics Control Board said 80 per cent of opium and 90 per cent of morphine are intercepted in Iran. — MNA/Xinhua

Continental Airlines puts off aircraft delivery

WASHINGTON, 15 July — Continental Airlines in the United States said Monday it will put off a scheduled delivery of 36 airplanes as it is not sure about the investment prospect amid sustained weakness of the airline industry.

Those Boeing-737 airplanes had been scheduled to be delivered in the beginning of 2005, but the major US airlines said it will not start to accept the delivery until 2008, three years later than the original plan. — MNA/Xinhua



Facing mounting security threats in Iraq, the US military said on 14 July, 2003 that thousands of soldiers from the Army's 3rd Infantry division would not return home by September as expected and instead stay in Iraq indefinitely. Vehicles of the 3rd Infantry division's engineer brigade secure a highway outside the city on its push into Baghdad's international airport, on 6 April. — INTERNET

Daw Suu Kyi, the NLD Party and Our Ray of Hope — 8

Maung Yin Hmaing

Washing One's Dirty Linen in Public

May 13.

We were going to continue our journey to Phakant today. If I had any choice we would have started the journey early in the morning but as you know it was not to be. I was just an ordinary member of the team with no authority so I was not in a position to decide anything. We were able to leave Mogaung only after 11 in the morning.

On the way, we visited a monastery in Kyundaw Ward. It was there that Granduncle U Tin Oo said something far-fetched. In our meeting with the abbot of the monastery, the monk said that he had met Granduncle U Tin Oo at Mahasi Vipassana Centre in Yangon.

Granduncle U Tin Oo replied, "Right sir. Ever since I was ordained as a monk at the centre, I have lived and put into practice the maxims of the Mahasi Sayadaw, and have at the very least always adhered to the Five Precepts."

I am not in a position to say how much truth there was in his words. But without any prearranged signal some of us of the NLD Youth looked at each other in amazement. We spoke meaningfully to each other with our eyes. I concluded that Granduncle U Tin Oo saying, "...at the very least I have always adhered to the Five Precepts" to the abbot was itself a lie. As if we didn't know that Granduncle U Tin Oo had been telling falsehoods in various forms to please Auntie Suu or the public whether it was in Yangon or all throughout the trip. We left the monastery at about 11.30, to proceed to Phakant. We passed through a number of villages, and ate our packed meals at a suitable place

along the road. When we reached Tada Oo Nyi Naung after five in the evening our convoy came to a halt. When we asked what was the matter a member in the front car replied that, the bridge there had been sabotaged because we were expected to come this way.

His words gave me an uneasy feeling. When I got off the car to have a look at the bridge I found that repairs on it must have started about a week ago. The team repairing the bridge obligingly built a temporary access road for our convoy. So we were able to cross the Tada Nyi Naung Bridge at about 6.30 in the evening.

We entered Lonkhin at about 10 pm. There were onlookers as the advanced team of our group had shouted at the top of their voice that the convoy carrying Auntie Suu was following it. As soon as she saw a crowd, Auntie Suu got ready to give a speech. She got off the car, stood on a bench laid in the middle of the road and began to talk with a mike in her hand.

She did not say anything special. She seemed to be a little doubtful and wary about the crowd of onlookers. The situation was such that if she said the wrong thing to the wrong people a fracas might have broken out without warning. Besides it was night and the time was not right. The main points Auntie Suu touched upon were that many young people were trying to earn money in the Lonkhin region but that they all should take care of their health and be aware of the risk of HIV and AIDS because the infection rate of the disease was high in Phakant. She urged them to try and stay healthy in order to be able to fully enjoy democracy after it had been

achieved.

I began to feel that at times that the words uttered by Auntie Suu had no political weight at all. On such a trip to revitalize and develop the organizational programme of the party, how could a party leader hope to raise the number of party members and strengthen faith in the party with such feeble words spoken on a bench in the middle of the road?

To the best of my knowledge, unity and concord cannot be attained simply by giving speeches to a crowd of people. One will have to approach and get to know the daily lives of the



A bridge which had fallen into ruin was repaired within hours by authorities concerned to enable Daw Suu Kyi and party to continue their Mogaung-Phakant trip.



Daw Suu Kyi and party violating traffic rules left Phakant on 14-5-2003.

people as closely as possible. If one wishes to do what is best for the people and fulfill their expectations one has to start trying to find the best possible means for achieving it. Merely criticizing and finding fault with what others do will not make good things happen. One has the responsibility to do good deeds too.

It is common knowledge that there are a variety of ways to organize a political force with superior strength. But the most important factor is the ability to give the right kind of

guidance and leadership and directive to consolidate the strength attained and enhance the quality of its members. One does not need to be a soapbox orator if he or she is really able and sincere.

In assessing the large decrease in the number of party members of the NLD which has already been reduced to the condition of a chronically sick and poorly invalid, it has become our usual practice to lay the blame on "government pressure and oppression." However, if we should carefully delve into the matter we will find that the source lies in a multitude of problems. It will be found that the main force that has driven the NLD into a tight corner where there is no room to turn, with no space to either advance or retreat, is not the pressures applied by the government. It originated from the handing over of the entire party to someone as if to pay back a loan.

Now, let us return to the account of the trip.

After a series of speeches by Auntie Suu, we were on our way again. But not even 30 minutes had

passed, when we saw a group of people. It was a large group waiting for us at the entrance to Nama-sit Village. But we were fortunate this time for it was not a crowd with handheld placards bearing the words "Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views" or shouting any other kind of offensive slogan.

Our convoy drove on for about 45 minutes and arrived at Phakant. Our group was going to stay at the house of Township NLD Treasurer Daw Khin Khin Ohn in Hmaw-baing Ward in the town. The crowd of onlookers was not small, but the actual number of party members was only over 50. I took a close look at the crowd but did find anyone who looked respectable. They appeared to be mostly itinerant labourers from various parts of the country.

It was late midnight. But the local party members were preparing to erect the party signboard though it was the middle of the night. When they were asked to hold the signboard erection ceremony only in

the morning, they told us, "It is not easy to organize such a number of people in the morning. The people will be at their work in the daytime and except for people of wealth most people have to work daily just to earn their living. So, it is best to hold the ceremony while there is still a crowd." And saying that if there were not enough people present tomorrow morning it would be an embarrassment for Auntie Suu they went ahead and held the ceremony at midnight. Here again Granduncle U Tin Oo behaved as if he were a professional medium who earned his living by making ritual offerings to the spirit, U Shin Gyi, on behalf of the donor. There he was under the signboard reciting mantras as protection from all kinds of harm. As for us, we were in a rush trying to grab the best place to sleep.

May 14.

Our plan was to go back to Mogaung from Phakant. The cars had been sent for servicing to prevent delays due to engine trouble. When the cars arrived back from the garage, we packed and loaded the baggage onto the cars and after making a tour of the town we returned to Mogaung.

On our return journey to Mogaung the cars that had been so carefully serviced broke down one after another with all kinds of mishaps such as broken axles. The victory mantras recited by Granduncle were of no avail in warding off such calamity. We arrived at Mogaung only after 10 in the late evening. We stayed for the night at U Tun Kyi's house again. The bedtime directive for us was that the convoy would leave for Tanai early in the morning!

(See page 9)



The NLD advance teams blocking roads seen in Phakant prior to departure of Daw Suu Kyi and party on 14-5-2003.



Secretary-1 General Khin Nyunt accepts the donation from Managing Director Daw Khin San Win and Director Daw Khin Aye Win. — MNA



BRUNEI KING'S BIRTHDAY COMMEMORATIVE RECEPTION: Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung being welcomed by Bruneian Ambassador Mr Pehin Dato Haji Hussin bin Haji Sulaiman and wife at the reception to mark the birthday of the King of Brunei on 15-7-2003. — MNA

Thai military delegation arrives

YANGON, 15 July — Thailand arrived here by air on a study visit this morning. The delegation was welcomed at Yangon International Airport by Com-

mandant of National Defence College Maj-Gen Moe Hein and senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, Military Attache of Thai Embassy Colonel Kasem Nakpun and officials. Colonel Chusak Meksuwan and delegation members visited the Defence Services Museum on Shwedagon Pagoda Road. Major Zaw Win and officials of Defence Services Museum and Historical Research Institute welcomed and conducted them round the museum.

The delegation members also paid a visit to the Shwedagon Pagoda where the members of the pagoda board of trustees explained the history of the pagoda. They donated cash to the fund of the pagoda. MNA



Colonel Chusak Meksuwan and party being welcomed at the airport. — MNA

Daw Suu Kyi...

(from page 8)
May 15.

We started our journey at 4.30 am. We had been travelling on the road to Nama-ti for an hour when one of the cars broke down near Lawan Bridge. It was still hazy so early in the morning. We were delayed for about half an hour before we could continue our journey. When we arrived at Shu-du-zwet Village at

about 8.30 in the morning, two cars of the convoy had punctured tires.

The two cars were left behind while the other five cars continued the journey. Our convoy moved slowly to allow the two cars to catch up. They were able to join the convoy again at about 9.30 in the morning, so the convoy soon speeded up. As I had never been to this part of the country the scenery along the way enchanted me.

While looking at the delightful and fresh surroundings I was full of good cheer, together with the wishful thought that here at this time and in this place there would not be anyone to oppose and denounce our group. But I was proved wrong. When we passed Kaung-ywa Village, we met with some local villagers holding signboards that said: "We reject any traitor who relies on foreigners"; "We reject anyone with

Secretary-1 General Khin Nyunt attends...

(from page 1)

Aerospace Engineering University, the University of Distance Education, the Higher Education Department (Lower Myanmar), and the Higher Education Department (Upper Myanmar).

Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Secretary-1 General Khin Nyunt accepted the donations. Managing Director Daw Khin San Win and Director Daw Khin Aye Win also presented one set of "Kinetic" Enterprise Portal to be used at the Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs. The

Minister of CPT Brig-Gen Thein Zaw accepted the donation.

Speaking on the occasion, Director Daw Khin Aye Win said in this information age, the success or failure of an enterprise depends on the fact that correct information reaches the right persons.

Only then will the right actions can be taken.

"Kinetic Enterprise Portal" is a system capable of managing the businesses among multinational economic organizations no matter however they are geographically different.

It will not be wrong to

say that "Kinetic Enterprise Portal" is the first kind of 'OSS Application' in Myanmar.

Next, U William Wai Lin Kyaw of the Myanmar World Distribution Co Ltd gave a demonstration of Portal technology and officials answered the queries put by those present.

After the ceremony, Secretary-1 General Khin Nyunt and party inspected round school centres of the Mastech Co Ltd, Myanmar Compu Mart and Cytron Computing Advanced Technologies and Solution and Bagan Cybertech.

MNA

Korean doctors give treatment to patients

YANGON, 15 July — Headed by Dr Shinn, a 33-member delegation of Onnuri Medical Service Mission of the Republic of Korea including Korean traditional medical practitioners

gave treatment to the dental as well as cleft and palate patients at the People's Hospital in Hlinethaya Township yesterday and today from 9 am to 5 pm. Township health officer Dr Le Le

Mu Theim and doctors and specialists of the hospitals under the Health Department also participated in the treatment. The patients who received treatment in two days were 11554. — MNA

India-Myanmar Joint trade first meeting held

YANGON, 15 July — The first meeting of Myanmar-India joint trade committee commenced this morning with addresses of Commerce Minister Brig-Gen Pyi Sone and Minister of Commerce and Industry of India Mr Arun Jaitley at Traders Hotel here.

At the meeting, the two sides led by Director-General of the Directorate of Trade U Nyunt Aye and Mr Vinay Bansal, leader of Indian delegation, discussed in detail matters on reviewing of bilateral trade, investment sector, boosting of border trade, banking services, items of import and

export goods, cooperation in agricultural sector, holding of expo and sending of trade delegations between the two.

Next, Brig-Gen Pyi Sone and Mr Arun Jaitley signed the agreement.

The Indian delegation headed by Mr Arun Jaitley, accompanied by Indian Ambassador Mr Rajiv Kumar Bhatia, called on Brig-Gen Abel, Minister at the State Peace and Development Council Chairman's Office, and Foreign Affairs Minister U Win Aung at 10.30 am and 11.30 am respectively.

At noon, Union of

Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry hosted a lunch at Traders Hotel.

Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, the Indian Ambassador, officials of UMFCCI and invited guests also attended it. First, UMFCCI President U Win Myint and Mr Arun Jaitley extended greetings.

This morning, the Indian delegation paid homage to Shwedagon Pagoda and made cash donation.

Brig-Gen Pyi Sone hosted a dinner in honour of Indian delegation at Karaweik Palace this evening.

MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Pyi Sone and Indian Minister Mr Arun Jaitley sign the agreement. — MNA

obstructive views"; "we reject those who wish to destroy development", and "We reject anyone who destroys peace and stability".

We recorded the demonstration by taking photographs and video films. The aim was to show the documentary to foreign diplomats and correspondents to prove that such demonstrations took place to disturb and hinder our organizational campaign. It

was just too bad!

It is common knowledge that the act of staging demonstrations against the organizational campaign of a political party is nothing extraordinary. There will always be those who are in favour or who are against a political party; those who support or oppose it. That is only natural. In fact, if possible, the less we say about any opposition to our party the better it would be. As far as I understand, to

publicize the fact that there is opposition to us is would be a loss for the party.

No matter, whatever I say makes no difference; this is not the first time that our party members have washed their dirty linen in public. I am no different either. For am I not washing dirty linen in public now?

(To be continued)

Translation: TMT

Gangaw of Yaw Region bears witness to socio-economic development

Article by Kayan Soe Myint; Photos by Yay Chan Myint

The information crew of the Kyemon Daily visited Gangaw in Yaw region on 18 June 2003. Gangaw is a district of Magway Division. Gangaw District is made up of Gangaw, Htilin and Saw townships, and has an area of 2,153.956 square miles. The distance between the east and the west is 55 miles, and the south and the north 173 miles.

Ponnya Hill is only 35 miles away from Gangaw. Previously, the region was difficult of access. The State Peace and Development Council has taken measures for development and improvement in all aspects. As a result, peace is now prevailing everywhere including border areas. Among these are Yaw-Saw-Gangaw regions of

summer paddy, about 784,800 baskets of paddy were obtained from the cultivation of summer paddy on 8,720 acres of land. And per acre yield of the summer paddy was 90 baskets. Summer sesame was grown on 1,129 acres of land and a total of 14,677 baskets of sesame were obtained. And per acre yield of sesame stood at 13 baskets. A total of 70,000 baskets of winter sunflower were obtained from the cultivation of 5,000 acres of winter sunflower. Per acre yield of sunflower was 14 baskets.

To cultivate paddy and other crops all the year round in Gangaw District, a total of 256 dams were constructed and they are now supplying 22,287 acres of paddy with irrigation water. Besides paddy,



Sasana Beikmandawgyi in Gangaw District seen on 18 June.



Scenic beauty of Myiththa Bridge built across Myiththa River by the Public Works.

Pontaung Ponnya.

At the office of the District Information and Public Relations Department, officials introduced the information crew of the Kyemon Daily to local authorities.

Special zones were designated for the cultivation of monsoon paddy, summer paddy, summer sesame, and winter sunflower. Monsoon paddy was grown on 2,500 acres of land and 256,625 baskets of paddy were harvested. And per acre yield of paddy was 102.65 baskets. For

altogether 706,775 Thitseint trees, perennial edible oil crops, have been grown in Gangaw District. Moreover, the plantations of pepper plants and pulm trees are also thriving there.

As directed by General Khin Nyunt, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council, during his tour of Gangaw on 12 January 2002, to make arrangements for sufficiency of drinking water in Gangaw Township, a Myiththa river water pumping project was implemented to supply the

townspeople with drinking water. The project was implemented with a contribution of K 40 million — K 10 million each by the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs, the Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs, the Ministry of Forest, and the locals of Gangaw.

As for the communication sector of Gangaw District, a total of 320 telephone lines have been installed and

communications can be made to every part of the country. There have also been 93 telephone lines and four satellite phones installed in Htilin.

The IPRD opened 47 libraries in Gangaw Township, 43 in Htilin, and 65 in Saw. The dailies published by the Ministry of Information can be read there. Therefore, Gangaw, Yaw and Saw are now blossoming into developing regions.

Translation: KTY
The Kyemon: 11-7-2003

Meeting on Elimination of Avoidable Childhood Blindness in South-East Asia Region commences

YANGON, 15 July — The Planning/Training Meeting on Elimination of Avoidable Childhood Blindness in South-East Asia Region, organized by the WHO and the Ministry of Health, commenced at Traders Hotel on Sule Pagoda Road here this morning.

It was attended by meeting chairman Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo, officials of departments under the ministry, heads of respective foreign embassies to Myanmar, officials of resident representatives' office of WHO, medical superintendents, physicians and guests.

The deputy minister made an address on the occasion. In his address, he said that Myanmar has been participating

in many global and regional activities to improve the health status of people. We are all aware of the immense amount of disability and loss in productivity caused by blindness. Loss of sight can lead to economic devastation, poverty and often result in premature deaths. Through sharing of experience and open and friendly discussions, we can reach consensus about a regional strategy for elimination of avoidable childhood blindness, which can be applicable to all of the member countries.

Next, WHO resident representative Dr Agostino Borra delivered a speech.

The meeting continues until 18 July. — MNA

Armed Forces Day commemorative novel, short story, article competitions to be held

YANGON, 15 July — In commemoration of the 59th Anniversary of Armed Forces Day, the Working Committee for Organizing Literature and Photo Contest today announced that novel, short story and article competitions will be held.

The entries are to reflect Tatmadaw's twelve fine traditions and the competitors can name their titles as they like. Words of the novel contest must be between 50,000 and 70,000 words and the short story, between 4,000 and 10,000, the articles, between 3,000

and 5,000 and under the title of the novel is "Tatmadaw serving the interests of the nation risking the lives".

The contestants are to submit two copies together with the admission that it is own creation, two licence-size photos and the brief biography to U Ko Ko Htwe, Secretary of the Working Committee, Myanmar Radio and Television on Pyay Road not later than 15 January, 2004.

Handsome prizes will be presented to the winners.

MNA

Development of Taninthayi Division

Transport sector

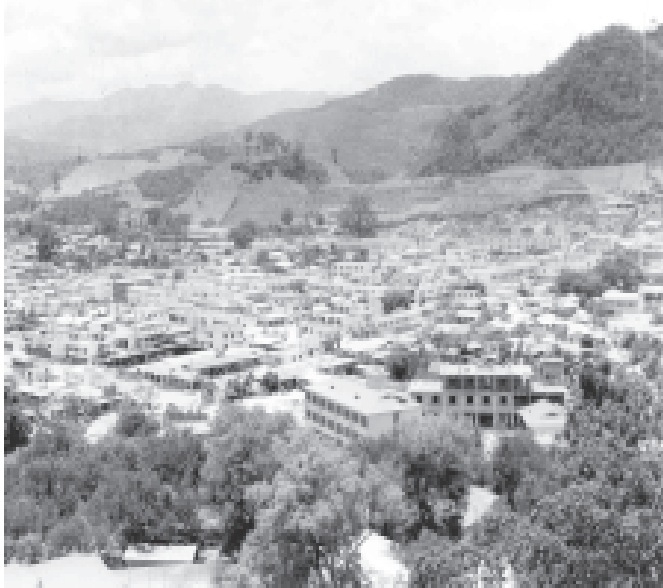
1. The 101-mile-long Dawei-Ye railroad was built in 1998. A rail bridge across Ye Creek is being constructed.
2. The runway of Myeik Airport was extended and modern Kawthoung Airport was also built.
3. Kawthoung-Bokpyin-Taninthayi-Myeik-Dawei-Mawlamyine Road is under construction. Myeik-Dawei road section, Dawei-Mawlamyine road section and Taninthayi-Myeik road section were tarred and people are now using the road sections. At Kawthoung-Bokpyin road section over 34 miles has been tarred.
4. Big bridges such as Winwa Bridge, Palaw Bridge, Palauk Bridge, Pathoung Bridge and Taninthayi Bridge were opened. The construction of Kyweku-Kyaukphya Bridge and Lehnya-Mandaing Bridge is under way.
5. Auto telephones were installed in Dawei, Myeik and Kawthoung.

Tangible results of constructive endeavours in the states

In accord with the conviction that there will be an equitable socio-economic progress among the national races only if there is a proportionate development in all the regions of the nation, the Government is building various infrastructures throughout the country.

The national races residing in the Union are national brethren sharing weal or woe for years countable by the thousand. Such infrastructures as roads, bridges, schools and hospitals are being built for rapid development in border areas.

The photo shows the construction of a hydel power plant in Mongyun region of Monghsat Township in Shan State.



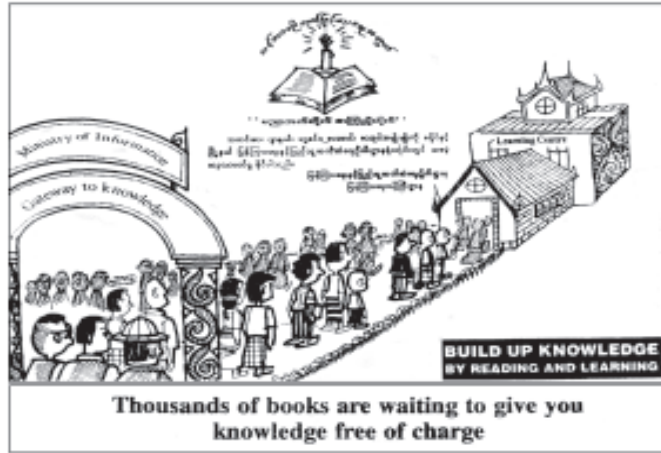
The Government has been striving for development of the border regions which lagged behind in progress for various reasons in the past. Nowadays, people in the border regions are witnessing progress in their respective regions and are also enjoying the fruit of peace and tranquillity in their regions. The photo shows an aerial view of Pankhsan (Pankam) in Shan State (North).



The Zaikkaye Sluice Gate lies beside the Zaikkaye canal near Aungkantha Village in Thaton Township in Mon State. It is of reinforced concrete type and has 21 gates each of which is 6 feet by 12 feet wide. The benefited acres of the sluice gate is 20,000 acres. It is built with the aim of letting rain water flow out rapidly during the rainy season and supply water in summer.



Development of the road transport sector will lead to progress of all other sectors including health, education, social and economic sectors, also helping to consolidate the national unity and uplifting Union Spirit. As transport was difficult in Rakhine State, the Government has spent billions of kyats to build roads and bridges in the state for its rapid development. The 300 feet long Kyaukkyibauk bridge is on Taungup-Maei-Kyaukphyu Road in An Township in Rakhine State. Construction started on 6-2-2001 and it was built within one year and five months and was opened on 25 June 2002.



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The United Cere Papaya (Vietnam) Girl Provides... (text continues)

သိပ္ပံနည်းကျ စာအုပ်များ

... (text continues)



My grandma, we're... (text continues)



... (text continues)

အတွဲ(၅) အမှတ် (၁၇) ဖြန့်ချိလိုက်ပါပြီ

သတင်းနှင့်စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်းစာအုပ်ဆိုင်၊စာပေဗိမာန်စာအုပ်ဆိုင်နှင့်သတင်းစာ
ကိုယ်စားလှယ်များထံတွင် လက်လီယူယူနိုင်ပါသည်။

The New Light of Myanmar

အင်္ဂလိပ်စာ တိုးတက်လို့သူတို့ရဲ့ ဂျူနီယာလီဒါကို ဖတ်ကြည့်နဲ့။

Read Junior Leader to improve your English.

ကျေးဇူးဆပ်ပါမည်
ကျွန်တော်၏ ဒုတိယတန်းစက်နံနိးအုပ်
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ဦးသန်းဌေး
တောင်ဘလွှာ၊ ဇောက်မြို့၊ ၁၈၈

Seven-stringed zither fetches record price at auction

BEIJING, 15 July—An ancient guqin, or seven-stringed zither from the Tang Dynasty (618-907) has been auctioned off at a price of 3.465 million yuan (about 417,470 US dollars) in Beijing.

The sale sets a world record auction price for seven-stringed zithers, regarded as a symbol of ancient Chinese music, said sources with China Guardian Auctions Co. Ltd.

According to the sources, the seven-stringed zithers from the Tang Dynasty are mostly kept by museums or private collectors and had never been seen on the market. The auctioned zither had been lost overseas in the past and then later kept by private collectors in China.

MNA/Xinhua

မြန်မာ့ပြည်ထောင်စုအားလုံးပါ

TIME 2000


11th International Industrial Machinery Exhibition

November 1999

11th International Industrial Machinery Exhibition

VIETNAM PLASTICS FAIR, METALTECH, RUST & RUST, PRO-PAK

2000 - 2001



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The Rust & Rust exhibition is the largest and most comprehensive exhibition of rust and rust products in the country. It is the only exhibition of its kind in the region.

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The Government of the Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Forestry
Myanma Timber Enterprise

Date : 11-7-2003

Sealed Tender Sale

Myanma Timber Enterprise will held a Sealed Tender Sale as follows:

Commodities	:	(A) Teak Logs (SGIII, Assorted, Domestic)
	:	(B) Hardwood Logs (Export Quality)
Location	:	Teak Logs at Yangon Depots
	:	Hardwood Logs at MITT, Thilawa.
Sale Basis	:	FOB Yangon in US dollars.
Payment	:	By PAA L/C
Earnest Money	:	US\$ 15,000
Closing Date	:	30-7-2003 (Wednesday) 12:00 noon

Bids in sealed envelopes are to be dropped into the box marked **"Sealed Tender for Teak Logs and Hardwood Logs"** which is kept at marketing Unit (1) of The Export Marketing and Milling Department of The Myanmar Timber Enterprise. Please contact the above unit if further information is required.

Secretary
Export Committee (MTE)

Doctors plan separating conjoined twin in Dallas

DALLAS, 15 July — After conjoined Iranian twins died a few days ago during surgery to separate their brains, the medical world is focused on two bright-eyed Egyptian boys who are joined at the head and likely to be the next pair to undergo the highly risky operation.

Two-year-old Ahmed and Mohamed Ibrahim are joined at the crown of their heads and may have separation surgery as early as the next few months.

The two boys share a band of curly hair that circles the area where their heads are fused. They cannot stand because of the way

their bodies are joined, and the two of them are about six feet in length from the toes of one twin to the toes of the other.

Doctors have said the youth of the Egyptian boys in Dallas gives them an advantage of surviving surgery. As children, they have greater plasticity than adults, making it easier for their bones and tissue to undergo the strain of the operation and recover.

"The boys have been with us in the US for a year, and that year has been nothing but intensive diagnostic testing and planning for the upcoming surgery," said Sue

Blackwood, director of the Dallas-based World Craniofacial Foundation, a charity that is overseeing the operation

The boys share large veins that drain blood out of the brain called venous sinuses. They also share some brain material, which could be divided without causing much harm, but if their circulatory systems are not properly separated, it could kill them, doctors say.

If they are not separated, the boys will likely never be able to walk because of their way their bodies are joined.

In April, the boys underwent a procedure to have

balloon-like devices inserted into the areas where they will be separated. The pouches were also inserted into their thighs in order to expand tissue there that will be removed and used to keep their brains from being exposed after separation surgery.

Dr Kenneth Salyer, a leading facial and cranial surgeon who is treating them, has said separation would be exceedingly hazardous. However, after a year of testing, planning and consultations, the medical team was confident it could be done.

MNA/Reuters

ညီမီးမောင် (မော်ကွန်းထိန်းအဆင့်-၁)၊
ရန်ကုန်စီးပွားရေးတက္ကသိုလ်

ပညာရေးဖြင့် ခေတ်မီပွဲပြုတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

Beckham will be judged on ability, says Roberto Carlos

MADRID, 15 July— England captain David Beckham will be judged on his footballing ability not his marketing image at Real Madrid, Brazilian defender Roberto Carlos said.

"Real Madrid is not just about photos and advertising, we are a football team and we know that we have to win games and earn titles. I'm sure Beckham is just going to concentrate on the football," Carlos told the Spanish sports daily *Marca*.

"Beckham is a great player and he is going to strengthen our team.

"What I want to happen is that in the first game he plays he is the best, so that everyone gets to see that he is an excellent footballer.

"That way all the comments about him

being a mere publicity machine will end."

Beckham, who joined Real from Manchester United last month, is viewed by many commentators in Spain as surplus to requirements at Real given the club's surfeit of quality midfielders.

The signing of the England captain is, however, seen as a key part of the club's strategy to strengthen its image, particularly in the all-important Asian market.

But Roberto Carlos said he believed once the season got underway the former Manchester United player would be judged solely on the strength of his footballing talents.

"At the moment everyone is talking about how good-looking and how nice he is, but when he starts to play all that will change," he said. — MNA/Reuters

Gerrard not for sale, say Liverpool

LONDON, 15 July— Liverpool's England midfielder Steven Gerrard is not for sale at any price, the Premier League club said on Monday.

Weekend newspaper reports had linked the 23-year-old with a big-money move to Chelsea, who have been active in the transfer market since being bought earlier this month by Russian billionaire Roman Abramovich.

"The player is not for sale at any price. He is a central part of (manager) Gerard Houllier's plans so they will be wasting their time," Liverpool said in a statement on their web site.

Chelsea have also been linked with a move for Manchester United midfielder Juan Sebastian Veron, with reports stating that the Argentine would join the Londoners in a 14-million-pound (23-million-US-dollar) deal this week. — MNA/Reuters

PSV fight back for 2-2 draw in South Korea

SEOUL, 15 July— Dutch champions PSV Eindhoven twice fought back from a goal down to salvage a 2-2 draw against the South Korean under-22 team as PSV manager Guus Hiddink returned to a rapturous reception in Taegu.

Hiddink, who led South Korea to the semifinals of the 2002 World Cup, was indebted to Yugoslav striker Mateja Kezman who cancelled out goals from Jong Jo-Gook and Kim Jeong-Woo in a tune-up for the pre-season Peace Cup tournament this week.

PSV play German side 1860 Munich in Pusan on Wednesday in their opening Group A match. French champions Olympique Lyon and Besiktas of Turkey are also among others taking part in the inaugural eight-team tournament backed by the Reverend Moon Sun-Myung, whose followers are commonly known as "Moonies" after the founder of the Unification Church. — MNA/Reuters

UEFA to review Israeli ban at end of the month

NYON (Switzerland), 15 July— UEFA will consider lifting a ban on matches in Israel at the end of the month following a meeting with the country's Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom on Monday.

UEFA-sanctioned games are not permitted in Israel after a ban was imposed in March 2002 because of the security situation.

Shalom, accompanied by Israel FA chief Gavri Levi, met UEFA's chief execu-

tive Gerhard Aigner and his successor Lars Christer Olsson in Switzerland on Monday to plead for the ban to be lifted.

"It was a very positive meeting and the minister was able to make the case for matches to be played in Israel," UEFA communications director Mike Lee told Reuters.

"We made it clear that there is no change in the position, but we will be reviewing that at the end of the month. We'll see how it develops in the meantime."

UEFA have already named neutral venues for Israeli club sides in Europe next season but Israel want to play their final home Euro 2004 Group One qualifier against Malta on September 11 in Tel Aviv.

World soccer's governing body FIFA, however, said last month that Israel's home World Cup qualifiers would be played in Tel Aviv regardless of UEFA's position.

MNA/Reuters



China's Wang Tianling (L) and Wang Feng dive during the men's 3m synchro event 10th FINA Swimming World Championships in Barcelona, Spain, on July 13, 2003. The Chinese pair won the silver medal. — XINHUA PHOTO



Martinique's Jean-Victor Lavril (L) knocks the ball away from the USA's Bobby Convey (R) in the second half of their preliminary round game in the 2003 CONCACAF Gold Cup in Foxboro, Massachusetts, on 14 July, 2003. The USA beat Martinique 2-0.

INTERNET

Chelsea rule out Eriksson move

LONDON, 15 July — Chelsea moved on Sunday to quash speculation that they want to bring England coach Sven-Goran Eriksson to Stamford Bridge.

The Premier League club's new Russian billionaire owner Roman Abramovich met with Eriksson last week, prompting media reports that he wanted the Swede to replace Italian Claudio Ranieri as Chelsea coach.

"There is no truth in the rumour that we are trying to bring Sven-Goran Eriksson to Chelsea," chief executive Trevor Birch told

the west London club's official web site.

"Claudio Ranieri is the coach, he has four years remaining on his contract, he has just got us into the Champions League and has already had a very positive meeting with Roman Abramovich. Together we have charted the Chelsea path forward."

Eriksson pledged his full commitment to the England job last week and the Football Association (FA) repeated his statement on their official web site on Sunday.

MNA/Reuters

Russia's Isinbayeva sets women's pole vault world record

LONDON, 15 July — Russia's Yelena Isinbayeva, 21, set a raised the world record of the women's pole vault from 4.81 metres to 4.82 metres in a Super Grand Prix meeting in Gateshead on Sunday.

The old record of 4.81 metres was made by American Stacy Dragila in California in June 2001.

Isinbayeva, the world indoor silver medalist, has been on top form and set a world leading mark of 4.73 metres in Poznan, Po-

land just two weeks ago.

She told the IAAF website: "This was not unexpected because I have been jumping quite well in training sessions, jumping 4.80 numerous times."

She had opened at 4.30 metres and progressed through 4.44, 4.54, 4.64 and 4.74, needing two attempts at all those heights except the first and the third. By the time she attempted the world record mark, most of the 10,000 crowd had gone home. — MNA/Xinhua

Troussier agrees to take over as Qatar coach

DOHA, 15 July — Frenchman Philippe Troussier, who coached co-hosts Japan to their best-ever performance at a World Cup finals in 2002, signed a two-year deal to take charge of Qatar's national team on Monday.

Qatar Football Association general secretary Saud Al Mohannadi said Troussier's contract would run until the end of the Asian Zone qualifiers for the 2006 World Cup finals in Germany. Financial details were not disclosed.

Troussier told reporters that Qatari football officials had not set any targets for him but he said his goal was to qualify for the 2006 World Cup.

"There is no professional football in Qatar, that's a big handicap," said Troussier. "But I am sure things will change. I have many new plans for Qatar."

The Frenchman coached Nigeria, South Africa, Burkina Faso and the Ivory Coast before becoming Japan's most successful

manager by taking them to the last 16 of the World Cup finals.

Asked why he opted for the Qatar job, Troussier joked: "If I had gone to Saudi Arabia they would have straight away asked me to get the World Cup."

"The Qatari officials sounded practical when they said they wanted me to develop football in Qatar and also to build a good team. There is a challenge in this project."

Troussier replaces another Frenchman, Pierre Lechantre, in a job considered to be one of the most pressurized positions in a country where football is followed passionately.

"There are several African players playing in Europe. Nearly 50 per cent of the Japanese players are also playing for different European clubs," said Troussier.

"But I think there is just one Qatari playing in Europe. Only when you have 30 to 40 players playing in big European clubs, you can say Qatar football is of some class."

MNA/Reuters

SPORTS

Japan beat Mexico 2-0 to qualify for women's World Cup

TOKYO, 15 July — Japan crushed Mexico 2-0 in the second leg of a home-and-away playoff on Saturday to earn a place in the women's World Cup for a fourth straight time. Midfielder Homare Sawa open the scoring in the 56th minute thanks to a nice pass produced by Emi Yamamoto from just outside the left corner of the box.

In the 83rd minute, Karina Maruyama added the second goal after skipper Yumi Obe sent a long pass on a free kick far from the midfield.

Japan joined defending champions United States, South Korea, North Korea, China, Australia, Canada, Germany, Norway, Russia, Sweden, France, Nigeria, Ghana, Brazil and Argentina to the women's tournament slated from September 20 to October 12. The tournament was relocated from China to the United States because of fears over the deadly severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS).

Mexico finished third in the North/Central American qualifying round before playing Japan in the final playoff to miss the World Cup.— MNA/Reuters



Brazil's national striker Robinho (R) battles for the ball with Mexico's defender Salvador Carmona during the first half of their 2003 CONCACAF Gold Cup soccer tournament match at Azteca stadium in Mexico City, on 13 July, 2003. Mexico won the game, 1-0.—INTERNET

Tighter budget for Arsenal transfers, says Wenger

LONDON, 15 July—Arsenal's plans for a new 500-million-pounds (818.6-million-dollar) stadium will eat into the club's transfer budget for next season, manager Arsene Wenger was reported as saying in British newspapers on Sunday.

Arsenal chairman Peter Hill-Wood was quoted in March as saying Wenger would have 10 million pounds a year to spend for the next three years, despite the plans for a 60,000-seater ground at north London's Ashburton Grove.

But in the *Sunday Express* Wenger says: "It has been a difficult summer. I have a transfer budget, but I don't know about the figure of 10 million pounds.

"We are a bit more cautious than we usually are. We have never been big spenders but this season we will be smaller spenders than ever."

The new stadium project, located very close to the Premier League club's 38,000-seater Highbury home, has been dogged by construction, financial and infrastructure problems.

The club said in April that the stadium would not be ready for the 2005-2006 season as originally hoped.

"At the moment, I would say the financing of the stadium hasn't been sorted out," Wenger said.

"I'm sure in the future it won't have an effect but at the moment we have to be more cautious."

However, the Frenchman was upbeat about the club's prospects, despite having so far failed to make a major signing or replace goalkeeper David Seaman, now at Manchester City.

"When I open the newspapers it looks like we are a sinking boat," he said. "But I don't share that view because in the last two years we have won two (FA) Cups and finished champions and runners-up.

"And we have exactly the same players, who are more experienced now and still young.

"I'm a strong believer that we are getting stronger every year and I'm convinced we will be competitive in the title race."

MNA/Reuters

US goalkeeper agrees to join Manchester United

FOXBORO (Massachusetts), 15 July—US goalkeeper Tim Howard has agreed personal terms with English champions Manchester United, the player said on Saturday.

Howard, 24, said he had been told by the club that an appeal for a work permit had been upheld on Friday and that he would fly to England on Sunday before undergoing medical tests and signing a contract on Monday.

"He (United manager Alex Ferguson) called me on Friday and said it (appeal) went through," said Howard on Saturday.

"He said he was really happy to have me joining the team."

MNA/Reuters

US win, Canada upset Costa Rica in Gold Cup

FOXBORO (Massachusetts), 15 July — Goals by Eddie Lewis and Brian McBride helped the United States open the defence of its CONCACAF Gold Cup title with a 2-0 defeat of El Salvador on Saturday.

In the earlier match, Canada upset Costa Rica 1-0.

The US controlled much of the lacklustre game and were unlucky not to have scored twice inside the opening 10 minutes when goalkeeper Juan Gomez saved from Earnie Stewart before Pablo Mastroeni crashed a shot off the crossbar.

Lewis broke the deadlock in the 28th minute when the midfielder's right-footed shot from 14 metres beat Gomez. He nearly added a second a minute before the interval, but his chip went just over the bar.

The US then silenced the mostly El Salvador supporting crowd of 33,652 when McBride added an insurance goal 14 minutes from time when he headed in a cross from substitute Steve Ralston.

It was McBride's 21st goal in his 69th appearance and moved him into third on the all-time scoring list for the US.

Sunderland midfielder Claudio Reyna, who missed eight months through a knee injury, made his first international start since the World Cup and impressed during his 60-minute stint before being replaced by Clint Mathis.

In the earlier game, a second-half strike by Paul Stalteri gave Canada a shock 1-0 victory over Costa Rica.

Costa Rica, ranked joint 18th in the world — compared to Canada's 78, dominated most of the Group D match but failed to take their scoring chances, especially in the second half.

They paid the price when a composed Canada side snatched victory with Stalteri's 59th minute strike on the break.

Midfielder Jason Bent made a run down the right flank, Costa Rica defender Luis Marin failed to control his cross and Stalteri surged through to beat Ricardo Gonzalez from 16 metres. The goal followed a series of missed chances by Costa Rica.

Walter Centeno, put through by Leonardo Gonzalez, could only graze the right post, while striker Winston Parks broke through on the right side, only for his angled shot to be parried by goalkeeper Lars Hirschfeld.

Parks then failed to beat Hirschfeld again from just seven metres after collecting the ball from Rolando Fonseca, while the ensuing counter-attack led to Stalteri's goal.

MNA/Reuters

Ronaldinho desperate to play for Manchester United

LONDON, 15 July—Ronaldinho cannot wait to be the first Brazilian to wear the colours of English Premier League champions Manchester United.

"I am desperate to become the first Brazilian to play for Manchester United," Ronaldinho told Sunday's *News of the World*.

"All the biggest stars from the past and today — like Pele, Ronaldo, Roberto Carlos and even Rivaldo wanted to be the first to play for United.

"But I want to be the first Brazilian ever to be a Red — and I know I am going to be."

United are reported to have offered Ronaldinho's French club Paris St Germain a deal worth 30.70 million dollars to sign the 23-year-old World Cup-winner, who has already agreed personal terms with the English club.

"Today, Manchester United are one of the three best clubs in the world," Ronaldinho said. "Their squad is so good that I can more or less compare them to the (world champion) Brazilian volleyball team.

"There are 23 fantastic players at Old Trafford and so I cannot rest for one moment if I want to get into the side.

MNA/Reuters

Makaay pushes Deportivo for transfer to Bayern

MADRID, 15 July—Deportivo Coruna's Roy Makaay would like to move from the Spanish First Division side to German club Bayern Munich in a bid to advance his career, the Dutch international striker said on Friday.

Makaay, who was top scorer in the First Division last season with 29 goals, has said he does not intend to renew his contract with Deportivo when it expires in two years.

"I don't want to let this opportunity pass me by," he told Radio Voz in an interview. "I want to advance my career."

Newspapers have reported that Bayern have made an offer of 15 million euros (16.99 million US dollars) for the Dutchman but Deportivo club president Augusto Lendoiro, who met Bayern commercial manager Uli Hoeness in Madrid last week, said that the Bundesliga side's offer was "a long way off what we are asking for."

"Makaay believes that joining the German side would improve his chances of European success.

"The fact is that Bayern, together with Real Madrid, are the two strongest sides in Europe and are always going to be fighting to win the Champions League. That makes them a very attractive team for me."

MNA/Xinhua



Chilean tennis player Fernando Gonzalez returns the ball during a singles Davis Cup match against Venezuelan Jose de Armas in Caracas on 13 July, 2003. Gonzalez won his match 6-4 6-4 6-4. Chile won the series 3-1. — INTERNET

Commander, Minister view health of successfully-separated twin sisters in Mandalay

YANGON, 15 July — Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, accompanied by officials, attended the opening of extended building of Pakokku General Hospital and a ward for members of the Sangha on 12 July.

He inspected installation of medical equipment to the hospital and attended to the needs.

The minister also inspected Myaing Township People's Hospital in Pakokku District and fulfilled the needs. Next, he met with health staff of Township health department, saying that upholding the guidance of the Head of State, eye specialists have been posted to such arid regions as Myaing, Gangaw, Taungdingyi and Kyaukpadaung townships in order to speed up preventive measures against trachoma and blindness. They are also assigned trachoma control tasks making field tours right down to the grassroots level, in addition to major tasks in the hospitals. As the majority, 70 per cent of Myanmar's population, are in rural areas, rural health care centres will be equipped with adequate number of health staff and medical equipment. He called on the staff to give medical treatments to the patients.

The minister and party inspected Kaing Station Hospital in Pakokku Township and Pakokku People's Hospital and left necessary instructions. The minister looked into the Pakokku midwifery and nurses training centre and extended construction of a new building and gave instructions.

On 13 July, they inspected Pakhan Station Hospital and People's Hospital in Yesagyo Township and fulfilled the requirements. At the Yesagyo Township Hospital, the minister met health staff and dealt with tasks for prevention and control of major diseases.

Afterwards, they inspected Chaung U Township People's Hospital and Myaing Township People's Hospital and attended to the requirements.

On 14 July, the minister inspected Mandalay Division TB Control Unit of Mandalay General Hospital and gave instructions.

Next, Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint, Mandalay Mayor Brig-Gen Yan Thein and the minister

proceeded to Mandalay Children's Hospital and visited conjoined twin sisters Moe Ma Ma Aung and Moe Pa Pa Aung, who were successfully separated on 11 August last year. Now, the twin sisters' health condition is much improving. Elder Moe Ma Ma Aung starts to walk and the other is still learning to walk. Both are gradually growing, it is learnt. U Shauk Wah and Daw Nan Mya Sein presented K 100,000 to the sisters through the commander.

At the meeting hall of the hospital, Professor Dr Htoo Han reported on medical treatments given to the sisters from their birth to date.

The minister and party inspected Mandalay General Hospital and left instructions. At the lecture hall of Institute of Medicine in Mandalay, they met with rectors, deans and faculty members of Mandalay Institute of Medicine and related institutes and fulfilled their requirements.

Next, the minister inspected work sites for construction of Institute of Pharmacy (Mandalay), Institute of Paramedical Science and Institute of Traditional Medicine and left necessary instructions.

MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint and Minister Dr Kyaw Myint view health of conjoined twin sisters Moe Ma Ma Aung and Moe Pa Pa Aung. — HEALTH



Official presents gift to a sale agent. — H

Felcon Engine Oil awards prizes
YANGON, 15 July — Opening of mid-year special sale of Felcon Engine Oil's conducted by Han Myanmar Export & Import was held on 9 July at Summit Parkview Hotel, First, Managing Director U Thein Naing made an opening



Israeli Ambassador Mr Yaacov Avrahamy extends greetings at the seminar on Technological Training & Educational Programmes at MICT Park on 15 July. — NLM

Victorious Myanmar Youth U-18 soccer team honoured

YANGON, 15 July — Myanmar Women Sports Federation honoured victorious Myanmar Youth U-18 soccer team, champions of the First ASEAN U-18 soccer tournament at International Business Centre on Pyay Road yesterday evening, attended by Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, Leader of Panel of Patrons of Myanmar Women Sports Federation Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and members of leading of panel of patron, Vice-Chairmen of MOC Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo and members of MOC, officials of the Ministry of

Sports, President of MWSF Prof Dr Daw May May Yi and executive committee members, Presidents of Sports Federations, guests and victorious footballers.

At first, President of MWSF Prof Dr Daw May May Yi made an address on the occasion and Leader of Panel of Patron of MWSF Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe presented prizes of honour to footballers Tun Tun Win, Myo Min Tun, Bo Bo Aung, Tun Min Oo, Kyaw Zin Win and Ma La; Daw Khin Than Nwe, Han Win Aung, Zaw Htet Aung, Aung Myo Min, Kyaw Ze Ya Min and Kyaw Kyaw Soe; Daw Khin Lay Thet, Naing Win, Si Thu Win, Min Min Tun, Paw Tun Kyaw, Nyan Lin Kyaw;



Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe presents a gift to a youth footballer. — MNA

Daw Than Than Nwe, Tun Tun Lin, Soe Pyne Phyo, team leader U Thein Aung, team supervisor U Tin Win and coach U Tin Han and Daw Aye Aye, assistant coach U Kyi Lwin, coach U Tun Tin Aung, medical officer Dr Aung Kyaw Oo and nurse Saw Hti Al.

Next, President of MWSF Prof Dr Daw May May Yi presented certi-

ificates of honour to wellwishers Kyet Shar Zun Biriani Shop owner U Tun Myint and Daw Aye Aye Nyunt and on behalf of the Myanmar soccer team, Tun Tun Win expressed thanks and performance of the matches were shown with the help of video.

Afterwards, the Myanmar victorious team was hosted a dinner.

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WEATHER

Tuesday, 15th July, 2003

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been cloudy in Kayah State, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in lower Sagaing and Magway Divisions and scattered to widespread in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Hkamti (2.01) inches, Myitkyina and Bhamo (1.81) inches each, Dawei and Homalin (1.73) inches each and Coco Is (1.69) inches.

Maximum temperature on 14-7-2003 was 31.0°C (88°F). Minimum temperature on 15-7-2003 was 21.0°C (70°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 15-7-2003 was 92%. Total sunshine hours on 14-7-2003 was (1.9) hours approx. Rainfall on 15-7-2003 was 7 mm at Yangon, 7 mm at Kaba-Aye and 1 mm at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2003 was 1111 mm (43.74 inches) at Yangon Airport, 1238 mm (48.74 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 1232 mm (48.50 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 12 mph from Southwest at (18:10) hours MST on 14-7-2003. **Bay inference:** Monsoon is moderate to strong in the Bay of Bengal. **Forecast valid until evening of 16-7-2003:** Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Mon State, upper Sagaing, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions, scattered in Kachin, Rakhine, Chin and Kayah States, Bago, Mandalay and Taninthayi Divisions and isolated in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (80%). **State of the sea:** Seas will be moderate to rough in Myanmar waters. **Outlook for subsequent two days:** Decrease of rain in the eastern Myanmar areas. **Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 16-7-2003:** One or two rain. Degree of certainty is (80%). **Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 16-7-2003:** Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).



Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Soe Win hears a report presented by an official on Kyweku-Kyaukphyia Bridge Construction Project in Myeik. — MNA

Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Soe Win inspect Kyweku-Kyaukphyia bridge construction project

YANGON, 15 July — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann, Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win and member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo, accompanied by Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye, ministers, the Chief of Staff (Navy), deputy ministers, responsible personnel of the State Peace and Development Council Office and departmental heads, arrived at Myeik on 12 July evening.

Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann and party were welcomed there by Col Than Myint of Myeik Station, Col Tin Maung Tun, and Secretary of Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Khin Maung Nyo and officials.

When Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann and party arrived at Myeik University, they were welcomed by the pro-rector, professors and members of the faculty of the university.

At the hall of the university, Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann and party met with the pro-rector, professors and faculty members. On the occasion, Superintending Engineering of Public Works of Taninthayi Division U Chit Pan reported on buildings of the university constructed by Public Works; progress in construction of the school buildings, recreation centres, hostels, canteens, and theatres; installation of power lines; and school buildings under construction.

Next, Pro-rector U Khin Maung Cho reported on courses being conducted at the university, the population of students, and academic matters of the univer-

sity. Vice-Chairman of the Myanmar Education Committee Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Soe Win spoke on the occasion. In his speech, he said that teachers are working together hand in hand with the Government to modernize and develop the nation in a harmonious way. Today's age being the education age, teachers are training and nurturing students to become highly-qualified ones on whom the State can rely in future.

The Head of State gave guidance on producing intellectuals and intelligentsia who are essential for the State. Accordingly, efforts are being made in line with the aims of human resource development for the successful realization of short- and long-term national education programmes after being laid down.

Just as encouragement is being given to the basic education sector, universities and colleges needed for

the pursuit of advanced education are being extended region-wise.

Only when the number of the educated persons are on the increase, can the nation be built through education, he said.

The Secretary-2 expressed his delight at meeting with the teachers who are bringing out the good citizens the State can rely on. Later, Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann gave instructions, saying that all the intellectuals, intelligentsia and citizens are to take part in the effort to establish a peaceful, modern, developed nation. In doing so, it is important to bear nationalism and patriotism. So noble and vital is the role of teachers who are turning out well-rounded individuals.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann and party greeted the professors and faculty members. Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann and

party went to the new 200-bed Myeik General Hospital, where they were welcomed by Director-General of the Health Department Dr Wan Maung, acting health officer of Taninthayi Division Dr Tun Lwin, specialists, doctors and nurses.

At the briefing hall, Director-General Dr Wan Maung reported on matters related to the hospital, and the acting health officer on construction of the hospital. After hearing reports, Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann gave instructions. Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann and party proceeded to the Asaungkaung Industries Co Ltd in the Myeik Industrial Zone, where they met with employees of the company.

They went to Daungkumaw crab breeding camp of Asaungkaung Industries Co Ltd in Thandot Village, Kyunsu township, by boat and inspected the breeding of crabs. Next,

back at the 400-ton cold storage facility of Asaungkaung Industries Co in Myeik, Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann and party heard a report by General Manager U Thein Aung on the tasks being carried out at the company.

Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann and party on 13 July morning viewed round the development of Myeik by boat. They then inspected the arrangements for keeping the environs of Phayakaing Creek in Myothit Ward clean and pleasant. At Pale Yadana Hall in Myeik in the morning Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann and party met with local authorities, departmental officials, members of social associations and townselders. Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann explained the purposes of their tour and cooperative efforts for implementation of the work programmes laid down by the government.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann, accompanied by Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Chief of Staff (Navy) Rear-Admiral Soe Thein, Deputy Minister for Education Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung and officials, arrived at Kyunsu Township by helicopter where they were welcomed by Commander of Taninthayi Naval Region Command Brig-Gen Maung Win, senior military officers, the chairman of Kyunsu Township Peace and Development Council and departmental officials. Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann met with officers and other ranks of the command at Taninthayi hall.

At Kyun Yadana Hall, Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann met with departmental officials, members of social associations and townselders of Kyunsu Township and gave necessary instructions. Deputy

(See page 13)



Kyweku-Kyaukphyia Bridge under construction in Myeik. — MNA