

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Volume XI, Number 100

12th Waning of Waso 1365 ME

Friday, 25 July, 2003

Desana to be delivered on 28 July

YANGON, 24 July — The administering of religious precepts and delivering Desanas, organized by Shwedagon Pagoda Board of Trustees, will be held at the ancient Buddha images prayer hall at the southern archway at 9 am on 15th waning of Waso, 28 July.

State Ovadaçariya, Ovadaçariya of the Shwedagon Pagoda Board of Trustees Presiding Nayaka of Nyaungdon Pali Tekkatho Monastery in Bahan Township Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sobhana (Agga Maha Pandita) will deliver Desanas.— MNA

U Nyunt Maung Shein accredited to Czech Republic

YANGON, 25 July — The Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Nyunt Maung Shein, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to the Federal Republic of Germany, concurrently as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to the Czech Republic.

MNA

Women are to expose human traffickers, who hinder development tasks of women, to be able to take deterrent action against them Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe tours townships in Mandalay Division

YANGON, 24 July — The field study group led by Member of Myanmar National Committee for Women's Affairs and Myanmar National Working Committee for Women's Affairs Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe went to Kyaukse, Meiktila and Patheingyi in Mandalay Division and carried out tasks for strengthening of national unity and development of the women's sector from 23 to 25 July.

Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and party left here by air on 23 July morning and arrived at Mandalay International Airport where they were welcomed by Daw Myat Ngwe, wife of Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint, Mandalay Mayor Brig-Gen Yan Thein, Chairman of Mandalay Division Working Committee for Women's Affairs Commissioner U Kyin Lin of Mandalay Division General Administration Department, members and officials.

At 8.50 am, Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and party arrived in Kyaukse. At the hall in Kyaukse Township, they held a discussion with members of Ward and Village WCWAs in Kyaukse, Singaing, Myittha and TadaU townships, women departmental personnel, representatives of social organizations and students, totalling about 350.

At the discussion, Kyaukse Township WCWA member Mathematics Professor Daw Than Than Nu extended greetings. Next, Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe spoke on the occasion. She said that the Myanmar National Committee for Women's Affairs went right down to states and border areas for carrying out tasks of the women's sector and fulfilled requirements of the regions. At present, they went field trips to divisions. She called on the women community to preserve Myanmar traditional culture, uplift national prestige and integrity and foster the nationalism.

The Government is carrying out all-round development tasks and construction works throughout the (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 nation



Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe meets with WCWA members, social organizations and departmental personal women from Meiktila, Thazi, Wundwin and Mahlaing townships.— MNA

INSIDE

Perspectives

Towards Harmonious development of Agriculture and livestock breeding sectors

Page 2

Article

The strength for the New Destiny

Page 8

Article

Mandalay in course of development

Page 10

Foreign News Pages

3,4,5,6,7,12,13,14

ISD soccer

YANGON, 24 July — The Sports Minister's Cup fourth inter-state/division novice division soccer tournament for the year 2003 continued at designated towns in Sagaing Division this evening.

In Kale Zone (A) group of Kale, Kayin State beat Magway Division 3-1. Saw Hla Soe of Kayin State won the player of the match award.

In Sagaing Zone (B) group of Sagaing,

Ayeyawady Division beat Chin State 1-0. The player of the match award went to Naing Lin Shein of Ayeyawady Division.

In Monywa Zone (C) group of Monywa, Sagaing Division beat Kachin State 4-1 and the player of the match award went to Thwe Nai Man of Sagaing Division.

In Shwebo Zone (D) group of Shwebo, Shan State (South) beat Taninthayi Division 4-0 and Aung Soe Min of Shan State (South) won the player of the match award.

MNA

Entries invited to Armed Forces Day Commemorative Photo Competition

YANGON, 24 July — The 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Commemorative Literary and Photo Competition Organizing Work Committee has announced that it will hold the photo competition.

The titles of colour photo competitions are 'Developing Myanmar' and 'Preserving Cultural Heritage' and four entries can be presented for each title. Entries must be print photos by the size of at least 10 by 12 inches. Those who won the first, second and third prizes in the

previous years will be categorized into a separate group and there will be a great chance for new competitions.

Data and captions are to be described in a separate sheet of paper and to be attached to the entries. Permission of models must be attached to the entries and the entries must not be prize-winning works in any other competitions. Hand-some prizes will be presented to first, second and third prize winners as well as consolation prize winners

of each competition. The first, second and third prizes will be presented at the ceremony to mark the 59th Anniversary Armed Forces Day to be held in Yangon on 27-3-2004. The consolation prizes will be presented at the 59th Armed Forces Anniversary ceremonies at the respective military commands. Entries are to be sent to Director U Tun Min of the Information and Public Relations Department on Pansodan Street, Yangon, not later than 14-2-2004.

MNA

Circulation

24,190

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

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 25 July, 2003

Towards Harmonious development of agriculture and livestock breeding sectors

Myanmar is not only rich in land and water resources but also blessed with good foundations for agriculture such as favourable weather conditions.

The agriculture sector plays a key role in the State's economy and is the livelihood of the rural people, the majority of the State.

Therefore, the State is giving encouragement to development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well.

Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence, on 14 and 15 July, inspected land to be put under monsoon paddy in Nyaunglaybin Township, Bago Division. He then met with local authorities and departmental officials in Toungoo of Bago Division and Thandaung of Kayin State and gave instructions on agriculture and the rule of law in the region.

A total of 16 farmers will conduct a survey of paddy output by growing Kyawzeya paddy species on 90 acres of land and Hmawby-2 paddy species on 10 acres of land in the model paddy fields in Sangalay village-tract, using organic and inorganic fertilizers.

It is targeted to grow monsoon paddy on 121,300 acres of land in 2003-2004 in Nyaunglaybin Township, Bago Division. And 87,843 acres of land, 72.42 per cent, were put under paddy up to 14 July.

Out of 439,500 acres of monsoon paddy targeted to be grown in Toungoo District, Bago Division, in 2003-2004, a total of 174,145 acres had been put under cultivation up to 14 July. Therefore, efforts are to be made to meet the target.

As the State is giving encouragement to grow the ten major crops namely paddy, long staple cotton, sugarcane, pigeon pea, gram, pedisein, groundnut, sesame, sunflower, and maize, farmers, on their part, should strive for boosting per acre yield. In addition, tea, coffee, sesame and pepper plants that are suitable for the climate of the region should also be cultivated.

Bago Division is a region where agriculture is flourishing and it also has good foundations for conducting livestock breeding tasks on a commercial scale. As there are only over 10,000 acres of fish ponds in the whole Bago Division, arrangements are to be made to extend the acreage to 20,000 by adding 5,000 acres each in eastern Bago Division and western Bago Division.

To meet the goal of the State, all are urged to make relentless efforts to boost agricultural production and extend agriculture and livestock breeding tasks.

Do not be bolstered whenever flattered

Seminar on "Security Protection Techniques and Computer Forensics" on 28 July

YANGON, 24 July — Under the arrangement of Myanmar Computer Scientists Association, the Seminar on "Security Protection Techniques and Computer Forensics" will be held at Myanmar ICT Park (Conference Hall) at Hline University Campus on 28 July from 9.30 am to 11 am.

Mr Andy Ng (MD, VIS Technology Sdn Bhd) will give talks. Those interested may attend and contact Tel: 652276 for details.

The seminar was sponsored by CE Technology Co Ltd and Cho Cho Co Ltd. — MNA

Cooperatives Minister meets board of directors of syndicates

YANGON, 24 July — Minister for Cooperatives Lt-Gen Tin Ngwe yesterday met with members of board of directors of the agriculture and production cooperative syndicate and industrial syndicate at Central Cooperative Society in Latha Township.

It was attended by the director-general of Cooperative Department, managing directors of Cooperative Export and Import Enterprise and Cottage Industries Department, chairmen and members of Central Cooperative Association, industrial cooperative syndicate

and agriculture and production cooperative syndicate.

At the meeting, chairmen and members of BOD of the respective cooperative departments and syndicates reported on tasks being carried out, supervision of cooperative syndicates, purchasing and distribution of power-tillers and fertilizer, production of natural fertilizer, arrangements for manufacturing of vapour engines and future tasks. The meeting came to an end with concluding remarks by the minister.

MNA



Minister Maj-Gen Sein Htwa meets with service personnel of Social Welfare Department, Fire Services Department and Immigration and National Registration Department in Sagaing Division. — FSD

Departmental works inspected in Sagaing, Mandalay Divisions

YANGON, 24 July — Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa on 22 July arrived at the school for the blind in Sagaing and inspected the giving of training to the students, teaching aids, buildings being constructed and hostels.

Next, the minister went to Sagaing Division Immigration and National Registration Department Office where he inspected the computer room. The minister also met with the staff at the meeting hall. After hearing

the reports presented by the officials, the minister gave necessary instructions and inspected the poultry farming in the compound of the office. In the afternoon, the minister went to the child nursery of Social Welfare Department in Mandalay. He looked over the health of the children and fulfilled the requirements.

Afterwards, the minister inspected the site chosen for the social welfare training school to be constructed near Kyanikan Village in Madaya Township.

At the vocational training centre for girls, the principal reported to the minister on condition of the centre. The minister presented clothes to the girls.

Next, the minister proceeded to the Mandalay youth training school. The principal reported on needs for the school and tasks being undertaken and the minister presented clothes to the children.

Yesterday, the minister met with the principal, officials, members of the fire brigade and their families,

woman trainees of the basic fire fighting course and agricultural trainees at Anawrahta Hall of Central Fire Services Training School in Pyin Oo Lwin. The minister made a speech and presented clothes for the staff families to Principal Col Thauang Zin.

Afterwards, the minister went to Zeebingyi Pre-primary School where he presented snacks to the children and inspected mess-halls of the central fire services training school.

MNA

Commander, Minister inspect ...

(from page 16)

Agricultural Mechanization Department and efforts for production of 250 tons of raw oil. The minister inspected production process and gave instructions on making of bio-composer fertilizers using by-products of the mill.

The minister inspected private pepper farms in Kyundaw Village, Kawbein Village-tract, Kyaikto Township. Owner of the farms conducted the minister round the farms.

In the evening, Chairman of Mon State Peace and

Development Council Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung and Minister Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin inspected tasks of Kataik Dam Project being built two miles far from Kataik Village, Paung Township.

The minister gave instructions on blocking of the creek by embankment and efforts to be made for supplying water to farmlands coming summer and attended to their needs.

Next, the commander and the minister inspected samples of soil and stones from the construction area and the main embankment works. — MNA



ကုသကာကွယ် မူးယစ်အန္တရာယ်

- ၁။ မူးယစ်ဆေးဝါးသုံးစွဲလျှင် အသက်ရှောင် အသားဝါရောဂါ၊ အသက်ရှောင်ရောဂါ၊ အသက်ရှောင် ကင်ဆာရောဂါ၊ သွေးဆီ တက်ခြင်းနှင့် နှလုံးရောဂါ၊ အဆုတ်ရောဂါများ ခုခံအားကျဆင်းမှုရောဂါ (AIDS) နှင့် စိတ်ပိုင်း ဆိုင်ရာ ရောဂါများ စသည်တို့ ဖြစ်ပွားနိုင် သည်အပြင်စီးပွားရေး နှင့် လူမှုရေးများ ထိခိုက်ပျက်ပြားခြင်း ဥပဒေအရ အရေးယူစံရခြင်း တို့ဖြစ်နိုင်သည်။
- ၂။ ထို့ကြောင့် အဆိုပါဒုက္ခများမှ ကင်းဝေးစေရန် မူးယစ် ဆေးဝါးကို လုံးဝ ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
- ၃။ မူးယစ်ဆေးဝါးသုံးစွဲသူများသည် သတ်မှတ်ဆေးရုံ များတွင် မှတ်ပုံတင်၍ ဆေးကုသမှုခံယူပါ။

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

UNSC meets on post-war Iraq's situation

UNITED NATIONS, 24 July —The United Nations Security Council Tuesday started an open session on the reconstruction of Iraq. Representatives from the Iraqi Governing Council attended the session for the first time.

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan welcomed the representatives from the Governing Council, and called its formation "an important first step towards the full restoration of Iraqi sovereignty".

Sergio Vieira de Mello, special representative of the UN Secretary-General for Iraq, will brief the Council on highlights of Secretary-General's report on post-war Iraq situation.

Members of the Security Council will address the session and Adnan Pachachi, representative of the Iraqi Governing Council will make its case to the Council.

In a report released on Monday,

Annan called for early restoration of Iraq's sovereignty.

It was reported that the three-member Iraqi delegation would seek international recognition.

In a brief statement, Annan reiterated the fundamental principles underlying the UN activities under Resolution 1483, and stressed the need to respect the independence and territorial integrity of Iraq, to restore sovereignty to the Iraqi people as soon as possible.

He also urged the international community to respect right of the Iraqi people to determine their political fu-

ture, to respect Iraq's sovereignty over its territory and natural resources and the need for Iraq to be restored to the position of a full and responsible partner in the international community, at ease with its neighbours.

The UN chief noted that Resolution 1483 provides a mandate for the UN to assist the people of Iraq in a wide range of areas.

"In all we do, we need to keep the interests of the Iraqi people at the forefront of our minds. We should listen to their needs, expressed by them in their terms, and we should try to respond," Annan said. —MNA/Xinhua

Purported Saddam tape urges Iraq uprising

BAGHDAD, 24 July — A new audiotape purported to be of toppled dictator Saddam Hussein, broadcast by an Arab satellite station Wednesday, called on former soldiers to rise up against the American occupation.

The speaker said the tape was made on July 20, two days before his sons Odai and Qusai were killed in a fierce attack on a villa belonging to a Saddam cousin in the northern city of Mosul.

The voice on the tape urged all of Saddam's former soldiers to take up arms against the Americans and not to cooperate with the Iraqi army being rebuilt by US occupation forces.

"Today I speak in particular to ... your military honour and appeal to the promise you made to the nation and to the people," said the voice, which sounded like Saddam.

There was no way to immediately confirm it was the former dictator. The CIA was analyzing the audio message but has reached no conclusions about its authenticity, said a US intelligence official, speaking on the condition of anonymity.

Saad al-Bazaz editor of al-Zaman newspaper, who was once close to Saddam said to Al-Arabiya that the voice was Saddam's.

"Undoubtedly the tape carries Saddam's voice, this is no longer a controversial issue and should not be raised again," he said.

Mohammed al-Douri, Iraq former ambassador to the United Nations, said



An Arab satellite channel, Al Arabiya, broadcast of audiotape purportedly made by Saddam Hussein on 20 July ordering Iraqi soldiers to rise up against Americans is seen in Baghdad, Iraq on 23 July, 2003. —INTERNET

it was Saddam but that he no longer has any significant influence in the country.

"It is an attempt on behalf of Saddam Hussein to tell the Iraqi people and the world that he is still there," he said. "This is his voice, Saddam is there, but I do not think that he has any effective role over the Iraqi people." The voice pur-

ported to be Saddam's urged former soldiers not to lose faith.

"On April 11 and 12, we started to reorganize the (Baath) party and people to resist the enemy, and we were in contact with the men of the armed forces," the voice said. The Americans captured Baghdad on 9 April.

Internet

ထိုက်တုန်းနစ်ဆ တိုးမြှင့်ခြင်း

Two US soldiers killed in latest Iraqi attacks

BAGHDAD, 24 July — Two more US soldiers have died in Iraq in separate attacks on convoys.

One occurred Wednesday in the northern city of Mosul, the morning after Qusay and Uday Hussein, sons of deposed dictator Saddam Hussein, died in a four-hour gun battle with US troops.

Six other soldiers were wounded in Wednesday's attack.

Mosul has a large Kurdish population, but is known for having been a pro-Saddam place. Some say Arabs living there were loyal to Saddam because they feared Kurds taking power in the region.

However, it had been a relatively quiet city in the period since the high-intensity phase of the war ended,

and some speculate that's what drew Saddam's sons there.

The second incident occurred late Tuesday in Ramadi, which is about 100 kilometres west of Baghdad. Besides the one death, two other soldiers were wounded.

The US combat death toll since March 20 now stands at 155. Forty-one of those deaths have occurred since 1 May, the day US President W George Bush said major combat operations had ended in Iraq.

In a tape released Wednesday by the Arab television network Al-Arabiya, Saddam urged continued resistance against the occupying forces.

Internet

Strains appear in BBC ranks over government row

LONDON, 24 July —Rumblings of discontent are emerging among BBC ranks over the way the broadcaster's top brass have handled a furious row with the British Government.

The BBC has presented a united front in its defence of a story that alleged the government exaggerated its case for going to war against Iraq, but behind closed doors BBC staff are smarting as the broadcaster stakes its reputation on the battle. "How did we get to this point?" asked one BBC journalist.

"The source is dead and the feeling is that the management has mis-handled this case. I wonder if they would have gone this far had they known how it would turn out."

Both the BBC [BBC.UL] and British Prime Minister Tony Blair have come under fierce attack over the slanging match which ended in the death of the broadcaster's source last week. —MNA/Reuters

Bush, Blair deceived by defectors

JOHANNESBURG, 24 July — US President George W Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair had been deceived by defectors and intelligence services relying on single sources, Wouter Basson, the former head of Project Coast, South Africa's apartheid-era chemical and biological weapons programme, said on Tuesday.

Addressing a Johannesburg Press Club luncheon, Basson, now a heart surgeon in private practice, said much of the intelligence Bush and Blair relied on to state their case for invading Iraq was based on information supplied by defectors. Basson, who said he had friends in the international intelligence community, said the defectors realized that the US and Britain wanted damning evidence on Saddam Hussein.

Sensing personal advantage and knowing that the information could not be verified, they then gave their

"worst case scenario" to intelligence operatives who lapped it up. "Perceptions can be very bad in the long run. Much of the intelligence they relied on were perceptions that had been turned into facts," he said. In addition, it was apparent that some agencies had relied on the same source for their information.

When agencies did that it seemed to political decision-makers that two or more separate agencies had independently come to similar conclusions. Political leaders then erroneously assumed

the multiple reports were proof their contents were correct.

Basson said it now appeared his sacking by former president F.W. de Klerk in 1992, along with 23 other generals, was based on a similar assumption.

The urbane doctor, who told his audience he did not like making speeches because he never knew what his audience wanted to hear, further said it was much the same in the case of his "vilification" before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC). — MNA/Xinhua



Wolfgang Leiberg, head of development, poses with a 300 mm wafer during a presentation event in Infineon Technologies in Dresden, eastern Germany, on 11 July, 2003. German computer chip maker Infineon on 22 July, 2003, reported its ninth straight quarterly loss but said the outlook was finally brightening for the battered semiconductor business. —INTERNET

Mubarak urges elected government in Iraq

CAIRO, 24 July—Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on Tuesday urged the establishment of an elected government in Iraq.

"The ongoing chaos in Iraq posed a threat to the whole region, and only an elected government could restore order in the country," Mubarak said in a speech marking the 51st anniversary of the overthrow of the Egyptian monarchy on July 23, 1952. The feeling of insecurity, chaos and lawlessness that is spreading in Iraq exerted a very bad effect on the region," he said.

"It is important for the Iraqis to govern their own country," he said, expressing hope that the newly formed Iraqi Interim Governing Council (IGC) could have potential and capability to help restore calm and order in Iraq.

On July 13, the US-backed IGC was inaugurated in the Iraqi capital of Baghdad as a major step toward democracy and reconstruction.

The Council became the first national executive body

in the war-torn country following Saddam's ouster on 9 April. The Council is composed of 13 Shiites, five Sunnis, five Kurds, one Christian and one Turkman, roughly reflecting Iraq's religious and ethnic make-up.

The 25-member governing body will have the power to appoint ministers, approve the national budget and select members of a committee to draft a new constitution. But top US civilian administrator in Iraq, Paul Bremer, has a final say. As for the Palestinian-Israeli peace track, Mubarak called on the two sides to fulfil their commitments to the US-sponsored roadmap plan for Middle East peace. The roadmap, worked out by the Quartet Committee comprising the United States, United Nations, European Union and Russia, envisions the birth of an independent Palestinian state by 2005. — MNA/Xinhua

Russia backs Annan's idea for specific framework in Iraq

MOSCOW, 24 July — Russia supports a specific UN framework for the restoration of Iraq's sovereignty and the establishment of an Iraqi Government in line with democratic procedures, Deputy Foreign Minister Yuri Fedotov said on Wednesday.

Yuri Fedotov indicated that Russia is for UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan's recommendation on determining the framework.

He stressed that Russia also backs Annan's ideas "for expanding the United Nations' roles and functions in the processes of settlement and revival in Iraq".

The Deputy Foreign Minister made the remarks following the UN Security Council's Tuesday session focusing on Iraq's postwar reconstruction. Many of the Security Council members called for greater UN roles and a clear timetable to ensure an early restoration of

sovereignty to Iraq.

"The situation in Iraq was discussed comprehensively for the first time since the adoption of Resolution 1483," Fedotov noted, pointing out that the situation remains difficult in many spheres although the Tuesday session reaffirmed that it is being restored under the legal vein and role of the UN Security Council.

"The current objective is to help the Iraqi people find a way out of this difficult situation," he said.

Fedotov expressed his belief that the recommendations laid out in Annan's report could provide the

backbone for a Security Council resolution that would take Resolution 1483 further and indicate the direction of involvement of the international community in helping the Iraqi people.

The Russian official called on the Security Council to take specific measures to increase the United Nations' roles in the postwar settlement and add new functions to the UN mandate in Iraq, which would promote implementation of the key goals facing Iraq.

He also noted that "no specific proposals for military or security-related aspects were received" at the

meeting.

"Many of the attendees of the UN Security Council meeting emphasized that lack of appropriate security conditions is hindering the implementation of UN functions in Iraq," he added.

Fedotov reiterated that "if any proposals on security issues or on military aspects of the Iraqi situation appear (in the Security Council), along with other UN Security Council members, we will be ready to study them in order to determine our attitude". — MNA/Xinhua

Sources say BBC has tape of dead scientist briefing

LONDON, 24 July—The BBC has a tape of talks between one of its reporters and the weapons expert who was apparently driven to suicide by a row over the government's case for war in Iraq, BBC sources said on Wednesday.

The tape records a conversation between reporter Susan Watts and Dr David Kelly, who was found dead last week after he was named as the BBC's source for stories alleging the government exaggerated its case for war against Iraq.

A BBC spokeswoman refused to confirm or deny reports of the tape. The BBC, Prime Minister Tony Blair, and many of his top ministers and advisers have come under fierce attack in the row over Kelly's death.

Kelly, a government scientist and weapons expert, was found dead in woods near his home last Friday. He had bled to death from a slashed wrist.

He had been forced into the media spotlight after telling his Defence Ministry bosses he may have been the source behind a BBC report which claimed Blair's government had exaggerated intelligence about banned Iraqi weapons to make a case for war.

The BBC, which had consistently refused to name its source, only confirmed Kelly as the source on Sunday, after the scientist's death.

The tape is likely to form a key part of evidence presented to Lord Hutton, the man asked by Blair to conduct an inquiry into events leading up to Kelly's death.

Susan Watts, science editor for the BBC's Newsnight programme, used Kelly as her source for reports on 2 June and 4 June which claimed the government had exaggerated the threat posed by Iraq to justify going to war.

Watts quoted the source as saying the government was "obsessed with finding intelligence on immediate Iraqi threats." "They were desperate for information, they were pushing hard for information which could be released," she quoted the source as saying. — Internet

Belgian economic indicator to show recovery in July

BRUSSELS, 24 July—Business confidence in Belgium is expected to show recovery from a 10-year low in July as most economists predicted Tuesday.

They believe the Belgian index, which has a significant recovery to the level of minus 16 from its recent low in June.

Regarded as a bellwether for the euro zone, the leading indicator fell unexpectedly to minus 21.5 in June from minus 14.9 in May, with bad news especially from the manufacturing sector and foreign orders.

But European economists expect signs of a recovery in the world economy and the

recent cut in interest rates by the European Central Bank to offset the effects of a stronger euro, which tends to reduce the competitiveness of European exporters.

Belgium is one of the euro zone's smaller members, but its leading indicator is seen as a barometer of economic health because it does most of its business with its European neighbours.

MNA/Xinhua



South Korean couple Min Seung-joon (2nd L) and Jeon Yoon-kyong (3rd L) hold their conjoined daughters at Raffles Hospital with doctors (left to right) Dr Keith Goh, Dr Loo Choon Yong and Dr Yang Ching Yu, in Singapore on 19 July, 2003. The four-month-old twins, Min Ji-hye, and Min Sa-rang were successfully separated in an operation on 22 July and are resting in the intensive care unit in stable condition. — INTERNET



Locals chant slogans in support of Saddam Hussein at the site of Tuesday's shootout that left four Iraqis dead including both Saddam's sons Oday and Qusay on 23 July, 2003, in the town of Mosul, 280 miles, 450 kilometres north of Baghdad, Iraq. — INTERNET

Shanxi province sees fast rise in exports

TAIYUAN, 24 July — North China's Shanxi Province recorded 1.178 billion US dollars in foreign trade during the first five months of this year, up 31.2 per cent year-on-year, according to statistics from Taiyuan Customs.

The province earned 923.35 million US dollars from exports during the period, up 47.71 per cent, or 13 percentage points higher than the national average. Meanwhile, imports stood at 255.11 million US dollars, down 6.69 per cent year-on-year.

A sharp rise was seen in the export of machinery and electronic products during the first five months, which stood at 106

million US dollars, up 49.5 per cent year-on-year. State-owned enterprises exported 67.86 per cent of the province's total, and a fast rise was also recorded in exports from non-state-owned enterprises in the province, including overseas-funded enterprises. Japan, the United States, the European Union and the Southeast Asian nations remain the province's major markets. — MNA/Xinhua

Annan calls for early end to military occupation of Iraq

UNITED NATIONS, 24 July — At the presence of Iraqi and US delegates, United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan on Tuesday called for an early end of the US-British military occupation of Iraq and a quick return of rule to the Iraqis.

"Our collective goal remains an early end to the military occupation through the formation of an internationally recognized, representative government," Annan said in a speech delivered at the onset of a UN Security Council open session.

"It is vital that the Iraqi people should be able to see a clear timetable with a specific sequence of events leading to the full restoration of sovereignty as soon as possible," he stressed.

As a practical step to restore Iraq's self government, the establishment of the Iraqi Governing Council "must be followed by a constitutional process run by and for Iraqis", Annan noted.

In his address, Annan also reiterated the fundamental principles set out by Security Council Resolution 1483

for UN activities in the post-war Iraq.

These principles include the need to restore sovereignty to the people of Iraq as soon as possible and respect the Iraqi people's right to determine their political future, he said.

"We need to keep the interests of the Iraqi people at the forefront of our minds," he emphasized. "We should listen to their needs, expressed by them in their terms, and we should try to respond."

The UN chief also welcomed the presence of representatives from the Iraqi Governing Council and lauded the formation of the 25-member body as "an important first step toward the full restoration of Iraqi sovereignty".

The three-member Iraqi delegation was here to seek the recognition of the

Security Council for the Governing Council, which was handpicked by the US occupation authority and has yet to gain international endorsement.

To avoid a direct recognition of the Governing Council, the Security Council invited former Iraqi foreign minister Adnan Pachachi, a member of the delegation, to speak at the open debate in his personal capacity.

UN officials earlier confirmed that the Security Council has not yet taken a position on the Governing Council.

The Security Council was meeting to debate a report orally presented by Annan's special representative Sergio de Mello on UN efforts in helping rebuild Iraq in political, economic and humanitarian fields.

MNA/Xinhua

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Contractor's mission to Iraq is 'terminated'

WASHINGTON, 24 July — Shreveport contractor Joe Whitaker's appointment to help rebuild the health-care system in war-rocked Iraq "has been terminated" due to his arrest last week by Ouachita Parish authorities, the Defence Department announced Wednesday.

Also Wednesday, a Ouachita District Court judge in Monroe set a \$200,000 bond for Whitaker, who is accused of misapplying \$1.4 million meant for 15 subcontractors who worked on the \$7.1 million Monroe Surgical Center that opened last year.

Aardvark Bail Bonds of Bossier City posted Whitaker's bond, about \$22,000, Wednesday afternoon. He's due in court for arraignment at 9 am Sept 15. US marshals arrested Whitaker a week ago in El Paso, Texas, on the eve of what would have been his departure for Iraq. He had been chosen by the Bush administration to serve as a senior adviser to the Iraqi Ministry of Health.

"Whitaker is no longer available to perform his duties and, therefore, will not be assuming the position to which previously he was assigned," Defence spokesman Chris Isleib said Wednesday. "His appointment has been terminated." —Internet

Iraq Council to seek UN recognition

UNITED NATIONS, 24 July — A delegation from Iraq's new US-appointed Governing Council will present its case to the UN Security Council on Tuesday and a source in Baghdad said they would ask for international recognition.

But diplomats said if the delegation, part of the 25-member self-rule Governing Council, tried to declare itself the new Iraqi Government, it would get little response.

No decision will be made about whether the Iraqis represent an interim Government or will occupy Iraq's UN seat.

The United Nations has described Iraq as a crippled society and the three-member delegation will present its case during a major debate on post-war reconstruction.

In Baghdad, a source in one of the parties on the Governing Council, said the delegation would seek recognition.

"The delegation will ask the countries of the world to deal with the Council as the representative of the Iraqi people," said the source in the secular Wifaq Party. While

Security Council members are eager to see Iraqis take the reins in Baghdad, the presence on Tuesday of Ahmed Chalabi, head of the Iraqi National Congress, an umbrella organization of exiled political groups, is bound to cause some consternation. Chalabi, an important player in the Governing Council, might belie the independence of the group because of his well-known ties with the US Pentagon, the envoys said.

The delegation leader is Adnan Pachachi, 80, who was foreign minister before Saddam Hussein's Baath Party came to power in 1968. The third member is Akila al-Hashemi, a mid-level diplomat under Saddam who worked on UN issues at the Foreign Ministry. She is one of three women on the Iraqi council. —MNA/Reuters



A protester carries a placard denouncing visiting British Prime Minister Tony Blair during a demonstration in Hong Kong, on 23 July, 2003. Blair is in a political storm over Iraq after failure to find any chemical, biological or nuclear weapons in the country. —INTERNET

Vietnam to produce 30-32 million tons of crude oil by 2010

HANOI, 24 July — Vietnam targets to annually produce 30-32 million tons of crude oil and 12-19 billion cubic metres of gas by 2010, *People's Army* newspaper reported on Tuesday.

At that time, the coun-

try's oil and gas sector will meet 60-70 per cent of domestic demand for petrol and oil of all kinds, 50-60 per cent for nitrogenous fertilizer production, and 20-30 per cent for plastic manufacturing.

Vietnam pumped out 8.92 million tons of crude oil, and piped ashore 1.57 billion cubic metres of gas in the first half of this year, a year-on-year increase of 7.5 per cent and 43 per cent.

MNA/Xinhua



US soldiers from the 101st Airborne take cover as they secure the area around a house in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul, on 23 July, 2003. The Defence Department announced a plan on Wednesday to replace weary US military personnel in Iraq with fresh American and international troops, with stints of up to a year for some American units. —INTERNET

Guangdong's economy may grow 12% in 2003

GUANGZHOU, 24 July — South China's Guangdong Province could achieve an economic growth rate of 12 per cent or above if redoubled efforts are made, an official said here Tuesday.

Chen Shanru, director of the Guangdong Provincial Development Planning Commission, said an 11-per-cent growth rate of the gross domestic product is guaranteed for 2003, despite the impact of the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS).

If efforts to stimulate the economy are intensified, the growth rate could reach or exceed 12 per cent, Chen said in a report submitted to the Standing Committee of the Guangdong Provincial People's Congress.

Though Guangdong was seriously ravaged by SARS, its GDP still reached 582.2 billion yuan (71 billion US dollars) in the first half of 2003, a year-on-year increase of 12.6 per cent.

"This growth rate is even

3.6 percentage points above the target set at the beginning of the year," Chen said. Analysts say the rapid growth of Guangdong's industrial products and exports contributed to this rapid GDP growth as the province's industrial added value was 278.58 billion yuan (33.6 billion US dollars) in the first six months. In the first half of 2003, the province also saw a 26.2-per-cent rise in exports, which reached 65.87 billion US dollars. —MNA/Xinhua

Telephone users in China number 472 million

BEIJING, 24 July — The number of telephone users in China rose to 472 million by the end of June, according to statistics from the Chinese Ministry of Information Industry on Wednesday.

To date, the number of fixed phone users is 237.6 million while the number of mobile phone users has

reached 234.47 million.

According to the ministry, every 100 Chinese have 19.4 fixed telephones and 18.3 mobile phones on average.

The total income of China's post and telecommunications sector during the first six months of 2003 reached 246.4 billion yuan (about 29.7 billion US dollars), an in-

crease of 11.5 per cent.

The income of the country's postal service in the first half year was 26.42 billion yuan (nearly 3.2 billion US dollars), up 6.8 per cent, and that for the telecommunications service was 219.97 billion yuan (26.5 billion US dollars), up 12.1 per cent.

MNA/Xinhua

US anti-war groups push for probe into Iraq intelligence

WASHINGTON, 24 July—About 400,000 people from every US state have contacted members of Congress in the past three weeks as part of a MoveOn.org petition that asks Congress to investigate the controversial claims that led to the war on Iraq, the *Washington Post* reported Tuesday.

More than 50,000 people signed on to the anti-war liberal activist web site in the past five days alone, the *Post* said.

"It seems more and more people who supported the war are signing on," Eli Pariser, MoveOn.org's campaigns director, was quoted as saying. "They're angry. People who in the past couple of weeks before the war decided to support it are swinging back."

In the week since the administration admitted that President Bush's State of the Union speech in January should not have mentioned that the British had "learned" Iraq had tried to buy uranium from Africa for a nuclear weapons programme, anti-war groups say that more and more Americans have been contacting them, looking for answers.

The anti-war groups hope to persuade public officials to support an independent, bipartisan commission modelled on the panel investigating the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

With other intelligence claims about an Iraq nuclear programme under scrutiny, weapons of mass destruction yet to be found and US soldiers dying in Iraq nearly every day, anti-war coalitions are seizing on the public's growing concerns over the war, as recent polls have indicated, to try to re-energize their movement and force an examination of the process and the policies that led to the war. So far, Congress has been split along party lines on the issue of formal reviews and the issue, some in the movement fear, could become a strictly partisan one, diluting its appeal. — MNA/Xinhua



People line up to place flowers on a symbolic coffin during an anti-Iraq war protest in Federal Plaza in Chicago on 23 July, 2003. — INTERNET

Pakistan takes no decision on sending troops to Iraq

ISLAMABAD, 24 July — Pakistani Defence Minister Rao Sikandar Iqbal has said that Islamabad has not yet taken any decision regarding sending peace-keeping troops to Iraq, according to the official *Associated Press of Pakistan*.

Talking to reporters in Okara, 130 kilometres southwest of Punjab Province's capital Lahore, on Tuesday, Rao said if any decision has been taken in this regard, the Pakistani troops will play a role only for protection of the Iraqi people and work for their welfare.

Earlier reports said the United States asked Pakistan to send peace-keeping troops to Iraq during President Pervez Musharraf's visit to Washington in late June. Musharraf said his country will send troops to Iraq under the cover of the United Nations or the Organization of Islamic Conference. However, the Pakistani Foreign Ministry spokesman hinted Monday at a weekly briefing that Islamabad may send troops at the invitation of the newly-founded Governing Council in Iraq. — MNA/Xinhua

US authority in Iraq creates Trade Bank

BAGHDAD, 24 July — The US-led Coalition Provisional Authority said on Tuesday it had created the Trade Bank of Iraq and asked international banks for proposals to help establish it.

The CPA said in a statement the bank would provide financial and related services to help the import and export of goods and services to and from Iraq.

The *Wall Street Journal* reported on Tuesday that the CPA will choose a mix of international banks by August to manage the bank.

The lure of new business has banks worldwide rushing to build alliances that will compete to run the bank, the *Journal* reported, citing US officials and international financial executives.

Those banks include JP Morgan Chase & Co, which has joined forces with Britain's Standard Chartered Plc, the National Bank of Kuwait, the Australia and New Zealand Banking Group Ltd, and Poland's Millennium Bank, the *Journal* said.

Financial services giant Citigroup Inc. may be another contender, along with Deutsche Bank AG, which would likely be tied up with a large US bank, the *WSJ* said.

In London, Standard Chartered declined to com-

ment on the *WSJ* report but said it was looking for opportunities in Iraq.

"We are well placed to support the reconstruction of Iraq. We've got more than 50 years experience operating in the region and were currently providing assistance on donor and aide funding to the country," said a spokesman for the company.

It said the bank has appointed a Dubai-based executive to oversee its interest in Iraq. "Existing Iraqi banks are presently ill-equipped to support import-export trad-

ing activities. They lack sufficient expertise and international links," the CPA statement said.

"Existing financial institutions within Iraq are fully engaged in re-establishing basic banking services and have limited capacity for specialized trade services."

It said the bank, which would also help facilitate "the transition from state-owned enterprises to greater privatization", would have an authorized capital of 100 million US dollars.

MNA/Reuters

IDB hopeful about Guatemala's economy

MEXICO CITY, 24 July — An envoy of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) on Tuesday praised Guatemala's economic policy, despite accusations against the government of existing poverty and continuous corruption.

According to reports from Guatemala City, Carlos Barbary, the IDB representative in the Central American country, who has just concluded his mission there, said that thanks to the work of President Alfonso Portillo, Guatemala had a "unique" economic situation.

Barbary said that Portillo carried out actions "with the idea of improving the living conditions of the majority of people, but a lot of work still needs to be done".

Guatemala had conditions to create growth and reduce the poverty levels which affect 80 per cent of the population of 11.2 million, the IDB representative added. — MNA/Xinhua

Colombia, France reach accord against drug trafficking

BOGOTA, 24 July — France and Colombia reached an agreement Tuesday on cooperation against drug trafficking, money laundering and terrorism.

The document, signed here by Defence Minister Martha Lucia Ramirez de Rincon and visiting French Interior Minister Nicolas

Sarkozy, provides for long-term information exchange to efficiently coordinate the fight against terrorism, drug trafficking and money laun-

dering in both countries.

Also, the exchange of experiences in the operations of the security forces of both countries is considered within the framework of the agreement.

At the signing ceremony, the French minister hailed the "exceptional battle" of Colombia against drug trafficking, saying the new agreement will translate into strict control over drugs because Paris keeps a "zero tolerance" attitude.

MNA/Xinhua



A Proboscis monkey and her baby at Singapore Zoo. The monkey is native to Borneo but may be headed for extinction. As much as a fifth of south-east Asia's wildlife may go the way of the dodo by the end of the century, experts predict.

INTERNET

Iraqi Council to soon name oil minister

UNITED NATIONS, 24 July — Two members of Iraq's new Governing Council said on Tuesday that they hope to soon name an oil minister and a representative to attend meetings of OPEC, although the oil cartel has severed relations with the country until it has an internationally recognized government.

"We will be appointing all the ministers, including the oil minister. There is no exclusion there."

Also Iraq will be represented in the OPEC meetings, as it will be represented here at the United Nations, former Iraqi foreign minister Adnan Pachachi told reporters.

"It is not a good idea for OPEC to exclude Iraq," added Ahmed Chalabi, head of the Iraqi National Congress exile group and another member of the Governing Council.

Oil ministers meeting in Doha last month said OPEC could not permit Iraq to attend meetings of the cartel while Baghdad remained under the rule of an occupying US-led authority.

"We cannot have relations with Iraq until there is an internationally recognized government, that is a

consensus," Venezuelan Oil Minister Rafael Ramirez said on 11 June.

"This does not mean we do not want Iraq in the organization."

We do want Iraq in OPEC and we think Iraq will want to stay in OPEC because they will need a reasonable price for oil," Ramirez said.

The Governing Council was set up just over a week ago. It has the power to name ministers and overseas representatives, but its actions are subject to a US veto as Iraq remains under the control of American and British occupying forces.

A delegation of three Governing Council members was in New York to confer with UN officials and address the 15-nation UN Security Council on Iraqi reconstruction.

MNA/Reuters

Three more US soldiers killed in Iraq on Thursday

BAGHDAD, 24 July — Three more US soldiers were killed in Iraq on Thursday as US authorities prepare to release photographs of the dead sons of Saddam Hussein to convince a sceptical Iraqi public that they are not coming back.

The soldiers died in an ambush near the northern city of Mosul, where Uday and Qusay Hussein were killed in a blistering US assault on Tuesday, and followed a US military warning of a spike in attacks in response to the deadly raid.

Mosul is a multi-ethnic city with a Sunni Muslim majority in the Kurdish-dominated north and has seen only rare strikes on US forces. One soldier was killed and

seven were wounded near the town on Wednesday in a bomb attack.

The dead and wounded belonged to the 101st Airborne Division, which led a four-hour assault on the mansion where Saddam's sons were holed up along with a bodyguard and Qusay's teenage son before killing them all.

Internet

Urbanites earning more in south China province

GUANGZHOU, July 24 — Per-capita disposable income of urban residents in Guangdong Province, an economic powerhouse in south China, surged by 10.2 per cent to 6,498.66 yuan (785.8 US dollars) in the first half of this year, a survey made public has revealed.

The increase rate is 1.3 percentage points higher than last year's same period, according to the survey carried out by the Guangdong Provincial Capital Survey Team.

The per capita wages of the employed people in Guangdong went up by 14.3 per cent to hit 10,392.36 yuan (about 1,260 US dollars) in the first six months, with that of state-owned enterprises standing at 12,504.24 yuan (some 1,500 US dollars), a rise of 16.5 per cent.

Two-digit growth rates were also reported in the per capita income of people working in collective and other enterprises such as private businesses, according to the survey released

on Tuesday. Salary accounted for 77.6 per cent of the urbanites' total income for the six-month period, the survey showed.

In the first six months of the year, the per-capita expenditures of Guangdong's urban residents rose by 5.3 per cent to reach 4,593.72 yuan (556 US dollars).

While spending on food, clothing, household appliances and other facilities, health care, communications and telecommunications products and housing went up by varying margins, local urban residents paid less money on services related to education, culture and recreation and grocery in the first six months, according to the survey.

More urbanites have optioned to spend their "future money".

The per capita amount of bank loans edged up to 2,160.36 yuan (about 260 US dollars) in the first half of the year, a year-on-year rise of 39 per cent, the survey indicated.

MNA/Xinhua

Brazil's Senate passes tough new gun controls

BRASILIA (Brazil), 24 July — Brazil's Senate on Wednesday approved a bill imposing tough new gun controls, including a controversial proposal to hold a referendum in 2005 on a complete ban on firearms sales to the public.

With crime in Brazil's cities rising at alarming rates there has been a clamour for tough action by the centre-left government to reduce one of the world's highest murder rates.

Legislators said the bill was passed in a unanimous vote in the Upper Chamber of Congress.

The proposal must still be approved by the Lower Chamber of Congress, which is expected to vote on it in August.

Some critics of the bill say the real problem is the estimated 20 million unregistered guns in Brazil, many of which are in the hands of criminals.

Brazil's murder rate has soared in recent years, to 23 per 100,000 inhabit-

ants in 1998 from 11 in 1998.

According to data from 1998 — the last year with complete figures — 41,801 people were murdered, which is equivalent to 114.5 per day in this country of 175 million people.

The bill would force gun owners to undergo a background check for previous crimes, to have knowledge of gun use and take a psychological exam.

Gun owners will have 180 days after the law is passed to register their weapons or hand them in to police.

After that, anybody with an unregistered firearm will face up to four years in prison without the possibility of bail.

The minimum age for gun owners will be raised to 25 from 21.

To buy a handgun in Brazil now all that is required is proof of identity, a utility bill and a paycheque.

MNA/Reuters

Scientists developing mind-controlled wheelchair

LONDON, 24 July — Swiss and Spanish scientists are developing a mind-controlled wheelchair that could one day give severely paralyzed patients new independence.

The system will use electrodes embedded in a skullcap worn by the patient to transmit messages from the brain to a computer which passes them on to the chair through a wireless link. "Early trials using a robot indicate that with just two days' training it is as easy to control the robot with the human mind as it is manually," *New Scientist* magazine said on

Wednesday.

The system has been designed by Jose Millan of the Dalle Molle Institute for Perceptual Artificial Intelligence in Martigny, Switzerland, scientists at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne and the Centre for Biomedical Engineering Research in Barcelona.

The scientists are testing the system with a simple, wheeled robot using commands to turn left, right or go forward. It also includes in-built intelligence to ensure the robot does not collide with anything.

MNA/Reuters

People's Desire

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

Efficient use of electricity

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

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

Efficient use of fuel

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

Do not be softened whenever appeased

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မော်တော်ယာဉ်များမသုံးစွဲရန်

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Typhoon Imbudo wanes, out of Philippines

MANILA, 24 July — The super typhoon internationally coded "Imbudo" moved out of the Philippines early Wednesday after killing at least six people and dislodging over 7,000 others in the northern island of Luzon, disaster coordination officials said.

Parts of northern and central Luzon Island in the north were still without power before dawn Wednesday, the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) added.

The Department of Public Works and Highways and village officials were dispatched to clear the roads of toppled trees and electric posts, the NDCC said.

On late Tuesday, Imbudo's winds weakened to 130 kilometres per hour from 190 kilometres per hour in the morning. It has been moving northwest at 22 kilometres per hour toward the South China Sea.

The NDCC also recommended the suspension of classes and work in government offices in Metro Manila and other regions across Luzon.

MNA/Xinhua

Thai PM vows to push tourism revenue to \$24b within 6 years

BANGKOK, 24 July — Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra has pledged to drive up Thailand's annual tourism revenue to 24.09 billion US dollars within the next six years. A report of *Thai News Agency* Wednesday said the Thai Cabinet Tuesday gave the green light to the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) to issue 'Thailand Privilege Cards' costing 24,000 US dollars each, aimed at the world's rich and famous.

Speaking after Tuesday's Cabinet meeting, Government Spokesman Sita Divari said that the Prime Minister had vowed to treble Thailand's revenue from 7.23 billion US dollars at present to 24.09 billion US dollars in six years' time.

The Prime Minister also said that he would encourage various organizations to work hard in an effort to achieve the government's goals.

MNA/Xinhua

The strength for the New Destiny

Kyarw Htin Nawrahta

I recently paid a visit to my younger brother who was assigned duty in Laukkai, Kokang region where I got an opportunity to study facts about the region. I found efforts of the Kokang national race leaders to get rid of narcotic drugs very interesting. As is known to all, tea leaves of Kokang region is popular and so is the opium. Leaders of the Kokang region are worthy of praise for their efforts to keep their region totally free from poppy cultivation during the 2002-2003 poppy cultivation season. For, it would be quite a task to do away with the poppy cultivation, which had been practised for long very much like a traditional legal profession. As I was anxious to know how the leaders had accomplished the very tough job, I approached them and studied the facts closely.

The Kokang armed group separated itself from the Burma Communist Party in March 1989 and it became the very first armed group to return to the legal fold. It is also well known that after making peace with the Government, it has joined hands with the latter in trying to eradicate narcotic drugs. At present, the Kokang national race leaders are actively engaged in the implementation of the New Destiny Project under the 15-year narcotic drugs elimination plan of the Government; the New Destiny Project aims at eliminating the practice of poppy cultivation in the five major opium-producing regions. In March 2002, Kokang national race leaders, realizing



Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Brig-Gen Khin Maung hands 5,000 bags of rice and 100 bags of salt to Kokang national race leader U Phon Kyar Shin.

existed no poppy cultivation in the region. The sub-committees then conducted field trips. In the process, they met the people of villages and organized educative talks. At the same time, they took action against law breakers. During the period between April and August 2003, 70 drug addicts and 17 drug pushers were arrested and 43,136 stimulant tablets, 9.61 kilos of heroin and 21 bags of Ephedrine powder were seized.

Poppy growers were persuaded to surrender the poppy seeds while searches were conducted, followed by seizures of the seeds. In June 2002, 7,824 pyis or 12,776.6 kilos of poppy seeds were put to torch. Unless this was done, the 12,776.6 kilos of poppy seeds could have been grown on 8,216 acres. As it was time for land preparation to start the poppy cultivation work in August 2002, various groups were sent to

District of Kokang Region was totally free from poppy cultivation in 2002-2003.

It is easy to ask poppy growers not to grow poppy. But it would be difficult for the poppy growers, who had indulged in the practice throughout their life, to oblige. What crops are to be grown in place of poppy? They have to think about their livelihood. The Government and the Kokang national race leaders have anticipated the difficulties. That was why alternative crops were introduced when the drug eradication plan was launched. In 1997, 4,174 acres were put under short-term seasonal crops and 1,100.37 acres under perennial plants totalling 5,274.37 acres. The Government established three model plantations to educate farmers about the agriculture methods to be followed. A team led by the four deputy ministers conducted study tours

funds amounting to K 18.85 million was provided for the establishment of perennial plantations and K 11.312 million for purchase of 150,000 walnut and chestnut plants. Under the New Destiny Project, seeds for the establishment of 2,125

meet daily expenses for their living. U Phon Kyar Shin, leader of the Kokang nationals, said that last year people in some villages had difficulty making both ends meet as they did not grow poppy at all. The moment it was light, there were many people in front of his house asking for help. There were so many people asking for his help every day that sometimes he did not dare to come up to the front of his house. However, he continued that he could not bear to see the goal of establishing opium- and drug-free zone shattered, whatever difficulty there might be. Therefore, in June, 2002, Kokang leaders divided themselves into groups and visited the villages to see to it that there was no cultivation of poppy at all in their region. And as it was the time for cultivation, they distributed four tons of maize and paddy seeds. At first, partly because

ers at a ceremony. Moreover, coffee saplings and maize and high-yield paddy seeds provided by the commander of the North-East Command and seeds of vegetables provided by the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation were also delivered.

Speaking at the ceremony, U Phon Kyar Shin expressed heartfelt thanks to the Government especially for providing assistance at the time of hardships and difficulties without being asked.

The amount and value of the supplies did not matter. Fulfilling their much-needed requirements at the right time was a strength for the Kokang region in their endeavour to eradicate the cultivation of poppy. On 30 June, Kokang national race leaders distributed the rice and salt provided by the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control (CCDAC) to five village-tracts that were faced with



Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung hands 600 bags of rice and 30 bags of salt to Mangpan local people's militia leader U Sai Mon.

acres of Hsinshweli millet species, 360 acres of Sadawpe cold season crop and 311.66 acres of Chinese pea were distributed in 2002. To see that former poppy growers have access to alternative income, arrangements have been made to provide 33 pigs, 540 fowls, five milch cows, 110 goats and 100,000 fishes free of charge every year for four years. The local Kokang ethnic people have also raised 50,760 layers, 2,680 pigs, 20 milch cows, 223 goats and 1,904,000 fishes of various species on a commercial scale. They have planned to extend the business.

As the State provided all the necessary assistance, so also Kokang leaders, by their own arrangement, purchased saplings of perennials from China to be distributed to farmers. Cultivation of substitute-crops alone is not enough to make the farmers give up growing poppy. Before the crops flourish or when there is a failure of crops, they will find it very hard to

former poppy growers did not know much about substitute-crops and their cultivation methods and partly because of bad weather, the harvest was poor. Therefore, they had hard times. This was what village heads presented to U Phon Kyar Shin and other Kokang leaders. However, no one wants to turn back to the vicious circle of poppy cultivation just because of the problem of livelihood. Therefore, Kokang leaders had to find ways and means to eradicate poppy cultivation and to solve the problem to meet the basic needs of the local people.

When the Head of State heard about the difficulties facing the national people of Kokang region, he had arrangements made to deliver rice and salt as soon as possible. On 28 June, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Khin Maung and three other deputy ministers arrived at Laukkai and handed over 5,000 bags of rice and 100 bags of salt for farmers to U Phon Kyar Shin and other national race leader-

lack of sustenance.

In addition to Kokang region, CCDAC provided 400 bags of rice and 20 bags of salt to Phaunghsai village-tract in Mongkoe region and 600 bags of rice and 30 bags of salt to Manpan village-tract in Tangyan Township. The North-East Command also provided coffee saplings and maize and high-yield paddy seeds and the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation the seeds of vegetables to these village-tracts. As U Phon Kyar Shin said, the amount and value of supplies were not important. Rendering the much-needed help at the right time was a shot in the arm for those trying to eradicate the cultivation of poppy. I strongly believe that, if the local people are determined to overcome whatever difficulty they may encounter and if the Government keeps rendering as much help as it can, the danger of narcotic drugs will be completely rooted out in the entire north-eastern part of the nation.

(Translation: AK+NN)



Deputy Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Brig-Gen Than Tun hands 400 bags of rice and 20 bags of salt to Phong Sai local people's militia leader Duwa Khong Jay.

that it was time they acted resolutely to eliminate narcotic drugs, formed the Kokang Region Narcotic Drugs Elimination Committee. As a follow-up measure, the committee formed various sub-committees to carry out law enforcement and make sure that there

the villages, which usually grew poppy, to prevent them from growing poppy. Ninety persons who were found preparing land in their attempts to grow poppy were seized and then advised to cultivate poppy-substitute crops. Thanks to such strict supervision, the entire Laukkai

of Kokang Region and drew up plans to ensure success of the poppy-substitute crops cultivation. During the poppy cultivation season of 2001, wheat, beans and pulses and potato were put on 941.52 acres and 1,275 bags of chemical fertilizer were provided. Moreover,

Commander inspects regional development tasks

YANGON, 24 July — Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Chairman Commander Maj-Gen Maung Oo attended a ceremony to open and hand over self-reliance new pre-primary school building of Buthidaung Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association in Rakhine State held on 20 July at the school.

It was constructed at a cost of K 5.35 million contributed by locals in the township. Patron of Rakhine State MCWA Supervisory Committee Dr Daw Nyunt Nyunt

Oo, wife of the commander, formally opened the ceremony and the commander unveiled the signboard.

Next, township Peace and Development Council Chairman U San Shwe Aung explained tasks undertaken for the school and handed over the documents relating to the building to Daw Yin Yin Myint, Patron of township MCWA supervisory committee.

Next, the commander extended greetings to 60 students and wife of commander and officials presented exercise books and fed nutritious

meals to them.

On 21 July morning, the commander went to Alodawpyai Monastery and offered Waso robes and offerings to monks led by Chairman of township Sangha Nayaka Committee Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw of Mingla MyoU Pariyatti Monastery Sasana Dhaja Dhammacariya Bhaddanta Ponna.

Next, the commander made an address at Maungtaw Township transplantation skill competition held at monsoon paddy field.

MNA



Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi inspects Well No 17 in Nyaungdon Oil and Gas Field.—ENERGY

Energy Minister inspects Well No 17 in Nyaungdon Oil & Gas Field

YANGON, 24 July — Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, accompanied by officials, arrived at Nyaungdon Oil and Gas Field in Nyaungdon region, Ayeyawady Division, yesterday afternoon.

At the briefing hall, Chief Engineer (Drilling) U Ye Khaung of Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise reported on successful drilling of new well No 17 in Nyaungdon. Managing Director U Sann Lwin gave a supplementary report. The minister fulfilled the requirements for boosting production for local sufficiency of oil and gas and drilling of new wells and laid down future tasks.

Next, the minister gave words of encouragement and presented cash prize to the workers. He inspected progress in drilling well No 17 and production tasks.

Well No 17 produces 5.2 million cubic-feet of natural gas and 72 barrels of condensate oil per day.

At present, 73 million cubic-feet of natural gas and 1,082 barrels of condensate

oil per day are being produced from 17 wells in Nyaungdon oil and natural gas field. The natural gas are being sent to gas turbines in Yangon region through gas pipeline. — MNA



Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe presents exercise books and pencils donated by MNWCWA and cash to officials in Kyaukse.—MNA



Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and party meets with local women at the round table discussion in Kyaukse.—MNA

Communications and hotel works inspected in Bago and Magway Divisions

YANGON, 24 July — Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs and for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, together with officials, inspected Shwe Wah Tun Hotel in Bago and gave necessary instructions on 21 July. Next, the minister inspected the building where auto telephone system will be installed in Nyaunglebin, the telephone office and microwave station in Kyauktaga and Penwegon and telephone exchanges in Pyu and Oktwin and gave necessary instructions.

Next, the minister arrived at Toungoo. He met with Chairman of Bago Division

Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Brig-Gen Ko Ko and coordinated matters on extended installation of auto telephones and better communication of trunk call in Toungoo. Afterwards, the minister went to Pyinmana and inspected auto exchange and gave instructions on extended installation of telephone lines.

The minister paid homage to Aungmyinzeaya Pagoda in Taungdwingyi, Magway Division, on 22 July

and fulfilled the requirements for the renovation of the pagoda. The minister inspected auto telephone exchange in Aunglan.

On 23 July, the minister gave necessary instructions when he inspected the auto exchange in Pyay. The minister also inspected telephone exchanges and microwave stations in Paungde, Zeegon and Taikykyi and left instructions on extended installations of telephones and better communications.

MNA

Do not be frightened whenever intimidated

Women are to expose...

(from page 1)

country. As a result of building roads and bridges, all the national races have easy access from one place to another and gain more national unity.

The Government is undertaking promotion of the education sector for developing human resource. Likewise, the Government is carrying out uplift of the health standard by upgrading hospitals, appointment of more surgeons and sending students to foreign countries to pursue advanced medical studies. In addition, five rural development tasks are being implemented. Tasks on availability of clean water, supply of water for cultivation and development of education and health sectors are being undertaken. Realizing genuine goodwill of the State, the women community is to expose human traffickers, who hinder development tasks of women, to be able to take deterrent action against them. As women should not think highly of illegal working in foreign countries, teachers are to admonish the Myanmar women. Myanmar women should take lessons from the fellow women who got into troubles. She urged those present to cooperate with MNCWA to correct

the amorality of some young women. Pure Myanmar women should take pride in their being Myanmar nationals.

Next, Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe presented exercise books and pencils donated by MNCWA and K 50,000 for the small loans work of the Township WCWA to officials.

Next, Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and party held frank and cordial talks with those present and gave advice and suggestions about their difficulties and problems, and attended to the needs.

They arrived at Meiktila at 3 pm. At the Kandaw Mingala Hall, they met members of working committees for women's affairs of townships, wards and villages in Meiktila, Thazi, Wundwin and Mahlaing townships, representatives of social organizations, departmental female personnel and students, and local people totaling over 450.

Member of Meiktila Township WCWA Daw Hnin Hnin Yee extended greetings.

Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe explained their tour, saying that she took pride in seeing young Myanmar women attired in Myanmar traditional costumes and she was also pleased to see similar young

women in her tour of Kyaukse. She continued to say that she took pride in the performance of Myanmar women equipped with patriotic spirits for the flourishing of the religion and for the development of the people. After enacting a new law, the State had been taking severe actions against human traffickers persuading young women for their self-interests, she said.

She called on the people to expose all the attempts of human traffickers hindering the development of women. The MNCWA in cooperation with the Committee for Prevention Against Trafficking in Persons had been taking effective measures for prevention of violence and grievances against women, she noted.

The MNCWA had made success participating in the tasks to expose human traffickers and to take severe actions against them, she added.

Next, Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe presented exercise books, pencils, and K 50,000 donated by MNCWA for small loans enterprise of township WCWA.

Then, Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and party held frank and cordial discussions with those present and dealt with their difficulties and fulfilled their requirements.

MNA



Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and party meets with local women at the round table discussion in Meiktila.—MNA

Mandalay in course of development

Article & photos by Ni Ni (MNA, Mandalay)



The Mandalay International Airport, decorated with Myanmar handicraft has emerged in TadaU Township, Mandalay Division.

Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council General Khin Nyunt met with members of Mandalay Division, District and Township Peace and Development Councils, departmental officials, members of social organizations and townsenders at the town hall of Mandalay at noon on 7 July and gave instructions on measures related to development of Mandalay. I had the opportunity to attend the ceremony.

In his instructions, Secretary-1 General Khin Nyunt said that earnest efforts are being made to enable Mandalay to keep pace with Yangon City in terms of development. Head of State Senior General Than Shwe also has given guidance on all-round development of Mandalay to be on a par with Yangon City. The instructions and the guidance prompted me to write this article.

Unprecedented progress has been made in Mandalay Division including Mandalay City since 18 September 1988 in which the Tatmadaw assumed the State duty. The progress of Mandalay has been due to relentless and sustained efforts of the regional commander under the guidance of the Head of State.

I published the 72-page documentary book on construction activities in Mandalay Division volume-1 for I had collected many of the facts and the photos on development of Mandalay. The English version of the book was published to enable the tourists who visit Mandalay to study. I managed to publish the documentary book on

construction activities in Mandalay Division volume-2 since progress had been made with added momentum in the division. The Mandalay International Airport which is superior to Yangon International Airport in terms of size, runway, services security and splendour has emerged.

The Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council, ministers and the commander of the Central Command attended the ground-breaking ceremony on 21 March 1994.



The Mandalay International Airport which is superior to Yangon International Airport in terms of size, runway, services security and splendour.

The runway and the airfield as well as drainage were constructed by Public Works and supervised by Marshall Macklin Monaghan of Canada.

Marshall Macklin Monaghan designed the buildings and Italian Thai Development Public Co Ltd of Thailand constructed buildings and other related construction tasks. Pacific Consultants International of Japan supervised the construction tasks as the representative of the Department for Civil Aviation of the Ministry of Transport. The runway of Mandalay International Airport is 14,000 feet long and 200 feet wide. The international airport is 300 feet above the sea level. The air traffic control tower which is 33 meters in height and 500 sq meters in area is systematically built to control 30,000 to 45,000 aircraft a year.

The airport building has been decorated with Myanmar handicrafts and provided with modern techniques.

Mandalay International Airport was opened by Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Vice-Senior General Maung Aye at 7.30 am on 17 September 2000. Aircraft from domestic airlines such as Boeing 737 of Myanmar Airways, Yangon Airways and Air Mandalay, and international airline MAI landed at the airport that day. On the opening day, a Boeing 747-400 from Thailand, a Boeing 747-400 from All Nippon, and ATR 72 from Bangkok Airways arrived there to attend the ceremony. The Orbit DC-10 arrived at the airport on 15 November 2002 and gave treatment to patients with eye complaints on board from 15 November to 15 December 2002.

Aircraft under chartered flights and Boeing 747-400 landed at the airport which is in the heart of Myanmar to study Myanmar rich cultural heritage and ancient architectural edifices.

(Translation: TS + KKK)

Pakokku Textile and Garment Factory

Article by Sein Shwe Hlaing & Photos by Aung Myat Kyaw (Industry-1)



The warehouse for finished goods.

Pakokku, one of the 24 Development Regions, has become popular under the name of the City of the west bank of Ayeyawady River. The region 75 miles southwest of Mandalay has also emerged as the Pakokku Industrial Zone.

The emergence of ChaungU-Hshinbyushin Bridge across Chindwin River, and Chauk-Anawrahta Bridge and Magway Bridge across Ayeyawady River ensures an easy access to Pakokku from the regions on eastern bank of the Ayeyawady River in Sagaing Division. The Pakokku Airport Construction Project is nearly completed. On completion, the region will enjoy fruitful results of better transport. In Pakokku Industrial Zone, the textile and garment factory is going to emerge soon in Pakokku rapidly gaining development momentum. There has also emerged the Cotton Belt contributing much towards the textile factories.

The Pakokku Textile and Garment Factory Construction Project is located in the industrial zone on the road leading to the Shwetantit Pagoda near Kywete Vil-

lage three miles from Pakokku in Magway Division. Myanmar and Tianjin Machinery Import & Export Corporation of China signed the agreement on construction of the factory on 20 June 2001. The factory was constructed at a cost of K 6,080,467 million plus US\$ 23,355,378.34. The production process will start in May 2004. It can produce 3.76 million pounds of 1/32 thread and 11.34 million yards of 1/32 cotton fabrics.

At the same time, two more similar factories are being constructed in Salingyi and Pwintbyu.

Since 1999, measures have been taken for providing enough raw materials to already-built textile and garment factories and the ones under construction. In conformity with the guidance of the Head of State, cotton is cultivated in the Cotton Belt stretching 648,000 acres stretching from Thayet in Magway Division on the west bank of Ayeyawady River to Salingyi in Sagaing Division on the west bank of Chindwin River. It is expected to produce some 179,000 metric tons of long staple cotton



The building to house the boiler.



The water tank is under construction.

a year. The produce will be provided to the factories being built in Pakokku, Salingyi and Pwintbyu and the ones to be constructed in Aunglan, Myingyan and Shwebo.

On completion, the Pakokku Textile and Garment Factory will create job opportunities for about 3,793 staff on three eight-hour shifts. Thus, the factory will help Pakokku speed up industrial development momentum.

(Translation: MS)
(Myanmar Alin, 24-7-2003)

Implementation of projects for equitable development of regions in the country



Panglong University was built in honour of the Panglong Region where Union Spirit was conceived. The university is a symbol of endeavours made by the State Peace and Development Council for equitable development of all regions in the nation and for national unity.



Power is supplied to Mone Creek Multi-purpose Dam project through the power station in Chauk.



Shanywa River Water Pumping Station in Lewe Township, Mandalay Division. The station benefits 4,000 acres of farmland.

Engineers of Myanma Railways successfully built the 5,610 feet long Ponnyataung Tunnel on ChaungU-Pakokku-Gangaw-Kalay Railroad.

Development of a region depends on easy access to the region. The photo (right) shows the Gyaing (Kawkaik) Bridge that serves the interests of the people in Kayin State.



Myanmar women engineers of the Ministry of Consturciton have opened a new page in history. They successfully built the Yenwe Creek Bridge with the length of 360 feet in Pyuntaza Township, Bago Division.



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Singapore donates SARS detectors to Indonesia

JAKARTA, 24 July — Singapore's Transportation Minister Yeo Cheow Tong handed over four severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) detectors to his Indonesian counterpart Agum Gumelar.

The SARS detectors will be stationed at the Soekarno Hatta International Airport in Jakarta, state news agency Antara reported Wednesday.

Yeo Cheow Tong, in his speech, said the detectors are important in efforts to cope with the possible

reemergence of the disease, although Indonesia had not been declared a SARS-affected country during the regional outbreak of the disease earlier this year.

Indonesia's Health Minister Achmad Sujudi, who was also present at the ceremony, noted that although the SARS epidemic in the Asian region is over, countries need SARS detectors to anticipate the possible reemergence of the disease.

MNA/Xinhua

Turkish FM dismisses secret agreement with US

ANKARA, 24 July — News report claiming that a secret agreement was signed between Turkey and the United States was baseless, the Turkish Foreign Ministry stated on Tuesday.

"A news story was published in the *Aydinlik* magazine on July 20, 2003, claiming that a secret agreement was signed between Turkey and the United States during the visit of US Secretary of State Colin Powell to Turkey on April 2, 2003.

This news story is totally baseless," said the ministry in a written statement.

"The issues on which an agreement was reached between the two sides were announced to the public opinion at a joint Press conference held by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul and US Secretary of State Colin Powell.

"These issues include establishment of a logistic supply line in order to meet requirements of coalition troops in Iraq via Turkey and cooperation between Turkey and the United States to send humanitarian aid to Iraqi people," the statement

said. "The Turkish and the US sides also agreed on medical treatment of members of the coalition forces in hospitals in Turkey, and coalition forces' planes using Turkish airports for emergency landing," it added. The statement appears to be aimed at clarifying Turkey's position regarding despatch of troops to Iraq. Gul said Monday if the issue of troops despatch would not be realized within the framework of United Nations or NATO, the government would need a fresh authorization by Parliament. — MNA/Xinhua

မြန်မာအသံနှင့်ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားအတွက်

လိုအပ်သော စက်ပစ္စည်းများဝယ်ယူရန် တင်ဒါခေါ်ယူခြင်း

၁။ မြန်မာအသံနှင့်ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား၊ ရေကူးအသံလွှင့်စက်ရုံတွင် တပ်ဆင်အသုံးပြုရန် အတွက် အောက်ဖော်ပြပါ စက်ပစ္စည်းများကို အမေရိကန်ဒေါ်လာဖြင့် ဝယ်ယူလိုပါသည် -

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၃။ တင်ဒါပုံစံနှင့် အသေးစိတ်အချက်အလက်များကို အောက်ပါလိပ်စာတွင်လာရောက် ဝယ်ယူနိုင်ပါသည်။

ပြည်တွင်း/ပြည်ပပစ္စည်းများဝယ်ယူရေးနှင့်ထွန်းချေးရေးကော်မတီ

ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

အမှတ် ၃၆၇/၃၆၇၊ ဗိုလ်အောင်ကျော်လမ်း၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့

ဖု- ၂၄၅၆၄၅၊ ၂၄၅၆၅၀

မညာရေးနှင့် ခေတ်မီပို့ပြီးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်ဖို့

China to contribute to Asia's prosperity

DALIAN, 24 July—China is influencing Asia's economy with its rapid progress and advanced measures, and it will contribute to the prosperity of the region, George Yeo Yong Boon, Minister of Trade and Industry of Singapore, told *Xinhua* here Tuesday.

China has seen annual economic growth of 9 per cent in the past 10 years, which accounts for 50 per cent of the growth of world trade, said the minister, who attended the Asia-Europe High Level Economic Forum, a prelude to the upcoming 5th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Economic Ministers' Meeting (EMM).

The two most important factors contributing to rapid economic progress are the

political will to persist in economic development, and the willingness to learn from other countries. Chinese leaders have always attached great importance to economic development, which has become a priority task for the government, he pointed out.

The establishment of a broad-based tax system, a rational social security and health care system, and a regional framework of peace and cooperation will create

favourable conditions for China's continuing economic development for decades to come, he said.

The eruption of the Asian Financial Crisis in 1997 caused an increasing number of Southeast Asian countries to take notice of China's increasing economic competitiveness. In 2000, China's proposal to create a Free Trade Agreement between China and the Association of South-East

Asian Nations (ASEAN) was a wise and brilliant initiative that will help to secure long-term peace and development in the region.

He also expressed his hope that China will play a leadership role in the new round of WTO negotiations to help other Asian countries achieve their goals.

"China has set an example for Asian countries in terms of its economy," he said. —MNA/Xinhua

China fights waste in science and technology

BEIJING, 24 July—The Chinese government has set up a watchdog body to stop wasteful spending in scientific research and to promote the national sharing of resources.

The Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) initiated the body, an inter-ministry joint conference, which is expected to coordinate and oversee the purchasing of expensive laboratory equipment, database building and responsible use of life science resources.

At the inauguration of the joint conference, attended by representatives of 16 ministerial organizations, on Wednesday afternoon, Liu Yanhua, Vice-Science Minister, said China's annual investment in research is only 4.7 per cent that of the United States, but squandered money in repetitive purchases of laboratory equipment.

For example, Liu said, US scientists shared only 16 moderate-resolution imaging spectroradiometer (MODIS) receivers, a kind of equipment for receiving data from remote sensing satellite, but China already had 17 and ordered another 80, which is a typical waste. —MNA/Xinhua



A boy looks at the engine of a car with his father at the Third Changchun International Automobile Fair in Changchun, northeast China's Jilin Province, on 22 July, 2003. Many manufacturers make full use of the fair to popularize the knowledge of the automobiles. — XINHUA PHOTO

Chinese translation of international best-seller debuts

BEIJING, 24 July—The Chinese translation of an international best-seller written by France-based Chinese writer Dai Sijie has been published in China, following completion of a film of the novel shot in the Chinese language in 2002.

An autobiographical novel of Dai Sijie, *Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress* is the story of two boys who are sent to Phoenix Mountain in the southwestern Sichuan Province for re-education by farmers during the Cultural Revolution (1965-1975).

They while away the days of peasant life with a violin, a beautiful daughter of a local tailor and a hidden stash of Western classics in Chinese translation.

In their forbidden

books, the boys find a passage to worlds that they had thought lost forever. Meanwhile, after listening to the boys' vivid retellings of Balzac and his contemporaries, even the *Little Seamstress* is deeply touched and forever transformed.

Dai Sijie is a filmmaker who was himself reeducated between 1971-1974. He left China in 1984 for France, where he has lived and worked ever since.

Balzac and the Little Seamstress, Dai's first novel and originally written in

French, was an overnight sensation when it was published in France by Gallimard publishing house in 2000 and reported sales of 500,000 copies.

Over 300,000 copies of the English translation of the book have been sold so far and rights to the novel have been sold to 20-plus countries.

The international best-seller was translated by Yu Zhongxian, a well-known Chinese translator and Chief Editor of the magazine *World Literature*. — MNA/Xinhua

World Bank, IDB provide \$675m in loans to Peru

LIMA, 24 July—The World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) agreed to provide 675 million US dollars in loans to Peru for its social projects and poverty elimination programmes, a Peruvian radio station reported on Tuesday.

Peruvian Economy and Finance Minister Javier Silva, who was in Washington for a visit, told the radio that the World Bank approved a 300-million-dollar loan for the country's anti-poverty projects, economic growth and decentralization programmes.

The World Bank's loan will be delivered in two parts and respective agreements will be signed in October and December this year.

Silva said 150 million of the World Bank's loan

will be channelled into social programmes and the rest be used to boost economic growth in Peru.

He also said the IDB agreed to give Peru an additional 300 million dollars to help raise its economic competitiveness and 75 million dollars more for popular housing projects.

During his stay in Washington, Silva met officials of the US Treasury Department and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

MNA/Xinhua

Population in Southern Africa to drop by 22% due to "AIDS"

JOHANNESBURG, 24 July—The population of HIV/AIDS-ravaged southern Africa is expected to decline by 22 per cent by 2050, according to a study published in Cape Town on Tuesday.

The latest world population data sheet of the United States-based Population Reference Bureau (PRB) estimates South Africa's population will drop from 44 million this year to 35.1 million in 2050, and to 32.5 million in 2050 — a 26-per-cent decline.

It gives an estimated percentage of South Africans between the ages of 15 and 49 with HIV/AIDS at the end of 2001 as 20.1 per cent, and life expectancy at present mortality rates at 53 for men and 54 for women.

Botswana's population is also expected to go down by 43 per cent from the current 1.5 million to 0.9 million by 2050, while slight increases are expected in

Namibia and Lesotho's populations, the PRB report says.

An estimated 38.8 per cent of Botswana's citizens have HIV/AIDS.

South Africa's current rate of natural increase — the birth rate minus the death rate — is the second lowest on the continent at 0.9 per cent, second only to Botswana's 0.3 per cent.

The Central African Republic is expected to be the fastest-growing region in the first half of the 21st Century. It will grow to 193 per cent compared to its current size by 2050.

Western Africa follows, increasing to 142 per cent of its 2003 population.

MNA/Xinhua



A fire engine leaves after a fire on the Eiffel Tower in central Paris was put out on 22 July, 2003. The fire broke out on the top floor of the Eiffel Tower Tuesday, with no casualties reported. Police said the fire was caused by a short-circuit. — XINHUA

သစ်ပင်စိုက်ပါ။ ပျားမွေးပါ။
နှစ်ခြွှာအကျိုး၊ ဆထမ်းပိုး။

SPORTS

United reinvigorated by title win, says Ferguson

SEATTLE, 24 July — Alex Ferguson believes Manchester United's title triumph last season has given his players the motivation to dominate English and European football once more.

United lost the 2001-02 championship to Arsenal and trailed the north London club again last season before roaring back in the second half of the campaign to claim their eighth title in 11 years.

"The best thing that could have happened to the players was winning the league," Ferguson told reporters on Tuesday. "It reinvigorated them...it brought back to

them exactly what they were as a football team."

After losing 3-1 to derby rivals Manchester City in November last year, Ferguson publicly questioned his players' desire as they were written off by most critics. "Character shows on the pitch and we saw that last year with my players," the Scottish-born coach said.

Arsene Wenger, the Arsenal manager, said last year that he felt his side could go through the season unbeaten, but Ferguson said: "You will have your blips."

"No one goes through the season (without losing)... what you want is consistency," Ferguson missed out on Brazilian Ronaldo last weekend, when the forward signed for Barcelona, but he insists he is not worried about

his players' ability to flourish in the Champions League.

After winning the European Cup in 1999, United have failed to reach another final. "I don't think we're predictable (as a team)," he said. "We won the league last term with the players we've already got."

Ronaldinho's compatriot, Kleberson, is set to complete his United move when their tour of the United States ends, and Ferguson was eager to talk about his new 24-year-old midfielder.

"He's the right age for us," said Ferguson. "He's one of the more progressive players in Brazil."

"He's athletic, aggressive and quick. He will complement the collection of young players we have coming through." —MNA/Reuters

Hiddink the real winner in Peace Cup tourney

SEOUL, 24 July — Dutch champions PSV Eindhoven lifted the Peace Cup pre-season tournament on Tuesday but their coach Guus Hiddink was the real winner, once again, with South Korea's ever-enthusiastic fans.

A first-half penalty from Mark van Bommel gave PSV the two-million-US-dollar prize against French champions Olympique Lyon in a match that looked as if it was being played in a rice paddy rather than Asia's largest soccer-only stadium.

It was in the stadium where

South Korea's incredible World Cup run under Dutchman Hiddink ended when they lost in their World Cup semifinal to Germany last year — still the furthest any Asian side has gone in the tournament.

"I had the experience and joy from last year. It was not in the same measure as last year but it was a nice memory to come back," Hiddink told reporters. "Being here now playing football in this stadium, in this country, I enjoyed it very much," he said. "It was a kind of memory which was very sweet."

Most of the fans seemed to be cheering for PSV, including a block of Koreans behind one goal in PSV kit where the South Korean "Red Devil" fans would normally stand for an international. "This is another chance to go 'back to the past'. I am very excited to see Hiddink once again," said Choi Joon-sung, a 26-year-old student. "He'll always be welcome here."

The Peace Cup, which comprised eight clubs from five continents, was backed by the Reverend Moon Sunmyung's Unification Church, whose followers are commonly known as "Moonies" after their founder. But it was Hiddink in the spotlight on Tuesday, not Moon.

"The flutter of his wings will rule the world," read one banner in Korean. But Hiddink took a down-to-earth approach to the adulation. "What I feel is a warm welcome every time I touch Korean soil... I don't consider myself a hero in that sense of the word," he said. "There are many 'heroes' who don't have the publicity I had last year."

MNA/Reuters

S Korean striker frustrated by transfer saga

TOKYO, 24 July — South Korea's Ahn Jung-hwan, based in Japan but anxious to return to Europe, says he is frustrated by not knowing where he will play next season. "There has been a lot of transfer talk recently but I am trying to put it out of my mind and stay positive. I need a break from it," the striker, who is being linked with Spanish First Division club Real Mallorca, told his official web site.

Disagreements between representatives of Ahn in Japan and South Korea, along with financial complications, have dragged out talks with a handful of European clubs in recent months.

Ahn, whose goals helped co-hosts South Korea reach the semifinals of the 2002 World Cup, joined J-League side Shimizu S-Pulse last September after an acrimonious split from Italian club Perugia. A move to English Premier League club Blackburn Rovers collapsed last August due to visa problems and talks with Spanish side Atletico Madrid broke down earlier this year.

German clubs Hertha Berlin and Schalke 04 have also shown interest in the 27-year-old but Real Mallorca appear favourites to sign the forward in a 2.5-million-US-dollar deal. —MNA/Reuters

Figueroa agrees five-year deal with Birmingham

BIRMINGHAM (England), 24 July — Birmingham City completed the signing of Argentine striker Luciano Figueroa on Wednesday after the 22-year-old agreed a five-year contract with the English Premier League club.

Birmingham had agreed a fee of 2.5 million pounds (4.01 million US dollars) with Rosario Central for Figueroa, who has just broken into Argentina's senior squad.

Birmingham's official website said Figueroa underwent a medical at St. Andrew's on Wednesday before holding contract talks with managing director Karren Brady. The move is subject to the player gaining international clearance.

"I am very excited at the prospect of playing in the English Premier League with Birmingham City," Figueroa was quoted as saying. "I was very impressed with the ground and the whole set-up and I am looking forward to playing my first game at St. Andrew's."

Birmingham, currently on tour in Malaysia, finished 13th in the Premier League last season under manager Steve Bruce.

Bruce told the club website: "He was the top goal scorer last season in Argentina so we believe that, for the price, he will be a very, very good signing."

Figueroa joins midfielder David Dunn as a new arrival at Birmingham. Dunn was signed from Blackburn for 5.5 million pounds. —MNA/Reuters



Austria's LASK's Matthias Hamann challenges for the ball with AS Roma's Francesco Totti, from left, during a friendly soccer match between LASK and AS Roma on 23 July, 2003 in Linz, Upper Austria. —INTERNET

Sevilla sign Baptista as Brazil exodus continues

RIO DE JANEIRO, 24 July — Sao Paulo midfielder Julio Baptista has agreed terms with Spanish club Sevilla on a 2.8-million-US-dollar transfer deal, the Brazilian club's director of football Juvenal Juvencio said.

Baptista is currently playing in the CONCACAF Gold Cup, where a young Brazilian team meet the United States in their semifinal on Wednesday. The 21-year-old is slated to travel to Spain as soon as the Gold Cup is concluded.

"The deal was a combination of the useful and the acceptable," Juvencio was quoted as saying on Tuesday. "Julio Baptista is a good player, and we respect him, but he wasn't in our first team."

The steady stream of business involving Brazilian players moving abroad has grown more intense than ever since the country's record fifth World Cup victory last year.

The attention of European clubs seems to be moving down the ranks to younger players who have yet to make a name for themselves at international level.

The temptation is usually too much for Brazil's cash-strapped clubs, even those in the middle of a tight championship race.

On Monday, French club Girondins Bordeaux announced the signing of Deivid, whose 15 goals have helped Cruzeiro to the top of the Brazilian championship table.

Two days earlier, Portu-

guese club Sporting Lisbon completed the signing of central defender Anderson Polga from struggling Gremio. The 24-year-old was a member of Brazil's World Cup-winning squad.

Santos have done well to keep their exciting young team together since winning the title earlier this year.

However, five clubs, including Spanish duo Betis and Deportivo Coruna, are in the hunt for striker Ricardo Oliveira, according to the player's agent.

MNA/Reuters

Former Arsenal stalwart Winterburn retires

LONDON, 24 July — Former Arsenal, Wimbledon and West Ham United left back Nigel Winterburn has announced his retirement at the age of 39.

Winterburn, part of Arsenal's famous back four in the late 1980s and 1990s, was released by West Ham at the end of last season after 17 years as a professional.

"At 39 I don't think I'm capable of playing in the Premier League any longer," Winterburn told Sky Sports on Wednesday. "I always said I would like to finish at the top."

MNA/Reuters



Jennifer Capriati lunges for a ball at the net but misses against Marion Bartoli of France during the Bank of the West Classic on 23 July, 2003, at the Taube Tennis Center in Stanford, Calif. Capriati won, 6-2, 4-6, 6-1. —INTERNET

MRTV-3



25-7-2003 (Friday) (Programme Schedule) Morning Transmission (9:00 - 10:00)

- 9:00 Signature Tune
- 9:02 Greetings
- 9:02 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar"
- 9:06 Kyaungtaung Waterfall
- 9:10 **Headline News**
- 9:12 Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes "Chicken with gourd curry bachelor style"
- 9:15 **National News**
- 9:20 Travelogue "Saging"
- 9:25 Magnificent Pindaingsan Dance
- 9:30 **National News**
- 9:35 Reminiscence in the Glow of Sunset
- 9:40 Myanmar Modern Song "Flower Alike"
- 9:45 **National News**
- 9:50 Asian Fantasy Orchestra (ASEAN Tour 2003) (Part-II)
- 9:58 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

25-7-2003 (Friday) Regular Programmes for Viewers from Abroad Evening Transmission (15:30 - 17:30)

- 15:30 Signature Tune
- 15:32 Greetings
- 15:32 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar"
- 15:36 Kyaungtaung Waterfall
- 15:40 **Headline News**
- 15:42 Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes "Chicken with gourd curry bachelor style"
- 15:45 **National News**
- 15:50 Travelogue "Saging"
- 15:55 Magnificent Pindaingsan Dance
- 16:00 **National News**
- 16:05 Reminiscence in the Glow of Sunset
- 16:10 Myanmar Modern Song "Flower Alike"
- 16:15 **National News**
- 16:20 Asian Fantasy Orchestra (ASEAN Tour 2003) (Part-II)
- 16:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar"
- 16:30 **National News**
- 16:35 Clothes decorated with Sequin-like Colourful plastics
- 16:40 Myanmar Cuisine

- 16:45 "Prawn Curry"
- 16:50 **National News**
- 16:50 The Mountain With Antique Stone Sculptures
- 16:55 Lon Yu Festival Dance
- 16:58 Rattan wares and Bamboo Strip Hat
- 17:00 **National News**
- 17:05 Traditional Chin Cuisine
- 17:10 Song "Treasure Land"
- 17:15 **National News**
- 17:20 Towards Speedy Development of Loilem District (Part-I)
- 17:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

Evening Transmission (19:30 - 23:30)

- 19:30 Signature Tune
- 19:32 Greetings
- 19:32 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar"
- 19:36 Butterfly Garden In Yangon
- 19:40 **Headline News**
- 19:42 Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes "Fry bitter gourd with pounded dried Prawn Powder"
- 19:45 **National News**
- 19:50 Fossilized Wood Garden
- 19:55 Dance of the Drums
- 20:00 **National News**
- 20:05 Song "Lovely Dusk"
- 20:10 Bamboo Parquet
- 20:15 **National News**
- 20:20 Asian Fantasy Orchestra (ASEAN Tour 2003) (Part-I)
- 20:25 Myanmar Modern Song "Teat drop Pearl"
- 20:30 **National News**
- 20:35 Chin Cultural Museum
- 20:40 Myanmar Cuisine "Traditional Moun bine daunt"
- 20:45 **National News**
- 20:50 Travel & Description (Lashio to Muse)
- 20:55 Kayah Dance
- 21:00 **National News**
- 21:05 Myanmar Traditional Snacks
- 21:10 Myanmar Modern Song "Flowers in Profusion"
- 21:15 **National News**
- 21:20 Myanmar Gems Mosaic
- 21:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Myanma Panorama & Myanma Sentiment"
- 21:30 Kyaungtaung Waterfall
- 21:40 **Headline News**
- 21:42 Easily Cooked Tasty

- Dishes "Chicken with gourd curry bachelor style"
- 21:45 **National News**
- 21:50 Travelogue "Saging"
- 21:55 Reminiscence in the Glow of Sunset
- 22:00 **National News**
- 22:05 Reminiscence in the Glow of Sunset
- 22:10 Myanmar Modern Song "Flower Alike"
- 22:15 **National News**
- 22:20 Asian Fantasy Orchestra (ASEAN Tour 2003) (Part-II)
- 22:25 Songs On Screen "Where does love begin?"
- 22:30 **National News**
- 22:35 Clothes decorated with Sequin-like Colourful plastics
- 22:40 Myanmar Cuisine "Prawn Curry"
- 22:45 **National News**
- 22:50 The Mountain With Antique Stone Sculptures
- 22:55 Lon Yu Festival Dance
- 22:58 Rattan wares and Bamboo Strip Hat
- 23:00 **National News**
- 23:05 Traditional Chin Cuisine
- 23:10 Song "Treasure Land"
- 23:15 **National News**
- 23:20 Towards Speedy Development of Loilem District (Part-I)
- 23:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

25-7-2003 (Friday) & 26-7-2003 (Saturday) Evening & Morning Transmissions (23:30 - 01:30)

- 23:30 Signature Tune
- 23:32 Greetings
- 23:32 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar"
- 23:36 Kyaungtaung Waterfall
- 23:40 **Headline News**
- 23:42 Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes "Chicken with gourd curry bachelor style"
- 23:45 **National News**
- 23:50 Travelogue "Saging"
- 23:55 Magnificent Pindaingsan Dance
- 24:00 **National News**
- 00:05 Reminiscence in the Glow of Sunset
- 00:10 Myanmar Modern Song "Flower Alike"
- 00:15 **National News**
- 00:20 Asian Fantasy Orchestra (ASEAN Tour 2003) (Part-II)
- 00:25 Song On Screen

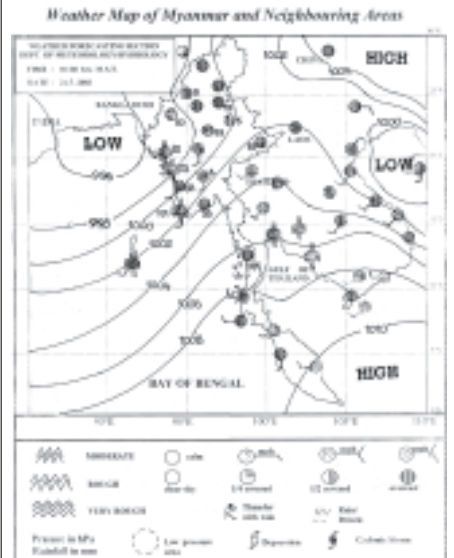
- "Where does love begin?"
- 00:30 **National News**
- 00:35 Clothes decorated with Sequin-like Colourful plastics
- 00:40 Myanmar Cuisine "Prawn Curry"
- 00:45 **National News**
- 00:50 The Mountain With Antique Stone Sculptures
- 00:55 Lon Yu Festival Dance
- 00:58 Rattan wares and Bamboo Strip Hat
- 01:00 **National News**
- 01:05 Traditional Chin Cuisine
- 01:10 Song "Treasure Land"
- 01:15 **National News**
- 01:20 Towards Speedy Development of Loilem District (Part-I)
- 01:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

26-7-2003 (Saturday) Morning Transmission (03:30 - 07:30)

- 03:30 Signature Tune
- 03:32 Greetings
- 03:32 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Myanma Panorama & Myanma Sentiment"
- 03:36 Butterfly Garden In Yangon
- 03:40 **Headline News**
- 03:42 Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes "Fry bitter gourd with pounded dried prawn powder"
- 03:45 **National News**
- 03:50 Fossilized Wood Garden
- 03:55 Dance of the Drums
- 04:00 **National News**
- 04:05 Song "Lovely Dusk"
- 04:10 Bamboo Parquet
- 04:15 **National News**
- 04:20 Asian Fantasy Orchestra (ASEAN Tour 2003) (Part-I)
- 04:25 Myanmar Modern Song "Teat drop Pearl"
- 04:30 **National News**
- 04:35 Chin Cultural Museum
- 04:40 Myanmar Cuisine "Traditional Moun bine daunt"
- 04:45 **National News**
- 04:50 Travel & Description (Lashio to Muse)
- 04:55 Kayah Dance
- 05:00 **National News**
- 05:05 Myanmar Traditional Snack
- 05:10 Myanmar Modern Song "Flowers in Profusion"
- 05:15 **National News**
- 05:20 Myanmar Gems Mosaic
- 05:25 Song of Myanmar

- Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar"
- 05:35 Kyaungtaung Waterfall
- 05:40 **Headline News**
- 05:42 Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes "Chicken with gourd curry bachelor style"
- 05:45 **National News**
- 05:50 Travelogue "Saging"
- 05:55 Magnificent Pindaingsan Dance
- 06:00 **National News**
- 06:05 Reminiscence in the Glow of Sunset
- 06:10 Myanmar Modern Song "Flower Alike"
- 06:15 **National News**
- 06:20 Asian Fantasy Orchestra (ASEAN Tour 2003) (Part-II)
- 06:25 Song On Screen "Where does love begin?"
- 06:30 **National News**

- 06:35 Clothes decorated with Sequin-like Colourful plastics
- 06:40 Myanmar Cuisine "Prawn Curry"
- 06:45 **National News**
- 06:50 The Mountain With Antique Stone Sculptures
- 06:55 Lon Yu Festival Dance
- 06:58 Rattan wares and Bamboo Strip Hat
- 07:00 **National News**
- 07:05 Traditional Chin Cuisine
- 07:10 Song "Treasure Land"
- 07:15 **National News**
- 07:20 Towards Speedy Development of Loilem District (Part-I)
- 07:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"



WEATHER

Thursday, 24 July, 2003

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:
During the past 24 hours, rain has been scattered in Kachin State, upper Sagaing, Magway and Taninthayi Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with locally heavyfalls in Mon State, Mandalay and Ayeyawady Divisions and isolated heavyfalls in Rakhine and Kayah States. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Patheingyi (6.49) inches, Ye (6.22) inches, Pyin Oo Lwin (5.63) inches, Hpa-an (5.16) inches, Mawlamyine (3.43) inches, Kyaikpyu (3.31) inches and Mudon (3.11) inches.

Maximum temperature on 23-7-2003 was 30.5°C (87°F). Minimum temperature on 24-7-2003 was 20.2°C (68°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 24-7-2003 was 100%. Total sunshine hours on 23-7-2003 was (2.7) hours approx. Rainfall on 24-7-2003 was 50 mm at Yangon Airport, 39 mm at Kaba-Aye and 69 mm at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2003 was 1180 mm (46.46 inches) at Yangon Airport, 1327 mm (52.24) inches at Kaba-Aye and 1331 mm (52.40) inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 19 mph from Southwest at (08:30) hours MST on 24-7-2003.

Bay inference: Moonsoon is vigorous in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 25-7-2003: Rain will be scattered in Kachin, Shan and Kayah States, Mandalay and Magway Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfalls in Coastal areas. Degree of certainty is (100%).

State of the sea: Temporary rough seas with squalls will be experienced off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface windspeed in squalls may reach (35) to (40) mph.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Strong to vigorous monsoon.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 25-7-2003: Intermittent rain which may be heavy at times. Degree of certainty is (100%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 25-7-2003: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

New Rainfall Record

(Issued at 11:00 hrs MST on 24th July, 2003)
The amount of rainfall 143mm (5.63 inches) observed at (09:30) hrs M.S.T today at Pyin Oo Lwin is the July (24) hours new maximum rainfall record for Pyin Oo Lwin during the last (12) years.

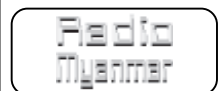


View today:
Friday, July 25

- 7:00 am
- 1. စော့ဇွန်မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃမဟာ နာယကအဖွဲ့အစည်းတော်ဘောင်ဇနီ အဘိဓမ္မောဋ္ဌရုံမှ အဘိဓမ္မာမဟာသဒ္ဓမ္မဇာတ်ကတိပိဋကဓရ ဓမ္မဉာဏာရီနိတ ဆရာတော်ဘုရား ဝိမိတ္တာဘုရားသစ် ဝရိတ် ဘုရားတော်
- 7:25 am
- 2. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am
- 3. Morning news
- 7:40 am
- 4. Nice and sweet song
- 7:55 am
- 5. လှပစွာပုံပြင်စိတ်ချမ်းသာ
- 8:05 am
- 6. The mirror images of the Musical Oldies

- 8:15 am
- 7. Musical programme
- 8:30 am
- 8. International news
- 8:45 am
- 9. English for Everyday Use
- 4:00 pm
- 1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm
- 2. Song to uphold National Spirit
- 4:30 pm
- 3. Practice in Reading
- 4:45 pm
- 4. Musical programme
- 4:55 pm
- 5. အစားအသောက်ကျွမ်းကျင်သူများ ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်တန်းစာ တတ်ယူနစ် (သတ္တဗေဒ) (သတ္တဗေဒ)
- 5:10 pm
- 6. "မွန်ဦးကြွေးသံသွေး" စည်းသတ်နိဗ္ဗာန် လှိုင်သွယ်သွယ်ထွန်း၊ သုဇော်၊ သက်တော့၊ ခါရိုက်တာဇေမိုင်းညို (မွန်ဘာသာစကားပြန်)
- 5:30 pm
- 7. မြို့မြို့ကြွကြွယဉ်ကျေးမှုအက

- 5:45 pm
- 8. ရည်စူးစုစုံမှန် အားကစားအကြောင်း
- 5:55 pm
- 9. Musical programme
- 6:10 pm
- 10. Discovery
- 6:30 pm
- 11. Evening news
- 7:00 pm
- 12. Weather report
- 7:05 pm
- 13. ကြည်နူးလျှော်စင်ဟာသရုပ်
- 7:20 pm
- 14. Song of yester years
- 7:35 pm
- 15. တိုင်းကျိုးပြည်ပြည်တော်စု
- 8:00 pm
- 16. News
- 17. International news
- 18. Weather report
- 19. Myanmar video feature: "မင်္ဂလာတောင်အောင်သစ်ပေးမယ်" (မင်းမင်း-ဂျ) ကျော်ဟိန်း၊ မိုးမိုး၊ ဝန်မြ၊ ခါရိုက်တာ-မောင်မောင်ဦး (မွန်ဦး)
- 22. The next day's programme



Friday, July 25
Tune in today:

- 8:30 am Brief news
- 8:35 am Music
- 8:40 am Perspectives
- 8:45 am Music
- 8:50 am National news/Slogan
- 9:00 am Music
- 9:05 am International news
- 9:10 am Music
- 9:15 am News/Slogan
- 1:30 pm Lunch time music
- 1:40 pm "I'll Be There .. Club 7 -Brighter Days .. Ronan Keating
- 9:00 pm World of Music
- 9:15 pm Article/Music
- 9:25 pm Music at your request
- 9:45 pm News/Slogan
- 10:00 pm Portfolio for easy listening

Commander inspects producers' tax-free markets in Yangon

YANGON, 24 July — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, accompanied by military region commanders, local authorities and officials of Yangon City Development Committee, this morning inspected the tax-free market on Pantra Street in Dagon Township, Hanthawady Tax-free Market at the corner of Hanthawady and Kyundaw Streets in Kamayut Township, Konmyinthar Tax-free Market in Mayangon Township, Nawaday Tax-free Market on Kaba-Aye Pagoda Road, Yankin Tax-free Market in Yankin Township, and Tamway Tax-free Market on Kyaikkasan Street in Tamway Township.

In his tour, the commander inspected sales at the shops of respective ministries, departments, YCDC, Yangon Command, local regiments and units, Myanmar Rice Wholesalers' Association, Myanmar Oil Merchants' Association and other shops. He gave instructions, saying that measures have been taken for producers to take stalls on first-come-first-served basis with no need to pay taxes for enabling the Yangonites to consume fresh vegetables, meat and fish. In order to accomplish the aim of opening the tax-free markets, he added that officials are to supervise the shops for ensuring correct weight and sales of fresh vegetables, fish and meat. He called for tasks to be carried out systematically for cleanliness of the markets and proper drainage.

MNA

Minister inspects Bilin Sugar Mill, sugarcane plantations

YANGON, 24 July — Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin yesterday inspected Kyonhtaw sluice gate being constructed by Irrigation Department on Kyonhtaw Creek in Thaton Township and monsoon paddy plantations on either side of the creek.

The sluice gate will irrigate over 22,000 acres of land.

Next, the minister discussed matters on condition of creeks in the Thaton District, supply of irrigation water in summer, extended cultivation of paddy, with Thaton District Peace and Development Council Chairman Lt-Col Tin Aung and Mon State agriculture coordination committee members. Next, he saw over construction of the sluice gate. Officials concerned reported on construction tasks.

Afterwards, Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin proceeded to Institute of Agriculture and met with teachers and students. He next inspected thriving sugarcane plantations in Daukyak region in Bilin Township.

At No 14 Bilin Sugar Mill, he gave instructions to officials and staff of Myanma Sugarcane Enterprise on boosting production of sugarcane. Next, the minister inspected overhaul of machinery at the mill and urged the officials to boost production of quality sugar. — MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung inspect sales of Win Thuza Shop of Ministry of Industry-1 in Hlinethaya Township on 23-7-2003. (News reported) — INDUSTRY-1

Commander, Minister inspect agriculture, construction tasks in Kyaikto, Paung

YANGON, 24 July — Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin, accompanied by departmental officials, inspected 100 acres of quality Manaw Thukha paddy strain, paddy plantations of Myanma Agriculture Service and making and use of azola fertilizer in Mayin Village, Bago Township, on 22 July morning.

The minister gave instructions to members of the Division Agricultural Coordination Committee on timely growing of monsoon paddy for exceeding the target, yield of 100 baskets of per acre and dissemination of agricultural technology on cultivation of highyield paddy.

Next, the minister saw

over cultivation of quality paddy species.

Afterwards, the minister and party proceeded to Ingabo Oil Palm Farm in Kyaikto Township, Mon State. Officials reported on growing of oil palm and production of raw palm oil.

The minister gave instructions on nurturing tasks for good yield of oil palm

bunch and extended growing of oil palm. Next, the minister went to the palm oil mill and inspected production of raw palm oil. The mill manager reported on requirement of highly-powered mill which can produce 1.5 tons of raw palm oil per hour, manufacturing of 23 parts of the mill by

(see page 2)

Roads and bridges inspected in Ayeyawady Division

YANGON, 24 July — Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, together with officials of Public Works, inspected maintenance work of road sections on Yangon-Pathein Road being undertaken by the road special groups (16) and (4) of Yangon North District yesterday.

Afterwards, the minister

and party inspected the works being carried out for the proper drainage along the road section from Kankale junction to Darka Bridge and from Darka Bridge to Pathein on Yangon-Pathein road and maintenance works.

On arrival at the work site of Ngawun Bridge (Pathein) being constructed by the bridge construction special

group (8) of Public Works, Deputy Superintending Engineer U Khin Maung Win in-charge of the project reported to the minister and party on arrival of the machinery and arrangements for holding the stake-driving ceremony of the bridge. After hearing the reports, the minister gave necessary instructions and inspected the work

site.

Ngawun Bridge (Pathein) is being constructed across Ngawun River linking Mayanchaung Village and Kanni Village. On completion, the people can easily travel from Pathein to Chaungtha and Ngwe Hsaung beaches and to Thabaung in a short time.

MNA



A heavy truck rolling on the mountain road section of the Mandalay-Lashio-Muse Road, an important facility helping promote Myanmar's border trade with the People's Republic of China, and develop a large region covering the northern Shan State especially the border areas, with Muse, a border town, at the centre.

ISD volleyball tourney continues

YANGON, 24 July — The 33rd inter-state/division men's and women's volleyball tournament continued at Aung San Gymnasium here this morning.

In the men's event, Sagaing Division beat Mandalay Division 3-1, Mon State beat Ayeyawady Division 3-2 and Yangon Division beat Bago Division 3-0.

Taninthayi Division beat Sagaing Division 3-1 and Mon State beat Yangon Division 3-1 in women's event.

Shan State (South) will meet with Magway Division, Shan State (North) with Mon State and Kachin State with Taninthayi Division in the men's event and Ayeyawady Division with Bago Division in the women's event at the same venue tomorrow.

MNA