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*Vice-Senior General Maung Aye receives Defence & Army Attaché of the United States of America to the Union of Myanmar Col Michael A Norton at Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyinthta.—MNA*

## Vice-Senior General Maung Aye receives US Defence & Army Attachés

YANGON, 28 July — Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye received Defence & Army Attaché of the United States of America to the Union of Myanmar Col Michael A Norton at Zeyathiri

Beikman on Konmyinthta at 3.30 pm today.

Also present at the call were Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Chief of Military Intelligence General Khin Nyunt, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Kyi Min and Commander-in-Chief (Air) Maj-Gen Myat Hein.—MNA



*Secretary-1 General Khin Nyunt speaking at the opening ceremony of Myanmar International Freight Forwarders' Association.—MNA*

## The birth of Myanmar International Freight Forwarders' Association will be a shot in the arms of national forces

### Secretary-1 General Khin Nyunt attends opening of MIFFA

YANGON, 28 July — The opening of Myanmar International Freight Forwarders' Association (MIFFA) was

held at the Sedona Hotel on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road here this afternoon, with an address by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council General Khin Nyunt.

Present on the occasion were the ministers, the attorney-general, the auditor-general, the Yangon mayor, the deputy ministers, ambassadors of the embassies in Yangon, responsible personnel of the State Peace and Development Council Of-

fice, departmental heads, entrepreneurs, and the patron, the chairman, the vice-chairman and officials of the MIFFA.

Speaking on the occasion, Secretary-1 General Khin Nyunt said that as is known to all, the Government is making efforts to cement the national economic life in order that the Union of Myanmar can stand tall and proud amidst international community and keep abreast with the nations of the world.

In the drive to develop the nation through the strong national economic

life, it will be of necessity to build consolidated national forces in every economic sector. Only then will it be possible for the national development to be on the right track promising national interests.

At a time when the Government in every approach is giving encouragement to national forces capable of promoting national interests, the birth of the MIFFA will be a shot in the arm of national forces.

Nowadays, the Government places emphasis on effectively promoting the national interests, in other

words, the interests of the entire people, for the development of national economic infrastructures as well as for harmonious progress between the State-owned economic forces and the private ones so that the Union of Myanmar and its people can catch up with the international community in terms of development.

Thanks to the assistance rendered by the Government, there has been steady progress in agricultural businesses, industries and trading companies owned by national entrepreneurs in the private sector.

As the Government is taking measures to enhance economic cooperation and business transactions with international community, there have been more contacts with international economic organizations not only in the State sector but also in the private sector.

Moreover, arrangements are under way to promote regional economic cooperation by creating special trade areas like the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) and bilateral trade opportunities like the Accounting Trade System.

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#### Circulation

24,190

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

## PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 29 July, 2003

### To ensure consolidation of national economy

"The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples" is one of the four economic objectives of the State. The State is creating opportunities for the national entrepreneurs to be able to participate in nation-building endeavours.

The fifth annual general meeting of the National Development Company Group Ltd comprising 25 companies was held at the National Theatre on Myoma Kyaung Street on 26 July with an address by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council General Khin Nyunt.

In his address, the Secretary-1 quoted Head of State Senior General Than Shwe as saying that it would be out of the question to implement nation-building tasks on a self-reliant basis by the Government alone, and it needs cooperation of national entrepreneurs. Opportunities are being created for national entrepreneurs capable of utilizing modern technologies to make their economic foundation strong. There should be harmonious cooperation between the Government and national entrepreneurs in shaping the future of the State.

National entrepreneurs are to be skilled at the construction of not only transport infrastructures but also economic infrastructures — factories and industries — in the nation-building tasks. Experienced Myanmar entrepreneurs are to strive to become international-level entrepreneurs.

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe's guidance highlights the noble attitude and expectation of the Government shown to national entrepreneurs. Therefore, the national entrepreneurs should play an active role in the nation-building tasks.

In view of international affairs, it can be found that some super wealthy powers are economically resorting to widespread discrimination against or in favour of the developing nations to be under their domination. At such a time, the State is striving to ensure the fact that the initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples. All are urged to continue to make harmonious efforts for the economic development of the State.

### Do not be frightened whenever intimidated

#### Computer, printer, e-mail accessories handed over to Ministry of Information

YANGON, 28 July — Under the arrangement for exchange of news between Myanmar News Agency (International) of News and Periodicals Enterprise under the Ministry of Information and Press Trust of India (PTI), the Indian embassy handed over computer, printer and e-mail accessories to the Ministry of Information at the office of the ministry on Bo Aung Kyaw Street this morning. On behalf of the Minister for Information, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Thein accepted the donations.

Present on the occasion were Managing Director of News and Periodicals Enterprise U Tin Kha, Director-General of Myanmar Radio and Television U Khin Maung Htay, Managing Director of Printing and Publishing Enterprise U Myint Thein, Director-General of Information and Public Relations Department U Chit Naing, Managing Director of Myanmar Motion Pictures Enterprise U Bo Kyi, departmental officials, Indian ambassador to Myanmar Mr Rajiv Kumar Bhatia and First Secretary Ms Manika Jain.

Next, Indian ambassador to Myanmar Mr Rajiv Kumar Bhatia explained the purpose and presented the computer, printer and e-mail accessories which were accepted by Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Thein.

Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Thein spoke words of thanks. — MNA

### Tube-wells opened in 12 villages

YANGON, 28 July — The Development Affairs Department of the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs opened tube-wells at 12 villages in Yinmabin and Kani townships lying along Monywa-

Yagyi-Kalewa Road in Sagaing Division in the dry region.

Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing, Minister for PBANRDA Col Thein Nyunt and Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint formally opened the tube-wells at the villages this morning.

The tube-wells were sunk and opened in accord with the guidance of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe, said the commander at the ceremonies to open the tube-wells.

The commander and the ministers also attended to the needs of the local people. The people of the villages are happy to be able to get access to potable water. MNA

### Prayers for parents 3 Aug

YANGON, 28 July — Father Edwin David and members of the University Catholic Students' Apostle (Yangon) will say prayers for the parents for the 14th time at the St Augustine Church on Inya Road, Kamayut, Yangon, at 9.30 am on 3 August (Sunday).

Yangon Archbishop Charles Bo will deliver a sermon. The parents, friends and youths are invited to attend the ceremony. — H

### 35 fires broke out in June

YANGON, 28 July — Altogether 35 fires broke out across the country during June, 2003, causing loss of property worth K 5.7 million.

Now, although it is in the rainy season, there have been fires in the country because of negligence and electric shocks. Respective state and division fire service departments are reminded to make fire drills according to fire security plans. — MNA

### Home Affairs Minister attends Five-Nation Narcotic Drug Elimination Meeting

YANGON, 28 July — The Myanmar delegation led by Chairman of Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing attended the Five-Nation Narcotic Drug Elimination Meeting together with China, India, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand in Chiang Rai, Thailand, from 22 to 24 July.

The senior officials meeting was held on 22 and 23 July and the ministerial meeting on 24 July. At the opening ceremony of the meeting, Prime Minister of Thailand Mr Thaksin Shinawatra delivered an address. After the meeting, Chiang Rai Declaration was issued.

The Chiang Rai Declaration pledged that the five nations will cooperate to accelerate drug elimination. In doing so, emphasis is to be placed on control of chemical precursors used in drug refinery, transitional cooperation and creation of markets for opium-substitute products and invitation of international community.

After the ministerial meeting, the press conference was held. The ministers answered the queries of journalists. The ministers attended the dinner hosted by Chairman of Drug Control Committee of Thailand

Deputy Prime Minister Mr Chavalit Yongchai-Yudth. On 25 July, the ministers and the representatives visited the Drug Museum near Chiangsai and implementation of substitute development Doiton Project of the mother of the king in Doiton region.

On 26 July, they went on one-day trip in Tachilek via Meisai of Thailand and left for home via Bangkok. The meeting was attended

Poem

### Seeking to see what exists

- \* By just hearing  
Can't say it is correct  
Only by seeking to see what is  
Could it be told it is correct
- \* At time of 88  
Thought what was heard was correct  
Concoctions were taken as correct  
Believed and activated  
The wrong that was committed  
Towns and villages devastated  
Just so lives should not be lost  
Have to run and hide  
There was turmoil.
- \* The mistake thus made  
Can't be forgotten.  
Tried to find answer  
Take it as lesson.
- \* Hold fast on the lesson  
To be able to avoid all sorts of trouble  
To think and know the truth  
To see truth as is  
Compare with what is  
And be free from danger.

Byan Hlwar (Trs)



Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing, Minister for PBANRDA Col Thein Nyunt and Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint open the tube-well. — PBANRDA

by Vice-Chairman of National Narcotic Drugs Control Commission of China Deputy Minister of Public Security Mr Luo Feng, Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs of India Mr Shri ID Swami, Chairman of Narcotic Drugs Control National Commission of Lao PDR Minister at the President's Office Mr Soubanh Srithirath, Minister of Judicial Affairs of Thailand Mr Phongthep Thepkanjana and the Myanmar delegation comprising CCDAC member Brig-Gen Kyaw Thein, Myanmar Ambassador to Thailand U Myo Myint, Joint-Secretary of CCDAC Police Col Hkam Aung and Second Secretary U Moe Naing Aung. The meeting decided to hold the experts of chemical precursor control meeting of five nations to be held soon and the high-ranking officials meeting the next year in Thailand. — MNA



Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing attends Five-Nation Narcotic Drugs Elimination Meeting. — HOME AFFAIRS

### ASEAN Food Fair on 2 August

YANGON, 28 July — Hailing 36th Anniversary of ASEAN Day which falls on 8 August 2003, the ASEAN Food Fair, to be organized by Myanmar ASEAN Women's Friendship Association, will be held at Mahawthada

Hall, Zizawa Yeiktha, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 2 August.

Members of the Panel of Patrons of the Association the wife of the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the wife of the Deputy Min-

ister and party, the Philippine Ambassador and wives of ASEAN Ambassadors will sell traditional foods of the respective countries in the ASEAN Food Fair. Anyone can visit the fair free of charge. — MNA



## Turkey condemns US troops for detaining journalists in Iraq

ANKARA, 28 July — The Turkish Journalists Association (TJA) condemned the detention of four Turkish journalists by US forces in Baghdad, reported the Anatolian news agency on Sunday.

Issuing a written statement, TJA Chairman Orhan Erinc said "The fact that the detention didn't last long due to the initiatives of Turkish Embassy and the censor put on the photographs taken by our colleagues shows the seriousness of the incident."

"We condemn the incident and hope no such incident will be repeated," he said.

US troops detained *Hurriyet* (Freedom) newspaper reporters Yalcin Dogan

and Ozdemir Ince, and *Dogan News Agency* (DHA) correspondents Faruk Balkici and Ferit Aslan when they were doing their work in an open street in Baghdad on Saturday morning.

The Turkish reporters were released after two hours thanks to the efforts of the Turkish Embassy in Baghdad.

The four reporters were assigned to Baghdad and northern Iraq on a news coverage mission.

MNA/Xinhua

## Iraq signs deals to sell oil to foreign companies

BAGHDAD, 28 July — Iraq has signed new crude export contracts with foreign oil companies, a state oil official told *Reuters* on Sunday, the second set of such deals since the overthrow of president Saddam Hussein.

An official at the State Oil Marketing Organization (SOMO) said the contracts for August 1 to December 31 were sealed with European refiners Shell, BP Plc and TotalFinaElf SA US majors ChevronTexaco Corp, ConocoPhillips, Valero Energy Corp and Marathon Oil Corp Sinochem of China; and a company from the Mitsubishi group, which is buying for Japanese refineries.

"We expect to sign with Exxon soon," the official said, referring to ExxonMobil Corp. The official did not comment on contract volumes. Western industry sources have said they expect SOMO initially to seal contracts of two million barrels apiece with about 10 companies.

Last week, Iraq signed its first post-Saddam oil sales contracts. Asked what prices had been set, the SOMO official said prices were already posted for August for its sales of Basra Light crude from Iraq's Mina al-Bakr port — WTI 2nd month less 4.95 US dollars for the United States, Dated Brent less 2.90 US dollars for Europe and average Oman/Dubai parity for Asia. — MNA/Reuters

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## Foreign terrorists operating in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 28 July — The commander of US ground forces in Iraq says the country is becoming a magnet for foreign terrorists targeting Americans as Washington reported a big rise in information in its hunt for Saddam Hussein.

Lieutenant General Ricardo Sanchez, whose troops usually blame the attacks on die-hard Saddam loyalists, said the sophistication of the raids had increased over the past 30 days. "This is what I would call a terrorist magnet where America, being present here in Iraq, creates a target of opportunity if you will," Sanchez told *CNN*. Sanchez did not elaborate on the nationalities, but said there was no evidence any country was sponsoring the fighters. "The key that we must not lose sight of is that we must win this battle here in Iraq."

"Otherwise America will find itself taking on these terrorists at home," Sanchez said. "We have to understand that we have a multiple-faceted conflict going on here in Iraq. We've got terrorist activity, we've got former regime leadership, we have criminals, and we have some hired assassins that are attacking our soldiers on a daily basis."

Internet

## Philippine current account surplus narrows as of April

MANILA, 28 July — A slowdown in exports has narrowed the Philippines' current account surplus to 342 million US dollars as of April, down 76.6 per cent from the 1.46 billion US dollars in the first four months of 2002, a newspaper reported Saturday.

But the country could still hit the target of 2.36-billion-US-dollar surplus in the current account if the export sector would grow by at least 5 per cent, the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* quoted central bank governor Rafael Buenaventura as saying. In the first four months of this year, the country's exports grew only 3.4 per cent to 10.94 billion US dollars from a year earlier while imports increased by 14.5 per cent to 11.96 billion US dollars.

Bank officials said the country's balance of payments turned to a deficit of 519 million US dollars in the first four months of this year from a surplus of 1.89 billion US dollars in the same period of last year. — MNA/Xinhua

## Unrest in Iraq holy city, anti-US attacks go on

KERBALA, 28 July — US troops opened fire in the Shi'ite holy city of Kerbala on Sunday as stone-throwing Iraqis protested over Marines killing a man the day before.

A US Marine officer told *Reuters* his men returned fire in self-defence on Sunday but did not know if anyone was hit. He said the man they shot dead on Saturday was carrying a weapon.

Doctors showed *Reuters* the body of a second man they said was shot dead on Sunday. In confused and angry scenes, *Reuters* journalists saw troops fire in the air to disperse the crowd. Elsewhere, Iraqi guerillas killed a US soldier in an overnight grenade attack south of Baghdad as the deaths of Saddam Hussein's sons showed no sign of staunching bloodshed.

In a reminder that tensions are not restricted to Saddam's Sunni Muslim heartlands north and west of the capital, the Kerbala protesters said they were incensed by Saturday's killing because they believed those involved had been trying to keep the Americans out of the venerated Imam Hussein mosque. — Internet

## Pakistan committed to peaceful solution of issues with India

ISLAMABAD, 28 July — Pakistani Foreign Minister Khurshid Kasuri Saturday declared that Pakistan is committed to peaceful solution of not only the Kashmir dispute but all outstanding issues with India, according to the official *Associated Press of Pakistan*.

"That is why we have been emphasizing the need for sustained dialogue," Kasuri said while addressing a Press conference on his arrival in the south port city of Karachi from a visit to Britain.

Kasuri expressed appreciation for commitment of the international community, particularly the efforts made by the United States, Britain, the European Union, Japan,



An Iraqi driver has his car searched by a US soldier from the 4th Division at a checkpoint in Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit, some 150 km (90 miles) north of the capital Baghdad, on 26 July, 2003. Explosions and gunfire rang out in Baghdad on Saturday, underlining that remains a dangerous place despite US hopes that the killing of Saddam Hussein's two sons will help end armed resistance. — INTERNET

## Trade between Guangdong, India booms

GUANGZHOU, 28 July — Trade between Guangdong Province, an economic powerhouse in south China, and India, has grown rapidly, with India becoming the province's leading trade partner in Southeast Asia.

According to Guangzhou Customs, the trade volume between Guangdong and India surged 13.9 per cent to reach 504 million US dollars in the first half of this year.

Of the figure, Guangdong's exports to India topped 172 million US dollars, up 9.3 per cent, and its imports from India edged up 16.4 per cent to hit 332 million US dollars.

Guangdong and India have economies which complement each other. Guangdong is strong in manufacturing household electrical appliances, mobile phones, motorcycles, clothes and shoes, while India boasts a developed software industry, film-making and gem processing. — MNA/Xinhua

## Philippines to invite bidding for 46 oil contracts

MANILA, 28 July — The Philippine Government is slated to bid out 46 new oil exploration contracts covering offshore areas this year, the Department of Energy (DOE) said Friday.

"The areas represent shallow, deep and ultra-deep water close to oil discoveries and producing fields in northwest Palawan, and vast frontier areas in southeast and east Palawan, Sulu Sea and Reed Bank," Energy Undersecretary Eduardo Manalac said in a statement. Palawan Island in the west Philippines is by far the biggest province in the country. Reed Bank is off the west coast of Palawan, while Sulu Sea is in the south.

Manalac said the government would announce the precise location of the contract areas as well as technical details on August 5. The Philippines imports nearly all of its oil requirements but has been trying to find other domestic energy sources to complement the Malampaya natural gas field off the western coast of Palawan. — MNA/Xinhua



The photo taken on 25 July, 2003 shows Iraqis unloading sandbags from a truck at a United States army post in Baghdad, capital of Iraq. After photos of the bodies of former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's sons, Uday and Qusay, were released on Thursday, the US army is on high alert against Saddam's loyalists who have vowed to avenge the death of Uday and Qusay. — XINHUA

## Four US soldiers charged in Iraqi POW abuse case

WASHINGTON, 28 July — Four US soldiers have been charged in an investigation into suspected abuse of Iraqi prisoners of war, a US military official said on Saturday.

"There is an investigation into alleged mistreatment of some prisoners by some soldiers," said Lieutenant Commander Nick Balice of US Central Command in Tampa, Florida.

"Four soldiers have been charged based on allegations of mistreatment," said Balice, who declined to identify the soldiers or to detail the allegations. A military trial was expected for the four, Balice said. The abuse investigation centred on events that occurred in mid-May at Camp Bucca, where 7,000 prisoners of war were detained during the war to oust Iraqi president Saddam Hussein. The British-built camp, run by US military police, is near the southeastern Iraqi port of Umm Qasr.

MNA/Reuters

## Al-Jazeera, Al-Arabiya TV networks reject US claims of biased coverage

DUBAI, 28 July — United Arab Emirates (AP) - Two of the most high-profile Arab TV networks reacted angrily Sunday to U.S. claims of biased news coverage about the Iraq war.

Adnan al-Sharif, the manager of Al-Jazeera, said poor translation of their reports was behind the accusations. "Our news is being poorly translated for the Americans," al-Sharif said. Earlier, U.S. Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz accused Al-Jazeera, based in Qatar, and Dubai-based Al-Arabiya of bias in their reporting.

Wolfowitz told Fox News that the networks incite violence against American forces with slanted reports that he asserted

are funded by Middle East governments.

"These governments should stop and realize that this is not a game, that they're endangering the lives of American troops," he said.

Al-Arabiya's Editor in Chief Salah Negrin said the network is private. "Al-Arabiya's coverage reflects the truth even if that angered some people," he said. Al-Jazeera was launched with a Qatari government subsidy, but al-Sharif said the station is now "an independent institution." —Internet

## "HIV" cases climb in US

ATLANTA, 28 July — The number of gay and bisexual men diagnosed with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, climbed for the third consecutive year in the United States in 2002, fuelling fears that the disease might be poised for a major comeback in this high-risk group.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which reported the finding on Monday at the 2003 National HIV Prevention Conference in Atlanta, also revealed that AIDS diagnoses overall had risen 2.2 per cent to 42,136 last year.

"The AIDS epidemic in the United States is far from

over," said Dr. Harold Jaffe, director of the CDC's National Center for HIV, STD and TB Prevention. An estimated 850,000 to 950,000 Americans have the AIDS virus. AIDS killed 16,371 people across the nation last year, about 6 per cent fewer than in 2001, according to the CDC.

Although US health officials have been preaching HIV prevention to all Americans, they have become particularly concerned in recent years by an apparent resurgence of infections among gay and bisexual males.

HIV diagnoses among men who have sex with men surged 7.1 per cent last year, according to data collected by the CDC from 25 states that have long-standing HIV reporting. New diagnoses in this high-risk group have increased 17.7 per cent since 1999, while remaining stable in other vulnerable communities.

Jaffe cautioned, however, that the jump in HIV diagnoses could have been caused by increases in the number of gay and bisexual males being tested for the virus and was not proof that this group was being infected at a faster rate.

Standard HIV tests cannot tell when a person was infected with the virus, leaving open the possibility that HIV was contracted many years before being detected.

MNA/Reuters



Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee attends the two-day National Parliamentary Convention on HIV/AIDS, which was opened in New Delhi, capital of India, on 26 July, 2003. —XINHUA PHOTO

## Colombia's President holds phone-in Cabinet meeting

BOGOTA, July 28 — Hauling his entire Cabinet in front of television cameras, Colombian President Alvaro Uribe made his year-old government answer to the nation on Saturday as citizens phoned in questions on everything from the drug war to passport prices.

Uribe, who took office last August promising to deliver peace and prosperity to Latin America's most violent nation, said the landmark progress report was sign of things to come. "What is happening today is (a) guide to the way that the government and its members will make increasing efforts to improve citizens' confidence in the institutions, in the government," he said.

It was the first time a meeting of ministers, held behind closed doors since 1923, was nationally televised and made interactive, with callers and e-mail users submitting questions.

Under Uribe's enormously popular administration, Colombia has reported major advances in the war on the world's largest cocaine industry and reduced civilian bloodshed in the Andean nation's four-decade old guerilla war.

But the three-way conflict between Marxist rebels, far-right paramilitary gunmen and state security forces still claims thousands of lives a year and casts a long shadow over the economy. —MNA/Reuters

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## Brazil resumes buying Iraqi petroleum

BRASILIA, 28 July — Brazil said on Friday it had resumed purchasing petroleum from Iraq, a trade it had stopped before the war broke out in the Arab country in March.

Brazilian state-owned petroleum company PETROBRAS announced Friday it agreed to purchase two million barrels of Iraqi petroleum.

The company said the petroleum would be shipped to Brazil next week and would take 25 days to reach there.

Brazilian daily newspaper *Folha de Sao Paulo* reported that the volume amounted to a little over one day's oil consumption in Brazil, which uses nearly 1.8 million barrels a day.

Before the United States-led war against former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's regime, Brazil purchased 30,000 barrels of Iraqi petroleum a day through the "oil-for-food" programme of the United Nations. —MNA/Xinhua

## Thaksin arrives for working visit to Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, 28 July — Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra arrived in Langkawi, north Malaysia, Sunday morning for a two-day working visit.

He was greeted on arrival at the Langkawi International Airport by Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar.

Thaksin's visit is in conjunction with annual talks with Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, aimed at fostering closer relations and cooperation between Thailand and Malaysia. This will be the fourth meeting between Thaksin and Mahathir since the former assumed office in 1999.

During the four-eyed talks to be followed by a delegation meeting at a retreat in the afternoon, the two leaders are expected to discuss, besides regional and international issues, ongoing cooperation along the common border areas, border demarcation as well as trade and investment.

The gas pipeline project linking Thailand and Malaysia, which has been delayed due to protests in southern Thailand, is also expected to be discussed, officials said.

Prior to the talks, Thaksin and Mahathir are expected to open and address the Malaysia-Thailand Technology Business Partnership Dialogue. —MNA/Xinhua

## West Nile case reported in western Canada

OTTAWA, 28 July — Canada's first domestic case of West Nile virus in a human this year has been confirmed in the western province of Saskatchewan, reports reaching here said Saturday.

Provincial health officials announced the case Friday but would not identify the individual, saying only the person was from Assiniboia, 130 kilometres southwest of the city of Regina in the province. —MNA/Xinhua



US troops arrest a driver as they enforce a no-parking rule near the main train station Baghdad, Iraq, on 27 July, 2003. —INTERNET



# Iraqis kill fifth US soldier in 24 hours

**BAGHDAD, 28 July**—Iraqi guerrillas killed a US soldier in a grenade attack south of Baghdad early yesterday morning, bringing the American death toll in 24 hours to five. The deaths came as the hunt for Saddam Hussein intensified in the Tikrit area and in the capital.

US special forces hunting him last night carried out a bloody raid on the Baghdad house of one of Iraq's most powerful tribal leaders, Rabiah Muhammed, but failed to find the former president.

An American soldier at a nearby hospital said five bodies and at least eight wounded had been brought in from the scene of the raid in the wealthy al-Mansour district of the capital. An Iraqi policeman said all the dead had been in cars fired on by troops as they drove through the area. A boy in his early teens was among the dead.

"Today has been off the wall," a US soldier guarding the emergency ward of Yarmuk hospital told Reuters news agency.

In Tikrit, Saddam's home town, American troops said they missed catching his security chief - and possibly Saddam himself - by a mere 24 hours earlier yesterday.

Troops stormed three farms near the town in simultaneous pre-dawn raids after receiving a tip that the ousted president's new security chief was staying at one of the farm houses, said Lieutenant Colonel Col Steve Russell, who led the operation by the 4th Infantry Division.

The raids came as General Richard Myers, chairman of the US joint chiefs of staff, made an unannounced visit to Iraq to talk to local commanders about the rising casualty rate among US troops.

Internet



The photo taken on 25 July, 2003 shows a United States soldier on guard outside the US Army Information Centre in Baghdad, capital of Iraq. After photos of the bodies of former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's sons, Uday and Qusay, were released on Thursday, the US army is on high alert against Saddam's loyalists who have vowed to avenge the death of Uday and Qusay. —XINHUA

## Kuwait to fly Iraqi boy Ali to Britain for new arms

**KUWAIT, 28 July**—An Iraqi boy, who touched hearts around the world after losing both arms and most of his family in the US-led war, is to fly to Britain to be fitted with artificial limbs, the *Kuwaiti News Agency* (KUNA) said on Saturday.

Pictures of the orphaned Ali Ismael Abbas, 12, lying in a Baghdad hospital with horrific burns sparked a flood of fundraising appeals for war victims after they were flashed around the globe.

He is currently being treated in Kuwait

where Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad said Ali and another Iraqi boy, Ahmed Mohammed Hamza, who lost a leg, would be flown to Britain to receive artificial limbs.

The announcement came as the two boys visited the Prime Minister's offices on Saturday.

KUNA quoted Sheikh Ahmad as saying Kuwait would pay for everything. It did not say when the boys would travel or where they would be treated. — MNA/Reuters

## Thai police hail massive Bangkok heroin haul

**BANGKOK, 28 July**—Thai police have busted one of the capital's largest heroin rings, arresting three suspects and seizing 1.7 kilogrammes of heroin and 3.5 million baht (84,000 US dollars) in cash, according to a report of TV Channel 9 Sunday morning.

Metropolitan Police Commander Damrongrak Nilkuha was quoted as saying on Saturday that Special Branch officers had captured Anchalaporn Thaejam, aged 36,

Wichai Saehaeng, aged 36, and Achara Chuto, aged 41, together with 1.7 kilogrammes of heroin packaged in plastic straws, with a market value of around two million baht (48,000 US dollars). Also seized were a car and a mobile phone. The three suspects were charged with possession of a class 1 drug with intent to sell, and with illegal trading, the commander noted.

MNA/Xinhua

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## Saddam loyalists regroup and form guerilla organizations

**BAGHDAD, 28 July**—Amid a spurt in attacks on US forces in Iraq, over 35,000 staunch Saddam Hussein loyalists have regrouped themselves and formed guerilla organizations, a former official of the Iraqi Information Ministry said Monday.

Troops loyal to the ousted Iraqi leader have regrouped into guerilla formations like 'The Black Brigade' and 'The Revenge Army', he was quoted as saying by the Newsweek.

US intelligence officials, however, can't quite decide if the guerillas in Iraq

are centrally organised or just a bunch of rag-tag "deadenders," it said.

The Intelligence official told the magazine that Uday and Qusay Hussein had "exercised real command and control" over Iraqi guerillas.

Internet

## China needs 600,000 tons of cotton imports

**URUMQI, 28 July**—China needs to import at least 600,000 tons of cotton this year to meet rising domestic market demand, an official source said.

Shi Jianwei, director of the Cotton and Sesame Department of the All-China Federation of Supply and Marketing Cooperatives, said the country's cotton production would not exceed six million tons this year.

Statistics released by the State Statistics Bureau in late June showed that China's cotton output in 2003 was expected to reach 5.65 million tons. However, cotton consumption by textile mills alone is estimated at around 6.3 million tons. If combined with cotton consumption for other purposes, the figure will reach 6.6 million tons.

MNA/Xinhua

## First tunnel under Yangtze River completed in E China

**NANJING, 28 July**—The first tunnel under the Yangtze River was completed Saturday near the Yangtze River Bridge in Nanjing, capital of east China's Jiangsu Province.

The 1,992-metre tunnel will hold a gas pipeline running from China's natural gas-rich western regions to the Yangtze River Delta. With a diameter of 3.8 metres, the tunnel was begun on November 26, 2001 as part of the 4,000-kilometre pipeline, due to be completed next year, taking gas to Shanghai, China's biggest industrial centre.

MNA/Xinhua

## US forest fires head toward Canadian border

**OTTAWA, 28 July**—Officials from Canada and the United States are working together to control a pair of forest fires approaching the Canadian border, it is reported Saturday.

The Farewell Creek fire in Washington State is burning in the Okanagan-We-

natchee National Forest south of Keremeos in Canada's British Columbia Province.

It covers close to 22,000 hectares of American forest. According to Canadian officials, the fire could reach the province in four or five days.

MNA/Xinhua



The photo taken on 25 July, 2003 shows a Cuban selling a roasted pig during the Santiago Carnival in Cuba. Rosated pigs are a favorite of the Cubans in the annual carnival, which started on 19 July and will end on 29 July this year. —XINHUA

# Syria slams US over Middle East

**DAMASCUS, 28 July**—Syria on Sunday said the US Administration was “violent and foolish” and that US policies on the Middle East were influenced by Israel.

Foreign Minister Farouq al-Shara also accused Washington on avoiding any rapprochement with Damascus so as not to vex the Jewish state, the United States’ main ally in the region.

“This administration is extraordinary. Maybe there have been some similar administrations in the past but not with this high level of violence and foolishness,” Shara told reporters.

US President George W Bush accused Syria last week of harbouring and assisting unspecified “terrorists” and warned that any state doing this would be held accountable.

Syria, which denied the charges, is on a US list of state sponsoring “terrorism” for its backing of Lebanon’s Hizbollah guerrillas and Palestinian groups. Damascus says these groups have a right to resist Israel.

Shara shrugged off the possibility of US sanctions against Syria under a Syria Accountability Act in the US Congress.

“If this act was launched we will not be frustrated. Of course this does not mean that we encourage them to endorse it, but the main loser would be the United States and American companies,” he said.

“The United States does not wish for a good relationship with Syria because of Israel and the pressure that Israel applies on the US Administration... most of the US Administrations’ heavyweights fear Israel. This is the painful reality,” Shara said at a meeting with Syrian journalists.

US-Syrian relations have traditionally been poor mainly due to US support for Israel, which captured the Golan Heights from Syria in the 1967 Middle East War.

Ties have been further strained in recent months over Syria’s opposition to the US-led war in Iraq and accusations that it had helped elements of the former Iraqi government flee. Shara said it was useless to ask Washington to apply pressure against Israel for Middle East peace due to the perceived sway of Israel on US foreign policy.

“I find it strange when they (Arabs) ask the United States to apply pressure on Israel because this talk is useless... Any promise the United States gives can be revoked by Israel. “We have a signed US promise on the highest level that Israel withdraws to the fourth of July (1967 war) frontier... where is that promise today?” —MNA/Reuters

## Commander says foreigners helping Iraq attacks against US

**WASHINGTON, 28 July** — Iraq has become a “terrorist magnet” that is attracting fighters from a variety of countries to take opportunity of attacking American troops, a top US Army commander said on Sunday.

Army Lieutenant-General Ricardo Sanchez, commander of ground forces in Iraq, said the level of sophistication of attacks against US soldiers had increased over the last 30 days.

But he said the deaths of Saddam Hussein’s sons Uday and Qusay on Tuesday would dampen the resistance.

“In the short term, we’re going to continue to see attacks against our American forces and our coalition forces across the country,” Sanchez, interviewed from

Baghdad, said on CNN’s Late Edition.

“But I believe that the elimination of the Hussein brothers will go a long ways in... bringing back some security and stability to Iraq.”

Five dead soldiers in 24 hours — 10 since US troops killed Saddam’s son brought the number killed to 49 since May 1, when President George W Bush declared major combat was over.

Sanchez said foreign fighters from “various places” were assisting

Saddam loyalists in attacks on American troops. He did not say what nationalities the foreigners were, and said there was no evidence any country was sponsoring them.

“This is what I would call a terrorist magnet, where America, being present here in Iraq, creates a target of opportunity, if you will,” Sanchez said.

MNA/Reuters

## Northeast Japan residents brace for more tremors

**KANANCHO (Japan), 28 July**—People in northeastern Japan braced for more tremors on Sunday after a series of strong earthquakes but a meteorological official said they were not linked to a deadly cyclical quake that hits the region.

Aftershocks were tapering off by mid-morning following Saturday’s earthquakes which injured more than 400 people and caused landslides and power blackouts in Miyagi Prefecture, about 190 miles north of Tokyo.

But there was no link with the so-called Miyagi-oki earthquake, which has hit the region cyclically about every 30 to 40 years and last struck in 1978, killing 28 people, a meteorological agency official said.

MNA/Reuters



A car runs on a fissured road in Miyagi, northeast Japan, on Tuesday, 2003. Two earthquakes measuring 5.6 and 6.2 on the Richter scale hit northeast Japan in succession early Saturday, leaving more than 200 people injured and destroying hundreds of houses. —XINHUA

မြန်မာ့သမ္မတမြန်မာနိုင်ငံတော်

## Turkey says decision on Iraq troops will take time

**ANKARA, 28 July**—Turkey’s Foreign Minister said on Sunday Turkey would work with its NATO ally the United States in Iraq but it would take time to respond to a US request to send Turkish troops to help secure its war-torn neighbour.

The deployment could help Ankara and Washington to repair ties damaged earlier this month when US forces briefly detained 11 Turkish commandos suspected of plotting an attack on a US-backed Kurdish official in northern Iraq.

Muslim Turkey’s refusal in March to allow US forces to invade Iraq from Turkish soil had already dented the allies’ long-standing partnership. Washington is now pressing Turkey for a quick decision on sending troops to help secure peace in Iraq. Speaking to reporters in Ankara after returning from Washington, Foreign

Minister Abdullah Gul said a decision on any troop deployment would not come before Parliament adjourns for its summer recess on August 1.

“Turkey contributing to the peace force in Iraq was discussed (in Washington),” Gul told reporters.

“This is not a matter that will become clear today or tomorrow,” he said, adding the government would seek the views of Turkey’s influential military before making its decision.

The arrests of the Turkish commandos has cast a glare on the Turkish military’s role in mainly Kurdish

northern Iraq. Ankara says its troops are in pursuit of a few thousand Turkish Kurdish separatists based there, but Iraqi Kurdish leaders say the soldiers are a destabilizing presence and should withdraw.

Gul would not confirm Turkish media reports the United States and Turkey are now carrying out joint exercises across the border in Iraq, but said he discussed with US officials ways of ridding the enclave of the Turkish Kurdish militants.

“Turkey and the United States are determined to act in partnership in northern Iraq,” he said. —MNA/Reuters



US troops guard a flatbed truck carrying two vehicles that were destroyed during a raid on 27 July, 2003, in Baghdad, Iraq. —INTERNET

## Thaksin stresses “Cluster Concept” in Thai-Malaysian cooperation

**KUALA LUMPUR, 28 July**— Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra said on Sunday his country and Malaysia should stress the “Cluster Concept” to transform their collective strengths into new energy and bring about greater impact on business.

“I am confident that there are niches for Thai-Malaysian industries in the win-win state of affairs,” Thaksin said in his address at the Malaysia-Thailand Technology and Business Partnership Dialogue in Langkawi, north Malaysia.

He quoted the success of elevating rubber prices to the most reasonable level through Malaysian-Thai collaboration as an example of how the synergy could benefit both countries.

Thaksin, who arrived in Langkawi Sunday morning for a two-day working visit to Malaysia, said that the two countries had to stay together and form a strategic alliance because they could

not fight alone and survive, if left behind.

He described the Malaysian-Thai relationship today as super-strategic partners who had joined hands in advancing regional ties to a new dimension.

“We could probably call this “the matrix relationship”, for the partnership here has come to an intersection across boundaries where the public sector from either of the two countries meets the public sector of the other one and vice versa,” he said.

Thaksin outlined strategic alliances between technology and business partners that could be developed with common goals and relevant

activities.

They are product testing and standardization; pooling resources and sharing costs; training and human resource exchange; co-funding and venture capitals; joint supply chain with value creation; marketing and media collaboration and technology foresight.

He said that in the era of new economic paradigm, new tools had to be created for controlling erroneous function of capitalism.

He said fostering technology and business partnership through such dialogues was one of the tools to secure the region’s economies in the new era.

MNA/Xinhua



## Secretary-1 presents prizes to outstanding children of members of intelligent units

YANGON, 28 July—A ceremony to present prizes to children of officers and other ranks of the military intelligence units under Office of Chief of the Military Intelligence of the Ministry of Defence who passed the 2003 matriculation examination was held at No 2 Tatmadaw Guest House on Inya Road at 5 pm today, attended by Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Chief of Military Intelligence General Khin Nyunt. Also present on the occasion were the Vice-Chief of Military Intelligence, heads of department,

deputy heads of department, commanding officers of regiments and units, outstanding students and parents. First, General Khin Nyunt gave a speech. Next, the Secretary-1 presented cash prizes provided by the Office of the Military Intelligence to the students who passed the 2003 matriculation examination.

Next, Vice-Chief of Military Intelligence Maj-Gen Kyaw Win and the heads of department presented cash prizes to the outstanding stu-

dents who passed the 2003 matriculation examination. A total of 189 children of officers and other ranks from the Office of Military Intelligence and intelligence units passed the 2003 matriculation examination. Cash awards worth K 6,480,000 were presented to one five-distinction winner, three four-distinction winners, five three-distinction winners, one two-distinction winner and 15 one-distinction winners. —MNA

**Do not be softened  
whenever papped**

## The birth of Myanmar International...

(from page 1)

In addition to the regular trade system, such trade systems as burden trade, the transit trade and the account trade were allowed and encouraged in the trade sector. As a result, the economic transactions of the country is booming in leaps and bounds. Development infrastructures such as dams, the Union Highways, river-crossing bridges and hydel power stations, all of which can contribute to the development of productive economic forces and trading companies of the State, in

addition to that of State, are being built nation-wide.

In accelerating the economic transactions with international community, the extension and modernization of international ports and airports, all of which are practical transport infrastructures, have resulted in the smooth flow of commodities more than previous years. In the aviation sector, the Yangon International Airport was refurbished at the time of the present Government and is still under renovation. Moreover, the new Mandalay International Airport was

constructed. Therefore, the tourism industries prosper and the functions of freight transport industries quicken.

Better services are being provided as modern techniques and equipment are installed at the buildings of the two international airports. In water transport sector, modern international ports, jetties, modern weigh measurement systems and equipment, and international-level container yards are now mushrooming.

In road transport sector, Asia Highway as well as international highway passing



Secretary-1 General Khin Nyunt presents cash award to an outstanding student of the family of Office of Chief of Military Intelligence. — MNA

through Myanmar and linking to neighbouring countries is under phase-by-phase construction and promises a brighter prospect of accelerated development in the road transportation.

The emergence of the MIFFA that will ensure systematic development in the international freight forwarding sector coincided with the time when the national development and business transactions are in favourable conditions. And it will also help raise the status of the national economic life of the entire people. The international freight forwarding sector takes a vital part in striving for the development of the State, nation-building endeavours and business transactions.

At a time when economic infrastructures and infrastructures for production and trade are making progress, it is important to ensure harmonious development of all services including international freight forwarding. In addition, measures are to be taken for enabling production, trade and services to be capable of enhancing the economic life of the State.

High capability of the international freight forwarding will surely contribute much to progress of other development sectors.

The international freight forwarding is taking general services such as choosing the trip for sender and buyer, shipments, delivery, storage, making arrangement for freight forwarding, and customs clearance on behalf of the cargo owner.

With development in the field of the international trade, and changes in packing and transport, and of vessels, aircraft and automobiles, the international freight forwarding is becoming wider and deeper.

Under these circumstances, Myanmar has been promoting its foreign trade and economic cooperation with foreign countries. This being so, the international freight forwarders' association will have to take the initiatives for ensuring de-

velopment of the international freight forwarding to be in line with the international trade laws and regulations and procedures, and development of cooperation among freight forwarders.

Member entrepreneurs of the international freight forwarders' association are the ones who have been capable and skillful in international freight forwarding. With the emergence of the association, they will have to shape the national economy while striving for development of their association. At a time when members of the association are being recruited, concerted efforts are to be made to enable the association members to attend the six Mekong region countries' meeting and ASEAN meetings on international freight forwarding and to attend the respective training courses abroad. Seminars and workshops on international freight forwarding were held in the country. As a result, entrepreneurs gained knowledge and the seminars and workshops contributed towards the improvement of freight forwarding. He spoke of the need for officials to make arrangements to link up international freight forwarding networks as international freight forwarding services are linked with the nations of the world. Nowadays, e-Commerce system is widely used and so arrangements are to be made for development of modern technology on information technology among the entrepreneurs in Myanmar.

He spoke of the need to make arrangements for freight forwarding services in conformity with the procedures of international laws on trade, economic relations, customs and banks. He urged the association to launch educational programmes and deliver information to its members so that they would know the respective laws, procedures, international practices and codes of conduct.

The association is to lead its members in order to bring about not only their own interest but also long-term in-

terest of the nation and strong national economic life in undertaking international freight forwarding services.

He said some countries with high technology want to dominate developing and newly developed countries and they put political and economic pressure on them. He said that the entrepreneurs are to implement the objectives set without paying attention to this pressure. He said all the entrepreneurs are to build strong national economic life in the interest of the people while keeping constant vigilance.

In conclusion, the Secretary-1 urged officials and members of MIFFA to make efforts for national development and promotion of national economic life through international freight forwarding services, to work in unity for systematic improvement of international freight forwarding services, promotion of long-term national interest and development of international trade and strive in the interest of state and the people with national spirit.

Next, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe presented a souvenir to mark establishment of MIFFA to the Secretary-1.

Afterwards, General Khin Nyunt accepted K 5 million for the association presented by directors of MIFFA; two executive class plane tickets by Myanmar Airways Int'l; two executive class plane tickets by Thai Airways Int'l Public Co Ltd; 1,000 FECs by P & O Nylloyd Ltd; 1,000 FECs by Sein Chit Travels & Tours Services Ltd and K 1 million each by Myanmar Industrial Port and Htoo Trading Company Ltd.

Next, Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe also accepted two plane tickets presented by Silk Air; one return ticket each by Malaysia Airlines and Mandarin Airlines; 1000 FECs by Phee Group of Companies; K 500,000 by Asia World Port Management; K 300,000 by Metro Asia Myanmar Co Ltd and 2,365,000 by 22 entrepreneurs of MIFFA. —MNA



Secretary-1 General Khin Nyunt accepts souvenirs presented by Minister Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe to mark the grand opening ceremony of Myanmar International Freight Forwarders' Association. — MNA



Secretary-1 General Khin Nyunt accepts cash donations for Myanmar International Freight Forwarders' Association from entrepreneurs. — MNA

# No way or destination in sight — 1

*Nga Khin Nyo*

After reading a series of the article "Daw Suu Kyi, the NLD Party and Our Ray of Hope" in the dailies, I came to understand the whole incident, and made a decision to write about something. The article was compiled by Maung Yin Hmaing.

The main thing I would like to say here is about the so-called politicians of our country: they are still under the influence of the past; and are still unable to find a way to make the present the best, and their vision is also poor.

Thus...

We should take a glance at the nation's past. Without going too far, we will recount the era of the Burma Socialist Programme Party. The period from 1974 to 1988 was a period during which the nation was able to test and practise the Socialist Democracy System. In other words, it was the time when the nation while practising the socialist economy under the leadership of the BSPP, was fulfilling the wishes of the national races to enjoy autonomy.

The second State Constitution of our nation was aimed at building regional administrative, judicial and auditing sectors in accord with the democratic practices while setting up the socialist economy within the framework of the nationalization system. Nobody can argue the fact that full public support was won concerning the two main factors of the State — the economy and the administration.

The socio-political order that existed in our nation in 1974 stood on the middle path. Its essence was to stay away from the extremes—the extreme left and the extreme right. That was why the nation faced the joint attacks of the extreme rightists and extreme leftists then. The elder persons will know more about the most violent attacks of multi-destructive elements underground and above-ground on both political and military fronts.

The workers unrest and disturbances related to the name of the late U Thant that occurred in the early period of the 1974 State Constitution were the results of above-ground destructive acts. When we studied the underground front, we can see that both the rightist and leftist terrorist insurgents stepped up fierce armed attacks against the nation.

As some armed bands received foreign assistance, they were able to increase their manpower and firepower on an extensive scale, and in addition, they even tried to grab more land and to penetrate and regain the areas they had lost. The insurgents of the Burma Communist Party laid down and tried to realize the schemes to dominate the regions upstream the Chindwin River, parts of the upper Myanmar and regions in Bago Yoma mountain range. The opportunist gang of the Karen National Union holding extreme racial prejudice had intensified its armed activities to invade the delta region, the Bago Yoma and the Taninthayi region.

Frankly speaking, the social political system that was being implemented in the nation then was just in the experimental stage. In the economic sector, a large number of factories and enterprises were nationalized, and the State ran all the production, distribution and trading sectors, but it was unable to keep every operation in order and under control.

Thus, the economic deterioration that began in the mid-1970s was spinning out of control in the mid-1980s. The public discontent resulting from the prolonged economic downturn was like the angry volcano that was going to erupt at any moment then.

In the political sector too, neither political wishes of the ethnic races were solved during the period of 14 years, nor was the essence of the socialist democracy realized. The organs of the regional authorities lost touch with the practical life of the people. What I mean here is that there was discontent not only in the economic field, but also on the political front.

Our nation faced near disintegration in 1988 resulting from the consequences of the political, economic and social ills. Multi political forces in the nation resurfaced during the period, and tried again to realize their respective political goals.

The political forces that reappeared in 1988 were not able to discard their political goals they had strictly adhered to in the past. They were the groups whose stand was on the foundation formed with 'isms', factional and personal prejudices and excessive pride. Although the

leftists shouting that they would practise democracy in accordance with the time and circumstances, they could not abandon their bigotry.

Likewise, the nationalists, the feudalists, the rightist opportunists longing for the west, the minions, and the individuals with excessive personal pride were collectively trying to reactivate their original aims once again. Observers may recall this.

Taking advantage of the deterioration in unity, which was a result of economic downturn in the nation, a lot of instigations were launched in competition. The above-ground and underground elements resorted to all kinds of destructive and subversive acts ranging from military and terrorist methods to the means of coercion and civil unrest to weaken peace and stability and the rule of law. In addition, perpetrators attempted to grab the State power through terrorism, anarchism and the mob.

The 1988 unrest was the consequence of the general causes leading to destruction. The unrest can be said a large inferno created by a number of arsonists who torched the readily available fuel. Hence, we cannot point a finger at the then ruling BSPP. And if we make an assessment of all the situation during the time, we can see that the unrest was not the result of the wrongdoings of the then government, but due to the existence of weaknesses and loopholes which the political forces vying for power took advantage of. That is my assessment.

At that time, no individual, organization or force, except the Tatmadaw, was in a position to save the nation from breaking up into pieces. In the course of the nation's history, the Tatmadaw had to take over the duties of the State and safeguard the nation in an unavoidable situation for four times.

When the nation regained independence in 1948, the political forces were making random acts to vie against each other for power. Secessionists based on the opinion of self-determination rights gave troubles to and coerced the then government. Due to the multiple strikes and multi-coloured insurgency, the Tatmadaw had to save the then government for its continued existence.

Ten years after the regaining of independence, the bloodbath was about to be formed in the nation because of the power struggles within the ruling party. During the time, the Tatmadaw had to fully take the national political leadership role and saved the nation again.

In 1962, some ethnic nationals of the feudalists tried to coerce the then government and demanded the Federal Rule. They did so in cooperation with a military bloc from outside the country. The politicians, who have experienced the events then, know more about the danger that was looming large at that time.

The general situation then was that continued existence of the multi-party democracy system in our nation was impossible. In addition, the whole economy of the nation was in the hands of foreign capitalists. And in accord with the requirements of the time, the best way to solve the political, economic and social problems and the weakness in the unity of Myanmar was the policy of the socialist democracy based on socialist economy.

After the Tatmadaw had taken over the duties of the State in 1962, the Burma Socialist Programme Party continued to launch a social revolution. But unfortunately, the socialist democracy system ended even before the socialist economy could be firmly set up. Despite the downfall of the socialist system, the political and ideological differences still existed among the old die-hard politicians of the previous era. Moreover, the desire for the rights of self-determination was still firmly rooted among the ethnic races till then.

Thus, the Tatmadaw, which took over all the State duties in 1988, had to conduct the reforms in accord with the requirements of the history. Its duty was to build a social system based on the market-oriented economy or in other words to draft a Constitution that will lead to flourishing of the multi-party democracy system in the country. However, the success of the new political system depends on the unity of all the national races and the building of peaceful, modern and developed nation.

So...

If we review the history of our nation, we can see the multi-political factions resorted to violence, used the people and sacrificed their followers just to grab power. The nation thus faced the situations of near-disintegration

## 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

## Development of Chin State

### Education Sector

	Past	At Present
Basic Education High School	17	25
Basic Education Middle School	76	83
Basic Education Primary School	998	1059
Post Primary School	—	193

### Health Sector

	Past	At Present
150-bed Hospital (Falam)	1	1
100-bed Hospital (Haka)	—	1
50-bed Hospital	3	2
25-bed Hospital	2	2
16-bed Hospital	12	16

### Communication Sector

	Past	At Present
Post Office	27	43
Telegraph	11	17
Telephone Carrier Board	8	20
Auto-exchange	—	1
Microwave Station	—	5
Satellite Station	—	2

time and again as the nation's political image was overwhelmed by confrontations and rivalry, based on personal, factional and ideological prejudices and excessive pride based on hostilities.

After the total collapse of the socialist system in 1988, the nation's political sector was sandwiched between the different factions upholding leftist ideologies varying from the moderate to the extreme on one hand and the rightist segments who were the racists, the feudalists, and followers of the west on the other hand. Moreover, these groups placed their cause in the fore rather than the people's cause, and worst of all, they were demanding power.

In that situation, laying down and realization of a new socio-political order cannot be an easy task. What will happen to the nation and the people? Will democracy flourish in our nation if the politicians are allowed to do whatever they like and if the Tatmadaw step aside? No way.

(To be continued)

(Translation: TMT)





*Lt-Gen Ye Myint addresses opening ceremony of Natthataw Dam near Natthataw Village, Ngazun Township.— MNA*

## Strong nation must be built based on its own strength and power Natthataw Dam inaugurated in Ngazun Township

YANGON, 28 July— An inauguration ceremony of Natthataw Dam was held at the dam near Natthataw Village in Ngazun Township, Myingyan District, Mandalay Division this morning.

Present were Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin, military officers of the command, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and departments, members of Myingyan District and Ngazun Township Peace and Development Councils and members, officials of the Natthataw Dam Project, social organizations, local people and students numbering 5,300.



*Central Command  
Commander Maj-Gen  
Ye Myint.— MNA*



*Minister for Agriculture  
and Irrigation Maj-Gen  
Nyunt Tin.— MNA*

Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint delivered an address. He said Natthataw Dam was built across Natthataw and Shwelinban Creeks in Ngazun Township and would irrigate 1,500 acres of farmland. Situated in Myingyan District, Ngazun Township gets 20 inches of rainfall each year and it is in the arid zone. Local farmers could not utilize water from the creeks that flow into

down tasks for rapid development of the nation and made arrangements for progress of education, health, economic and social conditions in rural regions. The Senior General himself made field trips to rural areas and fulfilled the requirements. The newly inaugurated dam was the result of his arrangement.

In Mandalay Division, 37 dams including the present one were built at a cost of over K 7,754 million and they are irrigating over 329,000 acres of cultivable lands.

A total of 14 dams in Myingyan district were built and more dams are to be built where water is available. Lt-Gen Ye Myint said the government is launching river water pumping projects. Due to the projects water can be supplied to farlands of edible oil crops and beans and pulses all the year round.

Dams and reservoirs in Mandalay Division are the results of goodwill of the government and they are the foundations for posterity of local farmers.

He said the government is implementing the development tasks not only in the states and divisions but also in border areas. A total of 149 dams and 265 river water pumping stations have been built in the country so far. Owing to the government's efforts crops lands have become farmlands in Anya region. Farmers who have not grown paddy before can now cultivate it.

He spoke of the need for the farmers to make efforts to per acre yield increase after applying the better conditions created by the government. Cotton, sugarcane, beans and pulses and oil crops can successfully be cultivated in Mandalay Division. Therefore, Mandalay Division is one of the divisions on which the government relies economically. Local people in Mandalay Division are to strive for successful implementation of agricultural tasks that contribute towards national and economic development, he said.

He said arrangements are being made for opening of

with unity are to fight against those who undermine the stability and development.

He called for maintenance of the dam, conservation of forest in the catchment area. He also thanked engineers and service personnel of the Irrigation Department and local organizations that rendered assistance.

Afterwards, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin made a speech. He said that at a time when efforts are being made for national development, tapping and exploiting of more water resources plays a key role in successful implementation of agro-economy. This being so, dams and reservoirs are being built. Natthataw Dam opened today will contribute much to development of agriculture sector of Mandalay Division.

Building of Natthataw Dam constitutes ensuring rural water supply for the people of Ngazun Township. The irrigation facility will also benefit a number of acres of farmland in the township. With the emergence of the dam, socio-economic life of the local people will improve.

Dams and reservoirs large and small and river water pumping projects are being implemented with own resources across the nation under the guidance of the Head of State for development of agricultural sector as well as State's economy.

The irrigation facilities contribute to rural development and enhancing of living standard of the people. Steps are being taken for the emergence of more irrigation facilities and Natthataw Dam is the 149th of its kind in Myanmar.

As the world population is on the increase, there has been a limitation on availability of water resources. In this regard, every nation is paying serious attention to in fresh water resources. With this end in view, the government is making efforts for tapping of water resources to ensure development of socio-economic life of the people as well as development of environmental conservation. In the process, dams and river water pumping projects are being imple-



*Natthataw Dam seen near Natthataw Village, Ngazun Township.— MNA*

the Ayeyawady River although they live near them. They undertook agricultural tasks with much difficulty due to the lack of favourable weather condition.

Therefore, he said, that Nine District Greening Project for availability of water for agricultural purpose, drinking water and greening the arid zone in Anya region was implemented under the guidance of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe. Achievements have been made due to active cooperation of State organizations and the people. Later, the project was extended to 13 districts.

He said the government built dams and river water pumping stations spending a large sum of money with the use of available water resources. In other words, water resources were explored.

He said Head of State Senior General Than Shwe laid

university and technical institute soon and health standard was promoted. People now can easily go to Myotha, Tada U, Kyaukse, Simikhon and Myingyan from Ngazun because of improved rural roads in the district.

He spoke at length on construction of roads in the division. Development has been made in various sectors with the harmonious cooperation of the State, the people and the Tatmadaw.

He said based on its own strength and power, the nation must be built. If the country relies on foreign assistance, it will become a satellite one, he warned. Efforts are to be made for national development based on patriotism and Union Spirit, he added.

He said all are to build a peaceful, modern development nation based on their own strength. Moreover, all the people

mented constantly.

Myotha Dam and Phaungkadaw Dam emerged in 2000 and 2003 respectively in the region, and there now emerges Natthataw Dam. Those dams will create the opportunities for development of agricultural sector in Ngazun Township.

The five rural development tasks are being implemented for development of education, health, transport and social sectors of rural areas which rely on agriculture. Efforts are being made to increase the per acre yield of the ten main crops and to boost the agricultural production.

Farmers and the people are to make efforts for regional and national developments as a network of dams and reservoirs emerged. All are also urged to protect and maintain the dam for its durability.

(See page 10)

# Agriculture in arid Anya region

Article by Myint Lwin; photos by (MNA) and (The Kyemon)



Lawka Nanda river-water pumping project in NyaungU Township, Mandalay Division, benefiting 11,000 acres of land.

I worked at Hanthawady press in Mandalay, the second capital of Myanmar, for six years from 1972 to 1978. I had to write news on cooperation between the public and the government and travel-logues. Since my parents were farmers, I take interest in the development of agricultural sector. Therefore, I often write articles on agricultural development.

One day I caught sight of a signboard that reads "Benefits of underground water, no longer the

danger of drought" at the opening ceremony of the MaU Camp at the entrance to Monywa, Sagaing Division. When I got in the camp, I saw water pouring out of the tube-wells. I also witnessed ditches that led to plantations.

That region is a sparsely populated and landlocked area. In the past, it had to rely on rainwater for cultivation of crops. I wrote at that time there was no need to worry about bad weather and drought.

Upper Myanmar, Mandalay Division, Sagaing

Division and Magway Division are in the arid zone.

In Kyaukpadaung, water was so scarce that there was not enough water for human consumption and cattle. I once noted a saying that goes "Being a cow in Kyaukpadaung is worse than being hit by thunderbolt". At that time, I visited Ayadaw in Sagaing Division on business. I spent a night at the house of U Pho Mo, a representative of the newspaper press. When I took my bath there I had to use only one or two bowls of water from the cow's

manger. This was because, the house owner said, there was a scarcity of water in their region as it was a dry and hot one. To get just a little water, they had to go to the spring by bullock cart, and wait for the water from 3 am to about 4 pm. The cows there drank the water I had bathed.

Over 30 years ago, there was a scarcity of water to drink and to use for agricultural purpose in the region. Although there were drains, creeks and streams, I saw no water in the fields. There were very few dams

and reservoirs.

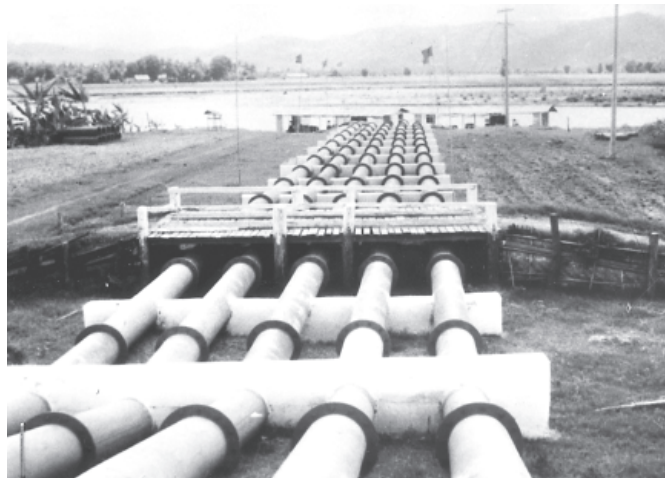
I was on the Yangon-Mandalay express train on 9 July to attend the funeral of my friend. We attended a journalism course together. From the train I noticed that the fields were now different from the past. There is water in the fields. At present, dams, reservoirs and river water pumping projects have been implemented and the fields can be irrigated in any season. Therefore, the farmers can grow a variety of crops and hold their heads high. They now carry out their

cultivation saying "no need for gold but water"

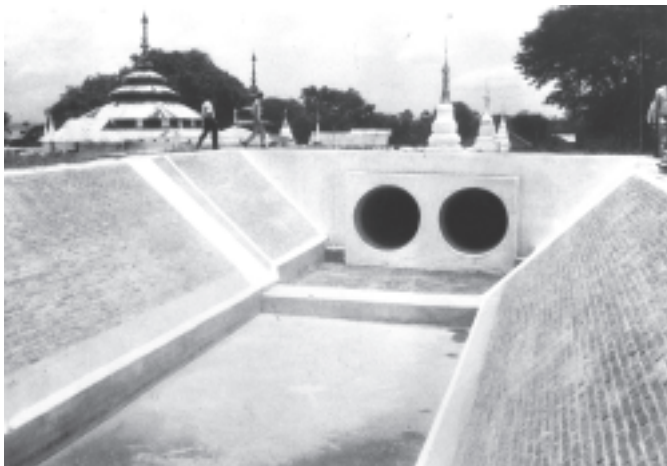
In the fields, the farmers are harvesting summer paddy and ploughing for monsoon paddy. Some fields are put under sweet pepper and beans and pulses. There are also double and mixed cropping.

The farmers living in the dry region are now carrying out their cultivation work. They are actively participating in the tasks for building a modern and developed nation through agriculture.

Translation: KTY+ST



Kyawzi river-water pumping project in Taungtha Township, Mandalay Division



Tanyaung river-water pumping project in Saling Township, Magway Division, benefiting 15,000 acres of land



Thaphanseik Dam in Kyunhla Township, Sagaing Division, benefiting over 500,000 acres of land

## Strong nation must be built...

(from page 9)

In conclusion, the minister wishes the farmers to be prosperous and successful in agricultural undertakings with the use of the irrigation facility.

Next, Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint gave a speech. He said that today's ceremony is to open Natthataw Dam which plays a vital role in uplift of living standard of the local farmers in Ngazun Township.

Natthataw Dam is the 149th dam of the irrigation project as well as the 37th one in Mandalay Division.

Mandalay Division will put 686,675 acres of lands under monsoon paddy in 2003-2004. In cultivating the monsoon paddy, 95 dams and lakes in the division and 1,327 small dams and lakes will irrigate 459,410 acres of farmland. The

agricultural tasks will be carried out with the use of 66.9 per cent in irrigation facilities. Similarly, 198,874 acres of summer paddy in the division will be irrigated by dams, lakes and river water pumping projects in 2003-2004.

It is necessary to extend paddy cultivation for local food sufficiency. Water is essential for the cultivation. The Government is carrying out various ways of water supply. River water pumping projects and dam projects were implemented and lakes and drains were restored. Therefore, water can be supplied to 65,546 acres of farmlands this year.

Altogether 42.2 per cent of agricultural sector includes in the production and services value of Mandalay Division. The opening of Natthataw Dam can benefit the agricultural sector.

Next, a local resident spoke words of thanks.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Ye Myint unveiled the stone inscription of the dam. Next, Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint and Minister Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin formally opened the dam. Next, they inspected the dam.

Natthataw Dam is located in northern part of Natthataw Village, Ngazun Township. Water from Natthataw and Shwelinban creeks will be stored at the dam which is 6,040 feet long and 57 feet high. The dam will irrigate 1,500 acres of croplands through three feet diameter RCC pipe. The spillway, 30 feet wide and 1,360 feet long, was built at the dam.

Construction of the dam started in September 2002. The dam will irrigate 200 acres of paddy, 200 acres of cotton and 1,100 acres of edible oil crops.

MNA



## Implementation of projects for equitable development of regions in the country



With the aim of supplying electricity to Taunggyi District in Shan State, the Ministry of Electric Power built Hydel Power Plant across Zawgyi River in Yaksauk Township.



Salin Dam with the length of 2,770 feet and height of 220 feet was opened on 15 August 2001 in Salin Township, Magway Division to irrigate 33,000 acres of farmland.

Nantleik Hydel Power Plant built in Kengtung Township in Shan State (East).



The 1,360 feet long Taninthayi Bridge spanning Tanithayi River was opened on 12-11-2000 in Taninthayi Division.



Magway Institute of Medicine where students are learning medical science through Data Broadcasting System.



The panoramic view of developing Mongla of Shan State (East) Special Region-4.



Ma-ei Creek Bridge linking Taungup Township of Thandwe District and An Township of Kyaukpyu District in Rakhine State was opened on 18-11-2001. The 940 feet long and 30 feet wide bridge was built at a cost of K 7,129 million.





# မညာရေးနှင့် ခေတ်မီပွဲများတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

## Castro rejects EU aid

SANTIAGO (Cuba), 28 July—Cuban President Fidel Castro responded on Saturday to European Union criticism of human rights abuses in Cuba by rejecting EU aid and closing the door on political contacts.

"Cuba does not need the aid of the European Union to survive," Castro said in a speech to 10,000 supporters marking the 50th anniversary of the assault he led on the Santiago Army garrison that launched his leftist revolution.

"The Government of Cuba, out of a basic sense of dignity, relinquishes any aid or remnant of humanitarian aid that may be offered by the European Commission and the governments of the European Union," Castro said. He said Cuba would only accept aid from regional or local governments, NGOs and solidarity movements in Europe "which do not impose political conditions on Cuba".

Castro accused European nations of ganging up on Cuba with the United States, which has maintained sanctions against the Caribbean island for four decades.

In his speech on Saturday, he attacked European countries for "plundering" their colonies and leaving billions of people in poverty and underdevelopment, and said

they should compensate African countries for the "the damage wreaked throughout centuries by slavery and colonialism".

"Neither Europe nor the United States will have the last word on the future of humanity," he said to a crowd of supporters wearing red T-shirts and waving Cuban flags.

The EU is Cuba's largest trading and investment partner and the source of most of its tourism, the island's most important source of hard currency.

The rally commemorated the 1953 attack on the Moncada barracks in Santiago that gave birth to one of the most lasting socialist revolutions of the 20th Century after his guerilla movement overthrew the corrupt dictatorship of US-backed Fulgencio Batista in 1959.

Castro recalled the pitiful social conditions under Batista and said Cuba's socialist society had achieved educational and health standards higher than some developed nations. —MNA/Reuters

## China should increase gas consumption

BEIJING, 28 July —China should increase its consumption of natural gas and other clean energies while reducing coal use to improve the environment, a delegate has told the 15th Congress of the Communist Youth League of China (CYLC) in Beijing.

Dr Luo Qiang, an expert on energy and sustainable development and secretary of the CYLC Sichuan Provincial Committee, said pollution was serious in China because 70 per cent of the country's energy was coal-based, which is low in efficiency and high in pollution.

Official statistics indicated that natural gas accounted for only 2.2 per cent of the energy consumed in China, while petroleum was 18 per cent and hydro-electricity 5.7 per cent.

Coal and petroleum caused more pollution than natural gas while hydro-electricity required too big an investment. Gas was ideal because it was cleaner and cost-effective, he said.

"Gas consumption in China should be increased to 25 per cent to 30 per cent," he said, adding that the country's gas reserves could support such a rise. Luo said the western regions of China had rich reserves of natural gas as did the South China Sea.

He cited southwestern Sichuan Province as an example, saying the annual natural gas output in the province was close to 8 billion cubic metres.

Meanwhile, China could also import gas from Central Asia, Russia, and the Philippines, he said. "Natural gas as a clean energy has a broad market, and this is especially

true in the economically more prosperous eastern regions of China," he said.

By 2010, the consumption of natural gas in Shanghai, the leading industrial centre of China, and the eastern Zhejiang and Jiangsu provinces would increase to 19.9 billion cubic metres from the two billion now, he said.

To quicken gas supply to the eastern regions, the Chinese Government had launched the construction of a 4,000-kilometre gas pipeline linking the gas-rich western regions to the eastern regions such as the Yangtze River Delta and Beijing.

By the end of this year, the pipeline would be able to supply gas to Shanghai, he said. — MNA/Xinhua

## Hainan sees gender ratio imbalance

HAIKOU, 28 July — The south China island province of Hainan is facing a chronic social problem because of the imbalance of the ratio between new-born female and male babies. Statistics show that over the past 10 years, for every 100 female babies born, there were around 135 male babies, far above the normal ratio of 100 females to 104-107 males.

Investigations indicate that in some parts of the province, especially in the rural areas, the obsolete idea of valuing boys over girls still remained. — MNA/Xinhua



Brides with veil sit during a collective wedding at a middle school in Amman, capital of Jordan, 25 July, 2003. One hundred and four couples from across the kingdom joined the wedding held by a local charitable organization. —XINHUA

## China's high-tech export surges in first half year

BEIJING, 28 July —China exported more than 44 billion US dollars' worth of high-tech products in the first half of this year, a jump of 54.6 per cent year-on-year, according to the latest Customs figures.

The amount accounts for about 23 per cent of the country's total export during the period and the growth rate was 21 percentage points higher than that of the general exports.

Computer and telecommunications products contributed to 82.2 per cent of the high-tech exports, growing 61.5 per cent year-on-year to 36.16 billion US dollars.

Other products displaying strong export momentum were mobile phones, electronic products and life science products.

The country's economically developed coastal areas have become the primary high-tech exporters. Guangdong Province in south China snatched the top place by exporting 19.55 billion US dollars' worth of high-tech products in the first six months, followed by Jiangsu, Shanghai, Tianjin, Fujian and Beijing.

Foreign-funded enterprises, by exporting high-tech products valued at about 37.1 billion US dollars, contributed to more than 84 per cent of the country's total high-tech export in the same period. — MNA/Xinhua

## Stagecraft exhibition to be held in Nanjing in December

BEIJING, 28 July —The Second Stagecraft Exhibition of China will be held in Nanjing, capital of east China's Jiangsu Province, from December 5 to 14 this year.

The exhibition will demonstrate major achievements in modern theatre, such as film and television arts and stage arts featuring drama, opera, song and dance, acrobatics and puppetry, said the exhibition's sponsors.

It will also display stage equipment, hold academic seminars and international stage art exchanges, stage goods programmes, and publish articles and theses. The exhibition is jointly sponsored by the art department under China's Ministry of Culture, the Chinese Stagecraft Society and the Culture Department of Jiangsu Provincial Government. The first such exhibition was held in Beijing in 1982. — MNA/Xinhua

## Romania investigates death of dolphins

BUCHAREST, 28 July—Romania is investigating the mysterious deaths of 48 dolphins on the shores of the Black Sea, police said Saturday.

The dolphins, a protected species in Romania, were found dead earlier this week on beaches about 35 kilometres south of the Black Sea port of Sulina.

The cause of the deaths was not clear as they did not have cuts suffered from fishing nets like other dolphins died recently in the area, police said.

Dozens of dolphins are killed every month after they get caught in fishing nets which can stretch up to 21 kilometres.

The European Commission, the European Union's executive body, adopted new tough rules Thursday to reduce the number of dolphins killed by fishing nets.

It proposed a maximum length of 2.5 kilometres for drift nets used in the Baltic Sea, and the gradual phasing out of the nets by January 1, 2007. The new rules also asked fishermen to use sonar devices to scare the mammals away. —MNA/Xinhua

## Moderate earthquakes jolt western Turkey

ANKARA, 28 July — A series of moderate earthquakes on Saturday rocked western Turkey, including the country's third largest city of Izmir, but officials said there were no reports of deaths.

A quake registering 5.6 on the Richter Scale struck the province of Denizli, some 93 miles east of Izmir on the

Aegean Sea coast, around 11.40 am (0840 GMT), said an official in Izmir, where the tremor was also felt.

Denizli Governor Recep Yazicioglu told the state-run Anatolian news agency around 10 people were injured after jumping from windows and balconies in panic.

"Cracks can be seen on

walls, but we have not yet received information about buildings collapsing. Naturally, there is panic among the people," Yazicioglu said.

Earlier in the day two quakes measuring 5.0 and 4.1 hit Denizli. More than a dozen smaller quakes were also felt, the Kandilli observatory in Istanbul said on its website.

Faultlines crisscross Turkey, where small earthquakes strike on a near daily basis. A powerful earthquake hit the country's east in May, killing 167 people. Two massive quakes in 1999 killed more than 18,000 people and devastated large swathes of the industrialized northwest.

MNA/Reuters

## SPORTS

## Lyon beat Auxerre in French season-opening

LYON, 28 July — French champions Olympique Lyon scored twice in the first nine minutes to beat Cup winners AJ Auxerre 2-1 in the season-opening Champions Trophy match at their Gerland Stadium on Saturday.

It was Lyon's second successive victory in the gala game following their 5-0 rout of Lorient last year.

Lyon's new Ghanaian recruit Mickael Essien marked his debut with the opening goal in the fifth minute, beating Auxerre keeper Fabien Cool at the second attempt after taking a pass from Brazilian midfielder Juninho Pernambucano.

Four minutes later, midfielder Mahamadou Diarra put Lyon two goals ahead when he rose at the near post to head home a free kick from the left.

Auxerre hit the woodwork several times before Olivier Kapo pulled a goal back eight minutes from time, turning home a cross from France striker Djibril Cisse.

MNA/Reuters



Carlos Queiroz (C), head coach of Spain's football giant Real Madrid, instructs players in a training session in Kunming, capital of southwest China's Yunnan Province, on 27 July, 2003. —XINHUA PHOTO

## Invisible Real apologize to Chinese fans

KUNMING, 28 July — Real Madrid have apologized to hundreds of Chinese fans who showed up to watch their heroes training only to discover they would not get to see new signing David Beckham and his teammates after all.

Officials from Real and the provincial government of Yunnan, where the club is training for a week amid swamps, mountains and ghostly mists, on Sunday said sorry to media in China for mix-ups that have sparked criticism in the local Press.

Heavy rain and a rash of publicity blunders were behind the controversy that began on Saturday morning when fans packed bleachers to watch Real train, only to learn

that the team was resting after a long flight from Madrid the previous day.

On Sunday morning, supporters came out by the hundreds again but had to wait an hour under heavy rain before Real appeared. The team began drills out of the fans' view on a nearby pitch, to prevent ground conditions at the main venue deteriorating.

Real and their hosts blamed the scheduling snafus on misunderstandings with local organizers and the weather. "I want to apologize for the confusion in the first two days and want to gain your understanding," deputy sporting director Emilio Butragueno told some 200 reporters via an interpreter.

MNA/Reuters

## Ferguson gives Veron vote of confidence

LOS ANGELES, 28 July — Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson said on Saturday that he was "very happy" with the club's Argentine midfielder Juan Sebastian Veron and saw him as an important squad player.

Veron has received mixed reviews since his transfer to the club for 28 million pounds (45.28 million dollars) from Italy's Lazio in 2001 and recent media reports have linked the player with a move to English Premier League rivals Chelsea.

"There was an opportunity for him to go to a club which in a way is maybe a good thing he did not go," Ferguson told reporters shortly before a team training session here.

"You can't dismiss the class of the boy, the work rate of him, his desire to play are all great... I've always been happy with him, he will be an important player for us," he said.

Manchester United are in Los Angeles for a match against Mexico's Club America on Sunday, the second game of the club's US tour.

Ferguson expressed satisfaction with performance of his team in their first game, a 4-0 win against Scotland's Celtic in Seattle saying he was "surprised how good they were". He was also full of praise for the training facilities at the club's base in Portland, Oregon.

"I would say looking back it (the training facility) is probably the best we've ever had. From that point of view it has been great

coming to the States," he said.

Manchester United's tour does not include any games against American teams.

Ferguson said, however, the sport had surged in the country recently, benefiting from the national team's strong performance in the World Cup last year.

"There is a place for soccer in this country," he said.

However, he said the size of the United States was a handicap as it seeks to establish the game as a rival to sports such as American football and baseball.

"In Europe fans can travel quite easily while in the States from one coast to the other is a long way so that is a handicap because supporters make up the emotional part of the game and the rivalry between them is very important in European football," he said.

Ferguson was also asked about the club's failed bid to sign Brazilian midfielder Ronaldinho, who opted to sign for Spain's Barcelona instead.

"In a way it was a disappointment... It doesn't mean that Manchester United will fold up and die. We carry on as we have always done," he told reporters.

MNA/Reuters

## Rooney to miss start of season

LONDON, 28 July — Everton's teenage England striker Wayne Rooney will miss the start of the new Premier League season after damaging his right ankle during a friendly at Scottish champions Rangers, his club said on Sunday.

The 17-year-old, who was carried off on a stretcher after falling awkwardly in the first half of Saturday's 3-2 win at Ibrox, has ligament damage and will be out for a month.

He will therefore miss the start of the new Premier League season on August 16 — when Everton visit Arsenal — and England's friendly against Croatia at

Portman Road four days later. "Wayne had an X-ray in Liverpool on Saturday night and fortunately there was no obvious break," Everton's head physio Mick Rathbone told the Premier League club's web site.

"He has been for an MR scan this morning and visited a consultant who reviewed the information and confirmed the diagnosis as

damaged ankle ligaments.

"He will return to see the specialist in 12 days' time and we anticipate that he will be out for around four weeks."

Rooney will stay at Everton's Bellefield training ground for intensive rehabilitation, while the rest of his teammates continue their pre-season preparations in Scotland. — MNA/Reuters

## Liverpool's HK fans greet Tung with jeers

HONG KONG, 28 July — Unpopular Hong Kong leader Tung Chee-hwa was booed by almost two thousand fans of the Liverpool football team when he attended a practice session by the visiting Premier League English squad on Saturday.

"Step down!", some of the Reds' screaming fans shouted amid jeers from the spectator stand as Tung, a diehard Liverpool fan, and other sports officials entered the stadium to take their front-row seats. "It's really bad luck to bump into Tung Chee-hwa. It completely ruined my day," a young soccer fan told a local cable television network.

Seemingly oblivious to the taunts, a composed Tung sat down and occasionally chatted with officials seated next to him.

Tung's leadership is being severely tested after several years of economic doldrums in Hong Kong and criticism over the government's handling of the severe acute respiratory syndrome outbreak.

In the biggest political crisis in Hong Kong's six-year post-colonial era, half a million people took to the streets on July 1 to protest against a contro-

versial national security bill, prompting Tung to promise to consult more widely on government policies in the future. — MNA/Reuters

## OBITUARY

Al. Hajj Dawood Ahmed Ginwalla

Age (69) years

Verily we are from Allah and to him is our return (Al.Quraan).

Al. Hajj Dawood Ahmed Ginwalla devoted husband of Hawabi (Shelly) beloved father of Ahmed, Jamilan and Shabana at No 309 Bo Sun Pat Street Pabedan Township on 28-7-2003 Monday at 03:15 am suddenly passed away to his heavenly abode and buried at Yayway Muslim Cemetery after asar salat.

Bereaved Family

နဝမအကြိမ်မြောက်

အခမ္ဘာက် - အရှေ့စီးပွားရေးစင်္ကြံလမ်းကြောင်းတစ်လျှောက်

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အခင်းအဝေး

[The Ninth Working Group Meeting on the West-East Economic Corridor Development]

ကုန်သွယ်ရေးအဖွဲ့အစည်း

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## Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann, Secretary-2 meet ...

(from page 16)

being carried out for development of agricultural and livestock breeding, education and health sectors and requirements. Afterward, Lt-Gen Soe Win presented K 5 million for Tiddim Township People's Hospital to Dr Aye Aye Maw, K 1.5 million each for Htokhlaing Station Hospital and Hlaingtwi Station Hospital to U Sai Maung Lu, and exercise books for students to the Township Education Officer.

Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint presented cash assistance for the Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association and the Township Working Committee for Women's Affairs to officials.

Next, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Soe Win gave necessary instructions to officials.

Later, Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann made a speech and greeted those present on the occasion.

After the ceremony, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Soe Win and party proceeded to No 1 BEHS of Tiddim, where they were welcomed by Headmaster U Khine Ngike Lant, teachers and students.

Next, they inspected learning of students and multimedia classrooms.

Afterwards, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Soe Win and party arrived at No 2 BEPS in Tiddim and inspected the school and its environs.

On arrival at the Township People's Hospital, the Secretary-2 and party inspected the operation theater and X-ray room. They then met with the health staff and gave necessary instructions.

Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann on 24 July morning

development training school in Tiddim. The Secretary-2 presented school uniforms to Headmaster U Tin Aung and inspected the school.

They went to sericulture factory where Manager of Chin State U Van Thung and factory manager U Win Naing reported on functions of the factory and weaving of silk. Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Brig-Gen Khin Maung gave a supplementary report. The Secretary-2 and party visited the factory.

Lt-Gen Thura Shwe



Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Soe Win and party cordially converse with students at Falam BEHS No 1.—MNA



Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Soe Win meets doctors, nurses, MCWA members and officials at Falam District Hospital.—MNA



Mann, the Secretary-2 and party arrived in Falam by helicopter. They inspected classrooms of No 1 Basic Education High School in Falam and greeted students. They met Falam District and Township departmental officials, members of social organizations, townsenders and local people.

Member of the State

Pesinngon, industrial raw material crops, cotton, coffee, tea, pepper and Thitseint trees, reclamation for highland cultivation, raising of fowl and cattle, economic development in the township, education and health sectors, hydropower station and requirements.

Secretary of Falam District Peace and Development Council Maj Tin Maung Cho reported on development of border areas, measures undertaken for rural development, targets and implementation of the project, cultivation of tea, raising of domesticated wild ox, breeding of fish, education and health conditions and requirements.

The Secretary-2 presented cash assistance for BEHS No 1 and 2 in Falam and BEHS in Lonban to headmasters, exercise books for basic education schools to Township Education Officer and clothes for local people to the Chairman of Township Peace and Development Council.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint presented cash assistance for Township Working Committee for Women's Affairs and blankets to officials. The Secretary-2 explained the government's assistance to the development of Chin

State, progress being made in agriculture, education and health sectors as a result of cooperation between administrative bodies and service personnel and local people and efforts for further development.

Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann called on local people and service personnel to work hard for townshipwise development. He then greeted those present. Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann and the Secretary-2 met trainees of nursing training school. Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing presented cash assistance to a trainee. Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann met officers, other ranks and their family members at the hall of regional battalion in Falam.

Meanwhile, the Secretary-2 and party inspected the e-education learning centre and the multimedia teaching centre at Falam BEHS No 1. The Secretary-2 gave instructions on application of teaching aid at the multimedia teaching centre, turning out outstanding students and efforts to be made for producing youths who can carry out development of the region. In the afternoon, the Secretary-2 and party inspected Falam District Hospital. At the hall, they met

with doctors, nurses, MCWA members and officials and gave necessary instructions.

Next, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Soe Win presented K 5 million for the district hospital and K 1.5 million for Teebwam Station Hospital to officials. Next, he presented cash assistance for Township MCWA to an official. They also inspected the X-ray room and medical store. Afterwards, the Secretary-2 and party went to Falam BEHS No 2 and saw over the computer based instruction room and the language lab.

At 5 pm, Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann, the Secretary-2 and party discussed the inspection tour of Chin State at the Yeiktha of the local battalion in Falam. Deputy Minister for Construction Brig-Gen Myint Thein reported on upgrading of roads in Chin State and Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Brig-Gen Khin Maung on arrangements for cultivation of tea, orange and pear.

Chairman of Chin State

Peace and Development Council Col Tin Hla and officials reported on plans to achieve success in respective sectors. Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein reported on three-year plan for breeding domesticated wild oxen.

After hearing reports, Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Soe Win and Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave instructions on upgrading of roads, extended cultivation of tea, orange and pear, breeding of domesticated wild oxen and development tasks. In the afternoon Minister for Information, Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan who accompanied the inspection tour team, went to Falam Township Information and Public Relations Department and met with staff.

On 25 July morning, Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Soe Win and party left Falam for Kale by car and inspected condition of roads and conservation of natural forests.—MNA



Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Soe Win presents K 1.5 million for Teebwam Station Hospital to Specialist Dr Maung Maung Thein on 24-7-2003.—MNA

met with officers and other ranks and their families of the local battalion and gave instructions. They then inspected the plantations of the battalion.

The Secretary-2 and party met students of border areas and national races youth de-

velopment training school in Tiddim. The Secretary-2 presented school uniforms to Headmaster U Tin Aung and inspected the school. They went to sericulture factory where Manager of Chin State U Van Thung and factory manager U Win Naing reported on functions of the factory and weaving of silk. Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Brig-Gen Khin Maung gave a supplementary report. The Secretary-2 and party visited the factory.

**Do not be bolstered  
whenever flattered**

## Vice-Senior General Maung Aye receives ROK Defence Attachés

YANGON, 28 July — Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye received Defence Attaché of the Republic of Korea to the Union of Myanmar Col Yoon Han-Hong, who had completed his tour of duty, and his successor Col Shim Jae Koo at Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyinthta at 3.30 pm today. Also present at the call were Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Chief of Military Intelligence General Khin Nyunt, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Kyi Min and Commander-in-Chief (Air) Maj-Gen Myat Hein.

MNA

*Vice-Senior General Maung Aye receives Defence Attaché of the Republic of Korea to the Union of Myanmar Col Yoon Han-Hong and his successor Col Shim Jae Koo at Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyinthta.— MNA*



## Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann, Secretary-2 meet officials and locals in Tonzang, Tiddim, Falam in Chin State

YANGON, 28 July — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann, Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win and Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, accompanied by Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing, ministers, deputy ministers, senior military officers, the chairman of Chin State Peace and Development Council and officials, on 23 July morning left Reedkhodar in Falam Township for Tonzang by helicopter.

They were welcomed

there by Deputy Commander of Chin State Police Force Police Lt-Col Tin Thein Han, the Township Peace and Development Council Chairman and departmental officials and local people.

At Chinshwepyi sport grounds in Tonzang, they met with officials, social organizations, townsenders and local people, and Lt-Gen Ye Myint explained the purpose of the tour of Tonzang.

Next, the Township Peace and Development Council Chairman reported on endeavours for the development of the township and the requirements for construction of Basic Education High School in Tonzang and renovation of

Township People's Hospital.

The Secretary-2 next attended to the needs and presented K 3 million to the fund of Tonzang Township People's Hospital and K 2 million to the fund of Kyika Station Hospital through township medical officer Dr Wai Phyo Win.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Ye Myint presented cash assistance for Township Work Committee for Women's Affairs and Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association through officials.

Next, Vice Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Lt-Gen Soe Win also presented cash for construction of the Tonzang BEHS, and for renovation of Town-

ship People's Hospital through officials. He also presented exercise books for the basic education schools in the township and clothes.

The Secretary-2 urged local people to extend mulberry cultivation, to implement highland cultivation and to extend breeding of domesticated wild oxen.

Next, Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann also urged local people to make efforts in the interest of the people and the nation with patriotic spirit and cordially greeted them.

After the meeting, Lt-Gen Soe Win went to the Township People's Hospital and inspected it.

Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo reported on renovation of the hospi-

tal and the Secretary-2 gave necessary instructions.

Next, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Soe Win arrived at Tonzang BEHS and met with the headmaster and teachers and gave necessary instructions.

He then presented cash assistance for the school to the headmaster.

Next, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Soe Win and party inspected learning of students, multimedia classrooms and the school building needed to be renovated.

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Shan who was in the tour of Tonzang inspected Tonzang Township Information and Public Relations Department and gave necessary instructions to officials.

Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann and party at 3.30 pm arrived at Tiddim by helicopter.

They were welcomed there by Commander of regional command Col Kan Maw Oo, local authorities, departmental officials and local people.

At the office of the Township Peace and Development Council, Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann and party met with departmental officials, social organizations and townsenders. At the meeting, Lt-Gen Ye Myint made an opening speech.

Next, Chairman of the Township Peace and Development Council U Sai Maung Lu reported on work (see page 15)



*Managing Director U Maung Toe of Myanma Pearl Enterprise presents gift to Daw Yu Yu Khin who purchased pearls worth K 41.5 million.— MNA*



*Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann meets with officials, social organizations and local people at Chin Shwe Pyi Gymnasium in Tonzang.— MNA*

## Pearl sales, pearl ornamental design show and contest conclude fetching over K 230 million

YANGON, 28 July — The Pearl sales and pearl ornamental design show and contest, organized by Myanma Pearl Enterprise under the Ministry of Mines, continued for the final day at Thiri Yadana hall of the ministry on Kanbe Street this morning, attended by Chairman of Central Committee for Holding the Myanma Gems Emporium Deputy Minister for Mines U Myint

Thein.

Also present on the occasion were Managing Director of Myanma Pearl Enterprise U Maung Toe, directors-general, managing directors and officials, members of the Panel of Patrons of Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs' Association, Chairperson of MWEA Daw Sein Sein and executives, pearl merchants, competitors and guests.

Next, members of panel of patrons of MWEA, advisers, the chairperson and officials presented first, second, third and consolation prizes to winners respectively.

A total of 74 lots of pearl worth K 142.748408 million were sold through sealed tender system and 19 lots of pearl worth K 90.313563 million through competitive bidding sys-

tem. The show and contest fetched a total of K 233.061971 million for 93 lots of pearl.

In the show and contest, Managing Director U Maung Toe presented a handsome prize to Daw Yu Yu Khin who bought pearls lots worth K 41.5 million.

Altogether 53 local pearl merchants attended the show and contest.

MNA