Development of motherland and perpetuity of nation and its people depend on efficiency of education sector

Secretary-1 addresses closing of Special Refresher Course No 18 for basic education teachers

YANGON, 7 July — The concluding ceremony of Special Refresher Course No 18 for basic education teachers was held at the Yadana hall of the Central Institute of Civil Service (Upper Myanmar) in PyinOoLwin Township in Mandalay Division yesterday afternoon, with an address by Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council General Khin Nyunt.

Also present on the occasion were Member of the State Peace and Development Council Li-Gen Ye Myint, Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council General Khin Nyunt, the ministers, the chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board, the deputy ministers, the mayor of Mandalay, senior military officers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, local authorities, service personnel, Rector Col Aung San Win of CICS (Upper Myanmar), pro-rectors, heads of departments, course instructors and trainees.

First, Secretary-1 General Khin Nyunt delivered a speech. In his address he said that at a time when knowledge and technology dominate all development sectors, all the teachers in the education sector are responsible not only for brighter future of the students but also for carrying out the tasks for emergence of a modern developed nation.

Therefore, the role of education has become wider and more important. The teachers are to teach their students and to discharge duties to accomplish national objectives of the national education promotion programme.

He said efficiency of the education sector and building national strength through education sector decide stronger future of the State. In other words, development of the motherland and perpetuation of the nation and its people depend on efficiency of the education sector.

This is why the government has laid down education promotion programmes and national education promotion plans to establish an education system that can promote development prospects and exploit the existing resources of the State for long-term national interest and is implementing them. The national education promotion plans are to be implemented for perpetuation of the national policy of non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty. In other words, the government is making efforts for establishing of stronger political, economic and social foundations through the education sector.

Students are to be taught to become not only proficient in education but also intellectuals and intelligentsia with high knowledge and efficiency in accord with the objectives of the national education promotion plans.

They are also to be nurtured to become the ones with high qualifications, knowledge and creative power who can make decision by themselves. He said the teachers on their part are to actively train their pupils to be the ones who can choose their future career in accord with individual bent and prospects and better results of all-round development education system.

He said the student youths are to be trained for using advanced technology to catch up with education of international standard. He also stressed the importance of nurturing the students to preserve Myanma social value, the norm of Myanma living standard and Myanma traditional customs.

He urged the teachers to teach the students to inculcate them with national solidarity spirit and the Union Spirit for perpetuation of the Union, preserving basic historical facts of the nation and its people and noble traditions of the history. He said now national development and to stand tall among the nations of the world mainly depend on own national strength.

(See page 10)
Poopy seeds, buds of local farmers incinerated in Pinlaung

YANGON, 7 July — The ceremony to hand over poppy seeds and to incinerate poppy seeds and poppy buds surrendered by opium growers was held at Pinlaung Township Peace and Development Council at 11 am on 5 July.

Present were Chairman of Shan State Drug Abuse Control Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, Leader of Shan State Drug Eradication and Regional Development Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, Vice-Chairman of Shan State DAC Shan State Police Commander Police Col Thura Tin Hla, senior military personnel of Pinlaung Station, local authorities, departmental officials, local people and social organizations.

First, Commander Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint delivered an address. He said that the ceremonies to destroy poppy seeds have been held in Shan State (South) for three times. At today’s ceremony, 56 baskets, 10 pyis and three tons of poppy seeds and 45 baskets of opium buds presented by the opium growers will be destroyed. In addition, seeds of opium substitute crops as well as rice and salt will be presented to the growers. The Head of State and Shan State-level officials has been making efforts to eradicate narcotic drugs in various ways.

As the State is implementing the New Destiny Project beginning in April 2002, such opium-substitute crops as 380 baskets of paddy, 4,695 kilos of Yezin seeds of soya-bean, 10 baskets of rice and 8,000 viss of salt will be presented by the local farmers. A local farmer spoke words of thanks. Next, a farmer presented poppy seeds to the commander. Afterwards, Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, Police Col Thura Tin Hla, Pinlaung Station Commander Lt-Col Hin Kyaw and Chairman of Taunggyi District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Ye Tun Sein presented seeds of opium substitute-crops to the local farmers.

The commander, Managing Director U Ye Tun Naing of South East Asia Enterprise, Director U Myint Lwin Oo of Lamin Kantha Trading Co Ltd and Managing Director U Myat Htay Thit of Nyaungwun Phantisha Co Ltd presented 1,200 baskets of rice and 8,000 baskets of salt to the farmers. A local farmer spoke words of thanks. Next, the commander, the minister and guests viewed the drug eradication booths. They inspected poppy seeds and poppy buds to be burnt.

Later, the commander, the minister and party pressed the button to incinerate the poppy seeds and buds. —MNA

Facilities for development of Ayeyawady Division

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Poem:

**Prevent entry of SARS**

Severe acuta contagion
Perniciousy outstanding
Pneumonia affecting your lungs
Shake disease
To be called SARS
The name emerged
To defend the global village
Prevention is being put in place
Alphabetically worked out as S-A-R-S.
Respiratory tract suffers
Sudden and severe attack
Affected and breathing restricted
The disease strikes
Eventually there’s no respite
Rarely as fate would have it
Some find adverse effect
And succumb,
Just as its spread is quick
You can’t simply be scared and escape
For close nursing
Under careful scrutiny
Nurses don’t shirk
Doctors show compassion
Goodwill comes first
Without regard for sacrificing life
That’s human.
For picking out new disease
Analyst Urbani
Shake disease
Outstanding title of Hero.
He sacrificed his life
To uncover SARS
Made it known to the world
It spread as fate would have it
Not even sparing him
The new disease SARS.
As Myanmar is prospering
SARS cannot penetrate
Skilled doctors and physicians
Strive to prevent it
Educate, Screen and uncover
Alerted as National Cause
The Nation given priority
Join hands and prevent
Keep SARS away.
(As a tribute to Health workers and who collaborated in the public working unstintingly strove without regard to their safety to prevent the danger of the spread of SARS.)

Kyaw Saw Han (Trs)

5,250 stimulant tablets seized

YANGON, 7 July — A combined team comprising members of Lashio Special Anti-drug Squad and local intelligence unit, acting on a tip-off, on 5 June evening searched Ma Nan Wai Lwin, daughter of U Mann San, of Nanslap Village, Hsenwi Township, under Section 15/19 (A) of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

In connection with the case, action was being taken against Ma Nan Wai Lwin, daughter of U Mann San, of Nanslap Village, Hsenwi Township, under Section 15/19 (A) of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

Comrade of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone and guest inspect poppy seeds and dried poppy buds before the destruction ceremony. — MNA.
Looting slows pace of Iraq’s biggest oil refinery

BAGHRAH, Iraq, July — Rainpant looting is preventing Iraq’s biggest oil refinery at Baiji from cranking out full supplies, with output running at only 70 per cent of prewar levels, a senior Iraqi oil official said.

Raad Ghasab, Director-General of the Northern Oil Refining Co, told Reuters on Saturday that pillaging of the facility’s power lines is forcing the huge complex to shut down occasional ally or pump below its 300,000 barrels per day (BFD) capacity.

“Our production before the war was 250,000 BFD—now we are at 70 per cent of that level,” he said of the facility which supplies the Iraqi capital and the northern city of Mosul.

Looters are also playing havoc with the refinery’s ability to route urgently needed products such as gasoline and diesel fuel to those key cities, he said.

“They are shooting holes in these pipelines,” he said. “It is a big problem.”

And one which is forcing oil-rich Iraq to import products such as liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) and gasoline.

“Iraq is importing a lot, said Ghasab, without elaborating.

Saboteurs attacked and damaged the main pipeline carrying crude oil to the refinery at Baiji, 90 miles north of Baghdad, at the end of last month.

Ghasab said the refinery is still receiving full volumes of crude north through the pipeline, but he was uncertain about the state of repairs.

Iraq’s sprawling oil pipeline network has been hit by a spate of attacks which have hampered the country’s efforts to restore exports needed to fund post-war reconstruction.

US military and Iraqi officials in the town of Baiji said Saddam Hussein’s loyalties are still bent on sabotaging pipelines.

But Iraq’s main oil refinery is not just fighting off vandals. It is suffering from years of neglect under United Nations sanctions.

Some of the units in the complex have not been overhauled for four years, Ghasab said.

The Oil Ministry is now working on a maintenance plan which could close down operations for about one month.

But the Baiji refinery chief said a schedule for repairs had yet to be set.

MNA/Reuters

International agency office attacked in northern Iraq

BAGHDAD, 7 July — A grenade was fired at the offices of an international organization in northern Iraq on Sunday, causing minor damage and slightly injuring a local guard, a UN spokesman said on Sunday.

A security team is investigating the incident at the headquarters of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in the city of Mosul, said Hamid Abdeljubair, deputy spokesman for the UN mission in Iraq.

“The incident in Mosul could have some political background, but so far we consider it an isolated incident pending an investigation,” he told reporters in Baghdad.

Abdeljubair said a rocket-propelled grenade penetrated the wall of the IOM compound, damaging two cars and causing slight injuries to a local guard for the Geneva-based UN agency.

Iraq’s powerhouse said Monday that international and local staff were moved from the office to a more secure zone,” Abdeljubair said.—Internet

ITN regrets death of British cameraman in Iraq

LONDON, 7 July — Britain’s ITN television network said on Sunday it regretted the death of a cameraman shot in Iraq who was a former employee, and named him as Richard Wild, aged 24.

Wild, 24, was working as a freelance journalist in Iraq but had previously worked for Independent Television News.

“We are shocked and saddened to hear of the reported death of Richard Wild,” ITN chief executive Stewart Purvis said in a statement.

“In the six months that Richard worked at ITN, he was regarded as a dedicated and popular member of the newsgroup team, particularly as he tracked all the material coming into ITN during the Iraq war.”

A US military spokesman said on Saturday that pillaging of the Iraqi capital said he had been shot at close range near a museum in an area that includes a mixture of residences and shops.

Wild, born in Scotland, had himself worked as a cameraman for independent news organisations in Iraq.

MNA/Reuters

Greek Cabinet reshuffled

ATHENS, 7 July — Greek Prime Minister Costas Simitis reshuffled his Cabinet following a major changes of the leadership of the ruling Panhellenic Socialist Movement (PASOK).

The reshuffle affected only a few ministerial portfolios, George Floridis replaced Michalis Chrysochoidis as Minister of Public Order; Haris Kastanidis replaced George Paschalidis as Minister of Macedonia-Thrace; George Paschalidis replaced George Anagnostis as Minister of Merchant Marine and Alexandros Akrivakis replaced Stafanos Manikas as Minister of State.

The long expected reshuffle is regarded as an attempt by Simitis to make preparations for the next general elections due by next May.

The ruling party is trailing behind the opposition conservatives by 8 percentage points in opinion polls.

MNA/Xinhua

Iran says El Baradei trip shows desire to cooperate

TEHERAN, 7 July — Iran said on Sunday a visit by the UN’s nuclear inspection agency this week showed Teheran’s desire to cooperate over its nuclear programme, which Washington says may be a covert bid to build atomic weapons.

International Atomic Energy Agency head Mohamed ElBaradei is due on Wednesday and will push for greater openness on Iran’s nuclear plans, including more intrusive checks of facilities.

“Our invitation to ElBaradei to visit Iran is a sign of our serious desire for cooperation with the IAEA,” government spokesman Abdollah Ramazanzadeh told a news conference.

ElBaradei reiterated on Saturday that Iran should agree to tougher inspections of its facilities to create confidence its peaceful intentions.

MNA/Reuters

Ukraine to import sugar as farm crisis bites

LODZ, 7 July — Ukrainian Prime Minister Viktor Yushchenko signed an order on Friday to import 200,000 tons of raw sugar by mid-September, as the country struggles with an agricultural crisis.

Bad weather has ravaged crops and caused prices for staple food products such as sugar and grains to soar amid growing consumer anxiety.

Trades have been pinning their hopes on a big raw sugar purchase by Ukraine due to a lack of significant raw sugar buying on the world market.

Earlier this year, Ukraine’s Parliament allowed refineries to import a total of 560,000 tons of raw sugar, including 360,000 tons at a duty of six euros per tons and 200,000 tons with a duty of 60 euros per ton.

MNA/Reuters

Vehicle imports through Huangpu Port doubled

GUANGZHOU, 7 July—Huangpu Port, one of China’s major ports for vehicle import in Guangdong Province, saw the number of imported vehicles nearly doubled in the first five months of this year, in comparison with the same period last year, official statistics revealed.

The value of the total 9,516 imported vehicles stood at 210 million US dollars, surging 150 per cent year-on-year.

Car imports dominated the total imports by 56.1 per cent, or 5,334 units, during the period, and the largest single increase rate was seen in trucks, escalating 82 times from 60 last year to 4,897 units this year.

Japanese vehicles still take up the majority of the total imports, or 68.7 per cent, followed by vehicles made in South Korea and Germany, according to the statistics.

MNA/Xinhua
Female US soldiers in Iraq say they miss being women

Max. (Iraq), 7 July — As months go by without a date to leave Iraq, female soldiers in the US Army say they miss being mothers and women, and worry that their deployment could become permanent.

“Just thinking about my children is the hardest thing,” said Staff Sergeant Denise Rayl from the 101st Airborne Division, the US-led coalition’s most northern force, in Mosul, 240 kilometers (140 miles) from Baghdad.

“I have to stay busy. I can’t sit down because if I do, I think of my kids. I don’t think any of my soldiers can keep up with the work that I do, and they told me they can’t,” said the 37-year-old mother of two young boys from Denison, Texas. The problem, Rayl and her colleagues said, is being away from home for so long.

“I think the problem is they have no one to come in behind us because everybody is gone, everybody else is deployed. We are stretched,” Rayl said, referring to Army deployments particularly in Afghanistan.

Asked if she saw a light at the end of the tunnel of US operations in Iraq, the staff sergeant said: “I don’t see any of it because of all the shootings and pockets of resistance.”

“It is going to be a long-term commitment,” she said.

Staff Sergeant Rachel Irizarry, 31, from Ripley, Mississippi, said she was ready to go home to be with her two young sons.

“My boys want me home. I’m just ready to go home. It’s really hard,” Irizarry said. “Everyday I think about them. It’s a big sacrifice,” she said, her eyes welling with tears.

For 20-year-old Private First Class Shawna Arquette, an aspiring singer from Rochester, New York, work in the army was the easy part but not being able to enjoy being a woman frustrated her.

“I miss wearing make-up, I miss doing my hair, I miss going to a club. I miss all that,” said Arquette. She brought a picture of herself in a pink tutu to show how she used to look.

“I’ve never used it once. There is no point,” she said. — Internet

Turkish reporters attacked by gunmen in Iraq

ANKARA, 7 July — Two correspondents of the Turkish semi-official Anatolian news agency were attacked by six gunmen in Iraq on Sunday morning, said the agency in a report.

The assailants stopped the car carrying correspondents Sami Tolga Adanali and Kenan Gurbuz by opening fire on it and forced them to lie down together with the Arab driver of the car.

The gunmen seized the car and took away two satellie phones, laptop computers, two cameras and apparatus, clothes, passports and money, the report said.

Following the attack, the reporters had to go on foot along a highway to the Turkish embassy in Baghdad.

Sami Tolga Adanali gave an account of the incident, “At around 10:15 a.m. today, we and our Iraqi Arab driver and the host, four of us altogether, were attacked by six gunmen on the Kirkuk-Baghdad motorway while we were going to Baghdad.”

“Four of them were carrying Kazan assassination weapons and the remaining two had Kalashnikov rifles. All of them wrapped their faces with head scarves and they were speaking Kurdish,” Adanali added.

US releases Turkish troops

WASHINGTON, 7 July — US officials have released 11 Turkish military personnel — including special forces soldiers — ending a diplomatic row between the two countries.

The Turks were arrested on Saturday in the northern Iraqi town of Sulaymaniyah and taken to Baghdad by the US Army.

They are to spend the night in a guest house in the Iraqi capital and will be taken back to Sulaymaniyah by helicopter on Monday. US officials have still not confirmed why they arrested the troops. The Turkish prime minister, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, spoke to the US Vice President, Dick Cheney, for about a half hour and US Secretary of State, Colin Powell, called Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul in a bid to quell the row over the soldiers’ detention earlier on Sunday.

Mr Erdogan called the situation “totally ugly incident” and ordered the immediate closure of Harbur gate — the vital roadway that links Turkey to Iraq, when news first spread of the arrest.

Speaking after his conversation with Mr Powell, Abdullah Gul said he believed the “tasteless and ugly event” would be over on Sunday night at the latest.

“I hope Turkey’s friendship and alliance (with the US) won’t be damaged,” he added. In a written statement, the Turkish prime minister’s office said Mr Erdogan asked Mr Cheney to immediately release the Turkish soldiers.

It is expected that the special forces will be handed over to the Turkish side in Sulaymaniyah after the talks, the statement added.

The detention has deepened the Turkish public’s mistrust of the United States. About 250 demonstrators gathered outside the US embassy in the Turkish capital Ankara on Sunday to protest against the detention of soldiers shouting “Free our soldiers” — “Americacut” — “We will not be America’s servants”. Supporters of the right wing nationalist Action Party or MHP simultaneously staged anti-American protests in Istanbul.

US troops kill two Iraqi civilians

RAMADI, Iraq, 7 July — US soldiers shot dead two Iraqi civilians during clashes with Iraqi guerrillas in the town of Ramadi, west of Baghdad, witnesses said on Monday.

They said the US troops opened fire on Sunday night on a vehicle carrying the two civilians after an American convoy was ambushed by guerrillas.

The battle heard a huge explosion last night at about 11:30 and then Iraqis fired at American troops in a vehicle.

The Americans sped away and were then involved in clashes up the road,” one witness to Sunday’s clash Jibayir Makhlif told Reuters. — MNA/Reuters

European, Asian finance ministers meet

Bali (Indonesia), 7 July — European and Asian finance ministers met on the Indonesian resort island of Bali on Saturday to boost cooperation in trade, investment and finance as the world economy shows scattered signs of recovery.

The annual gathering of officials from the European Union, China, Japan and eight other Asian nations are expected to stress closer coordination in macro-economic policy between their regions, home to about a third of the world’s population.

“European countries are entering into an integrated single market, while we have just started to strengthen our bond market. There will be talks on how to synergize these efforts,” said Indonesia’s Chief Economics Minister, Dorodjatun Kuntjoro Jakti.

But, as in previous ASEM ministerial forums, new policies of substance are unlikely by the end of the two days of talks, and much of the agenda centres on technical issues, such as pooling ideas on how to keep Asia’s fledgling financial markets stable.

The Bali meeting comes less than two weeks after 11 Asia-Pacific nations launched a new one-billion-US-dollar Asia Bond Fund, drawn from their huge central bank reserves, to speed development of a regional bond market.

That Tha initiative is seen as a catalyst for Asia to worry back some of its assets invested outside the region, especially in US bonds. But delegates in Bali said the weekend meeting would only touch lightly on ways to develop the fund.

“The Asian Bond Fund is not central to the meetings,” one European delegate told Reuters.

Asia has around two-thirds of global foreign exchange reserves but its bond market is less developed. Many Asian companies still rely on short-term bank loans for funding, raising the risk of volatility if banks cut credit lines.

In Asia’s financial crisis of 1997/98, the banks did just that, and Asian policy makers are now under pressure to find ways to funnel savings directly into Asian investments, bypassing Western financial institutions, to nourish future growth.

“The bond market in Asia is still weak. If we really want to have a stronger financial system in Asia after the crisis, the Asian bond market must be further developed,” said Kuntjoro Jakti.

At last year’s ASEM meeting in Copenhagen, leaders agreed to set up a special task force of 10 experts to work on boosting cooperation between the EU and Asia in the areas of trade, investment and finance. — MNA/Reuters
US soldier guarding Baghdad University killed

Baghdad, 7 July—A gunman shot and killed a soldier who was guarding Baghdad University in the city’s center on Sunday, military officials said.

The soldier from the 352nd Civil Affairs Command had stood in front of a larger group and was talking with a local resident when someone walked up from behind and shot him in the back of the head with a handgun, a witness told CNN.

The shooting took place around 12.30 pm (4.30 am EDT), a military spokeswoman said. According to US Central Command, the soldier died at a hospital.

It was the second such attack in two days, and the third in about a week, all three of which happened in Baghdad. Saturday, Richard Wild, a 24-year-old British journalist, was fatally shot in the back of the head; another US soldier was shot in the head about a week ago.

Prior to Sunday’s incident, the United States blamed remnants of Saddam Hussein’s government—Baathists and Republican Guard members—for attacks that have killed 27 American and six British troops since President Bush declared the end of major combat operations on May 1.

US Joint Chiefs Chairman Gen. Richard Myers told “Fox News Sunday” that much of Iraq is fairly stable, but that there is a “triangle” of lawlessness where fighters opposed to the US presence are staging most of their attacks.

Ninety percent of the now 28 hostile deaths have occurred in the triangle formed by the predominantly Sunni Muslim cities of Baghdad, Tikrit and Ar Ramadi, Myers said.

That’s where our forces are working every day to rout out the remnants of the Baathist party and other followers of Saddam Hussein that think somehow that they’re ‘in,” Myers said.

“A lot of the country is relatively stable; there are still challenges at Baghdad and in that triangle,” he said.

The military is still trying to assess whether the attacks on US military personnel are planned by Iraqis, or whether terrorists from other countries might be behind them, Myers said.

On Saturday, a US soldier was wounded and two Humvees were damaged when agrenade was tossed from an overpass at a US military police patrol in central Baghdad.

In another incident, a US soldier was wounded on Sunday when an “improvised explosive device” detonated in Ramadi, about 75 miles west of Baghdad, according to US authorities. At least 13 people were wounded in the blast, US military sources in Ramadi told CNN.

The regime had been close to graduating from their training program.—Internet

Caribbean leaders condemn US suspension of aid

Havana, 7 July—Caribbean leaders Friday condemned the United States for suspending military aid to six countries in the region that refused to exempt American citizens from the International Criminal Court (ICC).

The “punitive action” of the United States, cutting off millions of dollars used mainly to fight illegal traffic of drugs and migrants, will weaken US efforts to protect its own borders and security in the Caribbean, said a statement of the Caribbean Community Summit.

Two countries, Antigua and Barbuda and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, said they would lose one million US dollars and 0.3 million US dollars respectively.

In absence of American aid, Caribbean leaders proposed working on military assistance and training among member states.

The United States Tuesday announced the suspension of military aid to 35 countries that have refused to sign bilateral accords granting its citizens immunity from the international court.

The suspension affects six countries in the Caribbean, Trinidad and Tobago, Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Dominica and St Vincent and the Grenadines.

Violence in Iraq spreads beyond military

Baghdad, 7 July—A US soldier waiting to buy a soft drink at Baghdad University was shot and killed Sunday by an assailant who fired once from close range in the third such assault in nine days.

The style was coldly similar to the killing of a young British freelance cameraman, who was shot in the head outside a Baghdad museum on Saturday.

The point-blank shooting of the unarmed reporter and a grenade attack on a UN compound raised concern that Iraq was worsening insurgency — until now targeting only coalition troops and Iraqis accused of US collaboration — will spread to Westerners in general.

US troops on patrol in Baghdad and other areas have been attacked several times a day, and Iraqi police and civilians perceived to be working with the occupying forces also have been targeted. In the most serious such attack, a bomb blast in the western town of Ramadi killed seven Iraqi police recruits as they graduated from a US-taught training course on Saturday. Dozens more were injured.—Internet

Drought hits Hebei province

Shijiazhuang, 7 July — A serious drought has hit parts of north China’s Hebei Province and is spreading to a wider area, according to the provincial flood and drought control centre.

In the first several months of this year, the rainfall in most areas of Hebei was close to or even lower than the average figure in the same period of the past seven years except Tangshan and Qinhuangdao in northeast Hebei, which suffered a serious drought.

Since early June, the drought has spread to central and southern Hebei, including Baoding, Shijiazhuang, Cangzhou, Hengshui, Xingtai and Handan which has kept below 25 millimetres, 50 per cent less than the same period of past years.

Rainfall from June 22 to 23 partly eased the drought in Tangshan and Qinhuangdao, but could not prevent its spread in central and southern Hebei.

About three-quarters of Hebei Province is currently struggling with drought.—Internet

Locust plague threatens Gansu province

Lanzhou, 7 July—Locusts have gathered and appeared likely to cause damage to crops in China’s northwestern province of Gansu, experts have warned, urging vigilance against the local pests despite their weak flying and migrating ability.

In Jiucun City and Lanzhou, the provincial capital, locusts were spotted and affected total areas of 3,400 hectares and 2,100 hectares respectively in the two cities, with a small portion being farmland and the rest wasteland and abandoned farmland, according to the provincial vegetation department.

In the most seriously-hit area, 130 locusts per square metre were found, the highest figure ever recorded in recent years, experts said.

The province is most likely to be affected by the locusts in the season to come, with the next generation rising in early August, a study showed. —Internet

HK public told to guard against influenza, red-eye syndrome

Hong Kong, 7 July—The Hong Kong public have been reminded to take precautionary measures to prevent influenza and red-eye syndrome.

A spokesman for the Department of Health said Friday that an upward trend in the consultation rates for influenza-like illnesses was detected in June.

“We should be vigilant in light of the recent upward trend since influenza cases might rise during July and August, based on historical data,” the spokesman added.

Members of the Chinese Communist Party deliver relief materials to residents in Wangjiaba, east China’s Anhui Province, June 25, 2003. More than 200,000 people have been evacuated from the areas designated for storing or diverting flood from the Huaihe River in the province.—Xinhua photo

US soldiers frisk Iraqi students and employees of Baghdad University following the shooting of an American on June 7, 2003, in Baghdad, Iraq. The soldier’s death was announced by his commanding officer, Col. Thomas Franks, the commander of US forces in Iraq, who said the fighting was likely to take four months. —AFP photo

AGHDAD

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua
BCC defends journalists in feud with Blair

LONDON, 7 July — After a lengthy meeting on Sunday, BBC governors stepped into a row with the British Government and said they backed their journalists’ reporting that a government dossier into Iraq’s weapons was doctored.

The spat erupted after the public broadcaster, citing an anonymous intelligence source, reported that Prime Minister Tony Blair’s top aide “sexed up” intelligence to strengthen the case for war.

Blair criticized the BBC over its report and told a Sunday newspaper that it was “about as serious an attack on my integrity as there possibly could be”.

“We call on Mr Campbell to withdraw these allegations of bias against the BBC and its journalists,” the broadcaster said.

“We have never accused the Prime Minister of lying. The real question for the BBC is, were we right to report what we actually said, when we said it? We believe the answer is yes,” a BBC spokesperson said.

Parliament’s Foreign Affairs Committee, a majority of whom are from Blair’s ruling Labour Party, will publish a report on allegations the dossier was “sexed-up” on Monday.

The committee is expected to exonerate Campbell, but it is unlikely the dispute between the government and the BBC will end there. —MNA/Reuters

Conjoined Iranian twins begin surgery in Singapore

Singapore, 7 July — An unprecedented, high-risk operation to separate adult Iranian twin sisters joined at the head began in Singapore on Sunday, a Raffles Hospital official said.

Law graduates Laleh and Ladan Bijani, 29, had undergone tests and counselling since November and say they are willing to risk death for the chance to lead separate lives.

The operation, led by neurosurgeon Dr Keith Goh, is expected to last at least 48 hours. Doctors say the operation is possible because they have anatomically separate brains.

“The twins’ pre-operation scan started this morning at 08.00 am (2400 GMT),” a hospital spokesman said.

Twins joined at the head occur only once in every two million live births, and successful separation is even rarer. —MNA/Reuters

Convoys attacks kill 2 US troops in Iraq, bringing total to 3 in 24 hours

BAGHDAD, 7 July — Two American soldiers were killed in separate attacks on their convoys late Sunday and early Monday morning in the Iraqi capital, the military said.

The first soldier died in a firefight late Sunday after a US convoy was ambushed.

Sgt Patrick Compton, a spokesman for the military, said three US troops were killed in Baghdad in a 24-hour period.

In a third incident, an assassin shot and killed a US soldier waiting to buy a soft drink at Baghdad University at midday Sunday, firing once from close range.

The style was coldly similar to the killing of a young British freelance cameraman, who was shot in the head outside a Baghdad museum on Saturday.

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The point-blank shooting of the unarmed reporter and a grenade attack on a UN compound raised concern that Iraq’s worsening insurgency until now targeting only coalition troops and Iraqis accused of US collaboration will spread to Westerners in general.

US troops, on patrol in Baghdad and other areas have been attacked several times a day, and Iraqi police and civilians pointed to a growing work with the occupying forces also have been targeted.

In the most serious such attack, a bomb blast in a western town of Ramadi killed seven Iraqi police recruits as they graduated from a US-run training course on Saturday. Dozens more were injured. —Internet

Drug ring smashed in Germany

BREMEN, 7 July — A drug network has been cracked after a massive raid in Germany, police said recently.

Police raided several cities including Cologne on Thursday and arrested several suspects.

A police spokesman said the mastermind of the ring was a 51-year-old Cologne native, who was sentenced to seven years of prison in the 1980s for financing an illegal laboratory making synthetic cocaine.

The group is accused of smuggling in several kilogrammes of cocaine from Holland into Germany for over a year. The cocaine was supposed sold in Cologne, Duesseldorf and Dortmund in cafes and bars, police said. —MNA/Xinhua

Pakistan to reconsider ties with Israel

PESHAWAR, 7 July — Visiting Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf said Friday that his country should “seriously reconsider its relations with Israel”.

“It is naturally a very contentious issue in Pakistan,” said Musharraf referring to the normalization of relations between his country, where there are powerful Islamic parties, and Israel. However, “Pakistan should examine what is happening on the international stage, analyze its relationship with Israel and review it on our national interest since the peace process is progressing,” he said.

The Pakistani President made this remark before wrapping up a three-day visit to France after stops in Britain, the United States and Germany. —MNA/Xinhua

Australian soundman dies from Iraqi wounds

NEW YORK, 7 July — An Australian television soundman working for NBC News died in a German hospital on Sunday a week after he was wounded in Iraq, the network reported.

A statement said free-lancer Jeremy Little, 27, was wounded while embed- ded with the US Third Infant- ary Division in the town of Falluja, died “due to post- operative complications”.

“Jeremy Little was a courageous journalist, working extremely hard in a dan- gerous war zone,” NBC News President Neil Shapiro said.

“Little was the 17th member of the media to die in Iraq since the US-led in- vasion on 20 March. Some of the deaths were accidental or from natural causes.”

Little, from Sydney, suffered serious internal injuries on 29 June when a rocket-propelled grenade hit the US military vehicle he was travelling in.

He was flown to Landstuhl Regional Medical Centre in Germany, where his injuries were initially thought not to be life-threaten- ing.

His death followed the killing in Baghdad on Sat- urday of British freelance cam- eraman Richard Wild. Little’s thoughts and prayers are with his family.”

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Leading US Senators clash on Iraq probe

WASHINGTON, 7 July — The top Republican and Democrat on the Senate Armed Services Committee clashed on Sunday over whether to open another probe into alleged White House manipulation of intelligence to make the case for war against Iraq.

Michigan Senator Carl Levin told NBC’s “Meet the Press” that new accusations by former U.S. Ambassador Joseph Wilson over claims Iraq bought uranium from Niger added fuel to an investigation he was opening with his own staff.

But the committee chairman, Virginia Republican Sena tor John Warner, said he favoured letting the Senate Intelli gence Committee finish its probe before deciding whether his panel should dig further.

“We cannot sort out this morning, in one minute, this situation. It is being carefully reviewed and objectively reviewed by the Senate in the Intelligence Committee,” Warner said. He said he did not see any compelling evi dence that the administration twisted intelligence for its own purposes.

Criticism is raging in both Britain and the United States over charges that the governments of the two countries manipulated intelligence about weapons of mass de struction to justify the war. No evidence of such weapons has been found by the occupying forces in Iraq.

Wilson, Washington’s envoy to Gabon from 1992 to 1995, told the New York Times and NBC that he travelled to Africa in 2002 at the request of the CIA to investigate a report about Iraq buying uranium from Niger.

Wilson said he had reported back that it was highly doubtful that any such transaction had ever taken place and that the CIA would have passed on his assessment to Vice President Dick Cheney.

Yet Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair both cited the report earlier this year to support their charges that former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein was trying to obtain nuclear weapons and to justify their invasion of Iraq in March.

The International Atomic Energy Agency later also dismissed the report as being based on forged documents.

“Based on my experience with the administration in the months leading up to the war, I have little choice but to conclude that some of the intelligence related to Iraq’s nuclear weapons programme was twisted to exaggerate the Iraqi threat,” Wilson wrote in Sunday’s New York Times.

“Either the administration has information that it has not shared with the public or... they were using the selective use of facts and intelligence to bolster a decision that had already been made to go to war,” Wilson said on “Meet the Press.”

Levin said the new allegations were deeply troubling.

“I’ve instructed my staff on the Armed Services Com mittee to make a very in-depth inquiry into a number of issues, including this uranium issue,” Levin said.

“But Ambassador Wilson’s statement this morning adds a great deal of additional evidence to what I have to say about the personal evidence from the ambassador.” — MNA/Reuters

Bahrain jails man for five years for “terror” plot

MAMAR, 7 July — A Bahraini man was jailed on Sunday for five years for planning “terror acts” in the Gulf Arab state, the headquarters of the US Navy’s Fifth Fleet.

Authorities did not say who the alleged plots were targeted at but Bahrain saw increased anti-American sentiment in the run-up to the war against Iraq.

“Jamal Balouchi was sentenced to five years in jail,” his lawyer said. “The court’s ruling was within our expectation but we will appeal against it.” the lawyer told Reuters. He said Balouchi, 32, had admitted possessing weapons for personal use. He declined to give further details.

Police arrested Balouchi and four other Bahrainis in February for allegedly planning terror attacks in the country. A court later acquitted three of the five. The fifth man still faces charges.

Bahrain, a key ally of Washington, witnessed many anti-US demonstrations in the run-up to the war against Iraq.

MNA/Reuters

US soldiers frisk Iraqi motorists at a mobile checkpoint in Kadhumiya north of the capital Baghdad, Iraq on 7 July, 2003 where hours earlier a US soldier was killed in an attack on a US convoy. US troops in Iraq have come under near daily attacks from increasingly bold insurgents. — MNA/Reuters

Former Iraqi ambassador to UN, US dies in New York

NEW YORK, 7 July — Nizar Hamdoon, a former Iraqi ambassador to the United Nations and the United States, has died in a New York hospital after a bout with cancer, friends and Arab diplomats said Sunday. He was 59 years old.

Hamdoon, who also served as deputy foreign minister under the ousted Saddam Hussein govern ment, travelled back and forth from Iraq over the past few years for treatment at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Centre and began another round of chemotherapy in March. He had been in a coma for a week and died later on Friday, the diplomats said.

In New York, he told friends as late as May that he expected to return shortly to his family in Baghdad. But his condition deteriorated rapidly.

US officials said Hamdoon’s trips to the United States, even as the war against his country was about to begin, were granted for humanitarian reasons. — MNA/Reuters

Bangladesh, Myanmar to promote mutual cooperation

DHAKA, 7 July — Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and visiting Myanmar Foreign Minister U Win Aung Sun day expressed identical views on mutual cooperation for the development of the two countries.

During a meeting between Khaleda Zia and the Myanmar envoy, they shared the common opinion that “the doors of a new era” would be opened up between the two neighbours if the agreements and memorandum of understandings (MOUs) reached between the two countries were implemented properly, according to the official Bangladesh News Agency.

U Win Aung, who arrived here on Saturday on a three-day visit to Bangla desh, recalled the visits of Myanmar Prime Minister, Senior General Than Shwe to Bangladesh and Khaleda Zia’s return visit to Myanmar, saying that the two visits had contributed significantly to give further impetus to the bilateral relations, especially in the establishment of closer people-to-people links between the two countries.

Khaleda Zia visited Myanmar in March this year. During the visit the two countries had agreed to start the process of establishing direct road link between the two neighbours and also signed a number of agreements and MOUs for bolstering bilateral economic ties.

Khaleda Zia and U Win Aung said a number of steps had already been taken for hastening the process of further cementing bilateral relations.

While Khaleda Zia raised the issue of Bangladesh’s entry into ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), the Myanmar Foreign Minister said his country would lend full support to Bangladesh in getting ARF membership.

MNA/Xinhua

Turk military condemns US over Iraq incident

ANKARA, 7 July — Turkey’s military on Monday bitterly condemned the US army for seizing command os in Iraq in an incident mirroring sourced ties between the two NATO allies.

The arrest of 11 special forces offices on Friday and their release two days later also highlighted deep Turk ish military concerns about its role in northern Iraq and its influence at home.

Powerful Armed Forces Chief of General Staff Hilmi Ozkok said the incident was “a major crisis” between Washington and Ankara. — Internet

Train collides with truck, killing 10 in Egypt

CAIRO, 7 July — A collision between a truck and a goods train in Egypt killed 10 people and injured five others on Sunday, security sources said.

The accident occurred in the Nile Delta about 80 miles northwest of Cairo in a largely agricultural area.

The source said the train hit the truck while it was driving over the rail way line away from a crossing point. All the dead and injured were travelling on the truck. — MNA/Reuters

Cheng Yulan, a police officer (R), has a heart-to-heart talk with several former drug addicts at Fuzhou Mandatory Drug Rehabilitation Station in this capital city of east China’s Fujian Province, on 20 June, 2003. Since its founding in 1997, the drug rehabilitation station has received 6,211 drug addicts who came to be treated both physically and psychologically and learn knowledge of law in order to be off the bad habit and rehabilitate. — Xinhua PHOTO

BASRA, 7 July — The US military said on Sunday its troops were involved in action in the Iraqi city of Ramadi where satellite television channel Al Jazeera reported a strong explosion in an area controlled by US forces. Arabic channel Al Jazeera said the blast hit the US military area at the eastern entrance of Ramadi, 60 miles west of Baghdad.

“I can confirm there’s some type of action going on in Ramadi,” a US military spokesman told Reuters, adding that security was on alert but he could give no further details.

MNA/Reuters

Former Iraqi ambassador to UN, US dies in New York

NEW YORK, 7 July — Nizar Hamdoon, a former Iraqi ambassador to the United Nations and the United States, has died in a New York hospital after a bout with cancer, friends and Arab diplomats said Sunday. He was 59 years old.

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US officials said Hamdoon’s trips to the United States, even as the war against his country was about to begin, were granted for humanitarian reasons. — MNA/Reuters
Daw Suu Kyi, the NLD Party and Our Ray of Hope – 4

Maung Yin Hmaing

(Continued from yesterday)

Talking too much 15:00 hours May 6 2003.

Our group led by Auntie Suu left Yangon in two cars. However, the white Dyna light truck with U Sein Win at the wheel, carrying five passengers — Chairman of Taninthayi Division Organizing Committee U Hla Min, Head of Youth Organizers Aung Htoo, Youth Security member Kyaw Zin Win and Secretary of Bahan Township NLD Tun Myint — had left the city in advance at 3 o'clock in the morning.

My mind this time, unlike other trips, was not active and fresh, but heavy with foreboding. I was filled with anxiety as if I felt a premonition that something terrible might happen.

On the Division road — Can we pass the road and traffic rules during her trip? (She was flanked by bikes during the trip from Sagaing Bridge to Shwebo on 8-5-2003)

Daw Suu Kyi had loudly cried “People are to abide by discipline”. But had not she seen reckless driving and riotous acts of local NLD members who broke road and traffic rules during her trip? (She was flanked by bikes during the trip from Sagaing Bridge to Shwebo on 8-5-2003)

Auntie Suu had loudly cried “People are to abide by discipline”. But had not she seen reckless driving and riotous acts of local NLD members who broke road and traffic rules during her trip? (She was flanked by bikes during the trip from Sagaing Bridge to Shwebo on 8-5-2003)

Local people feel much uncomfortable on the road blocked by cars and crowds during the trip of Daw Suu Kyi. (at the entrance to Sagaing Bridge on 8-5-2003)
A new approach towards Burma just might work

David Oldfield

The NLD has been equally stubborn in its demands and conditions for dialogue and political reconciliation. There are some rank-and-file NLD supporters in Burma who have become frustrated with Suu Kyi’s unwillingness to compromise with the SPDC. They claim that while they support her, she is unbending and being unrealistic in her demands for political reconciliation. According to a few years ago a faction emerged within the NLD that favoured conceding some of the party’s demands in order to make progress in the dialogue with the SPDC. However, the NLD leaders alleged that these party supporters were either coerced or bought off by the government to undermine party unity. Does the current firm stance by the NLD truly represent the party supporters living throughout the country, or are some supporters more realistic and willing to concede ground to move the country forward?

Among the demands of the NLD leadership and the foreign governments who offer moral support is that the election results of 1990 must be recognised by the SPDC. The NLD’s refusal to compromise on this point is clearly one of the major sticking points that prevents the two sides from having fruitful dialogue on a new course for Burma. It is naive to think that the SPDC is going to honour those election results, and as long as the NLD insists on this among its demands, constructive dialogue is unlikely to occur. Other demands by NLD, such as the release of political prisoners and the promulgation of a constitution, pose less of a challenge in reaching an agreement with the military government. Do the 1990 elections reflect the Burmese people’s views? Perhaps, but a lot has changed since then, and the 13-year-old election results might not be an accurate representation of people in 2003. For instance, most of the minority groups that were fighting the military have signed peace agreements with the government since the elections were held.

In short, a new approach to dialogue would entail two main elements. First, the NLD, UN, and governments around the world must recognise the reality of the military’s governing authority and its concerns about a future Burma instead of ignoring them. They do not have to agree with the military’s concerns, but to ignore them and continue pressuring the SPDC into accepting a weakened bargaining position is surely the road to nowhere in the dialogue process. The second element entails having the NLD make concessions on some of its demands to resume the dialogue and reconciliation process. This is necessary because the NLD does not have any leverage over the SPDC. The NLD’s “all or nothing” stance defies what is likely necessary in Burma, and that is some kind of a transition period between the current political regime and a full democracy. The NLD softening its position could be the key to convincing the military that an agreeable future for Burma can be found, and it would perhaps stimulate the military to make some of its own concessions to alleviate the economic and political pressure from Western governments.

One suggestion is to agree that the results of the 1990 elections are out of date and instead try to resume meaningful discussions with the SPDC about how and when new elections can occur. Certainly some people will resist that the military might ignore the results of any new elections, but how would that be any different or worse than the current political situation in the country? If successful elections are held in the future, the SPDC and NLD will have earned their places in paving the way for a new golden era in Burma. Both sides save face.

Will this alternative approach to initiating dialogue and political reconciliation break the impasse between the SPDC and the NLD? There is no guarantee, but in politics nothing is guaranteed. What we do know is that there are millions of people living in extreme poverty in Burma who cannot wait much longer for the two sides to make progress.

David Oldfield, PhD, is executive vice president of Brooker Policy Research Co. Ltd.
Secretary-1 inspects development undertakings in Mandalay

YANGON, 7 July—Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council General Khin Nyunt and party, accompanied by Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint, arrived at the construction project site of MICT Park (Mandalay), arrangements being made for opening of the resta

Secretary-1 General Khin Nyunt inspects construction works of MICT Park (Mandalay) at Yandanabon Market in Mandalay—MNA

Development of motherland and perpetuation…

(from page 1)

The national development, the strong national economic life and higher living standard of the people will lead to restoring the long-lasting peace and stab-

ility for the people. Nowadays, own na-
tional strength needed to be built in accord with own national objective and ef-

forts will have to be exerted for the emergence of highly qualified human resources who will play the leading role in nation-building endeavours.

The teachers who nur-
ture the youths that will shape the future need to strive for cementing the national strength and the national force while nurtur-

ing the students in accord with the national require-

ments. Likewise, the teachers are to nurture the students to be imbued with the na-
tional spirit and outstanding efficiency for constant emergence of highly quali-

fied human resources capa-

cible of serving the interests of the nation and the peo-

ple at present and in the long term.

In conclusion, the Sec-

retary-1 urged the teachers to strive together with the entire national people in building the nation into a modern and developed one through the education sec-

tor, to make efforts to equip the students with patriotic spirit, nationalisms, Union Spirit in accord with the fine traditions of Myanmar which have national pres-
tige and integrity through the education sector and to strive with the people in guarding against the danger of destructive ele-

ments who are jeopardizing peace and stability of the State, national development and perpetuation of the Union.

Next, the ceremony to present prizes and comple-
tion certificates to the train-

ees continued.

The Secretary-1 pre-

sented outstanding trainee

awards to junior assistant teacher U Soe Lin of No 1 Basic Education Middle School in Hsarsi, Magway Division; JAT Daw San Yu Min of Tadau Township BEHS in Mandalay Division; selection awards to JAT U Tin Win of No 3 BEHS in Pakkika, Magway Division; JAT Daw Nyunt Shwe of No 1 BEHS in Aungmyethazan Township, Mandalay Divi-
sion and JAT Daw Than Hlau of Hnawedin BEMS in Mahlaing Township, Mandalay Division; and model hostel awards and course completion cer-
tificates to the respective trainees.

Afterwards, the trainees and instructors donated K 50,000 to the Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee. The Secretary-1 presented certificates of honour to the trainees. The Secretary-1 cordially greeted the trainees and left there.

Chief Justice U Aung Toe being welcomed at the reception to mark the birthday of King of Nepal by Charge d’Affaires of Nepalese Embassy Mr Harih Shankar Ghimire on Monday—MNA

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 455,022 cars in Myanmar can save US$ 5.5 million in a year
* The amount, US $ 5.5 million, can build a major bridge across Ayeyawady River

Do not be frightened whenever intimidated.

Minister for Energy辖 Gen Lun Thi attends 21st ASEM Energy Ministers’ Meeting—energy

Minister for Energy attends AEMM

YANGON, 7 July — The Myanmar delegation led by Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi attended the 21st ASEM Energy Ministers Meeting (AEMM) held on 3 July in Langkawi, Malaysia, and discussed cooperation in the energy sector among the ASEM members.

The minister also met with the president of Petronas Sdn Bhd, Malay-
sia, and discussed work plans of Petronas in Myanmar. He met with staff of Myanmar Embassy and briefed them on favourable political and economic situ-

ation in Myanmar.

The minister and party arrived back here yester-

day.

MNA

People’s Desire

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

Minister for Energy attends AEMM

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MNA

MNA
Construction of hospitals, …

At 10.15 am, Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Soe Win and party left Hmawbi for Pathein by car. At the entrance to Kyonpyaw, Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann and party cordially met with the welcoming party made up of local authorities, departmental officials, NGOs, officials.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than also met with officers, other ranks and their families at the local battalion.

Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Soe Win, and party arrived at Pathein in the afternoon, and inspected the construction site of Government technological college.

At the briefing hall, Principal of Pathein Government Technological College Daw Yi Yi Myint reported on the births of the college and the population of students. Next, Managing Director of Arkar Oo Ltd Myo Aung reported on progress in the construction of the college. In response to the reports, Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann gave instructions and inspected the construction site.

At 10 am yesterday morning, Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann and party attended a rice-offering ceremony at the Sasana Beikmandawgyi in Pathein. Eighteen members Sayadaws from Pariyatti Schools were also present on the occasion.

Ayyawady Division Sangha Nayaka Committee Weluwun Monastery Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhadantara Nge Tun and party inspected and converged with the Five Precepts. Next, Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Soe Win, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, and party offered rice and provisions to the Sayadaws. Kontha Monastery Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhadantara Vilasa delivered a sermon.

Later, Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann and party proceeded to the Pathein General Hospital, where they were welcomed by Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo, Head of Ayyawady Division Vision Health Department Dr Than Aung, Medical Superintendant Dr Khin Maung Tin, specialists, doctors and nurses. Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann and party inspected the hospital buildings and patient wards, and comforted the patients receiving medical treatment at the hospital.

At the briefing hall of the Ngawun bridge (Pathein) construction project, Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun reported to Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann and party that survey works were done at the most suitable places for the construction of the bridge; and that the place between Myanayangun village and Kanni village was the best for the construction of the bridge.

Deputy Minister for Construction Brig-Gen Myint Thein reported on the plan to build Ngawun River Bridge (Pathein) and construction of approach roads.

Deputy Minister for Transport U Pe Thaing reported on depth and rising tide and ebb of Ngawun River and condition of the bank between Myangayangun Village and Kanni Village.

Next, Commander Maj-Gen Htun Oo reported that on completion of Ngawun River Bridge (Pathein), the western regions of Ngawun River as well as Ngapawut and Thabaung Townships and Gwa Township in Rakhte region will achieve progress. Visits of travellers to Ngwe Haung and Chaungtha Beach Resorts easily can control much towards regional development. Minister for Forestry U Aung Phone reported on arrangements for the movements of Myanma Timber Enterprise at the site of Ngawun River Bridge (Pathein). Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann gave necessary instructions and inspected the site for construction of the bridge.

On completion, living standard of over 300,000 local people who reside in 488 villages of 93 village-tracts of Pathein, Yeikyo, Thabaung and Ngapawut townships in western region of Ngawun River will develop.

The local people can send fisheries, rice and paddy, dried coconut and forest products to the market easily. They can go to western Pathein region from Mawtitsaw through Thabaung-Kyangon Road, Thandwe-Gwa-Yenanta-Bhabing Road, Pathein-Yangon Road and Pathein-Monywa Road. In addition, hotels and recreation business at Ngwe Haung and Chaungtha Beach Resorts will develop remarkably.

Next, Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann, the Secretary-2 and party inspected fish breeding tasks with the use of cage system being undertaken by Yuzana Co Ltd in Ngawun River. Chairman of Yuzana Co U Htun Myint reported on breeding of fish with cage system. Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann and party inspected breeding of river catfish in the cages and feeding tasks and sample fingerlings. Yuzana Co Ltd is gaining success in breeding of river catfish with the use of cage system and carrying out the breeding tasks to meet the target of 5,000 tons of river catfish in 2003-2004. They inspected machines and equipment to be used at 750-ton capacity Cold Storage to be opened soon and the Fish Feedstuff Factory which can produce 10 tons of feedstuff an hour, fish feedstuff and packaging of fish and prawn.

Yuzana Co Chairman U Htay Myint reported on construction works, agriculture and livestock breeding tasks, the cold storage factories and hotels of the company, earning of income from fish and prawn production and work experiences. Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein gave a supplementary report of Chief of Staff (Navy) Rear-Admiral Soe Thein and officials on construction works of cages for breeding fish. Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Soe Win and Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than gave supplementary reports. Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann said he was satisfied with fish breeding tasks with cage system. Next, they signed in the visitors’ book of Yuzana Co Ltd. In the afternoon, Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann met officers, other ranks and families at the local battalion in Pathein. At the same time, the Secretary-2 and party went to Pathein University where they were welcomed by Deputy Minister for Education U Myo Nyunt, the rector, the pro-rector and professors.

At Kanthasa Hall, Deputy Minister U Myo Nyunt re-reported on arrangements being made for the national education promotion programme in the higher education sector. Rector U Cho reported on Pathein University that Pathein University was upgraded from an intermediate college. As the Pathein Intermediate College was opened on 7 July 1958, the university is 45 old years, nearly golden jubilee anniversary. He also reported on the area of the university, academic matters, strength of staff and number of students, research works, arrangements for conducting research works in cooperation with international universities and institutions, construction works at the university and all-round development movements of students. At that time, Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann and party arrived at the briefing hall. Next, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Soe Win delivered an address. He said that he was glad to see teachers who are turning out new generation of the State. As Senior General Than Shwe Mann laid down the education promotion programmes for development of human resource, the teachers are to collectively participate in implementing it. Next, Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann, the Secretary-2 and party cordially conversed with faculty members of the university. Later, they left Pathein at 4.30 pm and arrived back here at 7.30 pm.

Ministry of Mines offers Waso robes

Thikpun Pariyatti Monastery, First Shwekyin Monastery and Dhamma Muddini Monastery. They also donated K 100,000 each to the monasteries. Afterwards, Patron Sayadaw of Maha Thikpun Pariyatti Monastery Magga Maha Pandita Bhadantara Sire Dhamma delivered a sermon and the congregation shared merits gained.

Do not be frightened whenever intimidated

SARS prevention

* There is no outbreak of SARS in Myanmar.
* Preventive measures are being taken against the spread of SARS from other countries.
* The people are urged to participate in the project.
S Africa FM calls for more cooperation among developing states

JOHANNESBURG, 7 July

South African Foreign Minister Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma said on Friday if developing countries put their energies together they will be stronger to bargain with the North.

Speaking at a news conference in Pretoria, Zuma said: “We can really, without ignoring the North, do a lot in the South.”

“Such multilateral cooperation naturally reinforces our relationship at the bilateral level, and vice versa, and provides added impetus to the way in which South Africa and India address the social and economic inequalities and disparities that are common, not only to us, but to the developing world as a whole,” Zuma said.

South African President Thabo Mbeki’s state visit to India in October would add further impetus to the expanding and deepening political and economic relationship between the two countries.

MNA/Xinhua

Helicopter crash kills 5 in Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO, 7 July

A helicopter from Brazil’s state-run petroleum company Petrobras crashed into the Atlantic Ocean on Saturday, leaving at least five people dead, Brazil’s television network TV Globo reported.

The report said the aircraft, used to pick up employees from petroleum rigs, tried to land on the Toisa Mariner oil platform when it bumped into a backstay of the vessel before exploding and falling into the sea. The helicopter sank within “a few minutes.”

The accident happened in Campos Bay, about 111 kilometres off the port of Macae and 190 kilometres northeast of Rio.

Aboard the helicopter were at least three passengers besides the pilot and co-pilot, according to TV Globo. Other Press reports said more people may have died in the crash. — MNA/Xinhua

Cyprus’ Parl approves bill to promote internal trade

NICOSIA, 7 July—The Cypriot House of Representatives has approved a government bill to promote internal trade between the two communities of the island and encourage internal trade between the two communities, the reports said.

The new bill will also allow Turkish Cypriot trucks carrying goods to cross from north into the Greek Cypriot-controlled south.

It is believed that the measures will contribute to a political solution before Cyprus’ accession to the European Union in May next year. — MNA/Xinhua

Thousands of books are waiting to give you knowledge free of charge.
37.16 kilos of heroin seized in Muse

**Yangon**, 7 July — A combined team comprising members of the local intelligence and Myanmar Police Force, after getting information that narcotic drugs would be brought to the house of Kyan Haung Gyaung (a) Shauk Haw, son of U Kyan Yin Chwin, of No 123 in Zay Ward in Muse, waited near the house. In the meantime, a Mark II with license plates KaKb/2821 came to the house and then suddenly drove away. So, the authorities chased the car and managed to seize it near Yahaik Co beside Pyaungsan road in Muse. Then they arrested driver Kyan Hong Jong (a) Shauk Haw together with 37.16 kilos of heroin.

In connection with the case the police station concerned is taking action against him under Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. — MNA

**Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects bridge construction tasks in Mandalay, Sagaing Divisions**

**Yangon**, 7 July — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, inspected construction of Ayeawady River Bridge (Yadanabon) to link Mandalay and Sagaing on 6 July morning.

Accompanied by Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint, Mandalay Mayor Brig-Gen Yen Thein and officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, Lt-Gen Ye Myint heard reports on driving of bore piles, monthly arrival of construction materials and requirement by engineers. Lt-Gen Ye Myint fulfilled the requirements.

Next, they inspected completion of driving bore piles. On the bank of Sagaing, they were welcomed by Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing, Brig-Gen Tin Tun Aung of Sagaing Station and officials. Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspected construction of the approach road. Deputy Superintendent Engineer U Hsan Win conducted them round the site. Next, Deputy Superintendent Engineer U Hsan Win reported on construction of the approach road, driving of bore piles and arrival of construction materials. The commander gave a supplementary report. Lt-Gen Ye Myint attended to their needs.

The commander further stated that he will take the required measures to complete the construction of the bridge within the required time. — MNA

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**Eighty-47-member Plenary Meeting concludes**

**Yangon**, 7 July — The second day of the Eighth-47-member Plenary Meeting of the Fifth State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee continued today at Wizaya Mingala Dharmathin on Kaba Ayre Hill, here this morning.

Present on the occasion were member Sayadaws of the SSMNC, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, Deputy Director-General of the Religious Affairs Department U Htin Myo, directors, and officials.

Religious matters related to Vinicchaya, education, and general affairs were put into discussions at the meeting.

U Min Din-Daw Win Win Aye (Yadana Win warehouse) and U Saw Min Oo-Daw Win Htay (Aung Yadana Win warehouse) and families offered ‘S dhamma’ to the Sayadaws. — MNA

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**No 1 Automobile Factory (Yangon) inspected**

**Yangon**, 7 July — Min- ister for Industry-2-Maj-Gen Saw Lwin, accompanied by Deputy Ministers Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and Lt-Col Khin Maung Kyaw and officials, went to the No 1 Automobile Factory (Yangon) operated by the Myanmar Automobile and Diesel Engine Industries in Mayangon Township here this afternoon.

At the factory, the managing director U Soe Than of the MADEI and General Manager of the factory U Hsang Thein reported to the minister on the production of vehicles. After hearing reports, the minister gave instructions on innovative measures, quality products, work-site safety, and system use of electricity and fuel oil. — MNA

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**Paper-reading session on culture to be held**

**Yangon**, 7 July — A paper-reading session on culture, organized by the Ministry of Culture will be held at the multi-purpose hall of the National Museum on Pyay Road here, on 11, 12 and 14 July.

On the occasion, altogether 12 papers will be submitted by resource persons from culture, literature and education fields. Any one may attend the paper-reading session. — MNA
Swiss celebrate Federer’s win

ZURICH, 7 July — Switzerland’s sports minister along with the man who taught Roger Federer to play led his compatriots’ tributes to the new Wimbledon champion after he became the first Swiss man to win a Grand Slam singles title.

Federer overpowered Australian Mark Philippoussis 7-6, 6-2, 7-6 in the final on Sunday, six days after his compatriot Martina Hingis clinched the women’s crown.

Marc Rosset won the Olympic title in 1992 but Federer’s success, the first in any Grand Slam event for a Swiss man, was celebrated as a far greater achievement.

Friends and fans cheered the win at the Old Boys’ Tennis Club in Federer’s home-town of Basel in northern Switzerland, where the champagne flowed at the end of the match and the bar announced beers on the house for everyone.

“I think it’s fantastic not just for Roger but for the Old Boys’ Club and tennis as a whole in Switzerland,” he added, brandishing a bottle of champagne.

“This unique what he has done. I thought he could win it from the quarterfinals and I am so pleased,” he said.

Swiss Sports Minister Samuel Schmid, who travelled to Wimbledon for the showdown, compared Federer’s victory to Swiss yacht Alinghi’s surprise win in the America’s Cup in March.

“After this superb result in tennis, this country has ever right to be proud of these competitors who have position themselves in a global elite and won,” Schmid said.

Niklass von Vary, president of the Old Boys’ club where Federer has been a member since childhood, said the club wanted to build a new court and name it after the 21-year-old, who they made their youngest-ever honorary member in 2001. — MNA/Reuters

Federer conquers mountain Philippoussis

LONDON, 7 July — Roger Federer mesmerized man mountain Mark Philippoussis on Sunday to win his maiden Grand Slam crown and become the first Swiss men’s singles champion in Wimbledon’s 126-year history.

The magical 7-6, 6-2, 7-6 Centre Court performance ripped up the 21-year-old’s tag of Grand Slam underachiever once and for all.

“It’s just incredible... I don’t now how this is possible,” the fourth seed said, his voice breaking with emotion on the world’s most famous tennis court.

“A lot of people have come from Basel, from home, for this. It’s so nice to share this moment, thanks to everybody,” he added before bursting into tears.

For Philippoussis the defeat was a painful one, but this was a tournament which has breathed new life into a career pockmarked by injury.

After three separate surgeries on his knee, the Australian had been told he may never play at the top level again.

“It’s been a long trip back, but this is only the beginning,” Philippoussis said. “I will definitely be back.”

Federer’s victory was so complete it immediately drew comparisons with seven-times champion’s Pete Sampras’ dominance of the All England Club trophy.

It was Federer who ended Sampras’ 31-match winning streak here in 2001 with a dramatic five-set win on Centre Court.

That match marked the end of the Sampras era and was the last time Federer reached a Grand Slam quarterfinal — his best performance before this week.

Sunday’s final, however, may have marked the beginning of a Federer era at Wimbledon.

Champion in Halle before the Championships began, he is unbeaten on grass this year. His straight-sets defeat of bookmakers’ favourite Andy Roddick in the semifinal was a thing of beauty.

“I’m so happy with the way I played. It was the best two matches maybe of my career,” he said, wiping tears from his eyes.

Standing 6 feet 4 inches and with his white shirt stretched across his barrel-chest, Philippoussis had cut an imposing figure from the start.

He began in a powerful fashion designed to disquiet the softly-spoken Swiss.

But Federer was uncowed by the barrage of power. With a service action as smooth as any Swiss mechanism, he threw himself forward behind every delivery, angling volleys beyond his opponent’s reach.

With tension mounting as the first set inclined towards a tiebreak, a mobile phone in the stands broke the hushed atmosphere. Its ring tone — the morse code distress call of SOS — was apt given Philippoussis’ bludgeoning serves.

In the event, though, it was the Australian who needed rescuing when his serve misfired in the 10th point of the tiebreak.

Two points later, Federer clinched the opener with a thundering ace underhand.

“After this superb result in tennis, this country has ever right to be proud of these competitors who have position themselves in a global elite and won,” Schmid said.

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Ph...
THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Tuesday, July 8, 2003

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WEATHER

Monday, July 7, 2003

Summary of observations recorded at 09:00 hours MST; During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in lower Sagaing Division and Kayah State, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Chin and Kayin States. Mandalay, Myagyi, Yangon and Ayeyarwady Divisions, scattered to widespread in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfall in Mon State and Tanintharyi Division. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Thaiton (4.41 inches), Kawkhong (3.35 inches), Kyenkyi (2.65 inches), Bhamo (2.52 inches), Katha (2.36 inches) and Mogok (1.97 inches).

Maximum temperature on 6-7-2003 was 53.5°C (98°F). Minimum temperature on 7-7-2003 was 16.6°C (62°F). Relative humidity at 03:00 hrs MST on 7-7-2003 was 43%.

Total sunshine hours on 6-7-2003 was (3.8) hours approx. rainfall on 7-7-2003 was 1.54mm at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1st January 2003 was 1087.03 mm (42.01 inches) at Yangon Airport, 1153 mm (45.39 inches) at Kabab-Aye and 1288 mm (46.77 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 7 mph from Southwest at (19/00 hours) MST on 6-7-2003. Bay influence: Monsoon is generally moderate in the Bay of Bengal. Forecast valid until evening of 8-7-2003. Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Kachin, Mon and Shan States, upper Sagain and Tanintharyi Divisions and isolated to scattered in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfall in Kayah State, Mon State and upper Sagain and Tanintharyi Divisions. Degree of certainty is (80%). State of the sea: Seas will be slight to moderate in Yangon waters. Outlook for subsequent two days: Moderate to fresh for Yangon and neighboring areas for 8-7-2003; One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%). Forecast for Mandalay and neighboring area for 8-7-2003; Isolated to isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Flood Warning (Issued at 11.00 hrs MST on 7-7-2003)

According to the (06.30) hr MST observation today, the water level of Chindwin River at Kalewa is 818 cm. It will continue to rise and exceed its danger level of (1550) cm during the next (24) hours commencing noon today.

Flood Bulletin (Issued at 11.00 hrs MST on 7-7-2003)

According to the (06.30) hr MST observation today, the water level of Chindwin River at Mawlaw is (1252) cm. It may remain above its danger level of (1230) cm during the next (48) hours commencing noon today.

NEWSPAPER CONTENT:

MRTV-3

Tuesday, July 8

9:00 Signature Tune

9:06 Popa Mountain Park

9:12 Myanmar National Song

9:18 The King of Music

9:24 Song “The Heart of Myanmar”

9:30 National News

9:35 Myanmar Cuisine

9:40 Signature Tune

9:45 Myanmar Modern Song

9:50 Songs to uphold national Spirit

9:55 Zwegabin and Liveli-

9:59 National News

10:05 Myanmar Modern Song

10:10 National News

10:15 Myanmar Modern Song

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Secretary-1 General Khin Nyunt unveils stone inscription to mark golden jubilee of Mingun Tipitakadhara and silver jubilee of Tipitaka Nikaya on Sagaing Hill on 6-7-2003. — MNA

Secretary-1 presents offerteries at Tipitaka Nikaya golden and silver jubilee celebrations

YANGON, 7 July — Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Chairman of Sagarin Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing, Chairman of the Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint, Minister for Education U Than Aung, Mandalay Mayor Brig-Gen Yan Thein, Deputy Chief Justice of Supreme Court (Mandalay) U Khin Maung Latt and officials, members of the division/districts township Peace and Development Councils, departmental staff, social organizations, laity and wellwishers.

First, the three-storey new building marking golden and silver jubilee celebration was opened. Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Chairman of Sagarin Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing and Tipitaka Nikaya board of trustees (Yangon) Chairman U Aye Pe, retired ambassador formally opened the building.

Next, General Khin Nyunt unveiled the stone plaque and sprinkled scented water. The Secretary-1 and party planted Eugenias trees to hail the opening of three-storey monastery building. Next, the merit-sharing ceremony of Mingun Tipitakadhara Golden Jubilee Tipitaka Nikaya Silver Jubilee was held at the Tipitaka Nikaya Monastery. The ceremony was first opened with the three-time recitation of Namo Tassa. The Secretary-1 and party and the congregation received the Five Precepts from Tipitaka Golden Jubilee Tipitakadhara Tipitaka Kovida Sayadaw Bhaddanta Silakkhanda Bhivamsa.

Tipitaka Nikaya Missionary Group retired ambassador U Aye Pe supplicated on religious matters. He said he was glad to pay respects to the members of the Sangha. Mingun Tipitakadhara Sayadaw Bhaddanta Vicitssarabhiivamsa passed the Tipitakadhara selection examination in 1315 ME and obtained Visita Tipitakadhara Maha Tipitakakovida Tipitakadhara Dhammahangikara title for the first time. After the Sayadaw had received the title, he built Tipitakamikaya Kyaungtaik on Momeik hill of Mingun Hall on 9 July 1978. This ceremony was held to mark the 50th anniversary golden jubilee of obtaining the title and it was also the 25th anniversary silver jubilee of the Kyaungtaik.

(See page 13)

Construction of hospitals, colleges inspected in Hinthada and Pathein

YANGON, 7 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 Khin Maung Than, arrived at the 200-bed General Hospital in Hinthada on 4 July. Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann and party were accompanied by Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Huy Oo, ministers, deputy ministers, the Chief-of-Staff (Navy), senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, and departmental personnel.

At the hospital, Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann and party were conducted round the patient wards and intensive care unit. Medical Superintendent of the hospital Daw Wint Wint Toe reported to Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann and party on brief history of the hospital, the upgrading of the hospital to the present one, medical treatment, undertakings of the mobile medical treatment team comprising specialists, staff welfare programmes, tasks for keeping the hospital clean, and the requirements. Deputy Minister for Health Dr Myo Oo gave instructions on rendering warm welcome to patients and systematic use of hospital equipment.

Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann and party also went to the Hinthada University, where they were welcomed by the pro-rector, the professor, the associate professor, registrar, lecturers, and faculty members. Pro-rector U Soe Myint reported on the location and area of the university, the upgrading of the school to university level, appointment of staff, subjects taught, the strength of students, courses being conducted for the human resource development, arrangements for research works, and the condition of school buildings.

Deputy Minister for Education U Myo Nyunt gave supplementary reports, and then Dr Mya Oo reported on cooperation between the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education. Commander Maj-Gen Huy Oo also presented supplementary reports.

After hearing reports, Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann gave instructions and attended to the requirements for being able to conduct research works.

On the morning of 5 July, Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann visited the local battalion, where he cordially met with officers, other ranks and their families and gave instructions.

Meanwhile, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Soe Win, together with ministers, deputy ministers and departmental heads, inspected the Government Computer College of Hinthada.

Principal of the college Daw Nyein Nyein Lwin reported on the location and area of the college, the strength of teachers, available courses, and the population of students. After hearing the reports, the Secretary-2 gave instructions.

On arrival at the Governmental Technological College of Hinthada, Principal U Thet Htoo Han reported to the Secretary-2 on the birth of the college, available courses, and the population of students. Director-General of the Myanma Science and Technology Research Department U Tin Htut made additional reports. In response to the reports, the Secretary-2 gave instructions to officials and watched the students pursuing education with the help of teaching aids and encouraged them.

(See page 11)