Young Myanmar people enjoying opportunities as never before to uplift their standard of living and quality of life

Myanmar considers its youths to be one of the greatest assets in the country

YANGON, 11 July — The ceremony to mark the 2003 World Population Day was held at International Business Centre on Pyay Road at 8 am today, with an address by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council General Khin Nyunt.

Secretary-1 General Khin Nyunt delivered an address. He said:

First of all, may I wish you a happy and healthy life filled with auspiciousness. It is a great pleasure for me to have this opportunity to address this auspicious gathering on the occasion of the Conmemoration of the World Population Day which falls today. It is the fourteenth successive time Myanmar is observing the World Population Day, underlining our commitment to the goals, objectives and activities of the United Nations. Countries all over the world will also be marking the day with celebrations and special events to raise awareness of the population related issues facing the world today. This year we celebrate the World Population Day with the theme “1 billion adolescents: the right to health, information and services”.

It is most appropriate that we devote our attention to adolescents of the world. The population of the world is currently estimated at 6.3 billion. Out of this population, over 1 billion are young people between the ages of 15 and 24. Most of them live in the developing countries and teenage population is estimated at over 550 million.

Unfortunately, many of the adolescents in the world cannot enjoy the right to good health or get necessary information and services. Most adolescents and youths have limited knowledge about their bodies and are vulnerable to sexually transmitted infections, substance abuse, exploitation and violence.

In the world today, AIDS has become the most devastating disease yet faced by humanity striking on average 14,000 men, women and children daily. More than 60 million people have been infected and AIDS has already killed more than 20 million people. About 50 per cent of the HIV infections occurred among young people between the age of 15 and 24, many of whom suffered the disease before they are 20. But it needs not to be so. The spread of the disease can be reversed by educating, empowering and mobilizing young people. It is therefore incumbent upon the nations of the world to lay down national programmes aimed at preventing infection among young people.

Adolescents in the world, including those in the developed countries, face many economic and social ill. Use of narcotic drugs, committing of crimes, and perpetration of violence by youth gangs are some of the problems facing the nations of the world. Indeed, there had occurred instances in some western nations where teenagers had shot and killed many of their schoolmates and teachers. As such, the time has come for all nations to take measures individually and collectively to ensure that the youths have a chance for better life.

The current population of Myanmar stands at 52.4 million and the young population between the ages of 15 and 24 is estimated to be about 9 million. With the guidance and support of the Government and the noble teachings of Myanmar’s rich culture and traditions, Myanmar adolescents and youths enjoy better quality of life and higher social values than many of their brothers and sisters in other parts of the world.

It is universally accepted that early marriage and early motherhood can severely curtail educational and employment opportunities and are likely to have a long term impact on the lives of young people and their children’s quality of life. However, 82 million girls in the developing countries will be marrying before they are 18. Each year, 15 million girls aged 15 to 19 gave birth and 4 million undergo abortions, often in unsafe conditions. (See page 8)

Secretary-1 General Khin Nyunt addresses the ceremony to mark 2003 World Population Day. — MNA
For perpetuation of the Union

The Union of Myanmar has a fine historical tradition with high cultural standard. Today, all are striving for the Union to keep abreast with the nations of the world.

At such a time, it is a must for the entire national people to preserve and safeguard the existing peace, tranquillity and prosperity. Efforts must be exerted for national development. To bring about the bright future of the State and its people, it is necessary for the Union to perpetuate as long as the world exists. Therefore, all the entire national people must strive for perpetuation of the Union.

A nation will last long only when it is built in accord with its norms and values based on historical needs. Throughout history, the national people of Myanmar have had the tradition of fighting against the aggressors and expansionists and also had the tradition of safeguarding the independence and sovereignty sacrificing their sweat and blood. Therefore, the Government is laying emphasis on national unity. It has chosen the right course for national development through the strength of national unity.

Nowadays, nation-building endeavours are being carried out with the might of national solidarity. Arrangements are being made in every sector for development of the Union.

Infrastructures such as dams and reservoirs, roads and bridges, and communication and power supply are being built in the interest of the people. In implementing these tasks, the Government had to overcome many difficulties such as capital constraint, machinery and equipment and time limits. Own national force is one of the most important factors in building the nation in line with the national objectives. Apart from the strength of the people, human resource development is essential for nation-building endeavours.

As the Government is making all-out efforts for the Union to become a peaceful, modern and developed one, the entire people of the respective regions of the Union, on their part, are to throw themselves into nation-building tasks.

We would like to urge the entire people to strive for perpetuation and development of the Union while keeping alive and dynamic patriotic spirit, national spirit and Union Spirit.

Gamone Dam in Bago Division

by T.Htut

Nowadays, the Government is building clusters of irrigation facilities and implementing a large number of nation-building tasks in the whole country for emergence of a modern and developed nation. With the leadership and support of the Government, all the people are harmoniously taking part in the national economic development drive that will help modernize the motherland. At this time, the government is giving priority to building dams, the main infrastructures not only for progress of the national economy but also for improvement of the people’s living standard.

The government has built the four-mile long Thaphanseik Dam, the longest in Southeast Asia, Zaungtu Hydel Power Dam, and is building other advanced major dams including, Paunglaung and Mone Creek dams with its own capital and technical power. These projects are the pride of the entire national people. One of the significant points is that the government is not only building large dams, but also small ones, which are not profitable in economic terms. In areas which are not possible to build large dams, clusters of small and medium dams are being built.

Especially in Bago Division in which many streams originate from the Bago Yoma mountain range running from north to south in the region, and which face water shortage in summer, many small and medium dams have been built to change and develop the socio-economic life of the farmers. The dams have also prevented floods, enabling farmers to grow crops in low-lying areas during monsoon and supplying water for summer paddy.

Up to now, the government has built 36 dams including Gamone Dam in Bago Division at a cost of altogether over K 20,000 million. The facilities are irrigating over 570,000 acres of crops. Eight more dams namely, Yenwe Dam in Kyauktata Township; Minhla Dam in Okpo Township; Phlu Dam in Pyu Township; Kaboung Dam in Ottwin Township; Phungyi Dam in Ottwin Township; Mokkha Dam in Minhla Township; and Thegon Dam in Thegon Township are under construction.
Bush knew Iraq info was false

WASHINGTON, 11 July — Senior administration officials tell CBS News the President’s mistaken claim that Iraq tried to buy uranium from Africa was included in his State of the Union address — despite objections from the CIA.

Before the speech was delivered, the portions dealing with Iraq’s weapons of mass destruction were checked with the CIA for accuracy, reports CBS News National Security Correspondent David Martin.

CIA officials warned members of the President’s National Security Council staff the intelligence was not good enough to make the flat statement Iraq tried to buy uranium from Africa.

The White House officials responded that a paper issued by the British government contained the unequivocal assertion: “Iraq has … sought significant quantities of uranium from Africa.” As long as the statement was attributed to British Intelligence, the White House officials argued, it would be factually accurate. The CIA officials dropped their objections and that’s how it was delivered.

“The British government has learned that Saddam Hussein recently sought significant quantities of uranium from Africa,” Mr Bush said.

The statement was technically correct, since it accurately reflected the British paper. But the bottom line is the White House knowingly included in a presidential address information its own CIA had explicitly warned might not be true.

Today at a press conference during the President’s trip to Africa, Secretary of State Powell portrayed it as an honest mistake.

“There was no effort or attempt on the part of the president or anyone else in the administration to mislead or to deceive the American people,” said Powell.

But eight days after the State of the Union, when Powell addressed the UN, he deliberately left out any reference to Iraq’s attempts to buy uranium from Africa.

“I didn’t use the uranium at that point because I didn’t think that was sufficiently strong as evidence to present before the world,” Powell said.

That is exactly what CIA officials told the White House before the State of the Union. The top CIA official, Director George Tenet, was not involved in those discussions and apparently never warned the President he was wrong.

Secretary Powell said today he read the State of the Union speech before it was delivered and understood it had been seen and cleared by the intelligence community. But intelligence officials say the director of the CIA never saw the final draft.

S Africans demonstrate against Bush’s visit

PRETORIA, 11 July — What seemed to be an odd assortment of people joined forces here on Wednesday to march to Parliament in protest against US policy in Iraq since 1 May when Mr Bush declared that major combat was over.

Meanwhile, about 1,500 people braved a blustery winter’s day in Cape Town on Wednesday to march to Parliament in protest against Bush’s visit to South Africa. — MNA/Xinhua

Bush admits Iraq ‘security problems’

WASHINGTON, 11 July—US President George W Bush has admitted there is still a security problem in Iraq which means his troops have to “remain tough”. His comments — a day after two US soldiers were killed in separate attacks — were more measured than earlier this month when he seemed to challenge Iraqi militants to “Bring them on”.

America’s war commander in Iraq, General Tommy Franks, said on Thursday that troops might have to remain on the ground for up to four years.

Efforts to create civilian authorities received a boost however when Britain’s top representative in Iraq, John Sawyers, announced a governing council of Iraqis could be up and running within a week.

“There is no question that we have got a security issue in Iraq and we’ve got to deal with it person by person,” he said. “We’re going to have to remain tough,” said Mr Bush in Botswana, on the latest stage of his southern Africa tour.

Mr Bush blamed the continuing attacks on US troops on “apologists for Saddam Hussein” and insisted the US was making “steady progress” in establishing security and rebuilding the country.

The Pentagon has reported the deaths of 65 American service personnel - many of them as a result of hostile fire — in Iraq since 1 May when Mr Bush declared that major combat was over. — Internet

Democrats step up criticism of Bush on Iraq

WASHINGTON, 11 July—On Capitol Hill and on the campaign trail, Democrats are stepping up their criticism of President Bush on Iraq, sensing what they believe to be a vulnerability in the administration’s rationale for the war that ousted Saddam Hussein from power.

Democrats also are raising questions about continued US casualties in Iraq, more than two months after Bush declared an end to major combat, and the continued occupation of the country. “Now clearly it’s time for the president to step forward and tell the truth, that the war is continuing and so are the casualties,” said Senator John Kerry of Massachusetts, one of nine Democrats seeking his party’s 2004 presidential nomination.

In a critical speech, Kerry — who supported giving Bush the authority to go to war — criticized the administration for what he said was its neglect of diplomacy and planning.

“It’s time for the president to tell the truth — that we lack sufficient forces to do the job of reconstruction in Iraq and withdraw in a reasonable period,” he said. Other Democrats are raising similar complaints at hearings and news conferences. — Internet

S African ruling parties alliance protest against US policy

PRETORIA, 11 July— Members of South Africa’s ruling tripartite alliance held a demonstration in front of the US Embassy in Pretoria on Wednesday, accusing the US Government of “flagrant disregard for the basic principles of international law”.

The protest by about 200 people of the South African Communist Party (SACP), the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) and the African National Congress was the city’s third major one for the day. Visiting US President George W Bush met President Thabo Mbeki at the Union Buildings earlier on Wednesday. Later they had lunch at the Presidential Guest House. With alliance members already close to the embassy, police instructed more than 1,000 protesters under the banner of the Anti-War Coalition to leave, since they had exceeded the time allocated to them. — MNA/Xinhua

A US Army soldier on top of a tank. A US tank fired a shell for the first time since the end of the US war on Iraq in clashes overnight with guerrilla fighters in the flashpoint town of Ramadi 100 kilometres (60 miles) west of Baghdad, a military spokesman said. — Internet
France not to send troops to Iraq unless within UN framework

PARIS, 11 July—France will not send any troops to Iraq unless within a framework of the United Nations peacekeeping mission, French Foreign Minister Dominique de Villepin said in an interview with Le Figaro to be published in its Thursday edition.

When asked “under what conditions will France send soldiers to Iraq,” de Villepin answered, “It will be OK (for France) when the political transition in Iraq is placed under the responsibility of the United Nations.”

“Any participation will be eventually envisioned only within the framework of a peace force of the United Nations, based on a detailed mandate of the UN Security Council and therefore enjoying the support of the entirety of the international community,” he said.

United States Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld on Wednesday said he was in favour of sending French and German troops to Iraq to help in the country’s reconstruction phase.

“Our goal is to get a large number of international forces from a lot of countries, including those two,” said Rumsfeld, speaking at the Senate Armed Services Committee when answering a question by Senator Carl Levin asking directly about the involvement of French and German forces.

We have made requests to something like 70, 80 or 90 countries,” Rumsfeld told Levin.

BP, Shell confirm winning oil deal from Iraq

LUXEMBOURG, 11 July—BP and Shell confirmed Wednesday that they had won a second bid to purchase two million barrels of Basra light crude from the Gulf. BP and Shell were notified by a committee of international oil trading firms that they had won the tender of a slice of Iraq’s oil supplies.

Spokesmen for BP and Shell confirmed Wednesday that they had won a second bid to purchase two million barrels of Basra light crude from the Gulf. BP and Shell were notified by a committee of international oil trading firms that they had won the tender of a slice of Iraq’s oil supplies.

The deal is believed to be worth about 80 million dollars.

US Army soldiers search a suspect and his vehicle outside of a bank, on 10 July, 2003, in Barcuba, 60 km (38 miles) northeast of Baghdad, Iraq. Insurgents launched a slew of fresh assaults on US soldiers, killing at least two servicemen and wounding a third in shootings and rocket propelled grenade attacks, the military said on Thursday.

REPORT SAYS FRANCE BADLY PREPARED FOR BIO-TERRORIST ATTACKS

PARIS, 11 July—France is one of the “worst prepared” for bio-terrorist attacks as it never gives political priority to the fight against infectious diseases, said a report published Wednesday.

“...and coordinate the whole of efforts, will be able to face the risks that will come,” said the report.

The United States spends 3.6 billion dollars each year on research of infectious diseases, which is more than the total budget of medical research in France, noted the professor.

And, of the spending in the United States, 1.2 billion dollars are solely for the fight against bio-terrorism, he added.

To catch up with the Americans in this field, the professor suggested that among many other measures, research centres on infectious diseases be set up in major French cities.

IRELICHT, 11 July—US-backed Iraqi police traded fire with gunmen on Wednesday in a confusing battle that proved only one thing — Iraqis do not trust Baghdad’s new police force.

Police and US forces clashed with gunmen holed up in a house for 45 minutes, drawing a huge crowd of Iraqis who got a first-hand view of law enforcement in the new Iraq.

There were no reports of casualties but the resort to violence in busy central Baghdad was a dramatic example of how Iraqi police and US forces are struggling to restore law and order in a country where Iraqis see both criminals and police as bad guys.

Iraq has been hit by looting and lawlessness since US and British forces launched their war in March.

Iraqis are suspicious of the new Iraqi policemen because they worked under Saddam’s toppled Baath Party.

Police officials at the scene said armed thieves had occupied the house and opened fire on them. But some Iraqis watching from street corners said they were comercial compromises.

“I will tell you what really happened. The police have been coming here and trying to evict them but they let them stay after being bribed,” said one man who lived next door.

“Iraqis have complained about the way US forces carry out weapons raids on private homes by breaking doors and searching women. They also accuse US troops of stealing money.

Seven police recruits, just trained by US troops, were killed in a bomb explosion on Saturday in the town of Ramadi.

After Iraqi police with AK-47 assault rifles and US forces stormed the Baghdad house, they took away three men in handcuffs.

CHINESE PRESIDENT MEETS CAMBODIAN KING

BEIJING, 11 July — The new Chinese leadership values Sino-Cambodian relations, and will work with Cambodia to promote bilateral traditional friendship and cooperation, said Chinese President Hu Jintao.

Hu spoke at a meeting with Cambodia’s King Norodom Sihanouk and Queen Norodom Monineath Sihanouk on Thursday.

To catch up with the Americans in this field, the professor suggested that among many other measures, research centres on infectious diseases be set up in major French cities.

China will, as always, support the Cambodian people’s efforts for national peace, stability and development, said Hu.

INFORMATION MINISTRY

News Brief 11 July—Indian External Affairs Minister Yashwant Sinha Wednesday asserted that India was under no pressure from the United States to send its troops to Iraq and said a decision on it would be taken keeping in mind the “best national interest” and “best interest” of the Iraqi people.

Sinha made it clear that India did not consider as a “key factor” spin-offs of troops deployment in Iraq in the form of a slice in reconstruction work in the war-ravaged country and that only a “very small” percentage of its oil supplies came from there.

Sinha disagreed with a suggestion that the country’s entire political spectrum was against sending troops to Iraq. He said, “I don’t think it is entirely correct to say that the National Democratic Alliance has authorized the Prime Minister to take a decision in the best interest of the country.” He admitted there was opposition in certain quarters to this. “We have not yet taken a decision on it,” he added.

Pointing out that the best interest of the country and the Iraqi people were broad considerations that would be kept in mind, the minister said there were other factors that would be taken in to account in the decision making.
Chalabi says US does not need more troops

ANKARA, 11 July — Iraqi political leader Ahmad Chalabi said on Wednesday Washington should not send more troops to the Arab state to fight increasingly violent attacks but must instead swiftly arm and train a police force.

US soldiers have come under attack almost every day since ousting former Iraqi president Saddam Hussein in April.

Twenty nine US soldiers have been killed by hostile fire since major combat was declared over on 1 May. The US Administration there also faces rising sabotage and a growing sense that the resistance is organized.

After talks with Turkish officials in Ankara, Chalabi told Reuters the creation of an Iraqi governing council, as enshrined in the US-hosted June 6 conference, is no longer a priority.

“Security in Iraq is not a function of the US sending more troops, it is a function of the creation of an Iraqi security force,” said Chalabi.

The US has complete control of the battlefield, the US military is unchallenged there. However, they’re not policemen.

MNA/Reuters

 Unknown extremist group calls for holy war against US troops in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 11 July—An unknown group in Iraq has called for jihad, or holy war, against US occupying forces, issuing a death threat to all Iraqis working with the US-led authorities, according to a tract sent to AFP.

“We are calling for a jihad” — the text said.

It added that this applies to everyone, including those in hand with Paul Bremer, the top US civil administrator in Baghdad.

The anonymous tract also calls for a general strike and any stolen goods on a street in Baghdad. Two US soldiers were killed overnight in separate attacks in Iraq.

MNA/Reuters

That PM vows to clean up police force in 4-5 years

BANGKOK, 11 July — Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra has admitted that many police in the country are Mafia-types or closely associated with drug figures and pledged to clean up the force within four to five years, the Bangkok Post reported Thursday.

The Premier, himself a former policeman, was quoted as saying that though most policemen were good officers, many rogue officers were directly involved in illegal activities or lived off the generosity of influential figures. The malpractice was so deeply entrenched it was taken for granted that the police who make a living on the wrong side of the law would use four to five years to put the police back in line.

Thaksin’s comments followed revelations by Chuwit Kamolvisit, owner of massage parlour chains, who is facing charges of directing a raid to a group of pederasts in central area of Bangkok, employing underage girls in his massage parlours and running a prostitution business.

MNA/Xinhua

Tianjin bonded zone becomes int’l logistic centre

TIANJIN, 11 July —The Tianjin Harbour Bonded Zone is emerging as a new international logistic centre in north China.

Workers building the Volkswagen Logistic Centre of Germany have sealed the roof, and the OLC (OngLee Logistics Company) of Japan, the largest of its kind in China, has commenced operations.

An official from the bonded zone says eight multinational logistic companies set up operations in the zone during the first half of this year, gradually developing the zone into an international logistic centre covering all parts of China and northeast Asia.

Overseas logistic companies have brought advanced managerial concepts, technology and market channels to China, all of which have accelerated the logistic development of Tianjin. Revenue from cargo and container volume via the zone reached 4.78 billion US dollars in the first half of this year, up by 53 per cent.

The annual cargo volume handled by the zone is expected to top 10 billion US dollars.

Since China joined the World Trade Organization, the Tianjin Harbour Bonded Zone has taken full advantage of its unique function, position and preferential policies granted by the government to accelerate its logistic development.

MNA/Xinhua

Fresh BBC claims reignite Iraq weapons row

LONDON, 11 July — The British Broadcasting Corporation said on Thursday senior figures “right at the top” of the London Government no longer believed weapons of mass destruction would be uncovered in Iraq.

The report looks set to deepen divisions over whether the war was justified, as well as to reignite a row between the British Government and the state-funded BBC over Iraq coverage.

“They (senior ministers) do think there were weapons there... but the actual weapons, the tubes of evil stuff, the rusting missiles... believe that they will actually be available, that is tricking away very fast,” BBC political editor Andrew Marr said on television news.

The best explanation going around at the moment is that some time shortly before the war Saddam Hussein destroyed them or hid them beyond discovery.”

A Downing Street spokesman poured scorn on the BBC report, saying the Prime Minister stood by his earlier comments.

“The BBC talks about senior ministers, well Tony Blair said on Tuesday he believed the weapons would be found and it doesn’t get much more senior than that,” he said.

The issue of Iraqi weapons has sparked fierce debate on both sides of the Atlantic, but Blair, the main US ally in the war, has had to bear the brunt in recent weeks.

Opinion polls suggest the British public is no longer convinced of the case for war and members of Parliament from all parties want proof of weapons to justify the campaign.

The fresh BBC claims come just a week after a series of words broke out between the two sides over a BBC report that accused Blair’s Press chief of “sexing up” a dossier on Iraqi weapons.

The claim was dismissed by a parliamentary committee on Monday, but with the broadcaster still refusing to apologise the latest report is likely to heighten tensions.

Speaking to a parliamentary committee on Tuesday, Blair denied misleading Britain over the case for war and said he was in no doubt evidence of banned weapons programmes would be found.

MNA/Reuters

Yunnan takes measures to curb population growth

KUNMEN, 11 July—The government of southwest China’s Yunnan Province announced a series of preferential policies Tuesday to reward rural households for their adherence to the one-child policy.

The preferential policies will take effect in 34 designated counties, cities and districts on 1 August.

Under the new policies, one-child rural couples who voluntarily adhere to the one-child limit and receive one-child certificates will be awarded 1,000 yuan.

The parents of one-child families will be given an annual living subsidy of 500 yuan each when they reach the age of 60.

One-child families will also receive free textbooks and stationery.

MNA/Xinhua

An Iraqi policeman in civilian clothes spots check posts watching cars looking for loosers and any stolen goods on a street in Baghdad. Two US soldiers were killed overnight in separate attacks in Iraq.
### US mily scholars warn of wider Iraqi insurgency

**PHILADELPHIA, 11 July** — With guerilla-style attacks escalating in Iraq, the United States may have to begin turning over peacekeeping duties to an international force within a year, or risk a wider insurgency, military analysts warned on Wednesday.

A wave of attacks that has killed 29 US troops since US President George W Bush declared major combat operations over on 1 May, appears to stem from a resurgence of Iraqi nationalism among both Sunnis and Shiites in the face of US occupation, said scholars at the US Army War College.

“If US forces are still there a year from now, individuals who suggest we are in a bad way will be correct,” said Terrill, a former Pentagon official who believes US troops have run out of good will in Iraq. “This is a major mistake.”

The world is coming to help: that’s the message we have to send,” said Terrill, a former Pentagon official who believes US troops have run out of good will in Iraq. “This is a major mistake.”

This means US authorities need to move quickly to either set up a national security system run by Iraqis or bring in international peacekeeping troops from other nations, possibly including Muslim countries like Pakistan and Bangladesh.

“The world is coming to help: that’s the message we have to send,” said Terrill, a former Pentagon official who believes US troops have run out of good will in Iraq. “This is a major mistake.”

**THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR** Saturday, 12 July, 2003

### Singapore sends police to train Iraqi policemen

**SINGAPORE, 11 July** — Singapore, known for its tough laws and orderly neighbourhoods, will send a police team next week to Baghdad to train Iraqi policemen.

Thirty officers will stay in the Iraq capital for three months to teach lessons in patrolling and guarding key administrative buildings, a police spokesman said on Wednesday. But to begin training, they will only travel from their hotel to a training school and back.

US authorities running Iraq in the wake of the war that deposed former leader Saddam Hussein are under pressure from international concern to restore order, particularly in Baghdad, following a string of increasingly bold attacks on occupying forces.

### Bremer, Iraq groups discuss interim council

**BAGHDAD, 11 July** — US Administrator Paul Bremer discussed details of a proposed transitional Iraqi governing council on Thursday with the country’s leading political groups.

One of the seven groups involved in the talks, the Iraqi National Congress (INC), said the long awaited “governing council” would be announced soon to fulfill a power vacuum caused by the fall of Saddam Hussein on 9 April.

“We discussed details of the governing council and its powers and jurisdictions,” Entitiadh Qanbar, INC spokesman, told Reuters after the meeting in Baghdad.

The group of seven is made up of exiled groups who returned to Baghdad after the fall of Saddam on 19 April. Other than the INC it includes the Shi'ite Muslim Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI) and al-Da'awa Party as well as the two main Kurdish parties. They are expected to form the backbone of the council that would have some executive power. The groups have demanded a swift handover of power to a fully fledged Iraqi Government, and some say the United States has reneged on promises to quickly form a US-supervised transitional authority.

“We have been pushing very hard for the council and the interim government to be formed as soon as possible and I believe that we will see an Iraqi Government emerging before the end of the month,” Qanbar said.

### Iran still not ready for tighter nuclear checks

**VIENNA, 11 July** — The head of the UN nuclear watchdog has not yet persuaded Iran to accept tighter nuclear inspections, diplomats said on Thursday, but they said the UN appeared to be gaining the confidence of the Islamic republic.

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) chief Mohamed ElBaradei said in Teheran on Wednesday he had agreed with Iranian officials to send over an IAEA team next week to clarify IAEA access to more information about Iran’s nuclear activities and the right to carry out more intrusive short-notice inspections.

Iran has so far refused to sign it, insisting that an international embargo on the sale of peaceful nuclear technology to Iran be lifted first.

Diplomats said ElBaradei was clearly not successful in getting Iran to do two things that could have been done while he was in Teheran — sign the protocol and grant permission to take environmental samples at the Kalaye Electric Company, where parts for uranium-enrichment centrifuges are manufactured.

Regarding the sampling, a Vienna-based diplomat said: “They didn’t say yes and they didn’t say no.”

### Megawati urges people to save electricity

**JAKARTA, 11 July** — Indonesian President Megawati Soekarnoputri called on people from all walks of life on Thursday to limit their electricity usage.

Speaking after dedicating a number of development projects from the location of the Tanjung Jati B hydroelectric power plant in Jepara, Central Java, Megawati also promised that the government would do its best to continue augmenting power capacity, despite the limited funds for the development of power plants.

“The public should develop the habit of saving (electricity),” she said after officiating at the resumption of work for the development of the Tanjung Jati B project and 25 other power plants. On the occasion, the President also announced the start of work on the Eastern Flood Canal in Jakarta and three toll roads around Surabaya, capital of East Java Province.

### Two US soldiers killed in Iraq attacks

**BAGHDAD, 11 July** — One US soldier in Iraq was shot dead and another was killed in a rocket-propelled grenade attack on Wednesday, the military said on Thursday.

The latest deaths bring to 31 the number of US soldiers killed by hostile fire in Iraq since President George W Bush declared major combat over on 1 May. One soldier was killed when his convoy came under small arms fire near Al Mahmudiyah, about 25 miles south of Baghdad at around 6.30 pm (1430 GMT) on Wednesday, the military said. Around four hours later, assailants fired rocket-propelled grenades at a convoy north of Baghdad, killing a soldier from the US Army’s Fourth Infantry Division and wounding another, US Central Command said in a statement.

US officials have blamed isolated remnants of Saddam Hussein’s security forces for the attacks on their troops. But some Iraqis say the attacks reflect more widespread opposition to the US-led occupation of their country.

*MNA/Reuters*
German chancellor cancels vacation in Italy

BERLIN, 11 July — German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder has cancelled his planned vacation in Italy to protest against the anti-German remarks by Italian politicians, it was announced Wednesday.

Schroeder’s decision came after Stefano Stefani, who is an Italian state secretary responsible for tourism, said in an interview with Italian Press that Germans are “stereotyped blondes with a hyper-nationalist pride”.

“The (Schroeder’s) family will spend its vacation at home in Hanover,” said German Government spokesman Bela Anda. Schroeder planned to spend holidays at the home of his friend and painter Bruno Bruni in central Italy beginning July 20. — MNA/Xinhua

Commander says attacks ‘stepped up’ against US

WASHINGTON, 11 July — The top military commander in Iraq on Thursday said that Saddam loyalists have “stepped up” their attacks against US forces in the past week and there is “absolutely no question in my mind” that American soldiers and their Iraqi supporters killed in recent ambushes were victims of “professional assassinations.”

Lt Gen Ricardo Sanchez blamed pro-Saddam Fedayeen militias and Special Republican Guard soldiers for the attacks on US troops. His comments came after the deaths of two more soldiers in Iraq.

Sanchez told reporters “it’s a top priority for his forces to determine the status of Saddam and his two sons Uday and Qusay. Whether Saddam is ‘dead or alive is making an impact because it’s the ability to cooperate with the coalition,” he said.

Two US soldiers were killed Wednesday in separate attacks in Iraq as the convoys came under fire, one near Tikrit and one south of Baghdad near al-Mahmudiyah.

At least 79 US troops have died in Iraq since Bush announced an end to major fighting May 1. Of those, 32 have been killed by hostile fire and 47 were victims of non-hostile fire or accidents.

Democrats have stepped up their criticism of President George W Bush over the lingering campaign’s rising death toll and his rationale for going to war.

“Now clearly it’s the time for the president to step forward and tell the truth, that the war is continuing and so are the casualties,” said Sen. John Kerry of Massachusetts, one of nine Democrats seeking their party’s 2004 presidential nomination.

The Democratic National Committee prepared an ad assailing the president for using false intelligence in his State of the Union address last January to establish that Saddam was preparing nuclear weapons.

Laos expels three foreigners from country

HANOI, 11 July — An American, a French and a Belgian, who were sentenced 15 years imprisonment by a court in Laos, were expelled from the country on July 9, according to Laos’ news agency KPL on Thursday.

On June 30, the three foreigners were judged by a tribunal in Xiang Khouang Province for obstructing authorities on duties, possessing illegal weapons and murdering.

On the same day, diplomats at the three embassies of the United States, France and Belgium paid fines in accordance with the court’s verdict.

The expulsion of the foreigners followed Laos Government’s humanitarian policy to preserve good relationships among Laos and the United States, France and Belgium, based on the proposal of foreign ministers of the three countries.

ADB appoints Jin Liqun as vice-president

MANILA, 11 July — The Board of Directors of Asian Development Bank (ADB) acting on the recommendation of President Tadao Chino, has appointed Chinese Vice-Minister of Finance Jin Liqun as ADB vice-president.

Jin succeeds Vice-President Myoung-Ho Shin, of South Korea, who is retiring after five years of service and the appointment is to take effect from August 1, 2003.

Jin, 53, is Chinese Vice-Minister of Finance mainly in charge of the budget for administrative expenses of education, science, culture and economic affairs.

Currently the alternate governor for China at ADB, the World Bank Group and the Global Environment Facility, Jin has been active in international economic affairs for almost two decades, particularly since the Asian financial crisis in 1997.

He has worked on a number of bilateral and multilateral economic and financial forums, such as the China-US Joint Economic Committee, China-UK Economic and Finance Dialogue, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Finance Ministerial, the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Plus Three.

In addition, Jin is a member of the State Monetary Policy Committee and the Anti-Terrorism Committee of the People’s Republic of China.

Jin holds a Master of Arts degree in English literature from Beijing Foreign Studies University. He was also a Hubert Humphrey Fellow in the Economics Graduate Program at Boston University from 1987 to 1988. He joined the Ministry of Finance in 1980 after completing his graduate programme from Beijing Foreign Languages Institute.

Iraq police tell US troops to stay away

BAGHDAD, 11 July — With daily shootings and rocket attacks against US soldiers claiming two more lives, even Iraqi policemen said Thursday they want to keep a safe distance from coalition troops for fear of getting caught in the crossfire.

Several dozen Iraqi police, most wearing new uniforms provided by the US military, marched on the mayor’s office in Fallujah, a restive town west of Baghdad, insisting American soldiers stop using their station as a base. The Iraqis said they would quit if the soldiers don’t find a new home within 48 hours.

Fallujah has seen several deadly attacks on American and Iraqi forces since 56 US troops killed 20 protesters in late April.

Attacks by pro-Saddam Hussein insurgents in recent weeks have threatened to undo Iraq’s American and British occupiers into a military and political quagmire. The US military insists the resistance doesn’t amount to a full-fledged guerrilla war, and say they have no evidence it is being coordinated on a nationwide level.

Most of the attacks have taken place north and west of Baghdad called the “Sunni Triangle,” a region known as a stronghold of Saddam supporters, although many residents deny that the former dictator, also a Sunni Muslim, still has followers among them.

Fallujah, Ramadi and Baqubah are all within the triangle. The attacks, as well as sabotage against Iraq infrastructure, have stymied efforts to return security and vital services to the country. At night gangs roam darkened streets, and killings and carjackings occur in broad daylight. — Internet

Indonesian vice-president approves recruitment of foreign teachers

JAKARTA, 11 July — Indonesian Vice-President Hamzah Haz said Thursday he did not object to the planned recruitment of foreign teachers proposed by the international intelligence college.

But he asked the school to consult first with the Indonesian Ulemas Council (MUI).

His remarks followed a statement by a senior officer at the State Intelligence Board (BIN) that the State Intelligence Institute in West Java and the International Intelligence School in Batam were considering a plan to use foreign teachers, including those of Israeli’s Mossad.

“We must be careful so that the government policy, which intends to improve quality, does not raise a new problem. Therefore it’s important to coordinate and consult with MUI,” he quoted by Detikcom online news service as saying. — MNA/Xinhua

US Marines look on as Iraqis walk by with water and supplies, while patrolling a road on the outskirts of the city of Nasiriyah in southern Iraq on 10 July. — Internet

Local police officers protest at the mayor’s office in Fallujah, Iraq on 10 July, 2003. The officers made a 48-hour ultimatum that American leave the main police station, where they have been staying along with the local police. The Iraqi officers claimed that the soldiers’ presence is putting them in danger of attack itself. — Internet
Young Myanmar people...

In the case of Myanmar, the age at marriage is generally high. Women who married in 1970s got married at age 19 and for those marrying in 1990s, the average age of marriage is 22 years. The age at first birth has also risen in recent years, reducing the number of births occurring in the adolescent age group, thus reducing the risk to mothers and children are greater.

A report indicates that two women and men never marrying have also been increasingly reported at a rate of about 9 per cent of women aged 20 to 24 years and 77 per cent of men aged 20 to 24 are not married. Hence, the number of teen-age girls marrying and child-bearing is very low in our country.

Myanmar considers its youths to be one of the most important assets in the country. The Government is therefore paying great attention to the welfare of our young people and is implementing many developmental projects of adolescents.

While a comprehensive health programme including health education programmes for youths is being implemented, the education system is guiding our young people to the right path of development of the nation.

Today, the young people enjoy opportunities as never before in the field of work, living and quality of life. Today, the young people enjoy opportunities as never before in the field of work, living and quality of life.

In this regard, I wish also to acknowledge the important role played by the State, local governments, UN and NGOs in providing opportunities to young people in the field of life and education. This is what can be the path for the development of the nation.

As such, I wish to saddened to hear that in some parts of the country, the rate of child marriage is increasing, with the majority of girls getting married at an early age, with high rates of girls marrying at ages 15 to 19 years.

According to a report, out of 74,295 trainees have attended 39 courses conducted by the centres. And there were 5,638 faculty members and now there are 10,176 members. There is an increase in the number of students from 134,325 before 1988 to 777,174 today, and teaching programmes from 59 to 149. Moreover, Yangon University and Mandalay University have produced 57 PhD graduates so far.

Since 1998, the Ministry of Education has established the centre for the development of human resources at each and every university or college. Subjects are being introduced in the centres.

In conclusion, let us all aspire to the noble aim of the life of the adolescents and young people and equip them with the necessary tools so that they will be leading citizens of the world.

We must also take upon us the lofty aims of this year’s World Population Day — “1 billion adolescents: the right to health, information and services.”

Next, UNFPA Resident Representative Mr Majid Assifi read out the message for the World Population Day sent by UNFPA Executive Director Mr Alister Clark.

The Secretory-1 presented prizes to winners of the Poster Open Level-5. The Secretory-1 and party exhibited the 2003 Poster Open Level-5 contests.

In conclusion, let us all aspire to the noble aim of the life of the adolescents and young people and equip them with the necessary tools so that they will be leading citizens of the world.
Administrative bodies and...

Next, Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann and party arrived at No 1 Tyre and Rubber Product Factory of the Ministry of Industry-2 in Thaton. At the briefing hall, Managing Director U Oo Zun of Myanma Tyre and Rubber Industries reported on operating of the factory to produce tyres beginning 1985, manufacturing of 24 kinds of tyres and three of bicycle tyres at present and investment of the factory.

Deputy Minister for Industry-2 Lt-Col Khin Maung Kyaw gave a supplemental report.

The Secretary-2 gave instructions on use of bicycle tyres for the Ministry of Industry-1 made bicycles, development of rubber technology to be shared among the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and the Ministry of Industry-2 and the Ministry of Industry-1 and raw materials to be produced in local.

Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann and party inspected the tyre compound section, raw materials from local and abroad, production sections, items of car tyres and bicycle tyres produced by the factory and rubber equipment for the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and the Ministry of Mines.

(See page 13)
Yekha Micro-Organism Blue Green Algae Pharmaceutical Factory

Aung (Sethu)

The Micro-Organism Blue Green Algae (Spirulina) Pharmaceutical Factory (Yekha) that was opened on 6 June 2003 is the only facility of its kind in Myanmar. Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council General Khin Nyunt formally opened the factory. The factory produces various types of medicine that are derived from blue green algae that can be seen only with the aid of a microscope.

The factory run by the Myanmar Pharmaceutical Industries of the Ministry of Industry-1 is located at the place one mile west of Sagang-Mingun Road in Sagaing Division. It is about two and a half miles from Yekha camp. The operations of the factory cover Twindaung, Yekha, Twimna and Taungbyauk camps, the main sources of the blue green algae. The factory’s compound including the four camps is 447.302 acres. The surface area of the Yekha lake is round about 550 acres. The Spirulina is processed through the German method to produce quality goods including Provinim tablets, Provinim capsules, Biomin caplets, Spirulina spray dried powder, Spirulina sun dried chips, Spirulina thanka, Spirulina thanaka lotion, Spirulina noodle, Spirulina pasta, Spirulina shampoo, Spirulina cracker, Spirulina toffee, Spirulina beer, Spirulina soap, Spirulina hair tonic oil and Spirulina juice. The bioreactor was used in breeding quality blue green algae.

The Yekha factory is running one eight-hour shift a day and 240 days a year. Depending on the increase in the demand, it will run up to two eight-hour shifts a day and 300 days a year. It has the capacity to produce two million bottles of medicines and cosmetics; two million packages of foodstuff; and 50 tons of supplementary feedstuff a year. The Sagaing Division branch of the Myanmar Electric Power Enterprise is supplying electricity to the factory. The factory also has erected two generators for emergency use.

The manpower requirement of the factory is 61 officers, 850 technicians, and 287 ordinary workers totaling 1,198. The factory was built at a total estimated cost of K 1,853.521 million. Annually, it will contribute K 1,198. The factory is operated by 850 technicians and 287 ordinary workers totaling 1,198.

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Narcotic drugs seized in Mandalay

YANGON, 11 July — Acting on information tipped off by a garbage collector in Mandalay, local intelligence unit members seized 38,600 stimulant tablets, 0.11gm of crushed stimulant pill, 2 heroin blocks weighing 0.7 kilo and 0.4 kilo of opium oil from a garbage bag. Further investigation led to the search of the house No 61/50 between 71st and 72nd Streets and 32nd and 33rd Streets in Chanmya Thazi Township in Mandalay. Maung Win (a) Lisbin San, owner of the drugs had fled and 2,625 stimulant tablets and K 794,500 realized from the sale of drugs were confiscated. Action is being taken against him by the local police station. — MNA

Facilities for development of Mon State

Agriculture sector
1. Azin Dam in Mudon Township, Wapa Dam in Thaton Township, Bilin Kyaukpyae diversion weir in Bilin Township, Shwenattaung Dam in Mawlamyine Township, Winpanon Dam in Mudon Township, Zeikkye sluice gate in Thaton Township have been built. Kataik Dam in Paung Township and Kyonhtaw sluice gate in Thaton Township are under construction.
2. Altogether 48.6 miles of embankment and over 118 miles of drainage have been built to benefit 148,000 acres of cropland.

Transport sector
Thebyu Creek Bridge and Attaran River Bridge have been built and Thantlin River (Mawlamyne) Bridge and Yay rail bridge are being built.

Education sector
1. Basic education schools 1205 1353 (BEHS, BEMS, BEPS, post primary)
2. University, college 1 4

Health sector
1. Hospital 20 25
2. Doctor 121 183
3. Rural health centres 53 56
4. 200-bed Mon State Hospital was upgraded to 350-bed Modern Specialist Hospital. Seven 16-bed乡镇 hospitals were upgraded to 25-bed ones.
**Special projects contribute much towards national development**

(Article by Khin Maung Kyaw Din)

Evaluation of a country’s development should be based on progress in serving the people’s interests. Emergence of such infrastructures as new dams, sluice gates, river water pumping stations, factories, bridges, universities, colleges and hospitals are the signs of development. The Government is making all-out efforts for the emergence of these infrastructures with a view to raising the living standard of the entire people and benefiting the State.

Economic development plays a key role in national development and as such, human resource development is vital for economic development. In other words, economic and human resource development, education, health, etc., are interrelated. Therefore, for the development of economy, education, health, transportation, etc., in the respective regions of the nation, the Government is implementing border area development projects and projects for development of 24 regions with might and main.

There are now many projects that are being implemented and to be implemented in accord with the guidance of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe.

River water pumping projects that will benefit rural people have been implemented since 1995 and up to the end of March, 2003, a total of 265 river water pumping stations have benefited 282,108 acres of farmland.

Water Utilizing Department will implement river water pumping projects in Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions in Upper Myanmar and Ayeyawady Division in Lower Myanmar. The projects to be implemented are Magyizauk River Water Pumping Ayadaw-2 Project that will benefit 20,000 acres of farmland in Ayadaw Township, Sagaing Division, and Hsinleke River Water Pumping Project Ayadaw-3 that will benefit 40,000 acres of farmland. In Ngazun Township of Mandalay Division, Kyauktalone River Water Pumping Project to irrigate 2,500 acres of farmland. Ywathit River Water Pumping Project, 7,000 acres and Nyannya River Water Pumping Project, 3,000 acres are being implemented. Hseiknyan River Water Pumping Project in Myingyan Township and Auknayi River Water Pumping Project (Thaungtitt) in Nyangun Township will benefit 10,000 acres and 6,000 acres of farmland respectively.

Myokwin (Dumhi) River Water Pumping Project being implemented in Hinthada Township of Ayeyawady Division will benefit 9,000 acres of farmland.

On completion of the above-mentioned River Water Pumping Projects, they will benefit 97,500 acres of farmland and it is targeted to build the project spending over K 14,500 million including US$ 23.05 million.

It is encouraging to see many more river water pumping projects—Nattha River Water Pumping Project in Ngazun Township, Mandalay Division, Hseiknon-1, 2, 3 and 4 River Water Pumping Projects in the north of Myingyan Township — which include in the special projects are being implemented.

The State is striving not only for rural area development but also for human resource development. In this regard, four technological universities, two universities of computer study, one Myanmar Aerospace and Engineering University, 24 Government Computer Colleges, 26 Government Technological Colleges and nine Government Technological Institutes were opened up to June 2003.

In 1988, there were only 11,713 students pursuing education in technological university, university of computer study and technological institute but now the number has reached 51,884. After 2002, altogether 12 universities and degree colleges have been opened under the Higher Education Department of the Ministry of Education.

The new universities are Yangon East University, Toungoo University, Yadanabon University, Yangon Institute of Economics (Ywathagyi), Yangon West University, Kyaukse University, Maubin University, Panglong University and Moekila Institute of Economics. The degree colleges are Bhamo Degree College, Monyin Degree College and Myingyan Degree College.

There were only 27 universities, degree colleges and colleges in 1988 and the number has risen to 64.

The number of students who were pursuing higher education in 1988 was only 134,325. Nowadays, the number has reached 777,174. In 1988, only 53 kinds of degrees and diplomas were conferred on graduates but now 150 kinds of degrees and diplomas are being conferred on the graduates. As more economic infrastructures and infrastructures for human resource development have increased in great numbers, the people are now witnessing rapid national development and at the same time their living standard has improved.

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(Translation:BG)

(Myanma Alin:3-7-2003)
IDG to invest $100m in Vietnam

HANOI, 11 July — International Data Group (IDG), a global information technology giant, plans to pour 100 million US dollars into Vietnam from now to 2010, the visiting United States-based firm’s Chairman Patrick J MacGovern has said.

According to MacGovern who is on a visit to Vietnam from July 7-14, IDG will invest 20 million dollars in issuing information technology-related publications, and organizing exhibitions and seminars.

“We will spend almost 80 million dollars on supporting 20-25 young Vietnamese information technology enterprises who have good technology concepts, but do not have enough resources to realize them,” MacGovern was quoted Thursday by local Press reports as saying.

MacGovern has said the new investment will be used to construct a high-tech industrial park at Vinh Trang industrial park in Dong Nai province.

MacGovern’s plan is expected to be implemented soon, he said.

Brazil, 11 July — Anti-drug authorities from Thailand, China, Myanmar and Laos agreed at a meeting in Chiang Rai, 700 kilometres north from Bangkok, to strengthen cooperation in suppressing illegal drug production and smuggling in the Mekong River Subregion, the Bangkok Post reported Thursday.

According to the report, the meeting was aimed at finding ways to fight the trafficking in illegal drugs along the river that runs through the four countries.

The meeting was set up to set up a network to coordinate mutual campaigns against drug traffickers and dealers.

The network covers ports of the four nations along the Mekong River, including Jing Hong port in China, Ban Pong port in Myanmar, Huay Sai port in Laos, and Chiang Saen and Chiang Kong ports in Thailand.

Wang Qiangtong, deputy director-general of China’s Office of the National Narcotics Control Commission, said the methamphetamine tablets and heroin were entering southern China through the Mekong River, the agreement on multilateral cooperation should intensify the fight against drugs in the region.

Welcoming the cooperation, Linthong Phetsavan, head of Laos National Security Secretariat of the Lao Commission on Drug Control and Supervision, also said the joint efforts between the four nations would make it difficult to smuggle drugs and precursors through this route by traffickers.

Villages in states, deputy-secretary-general of Thailand’s Narcotics Control Board, noted the anti-drug campaign was gaining momentum.

She revealed that Thailand had sent a list of wanted drug suspects to Myanmar, China and Laos, and major arrests had been made in China and Myanmar. She cited the seizure of 354 kg of heroin in China last year and the arrests of 12 drug suspects in Myanmar.

Cambodian PM vows to do more to protect forests

Phnom Penh, 11 July — The amount of Cambodia’s forest coverage in recent years has actually increased due to great efforts made by government and the people, Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen has said.

In a speech marking Cambodia’s National Forestry Day in southwestern province of Sihanoukville Wednesday, Prime Minister Hun Sen cited government data as saying that the coverage of forest in 2002 reached to 61.14 per cent, or about 1.1 million hectares of Cambodia’s territory, while in 1997 it had 58.6 per cent, or about 10.63 million hectares, he said.

According to local Press reports Thursday, however, the Premier expressed his regret over the wrong decisions made by the first term royal government, saying forestry concessions to companies which were issued in large numbers and at cheap prices.

He said that the current government has done its best to take a lot of measures to recover and preserve the country’s forestry.

“The government has re- claimed more than three million hectares of forests by ceasing concessions to 15 companies in recent years. Moreover, the government recently rescinding concessions for more two logging companies which is about 499,700 hectares,” he added.

The National Forestry Day was set up under the decree signed by King Norodom Sihanouk on August 8, 1952. So far, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries has achieved 11.125 hectares in plantations and planted 22 million trees with people’s participation.

In addition, Cambodia has set up forest parks and protected zones for wild animals so as to preserve forest areas. Currently, protected forestry zones in the country cover more than 70 million hectares of lands.

The Premier vowed to continue the policy on forestry reform and to crack down on illegal logging with firm resolve.

Chinese Premier greets African Union summit

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The Premier vowed to continue the policy on forestry reform and to crack down on illegal logging with firm resolve.

Chinese Premier greets African Union summit

BEIJING, 11 July — Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao has extended “warmest congratulations” on the opening of the second African Union (AU) summit in Maputo, Mozambique, on Thursday.

“The creation of the AU in July 2002 makes a new milestone of the African integration process,” said Wen in a message dated Wednes- day. “It is significant that you, the African leaders, are holding this summit to discuss important issues of regional and international significance. I look forward to the success of the meeting and the strengthening of our ties.”

It was the second scheduled for the forum was held in Beijing in October 2000. The second is scheduled for November 2003 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
Astronomers see Pluto’s atmosphere expands

WASHINGTON, 11 July — Winter’s impending chill was supposed to put a damper on Pluto. So it was a surprise to astronomers when they got a glimpse of the oddball planet as it moved away from the sun — and saw its atmosphere expanding.

Many observers figured Pluto’s atmosphere, made mostly of nitrogen, would contract as the planet moved away from the sun and toward winter. But of the four that will take decades over the course of its 248-year orbit around the sun. Instead the planet’s temperature increased slightly and its atmosphere became slightly larger, according to a report by James Elliot of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and others in this week’s edition of the journal Nature released on Tuesday.

The scientists were able to gauge the changing size of the atmosphere when a bright star passed behind the planet in August 2002. They compared it to the atmosphere’s size in 1988, the last time astronomers got a good look at it. The temperature on Pluto actually increased by a bit more than 1 degree Fahrenheit (1 degree Celsius) since its closest point to the sun in 1989, the scientists found. It is still extremely cold, with temperatures ranging to hundreds of degrees below zero F (and C).

China plans to prevent border river pollution

HARBIN, 11 July — China plans to invest $2.15 billion yuan (about 2.6 billion US dollars) to reverse the gradual pollution of the Songhua River, one of the largest tributaries of the Heilongjiang River on the Sino-Russian border. The plan is focused mainly on drinking water resources for urban residents living in the proximity of the Songhua River, to accelerate urban sewerage programmes, to reduce industrial pollution, and to enforce monitoring and research of the local environment.

Under the plan, polluted water, trash, wastes and industrial pollutants flowing into the river, will be well treated, while protected water reserves will be established in the area.

Sewage disposal projects in 15 major cities in the northernmost Heilongjiang Province, including the provincial capital Harbin, and such cities as Jiamusi, Qiqihar and Daqing along the river, have been listed in the 10th on-going national Five Year Plan (2001-2005).

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Study on HK/Pearl River west cross-boundary link underway

HONG KONG, 11 July — A joint study on the cross boundary link between Hong Kong and Pearl River West is underway and will be completed shortly, Hong Kong Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works Sarah Liao said on Wednesday.

He said at a Legislative Council meeting that the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) and Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) government have jointly commissioned the Institute of Comprehensive Transportation (ICT) to conduct the study on the issue.

It has been reported that the initial design work of the Yamen to Gongbei section of the Guangdong West Coast Expressway, a project of “The Tenth Five-Year Highway Construction Plan of Guangdong Province,” is underway expeditiously, and that the construction of this section will commence soon.

After completion of the section concern, it will be quicker and more convenient to travel between the western Guangdong Province and Zhihai, Shenzhen, and Hong Kong. Liao said the Hong Kong Government and the Guangdong provincial government have an established channel of communication on town planning issues affecting both regions under the Ten Year Planning Panel of the Joint Working Group on sustainable development and environmental protection.

Brazil needs to do more in reducing poverty

BRASILIA, 11 July — Brazil needs to do more in reducing poverty and its social problems, a report of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) said Wednesday.

In the report of the UNDP 2003 Human Development, Brazil, which ranks 65th among 175 countries, runs the risk of not reaching the goal of reducing from 9.9 per cent to 4.9 per cent the number of Brazilians living in extreme poverty by 2015.

The 367-page report provides an annual Human Development Index that ranks 175 countries, based on income per capita, life expectancy, literacy and primary school enrollment.

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It has been reported that the initial design work of the Yamen to Gongbei section of the Guangdong West Coast Expressway, a project of “The Tenth Five-Year Highway Construction Plan of Guangdong Province,” is underway expeditiously, and that the construction of this section will commence soon.

After completion of the section concern, it will be quicker and more convenient to travel between the western Guangdong Province and Zhihai, Shenzhen, and Hong Kong. Liao said the Hong Kong Government and the Guangdong provincial government have an established channel of communication on town planning issues affecting both regions under the Ten Year Planning Panel of the Joint Working Group on sustainable development and environmental protection.

Brazil needs to do more in reducing poverty

BRASILIA, 11 July — Brazil needs to do more in reducing poverty and its social problems, a report of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) said Wednesday.

In the report of the UNDP 2003 Human Development, Brazil, which ranks 65th among 175 countries, runs the risk of not reaching the goal of reducing from 9.9 per cent to 4.9 per cent the number of Brazilians living in extreme poverty by 2015.

The 367-page report provides an annual Human Development Index that ranks 175 countries, based on income per capita, life expectancy, literacy and primary school enrollment.

Study on HK/Pearl River west cross-boundary link underway

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Irish investors increase stake in Manchester United

London, 11 July—Manchester United’s biggest shareholders, Irish racecourse magnates John Paul McManus and John Magnier, have increased their stake in the Premier League champions to 11.4 per cent, the club said on Wednesday.

McManus and Magnier’s investment vehicle, The Cubic Expression company, now holds 29.6 million shares in the English Premier League champions.

“Manchester United has today been informed that The Cubic Expression Company has increased its holding in the company and now holds 29,612,396 ordinary shares representing approximately 11.4 per cent of the issued share capital of the company,” United said in a statement to the London Stock Exchange.

Last week United’s shares fell nearly 4 per cent after a newspaper reported that the two Irish tycoons, close associates of team manager Alex Ferguson, might sell the 17.2 per cent of shares they have through their contract, but there is nothing else and suggestions to this end were completely unfounded.

The presidents of Brazil’s 27 regional soccer federations and 22 of the country’s biggest clubs were entitled to vote.

The election went ahead amid controversy with critics claiming that second and third division clubs should also be allowed to vote.

Brazil have won the 1994 and 2002 World Cups since Teixeira, a member of FIFA's Executive Committee, took over and they also reached the final in 1998. They now have an unequalled five World Cup wins to their credit. The country is also set to host the 2014 World Cup after the FIFA decided the tournament would be held in South America and the presidents of the continent’s 10 nations, including South African, backed Brazil as their only candidate.

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Kahn overcomes hearing problem,hopes for better season

BERLIN, 11 July—Bayern Munich captain Oliver Kahn temporarily went deaf in his left ear and had to visit hospital to have fluids drained but the goalkeeper said on Wednesday he was confident the problem had now been cleared up.

“I hope it’s alright now,” he said as he recuperated by the sidelines of his club’s training camp in Leipzig.

Kahn said he was not going to let the ear problem, or his private life, get in the way of his football this season.

Kahn, who is also Germany’s captain, has endured a turbulent year in which he made headlines for admitting having an affair with a barmaid while his wife was pregnant.

“Sport is the focus of my life,” said the 34-year-old. “I did some things last year that were completely normal. But I underestimated the media attention my private life would attract. Naturally, I made mistakes.”

Kahn said he fell into a bit of a hole after the 2002 World Cup, when Germany lost 2-0 to Brazil in the final after he spilled a shot that enabled Ronaldo to score the first of his two goals, and got off to a sluggish start last season.

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Brazilian goalie gets 180-day ban for attacking referee

RIO DE JANEIRO, 11 July—A Brazilian goalkeeper was banned for 180 days on Wednesday for attacking a referee during a Second Division match.

America-Belo Horizonte’s Fabiano was grabbed by police and taken to a station for questioning immediately after the incident in the game away to Avaí on July 1.

Brazilian football’s disciplinary tribunal gave the goalkeeper an “intermediate” punishment on the grounds that he was a first-time offender.

“This was decisive for lightening the punishment,” said Luiz Zvetar, president of the tribunal, adding that the maximum penalty was 360 days. The tribunal also decided to open an investigation into the conduct of referee Marcos Tadeu Mafrá, who was also accused by America to have insulted the goalkeeper.

Fabiano lost his cool after referee Mafrá awarded a late penalty against his team and then booked him for dissent during the game in Florianópolis. Television pictures showed that Fabiano then pushed both hands in the referee’s face. The official turned and ran away as Fabiano aimed punches and kicks at him.

Police intervened, grabbed the enraged player and held him in the changing rooms while the rest of the match was played out following a 10-minute delay. Avaí missed the penalty and America won 1-0.

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Els survived roller-coaster to win 2002 British Open

LONDON, 11 July—Ernie Els emerged from a dramatic final round of fluctuating fortunes to win the 2002 British Open at Muirfield after a four-way playoff.

The big South African finally saw off the brave challenge of unheralded Frenchman Thomas Levet by holing a five-foot par putt at the fifth extra hole.

Levet’s drive ended in a fairway bunker and Els found sand with his second shot but then produced a spectacular pitch and saved his par while the Frenchman had to settle for bogey.

It had looked at one stage as if Els was going to win his first British Open, at the 11th attempt, quite easily.

He survived the driving wind and rain of Saturday’s third round unscathed as many of his major rivals, including world number one Tiger Woods, fell by the wayside.

Woods slumped to a sub-par 81, the worst score of his professional career, while Els calmly shot a 72 to go into the final round two strokes clear of the field.

He extended his lead after 12 holes on the Sunday but a double-bogey at the short 16th left him needing a birdie at the par-five 17th to join Letrero and Australians Stuart Appleby and Steve Elkington in the playoff.
Ministry of Culture holds paper-reading session

YANGON, 11 July — A paper-reading session on the history of Myanmar civilization and civilized Myanmar Race. — MNA

Ministers, entrepreneurs seek means to develop tourist industry

YANGON, 11 July — Entrepreneurs will have to strive together with the ministries concerned to get international community know the objective condition of Myanmar, said Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Thein Zaw at a meeting at Strand Hotel here today.

At the meeting, Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, heads of the other tourism-related ministries and entrepreneurs collectively sought means to develop the nation’s tourist industry. Brig-Gen Thein Zaw also said his ministry, other tourism-related ministries and entrepreneurs are striving for development of the tourist industry like a family business.

For the development of the tourist industry, museums and the platform of pagoda this morning, attended by Chair-

man of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe.

Altogether 9,000 students offered 9,000 lights and 9,000 flowers to the pagoda.

Today’s donations amounted to cash and 62 gold plates worth K 28,180,364.— MNA

Ministry of Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung addresses paper-reading session on history of Myanmar civilization and civilized Myanmar Race.— MNA


The resource persons also replied to queries raised by the participants.

Present were officials, faculties of the institutions of higher learning under the ministry and others. The paper-

reading session continues on 12 and 14 July. — MNA

Matriculation exam…

(from page 16)

WEATHER

Friday, 11 July, 2003

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been cloudy to lower Sagaing Division, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Magway Division, Kayah and Kayin States and scattered to widespread in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfalls in upper Sagaing Division. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Hkamti (3.15) inches, Miyiknya (2.80) inches and Kyauktaw (2.32) inches. Maximum temperature on 10-7-2003 was 31.0°C (88°F). Minimum temperature on 11-7-2003 was 22.6°C (73°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 11-7-2003 was 93%. Total sunshine hours on 10-7-2003 was 0.6 hours approx. Rainfall on 11-7-2003 was 5 mm at Yangon, nil at Kaba-Aye and nil at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2003 was 1076 mm (42.46 inches) at Yangon Airport, 1184 mm (46.61 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 1996 mm (79.09 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 10 mph from Southeast at (21:55) hours MST on 10-7-2003. Bay influence: Monsoon is moderate in the Bay of Bengal. Forecast valid until evening of 12-7-2003: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Kachin, Rakhine, Shan, Mon and Kayin States, upper Sagaing, Ayeayawady, Bago, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and isolated to scattered in the remaining areas with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Mon State and Taninthayi Divisions. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Increase of rain are likely in lower Myanmar areas. Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 12-7-2003: One or two rain. Degree of certainty is (80%). Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area to 12-7-2003: Like-

ly isolated to scattered showers. Degree of certainty is (60%). Weather outlook For first Weekend of July 2003: During the coming weekend, rain or thundershowers will be widespread in entire Myanmar. Degree of certainty is (70%).

Inland flood bulletin

(issued at 11:00 hr MST on 11-7-2003) According to the (06:30) hr MST observation today, the water levels of Chindwin River at Hkamti, Homalin, Maungdaw, Kalewa and Mongok are (1499) cm, (2961) cm, (1364) cm, (1633) cm and (1004) cm respectively. It may remain above their respective danger levels of (1360) cm, (2900) cm, (1230) cm, (1550) cm and (1000) cm during the next (72) hours commencing noon today.

Maj-Gen Myint Swe and officials view students reciting Dhammaçakka Sutta at Shwedagon Pagoda. — MNA

Ministers, entrepreneurs seek means to develop tourist industry

YANGON, 11 July — A Myanmar delegation led by Brig-Gen Abel, Minister at the State Peace and Development Council, Myanmar-Tagaung division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe.

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Administrative bodies and departmental organizations urged to win respect, trust and reliance of people

Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann inspects construction of Thanlwin Bridge

YANGON, 11 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, member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo, accompanied by Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, the ministers, the Deputy Minister for Health, senior military officers and heads of department, arrived at The-ein Village in Paung Township, Mon State, on 8 July morning.

They were welcomed there by the Chairman of Township Peace and Development Council U Chaw, the President, the Speaker, the Deputy Speaker and the members of the Township Peace and Development Council, the members of the Township Peace and Development Council Office, the local officers, the teachers, the members of the village boards, the village elders, the heads of departments, arrived at The-ein Village in Paung Township, Mon State, on 8 July morning.

Next, they met with teachers and students, village elders at Affiliated The-ein Middle School, the Affiliated Middle School of The-ein Village, the Rural Health Care Branch, the Rural Health Care Branch, the Rural Health Care Branch.

Next, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Soe Win presented 100 dozens of exercise books for students through Headmaster U Lwin Moe Naing. They will make arrangements for development of The-ein Village. The majority of the people reside in rural areas and the government has been making efforts to bring about equitable development in all states and divisions to the most possible degree. They will make arrangements for development of The-ein Village.

Next, Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann gave necessary instructions on upgrading of the Affiliated Middle School and the Rural Health Care Branch.

Next, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Soe Win presented books and video tapes on teaching aids to the teachers.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo attends cornerstone laying ceremony for construction of main building for Hpa-an University

YANGON, 11 July—The opening of the signboard saying “Build Modern Developed Nation Through Education” and multimedia classrooms of No 4 Basic Education High School in Hpa-an, Kayin State, took place at the school on 5 July morning. The results of the matriculation examination held in March 2003 were simultaneously announced at respective examination centres of the respective schools in States/Divisions and townships at 6 am today.

In addition, the results from states and divisions except Yangon Division are posted at Insein Basic Education High School No 1, Yankin BEHS No 1, Kamayut BEHS No 3, Lanmadaw BEHS No 1, Dagon BEHS No 2 and Thingangyun BEHS No 1.

Out of the successful candidates in the 2003 matriculation examination, those of states and divisions which are difficult of access will be on the

Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann and Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Soe Win inspect production of car tyres at No 1 Tyre and Rubber Product Factory.— MNA

Lt-Gen Maung Bo sprinkles scented water on cornerstone of Hpa-an University.— MNA

Lt-Gen Maung Bo attends cornerstone laying ceremony for construction of main building for Hpa-an University.— MNA

Matriculation exam results announced

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Exam results to be broadcast for remote areas

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