Four political objectives
* Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
* National reconsolidation
* Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
* Building of a new modern developed nation in accordance with the new State Constitution

Four economic objectives
* Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well
* Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system
* Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad
* The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples

Four social objectives
* Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
* Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation of cultural heritage and national character
* Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
* Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation

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

Secretary-1 General Khin Nyunt receives Indian Minister of Commerce and Industry

YANGON, 15 July — Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council General Khin Nyunt received Minister of Commerce Brig. Gen Pyi Sone, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, Director-General of Protocol Department Thura U Aung Htet and Indian ambassador Mr Rajiv Kumar Bhatia and embassy staff. — MNA

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

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

Chairman of Myanmar Computer Science Development Council Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council General Khin Nyunt attended the ceremony. Present on the occasion were Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, the ministers, the deputy ministers, responsible personnel of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, members of the board of directors of MICT Development Co, officials from Myanmar Computer Federation, Myanmar Computer Scientist Association, Myanmar Computer Industry Association and Myanmar World Distribution Co Ltd and guests.

At first, a presentation was given on Content Information Management, Portal Interface, Search Technologies, Mobile Technologies and Security, which are components of “Kinetic” Portal. Managing Director of Myanmar World Distribution Co Ltd Daw Khin San Win and Director Dr Daw Khin Aye Win presented five sets of “Kinetic” Enterprise Portal to be used at Myanmar Maritime University, Myanmar (See page 9)

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
YANGON, 15 July — The three Chinese culprits — Law Yan (a) Yan Kyan Ko and wife Ah Yin (a) Yan Shu Lin, and their daughter-in-law Chai Ng (a) Li Li May — wanted for fraud were handed over to police force of Sip Saung Pannang Province of the People’s Republic of China.

The hand-over took place at No 218 Boundary Post of Myanmar-Chinese border, Mongla region, Shan State (East) at 10.30 am on 10 July. Present on the occasion were Head of Kengtung District MPP, Shan State (East), Myanmar Police Li-Col Kyi Nyunt, Head of Shan State Immigration and National Registration Department U Kyaw Kyaw, and party on Myanmar side, and Deputy Head of Sip Saung Pannang Province Police Force of PRC Mr Kyan Wai Yee and party on Chinese side.

Police Li-Col Kyi Nyunt made a speech and Mr Kyan Wai Yee spoke words of thanks. Next, Police Li-Col Kyi Nyunt and Mr Kyan Wai Yee signed the documentary on the handing over of the culprits. The three culprits illegally entered Myanmar in April 1999. They were arrested at the house in Weinkyaw Village, Hongleik Village-tract, Taichilek Township on 16-3-2003 together with one 38 pistol, one magazine, six rounds of ammunition, 45,000 bahts, 30 100-Austral notes (Argentina) and 90 500-Austral notes.

Law Yan (a) Yan Kyan Ko is serving 7 years’ prison term under Section 13 (1) of Immigration (Emergency) Act, Section 12 (A) of Shan Arms Law, Section 24 (1) of Foreign Currency Exchange Law and Section 21 of Myanmar Citizen Law; Ah Yin (a) Yan Shu Lin 3 years’ prison term under Section 13 (1) of Immigration (Emergency) Act and Section 21 of Myanmar Citizen Law; and Chai Ng (a) Li Li May 3 years’ prison term under Section 13 (1) of Immigration (Emergency) Act and Section 21 of Myanmar Citizen Law in Kengtung Prison. — MNA

Do not be frightened whenever intimidated

Construction of new factory, installation of machinery inspected in Yangon

YANGON, 15 July — Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung, accompanied by Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thein Tun and officials concerned arrived at No 1 Shoe Factory Branch (Phawtkan) of Myanmar General and Maintenance Industries on Lower Mingaladon Road in Insein Township this morning and inspected installation of new machinery and test running in the newly-built factory.

At first, the minister inspected condition of newly installed machinery — Compound Cooling & Cutter, Mixing Roller and Kneader Mixer and gave instructions on production for import-substitute, distributions of goods at reasonable price according to public demand and quality control of the products.

Next, the minister inspected production process of rubber slipper, production of rubber soles, newly-built staff’s foodstall and condition of roads and gave necessary instructions. At the briefing hall the minister urged officials concerned to improve quality of products without being contended with present production. Afterwards, the minister inspected sale of goods of Industry-1 at Win Tho Zaw shop.

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

Catching up with others in terms of ICT development

Without the development in the information and communication technology, no nation in this world will be able to leapfrog for achieving advancement in multi-sectors in this Age in which the ICT is the dominant factor in all fields. As the ICT has conquered the distance and time, it has made the world resources thanks to the earnest endeavours of the government in cooperation with the people and local entrepreneurs. One of the nation’s great leap forward in the field of ICT is the opening of Myanmar Information and Communication Technology Park in Yangon on 21 January 2002. Run by the Myanmar Information and Communication Technology Development Corporation the MICT has been serving as the nucleus in helping Myanmar become a software developer and exporter.

The nation opened the Second Annual Myanmar ICT Week on 21 January this year. Head of State Senior General Than Shwe visited the MICT Park in Hline Township, Yangon, on 15 January, and inspected the operations of the Park and preparations to hold the Week. During the inspection, Senior General Than Shwe pointed out, “If we continue to work in conventional way, we will be hard to catch up with the developed nations in terms of ICT development. He also expressed pleasure in seeing the successful establishment of the Bagan Cybertech IDC and Teleport and Myanmar ICT Park. “With diligence and dedication, efforts should be made to accelerate the ICT development momentum based on the structure and equipment in hand, he stressed. The Senior General then called for hard work to realize the objectives of the ASEAN Vision 2020.”

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

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

Three Chinese culprits handed over

Catching up with others in terms of ICT development

Tin Maung Than

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

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

A group that said it was an Iraqi branch of the al Qaeda network claimed responsibility for the attack. Hussein supporters than Islamic militants. A blast damaged an empty parked car used by the US ambassador to Baghdad on Monday afternoon but caused no casualties. Witnesses said drive-by attackers had thrown a small bomb at the car, but the US military said the cause was not yet clear.

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World leaders reject Blair’s move over military action

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

A summit of 14 world leaders refused to endorse a joint statement which proposed sending the legal basis for intervening in failed states if governments failed to protect their citizens from repression or “state failure.”

The original draft, revealed by The Independent on Sunday, said: “Where a population is suffering serious harm as a result of internal war, insurgency, repression or state failure, and the state in question is unwilling to halt or avert it, the principle of non-intervention yields to the international responsibility to protect.”

But the passage was cut from the final communiqué amid fears that it could have provided justification for the war in Iraq and give carte blanche to Western powers to intervene in countries around the world. The final document instead stressed “the crucial importance of international co-operation in responding to humanitarian crises.”

It said: “We are clear that the UN Security Council remains the sole body to authorize global action in dealing with humanitarian crises of this kind.”

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

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

The argument over how to police the world’s most unstable countries will dominate discussions about the future of the United Nations in the wake of the war in Iraq. Foreign Office officials have started work on proposals for reform, due to be launched by Jack Straw, the Foreign Secretary, in the autumn, amid concern in Britain and America that the UN is unwieldy and unsuited to the challenges of the 21st century. Proposals being considered include expanding the permanent membership of the UN Security Council and streamlining the organisation’s bureaucracy.

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

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

India's Ministry of Defence announced Monday it will not send troops to Iraq to join a stabilization force, ending months of discussion on the politically explosive issue.

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

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

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

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

China's cable digital TV subscribers hit 3 million by 2005

Beijing, 15 July — China is expected to sign up 30 million cable digital television subscribers by 2005, according to a five-year plan drawn up by the State Administration of Radio, Film and Television (SARFT).

 Though the plan says that many cities in China will broadcast digital television in two years’ time, it still needs to do more to sell the technology to consumers to fulfil its targets, reports Monday’s China Daily. Under the plan, the nation is divided into three parts in addition to the four municipalities of Beijing, Shanghai, Tianjin and Chongqing. The eastern zone includes Guangdong, Fujian, Jiangsu, Zhejiang and Shandong, while the western zone includes Xinjiang, Tibet, Ningxia and Inner Mongolia, Qinghai, Gansu, Yunnan and Guizhou.

ASEAN agrees to harmonize four policies

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

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

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

Vietnam imports more steel

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

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

Cambodian FM to attend ministerial meeting in Thailand

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

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

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

Two Vietnamese executed for $200m fraud

Hanoi, 15 July — A Vietnamese businessman and a banker were executed on Friday for their role in fraudulently obtaining loans worth 200 million US dollars, media reported according to the official Vietnam News daily said.

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

UN thinks Britain’s Iraq proof based on fakes

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

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

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

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

“This information on which we relied, which was completely separate from the now notorious forged documents, came from independent intelligence sources,” Straw told BBC Radio. — MNA/Reuters
Baghdad, 15 July—Iraq’s new national governing council ended its first full day of work with a decision to send a delegation to the United Nations Security Council.

The delegation would “assert and emphasise the role of the governing council as a legitimate Iraqi body during this transitional period”, a statement issued by the council said. The council — comprised of 25 Iraqi nationals chosen by the US-led coalition occupying Iraq — had also been due to choose a leader but a spokesman said this would be decided later. As the council met in Baghdad there were at least two attacks against US forces there. One US soldier was killed and six injured in an ambush on their convoy in the al-Numour district of the city. Later an explosion — possibly from a grenade — destroyed a vehicle in a car park close to where the council met. There were no reports of injuries and the explosion was not reported to be large. The car was parked close to a military cordon set up by US forces around two buildings that hosted the governing council.

The BBC’s Jonny Dymond says that the complex of buildings is a high-profile target for anyone wishing to attack the coalition. Also on Monday US President George W. Bush met United Nations Secretary General Koﬁ Annan for the first time since the Iraq war.

After the talks in Washington, President Bush said the operation to stabilize the country was making good progress. He also defended pre-war US intelligence on Iraqi weapons as “darn good”, rejecting charges that the threat posed by Saddam Hussein had been inflated.

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

More Americans call the level of casualties in Iraq ‘unacceptable’

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

People’s Desire

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

Efficient use of electricity

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

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

Efficient use of fuel

Saving one gallon of fuel per car per week will save the nation one US dollar.

* Thus, a total of 455,822 cars in Myanmar can save US $ 5.5 million in a year*

* The amount, US $ 5.5 million, can build a major bridge across Ayeyawady River

Over 1 million flood victims relocated in east China

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

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

In addition, medical treatment. The Guangdong Medical Treatment Center has sent 52 medical teams to the disaster area. A total of 4,387 medical staffs are working in the disaster area.

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

President facing new challenges of credibility and casualties

WASHINGTON, 15 July — President George W. Bush’s own ratings have suffered in tandem with these concerns. His approval rating for handling the situation in Iraq has fallen by 17 points since the end of April, from 75 percent then to 58 percent now.

Bush has been subjected to intense criticism over Iraq, declining confidence in the Bush administration — and growing doubt whether the war was worth fighting.

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

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Most Britons believe Blair misled them on Iraq

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

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

At home, the Premier has faced accusations that he overplayed intelligence about weapons of mass destruction to justify the war. With the weapons such weapons found months after the conflict ended, he is starting to suffer political damage.

Headlines and a defiant note at a news conference closing a summit of 14 cent-re-left world leaders outside London—"We should be proud Saddam has gone, glad that he’s gone... The world will be a more secure place as a result." he said. The British Government was forced on Monday to defend its claim that Iraq sought uranium from Niger to support a nuclear weapons programme, although Washington has abandoned the charge.

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

Britain included the accusation in a September 2002 dossier setting out its case for war, which would "as the intelligence suggests, effectively stimulate initiative and competition which effectively blocked the country's US-led occupying powers. The car was used by the Tunisian Ambassador to Iraq whose driver had dropped him off at the Governing Council building, a policeman who had spoken to the driver told Reuters. The driver had then parked and gone to sit in the shade, he said.

The driver saw another vehicle cruise by and a passenger throw something at the car before it blew up, the policeman said. Another man on the scene gave a similar account. "A taxi drove past the car and a passenger threw out an explosive device. Shortly after that, I heard a bang and then the car was on fire," said Akil Kadhim, a soft drinks salesman. The blast went off around 4:30 pm (1230 GMT), said a spokesman for the US-led occupying military force in Iraq. There was no word of any casualties, he said.

The driver added that many of the investment came in the same period, up 25 per cent year-on-year, according to the latest local statistics. Xiamen Port handled 1.1 million standard containers in the same period, up 37 per cent year-on-year, or 53 per cent of the year’s target. The port has performed well in the first six months in terms of management and marketing, according to the city’s Port Affairs Administrative Department. It has opened seven domestic and international shipping lines this year. In addition, Xiamen Port has set up a mechanism of fair competition which effectively stimulated initiative among enterprises and in- vigilated foreign and domestic investment.—MNA/Xinhua

Chinese, Egyptian companies sign textile contract

Cano, 15 July—Egypt’s Cotton and Textile Industry Holding Company Limited and China’s Huitong Poly-ester Technique Corporation signed on Sunday a new textile contract

E China province reports increase in foreign investment

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

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

The average monthly influx of foreign investment in the first six months stood at 162 million US dollars, the source said, adding that most of the investment came in during May and June. In June alone, the province lured 240 million US dollars in foreign direct investment, which exceeded the figure for the whole of 2000. In addition, the province further optimized the investment structure, with most of the investment focusing on large-scale projects, industrial projects and solely-funded projects, the source said, adding that many were launched in the province’s industrial parks.—MNA/Xinhua

Iraqi Governing Council decides to send delegation to UN

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

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

Car blows up in Baghdad near home of new council

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

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

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

"A taxi drove past the car and a passenger threw out an explosive device. Shortly after that, I heard a bang and then the car was on fire," said Akil Kadhim, a soft drinks seller. The blast went off around 4:30 pm (1230 GMT), said a spokesman for the US-led occupying military force in Iraq. There was no word of any casualties, he said.

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

HK hosts int’l conference on revitalizing Asian tourism

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

The International Cooperation for Tourism Develop-ment Under a New Paradigm Conference is jointly organized by Boao Forum for Asia and the World Tour-ism Organization, with the Hong Kong Special Adminis-trative Region (HKSAR) government as the host.

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

Long Yongtu said the conference is to help recover people’s confidence in Asian tourism and strengthen the cooperation in Asia and in the world.

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

A rise in the number of tourists...
**Inspector disputes US claims on Iraq**

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

Jacques Baute said the long-term monitoring of Iraq’s nuclear establishment planned by the UN Security Council would have stifled any attempt to build a huge uranium-enrichment plant for making bomb material. “This is a mistake people are making,” Baute said. Such contentions ignore the fact that Iraq would have operated for years under international restrictions, Baute said.

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

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

**Dead soldier’s father blames Blair for Iraq war**

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

“I cannot begin to explain to you how I feel about the loss of my son, nor do I believe that you care or would understand,” Kelly’s letter reads. “Your decision to go to war put my son in the firing line unnecessarily. I hold you personally responsible for my son’s death as well as the servicemen killed in the war.”

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

An IRC poll for the Daily Mirror newspaper on Monday showed 86 per cent of those questioned believed Blair had misled them — either knowingly or unknowingly — before he sent troops into action in Iraq. — MNA/Reuters

**Iran makes giant new oil find**

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

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

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

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

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

Appraisal work is under way to ascertain the dimensions of the fields. Commercially recoverable reserves are certain to prove much lower than the 38 billion barrels in place, but the find could still rival the world’s two other leading undeveloped fields.

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

Iran’s Azadegan, discovered four years ago, holds about 26 billion barrels with recoverable reserves of nine billion.

Teheran is looking for a foreign partner to invest in it but there is no deal in place yet for its development.

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

Iranian police seize 1.8 tons of drugs

TEHRAN, 15 July — Iranian anti-drug police have seized 1,300 kilograms of illegal drugs throughout the country in recent days, the official IRNA news agency reported on Monday.

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

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

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

**Greek Olympic victors propose returning flame to Olympia**

ATHENS, 15 July — Greek Olympic medallists on Sunday proposed that the international event’s symbolic flame should be extinguished in the place of its starting and end point.

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

“The flame would then be extinguished in the place where it is to be relit for the next event,” said Fassoulas, a parliament deputy and former basketball player.

“We are here to contribute to vindication of the values of the land of the Olympic Games, and to show the world that the games are an integral and powerful part of a chain of values that can hold the world in unity,” he said.

The Greek medallists were addressing a seminar in Ancient Olympia on values represented by the games.

**Continental Airlines puts off aircraft delivery**

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

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

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

**Irish republic leader expects to sign peace agreement**

BELFAST (Northern Ireland), 15 July — The Irish Republic’s leader, Bertie Ahern, said he expected to sign a peace agreement on Monday morning in the presence of the British prime minister, Tony Blair.

A deal would be signed in the early hours and would then be brought to the Stormont assembly for ratification by the devolved power-sharing government in Northern Ireland.

The two governments agreed to a cease-fire in March 1994 and signed the Good Friday agreement in 1998 in the hope of ending the four-decades conflict.

**German car maker Ford confirms U.S. staff cuts**

FRANKFURT, 15 July — Ford said on Monday it would cut 14,000 jobs in the US, as it announced plans to reshape the US market. The move would cost $1 billion, the automaker said.

The cuts will be part of a general campaign to reduce costs in the US, which has been suffering from slumping sales and tight competition.

Ford will offer early retirement to 10,000 workers and will also cut its workforce by 4,000 through layoffs. It also plans to stop production of the Taurus and Taurus SVT at a Michigan plant.

**Dead soldier’s father blames Blair for Iraq war**
Washing One’s Dirty Linen in Public

May 13. We were going to continue our journey to Phakant today. If I had any choice we would have started the journey early in the morning but as you know it was not to be. I was just an ordinary member of the team with no authority so I was not in a position to decide anything. We were able to leave Mogaung only after 11 in the morning.

On the way, we visited a monastery in Kyundaw Ward. It was there that Granduncle U Tin Oo said something far-fetched. In our meeting with the abbot of the monastery, the monk said that he had met Granduncle U Tin Oo at Mahasi Vipassana Centre in Yangon. Granduncle U Tin Oo replied, “Right sir. Ever since I was ordained as a monk at the centre, I have lived and put into practice the maxims of the Mahasi Sayadaw, and have at the very least always adhered to the Five Precepts.”

I am not in a position to say how much truth there was in his words. But without any prearranged signal some of us of the NLD Youth looked at each other in amazement. We spoke meaningfully to each other with our eyes. I conchuded that Granduncle U Tin Oo saying, “...at the very least I have always adhered to the Five Precepts” to the abbot was itself a lie. As if we didn’t know that Granduncle U Tin Oo had been telling falsehoods in various forms to please Auntie Suu or the public whether it was in Yangon or all throughout the trip. We left the monastery at about 11.30, to proceed to Phakant. We passed through a number of villages, and ate our packed meals at a suitable place along the road. When we reached Tada Oo Nyi Naung after five in the evening our convoy came to a halt. When we asked what was the matter a member in the front car replied that, the bridge there had been sabotaged because we were expected to come this way.

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

We entered Lon-khin at about 10 pm. There were onlookers as the advanced team of our group had shouted at the top of their voice that the convoy carrying Auntie Suu was following it. As soon as she saw a crowd, Auntie Suu got ready to give a speech. She got off the car, stood on a bench laid in the middle of the road and began to talk with a smile in her hand. She did not say anything special. She seemed to be a little doubtful and wary about the crowd of onlookers. The situation was such that she said the wrong thing to the wrong people. If a caracac might have broken out without warning. Besides it was night and the time was not right. The main points Auntie Suu touched upon were that many young people were trying to earn money in the Lon-khin region but that they all should take care of their health and be aware of the risk of HIV and AIDS because the infection rate of the disease was high in Phakant. She urged them to try and stay healthy in order to be able to fully enjoy democracy after it had been achieved.

I began to feel that at times that the words uttered by Auntie Suu had no political weight at all. On such a trip to revitalize and develop the organizational programme of the party, how could a party leader hope to raise the number of party members and strengthen faith in the party with such feeble words spoken on a bench in the middle of the road? To the best of my knowledge, unity and concord cannot be attained simply by giving speeches to a crowd of people. One will have to approach and get to know the daily lives of the people as closely as possible. If one wishes to do what is best for the people and fulfill their expectations one has to start trying to find the best possible means for achieving it. Merely criticizing and finding fault with what others do will not make good things happen. One has the responsibility to do good deeds too.

It is common knowledge that there are a variety of ways to organize a political force with superior strength. But the most important factor is the ability to give the right kind of guidance and leadership and directive to consolidate the strength attained and enhance the quality of its members. One does not need to be a soapbox orator if he or she is really able and sincere. In assessing the large decrease in the number of members of the NLD which has already been reduced to the condition of a chronically sick and poorly invalid, it has become our usual practice to lay the blame on “government pressure and oppression.” However, if we should carefully delve into the matter we will find that the source lies in a multitude of problems. It will be found that the main force that has driven the NLD into a tight corner where there is no room to turn, with no space to either advance or retreat, is not the pressures applied by the government. It originated from the handing over of the entire party to someone as if to pay back a loan.

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

After a series of speeches by Auntie Suu, we were on our way again. But not even 30 minutes had passed, when we saw a group of people. It was a large group waiting for us at the entrance to Nama-sit Village. But we were fortunate this time for it was not a crowd with handheld placards bearing the words “Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views” or shouting any other kind of offensive slogan.

Our convoy drove on for about 45 minutes and arrived at Phakant. Our group was going to stay at the house of Township NLD Treasurer Dr. Khin Khin Ohn in Hmau-baung Ward in the town. The crowd of onlookers was not small, but the actual number of party members was only over 50. I took a close look at the crowd but didn’t find anyone who looked respectable. They appeared to be mostly itinerant labourers from various parts of the country. It was late morning. But the local party members were preparing to erect the party signboard though it was the middle of the night. When they were asked to hold the signboard erection ceremony only in the morning, they told us, “It is not easy to organize such a number of people in the morning. The people will be at their work in the daytime and except for people of wealth most people have to work daily just to earn their living. So it is best to hold the ceremony while there is still a crowd.” And saying that there were not enough people present tomorrow morning it would be an embarrassment for Auntie Suu if they went ahead and held the ceremony at midnight. Here again Granduncle U Tin Oo behaved as if he were a professional medium who earned his living by making ritual offerings to the spirit, U Shin Gyi, on behalf of the donor. There he was the signboard reciting mantras as protection from all kinds of harm. As for us, we were in a rush trying to get the best place to sleep.

May 14.

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

On our return journey to Mogaung the cars that had been so carefully serviced broke down one after another with all kinds of mishaps such as broken axles. The victory mantras recited by Auntie Suu had no effect. There was no availing off such calamity. We arrived back from Phakant only after 10 in the late evening. We stayed for the night at U Tun Kyi’s house again.

The bedtime directive for us was that the convoy would leave for Tanai early in the morning!
Secretary-1 General Khin Nyunt attends...

Aerospace Engineering University, the University of Distance Education, the Higher Education Department (Lower Myanmar), and the Higher Education Department (Upper Myanmar), the chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Sec-

retary-1 General Khin Nyunt accepted the dona-
tions. Managing Director Daw Khin San Win and Director Daw Khin Aye Win also presented one set of “Kinetic Enterprise Portal” to be used at the Minis-
try of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs. The

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

Speaking on the occa-
sion, Director Daw Khin Aye Win said in this infor-
mation age, the success or failure of an enterprise de-

pends on the fact that cor-
rect information reaches the

right persons.

Only then will the right
actions can be taken.

“Kinetic Enterprise Por-
tal” is a system capable of

managing the businesses among multinational eco-

nomic organizations. In no

matter however they are

geographically different.

It will not be wrong to

say that “Kinetic Enterprise Portal” is the first kind of

‘OSS Application’ in

Myanmar.

Next, U William Wai and Liu Xiang of the Myanmar

World Distribution Co Ltd gave a demonstration of

Portal technology and offi-

cials answered the queries put by those present.

After the ceremony, Secretary-1 General Khin

Nyunt and party inspected round school centres of the

Mastech Co Ltd, Myanmar

Compu Mart and Cytron

Technologies and Solution and Bagan Cyber tech.

Korean doctors give treatment to patients

YANGON, 15 July — Headed by Dr Shin, a 33-

member delegation of Onnuri Medical Service Mis-
nion of the Republic of Ko-

rea including Korean tradi-
tional medical practitioners
gave treatment to the dental

as well as cleft and palate

patients at the People’s Hospi-
tal in Hlinethaya Town-

ship yesterday and today

from 9 am to 5 pm. Town-

ship health officer Dr Le Le

Mu Thein and doctors and

specialists of the hospitals

under the Health Department

also participated in the treat-

ment. The patients who

received treatment in two
days were 11554. — MNA

India-Myanmar Joint trade first meeting held

YANGON, 15 July — The first meeting of Myanmar

India joint trade committee commenced this morning

with addresses of Com-

merce Minister Brig-Gen

Pyi Sone and Minister of

Commerce and Industry of

India Mr Arun Jaitley at

Traders Hotel here.

At the meeting, the two

sides led by Director-Gen-

eral of the Directorate of

Trade U Nyunt Aye and Mr

Vinay Bansal, leader of In-
dian delegation, discussed in
detail matters on review-

ing of bilateral trade, invest-

ment sector, boosting of

border trade, banking serv-

ices, items of import and

export goods, cooperation in

agricultural sector, holding

of expo and sending of trade
debtions between the two.

Next, Brig-Gen Pyi Sone

and Mr Arun Jaitley signed the agreement.

The Indian delegation

headed by Mr Arun Jaitley,

accompanied by Indian Am-

bassador Mr Rajiv Kumar

Bhatia, called on Brig-Gen

Abel, Minister at the State

Peace and Development Coun-

cil Chairman’s Office, and

Foreign Affairs Minis-

ter U Win Aung at 10.30

am and 11.30 am respecti-

vely.

At noon, Union of

Myanmar Federation of

Commerce and Industry hosted a lunch at

Traders Hotel.

Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, the Indian Ambassador, offi-

cials of UMFCCI and in-

vited guests also attended it.

First UMFCCI President U Win Myint and Mr Arun

Jaitley extended greetings.

This morning, the Indian
diplomation paid homage to

Shwedagon Pagoda and made

cash donation.

Brig-Gen Pyi Sone

hosted a dinner in honour of

Indian delegation at

Karaweik Palace this
evening.

Colombian delegation arrives

THAI MILITARY DEPLOYMENT

YANGON, 15 July — A 68-member delegation led

by Colonel Chusak

Meksuwan of Command and

General Staff College of

Thailand arrived by air at

the airport.

The delegation was

welcomed at Yangon Inter-

national Airport by Com-

mandant of National Defence

College Maj-Gen Moe Hein

and senior military officers

of the Ministry of Defence,

Military Attaché of Thai Em-

bassy Colonel Kasem

Nakpung and officials. Col-

nel Chusak Meksuwan and
degregation members visited

the Defence Services Mu-

seum on Shwedagon Pagoda

Road. Major Zaw Win and

officials of Defence Ser-

vices Museum and Historical

Research Institute welcomed

and conducted them round

the museum.

The delegation mem-

bers also paid a visit to

the Shwedagon Pagoda where

the members of the papada

board of trustees explained

the history of the pagoda.

They donated cash to the fund

of the pagoda. — MNA

Daw Suu Kyi...

YMCA, 15 July — The Indian Government of

Minister Brig-Gen Pyi Sone and Indian Minister Mr Arun Jaitley sign the

agreement. — MNA

May 15.

We started our jour-

ney at 4.30 am. We had been

travelling on the road to

Nama-ti for an hour when one

of the cars broke down near

Lawan Bridge. It was still

hazy so early in the

morning. We were de-

layed for about half an

hour. We could continue our

journey. When we arrived

at Shu-du-awt Village at

about 8.30 in the morning,

two cars of the convoy had

punctured tires.

The two cars were

left behind while the other

cars continued the jour-

ney. Our convoy moved

slowly to allow the two cars
to catch up. They were able
to join the convoy again at

about 9.30 in the morning,

so the convoy soon speeded

up. As we had never been to

this part of the country the

scenery along the way en-

chanted me.

While looking at the
delightful and fresh sur-

roundings I was full of good

cheer, together with the

wishful thought that here at

this place there would not

be anyone to oppose and de-

ounce our group. But I was

proved wrong. When we passed

Kamay-nya Village, we met

with some local villagers

holding signsboards that

said; “We reject any traitor

who relies on foreigners”;

“We reject anyone who

opposes our revolutionary

views”; “We reject those who

wish to destroy development”;

“We reject anyone who
destroys peace and stabili-

ty”.

We recorded the

demonstration by taking

photographs and video

films. The aim was to show

the documentary to foreign

diplomats and correspond

ents to prove that such dem-

onstrations took place to

turbard and hinder our or-

ganizational campaign. It

was just too bad!

It is common knowl-

dge that the act of staging

demonstrations against the

organizational campaign of

a political party is nothing

extraordinary. There will

always be those who are in

favour or who are against a

political party; those who

support or oppose it. That

is the nature of things. In

fact, if possible, the less we

say about any opposition to

our party the better it would

be. As far as I understand, to

publishize the fact that there

is opposition to us is would

be a loss for the party.

No matter, whatever I say makes no difference; this is

not the first time that our

party members have

washed their dirty linen in

public. I am no different.

I say makes no difference;

neither. For am I not wash-

ing dirty linen in public. I

am no different.

I say makes no difference;
The information crew of the Kyemon Daily visited Gangaw in Yaw region on 18 June 2003. Gangaw is a district of Magway Division. Gangaw District is made up of Gangaw, Htilin and Saw townships, and has an area of 2,153,956 square miles. The distance between the east and the west is 55 miles, and the south and the north is 173 miles.

Ponnya Hill is only 35 miles away from Gangaw. Previously, the region was difficult of access. The State Peace and Development Council has taken measures for development and improvement in all aspects. As a result, peace is now prevailing everywhere including border areas. Among these are Yaw-Saw-Gangaw regions of summer paddy. About 784,800 baskets of paddy were obtained from the cultivation of summer paddy on 8,720 acres of land. And per acre yield of the summer paddy was 90 baskets. Summer sesame was grown on 1,129 acres of land and a total of 14,677 baskets of sesame were obtained. And per acre yield of sesame stood at 13 baskets. A total of 102,65 baskets of paddy were harvested. For And per acre yield of paddy were harvested. As a result, peace is now prevailing everywhere including border areas. Among these are Yaw-Saw-Gangaw regions of summer paddy, about 784,800 baskets of paddy were obtained from the cultivation of summer paddy on 8,720 acres of land. And per acre yield of the summer paddy was 90 baskets. Summer sesame was grown on 1,129 acres of land and a total of 14,677 baskets of sesame were obtained. And per acre yield of sesame stood at 13 baskets. A total of 70,000 baskets of winter sunflower were obtained from the cultivation of 5,000 acres of winter sunflower. Per acre yield of sunflower was 14 baskets.

To cultivate paddy and other crops all the year round in Gangaw District, a total of 256 dams were constructed and they are now supplying 22,287 acres of paddy with irrigation water. Besides paddy, sunflower, sesame, and winter sunflower, Thitseint trees, perennial edible oil crops, have been grown in Gangaw District. Moreover, the plantations of pepper plants and pulm trees are also thriving there.

As directed by General Khin Nyunt, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council, during his tour of Gangaw on 12 January 2002, to make arrangements for sufficiency of drinking water in Gangaw Township, a Myittha river water pumping project was implemented to supply the townpeople with drinking water. The project was implemented with a contribution of K 40 million — K 10 million each by the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs, the Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs, the Ministry of Forest, and the locals of Gangaw.

As for the communication sector of Gangaw District, a total of 320 telephone lines have been installed and communications can be made to every part of the country. There have also been 93 telephone lines and four satellite phones installed in Htilin. The IPRD opened 47 libraries in Gangaw Township, 43 in Htilin, and 65 in Saw. The dailies published by the Ministry of Information can be read there. Therefore, Gangaw, Yaw and Saw are now blossoming into developing regions.

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

YANGON, 15 July — The Planning/Training Meeting on Elimination of Avoidable Childhood Blindness in South-East Asia Region, organized by the WHO and the Ministry of Health, commenced at Traders Hotel on Sule Pagoda Road here this morning. It was attended by meeting chairman Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo, officials of departments under the ministry, heads of respective foreign embassies to Myanmar, officials of resident representatives’ office of WHO, medical superintendents, physicians and guests.

The deputy minister made an address on the occasion. In his address, he said that Myanmar has been participating in many global and regional activities to improve the health states of people. We are all aware of the immense amount of disability and loss in productivity caused by blindness. Loss of sight can lead to economic devastation, poverty and often result in premature deaths. Through sharing of experience and open and friendly discussions, we can reach consensus about a regional strategy for elimination of avoidable childhood blindness, which can be applicable to all of the member countries.

Next, WHO resident representative Dr Agostino Borra delivered a speech. The meeting continues until 18 July. — MNA

**Development of Taninthayi Division**

**Transport sector**

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

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

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

The entries are to reflect Tatmadaw’s twelve fine traditions and the competitors can name their titles as they like. Words of the novel contest must be between 50,000 and 70,000 words and the short story, between 4,000 and 10,000, the articles, between 3,000 and 5,000 and under the title of the novel is “Tatmadaw serving the interests of the nation risking the lives”.

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

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**Translation: KTV**

The Kyemon: 11-7-2003

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**Article by Kayan Soe Myint; Photos by Yay Chan Myint**
In accord with the conviction that there will be an equitable socio-economic progress among the national races only if there is a proportionate development in all the regions of the nation, the Government is building various infrastructures throughout the country.

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

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

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

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

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

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

The two boys share a band of curly hair that circles the area where their heads are fused. They cannot stand because of the way their bodies are joined, and the two of them are about six feet in length from the toes of one twin to the toes of the other.

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

"The boys have been with us in the US for a year, and that year has been nothing but intensive diagnostic testing and planning for the upcoming surgery," said Sue Blackwood, director of the Dallas-based World Craniofacial Foundation, a charity that is overseeing the operation.

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

If they are not separated, the boys will likely never be able to walk because of their way their bodies are joined. In April, the boys underwent a procedure to have balloon-like devices inserted into the areas where they will be separated. The pouches were also inserted into their thighs in order to expand tissue there that will be removed and used to keep their brains from being exposed after separation surgery.

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

MNA/Reuters
Beckham will be judged on ability, says Roberto Carlos

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

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

“Beckham is a great player and he is going to strengthen our team. “What I want to happen is that in the first game he plays he is the best, so that everyone gets to see that he is an excellent footballer.”

“That way all the comments about him

being a mere publicity machine will end.”

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

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

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

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

Gerrard not for sale, says Liverpool

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

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

“The player is not for sale at any price. He is a central part of (manager) Gerard Houllier’s plans so they will be wasting their time,” Liverpool said in a statement on their official website.

Chelsea rule out Eriksson move

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

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

“There is no truth in the rumour that we are trying to bring Sven-Goran Eriksson to Chelsea,” chief executive Trevor Birch told the west London club’s official website.

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

Eriksson pledged his full commitment to the England job last week and the Football Association (FA) repeated its statement on their official website on Sunday. — MNA/Reuters

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

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

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

Isinbayeva, the world indoor silver medallist, has been on top form and set a world leading mark of 4.73 metres in Poznan, Poland just two weeks ago.

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

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

Troussier agrees to take over as Qatar coach

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

Qatar Football Association general secretary Saud Al Mouhannadi said Troussier’s contract would run until the end of the Asian Zone qualifiers for the 2006 World Cup.

“Troussier replaced another Frenchman, Pierre Lechante, in a job considered to be one of the most pressurized positions in a country where football is followed passionately. “There are several African players playing in Europe. Nearly 50 per cent of the African players are also playing for different European clubs,” said Troussier.

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

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

INTERNET

UEFA to review Israeli ban at end of month

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

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

Shalom, accompanied by Israel FA chief Gavi Lev, met UEFA’s chief executive Gerhard Aigner and his successor Lars Christer Olsson in Switzerland on Monday to plead for the ban to be lifted.

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

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

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

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

China’s Wang Tianlin (L) and Wang Feng dive during the men’s 3m synchro event 10th FINA Swimming World Championships in Barcelona, Spain, on July 13, 2003. The Chinese pair won the silver medal. — MNA/Pixros
Japan beat Mexico 2-0 to qualify for women's World Cup

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

In the 83rd minute, Karina Maruyama added the second goal after skipper Yumi Obe sent a long pass on a free kick far from the midfield. Japan joined defending champions United States, South Korea, North Korea, China, Australia, Canada, Germany, Norway, Russia, Sweden, France, Nigeria, Ghana, Brazil and Argentina to the women's tournament slated from September 20 to October 12. The tournament was re-located from China to the United States because of fears over severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS).

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

US win, Canada upset Costa Rica in Gold Cup

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

In the earlier match, Canada upset Costa Rica 1-0. The US controlled much of the lacklustr- ing game and were unlucky not to have scored twice inside the opening 10 minutes when goalkeeper Juan Gomez saved from Earnie Stewart before Pablo Mastroeni crashed a shot off the crossbar. Lewis broke the deadlock in the 28th minute when the midfielder's right-footed shot from 14 metres beat Gomez. He nearly added a second a minute before the interval, but his chip went just over the bar.

The US then silenced the mostly El Sal- vador supporting crowd of 33,652 when McBride added an insurance goal 14 min- utes from time when he headed in a cross from substitute Steve Ralston. It was McBride's 21st goal in his 69th appearance and moved him into third on the all-time scoring list for the US.

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

Tighter budget for Arsenal transfers, says Wenger

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

Arsenal chairman Peter Hill-Wood was quoted in March as saying Wenger would have 10 million pounds a year to spend for transfers, but this season we will be smaller spenders than ever.”

“I'm sure in the future it won't have an effect but at the moment we have to be more cautious. However, the Frenchman was upbeat about the club’s prospects, despite having so far failed to make a major signing or replace goalkeeper David Seaman, now at Manchester City.

Ronaldinho desperate to play for Manchester United

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

“I am desperate to become the first Bra- zilian to play for Manchester United,” Ronaldinho told Sunday's News of the World.

“It's the greatest club in the world. All the biggest stars from the past and today — like Pele, Ronaldo, Roberto Carlos and even Rivaldo wanted to be the first to play for United.

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

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

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

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

Makaay pushes Deportivo for transfer to Bayern

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

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

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

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

“Makaay believes that joining the German side would improve his chances of European success. “The fact is that Bayern, together with Real Madrid, are the two strongest sides in Europe and are always going to be fighting to win the Champions League. That makes them a very attractive team for me.”—MNA/Xinhua

Brazilian national striker Robinho (R) battles for the ball with Mexico's defender Salvador Cabañas (L) in their World Cup first game at Atletico stadium in Mexico City, on 13 July, 2003. Mexico won the game 1-0.—INTERNET

Ronaldinho and Argentina to the women's tournament slated from September 20 to October 12. The tournament was re-located from China to the United States because of fears over severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS).
YANGON, 15 July — Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, accompanied by officials, attended the opening of extended building of Pakokku General Hospital and a ward for members of the Sangha on 12 July.

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

The minister also inspected Myaing Township People’s Hospital in Pakokku District and filled the needs. Next, he met with health staff of Town-ship health department, saying that upholding the guidance of the Head of State, eye specialists have been posted to such regions as Myaing, Gangaw, Taungdwingyi and Kyaukpaungtau townships in order to take preventive measures against trachoma and blindness. They are also assigned trachoma control tasks. He stressed that the down right to the grassroots level, in addition to major tasks in the hospitals. As the major-ity (97.5 per cent) of Myanmar’s population, are in rural ar-eas, rural health care centres will be equipped with ade-quate number of health staff and medical equipment. He called on the staff to give medical treatments to the patients.

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

On 13 July, they inspected Pakkhan Station Hospital and People’s Hospital in Yezagyo Township and filled the requirements. At the Yezagyo Township Hospital, the minister met health staff and dealt with tasks for prevention and control of major diseases.

Afterwards, they inspected ChaungU Township People’s Hospital and Myaung Township People’s Hospital and provided the re-quirements.

On 14 July, the minister inspected Mandalay Division General Hospital and gave instructions.

Next, Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Com-mand Maj-Gen Ye Myint, Mandalay Mayor Brig-Gen Yan Thein and the minister proceeded to Mandalay Children’s Hospital and visited conjointed twin sisters Ma Ma Aung and Moe Pa Aung, who were successfully separated on 11 August last year. Now, the twin sisters, health condition is much im-proving. Elder Moe Ma Ma Aung starts to walk and the other is still learning to walk. Both are gradually growing and it is learnt. U Shauk Wah and Daw Nan Mya Sein presented K 100,000 to the sisters through the commander.

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

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

Next, the minister inspected work sites for con-struction of Institute of Phar-macy (Mandalay), Institute of Paramedical Science and Institute of Traditional Medi-cine and left necessary in-stuctions.

MNA


The minister in-structed Mogok Station Hospital and members of Myanmar Women Sports Federation Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and members of leading of the federation to construct new building of Mogok Station Hospital and fill the requirements.

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

School uniforms, stationery con-tributed

YANGON, 15 July — Loikaw Township supervisi-son committee for maternal and child welfare on 7 July provided school uniforms and stationery to impoverished children at No 2 Basic Educa-tion Middle School. Next, a doctor gave talks on preven-tion of SARS and the dis-eases infected from animals.

Felcon Engine Oil awards prizes

YANGON, 15 July — Opening of mid-year special sale of Felcon Engine Oil’s con-ductor by Han Myanmar Ex-port & Import was held on 9 July at Summit Parkview Hotel. First Managing Director U Thein Naing made an open-ing address. A responsible of-ficial awarded prizes to the 15 sales agents and briefed on the special sale. — n

Victorious Myanmar Youth U-18 soccer team honoured

Dr Daw Thaing Nwe, Tun Tun Lin, Soe Pyne Phyo, team leader U Thein Aung, team super-visors U Tin Win and coach U Tun Han and Daw Aye Aye, assistant coach U Kyi Lwin, coach U Tun Tin Aung, medical officer Dr Aung Kyaw Oo and nurse Saw Hli Ai.

Next, President of Myanmar Women Sports Federation Prof Dr Daw May May Yi presented certifi-cates of honour to wellwishers Kyet Shar Zun Biriani Shop owner U Tun May and Daw Aye Aye, Biriani Shop owner U Tun Han and Daw Aye Aye, assistant coach U Kyi Lwin, coach U Tun Tin Aung, medical officer Dr Aung Kyaw Oo and nurse Saw Hli Ai.

WEATHER

Tuesday, 15th July, 2003

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been cloudy along the entire state, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in lower Sagaing and Magway Divisions and scattered to widespread in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were at Kesi (0.01) inches, Myitkyina and Bhamo (1.81) inches each, Dawei and Homalin (1.73) inches each and Coco Is (1.69) inches. Maximum temperature on 14-7-2003 was 31.0°C (87.8°F). Minimum temperature on 15-7-2003 was 21.0°C (70.0°F). Relative humidity at 9.30 hrs MST on 15-7-2003 was 92%. Total sunshine hours on 14-7-2003 was 1(9.9) hours approx. Rainfall on 15-7-2003 was 7 mm at Yangon, 7 mm at Baba-Aye and 1 mm at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2003 was 1111 mm (43.74 inches) at Yangon Airport, 1238 mm (48.74 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 1232 mm (48.50 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 12 mph from Southwest at (18:10) hours MST on 14-7-2003. Bay inference: Monsoon is moderate to strong in the Bay of Bengal. Forecast valid until evening of 16-7-2003: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Mon State, upper Sagaing, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions, scattered in Kachin, Rakhine, Chin and Kayin States, Bago, Mandalay and Tanintharyi Divisions and isolated in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (80%). State of the sea: waves will be moderate to rough in Myanmar waters. Outlook for subsequent two days: Decrease of rain in the eastern Myanmar areas. Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 16-7-2003: One or two rain. Degree of certainty is (80%). Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring fo 16-7-2003: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).
Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Soe Win inspect Kyweku-Kyaunkphy Bridge construction project

Yangon, 15 July — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann, Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win and member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo, accompanied by Tanintharyi Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Coastal Region Command Commander Maj-Gen Tha Hsan, Chief of Staff (Navy) Lt-Gen Soe Win, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Rear-Admiral Soe Thein, Deputy Minister for Education Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung and officials, arrived at Myeik on 15 July.

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

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

Next, Pro-rector U Khin Maung Cho reported on courses being conducted at the university, the population of students, and academic matters of the university. Vice-Chairman of the Myanmar Education Committee Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Soe Win spoke on the occasion. In his speech, he said that teachers are working together hand in hand with the Government to modernize and develop the nation in a harmonious way.

Today’s age being the education age, teachers are training and nurturing students to become highly-qualified ones on whom the State can rely in future.

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

Just as encouragement is being given to the basic education sector, universities and colleges needed for the pursuit of advanced education are being extended region-wise.

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

The Secretary-2 expressed his delight at meeting with the teachers who are bringing out the good citizens the State can rely on. Later, Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann gave instructions, saying that all the intellectuals, intelligentsia and citizens are to take part in the effort to establish a peaceful, modern, developed nation.

At the briefing hall, Director-General Dr Wai Maung reported on matters related to the hospital, and the acting health officer on construction of the hospital.

After hearing reports, Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann gave instructions. Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann and party proceeded to the Asaungkaung Industries Co Ltd in the Myeik Industrial Zone, where they met with employees of the company.

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

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann and party greeted the professors and faculty members. Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann and party went to the new 200-bed Myeik General Hospital, where they were welcomed by Director-General of the Health Department Dr Wai Maung, acting health officer of Tanintharyi Division Dr Tun Lwin, specialists, doctors and nurses.

At the briefing hall, Director-General Dr Wai Maung reported on matters related to the hospital, and the acting health officer on construction of the hospital.

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

Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann and party arrived at the Kyweku-Kyaunkpya Bridge Construction Project on 15 July morning viewed round the development of Myeik by boat. They then inspected the arrangements for keeping the environs of Phayakyaung Creek in Myeik Water clean and pleasant. At Pale Yadana Hall in Myeik in the morning Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann and party met with local authorities, departmental officials, members of social associations and townsmen. Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann explained the purposes of their tour and cooperative efforts for implementation of the work programmes laid down by the government.

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

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